



September 24, 2020

RESOLUTION TO REVITALIZE VARONA VILLAGE
FINALLY FULFILLS PROMISE TO TENANTS

Members of the Honolulu City Council's Zoning, Planning and Housing Committee today unanimously approved Resolution 20-231, CD1, which would revitalize Varona Village, one of eight separate villages, known as the Ewa Villages.

Council Chair Emeritus Ron Menor, who introduced Resolution 20-231, CD1, has been working since 2013 to bring government and community groups together to address the displacement and housing needs of O'ahu Sugar plantation workers, also known as the Tenants, who resided in Ewa Villages for years.

The City formalized its Ewa Villages Master Plan in 1992 and accepted the obligation to provide housing for the Tenants. It planned to renovate and sell existing homes in Ewa Villages to Tenants or allow Tenants to remain in their homes with very low monthly rent payments.

"The revitalization of Varona Village has been a top priority of mine since I assumed office in 2013," said Chair Emeritus Menor. "The City made an important commitment to the residents, who have waited 28 years to get to this point. And, it's truly unfortunate that a large number of the tenants of record have passed away, waiting for the City. I am glad the City is finally making good on its promise."

In 2017, the City transferred the handling of Varona Village from its Department of Community Services to its Department of Land Management. Finally today, Resolution 20-231, CD1, authorizes the Mayor to enter into a development agreement with Savio/Hawaii Habilitat Varona Village LLC (Savio HH) for the revitalization of Varona Village.

Savio HH, which is authorized to develop 133 residential units and a community center, will pay the City \$1,840,000 for the real property under an Agreement of Sale with payments to be made in installments upon the sale of each unit to purchasers.

In Phase I, Savio HH will renovate existing structures for health and safety considerations and make available 46 homes with sale prices, from \$100,000 to \$200,000, for basic homes to priority tenants. In Phase II, Savio HH will construct up to 87 new homes and the community center, with sale prices starting at \$200,000. Sale to the general public will be restricted to buyers who have not owned any real estate in the last three years.

Resolution 20-231, CD 1, will now go before all members at the next City Council meeting on October 7, 2020, at 10 a.m. inside Council Chambers at Honolulu Hale.

For more information on this particular measure or how to submit testimony to the Honolulu City Council, please go to: <http://www.honolulucitycouncil.com> or <http://www.honolulu.gov/council>

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