

Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial ground breaking

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It was a ground-breaking ceremony many believed was long overdue. A memorial honoring Hawaii's law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Sixty-one have made the ultimate sacrifice; their names are part of what's known as the "end of watch roll call."

"Too many of our colleagues, friends and loved ones are no longer here but in both spirit and memory, they are with us, their examples guide and inspire us in our efforts to strengthen the cause they so faithfully and well served -- the cause of justice," said United States Attorney Florence Nakakuni.

Soon those men and women will be a part of a memorial on the Honolulu Hale Civic Grounds.

"This memorial will be a visual tribute to our officers who have gone above and beyond their calling. Those officers who made the ultimate sacrifice. As well as a place for the families of these courageous men and women to come together and remember," said Joan Gribbin-Aiu, the executive director of the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation, Governor Neil Abercrombie called this a participatory memorial.

"This is an opportunity when it is completed to have those who participate because that's in fact what will happen with this memorial, You will be participating not observing, you will be part and parcel of this memorial," said Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

The winning design was one of 30 entries from the University of Hawaii School of Architecture. The team of six students is humbled by the selection.

"That they gave the opportunity to the UH architectural students meant a lot to us and that it's going to mean so much to the officers and the families here in the islands is a big honor or for us," said Stephen Larson.

"What we feel at this moment is the courage and peace from those officers that will soon be drawn together here island from island, department from department, badge from badge, united as one family; our Hawaii law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty," said Maui Police Chief Gary Yabuta.

The foundation needs to raise \$900,000 for construction of the \$1.1 million memorial. For more information go to www.hlemf.org or call, 330-7744.