

Vol.14, No. 8

August 28, 2015

## Reverend Diana Akiyama Appointed to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

On July 1 Reverend Diana Akiyama began her appointment as the new priest and vicar at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

Diana Akiyama was born and raised in her father's hometown, Hood River, Oregon. Her parents were an inter-racial couple at a time when there was considerable hostility toward Japanese Americans and children from inter-racial marriages. Seeking a safe hometown for their young family, they chose to raise their four daughters in Hood River because it had a large, close-knit Japanese-American community. There they could raise the girls in a community that would accept and support them.

Rev. Akiyama attended the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, for her freshman year before transferring to the University of Oregon, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree. Diana worked for several years as a counselor in the drug/



Photo courtesy of <http://www.stcolumbahawaii.org/>

*Reverend Diana Akiyama is the new priest and vicar at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.*

alcohol rehabilitation field before entering seminary. She attended The Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, and earned a Master of Divinity degree. After graduating and being ordained to the transitional Diaconate at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Hood River, Oregon, she was hired by the dean of the chapel at Stanford University.

**See Rev Diana, Page 2**

## Blessing Ceremony Performed for KNKR Radio Station

The blessing of the broadcast station for Kohala Radio, KNKR 96.1 FM, was held Saturday, August 8. After ceremonial chanting Kahu Kealoha Sugiyama prompted Station Coordinator Bob Martin to release seed heads into the breeze to signify the voice of Kohala being released into the air. As attendees waited outside, Sugiyama blessed the inside of the building. All were then welcomed in, but admonished all to leave any thoughts or words that did not spread aloha outside.

Once in the main meeting room, participants crowded around the big table. Founders and DJs shared thoughts on the station and the long and challenging journey that led to this day. Appreciations flowed forth generously, but none received more honor and gratitude than Martin, whose perseverance and ability to "herd cats" was instrumental in making the dream a reality.



Photo by Debbie Winkler

*Station Coordinator Bob Martin releases seed heads to the breeze, signifying the voice of Kohala's radio station, KNKR 96.1 FM, traveling across the airwaves. The traditional Hawaiian blessing of the station took place August 8, 2015.*

## Kohala Senior Softball "Local Boyz" Undefeated at State Tournament



Photo courtesy of Local Boyz

*Bottom row: Ted Matsuda; Gus Ogasawara; Frank Carvalho, Jr.; Jim Scancellia; Eddie Kise; Head Coach Raymond Vega; Mamerto Macanas  
Standing: Scorekeeper-Janice Carvalho, Andrew Perez, Harold Carvalho, Jim Trump, Steven Maeda, Assistant Coach Steve Nakamura, Kublai Rabang, Nelson Carvalho*

The 2015 40th Annual Hawai'i State Senior Softball Tournament was held on August 4 - 6 at the Maka'eio Park baseball fields in Kailua-Kona. Sixty seven teams statewide participated in the three day event.

Kohala's Local Boyz won all four Division F games with scores of 14-10, 7-5, 18-11 and 14-6.

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## Neighborhood Watch Program Offered for Residents

On August 10, residents of Maliu Ridge gathered at the Inter-generational Center in Kapa`au for a meeting on the ins and outs of setting up a neighborhood watch. Interest in forming the association peaked after several residents discovered they had been victimized by thieves.

About 30 people turned out to hear a presentation by KJ Kauahikaua Jr. of the Kohala Police Department. As Officer Kauahikaua explained, he can outline the basic steps for setting up a neighborhood watch, but the responsibility for following through and forming an association that works for the neighborhood lies with the citizens. The next step for Maliu Ridge residents will be to hold their own meetings and appoint a coordinator to act as a liaison between residents and the police, and possibly block captains as well to pass information between the coordinator and individual members.

A neighborhood watch pro-

motes citizen involvement in cooperation with local law enforcement, Officer Kauahikaua said. He was careful to specify that it is not a vigilante group, and citizens are not asked to participate in apprehending criminals. The important role of members of a neighborhood watch is to act as good witnesses for what occurs in their area. People need to observe their own neighborhood and be aware of who belongs there. "Get to know your neighbors," he said. Draw up a roster of who lives where and even make up a map showing the locations of various residents. Then, if you notice criminal or suspicious activity, report it to the police.

The non-emergency number for contacting the police is 935-3311. Do not use 911 except to report an actual emergency, for example, a crime in progress. When calling for police assistance, be as factual as you can. Give a description of a suspect or a vehicle when possible, including

a license number if that information is available. Like a newspaper reporter, note what, who, where, when and how to the best of your



Photo by Wendy Noritake

Officer "KJ" Kauahikaua explains how to set up a Neighborhood Watch program to residents of Maliu Ridge. They became motivated to start a program after a series of area burglaries.

ability. Let the dispatcher know if any weapons are involved.

If at least 60 percent of the residents of an area participate in a neighborhood watch, neighborhood watch signs may be posted.

In addition to acting as good witnesses, residents should burglarproof their own property. This may include steps like marking valuables for identification or installing increased lighting. Home security inspections can be arranged to help eliminate factors that may make the home more susceptible to criminal activity.

Neighborhood watch associations can be a real boon to both police and residents, Officer Kauahikaua said. In a place like Kohala where there are not enough officers to effectively cover the area, citizens who can act as eyes and ears to provide extra information about crime can make a difference. "A neighborhood watch program is a proactive approach to reducing and preventing crime in your neighborhood."

### Rev Diana, continued from Page 1

One year later, she was ordained to the priesthood and became the first Japanese-American woman priest in the Episcopal Church. She worked as associate dean and then acting dean of the chapel at Stanford University. Diana met and married her husband, Michael Jackson, who was then the associate dean of students. During her time at Stanford, she served on two national committees of the Episcopal Church USA: the committee on the status of women and the committee on racism. She was the co-founder of The Sansei Legacy Project, which focused on supporting sansei struggling with racial identity because of the emotional trauma experienced by their Nisei parents in relocation camps during World War II.

In 1995, her husband Michael was hired by the University of Southern California (USC) as the vice president of student affairs.

Diana took this opportunity to earn a Ph.D. in Religion and Social Ethics at USC. After receiving her Ph.D., she was hired at Occidental College as dean of religious and spiritual life. In that capacity she was the principal investigator of a five-year, two million dollar grant from the Lilly Endowment. The objective of the grant was to encourage undergraduate students to consider ordained ministry as a vocation. She was also an assistant professor in American Studies. After completing the grant, she left Occidental College and began a private practice in spiritual direction.

In 2013, Diana and Michael left USC and Los Angeles and settled into their home in Kohala Estates on Hawai'i Island. They

had purchased their home seven years earlier with the hopes of eventually living here full-time. The Reverend Akiyama served as vicar-in-charge at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Pa'auilo from January through June 2015. Prior to that, she served as supply priest at St. James Episcopal Church and St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. She led the popular St. James' Lenten series this year.

Throughout her ministry she has focused on social equality and the role of spiritual formation in overcoming prejudice. She enjoys teaching and is currently an instructor of Theology at the Diocesan Theology School, Waiolaihui'ia, on O'ahu where classes take place one weekend a month.

When asked why, after a long career in higher-education, she wanted to serve a congregation, Diana said, "I have learned a great deal from teaching and counseling college students and wouldn't change anything I've done. But I realized that I missed being able to preach and teach the Christian message of hope and transformation in a community that is alive with faith. I think the human story is about coming full circle—coming home. Not necessarily the actual home of our childhoods, but home where one's heart leaps with joy and sighs with peace. Someone once said, "Home is where the heart is," so the Big Island is home for me and returning to congregational life is home too."

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# St. Augustine's Rewards Local Scholars with Financial Support

On June 21 St. Augustine's Episcopal Church presented their 2015-2016 Scholarship Awards to eleven Kohala youth in a ceremony held during morning services. The annual tradition dates back to 2008 and has grown from a few recipients to an average of a dozen per year. Anonymous donations and community fundraising events provide the means to continue the program, which helps with college tuition and cost of living expenses.

This year's award recipients are Jacob Andrews (San Diego State University), Jayvimar Arellano (University of Hawai'i at Manoa), Jerome Arellano (University of Hawai'i at Hilo), Ryan Dollaga (California State University at Bakersfield), Cecily Fujii (University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu), Kassandra "Kassie" Kometani (Lewis & Clark College), Beau Lopez (Arizona State University), Selena Osorio (Humboldt State University), Michelle Sahagun (Arizona University), Marygold Salvador (Hawai'i Community College) and Ashlyn Van Zandt (University of Nevada, Las Vegas).

At the celebration honoring their achievement, each of the youth spoke to the congregation, identifying their goals and how the scholarship will help them be successful in reaching them.

When asked afterward, "How will you use the Scholarship Award you just received from St. Augustine's Episcopal Church?" several recipients replied: "I plan to use the scholarship award I received from St. Augus-

tine to further my education at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, OR.

The money will help to offset my tuition costs as I pursue a degree in environmental studies. Lewis and Clark College has one

of the best environmental law programs in the country so this scholarship award is allowing me to achieve my ultimate career goal: becoming an environmental lawyer."

- Kassie Kometani

"With the St. Augustine scholarship award, I'm using it to pay off my college tuition and textbooks. I believe that this scholarship will aid me through the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and be successful. Because of the congregation's support and love, I am confident that I will become an individual who will make a difference in the Kohala community."

- Jerome Arellano

"I took a class over the summer so that I am able to graduate on time, and this scholarship award will help pay for summer tuition. I recently got accepted to Shidler, the College of Business, here at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and the remaining scholarship award will go towards my fall tuition. As I go into my third year in college I will be majoring in accounting with a minor in Ilokano. The kindness and generosity from the St. Augustine congregation definitely helped my academic dream turn to a reality."

