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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **OHA, STATE AGREE TO CEDED LANDS SETTLEMENT**

The State Administration and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) today announced a major breakthrough on the payment of ceded land revenues that remained in “dispute” following the partial settlement on revenues to OHA in 1993. The question of how much revenue remained to be paid on these “disputed” matters date from 1978 to 2008.

The parties reached a settlement on the amount owed to OHA after four and a half years of negotiations and mediation. The agreement includes a mix of land and cash for a total tax assessed value of \$200 million.

In making the announcement, Governor Linda Lingle and OHA Board of Trustees Chair Haunani Apoliona called the settlement “reasonable, fair, and long overdue.”

“We believe this settlement will make for a better Hawai‘i,” Governor Lingle said.

“This is an example of how long-standing disputes, decades old and productive to no one, can be resolved through methodical and reality based negotiations by the Executive branch and OHA’s Board of Trustees; and now we need the assistance from our third partner, the Legislative branch of government,” Apoliona said.

The settlement requires approval by the 2008 State Legislature.

The land parcels include commercial and industrial properties on Oahu and Hawai‘i island totaling 209 acres. The state will also pay OHA just over \$13 million in cash.

This settlement completes resolution of the “disputed revenue issues” that were not completed by the partial settlement between the State and OHA in 1993. The long standing disputes related to payment of ceded lands revenues to OHA have involved the State Courts, the State Legislature and four State administrations back to the formation of OHA.

“The OHA Board of Trustees views this settlement of mostly land as a realistic and prudent resolution that will benefit current beneficiaries as well as the Hawaiian nation that will organize and emerge in the future,” Apoliona said.

The Oahu properties include 18.5 acres of land zoned for commercial and mixed use in Kaka‘ako. OHA will also receive 110 acres of industrial zoned property in Kalaeloa, and just over 80 acres of commercial property in Hilo.

The land transfers in this settlement will add to OHA’s recent purchase of Waimea Valley on Oahu’s North Shore and Wao Kele O Puna on Hawai‘i island.

“OHA’s Real Estate Vision, Mission and Strategy Policy, as approved by the OHA Board of Trustees, is driven by the objective of protecting and preserving our lands and their cultural significance while creating financially viable property investments,” Apoliona said.

OHA commissioned Ward Research to conduct a poll of 500 Hawaii residents on the questions of back-due payment owed to OHA over ceded land revenues.

More than two thirds polled (68%) by Ward Research believe the Legislature should approve a settlement that both the State and OHA have agreed to.

When told that OHA and the State have been negotiating for years on a fair amount for back-due payment, 45% of those polled said the state should pay what is legally owed, 38% said the State should pay whatever it can, and only 8% favored paying nothing.

For further information on the settlement, visit the OHA web site at [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org).