

Kohala Mountain News



Vol.13, No. 3

March 29, 2014

Hawi Park Vision Gains Steam with Testimony and Petition



—photo by Toni Withington

Remote sites and testifiers can be seen on the monitor during the March 18 county Finance Committee hearing regarding the proposed County purchase of undeveloped land in downtown Hawi. Local constituents, along with the current landowners, are working toward creating a public open space on the land.

Community support for preserving the grassy acre fronting the banyan trees in downtown Hawi is helping move the possibility of a Hawi Park a step closer to reality. The landowners, a number of Kohala residents, and local businesses sent in testimony and testi-

fied before the County Council's Finance Committee on March 18 in favor of a resolution to purchase the area for the community. The resolution passed unanimously and will be heard before the full Council on April 1.

See Park, page 2

Kohala High Sophomores Show Their Smarts!



—caption and photo courtesy of Melody Nietfeld

Congratulations to these Kohala High School sophomores for passing the Hawai'i State Assessment in BOTH Reading and Math on the first try!
Front Row (L-R): Tyra Faisca, Melanie Sahagun, Gabrielle Bartolome, Patricia Cubangbang, Yuki Zbytovsky; **Middle Row:** Elijah Dela Cruz, Zerex Abellera, Mina Apostadiro, Anela Medeiros, Ki'ana Alejandro-Cazimero, Damien Kaholo, Jake Palacay; **Back Row:** Moses Hooton, Michael Bartolome, Kainan Paro; **Not Pictured:** Christopher O'Donnell, Dayton Kumai-Isabel, Patrick Nelson, and Ronnie Baldos

North Kohala Merchant Association Celebrates Gino Amar as 2013 Citizen of the Year

Story and photos by Beth Thoma-Robinson

Kohala Hospital administrator, musician, father of three and community volunteer are just some of the roles played by Gino Amar, the North Kohala Merchant Association (NKMA) Citizen of the Year for 2013.

Some 40 members of his fan club—friends, family, and colleagues—joined the merchants at an event held in honor of Gino at the North Kohala Community Resource Center on March 19.

Born and raised here in Kohala, Gino graduated from Kohala High School (KHS) as student body president with a "Merit Shield" in 1985. He received his BS in Business Administration (*cum laude*) from Hawai'i Pacific College four years later and returned home to become Kohala Hospital's Assistant Administrator for Support Services. He received his Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in 2012 and later that year was appointed Kohala Hospital Administrator.

"With the major renovations in progress at the hospital, this year

seemed the perfect timing to recognize Gino's leadership," said NKMA President Richard Elliott.

Always active in the community, Gino is a founding director of the North Kohala Community Resource



Richard Elliott, President of the North Kohala Merchant Association, presents a plaque to Citizen of the Year Gino Amar.

Center and remains an active director and vice president for 2014. He was also the chairperson for the Kohala Reunion 2010.

Gino was the Kohala High School varsity and junior varsity baseball coach for two years, and he still coaches and referees in junior sports. He is also the president of the Makule men's softball team. He

See Citizen, page 2

Inside this Issue:

Get the schedule for **Kamehameha Day**, page 2; Find out the latest on the **Ala Loa Trail**, page 9; Learn more about **Natural Farming** and the people who practice it, page 10 - 11; See the **transition from the plantation era to home ownership** for many Kohala residents, page 13; Read about **Māhukona and the Kohala Railroad**, page 14 - 15; Enjoy the celebration at **Konea o Kukui lo'i restoration project** on page 16; Get the inside story on **solar power** on page 17; Appreciate the volunteers who count **whales** on page 19; Meet a **Kohala artist** on page 20; and more!

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"He Inoa No Kamehameha" Theme for 2014 North Kohala Kamehameha Day

In years past, the Kohala community has celebrated the Kamehameha Day festivities by honoring the keiki (children), kupuna (elders), paniolo (cowboy), wahine holo lio (women on horseback), kama'aina (native born residents), and malihini (newcomers) in all facets of our past and present. The fulfilled ideas were a beautiful tribute to the community at large. This year we



The Ka`ahumanu Society participated in the lei-draping ceremony at the statue in the 2013 Kamehameha Day festivities.

Park, continued from page 1

Residents presented a petition with more than 500 signatures in favor of the purchase and shared a variety of reasons why a County purchase of the parcel will benefit the community socially, economically, and even spiritually. Lesley Patton recalled how over twenty years ago the community rallied—when the banyan trees in this part of the park were to be cut down—by creating a human blockade, while Mahina Rapu Leitell chained herself to one of the trees. The story was picked up nationally, and a donor paid to have the tree that used to be on the grassy field next to Shige's service station moved. Ms. Patton summed up by saying this land, even without its banyan tree, is still the heart of Hawi.

Our Kohala Councilmember, Margaret Willie, shared that at their most recent meeting, the Kohala Seniors voted overwhelmingly in favor of preserving this area as a park.

Karen Rosen, owner of the Kohala Coffee Mill, was one of the folks who

wish to turn our attention to King Kamehameha and honor the one for whom the holiday is named.

"He Inoa No Kamehameha." The phrase honors his name. As Hawaiians, we know the power in a name, the obligations we inherit when we carry the name, the demand to honor and respect, and the responsibility to preserve and per-

initiated the project to preserve this area ten years ago. "It's great to see things get this far. We all continue to be grateful to the landowners for their willingness to let us try to work with the County on this."

As reported last month, a long-time Kona couple purchased the land last year to build their home and gallery. Shortly thereafter they learned that a project started ten years ago to preserve the area as a park had been resurrected. Because the new landowners have invested much of their own energy and resources in preserving Holualoa above Kailua town, they decided to give the community a chance to raise the funds to buy them out and preserve this area.

An effort to create a hui of investors yielded a few interested individuals, but not enough to meet the purchase price. The County purchase looks like the best option now for a win-win outcome. For more information about the effort to preserve this area, please call 808-938-8880 or visit hawi.us.

petuate the name forever.

"He Inoa No Kamehameha" praises and honors a child born to exemplify Hawaiian manhood. Kamehameha was high born and trained to lead. He possessed all of the qualities of a strong leader. Powerful in physique, agile, fearless and possessing a strong mind, he distinguished himself as a warrior and war strategist. These talents helped to defeat his enemies and consolidate his power in the islands. Throughout his reign he upheld his traditional religion in the face of new cultural influences. Although he cultivated alliances with Westerners, he tightly controlled Western

business and political contacts with Hawaiians. Through constant vigilance and internal strength, he held his kingdom together until the last days of his life.

"He Inoa No Kamehameha" welcomes Hawaiians to gather in his name and in his spirit to connect, join and unite in celebration. It claims our togetherness as a people in a net of duty, respect and obligation for today and all of the tomorrows.

Please join our community as we celebrate Kamehameha the Great on Wednesday, June 11. As in years past, there are many events and activities planned:

7 a.m. - 9 a.m.: Lei draping ceremony at the statue in Kapa'au.

9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.: Floral parade featuring honorees, hula halau and pa'u riders. Akoni Pule Hwy will be closed during this time from Hawi to Kapa'au.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Ho'olaulea activities and booths at Kamehameha Park, Kapa'au. Food booths, craft vendors, entertainment, educational displays and more will be on hand.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at www.kamehamehadaycelebration.org or contact Kay Aldrich at kay.aldrich@yahoo.com.

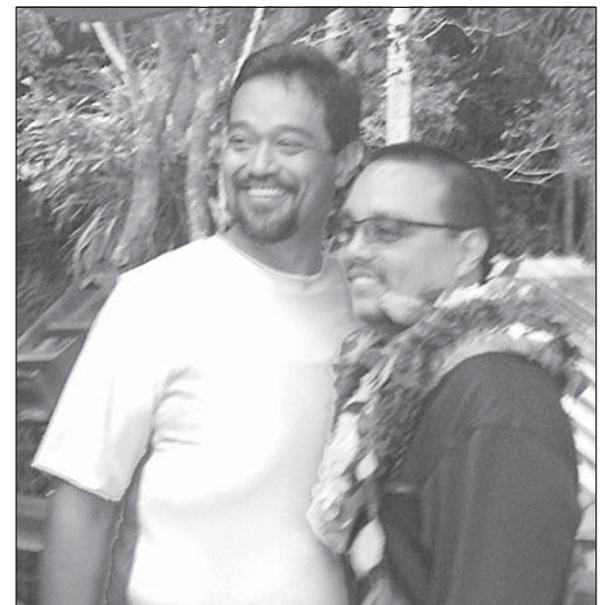
Citizen, continued from page 1

and his wife Michelle were parent project leaders for KHS Project Grad 2013.

He is also well-known in Kohala as a musician and frequently serves as master of ceremonies for community events.

Gino was presented with a plaque, and his name has been added to the permanent plaque which has recorded recipients of the NKMA Citizen of the Year award since its inception.

Nino Ka`ai congratulates his musical partner, Kohala Citizen of the Year Gino Amar.




Miki Grimes, NP
& Jade McGaff, MD

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Access Group Seeks Better Communication with Planning Department

The North Kohala Community Access Group (NKACAG) will be reviewing a new list of guidelines for improving give and take of information between the subcommittee and the county Planning Department at its meeting April 3. Though the guidelines were set up by the county to let local communities have a more active voice in their futures, the constituents' words haven't always been getting through.

At the request of the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP/CDP) Action Committee, the access group—which the CDP considers a subcommittee—was asked to draw up procedural guidelines for better communications with the planning department. The department provides the communications network for all seven CDP action committees around the island. Even though the CDPs have been around for five years, glitches still occur, such as what happened with the access trail location at the Kohala Kai subdivision (see the article in this issue of the Kohala Mountain News).

Discussions of the roles played by the subcommittees of CDP Action Committees island-wide have produced an ongoing debate with county officials.

The two-page guidelines call for

the planning department to provide the access group with all applications for subdivisions and coastal development that involve establishing or moving public access trails and roads in a timely manner. This is so the subcommittee can notify other community groups and individuals who have an interest in shoreline and mountain access. It also requires the group to respond with comments or suggestions within 60 days.

It calls on the group to "work closely with landowners, government agencies, community groups and other district CDPs in achieving the goals and strategies of the NKCDP." Because Kohala has many grants of public access easement (GOPAEs) attached to old subdivisions for which the county has yet to map trail locations, the guidelines direct the department to ask NKACAG for comments before approval. The guidelines further state, "Too often 20-yr-old GOPAEs are being approved by Planning without current comments by the community."

Looking ahead, the guidelines call for collaboration in revising and improving county regulations regarding public access. They also assert the need to establish a centralized Public Access Coordinator position to oversee access and maintenance issues. Both of these are

strategies of the NKCDP.

