

Vol.13, No. 12

December 22, 2014

Kohala Seniors Install New Officers for 2015



2015 Board with Hawai'i County Elderly Affairs Division Staff Members

Board members holding candles: Margaret Couttie, Harry Cabrera, George Rivera, Leo Guitang, Elsie Carpio, Cindy Tinker, Lorraine Glory, Lee Rivera, Collin Kaholo, Robert Glory.

County Reps: far left: Roann Okamura, Kelly Hudik; far right: Coran Kitaoka

Story and photos by Lani Eugenio

The Kohala Senior Citizens held their annual Christmas party and new officers installation at Kahua Ranch on December 8. Fig's Mix Plate restaurant catered the luncheon, and the members raved about the delicious entrees of prime rib, seafood pasta and fish with capers.

The officers for 2015 are: Robert Glory, President; Collin Kaholo, 1st Vice President; Lee Rivera, 2nd Vice President; Lorraine Glory, Recording Secretary; JoanEllen McFee, Corresponding Secretary; Elsie Carpio, Treasurer. Cindy Tinker is the assistant to both the Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Leo Guitang is the Parliamentarian, and Harry Cabrera, George Rivera and Margaret Couttie are Sergeants at Arms.



President Robert Glory dances with 95-year old Rose "Loke" Maeda.

Lee Rivera organized the drawing of tickets for gifts.



Community Action Urgently Needed to Purchase Hawi Park

It's down to the wire for creating a community park on the grassy acre fronting Shige's by the banyan trees in Hawi, or the plans for building a home and gallery will move forward in January. The process for purchasing the parcel was slowed down by a difference between the appraisal commissioned by the county and that secured by the current landowners. Compounding the situation, the land manager for the county, who usually negotiates these types of purchases, was appointed to a new position in August. The landowners, Dave Lucas and Shelly Maudsley White, had hoped to work with the new land manager in September, but the hiring process was not completed until late October. If the county's appraisal had been acceptable to the landowners, requiring no negotiations, the supporting county staff could have moved forward with the paperwork for the purchase during September.

Because the landowners feel the communication from the county has been slow and have yet to receive a written purchase offer, they have decided to go ahead with building their home and gallery if they

do not receive a written offer by the end of December.

"I understand from Dave's and Shelly's perspective why they are frustrated," shared Gail Byrne Baber, who has been working with others to preserve this area for community use. "I also hope the work a lot of folks have put

See Park, page 5

Santa Visits Kohala



SANTAS HERE
* * SATURDAY *

—photo by Tom Morse

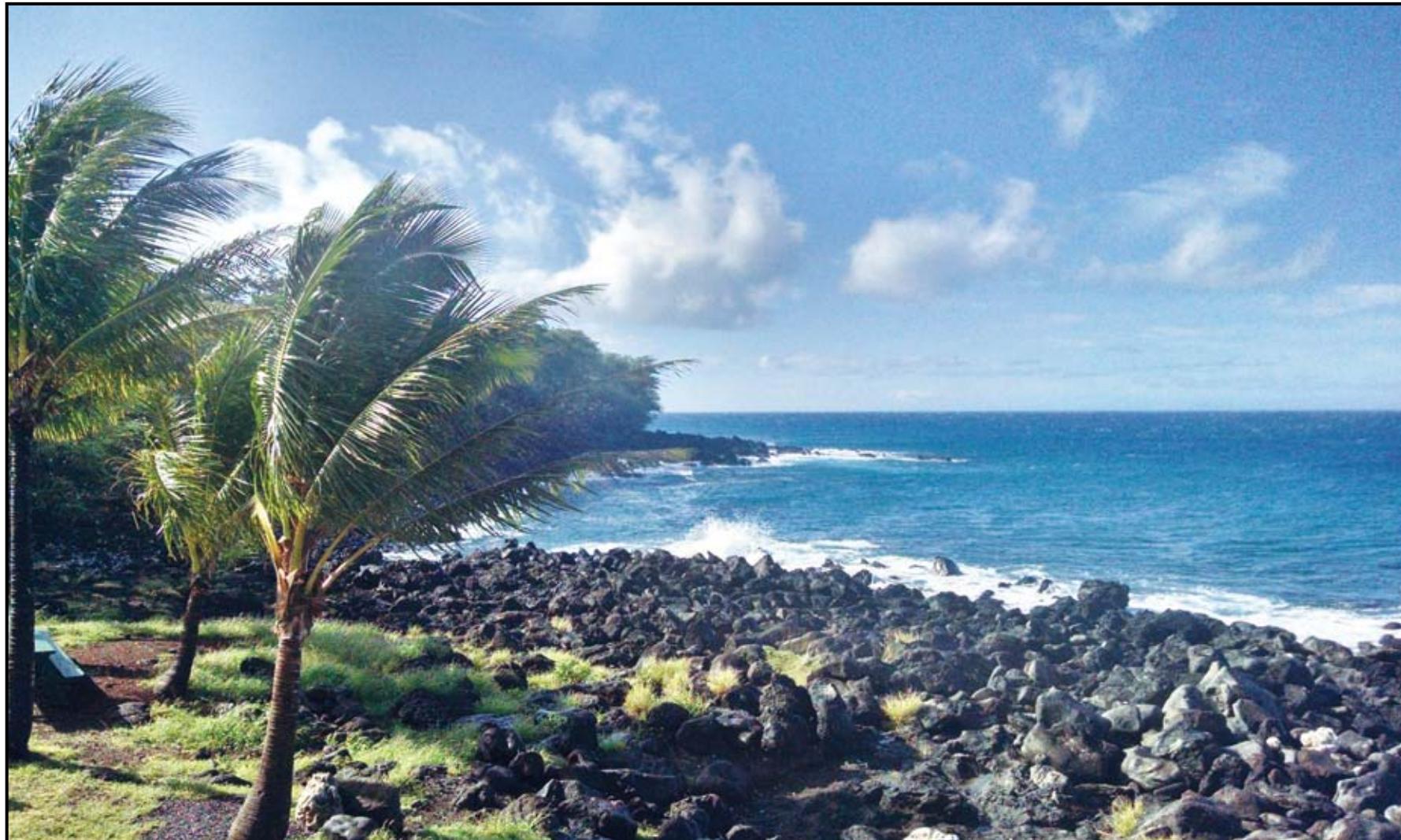
Despite the damp weather, Santa made a personal visit to Kohala on December 13, appearing for the Kohala keiki at the tree at the foot of Hawi Road. Notice that he's wearing his sunglasses, like any smart Big Island resident!

The tree was donated and decorated courtesy of Craig and Janice Williams again this year. Kevin and Nicole Vincent, owners of Cartow Kohala, donated the site and erected the tree.

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Kapa'a Park on a sunny fall morning.

—photo by Tom Morse

Paniolo Power Calls for Clean Energy Grid for Kohala and Waimea

By Toni Withington

Parker Ranch believes it can deliver electric power cheaper and cleaner than Hawaiian Electric Light Company (HELCO) and is proposing Waimea and North Kohala set up their own power grid to start.

Neil "Dutch" Kuyper, President and CEO of Parker Ranch, brought a team of ranch employees to Kohala to start the process of talking with the community about how to get away from the high costs of electricity—almost the highest rate in the county. An audience of about sixty people in the high school cafeteria heard him explain how rising and unpre-

dictable HELCO rates had caused the ranch to consider closing their cattle operations on Mauna Kea, above Hamakua, because the cost of pumping water to the cattle has made it unprofitable, to the tune of just under \$1 million per year.

At the same time the highly respected energy consultants the ranch hired—Siemens and Booz, Allen, Hamilton—told the ranch it was sitting on invaluable resources for alternative energy. In April of this year the ranch formed Paniolo Power LLC and hired former HELCO general manager Jose Dizon to explore ways to make power at a lower cost.

"We are now at the start of put-

ting together a community solution to see how small a system we can begin with to use the sun, the wind and the water we already have," Kuyper said. In seeking a "local solution" to high electricity costs, he suggested the first alternative power system would likely include the ranch operations, Waimea town and North Kohala.

"Engaging the North Kohala community in the effort is a beginning step in a long line of steps that will have to be taken in order to pull this off," he added. In an hour-long power point presentation Kuyper explained why HELCO cannot lower its rates while being tied to diesel and nat-

ural gas generators. Part of that is the need for HELCO's parent company Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI) to put stockholders needs in front of the interests of those who buy their power.

Parker Ranch can lower costs right off the bat by being a charitable non-profit corporation with the needs of the community as the driving force, he said. Kuyper described himself and Paniolo Power's Jose Dizon as "local boys who have really shaken the system of how things have always been done."

Many of the charts and graphs he showed the audience showed

See Paniolo, page 3

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Mahalo to Hawaii Community Foundation and the Dorrance Family Foundation for their support for the Center in 2014.

NKCRC Directors and Staff wish the Kohala community and all of our donors, project organizers, and volunteers a peaceful holiday and our best wishes for the New Year!

You can support our projects and Center with a tax-deductible donation to NKCRC, P.O. Box 519, Hawi, HI 96719 • 889-5523 • www.northkohala.org

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Paniolo, continued from page 2

how confident the energy consultants are that the ranch property alone, set up with alternative wind, solar and hydroelectric generators could eventually power the needs of the whole island.

Seimens says the Waimea to Kawaihae area has "the highest density and quality wind corridors anywhere in the world." Paniolo Power has called for proposals from companies capable of producing a first-step system using wind generated power to pump water from reservoirs at a lower level to those at a higher elevation, so the system can use hydroelectric generation during the night and low wind hours. The ranch already has reservoirs throughout its 130,000 acres of land spanning 7,000 feet of elevation.

