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YMCA of Honolulu
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THE WINDWARD YMCA BEGINS MAJOR UPGRADES TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

Honolulu, HI, August 27, 2010 – The Windward YMCA will launch a campaign to raise funds for a major upgrade of its 50-year-old facility, located at 1200 Kailua Road, at 10:30 a.m. Friday, September 3.

The upgrade will include enclosing the Y's outdoor courtyard, widening walkways and building new ramps for better accessibility, adding new fitness equipment and other improvements. Funds raised will go toward matching a \$600,000 challenge grant from the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation. Projects completed so far in conjunction with the Castle grant include hooking the Y up to the city sewer system and extensively renovating the branch's pool.

Leading the campaign is Harry Saunders, president of Castle & Cooke Hawaii, who has assembled a team of eight volunteers to help in the effort. Consultant David Earles from Capacity Plus is providing guidance to the volunteers and assisting the branch's executive director, Bill Stone, in approaching potential donors.

The committee's goal is to raise \$145,000 from YMCA members, other residents of windward Oahu, businesses and foundations. Committee members, the Windward YMCA Board of Managers and community supporters already have contributed more than \$69,000 toward the goal.

Saunders, who is a longtime Kailua resident, grew up going to the Y after the branch opened in 1959. He attended Sea Scout meetings at the Y, learned scuba diving in the pool and took part in teen functions during his high school years.

"I know how important the Windward YMCA has been to our community over the years, and I want to ensure that it remains a resource for children, teens and adults in the decades to come," Saunders said.

Donors giving \$1,000 or more will be recognized with a 4-inch by 8-inch inscribed tile that will become part of the Y's "Wall of Honor" in the enclosed courtyard. Anyone donating \$25,000 or more will be recognized on one of the six columns holding up the new courtyard roof – thus becoming literally "a pillar of the community," Stone said.

Anyone interested in making a donation toward the goal, may contact Stone at 261-0808 or through e-mail at bstone@ymcahonolulu.org. The deadline to complete the fund-raising campaign is December 31.

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