

Vol.15, No. 1

January 22, 2016

Hawi Post Office Moving



Photo courtesy of Nakahara Store

The United States Postal Service office in Hawi, circa 1920.

A new 10-year lease between the United States Postal Service (USPS) and Surety Kohala Corporation was recently signed for the Hawi Post Office.

As part of the negotiations, the postal service requested and received a lease for the former Nakahara Dry Goods space.

After suffering through decades in the hot, tiny space adjacent to the entry to Nakahara

Store, the new location 25 feet away will quadruple the size of the post office, with most of the new space being dedicated to work space and storage for postal back-office operations.

Best of all for postal employees, they will finally – after decades of sharing a rest room with the employees of Nakahara Store – have their own restroom.

A more visible location,

improved handicap accessibility, more parking, and a brighter, more spacious mailbox and service lobby will greet patrons once the new post office is opened for business.

USPS is beginning renovations in January, with completion anticipated in April.

Upon completion of exterior and interior renovations, the existing post office will be closed

and all services, including mailboxes, will be transferred into the new space.

Having watched over Hawi's transformation – from a vibrant industrial sugar center, to a run-down post-sugar backwater, to a rising funky tourist stop – the Hawi Post Office has witnessed much in nearly 100 years in the same space. Who knows what she will witness in the next 100 years.

Kalaupapa Remembered



Velda Napua Akamu organized the solemn ceremony at the Kamehameha Statue to remember the occasion that separated thousands of families for more than 100 years. Her parents lived and died in Kalaupapa. Babies born there were whisked away to live with family or to be adopted.

Story and photos by Lani Eugenio

Wednesday, January 6, marked the 150th anniversary of when the first 12 people were sent to Kalaupapa because of government policies regarding people affected by leprosy. They were the first of an estimated 8,000 people who were taken from their families and sent away. There are still 15 people, all cured, who have the right to live at Kalaupapa because they were isolated under the old laws. They continue to reside there by choice because it has become their home. Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for the Kalaupapa community, helps descendants learn about their ancestors who were at Kalaupapa and works in partnership to preserve the history.

Please contact Lani Eugenio at (808) 315-8728 or at ha_lani_ink@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining the Kohala branch of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa. Kohala has an interesting historical relationship to Kalaupapa.



Members of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa honored their ancestors with songs, prayer and stories of their families who were sent to the isolated leper colony.

Left to right: Aina Akamu and his niece, Velda Napua Akamu, Mary Ann Lim and Kekai Coakley.

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Hao'oli Makahiki Hou!



Photo by Cal Dorn of Paradise Helicopters

The annual tradition at the Upolu Airport wishes all inbound and outbound traffic the best for the holidays and beyond.

Humpbacks in Hawi



Photo by Richard Elliott

Early work of a mural featuring humpback whales appears on a fence in downtown Hawi. Paradise Postal and CarTow are sponsoring Elijah Rabang in painting the mural, and have future plans to sponsor a second mural next to this one after its completion.

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Mahalo to Dorrance Family Foundation
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Credit Union Funds "First Book" Program for Keiki

Tutu and Me (TTM) Home Visitor Lani Bowman was "talking story" with Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union (HCFCU) Manager Lakme Nishii one day. Both women, being very involved in the North Kohala community, were swapping stories of all the cool happenings in the community.

Bowman excitedly told Nishii about her job as a home visitor with TTM. She began, "So I told this four-year-old to read to his brothers and he said, 'But Auntie I don't know how to read!'" Bowman had responded, "I just read you Dr. Seuss' Cat in the Hat; do you remember the story?" When the boy excitedly nodded yes, Bowman encouraged him to have confidence, saying, "So just make up the story as you show your brothers the pictures." The four-year-old mesmerized his brothers with his rendition of the book, and continues to read to them to this day.

After this success Bowman also encouraged their 10-year-old cousin to read to the boys. "This way the 'ohana becomes involved, and it empowers the older keiki as well as caregivers to be teachers," Bowman shared. "The younger brothers are now picking up the

books and reading to me! I have come to realize how important establishing a love for books at an early age is! I think some people feel "reading," or education, for that matter, does not start until kindergarten, when most keiki start their formal education. Education begins at birth!"

TTM Home Visiting Program,

a program of Partners in Development Foundation, encourages caregivers as their keiki's first and most important teacher. "I tell parents it is not rocket science. Even if they are not good readers or cannot read, they can make up stories and engage keiki - even infants - in reading."

Statistics on the positive effects

of early literacy in the child's later years abound. For example:

Children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are three to four times more likely to drop out in later years.

(http://www.read-faster.com/education_stats.asp#literacystatistics)

Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and is linked with literacy development and, later on, with achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school. The percentage of young children read to three or more times per week by a family member is one indicator of how well young children are being prepared for school. (<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/edu1.asp>)

Bowman also shared the program "First Book" with Nishii. First Book provides new books to children in need, addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy: access to books. (<http://www.firstbook.org/>) In tough economic times books may be one of those extras parents may do without, especially for younger keiki. Bowman adds, "Through this program we may

See Books, Page 4



Photos courtesy of Lani Bowman

Partners in Development (PID) Home Visitor Lani Bowman, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union Manger Lakme Nishii and Student Teller Melanie Sahagun show books purchased by the credit union for the PID First Book program. First Book gives free books to keiki in economically challenged households to encourage reading at a young age.

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Books, continued from Page 3
 be able to provide keiki the first book of their own. Who knows? Planting that seed may change the child's life. It's worth the cost, which is minimal thanks to the First Book program."