"This is very doable," Dizon said. "We can do this."

The Siemens' study looked at four alternative technology options with the goal of producing 18 Megawatts (MW) of energy by 2019 to power the ranch, Waimea and North Kohala. Another 70 MW could be added to the grid by 2024 to satisfy 75 per cent of West Hawaii's needs. While the first phase would probably aim at generating 200 MW of power, more than enough for Waimea and Kohala, the company estimates the wind resources in North Kohala and Waimea/Lalamilo alone have a potential

for generating 400 MW of power.

A big question remaining unanswered is whether Paniolo Power would generate the power for the district to be distributed through the existing lines of HELCO, or whether it would build a whole new transmission and distribution system.

"HELCO has good transmission lines and plans to upgrade them, so it could be about taking over the generation of electricity," Kuyper said. The consultants, however, have told the ranch that it can lower rates to consumers, even if it has to build new power lines. "We are talking about changing the energy level of this island, and doing it locally," he added.

The playing field of the energy game has shifted even farther from the local level since the November 13 meeting in the cafeteria. HEI announced on December 4 that it intends to sell its power companies on O'ahu (HECO), Maui (MECO) and the Big Island (HELCO) to NextEra Energy, a Florida-based energy conglomerate. Back at the cafeteria Kuyper and Dizon fielded dozens of questions from the audience. They said the ranch is not considering geothermal in their plans. All proposals will be consistent with the North Kohala Community Development Plan. They also said all plans and locations of wind-

mills and generators would be reviewed through the community and public process before moving on to the many steps that will have to be taken and permits applied for in order to see a new power system in place.

"We will be having more meetings like this as we move ahead," Kuyper said. He also shared highly innovative ideas in kite-like wind generators and new

technologies in electrical storage. "Smaller, rural power companies can be closer to the new ideas and technologies as they become available," he added, pointing to the Kauai Electric Cooperative as an example.

The meeting was sponsored by the Power, Viewplanes and Erosion Control Subcommittee of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee.



—photo by Toni Withington

Neil "Dutch" Kuyper, president and CEO of Parker Ranch explains why and how the ranch hopes to lower electricity rates in North Kohala using alternative energy.

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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.

**January**

Ad Deadline: 1/9/14
News Deadline: 1/11/14

February

Ad Deadline: 2/6/14
News Deadline: 2/8/14

Letters—

Dear Editor,

I am Kamaniloa Provencal. I hope you are having a good day. I'm from KMS and I want to tell you about GMO foods and why it needs to stop.

You may not really know what is in your foods, but fear not! I'm here to help. Pretty much everything we eat is genetically modified. Genetically modified foods have been shown to harm humans, animals and even the environment.

Here is the worst genetically modified [GM] foods. The first on the list is corn; it's the most prominent GMO food. I would try to eat less corn because GM corn has been tied to numerous health issues including weight gain and organ disruption.

No To GMO, Bro!

The second is soy. Found in tofu, vegetarian products, soybean oil, soy flour and numerous other products, soy is also modified to resist herbicides. In one single year, 2006, there were 96.7 million pounds of glyphosate sprayed on soybeans alone.

The third is sugar. According to Natural News, genetically-modified sugar beets were introduced to the U.S. market in 2009.

Another food is canola. Canola is one of the most chemically altered foods in the U.S. diet. Canola oil is obtained from rapeseed through a series of chemical actions.

GMOs are in almost everything. We need to stop it because my personal favorite food is GM

bacon, and yes, bacon is GM. You know the ketchup you put on your hamburger and hot dogs? That's one of the deadliest GMOs on the planet. GMOs can lead to cancer. We need to make a stand. We need to fight against GMOs. Yes, you might say goodbye to your favorite foods, but you know what? GMOs need to stop and if it means saying goodbye to bacon I'll do it.

NO TO GMO, BRO!

Kamaniloa Provencal

This contribution is part of an 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.

Access to Lighthouse Remains Old Lighthouse Road

Aloha Kohala Community,

Maika`i Kamakani `O Kohala (MKOKI), which means good or fine winds of Kohala, was named by kupuna Marie Solomon, a former MKOKI director. MKOKI's mission statement is to protect and preserve Hawaiian cultural traditions and customs for our Hawaiian community.

Recently, MKOKI was awarded fee simple ownership of 27 acres of oceanfront property located at Kauhola Point. MKOKI has recently fulfilled its mission of creating a community development plan and is in the process of writing grant proposals for funds to restore and preserve one of King Kamehameha's lo`i and other sites

that are important to our community and its future generations.

Part of the agreement of being the fee owners of the land was to provide a walking (not vehicle) easement for surfers, fishermen or other users from the surf spot at Lighthouse to Swimming Pools. The trail is being identified and established. We have and will continue to honor this agreement with the County of Hawai`i, the State of Hawai`i and the Kohala community.

MKOKI, in partnership with adjacent land owners, is currently establishing a road crossing over private lands to access our property. This is not a public easement but a private road for the current

land owners. The public easement is the old lighthouse road, as it has always been.

Construction of the private easement is ongoing, and when it is completed, any and all entry points leading unto the private easement will be blocked off. The public easement continues to be the old lighthouse road, which has been used for decades to access the Kauhola area and will continue to be such for years to come.

We want to thank the Kohala community for their support and understanding.

Jeffrey K. Coakley
Chairman
MKOKI Inc. Board
of Directors

**Mahalo from Lavaroots Dance Company**

—photo by Leslie Nugent

Students enjoy a dance class at the 2nd Annual Camp Merveilles Hawai`i Drum and Dance Conference held at the Hawai`i Island Retreat.

to have you join in the magic!

We are thankful to all of the master artists who came from various parts of the mainland and Iceland to share their talent, expertise, joy and healing energy

with our Big Island community. We are so grateful to be able to bring these incredible ambassadors of West African culture here to Hawai`i. Through the dance and music, authentic self emerges and healing takes place, elevating us all to a deeper experience of joy in the self and with one another.

I would like to personally thank the Lavaroots Dancers Michelle Ayau, Adrienne Van Berg, Leslie Nugent, Jeannie-vie Woods, Krista Donaldson, Ali Caputo, Debra McGee, Becka Duncan and Lenita Richmond for their commitment to dance, arts, culture and personal growth.

A BIG MAHALO to Sharon Cornish-Martin, Ralph Blancato, Kapoho Kine and Robyn Skudlarek for their financial contributions and support this fall; they are more than appreciated!

Lavaroots is grateful to be a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center. Through their support we are able to continue fulfilling our mission to

See Lava, page 5



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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Kamaniloa Provencal, Malia
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Letters, continued—

Many Mahalos from Kohala VEX Robotics

Mahalo to the many volunteers and supporters of Kohala VEX Robotics!

Currently the Kohala VEX robotics program consists of three levels of participation: VRC high school (grades 9 to 12), VRC middle school (grades 7 to 8), and VEX iQ (grade 6).

These three levels under the Kohala VEX umbrella hosted the Big Island TMT VEX Robotics Championships November 21 to 22 at the Kohala High Gym. The teams wish to extend deep appreciation and a huge mahalo nui to everyone who volunteered and supported the event.

Twenty two teams entered the competition. Big Island schools included Hilo, Honoka'a, Kealekehe High, St. Joseph, Waiakea High, Waiakea Intermediate and Kohala. O'ahu schools included Hawai'i

Tech Academy, Leilehua, Radford, Waialua and Waipahu.

This event was a huge, smoothly-executed success that finished prior to time planned after 44 qualifying matches and then the double elimination quarter-final, semi-final and final rounds. We could not have done so without the many volunteers from Kohala, Waimea and Wai-koloa. Mahalo nui!

In addition, our teams just returned from a successful trip to China for competition and communication exchange. Without the continued support of the Kohala Community this memorable and meaningful experience would not have happened. If you are interested in becoming involved, please call me at 889-7117.

Fern White
Program Director

Lava, continued from page 4

explore and express authentic self and relationship to others through dance, music, culture, and education.

And to all of you who support Lavaroots and love what we do here on the Big Island, THANK YOU.

Michal Anna Carillo



Master West African drummers came to North Kohala to share their knowledge and love for dance, music, and culture.

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.

Viewpoint**Hawaiian Culture Should be Respected**

I am responding to the Viewpoint letter about a woman who was breastfeeding topless (wearing no blouse) at the Farmer's Market and was approached by police officers. Some women were disturbed and felt that "all womenkind" were offended, as this woman was doing a "mother's work" and therefore this was not indecent exposure.

As a former breast-feeding mother I believe a mother's milk is best, that the welfare of a child is foremost so the child should be fed on demand.

However, when breastfeeding in public, simply put on a blouse and cover the feeding baby with a light material. It's about being respectful of the people around you. Do what you like in your own home, but when in public have respect for the people in the community. Especially respect the majority of women whose husbands, sons, brothers and boyfriends are hypnotized by the sight of bare-breasted females due to the Western sexualized view of large mammary glands.

What I really find offensive is that my Native Hawaiian culture was used to defend this issue.

This reminds me of the time when some wanted a nude beach in Kona and threw it in our faces that the natives who were once nude, had succumbed to the missionaries and needed to be "free" again. My response to that was, "They

covered their sacred places," and that times had changed. I didn't want my Native Hawaiian kids to be around pedophiles who were exposing themselves in the name of "freedom."

Our Hawaiian culture, heritage, history and language have been used time and time again to justify causes and sell products. People talk about Native Hawaiians in a patronizing, mystical sense, like we don't exist anymore. To this, I would like to say that we Hawaiians are alive and well, and we don't need others to define our culture for us. You can respect our culture by complying with the request of the kupuna who were disturbed by the incident and asked the breastfeeding mother to cover her bare breasts, which she refused to do.