- Jayvimar Arellano



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

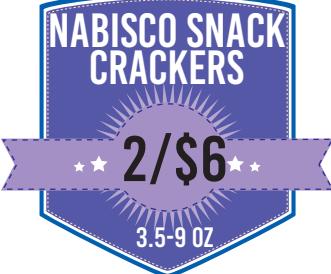
Recipients of the 2015-2016 Scholarship Awards and their families. From the front row (left to right): Marygold Salvador, Michelle Sahagun, Jerome Arellano, Kassie Kometani, Carmen Lai, Gregoria Sahagun, Genny Bader, Kayoko Hanano, Ashlyn Van Zandt, Rebecca Bartholomy, Villamor Arellano, Mary Hanano, James Hanano, Juana Mejia, Marina Arellano, Wendy Andrews, Ed Andrews, Marilyn Dollaga, Rosemary Rasmussen, Grace Fujii, Vicky Kometani, Father Bruce DeGooyer, Ryan Dollaga, Vance Fujii and Jacob Andrews



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### Changes Spice the Kapa`au Business Scene

The business community of Kapa`au has seen some changes in recent months, including some interesting new additions.

Now decorating one corner of the Nanbu building in Kapa`au is Maki Sun, an "island boutique" with a fun array of merchandise, offering "a little something for everyone." Since opening the shop July 11, owner Jill Maki sells Hawaiian-made clothing and accessories, bath and body prod-



Photo by Anna Pacheco

Maki Sun opened in July and strives to sell a variety of items the local community will find useful.

ucts, locally made foods such as lilikoi and macadamia nut butters, and local art and photography. A display of skateboards will tempt young patrons. The shop also carries some mainstream surf brands and accessories. Need more surf wax or a leash? You can find those here.

Jill has been in retail management and visual merchandising for 20 years, working for large corporations as well as Hawai`i-based businesses. She most recently managed a small boutique in Hawi. She purchases products for MakiSun in small batches for quick turnover. "I want people to come in and see different things," she says. Her focus is primarily the Kohala community. Although visitors do stop to photograph the statue and end up in her shop, she says the amount of local traffic has been great. "I'm happy to see that MakiSun is becoming a favorite with our local customers." To that end, Jill carries a variety of commodities, including gifts, and tries to ensure that everything is reasonably priced.

The shop is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day but Sunday, except on Fridays, when it stays open until 8 p.m. to appeal to the evening shoppers.

"My hope is to bring more business to Kapa`au," she says. She has made a good start on that goal by spicing up the scene with an ever-changing array of interesting and colorful products.

Chaba Chalker, who recently opened Chaba's Thai Cuisine across the street from the Nanbu, needs no introduction to many people here. Chaba has been feeding satisfied customers in our community for years. She arrived here from Thailand in 1999 and had a Thai food booth at the 2000 Kohala Country Fair. She also served Thai food on Sunday evenings at Jen's Kohala Caf , across from the statue, for a while and then started serving Thai food from a booth at the Saturday farmers market in Hawi.

Chaba's menu at her new restaurant, which opened July 7, includes both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options. "It's the best food in town," says Mary Winter, one of the aforementioned satisfied customers. The restaurant also offers take-out



Photo by Veronica Fojtasek

Chaba's Thai Cuisine, in its new Kapa`au location, welcomes hungry customers with a brightly colored sign.

food. To place an order or to ask about menu items, call 889-1060.

Business is good, Chaba says, because so many people already know her and like her food. She's open 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. every day except Thursday.

The Dunn Gallery has closed after displaying Kelly Dunn's wooden bowls for eight years. The gallery opened in April 2009 and closed in May of this year when the property went on the market. "We could not reach an agreement with the landlord," Linda Dunn explains. She is currently investigating new locations but does not expect to reopen in Kohala.

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## Letters

## Captain Appreciates Community Support of Police Department

On July 13 I received a terrifying phone call with the news that one of our officers was shot. They informed me that the officer was not killed, but still at the scene securing the area.

I responded to the area and found that our Special Response Team (SRT) and our crisis negotiators were on the scene and dealing with a barricaded male suspect with a firearm. I learned further information that a female was also shot by the same suspect and was en route to the hospital.

The decision was made to control the flow of traffic, for the safety of the community, and this lasted for the duration of the standoff, till the suspect was taken into custody. The wounded officer was one of Kohala's own and many of you may know him on a personal level. This officer received an outpouring of support from the community that was second to none.

Police officers responded to Kohala from all corners of the island to help with the situation. Our SRT members and other support officers from Kona, Hilo, Waimea, Hamakua, Puna and Ka'u were in our town to assist with the situation. The aloha from the community was immediate and the support was heartwarming. We had members preparing and/or donating food and drinks for the officers, and we received many calls at the station from community members asking how they could help.

I know we impressed the visiting police officers and it made me proud to serve you as your captain.

The standoff was long and grueling. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt Mahalo to the members of the Kohala community for their patience, understanding and support during that trying ordeal.

Sincerely,

Captain Jason Cortez  
Hawai'i Police Department  
North Kohala



## Medical Marijuana Production Does Not Belong in Kohala

Dear Editor:

I attended the CDP Action Committee meeting on Monday at the Old Kohala Courthouse, along with another dozen or so concerned grass roots citizens of Kohala, seeking support to keep marijuana productions centers out of our district. This is according to the newly-passed Medical Marijuana bill that was introduced and passed by our legislators, namely Cindy Evans and Mark Nakashima.

What I found out was the CDP AC, according to the chairman of the group, could not do anything about the marijuana issue as it was not within their scope. If we were in support of the marijuana issue then it would be all right as we would be in favor of, or "promoting," agriculture in Kohala. But to be in opposition would not be in keeping with the CDP guidelines of "promoting agriculture."

We were told by the chairman of the CDP AC and the members of the County Planning Department that this was not the place to air our concerns. We were advised by a representative of the Planning Department to contact our district political representatives, those who had sponsored and supported the bill for marijuana production centers, because they can change the law.

This makes no sense to me. Why would we go back to the people who made the law we disagree with and ask them to change the law? It's already obvious they don't agree with our position.

It seems that for the grass roots people of Kohala there is not an organization that represents their interests locally. I thought that was what the CDP AC was supposed to do. It's very frustrating.

To work toward a solution I am currently in contact with State legislative representatives in determining what would be the most effective way to insure Kohala does not become one of the Big Island's marijuana production centers.

Jeffrey Coakley



## Commercial Marijuana Enterprises Would Change Kohala Forever

Dear Editor,

I attended my first North Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committee (AC) meeting to share my concerns about the new Medical Marijuana bill that was recently passed in July, 2015. My experience with the CDP-AC meeting was that this was not the place to share my concerns. Then if not, where do we go? Yet, according to the CDP section 1.4, one of the purposes of the North Kohala CDP is to "Articulate North Kohala's residents' Vision and Values for their Community". And the motto for the CDP is KEEP KOHALA - KOHALA. Evidently, the NC-CDP-AC doesn't represent the concerns of the Kohala grassroots community.

I'm not against marijuana being used for medical purposes, but I'm against the commercial production and manufacturing (making oils, lozenges, pills, etc.) of this plant on our North Kohala lands.

I've experienced violence and greed in my past relating to marijuana-growing and distributing. The possibility of this kind of activity happening in Kohala would change our community forever. I don't want our quaint Kohala town to become the "Growth Capital of the Big Island." We already have a big drug problem in our district. Even if these marijuana fields and facilities are "regulated", the County and State offices are frustrated about not having enough trained staff to monitor and enforce many of the existing rules and regulations.

So we need to protect our agriculture lands and use it for sustainability: livestock, food plants and nursery flora. We cannot afford to have our water resources be taken away from our food supply.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Maramba Rocha

### 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 accommodated.

#### September Deadlines:

Ads: 9/11/15

News: 9/11/15

Publication date: 9/25/15

#### September

Ads: 10/9/15

News: 10/9/15

Publication date: 10/23/15

### Kohala Mountain News



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**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. **All material, either in part or in whole, is protected under U.S. copyright laws. ©2015.**

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## County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilwoman Margaret Wille

### Citizen Input on General Plan Revisions Sought

**Council videoconferencing center:** Our North Kohala videoconferencing site will be relocated from September through December 2015 to allow for ADA compliance renovations at the old Bank of Hawai'i building. The temporary video conferencing location beginning for the September 15 and 16 Council meetings is yet to be determined.

**Senior Citizen Club meeting on September 14:** I plan to attend this meeting to update everyone on plans for a North Kohala shuttle bus service – including the planned route and time table. Start date is uncertain as the proposal must go out for bid.

**General Plan revision:** As some of you know, the County has embarked on a revision of its General Plan. The General Plan is our big picture blue print of our island-wide policies and goals. This legal document is important because it is superior to all County ordinances and programs. The North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee already submitted recommended changes to the Planning Director. The Council has until September 8 to submit its members' recommendations.

I started working on my proposed revisions based on input from all around the District, and

ended up doing a re-write of the policies and goals in all of the following subject areas: Agriculture; Economic Development; Education and Libraries; Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services; Energy; Environment; Governance and Ethics; Health and Recreation; Housing and Shelter; Military; Sense Of Place, Natural



Courtesy of Margaret Wille  
Margaret Wille

Beauty, Culture, Public Access; Tourism; Transportation and Traffic Circulation; Water Availability and Quality; and Waste Water Services and Solid Waste Services.

Yikes! This took a long time, but was worth the effort and now provides a backboard for community members to compare with

their own ideas.

My recommendations will be discussed and voted on for referral to the Planning Director at the September 2 Council meeting, with public testimony at 9 a.m. Call my office for a complete draft of this Resolution and please feel free to come testify. Let me know what I am missing, what you would change, and what you like.

