Get ready for an exciting new shopping experience at UH Hilo!

by Debi Brockman

Planning has been underway for several years for UH Hilo's new College Campus Store that will be attached to the Campus Center. This new building project, funded from income realized by the UH Hilo Bookstore, with no State General or CIP funds being used, is much more than a new bookstore.

The College Campus Store incorporates concepts derived from a 2009 Focus Group that consisted of students, faculty, staff, and community members. The new Store "understands the needs of students, staff, and community members" by offering amenities that make people feel welcome and comfortable. Besides the offering of course textbooks, materials, and school supplies, other new merchandise such as Vulcan logo clothing, gifts, and accessories will be available, including sundries items, snacks, computers, and computer accessories.

The layout will be configured with an area for concessions and coffee, comfortable furniture for students to relax, study, work, or "talk story" with friends, computers with free Internet access, and big screen televisions to provide University news, merchandise offerings, and public information. One merchandise display will be dedicated to products developed, labeled, and marketed by students in UH classes from UH Hilo and other UH System campuses.

Dr. Debra Fitzsimons, vice chancellor for administrative affairs, "We are excited for this new store; not only is it a place for students to buy books, but it will be a welcoming place to shop, eat, drink coffee, study, hang out and 'just enjoy.'"

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Luoluo Hong also highly anticipates the completion of the new College Campus Store.

"The opening of this new bookstore really supports UH Hilo's efforts to create a more lively and inviting sense of community for our students. We need more places that add to the feeling of being a 'college town' and this is a great next step in that effort," she said.

The new College Campus Store will feature ultra modern wood and metal displays that can be easily rearranged to meet the needs of the ever changing environment that is retail: circular wood and metal information and check out booths; efficient energy lighting in canopy and wire mesh ceiling material; and a concrete floor of earth-tone colors to showcase the different sections of products being sold.

"UH Hilo's new College Campus Store will not only serve the students of UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College, this state-of-the-art facility will serve the Hilo community-at-large and will be a popular destination spot for visitors, as well as the local public," said Fitzsimons.

Construction of the College Campus Store is scheduled for September 2010 with completion slated for November 2011. Forty-eight additional parking spaces will be added to UH Hilo's parking facilities to accommodate County requirements for the new building. An advertising campaign will be initiated announcing the opening and amenities of the new store, just in time for Christmas 2011.

(Editor's note: Debi Brockman is communication & administrative support specialist.)

Ka Lono Hanakahī is published by the Office of University Relations on the first of the month during the academic year for faculty and staff of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. News and submissions are welcome. Deadlines are on the fifteenth of each month for the following first of the month publication. Contact Alyson Kakugawa-Leong, Director of Media Relations, Beaumont Cottage, (808) 974-7642 or email alyson@hawaii.edu.