

Vol.20, No. 8

About Kohala, For Kohala

August 27, 2021

## Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services Return to North Kohala



On July 20, members of Big Island Substance Abuse Council, the Food Basket and Partners in Development showed their commitment to helping those in Kohala who struggle with addiction.

Beginning September 6, Big Island Substance Abuse Council – in partnership with the newly reconvened Kohala Team, a.k.a. Kohala Coalition Against Drugs – will be offering case

management and referral services at Kohala Village HUB on Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

This exciting partnership kicked off at the HUB on July

20 with a community giveaway of food and “survival kits” for keiki. The event included a raffle for a Razor scooter, a skateboard and a bicycle. Stay tuned for future bi-annual giveaways.

For drug and alcohol recovery support, please reach out to a BISAC representative at 808-935-0077. Please mention calling for services at Kohala Village HUB.

## Another Coastal Land Sale Sparks Opposition

By Toni Withington and Gail Byrne Baber

The open space purchase of a privately owned parcel of coastal land was thwarted this month when the owner chose to enter a sale agreement with a private buyer for land in the center of other lands that have been preserved during the past fifteen years.

The move has ignited sharp criticism from many in the community who have been successful at staving off development along the North Kohala coast.

The 35-acre oceanfront property at Lamaloloa is the last private parcel to be protected from construction on the leeward coast between Keawenui and Mahukona – sixteen miles of shoreline.

The Kohala groups that have already saved 483 acres of coastal lands by raising \$23.8 million were

supporting negotiations with the owner, Latitude 21 Holding Company LLC, and its agent Kohala Pacific Realty at the time. Funding is secured for the full asking price of \$2.895 million and the purchase was on schedule to be completed by the end of the year.

Instead, Latitude 21 signed a contingency contract with an unnamed owner. The sale is expected to be completed within the next month or so.

The Lamaloloa land is adjacent to the Lapakahi State Historical Park and stretches from Akoni Pule Highway to the ocean. It is easily identified, as it has a shipping container on it.

Like the rest of the coast, it is full of historic and cultural sites. The County has designated the land as number three on its 2021 priority

**See Land, Page 2**

## COVID Infection Rates Explode in North Kohala

As of August 12, on a per-capita basis, North Kohala led the County in COVID-19 infections. And the Big Island has jumped to the lead on infection rates across all islands, having more cases per capita than O’ahu. North Kohala may thus lead the entire state in per-capita COVID-19 infections!

This news sent shock waves to many Kohala residents, including a few who gathered recently to collect and distribute information. They call themselves the North Kohala COVID Busters (NKCB).

Their main concern: How can we come together to protect each other and keep our community safe in the face of this rapid virus spread?

Here are a few facts we all need to understand:

The Delta variant spreads much more easily than the original virus because it quickly creates 1,000

times the viral load. The virus is spread by person-to-person proximity. By being next to someone in the early stages of Delta, even before they know they are sick, you are exposed to 1,000 times more virus particles than the original strain. And the closer you are to them, the worse.

COVID is spreading less by travel (tourists and returning residents) than by community spread through social gatherings, sporting events and co-workers in indoor spaces. Vaccinated people can also catch and spread the virus, and are less likely to have symptoms. If their symptoms do not include coughing, however, spread is lessened.

The biggest surge on Hawai’i Island is for unvaccinated people ages 18-44. According to DOH

**See COVID, Page 2**

## EXCLUSIVE SERIES: “THE RISE AND FALL OF SUGAR IN KOHALA”

Remnants of the sugar cane industry abound in Kohala, cemented both in physical form and longtime residents’ memories. What happened to the sugar industry? Why did it start in Kohala, and why did it stop? How did it help to create the colorful mosaic of cultures we find in our community today? These questions, and many more, will be answered in our extended series, “The Rise and Fall of Sugar in Kohala.” Read the next of many illuminating installments inside!

Kohala Mountain News  
Box 639  
Kapa’au, HI 96755

ECWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



**Land, continued from Page 1**

list for public purchase. In the 1980s the then-owner, Finance Factors, secured zoning for a 5,000-unit resort and golf courses on this and three other parcels along the coast. That plan was criticized by archaeologists and opposed openly by a large group of Kohala residents.

When Finance Factors withdrew its plans and sold the four parcels to private owners, the community opposed, one-by-one, on these and other parcels along the coast. Then, using a variety of government and private funding, the properties were purchased in open space for protection of the historic and cultural sites and for community access to the ocean. Lamaloloa is the last property awaiting permanent protection.

Upon hearing of a prospective

private sale earlier this month, Ka Makani O Kohala Ohana, one of the five groups working toward saving the coast, wrote to Kohala Pacific Realty and the owner, giving constructive notice of Kohala's 50 years of protecting the coast, fighting development and securing funds to purchase land.

"This is the last parcel to be preserved in a 16-mile stretch. It would be tragic and upsetting to many in the community if this parcel were sold for anything but full preservation, especially given the money is available in a timely manner," the letter said.

Ka Makani and three other groups have successfully nominated the Lamaloloa land annually since 2014 to the County's priority list for funding with the 2% Open Space Fund.

In previous contested case hearings, expert witnesses have testified about the impact that even one luxury home would have on the sweeping viewplane and the impact on Native Hawaiian health with the loss of one more coastal parcel to development, especially in the heart of the highest density of intact cultural sites in the State.

"Having 100% of funds secured before entering a public purchase is very rare, and the community assumed the seller would continue in good faith. We understood that time was of the essence for the seller, so we confirmed with two appraisers that a closing date by the end of the year is possible," said Fred Cachola, spokesperson for Malama Na Wahi Pana O Kohala, another of the groups.

"It is especially concerning that

this parcel is in the center of a cultural landscape that needs to be preserved free of luxury homes or development of any kind, which is called for in our Community Development Plan," said Cachola.

He added, "There are ancient trails, including the Ala Loa, on the site that are protected by Queen Liliuokalani's Hawaii Highways Act of 1892 for the benefit of the public, which means the State owns part of that land. This Act is still recognized, acknowledged, and enforced by the State in several locations in Hawaii, such as the Mamaloahoa Trail in Kona, and is codified in Hawaii Revised Statutes 264-1. We will ensure that this law is enforced."

A petition has been started supporting the preservation of the land in open space.

**COVID, continued from Page 1**

Director Dr. Libby Char, about 95 percent of current COVID-19 patients in Hawai'i hospitals are unvaccinated. Many experts call this "a pandemic of the unvaccinated", but it really affects us all.

The quickest way to halt the Delta variant is either total lockdown or attaining herd immunity through vaccinations (CDC and others). To reach herd immunity (enough people vaccinated that the virus is no longer likely to spread) with Delta, at least 80% may need to be vaccinated, rather than 70% estimated for the original strain. Vaccinations are generally considered to have far less economic and social impact than shutdown. That means that the choice to vaccinate is not only about your own health, but the health of our community.

These guidelines will significantly decrease the chances you'll be infected and infect others:

- Get vaccinated if you can. Consult your doctor if you have medical concerns. If you decide against, please be extra careful about the other guidelines.
- Limit activity outside the home to essential tasks.
- Wear a mask, especially inside buildings (except home), cars, etc. Wear a double mask when it is especially difficult to stay six feet apart (Post Office and grocery).
- Socially distance: stay six feet from others who are not family.

- Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
- Develop a plan. Who will care for your family or kids if you're sick? Who will help get groceries?

Let's come together and help each other stay safe. For a wealth of COVID information, including local, visit <http://howzitkohala.com/covid-19/nkcb>.

Here is a current list of vaccination sites. There is no cost to you to get vaccinated at any site. Private locations, however, may ask for your insurance information so they can try to bill your insurance.



**Kamehameha Park**  
Pfizer (12+)  
September 3, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.  
Need Hawaii ID and medical insurance card, if available.

**Hamakua Kohala Health**  
Pfizer (12+) and Moderna (18+).  
September 3, 10, 17, 24  
1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Need Hawaii ID and medical insurance card, if available.

To schedule an appointment for other dates/times, call the COVID Vaccine Hotline at (808) 930-2751 or (808) 889-6236. For more information: [hamakua-health.org](http://hamakua-health.org)

**Queen's North Hawaii Community Hospital**

No appointment Pfizer (12+) and Johnson & Johnson (18+) Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. No cost to patients; insurance not required.