Here, for example, are a few of the provisions in my proposed section on Agriculture:

#### AGRICULTURE:

##### 1. BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH OF THE SOIL:

a) Prioritize the long-term health of the soil and surrounding ecosystems, including by promoting sequestration farming practices that maximize the amount of carbon dioxide pulled from the atmosphere and minimize its loss when stored in soil such as use of cover crops, routine crop rotation, and expansive composting to limit the impact of drought.

b) Promote on-island private and community compost operations to maximize the availability of compost and mulch (that has been processed to eliminate the risk of little red fire ants and other invasive species).

c) Discourage the use of

glyphosate-containing herbicides and other toxic herbicides.

##### 2. IRRIGATION "DITCH" WATER:

a) Prioritizing functioning of irrigation ditch systems.

b) Prioritizing that irrigation ditches are under the control of state or county governmental entity, in or not in partnership of non-profit entity, in order to prevent exclusive control of agricultural irrigation systems by single private entities.

c) To the extent possible diversify uses of irrigation systems to include recreational use of ditches.

d) Prioritize protection of the irrigation ditch aquatic ecosystem.

e) Prioritize management of irrigation ditches as exercise in cultural and historical preservation.

##### 3. MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES AND GROW LOCATIONS:

Allow Community Development Plan (CDP) Districts to opt out of marijuana and hemp growing and dispensary locations based upon a vote of the CDP Action Committee and upon approval of the Council and mayor.

With much Aloha,  
Margaret Wille

Telephone: 808-887-2043

## Police Department Update

### Community Aids in Peaceful End to Tragic Event

Aloha North Kohala,

The month of July was a tough month for us due to the shooting in which one of North Kohala's own officers was wounded by a firearm. Although there are many cities in which news like this is an everyday occurrence, this is a very big issue for us in North Kohala. North Kohala is a tight knit community in which we care for each other, and to hear of something

like this happening is somewhat absurd.

Unfortunately, when this event occurred I was off-island for a training class. When I heard the news my heart sank and I felt powerless because I could do so little from where I was. Upon my return, I was pleased and amazed at how close our community had become in support of not only our officer's well-being, but the well-

being of each member of our community.

We, the officers of North Kohala, wish to thank the community for its cooperation and understanding. We apologize for the duration of this event, but we are very thankful for the peaceful outcome in the end.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to you, the community of North Kohala, and we

would like to acknowledge that this outcome would not have happened if it wasn't for your compassion and understanding. This matter could have taken a turn for the worse, but due to the loving community that North Kohala is, the event eventually came to a peaceful end.

We would like to thank those we had to evacuate from their homes. We understand the importance and comfort of one's home and it causes us discomfort when we have to knock on peoples' doors and inform them that they need to vacate their homes due to dangerous circumstances.

We greatly appreciate when residents understand we are only doing this for their safety as well as the officers' safety.

I only hope that an event like this would never happen again. However, I am glad to know that if it does, our North Kohala community is ready and willing to come together as one, and that is something no other community on Hawai'i Island could ever compete with.

Mahalo Nui,  
Officer Kapelieli Kaua-  
hikaua, Jr. (Officer KJ)



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## Fresh Off The Grid: Kohala's Own, Kohala Owned, Kohala Grown

Story and photos by Lani Eugenio  
 There's a new food truck on the block on the way to Pololu! The vibrant hibiscus hedges in bloom and the colorful hand-crafted signs scream to stop for ice cream. Vehicles park neatly in a row facing the horizon as customers relax under the shaded picnic tables, in awe of the mountain to ocean views. The atmosphere is friendly and inviting. One can feel the aloha in the air.

### KOHALA'S OWN

A young entrepreneur runs this delightful venture with the help of her 'ohana. Jessica Punahele (Puna) Svendsen, opened her little snack shop on Memorial Day weekend, 2015. Her business is legally compliant and permitted by the various agencies of the State and the County.

Puna comes from a family line that traces their genealogy to royalty on Maui who came to Kohala in the late 1600's. She knows her history and shares her knowledge.

"Some tourists say, 'So you're a real Hawaiian!' and they are so thankful to hear that information from someone who actually grew up here in Kohala," Puna said.

Although young, Puna has a wealth of experience. She attended Kanu O Ka Aina Charter School in its formative years, then



*Punahale Svendsen, owner of Fresh Off the Grid, practices her passion for delicious food at her new establishment.*



*The colorful Fresh Off the Grid sign attracts travelers to stop for refreshment and a world-class view.*



*Kainani runs on her way to play with new-found friends. Visitors as well as Puna and Nani rest under the shade of the tree overlooking their "off the grid" self-sustainable farm of fruit trees, flowers and vegetables.*

transferred to Kohala High for her senior year. After graduation, she flew to Texas to attend a Collision Repair & Refinishing school. Puna graduated top of her class of 300 mostly male students and received the Jerry Hill Award for the "Best All-Around Student". Despite being first in her class, when Puna came home, she was unable to find work in the auto body field.

She headed back to Houston and worked as an auto painter, spraying big trailers, trucks, cranes, etc., using 55 gallon drums of industrial paint for 10 hours nightly. The paint toxins nearly killed her, so she came home to recover. For seven months, she couldn't work at all as she was

highly allergic to any man-made chemical. Her lungs, throat, tongue and eyes would swell and she had to take potent drugs just to stabilize her condition. It took a whole year to clean out Puna's blood, and she could no longer do what she went to school for.

### KOHALA OWNED

Her mother suggested she try the food industry, another of her passions. She worked for King's View Café when they first opened, eventually ending up managing the place. Puna advanced to being the sushi chef and baker at Roy's in Waikoloa, then moved back closer to home, rolling sushi at Sushi Rock.

Punahale is elated to do what she enjoys, with the benefit of

"Just being able to drive one minute up the road...working basically in my back yard." Her 3-year old daughter, Kainani, mingles freely with the children, initiating conversation, which leads to a game of chase followed by gleeful giggles, then uninhibited jubilant laughter.

### KOHALA GROWN

The house they live in is "off the grid" as it is solar-operated and they have catchment tanks with water filtration and purifying systems. Puna and her parents grow a variety of fruit trees and plant foods as well as flowers and foliage for her mom's business, "He Nani Florist". They live off the grid, are independent of the ditch water and are already meeting the CDP Agricultural goal of 50% Food Sustainability by 2018.

Presently, besides the fresh fruit and vegetables, "Fresh Off the Grid" sells ice cream, cold drinks, shave ice and smoothies. Puna is planning for when Kainani goes off to preschool and she will have time to work on expanding the menu. Lunch, perhaps? Hmm... We can expect the same quality of delectable dishes and delicious desserts Puna is known for creating. Yummm!

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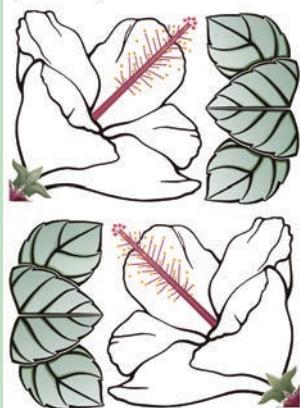
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## Local Woman Becomes Nonagenarian

Photos and captions by Lani Eugenio

Audrey "Leila" Davenport celebrated her ninetieth birthday on July 11 with a birthday bash held with friends and family. Leila comes from a line of Hawaiian opera singers and musicians, still has a beautiful voice and dances the hula.

Her brother and two-time Olympian, the late Bill Smith, was one of the most successful competitive swimmers in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century.



Audrey "Leila" Davenport wears beautiful lei at her ninetieth birthday celebration July 11, 2015.



The Davenport Family: Richard, Mona Lum King, Audrey "Leila" Davenport, Audrey Veloria

People always commented on Leila's "natural vibrancy" from when she was young. She credits her good health, quick mind, strong body and cheery disposition to the care of her special-needs son Richard, and her faith and membership in the Latter Day Saints Church. She is also the mother of David Davenport on Oahu.



Leila Davenport with her youngest of four sisters, Ululani Malani of Kawaihae.

## New Cesspool Law May Benefit Many Kohala Homeowners

By Toni Withington

Kohala homeowners can breathe a sigh of relief because many of the costly provisions of the new state cesspool rules have been removed from proposals discussed in legislature last spring. On the other hand the new rules may be a big benefit through large tax credits to upgrade sewage disposal in critical areas. Details of the new law, which became effective in July, were explained to members of the CDP Growth Management Subcommittee earlier this month by Environmental Engineer Mark Tomomitsu of the Department of Health.

First off, provisions for requiring costly upgrades to septic tanks whenever a house is sold are out. Cesspools will now not be allowed when building new homes. Hawai'i becomes the last state to ban construction of new cesspools.

Instead the State will now share the cost of replacing old cesspools by offering tax credits of up to \$10,000 to homeowners in critical coastal and watershed areas for converting to a septic tank system or an aerobic treatment system, or hooking up to a sewer system. Like the energy tax credits that allowed for the construction of solar water heaters and solar generated electricity, the credit will pay for a significant

part of the cost of conversion. Cost for changing from cesspool to septic tank for a single house in Kohala now runs around that amount when including permits and hookups.

The critical areas where the credits will apply are cesspools within 200 feet of the shoreline, a perennial stream or a wetland, and homes near drinking water wells where it takes less than two years of travel time from a cesspool to a public drinking water source.

The map shared by Tomomitsu showed almost half of the cesspools in North Kohala could be eligible for a tax credit, mostly because they are near gulches with streams, the coast or the water wells mauka of Hawi. It is expected that owners of qualified cesspools will be able to apply for the tax credits starting early in the year 2016. The credits will only be available until the year 2020. There is a \$5 million cap on credit available for each year.

The Department of Health has scheduled meetings with the public to explain the changes. Also it has begun the task of putting the mandates of Act 120, passed by the legislature and signed into law by the governor, into the existing rules regarding waste water disposal. The new rules will be published this fall.