The draft guidelines will be reviewed at the next meeting of the North Kohala Community Access

Group Wednesday, April 2, at 4:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. For more information or a copy of the draft call Joe Carvalho at 889-5226.

Social Dancing Combines Merriment and Movement

Kohala Danse is an open group for those who would like to try out different forms of social dance, from Argentine Tango to Cross Step Waltz. We have several instructors with various backgrounds, who all have a love of teaching and sharing the extraordinarily fun experience of dancing in synch with another person.

Classes are suited for beginners as well as seasoned dancers. Come singly, or bring a friend! By donation. Call Malia for details: 987-3902.



Smooth samba and tango dancers glide with the rhythm during one of Kohala Danse's social dance class at the Kohala Intergenerational Center.
 Couple on left: Yumi Hedlund and Lucy Cipriani.
 Couple on right: Nelie Aguiran and Dirk Mendt

—photo by Malia Welch

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Future KMN Deadlines

It's important for the Kohala Mountain News to receive ads and news submissions by the following deadlines. Otherwise, submissions may not be able to be accommodated.



April

Ad Deadline: 4/11/14
News Deadline: 4/14/14

May

Ad Deadline: 5/9/14
News Deadline: 5/12/14

Kohala Mountain News

www.kohalamountainnews.com

Our purpose is to enhance and strengthen the community by fostering continuous communication and understanding among the various cultures, residents and constituents.

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Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must be accompanied by the author's name, address and telephone number. Both must address issues affecting North Kohala. Letters and Viewpoints are subject to editing, and shorter submissions will receive preference for publication.

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Kohala Mountain News

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For a twelve month subscription please send your check for \$36, made out to the Kohala Mountain News, P.O. Box 639, Kapa'au HI 96755. Be sure to include a note giving the name and mailing address of the recipient.

Letters—

Dear Editor:

Currently, in the United States there is a huge debate on whether or not gay marriage should be allowed in some states. Even if a law allowing gay people to be married is passed, some people will never accept others' love for the same gender the same way as their own. In fact, many ignorant people who don't know the real definition of "gay" use the word as an insult. The correct definition of "gay" is happiness; over the years people have turned to word into something negative towards homosexuals. This is why I'm going to tell you why it's okay to be gay.

People can argue all they want about why being homosexual "isn't right," but there is no valid reason why people who love someone, even if they're the same sex, shouldn't be able to display their affection for another like those who love the opposite gender do. Now people call people who aren't homosexual "straight." Not only is that highly offensive to homosexuals, suggesting that they aren't "straight," but it also is very predictable, coming from ignorant humans who will never accept people who are dif-

Is it Okay to be Gay?

ferent from themselves. Have you ever looked at a homosexual couple like they were freaks? I'm not proud of it, but I know I used to. Why? Because they're different, and it's in our human nature to judge those who are different from ourselves. However, homosexuals are the only people who have learned to shake off that stupid quality that most humans have. After all, homosexuals don't go around yelling "straight!" as if it were an insult.

Some people claim that same sex marriage shouldn't be legal. For example, in the Bible scripture Leviticus 20:13 it states, "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, they both have committed an abomination, they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them." This is why many Christians are against homosexuality. However, if God is our "almighty, ever-forgiving father," why would he be so quick to judge? You know why? Because he didn't.

The Bible is not written by God himself, but by his followers. If someone writes in the Bible that homosexuality is wrong, most Christians will believe so without even giving much thought to it, simply believ-

ing it's what God's take on homosexuality is when in reality it was a follower of God who wrote so, not God.

Obviously, there is nothing wrong with homosexuals, and people should simply learn to accept those who are different. I am proud to say that my home state, Hawai'i, has approved same sex marriage and now happy, although different, couples can live in harmony, but sadly still attract more eyes than your average couple. Hopefully Hawai'i and the other 16 states that have already approved same sex marriage will rub off on the other 33 states that are simply stuck in their ways.

So please, don't judge others entirely on their appearance. Think before you smirk and point at a homosexual couple; remember that they are simply different. They are still humans, just like you and me.

Sakura Remsen

This contribution is part of the ongoing series of Kohala Middle School student letters. Students in Mr. Anderson's 7th grade class are encouraged to write persuasive letters about topics that are meaningful to them.

Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation Counts Its Blessings and Gives Thanks

A MESSAGE of GRATITUDE to:

ALL the community members who contributed to the annual Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation Christmas pledge campaign. Your contributions, large and small, came to \$20,725, including a generous donation of \$10,000.

Betty and Michael Meinardus, for their successful 6th annual golf tournament, which raised over \$43,000 this February. Organizing this tournament and the many volunteers is no small task! One golfer said to me... "I play in tournaments around the world and this is the BEST!" We are grateful to the participating golfers, the many sponsors from on and off island and the Meinardus family.

The retiring board members— Tommy Tinker, Susan Denman, Peter Denman, Elizabeth Grant and Jack Sunderland—whose combined tenure of service totals more

than 30 years. We acknowledge the many hours of volunteer time and talent that went into KHCF from these long-term board members. We thank you for all your efforts, for you did your work well and raised an incredible amount of money for hospital equipment and the construction of the new emergency room.

Our new board members Elaine Christianson and Rhoady Lee. Elaine, a well-known realtor and musician, has resided in North Kohala for over 30 years. She brings to the board a focus on communicating the foundation's work out to the community, and on networking with new and long-time residents to continue the fundraising efforts of past board members.



Rhoady, an architect, comes to the board having recently served on the board of the Kahilu Theatre Foundation. He also helped North Hawai'i Hospice with their building projects and is Architect-of-the-Record for the Hawai'i Wildlife Center. He brings his expertise and knowledge of intricacies of nonprofits, especially around grants and major donors.

I am deeply grateful to everyone for their ongoing support of the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation in our common goal: a hospital we can all be proud of.

MAHALO NUI LOA,
Giovanna Gherardi
KHCF President

Mahalos for Outgoing KHCF Board Members

Dear Editor,

There have been some changes to the Board of Directors of the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation: several members have retired, most after serving our community six to eight years in this capacity!

Since the summer of 2002, when the board was formed, over \$900,000

has been raised, most of it during the tenure of these retiring members. Therefore, I would like to thank the following board members for their service: Peter and Susan Denman, Jack Sunderland, Greg Harman, Dr. Ana Garcia and Elizabeth Grant.

Peter was our long suffering secretary, and Susan was my very capa-

ble vice-president! Jack did all the heavy lifting when we had our silent auctions. Greg Harmon, one of our charter members (from 2002), graciously allowed us to use his pharmacy as a collections point when we held our silent auctions. Dr. Ana had a very positive impact on the board

See Mahalos, page 5

Letters—

Mahalos, continued from page 4
almost from the beginning.

I would especially like to thank Elizabeth Grant. Over the years she organized and ran four of our silent auctions by herself. She also would show up at 7:30 a.m. to take the minutes for our monthly meetings after getting in from her hotel job after midnight—plus she wrote almost all of our thank you notes. I could go on and on; thank you Elizabeth!

Last, but not least, I would like to remember dear Alan Axelrod—he left us one year ago this coming April 1—as one of our past presidents. The success of this foundation is his legacy!

I would like to wish the new foundation board and its president, Giovanna Gherardi, great success and satisfaction.

Aloha and mahalo for your time,
Tommy Tinker



Save Money by Not Wasting Electricity

Dear Kohala,

There are a lot of people wasting electricity. The problem is that too many people are not turning off the lights or the television or any machines. Make sure you turn off the lights when you leave the room. When you go on a trip or vacation be sure to unplug the machines because they are still on stand-by. They are still consuming energy even if they are off. Keep the doors or windows closed if the hot or cold conditioning is on in the house. If you have the hot air conditioning on DO NOT put furniture by it because it may catch on fire. To not use a lot of electricity, put a solar panel on the roof of your house. The solar panel will give you

hot water from the sun. To not use a lot of energy put a 100 watt light bulb on because it will use less electricity than a lot of other small light bulbs that can make your electricity bill go higher. If everyone reminds people to turn off the machines, everyone's lives will be much better because they will not have to pay more money for the electricity bill.

Sincerely,
Cheylin Imai

This contribution is part of the ongoing series of Kohala Middle School student letters. Students in Mr. Anderson's class are encouraged to write persuasive letters about topics that are meaningful to them.

Marine Debris Dangerous to Wildlife, Human Health and Economy

Dear Editor,

I would like to talk to all of Kohala about marine debris and ways to prevent it. Trash that doesn't sink or stay put may enter the ocean and then be considered marine debris.



—photo by Jeff Alexander
Rubbish left on the beach makes an eyesore that can also pose a hazard to marine life.

Items end up being marine debris either through a natural disaster or by humans. Marine debris can come in many forms, such as fishing nets, soda can rings, plastic bottles, household trash, cigarette butts and even metal, which can be eaten by marine life, eventually killing them.

We can't stop a natural disaster, but we can stop our trash from becoming litter/debris in the ocean.

So if you think it won't harm anyone, marine debris will affect everyone by killing our reefs, fish and environment. It also affects things like fishing or gathering from the ocean, the economy, human health and safety.

One way you can stop marine debris is don't litter! Another way is whatever you take down to the beach you bring it back. I once saw a sign on my way to the beach that said, "PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT."

I really wanted to talk about this topic because many people don't know that even those soda can rings can be life threatening to marine life, which I thought was so true. So everyone, please remember "PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT" when you go to the beach and leave it better than how you found it.

Sincerely,
Makana Kishimoto

This contribution is part of the ongoing series of Kohala Middle School student letters. Students in Mr. Anderson's class are encouraged to write persuasive letters about topics that are meaningful to them.

Catch The \$ave Wave!

Youth Savings Challenge APRIL 14-26



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County Council Update— Sustainability, Hawi Park, Budget and Taxes Among Current District 9 Business Matters

By Margaret Wille

Come Visit Our New North Kohala Videoconferencing Center:

Have you attended a county council meeting by way of the new video conferencing center located in Kapa`au at the old Bank of Hawaii building? Please do: be part of your county government. And even if you do not want to testify, come watch your County Council in action. If you are interested in receiving the upcoming Council agendas, either by email or by mail, give my office a call and ask to be put on our newsletter list.

Upcoming Council Matters of Interest:

March 31 Energy

Sustainability Presentation:

I have scheduled a presentation on Green Waste and other Organics Impacts on Hawai'i County's Solid Waste Handling. I want to ensure our goals of reduce, reuse, recycle are addressed and that we best utilize green waste for the benefit of our farmers, our landscapers, and our residential users. Come listen and testify about your suggestions and your concerns.