Please do not use our history and culture to justify your causes.

Respectfully,
Lani Eugenio

Correction

In the November 2014 issue, the article entitled "The Mayor of Kohala" on page 18 was written by Lani Eugenio. We regret that we inadvertently did not give her credit.

The Kohala Community Athletic Association would like to thank the following volunteer coaches for a successful 2014 in our after-school sports programs for the children of Kohala.

Volleyball

Berta Garcia
Nick Lorenzo
Renee Gonsalves

Girls Softball
Renee Gonsalves
Stan Gonsalves
Kelby Kaaekuahiwi
Mary Hook
Glen Roxburgh
Michael Fong

Flag Football

Aric Hoshida
Kainoa Yamamoto
Clyde Igarashi
Vern Karatti
Kamon Kupukaa
Earl Hoshida

Andrew Miller
Nario Libron

Boys and Girls Basketball

Keone Emeliano
Leo Agbayani
Reeve Cazimero
Paul Antonio
Brad Estabillio
Travis Van Zandt
Jake Hook
Kelby Kaaekuahiwi
Duncan Anderson

Biddy Basketball

Ryan Bautista
Kalei Emeliano
Chai Wilson
Brian Hart
Amber Rinker
Paul Antonio
Jay Salvador
Pono Nakamura
Joey Giltner
Jerry Kahaikupuna
Shandell Levine
Kala Jordan
Elijah Antonio
Kolby Agbayani

T-Ball and Pitch Ball

Kainoa Yamamoto
Vern Karratti
Bambi Karratti
Pono Nakamura
Kurt Nakamura
Jen Keawe
John Keawe
Earl Hoshida
Chai Wilson
Jeremy Hook
Shay Calero
Travis Van Zandt
Fred Figueroa
Chad Castillo



Dedicated to building a better Kohala through youth sports

Park, continued from page 1

into creating a park will be realized. The money is available, and the county is committed to purchasing the land for the community. Let's hope things move fast enough for all."

More than 600 people have signed a petition in support of purchasing this area for the community and about forty people testified in support during county hearings regarding funding the purchase of this area.

Funds for the purchase will come from the county's 2% Land Fund, which is dedicated to purchasing lands and easements to protect open spaces, public access ways and natural resources. There is now a dedicated maintenance fund for lands purchased with 2% funds to which local community groups and nonprofits can apply for money to support locally based maintenance and stewardship.

If you would like to express your support for the creation of a park please call the Mayor's office at 936-8211 and sign the on-line petition at hawi.us.

County Council Update—

Update from the Desk of District 9 Council Member Margaret Wille

THE 2014 – 2016 COUNTY COUNCIL: On December 1, the new County Council was sworn in and held its first Council meeting, approving Council committee chairs and the Council rules. Dru Mamo Kanuha of District 7 was selected as Council chair and Val Poindexter of District 1 as the Council's vice chair. I am pleased to again be chair of the Agriculture, Water and Energy Sustainability Committee. I will also be the vice chair of the Governmental Relations and Economic Development Committee as well as of the Environmental Management Committee.

The first Council meeting was relatively uneventful until Councilmember Gregg Ilagan asked for reconsideration of the already approved Council rules. I found this rather strange because we had decided not to amend the rules at this first meeting so that any rule change would be subject to public notice and public testimony. So why, I wondered, was he asking for reconsideration?

Well golly be, not only were the rules we voted on different from the previous term rules, but they were different in a most significant way that would result in a major power shift in the Council favoring committee chairs. Specifically, the change would allow a committee chair to hold up legislation submitted by another Council member without requiring the concurrence of the submitting Council member.

Needless to say I was shocked, really shocked. I asked how this could happen and no one would explain. Finally, after the meeting, Chair Kanuha admitted this was his amendment and he later apologized for this happening.

At the end of the day the Coun-



cil amended the proposed rules back to the previous Council term rules.

Upcoming matters to be heard at the Council's January 6 and 7 meetings in Hilo will likely include an invitation to Hawai'i Island state legislators to discuss key issues, a lava flow update, a showing of "Racing to Zero" (discusses San Francisco's zero waste policy mass recycle program) and several amendments to Council Rules—generally to increase transparency and accountability.

Don't forget that 2015 is the year of compost!

On December 17 the Council voted on naming 2015 the year of compost.

So, it's time for each of us to become more aware of the importance of promoting healthy soil for healthy island ecosystems. Think about how North Kohala as a community can create a local compost facility and demand that the County accommodate this community effort. To better understand the important role of healthy soil in addressing the climate change challenge, check out this video: "The Soil Solution to Climate Change" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxiXJnZraxk.

Participate in your County Government decision-making: If you would like more information about any of the above agenda items or to be placed on my email newsletter list, please contact my office staff at 808-887-2043. Also please come testify on January 6 at the North Kohala videoconferencing site located in the old Bank of Hawai'i Bank building in Kapa'au.

With much aloha,
Margaret Wille
Council Member District 9
North and South Kohala
Telephone: 808-887-2043

Dr. Jonny's Health Tips:

As the holidays come and go it's important to look back on the year and focus on the positive things that occurred. For my family that was making the move to Hawaii and being so readily accepted into this amazing community. November 15th made one year for us in Hawi town and I must say this has been an exceptional year! This is mostly because of all of the patients that have helped us by choosing to allow us to serve them. So we would like to say Mahalo Nui Loa and we look forward to providing top notch chiropractic care for Kohala residents for years to come.

For more information, contact Dr. Jonny at Kohala Chiropractic 938-3888



Non-Profit Community Food Hub Awarded \$100,000 Grant



—photo by Michelle Weyrick

The future home of the food hub is at the far right of the Kohala Village Hub, located across from the Hawi Farmers Market held every Saturday morning.

The Food Branch of the Kohala Village Hub of Hawi has been awarded a \$100,000 implementation grant from the Local Food Promotion Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund start-up operations for a new community food hub.

The food hub is located across from the Hawi Farmers market at 55-514 Hawi Road. The food hub will serve as an intermediary between North Kohala producers and consumers by aggregating local produce, coordinating regional CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) distribution, providing food processing services in a legally certified, shared-use commercial kitchen and by engaging in the marketing, distribution and sale of local agriculture and food products to meet regional consumer demands.

"We could not be more excited for how this grant is going to help boost the local agricultural economy," says Kay Kammerzell, executive director of the Kohala Village Hub.

Grant monies will be used to: 1) Procure equipment for the commercial kitchen, retail food shop and office at the Kohala Village Hub, which will provide the infrastructure to enable growers to be more economically profitable and bring Kohala closer to food self-sufficiency; 2) Develop a high quality website and information technology system for online CSA ordering and customization; and 3) Implement educational marketing events to raise awareness about growing, cooking and supporting local food crops, value-added products and livestock.

Water Restored at Kapa'a and Mahukona

By Kyle Combes

During the first weeks of November, visitors to Kapa'a and Mahukona Beach Parks found them to be without water. Unbeknownst to those expecting to rinse off after a swim, use a flush toilet or wash dishes while camping, a rock strike had clogged a portion of the Kohala Ditch up in the valleys. This left the coastal parks without water until the repairs were completed

on November 15. The two-and-a-half week outage proved to be an unexpected inconvenience as park users were forced to bring their own fresh water.

County parks such as Kapa'a and Mahukona receive free water from the Kohala Ditch, which is operated by Surety Kohala Corporation. According to Surety, blockages occasionally do happen, though generally no more than a few times a year.

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Two Kohala Kumu Receive 'Uniki Rites as 'Olapa and Ho'opa'a

By Leslie Nugent

It was a perfectly picturesque day in Kona. The clear blue waters of Keahou Bay were glistening as far as the eye could see, as if they were calling to the majestic peaks of Hualālai. The sunlight was shining down through the foliage, casting shadows and offering cool shade for the attendants gathered in honor and celebration at the 8th Annual E Mau Ana Ka Hula. Hosted by Kumu Keala Ching and his hālau, Na Wai Iwi Ola, at the Sheraton Kona Resort and Spa at Keahou Bay, E Mau Ana Ka Hula is a tribute to King Kalākaua and translates to mean "The Hula is Perpetuated." This year E Mau Ana Ka Hula featured workshops and presentations from kumu hula and students from across the Hawaiian Islands, Japan and Europe.

This day, November 15, held great significance for two North Kohala based hālau (school of hula), Hula Hālau O Mana`olana O Kohala and Hula Hālau O Kukui Aloha O Kohala. On this day Kumu Mana`olana (Hope) Keawe and Kumu Leia Lawrence completed their second year 'uniki (graduation) ceremony under the guidance of Kumu Keala Ching. As longtime students of the late Kumu Raylene Ha`allele`a Kawaiae`a, Kumu Mana`olana and Kumu Leia—

alongside Kumu Andrea Luchese of sister hālau, Hula Hālau Ka Pi`o O Ke Anuenue of Ashland, Oregon—have chosen to continue their studies and their journey to becoming kumu hula to perpetuate the hula and the teachings of their beloved kumu.

In 2012 Kumu Mana`olana, Kumu Leia and Kumu Andrea began to study under Kumu Keala Ching of Kona to further their knowledge of hula traditions and protocols. In November of 2013 at Konea o Kukui Gardens in North Kohala, the three aspiring kumu completed their first year 'uniki and received their 'uniki rites as 'olapa (dancer) and ho'opa'a (chanter).

