

Vol.20, No. 9

About Kohala, For Kohala

September 24, 2021

## 13th Year Scholarships Provide Opportunity



Photo by Kathy Matsuda

13th Year Scholarship recipients and program coordinators. Left to right: Nalani Andrews, Aotealoe Masalosalo, Kathy Matsuda (Kohala Village HUB), Aukea Kaaekuahiwi, Jeffrey Francisco, Ashton Bolosan, Dana 'Āina (Hawai'i Community College Academic Counselor and Program Coordinator).

By Joel Tan and Kathy Matsuda

From a generous gift by the Dorrance Family Foundation and the University of Hawaii Foundation, five North Kohala students received the 13th Year Scholarship. The University of Hawaii 13th year initiative is an innovative program designed to encourage non-college-bound students and adults to attend and success-

fully complete their first year of college.

This program includes the Elama Project at Hawaii Community College's Palamanui campus in Kona and Hilo One at HCC's campus in Hilo. The 13th Year Scholarship provides financial and other supports that reduce barriers to entering and succeeding in college.

Attending HCC-Hilo are Aukea Kaaekuahiwi, Aotealoe Masalosalo and Nalani Andrews. Attending HCC-Palamanui in Kona are Jeffrey Francisco and Ashton Bolosan. Congratulations to these five students.

Scholarships cover 100% of tuition, books and fees during the first year.

Academic, career and financial aid guidance throughout their

entire academic career at HCC and Palamanui. Upon successful completion of the first year, students may be eligible to receive additional support for tuition books, and fees up to an Associate Degree.

For more information on 13th Year, please contact Joel Tan or Kathy Matsuda at Kohala Village HUB at 889-0404 ext. 104.

## Lamaloloa Parcel in Danger of Being Sold to Private Party



A petition at Change.org has been created to encourage the landowner of Lamaloloa to honor the process that was underway to protect this coastal parcel, which is in the middle of the coastline already preserved by the community.

Story and photo by Gail Byrne Baber

The heart of the Kohala coastline, preserved for future generations through 50-plus years of

community work, is still threatened by development. Lamaloloa is a 35-acre oceanfront parcel

**See Land, Page 2**

## New Format Proposed for Kohala's CDP Action Committee

By Toni Withington

Fed up with the County ignoring the North Kohala Community Development Plan activities, a group of community leaders this month called on the Planning Department to change the setup of Kohala's Action Committee to foster greater and wider representation of members from the community.

Planning Director Zendo Kern responded swiftly and positively to the proposals by thirteen signers of a memorandum outlining the problems faced by the committee and its stalled status. The last meeting of the Kohala Action Committee (AC) was July 2019, and it now has only one sitting member. While the County had repeatedly promised to help get it going again, nothing has hap-

pened.

When residents who are still meeting monthly in CDP sub-groups found out that three ACs from other districts had held Planning Department-facilitated quarterly meetings three times this year, it was decided – in true Kohala fashion – to do it ourselves. The page-and-a-half memo to Kern and CDP Coordinator Keiko Mercado outlined four problems and offered solutions for getting the Action Committee up and running again. They were joined by four former chairpersons of the Kohala AC.

"It is great to see that you have so many involved in this conversation," said April Surprenant, head of the department's Long Term Planning division that over-

**See CDP, 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!

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Land, continued from Page 1

the community hopes to have protected by December. The full asking price was secured in April and work was well underway to purchase the parcel before the landowner pulled out to sell to a private party.

The funds are still available for purchasing and protecting the land. A petition has been started at Change.org to ask the landowner and private party to reconsider and allow the community to finish the preservation purchase.

"This coastline has the most numerous intact precontact cultural and archeological sites in the state, including ancient trails at Lamaloloa that are protected by Queen Liliuokalani's Hawaii Highways Act of 1892", shared Fred Cachola, long-time advocate for protecting this coastline. "And the North Kohala Community Development Plan calls for the preservation of this area as a

cultural landscape without luxury homes or development."

Lamaloloa is south of Lapakahi State Park and identified by the shipping container housing a well, makai of Akoni Pule Highway. Community groups hope to use the well to restore native plants on the property and on nearby preserved lands and are concerned that the water could be used for development and landscaping instead.

"The goal of the petition is to reach a win-win-win outcome," shared Joe Carvalho of Kohala Lihikai. "The landowner gets his asking price, the community's 50-plus years of work to preserve this coast is honored, the natural resources are protected, and the cultural landscape remains intact and uninterrupted by development.

The petition on Change.org can be found at <https://chn.org/it/WGBhtdFzCW>.

CDP, continued from Page 1

sees the six CDP ACs around the island. She and Kern agreed to meet with Kohala people in order to come up with possible changes.

A key change proposed in the memo is that recruitment and nomination of AC members should take place within the community.

This is a key strategy already written into the NKCDP. The first AC in 2009 was set up that way. However, since then the County has only called for self-nomination forms sent to the mayor.

"By encouraging past members of the AC, former members of the Steering Committee as well as active members of the supporting groups to select and recruit new AC members, those serving can represent a wider spectrum of the community and foster a sense that others are counting on their participation," the memo says.

Other recommendations are to reduce the commitment to serving on the AC from four years to two and to reduce the membership from nine to seven.

Perhaps the hardest change to sell to the County will be returning the AC meetings back to

monthly.

Originally, meeting once a month meant the community could respond to issues and development permit applications swiftly. But the Planning Department reduced the meetings to every other month two years ago, and in January said all the ACs will only meet quarterly.

"Quarterly meetings will further erode the chance for the community to be part of any timely County discussion of issues," the memo said.

As a solution to the increased cost of County planners driving from Hilo and setting up all the logistics of the meetings, the memo proposed that residents be trained to take over much of the organizational work and the planners be allowed to attend via hybrid virtual technological means.

The signers of the memorandum are former AC chairs Joe Carvalho, John Winter, Jeff Coakley and Steven Hoffman. Joining them are Toni Withington, Lehua Ah Sam, Ted Matsuda, Andi Longpre, Faye Yates, Beth Robinson, Jack Hoyt, Carter Collins and Susan Fischer.

