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Oahu Charities Get New Funding Source

Abe Lee Charities Pledges 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 various 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 each year.

Lee's newly launched Abe Lee Charities will act solely as a grant-making body for Oahu 501 (c)(3) agencies. It will not provide social services or programs. Initially, the bulk of the funding will be directed to charities that assist the homeless. Funding guidelines and policy will be driven by a five-member panel of volunteer advisors. The advisory panel will vote on funding requests and set strategic policy.

Lee's advisory panel consists of 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 of Oahu's social issues.

"With so many families in need of housing, it was time to step up corporate giving," said Lee, noting that funding will also be given to non-homelessness causes. "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 buyers.

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. Grants will be given quarterly, and the application deadline for the next funding cycle is May 1, 2007.

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