This year's 'uniki ceremony was based on the traditional protocol honoring Laka, the Goddess of the Hula. There were seven participants in this year's 'uniki under the direction of Kumu Keala Ching who underwent a series of sacred ceremonial acts and presentation of the hula. The ceremony included cleansing in the ocean for purification, the dressing of the alter of Laka with plants gathered from the forest, reciting chants of invocation and dedication, consuming very specific parts of a ceremonially prepared pig representing characteristics that students will need to embody as kumu hula and presentation



—photos by: Anna Pacheco Photography

Sister hālaus (from left to right) Hula Hālau Ka Pi`o O Ke Anuenue, Hula Hālau O Kukui Aloha O Kohala and Hula Hālau Mana`olana O Kohala at the 8th Annual E Mau Ana Ka Hula at the Sheraton Kona Resort and Spa at Keahou Bay on November 15, 2014

of dances devoted to Laka. Upon completion of this portion of the ceremony, Kumu Keala Ching chanted in Kumu Mana`olana, Kumu Leia and Kumu Andrea as kumu hula.

The next portion of the 'uniki ceremony was dedicated to the presentation of the hula that each kumu had written, choreographed and taught their na haumāna (students). Dressed in beautiful handmade costumes and

adorned in fragrant and symbolic lei, each hālau presented seven hula kahiko (ancient) dances that shared stories and expressed the authentic style of each kumu. The hulas presented included a ka`i (entrance), one hula each about ke akua (gods), ke ali`i (royalty), `aina (land), kanaka (person), ma`i (creation) and a ho`i (exit).

Kumu Mana`olana, Kumu Leia and Kumu Andrea each presented
See Hula, page 8

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the coming year.*



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Agricultural Tourism Grows Roots in North Kohala

This fall the North Kohala Eat Locally Grown Campaign launched its regional agricultural tourism initiative *Growing Agricultural Tourism in North Kohala*, which includes a full schedule of ongoing farm tours and farm-to-fork culinary events.

North Kohala's farms showcase a diverse range of Hawaiian agriculture: organic, diversified food production; medicinal plant cultivation; organic macadamia nut cultivation; traditional Hawaiian taro farming and culture; and Polynesian agroforestry.

Participating farms offering tours—welcoming both visitors and Kohala residents alike—are:

Kohala Institute at `Iole—`Iole is a historic ahupua`a that is home to a historic lo`i kalo (taro patch), the largest organic macadamia nut orchard in the State of Hawai`i

and a Polynesian agroforestry demonstration. The farm tours include Hawaiian `oli (chant) and mo`olelo (cultural history) as well as locally-sourced snacks.

Lōkahi Garden Sanctuary—Lōkahi Garden Sanctuary is a working (non-certified) organic farm, garden sanctuary and wellness retreat that comprises extensive vegetable, medicinal and culinary herb gardens, fruit and nut orchards, and small tree forests that include native and "useful" trees. Founded by husband and wife health care practitioners, their farm tours can also be paired with spa and massage treatments.

Kohala Grown Farm Tours and Market—Kohala Grown farm tours start at their market in Hāwi town. Visitors are transported in a 15-passenger van to select

farms featuring exotic fruit orchards, gourmet vegetables, botanical gardens, and traditional Hawaian agriculture. The market features a premium selection of grown and made-on-Hawai`i I`I s l a n d agricultural products.

Palili `O Kohala—Palili `O Kohala is a local agricultural cooperative. The cooperative uses chemical-free Natural Farming methodologies to grow taro, pigs and chickens. The project is aimed at increasing community food self-sufficiency and economic development for Kohala families through the sales of value-added products from taro. Farm tours educate visitors about natural farming and the cultivation and cultural aspects of taro.

The Art of Fermentation—For people interested in the health



photo courtesy of Farm Tours North Kohala

Local farmers with their taro crop at Palili.

benefits of fermented foods, guests harvest from a private orchard and garden and are then mentored in the art of making probiotic and enzyme-rich fermented foods (including fermented vegetables, kom bu ch a and beet kvass) at the Always in Season Farmstead perched at a 1,500 foot elevation above Hāwi town.

In addition to farm tours, North Kohala also has a number of "pop-up" farm-to-fork culinary experiences:

Rio Polynesian Supper Club—Born and raised in North Kohala, Chef Rio Miceli serves up a six-course "field-to-fork" menu accompanied by selected wine or beer pairings. The dinner is located at the private farm and garden of a local residence and begins with a walking tour.

See Ag, page 8



Kumu Andrea Luchese, Kumu Leia Lawrence and Kumu Mana`olana upon completion of their second year `uniki ceremony.

both Kumu Raylene and Kumu Keala and their appreciation for Hawaiian culture. In the journey we have had a lot of encouragement in how to present ourselves in our community as perpetuating the Hawaiian culture."



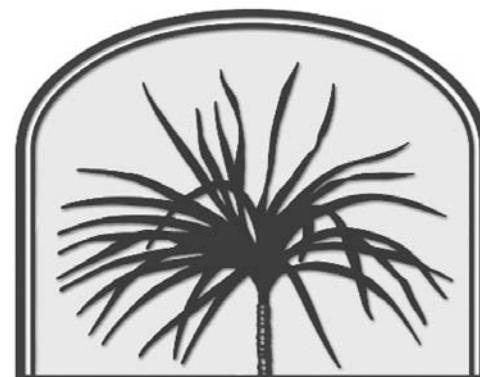
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Jonathan and Olivia**

Ag, continued from page 8

The Coastal Oven—Sweeping views of the North Kohala coastline are the backdrop to an elegant multi-course feast with live entertainment in a rustic farm setting. Local producers are on hand to answer questions about the foods used in the meal. Dinners are the last Saturday of each month.

Seasonal experiences include two community events focused on local food production:

Taste of Kalo by Palili 'O Kohala—This favorite local event features Hawaiian music, Natural Farming workshops and demonstrations and an all Hawaiian lunch with food grown on the land.

The annual event is held at the Natural Farming Learning Lab in Hāwi and is a benefit for the Palili 'O Kohala project.

Kohala 'Aina Harvest Festival—An annual event held in November, this festival benefits HIP (Hawai'i Institute of Pacific) Agriculture's youth education programs. The event boasts local, organic meals, music all day, organic gardening workshops, local craft vendors, traditional Kahiko Hula performance, and HIP Ag's Niu Lani Juice Bar.

Background

North Kohala has a population of about 6,500 residents in 1,800 households, comprising a blend of seven diverse ethnic cultures—Hawaiian, Japanese, Filipino, Puerto Rican, Chinese, Portuguese



—photo by Malia Welch

and Caucasian. The community is rural with 98 percent of the land zoned for agricultural use.

In pre-contact times, Hawaiian agricultural systems in North Kohala fed a population of 30,000. During the plantation era, community life was rooted in sharing and bartering from individual homesteads and gathering and hunting from the mountains, gulches and ocean. Today in North Kohala growing, hunting, gathering and bartering is still alive and well. However, the majority of the food bought and consumed in the community is being brought in from outside the state.

In order to "Keep Kohala, Kohala"—to maintain a rural, agricultural lifestyle for its residents—North Kohala has a strategy and goal in its county-mandated Community Development Plan (CDP) "to produce 50 percent of the food

it consumes."

North Kohala is one of the only communities in the state of Hawai'i to set a food self-sufficiency goal and to develop a community-based strategic plan to meet its goal.

Since 2009, the North Kohala Eat Locally Grown Campaign has been working to help meet the 50 percent food self-sufficiency goal by: conducting public education initiatives to increase the market for locally grown food; serving the low-income population through the collection and redistribution of local food; building new markets for farmers through the EBT (electronic benefit transfer) Booth at the Hawi Farmers Market; and now *Growing Agricultural Tourism in North Kohala*.

This latest initiative is aimed at creating an additional income stream for local farmers while meeting a need for more cultural and culinary activities for visitors to this district.

The agricultural tourism initiative aims to attract visitors to North Kohala who are seeking an authentic, educational, rural experience in Hawai'i—and who are interested in local culture, foods and farms.

Growing Agricultural Tourism in North Kohala is a project of the North Kohala Eat Locally Grown Campaign and was initially sponsored by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, County of Hawai'i—Department of Research and Development and the Dorrance Family Foundation. Funding in 2015 comes from the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program.

More information can be found at www.farmtoursnorthkohala.com.



—photo by Malia Welch

Young taro farmers raise their hands during a tour at Kohala Institute at 'ole.

Hawaiian History Series Begins at Library

North Kohala Public Library in Kapa'au will present a series of three "talk story" sessions on Hawai'i's history with North Kohala historian Boyd D. Bond in January, February and March 2015.

The first session, Monday, January 26, will consist of Pele legends and the life of Hawai'i's best known goddess. In the second presentation, Monday, February 23, Bond plans to talk about foreigners in King Kamehameha's army. The final program in the series, Monday, March 30, will focus on Kamehameha III's reign during a time of transition. Each hour-long presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Boyd Bond's knowledge of Hawai'i's history stems from his academic studies and from a lifetime as a sixth-generation descendant of early Western settlers in Hawaii. He was raised in Hawai'i in a sugar plantation family, living on plantations throughout the state. He holds a BA in Hawaiian History from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and a master's degree in education.

Call the library at 889-6655 for information and to register for the program. Contact the library three weeks in advance if a sign language interpreter or other special accommodation is required.