April 1 Final Council Vote Scheduled for the Hawi Banyan Tree Park Property Resolution:

On March 18 the Council's finance committee unanimously approved

the Banyan Tree Park Property Resolution authorizing and urging the County's purchase of this Hawi property using the 2% Public Access Open Space Funds. This one-acre parcel consists of the grassy open area around the town center banyan tree. The location has been used for over 50 years as a park area. For many residents this place/space epitomizes the heart and soul of the Hawi community.

The current owners recently acquired this property and had in mind their own dream for its use, but now, understanding its importance to the entire community, have graciously agreed to sell the property at its fair appraised value—provided the County quickly decides whether to purchase. This resolution

will come up for a Council vote on April 1 and then goes to the mayor for a final decision.

By way of background, this purchase stands in competition with other parcels around the island that have also been designated as priorities for use of the 2% Public Access Open Space funds. The North Kohala

for example, you want to hear about Parks and Recreation, Public Works or the Planning Department, give my office a call to find out on which day and at what time each department will be making its presentation. On April 15 there will also be a public hearing on both the 2014-2015 operating budget and on the capital improvements budget. Next month I will report on the status of these budget negotiations.

April 25 Real Property Tax Stakeholders Task Force Meeting:

Councilmember Dennis "Fresh" Onishi and I are the two council members on the Real Property Tax Stakeholders Task Force charged with reviewing and recommending changes to the County's real property tax program. Our next meeting will be in Hilo on April 25th. We are currently focusing on the various tax programs relating to agriculturally zoned land. Public testimony is welcome; however, videoconferencing of these meetings is not available.

Review of March Council

Matters of Interest:

Kohala Kai Development Grant of Easement (Approved March 7):

The Kohala Kai property, located on the coast just north of Kawaihae, has for generations been used for recreation and cultural activities, as well as for walking the historic Ala Loa.

The proposed Kohala Kai residential subdivision currently has seven lots approved, and approval of five

See CC Update, page 7



—photo courtesy of Margaret Wille

The County Council's Real Property Tax Task Force discusses the county's Real Property Tax Program. Task Force Committee members are (left to right): Steve Hussey, Councilmember Margaret Wille, Robert Price, Al Inouye, and Councilmember Dennis "Fresh" Onishi

area has already greatly benefited from this funding for previously acquired North Kohala properties. For this reason supporters of this effort need to stress this unique and important window of opportunity to the Council and thereafter to the Mayor. Otherwise this opportunity will pass us by.

April 2, 3 and 4 Budget Review: The Council is now about to begin tackling the 2014-2015 County Budget.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2014-2015 budget, for both the operating budget and the capital improvement projects budget, is now available at the Council offices. On April 2, 3 and 4, we will hear from each department about their programs and budget. Public testimony is welcome. So if,

Letters—

Kauhola Management Plan Mahalos

On behalf of Maika'i Kamakani O Kohala, Inc. (MKOKI) we would like to thank Laura Ka'akua of the Trust for Public Lands for all of her efforts in compiling the input from the Kohala community in developing a management plan for Kauhola.

Also for those who attended the planning meetings, Mahalo for your time and effort in helping MKOKI in this endeavor. And a special Aloha to Kohala Mountain News for help on keeping the public informed.

We will be making copies of the plan available at the library, MKOKI website and in the next issue of KMN.

MKOKI will be scheduling a general meeting in April to present, discuss and organize efforts for lo'i and coastal marine restoration projects.

Mahalo,
Jeff Coakley and Lani Eugenio



Nothing says I love you like a stack of pancakes!

Treat your Mother to the Kohala Lions Club Mother's Day Breakfast

May 11th • 7 am to 10 am

Kohala High School Cafeteria • Dine In or Take Out

Tickets available from any Lions Club Member or at Mother's in Hawi

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Kohala Yoga Community Center

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Directions/info: Rev. Lee, BA, 889-5505

CC Update, continued from page 6
 more lots is expected. But what may sound like a simple vote to approve a grant of a public access easement became a multi-faceted contentious vote. The sticking points were numerous and complicated in the Planning Department's departure from procedures in place to involve the community in a timely fashion, and in the planning director's approval of a trail location other than that requested by the National Park Service and by the North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee's Community Access Group Subcommittee. (Both had requested the public access trail be aligned with the Ala Loa.)

I am happy to report that after considerable debate at the March 7 Council meeting, the developers' representatives agreed to place a deed restriction in the conveyance of all subdivision lots to prevent any blockage of the historic trail; they also agreed to identify the Ala Loa on the Kohala Kai subdivision plan, thereby ensuring its preservation. In light of this additional agreement to preserve the Ala Loa, the Council voted in favor of the requested Grant of Easement approving the

developer-constructed shoreline trail easement.

I am also pleased the Kohala Kai developer is currently negotiating with the National Park Service to create an additional conservation easement that would extend from the historic trail to the shoreline. This National Park Services agreement, which would be in addition to the agreements with the County, would be of great benefit given that the National Park Service would maintain and service this easement area.

Collin Kaholo Nominated to the Leeward Planning Commission:

At the March 19 council Planning Committee meeting, Collin Kaholo's nomination to the Leeward Planning Commission was unanimously approved. As you probably know, Collin served as a member of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee and was a chair of its housing subcommittee. I am very happy to hear of his nomination. His ability to negotiate conflicting community interests in a calm and collaborative manner will serve him well in this new position. Congratulations. Final approval of his nomination is expected at the

April 1 Council meeting.

Kohala by the Sea Community Awarded Council Commendation:

On March 19 I sponsored the presentation of a Certificate of Merit to the Kohala by the Sea community in view of its 10 years of national rec-

ognition qualifying it as a National Firewise Community. Kohala by the Sea is one of only 34 communities in the nation that have qualified as a National Firewise Community for 10-plus years. Congratulations!

Kohala by The Sea Among Top in Nation for Fire Safety

At the March 19 County Council meeting, Councilwoman Margaret Wille presented a Certificate of Merit to Kohala by the Sea, recognizing its 10 years of qualifying as a National Firewise Community.

Only 33 other communities in the United States have quali-

fied for this status. The Hawai'i Island Firewise program, headed up by Denise Laitinen, was the national model for this nationwide program.

Residents Debra MacCarthy and Judy Mayo accepted the award for the Kohala by the Sea community.



Kohala by the Sea representatives and County Council members pose for a photo after the community was awarded the Certificate of Merit for 10 years of qualifying as a National Firewise Community. From L-R: Front row: Firewise Director Denise Laitinen, Councilwoman Wille, Debra MacCarthy, and Judy Mayo. Back row: Councilmembers Zendo Kern, Dennis Onishi, Valerie Poindexter, Brenda Ford, Karen Eoff, Dru Kanuha, and Greggor Illegan.

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Viewpoint

Information and opinions expressed in viewpoint articles are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the News or its staff.

"PONO Choices" Not Right

By Lani Eugenio

I want to make it clear that I am NOT homophobic. I have many gay friends whom I have helped and they have helped me. We enjoy each others' company and we love hanging out together. What they do as adults is their business. However, this new "sexual revolution" is determining the education of our children. This is where I draw the line.

Recently, some very disturbing

news has been brought to my attention that I feel every parent should be aware of.

"Pono Choices" is a sexual education curriculum currently taught in at least 12 Hawai'i public schools, designed for youth aged 11 to 13. The children are exposed to graphic drawings and detailed explanations about hetero and homosexual acts, the difference between intercourse and outercourse and other things

related to the sex act.

I am concerned about this because of what I had read on the LGBT website more than a decade ago. One article was about research that was done which showed that the earlier the children are taught about sex, the more likely they will be to experiment with sex. And the younger the child begins sexual activity, then when he/she is older, the more likely he/she will be open to try other methods of sexual gratification. In Massachusetts and California, sex education is being taught in kindergarten, and this is planned to spread nationwide.

Sex education first started in the high schools to help curb teenage pregnancy. Instead, there have been more teenage pregnancies, so they (whoever "they" are) decided sex education should begin in middle school. Now more kids are experimenting with sex at a younger age, and students with sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise... even with all this sex education.

Today, the "how-to" of vaginal, anal and oral sex is touted as "knowledge" to prevent disease and pregnancy, while in actuality, it arouses these young bodies and minds to explore these dark, secret places. If you, as adults, think my words are too graphic, these are the very words used in the curriculum to familiarize your kids with those sexual acts.

BOE Policy #2110 - Abstinence-Based Education Policy:

"In order to help students make decisions that promote healthy behavior, the Department of Education shall instruct students that abstention from sexual intercourse is the surest and most responsible way to prevent unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and consequent emo-

tional distress."

The BOE and DOE should stick to BOE Policy #2110 and teach abstinence. DOE should be teaching kids to respect their bodies, how to say "No" to sexual advances and to be aware of sexual predators. They should help kids understand the emotional distress that is the consequence of sexual intimacy. Even adults have difficulty dealing with sexual relationships. Some adults are enraged and kill or become despondent and commit suicide over a failed intimate relationship. Why are the government and DOE spending millions of dollars to develop a curriculum that expects kids to engage in sexual activities?

These are kids (11-13) for heaven's sake! Let them enjoy their innocent childhood!!!

And Hawai'i's DOE should stick to the "three Rs," which kids need to survive in the workplace. For years, didn't Hawai'i place somewhere like 47 to 50 out of 51 (DC included) in the National School Ranking?

Ka`auhuhu Reservoir Damaged, Voluntary Conservation Requested

Part of the roof covering the Ka`auhuhu reservoir has collapsed and must be repaired. The Department of Water Supply (DWS) has already put temporary lines in place, and all water needs are currently being met. The actual process of repairing the structure, however, will take some time. The Kohala Mountain News plans to have a full update in next month's edition as more information becomes available.

In the mean time, DWS requests voluntary conservation measures to ensure water will continue to be available for all necessities.

Suggested conservation measures include:

- Wash full loads of laundry only
- Wash full loads of dishes only
- Serve drinking water only when requested
- Do not let the faucet run unnecessarily
- When bathing, use water only to wet and rinse off
- Do not fill up the bathtub
- Use a glass to rinse when brushing your teeth
- Do not flush toilets unnecessarily
- Stop lawn sprinkling
- Stop car and boat washing
- Stop dust control watering
- Use drinking water wisely

Kohala Middle School Car Wash Fundraiser

Come support our keiki in their efforts to purchase a new diving board for the pool!

