



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UNVEILS NEWLY RENOVATED LOBBY, MARRIAGE LICENSE OFFICE

HONOLULU – The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) today opened the newly renovated public entrance and lobby of Kinau Hale at 1250 Punchbowl St. in Honolulu. The project was the vision of Health Director Loretta “Deliana” Fuddy, who passed away last December after a hard water landing off Kalaupapa, Molokai. The late Director Fuddy was involved in the design of the project and worked with the architects for several months prior to her passing.

“It is inspiring to see Loretta’s lifetime of work on behalf of the people of Hawaii being continued through the Health Department ohana, now in a new environment she helped conceive and create,” Gov. Neil Abercrombie said.

The opening included the unveiling of an improved marriage licensing office with computer stations for couples to complete their license applications online, as well as a security station with a new video surveillance system.

“The renovation was Deliana’s vision and inspiration, and we will remember her in each detail that she chose,” said Health Director Dr. Linda Rosen. “She saw the Kinau Hale lobby as our department’s welcoming statement to visitors and employees. We hope everyone will benefit from the changes and enjoy the new look and feel of the entryway and marriage office.”

A commemorative crystal plaque in the lobby serves as a remembrance in appreciation for the work of Director Fuddy as the former health director from 2011 to 2013. The plaque reads: “The Kina’u Hale Lobby is dedicated to the memory of Loretta ‘Deliana’ Fuddy, 1948-2013. A champion of public health, dedicated to serving the people of Hawai’i. She will remain forever in our hearts. Promoting Lifelong Health & Wellness.”

Also unveiled were two original artworks by local artist Kamea Namba Hadar that symbolize the events of birth and marriage recorded at DOH. The pieces were handcrafted on koa wood and depict a couple sharing the breath of life and a young family.

The renovation project was contracted by the Department of Accounting and General Services, and construction was completed over eight months by Robert M. Kaya Builders, Inc. Designed by Anbe, Aruga and Ishizu, Architects, Inc., the project also includes new ceilings, floors, window walls, wall finishes and electronic door locks. It was completed at the cost of \$460,000 and funded by the Legislature through capital improvement bond funds from Act 164/SLH 2011.

Last year, the Hawaii Department of Health registered 22,813 marriages, 18,825 births, and 10,526 deaths that occurred statewide. The department is responsible for maintaining more than 3.3 million marriage, birth and death records dating from as early as 1841. Each week, the department's Vital Records Office issues approximately 6,000 certified copies of marriage, birth and death records to local, national and international requesters who order these records by mail, through the internet, and in-person.

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