



Helping to strengthen our community, one child at a time - Lili'uokalani Trust

By Francine Murray

"There was no word for orphan in the Hawaiian culture," said Peter Apo, vice chair of the HCDA. "It was unthinkable that a child would go without a family, even though something happened to their parents." He explained to the HCDA Board when the Lili'uokalani Trust attended a public hearing to present their mission and plans to build a new education center.

The Lili'uokalani Trust was established in 1909 to improve the lives of orphan and destitute children in Hawai'i. Its mission is to provide opportunities for Hawaiian children to realize their greatest potential - living healthy, joyful, and prosperous lives, while contributing positively to their families, community and the world.

Lili'uokalani Trust's Strategic Plan features a three-prong approach to empowering its beneficiaries, age newborn through twenty-six. First is the Early Childhood programming, wherein they care for children ages zero through five not just with a high-quality preschool environment, but they also help address the situations at home - the family, the income and the housing situations. "All the things that factor in, and affect the minds of young children," said Sherman Wong, Director of Design and Construction for the Lili'uokalani Trust.

Second, the Youth Development track is geared towards children from elementary to high school age. This exposes them to all types of opportunities and experiences, and then opportunities to advance their development in their areas of interest.

The third track is for the older kids, ages 14 through 26. "In these situations, we see a lot of children coming out of Juvenile Justice Foster care," said Wong. "As you know, a lot of children move out of foster care at eighteen and so there's this gap between 18 and 26, where they really need to establish themselves. These are the types of situations where we identify the challenges that these youth have to face and turn these challenges into opportunities for them to develop and become responsible adults."

"Our hope is that 25-years from now these kids that started out from infants are grown and mature adults living productive lives, and start a new family that doesn't have to deal with the same situations and problems that you're dealing with today."

"Over the last decade we've been able to reach out to communities that the statistics have shown have the greatest need for the services and the highest potential for a positive impact," said Wong. "We look to build these children's brain power. Build them up with self-confidence and to do that we have to rely on their support network, including their families and the community that surrounds them every day."

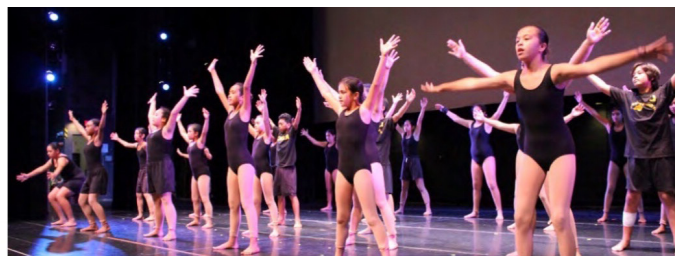
The Trust came to HCDA with an application for a development permit to renovate the former Honolulu Club building



to create a new Lili'uokalani Center - the Lili'uokalani Trust's flagship education facility. It is envisioned as the Trust's signature youth development hub for culture, creativity, technology, and play.

The adaptive re-use project was intentionally designed in the culture and arts Thomas Square area across the Neal S. Blaisdell Center and historic Thomas Square Park, across the Honolulu Academy of Arts and Doris Duke Theatre, to provide access to these cultural resources to the children they serve.

"It's a full redevelopment of the former building at the corner of Ward and on King Street," said Wong. "The opportunities for the youth are going to be evident on every floor of the building, and every floor is going to have an open lobby as well as some flexible space where the kids can just hang out. So, besides the structured programs, the kids are participating in, there's also space that they can relax and just make connections, social network with the other kids in there."



"We're looking at the ground floor as the showcase, the innovation lobby, and the main lobby is where we enter the facility innovation lounges. Where the kids can actually show off all of their creations. Show off their talents. Indoor/outdoor space that brings the outdoor and landscaping into the innovation lobby," Wong elaborated. "We'll have a cafe that promotes entrepreneurship as well. Feeding off of that lobby, support spaces and meeting rooms, so that they can conduct outside meetings with visitors."

They plan to develop spaces where excitement happens - a fabrication lab for various types of media such as textiles; a two-story black box theatre for music and dance performances; a music production studio; a film production studio; fitness spaces such as workout rooms, a martial arts room and a covered gym; a gaming studio and a gaming lounge for spectators to watch with a concession next to it.

