

*CIRE acknowledges with gratitude the contributors to our summer newsletter. Included in this edition are articles by James Hochberg, Esq., whose housing project addresses the homeless situation. CIRE is also pleased to include a topic of special interest to the real estate industry and to the community as a whole. Community Planning & Engineering, Inc. provides a perspective and solution on our transportation system. Also, Rev. Darryl Matthews writes about being thankful daily.*

### *HCCC to Build Homeless Facility*

*by James Hochberg, Esq.*

The Hawaii Coalition of Christian Churches (HCCC) is a grouping of



various Christian churches coming together to have a positive impact on the impoverished Waianae coast. The criteria for churches joining the HCCC is that they support the singular

goal of assisting the needy.

Formed over two years ago, HCCC received \$5 million from the State of Hawaii in April to partially fund its Kahikolu Ohana Hale O Waianae project or “KOHOW” an emergency homeless shelter, transitional housing and low income rental housing project in Waianae. The land is leased from the State for 55 years commencing this summer. The cornerstone of the KOHOW project is the

understanding that the success of this project is completely dependent on the individual homeless family members changing from the inside to successfully transition back into the community.

HCCC has future plans for five more similar facilities on Oahu. KOHOW the first of the planned projects. It will provide 40 emergency beds, and 72 units for transitional

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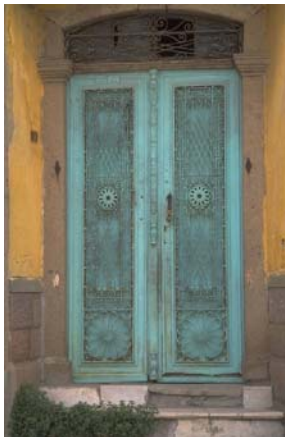


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**“I PRAY THAT YOU MAY BE ACTIVE IN SHARING YOUR FAITH, SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF EVERY GOOD THING WE HAVE IN CHRIST.”**

PHILEMON 6 (NIV)



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For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:8 (NIV)

and low income rentals. The project will include an extensive two year program offering vocational skills (such as computer and culinary classes), life skills, parenting skills, day care, nursery school, physical and mental health services, and dental services. KOHOW will also seek to assist those who have gone through the two year program to gain affordable home ownership.

An outreach program on the Waianae coast will begin to take the homeless through

the two year program. The outreach programs include mentoring, counseling, youth concerts, family projects, housing and tree plantings.

The Housing & Community Development Corporation of Hawaii worked with the HCCC to gain unconditional approval to lease State land for \$1.00 per year for the next thirty years. The building of the KOHOW project will cost \$15 million dollars. In 2006, the State of Hawaii awarded the HCCC \$5 million dollars for the

KOHOW project, and the City and County awarded it \$500,000. Funds are being sought from private charities and other sources as well.

Anyone interested in more information or getting involved, should contact Pastor Boo Soares of the Hawaii Coalition of Christian Churches at 808/668-8080.

*(James Hochberg is an attorney in Honolulu and is a volunteer member of HCCC)*

## *Thanksgiving In The Summer*

I recently was shopping in a store that was celebrating "Christmas in July" and everything that was specially marked had a 50% discount off of the regular price. One of the movie channels on the cable line-up also was celebrating "Christmas in July" and went so far as to run the Christmas classic It's a Wonderful Life.

I would like to propose that as believers we celebrate Thanksgiving not only in November but as a part of who we are everyday. How can we celebrate Thanksgiving everyday? The psalmist gives us some keys in the 102nd Psalm. The first key is praise & worship. The new International Version of this psalm uses the word "praises" where the KJV uses "bless". Worship is the

act of celebrating and flattering the Lord based upon who God is. God is to receive our adoration and admiration simply because of who God is. We can also give thanks for what God has done for us. Each of us can be thankful for the clients and employment that we have. When we've been sick, He has been there to touch our aching bodies. God has blessed us not only with many of our needs but he has even blessed us with many of our wants and desires. So we give thanks to God through daily praise and worship.

The second key that is required for a thankful life is remembrance. Remembrance actually enhances the first key of praise and worship. The

reason our worship many times can be so flat and lifeless is because we don't come into God's presence with a good memory. When you recall what God has done over the course of your life, there is much thanks we can offer God.

