

architect drawing West Loch plans

chances for residents of Ota Camp look good

The City is "still studying" the feasibility of providing housing for Ota Camp residents, but officials now say the "possibility of carrying through the project is good."

Ota Camp residents last week heard a status report on the City's plans to relocate them on 11 acres of land in West Loch, Pearl Harbor.

The meeting was attended by Leo C. Pritchard, Mayor Frank F. Fasi's executive assistant, and by architect Don Dumlao, who will draw up housing plans.

Dumlao said that at this point, "Even I don't know yet what the housing design will be like . . . but what I know of the people will be reflected in the design."

The next month will be devoted to drawing up preliminary design plans, Dumlao said. He is expected to present the plans to the City about Oct. 23.

DUMLAO said his first 30 days under City contract was spent gathering facts about the Ota Camp residents, which will make the housing project "unique."

"More than any other community, facts will be known about the intended residents," he said.

Pritchard still wanted to make one thing clear, however.

"We didn't make any promises from the beginning," he said. "We agreed to do a feasibility study and we are still studying. Up to now, everything has been positive and it seems now a possibility of carrying through the project."

PRITCHARD said "everybody seems to forget this point"—that the City

began this venture to take care of the neglected single people.

"There are no housing programs for single people," Pritchard said.

Originally, the City's housing task force met with representatives of Kahaluu, Chinatown and Ota Camp to discuss plans to take care of the housing needs of the

nonmarried residents. At that time, Pritchard said, the City was asked to take care of the entire population of Ota Camp.

The residents of Kahaluu and Chinatown were not interested in being relocated in the Waipahu area, he said.

Walter Deptula, Pritchard's assistant, said the

City agreed then to the possibility of starting a project for all of Ota Camp.

Dumlao said, however, that "the concept of singles never did apply to Ota Camp and has never been a requirement to me."

Original indication was that there may have been a significant number of single people in Ota Camp, but de-

mographics disproved that, he said.

There are technically 12 single persons in Ota Camp, but six have been "absorbed" into other families with whom they live. Few, if any, live alone.

Deptula said Dumlao has shown that a housing project can be designed to "satisfy the cultural needs

of Ota Camp people."

BUT QUESTIONS regarding the architecture and economics of the project remain to be answered, he said.

"We have to get the financing lined up and the City Council's approval of the lease," he said.

Deptula said the City will

try to get financial assistance from State and private sectors to "bridge the gap of the cost of the project and the amount the people can afford to pay."

Deptula said there is bound to be a gap, especially in light of Dumlao's findings that 88 per cent of the residents have incomes of \$5,000 a year or under.