### Cesspools by the Numbers

- 88,000 – Cesspools in the state
- 50,000 – Cesspools in Hawaii County
- 55,000,000 – Gallons untreated sewage poured in the ground each day
- 512 – Cesspools in our representative district qualifying for tax credits

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## Equine Assisted Learning and Psychotherapy Assists Trauma Victims

From August 6 through 8 Hawai'i Paso Finos in Kapa'au hosted a certification training for equine practitioners and mental health professionals in the practice of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL). The seminar specifically focused on using the therapy for returning veterans, their families and victims of trauma. The philosophy integrates natural horse and herd behavior as a model for human mental and emotional health.

Greg Kersten, the creator of the program, and his wife Jennifer flew in from Nevada to lead the training. Kersten grew up in Nebraska raising and showing horses, observing horses' behaviors and talents for keeping themselves safe and healthy. Later, as a military police K-9 handler, the important differences between herd and pack behaviors became apparent.

Working in corrections in a Washington D.C. youth prison, he began to realize the benefit horses could offer those who were struggling. He integrated these lessons and created a therapeutic program using horses.

In essence, people operate better when mimicking the behavior of herd animals like horses, where safety is the number one priority and things like food and pecking order are of lesser importance.

Herds stick together for the long haul. In a pack, as with wolves, food and pecking order are most important and members frequently fight each other and break off.

For returning vets, their herd – and therefore their safety – was their combat buddies. By learning the lessons of herd behavior from horses, trauma victims can identify the herds they belong to back home – such as family, co-workers and friends – and learn to feel safe again. Others whose herd has betrayed them with trauma or betrayal can find new places of

safety as well.

Horses also teach the critical skills of self-care. They will not go

Paso Finos owners Joe and Kelly Vitorino became interested in EAP after taking a seminar with

now in their fifth year of providing free services for local youth.

Kids come to the program from foster or troubled homes for a focused three week program that emphasizes responsibility, empathy, self-respect, boundaries, choices and consequences. They learn how to feel when their power is being taken away and how to take it back. Interactions with horses reveal the effects the youth's actions have on others, and teach them to modify their behaviors to be better received. Setting longer-term goals exercises their will to create a positive plan with concrete action steps, rather than leaving their futures to chance.

Student participants practice an enthusiastic work ethic so they can compete for jobs and move forward, spurred on by Joe Vitorino's stories of being a Portuguese immigrant growing up as a migrant dairy farmer in Central California.

He worked his way via the GI Bill to an electrical engineering degree and now lives a fulfilling life in Hawai'i doing what he loves. He continually tells the kids, "If I can do it you can do it".



Photo courtesy of Hawaii Paso Finos

Attendees of the August 2015 workshop for Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) relax after three days of instruction and practice. The method uses horses as a tool to assist in recovery from, among other things, post-traumatic stress disorder.

into danger alone, but back away and insure the herd is safe. They will then assess the threat and go after it, even charging and driving off bobcats, as long as the herd is accounted for and safe. Rather than being merely victims and prey, with fleeing as their only defense, horses will attack threats and handle them wisely.

Highly perceptive, horses reflect the emotions of people around them and must be handled with the same skills as a human relationship. Interactions with them are a dance, just as with people.

Attention to a horse's reactions can teach how to communicate with humans. If a horse retreats, that signals the need to stop and take a step back. This stops the horse's retreat and pulls the horse forward because the pressure has been pulled back. Learning the back and forth of interpersonal relationships helps in all areas of the client's life.

Seminar hosts and Hawai'i

Kersten and becoming certified in his methods four years ago. They started the Kohala Youth Ranch, a North Kohala Community Resource Center project, and are



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### Kohala Merchants Association

and its community partners are planning a  
**Kohala Block Party on November 14, 2015**  
**from 4-10pm in Hawi Town.**

The Block Party will feature Kohala Producers and Businesses, and provide free quality family entertainment for our community. Space will be provided for Kapaau merchants and non-store-front merchants/vendors in our community. If you are from Kohala and are interested in participating as a vendor or volunteer please email [kohalamerchants@gmail.com](mailto:kohalamerchants@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Next planning meeting is Wednesday Sept 2, 6pm at the Kohala Village HUB and Inn (The Old Luke's).**

# World Peace and Other Fourth Grade Achievements

By Susan Lehner

Three years ago I received an email from my son, who was living in Australia. He said, simply...“Ma...you’ve got to see this.”

and in emails with me, walking me through the game, sending me the game’s DNA, and helping me to understand how it worked. This man was so gracious and so generous with his time. I bought

40 years and I have never been as profoundly moved by a group of students as I was during this game.

The World Peace Game is a hands-on political simulation that

to play it again...I’m much smarter now.” – Sebastian, CFO

“One of the most important things is planning with your teammates and working together. I thought it felt really cool because



Photo by Susan Lehner

Kohala homeschoolers in Susan Lehner’s high school class were instrumental in building the World Peace Game play structure.

“This” was a link to the TED talk by a man named John Hunter, a fourth grade teacher in Virginia who had developed a game called the World Peace Game. I watched the talk and was so moved by what I saw that I immediately looked for an email address for John Hunter. I found it and sent him a message telling him how much his talk had affected me and how much I’d love to do the game with kids in Hawai`i. To my astonishment (this man was now very famous and obviously very busy) he answered my email personally that same day.

John Hunter was giving teacher trainings in the World Peace Game all over the world, but I could not get to one. So for the next year and a half he spent many, many hours on the phone

the movie about the game, which I watched countless times. I bought John’s book about the game, which I read over and over. Knowing it would take money to create and play the game I approached the North Kohala Community Resource Center and it became one of their projects. With their help I wrote proposals to a number of organizations and received generous grants from several. The game was on!

I was working with about 40 homeschool students at that time, and my high school class helped me build and design the four-level game board. Twenty-two students from my elementary and middle school classes played the game, which was generously housed at the North Kohala Public Library. I have worked with kids for almost



Photo by Susan Lehner

Susan Lehner’s middle school homeschoolers were the first to play the World Peace Game in Kohala.

gives players the opportunity to explore the connectedness of the global community through the lens of economic, social, and environmental crises and the imminent threat of war. The goal of the game is to extricate each country from dangerous circumstances and achieve global prosperity with the least amount of military intervention.

While all this was happening, I was able to watch children raise their thinking to a higher level, learn cooperation in very realistic and challenging situations and absolutely grow as individuals. I asked my students to tell me, in their own words, what the game meant to them. Here is what some of them said:

“I learned that dealing with money is very hard. I would love

it actually felt like you really had your own country, even though it was just a big glass board. It changed my perspective on the world: any problem can be solved if you put your mind to it.” – Tristan, Minister of Defense

“Being a part of the World Peace Game was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. It taught me about how the world really works, hidden behind all of the good things.” – Grace, Secretary of State

Last winter, I received an invitation from John to attend the World Peace Game International Master Class in Charlottesville, Virginia. In June of this year 24 educators from around the world—Romania, Austria, Norway, South Korea, Mali, and

See Peace, Page 11

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**Peace, continued from Page 10** sites around the United States—gathered at the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center in Charlottesville. In the morn-

and humble in person than he is on his TED talk or in his movie. He has surrounded himself with remarkable individuals who are dedicated to helping spread this

played 15 years ago. She is now a junior at Yale University in political science. Amelia Thompson was one of the Prime Ministers in John's TED talk. She is now enter-

ing together to make the game accessible to as many children as possible, all over the world. If you would like to see this game in a school or home-



Photo by Susan Lehner

Twenty four educators from around the globe, including Susan Lehner of Hawi, visited Monticello as part of the World Peace Game Master Class in June, 2015

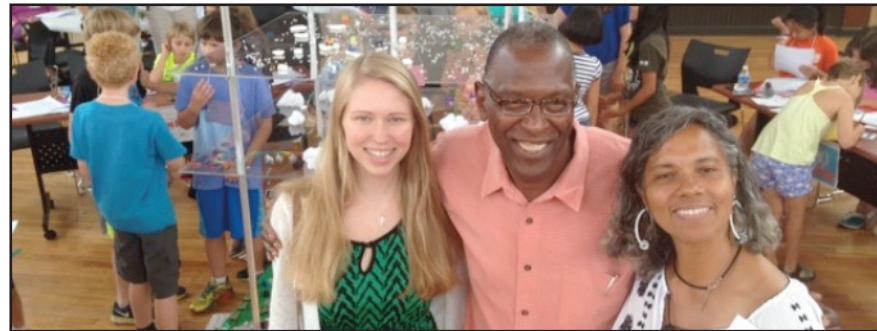


Photo by Susan Lehner

John Hunter embraces two of his earlier World Peace Game players, Grace Payne (left) and his first player ever, Tunya Bingham (right).



Photo by Susan Lehner

John Hunter and three educators from Mali dress in traditional attire for the World Peace Game Master Class formal dinner.

ings we watched John facilitate the game with a group of children ages 9-12 from around the U.S., all of whom were playing the game for the first time. Our afternoons were spent comparing notes and ideas from our own experiences with the game, and working together to develop standards for taking the game to the next level and helping it spread around the globe.

game throughout the world. He has done this work behind the scenes for 40 years, and it is just in the last few years, through the work of filmmaker Chris Farina, that the world has actually come to know this amazing man and his very important work with children and the World Peace Game.

Meeting John Hunter in person, and seeing him facilitate a game of his own, was the absolute highlight of my week in Virginia. John is even more gracious

During the week three of John's former students, who had all played the game with him, came to talk with us. Tunya Bingham played the game in 1978—the first time the game was played. She is the founder of the Metropolitan Academy for Boys. Grace Payne

ing college, studying political science. Listening to them speak of how much the game taught them, and how it influenced their lives, made us all even more determined to carry on John's work.