One of the ways you can help your memory is to keep a record of the blessings of the Lord in your life. Many of us carry around a Palm Pilot or other PDA. Others of us use a Daytimer or pocket planner that we jot notes upon. Begin to use these tools to extend your memory. When you're late to a meeting and God gives you all green lights on the highway, that's a blessing-jot it down! When you're digging through your purse or wallet and come across a \$20 bill you had tucked away and yet needed right at that moment, that's a blessing-

jot it down! When the new checkout lane opens in Foodland or Safeway just as you are ready to checkout, that's a blessing-jot it down!

If you would keep a log of God's goodness to you over the course of a week, you would certainly find a lot to give God praise for not only daily but when you set your feet in the house of worship on the Lord's day. Not only will your worship be enhanced, but your testimony will be enhanced by the list of things that you can point when sharing your faith. Your life then becomes one of thanksgiving on a consistent basis and not just the last Thursday of November. You too can celebrate Thanksgiving in the summer.

*by Rev. Darryl Matthews*

## *Take Time To Be Thankful, Summer Luncheon*

Our annual summer luncheon is on Thursday, August 17, 2006. The function is that special time of year when we join together to thank God for

our blessings. The theme of the event is "I Am With You." The luncheon will be at the Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki Ballroom, from 11:30

to 1:30 pm. Watch for the flyer or email [cirehawaii@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:cirehawaii@hawaii.rr.com) for details. You can also visit our website at

[www.christinasinrealestate.org](http://www.christinasinrealestate.org) for further information and to register for the event.

## *Transportation ~ What is the Solution?*

*(The following article was contributed by Community Planning & Engineering, Inc., which is currently active in planning the mass transit system. For additional information, contact Nalani Dahl at 531-4252x39)*

About 650,000 of the approximately 900,000 people who reside on Oahu, live in the 139 square mile Honolulu urbanized area that is defined by the U. S. Department of Transportation to evaluate transportation statistics for the City of Honolulu. This is a density of more than 4,600 people per square mile. The New York-Newark metropolitan area has a density of only 3,717 people per square mile. In fact, Los Angeles is the only urbanized area in the United States with a higher population than Honolulu.

According to the *U.S. Department of Transportation Highway Statistics 2004*, there are approximately 1,100 lane miles of roads in the Honolulu's urbanized area. This is about 8 lane miles per square mile of area or 1.7 lane miles per 1,000 residents. How does this compare to the rest of the United States? If we look at the other urbanized areas with more than 500,000 people, the average is 8.7 lane miles per square mile of land and 4 lane miles per 1,000 people.

Honolulu has about the same roadway density (number of lanes per area of land) as other large cities in the United States, but there are about twice as many people that need to use each lane mile. This is one of the reasons that more people per capita ride transit - The Bus - in Honolulu than in any other city in the U.S. that doesn't have rail. There is a lot of demand, but not enough transportation supply.

### **What are our choices?**

We could do nothing, and the residents of Honolulu could continue to find ways to cope by riding buses stuck in traffic and heading to work even earlier to try to miss the morning rush.

If we could afford it, we could build another 1,100 lane miles to serve the residents. This would cost tens or billions of dollars, displace thousands of residents and businesses, and take decades. It would require every road to be widened or have a second layer built above it.

We could build a balanced transportation solution that includes roads and transit. This type of solution would include roadway improvements, like those identified in the Oahu Regional Transportation Plan. It would also include a major transit system to serve much of the demand.

A freeway lane can carry about 2,000 people per hour. A bus lane that is managed to allow HOVs and toll-paying drivers might carry about twice that many people; by further increasing the number of buses and decreasing the number of cars, perhaps 6,000 people per hour could be carried. A rail line can carry between 5,000 and 15,000 people in each direction in an hour.

With one of the highest densities of any urbanized area in the United States, large numbers of people will be able to easily walk to their nearest transit station. Transit riders experience quicker and less stressful travel because they are not stuck in traffic and every trip taken by transit takes one trip by car off the roads. Transit also can result in fuel savings, an especially important factor when you consider that all of Oahu's fuel has to be brought in by tanker ships. On average, buses use about one-half the energy of automobiles per person-trip and rail uses one-fifth. Mass transit can provide mobility for those who can't drive, whether they're too young, too old, disabled or can't afford a car. In addition, reliable mass transit can make commute times more consistent and dependable than driving.

The bottom line? Honolulu cannot build itself out of its transportation needs with roads alone.

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Ephesians 2:10