Who: KMS 6th Grade class
What: Car Wash
When: March 30, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: J&R's parking lot, Kapa`au
Why: Raising money for a new diving board at Kamehameha Park
Cost: By donation



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THE COQUI CORNER

March 2014

New Sites Treated: • Three residences in Hawi Town • Hawi Road near the top
• Two residences on Kynnersley

Ongoing Eradication: • Kapanaiia Gulch • Site reported in Hawi has not yet been located

We believe coquis are hitchhiking on automobiles and dropping around town. Warmer weather will have coquis more active.

Report any coquis to the
Coqui Hotline: 889-5775

Donations are greatly appreciated! Mahalo for your support!
Keep Kohala Coqui Free!

Preserving the Ala Loa at Kohala Kai Gets Boost

By Toni Withington

While it once looked like the ancient Hawaiian trail, the Ala Loa, was going to officially disappear through a subdivision on the leeward coast near Kawaihae, three moves were made this month to preserve the trail intact. None of the efforts came from the county administration, which had asked the County Council to sign off on a plan to divert the trail closer to the ocean and turn the historic trail into a private golf cart path for owners within the high-end subdivision of Kohala Kai.

Moving of the trail, as well as Hawaiian rights and safety issues, dominated County Council hearings on the acceptance of the public access easements in the 11-lot subdivision for seven months. More than 40 people testified against the plan. In the end the Council accepted the trails built by the developer Kohala Kai LLC and approved by the Planning Department and the mayor. The only mention of the Ala Loa is a statement added by the council last month that the easement "is without prejudice to any existing rights to the ownership or use of the histori-

cal Ala Loa alignment." The County Council declined to discuss the location of the historic trail.

While the battle played out on the council floor, three efforts were underway to save the Ala Loa. Council member Margaret Wille negotiated separately with Kohala Kai LLC to have restrictive words placed in deed restrictions and the final subdivision map showing the location of the Ala Loa, which Hawaiians believe is the existing jeep road along the shore. This wording, Wille believes, will keep future owners of the lots from building on or blocking the Ala Loa until the legal status of the trail is established.

The second effort came during a meeting the day before the final council hearing between Charlie Anderson, representative of the owner, and Aric Arakaki, superintendent of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. At a meeting of the North Kohala Community Access Group in January, Arakaki made an offer to Anderson to have the National Park Service maintain the shore trail so long as it is located on the Ala Loa. In the draft of what is called a Good Faith Agreement, the two wrote up a proposal

accepting the concept of a conservation easement that would allow Ala Kahakai to maintain the land from above (mauka of) the identified Ala Loa to the ocean. Terms of the conservation easement would be later negotiated by the parties "in good faith." Arakaki later met with some of the opponents of the County trail plan to say that the National Park Service will move ahead only after hearing concerns and suggestions from those in North and South Kohala with ties to the land.

The third move is a ground swell of activity toward a court challenge of the county's attempt to change

and move the Ala Loa. Several testifiers against the county's access plan told the council the trail belongs to the people of Hawai'i, not the land owner or the county. The cultural assessment required by the county also failed to identify those individuals and families in North and South Kohala who have claims to use and visit the land—its sites and burials—according to testimony. While no law suit had been filed at the deadline for the Mountain News, several potential plaintiffs are seeking legal help to challenge the county decision that could set a precedent to further erode an already bumpy Ala Loa.

Transforming Trash into Works of Art Entertains and Inspires

The 8th Annual Trash Bash, coming May 10, is the opportunity to transform your trash for the love of art!

This unique show offers both an avenue to create art and fashion and inspiration for those who view it. Produced by the Trash Bash Organizing Committee—a group of Kohala residents with a passion for inspiring creativity with trash—the show can change our perceptions of materials usually tossed in the landfill without a second thought. Witnessing the creations brought forth from discarded trash helps to raise awareness and appreciation for how we use our earth's resources.

Online registration is open now at kohalatrashbash.com. This website also has links to trash art from around the globe and recycling opportunities in North Kohala.

By popular demand, Trash Fashion is back this year! Fashion entries will be accepted through May 3rd. Art entries will be accepted through May 7th.

To facilitate entrants' getting together to create trash fashion, construction workshops will be held on Saturdays, April 5 and May 3, and require a \$5 fee.

You should email andrea@andreadean.com only if you want to attend the construction workshops.

Art and Fashion should be made mostly from trash. True trash is an item which cannot be recycled or composted and is thrown into the landfill. Examples are plastics which are not accepted at our recycling center, Styrofoam, CDs, fabric and clothing, old furniture, packaging, children's toys, toothbrushes and many other items.

Art and fashion creators and



—photo by: Suzanne Sims

Deborah Winter models a dress by Maggie Frohmader made from materials found at the Transfer Station.

admirers, plan to attend the reception and Trash Fashion Dance on Saturday, May 10, 5:30 p.m. at the Kava Kafe-Upstairs at the Mill in Hawi. Light pupus will be served. Kava and other beverages will be available for purchase.

Learn more at kohalatrashbash.com or call Colleen at Just MacNuts at 345-6322. Reduce, reuse, rethink, repurpose and recycle!

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The EBT Booth at the Hawi Farmers market is supported by grants from the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development and the County of Hawai'i County Council.

Natural Farming Learning Lab

Are you doing your part toward fifty percent community food self-sufficiency in Kohala by 2018?

Many dedicated community members are working hard toward that goal, welcoming creative new ideas that will ultimately bring strength and resiliency to Kohala. One such

group is the Palili 'O Kohala project, and on March 1 they welcomed the Hawai'i Island community to the blessing of the new Natural Farming Learning Lab on Hō'ea Road.

The program, both sacred and festive, began with a blessing of the Natural Farming Learning Lab, including the new Natural Farming pig and chicken house, by Kahu Kealoha Sugiyama. The Palili 'O Kohala families, past and present, and members of the community who helped build the pig and chicken house planted ti around the



—photo by Andrea Dean
Isaiah and Keoni Lavea take a moment to pose by their kalo (taro) plants. Isaiah, Keoni and Sarah Lavea prepared the imu for the event.



—photo by Maureen Garry
Chelsy Gollen takes the opportunity to pet a few piglets at the new pig and chicken house.

house.

An 'ulu tree was also planted by sponsors and other supporters to symbolize the continued growth of the project.

Hungry attendees lined up for a delicious array of local food, including pulled kalua pork, steamed rice, steamed taro, chicken long rice, fresh poi, ho'i'o (fern shoot salad), mixed baby greens salad, haupia (coconut pudding), kulolo (a taro-based dessert) and local banana. While relaxing under the spacious tents, diners were treated to world-class entertainment by the band Laulima and Hawaiian Ki Hō'alu slack key guitar master Cyril Pahinui.

After all appetites were satisfied, the crowd broke up for afternoon workshops and demonstrations. Under the tents with

a big pile of soil, Chris Trump from Cho Global Natural Farming Co-op and his assistants George Hook, Scott Drew and Leslie Nugent led Introduction to Natural Farming and Making Natural Farming inputs. Eager members of the crowd gathered information to bring to their own home gar-

dens, with the prospect of bringing up yields and decreasing work put into the garden.

The crowd then migrated to the pig and chicken house to be educated in raising pigs using Natural Farming by Mike and Liz Hubbell from Hubbell's Hog Heaven. The construction of the house, along with the Natural Farming bedding makes this an incredibly clean operation, with the beneficial microorganisms nurtured in the bedding virtually eliminating the offensive smell and flies typically associated with pig farming.

On the other side of the open space, the more musically inclined savored their



—photo by Malia Welch
Hawai'i State Representative Clift Tsuji presents a certificate to Andrea Dean and David Fuertes, representing the Palili 'O Kohala project. The project was recognized by the Hawaii State Legislature for its contribution to food self-sufficiency in our state.



—photo by Andrea Dean
The Palili 'O Kohala families, past and present, and members of the community who helped build the pig and chicken house planted ti leaf plants around it, observing the traditional Hawaiian practice of planting ti at each corner of a new house for protection, purification, blessings, and good luck.

once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have personal ukulele lessons from Cyril Pahinui. They had come ready, ukes in hand, and played mele from across the spectrum. They called out a song, and Cyril figured out how to play it.

Ongoing talks and demonstrations included such diverse sustainability topics as taro cultivation and traditional poi pounding, Hawaiian saddle making, raising chickens, and ukulele-making with mentors and students of Ka Hana No'eau; the new Farm Bill with the USDA Farm Services Agency; and growing 'uala (sweet potato) in the Kohala dryland field system with Ulu Mau Puanui.

Kehaulani Marshall, Program Director of See Palili, page 11

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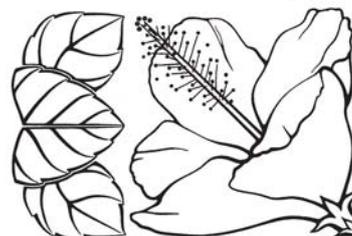
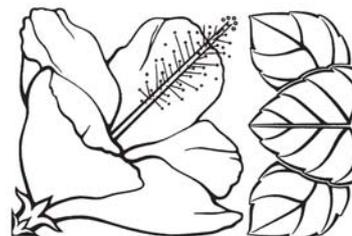
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Helps Grow Healthy Community

Palili, continued from page 10

Ulu Mau Puanui, explained that the dryland field system was an ancient rain-fed agricultural system spreading across 25 square miles of leeward Kohala, feeding 30,000 people in

cooperative that addresses food self-sufficiency, food security and economic development in North Kohala. The project provides training and resources for the growing, processing and distribution of taro

efficacy of these methods. Natural Farming uses "indigenous microorganisms" to increase yields, eliminate the use of chemicals and reduce water needs in crop management and animal husbandry.

The North Kohala community, in its County-mandated Community Development Plan, is committed to 50 percent community food self-sufficiency by 2018. The Natural Farming Learning Lab and Palili 'O Kohala are part of the community effort to reach that goal by cultivating traditional crops and using Natural Farming to grow chemical-free food.

Mahanaroi Ah Sing and his father Jason, fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, James Puni Sanchez and Bert Kanoa, and community members Jim Williams, Michael Reihm, Jerry Laronel, Eileen Hartwings, Delphina Dorrance, Ted Matsuda, Leslie Nugent, Chris Trump and many others did much of the work

on the pig and chicken house. Mahanaroi took on the project to earn his Eagle Scout badge, and his church and family helped back him up on the project.

The Palili 'O Kohala project has been generously supported by County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i County Council, Hawai'i FFA Foundation, Local Initiatives Fund of RSF Social Finance, Honsador Lumber, Dorrance Family Foundation, Hawai'i Community Foundation Omidyar 'Ohana Fund and Partners in Development. See Palili, page 12



—photo by Malia Welch

Members of the Ka`ai, Lavea, Drew and Ah Sing families pose in front of the Palili 'O Kohala banner.

