



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PLANNING BEGINS ON PULELEHUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Lahaina, Hawaii** – The process to plan an elementary school within Pulelehua – Maui Land & Pineapple Company’s proposed affordable master-planned community in West Maui – has begun. The state Department of Education has conducted a site visit and several public meetings, where educators and community members have been encouraged to help in the master planning and design of the elementary school – which will be tailored to the community’s needs.

This series of design meetings for the elementary school is the latest way the people of Maui have come together to help create Pulelehua. In 2005, over 600 residents participated in a community planning process and among their major recommendations was the need for an elementary school in Pulelehua.

“The schools in Lahaina are overcrowded and stretched to the max,” said Lindsay Ball, principal of King Kamehameha III Elementary School. “Hopefully the school comes to fruition, because that area is where the bulk of the kids come from at King Kamehameha III Elementary School.”

Educators from public and private schools in the area were invited to participate, as were community members interested in planning a school. These committed individuals have been meeting since February 2007 to help design and build a successful school for the Pulelehua community.

“It’s a nice thing to tailor the school and make it for the needs of West Maui,” said Ball. “It’s not a cookie cutter school. It’s going to be designed for the needs of the area.”

“Including local residents and teachers in this planning process ensures a well planned school,” said Bob McNatt, President, Community Development, Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc. “These community members and teachers have first-hand knowledge on how best to create useful learning facilities for the future students of the school.”

Maui Land & Pineapple Company will provide approximately 13 acres for Pulelehua Elementary School and more than \$2 million for facilities improvements in the Lahainaluna complex. Governor Linda Lingle released \$300,000 for the planning of the school, and additional funding of \$650,000 is included in the 2008 fiscal year to continue the process.

The school is also being designed to meet The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines. The LEED certification will ensure the design and operation of the school is cost-effective, built green, and will provide a healthy, comfortable learning environment for students and teachers.

A master plan for the Pulelehua elementary school – derived from the public's input – will be completed at the end of the summer.

Construction of the school will also alleviate commuter traffic in Lahaina, as residents will be able to take their children to school without leaving Pulelehua. And due to the convenient location of the school – which will be easily accessible to everyone in the community – many families will have the option of walking to school.

**About Pulelehua:** Built by and for the working families of West Maui, Pulelehua has been designed according to a plan based on the input of 600 island residents. A total of 882 homes are planned for Pulelehua, including 500 affordable homes and 100 homes at below-market prices. Designed to celebrate the natural features of the area, Pulelehua will respect fragile ecosystems and will maintain 136 acres in the community as open space, including 26 acres of neighborhood parks. With biking and walking paths, pedestrian-friendly streets, a lively town center, and inviting, accessible public places, Pulelehua will offer residents the opportunity to live, work, play and learn in a connected community. For additional information on Pulelehua please visit [www.pulelehua.com](http://www.pulelehua.com).

**About Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.:** Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc. is committed to the integration of agriculture, natural resource management and eco-effective design principles to create and manage holistic communities. ML&P's vision of holistic communities is based on the traditional Hawaiian model of *ahupua`a*, a system of self-reliance based on the artful use of land and water resources to sustain island life indefinitely. ML&P is a Hawai'i corporation and successor to a business organized in 1909. Its principal operating subsidiaries are Maui Pineapple Company Ltd., a producer and marketer of Maui-grown pineapple and organic produce and Kapalua Land Company Ltd., operator of Kapalua Resort, a master-planned resort community in West Maui. For additional information please visit [www.mauiland.com](http://www.mauiland.com).