



Modular Homes for the Homeless

Whitley Manufacturing builds & ships fully prefabricated homes, across the Pacific for Humanitarian Needs in Waianae, Hawaii.

MARYSVILLE, WASHINGTON / AUGUST 31, 2016 / Whitley-Evergreen said “aloha” to three (3), fully constructed modular homes, strapped to a boat destined for Waianae, Hawaii to serve the community’s growing need to house the homeless. The ultimate goal is to help relocate working homeless families into a more stable and permanent housing solution rather than a temporary shelter.

The state of Hawaii has the highest per-capita homeless population in the country and the city of Waianae shoulders its fair share of this growing problem. With over 250 people, including families with children, encamped on 19 acres of the Waianae Boat Harbor, mounting complaints are putting increased pressure on elected officials to do something about it.

Whitley-Evergreen, Marysville, WA, was contacted by Hawaii Modular Space with a design/build challenge to meet the needs of the city. The proposal would be evaluated under a set of four criteria:

- Pricing: build, deliver and install.
- Quality of construction: materials, installation technique and warranty.
- Design options: flexibility of design, optional features (i.e. Roof, windows, lanai, lofts).
- Timeline: production, delivery and completion of project.



One bedroom modular home with materials and colors to compliment and tie in with the surrounding neighborhood.



All three homes are loaded at the Seattle, Washington harbor for a two day trip to Hawaii.

One of the biggest design challenges, however, was to make sure that the homes would meet the approval of its community members. Dave Ballard, Design Engineer for Whitley-Evergreen, put in long hours and worked very closely with Guy Murakami, Project Manager of Hawaii Modular Space, to come up with plans that worked both functionally and aesthetically.

“The most rewarding aspect of the project is knowing we are helping with a solution to the homeless dilemma in the state of Hawaii” said Mr. Ballard.

The new homes have approximately 500 sq. ft each of living space. Each comes with one or two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and a living area. On the outside there is fiber cement panel siding, cedar trim, louvered window shutters, a lanai with decorative posts and railing, and a concealed fastener standing seam metal roof. The houses are custom designed and built to blend in and complement the surrounding neighborhood. Other design features include:

- Built to withstand the unforgiving tropical heat, storms and corrosive ocean environment
- Select homes are built to accommodate ADA requirements
- Engineering design meets all local and state of Hawaii building codes

This is only the beginning of an ongoing effort to bring more suitable living accommodations for the homeless in the community of Waianae. The vision of the Waianae Coast Neighborhood Board is a long term solution to transition the homeless that are currently living in public areas of the city, into new modular homes, set up in residential districts.

Whitley-Evergreen is a Whitley Manufacturing company, headquartered in South Whitley, Indiana. The company has been at the forefront of modern automated building systems and accelerated construction for nearly 65 years. Whitley Manufacturing has four facilities throughout the United States totaling over 330,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space. Whitley builds permanent, temporary and relocatable structures for a wide range of markets, including education, housing, medical, support and specialty buildings.

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For more information, read the full blog post, “A Modular Homes Solution for the Homeless: Waianae searches for a long term approach to a growing problem.”