Anticipated Joy

Eila Algood

Moments from takeoff  
From the rock  
The island I call home  
For the first time in fifteen months  
Feels like fifteen years  
My spirit of adventure was grounded  
Now about to soar  
Wear mask to cover nose and mouth  
Fill out forms in this  
Pandemic crazed world  
Excited to depart  
To see my grown-up daughter and  
Her two-year-old baby boy  
Thrill of anticipation  
To look into her eyes

Not the eye of the computer  
To hear his giggle  
Not through a phone  
But in person  
To play and dance and talk story  
After a hug  
Or ten  
And kisses, yes, those too

As I sit in an airplane  
Which looks similar to how I remember it  
The world has changed  
Abundant fear in the air

I choose love  
I choose positive possibilities  
I choose optimism for a new, joyful world  
Where each person lives in gratitude  
For simple things  
A visible smile  
A warm embrace  
A heartfelt handshake

We'll unify for humanity  
To cooperate  
To congregate  
To contemplate

A future for all sentient beings  
Expand our awareness  
Beyond me to we

963 Hz tones play angelic melodies  
Through headphones  
Raises my vibration  
Encourages wellness of  
Spirit, emotions and body

I'm in this world yet when I listen  
These tones tell me  
I'm not of this world  
My soul is happy  
To be here now  
Happy to honor the call  
To fly . . .



By Diann Wilson

Emerging

By Diane Revell

Mere fragment of nature  
straining to survive  
twisting and turning  
finally emerging

From the struggle  
to stay alive  
character shaped  
from what went before

Rising to new heights  
moving forward to strive  
testament to strength  
unique shape of life

"North Kohala residents typically have a deep commitment to managing our future growth in a manner consistent with our rural lifestyle and cultural heritage, while cooperating fully with various County agencies in that endeavor," the memo said. The

proposed changes would "re-energize the AC with experienced and dynamic members of the community and allow them to pass along their accumulated wisdom and experience to new members who wish to become community servants and leaders themselves."



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## Nā Kūpuna 'O Kohala Stays Active



Photo by Ann Kanehailua Coito  
Left to right: Vivian Maria, Deborah Withers and Hazel Trouche.



Photo by Ann Kanehailua Coito  
Lynda Wallach.

By Kumu Kauli Nakamura

Na Kūpuna 'O Kohala hālau has been kept busy from last year. We tried hula lessons by Zoom. I had them start a lei hulu with the teachings by Kalani Heineke and Evalani Kawai. Groups were split up in smaller groups and was assisted by other kūpuna. When guidelines allowed gathering outside with 25 people, a couple generously opened their nut field and we practiced there with masks and hand sanitizers.

Tuesday and Thursday we had hula movies at Mike Foley's home, inviting groups of 10 at a time. We had a huaka'i at the bird sanctuary and a couple of community performances under the banyan tree, Prince Kuhio Day, and Senior Center lawn for King Kamehameha Day. Joan Channon, owner of Bamboo Restaurant, is a huge supporter of our hālau. Several kūpuna danced at Bamboo for two days a week for a couple of months. They had a lot of fun and enjoyed each other's company. We are taking a break now due to numbers of COVID cases. Nā Kūpuna 'O Kohala would like to thank all the employees of Bamboo Restaurant for their helpfulness and support in this difficult time for gatherings. They made it easy for kūpuna to share their love of hula and we appreciate all the donations that we received.



Credit: Bamboo Restaurant  
Left to right: Laure Gomera, Susanne Holland and Ann Kanehailua Coito.

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# HAWAII WRITERS GUILD

## Member News

By Joy Fisher

Hawaii Writers Guild has debuted a new online periodical, "Member News," containing stories by, for and about the writers who are members of Hawaii Writers Guild. The periodical is available to the public on its website.

"A number of factors caused us to recognize the need for this new publication," said Joy Fisher, one of the co-editors of the magazine.

"We were no longer a small, close-knit group on the Big Island of Hawai'i," Fisher explained. New members live on other islands; and some members live on the mainland part or all of the year, including Cecilia Johansen, the other co-editor of Member News. Johansen, a founding member of Hawaii Writers Guild, moved from Hawai'i to California to be closer to family, but wanted to stay in touch with her writer friends on the Big Island.

And then there was COVID-19. "Suddenly even those of us on the Big Island stopped seeing each other in person as we sheltered at

home," Fisher said. "There were no more chats over coffee about what was going on in our writing lives."

To fill this void, each issue will have special feature stories about unique or first-time activities of Guild members. The first issue, for example, features a story about how North Kohala Guild Member Virginia Fortner became a woman who wrote history during the COVID-19 epidemic.

There will also be opinion columns by members about special aspects of the genre they write in. The first issue contains one column about "episodic writing," and another about "punk haiku." Profiles of new members and news of recent publications by members will also be included in each issue.

"For members of the public who have ever wondered what the life of a writer is like, Member News offers an inside scoop," Fisher said.

The first issue of Member News can be viewed at [www.hawaiiwritersguild.com](http://www.hawaiiwritersguild.com).

## Virginia Fortner Joins the Ranks of "Women Writing History"



Courtesy of Virginia Fortner  
Virginia Fortner lives in Kapa'au, Hawaii. She joined Hawaii Writers Guild in October 2017.

By Joy Fisher

When North Kohala Guild member Virginia Fortner saw an announcement on the internet that the National Women's History Museum was gathering stories and journal entries from women about their reactions to the COVID-19 pandemic, she sent them a poem she wrote last fall.

The poem was inspired by the various responses she had encountered among her neighbors during the early days of the lockdown as she took long walks through her neighborhood for

exercise. When she read the poem to her writing critique group, one member said, "I like your meandering poem."

The National Women's History Museum liked it, too. They asked Fortner whether she would be willing to sign a "Deed of Gift" of the poem, allowing its use in their project "Women Writing History: A Coronavirus Journaling Project." In March, she did so. "That means I can't publish the poem myself," Fortner explained. It's theirs, now.

According to the museum's website, contributions like Virginia's "will be used as a living archive of women's lives during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as for online and physical exhibits, articles and stories."

"This archive will also hold a special place in the future physical site of the National Women's History Museum."



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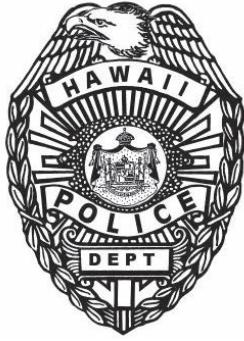


CRYSTAL GROSSHUESCH PHOTOGRAPHY



Funding for Hawi Farmers Market promotions was provided by North Kohala Eat Locally Grown and the Hawi Farmers Market and made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant AM180100XXXXG102. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

## Police Department Update



### Animal Control

By Officer Dayton Tagaca

Members of the public who have lost a pet are encouraged to:

- Post their lost pet on <http://lost.petcolove.org>.
- Post their pet on social media and put fliers up.

Members of the public who find a lost/stray animal are encouraged to:

- Secure the animal and call the Hawaii County Animal Control at (808) 327-3558.
- Post the found animal on <http://lost.petcolove.org>.
- Post the pet on social media and put fliers up.

## Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

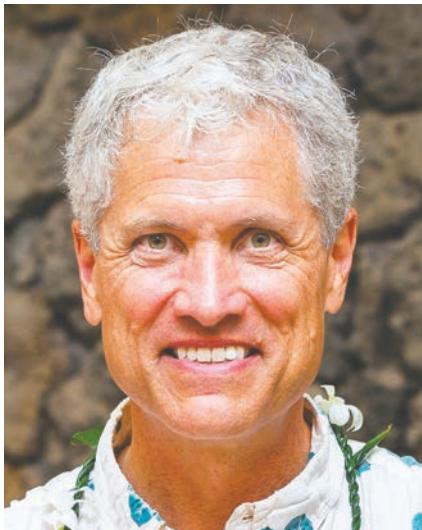


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

This past summer, Hawai'i has seen its highest numbers of visitor arrivals since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and domestic arrivals to Hawai'i Island have exceeded even pre-pandemic levels. As Kohala's residents and visitors alike enjoy our trails, beaches and parks, we are increasingly challenged to manage crowds, traffic, waste and irresponsible use of our unique natural resources.

State agencies are working to develop better tools and strategies to meet this challenge. This is a multi-pronged, long-term effort to support sustainable communities, abundant natural resources and a healthy economy.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature took a major step by restructuring the funding stream for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), the State agency responsible for tourism management. While HTA previously received dedicated funding through the Transient Accommodations Tax, all HTA funding will now be approved by the Legislature during each budget cycle, through the same process that funds other State agencies. This budgetary restructuring will increase HTA's responsiveness to public priorities and will improve the Legislature's oversight of HTA to ensure public funds are used effectively.

HTA is now working to rebuild

our tourism industry in a way that supports communities and protects local resources. They have created Destination Management Action Plans for each island to guide their work, and the Legislature will track their progress closely in the coming years. You can learn more about these plans at <https://hawaiiourismauthority.org>.

Natural resource management under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is the focus of the House Water and Land Committee, of which I am Chair. During the 2021 Legislative Session, our committee and the Legislature approved House Bill 1020 to allow DLNR to implement adaptive management of natural resources. This new procedure allows the Board of Land and Natural Resources to respond to rapidly changing conditions, such as a coral bleaching event, by implementing temporary rules. Temporary adaptive management rules are approved through a process which is procedurally streamlined while still providing opportunity for public review and input.

The 2021 Legislature also approved House Bill 1276 to allow the Division of State Parks to implement dynamic pricing, adjusting parking and park entrance fees based on changing conditions. This strategy will allow the DLNR to better manage fees and visitors, following the example of Hā'ena State Park on Kaua'i. At Hā'ena, Hawai'i residents can park and visit free of charge.

Non-resident visitors are required to make a reservation and pay a parking and entrance fee, which goes to support the park. The system at Hā'ena also places a limit on the number of visitors so that vehicle and human traffic doesn't overwhelm the roads, parking lot, facilities, and natural resources.

In concert with these policies, the 2021 Legislature recognized that regulations protecting Hawai'i's unique natural, cultural, and historic resources are only as effective as the front-line officers who are responsible for educating the public and enforcing the rules. The DLNR Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) is responsible for

upholding the State laws that protect and manage Hawai'i's natural, cultural and historic resources. DOCARE's domain encompasses all State lands, including mauka hunting areas, State Parks, over 750 miles of coastline, and the ocean waters extending three miles offshore.

Providing natural and cultural resource enforcement over this vast area is an immense challenge, and DOCARE officers are increasingly on the front lines of addressing the overuse of our State's natural resources by visitors and growing resident populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has also created new responsibilities for DOCARE officers to enforce COVID-19 gathering restrictions at beaches and other State recreation areas.

During the 2021 Session, the Legislature took significant steps to improve DOCARE's capacity to manage and protect our natural resources. The 2021-2022 State Budget (House Bill 200) included funding to employ and equip 30 new DOCARE officers statewide, and restored funding to 12 previously unfunded positions. In total, the Legislature increased DOCARE's budget by just over \$5 million, about half of which was covered by annually recurring State funds for the new positions, and half of which was a one-time allotment of federal funds to provide equipment and vehicles for the new officers. DOCARE plans to begin recruitment for 35 officers soon with training to begin January 2022.

I am grateful for the Legislature's support for these natural resource protection and management measures during last session. I will closely track these initiatives as they progress. The next legislative session begins in January 2022, when we will consider steps to further strengthen resource management and support long-term sustainability and quality of life in our state.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about these matters or other issues affecting our community, I am always grateful to hear from you. Please contact me by email at [reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov) or by phone at (808) 586-8510.

Mahalo!

### 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.

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

**November Deadlines**  
**Ads and News: 11/12/21**  
**Calendar: 11/19/21**  
**Distribution: 11/26/21**

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

[www.kohalamountainnews.com](http://www.kohalamountainnews.com)

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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.**

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

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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.

## Hawai'i County Animal Control

Over the last several months, there has been substantial conversation around Hawai'i County's Animal Control (AC). Last fiscal year, 2020-2021, a new provider, Hawai'i Rainbow Rangers (HRR) had the contract. (For the previous 3-plus decades, the animal control/animal rescue program had been performed by the Hawai'i Humane Society (HHS), who this past year elected not to bid for said services. The Rainbow Rangers organization was the only bidder and did receive the contract.)

Through 2020-2021, the County of Hawai'i and our Hawai'i County Police Department (HPD) worked with HRR to ramp up their service. Initially, they started as a "limited" service with the intent of going to full service of control and rescue within six to nine months of their contract.

Unfortunately, HRR was never able to fulfill the terms of the contract and the contract was terminated this summer.

Hawai'i County assumed responsibility of animal control services on July 1, 2021, at the beginning of the current fiscal year, after the contract with HRR

ended on June 30. Within the County, the responsibilities of AC Services currently fall under the Police Department. While HPD is responsible for AC in the short term, the County is also considering how to best move forward with AC Services in general, and whether it would be better suited for AC to be within a different department or contracted to an outside vendor. The current model we are working on is patterned after other jurisdictions that share some of the same challenges as we do.

Currently, Animal Control calls are evaluated and prioritized as follows:

Priority 1: sick or injured animal or animal that is a safety threat to humans; person sees a loose dog in the road that is a public safety risk; dog is an immediate threat to safety (e.g., a dog just bit someone); animal cruelty; immediate threat to animal's life; or owner arrested/deceased with no family to pick up animal.

Priority 2: a person finds a healthy stray animal or is reporting a lost pet.

