

Honolulu Advertiser
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OHA to buy ceded land from state

*Devil
Fr. Sunday*

Trustees agree to pay \$6 million for three parcels

By Mark Matsunaga
Advertiser Staff Writer

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs board of trustees agreed yesterday to pay the state \$6 million for the Waikiki Yacht Club site and 20 acres at the head of Keehi Lagoon.

If the sales go through, these would be OHA's first income-producing lands.

The sites are:

■ About seven acres of industrial land near Sand Island, along the mouth of Kalihi Stream. The site is now used for a bus yard.

■ Thirteen adjacent acres, on the peninsula between Kalihi and Moanalua streams. These two parcels will cost about \$3 million.

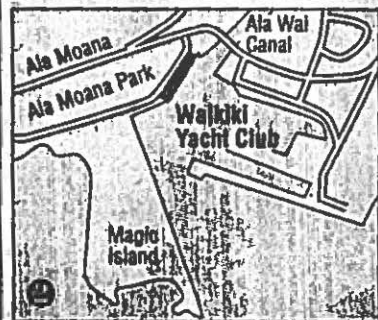
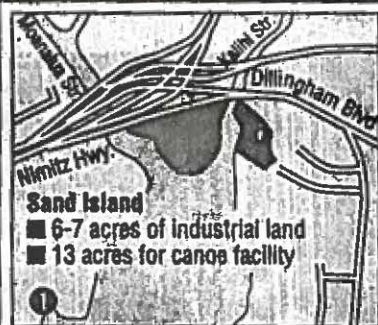
■ About 55,000 square feet, some of it submerged, that's now the home of the Waikiki Yacht Club, at the entrance to Ala Moana Beach Park.

Under preliminary terms negotiated by the Office of State Planning, OHA would pay the state \$3 million for the Ala Moana land, and agree to repair the seawall. That work would cost about \$1.4 million and the lessee would be required to pay for it, said OHA Chairman Clayton Hee.

The yacht club has been operating there on a revocable permit since its lease expired, and Hee said it would probably be allowed to remain while OHA trustees determine how to proceed.

"That more than likely will

Proposed acquisitions



result in a request for proposals from anyone and everyone who might be interested in leasing that site for a yacht club," Hee said.

Lyle Holden, staff commodore for the private club, said yesterday, "We have been here for 40 years and we'd like to continue."

The club owns the clubhouse

See OHA, Page A2

Three sans Fasi square off tonight

Governor forum 'make-or-break' one for candidates

William Kresnak
Advertiser Capitol Bureau

Three of Hawaii's governor candidates and an empty chair

THE DEBATE

Watch or listen to tonight's live forum for gubernatorial candidates at 7-9 p.m. on:

- KHON-TV2
- KIFO 1380 AM.

The Advertiser and KHON Channel 2 News.

Best Party candidate Fasi re-

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as part of Israel's policy of combating terrorism even as it sought peace. There was no other way, the 72-year-old prime minister said.

Never flinches

Rabin's lifetime has been full of such decisions, and his closest associates say he never flinches from them.

"The courage he showed in recognizing the PLO is the same courage that he had in ordering that rescue attempt," a senior government official said. "He does it by brain and he does it by gut. . . . The responsibility is frightening."

For nearly a week, Israeli authorities had no clue to Waxman's whereabouts. They believed him to be held deep in the Gaza Strip, now controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

Hoping to save the youth's life and playing for time, Rabin opened indirect negotiations with Hamas on Thursday, and Israeli officials were confidently predicting yesterday evening that a deal would be concluded within hours.

Israeli intelligence, however, learned yesterday morning that Waxman was being held in a house in Bir Nabala, on the West Bank just north of Jerusalem.

'What if I don't act?'

Through the day, the negotiations and the military preparations proceeded in parallel.

"I faced the question: What if I don't act tonight?" he said. "Would I be able to say that I did, that we did all that we could? No. I therefore authorized the action, I gave the order."

Anguished and saddened on what was to have been his day of glory, Rabin said: "I would have been very happy to give up the Nobel Prize to bring these two soldiers back."



Advertiser photo by Carl Vn

Office of Hawaiian Affairs trustees say that the Waikiki Yacht Club's 150 boat slips should make the property a revenue-raiser for OHA.

OHA: Hopes to profit from land deal with state

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building. Holden said it controls 150 boat slips, although he was not sure whether those would be part of the transaction.

Hee and other trustees indicated they believe it does, and the statewide demand for boat slips should make the property a revenue-raiser.

While OHA and Gov. John Waihee's Office of State Planning have agreed in principle, the sales are subject to approval by the state Board of Land and Natural Resources and further OHA review. The state land board is expected to take up the land deals on Oct. 28.

Hee said all three parcels are ceded lands, which once belonged to the Hawaiian crown. When Hawaii was annexed in 1898, the lands were turned over — ceded — to the federal government without compensation to native Hawaiians. Much of the land was returned to the state in 1959.

By law, OHA gets 20 percent of ceded land revenues. In these sales, OHA's cost would include a 20 percent discount, he said.

He acknowledged that some Hawaiians might question having to pay for land they say already belongs to the Hawaiian people.

"We have had long discussions with the state, and this transaction does not waive any rights or beliefs that the Hawaiians are the rightful owners of ceded lands," Hee said.

"The state has taken the position that it's a moral and emotional issue. The state is the owner at this time, for right or for wrong."

He said if ownership of ceded lands is ever resolved in favor of Hawaiians, "we may assert a right to reimbursement."

The OHA board approved acquiring the Sand Island and Waikiki parcels on 6-0 votes and thanked Wong and OHA attorney Earl Anzai for negotiating the terms.

The proposed sales stem from a 1990 state law allowing the state to offer land to OHA in addition to cash for ceded land revenues. OHA, created by a 1978 state Constitution amendment, has received more than \$140 million from the state for past use of ceded lands.



AP photo

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