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VISTA Internships Prepare Kohala High Students for Success

Story and photos by Kyle Combes

Three months after its inception, Kohala High School's internship, or "Work-Based Learning," program is going strong. The internships are a project of AmeriCorps VISTA. VISTA, short for Volunteers in Service to America, is a national service program dedicated to helping eradicate poverty in the United States. As program participants, students work at local businesses in order to earn school credits. Students can opt for a year-long or semester-long job, which earn them a full or half credit, respectively. In order to secure their internship, students were interviewed by the business owners. As soon as they passed the screening, the fun began.

A Kohala High senior, Genevieve Boyle is earning a full school credit through a year-long internship at the North Kohala Community Resource Center. She joined the program because she knew internships presented a great opportunity but were hard to find. As an intern at the Resource Center, she performs a variety of tasks. At the desk, she files papers and enters data into the computer. On her feet, she shows guests the visitors' center in the front of the building. This is her favorite job.

Even though she usually only works for an hour at a time, Boyle has been developing essential business skills. She has become more comfortable talking with people not only in person but on the phone as well. She has also advanced her computer skills, as

she was in charge of entering data into Excel for the Center's recent auction.

Boyle has also made the program the subject of her senior project. She plans to advertise the



(Left to right) Student intern Genevieve Boyle stands next to VISTA Work-Based Learning program coordinators Samantha Armitage and Jake Frost. Under the program, Boyle is pursuing a year-long internship with the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

program to upcoming juniors and seniors, urging them to join next year. In the future, she said, the skills and experience she has built up would help her feel more confident applying for a new job.

Brayden Torres also reckoned that an internship might help spice up his senior year. He decided upon the North Kohala Public Library because he liked the environment. At the library he checks in and stacks books, packs them for shipment, and fulfills any other need that should arise. In the past Torres has worked at the Hilton as a pool attendant, but he feels that his internship is providing him with valuable experience as well. In particular, he noted, the interview for the internship would make it easier for him to ace an interview in the future.

Rounding out the trio, Tyra Faisca landed herself an internship at the Kohala Artworks gallery in Hawi. She joined the program because she felt that schools didn't prepare students for the

workforce. "I learned that usually when people get out of high school and they start working, they're all confused and stuff, so I figured it's better to have experience now than later," she said. With no prior work experience, she found herself in an entirely new situation. It was uncomfortable in the beginning, but as time went on it became "like a second home." When she began she was responsible for dusting and greeting customers, but as time went on she assumed more duties. She now assists customers, takes inventory, and handles money. Through her work she has not only developed retail skills but has also learned the importance of appearing and acting accordingly.

When asked about applying for jobs in the future, she said she would definitely feel more confident now that she knows what employers look for.

Sharron Blanchette, owner of Kohala Artworks, was also available for comment. Blanchette became aware of the program after receiving a call and follow-up visit from the program coordinator at the high school. "She explained the program to me and I thought, 'How wonderful, I'd love to do that.'

" She said that she had trained a person in the past, but that she would not have hired Faisca had she sought pay without any work experience. The internship enabled Faisca to get her foot in the door.

To begin, Blanchette tasked Faisca with making sure every visitor received a warm welcome. It was important that visitors knew she was cognizant of their presence and available to help. In addition, she was to warn visitors of a sharply sloped section of the floor in order to avoid any injuries. Blanchette said the best part of this whole experience has been watching Faisca grow and become more confident. "I think it's intimidating to come into the store when you haven't worked before and then have to speak to strangers about...the artwork. It had to be intimidating to answer those kinds of questions and speak intellectually about [the pieces]."

Faisca has come a long way since beginning her internship just three months ago. She now fills the role of a normal employee and handles all aspects of the business, even the ordering of new jewelry.



(Left to right) Student intern Tyra Faisca is seated with Sharron Blanchette, owner of Kohala Artworks. As an intern to the business, Faisca is learning marketable skills for future employment.

Since the beginning, Faisca has been keeping a notebook. She jots down everything she learns, from

See VISTA, page 11

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KHS Annual Craft Fair Supports School Groups

Vendors and buyers network, share and socialize during the Kohala High Annual Holiday Craft Fair held November 29. This year's event was hosted by three school organizations: Student Council (STUCO), Speech Club (KHSSC) and VEX Robotics. Each of the host groups assisted with fair organization, set-up, vendor preparation and clean-up.



—photo by Cheryl Cabrera

Students and parents gather to share a smile at the Kohala High School 2014 Annual Craft Fair.



—photo by Cheryl Cabrera

Hartwell Soledad of Kohala High enlivens the crowd with song at the Annual Holiday Craft Fair on November 29 at the school cafeteria. Thirty-plus vendors shared their crafts, gifts and specialty foods, raising funds for numerous school organizations and students.



—photo by Marvalee Clark, Kohala High Yearbook

Kohala High School senior Karisse Caye-Ayoso relaxes for a moment at the craft fair.



—photo by Marvalee Clark, Kohala High Yearbook

Ashlyn VanZandt explains her beach wear creations to an interested patron.

VISTA, continued from page 10

information about the artwork to how to handle negative situations. Blanchette also has her write reflections, noting positive and negative aspects of the day and any associated feelings. Although Blanchette wouldn't have hired her three months ago, she says she can now provide Faisca with an excellent referral. She can attest to Faisca's ability in arenas from retail and inventory management to customer assistance and loss prevention. Faisca is now a seasoned veteran.

When asked if she would recommend the program, Blanchette replied, "I'm seriously disappointed that the business community...[is] not participating actively, more than they are, because it's a wonderful opportunity. You learn

a lot. There are so many smart kids around here that have ideas to do things. They just don't know the direction to go, and there's business people that can help mentor them. And some of these kids can be making big money."

Due to the last-minute formation of the program, only these three students were able to enroll. However, coordinator Samantha Armitage hopes to expand the program this coming year, beginning next semester. Any students interested in participating should contact Armitage via phone at (860) 268-1486 or email at khsvisitas@gmail.com. The coordinators are also looking to expand their business partnerships and would like to hear from any local businesses interested in participating in the program.

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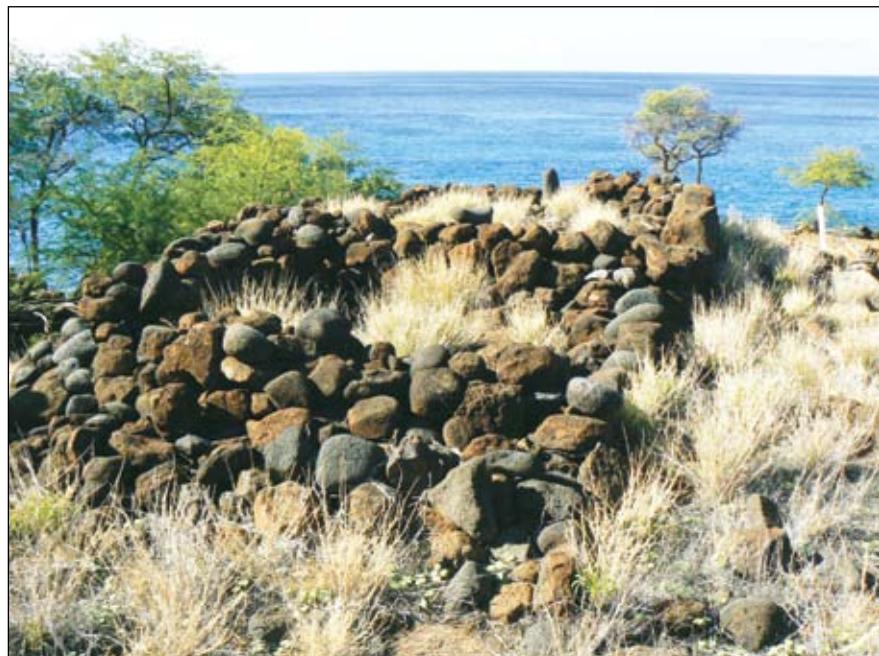


Weekly Events in January

Please note these events meet every week.

Mon 6-7 pm, Fit Club with Ross Pagat, Kamehameha Park, 989-0966.
 Mon 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
 Mon 8-9:15 am, Hatha Yoga with Morgan Cassidy, by donation, in the white tent, 53-496 `Iole Rd., 889-5151.
 Mon 7 pm, Al-Anon mtg., lower level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's, Laura, 884-5833.
 Mon 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
 Tue 9-10:30 am, Heart's Reflection Sitting Meditation Group w/ John Gardner, Meditation Hale, 53-3988 Akoni Pule Hwy, mauka, east of hospital, by donation, 889-5151.
 Tue 2:30 pm, Kendama Club, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
 Wed 6-8 pm, Open Basketball Free Play, Hisaoka Gym, free, 889-6505.
 Wed 7 pm, Alcoholics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
 Thu 8-9:15 am, Vinyasa Flow Yoga w/ Maya Parish, all levels, by donation, white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 Thu 2-4 pm, Traditional Hawaiian Weaving with Aunty Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 Thu 4-5 pm, Beginning Hula with Aunty Mele Waikiki, by donation, in the white tent at Kohala Institute at 'Iole, 889-5151.
 Thu 6-8 pm, Open Pickleball, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
 Thu 7 pm, Narcotics Anonymous, Wylie Hall, Kalahikiola Church, 'Iole Road.
 Fri 10 am, Preschool Story Time, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
 Email weekly calendar listings to kmncalendar@hotmail.com or call #884-5986

Residents' Vision for Coastal Lands Sought



A heiau on coastal lands of Kohala is under preservation stewardship of the County of Hawai'i and local non-profit agencies. Management is asking for Kohala residents' opinions on how to care for and use the land.