Priority 3: individual finds a lost animal or reports a deceased animal on roadway; animal cruelty/neglect investigations – no immediate threat to animal's life; or not a dangerous dog – not actively a threat.

For sick and injured animals, we're working on a model using telemedicine to put together a panel of veterinarians that can take a call, triage an animal, and help AC pick the best course of further action.

HPD has provided guidance to all veterinary offices on-island as well as created a fact sheet that can be found here: <https://www.hawaiipolice.com/services/animal-control-services>.

If people find a healthy stray animal, they are encouraged to: 1) Call Hawai'i County Animal Control at (808) 327-3558 to arrange for scanning the animal for a microchip. 2) Alternatively, take the animal to a veterinarian to scan for a micro-

chip. Veterinarians can search for a microchip on [www.foundanimals.org](http://www.foundanimals.org).

3) Secure the animal and post it as found on <https://lost.petcolove.org>. The <https://www.petcolove.org> website is a great resource as it is a national database that uses facial recognition software to help reunite lost and found pets with their owners.

This site is used by AC, HHS, and Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance to help reunite pets with their owners. Efforts are also made through social media, etc. to attempt to locate owners. If no owner can be found and the animal is deemed adoptable and has a potentially treatable condition, AC networks with several animal welfare groups on-island like HHS or KARES (Kohala Animal Relocation and Education Service) etc. who then work to find fosters and adopters for these animals.

I have been and will continue to be a strong advocate for continued funding to spay and neuter animals going into our rescue group programs for adoption and further care.

AC has hired an Animal Control Director and a total of eight animal control staff on a contract

basis. Currently, AC is operating one shelter in East Hawai'i and one in West Hawai'i. In addition, significant funding will need to be secured for additional shelter locations to be opened. HPD is in the process of hiring more staff, which will need to be in place before additional shelter locations in other parts of the island can be arranged and/or secured. Efforts are also continuing to partner with more animal rescue organizations.

Should you find yourself in a position to call County Animal Control Services, for non-emergencies or lost & found pets, please contact 808-327-3558. For animal emergencies (Priority 1 calls listed above) call the Hawai'i Police Department non-emergency dispatch line at 808-935-3311 for assistance.

Our County AC program is still undergoing evolution, but our direction mirrors other successful programs in the nation and we are optimistic that it will be an effective program for our island community. Stay tuned as more details are worked out and look for updates as they become available.

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

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*Long time Kohala Residents working for our community*

## Emergency Declaration Sought by Ditch Users



Photo by Libby Leonard

David Fuertes (left) and Joel Tan guide discussion on how to address the damaged Kohala Ditch.

By Libby Leonard

On August 18, water users and advocates, alongside councilman Tim Richards, came together to figure out how to move forward with the damaged Kohala Ditch. Many agreed that there was a need for elected officials to declare a state of emergency.

The ditch has been an agricultural lifeline funneling several million gallons of water from Pololū to Māhukona. In early April, its main flume was wiped out by a rockslide, effectively shutting down the water supply

feeding North Kohala. This disrupted and, in some cases, completely devastated several farming operations, along with other profit-making ventures.

The meeting, which was organized and facilitated by David Fuertes, executive director of the education-based agriculture nonprofit Kahua Pa'a Mua, was limited to 25 participants due to COVID restrictions. However, according to Fuertes, there was a significant wait list of other users who wanted to get in.

Those who were in attendance

came from large enterprises such as Cloverfield Dairy and Kentia Nursey. Smaller enterprises like Spicy Ninja Sauce, Kuleana Rum, E-Scape Enterprise and other area landowners and farms also showed. Many of these organizations use sustainable farming methods, empower community resilience, and have been assets during the pandemic in terms of food security.

The last time a mobilization of users was necessary to get the ditch restored was in 2006, after the Kiholo Bay earthquake's destruction. The community rallied together and, along with the efforts of elected officials and many other entities, raised \$6.5 million in private, public and federal monies to get the ditch back up and running in 2008.

Ed Teixeira, former head of Civil Defense who provided disaster assistance and fiscal oversight on behalf of the State and Federal Government on that restoration, was present at the meeting.

He told those who attended that change starts locally and that it was important to get a government entity to listen to the pain users were going through to fully understand how crucial and critical things are. He added that once an emergency declaration

is made, either at the County or State level, that can free up some of the emergency use funds that are available.

Over the last several months, there seems to have been a lot of confusion about what was happening with the ditch. At the meeting, though, one thing was clear: farmers and ranchers are suffering.

Cloverfield and Kentia have taken a big hit. Dan Jelks, who owned an area tilapia farm, lost his entire operation. Flumin' Kohala, a popular tourist attraction run by Kohala Eco Ventures LLC, an entity which subsidized ditch maintenance, also went under.

Others have been hand-watering their farms, including several 100-foot crop rows, and doing so with expensive county water. Fuertes was quoted saying his small nonprofit—whose USDA 'Ohana Agriculture Resilience project invites ten families from the community to learn about natural farming and grow their own crops for free—went from paying \$40 bi-monthly to \$650.

Newer users had plans thwarted, like Mary Beth Ludwig and boyfriend Chris Schwerzler. The couple recently bought property with the hope of creat-

**See Ditch, Page 8**

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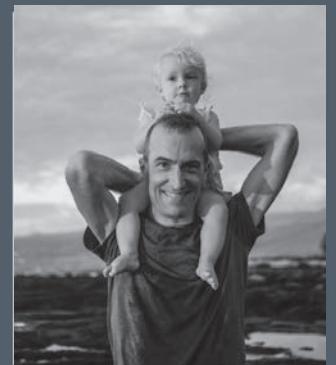
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**Ditch continued from Page 7**  
 ing assisted living and adult day programs for those with special needs, involving 'aina-based activities focused on integration and mindful living.

It was thought by some that land developer Surety Kohala, who is part-owner and administrator of the ditch, was finished with it in terms of doing any repairs.

It was mentioned at the meeting that Surety has been working with a new landowner Peter Evanovich at Ho'okipa Ranch, who plans to run a pipeline from the ranch's water sources to the location of the ditch. This will provide a short-term solution that could be functioning before the end of the year, according to Evanovich.

But again, this would only be a temporary fix.

According to Councilman Tim Richards, "Fact is, if we don't take care of this ditch in a reasonable timeline, we're going lose the fact that Kohala has a real potential

to be the number one agriculture place in this county because of the water."

Richards was more than happy to help lead the charge in getting an emergency declared by working with other officials, but it would still take the efforts of others.

Moving forward, Dash Kuhr from Starseed Ranch and several others felt that letters to officials should come from each user, detailing their struggles. Future meetings with users, officials and other area organizations such as Kamehameha Schools, which also is part-owner of the ditch, will decide further steps.

