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The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation Commits \$5 Million to YMCA of Honolulu for a Reimagined Nu'uanu YMCA.

HONOLULU, HAWAII – July 15, 2025 – The YMCA of Honolulu is pleased to announce a transformative \$5 million donation from The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation, making it the largest single private contribution in the organization's history. This generous gift serves as the cornerstone of the YMCA's vision to reimagine and rebuild the Nu'uanu YMCA as a modern community hub that addresses Honolulu's most pressing needs.

For years, the YMCA has envisioned a reimagined Nu'uanu YMCA as an inclusive, welcoming space where youth, kūpuna, families, and individuals can connect, stay active, build resilience, and thrive.

A place that not only serves people within its walls but also acts as a central hub, expanding outreach into surrounding neighborhoods and communities. With this foundational gift from The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation, the YMCA can now begin the planning process, which includes engaging partners, donors, and community members to help bring this vision to life.

CURRENT NU'UANU YMCA

The current Nu'uanu YMCA, located at 1441 Pali Highway, was dedicated on October 27, 1963. The 2.6-acre site has since served as the flagship branch of the YMCA of Honolulu, housing health and fitness spaces, enrichment programs, youth, teen, and kūpuna activities, as well as aquatics for all ages and abilities.

In response to increasing community demand, the YMCA expanded the Nu'uanu Y with the addition of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Youth Center, which was dedicated on May 26, 1994.

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The original building also featured a 70-room dormitory that provided affordable housing for men until its closure in 2019, due to the high cost of necessary repairs. With this transformative donation, the YMCA will embark on an important planning process to modernize and reimagine the Nuʻuanu YMCA to better meet the evolving needs of our community, now and in the future.

COMMUNITY INPUT SHAPING THE VISION

In 2021 and 2022, the YMCA conducted a market study and a community-based feasibility study to better understand evolving needs and gather input from donors, community leaders, and neighbors. The findings confirmed a strong desire for the Nuʻuanu Y to serve as a central connector for affordable housing, early learning, teen and kūpuna support, physical and mental wellness services, and safe spaces for gathering and connections across generations. The community saw the Y not just as a trusted provider of programs, but as a vital partner in shaping solutions that strengthen families and neighborhoods.

Arnold Martines, Chair of the YMCA of Honolulu Board of Directors and Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Central Pacific Financial Corp. and Central Pacific Bank.

"This is a defining moment for our YMCA," said Arnold Martines, Chair of the YMCA of Honolulu Board of Directors and Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Central Pacific Financial Corp. and Central Pacific Bank. "The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation's incredible generosity allows us to take the first bold step towards planning a flagship center that supports health, housing, and human connection from within and beyond, and the momentum to bring that vision to life."

Added Martines, "This vision is shaped by what we heard directly from our community and is about meeting real needs in real ways. It also reflects how community development can thrive when philanthropy and nonprofit leadership work together. By expanding our reach and partnerships, the Nuʻuanu Y will become a true center of belonging—where people can find support, stability, and purpose."

EARLY VISIONARY CONCEPTS

Early concepts envision a new multi-story facility that integrates affordable housing, modern health and wellness spaces, technology-equipped flexible multipurpose rooms for programs and potential partnerships to deliver services that support physical and mental well-being, early learning, youth and teen development, family stability, and lifelong health.

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Designed with efficiency, inclusion, and adaptability in mind, the new Nuʻuanu YMCA will provide spaces and resources that serve people of all ages and abilities, both within its walls and through expanded outreach throughout the community.

Greg Waibel, CEO, YMCA of Honolulu

“With this transformational gift, we can now begin planning the next chapter of the Nuʻuanu YMCA,” said Greg Waibel, CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu. “This is about creating spaces and resources that address the core social determinants of health that include affordable housing, access to health and wellness services, education, and meaningful opportunities for social connection. It’s about addressing these core social determinants of health in a welcoming, inclusive, and flexible environment designed to serve people of all ages and abilities, both within our walls and out in the community.”

Added Waibel, “The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation’s gift opens the door to that future and creates the momentum for other donors and supporters to join us in making it a reality.”

Jack Tsui, Chairman of the Board of The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation.

“Our commitment to the YMCA of Honolulu is a reflection of Clarence T.C. Ching’s commitment to strengthening community through thoughtful, sustainable support,” said Jack Tsui, Chairman of the Board of The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation. “Mr. Ching believed in creating lasting opportunities for those in need, and this project aligns with his legacy of addressing critical community needs, including affordable housing. This project is a natural extension of his legacy—bringing together housing, wellness, and social services to uplift individuals and families across generations in Hawai‘i.”

A Legacy of Giving Back

Clarence T.C. Ching, born in Anahola, Kaua‘i, in 1912, was the son of Chinese immigrant farmers and the fifth of eleven children. From an early age, he exhibited perseverance, a strong sense of family, and a belief that hard work could open any door.

After moving to O‘ahu in 1928, Clarence enrolled at Saint Louis School, where he became class president and a boxing champion. His career in real estate and development led to the creation of Kukui Gardens, one of the largest affordable housing projects in Hawai‘i, providing over 800 families with a place to live with dignity.

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Mr. Ching's generosity extended far beyond his professional achievements. He established The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation to ensure that his charitable efforts would continue in perpetuity. When Kukui Gardens was sold, the trustees poured all of the gross proceeds, \$132 million, back into the Foundation, ensuring his life's work would continue for generations to come.

This \$5 million donation to the YMCA of Honolulu continues Mr. Ching's legacy—his belief that everyone deserves access to a home, opportunities, and a supportive environment in which they can belong, grow, and thrive.

About The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation

The Clarence T.C. Ching Foundation was established to continue the legacy of Clarence T.C. Ching, a visionary developer and philanthropist deeply committed to strengthening Hawai'i's communities. The Foundation continues to support initiatives in education, healthcare, housing, and community services throughout the state.

About the YMCA of Honolulu

The YMCA of Honolulu is one of Hawai'i's leading nonprofits, dedicated to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Serving O'ahu since 1869, the Y ensures that people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds have opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

The Y operates ten locations across O'ahu: Atherton, Kaimukī-Wai'ālae, Kalihi, Leeward, Mililani, Nu'uānu, Windward, Wai'ānae Coast, Central (with dormitory-style lodging), and Camp H.R. Erdman, a resident camp on the North Shore. Its reach extends to more than 115 community sites, including afterschool programs at 60 schools; substance abuse treatment and prevention at 28 school campuses across O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i; teen mental health services at 26 middle and high schools; and Early Learning Centers and Preschools, including those serving houseless families.

The YMCA of Honolulu holds a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for strong fiscal management, accountability, and transparency. Learn more at www.ymcahonolulu.org.

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