## Mutual Housing Association of Hawai‘i Breaks Ground on Second Phase of Ko‘oloa‘ula

## *Affordable rental homes in East Kapolei to serve below-median income families*

For Immediate Release

HONOLULU (June 5, 2015) – The Mutual Housing Association of Hawai‘i (Mutual Housing) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony Friday for the second phase of Ko‘oloa‘ula, an affordable rental community situated on 17.8 acres of state-owned land in East Kapolei. This second phase of the development will consist of 188 rental apartments, targeting individuals and families earning less than 60% of median incomes. When completed, Ko‘oloa‘ula will comprise 308 units, making it one of the largest complexes in the state.

Ko‘oloa‘ula - Phase II will offer an option of one to four-bedroom rental units ranging in size from 588 to 1,462 square feet of living area. In addition a 2,476 square foot multi-use community center will be built to serve as the hub for resident programs. Other amenities to be added are a grass volleyball court, exercise equipment and a half basketball court to complement an existing tot lot play structure added in Phase I.

Completed in 2013, the first phase of Ko‘oloa‘ula consists of 120 affordable rental apartments. Residents living at Ko`oloa`ula participate in a number of programs and activities coordinated directly on-site , including community meetings, a Citizens Patrol, presentations for adults and youth, movie nights, and community-wide events.

“With this second and final phase of Ko‘oloa‘ula, we remain committed as always to provide families the opportunity to live in quality, safe and affordable rental apartments,” said Dee Dee Letts, Board President. “There is a dire need for more housing options across the state, and we are proud to work with various public and private organizations to help meet this need in West O‘ahu.”

<add details from event --- elected officials in attendance, other VIPs>

“Ko’oloa’ula Phase II will add much need affordable rentals to our community using state resources. One of the top priorities of my administration is to significantly expand affordable rental housing in both urban and rural areas across the state to help working families who cannot afford to own a home or who struggle to pay rent. We will continue to leverage additional state funding to attract more private investment in affordable housing in Hawai‘i,” said Governor David Ige.

The Hawai‘i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) provided low income housing tax credits, $29 million of tax exempt bonds, a $18.8 million Rental Housing Trust Fund loan, and a 65-year ground lease for the project. The City & County of Honolulu is supporting this project with a $2 million loan under its HOME Investment Partnership program.

D.R. Horton – Schuler Division was the general contractor responsible for construction of the first phase of the project. For its second phase of Ko‘oloa‘ula, D.R. Horton – Schuler Division was selected again, this time as the design builder, providing both the design and construction services.

“Working with Mutual Housing continues to be a tremendous honor for our company, as it is at the forefront of providing complete rental home communities for local families,” said Bob Bruhl, president of D.R. Horton – Schuler Division. “The East Kapolei area on the ‘Ewa Plain is growing with thoughtful planning and is poised to become the premiere region on O‘ahu, not only for various housing options, but for the many commercial opportunities for businesses and the jobs they will create.”

Neighboring Ko‘oloa‘ula is D.R. Horton – Schuler Division’s Ho‘opili project, which received zoning approval from the Honolulu City Council in early May. Ho‘opili is designed to encompass a variety of home types, commercial space, two rail stops, five DOE schools, parks and other gathering places, as well as more than 200 acres of commercial agriculture directly integrated into the community.

**About Mutual Housing Association of Hawai‘i**

Incorporated in 1992, the Mutual Housing Association of Hawai‘i, Inc. owns and self-manages three additional affordable rental housing projects: Lihu‘e Court Townhomes on the island of Kaua‘i, Kekaulike Courtyards in Honolulu's Chinatown District, and Palolo Homes in Honolulu. Mutual Housing works collaboratively with its residents and also assists them in becoming more self-sufficient by offering supportive services. Mutual Housing is a chartered member of the NeighborWorks America® network.

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