

Kalihi YMCA
2005 Annual Support Campaign
Case Statement
“Breaking New Ground”

In 1952, the Board and staff of the Kalihi YMCA opened a brand new facility to serve the children and teens in our community. Over the next fifty years, the Kalihi YMCA became a “home away from home” for thousands of young people. Children learned to swim, to camp and to explore and learn about our island home. Teens took part in clubs where they developed friendships that have lasted a lifetime, and where they also learned many of the skills that helped them grow into responsible and productive adults. At the same time, the Kalihi YMCA created outreach programs for teens that had problems in school, with their families or with substance abuse.

Over the years, Kalihi YMCA programs, particularly our teen outreach programs, have expanded into almost every community on Oahu. One byproduct of our expansion is that we outgrew the building space in our original Branch. In order to address our need for more program and office space, ground was broken in 2003 for a brand new facility.

The new Kalihi YMCA facility will open in the summer of 2005! The building will allow us to build on our history of quality programs, and make it possible for us to offer expanded programs to children, teens and, for the first time, adult members. The Kalihi YMCA will embark on a number of initiatives in the new building:

- A prime objective of our new facility is to create a safe and positive environment for Kalihi teens to spend their non-school hours. In order to do this, we will expand the hours our “teen drop-in” program is open into the evening and weekends.
- We will have an entire floor dedicated to children programs. This will include a computer center, arts and crafts rooms and a multipurpose room for larger activities.
- We will open a 900 square foot fitness facility for use by dues paying members.
- The new building will also have a variety of meeting rooms available for use by community groups.

The expansion of the Kalihi YMCA is the fulfillment of a dream that many people have had for some time: the purpose of the new facility is to be a beacon for children and adults who want a place to grow, to learn to be challenged.

More than ever, we will need your support, and the support of many individuals and businesses in the community to keep our building open longer, and to offer different programs while it is open. The Kalihi community is one challenged by issues like drug use, low graduation rates and crime. The Kalihi YMCA has worked for sixty years to

help address these serious problems. Please help us “break new ground” in our new building by making a donation when one of our volunteers calls you during our Annual Support Campaign!

The Kalihi YMCA has a rich history. With your help, we will move on to the next sixty years of creating programs that enrich the lives of children, teens and adults!

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