October 2019

Victoria Place
Public hearings were held on September 4 and October 2, and the HCDA approved a development permit for Victoria Place, a 350-unit residential condominium at 1100 Ala Moana Blvd. The project is subject to reserved housing requirements, and the developer will begin work on the reserved housing units prior to the approval of any further projects.

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held on November 6, 2019. Board agendas are posted on the website the Thursday before meetings.

For more information visit http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda.

Join our team
HCDA is looking for a Director of Planning and Development to oversee planning, development, project management, and engineering activities performed by staff and contractors, as well as two senior planners responsible for organizing, directing, coordinating, and conducting HCDA’s planning, zoning and plan enforcement activities.

To apply for these positions: Send a resume and cover letter to dbedt.hcda.contact@hawaii.gov or send via postal mail to:
Hawaii Community Development Authority
547 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

For more information visit http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda.

HUNT in Kalaeloa

During the 1999 Barbers Point Navel Air Station Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process the United States Navy retained approximately 1200 acres in Kalaeloa. In the early 2000’s the Navy entered into a partnership with Hunt and leased Hunt about 548 acres of land in Kalaeloa with an option to convert to fee simple. This partnership was formalized in the Ford Island Master Development Agreement.

At the October 2019 HCDA board meeting, the Hunt Companies Hawaii presented a summary of its activity in Kalaeloa, renovating former military housing and adding over 520 affordable homes in 2005, adding 100 housing units at Wakea Garden Apartments in 2015, and creating a job center by revitalizing Kalaeloa properties and generating over 500 jobs. Then they presented an overview of proposed projects within the Kalaeloa Community Development District to ensure HCDA is kept informed about the planning, development and construction activities that are anticipated over the next five to ten years. Hunts master planning activities include subdividing its Kalaeloa west parcels, redeveloping the Kalaeloa Professional Center, redeveloping the former Barbers Point Furniture Complex, improving the water and waste water systems, and addressing infrastructure challenges.

Hunt currently has no projects before HCDA for consideration or approval. The presentation was to provide context for some of the development actions being pursued by Hunt including the sub-division that is driving the draft environmental assessment mentioned in the presentation.

For more information, the Kalaeloa Hunt Informational Briefing and a summary of the Hunt Ford Island Master Development Agreement are at http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/october-2-2019-agenda.

Micro housing prototype in Kakaako

Nohona Hale, affordable micro-units on a mere 10,000 sq.ft. parcel of HCDA land on Cooke Street, will soon be complete with 105 small thoughtfully-designed, high-quality residential units to be occupied by no more than two people per unit. The first of its kind here in Hawaii.

Elsewhere, micro-unit housing projects provide desirable tradeoffs, with few amenities but instead great accessibility and convenience to surrounding public facilities and active, mixed-use urban environments. Micro-unit housing can serve changing demographics as well as mixed-income groups, including for example seniors who seek to ‘age in place’ near transit-rich areas, millennials who prefer an urban-centric lifestyle, and individuals who are vulnerable to becoming homeless.

There are many challenges for producing affordable housing that meet the diverse needs and preferences of targeted populations, that can be feasibly financed, that adjusts to an increasing cost of living, and that is compatible with the character and vision for a specific neighborhood. Yet, despite these competing challenges there are many successful case studies and proven solutions in other cities from which to draw comparisons, learn lessons, and further innovate.

Kakaako is an appropriate area to prove these concepts and to prototype a new housing typology that offers housing options which will invite greater inclusion for many target groups.