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HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL: PRE-DEMOLITION BLESSING CEREMONY KICKS OFF IMPLEMENTATION OF MASTER PLAN FOR KANEOHE CAMPUS

HONOLULU -- When the demolition of the Goddard Building officially begins on Monday, Feb. 29, it will represent the start off a new era for Hawaii State Hospital. For years, the psychiatric hospital has been plagued by overcrowding that has compromised the safety of patients, employees and the surrounding community.

The demolition is the first step toward addressing the root-cause of the hospital's challenges and improving the quality and safety of patient care.

The Hawaii State Department of Health, which oversees Hawaii State Hospital, celebrated the important milestone with a pre-demolition blessing ceremony on the Kaneohe campus today. The ceremony was led by Kahu Wendell Kalanikapuaenui Silva, a cultural advisor.

"Enhancing access to quality adult mental health care has been a top priority for our state and today we have good reason to celebrate," said Virginia Pressler, MD, director of the Hawaii Department of Health. "The Hawaii State Hospital team has worked to address numerous challenging situations within the constraints that we have, but now there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We would not have been able to reach this milestone without the support from the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services team and support from Hawaii's legislators."

The initial phases of the demolition will take place within the interior of the two-story, 70-year-old Goddard Building and will involve the safe removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials.

This asbestos abatement phase is projected to continue through May 2016. The other phases of the demolition are tentatively targeted for completion by late August 2016. The demolition phase includes plans to preserve the Goddard Building's historical elements such as the metal and concrete grill and the placards.

KYA Design Group, a local architectural and planning firm, was awarded the bid to execute the demolition in collaboration with the Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services, which is providing project management. The general contractor is

Henry's Equipment Rental and Sales.

Gov. David Ige's legislative package included a bill for a \$160 million allocation to replace the Goddard Building with a modern, new 144-bed facility. Using a design-build process, the new facility is projected to take fewer than five years to complete.

The new building will feature a rehab mall and dining room exclusively for the high-risk patients so they will no longer have to be placed with other mental health patients. A secure exterior wall and high-security fencing system will reduce the risk of patient elopements for enhanced community safety.

The new building will be modeled after the design used by the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, where Bill May, Hawaii State Hospital administrator, previously served as superintendent. The new building will provide clear lines of sight from a central nursing station, which will reduce the risk of patients harming themselves or each other and assaulting hospital staff.

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