

# Draft [Kanehili, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands]

Senator Daniel K. Akaka Papers

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Mahalo Chairman Nahale-a (for the introduction)

Secretary Donovan, Senator Inouye, Chairman Nahale-a, members of the Commission and ~~most~~ ~~importantly~~, the Amano family, and everyone gathered here today, my aloha to you.

I ~~also~~ want to welcome you, Secretary Donovan, and express my mahalo for the great dedication you bring to improving communities across the nation as Housing Secretary.

This is a joyous occasion. We have come together this afternoon with much aloha, for the blessing and key presentation to the Amano family as they take ownership of their new home.

I am also happy to point out that these <sup>new</sup> homes will have lower electricity bills than typical houses – thanks to thoughtful design and construction. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, for our environment and economy, we must be more akamai, use less energy and save money.

In addition to the immediate benefit of affordable and attractive homes, Kanehili will bring long-term benefits as a well planned development near schools, employment centers, and parks, as well as other recreational areas.

So let me again congratulate the Amano family and express my mahalo to Secretary Donovan for his <sup>HUD's</sup> ~~Department's~~ partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Congratulations Jonathan and Kanoe and your four children on this new beginning as you become the newest residents of Kanehili.

We would not be here today without the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Programs such as HUD's Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant Program and the USDA Direct Loan program help young families like the Amanos overcome obstacles to home ownership.

This partnership has helped the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide more opportunities for home ownership for its beneficiaries.