Also scheduling Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson. Under 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. To make an appointment, call (808) 881-4668 or email [QNHCHVaccine@queens.org](mailto:QNHCHVaccine@queens.org). For more information: [queens.org/north-hawaii/north-hawaii-community-hospital](http://queens.org/north-hawaii/north-hawaii-community-hospital)

**Department of Health – Waimea Health Center**  
67-5189 Kamamalu St., Kamuela  
Moderna (18+)  
Mondays 9 a.m.–12 noon  
(808) 887-8114

**KTA Waimea Pharmacy**  
Moderna (18+) and Johnson & Johnson (18+)  
No appointment necessary.

Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.;  
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

**KTA Homebound Vaccination Program**

Providers can refer a patient by visiting: [form.jotform.com/211115745590149](http://form.jotform.com/211115745590149)

**Foodland**  
Schedule an appointment at: [foodland.com/covid19-vaccine](http://foodland.com/covid19-vaccine)

**CVS/Longs Drugs**  
Individuals ages 16+ may make appointments via the CVS/Pharmacy app or: [cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine](http://cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine)

The vaccine is no cost with insurance or through a federal program for the uninsured. Vaccine type will vary based on store location.

To search for current information, visit: [coronavirus-response-county-of-hawaii-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/vaccine-information](http://coronavirus-response-county-of-hawaii-hawaiicountygis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/vaccine-information) OR [vaccines.gov/search/](http://vaccines.gov/search/)

**ELEMENTS**

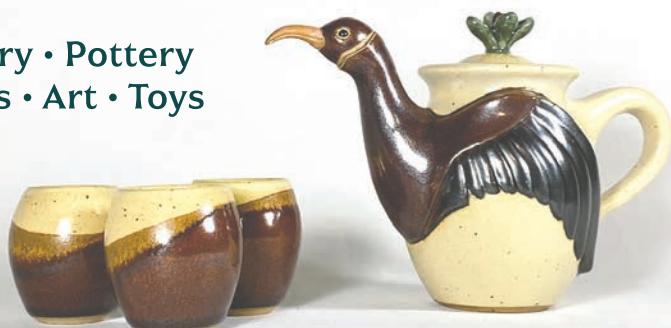
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### 2021 Mauka to Makai Summer Program



Leadership Team at Pohoiki

Front row (left to right): Raine Cazimero, Taylor Souza, Hali'a Drummondo, Mia Fuertes, Skyy Matthey, Esaias Hook and Kenneth Matsuda. Back row (left to right): Clyson Marquez, Hokani Maria, Mark Romero and Mele Cazimero.

Story and photos by Amoo Ching Kainoa

The morning of July 7 was greeted by 13 students from the Kohala Complex Schools, ranging from age six to fifteen, who wanted to be a part of a month-long Kohala Unupa'a Mauka to Makai Summer Program.

The day started off with breakfast at the Kohala High School Cafeteria with ono meals provided by the Aunties. Listen for the sound of the pu... It is time to line up and oli to start our day off with positivity and good energy. Students were taught

oli to greet the sun, honor who we are, and honor where we come from by Alaka'i Hokani Maria, KK Matsuda and Esaias Hook. These three alaka'i were the main leaders, with assistance from Auntie Amoo and Auntie Hinano, Program Directors for Kohala Unupa'a. The alaka'i shared throughout each day what they have learned from being in the program for over four years. This is one the main goals of Kohala Unupa'a: To teach the keiki about Kohala, for one day they will be its leaders.

There were days equally spent

at both mauka and makai 'aina of Kohala. The students were introduced to mo'olelo of place, kupuna of place, plants and the habitats of animals that live there. A main focus area this year was learning about native plants that grow on the Big Island. Students worked hard to prep the 'aina in Honomakau to plant different species of native plants. These included ohia, a'ali'i, u'lei, pili, ahu'awa, lauhala, pohinahina, ahinahina, akia, kulu'i, ihi, aluli, u'ala, kalo, lau'ae, ilima and kukui. They were helped by Uncle Wally Ching, who cleared the land

with his little bulldozer; and Uncles Hualalai Keohuloo and Dash Kuhr, who helped them dig the holes with a tractor and auger, making the job easier than doing everything by hand. Students watched while the work was being done. They were then asked, "How did our kupuna plant ag fields without any machinery?" and "When will be a good day to plant?" students pondered these and many more questions on how and what our kupuna did to care for the 'aina that they once stewarded. They recorded their ques-

See Mauka, Page 4

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**STORE**  
 "Always leave with a Smile"

**Mauka, continued from Page 1**

tions, ideas and reflections about each daily activity in their reflection journals.

We visited Lapakahi Historical Park and were able to identify all the historic structures that are a part of this Native Hawaiian fishing village. Haumana of Kohala Unupa'a were introduced in the Hawaiian practice of hanai i'a — feeding of the fish. We had fresh coconut that was harvested and peeled and used to hanai i'a. Over 10 different species of i'a, or fish, would come to the shoreline to take part in the feeding. The students were able to identify and were taught the Hawaiian names for the fishes including humuhumunukunukuapua'a, humuhumu ele ele, kikakapu, lau'ipala, uhu, manini, puhi, paku'iku'i, hinalea lau'iwili, aholohole, nenu and mamo. They were able to see and learn about invertebrates such as opihi, ha'uke'uke, wana, punohu, pipipi and leho.

Everyone worked hard on a beautification project at Kohala Elementary School campus. The weeds were pulled, and the overgrown plants were trimmed back. The area looks so nice and clean now.

We also had an opportunity to kokua and partner with God-squad Kawaihae and packed bento lunches, snacks and juice for 150 keiki of Kawaihae.

After packing the lunches at Kailapa Community Pavilion, we drove in the van and passed out some lunches to keiki of Kailapa

Hawaiian Homestead.

Kohala Unupa'a Summer Program ended with a five-day leadership camp. The thirteen participants included two kupauna, four alaka'i and seven future leaders. The camp started with a tour of the Hamakua Coast and eventually ending up at Kilauea Military Camp. Hiking around the camp, to the steam vents then to Halemaumau Crater was exhilarating.

We visited Kalapana and Pohoiki and listened to kupauna share about the area and pictures of how the area looked before Pele decided to change the landscape. Students were introduced to many historical sites in East Hawaii. They were given the opportunity to learn the history about areas outside of Kohala. Students made a ho'okupu to offer to the 'aina at every site that they visited. Hokani also shared his knowledge of place through oli. After chanting he shared with students the meaning of the oli. The nights were spent playing team building games, sharing stories, bowling, reflections of the day and just building and investing in our future leaders of Kohala. Kohala Unupa'a Mauka to Makai Summer Program and Leadership Camp was made possible through guidance from the North Kohala Community Resource Center and generous funding from Running Strong for Native American Indian Youth, NOAA MET, County of Hawaii, Kosasa Foundation and Kohala High and Elementary Schools.

**A Farewell to Māhukona Park Pavilion**

By Toni Withington

Ceremonies to celebrate the long life of the condemned pavilion at Māhukona Beach Park will be held on Saturday, September 11, from 10 to 11 am.

The pavilion and grounds have been a center of social and recreational life of North Kohala residents for over 70 years.

The structure will soon be demolished by the County Department of Parks and Recreation (DP&R) and be temporarily replaced at the location by a platform/deck that can be used for gatherings. A new park facility will be planned to replace the gathering place.

A blessing of the pavilion followed by a program is being sponsored by the Save Māhukona Park Action Committee and the Parks, Water, Roads Group of the CDP.

Because of COVID restrictions,

those attending are asked to bring masks, sanitizers and their own chairs. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. Those who wish to can honor the pavilion by bringing flowers to decorate it.

Maurice Messina, Director of the DP&R, told the committees he would attend the celebration along with his deputies James Komata and Michelle Hiraishi, who will be overseeing the planning and construction of the new park facility.

Messina has assured the two local groups, as recently as this month, that Kohala residents will have opportunities to participate in the planning of the new facilities and restrooms that are likely to be located inland from the existing pavilion.

"We are all working together on this," said Cheryl Rocha, a spokesperson for the groups.

**Share the Laughter at Le'ale'a Coffee**

A new, free community event is happening every Sunday: Le'ale'a Coffee (also Tea and Hot Chocolate) for Ages 13+.