Even though not everyone was able to attend the first meeting, inclusivity and working together seems to be the overall theme. Fittingly, a poster that presided on the wall above Fuertes throughout the meeting read: A'ohē Hana Nui Ke Alu'ia (No Task Is Too Big When Done Together by All).



Photo by Kathy Matsuda  
 Ditch users gathered to discuss how to get the Kohala Ditch running again.

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For helpful information visit our website at [kohalacoquicoalition.org](http://kohalacoquicoalition.org)  
 You may also leave a message at the Coqui Information Line at **889-1777**  
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## Mi Ranchito Offers Michoacán Comfort Food



Maria Oliveros owns Mi Ranchito restaurant.

Story and photos by Karolina Garrett

Mi Ranchito restaurant bustles this afternoon and I spot a lucky open spot. At an adjacent table, one 'ohana hosts all the generations—the gramps, the parents, an amigo of the parents, and the keiki—who stop chattering and gawk as one full platter after another arrives: fish tacos, burritos and tamales. The 18-month-old in a highchair holds a flauta, a small tortilla rolled with chicken and cheese then fried, which she devours expertly. The waitress carries a steel plate that crackles and steams when she walks by, serving customers sitting street-side at tables on Akoni Pule Highway in Hawi. When the waitress

returns, she refills everyone's iced tea – just the right quencher, not too sweet, squeezed with that lime wedge. I am impressed as a basket of chips and pureed salsa arrive quickly at my table.

One of the more obvious reminders that we live on an island happens at a taqueria. In California, which some of us departed to transplant in Kohala, just one street could have multiple taquerias. Along with the ubiquitous taquerias are the complementary salsas, chips, radishes and jalapenos. Those restaurants can afford the spread since produce in California is inexpensive. But on the Big Island, local farmers grow plenty, yet prices can remain

high. Hawaii restaurant owners must be wizards with food costs if sourcing food on island.

Restaurant wizard extraordinaire Maria Oliveros, Mi Ranchito's owner, has enjoyed ten successful years in this location. Her longevity is partially a result of strategic food purchasing – from Costco, if necessary, yet consistently from local farms for plenty of lettuce, tomato and cilantro. However, Mi Ranchito's long-term success mostly stems from Oliveros' food roots and culture. These she learned while growing up in Michoacán, Mexico. Watching her parents run their own restaurant in Michoacán, and later on Oahu, Oliveros learned quintessential Michoacán culinary traditions. Today that culinary knowledge resides in the Mi Ranchito kitchen, the happy place for Oliveros, as she concludes, "I never get tired to come here."

The chip basket empties quickly at my table, given the easy process of dipping the not too-thick nor too-thin chips in the spicy salsa. Arriving as a side order, the chile relleno stretches across the 10-inch plate. One mild poblano chile, dipped in an eggy batter then fried and covered in melted cheese and a savory sauce,

with bits of crispy cheese from the grill mixed in, takes just a few minutes to eat. Tasty food goes so fast. I break a chunk from the corn tortilla on the fish taco platter – the main dish – to sop up the extra gravy.

The fish taco platter brims with enough food for two meals, so I begin the first one by diving into a taco shell filled with chunks of white fish, shredded dark green lettuce, freshly diced tomato, and grated cheddar cheese—classic flavors because they all enhance each other. The arroz y frijoles (rice and refried beans) on the side level up the comfort-food experience. Half of the plate ingredients go home for the second meal later.

One lament Oliveros offers is the challenge of matching supply and demand for her tamales, a customer favorite. Diners often eat some at the cozy location and then order a dozen to go. Cooking even more for locals and visitors becomes the next endeavor for Oliveros and her extensive 'ohana, many working with her to run Mi Ranchito.

The thriving entrepreneur just signed a five-year lease to expand the restaurant in the same location. A bigger space, more happy customers—what a culinary adventure for Oliveros to lead.

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# THE RISE AND FALL OF SUGAR IN KOHALA

## A One Hundred-and-Twelve Year History

### 1863–1975

By Tom Morse

PART TWELVE

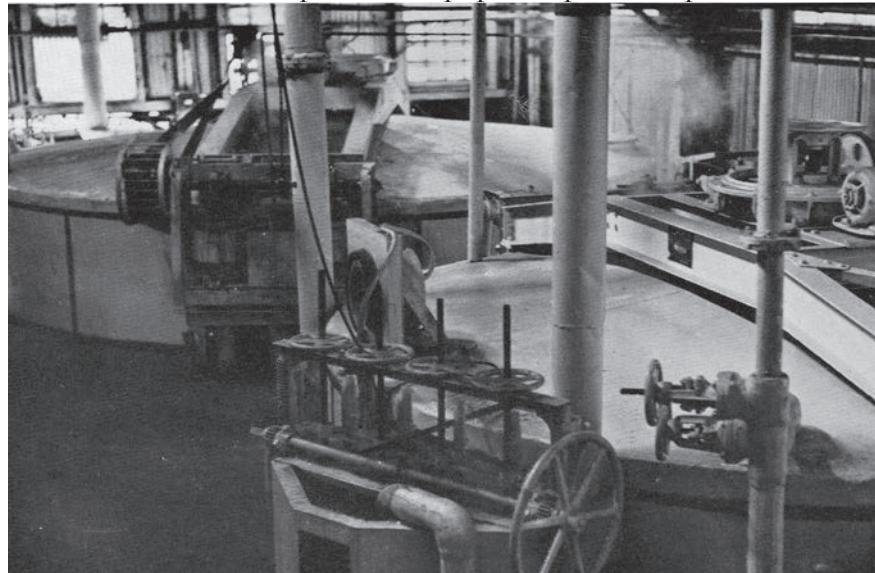
MECHANIZATION IN THE MILL

Extraction of sugar from the cane became more efficient as the number of rollers increased. Before 1876, three rollers extracted about 50 percent of the juice. By 1935, eighteen rollers were able to extract 98 percent. Boiler, evaporator, and centrifuge design improved with time.