I also had the honor of meeting 23 remarkable educators from all over the world. These are individuals who have facilitated the game in their own cities, and have added much to the game through their unique experiences in their native countries. We will be work-

school situation, please watch John's TED talk here: [youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_UTgoPUTLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_UTgoPUTLQ) or what the kids took away from it here: [youtube.com/watch?v=coHIvAhXmTw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coHIvAhXmTw), and then email me at [slehner@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:slehner@hawaii.rr.com).



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## How to Get Free Plants for Your Garden

Story by Deborah Winter

Ever wondered how to take a plant cutting from a friend and get it started in your garden, or how to get your favorite plant to reproduce more plants?

Nate Hayward shared easy tips for growing free plants in his free Sustainable Saturday Talk "Propagation 101" on August 9 at the HUB Barn. Sponsored by Sustainable Kohala, the session drew a crowd for about 30 people who appreciated Nate's clear and helpful instruction. Nate, who gives local farm tours (see his website kohalagrownfarmtours.com), also has a local landscape business called Mana'o Design, and his extensive knowledge was apparent in his presentation on how to propagate plants.

He started with a few general principles to consider: Propagating is easier with the right tools, potting mix and nursery site.



Photo by Mellanie Lee

Nate Hayward explains easy basics of propagating plants at the Sustainable Saturday free workshop Aug 9 in the HUB Barn.

Tools are essential but minimal: clippers/pruners, folding handsaw, lopper for bigger plants, plant tags and a sharpie marker, all available at Sunshine Hardware in Hawi.

Using your own garden soil often doesn't work well in a container. The soil mix should allow for easy drainage and balanced pH. He recommends a mixture of 50% cinder and 50% macadamia nut compost (which he gets from Organic Matters near Kona airport.) Beware of peat moss, which is ecologically ravaging sites where it is harvested on the mainland, and generally holds too much water in our climate. And

finally, the site: Err on the side of shade and protection from wind. Cuttings need a little sun, but generally it's easier to get things started in a protected place. Wrap new cuttings in wet newspaper if you can't plant them immediately (maybe you are at a friend's house admiring a plant).

Nate then showed how to make cuttings from many different kinds of plants, including song of India, ti, vanilla, heliconia, sweet potato, coleus, Mexican oregano, pineapple, vetiver, dragon fruit, coconut and hibiscus. Most of these plants are ridiculously easy to propagate. Simply remove most of the leaves, cut about a 10" long stem, and stick it in the soil. Some starts like to stay in pots for a few months before being put in the ground (song of India, ti, dragon fruit). Others like heliconia and vetiver can go right in the ground where you want them to grow.

Finally, a few other general principles will make all this much easier and rewarding.

1) Use only healthy plant material.

2) Watch for fire ants and coqui frogs and don't take cuttings from places that might have them.

3) Don't forget to label your cuttings: what it is, as well as when and where you got each one.

4) Don't be afraid to experiment. Trying different cuttings in different locations is the best way to learn from the plants.

5) If for some reason a cutting doesn't show new growth in two months, give up and start over.

6) Don't be shy about initiating conversations about plants and asking for a cutting. People generally love to show you their gardens and share their success.

What makes propagation so easy for us in North Kohala is our near perfect climate for growing tropical plants. Most plants really want to grow, and with just a little bit of time and energy, they will feed us and give us much beauty. For free!

### Weekly Events in Sept

Please note these events meet every week.

#### MONDAY

7PM		Al-Anon meeting with Laura	Lower Level, Walker Hall, St. Augustine's	884-5833
7PM		Narcotics Anonymous	Wylie Hall, 'ole Road, Kalahikiola Church	889-6703
8AM	9:15 AM	Hatha Yoga with Morgan Cassidy	in the White tent, 53-496 'ole Rd	889-5151
5:30PM	6PM	Insanity Classes with Ross Pagat	Solid Rock North Church	989-0966

#### TUESDAY

9AM	10:30AM	Sitting Meditation with John	Meditation Hale, 53-3988 Akoni Pule Hwy	889-5151
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#### WEDNESDAY

7PM		Alcoholics Anonymous	Wylie Hall, 'ole Road, Kalahikiola Church	889-6703
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#### THURSDAY

7PM		Narcotics Anonymous	Wylie Hall, 'ole Road, Kalahikiola Church	889-6703
8AM	9:15AM	Vinyasa Flow Yoga, with Maya Parish	in the White tent, 53-496 'ole Rd	889-5151
2PM	4PM	Traditional Hawaiian Weaving with Auntie Mele Waikiki	in the White tent, 53-496 'ole Rd	889-5151
4PM	5PM	Beginning Hula with Auntie Mele Waikiki	in the White tent, 53-496 'ole Rd	889-5151
5:30PM	6PM	Insanity Classes with Ross Pagat	Kamehameha Park Complex	989-0966

#### FRIDAY

10AM		Preschool Story time	North Kohala Library	889-6655
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Email weekly calendar listings to kmncalendar@hotmail.com or call #339-4951



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## Island Music, Island Hearts to feature Kohala's Lim Family

Photos and captions by Lani Eugenio



Matriarch Mary Ann Lim is cushioned by pillows from her grandson's line of clothing (Manaola Hawai'i) while daughter Nani chants and son Elmer Jr. (Sonny), daughter Lorna and hula dancer, Kaulu Amaral, look on. The multi-talented Lim Family of Kohala will be the featured musicians in September of the popular KHNL television classic, "Island Music, Island Hearts".



The Pule Family: Left to right: Margaret Kao'o, Lena Kapeliela, Sarah Pule-Fujii, their grandchildren and great grandchildren, as well as spouses were honored by the Lim family. Their mother/grandmother, Sarah Moku Pule, wrote many of the Lim family's well-known songs.



Producer-director Scott Sorenson came to Hawai'i after 15 years of national and international network television projects including Saturday Night Live, West German TV documentaries, PBS specials, corporate communications and TV commercials for national clients. He had filmed the Lim Family two decades ago and this summer he documented the musical and artistic talents of the growing Lim Family.



Kumu Hula Nani Lim-Yap watches daughter Asia dance in as son Manaola chants. The siblings assist their mother in choreographing the performances. They are also active participants in their Chinese culture as drummers and lion dancers.



The grandchildren, Namakana Lim Davis and Manaola Lim Yap, perform an ancient hula for friends and family who were invited to the pa'ina (small party with a scrumptious meal) provided by Minnie's Restaurant. Charmaine, the owner of Minnie's, is the mother of Namakana, the beautiful hula dancer who reigned as both Miss Keiki Hula while in middle school and as the Merrie Monarch Festival's Miss Aloha Hula.



Coco Palm Pictures' film crew members take a break from the day-long filming at Kahua Ranch. For a preview of the up-coming Island Music, Island Hearts special go to: <http://www.cocopalmpictures.com/the-lim-family-of-kohala.html>



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**Cell: 808-989-5995**  
April K. Lee,  
RB, BA, CCIM, ABR, E-Pro





Sonny Lim passed his music skills to Anuhea, who is a respected recording artist and can now compete against the Old Master in a playful guitar duel. Sonny was nominated twice for the Grammy Award and won once for his slack key music.

## Local Food Celebration!

Hawai'i-grown local food tastes great and helps our families grow strong and live long. On Saturday, September 19, at the Hawi Farmers' Market, a Local Food Celebration is bringing together island food and nutrition experts to share the taste and wisdom of supporting sustainable agriculture and good nutrition. This fun, interactive food pavilion and event features Kohala farms and foods with music and inspiring speakers. Councilmember Margaret Wille, Chef Stephen Rouelle of Under the Bodhi Tree, Slow Food Hawai'i, The Food Basket, cookbook author Sonia Martinez, Ho'opomaikai Community Health Initiative, Dr. Hanalei Roberts, ND, and Lokahi Garden Sanctuary are among those who will be on hand to share food and nutrition resources. The event is sponsored by One Island and Same Canoe with all ages welcome to come enjoy local foods, meet local farmers and learn from our island's food and agriculture

leaders.

There are many voices in the "local food movement" and the tie-in to health, community sustainability and wise land use management is an inter-related web with the potential to solve island wide food security, economic and environmental challenges.

Slow Foods Hawai'i will be at the Local Food Celebration event and their president, Clare Bobo, shares that, "Slow Food is about reconnecting to our food sources. The easiest way to do this? Shop at the local farmers' markets! Food tastes so much better when you know the person who grew your vegetables or raised your meat or fed the chickens who laid your eggs...Kids are fully capable of peeling vegetables or shaking up ingredients in a jar for a simple salad dressing... It's so important for them to know that all food doesn't come from a drive thru window."

Lokahi Garden Sanctuary owner Richard Leibmann notes,

"North Kohala historically has been providing healthy clean food to its community for many generations...Knowing where your food comes from and how it was grown is becoming super important as poisons in the form of pesticides, herbicides, chemical fertilizers and GMO alterations pose significant health risks."

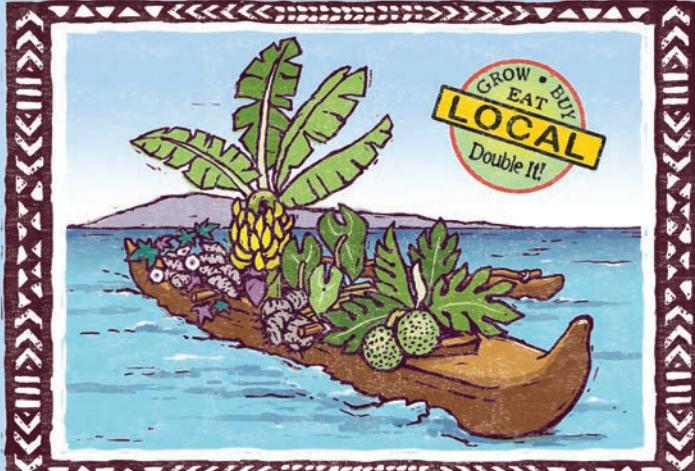
Dr. Hanalei Roberts, ND, comments that on the personal food choices level, "Our diet and the health of our GI tract is intrinsically important in managing all chronic disease. There are many different therapeutic diets out there. However, eating more local whole foods seems to be the common denominator of them all. By making local starches and veggies our staples, we naturally consume less allergenic and gut irritating foods like processed grains. By eating more grass fed and pastured local animal products we are increasing the nutritional components of these foods, while supporting more humane

animal husbandry."