Join us from 9:00- 10:20 a.m. at Kohala Artists' Cooperative across from the Kapa'au Post Office, 54-3676 Akoni Pule Hwy.

Meet your neighbors. All kupauna, singles, jokesters and

friendly (even if depressed) people are welcome!

Share Aloha, humor and stories. Please bring a cup. You might win the prize for the best laugh.

For more information, call or text April Lee: 808-989-5995

What did the buffalo say to his son when he left for college? Bison.

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**ISLAND LIFESTYLE**

Editorial

The Virus Comes to Kohala

Until mid-July of this year, Kohala had been mostly spared from the coronavirus. But in the two weeks preceding August 7, twenty-one cases were reported in Hāwi and fifty-seven cases were reported in Kapa'au.

Most people seem to be still wearing masks in stores, schools, etc. But the new Delta variant, currently responsible for 81% of cases across Hawaii island, is much more transmissible. The surge has likely been fueled by to Fourth of July events and other groups gatherings in the first half of July, such as weddings and church services without masks. Such events continue to happen to this day, despite the intensifying surge.

With a spike in positive cases in the North Kohala region, Spokesperson Judy Donovan said Kohala Hospital is currently on lockdown with some staff working remotely. COVID patients coming into the ER are either discharged to home

for isolation or transferred to Kona Community Hospital to be admitted.

Of concern is the change in patient demographics. Early in the pandemic, COVID-19 was thought of as an older person's disease. Accordingly, most of our kūpuna have been vaccinated. Many parents have been taught that the virus does not pose a risk to their children, or to themselves if their children are exposed and bring it home. With the surging Delta variant, younger people are becoming infected more often and are incurring more serious symptoms.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that up to half of Kohala youth aged twelve to seventeen are not yet vaccinated. Although youth are less likely than their parents to get seriously ill, it does happen, and the frequency is rising. Even mild cases can lead to what's called "long COVID," which can erupt weeks after the initial, often mild, infec-

tion and last for months. Symptoms include shortness of breath, fatigue, headaches, brain fog, memory and concentration difficulties, sleep disturbances, muscle weakness, and ongoing loss of distortion in smell and taste.

Besides continuing to wear our masks and avoiding large gatherings, the main thing that can mitigate the risk to your children, yourself, your 'ohana, and the Kohala community is for everyone age twelve and over to be vaccinated.

You may need to set aside a couple of hours to get your child vaccinated (parents must accompany their child) but think of the downside if you don't.

Please set aside your reservations, and get it done so we can all move past this pandemic and get back to more normal living.

Mahalo nui for your kokua,  
Tom Morse, Publisher, and  
Maureen Garry, Managing Editor

Letters

Mahalo Coqui Coalition

I need to express my feelings of gratitude for the deep sleep I've enjoyed lately. Ralph Blancato and Wayne Byrd, a.k.a. the Coqui Coalition, were on my property on August 3 and we killed three coqui...even one on my neighbor's land. We physically had them in our hands...so small and yet so maddening. One was right outside my master bedroom window for over four months! Mahalo nui for all you do in the darkness, when everybody else is snug in their homes...

Your fan,  
April Lee

Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

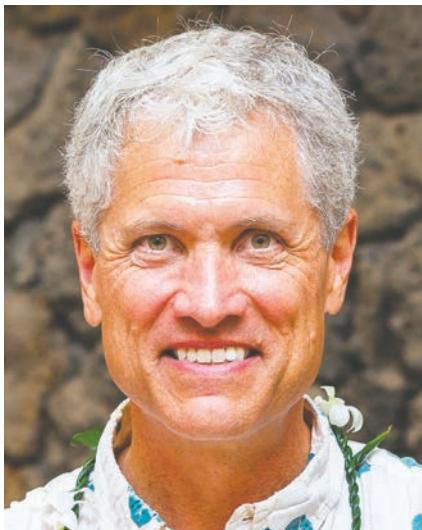


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Containing the South Kohala Wildland Fire

The wildfire which blazed across South Kohala in early August burned over 40,000 acres and has now been declared a state of emergency by Governor David Ige. The Governor's emergency designation has facilitated the expedient release of State funding to cover firefighting expenses, and efficient relief efforts in the fire's aftermath. On behalf of the community, I extend a heartfelt mahalo nui loa

to everyone who helped fight this fire. I am especially grateful for the cooperative interagency fire-fighting agreement between the State Department of Land and Natural Resources- Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DLNR-DOFAW), the Hawai'i County Fire Department, and the U.S. Army Pōhakuloa Training Area. I am also grateful to all the volunteer fire fighters who worked alongside the professionals to contain this huge fire. DLNR-DOFAW contributed bulldozers, helicopters, and dozens of personnel to fighting and containing the fire. Their equipment and staff played key roles securing homes in Waiki'i and critical natural ecosystems in the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve. The U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i allocated significant resources, including dozens of trained personnel, helicopters, bulldozers and much more during the major, multi-day effort to contain this fire. To everyone who played a part, mahalo nui loa.

COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing and Data

The latest official State COVID-19 data (available at health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/current-situation-in-hawaii) shows the current spike in COVID-19 infections, primarily among individuals who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine, continues to break records statewide. The virus is especially prevalent in our North

Kona and Kohala community, and I urge you to follow the latest health guidance to protect yourself, your family, and our community.

Hawai'i County Civil Defense announced in mid-August that the County of Hawaii has reached community spread of COVID-19, advising, "this means that you may be exposed to Coronavirus whenever you leave your home. Please protect yourself and your family when you are out by following the safe practices of face coverings, distancing, and limiting gathering sizes." If you are ill, please stay home, except as necessary to access COVID-19 testing at one of many free public testing sites. If you have not yet been vaccinated, please watch or read Hawai'i doctors' responses to frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine on the State of Hawai'i COVID-19 website, hawaiiicovid19.com/vaccine. You can receive a free COVID-19 vaccination at pharmacies and hospitals around our community. To find a convenient location for you, please visit the Center for Disease Control's Vaccine-Finder resource, vaccinefinder.org, or call (808) 586-8332.

New Emergency Proclamation Extends Emergency Rules, Requires Vaccination for State and County Employees

On Thursday, August 5, Governor Ige signed a new COVID-19

See HI Rep, Page 6

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 and News: 09/10/21  
Calendar: 9/17/21  
Distribution: 9/24/21

October Deadlines  
Ads and News: 10/8/21  
Calendar: 10/15/21  
Distribution: 10/22/21

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

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Kohala Mountain News  
P.O. Box 639,  
Kapa'au, Hawai'i 96755

## County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Tim Richards



Photo courtesy of Tim Richards  
Councilmember Tim Richards represents North Kohala as part of Hawai'i County Council District 9.

### Wildfire

On July 30, in the Mana Road area of Waimea, a fire started. How it started is being investigated, as there are conflicting reports. What is very clear is that Mother Nature set into motion the largest range fire recorded in our county and state. At this writing, hotspots and fires are still flaring up.

Mapping has estimated total area burnt in excess of 47,000 acres. By any measure, for our County, massive.

Fire units were called out and like for many range fires, heavy equipment was positioned to push fire breaks.

The fire team was optimistic about being able to control it; however, between the very

dry conditions and then exceedingly unusual high winds, things changed very quickly.

Early morning on Saturday, July 31, the winds caused the fire to jump the fire breaks, control was then lost, and unfortunately the fire spread quickly.

What ensued was a week of difficult firefighting with repeated efforts by our Hawai'i County Fire Department, State fire units, Federal fire crews from Pōhaku, and the Army who supplied additional helicopters to the firefight.

During the peak, there were 27 bulldozers, 9 helicopters (5 military, 2 County, and 2 private), 50+ fire fighting vehicles (fire trucks, brush trucks, tankers, etc.) and 140+ firefighters.

This does not include the hundred-plus ranchers, cowboys, friends, and family also on the front lines fighting the fire. Assessments of the firefighting cost are now being put together.

Estimate for the 27 bulldozers currently exceed one quarter of \$1 million. Helicopter resources are estimated at least that much, if not more. (The military alone dropped over 170,000 gallons of water, equivalent to approximately 34 large-tanker-truck loads of water.) Overtime wages are also being tallied.

