



The Senate

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Media Advisory
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Long-Awaited Groundbreaking Ceremony and Blessing at Pa‘ia Elementary School

PA‘IA, MAUI -- A long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony and blessing for the construction of a new cafeteria at Pa‘ia Elementary School will take place on **Monday, September 26, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.**

The new building will replace the 70-year-old cafeteria that burned down in 2005. The Legislature appropriated money for the construction in 2008 and by 2010, the Department of Education was ready with a design.

“The construction of the cafeteria is finally moving forward. At last, our young learners will have a place to gather under one roof to nourish their growing bodies and minds. This project is just another example of how we support our students to succeed in school and in life,” said Sen. J. Kalani English, who represents District 6, encompassing the areas of Hāna, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i, and Kaho‘olawe.

“Many people were involved in getting this project moving, including Leona Nomura, a grandparent of a student at Pa‘ia, who helped spearhead the rebuilding of the cafeteria by requesting the Legislature to include this item in the State budget,” said Senator English.

For the past six years, students have been eating lunch in an old building in different shifts.

“The building of the new cafeteria comes at an opportune time as our school is growing in population,” said Susan Alivado, Pa‘ia Elementary School principal. “Seven years ago, we served about 200 students. Now we have 310 students and we’re anticipating an additional 20 students a year. “

School officials, community members, Sen. President Shan Tsutsui as well as other dignitaries will attend the groundbreaking and blessing. The o‘o stick made by Malama Chun will be used to break ground at the new site of the cafeteria and Pulama Collier will perform the Hawaiian blessing.

“Everyone involved in the ceremony have deep connections to Pa‘ia School and its cultural traditions,” said Leona Nomura, chairperson of the ceremony.

“It was through the diligence of our parents, Senator English and Senator Tsutsui that our students will be able to eat lunch in one sitting,” added Nomura.

The cafeteria is expected to be completed in November 2012.

Established in 1908, Pa‘ia Elementary School is located on Maui’s north shore and serves students from grades K-5.

“As the school continues to grow, this much needed cafeteria will benefit all children at Pa‘ia including those in the Hawaiian immersion program at the school,” said Sen. English.

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