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May 1 Deadline Looms for Oahu Charities

Abe Lee Charities To Give Thousands in Multi-Year Grants

New funding for Oahu charities has just become available. Local businessman Abe Lee, Principal Broker of Abe Lee Realty, has earmarked a minimum of \$24,000 per year to help support Oahu charities. Grant amounts will be based on a percentage of gross sales at Abe Lee Realty, with a cap of \$100,000 being distributed in the community per year.

Applications for the first funding cycle are due by May 1, 2007. Certified Oahu 501(c)(3) organizations may request applications and guidelines by going to www.abeleerealty.com/charities/ or by calling 942-4472, ext. 206. Initially, the bulk of the funding will be allocated to charities that assist the homeless and first-time homebuyers, but the funding will not be solely restricted to those areas of need. All Oahu charities are invited to submit applications.

Abe Lee Charities is a grant-making body for Oahu 501 (c)(3) agencies. It will not provide direct social services or programs. Funding guidelines and policy will be driven by a five-member panel of volunteer advisors including Hawaii Kai developer, educator, and estate trustee attorney **Kenneth Chong**; Retired Chair of Occidental Underwriters of Hawaii and noted philanthropist **Siegfred Kagawa**; and Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee and long-time education advocate **Oz Stender**. Lee's wife **Sally Lee**, a social worker for nearly 30 years, will lend first-hand experience about Oahu's social issues.

"With so many families in need of housing, it was time to step up corporate giving," said Lee. "Everyone deserves a roof over their head and a place to call home." Lee has served on the Mayor's Affordable Housing Committee and has been involved for many years in projects that aid first-time home buyers.

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