Not pictured: Kanoa, Kauwe, Rodriguez and Hedlund families

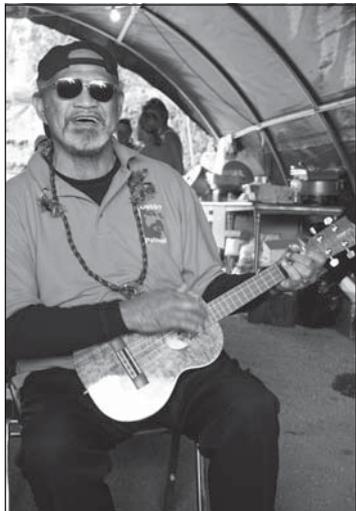
ancient times. Their program invites volunteers to work small patches of 'uala in the ancient fields, learning about and perpetuating this important food source.

The Natural Farming Learning Lab and Palili 'O Kohala is a project of Kohala-based non-profit Kahua Pa'a Mua, Inc. The Palili 'O Kohala project is a taro growing

and value added products from taro, pigs, chickens and vegetables. Present Palili 'O Kohala families

include Bert Kanoa and family; Ed and Lisa Kauwe and family; Jamie and Scott Drew and family; Sara, Keoni and Isaiah Lavea; Rudy Rodriguez; the Nino Ka'ai 'ohana; Kanani, Jason and Manaroi Ah Sing; George Hook and Luke Hedlund. Past Palili 'O Kohala members who helped lay the foundation for the project include Debbie Choo, Robert Elarco, Pat Ching, Lana Lewis and others.

The Natural Farming Learning Lab has been created to teach others about Natural Farming methods and to demonstrate the



—photo by Maureen Garry

Cyril Pahinui strums his ukulele during the afternoon workshop dedicated to teaching how to play the ukulele.



—photo by Eddie Pollock

An 'ulu tree was planted by sponsors and supporters, symbolizing the continued growth of the project.

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—photo by Andrea Dean

Palili 'O Kohala members Jaime and Scott Drew pose with their family amongst taro plants.

State Funds Released for Kohala Elementary School Improvements

Almost \$7.73 million in state funds, secured in the last legislative session, were released in February for various capital improvement projects supporting student education in Hawai'i.

Two Kohala Elementary School (KES) projects will be funded with this money: construction to bring the school into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the addition of a portable building.

Principal Danny Garcia notes that KES was "next on the list" for ADA compliance renovations. The ADA new construction will have two distinct components.

The first project will be building ramps around the three flights of stairs alongside Building A. In addition, an ADA-compliant parking stall will be created on the KES campus. Since the 1995 campus split

into Kohala High School (KHS) and KES, the only ADA-compliant stall has been on the KHS side. KES currently uses a temporary stall, which is shared with the cafeteria staff for deliveries. Staff carefully schedules all deliveries so as not to interfere with the students' needs for drop-off and pick-up.

ADA compliance construction is expected to last two years and be completed in late 2016 or early 2017.

The second component is the new portable building, already under construction along Akoni Pule Highway, which will be used for special education. The building was originally requested in 2009 by then-principal Ellie Laszlo. Construction began in November 2013 and is scheduled to be completed in April 2014. The building will be ready for use next school year.

Sienna Byrne Named Semifinalist in Hawai'i Geographic Bee

Kohala Middle School student Sienna Byrne reigned over the local competition and is headed to O'ahu for the 2014 Hawai'i National Geographic Bee on April 4.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 26th year. Bees were held in schools with fourth-through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school's Bee winner. School-level winners then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The Society invited the students with the top 100 scores in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of

Defense Schools and US territories to compete at the state level.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "Complete National Geographic on DVD" and a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent Hawai'i in the National Geographic Bee finals in May. The national winner will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the Society. The national winner will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, to the Galapagos Islands where he/she will experience geography firsthand through up-close encounters with the islands' unique wildlife and landscapes.

Palili, continued from page 11
Foundation. Community partners include Partners in Development Foundation Ka Hana No'eau and North Kohala Eat

Locally Grown.

We can all do something to work toward our community's food self-sufficiency goal. What have you committed to do?



—photo by Maureen Garry

Ka Hana No'eau mentees use traditional tools to pound fresh poi from the taro grown on site.

Mike Hubbell of Hubbell's Hog Heaven explains the Natural Farming method of raising pigs without odor or flies.



—photo by Maureen Garry



—photo by Maureen Garry

Chris Trump explains how to create Natural Farming inputs as his assistants turn the starter pile to mix beneficial micro-organisms with the soil.

The History of Kohala Newspapers

Provided by Tom Morse, Source: *Kohala`Aina*

Kohala Midget 1908-1917, eventually island-wide; published by the Reverend John F. Cowan

Kamaka Oh Kohala (Eye of Kohala) 1951-1975; Published by the Kohala Sugar Co.

Kohala Imua 1975-76; Published by the Kohala Federal Credit Union
Kamehameha Times 1977-1998; Published by Kohala Parent Teacher Student Association

Kohala Mountain News 1998-2000, 2007 to date



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Chris' Corner

Plantation Era Homes Provided Stability and Pride of Ownership

Story and photos by Chris Brown
 This month I intend to share a bit of Kohala's plantation days history. This will be old stuff to many people, but I thought some might find it of interest.

Prior to 1959, the great majority of the homes in Kohala were owned by the plantation and rented to the employees. Under the management of Mr. Alvan Stearns, Kohala Sugar Company began a program of home ownership for many sugar workers. These building lots had areas of 15,000 square feet and were sold for \$1.00 (!) each. Included in this venture were Kynnersley Road, Union Mill Road, Halaula Road (mauka and makai) and Akoni Pule Highway from the Kynnersley intersection to approximately today's Hanaula subdivision, and also a few other locations.

People had been living in camps located near each of the five original Kohala sugar mills. Castle and Cooke purchased all of the land previously owned by plantations at Niuli'i, Union Mill, Halaula and Hawi to form the Kohala Mill at Halaula. The Kohala

Sugar Company apparently wished to get out of the rental business, and a great alternative was to have workers own their own homes. Kohala Sugar had plumbers, car-



—photo courtesy of Kohala Sugar Company

The Kurashige house was moved from the Union Mill camp to Kynnersley Road in 1960. The caption from the newspaper Kamaka Oh Kohala c. 1961 reads, "Sixteen houses like the one above were moved from the Union Mill camp to the Kynnersley subdivision by company personnel during 1960. It is estimated that as many as 70 homes will be moved into the area in the coming year."

penters and electricians who were responsible for rental maintenance, and this had become quite an expense.



Sat Carpio takes the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, now on his own time. He worked for the sugar plantation and was active in the union, serving on the committee concerned with worker housing.

Lots were available to workers based on seniority and points that were determined by the type of job; more skilled workers received more points. People were able to form a "hui" to combine points so they could obtain lots in close proximity to each other.

Most of the workers had

the option of buying their rental home (the plantation formed a group to do the assessing) or building a new home on the lot. If they opted to buy the rental, the plantation arranged to move the house to the new location with trailers specially made for the moving.

The homes on Akoni Pule Highway between Kynnersley intersection and Hanaula were newly built homes. The first were "Hicks" homes, but many were built by Mr. Hiroto Kawasaki of Kohala. The plantation provided water meter connections and also electricity hookups to the new locations.



Iris Fujii smiles in the garden, remembering the days she worked at the plantation office of Mr. Sidney Beers before she became a clerk/typist for Kohala High and Elementary School.

The supervisor in charge of housing and rentals played an important role in this new venture. Mr. Sidney Beers worked in this capacity until his death and was succeeded by Mr. Phil Hooton.

It is interesting that the lots were sold for \$1.00 and not simply given to the workers. It appeared that the plantation union officials (Union 13) realized that a gift of the lots would mean a gift tax would be assessed. Charg-



—photo courtesy of Kohala Sugar Company

An aerial view of Kynnersley Road c. 1961 shows plantation workers' homes, many of which had been relocated from the camps. The Kohala Sugar Company sold 15,000 square-foot-lots, which workers used as home sites for either their relocated homes or new construction, at the cost of \$1 per lot.

ing the workers one dollar avoided such a tax.

The new home owners felt pride in their accomplishment, and it seemed that ownership helped many learn how to be better at saving money. When the plantation closed in 1975, even though many were without jobs, they at least owned their own homes. Kohala was the only plantation on the island to provide its workers with land for homes. Castle and Cooke was good to its employees, who benefited greatly from its generosity.

I was able to get information from several Kohala residents with whom I spoke and want especially to thank Iris Fujii and Sat Carpio, who were willing to sit with me and talk about days gone by.

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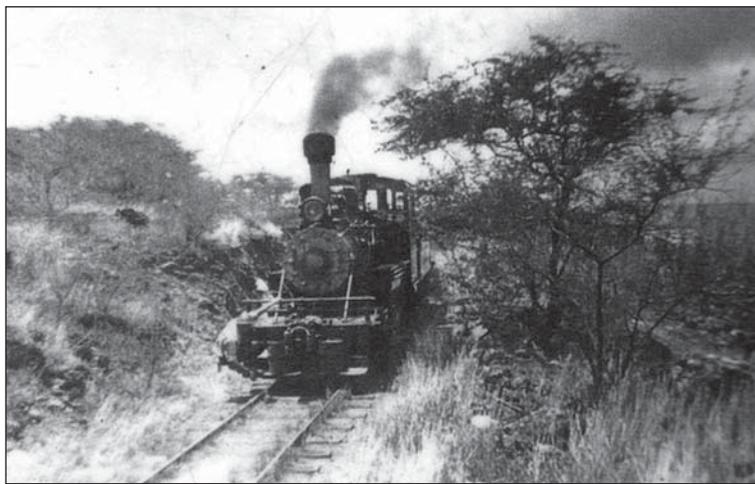
Māhukona and Kohala Railroad

Kakau e Boyd D. Bond

In 1879 there were six mills in Kohala processing sugar juice into solid grains of raw sugar, which were then bagged for shipment to the American west coast and other markets. Getting the bags onto ships, along a coastline with no sandy beach, was no small task. Carts usually drawn by oxen would travel over unpaved roads, often made muddy in the Kohala rains, to transport the precious products of raw sugar and molasses, which were then lowered from the cliffs by cables to the anchored ships below. Māhukona Bay provided a more sheltered landing in the rough winter months but was farther away from production at the mills. Profits were marginal.

