



FLOOD RELIEF – PROPOSAL FOR KOKUA OPPORTUNITY ON OAHU

Location: Hawaii Kai Retirement and Assisted Living Community
428 Kawaihae Street, Honolulu 96825

POC: Valery O’Brien (email) valob@hawaiiantel.net, (cell) 808 222-0705

Date: Volunteer Recruitment – May 2018, Work Days – June 2018

This community is home to almost 400 seniors. All units and cottages are rental units.

Of the 400, over 50 seniors were relocated temporarily because of flooding from the heavy rains that inundated parts of East Honolulu on April 14-15, 2018. 30 single units and 5 cottages were damaged by the flooding, some are having to be gutted and re-built. Holiday Retirement, the owners of the facility, has teams currently working on repairing damages and cleaning out each of the units.

It is anticipated that residents will have to move back within 45 days (approximately 60 days since the flooding) although exact dates have not yet been determined.

Some of the vulnerable seniors do not have family members to assist when it’s time to move. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church will reach out to offer assistance as able. Val O’Brien, ‘Ohana Mass member and temp worker in the Office for Social Ministry also works part-time at the Hawaii Kai Retirement Community. She will lead coordination efforts that will include:

- Recruiting volunteers, organizing work teams, soliciting donations for cleaning supplies.
- Coordinating volunteer teams to assist with meal preparation for the volunteers and impacted residents.
- Organizing outreach ministries who will put together “welcome baskets” for residents as they move back home.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Val will coordinate with her supervisor at Hawaii Kai Retirement, a query to the effected residents to determine who will need help when moving from their temporary unit back to their permanent residence.
2. OSM will help to recruit volunteers disseminating volunteer opportunities to local parish communities – to include lunch (and ice water) for workers and a *Welcome Home* basket for the senior resident.
3. Val will assist with scheduling work/moving days.
4. An article and pictures will be submitted to the Hawaii Catholic Herald to celebrate our successful collaboration and outreach to our kupuna.