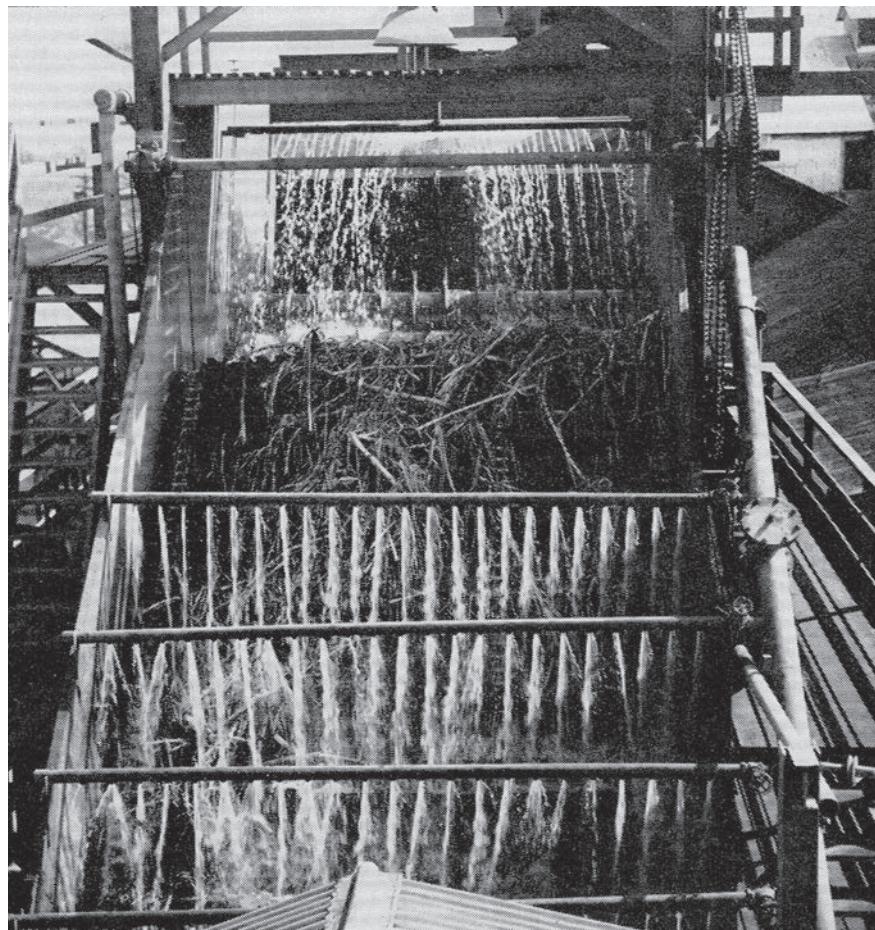
In the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s, Kohala Sugar invested in equipment to reduce the number of workers. Manual tasks were replaced by operator-driven machines at every step of growing and processing.

Comparing 1937 to 1945: Sales increased 56%, number of workers decreased 62%.

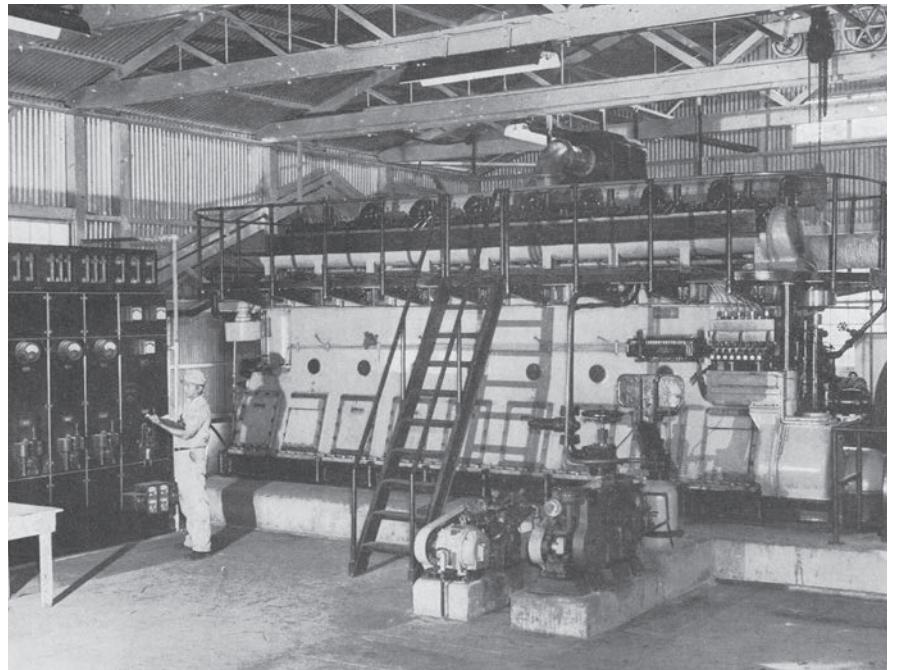
Shown here is a sample of the equipment put into operation.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1938  
Cane juice is clarified in these two Dorr units.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1946  
Cane washer.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1947  
Newly installed diesel engine in the power plant.

See Sugar, Page 11



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**Sugar continued from Page 10**

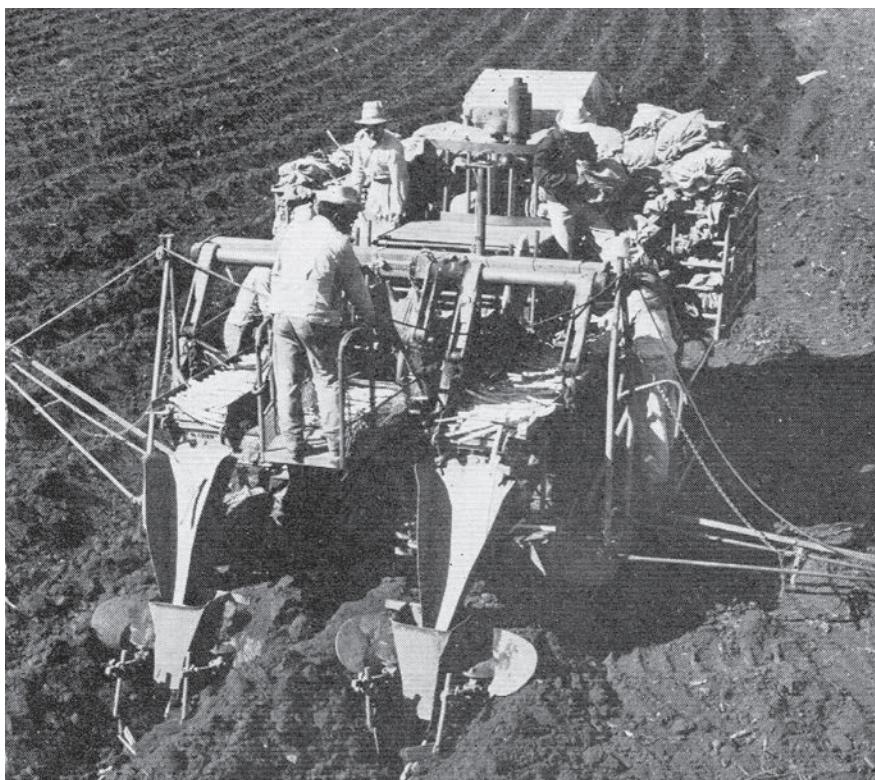
**MECHANIZATION IN THE FIELDS**

Oki ko and hapai ko, the manual field tasks, did not really become any easier until the late 1930s, when mechanical harvesters – drag rakes, followed by push rake tractors – appeared. In the 1930s, mechanical harvesters began to eliminate the need for men to cut the cane near the ground and carry it to waiting carts. But these machines also picked up much trash that had been avoided in hand harvesting. Mills built cane washers to remove debris before the cane entered the mill. A cane grab did the loading. By 1944, all the crops were mechanically harvested. Man-hours used to produce a ton of sugar in Hawaii were consistently lower than other sugar-producing regions from 1948 on, showing the greater extent of mechanization.