Concurrently, a total damage assessment is ongoing as well. Infrastructure damage in the Pu'ukapu Hawaiian Homestead and across private lands will be relatively high. Thankfully, no lives were lost but sadly, three homes were taken by the fire at Pu'ukapu.

Infrastructure, specifically fencing and pipeline, was also lost. Data is still being gathered, but preliminary rough estimates are in the several-million-dollar range.

With any agricultural entity, we have the current damage assessment. Equally, or maybe even more, critical is the impact to agriculture production.

These are grazing lands with seasonal growth dependent upon seasonal rains.

Nothing is left. Nothing will be growing until rains come and when those rains come, so does a high risk for invasive weed species

to further damage the rangeland. Measuring and putting a value to the loss of production is very difficult. Practicing rotational grazing (a technique now being termed as "regenerative" agriculture, but a Hawai'i cattle industry management practice for decades) means livestock are typically only on the specific grazing area for a short period of time.

This technique is very important to the overall grazing land management, and quantifying that loss is challenging, making the long-term damage to the range substantive.

Finally, we must discuss the environment as a whole. I have referred to the range lands as it pertains to grazing but there is also the environmental impact as well.

Open soils are very prone to erosion. Additionally, concerns for percolation and aquifer recharge cannot be ignored.

With open range devoid of vegetation, we will see dust kick up, again being mindful of the usual downwind location, Waikoloa Village, and its air quality going forward.

There are many reasons to attend to and work quickly for the recovery of the range, including the regional environment, ecology and economics, and restoration of our community's movement in a prosperous direction.

We are hoping for federal assistance and are working hard with our congressional delegates to assist in this area.

The Kohala region also had a recent scare with a fire located in and near the Ouli Gulch. Thankfully, our County Fire Department responded and defused the event quickly.

These fires reiterate our island's vulnerability, and the fact that our communities need to be ready for any emergency, at any time.

Every day we all should be diligent in noticing our surroundings, being mindful of concerning matters that could cause a disaster and have an emergency plan in place. Being mindful and prepared but not fearful is the key.

As always, it continues to be a great privilege to serve as your Councilman. Please stay safe.

### HI Rep continued from Page 5

Emergency Proclamation which requires all State and County employees to provide proof of vaccination to their department, office, or agency beginning August 16, or undergo regular COVID-19 testing. This new law was mirrored by the State House of Representatives, which on Thursday announced its own vaccination requirement for House members, staff and volunteers. The Governor's new Emergency Proclamation also extended state-wide mask requirements for indoor public settings; continued the Safe Travels program; and extended expirations for driver's licenses, state IDs, and instructional permits.

### State Eviction Moratorium Ended August 6; Additional Safeguards Begin

On Thursday, August 5, Gov. Ige announced that he will allow the State Eviction Moratorium to expire on August 6, as planned. However, the federal Center for Disease Control has announced a new county-by-county eviction moratorium for areas experiencing high or substantial spread of COVID-19 according to the CDC. As of mid-August, all counties in Hawaii are categorized under "high" or "substantial" spread of COVID-19, and therefore are under the CDC eviction moratorium. However, the CDC moratorium has more limita-

tions than the State's eviction moratorium which has expired. To qualify for the CDC moratorium, renters must meet certain income and economic hardship criteria, complete a self-declaration form, and give the declaration form to their landlord. Act 57, passed by the 2021 Legislature, requires landlords give tenants the option of mediation as a pre-requisite to filing an eviction notice for non-payment of rent. This policy encourages landlord-tenant discussions of payment options or concessions, and provides free mediation services. The Hawai'i County Emergency Rental Assistance Program continues to provide grants for rent and utilities for qualifying renters, and landlords may apply on tenants' behalf. For further assistance and guidance specific to their situation, landlords or tenants may contact the West Hawaii Mediation Center (808-885-5525), the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Landlord-Tenant Code Information Center (808-974-4000, ext. 62634, Mon-Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon), or the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i (1-800-499-4302).

With so much going on in our community, it is so important that we take care of each other. I am grateful to continue serving as your State Representative. If you have any questions or advice, please contact me at reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov or 808-586-8510. Mahalo!



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# Pololu Subdivision Change of Plan

By Toni Withington

KP Holdings LLC, a part of Surety Kohala Corporation, last month applied for a new Consolidation and Re-subdivision (C&R) of two of the parcels that were part of a proposed multi-parcel C&R with the State last year. The earlier plan would have resulted in a 5-acre public parking area and 10 new lots along the valley rim.

That plan was widely protested against, from within and outside of North Kohala. Although the company got a greenlight to proceed from the State Land Board last December, the application for that C&R was never submitted to the County. The new move makes it appear that the company has abandoned or delayed the earlier plan.

The new application is a simple moving of the boundary between the two lots, both of which have frontage along Akoni Pule Highway near the Pololū Lookout. One parcel runs mauka along the valley rim and the other, town side of it, reaches about a mile and a half mauka, some of it along the rim. The lots total 195.5 acres. One is 50.7 acres; the other is 144.8 acres.

With the boundary moved, the lots would be able to support nine 20-acre lots in a possible future subdivision within the Agricultural 20 zoning. The new C&R is a simple action that only involves approval by the Planning Director without triggering an opportunity for public comment. Subdividing to smaller lots would involve an additional request.

The new application does not mention a parking lot or what is to become of the 86 acres on the valley floor, which Surety also owns according to tax records. In the earlier C&R, Surety had told the Land Board it would donate five acres for a lookout parking lot and the parcel on the valley floor to the State. Nor does it include any state-owned land as did the previous plan.

The protests started last December when the Land Board approved a Letter of Intent to join

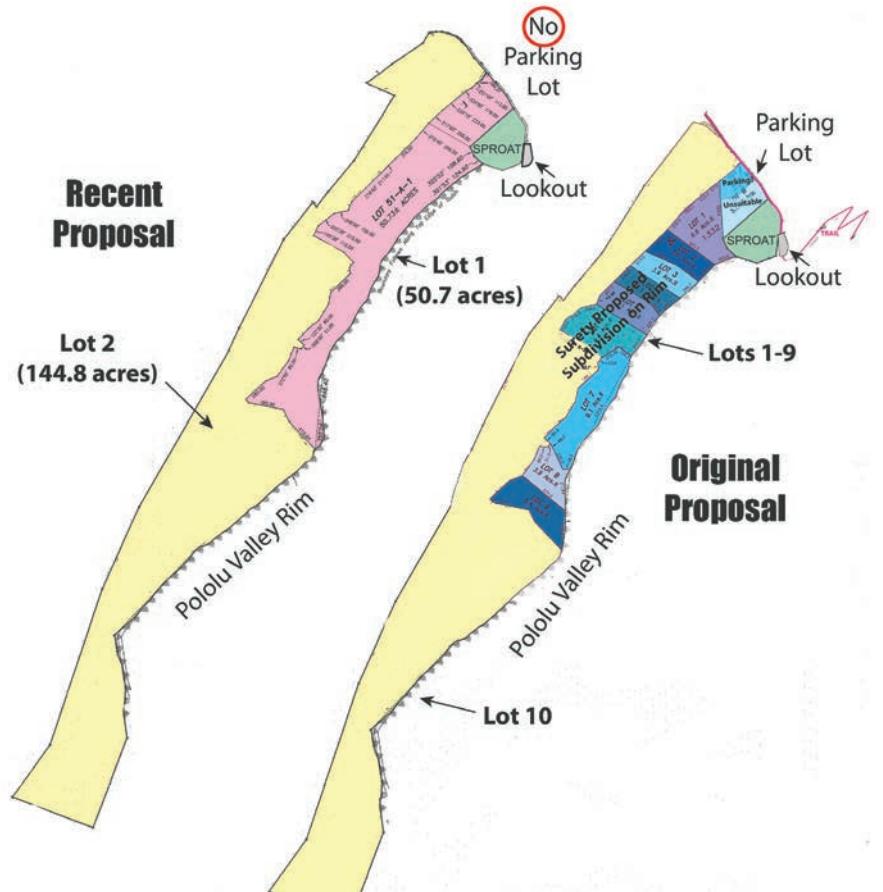
KP Holdings (Surety) in the C&R without holding public meetings in Kohala as promised by the company and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Thereafter, a video was released to the public by a few students from Kohala High School who opposed the first application and shared their testimonies on their opposition. This initiated a movement in which the families from Niuli'i/Pololū gathered. In support of the students, community members put up street signs with the words "Protect Pololū". An active group called "Protect Pololū Project" was created on behalf of the families and became an official project of NKCRC in June. The group is led by lineal descendants that have history and ties to Pololū Valley and consists of Kohala community members and family near and far.