Kohala High Swim Team on a Mission

Kohala High School 2014 Boys Swim Team

Bottom Left to Right: Senior Erin Gonzalez, Junior Jayne Amanonce and Senior Kahj Maunu

Top Left to Right: Coach Jeff Coakley, Junior Ford Clark and Junior Isaiah Villacorte-Caravalho



—photos by: Michelle Weyrick
Kohala High School 2014 Girls Swim Team



Bottom Left to Right: Freshman Bayleigh Wiernicki, Coach Elyria Yamamoto and Junior Yuki Zbytovsky
 Top Left to Right: Freshman Naomi Ney, Freshman Marvelanne Clark and Senior Kassie Kometani

Story and photo by Gail Byrne Baber

In the last few years, the community has preserved over 348 acres of coastal lands, and your ideas about how to care for and use these lands are needed to guide how these areas will be cared for and stewarded. When you have a moment, please visit kohalacoast.net to answer a few short survey questions. Space is provided to share anything that's not covered in the questions. If you prefer to share your thoughts and ideas in person or via telephone, please call (808) 938-8880.

The community's vision for these lands will inform the management of these areas long used by Kohala. Collecting community feedback is an initial step in developing management plans. Survey results will be shared in the Kohala Mountain News and at kohalacoast.net.

The 348 acres are owned by local nonprofits and the County of Hawai'i, with a hui of Kohala

nonprofits and community groups spearheading stewardship efforts, including Kohala Lihikai, Malama Kohala Kahakai and Maika'i Kamakani 'O Kohala. The titles to these preserved lands are restricted to ensure the cultural and natural resources are protected in perpetuity.



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Kohala VEX Robotics Wins Energy Award in China

Two Kohala VEX robotics teams, 4119A and 4119B, impressed the Chinese during the 8th Annual Asian Pacific Robotics Championships held at the GE Modern Exhibition Center in Dongguan, Guangdong, China, December 1 through December 4. Their performances and presentations earned recognition and awards. The students gained tremendous global exposure and respect from Chinese VIP judges.

Kaimi Hook with Coach Cheryl Cabrera for team 4119A, as well as Jada Hook and Morgan Swan with Coach Alvin Kawamoto, challenged the 103 teams in the intermediate division that included teams from Singapore, Taiwan, Macao, Hong Kong and schools from mainland China. Mechanical engineer Eric Dela Cruz of Kohala High VEX robotics



The Kohala VEX team 4119A won the Energy Award at the 8th Annual Asian-Pacific Robotics Championship in Dongguan, China December 1 to 4, 2014.

Team members (left to right) Morgan Swan, Kaimi Hook and Jada Hook share their gracious winning moments with two of their Chinese alliance teams.

program traveled with the team. Fern White, Kohala VEX Robotics program director, represented the USA during both the robotics opening and closing ceremonies and the International Science and Technology Conference held in conjunction with the competition. White also presented robotics program-building as part of a seminar for youth robotics.

There was an elementary division for VEXiQ and a separate high

school division for VRC. Other Hawai'i teams included Waialua 359A, which won the high school division Excellence Award; Island Pacific Vex IQ team 4422A, which won the Team Work Championship with a Chinese team; and Kealekehe High 3880X, which made it to quarter-finals in the high school division.

At one point in the competition our 4119B team held second place ranking! Despite the language barrier, robotics seemed to bring our cultures together. Each team is randomly allied with another team in the competition. Four robots on the field at the same time, two for each alliance, work together to make the most points and complete tasks best within the two-minute time limit. Teams need to communicate with each other to strategize for each match.

Kohala's students did well to use gestures, drawings, and their robots for the many times they had to scout without an interpreter. Fortunately, on the field an interpreter was provided for each of the Hawai'i schools.

In the end, our team 4119A ranked 18th out of 103 in their division! In addition, the team was in contention for the overall Excellence Award. The Kohala team was the only team to have to re-match twice, each time due to a questionable call by judges. Both appeals for re-matches came from Kohala's alliance partners, not from Kohala! We suspect that our gracious manner, sportsman-like conduct and acceptance of unclear referee calls may have influenced the final decision for the judges' Energy Award. In VEX the Energy Award is given to the team that maintains a high level of energy throughout the event, demonstrates support for all participants, and displays a positive energy that enriches the event experience for others. The Energy Award also considers the Engineering notebook, its presentation, a team's overall quality of program, and field performance.

As the only non-Asian-country middle school teams, the Kohala teams represented our small town of Kohala, the State of Hawai'i and the United States of America.

Kohala VEX Robotics Shine on Maui

On November 15 the Kohala High VEX robotics team 2460 Na Paniolo traveled to Maui High in Kahului to compete in the Maui VEX Championship qualifier. The original date for the competition was in October, but hurricane Iselle caused a postponement to November. Team members Kaliko DelaCruz, Jayven Amonance, Ford Clark and Damien Kaholo along with coach Eric Dela Cruz and Mentors Alvin Kawamoto, Cheryl Cabrera and Fern White arrived the evening before to work through inspec-

tion and skills challenges.

At the end of the Maui tournament the team suffered only one defeat in all its matches against 18 other teams. In addition to Tournament Champions with their alliance captain from Baldwin High, Kohala's 2460 Na Paniolo won the coveted Excellence Award. The Excellence award is the highest award presented in VEX Robotics competitions. It is given to the team that exemplifies overall excellence in creating a high quality program. The team is required to excel in many facets of the pro-

gram such as having a quality robot, quality performance, gracious professional attitude, and commitment. These features are measured through skills scores, judges' interviews and overall performance.

On November 22 team 2460 went on to be picked into the alliance of the leading Waialua intermediate team 3590A and its partner 359A of Waialua High school. The alliance then won the Tournament Championship Award! Kohala High also fielded a second brand new team, 2460A, with a newly

built robot. Amonance and Clark drove; the team is captained by Josh Page. Team 2460A went on to the quarter-finals. They also went into robot skills challenge and earned a berth for states.

The Hawaii VEX Robotics State Championships will be held on Maui January 9 to 10, 2015. Only 40 of Hawai'i's 150 teams will be allowed to enter. This season the only way to qualify to World Championships in April is to win at states. Congratulations to Kohala High VEX Robotics!

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Public Access and Historic Sites Inspection Cancelled After Land Ownership Claim

Story and photo by Toni Withington

A scheduled visit to proposed public access trails and historic sites on coastal land in the Kauha ahupua'a was called off last month after a dispute over ownership of the property flared up before the hike was to begin.

Representatives of Kohala Shoreline LLC, the owner of record of the 37.88 acres makai of Kohala Ranch, were preparing on November 15 to escort 15 residents of North and South Kohala on a visit. These residents had expressed an interest in commenting on the documents and maps being prepared to subdivide the land. Before they began, Albert Kaho'opi'i and his wife Ana Nawahine Kaho'opi'i challenged the Washington-based corporation's ownership and produced documents they said show their title to the land, which they said was crown land and not private.

Greg Mooers, a planner hired to write up an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed subdivision, and Robert Rechtman, an archaeologist preparing a report on historic sites and trails for the EA, called off the walk-through, telling those gathered that they would prepare their reports for agencies without further public input.

Kohala Shoreline LLC has told

the county Planning Department it intends to subdivide the land into nine lots. The land was the subject of a heated controversy over down zoning between the Planning Commission, Planning Department and mayor regarding

Kohala Kai developer faced over the Cultural Impact Statement prepared for that 11-lot subdivision.

Diane Kanealii of Kailapa, the Hawaiian Homes subdivision just toward Kawaihae of the land, said the people attended the scheduled walk through the property "with the intent of insuring that the ancient trails and historical sites are not only protected and preserved, but to insure that the public has full access to use the trails, to shoreline and to any sacred sites on the property to practice their cultural and / or religious rights as provided by law."

Some had copies of a previous archaeological survey of the land to compare with Rechtman's survey results. The map from the 1990s showed over 30 numbered sites,

one large complex and many old trails. Rechtman told those gathered that his survey located other sites and additional features to



Ana Nawahine and Albert Kaho'opi'i present papers they say show title to coastal lands in Kauha ahupua'a to Archaeologist Robert Rechtman on November 15. After the presentation of these papers, the planned walk-through was called off.

the zoning in 2009.

The land is also adjacent to the north boundary of Kohala Kai LLC subdivision, which last year faced a highly publicized challenge to the alterations and moving of what many claim is the Ala Loa, the ancient trail around the island.

Mooers had told the North Kohala Community Access Group and the Kailapa Community Association several months ago that the owner of Kohala Shoreline wanted to avoid the problems

those already numbered.

In an email several days later Rechtman explained his reasons for canceling the walk-through. "It was NOT because of a dispute over title to the land (until a legitimate claim is made there is not such dispute); it did not take place because of threats that were made," he wrote.

Concern about the canceled hike was expressed at the North Kohala Community Access Group meeting on December 3. The group has asked the owners and their representatives to be actively involved in the preparation of the EA and the Cultural Impact Statement several times since July of 2010. It was decided to draft another letter to Mooers and Rechtman expressing the group's continued interest in being part of the process.

The Kailapa Community Association Newsletter for December said, "It is unknown if there will be another opportunity to have input on the development until the EA is posted in the OEQC (Office of Environmental Quality Control) bulletin. KCA will continue to monitor the situation and work with other organizations and with our County Council members to insure the protection of the sites as new plans for development occur."