First railroads, then trucks, increased transportation efficiency. All of this resulted in the employment of far fewer workers.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1948  
These six-wheel-drive trucks, with an individual capacity of seven tons, transport 40 percent of our cane.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1947  
Seed cane planting machine.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1943  
Preparing the soil.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1943  
Covering seed.

See Sugar, Page 13

**SUNSHINE HARDWARE PRESENTS:**  
**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF KA AND LA, MENEHUNE COUSINS OF KOHALA**  
**YARD WORK**  
 STORY BY KALA CORP  
 ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTI KRANZ

**KA:** EH KA, WHERE YOU WAS?  
**LA:** OUTSIDE DOING YARD WORK

**KA:** I NO HEAR NUTTING?  
**LA:** I KNOW! I GOT THESE GREAT BATTERY POWERED TOOLS AT SUNSHINE!

**KA:** NOW NO NEED BOTHER WITH DAT MESSY GAS AND OIL STUFF. THEY START RIGHT UP, AND NO NEED PULL ONE ROPE!

**LA:** THEY'RE GREAT TOOLS! POWERFUL AND QUIET! NOW I NO MIND YARD WORK AND I DON'T BOTHER THE BIRDS OR THE NEIGHBORS!

**KA:** YOU SHOULD GO SUNSHINE CHECK THEM OUT! DATS HAU!

**LA:** BROUGHT TO YOU BY SUNSHINE TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

**Sugar continued from Page 10**



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1945  
Three-row spring-tooth cultivator.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1943  
Rake harvesting.



Source: Kohala Sugar Co. Annual Report – 1943  
Cane grab.

Next Month - Mill Mergers, Life at The Consolidated Halaula Mill

**WEEKLY EVENTS IN OCTOBER 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
	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	BAPTIST CHURCH	889-5675
WED	7AM	6PM	FREE VACCINATION CLINIC	NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	885-4444
	9:30AM	10:30AM	FREE COVID TEST	KOHALA HEALTH	889-6236
	12PM	3PM	THRIFT SHOP	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
	2PM	4PM	OPEN GUIDED ART STUDIO	ARTISTS' CO-OP	783-1158
	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
	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675
	9AM	10:15PM	HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501
THU	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
	7AM	8AM	AA DAWN PATROL	ZOOM	889-5675
FRI	7AM	6PM	FREE VACCINATION CLINIC	NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	885-4444
	9AM		HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	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
	9AM	10:20AM	LE'ALE'A COFFEE	ARTISTS' CO-OP	989-5995
	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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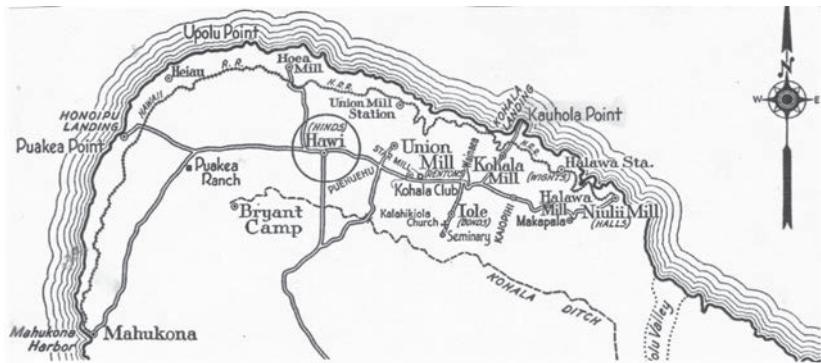
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## History of Kohala's Kauhola Point Lighthouse



Source: John Hind of Hawi

By Tom Morse

In the centuries prior to regular trans-Pacific maritime commerce, the people of Hawai'i would use open fires to guide paddlers safely to shore at night.

After several ships wrecked off Kauhola Point in Hala'ula, the Republic of Hawai'i constructed a wooden tower in 1897 to warn ships of the dangerous, low-lying, offshore reefs. This initial lighthouse was 34 feet high and supported an incandescent oil vapor lamp of 170 candlepower. It showed a fixed white light visible nine miles seaward.

The wooden structure withstood two earthquakes in the fall of 1925: magnitudes 6.1 and 6.5.

No keeper's residence was attached to the station. To attract a new keeper, one was built in 1914. Three years later, the original lighthouse was replaced by a temporary frame tower with a lens of 67,000 candlepower. It produced a white flash every six seconds that could be seen for up to 14 miles.

In 1932, two generators were installed at the station. They were powered by gasoline stored in an 854-gallon outside storage tank.

A new concrete lighthouse was completed in March 1933.



Source: Lighthousefriends.com  
Kauhola Point Lighthouse in 1904.

**See Kauhola, Page 14**

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[www.staugustineskohala.com](http://www.staugustineskohala.com)

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

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**NORTH HAWAII HOSPICE**  
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

Kauhola continued from Page 13



Source: Lighthousefriends.com  
Kauhola Point Lighthouse c. 1934. Note the original windows.



Source: Lighthousefriends.com  
Kauhola Point Lighthouse in 2007.

Reinforcing iron was added to the foundation and around all openings in response to concerns of possible earthquakes.

A new 36-inch electric beacon was placed on top, showing alternating red and green lights – the first of its kind in Hawai'i. The new light had 560,000 candlepower, more than eight times the output of the previous (1914) light. It was visible seaward for 17 miles.

The lighthouse stood 86 feet high with six floors, each 12 feet high. The concrete walls were two feet thick. It stood on a foundation

24 feet in diameter.

There was a spiral staircase inside, five feet in diameter with 108 steps. A hatch opened at the top for access to the beacons.

Originally there were double-hung windows on each story. Over time these began to leak. In 1963 they were blocked off and plastered over.