By August 11, the online Protect Pololū petition on change.org had garnered 831,000 signatures when the petition went viral internationally.

In June 2021, the group met with Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program to discuss a maintenance solution. Just last month, it was announced that the Hawaii Tourism Authority will fund this the Pololū Stewardship Program with Nā Ala Hele and the Protect Pololū Project. The pilot project (through KUPU) is hiring local stewards Paul Ishikuro, Sheldon Keone Emeliano and Keone Lorenzo to manage visitor parking, maintain the trails and educate visitors of the cultural area beginning in August. With this program intact, the group hopes to educate visitors and bring awareness to help eliminate the need for rescues.

After speaking with a few of the Pololū 'ohana they advised, "At this time we are doing a call of AWARENESS, rather than a call for action."

We will remain vigilant, monitor this application, and continue to work towards preserving Pololū for our future generations."



Credit: John Winter  
Original and revised maps of Surety Kohala Corporation's proposed Consolidation and Re-subdivision (C&R) of their land at Pololū Valley.



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## New Tools, New Change to Thrive in the 21st Century: Local Hawi Author Donna Maltz

By *Karolina Garrett*

Donna Maltz advocates for a kind, fierce call-to-action: “When we take power away from mega-corporations, we are more self-sufficient, and the power is back in the hands of the people.” She folds DIY systemic change tips into her personal narrative “Living Like the Future Matters, the Evolution of a Soil to Soul Entrepreneur” (2020).

While offering radical empathy for all, Maltz dismantles the American dream, revealing harmful systems—especially the industrial food complex which affects everything from the soil to our souls, and then strategizes “Solutions”—compassionate, soul-based actions, considering the long-term effects on future generations.

Maltz adapts from Nature’s wisdom, redirecting addiction by utilizing nature’s knowledge to persevere. In her buoyant “memoir of sorts,” she portrays her evolution as food maven, nature diva, and eco-entrepreneur. The prose entertains, but Maltz also hopes to motivate reader action by viewing societal demands, personal demons and welcomed change. She demonstrates how the unsustainable American Dream continues to misguide us into the health crisis we all face.

Raised as a Jewish American princess, she dismantles this assumed legacy, as we read in the many narratives that energize the reading. One life anecdote showcases Maltz’s frame of business as ethical potential for all. In 1982, Maltz, 25, bakes her way to

Alaska, through barren lands driving an old, converted laundry truck hauling a small oven, basic supplies, and a few cups of sourdough starter. With \$43 dollars to her name, she starts the first natural foods bakery and café in Alaska, the Fresh Sourdough Express. She hires a new lead baker, in 1984, Kevin Maltz, who becomes her husband and life partner.

The eco-friendly business thrives, and new ones materialize to fulfill her vision of healthy food as a human right, while fostering business life as an ethical stronghold. Maltz pledges that “I offer you a different perspective on life, wealth, and business, as well as guidance to help you succeed, all while taking part in healing the world.”

Maltz’s companion book “I Am, Living Like the Future Matters, a Guided Journal for Cultivating Abundance” offers questions to journal on, quotes to stay inspired, and photographs of beatific nature—and all three combine to form a conduit for productive self-work to shed armor perhaps no longer helpful.

Maltz and her husband launch into just this type of self-transformation as “transplanted Eco-Bohemians” when they move their entire lives to North Kohala on Big Island, Hawai’i. In other words, the author’s life decisions carry through her 21st-century call-to-action ethos: live life to boost immune systems through healthy soil, ethical economics, people, spirit, and nature’s regenerative methods.

When COVID became public in March 2020, Maltz launched into

writing “Conscious Cures, Solutions to 21st Century Pandemics” (2021), a book that analyzes why the preceding pandemics—economic, political, food systemic, racial inequality, and information mistrust—fuel COVID’s global explosion. She proffers direct reader appeal in the chapters “If We Could Talk.” Her extensive research and synthesis—blending diverse underpinnings into one flowing analysis—makes for enthralling reading.

True that Martin Luther King elevated hope when declaring that the “arc of the moral universe is long, and bends towards justice,” yet the linch-

pin remains that we folks must then show up to work for influence on the bend towards justice, actions based on conscience—that is, conscious cures. In these daily decisions, change for this planet, and all living entities on her, does happen.

Find Maltz’s books online, sure, yet she advocates to buy them local at the Hawi Artist Co-op, Thyme Traveler, and in Waimea at Liquid Life and the Wednesday Farmer’s Market.

Join Maltz for a book signing, September 4 at the Hawi Farmer’s Market. All book profits go to support wildlife preservation.

### Taiko Performance at Jodo Mission

Story by *Kathy Matsuda*

Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala/Waimea taiko group did a private performance on July 31 at the Hawi Jodo Mission.

Normally we open the bon dance for Hawi Jodo Mission. Unfortunately, this event has been cancelled

for the past two years due to Covid. We have our Eisa pageant, in which all our clubs around the world drum for world peace at the same time in their time zone. This year we decided it was important for us to do our share to spread peace around our community and the world.



Photo by *Wendy Nickl*

*Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko Kohala/Waimea taiko group at the Hawi Jodo Mission.*

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## Broadcaster/Farmer Neil Conan Signs Off

Toni Withington

To the rest of the country, he was a major player in turning Public Radio into a respected national news outlet. To Kohala, he was a successful farmer and quiet neighbor. We lost a good friend when Neal Conan died at his home in Kahei mauka on August 10. He was 71.

When Neal and his wife Gretel Ehrlich moved here in 2013, he was just in time to give our local radio station KNKR a kick start into creative local entertainment. Confering with the station organizers, he advised them, "Don't try to create the programming. Let the community tell you what it wants to hear."

So the station set up one of its very first broadcasts from the center of a Kamehameha Day festival at the Hisaoka Gym. Grabbing people from the crowd, Neal and the other broadcasters asked everyone to tell them what they would like to hear.

The role fit right into Conan's format for his then just completed



Courtesy of North Kohala Community Resource Center  
Famed radio broadcaster Neil Conan (center) passed away on August 10, 2021.

12-year run as host of the daily two-hour national program "Talk of the Nation." He invited people from all over the country to call in and say what was on their minds.

I remember sitting with my sandwich on lunch break listening to regular people be questioned by this guy Neal who was forever-curi-

ous and often pulled a laugh out of his callers. It was slice-of-America at its best.

That understated humor was shared with his Kohala neighbors, along with his thoughtful curiosity. Although his conversation was exceptionally well informed, he seemed more interested in finding out what you thought.

He gave a keynote speech at the League of Women Voters annual meeting in Kona, sharing his insider knowledge of national politics, at the same time questioning the questioners about their knowledge of local politics.

Conan's 37-year career at National Public Radio was legendary. He served as everything from one of the early creators/producers of "All Things Considered" to network news director. He moderated "Weekend Edition Sunday" and covered the 9/11 attack, two Olympics and an impeachment (Clinton's). He won four prestigious awards for broadcasting. Then while covering the Iraq war he was captured by the Republican Guard and held hostage for a week.

When the successful "Talk of the Nation" was suddenly canceled,

he and Ehrlich moved to Hawi and bought Darla and Don Gallacher's well-kept macadamia orchard and home. It is kept in showcase condition. They converted a part of the house into shared library-studios where she continues her writing of books and he dove into researching the history and politics of the Pacific nations.

Hawaii Public Radio hired him to produce a regular news update from the almost-never-covered island nations, called "Pacific News Minute." He picked neighbors' brains for how to correctly pronounce Polynesian words and places such as Pago Pago and Vanuatu. He broadcast from the studio at the farm.

After Trump's election he was called back to NPR to give historical and political context to the new administration with a program called "Truth, Politics and Power."

Bob Martin, a major player in the set up and running of Kohala's KNKR said he admired Conan's knowledge of radio.

"Neal was interested in the local radio station when we started up and came to a number of our early meetings. He was quiet in every one, so I would talk with him after the meeting or drive up to his house to share ideas. He didn't say much, except that we were on the right track, but it was clear that he wanted the station to succeed and hoped that Kohala had enough interest to support it," Martin said.