From 1878 to 1880 Samuel G. Wilder was the Minister of the Interior of the kingdom and principle member of the kings' cabinet. He was also owner of Wilder and Co., a leader in the competitive shipping industry. He formed the Hawaiian Railroad Company in 1880 to link the sugar cane plantations in the North Kohala District to the Port of Māhukona. Even before work on the rails' roadbed had begun he was financing improvements to the land-

ing at Māhukona Bay. Construction began in 1881, and operation of the islands' second railroad started with eleven miles of line on January 10,



—photo from http://www.ctamachinery.com/_Media/no5inhawaii1016_med.jpeg
No. 5 underway near Māhukona (date unknown)

1882. The rail line would eventually be extended to Niuli'i, nearly 20 miles, by 1883.

The first engine was named "Kina'u" for Wilder's wife. Other engines included the "Kauka" in 1883, named for one of Wilder's children, and the "Kalakaua," traded from the Kahului Railroad for the engine Kina'u and two of the first class teakwood passenger cars. Another acquired that year was named "A Ke Ahi," and in 1900 the engine "Myrtle" arrived

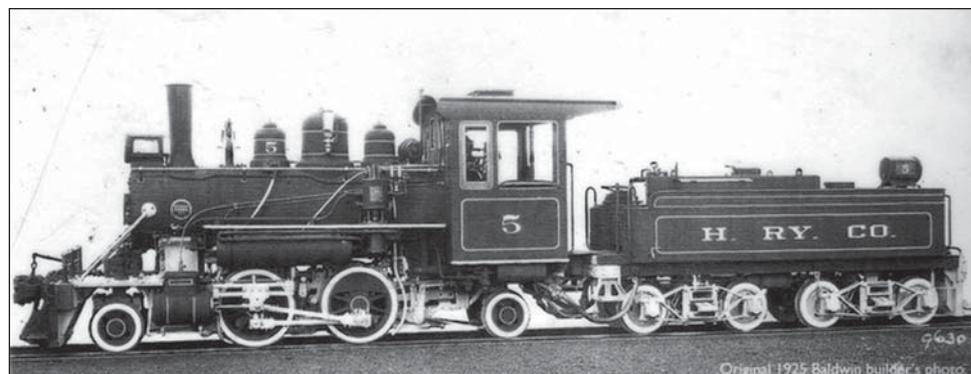
and operated until it was retired by 1945. In 1912 a fourth engine named "Hawai'i" was purchased, and in 1925 the last engine was purchased, called simply, "No. 5." The Kalakaua was later renamed the "Leslie" and was still in service, along with Hawai'i and No. 5 when the railroad closed in 1945.

These engines all rolled along a narrow gauge rail track—three feet wide at the wheel base, instead of the standard gauge at four foot, 8-1/2 inches—and were initially coal fired, although oil became the fuel of choice by 1917.

The steam loco-

20,000 tons in freight and 6,000 passengers. There was even a primitive telephone system connecting all the different stops. The new harbor at Māhukona included a small shopping center and a restaurant to accommodate the visitors, who would pay \$1.50 to ride on benches in the open air cars and \$2.00 to ride in First Class. A small community sprang up around the harbor.

The railroad had a total of six first class teakwood cars, which became associated with their most famous passenger, King David Kalakaua, who had travelled to Kohala for the unveiling of the Kamehameha statue. The king's party disembarked their ship at Māhukona, then boarded one of the first-class cars and rode the train up to a place near Hāwī, when they next mounted horses and slowly rode the rest of the way through the adoring crowd to Aina Kea, where the statue originally



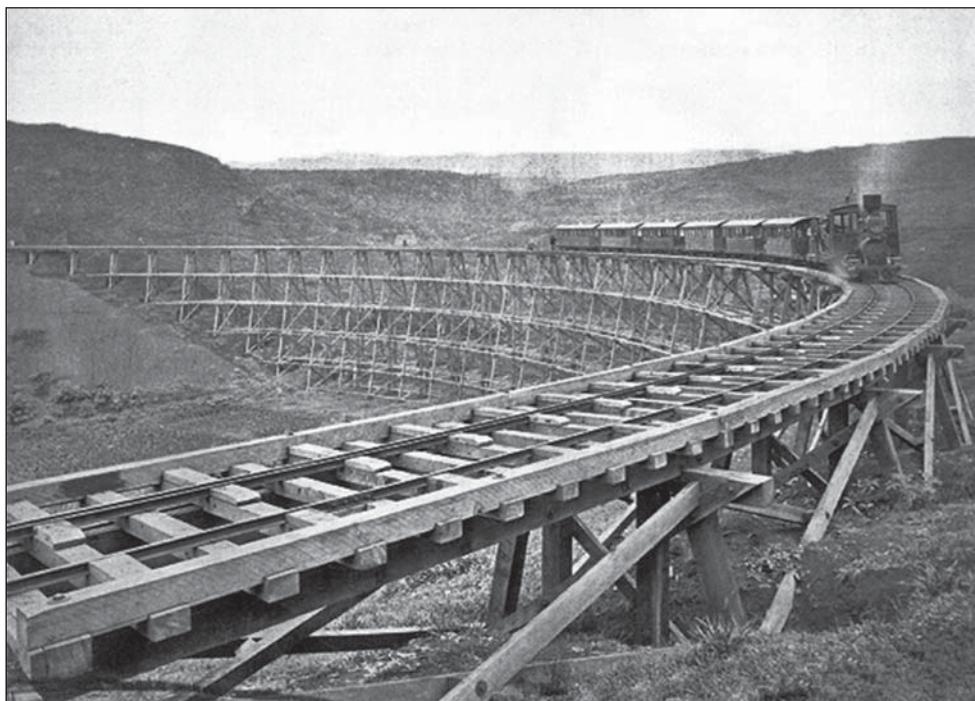
—photo from http://www.ctamachinery.com/_Media/no5buildersphoto015_med.jpeg
Original 1925 Baldwin Locomotive builder's photo, shows No. 5's design.

tives traveled twelve miles per hour, crossing seventeen gulches and rounding twenty-five sharp curves. The train was a novelty for locals, and tourists visiting from Hilo—and even other islands—lined up just to take a ride. Plantation owners were also pleased with the new railroad when they noticed the rise in company profit margins. By 1884, North Kohala produced 10,000 tons of sugar, and the railroad carried

stood. Forever after, the teakwood cars collectively were known as "The Kalakaua Cars," even though only one actually held the king and his small entourage. (The car which carried Kalakaua and the engine Kalakaua/Leslie currently reside on Maui.)

The Hawaiian Railroad Company continued until December, 1897 when it was dissolved and

See RR, page 15



—photo by James J. Williams
Māhukona railroad and train, 1882



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RR, continued from page 14

reincorporated under the new name Hawai'i Railway, with the symbol H Ry Co. The Wilder family remained involved with the Kohala railroad until 1899, when they sold their interests to Kohala Sugar Co. That year, a lighthouse of sorts was built just to the south of Māhukona bay. It fell out of use in 1905, and in 1915 was replaced by the current concrete tower 22 feet (6.7 m) tall.

In 1906 over a mile of track was eliminated by relocating and rebuilding many of the bridges. In 1911 the Territory of Hawai'i built a larger wharf, which was immediately destroyed by a storm but was rebuilt the following year. In 1913 Māhukona was the fourth busiest port in the islands, with only 13 large vessels per year, slightly more than one per month.

Passenger traffic had fallen dramatically as roads improved, cars became more available, and train rides were less of a novelty.

In 1937 Hawai'i Railway was rein-



—photo from http://www.ctamachinery.com/cama_photo_album/hawaii_railway_locomotive_5.html

"Hawaii No 5," a 1925 Baldwin steam locomotive restored and under a full head of steam in Kent, Connecticut

corporated once more as Māhukona Terminals Ltd., and the Kohala Sugar Company laid spur tracks off the main line to the mills and their corresponding fields. How-

ever, on December 8, 1941, in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy closed the Port of Māhukona for security reasons. Products from the mills were hauled by truck to Pa`auilo, then loaded onto trains for transport

1904 photo of the lighthouse tower at Māhukona.

This was the original Māhukona lighthouse, built in 1889 and operated until 1905. The current light was built in 1915.



—photo from <http://media.nara.gov/media/images/40/7/40-0687a.gif>

to Hilo Bay for shipping. Consequently, on October 29, 1945 the railroad operations of Māhukona Terminals Ltd. closed down. The Port of Māhukona re-opened after WWII but was badly damaged by the 1946 tsunami. Repairs were

initiated relatively quickly, beginning in 1948, but the opening of the new harbor at Kawaihae in 1955 brought the closure of Māhukona as a commercial harbor. Today the bay at Māhukona remains active as a county park.

KES Students Learn "Don't Yuck My Yum!" With Tasty Fresh Produce

Every Wednesday throughout the school year, Kohala Elementary School students reap the benefits of the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program, a federal grant program administered by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. The program's purpose is to provide children free snacks of fresh fruits and vegetables, both familiar and exotic.

Jane Lee, FoodCorps Service Member, manages the program at Kohala Elementary. Jane begins the snack day with an educational broadcast giving the students some fun facts about the snack they will be eating that morning. If it might be a new food, she encourages them to try at least one bite and playfully admonishes, "Don't yuck my yum!"

Snacks alternate between fruits and vegetables each week. So far this year students have indulged in a wide variety of fresh produce including blueberries; jicama; blood oranges; purple cauliflower; strawberries; grape tomatoes; carrots; pineapple; red, yellow and green bell peppers; tangerines; cucumber; rambutan; baby carrots; grapes and celery.

Selected elementary schools receive reimbursement for the cost of the produce, which must be given to students during the school day, outside of breakfast

or lunch time. These are high need schools that have the highest percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

FoodCorps is a nationwide team of leaders that connects kids to real food and helps them grow up healthy. Working under the direction of state and community partners, corps members dedicate a year of public service to ensuring that children grow up in healthy school food environments: places where kids learn what real food is and where it comes from—and have daily access to it in their school meals.



—photo by Rose Mae Watterson

Kohala Elementary second grade students try fresh green and yellow bell peppers as part of the USDA's Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Program.

L-R: front row : Joden Fernandez, James Ramos, Ryzen Cazimero-Bautista, Shaiana Tavares-Unea, Kai Walsh; 2nd row: Kaneesha Santiago, Arianna Thornton, Jennifer Apollo, Jayline Salvador, Lluvia Cornejo, Ashley Millet; 3rd row: Kuana Gutierrez, Celice Theodora Verbeckmoes, Kaylee Hirano

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Konea o Kukui Celebrates Community with Open House

On March 1 the Konea o Kukui lo'i restoration project welcomed the public to its first-ever open house.

At the beginning of the festivities, Kumu Hope Keawe's Halau O Mana'olana O Kohala mesmerized

support for all those who seek and work for peace.

