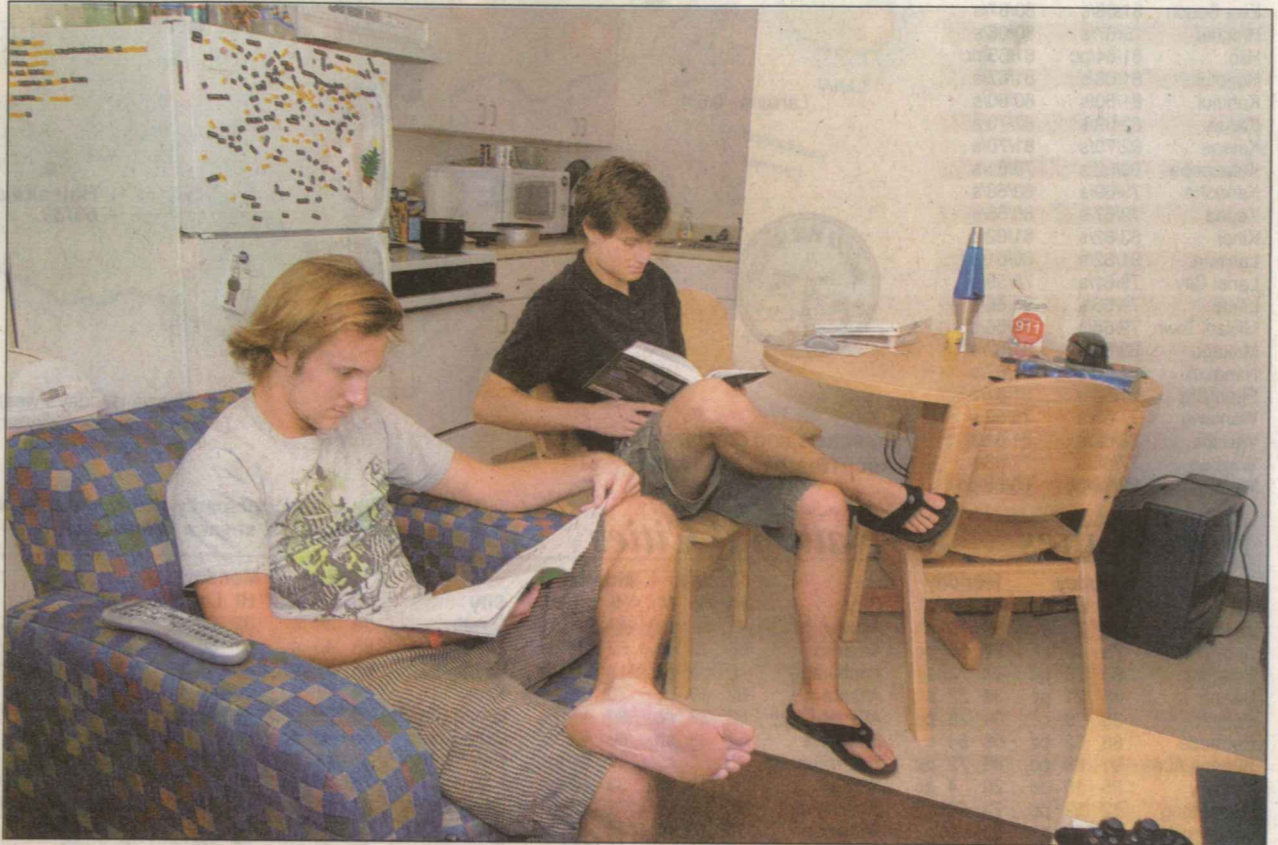


MCC digs all the rave



The Maui News / AMANDA COWAN photos

Roommates Joel Kellenberger (left) and Joshua Summer read Friday in their apartment's living room. The empty rooms at the Kulanaa'o student housing apartment

building (photo below) will soon have occupants. On-site laundry facilities (bottom photo) are available for student residents.



Students say the fully furnished rooms nice; more coming available

By **CLAUDINE SAN NICOLAS**, Staff Writer

KAHULUI — More housing becomes available this month for Maui Community College students in need of a place to sleep, study and do laundry.

Following the opening of about three dozen apartments in the Kulanaa'o housing complex in the fall semester, approximately the same number of units will open shortly. Students will pay \$335 per month for the spring semester.

Each fully furnished apartment accommodates four students and features two bedrooms, two bathrooms (one with a shower), a kitchen and a living room.

The rental price includes utilities, basic cable television, high-speed Internet and telephone service. Resident parking is also available for individual students for \$50 per month.

Kulanaa'o, which means a place to learn or where we strive to learn, sits on the corner of Lono Avenue and Vevau Street, across from the Kahului Public Library.

I think once they see the size and the condition, they're really surprised, even shocked at how nice it is.

— **Sharlene Starmer**, on-site property manager for Kulanaa'o housing complex

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The Maui News / AMANDA COWAN photos

A portion of the Kulanaa'o housing complex in Kahului was open for the fall semester and more units will be available to students this spring. Rent costs \$335 per month per student for the

upcoming semester. Amenities include utilities, basic cable television, high-speed Internet and telephone service. Resident parking also is available for a fee.

