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Abe Lee Charities Selects Hawaii HomeOwnership Center

First-ever Grant Recipient to Receive up to \$25,000 by September

Abe Lee Charities, a newly formed grant-making body for Oahu 501 (c)(3) agencies, has selected the Hawaii HomeOwnership Center as its first-ever grant recipient. Founded by local entrepreneur **Abe Lee**, Principal Broker of Abe Lee Realty, a percentage of gross sales at Abe Lee Realty is being earmarked for community charities with a cap of \$100,000 being donated per year.

Kendall J. Hirai, Executive Director of Hawaii HomeOwnership Center said, "It's an honor to be the first-ever award recipient of Abe Lee Charities. Abe Lee obviously understands the importance of increasing homeownership opportunities—which is clearly evidenced by his generosity towards the cause."

The first check was presented to Hawaii HomeOwnership Center's Board of Directors on July 5, 2007. "We received a number of submissions for the grant and felt that the Hawaii HomeOwnership Center was most closely aligned with our funding priorities," Abe Lee said, noting that all applications are kept on file for consideration for a period of five years.

With four funding cycles per year, certified Oahu-based 501(c)(3) organizations are encouraged to apply for grants by going to www.abeleerealty.com/charities/ or by calling 942-4472, ext. 206. The next proposal deadline is August 1, 2007. The bulk of funding is directed to charities that assist the homeless and first-time homebuyers but funding is not solely restricted to those areas.

Funding policy is 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, lends first-hand experience to **Abe Lee** and the committee regarding Oahu's social issues. Abe Lee Charities does not provide direct social services or programs.

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