

## **\$95 Million Court Complex for Kapolei**

### **By Voice of Kapolei Staff**

The Hawaii State Judiciary received approval for the Kapolei Court Complex this past session when the Legislature approved \$95 million to design, construct and equip the new facility. The complex will include a new Waianae district court and a new Juvenile Detention Center.

When the complex is completed, the Judiciary will relocate about 350 employees to staff the courts and the juvenile detention facility. The project may attract an additional 300 jobs to Kapolei in related support services and it is expected that more than 4,000 people a week will conduct business at the new complex.

“This is an important addition to our community that will bring jobs and services to an area where a growing number of people live,” said Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee Chair, Senator Colleen Hanabusa. “We are the growth center of Oahu, and it’s only natural that the new court complex will be in Kapolei.”

The complex will be located at the corner of Kamokila Boulevard and Kapolei Parkway on 15.3 acres of land, which would be donated to the Judiciary by Campbell Estate provided that a construction contract is signed by December 2006. Now in the design phase, construction on the complex is expected to begin in 2007, with completion slated for 2010.

The existing family court and juvenile detention facilities in downtown Honolulu are overcrowded and substandard. The new Kapolei Court Complex will accommodate more court operations, including both jury and non-jury trials, related probation and social service functions, and district, family and circuit court services. The courtrooms will have more space to adequately conduct hearings, and provide better separation of parties and witnesses who currently wait together in overcrowded areas.

The new Juvenile Detention Center will replace the current Alder Street Juvenile Detention Facility, a deteriorated and operationally inadequate World War II-vintage facility. The new detention center will accommodate up to 72 juveniles.

“The Kapolei Court Complex will bring a full complement of services for the public to our community,” said Senator Brian Kanno.

Representative Michael Kahikina fully supports the Kapolei Court Complex, especially since it improves services for residents on the Waianae coast. “Over 40 percent of family court cases come from Waianae, and our Waianae district court does not handle family court matters, so residents have to drive into downtown Honolulu,” Kahikina said. “The new Kapolei Court Complex will handle both district court and family court matters in much larger and more conveniently located facilities.”

No one could be more pleased than Chief Justice Ronald Moon, who complimented his Administrative Director, Rick Keller, and the Judiciary's legislative team for their hard work in convincing the Legislature for the need for the new complex. "Through the eventual phasing-in of a full-service court operation at Kapolei, the Judiciary will provide a complement of court services appropriate to a major urban area," he said. "This is consistent with our philosophy that judicial services must be conveniently available to all."

### **Judiciary Welcomes Comments via Web Site**

The Judiciary recently launched a website as a way of keeping the public informed and encouraging community input on plans for the Kapolei Court Complex and the Juvenile Detention Center.

The website contains an overview of the court complex, the latest updates, an archive of media reports, details about the design plan, a photo gallery and a timeline for the project. It also includes an online feedback form that allows the public to comment on the court complex plans.

To access the Kapolei Court Complex Web site, go to [www.courts.state.hi.us](http://www.courts.state.hi.us) and click on the Special Projects and Events section. To send written comments, mail letters to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts, Attention: Public Affairs Office, 417 South King Street, Room 206C, Honolulu, HI 96813-2902, or e-mail [pao@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:pao@courts.state.hi.us).