

Community Profile December 2009

Overlooking the sea-level plains of Kapolei and Kalaeloa, Makakilo is located on the gentle southeastern slopes of the Waianae mountain range on Oahu—the most populous island in the City & County of Honolulu. The translation of its Hawaiian name, “observing eyes,” is geographic and appropriate for this mountainside location.

Its total population, as reported in the 2000 census, was 13,156 with 4,119 households and a land area of 3.1 sq. miles. Further information notes a “melting pot” of nationalities: “32.08% Asian, 24.16% White, 10.20% Pacific Islander, 10.09% Hispanic, 2.53% Black or African American, and 1.51% from other races.” Current population is estimated at 15,517--a 17% increase, since the 2000 census.

Developed in 1959, Makakilo can be described as a maturing yet continually growing neighborhood. Its natural features of cool elevations, breezy trade-winds, and panoramic views make it an attractive place to call home. Current development includes two new single home projects: one with 275-unit town homes (mid \$300K) and vacant lots (low to mid \$200K) plus a second with 400-units (\$500K range). The price of real estate has declined and negative home appreciation has been experienced in recent years. However, a 19-month high in home sales was reported last month as well as an increase in the median price of home sales for 2009 over 2008 on Oahu.

Makakilo Baptist Church--located at 92-611 Makakilo Drive, Kapolei 96707, is one of three community churches that owns and operates its own facility. A new sanctuary was dedicated on November 28, 2009, which seats up to 300 people and adds two more classrooms to our facilities. A new preschool education building is scheduled to be completed by November 2010. It will increase both enrollment—to 100 young children, and our Christian outreach to this community.

Neighborhood churches include St. Jude (a hundred yards south of us) and the Church of Christ of Latter Day Saints (less than a mile away heading north on Makakilo Drive). The Latter Day Saint church is the Makakilo Hawaii Stake Center for the denomination overseeing five smaller churches and serving at least five hundred member families. St. Jude is one of six Leeward Oahu Vicariates (churches) organized and serving under the Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu. About a dozen or more independent churches meet in surrounding communities or in public schools nearby—making denominational choices abundant and available.

The Interstate H-1 freeway divides the hillside of Makakilo from the “growth hot spot” of Kapolei--named Honolulu’s “Second City” in a master plan that brings state and municipal facilities together with businesses and residents requiring those services. The state and county buildings will be joined in 2010 by Kapolei Court Complex which will house the Family & District Courts, plus a juvenile detention center.

In February, big box retailer Costco Warehouse & Gas Station opened its doors--followed in March by Oahu’s newest mall, 51-acre Kapolei Commons with anchor store Target and other major retailers. In June, Easter Seals Hawaii opened its newest and largest multi-purpose facility--Napuakea, which is equipped to help more than 500 clients with disabilities as well as to serve the organization’s extensive in-home and community-based services. The State of Hawaii--in its mission to provide more transitional housing, opened an emergency shelter in Kalaeloa for up to 145 people who otherwise would be homeless. The Salvation Army’s Kroc Community Center is scheduled to open in 2010 on

15 acres of Kapolei land. Its 120,000 sq. ft. complex will have an NCAA size gym, a competition pool, a 48-bed dorm for traveling or local athletes to use, a preschool with enrollment of up to 150 children, a fitness center, classrooms, technology training, art and recording studios, and a 3-acre grassy park.

Quality of life has been of primary concern to the creators of the Kapolei Master Plan. The decentralization of government from busy downtown Honolulu thereby reducing congested roadways is a major focus. The goal “to live, work, play, and learn” in Kapolei is manifested in the infrastructure of roads being built to support its expansion. In November, the State officially opened access to the North-South Road Interchange that provides on- and off-ramps to the H-1 Freeway accessing the Makakilo/Kapolei and neighboring areas. A second phase will be completed in early 2010, to provide access to the business and shopping areas of Kapolei. On the planned Rail Transit System, Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced the addition of two segments as the project moves forward--Kapolei and the Honolulu International Airport.

In 2009, Ko’ Olina Resorts welcomed world class Disney Vacation Club as a neighbor, to its new 21-acre Kapolei home which is scheduled to open in 2011--with 300 hotel rooms, a business conference center, two restaurants, a full-service spa, and a water recreation complex with several large pools, a fish pond, whirlpools, and water slides. Although this will be the first site not built next to a theme park, it will have a definite Hawaiian theme, offer an exciting vacation opportunity, and employ a cast of 1000 people when it opens.

Progress on the new campus of University of Hawaii – West Oahu has begun with the review of bid proposals to purchase a 55-acre land parcel in Kapolei. Construction is to start by the second quarter of 2010 on its Phase 1 project of five buildings and will accommodate 2000 students when completed. There are four upper division schools offering post-secondary education in the community as well as three private schools—one serving pre-kindergarten grades through grade 12 and two others offering kindergarten through grade 12. Two elementary schools serve Makakilo and three of the state’s newest public schools were built in Kapolei for students attending elementary, middle, and high school grades.

The combination of our Makakilo community and the new development projects of Kapolei—less than a mile away, showed the greatest increase of population in the 2000 Census with a total of 24,465 residents. Estimates of population growth as shown by Kapolei Master Plan sources indicate 129,000 in 2015 and 173,170 in 2025 plus job expectations of 46,130 in 2015 and 64,720 in 2025. Dr. Leroy Laney, Professor of Finance and Economics and currently full professor with Hawaii Pacific University, said recently: “Kapolei is a growth hotspot—a boom amidst a national bust. Thanks to activity in Kapolei, we’re likely to see less volatile swings in statewide employment, personal income growth and tax revenues.”

Respectfully submitted:

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