Taken with Bowman's enthusiasm, Nishii said she may be able to help. Nishii was able to provide funds to purchase approximately 350 books for the program.

"I cannot tell you how grateful we all are for this generous gift." Bowman laughs as she adds, "I really am not that much of a reader! It recently came to me why I am so passionate about books. My mom, who is no longer alive, was a librarian and avid reader. I think the idea must have come from her!"

In early December Bowman received a shipment of books. Credit Union personnel helped put HCFCU stickers on the books and Bowman will distribute them. Books will be distributed between the three sites of the home visiting program, all in economically challenged areas of Hawai'i - Ka'u and Kohala on the Big Island, and on Molokai.

In late December Bowman received another seven cases of books, with four more on their way. Bowman exclaims, "Yikes! BIG mahalo to Danny Garcia, principal at Kohala Elementary, for receiving the books and per-

sonally helping transport them to our office in the old "lamp" building next to CSC Café." Bowman added, "The Elementary school has been so supportive of our program, we are donating a copy of each book to their library. This is the least we can do to say

mahalo!"

The TTM Home Visiting Program is a free program for caregivers in the Kohala, Waimea and Kawaihae area with keiki 0-5. For more information contact Bowman at 365-3157 or lbowman@pidfoundation.org.



Kohala Elementary School Principal Danny Garcia helped receive and transport shipments of books for Partners in Development's First Book program. The school library will receive a donated copy of each book in the program, expanding the selection of books available to Kohala students.

Lions Club Reminds Groups to Submit Donation Requests

Twice a year - in January and July - community groups who submit an application to the Lions club will be considered for a donation. Applicants must serve the Kohala community with preference given to groups that serve youth or the needy. Applicants must use the application form, which can be requested by email or hard copy. Completed applications will be considered by the Lions with awards announced in a timely fashion after each deadline.

For more information about the Kohala Lions Club, call Chris Brown at 884-5122.

To Request an Application

Applications for donations from the Lions may be requested by email from msolis1@hawaii.rr.com, or a hard copy may be requested by calling Chris Brown at 884-5122. All completed applications must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2016.

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Letters

Good Samaritans Helped My Daughter

Thank you to the two angels who helped my daughter get her truck out of the mud on the road to the transfer station in December. There are truly wonderful people in Kohala. We feel so blessed to live in a place where people will stop to help each other.

Thank you again and our family will "pay it forward" and help out when we see others in need.
Mahalo,
Wendy Nickl

Library Events

Simple Fermentation to Be Demonstrated

Anna Peach, owner of Squash and Awe Farm, will offer a demonstration of simple fermentation at the North Kohala Public Library to jumpstart a new year of healthy eating and living at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 1.

"Fermentation is so easy," Peach told librarian Janet Lam. "I have no secrets," she says. "We keep this knowledge alive by sharing it."

Contact the North Kohala Library at 889-6655 for further information on these programs or to request special accommodation.

Library Film Series Features "Tea Time"

North Kohala Public Library will show the documentary film "Tea Time" at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, February 29. This is the second in a series of three documentary films done in collaboration with POV, the award-winning independent non-fiction film series on PBS.

"Ritual is often associated with powerful and impersonal institutions, but for five Chilean women, ritual centers on a monthly gathering that has sustained them through 60 years of personal and societal change. "Tea Time" is a charming and poignant look at how a seemingly mundane routine of tea and pastries has helped the well-heeled participants commemorate life's joys and cope with infidelity, illness and death. A celebration of the small things that help us endure, "Tea Time" was filmed over five years by filmmaker Maite Alber. The film illuminates a beautiful paradox: As familiar worlds slip away, friendships grow ever stronger and more profound.

A co-production of ITVS International; Official Selection of the 2014 International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam. A Co-production of ITVS International; a Co-presentation with Latino Public Broadcasting."

The film series concludes with "The Beats of the Antonou" at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 28.

Additional information on each of these films can be found at the PBS/POV website: www.pbs.org/pov.

For additional information on the film presentations at North Kohala Public Library, contact Janet Lam at 889-6655.

Library Accepting Donations for Book Sale

North Kohala Public Library is currently accepting book and media donations in anticipation of the annual Friends of North Kohala Library Book and Bake Sale on Saturday, March 19. The sale will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Kohala High School cafeteria.

Books, videos, CDs and DVDs in good condition may be dropped off at the library during any open hours.

Encyclopedias will not be accepted and any textbooks must have been published within the past ten years.

The library hours are: Noon - 8 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Fridays.

Donations are tax deductible. Library staff can provide receipts for tax purposes when the materials are delivered to the library.

Call the library at 889-6655 for additional information

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.

February Deadlines:
Ads & News: 02/12/2016
Publication date: 02/26/16

March Deadlines:
Ads & News: 03/11/16
Publication date: 03/25/16



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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.

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KEEC Arena Finds New Location, Announces Annual Meeting

Since 2012, Kohala Equine Education Center (KEEC) has had a license agreement with Kohala Institute at Iole to build a community arena on their land.

Originally planned for the makai area where the Kohala Country Fair was held in recent years, in 2015 KEEC was invited to switch to an alternative 10-acre site just mauka of the highway.

The new site offers many advantages. The original site required extensive (and therefore expensive) grading, and only a few contractors had the necessary equipment to prepare the site. The new site will require minimal grading at most, with the pri-

mary site preparation being simply removal of macadamia nut trees. The new site already has water available, and the trees will provide shade for horses and riders.

