

Media Contact:

Dylan Beesley

Bennet Group

dylan@bennetgroup.com

(808) 285-7272

Turtle Bay Foundation and AES Hawai'i Donate \$40,000 to Fund Air Conditioning for North Shore Students

As temperatures soar, returning Kahuku High School students will enjoy cool classrooms

KAHUKU, O'AHU, HAWAII' - Turtle Bay Foundation and AES Hawai'i partnered together to donate \$40,000 for the installation of air conditioners in 23 portable classrooms at Kahuku High School. The charitable contributions bring an end to the sweltering heat of the portables, enabling faculty and students to teach and learn in a cool and comfortable environment.



Kahuku High and Intermediate School teacher Mark Woolsey celebrates the new air conditioner that replaces the many fans he purchased to keep his classroom cool.

"I was just talking to my wife about how nice it would be to have an AC to teach in," said Mark Woolsey, a Japanese and ukulele teacher at Kahuku High and Intermediate School. "When it really gets hot, I wear a towel around my neck because I sweat so much. I am hoping that the cool air is going to help with the learning atmosphere."

Kahuku High and Intermediate School is home to 1,400 students from grades 7-12. It has 26 portable classrooms-the largest number in the state-with only three of them previously air-conditioned. With unbearable heat making students tired and unfocused, it was evident cooler classrooms would positively impact the educational experience and learning abilities of students.

"Turtle Bay Foundation was proud to step up and pitch in when we heard Kahuku High School teachers and students were sitting in sweltering portable classrooms," said Jerry Gibson, vice president of Turtle Bay Resort. "These donations are representative of Turtle Bay's continued commitment to supporting a bright future for the next generation and all in our North Shore community."

"As part of the Nā Pua Makani Wind Farm team, I've had the pleasure of visiting Kahuku High School to learn more about the school and how we could best support its students," said Michael Hughes, project manager, AES. "AES is grateful for the opportunity to contribute toward creating a better learning environment for the faculty and 1,400 students who use these classrooms."

Turtle Bay Resort, through the Turtle Bay Foundation, and AES Hawai'i each donated \$20,000 toward air conditioning, enough to outfit the remaining 23 portable classrooms with powerful 25-BTU air conditioning units and cover the installation costs. These donations complement Turtle Bay Resort's community partnerships and the several hundred grants and scholarships awarded since 2013 by its foundation, as well as AES' community partnerships with Lā'ie Community Association, North Shore Hometown Opportunities, Inc. and other local organizations.

"I am excited that local companies can provide this for our students," said Kahuku High School teacher Lori Vimahi. "I just want to say thank you very much to everybody who made this possible. We are going to plunge right in there and enjoy our AC."

Kahuku High and Intermediate School released the following statement expressing gratitude following the installation of the air conditioning units.

"Kahuku High and Intermediate School would like to extend a heartfelt and huge MAHALO to Turtle Bay Foundation and AES Hawai'i for the gift of cool air. This generous gift is greatly appreciated!"

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Media Kit

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[To download video b-roll, please click here.](#)

[To download a video interview with Kahuku HS teacher Mark Woolsey, please click here.](#)

About AES Hawai'i

AES Hawai'i has provided low-cost energy to Hawai'i for more than 25 years, collaborating with local communities to provide the energy and infrastructure solutions Hawai'i needs. AES Hawai'i is working to help the state meet its renewable energy targets through its involvement in projects including [Nā Pua Makani](#) on the North Shore of O'ahu and solar and battery storage projects on Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island. For more information about The AES Corporation (NYSE: AES), please visit [AES.com](#).

About Turtle Bay Foundation

The [Turtle Bay Foundation](#) was established in 2012 to enrich the Ko'olauloa and North Shore communities through environmental, educational and cultural opportunities. The foundation oversees Turtle Bay Resort's numerous charitable contributions, acting as a partner in the community and supporting its mission of making one of the world's last great places even better.

About Turtle Bay Resort

[Turtle Bay Resort](#) is the only destination resort on O'ahu's historic North Shore - mecca of the surfing world. Situated on 845 acres, it offers outdoor enthusiasts four and a half miles of beach and 12 miles of oceanfront hiking trails to enjoy and explore. This is in addition to 36 holes of championship golf and a wide array of adventure, ocean and land activities. All 452 guestrooms and suites offer ocean views and there are seven restaurants and bars to enjoy the cuisine, view and ambience of Hawai'i.

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808-531-6087 | 735 Bishop St Suite 401 Honolulu, HI 96813 | [www.bennetgroup.com](#)