

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Nareit Foundation Presents \$45,000 Grant to Arc of Maui County to Support Daily Needs of Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

**Grant to Fund Renovation of 12 Bathrooms in Four Group Homes for 20 Residents in Kahului, Kihei and Lahaina**

**HONOLULU – Nov. 16, 2022** – Arc of Maui County today received a \$45,000 grant from the Nareit Foundation that will be utilized to renovate 12 bathrooms for 20 residents living with intellectual and developmental disabilities in four group homes on Maui.

All of the group homes – two in Kahului, one in Kihei and another in Lahaina – have five full-time residents. Each home has five individual bedrooms, along with three shared bathrooms and other basic amenities to sustain the residents' daily living needs, with the emphasis on supporting their health, safety, and being able to live as independently as possible.

Licensed by the Department of Health, the nonprofit Arc of Maui County and its trained staff provide the 20 residents with a range of supervised support services around the clock, including personal care, food preparation, taking medications, behavioral support, and transportation.

Aspen Wallwork, Chief Executive Officer of Arc of Maui County, said having the men's and women's bathrooms undergo a much-needed makeover is critical to improving the residents' quality of life and supporting their goal for greater independence. The grant funding will make the 12 bathrooms more functional and aesthetically pleasing for adaptive living, especially for residents using wheelchairs.

Some bathrooms will have bathtubs removed and replaced with showers to improve accessibility while others with existing walk-in showers will be upgraded. Other improvements include the installation of new flooring, lighting and furnishings, including customized bathroom vanities that will make it easier for residents in wheelchairs to take care of their personal needs and hygiene.

"On behalf of our clients, staff and board of directors, Arc of Maui County is extremely thankful for this newfound partnership with the Nareit Foundation," said Wallwork. "Housing needs for adults with disabilities is a high priority and very needed. We are grateful to the Nareit Foundation for the services they provide to better our community and for the support to renovate 12 bathrooms within our four residential group homes on Maui."

Nareit Hawaii Executive Director Gladys Quinto Marrone noted that funding essential improvements for those in need is a vital factor in supporting affordable housing projects. "Maui is a stronger community because of Arc of Maui County and the care their dedicated staff provides our fellow residents requiring some daily assistance to be safe, healthy, and live happily," said Marrone. "We are proud to support such an important project that is so vital to the future wellbeing of so many people."

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Also participating in today's grant presentation were several Arc of Maui County group home residents and staff members, Arc of Maui County board members Jo-Lynn Moana Kaho'ohanohano and Isaac Peña-Parrilla, and Brian Yano, vice president and regional manager of JLL Hawaii, a REIT that donates to the Nareit Foundation in support of affordable housing projects.

The Arc of Maui County grant is funded by the Nareit Foundation, a Section 501(c)(3) organization, and REITs operating in Hawaii as part of the Nareit Hawaii Community Giving Initiative, which supports affordable housing projects provided by nonprofit organizations.

Hawaii REITs are long-term property holders that own, renovate and manage affordable housing projects, commercial buildings, medical facilities, shopping centers, logistical spaces and warehouses for small businesses, cell phone towers, public storage facilities, and hotels. For more information about the support of nonprofit affordable housing projects and other charitable causes by the Nareit Foundation and Nareit Hawaii, please visit [www.nareithawaii.com](http://www.nareithawaii.com).

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