



Long awaited VA Clinic opens in Kalaeloa

"The Daniel Kahikini Akaka VA Clinic will support tens of thousands of veterans on Oahu and across the Pacific islands helping us to fulfil our countries one truly sacred obligation, to prepare and equip those we send into harm's way, to care for them and their loved ones when they return home, and by improving the quality of care our veterans receive, reducing wait times, improving accessibility for veterans with disabilities, and more," said Joe Biden, US President, in a letter read at the opening of the Clinic, in April. "This clinic will carry forward Danny's incredible legacy."

"I wish I could be there in-person today to honor the life and legacy of Senator Akaka, my dear friend, and an extraordinary leader," said President Biden. "Danny's life can be described in a single word, service. Service on behalf of the country and the people he loved during World War II, service on behalf of his community uplifting countless students as an educator, and service on behalf of Hawai'i, in the halls of Congress, for over a decade in the House of Representatives, and later as the first United States Senator of Native Hawaiian descent.

"In the senate Danny fought relentlessly for the rights and needs of America's service members and veterans, eventually becoming chairman of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. To recognize his lifelong advocacy in support of our Nation's heroes, I was proud to sign the bill naming this in his honor.

"Danny was a true American Hero," said President Biden. "And one of the finest people I ever served with."

After US Senator Daniel Inouye passed away, in December 2012, Sen. Akaka became Hawaii's senior senator for two weeks, until he left office in January 2013. He was succeeded by US Senator Mazie Hirono.

"Despite the heroic actions of so many of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Island service members during World War II, many of them never received the recognition they earned in the war," said Sen. Hirono. "Senator Akaka knew that was wrong and he did something about it.

"Thanks to his advocacy nearly two dozen World War II veterans from the 442nd regiment, and the 100th battalion, belatedly, after reviewing their records, received the presidential medal of honor, our highest military award. He also fought to secure benefits for Filipino World War II veterans who served alongside American soldiers, during World War II." There are about 200,000 Filipino veterans, that were told, that they would receive benefits for serving. "Sad to say, this was not a fine moment in this country's history, those benefits were



taken away from them. So, Senator Akaka worked to correct that injustice. He championed passing legislation to provide compensation to the Filipino scouts who served with our service members during World War II."



"He spent years working to secure a VA Health Center for the veterans on Leeward Oahu," said Sen. Hirono, who continued to advocate for the clinic since Sen. Akaka left congress.

"In terms of primary care, physical therapy, mental health and many of the other services that will come to our veterans because of this, I am really grateful," said Sen. Hirono.

Visitors are welcomed into the healing facility by an expansive 30-foot-high space, with cool indirect natural light entering the large windows throughout the facility.

The state-of-the-art medical center features: 1) Primary care – family and internal medicine, women veteran care, geriatrics, and pharmacy, 2) Mental health care – behavioral health, PTSD care, and veterans crisis suicide prevention, 3) Specialty care – vaccines, and labs, 4) Social programs and services – caregiver support, homeless veteran care, LGBTQ+ veteran care, minority veteran care, patient advocates, and returning service member care, and 5) Other services, such as My Health Vet Coordinator, and telehealth – video visits, remote care, and care by phone.



The Daniel Kahikini Akaka VA Clinic is located at:

91-1051 Franklin D. Roosevelt Avenue; Kapolei, HI 96707 and the main phone is 800-214-1306.

Hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information visit <https://www.va.gov/pacific-islands-health-care/locations/leeward-oahu-va-clinic>.

On the calendar

May 1 at 9:00 a.m.

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held.

For more information about HCDA, the public hearings or board meetings visit <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.



Heeia Volunteer

May 4, 8:30 a.m. – 12p.m.

Saturday Community Workdays occur in the lo'i on the first Saturday of each month.

Tasks includes weeding and maintenance of lo'i and 'auwai.

For more information visit <https://kakoowiwi.org/volunteering>.

Pūlehunui, Maui

will soon have infrastructure

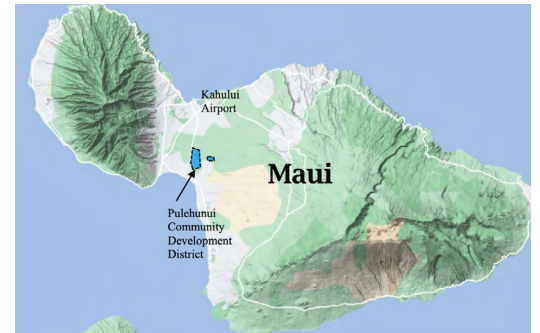
In Mid-March, HCDA was pleased to select a vendor to provide planning, design and construction services for infrastructure improvements at the Pūlehunui Community Development District (CDD) located on the island of Maui, Hawai'i.

This project, funded by the Hawai'i State Legislature, is an important economic driver in the recovery efforts for the State and the people of Maui, providing both construction and related non-construction jobs, and other economic opportunities.

This design-build method of procurement, saves time and money, and aided HCDA in partnering with highly qualified contractors and consultants to come up with innovative solutions to planning and infrastructure initiatives that will address critical economic, environmental and cultural issues in the Pūlehunui District.

The design-build process will be divided up into two groups of services: 1) Preconstruction Services, including all planning, design, engineering, permits and entitlements for the infrastructure improvements in the Pūlehunui CDD, and 2) Construction and Construction Administrative Services, including all work necessary to construct selected infrastructure and facilities.

The HCDA envisions the Pūlehunui CDD will fully utilize the land and resources in a sustainable and environmentally respon-



sible way that also respects the historic resources and traditional cultural practices of the region. Planned development should follow smart urban growth principles in line with the desires of the people of Maui, that encourage multi-modal and pedestrian friendly solutions. Roadways and infrastructure should be responsive to the needs of the community.

In 2022, the Pūlehunui Community Development District was established and the HCDA was directed to serve as the planning and redevelopment agency for the district, after the Hawaii State Legislature found that public lands in Pūlehunui, Maui were underutilized. Further noting that improving these lands to provide suitable residential, educational, recreational, industrial, governmental, and commercial areas where the public can live, congregate, recreate, attend schools and shop as part of a thoughtfully integrated experience is in the best interest of the State.

The project budget is \$60 million and is expected to take three to five years.

Park blessing



Out of respect for those that traversed these lands before us, a traditional Hawaiian blessing was done at Kolowalu park, as the HCDA staff work on park improvements, including the installation of new benches, adult fitness equipment and a children's playground on the makai side of the park, and separate big and

small off-leash dog parks on the mauka side of the park.

They have planned a beautiful design incorporating Hawaiian pōhaku (stone) walls with an upgraded fence, landscaping, informative signage, and dog exercise equipment.

It is expected to be completed later in the year.

