

HAWAII

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Hahalane flood victims win \$3 million

□ City taxpayers will cover \$1.26 million of that amount

By Joanne Mariani
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Hahalane Valley residents have won a \$3.03 million settlement for damage to their houses and belongings from the 1987 New Year's Eve flood.

City taxpayers will be responsible for paying \$1.26 million of the \$3.03 million settlement, said City Councilwoman Rene Manaho.

Manaho said Herbert Horita and Kaiser Development would pay the rest of the \$3 million settlement. Horita's share is the same as the city's share, and Kaiser's portion is \$800,000, she said.

Horita and Kaiser were developers of the housing subdivision.

The city is responsible for maintaining the nearby canal and the area's drainage system.

Manaho, chairwoman of the Council's Commit-

tee of the Whole, said her panel is recommending the full Council approve the settlement today.

The settlement covers 38 homes involving 112 residents on Kahena Street.

"This is similar to how we handled other flood claims," Manaho said yesterday. "We are in no way admitting any guilt. We feel that people have suffered hardship and we're willing to settle. We're happy that we could help residents who had to go through this hardship."

The residents were represented by attorney Michael Stern, who said the settlement was fair for all parties involved.

"It's good to get it settled now rather than tie up the courts. I believe everyone will get a fair amount for the losses that occurred," Stern said.

The city recently paid out more than \$3 million for Kailua residents whose homes were damaged by the same New Year's Eve flood, according to city attorneys.

Stern said there is another flood claim pending against the city involving 100 households in Kailua.