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New Bike and Pedestrian Path in the Works for Ko'olau Loa

(Honolulu, Hawaii—July 12, 2010)—Biking and walking along the Ko'olau Loa coast to go to school, work, or visit family and friends will soon become easier and safer. A 7,400-foot path linking Lā'ie and Kahuku is planned for the Ko'olau Loa region *mauka* (mountainside) of Kamehameha Highway in Malaekahana.

The land is owned by Hawaii Reserves, Inc. (HRI). Pending permit approvals, the groundbreaking will be by summer's end.

As part of Envision Lā'ie, a community planning process for Lā'ie, workshop participants expressed support for a network of bike paths and sidewalks connecting destinations within the community and keeping cars off the road. Lā'ie is already pedestrian and bike-oriented.

“Our quality of life is getting a great boost with the Malaekahana bike path,” said Pane Meatoga, Lā'ie Community Association president. “This Envision Lā'ie project is an investment in our community's safety and wellness, and it can help ease transportation concerns.”

“Our goal with the Malaekahana bike path is to begin creating a region where cycling and walking are made easy, safe and accessible for all ages – especially our school kids,” said R. Eric Beaver, president of HRI.

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann praised the newly announced project. “This project complements the City's Honolulu Bicycle Path Master Plan for bicycle-friendly neighborhoods, where biking becomes a viable and popular travel choice for students, commuters, families and visitors. It's wonderful to see this kind of partnership between a private entity and the larger community to help improve the safety and health of residents.”

The meandering path, nearly a mile and a half long, will be about 15 feet from the highway. It will run between the Kahawainui and Malaekahana bridges. The 8-foot-wide path is a collaboration between HRI, the Lā'ie Community Association (LCA) and community residents. HRI will provide the land and materials; LCA, residents and local businesses will provide labor.

“It's a community partnership project, and we invite residents, neighbors, family and friends to help out. The work will be a lot of fun and something we can all feel good about,” said Meatoga.

Neighbors in the Kahuku community are excited about the project, according to Ralph Makaiau, Kahuku Community Association president. “We're looking at helping out with the Malaekahana path and exploring ways to create something similar from Kahuku to the Turtle Bay area and beyond,” said Makaiau.

Envision Lā'ie represents a diverse group of residents and stakeholders of Lā'ie, Kahuku, Hau'ula and Ko'olau Loa who are working together to study Lā'ie and plan for its future possibilities, especially a future that protects quality of life and emphasizes the values of the people who live in the Ko'olau Loa region. For more information, visit: www.envisionlaie.com

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MEDIA NOTE: Bike/pedestrian path rendering attached.



Malakahana Bike Path Project