The new arena site also integrates much better with Kohala Institute's five-year plan to offer agricultural, educational and cultural programs.

The trade-off is that KEEC now has a deadline to build the arena in 2016 or risk losing the site to other uses.

While permitting and fencing is underway, KEEC's fundraising efforts will focus on raising money needed for remaining site work and arena materials so the arena can be opened to member use in fall of this

year.

The KEEC Board of Directors would like to express its appreciation to the Russell Family Foundation for a generous donation to kick off this year's fundraising.

The annual membership meeting for KEEC will be held Tuesday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the North Kohala Community Resource Center (Welcome Center). Membership costs only \$60 per year and is open to anyone who supports KEEC's goals, whether or not the member owns horses or plans to use the arena. For more membership information, contact Fern White (896-0316) or Katie Adams (987-0859).

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County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilwoman Margaret Wille

Senior Club Cherry Pie Bake Off: Saturday, February 6, at the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival, my office will be partnering with the North Kohala, Waimea and Waikoloa Senior Citizen Clubs to host the Third Annual Cherry Pie Bake-Off.

Club members submit cherry pies for the judges to rank the top three pies and award prizes. If you would like to support one of these Clubs by submitting a cherry pie, please do so.

Otherwise, join the fun; watch the judging at noon and then share in the pie tasting! The event will be held at "The Pie Tent" at Church Row.

Voicing Concerns About The Police Department: On February 2, the Council will discuss concerns about the Police Department. We have an exceptional County Police Department but where there are concerns, those concerns should be addressed.

For example, what training is our police force receiving to respond to domestic violence or to terroristic threatening, e.g., "active shooter" incidents? What systems are in place to ensure that confiscated drugs are properly handled? How does the department work with Neighborhood Watch groups? What are the pros and cons of police body cameras?

Agricultural Tourism Bill 116: My ag-tourism bill will again be heard on February 2. The principle mission of this legislation is to provide small farming operations the opportunity to engage in ag-tourism without overburdening them with unnecessary regulations and permitting expenses.

Following further Council consideration, this bill will be forwarded to the County planning director and Planning Commission for their input. Suggested amendments to my current draft include prohibiting any commercial ag-tourism operation in

Waipio Valley.

Agricultural Use Dedication Program: On February 2 we will also be continuing discussions on improving the ag-dedication real property tax program. Although the objective of this program is to support and promote agriculture, many in the year-to-year "non-dedicated" program are not farming.

Currently this program results in the loss of about \$28 million in tax revenue. Options include eliminating that program and replacing it with a 3- or 5- year ag-dedication program. Alterna-

tively, this program may be continued, but with a significantly reduced benefit.

CDP Action Committee Bill: This legislation would improve the administration of the CDP Action Committee program in terms of filling vacancies and allowing members to continue for a second term.

Ethics Board: I proposed a number of changes, including increasing the number of seats on the board to nine (currently there are five board seats, only three of which have been filled); requiring that members be appointed from the various districts (all of the current members are from the Hilo area); requiring that the Board alternate its meetings between Hilo and Kona (currently the Board only meets in Hilo); and possibly allowing Council members to appoint members when the mayor has not done so within a certain number of months.

Styrofoam Legislation: In February or March I intend to introduce a bill to limit the use and sale of retail Styrofoam food containers.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the above legislation, give my office a call: 808-887-2043.

With much aloha,
Margaret Wille
Councilmember for North and South Kohala



Photo courtesy of the Office of Margaret Wille

Councilmember Margaret Wille and the rest of the County Council joined with the presidents of the three District 9 senior citizen clubs for an official Commendation ceremony, sponsored by Councilmember Wille, honoring each of the presidents for their community service.

Back row (left to right): Councilmembers Aaron Chung, Karen Eoff, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Valerie Poindexter, Daniel K. Paleka, Jr., Maile David

Front row (left to right): Waikoloa Senior Club President Stephanie Stearns, Councilmember Margaret Wille, North Kohala Senior Club President Bobby Glory, Waimea Senior Club President Pat Lewi



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Kohala Real Estate Market Slows In 2015

By Beth Thoma Robinson R(B)

There was a sense overall of a slower pace in Kohala's real estate market in 2015, compared with the housing market in Kailua-Kona, let alone O'ahu or the mainland. The numbers bear that out. Only 30 homes sold in 2015, compared with 35 in 2014 and 48 in 2013!

SUMMARY: Healthy Market at the Moderate End of Home Prices

It is likely the lower number of sales is due to lower inventory to meet demand in the moderate price level. The median sales price of a home in Kohala in 2015 was only \$433,500, although sales ranged from \$153,000 to \$1,800,000. With most homes listed above \$600,000, and many sellers hoping for price appreciation that just hasn't materialized, supply and demand were, and remain, out of balance overall.

In 2013 there were 29 homes sold below \$350,000, in 2014 there were 15, and in 2015 only 13 homes sold at this price point. These affordable homes go quickly. The median was only nine days on market and they typically sold for 100% of asking price.

In the middle of the market,

another five homes sold for \$355,000 to \$555,000. There was a little more negotiation as the average sale was for 94% of asking price, and was a little more than two months on the market.

Higher End Active in Kohala but Inventory Exceeds Demand

The only sales of homes listed above \$600,000 but below \$1 million were five sales below \$700,000. Not a single home sold that was listed in the \$700,000 to \$999,999 range, although there are currently nine homes listed in that price point. Moreover, the apparent "days on market" is misleading for those listings, because many were for sale for a year or more before resting or changing agents to reset the clock.

