



The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photos

Former Hospice Maui Director Charlotte Kuwanoe presents a ceremonial digging stick, or 'o'o, to current CEO, Dr. Greg LaGoy, during Thursday morning's groundbreaking ceremonies for Hale Ho'olu'olu, the agency's five-bed hospice facility on Mahalani Street in Wailuku that is scheduled to open in 2016.

Hospice Maui breaks ground

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Hospice Maui broke ground on its five-bed Hale Ho'olu'olu in Wailuku on Thursday morning with hopes of opening in a year the facility that will care for terminally ill people in their final days.

The more-than-three-decade-old nonprofit said that the 4,500-square-foot facility will include five private bedrooms with bathrooms, a family room, a children's play area, a kitchen and dining area for both residents and family members, laundry facilities and storage and utility spaces.

Each bedroom will have a sleeper chair for a family member to stay.

The price tag for the building and infrastructure is \$1.5 million with the funds secured from private and public sources. The bulk of the money has come from private donors and benefactors, Hospice Maui said.

Several years in the works, Hale Ho'olu'olu will provide a place for people who cannot or do not wish to stay at home for



Dignitaries gather to break ground Thursday morning

their last few days or weeks of life and for whom hospital or nursing home care is not well-suited, a news release from the agency said.

The operation of Hale Ho'olu'olu will require

around-the-clock staffing to handle basic care needs with specialized medical needs of each hospice patient provided through scheduled visits by the staff of physicians, nurses, social workers, counselors and

aides, who currently provide care to community members in their homes.

The site of Hale Ho'olu'olu, at the top of the Mahalani Street sand hill, provides views of the Central Valley.