Christine Richardson, retired executive director of the North Kohala Community Resource Center said Conan was "a really sweet guy with a fine sense of humor. He was a great supporter of the Resource Center. He wanted to see Kohala thrive."

Conan is survived by his wife Gretel Ehrlich of Hawi, and two adult children on the mainland.

# THE RISE AND FALL OF SUGAR IN KOHALA A One Hundred-and-Twelve Year History 1863–1975

By Tom Morse



Source: Kohala Sugar Company Annual Report - 1948  
Cane-hauling trucks on Pratt Road.



Source: Kohala Sugar Company  
Māhukona

## PART ELEVEN

### PRATT ROAD

In 1949, Pratt Road was constructed to run from the only remaining mill at Halaula to all of the active sugar fields. It ran close to the then-abandoned railroad tracks, through Kapa'au, around the northern tip of the island behind lower Hāwi, terminating in the vicinity of Old Coast Guard Road. It carried trucks loaded with the very dusty cut cane from the irrigated fields and avoided the main highway through Kohala.

### MĀHUKONA

About six miles southwest of Hawi lies the sheltered port of Māhukona. Although the shoreline is rocky and the entrance encumbered by reefs, it was the principal harbor for Kohala long before sugar. Steamers from Honolulu began in about 1850 to ferry passengers, cattle and freight to it.

Ships arriving at Māhukona had a difficult time locating the small port. In 1889, Charles Wight, President of the railroad, had a lighthouse erected at Māhukona. It lasted until 1905. A new one was erected in 1915.

In 1913, Māhukona was the fourth-busiest port in the islands, with only thirteen large vessels per year. Māhukona had its own post office from 1881 until the 1930s. The road from Hāwi to Māhukona was mostly mud, especially after steam tractors hauling sugar began using it. It was paved around 1913.

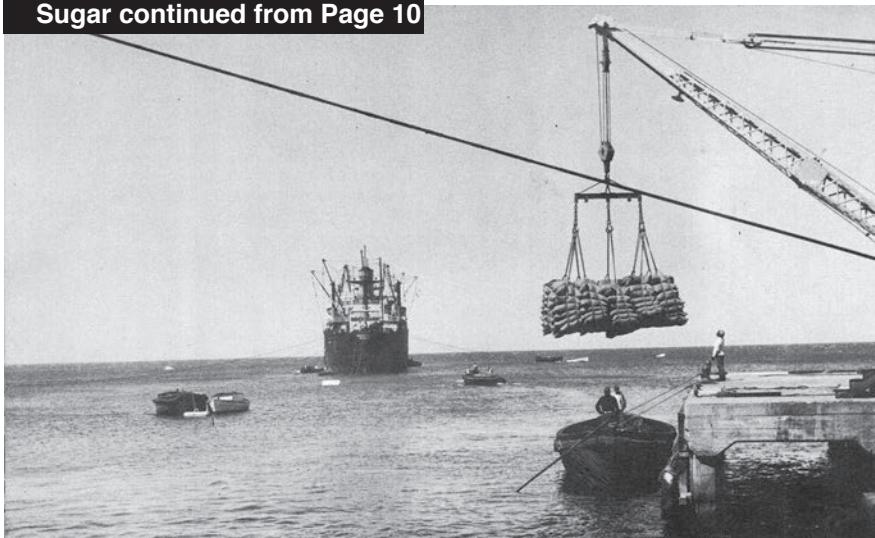
Because of shallow water, the problem at Māhukona was always getting the bags of sugar from the dock to the waiting ship.

Māhukona was closed by the Navy in 1941 at the outbreak of World War II out of fears that Japanese subs might attack vessels in the small harbor. The railroad also closed.

See Sugar, Page 11



Sugar continued from Page 10



Source: Kohala Sugar Company  
Loading bagged sugar from the dock to the ship at Māhukona.



Source: Kohala Sugar Company Annual Report – 1956  
After the closing of the railroad from Pa’auilo to Hilo, the Halaula mill began hauling sugar in bulk to Hilo.

When Māhukona closed in 1941, Hilo remained the only open port. But the railroad from Hilo extended only as far as Pa’auilo, fifty-eight miles from the Kohala mill. In 1942, three ten-ton trucks were purchased, and four cane trucks were converted to haul the sugar over the Kohala Mountain Road, through Waimea to Pa’auilo. The bagged sugar was loaded by hand onto the trucks at Halaula. Workers rode on the trucks to unload them by hand into rail cars on the other end. On the return trip the trucks carried crude oil.

The railroad near the mills carried only unprocessed cane, from as far as ‘Upolu, back to the Halaula mill until 1945. Truck hauling took over after that. In 1945, the tracks from the fields from ‘Upolu to the mill were removed.

The great tsunami of 1946 destroyed three bridges used by the railroad from Pa’auilo to Hilo. They were never rebuilt, and that rail line was abandoned.

As a result, Māhukona was reopened, and bagged sugar was delivered from the Halaula mill by truck. In 1954, a study was conducted

to look at the possibility of shipping bulk sugar through Māhukona, but it was determined to be impractical. By 1955, the Halaula mill constructed a 600-ton storage and loading bin and in early 1956 began hauling sugar in bulk by truck ninety miles to Hilo. Māhukona closed for good. Kohala was the only mill on the island hauling its own sugar to port.

SHIPPING SUGAR VIA KAWAIHAE HARBOR

In 1959, construction of the harbor and a bulk 18,000-ton sugar plant at Kawaihae provided a closer shipping port for the Kohala, Honoka’a and Laupahoehoe Sugar companies. Kohala’s trucks carried sugar and molasses over the Kohala Mountain Road, and then down to the harbor. The completion of the highway between Kawaihae and Kohala in 1968 reduced the distance travelled for Kohala Sugar to only seventeen miles.

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For helpful information, visit our website at [kohalacoquicoalition.org](http://kohalacoquicoalition.org) or leave a message at **889-1777**. We can help you with useful information about eradication strategies and materials.

Tax deductible donations are gratefully accepted through the NKCRC, P.O. Box 519, Hawi, Hawai’i 96719

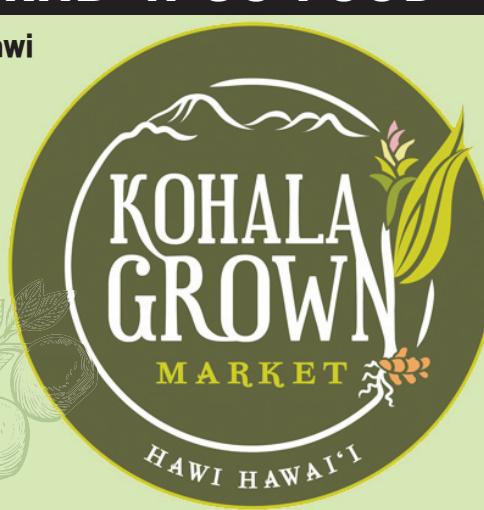
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## Welcome New HPD Captain to North Kohala



Credit: Hawai'i Police Department  
Scott Kurashige is the new Hawai'i Police Department Captain to North Kohala District.

By Officer Dayton Tagaca  
Aloha everyone.

Beginning June 1, Scott Kurashige is the newly promoted Captain to the North Kohala District. He was hired by the Hawai'i Police Department in 1990, where he served in various assignments to include: Patrol Officer and Field Training Officer in the Kona District; Detective in the Area II Juvenile Aid Section; Lieutenant in Kona Patrol and the Area II Juvenile Aid Section.

He was born in Kona and has lived his whole life there. Kurashige stated that he is grateful for every opportunity the Hawai'i Police Department has given him. He is eager to face the challenges in his new position and is looking forward to working with the police officers, staff and members of the North Kohala community.

We are lucky to have Captain Kurashige, as he brings knowledge and experience to the job and has a deep understanding of the residents and lifestyle of North Kohala.

## Let's Laugh!

North Kohala is fortunate to welcome home the extremely talented stand-up comedian and writer, Zak Toscani. Zak performs across the mainland but attended grade school and high school in Kapa'au. He will be treating the community to one of his comedy routines when he comes back for a visit.