There were also five sales in 2015 of Kohala homes listed for over \$1 million. Some of these were notable properties that had been on the market for years.

The Plantation Manager's house in Hawi was listed at \$1,686,000 after price reductions. It sold for \$1,480,000.

The striking contemporary home visible from the highway in Niuli'i was listed for \$3,400,000 and sold for only \$1,800,000.

The large, gracious 6,000 square foot home on the mauka side just before Makapala Road was an unusual sale on the surface, as the list price was \$1,395,000 and the property sold for \$1,475,000. However, this sale included an adjacent parcel of land, accounting for the discrepancy.

There were also two homes sold in Malibu Ridge II, with the west-facing ocean and Maui views, for \$999,000 and \$1,125,000.

Vacant Land: Fewer Sales, Higher Prices

2015 saw fewer sales of vacant land and a modest upward trend in price on some comparable parcels. There were a total of 22 parcels sold, ranging from \$130,000 for a little residential lot on Holy Bakery Road, to two 20-plus-acre parcels at the Ranch at Puakea that were listed for \$1.2 million each, and sold for \$850,000 and \$902,500.

Just as in the residential market, the least expensive listings went quickly and sold for asking price. More expensive land listings can take nearly a year to sell, and many of these have been listed repeatedly for several years, so the apparent

days on market does not always tell the story.

As much of Kohala is zoned Ag-20a - meaning agricultural, minimum 20 acres - in some ways a 20-acre lot serves as a benchmark to look at pricing. Although averages can be misleading, the median price for 20 acres in 2015 was \$630,000, versus \$520,000 in 2014. Part of this was a different mix, but for similar parcels, the market seems to be up perhaps 5-10%, depending on location.

Another important factor in the market for raw land in Kohala is the willingness of sellers to finance.

Of the 22 sales, six of them were seller-financed and only four buyers got land or construction loans. More than half of buyers paid cash.

Although there were sales in the gated Puakea communities, sold statistics show a large segment of the buyers choose Kohala because they are looking for a property where they can do farming or ranching, or just build their home without a design review process. That's good news for our community's efforts to preserve the rural, small town, agricultural way of life.

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Greetings from the State Capitol...

The 2016 Legislative Session is gearing up and began Wednesday, January 20, 2016. The halls are beginning to buzz with new session hires, lobbyists, and constituents as the Senators return from their conferences, vacations and meetings. I am looking forward to my new role as Chair of the Senate Transportation and Energy committee. Our office has hired two new staff members to help with the growing workload. Angela Thomas (Waimea) continues as Office Manager, William "Skip" Bethea (Hilo) is our new Committee Clerk, and Kaala Coleman and Ernest Freitas round out the team as Legislative Assistants.

I feel prepared to take on the role of Committee Chair having spent much of the interim in meetings with Transportation and Energy business leaders and lately visiting harbors, airports and highways across the state. I am also a member of the Ways and Means; Hawaiian Affairs; and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs committees. Please be assured though, that I will still prioritize my role to represent constituent issues in our district. Our new office is in Room 210; we enjoy welcoming visitors, especially constituents. Please make it a point to stop by.

I wish you all the Blessings for the New Year and hope your Heart and Home are warmed with the Spirit of the Season.

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How to Cook Kalua Pig in an Imu

Story and photos by Tom Morse
Since ancient times, Hawaiians have roasted pig in an underground oven called an imu.



The pig

The process, as described herein, yields succulent meat with a wonderful smoky flavor. Usually a whole pig is cooked in the imu, although ten pound pork butts purchased at the supermarket may be used. The freshly killed pig needs to be gutted and cleaned, with the body hair removed.



Cleaning the pig

To prepare the imu, dig a hole about eight feet in diameter, and about three feet deep. Leave a two foot wide solid surface around the hole. Then clear and till the soil a foot deep in an additional

four foot circle around the hole. The tilled soil should then be raked back away from the hole. Cut a trench about a foot wide by a foot deep around the circumference of the hole and rake back the dirt.



Prepping the imu

Place newspaper in the center of the hole. Then place a piece of pipe five feet long and two inches in diameter vertically in the center of the imu, so that its bottom end is in contact with the newspaper. This will create an opening to be used to light the fire. Pack kindling around the pipe and on top of the newspaper. Then add kindling and cut hardwood logs (preferably kiawe), starting with small diameter pieces and working up to logs twelve inches in diameter. Place rocks atop the logs to fill the imu. Do not use solid rocks, but rather lava rocks gathered at the ocean at low tide that are perforated with holes to allow for expansion when heated.



Imu ready

To light the fire, pour some fire starter into the pipe. Remove the pipe and drop a lighted match or rag into the hole. Allow the fire to burn for four to six hours, until the rocks are glowing red hot and all the logs have burned through.



Hot rocks

Place the pig in a wire basket with sufficient strength to carry the pig to the imu and to lift it out when cooked.



Trussed pig

To prepare the pig make several long vertical cuts and sprinkle liberally with rock salt. Cut openings in the shoulders and haunches the size of the rocks in the imu. Remove four to six hot rocks from the imu using long
See Imu, Page 9

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Imu, continued from Page 8
tongs, dust with ti leaves while being held with the tongs, and



Hot rocks in the pig

insert them into the pig.