Housing

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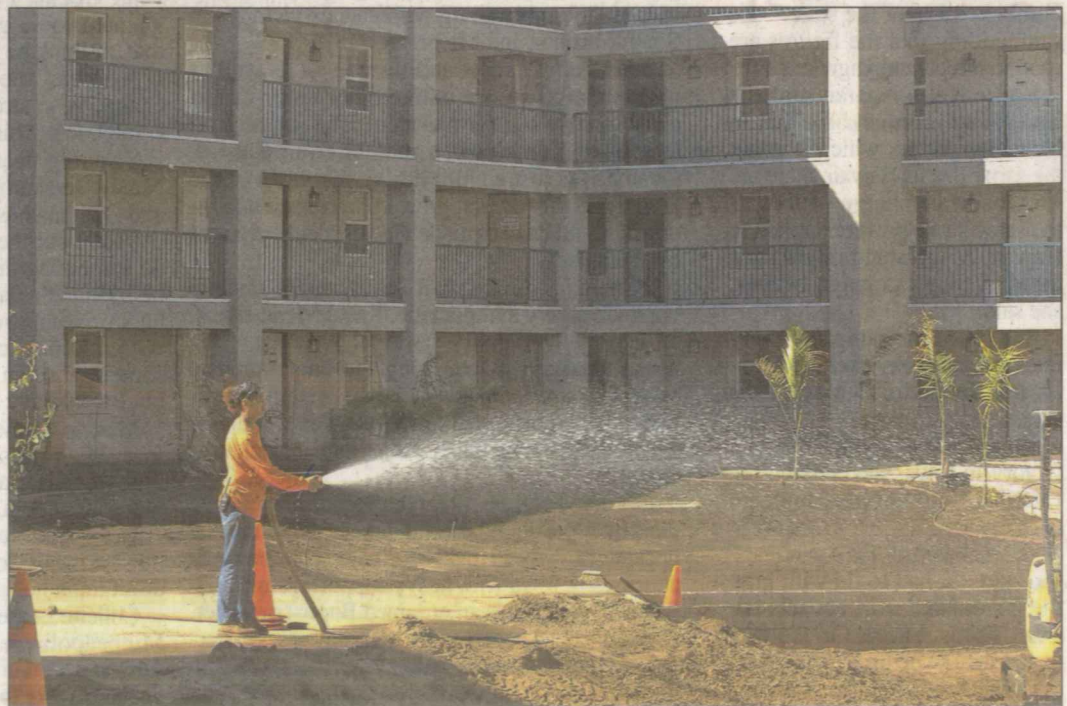
"It's nice," said Joel Kellenberger, a 20-year-old student originally from Switzerland. "I have no problems going to sleep through the night."

Kellenberger's roommate, Joshua Summer, 21, was one of the first students to move into the complex last fall. He's had to switch rooms about three times for various personal reasons.

"They've really been open about transfers, and I like that," Summer said.

About 32 community college students and individuals enrolled in University of Hawaii programs administered at the college have completed their first semester living in the residence.

The complex also features an air-conditioned study lounge, a covered lanai that can be used for both studies and recreation, and an air-conditioned laundry facili-



Tiffany Kahihikolo of Pro-Bilt Contractors waters the Kulanaa'o complex's courtyard Friday

ty. The resident adviser was on vacation this past week, so on-site property Manager Sharlene Starmer provided a tour around the four-story complex.

Starmer's two sons are housed at University of Hawaii at Manoa dormitories on Oahu and have expressed surprise at the excellent condition of the new MCC student housing.

"They say, 'Wow, what is this? Luxury units?'" she said.

Starmer said rave reviews of the student quarters also have come from people curious to see the apartments and initially skeptical about the quality of student housing.

"I think once they see the size and the condition, they're really surprised, even shocked at how nice it is," she said.

Kulanaa'o was only partially open at the start of school in the fall. But by the end of this month, the second of four apartment buildings is expected to open, and by the end of the year, the rest of the complex should begin housing students.

Registration for apartments is ongoing, and units are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Four single wheelchair-accessible units are being constructed to accommodate students with special needs. When finished, the complex



The courtyard and the rest of the student housing facility is visible from an upstairs, open-air study area.

will have 100 apartment units.

The complex is managed by a Mainland company, Agora Realty & Management Inc. Its local agent, Prudential Iwado Realty Inc., oversees the site. Security cameras are posted throughout the buildings and in the student parking lot. A security officer also makes rounds at the complex during the evening.

One freshman, who asked not to be identified, said she enjoys living with her three other roommates in one apartment.

"It's so good. I love it," she said.

The student especially likes the

housing's convenient location, with the college, the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center, Kahului Shopping Center, the Maui Mall and the Kahului Library nearby.

"Everything is at my front door," she said.

Prospective and current students can contact Starmer or Nazha Sagum at (808) 856-2900 to schedule a tour and to obtain an application. The only requirement for residence is that a tenant be enrolled in classes at the college or in university programs. The current tenants range in age from 18 to the mid-30s,

with women outnumbering men, according to Starmer.

Model units are open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information is available at www.kulanaao.com.

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