Zak started comedy in Portland, OR and currently lives in Los Angeles, where he is a founder of Faded Comedy, which is a weekly standup showcase.

He has performed across the U.S., including shows at The Bumbershoot Music & Arts Festival, Bridgetown Comedy Festival and High Plains Comedy Festival. With a focus on originality and vulnerability, Zak's comedy has been highlighted by Splitsider, Paste, and The Portland Mercury.

His show will be held Saturday, August 28, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Kohala Artists' Cooperative, 54-3676 Akoni Pule Hwy. This is an adult show, and not appropriate for children.

Prior to the show, there will be an art exhibit by another Toscani. Zak's mother, Mary, is a local artist who will be showing her acrylic paintings in the coop gallery. Mary is originally from Dayton, Ohio and

moved to Hawai'i in 1994 to assist in running the old Luke's Place restaurant and hotel. She moved back to the mainland for a while but returned to Kohala in 2019 and is here to stay.

A few years back, Mary got a wild hair and decided to see if she could paint. She bought some canvases and acrylic paints and fell in love with the process. Ever since then, she has been developing own style. Having never taken a class, Mary is truly a self-taught artist.

She works with acrylic paints and lately has been playing with vibrant colors. Her paintings are inspired by nature—trees, plants, and flowers. She enjoys starting a painting not knowing how it will turn out.

Mary will be having an artist reception on August 28 at 6:00 p.m., prior to her son's comedy routine.

The art exhibit is free and open to the public. The comedy show requires a ticket. The cost is \$15. Seating is limited, so it is recommended that tickets be acquired in advance. Tickets are available at the coop. Walk-ins will only be allowed if seating is available.

For both the art and comedy shows, all attendees are asked to provide proof of vaccination and will be required to wear masks while inside the building. Any additional current COVID protocols will be followed.

## WEEKLY EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2021

EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO HEALTH CONCERNS

DAY	START	END	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT	
MON	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675	
	9AM		SENIOR CLUB @ CIVIC CENTER	KOHALASENIORS@GMAIL.COM		
	6PM	6:30PM	FREE RMD TAIKO CLASSES	HISAOKA GYM	895-2025	
	7PM		AL-ANON MEETING	KOHALA MISSION SCHOOL	895-2094	
TUES	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675	
	9AM	10AM	TAI CHI WITH PETER BEEMER	KAMEHAMEHA PARK	OUTSIDE GYM	
	6PM	7PM	WOMEN'S RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	ZOOM	464-4411	
	6PM	7PM	TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG	OLD COURT HOUSE	889-1099	
	6:30PM		BELLY DANCING	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111	
WED	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	BAPTIST CHURCH	889-5675	
	7AM	6PM	FREE VACCINATION CLINIC	NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	885-4444	
	12PM	3PM	THRIFT SHOP	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390	
	2PM	4PM	OPEN GUIDED ART STUDIO	ARTISTS' CO-OP	783-1158	
	2:30PM	4:30PM	TEENS X2 SOCIAL 10-19 YRS	ARTISTS' CO-OP	989-5995	
	4:30PM		KOHALA CARES FOOD DRIVE	HUB PARKING LOT		
	6PM	6:30PM	FREE RMD TAIKO CLASSES	WALKER HALL	895-2025	
	6PM	7:30PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-0404	
	7PM		ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	WYLIE HALL, IOLE RD	889-6703	
	THU	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675
9AM		10:15PM	HEALING CIRCLE	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501	
4PM			FREE FRUIT SHARING MARKET	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-1282	
6PM			TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG	OLD COURT HOUSE	889-1099	
7PM		8PM	NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING	WILEY HALL ON IOLE	805-452-9501	
FRI		7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675
		7AM	6PM	FREE VACCINATION CLINIC	NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	885-4444
	9AM		HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS, ALCOHOLICS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501	
	1:30PM	4PM	FREE VACCINATION CLINIC	KOHALA HEALTH CENTER	889-6236	
SAT	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675	
	8AM	12PM	FARMERS MARKET	THE HUB	313-338-7090	
	10AM	11PM	FREE GOLF LESSONS	NORTH KOHALA GOLF PARK	KOHALAGOLF@GMAIL.COM	
SUN	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675	
	10AM	11AM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	FARMERS MARKET	889-0404	
	10AM	11AM	WEST AFRICAN DRUMMING CLASS	ARTISTS' CO-OP	987-4243	
	11:30AM	12:30PM	WEST AFRICAN DANCE CLASS	ARTISTS' CO-OP	987-4243	
	6PM	7:15PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	KAVA CAFE	805-452-9501	



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## Kohala Portraits—Recognizing Neighbors “I Listening”: Priscilla Galan Feeding Change



Patricia “Gigi” Galan and her husband, Ralph Galan.

Story and photos by *Karolina Garrett*  
“Want some cold water?” Priscilla Galan, Food Service Manager at Kohala School Cafeteria, asks my ten-year-old son.

That 5th grader smile, confident yet somewhat aloof, occupies his face. “Nah, I’m good. Thanks.”

“How about rice, and we have Korean chicken?” Galan persists.

“Not so hungry but thanks,” the 5th grader dodges nutrition and hydration, again. I hear a gentle sigh, sounding a tad resigned yet

seldom, if ever, stymied from creating cafeteria space for keiki to choose ono food—which remains Galan’s calling for several decades now.

On a picnic bench at Keokea’s upper pavilion, this warm Sunday afternoon affords talk story time, conversation space to wonder: what choices along life’s path bring one of our Kohala neighbors to feed change? Galan recalls that while growing up in Honolulu she ate well since her parents loved to

cook. Of three brothers and two sisters, she became the family’s most valued garlic chopper, using a paring knife just so.

Still today, Galan prefers making food from scratch while relying on tried-and-true food prep methods. The new-fangled gadgets her husband, Ralph, buys her often remain on the shelf.

She and Ralph married several years after they graduated from Kohala High School; the ceremony took place at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, hosting the after-celebration at this Keokea Beach pavilion where we sit. The couple raised three daughters and one son. Married for 38 years, Galan credits her husband for the sustaining message: keep going. After the difficult kitchen days, keep going.

She relied on Ralph’s support, especially when she began at the Kohala School Cafeteria as cook, baker, van driver and any necessary job for keeping her in the kitchen, working steady until the chance to become manager opened.

Galan had worked in a familiar kitchen culture, where the kitchen manager harangued staff through harsh criticism, even loud shouting.

Experiencing these work conditions, she made a promise not to be that kitchen manager, but rather to

**See Galan, Page 14**

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[kohalamountainnews.com](http://kohalamountainnews.com)  
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**Gospel of Salvation Kohala**  
Kokoiki Road  
Service: Sunday 9:00 AM  
Adult Bible Study: Monday 7 PM  
Prayer Meeting: Friday 7 PM  
Pastor Ilima Moiha  
[www.gos-kohala.org](http://www.gos-kohala.org)

**Kohala Baptist Church**  
Across from Makapala Retreat  
‘Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.’  
(Matthew 11:28)  
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[www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com](http://www.kalahikiolacongregationalchurch.com)  
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[Kohalasda.com](http://Kohalasda.com)

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MAY BE VIRTUAL, please contact  
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**St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church**  
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Join our Sunday worship via FB livestream at 9:00 AM  
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For more information: 889-5390  
Thrift shop closed: Wed: 12-3PM, Thur: 4-6PM  
Face masks are required. Safe distancing.  
Community Meal:  
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[www.staugustineskohala.com](http://www.staugustineskohala.com)

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Rev Elias Escanilla  
Deacon Thomas Adams  
Telephone 889-6436

**NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**  
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North Hawaii Hospice is looking for volunteers to help with our Bereavement Program. The program provides support for family members, partners and caregivers for 13 months after the passing of a loved one. Areas where volunteer help is needed include monthly mailings and regular phone calls to check in on the bereaved to see how they are doing and offer support based on the need.  
This work can be done from your home and on your own time. Complete training will be provided. The time commitment is flexible depending on your availability and schedule.  
For more information and to volunteer please email [volunteer.manager@northhawaii hospice.org](mailto:volunteer.manager@northhawaii hospice.org) or call 885-7547

**Galan continued from Page 13**

evolve into an egalitarian leader. "I listening," she concludes on how she brings intention to the kitchen, a shared space for all to thrive. She makes sure every worker has an opinion heard and the kitchen space to speak up.