The Local Food Celebration is a launch party for the Same Canoe Local Food Challenge which encourages us all to DOUBLE our local food consumption. Same Canoe also provides matching local food coupons to EBT/SNAP households and information is available at the farmers market and public library.

New Local Food Coupon Book  
A rewarding new way to buy more local and save on food costs is to purchase the Same Canoe Local Food Coupon Book. Available at the farmers market and through local groups, the 25 dollar book is packed full of over 250 dollars in savings at local grocery stores, cafes, restaurants, gift stores - even farm and garden centers, and farm tours.

**SAME CANOE • Local Food Challenge**



### Kohala Local Food Celebration!

**Sat. Sept 19th at the Hawi Farmers' Market.**  
Special Guest, Food, Ag & Nutrition Presenters, Music And Yummy Foods!  
Keiki tent too

### New Local Food Coupon Book

is launching this Fall with great savings on local food and supplies. Fundraiser for local non-profit School Garden, Ag and Food projects.  
Purchase at Farmers' Market

sweet potato 'uala • banana mai'a • taro kalo • breadfruit 'ulu

See us at The Hawi Farmers' Market on Saturdays and learn about free EBT/SNAP Coupons for local food purchases. Classes, films and workshops begin in September. See more at [www.oneisland.org](http://www.oneisland.org)

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Hawi Store Hours Tu-Fri 10-5 & Sat 8-1 @Hawi Farmers Market

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- \* Island Style Specialty Foods
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---

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## THE COQUI CORNER

AUGUST 2015  
Sites Treated:




New generation of frogs in Keokea/Niulii Gulch  
Large infestation in gulch behind Kohala Nursery

- Kohala Nursery
- Hawi Hill construction site
- Kapiko Estates
- Ainakea Subdivision
- Sunshine Hardware

Ralph's eradication team is going out twice a week to keep up with all the coquis reported around town.

**Mahalo for your continued support in Keeping Kohala Coqui Free!**

Donations are tax deductible: NKCRC attn. Coqui Coalition  
 P.O. Box 519  
 Hawi, HI 96719

Community Development Plan Action Committee

Medical Marijuana and Hemp Cultivation Prompts Community Discussion

By Lynda Wallach

An unusually large number of Kohala citizens attended the August 10 meeting of North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee (NKCDP AC). They were there to express their concerns regarding a new law providing for medical marijuana dispensaries that had been signed by Governor David Ige on July 14, 2015. The law, Act 241, allows for two medical marijuana dispensary licensees on the Big Island, each of which can operate two production centers and two dispensaries. Each production center can grow up to 3,000 plants. The law also prohibits counties from enacting zoning regulations that discriminate against licensed dispensaries and production centers.

The group was concerned that this would open the door to the commercial growing of marijuana or hemp in North Kohala and they wanted the AC to know that this was something that they vehemently opposed. Lani Eugenio of the Agriculture subcommittee stated that the CDP strategies of promoting diversified agriculture and fifty percent food self-sufficiency in North Kohala would be undermined by allowing large scale growing of marijuana and hemp, as would the goal of "keeping Kohala Kohala." Denise Park proposed that the NKCDP be amended to prevent this from happening. While members of the AC expressed sympathy for the group's intense feelings on the subject AC Chair John Winter stressed that this is a state law over which the AC has no jurisdiction. Deputy Planning Director Bobby Command also told the group that the CDP AC meeting was not the appropriate venue for making their voices heard on this matter and that they need to speak to their state and county legislators. He added, however, that he would inform the mayor of their feelings and offered to help

set up a meeting with the proper people. Winter sent the issue back to the agriculture subcommittee, explaining that any proposal for action by the AC has to come from the subcommittee in the form of a motion, not from the public, and has to be based on a specific CDP strategy.

On other issues, Winter presented revised guidelines for subcommittee reports, statements from the public on agenda items and guidelines for placing items on the agenda. Statements from the public on agenda items are solicited at the beginning and end of each meeting and are limited to three minutes. Statements on non-agenda items are accepted at the discretion of the AC chair. Anyone can request that an item be put on the agenda, but the request must be made to the AC chair, to an AC member or directly to Rosalind Newlon of the planning department at least two weeks prior to the next AC meeting. The chair and planning department representative then decide on the final agenda, which must be limited to issues over which the AC has jurisdiction. The chair may also decide that some suggested issues are better handled at the subcommittee level than prematurely before the AC.

John Adams reported that the Growth Management subcommittee had met with a representative from the Health Department who came from Honolulu to bring them up to speed on the new cesspool regulations. The state wants all cesspools within two hundred feet of the shoreline or waterways removed, and is offering a tax credit for up to \$10,000 for these projects.

Keoni MacKillop of the Public Access subcommittee said that there have been complaints from the public about access to Paho Beach. He urged anyone who has problems with access to Paho Beach or any other area where access should be allowed to make

a formal complaint to the County. Along with this, he suggested they attend the subcommittee meetings which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 at the North Kohala Senior Center. He also urged those who have concerns regarding the Kohala Shoreline LLC Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to attend the next meeting.

Winter said that the Water, Parks and Roads subcommittee has invited Senator Inouye to meet with them to discuss the Kohala Ditch.

He also reported that, although they had hoped Kohala would get a new container for green waste when the County got their next shipment of containers this summer, those have all been allocated to Volcano and Hilo. Hopefully Kohala will be getting one next spring.

Green waste which is brought up here by the County is available for pick-up at the top of Ho'ea Road. The committee is working with the water department to try to get the moratorium on water meters lifted for some of the smaller subdivisions so that people can have their

ohanas. There will be a meeting with the property owners on Pratt Road in October about opening the road for emergency access. A public meeting will be scheduled after that. The committee is also looking for a possible emergency access road for the area from Makapala to Pololu.

Finally, Susan Fischer of the Power, Viewplanes and Erosion Control subcommittee said that representatives from Paniolo Power are reaching out to "ask community members for advice" on their micro-grid concept for Kohala and have asked to meet with subcommittee members at Parker Ranch. Subcommittee members have also written letters as individuals to the planning department on Kohala Shorelines Draft EA, commenting that a tall windbreak parallel to Akoni Pule Highway would block most of the view of the ocean and that coastline views would be impacted by several proposed building sites.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AC will be on Monday, September 14, at 5:00 p.m. at the North Kohala Senior Center. As always, members of community are encouraged to attend.

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**Dr. Jonny's Health Tips:**

*Do you want to know if your food is, or came from, a genetically modified organism, a.k.a. GMO?*



A bill recently passed through the house of representatives (HR 1599) named "The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014." Sounds great, doesn't it? The bill has become known as the DARK act because it actually Denies Americans the Right to Know what is in their food. The bill aims to block states from enacting mandatory GMO labeling laws as well as allowing the continued use of the term "Natural" on GMO foods. The bill is currently making its way through the Senate.

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## KOHALA CALENDAR SEPT 2015

DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
7	MON	5:30PM	7:30PM	Kohala Parent Support Group	Meeting	The Cottage @ the HUB 895-3578
8	TUE	6PM		Kohala Farmers' Union	6pm potluck, 7pm speaker, non-farmers welcome, too	Kohala Village Inn Barn 889-5715
8	TUE	11AM		Reading Group discussion	"Leaving Time" by Jodi Picoult	North Kohala Library 889-6655
9	WED	5PM		KHS Community Council	Meeting	KHS School Library 889-7117
9	WED	6PM	8PM	AVID Ohana Night	Refreshments served/Student Program	Kohala Cafeteria
12	SAT	8:30AM	1PM	Annual Bazaar	St. Augustine's	Walker Hall 889-5390
14	MON	5PM		NKCDP AC Meeting	North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee	Old Courthouse 323-4770
14	MON	6PM		'Nature's Wonders'	A four-part Moving Art film	North Kohala Library 889-6655
14	MON	9AM		Senior Citizen Club	Meeting	Old Courthouse
19	SAT	8AM	12PM	Local Food Celebration	Launch of the Same Canoe Local Food Coupon Book	Hawi Farmers' Market
21	MON	6PM		Poetry Group meeting	Coordinated by Joshua Bowman	North Kohala Library 889-6655
28	MON	6:30PM		"Ingredients: Hawai'i"	A film sponsored by One Island	North Kohala Library 889-6655
29	SAT	11AM	12:20PM	Community Meal	At St. Augustine Church	Walker Hall 889-5390
29	TUE	5PM	6PM	CDP subcommittee	Power, Viewplanes, & Erosion Control, contact Susan Fischer	Old Courthouse 882-7611
29	SAT	10AM	12PM	Thrift Shop	At St. Augustine Church	889-5390
30	WED	4PM	5:30PM	Restorative Yoga Therapy class	with Carla Orellana, Certified Yoga Therapist, by donation	in the White tent, 53-496 `Iole Rd 889-5151
30	WED	5PM		Parks, Water & Roads Subcommittee	Monthly Meeting	Old Courthouse 882-7611
30	WED	2:30PM		Youth Book and Reading Club	Grade 4+, "The Witches"	North Kohala Library 889-6655

**Email calendar listings to [kmncalendar@hotmail.com](mailto:kmncalendar@hotmail.com) or call 339-4951.**

### KNKR's Morning Schedule is Filling Up

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
7AM	Coming Soon	Uncle David's Big Show	Cosmic Cowgirl	Uncle David's Big Show	Cosmic Cowgirl	Working Hard or Hardly Working	Swap Shop
8AM							
9AM		Riding Home	Your Kohala Connection	Women's Voices	Eco Talk	Riding Home	Live Music Showcase
10AM							Black and Gold Sports Show
11AM							

Afternoon programming will be finalized soon, so stay tuned to KNKR 96.1 FM for announcements or go to [www.knkr.org/on-air-schedule](http://www.knkr.org/on-air-schedule) to find the most current schedule.  
Sign up to have your own show at [www.knkr.org/volunteer](http://www.knkr.org/volunteer)

### Film Promises Inspiring Experience

"Moving Art", a film by Louie Schwarzberg, will be presented at the North Kohala Public Library on September 14 at 6 p.m.

