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DLNR REOPENS POLIHALE STATE PARK ON KAUA'I

Community Partners Volunteer to Beautify Park This Weekend

LIHU'E -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has reopened Polihale State Park at the west end of Kaua'i this week, following repairs to the park access road and the park's water system. Camping permits are now being issued for the park campground.

"We welcome the public back to Polihale now that the road and water system have been repaired," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson. "We also thank the community volunteers who are partnering with the state to help to beautify this popular west side park,"

The Division of State Parks purchased cobble-sized stones and workers began backfilling the low spots and potholes with the stones on February 7. More roadwork will continue for the next few weeks including additional backfilling of the low spots with stones and clearing of roadside brush.

Further work was done at the well site including installing a new pump and replacing the casing of the well. Upgrades to the well's electrical system will be undertaken soon as a preventive maintenance measure. The job is being planned so that disruption of water delivery will be minimized, if at all.

While sedans can now navigate the Polihale access road, caution is advised since the access road is a rough dirt road when dry and certain sections can turn into mud holes during rainy periods. Motorists are also advised to drive with caution when road work is underway.

For park and camping information call the Kaua'i State Parks office at (808) 274-3444.

'Operation Polihale,' a community service partnership to improve the park, will continue this month, with Leadership Kaua'i, a private non-profit organization established to educate and inspire future young leaders.

Members of Leadership Kauai's Pi'ina Hoku (rising stars) Youth Program have committed to 'Operation Polihale,' and will help clean the campground and other park areas. The youth group consists of 20 juniors representing high schools from across the island. They will be joined by a group of adult program participants.

This Saturday (March 8), Leadership Kaua'i will be repainting four restrooms. On April 12, they will be repainting the fifth restroom, assist in installing vehicle barriers, and repairing fixtures. On those days and the Friday prior, the camping areas will be closed. The placement of vehicle barriers is for public safety, protection of coastal vegetation, and prevention of sand dune erosion.

"Since, 2004, we have graduated 60 adult and 20 youth committed to serving the needs of our island," said Mason Chock, executive director of Leadership Kaua'i. "Every year our participants undergo community projects to embrace the process of planning and implementing successful community initiatives."

Interested community members who also wish to participate in these volunteer service days may

contact Leadership Kaua'i at (808) 246-8727.

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For more information, media may contact:
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