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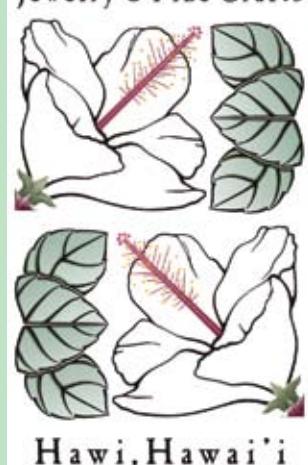
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Movie Theaters in Kohala: The Kahei Theater 1940-2001

Third in a Series



—photos courtesy of Ellen Kato unless otherwise noted

The Kahei Theater in November, 1940

By Tom Morse

In 1940 movies were the thing in Kohala. Times were much different. Notice that everyone going to the movie theater is wearing long pants or skirts. Almost all are wearing dress shoes. Of the three movies shown on the posters, two are Westerns, the other a murder mystery. One of the Westerns on the billboard, *The Singing Hill*, starred Gene Autry, who sang several songs in the film. Westerns, rare now, were the mainstay in the '30s and '40s. About one-third of all pictures made during that period were Westerns, and it seems they were especially popular in Kohala.

The 405-seat theater originally boasted the neon lights shown here. Unfortunately, the lights were soon broken by rock-throwing children and were not replaced.

The creator of the Kahei Theater was Koichi Sugiyama. Although

his brother Harold had operated the financially unsuccessful Hawi Theater from 1935 to 1940 less than a mile away, Koichi, with his wife Kinuyo, opened his own theater. The Kahei Theater showed movies continuously until 2001, making it the last theater operating in Kohala.

When in school Koichi worked for the plantation in the summer, earning 10 cents for a 10-hour day. Maybe out of necessity (for he had ten children) he found other ways to earn his living. In 1912, when he was nineteen, his father bought a new Model-T Ford and opened a taxi service, employing Koichi as the driver. That began Koichi's lifelong love of automobiles.

Beginning in 1925, he managed five silent movie theaters owned by the sugar plantations in Kohala. For 38 years he drove his own taxi from Kohala to Hilo, charging passengers \$1.50. He provided transportation to Kona, a trip that

took all day on dirt roads. A trip to Waimea took four hours, with stops to shoot the cows from the road. When the passenger boat came in at midnight at Mahukona, he would go to meet it in his seven-passenger vehicle to provide transportation to Kohala.

Until 1951 Koichi ran a transportation service in his station wagon between Waimea and Kohala. It did very well during the war years, bolstered by G.I.s on leave in

Kohala. There were never enough hotel rooms then, so Koichi let the soldiers sleep in the theater. The theater could only show matinees during the war because of the federally-ordered blackout.

Koichi also was in the funeral business. In his hearse he would transport bodies to the mortuary in Hilo and back and then arrange the burial. In later years he also sold coffins, which were often on display near the stage in the theater.

Filipino and Japanese movies were also shown, with English sub-titles. These films were appreciated by plantation management, as they gave entertainment to the workers from those countries.

Other than the posters on the outside of the theater, advertising was by word-of-mouth. On some nights a raffle was held.

Uniquely, the Kahei Theater on occasion had live Japanese dance-troupe performers on stage. Koichi's daughter Ellen recalls beating a drum up and down Ho`ea Road to let everybody know that there would be a stage show that night.



Koichi welcomes Japanese movie stars. Initially, admission prices were 25 cents for adults, 9 cents for children. If you called ahead, Koichi would pick you up in his taxi and bring you to the theater for a few cents more.

See more theater story photos on pages 17 and 18



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KOHALA CALENDAR

January

- 1 Thu 6-9 pm, Green Drinks Hawi, Kava Kafe, organic networking & pupus, Forrest, 987-2365.
- 3 Sat 8:30 am, "Walking in the Wild" guided silent walks w/ Gavin Harrison, meet in the hale, 53-496 'Iole Rd., by donation, 889-5151.
- 5 Mon 2 & 6 pm, Simple jewelry making with Sid Nakamoto, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 5 Mon 6-7 pm, CDP Growth Management Subcmte. Mtg., public invited, old Bank of Hawaii bldg., Kapa`au.
- 7 Wed 4:30-6:30 pm, CDP Public Access Subcmte. Mtg., Senior Center, Ted, 889-5801.
- 12 Mon Kohala public schools resume after winter break.
- 12 Mon 5-6:30 pm, CDP Action Cmte. Public Mtg., Senior Ctr., Kapa`au.
- 12 Mon 6:30 pm, Voice of the Wood cello concert, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 13 Tue 11 am, Adult book discussion group, "Honolulu" by Alan Brennart, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 14 Wed 8 am, No. Kohala Merchants Association Mtg., Resource Center, public invited, Richard, 889-1112.
- 14 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday for ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 14 Wed 5-6:15 pm, CDP Power, Viewplanes & Erosion Control subcmte. mtg, public welcome, Senior Ctr, Susan, 882-7611.
- 15 Thu 1:30-2:30 pm, Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Mtg., Hospital Pavilion, new members welcome, Dixie, 889-5730.
- 17 Sat 4:30-6:30 pm, Free Grindz--Hot Meal, under the Hawi Banyans, bring a friend, Kohala Baptist Church, Sondra, 889-5416.
- 18 Sun TBA, Guest speaker Arnold Fruchtenbaum of Ariel Ministries will speak, Jan. 18- Jan. 21, Kohala Baptist Church, for details call 889-5416.
- 20 Tue 3-4 pm, Ceramics Class w/ Parks & Rec, class runs Tues through 3/31, register Jan. 5-30, ages 7-14, free, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
- 24 Sat 11 am-12:30 pm, Free Community Meal, St. Augustine's Walker Hall, Thrift Store open 10 am-12:30 pm.
- 26 Mon 6:30 pm, Hawaiian history with Boyd Bond – Pele Legends, free, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 27 Tue 5 pm, CDP Parks, Water & Roads Subcmte, public welcome, Senior Ctr., andi@hawaii.rr.com.
- 27 Tue 6:30-8:30 pm, 'Talking Story about Death and Dying,' open forum, Kokolulu Cancer Retreat, Bobbi, 238-5681, Stephen, 328-2452.
- 28 Wed 10 am, Homeschool Wednesday for ages 6-9, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 28 Wed 2-4 pm, Youth reading and movie club, grades 4 and up, North Kohala library, 889-6655.
- 28 Wed 2-3:30 pm, Peanut Butter Cookie Class w/ Parks & Rec, register Jan. 12-21, ages 7-14, free, Hisaoka Gym, 889-6505.
- 28 Wed 4-5:30 pm, Restorative Yoga Therapy with Carla Orelana, by donation, white tent, 53-496 'Iole Rd., 889-5151.

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

Reunion Fever Starts Early

By Toni Withington

July 2015 may seem a long way off, but the busy committee putting together Kohala Reunion 2015 is asking for help to keep the ball rolling toward the four-day event over the Fourth of July weekend. The reunion is held every five years.

Registration forms were mailed to all Kohala postal boxes and hundreds of Kohala family members off island last month. Early registration for attending and T-shirt sales are what keep the project funded, according to Kathy Matsuda, co-chair of the committee.

Admission to the four days of music, food, exhibits and activities is only \$25 per family household. Completed registration and T-shirt order forms can be mailed to North Kohala 2015 Reunion, P.O. Box 96, Kapa`au, HI 96755.

Those who attend will be given a bag of goodies including a Kohala Reunion 2015 booklet with information on the performers, exhibits and available tours. In addition there will be valuable discounts and coupons for many Kohala businesses and products. Julie McCue, who is heading the team putting this together, is rounding up local businesses to advertise in the booklet, which will be distributed to all registered participants in the reunion, as well as be available for sale at check-in during the reunion and at the Hawi Farmers Market the week prior to the reunion. The size of the booklet is 8.5 x 5.5 inches. In 2010 it ran to 32 pages, but she is not sure yet what it will be next year. Cost of advertising will be \$50 for a full page ad, \$25 for a half-page ad and \$15 for a business card sized ad. Those purchasing full or half page ads will also be eligible to be included in a page of special coupons at no extra charge. Deadline for committing to advertising space is March 1, 2015 with all artwork due by March 15. To reserve a space, or for more information, contact Judy Rogers at rogersjudy11@gmail.com.

The reunion will be held at Kamehameha Park where tents will shade an almost non-stop parade of entertainment. As in

past reunions, the Hisaoka Gym will be crowded with displays of Kohala's history and achievements along the outer walls of the gym floor. Exhibits of Kohala's organizations, artisans and available resources will take up the space on the floor. The committee will be sending out applications for space to Kohala organizations and past participants next month. To reserve exhibit space call Fred Cachola, co-chair of the reunion exhibits, at (808) 753-8896.

Since some Kohala families and Kohala High School classes schedule gatherings to coincide with the reunion, spaces on the park grounds are set aside for families or class groups to have their own tent space. Seven of the eight spaces are already reserved. Those wishing to add their group to the list should call Kathy Matsuda at 889-5801.

Anticipation Growing for 2014 Winter Ball

By Kiera Javillonar

The Kohala High School 2014 Winter Ball is set for December 20 from 6 to 10 p.m. The Ball's theme is "Frozen in Time." Tickets are on sale until December 12. Attendees will be provided with a dinner buffet that includes: baby organic green salad with dressing, sliced tomatoes with mozzarella, potato salad, artichoke and walnut salad, cucumber namasu salad, maki sushi and California sushi rolls, island catch, oyster chicken, kalbi ribs, rice, garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, freshly baked rolls, and dessert. In order for students to attend, all obligations must be cleared prior to the event.

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Theater photos, continued from page 15



Kinuyo and Koichi Sugiyama met and married in 1930.
Mrs. Sugiyama could always be found in the bright pink ticket booth at the theater entrance. She sold candy bars and crack seeds. Most patrons brought their own drinks and popcorn. Beer was not allowed.