To prepare the imu, spread out the rocks to make a flattened surface. Vegetation will be used to create the necessary moisture. Place chopped, shredded banana stumps over the hot rocks, followed by banana leaves and then a large amount of ti leaves.



Chopped banana stumps



Banana leaves



Ti leaves

Place the pig in the wire basket over the bed of ti leaves
Cover the pig with more ti leaves,



Pig to imu

followed by soaking-wet burlap bags, wet blankets and canvas.



Wet blankets

Lastly, cover the imu with a large sheet of plastic, making sure that the outer edge is in the trench. Cover the trench with dirt to seal in the moisture.



Shovel dirt

Allow the pig to cook for ten to fourteen hours. Remove coverings and transfer the cooked pig to a large tray. Remove and discard all bones, except the shoulder bones which may be used to shred large chunks of meat. While shredding the meat, drain any excess oil. Taste the meat, and add additional rock salt, if needed.



Cleaning the meat

About forty-five percent of the starting weight of the pig will be lost in the cooking process. A pig initially weighing 300 pounds will easily feed 350 people at your next luau.

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Our New Year has started off fairly quiet, compared to the number of calls we received the last few months. We are also starting the year off with the lowest funds ever to continue coqui eradications.

Our team will go out once a week starting January, instead of twice a week as needed the last few months. Please be vigilant in reporting coquis and locating them when possible.

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Donations are desperately needed for the coming year!

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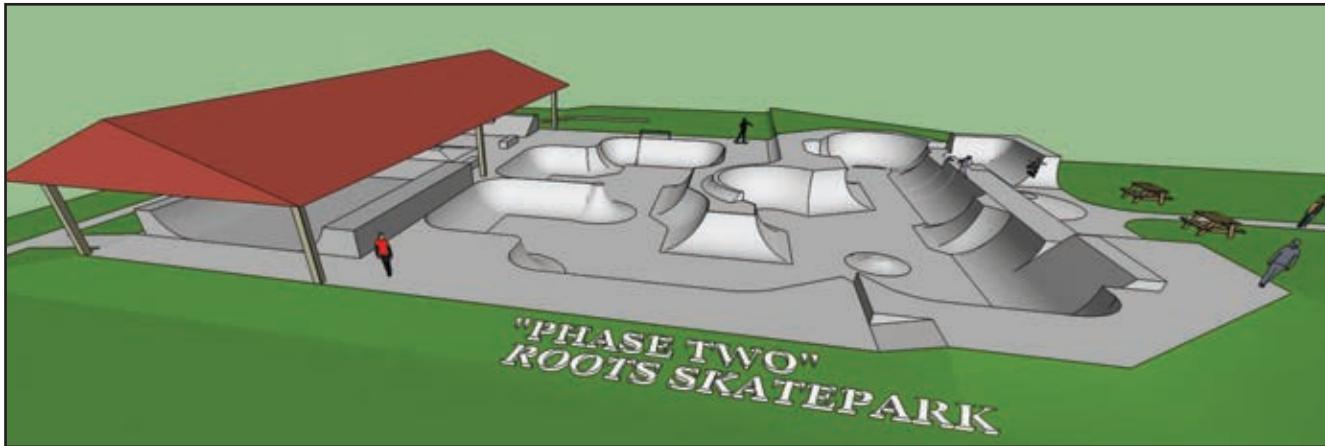
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Roots Skate Park Receives \$35,000 Labor Funding



Courtesy of Roots Skatepark

A simple architectural rendering shows the projected Phase II of Roots Skatepark, located at Kamehameha Park in Kapa'au.

Story by Richey Riggs

On the morning of December 14 the Hawai'i County Council met live in Kona, and all around the island each of the County of Hawai'i districts gathered via video conference to vote on resolutions. One resolution, specifically #352-15, was to designate funding for the second phase of Roots Skatepark's labor costs. It was our chance to testify in support of this resolution on behalf of Roots Skatepark Second Phase Expansion.

Major thanks go to District Nine Councilwoman Margaret Wille and the council members for their support of skate parks on the Big Island, and funding to help complete the Kohala skatepark expansion. Roots Skatepark will receive \$35,000 to be designated



By Richey Riggs

Jesse Simpson, an integral player in the Roots Skatepark Phase I construction, spreads the finishing layer of concrete on a ramp. Simpson was a member of the Big Island Skatepark Builders when the ramp was completed in 2010, and has gone on to build skateparks around the globe.

for labor costs. This was a big day for the community and the kids of Kohala. Mahalo Nui Loa, Margaret Wille!

In addition to this great news, Roots Skatepark has received support from local foundations and organizations in our community.

In September of last year, Roots made a presentation to and received support from the Kohala Lions Club. Then in December Roots was awarded three generous grants from The Dorrance Family Foundation, The Russell Family Foundation, and the Aqua Engineers ESOP Committee. We are tremendously grateful to these organizations, the individual contributions from members of the local community, and worldwide internet skatepark and youth supporters during this past year.

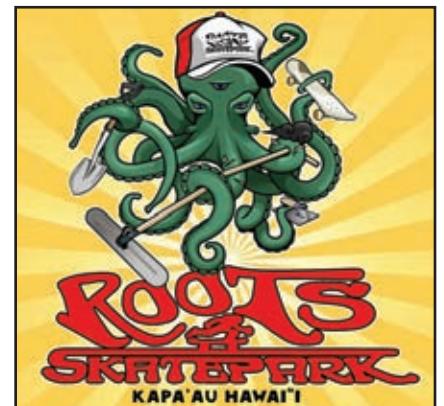
Please make a difference in your community by supporting activities that keep kids focused and passionate about something that forces them to keep trying, to persevere. Skateboarding provides a healthy alternative to media-based distractions, and provides substance abuse prevention in a social, community and exciting environment.

