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GROUNDBREAKING

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii -- A groundbreaking ceremony by Aloha Builders is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. Nov. 8 at Onizuka Village on base.

Aloha Builders, based out of Honolulu, won the \$5 million contract among four other companies placing bids for the project.

“The bidding process was thorough and produced a good result.” said Army Lt. Col Timothy D. Reichmann, the chief of the family housing branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Division here. “We are confident that the taxpayers will get good value from the project.”

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Aloha will be adding sixteen family housing units to Onizuka Village's current 36 four-unit complexes in a quadrangle on the northeast side of the village. Construction will start immediately following the ceremony and will take 18 months to complete.

Families that arrive on Pearl Harbor-Hickam can expect a seven-month wait for housing today. The new housing units, designed to alleviate that problem, are intended for families with two or more kids. There will also be a playground in the center of the quadrangle for the kids. Each new housing unit will have three bedrooms, one full bathroom and one half bathroom. Each unit will also feature central air conditioning, heating, washer-dryer hookups, a dishwasher and a storage shed.

"The support our military members get from their families is essential to mission success." said Dolores L. Hartung, the housing director for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickman. "With that in mind, we want to do everything we can to improve the quality of their lives."