Even if the cooking method results in her way, she chuckles. After her humming a few bars from Frank Sinatra's "I Did It My Way," we enjoy one belly laugh.

After 20 years of juggling surprise kitchen dilemmas, one after another—scheduling employees when some show up while others are absent, missing key ingredients on food deliveries, exacting food compliance to federal guidelines, and more—her ambition to bring nutrition to Kohala community magnetizes others.

For example, as she has become

an active participant in the farm-to-school program, Galan integrates fresh fruits and veggies at every meal in service to youth, and during the COVID pandemic, every free lunch meal gifted any school age keiki in Kohala.

Or take another example of Galan motivating others. In a few weeks, the brand-new professional kitchen fridge, three doors wide, will lighten her workers' load. They can prep food well in advance since chilled storage now exists.

A Hawai'i Department of Education ally worked behind the scenes to make the fridge appear. The previous one sat in the main cafeteria for five years as helpful storage space, true, yet the new fridge improves workflow for kitchen staff.

Even as she eschews how previous managers ran the kitchen,

she brings her own expectations. One goal is for staff to cook from scratch as often as can. Serving lau-lau becomes a lunch day when students and faculty from the high school and elementary walk briskly to arrive first. On a different day, homemade mashed potatoes are happening, the potatoes boiled that morning, then finely chopped garlic gets tossed in.

Galan still has knife skills, yet now she relies on her staff for this follow through. "We know that we are feeding better than processed food," Galan beams. My 5th grade son remembers in easy detail his favorite; "Mom, the grilled cheese sandwiches are so good."

Ultimately, Galan realizes that her career carries the challenge to supersede the classic lunch lady portrayal: grouchy maven wielding a can opener to serve random

greenish-grey blobs of "food." Most anyone experiencing K-12 schooling in America has been there. One misstep in line can warrant the lunch lady shriek that ricochets in the ear drum for a long while.

Yet the Kohala School Complex Cafeteria Team endeavors to change that perception. These lunch ladies create a menu that gives Kohala youth food choices; they can select from several fresh fruits and veggies plus an entrée.

And when the cafeteria becomes boisterous, a common condition for school lunchrooms, a simple reminder to focus on eating arrives from lunch aides. No further yelling necessary. Galan even envisions granting students more time to eat, slowing the school day roll enough to enjoy that ono food her team's kitchen produces for the Kohala education community.

**World Day Against Human Trafficking**



Cheryl Rocha.

By Lani Eugenio

July 30 was designated by the United Nations as World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This day was meant to raise awareness and educate others about the thousands who are trafficked each year. On this day, sign-wavers encouraged everyone to take action to prevent exploitation.

Big Island Missing Children and 'Ainakea Neighborhood Watch joined forces to spread the awareness of human trafficking in Kohala. Big Island Missing Children is a Facebook page created by Kekai Coakley that informs its members of runaway children and some missing adults on the Big Island. It also provides information on worldwide human trafficking, child

abuse, personal and internet safety, and webinars on relevant issues such as awareness, prevention, parenting, etc.

Several years ago, the leaders of 'Ainakea Neighborhood Watch, Cheryl Rocha and Gerald Skelton, united their community by calling meetings, voicing their concerns to people who could make a difference and requesting the help of police officers. From residents complaining of break-ins and drugs, the neighbors now watch out for each other and the community is safer.

The message is clear: There are people in the world being exploited for many reasons. Forced labor and sex trafficking are most common, but children are being sold or kidnapped for adoption, marriage, forced begging or to become child soldiers. Adults and children are also used for organ removal.

This is not to create fear in our Kohala community, but an awareness, especially in a time when the children are becoming more proficient with computers and other electronic devices. Strangers and porn can easily enter your home through video games, the internet and your child's cell phone. Many children are lured away through these "virtual" contacts. Be aware of what goes on with your children and in your home.



Gerald Skelton (left) and Kekai Coakley.



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## Farmers Market Update and Featured Vendor

By Donna Maltz

The Hawi Farmers Market is happening! Live music has enhanced the high vibes at our small yet abundant market, and more future events are in the works. Since we are an outdoor market, masks are optional as long as everyone pays attention to social distancing regulations. At the market, you will notice we spread the vendors out to meet all COVID regulations.

This week's feature Market Vendor is Monique van der Stroom, the owner and farm manager of Naked Cow Dairy Farm & Creamery. We are fortunate to have a variety of cheeses and gourmet butters at the Hawi Market. Some of her most popular cheeses are our Labneh and Mango Habanero. Most of her unique blends of flavor and spices come from local companies. Her goal is to use local ingredients whenever possible to help support other small companies like hers.

Naked Cow began in 2007 on O'ahu, where Monique managed the largest dairy in Hawaii, milking 1,300 cows three times a day. After 17 years, this ambitious woman decided it was time to branch out on her own and lease some land on O'ahu. She started with a few cows making cheese and butter and eventually hired her sister and best friend to help make the cheeses and butter. The all-female run operation, including the cows, was



Monique van der Stroom loves her girls.

churning. In 2019, she was presented with the unsettling news that renewing her lease was not possible, leaving her with few options for where to move the farm and creamery. "We were a farm without a home." When she unexpectedly lost her lease, she had no choice but to move here as she had just bought 17 cows from The Big Island Dairy that was closing on the Hamakua Coast and forced to sell off

2,600 cows.

Fortunately, Clover Leaf Dairy in Hāwi gave her cows a home until they could find a new place to settle and gear up the cottage industry. "Cows belong on grass, and there is no better place for them to be. I'm so happy to see the cows relaxed and chewing their cud. It's a beautiful sight for a dairy farmer."

Monique feels blessed to have

found a new home for herself and her friendly herd to restart her farm and creamery. The products are temporarily being produced on O'ahu. The great news is the new creamery is under construction right here in Hāwi and should be up and running by September 1. Monique will continue making artisan cheese and a variety of gourmet butters just three miles away from the market. The new commercial facility offers more capacity to keep up with the steady demand with the offerings from her happy cows. Farmer's markets have given Happy Cow the exposure needed to get up and running in Kohala. The Hāwi market has been a pleasant and successful way for her to introduce Naked Cow to our community.

She started making 10-15 pounds of butter a week in 2008; now she makes 200-300 pounds weekly, which she sells in several locations around the island and on O'ahu. At the Hāwi market, you are greeted by Daniel Kier, who now helps with the operation.

Monique loves the Big Island, and she is excited about having the entire operation on one island. Soon, she plans to offer cheese classes and sunset cheese and wine events on her new farm up Hāwi Hill. "We are looking forward to being a sustainable farm in our new community. MOO-halo."

## KOHALA MONTHLY CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2021

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO CURRENT HEALTH CONCERNS

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
9/1	WED	4:00 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	MEETING	SENIOR CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
9/1	WED	4:30 PM		NKAG MEETING		OLD COURTHOUSE	889-0404
9/3	FRI	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	FREE VACCINATION	POP-UP CLINIC KAMEHAMEHA PARK	HISAOKA GYM	
9/13	MON	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	COMMUNITY MEAL - TAKE OUT	AT ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH	WALKER HALL	889-5390
9/14	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	THE HUB	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
9/16	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	889-5115
9/18	SAT	4:30 PM	6:30 PM	FREE GRINDZ HOT MEAL	KOHALA BAPTIST CHURCH	BANYAN TREE	889-5416
9/22	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, WATER & ROADS GROUP	MONTHLY MEETING	OLD COURTHOUSE	889-6238
9/27	MON	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	COMMUNITY MEAL - TAKE OUT	AT ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH	WALKER HALL	889-5390
9/29	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111

Email monthly calendar listings to: [kohalacalendar@gmail.com](mailto:kohalacalendar@gmail.com)

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Gabrielle Bartolome graduated in May 22, 2021 with a BS/BA in Mechanical Engineering, Magna Cum Laude at the University of San Diego. Also, she married Adam Walter on June 3, 2021. They were both commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants for the US Army (ROTC) Reserve.

Gabrielle was awarded the Prestigious Saber Military Award for her many achievements.

She also received the Commander's Award for Excellence for being consistently on USD Deans List Award, the USD Platinum Athlete Award, and USAA Spirit Award.

Congratulations Gabrielle for all your accomplishments.

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