Watch our great new promotional video, produced by Keith Nealy Productions of Kohala, at <https://vimeo.com/146890005>.

To learn more about the project please go to skate4roots.wordpress.com.

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Check us out for all the latest news in Kohala!

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Courtesy of Roots Skatepark
The Roots Skatepark sticker

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Maori Visitors Welcomed to Kohala

Photos and captions by Lani Eugenio



Halau Kawehileimamoikawekiu `O Kohala hosted a cultural exchange with Maori visitors from New Zealand in December, 2015. Kohala's history was shared, then all gathered for a pa`ina (meal) and entertainment.



Maori women sing and dance while the men perform the haka (war cries and gestures) behind them.

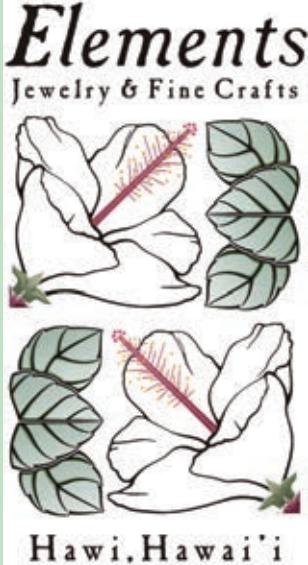


The Royal Order of Kamehameha, represented by Ed Yap, Keola Grace and Joseph Kealoha, participated in the ceremony.



Marlene Ching "honi" with a Maori sister, sharing the "Breath" that connects them and their cultural heritage.

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WEEKLY EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

MONDAY			
7PM		AL-ANON MEETING WITH LAURA	LOWER LEVEL, WALKER HALL, ST. AUGUSTINE'S 884-5833
8AM	9:30 AM	HATHA YOGA WITH MORGAN CASSIDY	IN THE WHITE TENT, 53-496 'IOLE RD 889-5151
5:30PM	6PM	INSANITY CLASSES WITH ROSS PAGAT	SOLID ROCK NORTH CHURCH 989-0966
7PM	8PM	LIVING CLEAN - BOOK STUDY, DISCUSSION	CLAY HOUSE (BEHIND THE HUB)
TUESDAY			
9AM	10:30AM	SITTING MEDITATION WITH JOHN	MEDITATION HALE, 53-3988 AKONI PULE HWY 889-5151
2:30PM		AFERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY 889-6655
WEDNESDAY			
7PM		ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	WYLIE HALL, 'IOLE ROAD, KALAHIKIOLA CHURCH 889-6703
THURSDAY			
7PM		NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	WYLIE HALL, 'IOLE ROAD, KALAHIKIOLA CHURCH 889-6703
8AM	9:30AM	VINYASA FLOW YOGA, WITH MAYA PARISH	IN THE WHITE TENT, 53-496 'IOLE RD 889-5151
5:30PM	6PM	INSANITY CLASSES WITH ROSS PAGAT	KAMEHAMEHA PARK COMPLEX 989-0966
FRIDAY			
10AM		PRESCHOOL STORY TIME FOR AGES 2-5	NORTH KOHALA LIBRARY 889-6655

EMAIL WEEKLY CALENDAR LISTINGS TO KMCALENDAR@HOTMAIL.COM

Correction

In the December 2015 issue the photo of Sharon Hayden on page 1 was incorrectly attributed to Christine Richardson. It was actually taken by Bela Johnson.

North Kohala's role as a model example in the Hawai'i Blue Zones project.

Then on Sunday, February 28, a special health and wellness event invites you to come to the beautiful Lokahi Garden Sanctuary Farm for a tour and talk about 'Food and Plants for Health and Wellness,' capped by a delicious local, fresh foods lunch.

Co-hosted by Richard Liebmann, ND, and Natalie Young, MSW, LMT of Lokahi, the community is invited to experience the direct connection between food and health amidst the flowers and food growing on an organic farm with and ocean view.

Please RSVP in advance to hawaii@oneisland.org. Event with picnic lunch is \$20 (Same Canoe EBT users can provide two of the SNAP coupons for lunch and the event).

All ages are welcome; children's lunch is \$15.

Tickets can be purchased at the Same Canoe farmers' market booth on Saturdays through February 13, or online.

Learn more about the Same Canoe health and wellness events at www.oneisland.org.

The EBT Coupon pilot project funded by the USDA concludes at the Farmers' Market on February 13, so do encourage EBT users to come enjoy the free, local food coupons.

Coupons are also available/ may be used for fresh and local produce at Takata Store at special events on February 3 and 5.

Living Longer, Living Better

By Marcy Montgomery

North Kohala offers many opportunities to adopt healthy lifestyle options. In recognition of our community's interest in healthy food and wellness, we are included in the North Hawai'i Blue Zones Project.

Kohala is home to many gifted health practitioners and talented farmers helping make Kohala a happier, healthier place to live. During January, representatives from local organic farms, restaurants and wellness practices generously shared their healthy living suggestions at the Hawi Farmers' Market during events hosted by the Same Canoe Local Food Challenge as part of the Good Medicine program.

Hana Roberts, ND; Natalie Young, MSW, LMT; Blue Zones Project representatives; Luz Helena; and Maggie Gordon shared wellness tips.