Described as a "succulent sojourn for the senses," the 90-minute film merges natural beauty with contemporary ambient sounds. Schwarzberg uses state of the art technology to bring viewers closer to ancient curiosities and wonders.

For more information contact the library at 889-1020.

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## Kohala Churches

### Gospel of Salvation Kohala

*Kokoiki Road*  
**Service: Sunday 9:00 AM**  
**Adult Bible Study: Monday 6:30 PM**  
**Prayer Meeting: Friday 6:30 PM**  
*Pastor Ilima Moihā*  
[www.gospelofsalvationkohala.org](http://www.gospelofsalvationkohala.org)

### Kalahikiola Congregational Church

Service every Sunday Morning at 9:30 followed by pupus & fellowship  
Prayer time Tuesdays at 11:30  
Iole road of Akoni Pule Hwy. in Kapa'au 1/4 mile past the statue  
[www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com](http://www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com)  
889-6703

### Kohala Baptist Church

Across from Makapala Retreat  
**Sunday Services 9 am**  
Adult Bible Study/Kids on Mission 10:15 am  
Worship Service/Sunday School  
Pastor Steven E. Hedlund (808)889-5416  
[www.kohalabaptist.net](http://www.kohalabaptist.net)

### St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

Kapa'au, North Kohala • 808-889-5390  
**Sunday Services:**  
7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. - Holy Communion  
Children's Sunday School & Fellowship Brunch  
**Thrift Shop Hours:**  
Weds: 12:00 - 3:30 • Thurs: 4:00 - 6:00  
4th Saturday: 10:00 - 12:00  
**Free Community Meal:**  
4th Saturday of each month: 11:00 - 12:30  
**Vicar Diana Akiyama**  
[www.staugustineskohala.com](http://www.staugustineskohala.com)

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Hawi, Hawai'i • The Welcoming Church  
Masses: Saturday 5 pm  
Sunday 7 a.m. • 9:30 am  
Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday at 7 am  
Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Rev Elias Escanilla  
Deacon Thomas Adams  
Telephone 889-6436

## Veterans' Services Available in Downtown Hawi

Members of the Kona Vet Center staff are at the Kohala Village Hub every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for any veteran who needs to obtain services, ask questions or apply for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. Individual counseling on employment, family issues, education, bereavement and sexual trauma is also available during that time.

The Center also welcomes Kohala veterans to attend the Kona Vet Center Open House on Friday, September 11, from 11:30 to 2:00 to tour the Center, meet staff, learn more about resources available for veterans, enjoy light snacks and enroll in services. They hope to reach all post-9/11 vets who have not yet accessed services.

Vet Centers are the central program of the VA's Readjustment Counseling Service. Vet Center services are earned through military service in a combat zone or area of hostility and are provided at no cost to veterans or their families. They are staffed by small multidisciplinary teams which may include social workers, psychologists, psychiatric nurses, master's-level counselors and outreach specialists. More than 70 percent of Vet Center employees are veterans themselves, a majority of whom served in combat zones.

The Kona Vet Center is located at 73-4976 Kamanu Street, Suite 207. For more information contact Rick C. Ruchty at 329-0574.

## Kohala Sports Takes to the Airwaves

By Kalei Kealoha

KNKR Radio, 96.1 FM, aired its sports show for the first time on Saturday, August 8, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Black and Gold Sports Show will be hosted by Kohala High School (KHS) alumnus Donovan Aiona. The show will focus primarily on sports from the Cowboys and Cowgirls at the high school to community sports like Pop Warner, Kupuna Softball and Little League, to name a few.

The Under the Hood segment will update the community on the local sports news of the past week and a schedule of events and announcements for the upcoming week. Athlete of the Month will highlight the achievements of local athletes from the school and community. Roaming the Range will follow Kohala athletes who have taken their talents out of town. There will be interviews of local coaches, players and other sports support personnel as well as a discussion with a local doctor on common sports injuries. While we hope that there will more than enough local sports to fill up our time, you cannot discuss sports without talking about the pros.

The Couch Coaches segment will be general discussion of local, collegiate and professional sports.

The biggest aspect of local sports that KNKR has been working on has been to do live broadcasts of Kohala High School home games. KNKR, in conjunction with KHS, has worked out a plan to bring Cowboy football and Cowgirl volleyball to the airwaves this fall. The Cowboys will travel to Moloka'i before returning home to play the Trojans of Ka'u on August 29. This game will be broadcast live on KNKR from the KHS football field at 2 p.m. The Cowgirls volleyball game will hit the air on September 5 at 11 a.m. as they take on the Lady Daggers from Pahoa.

For those that do not have radio reception or that live outside of Kohala, do not despair. Navigate to our website, [www.knkr.org](http://www.knkr.org), where you will find our streaming player. Those on the move can download the free TuneIn app on iOS and Android and listen to us on the go as well. As the season and sports change, stay tuned to KNKR as we work to bring you more live coverage of Kohala sports.

## High School Invites Community Input

The Kohala High School Community Council is governed by school administrators, certificated and classified staff, community members and students. Council discussions cover a wide array of topics involving the climate of the school.

Of special interest is how parents and community members can partner together to realize our school's vision of "creating a community of college and career-ready, lifelong learners."

The council invites the community to join them at their upcoming meeting on Wednesday, September 9, at 5:00 p.m. in the school library. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year.

To add to the agenda, please contact Shirley Garcia-Nakamura at 889-7117 ext. 247, or [shirley\\_garcia@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:shirley_garcia@notes.k12.hi.us).

## AVID `Ohana Night Set for September

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a college and career program that all Kohala Complex area schools include in their curriculum. Students in grades K-12 receive instructional strategies that help them succeed.

An AVID `Ohana night will take place on September 9, 2015 at the Kohala Cafeteria from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the second year for the three Kohala schools to collaboratively host the `Ohana Night.

The theme follows as it did last year: Commit to Success. The program includes student presentations displays of student work and parent information.

Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend.

## Film and Seed Night Features "Ingredients: Hawai'i"

On Monday, September 28, "Ingredients: Hawai'i", an inspiring film about the growing local food movement in Hawai'i, is showing at the North Kohala Public Library at 6:30 p.m. The 30 minute film includes the voices of farmers, school gardeners, restaurateurs and chefs – all working to restore Hawai'i's food security. A light pupu potluck will be held at 6 p.m. on the back lanai of the library and a seed exchange will follow the film. To help bring the Kohala seed bank back to life, seed contributions are welcome. Donors are invited to share both food and ornamental seeds, along with their stories. The film is sponsored by the Same Canoe Local Food Challenge and One Island.

**Did you know?**  
The Kohala Mountain News is online at [www.kohalamountainnews.com](http://www.kohalamountainnews.com)  
Check us out for all the latest news in Kohala!

**KOHALA LIONS CLUB  
GIANT YARD SALE  
SAT., OCTOBER 24**  
Adams' residence at the foot of the Transfer Station Road  
Gates open 9:00-1:00

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**Steak Sale**  
**4 steaks for \$20**  
Pick-up same date and location Buy ticket for steaks from any Lions member or at Mother's Antiques, Hawi



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Fax 808-889-6202

**KOHALA  
PET CLINIC**  
MON-WED-FRI  
8:30-NOON/3-5PM



**St. Augustine's Church  
Annual Bazaar**  
Saturday, September 12th  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
James Walker Hall  
Open at 9:00 a.m.

**Silent Auction, Guided Tours, Entertainment  
Ethnic Foods and Baked Goods  
Outdoor BBQ: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Sticks  
Christmas Items, Crafts, Thrift Shop, White Elephant,  
Boutique, Fruits, Vegetables and Plant Sale  
Questions - call Kathy Matsuda at 887-5801**

## KOHALA HIGH SCHOOL 2015-2016 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

### FOOTBALL

DATE	DAY	TIME		OPPONENT	BUS
AUG 22	SAT	2:00P	@	MOLOKAI	
AUG 29	SAT	2:00P	VS	KAU	
SEPT 5	SAT	2:00P	@	PAHOA	9:30A
SEPT 19	SAT	2:00P	@	KAU	8:30A
SEPT 26	SAT	2:00P	@	PAHOA	9:30A
OCT 10	SAT	2:00P	VS	KAU	
OCT 17	SAT	2:00P	VS	PAHOA	
OCT 31	SAT	2:00P		8 MAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (if needed)	

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

AUG 19	WED	6:00P	VS	KEAAU	
AUG 22	SAT	10:00A	VS	KAMEHAMEHA	
AUG 25	TUE	6:00P	VS	WAIAKEA	
SEPT 2	WED	6:00P	VS	KEALAKEHE	
SEPT 5	SAT	10:00A	VS	PAHOA	
SEPT 8	TUE	6:00P	@	HILO	3:30P
SEPT 12	SAT	4:00P	@	HAWAII PREP	2:00P
SEPT 16	WED	6:00P	@	KONAWAENA	3:00P
SEPT 19	SAT	10:00A	@	KEAAU	6:30A
SEPT 22	TUE	6:00P	@	KAMEHAMEHA	2:30P
SEPT 26	SAT	10:00A	@	WAIAKEA	7:00A
OCT 3	SAT	10:00A	@	KEALAKEHE	8:00A
OCT 6	TUE	6:00P	@	PAHOA	2:30P
OCT 9	FRI	6:00P	VS	HILO	
OCT 14	WED	6:00P	VS	HAWAII PREP	
OCT 16	FRI	6:00P	VS	KONAWAENA	
OCT 20	TUE	6:00P		BIIF PLAYOFFS (@ Higher seed)	
OCT 22, 24	THUR, SAT	TBA		BIIF TOURNAMENT (@ East)	
OCT 28 -31	WED - SAT	TBA		HHSAA @ OAHU	

