

# HISTORIC HAWAII FOUNDATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Historic Hawai'i Foundation Offers Exclusive Preservation & Farm Tour April 7th Event Highlights Preservation Success Story alongside Farm Tour & Artisan Cheese Tasting**

HONOLULU— Historic Hawai'i Foundation (HHF) invites the public to a farm and preservation tour to learn more about farm operations and six historic homes from the former Red Hill Navy housing neighborhood that had been slated to be demolished but instead were relocated to Sweet Land Farm.

The tour will be held at Sweet Land Farm, Oahu's only certified goat dairy, on Saturday, April 7 in Wahiawā from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Guests have the option to stay to observe goat milking at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for HHF Members, \$50 for General Admission, \$10 for Children ages 6 to 12 and free for children under 6.

In 1942, the Navy built six single family homes and two duplex units in the Red Hill area. The ten housing units were used until the early 2000s, when the Navy vacated the homes in preparation for entering into an agreement to privatize Navy family housing through a public-private venture. Navy contracted with 'Ohana Military Communities (OMC) as its housing partner.

Before the military's privatized family housing construction and management plan could proceed, the Navy needed to follow the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act to identify historic buildings and archaeological sites that could potentially be affected by the program and then to develop an agreement to provide measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate any adverse effects on the historic properties.

Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF) participated in the review and negotiations, along with the State Historic Preservation Division, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Park Service and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. After many months of discussions, the parties reached consensus, which was memorialized in a Programmatic Agreement in 2006.

During the review process, a sticking point was how to address the Red Hill housing district. The site is remote from the other housing districts and the homes were smaller than contemporary military requirements. They also suffered from termite damage, lead paint and degraded kitchens and bathrooms. The Navy proposed to demolish all eight buildings.

HHF and the other historic partners opposed demolition, and felt that the historic homes could be rehabilitated to repair the damage and update the fixtures. The homes were structurally sound and still viable for affordable

housing or other use. Navy was concerned about the cost and the ultimate usability for their purposes. The parties were at an impasse, and the concerns were holding up the entire agreement.

A breakthrough occurred when one of the parties suggested offering the single-family homes to be donated and moved off of Navy's land to be reconstructed elsewhere. It was unknown if anyone would be interested in the homes or if they could be physically moved, but the compromise was accepted. The final agreement stated that the two duplexes could be demolished and the six single family homes would be donated by 'Ohana Military Communities for relocation.

In 2011, OMC donated the homes to the Bello family, who agreed to move them to their new goat dairy and farm in Wahiawā. Kikiaola Construction, under the direction of president Mike Faye, with assistance of workers from Bello's Millwork, cut the structures in half and moved them at night in 2011. In all, six single family homes and five carports were moved.

"Although moving historic structures from their original site is rarely a preservationist's first choice, it was a good solution for this case," said Kiersten Faulkner, executive director of Historic Hawai'i Foundation. "The alternative would have been demolition or abandoning the buildings to fall into ruin on their original site. Instead, the parties were able to find a creative compromise that helped this part of history continue."

Sweet Land Farm is Oahu's only certified goat dairy located on 86 acres. The dairy is owned and operated by the Bello family, who create all of their own cheese products (fresh chevre, feta and aged semi-hard French-style tome) on site. Cheese may be purchased during the event at the farm store.

The event will include a farm tour with the Bello family with stops at the milking and cheese making stations, goat barn and teenage goat pen with post tour cheese sampling of all farm made cheese products.

Docents will provide information about the Red Hill housing that now resides on the farm—the history of the Red Hill neighborhood, the architecture and historic significance and story of the homes' move from a neighborhood of military housing to the farm and plans for their continued use into the future.

"The event provides the opportunity to learn more about a local preservation success story," said Faulkner, "The relocation of six historic homes that were part of the Navy's Red Hill housing district to Sweet Land Farm is an example of the Navy, preservationists and the private sector working together to find a mutually agreeable outcome."

The preservation tour is part of an occasional series offered by Historic Hawai'i Foundation to showcase the historic architecture, landscapes and cultural sites that comprise the historic fabric of the Islands. Proceeds benefits the programs of Historic Hawai'i Foundation.

Sweet Land Farm and 'Ohana Military Communities are event sponsors.

**Tickets are required and may be purchased online at <https://historichawaii.org/2018/03/12/springfling/>  
Parking is available on site.**

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**Historic Hawaii Foundation (HHF): *Helping People Preserve Historic Places.***

HHF is the only statewide non-profit organization solely dedicated to preserving the historic buildings, sites, communities and objects that tell the unique stories of Hawai‘i’s multilayered history. Founded in 1974, HHF has become the driving force behind historic preservation in the state through its core programs of developing a community ethic of historic preservation, supporting smart legislation, offering educational events and training for local communities and providing technical assistance to make preservation accessible.

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