Ancestors of the Hussey Svendsen 'ohana had been stewarding Kukui for over seven generations, but then it lay dormant for over 50

were carbon dated by Dr. Michael Graves from the University of New Mexico and a team of archaeologists from other universities who determined that the dark-colored rock walls that embrace the land were built in the 1600s. The past five summers university students have used Kukui to depict an ahupua'a to ensure proper protocol before entering ancient work sites.

Kukui served as a cultural component in drug and alcohol recovery with Big Island Sub-



Aunty Nani Svendsen is surrounded by all the volunteers present at the event who helped to prepare the grounds for the open house.



A bird's eye view of Konea o Kukui can be enjoyed by visitors before beginning the steep descent to the lo'i and gardens below.

the crowd with beautiful hula. After attendees took time to stroll and enjoy the gardens and music, the sky broke open. It rained down just in time for the celebrants to take shelter and appreciate short, heartfelt compositions in poetry, stories and music by Lokahi clients and others touched by the realization of the vision of Kukui.

Located within the boundaries of Keokea Beach Park, Kukui is privately owned and operates as a non-profit garden for expanding knowledge of the Hawaiian culture. Restored to its original purpose as pu'uhonua, it serves as a sanctuary for emotional healing and

years under a canopy of hau and Java plum trees. In April 2001 work began with a 10-year vision for "Kukui"—which means "light" or "enlightenment"—with hard work from the Hussey Svendsen 'ohana. Today, Kukui continues to inspire children and garden guests.

Recently the rock walls of Kukui



Kumu Hope Keawe leads her Halau O Mana'olana O Kohala.



Stone sculpture adorned with a lei graces the footbridge over the stream flowing through Konea o Kukui.

stance Abuse Council for almost 12 years prior to the program ending due to lack of funds. Currently Kukui serves the Lokahi Treatment Center in Kapa'au, the Queen Liliuokalani satellite school and numerous public and charter

schools throughout the islands as an educational gathering place.

The garden was awarded the 2008 Betty Crocker Award of Excellence in the category of Outstanding Xeriscape Gardens and was once featured on *Dirty Jobs* with Mike Rowe.

Konea o Kukui is unique. Being moved by people who have lost their lives to illness or tragedy, various donors have dedicated parts of this garden as gifts to their memory. In addition, some parts were funded by Nani Svendsen's income as a professional floral designer for special occasions.

sen's income as a professional floral designer for special occasions.

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Residential Solar Lease - A Good Idea?

Every four minutes another family in the US is going solar. More people went solar in the US last year than in Germany—the previous world leader in solar installation.

It's a good thing, too. Considering climate change, ocean acidification, species extinction, pollution and the looming debate over tar

sands and expanding oil pipelines, we are at a real crossroads in our collective decision about the future of our nation's energy.

the length of time a solar panel will produce clean power most efficiently. If the homeowner does not have the cash to purchase solar outright, he can choose the PPA. The solar company will install and pay for the panels and the customer agrees to a pay a fixed rate per kilowatt hour (a unit of energy and how you are charged for electricity). Right now rates for solar are half of HELCO's price!

The three finance options for PPAs include zero money down, custom down, or pre-pay—whereby the homeowner agrees to pay for 20 years of power at a bulk discount.

All these agreements lock in fixed rates for the entire term of the contract and guarantee production so you know exactly how much your solar bill will be each month. Imagine your bill being cut in half and fixed at today's rates for the next 20 years! Solar leases do require a good credit score of 680 or higher.

An alternative to leasing is purchasing the solar equipment. The purchase option is good for those with high disposable incomes and/or incomes that can take advantage of the 30 percent federal and 35 percent state tax incentives. Full payment is due at the time of installation. One option is to get a loan

for the full amount and take the credit when filing annual taxes. The typical cost of a system for a family of four ranges from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and the payback is usually within a few years.

Solar panels lose about half a percent of their productivity each year, so at year 20 they are still producing at about 90 percent of the original rate. After year 20 the degradation increases more rapidly, but they will still be producing good power for 8, 10, even 15 more years. With a PPA/lease, options after the 20 year mark include upgrading the system, extending the contract, buying the PV system at fair

market value or having it taken off entirely. With a purchase there are extra years of production but no upgrade option, and the owner takes on maintenance.

Whichever option seems most appealing, the time to go solar is now! Even with the four to seven months of wait time due to HELCO's assessments, it is still worth it for both your pocketbook and our planet. What a wonderful legacy to leave our keiki. GO GREEN POWER!

Susan Cox, a.k.a. Green Power Girl, can get you a free solar design and quote from several providers. She can be reached at 808-333-6084 or at GPG@GreenPowerGirl.com.



—photo by Lynda Wallach

Solar panels can go on the roof, like these that were put on the Toyama Building in 2008: "the first commercial application of solar power in North Kohala." Since that time, our options for using solar power have expanded as more and more people have become interested in finding ways to make use of the sun's energy.

While the politics of energy continue to get us nowhere significant, individuals are quietly choosing to divest themselves of big utilities and dirty fossil fuel providers and go green with solar photovoltaic (PV) roof top systems!

Solar energy is available to most people now through a power purchase agreement (PPA), or solar lease. Under this program, the consumer agrees to buy the power (not panels or equipment) for 20 years—

Spring Fest 2014 Festivities Highlight Achievement, Performance and Fun!

By Isabel Steinhoff, courtesy of Ka Leo Na Opio

On March 8 Kohala Elementary, Middle and High Schools and the 21st Century grant program had their annual Spring Fest: an event where the students from each school get to showcase the clubs, groups and programs they're part of which were funded, or helped to be funded, by the 21st Century program.

This event isn't just limited to that, though; there's so much more! The Spring Fest also included student performances, inflatable water slides and bouncy castle, a dunking booth, robots made by the robotics team, lucky number drawings, temporary tattoos, food booths, and even a kendama booth! In addition to the activities, there

were informational booths available for the parents and community members to let them know what resources the community has to offer, like the Hawai'i Community Federal Credit Union, Kohala FM Project, Achieve 3000, 'Iole and the Police Department.

There were 70 door prizes, the majority of them generously donated from Kohala's very own businesses.



—photo by Danny Garcia

Aunty Kau'i Nakamura's Hula Hālau Kalaniumi Alilooa performs for the crowd at Spring Fest 2014.

From the community, Ryukukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) of Kohala (Kohala's Taiko Club), Aunty

Kau'i Nakamura's Hula Hālau Kalaniumi Alilooa, and Kohala Elementary's garden instructor, Jane Lee, were among the performers. The student performances included Kohala High's Glee Club and 21st Century's drama kids. Kohala Middle School's students demonstrated Makahiki games. Kohala Elementary's Principal Danny Garcia was the only principal brave enough to sit in the dunking booth.

This year the Spring Fest added a special treat: a kendama competition! The competition was judged on who could do the best tricks. There were two categories, one for elementary students and one for everyone. Keoni Barco from Kohala Elementary and Elijah Antonio from Kohala Middle were the winners; each won a brand new kendama!

Even though it was overcast the whole day, many families, friends and community members came out to enjoy the festivities.

Ka Leo Na Opio is Kohala High School's online newspaper. See more at www.kaleonaopio.com.

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Kohala High Cowboys Crowned Division II Champions!

By Isabel Steinhoff, courtesy of *Ka Leo Na Opio*

This year Kohala High's boys basketball team brought their best and represented Kohala to their fullest potential! The Cowboys' record this year was 10-3 with losses against Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, Waiakea, and Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i. Although they lost those games, they pulled through during the rest of the season and came out ranking No. 2 in the Division II playoffs on February 15 and 16. The first day of playoffs, the Cowboys won against Pahoa (56-32), taking them to Saturday, February 16, for the Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF) finals to play against Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, who had beaten Honoka'a (70-63).

Making it to the finals has been the Cowboys' goal ever since the

last time Kohala won BIIFs back in 2009. Every year the boys strive for that BIIF title once again. This year was their chance to bring it back. On February 16 at the Afook-Chinen



—photo by Kihei Kapeliela

KHS Basketball Division II Champions

Civic Auditorium, the Cowboys were ready to fight, with the Kohala fans cheering them on in the stands. The boys brought their game and pushed to the end. It was the game of the year! Kohala upset the defend-

ing BIIF champions and previously undefeated Hawai'i Preparatory Academy, 67-53, bringing happy tears and smiles to all the Cowboys, their families, and their faithful fans.

Kohala finally got the banner back they have been waiting for!

Because the Cowboys are the Division II champions, they were automatically qualified to go to Hawai'i High School Athletic Association Division II Basketball State Championships on O'ahu on February 20 to 22. The quarterfinal game on Thursday, February 20, was against Kaua'i at Kalani High School. With the fight still in them, the Cowboys won 71-56, advancing them to the semifinals.

Kohala played against Kalani for the semifinals on Friday, February 21. Cowboy pride was still strong even

on O'ahu, bringing in the fans from Kohala that lived there. But with all the support for the Cowboys, Kalani pulled through with home court advantage and their fight to win as well. The boys kept the fight close and played their best until the end. The final score was 56-70.

On Saturday, February 22, the Cowboys played a consolation game at the Neal Blaisdell Arena against Seabury Hall for third place. Kohala had a hard time trying to make a comeback. The boys tried to play with a new game face after the loss the previous day but fell through, coming in fourth in the state with a final score of 45-57.

Congratulations to the Cowboys and to the coaches for an amazing season! Kohala is proud of you no matter what and can't wait till next season!

E Ala E Nā Paniolo!

Ka Leo Na Opio is Kohala High School's online newspaper. See more at www.kaleonaopio.com.

KHS Hopes to Revitalize Alma Mater

Story and photo by Koa Bartsch

Kohala High Student Council (KHSTUCO) leadership hopes to bring back the feeling of pride and dignity that once entailed the singing of the school song. Throughout the years, its importance and prominence within the school culture has deteriorated, and its appearances in assemblies has dwindled. On March 7 several Kohala High alumni graciously accepted an invitation to perform the Alma Mater at an assembly held during advisory. Familiar tones echoed through the gym as students stood respectfully and listened with attentive ears. Noiseless was the room, and powerful were the lyrics. The Alma Mater hadn't been sung with such precision, emotion and accuracy within the confines of those walls for a long time. The

performance was, without a doubt, overdue.