Coming up, you can learn how to 'Change Your Foods, Change Your Life' with Vegan Chef Todd Dacey and friends on February 6 and 'Fermenting Love on Valentines Day' with Donna Maltz on February 13.

Curious about the Blue Zone buzz? On Monday, February 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the North Kohala Public Library, a community input meeting is being hosted by Same Canoe. Facilitators will help broaden and deepen the Blue Zones conversation in North Kohala and welcome your ideas and suggestions.

From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. a video will highlight adventurous researcher and National Geographic Explorer Dan Buettner's discoveries that are changing how the world thinks about 'living longer'.

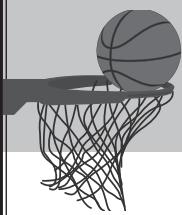
His work documents the common characteristics of com-

munity life and personal food and health choices that foster communities with high numbers of residents living to over 100 years old. These clusters of centenarians hail from Greece, Costa Rica, Sardinia, Okinawa and California and are inspiring a growing number of communities to adopt healthy lifestyles that are helping people live longer, happier lives.

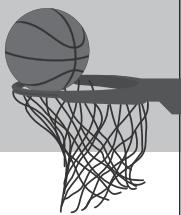
Come learn about the food, exercise, community design, service and friendship circle practices that engender healthy lives.

From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. the community will be invited to make suggestions for ways to improve the health and well-being of North Kohala, from the personal and family to the community wide levels. Walking paths? Trails? Bike paths? Community gardens? Spiritual practices? Inter-generational events?

Bring your ideas and expand



GIRL'S BASKETBALL REGISTRATION



AGES 9 THROUGH 14

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KOHALA CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2016

DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE	
1	MON	5:30PM	7:30PM	Kohala Parent Support Group	Meeting	The Cottage @ the HUB	895-3578
1	MON	6:30PM		Simple Fermentation	By Anna Peach	North Kohala Library	889-6655
4	TUE	6:30PM		Kohala Equine Education Center	Annual Membership Meeting	Community Resource Center	896-0316
6	SAT	9AM	3PM	Senior Club Cherry Pie Bake Off	Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival	Church Row Park	961-8706
6	SAT	11AM		Change Your Foods, Change Your Life	With Vegan Chef Todd Dacey and friend	Hawi Farmer's Market	
7	SUN	8AM	11PM	Super Bowl Breakfast	Robotics, Pick up at Kohala High	Home Ec Room	889-7117
8	MON	5PM		NKCDP AC Meeting	North Kohala Community Development Plan Action Committee	Kohala Senior Centre	323-4770
9	TUE	11AM		Adult reading discussion	On the Road, by Jack Kerouac	North Kohala Library	889-6655
9	TUE	6PM		Kohala Farmers' Union	6pm potluck, 7pm speaker. Non-farmers welcome, too	Kohala Village Inn Barn	889-5715
9	TUE	6:30PM	8PM	North Kohala Community Association	KCA meeting, contact Jeff Coakley	KHS Cafeteria	443-8687
13	SAT	11AM		Fermenting Love	With Donna Maltz	Hawi Farmer's Market	
13	SAT			Chinese New Year Lion Dance	Participating merchants Kapa'au and Hawi		
16	TUE	10AM		Adult writer's group		North Kohala Library	889-6655
22	MON	4PM	5PM	Girl's Basketball Registration	Ages 9 -14	Hisaoka Gym	895-1939
22	MON	6PM		Living Longer, Living Better	North Hawaii Blue Zones Project	North Kohala Library	889-6655
23	TUE	5PM	6PM	CDP subcommittee	Power, Viewplanes, & Erosion Control, contact Susan Fischer	Old Courthouse	882-7611
24	WED	1:30PM		Youth reading & movie club	Cinderella	North Kohala Library	889-6655
24	WED	4PM	5:30PM	Restorative Yoga Therapy class	With Carla Orellana, Certified Yoga Therapist, by donation	The HUB	889-5151
24	WED	4PM	5PM	Girl's Basketball Registration	Ages 9 -14	Hisaoka Gym	895-1939
24	WED	5PM		Parks, Water & Roads Subcommittee	Monthly meeting	Old Courthouse	882-7611
26	SUN	10AM	12PM	Thrift Shop	At St. Augustine Church	Next to Walker Hall	889-5390
26	SUN	11AM	12:20PM	Community Meal	At St. Augustine Church	Walker Hall	889-5390
28	SUN	11AM	2PM	Good Medicine Picnic in the Garden	Come enjoy a farm walk, wellness talk and picnic	Lokahi Garden Sanctuary	
29	MON	4PM		Adult & Teen Poetry Group		North Kohala Library	889-6655
29	MON	6:30PM		PBS Documentary Film	Tea Time	North Kohala Library	889-6655

Email calendar listings to kmncalendar@hotmail.com or call 339-4951.

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Prayer Meeting: Friday 6:30 PM
 Pastor Ilima Moihā
www.gospelofsalvationkohala.org

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kohala.adventistfaith.org

Kalahikiola Congregational Church

Service every Sunday Morning at 9:30 followed by pupus & fellowship
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Upolu Sediment Mitigation Project Planting Completed

Collaboration is the key to successful projects. The Upolu Sediment Mitigation efforts led by Kohala High School seniors Railen Ching, Yuki Zbytovsky and Mina Apostad-iro, and including sophomore Sienna Byrne, exemplify just that. These students have recently completed an important phase of a sediment mitigation project for the Upolu area, launched by the local nonprofit Kohala Lihikai several years ago.