### CROSS COUNTRY

AUG 22	SAT	10:00A	@	CLA	
AUG 29	SAT	10:00A	@	HAWAII PREP	
SEPT 5	SAT	10:00A	@	KAMEHAMEHA	
SEPT 19	SAT	3:00P	@	KEAAU	
SEPT 26	SAT	10:00A	@	KAMEHAMEHA	
OCT 2	FRI	3:00P	@	HAWAII PREP	
OCT 10	SAT	10:00A	@	KEAAU	
OCT 24	SAT	2:30P	@	BIIF CHAMPS @ Kamehameha	
OCT 31	SAT	8:30A	@	HHSAA CHAMPS (MAUI)	

## Kohala Boy Scout Earns Robotics Merit Badge

Story by Fern White

Kohala's own Jarom Kaimi Hook was presented with the Boy Scouts Robotics Merit Badge

titions. Tarek Shraibati, national Boy Scouts director and regional director for Robotics Education & Competitions (REC) Foundation,



Photo courtesy of Hawai'i Boy Scouts Troop 47

Jarom Kaimi Hook (Center) of Boy Scout Troop 47 is the first Boy Scout in Hawai'i to earn the Robotic Merit Badge. Hook was awarded at the Court of Honor on August 4 in Hawi. Pictured with Hook are (left to right) Kohala Robotics Coordinator Fern White, Mentor Alvin Kawamoto, Jarom Hook's mother Lara Hook and Troop 47 Leader Jeremy Hook.

at Troop 47 Court of Honor held August 4 in Hawi. Two things make this very special for Hook and Kohala. First, he is the first Hawai'i Boy Scout to earn the badge. Second, Hook's badge involved his development and accomplishments in the after-school VEX robotics program: three state championships, two world championships, third place rank overall at the world championships, placing eighteenth out of 130 plus teams in China, and numerous tournament design and excellence awards.

Hook has been in the Kohala Robotics VEX program since his sixth grade year. Alvin Kawamoto, VEX robotics mentor, served as Hook's merit badge counselor. In addition, Cheryl Cabrera coached Hook in compe-

was introduced to Hook at the Hawai'i High School VEX Robotic State Championships in January 2015 by Kawamoto, who believed that Hook was deserving of the merit badge. At the time, Hook and Kawamoto were already working on the merit badge process. Shraibati commented, "Jarom was a pleasure to work with. His robotics mentor Alvin Kawamoto was instrumental in Jarom's success."

Kawamoto commented, "This badge is well deserved. It is not a one-day, one-time, event or demonstration. Kaimi has truly represented Kohala and our program with his performance in tournaments and during design, building and testing processes. In addition, Kaimi has gone to World Championships, where he handled the pressure of ranking in the top more than once. He handled all the pressure of the Asian Robotics League in China. He listens and is respectful and enthusiastic about robotics. The badge is well-deserved."

According to Shraibati, earning the badge requires a scout to understand how robots move (actuators), sense the environment (sensors) and understand what to do (programming). He should demonstrate robot design in building a robot both by hand and via an engineering notebook.

Merit badge counselors are directed to ensure that the scout has sufficiently explored the field of robotics to understand what it is about, and to discover whether this may be a field of interest for him as a career – truly something our Kohala youth, Jarom Kaimi Hook has done.



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# Kohala Swim Team Excels at Junior Championships

Thanks to the support of the Kohala community at our team's fundraisers, Liquid Aloha Aquatics was able to travel and compete at the recent Junior Age Group Championships held August 25 and 26 at the Veteran's Memorial Aquatic Center on O'ahu. The swimmers outdid themselves as Kyle Weyrick set a new record for the 100 meter breaststroke.

Marvelanne Clark was ill the first day of the meet but swam the following day, setting a new record in the 100 meter backstroke. Sean Weyrick also broke the record in the 100 freestyle, barely losing out of claiming the record by being out-touched by a few hundredths of a second at the finish, so he placed second. The most exciting swim was turned in by Lola Hart in the 100 meter freestyle. Off

the block Lola was swimming in fifth place until the last 15 meters, where she poured it on for a come-from-behind first place win. Other multiple-meet medal winners were Naomi Ney, Bayleigh Wiernicki, Marvelanne

Clark, Laif Showalter, William Showalter, Sean Weyrick, William Birdsall, Hazel McEvoy, Katie Wolin and Lola Hart. After the swim meet the swimmers enjoyed themselves shopping, surfing, snorkeling and cruising. At the Liquid Aloha Aquatics season-ending banquet held on August 12, Kassie Kometani was honored for her many contribu-

tions as team leader of her USA and Kohala High team. Her outstanding swim accomplishments in all of her years of competing served her well in being recruited by the prestigious Lewis and Clark College as their top sprinter. Also

honor was Vicky Kometani for her years of service as the treasurer and Board of Directors member for the team. Both will be missed, but at the same time we welcome Ashtin Hart as the new treasurer and Michelle Weyrick as secretary, joining Ingrid Clark as president and Elysia Yamamoto as vice president. Kassie has left some big shoes to

fill for the Kohala High School swim team this coming year, but senior leader Yuki Zbytovsky feels confident that sophomores Bayleigh Wiernicki, Naomi Ney, Marvelanne Clark and newcomer Kamailie Guzman

will give their all to repeat as 200 freestyle champs! The girls will be looking to recruit others to help out the swim team. Liquid Aloha Aquatics philosophy sets a high priority for education; its main strategy and goal is to help athletes continue post-high-school education. Through hard work and dedication it is hoped athletes will be able to attain a level of excellence and discipline in securing athletic scholarships at the colleges of their choice. Also high on the team's priority list is providing a drug-free, safe environment where each swimmer is encouraged to become the best he or she can be. The team practices are Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Emphasis is placed on dry land training, stroke technique, dive starts, turns and finishes, and overall fitness. All ages are welcomed, as long as you can swim 25 yards continuously. Stop by anytime during team practice for more information or to join the team.



*The 2015 Liquid Aloha Swim Team*  
 Left to right, bottom row: Bayleigh Wiernicki, Naomi Ney, Marvelanne Clark, Lola Hart, Sean Weyrick, Ivy McEvoy  
 Top row: Hazel McEvoy, Kyle Weyrick, Kanoa Birdsall, Coach Jeff Coakley, Laif Showalter, Katie Wolin

Photographer: Ashtin Hart

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## Local Craftsman Celebrates Decades of Practicing His Art

Not every community gets to boast of their own luthier, or stringed instrument maker, but Kohala does. David Gomes has been building guitars and ukulele in Kohala for the past 40 years.

He wanted to throw a party to celebrate this milestone, and invited the entire Kohala community. On July 25, with help from Richard Bodein, Lehua Ah Sam and others, the Kohala Village Hub was filled with music, food and live entertainment, free of charge for anyone who cared to stop in. The event drew a crowd of 125 music lovers.

Performers at the event included North Shore Live, John and Hope Kiawe and their granddaughters, Nino Ka'ai, Wendy Hindley, Joey Bradley, Hula Halau O Kukui Aloha O Kohala and, of course, David Gomes. Those with instruments Gomes had made were invited to bring them along for a group photo.

Born and raised in Kohala, Gomes started building instruments at 23 years old. Dropping out of college in his late teens, he had some money from the sugar plantations and decided to travel to Madrid, Spain, to study flamenco and classical guitar. Over the course of two separate trips he got to know guitar makers, most notably the renowned

master "guitarrero" Paulino Bernabé, who allowed him to linger in their shops all afternoon and watch them practice their craft. He learned about the process, but mostly picked up the extreme

sharing the building with Sunshine Hardware when it was in Kapa'au, then moved his shop to his residence in 1995.

Gomes notes the yin/yang relationship of being both a



Photos courtesy of David Gomes

*Kohala owners display their custom guitars and ukulele built by local craftsman David Gomes at the David Gomes Day celebration on July 25. Gomes threw a party for the community to celebrate his 40 years of building instruments in Kohala.*

attention to detail, quality of materials, and craftsmanship necessary to build a fine guitar.

Once back home he made a few guitars in his father's shop and gave them away. But in 1975, after work on the sugar plantations was gone, it was time to start an independent business. He dedicated himself to making guitars and ukulele, spent 17 years

maker and player of instruments. One role is focused on materials, physical process and tangible results. The other is purely an emotional, personal expression that travels through the air for a brief time, then disappears.

Of his craft Gomes says, "The joy of sensing the brilliantly flamed grain of a wood under its grass-covered, cracked and gray

exterior is a sublime experience, one that takes years to cultivate. I love making instruments. People are so happy when they get them. They tell me their instruments are the first thing they'd grab in a house fire and that they are the most precious thing they own."

Gomes likens the instrument-making process to farming. First things start slowly, finding the right wood and materials, and several months go by with no income. Suddenly everything comes together and it's like harvest time, when the crop comes in and is ready for paying customers. He makes the instruments in batches, for example eight guitars and two ukulele concurrently, since it's more efficient. Each instrument is custom-made for a specific person, with some customers preferring to be more involved in the process by selecting their own wood.

Gomes used to have a two-year backlog, but when orders declined steeply in 2008 he stayed busy and the backlog shrank. The waiting period is currently about one year.

Like the great violin maker and player Antonio Stradivari of Stradivarius fame, who made fine instruments until he died at the age of 93, Gomes hope to make exceptional quality instruments for decades to come.

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