The 1983 Ironman World Championship triathlon turn-around is seen in the Kahei Theater parking lot.



The theater welcomed visitors to Kohala. Koichi and his family lived in their home just behind the theater. Their front yard served as the theater's parking lot.



Although the turn-around for the Ironman World Championship triathlon is now in downtown Hawi, for a time it was in the parking lot for the theater.



See more theater photos, page 18



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**Theater photos,
continued from
page 17**

Kinuyo Sugiyama at the ticket booth of the theater.

In later years attendance declined as the population of Kohala declined.

If fewer than ten patrons were in the theater shortly after the start of the first reel, the film was stopped and the admission price was refunded.



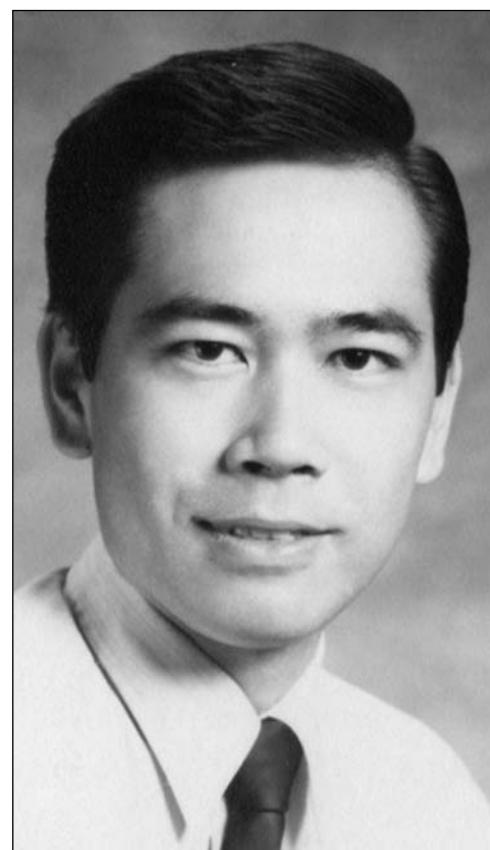
Koichi was the projectionist. Occasionally, when things would go wrong, like a reel shown out of order (all movies then came in multiple reels requiring the theater

to have two projectors), the patrons would shout out to him. He became hard of hearing in his later years, leading to some humorous anecdotes.



*Koichi Sugiyama
Koichi passed away in 1987
at the age of 94*

Sidney Sugiyama. When Koichi died in 1987, his son Sidney became the general manager and projectionist. Mrs. Sugiyama continued on in the ticket booth. When Sidney died in 2001, the theater closed permanently.



The Kahei Theater today; of the ten theaters originally in Kohala, only this building remains.

—photo by Tom Morse

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December 2014

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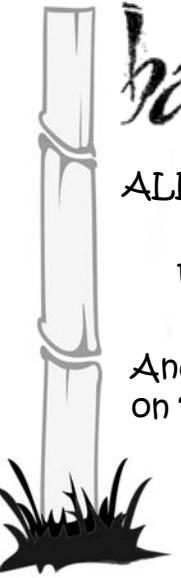
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Kohala Moku: Integrating Local Native Hawaiian Cultural and Traditional Values into State Resource Policy

By John Winter

On Saturday, November 22, Fred Cachola presided over a community meeting to introduce some very exciting events on the horizon with potential impact for Kohala. Public concern over Hawaiian ecosystem degradation and resource depletion resulted in the state legislature officially recognizing that the usual top-down managerial approach may not be the only effective policy. They passed Act 212 (2007) and 288 (2012) that formally recognized the `Aha Moku (meeting of the traditional districts) system to integrate native Hawaiian cultural and traditional values into the fabric of state policy, specifically into the deliberations of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) as they consider how to best manage our environment and resources.

The `Aha Moku system is designed to provide advice on: Identifying a comprehensive set of native Hawaiian practices for natural resource management; Fostering an understanding and practical use of native Hawaiian resource expertise; Integrating native Hawaiian resource management practices with Western practices in each *moku*; Providing community education and cultural awareness; Protecting and conserving the State's natural resources; and Developing an administrative structure to oversee the `aha moku system.

The proposed organization begins with the traditional *ahupua`a*, which are grouped into the *moku*. For example, the Island of Hawai`i has 197 *ahupua`a* in six *moku*: Kohala, Hamakua, Hilo, Puna, Ka`u and Kona (<http://www.ahamoku.org/index.php/maps/>). Kohala has 38 *ahupua`a*, ranging from *Awini* in the east to *Waikaloa* in the southwest. The *ahupua`a* are to be grouped into clusters of `aha ahupua`a (presumably based on geography, number of residents and similar cultural and physical characteristics). These will be further grouped into `aha moku (e.g. Kohala). Each `aha moku

will choose a member to the top tier, the `Aha Moku Advisory Committee, which will work directly with DLNR and advise their governing board (the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or BLNR).

Joining Fred in the presentation were Piilani Kaawaloa from Puna, the Moku O Keawe representative to the advisory committee, and Leimana DaMate from Ka`u but originally from Waimea, the executive director of the `Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC).

There are myriad issues to address involving general concepts and policy as well as very specific sites and problems. The root and strength of this organizational concept stems from the people residing in the *ahupua`a*. Their generational knowledge of how to care for the land and its resources as well as their sense of place is now officially recognized as an essential guide for managing the natural and cultural resources of the state.

What do we do next? To begin our participation in this valuable organization and be heard on the state level, Kohala needs to call one or more community meetings to identify people experienced in native Hawaiian resource practices and with generational knowledge to share. Our kupuna are valuable for this, and input need not be restricted to native Hawaiians.

We can follow up by organizing our community into `aha ahupua`a clusters and developing appropriate resource management practices and cultural preservation integrating native Hawaiian values. One important early decision is to decide if North and South Kohala want to remain together in the traditional Kohala *moku*, or recognize our physical and cultural differences and separate into North and South *moku*.

If you are interested in knowing more or in participating, please call Fred Cachola at 753-8896.

If you have an issue of concern over any adverse impact on a natural or cultural resource at

some specific site please obtain a report form by calling Leimana DaMate at 808-587-1498 (DLNR),

808-372-9638 (cell) or email: Leimana.K.DaMate@hawaii.gov.

Kamehameha Rock Moved



The Kamehameha Rock rests at the side of the road near Halawa. Led by Na `Unu Pa`a O Kohala, funds are being solicited to support setting the stone in a cement foundation to prevent it from being moved again.

Story and photo by Lani Eugenio

The Kamehameha Rock was moved from its usual site sometime in November. This is not the first time that this has happened.

Lehua Ah Sam, Patti Ann Solomon, Joe Cazimero and several others put the rock back and performed a short ceremony and prayer, as this rock is revered by Native Hawaiians who understand its significance. The problem was discussed at the November meeting of Na `Unu Pa`a O Kohala council. To prevent this from happening again, it was suggested that a foundation be built and the rock be cemented in place.

Since the old-timers knew the legend of the Kamehameha Rock, there was no need for an explanation of that lone rock sitting on the side of the road. Because there was no explanation, (and to this day, there still is no explanation) people created their own stories. Soon the true story became an urban legend.

Lehua and Patti Ann will be approaching tour-related businesses to secure donations for the project. Members of the council will be researching the history of the Kamehameha Rock so a plaque with the rock's story can be told.

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Kohala Model Boat Club Forms, Welcomes New Members

Three self-described "old salty guys" from Kohala have formed a new club, the Kohala Model Boat Club (KMBC), to foster skills in others while satisfying their passion for the sea. Through this informal, fun group the founders hope to share their boat-building skills, sailing seamanship and sagas with anyone interested in building and sailing radio-controlled (RC) model sailboats and other scale models. They envision bringing together all ages, young and old, with the common interest of RC boating, perhaps turning some kids into sailors one day, with the guidance from a group that can chart out a good and healthy course for them.

The three founders—Dick Medve, Carl Miller, and Tommy Tinker—have had extensive experience with their own beloved sailboats and cherish the won-

derful memories and adventures those boats afforded.

Dick Medve owned an Ericson 27 while living in San Diego. He sailed two Transpacs, or Transpacific Yacht Races, from Los Angeles to Honolulu and participated in many other races up and down the California coast. Dick and his wife Anny now live a quiet life in Hawi.

Carl Miller is the master craftsman of the threesome. His completed projects include beautiful

RC model sailplanes and custom harpsichords. Presently, he is finishing up a 65-inch, museum-quality RC sailboat using mahogany and cedar planking and jewelry-quality hardware. Carl and his family sailed the Chesapeake Bay for many years prior to making Kohala home, both for themselves and for Carl's workshop.

Popular local resident and yachtsman Tommy Tinker rounds out the founding trio. This seasoned captain invites various friends to set sail every Sunday out of Kawaihae for three or four hours of cruising our beautiful Kohala shoreline. Tommy's boat, the KITTA, is a Columbia 36 and the new club's official flagship. The KITTA will be available for many KMBC programs.

Model boats come in all shapes and sizes, from small, low-cost and simple to large, more expensive and complex. The club means to support all levels, but mostly



Carl Miller's "Lackawanna" scale model tug sits in calm waters.

to provide a fun and supportive entryway for those interested but not experienced in RC boating.

The KMBC plans to sail mostly at Mahukona Beach Park and Kawaihae Harbor, holding fun regattas using their handmade boats. Membership is free and open to all ages. There is no set meeting time, agenda or dues.

For further information call Dick Medve at 889-1636, or meet him at the Saturday Hawi Farmers Market under the banyan tree to sign aboard the local ship getting ready to set sail.



Dick Medve with a T37 and control module.

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