The students planted 476 `ilima in December with help from three Kohala High alumni – Kawai Moss, Amber Souza and Breea Souza - who are currently in their third year at University of Hawai'i at Manoa, majoring in Hawai'i Studies with a concentration in Malama `Aina (Hawaiian Perspectives on Natural Resource Management). The alumni were home for the holidays, and thrilled to lend their hands for the day of planting.

The most recent work at Upolu was organized via Malama Kohala Kahakai, a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center, with grant funds coming

and English teacher Fern White made the connections with the students and school, helping to ensure a meaningful experience for the students.



Kohala High School students plant `ilima as part of the Malama Kohala Kahakai project dedicated to mitigating damage from the extensive erosion at Upolu Airport.



Wattles placed across mauka-makai channels in the soil, which accelerate run-off, slow the flow and prevent soil from being flushed from the slopes into the ocean below.

from Hawai'i Community Foundation's Conservation Resource Program. Gail Byrne Baber has assisted with coordinating the project, which has a mission to mitigate the tremendous erosion along the coastline makai of the Upolu Airport. Kohala High School Curriculum Coordinator

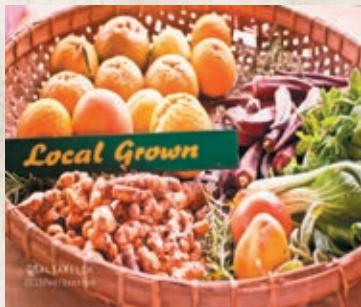
In April, thirty-four students at Kohala High attended an informational presentation by Melora Purrell of Kohala Watershed Partnership (KWP) and Byrne Baber, which stirred interest. Following the presentation, student volunteers applied to participate in the Upolu Sediment Mitigation Proj-

ect. Collaboration continued, and the Kohala High team of Ching, Zbytovsky, Byrne, and Apostad-iro participated in several hands-on learning sessions, including work with KWP in the Pelekane watershed above Kawaihae and touring sediment control basins with resident Susan Fisher. Students learned about watershed conservation and restoration efforts that are already underway, as well as various techniques to reach desired outcomes. The next step involved on-site evaluation at Upolu.

After assessing the site and forming a plan, the team built sediment check dams along the coast using mostly-natural materials and performed monitoring to measure progress. The students' good work was noticed by the State's Airport Division, which subsequently installed an additional 22 sediment controls. Additional collaboration!

The most recent visit to Upolu showed that the dams are doing a great job in preventing muddy runoff from reaching the ocean: pools of sediment are collecting behind the dams and vegetation is filling in behind some of the dams. The team of students will continue to monitor the sediment check dams and the plants' growth.

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KHS VEX Robotics Earns Spot at World Championships

Kohala High School VEX Robotics team 2460 has earned a berth to the VEX Robotics World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky, on April 20-23. What makes this so significant is the fact that there were only six slots available to Hawai'i VEX robotics teams.

Worlds.

There are 3,413 tournaments held around the world during this season. Over 14,000 teams compete for a chance; fewer than 800 teams will get to compete at Worlds!

Five Hawai'i high schools: Pearl City, Waialua, Leile-

quarterfinals. They then defeated the third-seeded alliance, comprised of Kohala 2460 Captain with Waialua 359C (ranked 4th), and 2932A Pueo Engineering (ranked 23rd), in four matches in the semifinals!

These are the State Championship results:

Now that Kohala has qualified for the World Championships, the team is busy raising funds for the travel. With an entry fee of \$850, the estimated cost is \$1,850 for each student. The robot will need to be updated, and new motors, wiring and batteries will need to be added. The supplies and



Photo by Fern White

Chris Asagra and Johnette Emeliano prep their robot between matches at the Hawai'i state tournament.



Photo by Cheryl Cabrera

Kohala Robotics team members celebrate the announcement of world championship berth!



Photo by Fern White

Chyenne Book and Johnette Emeliano show elated smiles at the Hawai VEX ROBOTICS State Championship.

There are 83 VEX robotics teams in Hawai'i. World slots are proportionately determined in each region or state according to its total number of teams. After a season of seven tournaments (one on Maui, four on O'ahu and only two tournaments on the Big Island), six world slots were given for the high school division and two for the middle school division. Teams would have to qualify to States, compete at States and then earn the positions to go to

hua, Punahou and Kohala are Hawai'i's World Championship qualifiers! Kohala High is the only Big Island school to earn a berth.

Teams earn tournament rankings through qualification rounds by the best win-loss record and most points. It was certainly an exciting State Championship tournament.

The seventh-seeded alliance made it all the way to the finals after defeating the second-seeded alliance in three matches in the

4142A - Pearl City High School: Excellence, Tournament Champion, Design Award, Programming Skills Champion

4142B - Pearl City High School: Tournament Champion

1841A - Punahou School: Tournament Champion

7312A - Leilehua High School: State Programming Skills

2460 - Kohala High School: State Programming Skills

359A - Waialua High School: State Robot Skills

expense for the one robot total approximately \$2,000. Seven students are eligible, and when mentors, updates and materials are added in the team expects it needs to raise \$20,000 for their travel, robot and supplies.

Please contact Fern White, Program Director, at Kohala High School at 889-7117 for more information or to donate.

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Palili 'O Kohala is a project of Kahua Pa'a Mua. Funding support provided by the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program, Dorrance Family Foundation and County of Hawai'i County Council.

