



## **HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HCDA Expands Homeless Outreach Jobs Training Program**

HONOLULU — Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) authorized funding today for the expansion of its Jobs Training Program, which provides homeless outreach services to those in need in Kakaako.

HCDA kick-started the program with a \$55,000 grant to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority in June 2009, then increased funding up to \$345,000 a year in December 2010 to extend and expand the program with the Department of Human Services. Participants now work in conjunction with the Waikiki Health Center to offer park landscaping, trash collection, janitorial services and beautification services throughout HCDA-owned parks in the Kakaako Community Development District.

In addition, HCDA will continue funding its Security Deposit Matching program, which also began in 2010 and sets aside \$10,000 to help secure rental units for Jobs Training Program participants. This added incentive gives participants the boost they need to move out of homelessness and into housing.

“The Hawaii Community Development Authority’s Job Training and Security Deposit Matching programs help to provide marketable job skills, work-force training and a means for homeless individuals to save the funds needed to be able to make a security deposit on a rental unit,” said Colin Kippen, chair of the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness and state homeless coordinator. “What is unique about these programs is that they are targeted to serve those homeless individuals who are living in the Kakaako area by the community agency located there. I applaud HCDA’s efforts in increasing the well-being and self-sufficiency of the homeless in the Kakaako area through these community-based programs, and am hopeful that other community agencies across our state will follow its lead.”

So far in 2014, 12 people have participated in the Jobs Training Program, with eight graduating and finding permanent employment. This success is a critical element of the long-term solution for ending homelessness and is the main reason the HCDA chose to fund the program for another year, through June 2015. Although the funding ceiling remains the same as last year, outreach services will be expanded to create four new paid positions for homeless individuals who wish to participate. It is in this way of giving a hand up, instead of a hand out, that the HCDA believes it can be a part of the solution in ending homelessness in Hawaii.

*About the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA)*

*The HCDA was created by the 1976 state Legislature to redevelop historically underutilized areas across the state. The HCDA's mission is to build communities in the designated Community Development Districts of Kakaako, Kalaeloa and Heeia, to provide more opportunities for residents to grow in a vibrant environment. In Kakaako, the HCDA is committed to revitalizing the urban core and providing housing opportunities to residents of all income levels. To date, the HCDA has overseen the development of over 6,000 new housing units in Kakaako, with another 3,800 units in various stages of construction. By creating a community where one can live, work, and play, we give the youth of Hawaii a reason to stay here in the islands and raise future generations.*

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