

## Hawaiian Humane Society People For animals. Animals For people.

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### NEWS RELEASE EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 AM HST, WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2021

# Hawaiian Humane Society to break ground on a second campus in west O'ahu

**HONOLULU, HI (May 3, 2021)** – On Wednesday May 5, Hawaiian Humane will embark on the next phase of its 138-year history of service by breaking ground on a second permanent location in Ewa.

The 5-acre site on Old Fort Weaver Road, a generous gift from D.R. Horton, will provide a full range of services to the west O'ahu community including:

- Animal cruelty investigations and rescues
- Pet lost and found
- Animal admissions
- Adoptions
- Pet Kōkua outreach programs
- Educational programs for youth and adults
- Volunteer opportunities, including pet foster care
- Shelter veterinary care
- Affordable spay/neuter for owned animals and Free-Roaming cats
- An off-leash dog park

"As we work toward creating a truly humane community based on compassion and shared responsibility for the welfare of our island's animals, we envision a community in which every pet has a home; a community in which people highly regard and care for their own animals and all animals on O'ahu," says Anna Neubauer, President & CEO of Hawaiian Humane Society. "Our Ewa Expansion will help us bring much needed services and resources to an underserved part of the island."

As human populations in west O'ahu communities have increased, so have the number of animals included in their families. At 66%, west O'ahu has the highest percentage of pet owners on the island, which has an overall pet-ownership rate of 58%.

The distance between west O'ahu communities and the resources in Honolulu is a barrier to providing critical services to animals in need. In addition, west O'ahu is home to 32% of the island's homeless population, the same rate of homelessness as the urban core. Approximately 29% of unsheltered homeless individuals on O'ahu report having at least one pet. Low income and homeless pet owners face additional challenges in

feeding, spay/neutering and caring for their animal family members. The Ewa Expansion will strive to keep these vulnerable families together.

Hawaiian Humane Society is eager to begin construction and expects the project to be completed by the end of 2022, with the campus opening to the public later that year or early in 2023.

#### Details regarding the blessing and groundbreaking ceremony are as follows:

#### WHERE:

Intersection of Fort Weaver Road and Old Fort Weaver Road - Ewa, HI

#### WHEN:

Wednesday May 5, 2021, 10:30 - 11:30 am

#### DETAILS:

We will be following the static event rules for Tier 3. Due to limited space and COVID-19 considerations, please RSVP to <u>droselle@hawaiianhumane.org</u> if you'd like to cover the event live. By RSVP'ing yes, it is understood that a face covering must be worn for the entirety of the event and proper social distancing must be exercised by all attendees.

#### **COLLATERAL:**

3D renderings, aerial video and photographs of the site are available <u>here</u>. **EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 AM HST**, **WEDNESDAY MAY 5, 2021**. Additionally, high-resolution b-roll and photographs will be added following the conclusion of the blessing and groundbreaking ceremony.

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The Hawaiian Humane Society is an education and advocacy organization that shelters, protects, rescues, reunites and rehomes animals. It is O'ahu's largest animal welfare organization that is a resource for all animals. Established in 1883, the nonprofit organization is not a chapter of any group as there is no national humane society. Visit <u>HawaiianHumane.org</u> to learn more.