The lighthouse was under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard. It was manned by a lighthouse keeper, as it was deemed strategically important as an observation post until 1951, when it was converted to an automated,

unmanned structure. There were eleven different keepers from 1904 -1951.

When the lighthouse was first erected, it was 85 feet from the cliff face. By 2009, that had diminished to 20 feet. The 2006 earthquake had taken away six feet. An engineering report completed in 2007 estimated that the tower would likely collapse within two to five years due to shoreline erosion.

Relocating the tower was considered, but after consulting with Hawai'i State Historic Preservation officials, the Coast Guard decided to demolish the tower,

which was done in December 2009.

In 2012, twenty-seven acres of undeveloped shoreline at Kauhola Point were purchased from a private party by Maika'i Kamakani 'O Kohala, Inc., a public-private partnership that raised the \$1.3 million necessary for the purchase.

As landowner, Maika'i ensures that community access is maintained for recreational, cultural and agricultural purposes – remaining undeveloped and a community resource in perpetuity.

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## Keiki Kingdom

By Lala Power

The story of the creation of Keiki Kingdom is one of a community's journey to fulfill our children's dreams. In the early 1990s, when my children were young, the few pieces of playground equipment at Kamehameha Park were dilapidated, dangerous and not appropriate for small children.

Why couldn't Kohala build something like the new Anuenue Playground in Waimea? I met with the head of that project for how-to information. With the help of a few friends and teachers, a playground committee was formed, none of us really knowing what we were doing or the lokahi it would generate.

On Design Day, a representative from Playgrounds by Leathers met with all the children at Kohala Elementary, the Mission School and as many home-schoolers as we could round up. The keiki shared their ideas for their dream playground, including naming it.

Adults requested some dry play space for our many rainy

days. The result was a three-story structure bound with mesh to prevent falls over railings, safe but rather zoo-like. It also had only two points of egress, a concern in case of emergency.

Other considerations were the effects on young children of toxins in the treated wood, plus how to fund, and who would

do the necessary annual oiling of the wood. We decided not to build a wooden playground, but we came away with the children's wish list and the name, Keiki Kingdom.

We held community meetings to gather new ideas. Many were creative and fun but new Federal safety guidelines ruled

them out. In the end, we hired GameTime to design our colorful metal playscape, keeping in mind wish lists, safety, handicap access and minimal maintenance.

The County Parks Department agreed to remove the old equipment then maintain the

**See Keiki, Page 15**

*Hair Spectrum*  
Family Salon



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Dr. Daryl Stang  
rokuhawaii@gmail.com



## KOHALA MONTHLY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2021

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO CURRENT HEALTH CONCERNS

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
10/6	WED	4:00 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	MEETING	SENIOR CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/6	WED	4:30 PM		NKAG MEETING		OLD COURTHOUSE	889-0404
10/11	MON	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	COMMUNITY MEAL - TAKE OUT	AT ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH	WALKER HALL	889-5390
10/12	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	THE HUB	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
10/15	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	889-5115
10/16	SAT	4:30 PM	6:30 PM	FREE GRINDZ HOT MEAL	KOHALA BAPTIST CHURCH	BANYAN TREE	889-5416
10/25	MON	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	COMMUNITY MEAL - TAKE OUT	AT ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH	WALKER HALL	889-5390
10/27	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111
10/27	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, WATER & ROADS GROUP	MONTHLY MEETING	OLD COURTHOUSE	889-6238

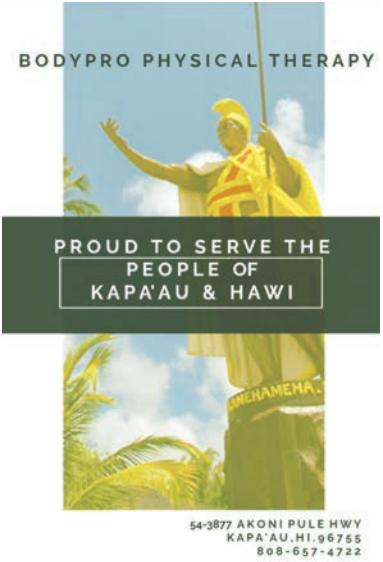
Email monthly calendar listings to: [kohalacalendar@gmail.com](mailto:kohalacalendar@gmail.com)



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Spiritualist Foundation

Kohala Artists' Coop: 54-3676 Akoni Pule Hwy  
Reverend Lee 808-989-5995

**Keiki continued from Page 15**

new playscape upon its completion.

With the new design and a budget, fundraising began. Magically, people from diverse walks of life seemed to come from everywhere to kokua. There were monetary donations, small and large, from individuals, families and businesses. Keiki, parents, tutus, teachers and local merchants created or took part in seemingly endless fundraisers: collecting spare change, selling candy, and a Mr. and Miss Keiki Kingdom pageant, just to name a few.

We sold t-shirts designed by two Kohala El students: a castle bedecked with flags and flowers surrounded by stick figure keiki holding hands, a perfect symbol for this community project.

The biggest event was 'Ohana Day at Kamehameha Park, where families came to enjoy games, grinds, music and a silent auction. Very generous donations from the County and Bank of Hawai'i were bestowed, closing the door on fundraising. Our little community raised \$80,000 in two years!

The grading of the site, gravel and cement were donated. Build Weekend finally arrived and local construction crews gave their time to install the equipment. Other volunteers brought food and drinks. After the build,



Courtesy of Lala Power  
Two Kohala Elementary School students designed a tee-shirt to raise funds for the Keiki Kingdom playscape at Kamehameha Park.

the handicap-access sidewalk was poured, gravel spread, fences constructed and sod planted. So many people gave

so much of themselves, hand-in-hand with each other to achieve this common goal – true laulima. In December 1995, Keiki Kingdom opened to the delight of our keiki. The Volcano Climber was added for the ten-year anniversary, thanks to a donation from Mrs. Clara Takata.

Keiki Kingdom is a testament to what ordinary folks can accomplish. It has served its community well for almost 30 years, but it is now tired; damaged by time, use and abuse; in need of replacement parts, repair or maybe something entirely new. Perhaps those children whose dreams were fulfilled so long ago will now rise to the challenge for their own keiki.

Lala Power made her home in North Kohala with her husband and two children from 1988-2013. In addition to spearheading the Keiki Kingdom project, she worked at Kohala Elementary for several years, teaching a specialized reading program and volunteering as the music teacher for K-5.

She also served two years as a community rep on the West Hawaii Hospital Advisory Board and directed the North Kohala Community Chorus for three seasons. She left Hawaii to be with family and now resides in Johnson City, TN, nestled against the Appalachian Mountains. A piece of her heart is still in Kohala.

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