



Kapolei: A case study of urban planning

Nearly 80 high school students from the U.S., and eight countries including China, Denmark, England, India, Japan, Jordan, South Korea, and Sweden came to the City of Kapolei for the unusual experience of seeing a brand new city in the process of being built. Unusual, because most of them were from cities many centuries older than either Honolulu or Kapolei, which is a mere 24 years old.

The tour was part of Punahou School's annual Student Global Leadership Institute, an initiative that began in 2010 with grants from several national foundations

and research centers. The institute's purpose is to develop a community of international youth leaders who understand and are engaged in shared global challenges and who galvanize positive social change. Teams of students develop community service projects addressing such worldwide issues as the environment, economics and globalization. This year's program theme is Cities, with a focus on infrastructure, culture and resource acquisition. Kapolei was the perfect case study of urban planning that starts with raw land upon which a new city can be built guided by a master plan that includes all the components



required to create a livable, culturally rooted, environmentally friendly, and economically dynamic city.

"The students were impressed by how much detail and planning has gone into Kapolei's development," said Kapolei Properties LLC's Robby Field, who led the tour. "When I explained the role of public-private partnerships and the on-going efforts to coordinate with all levels of government, they appreciated how this maximizes the benefits for all stakeholders."

The Kapolei visit included a guided tour of the region, showing how the area has changed over the last half century from sugar cane to a fully functioning city with a harbor, a developing transportation network, infrastructure to support growth, an expanding commercial center, residential neighborhoods, and jobs for its residents.

"Students coming from new cities like those springing up in China were amazed at how well planned and utilized the area is," said Field. "They were also pleased with the cleanliness and aesthetic appearance of the city."

"Kapolei is a good example for students to use to look at their

own cities and evaluate what parts are and are not most desired," said Chai Reddy, associate director of Punahou's Wo International Center. "Because many of the students come from cities that are much more established and fixed in development, having the chance to see a fairly blank slate was a good opportunity to consider the questions and discussions that go into planning a city."

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He continued, "We hoped that they would look at the urban planning features and characteristics of Kapolei and take these observations back to their home cities in order to help improve their own schools, communities, and cities."

"The experience will definitely last with the students as they had a lot more questions they were eager to ask us on the ride back," said Reddy after the tour. "Many were wondering about the challenges their own cities face."



KAPOLEI PROPERTIES LLC

Kapolei Properties LLC is an affiliate of the James Campbell Company with a focus on the development of the City of Kapolei, and on economic development and job creation in the Kapolei region.

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