The song was special for the school as it helps to raise pride, and in turn, morale. Some students mentioned how it was good to feature something different at the assembly for a change. Compared to the normal schedule the guests were a surprise as well as a welcomed addition. Many of the alumni, especially the older ones, have a deep and profound respect for the Alma Mater, and they wish to see its dignity restored. In the words of alumna Mrs. Vivian Moku, "The Alma Mater encompasses a student's whole love, enthusiasm and pride for the school. By singing the Alma Mater you bring back the fond memories you had during those times." Ms. White (STUCO advisor) also had a few

comments to add. "The students of Kohala High have gotten farther and farther away from a recognizable Alma Mater! We needed the help of alumni to demonstrate a quality rendition of our Alma Mater."

On Friday April 4 there will be a song competition. Every grade level will have a chance to perform the school song. The judging panel will be com-

prised of alumni who were in the March performance. Each grade level will have a chance to earn points towards the class-of-the-year competition!



The Kohala High School alumni who sang the Alma Mater for students gather for a group photo in the gym.



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"Awesome, great work. Thank you for all the detail work." **Kanita R.**

April K. Lee, RB, BA, CCIM, ABR, E-Pro in RE/MAX Hall of Fame
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APRIL

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Whale Count Offers Opportunity to Understand and Appreciate

Story and photo by Susan Mitnick
Imagine what it must be like to have a whale's-eye view....

Those of us who live on the Kohala Coast are fortunate to reside within the bounds of the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Every year thousands of humpback whales find their way back to our warm waters to breed, calve and give birth.

Not until I took the time to volunteer did I begin to discover the behaviors of these mysterious, magnificent creatures. In exchange for a small sacrifice of getting up early on a Saturday, I get to sit by the ocean, meet interesting people and closely observe humpback whale behaviors, recording data during January, February and March. By doing so, we provide important population and distribution information. The count cannot be done without our help!

Because whales live submerged in the ocean, much of what we see is mysterious at first glance. It's amazing to ponder why creatures

who live submerged must rise to the surface to breathe. An occasional mist rising from the ocean surface is recognized by us as a whale's out breath, or blow. Almost everything we know about their behavior can



Volunteers station themselves at Kapa`a for the annual humpbackwhale count. The western Kohala coastline is part of the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary; annual whale counts provide important information on whale behavior and restoration efforts.

be observed by what we see above the surface, the edge between two worlds, water and air. Humpbacks are known for aerial displays. Tail slaps, head slaps, dives, head rises, pectoral fin slaps, peduncle slaps and breaches all can be observed and recorded.

To watch is to know...how humpbacks move with ease and grace, propelled upwards by their powerful tail again and again...or to watch a mother push her newborn to the surface for its first breath...or mom teaching her calf to slap his pec fin by continuous practice and imitation... then to watch a lively calf breach exuberantly. One can see in four hours time how incredibly "alive" the ocean is. Fish fly, birds dive, dolphins spin, and the wing-tips of manta rays splash in the waves. A rainbow might even shine!

The whale count cannot be completed without your help. Come join the Sanctuary Ocean Count Team! Contact the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary online to sign up.



**Breakfast
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**Open daily 7:00 am-8:30 pm
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KOHALA CALENDAR

April

- 1 Tue 8-9 am, Heart's Reflection sitting meditation w/ John Gardner, every Tue., by donation, Meditation hale at `Iole, 889-5151.
- 1 Tue 8-9:15 am, Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/ Maya Parish, all levels, every Tue., by donation, white tent at Bond Homestead, 889-5151.
- 2 Wed 4:30-6:30 pm, CDP Public Access Subcmte. Mtg., Senior Center, Ted, 889-5801.
- 2 Wed 5-6:30 pm, grief support group, Sindona Cassteel, MFT, ROSI room at Luke's, 885-7547.
- 3 Thu 2-4 pm, Lau Hala/Coconut frond weaving, & 4-5 pm beginning Hula w/ Auntie Mele, every Thu., by donation, `Iole, 889-5151.
- 3 Thu 6-9 pm, Green Drinks Hawi, Kava Kafe, organic networking & pupus, Forrest, 987-2365.
- 4 Fri 10 am, Preschool Story Time series, ages 2-5, also 4/11, 4/25, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 5 Sat 8:30-10:30 am, "Walking in the Wild" guided silent walks w/ Gavin Harrison, `Iole, by donation, 889-5151.
- 6 Sun 10:30 am, Metaphysical Church: 'Understanding the Significance of God's Plan on Earth,' Kohala Yoga, 54-3877 Akoni Pule Hwy, Rev. Lee, 989-5995.
- 7 Mon 6-7 pm, CDP Growth Management Subcmte. Mtg., public invited, old Bank of Hawai`i bldg., Kapa`au.
- 7 Mon 6:30 pm, Water Stories: Bird's Eye View of Kohala Water System, free, North Kohala library, sponsored by One Island, oneisland.org, 889-6655.
- 7 Mon 7 pm, Al-Anon mtg., every Monday, lower level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's, Laura, 884-5833.
- 8 Tue 11 am, Adult book discussion group, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 9 Wed 8 am, No. Kohala Merchants Association Mtg., Resource Center, public invited, Richard, 889-1112.
- 9 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday, also 4/23, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 9 Wed 4-5 pm, Flag Football Registration, boys & girls ages 5-15, free includes uniform, Hisaoka Gym, Tom, 345-0706.
- 9 Wed 5-6:15 pm, CDP Power, Viewplanes & Erosion Control subcmte. mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr, Susan, 882-7611.
- 10 Thu 5 pm, North Kohala Radio mtg., Community Resource Center, Bob, 896-0101.
- 12 Sat 5 pm, NKCRC 2nd Annual Recognition Evening w/ Kapena, Puakea Ranch, for tickets call 889-5523.
- 14 Mon 4-5 pm, Flag Football Registration, boys & girls ages 5-15, free includes uniform, Hisaoka Gym, Tom, 345-0706.
- 14 Mon 5-6:30 pm, CDP Action Cmte. Public Mtg., former Bank of Hawai`i bldg., Kapa`au.
- 16 Wed 4:30 pm, KMS SCC mtg., library, parents & community welcome, 889-7119.
- 17 Thu 1:30-2:30 pm, Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Mtg., Hospital Pavilion, new members welcome, Dixie, 889-5730.
- 17 Thu 6 pm, Kamehameha Day Cmte mtg, all welcome, Kohala Village Inn, Hawi, Kay, 541-778-2642.
- 19 Sat 9 am-1 pm, Treasures Helping-Hand Store, Assembly of God, Hawi Rd., free meal: 10 am-1 pm, 889-5177.
- 19 Sat 4:30-6:30 pm, Free Grindz--Hot Meal, under the Hawi Banyans, bring a friend, Kohala Baptist Church, Sondra, 889-5416.
- 20 Sun 10:30 am, Metaphysical Church: 'The Nature of Physical Immortality,' Kohala Yoga, 54-3877 Akoni Pule Hwy, Rev. Lee, 989-5995.
- 21 Mon 6:30 pm, Boyd Bond, Hawaiian History, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 26 Sat 11 am-12:30 pm, Free Community Meal, St. Augustine's Walker Hall, Thrift Store open 10 am-12:30 pm.
- 26 Sat 1-4 pm, Earthday Watershed Field Trip, sponsored by One Island, see oneisland.org for details, RSVP required.
- 28 Mon 5 pm, "The Insect World," free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 29 Tue 5 pm, CDP Parks, Water & Roads Subcmte, public welcome, Senior Ctr., andi@Hawaii.rr.com.
- 30 Wed 4-5:30 pm, Restorative Yoga Therapy w/ Carla Orellana, white tent at Bond Homestead, by donation, 889-5151.

Email calendar listings to kmncalendar@hotmail.com or call 884-5986.

Another "Hidden Treasure" in Kohala

Haley Graham has been traveling under the radar, painting signs in Kohala for the past year or so. New to Kohala in 2013, she began painting signs as a way to help out friends and friends-of-friends. You may have seen her work around town, particularly her first local work: the colorful, hand-made Aloha-Man surfboard sign hanging over the small business' door. Across the highway the sandwich board advertising CocoNui organic dairy free ice cream directs those with a hankering for a frozen, tasty and all-natural treat to visit Sweet Potato Kitchen. Down the road at Aikane Nursery, the simple plywood sign exudes the natural, local Hawaiian style with its red hibiscus accent. And don't miss the traveling Arbor Action Tree Service sign, featuring a pueo and honeybees, which you'll see driving by on the door of the arborist's white truck.



A relaxed woman with bees on her face shows a close connection between them.

So how did Haley come to be such an accomplished artist? As you might imagine, her love of art started early. After searching out the best high school for art, Haley attended Santa Rosa High School in California and praises these four years as the best art training she could have imagined. After subsequently completing her art degree at Santa Rosa Junior College, Haley took a break, having grown weary from intensively dissecting and studying the

technical aspects of creativity. Lucky for Kohala, she took a vacation to the Big Island for New Year's celebrations in 2012, fell in love with Hawai'i, took a quick trip home to pack her bags, and was back within a week to stay.

Haley's philosophy of art emphasizes handmade over computer generated. She feels the imperfections that are integral to custom work show the care that has gone into a piece, activating an innate human response to that which is not cookie-cutter. To Haley, Hawai exudes community pride with the homemade signs seen all around town.

The personal connection forged with clients creates its own rewards. Stimulating her creative juices, grasping and helping to realize a client's vision for a project energizes Haley. Although her technical range is wide, she describes her preferred style as "Freda Kahlo inspired," portraying reality, but with a big, loose feel.

Surprisingly, Haley has a sec-



More technical than freeform, the AlohaMan surfboard sign welcomes locals and visitors alike to shop in Hawai's surf shop.

ond—and equally intense—passion: beekeeping. You may have noticed her at the Saturday farmers market



The Arbor Action traveling business logo, seen on the arborist's truck door, brings together local elements of a tree, bees and a pueo overseeing the natural scene.

selling honey from her single hive, located at Aikane Nursery. She has a keen eye to expand her beekeeping project, placing and managing numerous hives on widespread private properties. For Haley, bees inspire art, and in fact they were the impetus for her to begin drawing again after her hiatus.

Haley's pursuit of her creative paths, both in art and beekeeping,

enriches our Kohala community in meaningful ways. She is truly one of our "hidden treasures."



—Artwork courtesy of Haley Graham

A sandwich board sign draws those in search of a cold, tasty, all-natural treat of coconut ice cream to try CocoNui.



Sustainable Kohala Presents

Free Sustainable Saturday Series, 2014

April Event:

Landscaping with Medicinal Herbs

*Free Workshop by Karen Thomas
Lifelong Herbalist and Professional Landscaper*

*Saturday April 12, 2 - 4 p.m.
Kohala Intergenerational Center*

Come join us for a presentation and workshop on how to grow, harvest and utilize plants that heal you and your family.

Free and open to everyone