To inquire about Lili'uokalani Trust's wide range of programs and services, call Mālama Line at 808-466-8080, or visit <https://onipaa.org>.

Photos courtesy of Lili'uokalani Trust.

Ulana Groundbreaking



On December 6, Craig Nakamoto, executive director of HCDA, attended the groundbreaking ceremony for Ulana Ward Village, in Kaka'ako. It will feature studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom fee simple residences.

A lottery was held earlier this year for qualified applicants to apply for and purchase the 696 reserved housing units available at Ulana. Prices were starting at \$271,000 for fee simple units.

Ulana Ward Village features functional living, convenient amenities and lush outdoor experiences. Residents will enjoy expansive greenery, open spaces, and comfortable areas, all steps away from retail and light industrial areas, the Ka La'i o Kukukuāe'o Park, and access to the future Auahi Street pedestrian promenade.

Photo courtesy of Victoria Ward, Limited.

On the calendar

January 4

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held. For more information on this board meeting or about HCDA visit dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda.

State holidays

Monday, Dec. 26 Christmas Observed
Monday, Jan. 2 New Years Day Observed
Monday, Jan. 16 Martin Luther King, Jr.

Get featured?

If you want to include an event, know an individual or a business in Kaka'ako, Kaelaeloa or He'eia that we could feature, or just want more Community Connection, let us know by emailing us at: dbedt.hcda.contact@hawaii.gov.

Support local

The UPS Store, New in Kaka'ako

It was Covid-19 that gave us the new conveniently located The UPS Store in Kaka'ako. The owners, husband and wife team, Kevin and Susie Murray were both in the travel industry when the worldwide pandemic caused businesses to close for months at a time. They decided that they needed to consider doing something else.

"We first tried to buy The UPS Store in Kapolei," said Kevin. "But that didn't work. Then the corporate office approached us to see if we would be willing to open a brand-new store, and this is it!" Located in the Keauhou Lane Retail Shops.

"We started the initial paperwork in December of 2020," said Kevin, who had a soft opening on November 9th. "Almost two years from start to finish."

"This is the first store in Hawai'i to feature the new Blue Horizon design. Eventually, every The UPS Store in Hawai'i will look like this." On December 2, they held an event at the new store hosting other The UPS Store Hawai'i franchisees, so they could see the new design and concept. "Every ten years franchisees have to renew their franchise agreement. So, at the point that each of these owners need to renew, they will need to renovate to become a Blue Horizon Center."

It's an open floor concept with the back of the house exposed, like an open kitchen in a modern restaurant.

"We really like the colors. It's bright. It's open now, usually there's a wall that closes off the packing area, but now we want our customers to see what we do. That way it leads to questions. That leads to more sales."

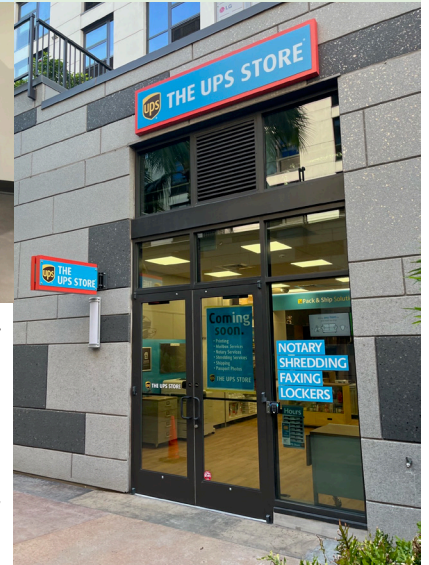
Up until Covid, the UPS Store focus was on shipping and mailboxes. Since Covid, offices have downsized, or closed



altogether, and a lot of people are working from home. "They need someplace to go to for business services," said Kevin. "The printing, the binding, the laminating, all of that came into play and that's now our focus."

To help better serve their customers, in addition to all the usual services The UPS Stores provide, this location offers the use of a new wide format printer and large printing press, that can print on different mediums like thick cardstock or glossy materials. They can print banners, posters, presentation boards, stickers, labels, window cling, or vinyl wrap.

"We still do shipping, and we still do mailboxes, that's still very important to us. But the focus is on servicing people that work from home, or on the road. They need a place to get things printed or they need to pick up or drop off things to be sent back to the office. That's our new focus - customer service."



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Web: theupsstore.com/7473.