



Vol. 22, No. 05

About Kohala, For Kohala

May 26, 2023

Community Voices Heard at Meeting for Pololū Planning Project



By Libby Leonard

Townscape representative Gabrielle Sham facilitated the community meeting discussing issues at Pololū Valley.

By Libby Leonard and Toni Withington

Late last month, the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and O'ahu-based community planning consultant Townscape Inc., convened a community meeting at the Kohala Intergenerational Center (KIC) to get feedback and ideas for the Pololū Planning Project.

The room was packed with over eighty people signed in, some standing, and others spilling outside KIC's doors.

The purpose of the project—which has been funded by the legislature through a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) allocation—is to find ways to mitigate impacts to both the trailhead and valley resulting from the large influx of visitors. They plan to do this by consulting kūpuna, Pololū's lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, students and other residents in the planning process.

Townscape, Inc., which has worked with several state agencies and Native Hawaiian organizations involving resource management, started the process last fall with a community assessment. The goal is to understand community values, visions, issues and needs. In February, the planners visited Kohala schools to engage students.

Townscape representative Gabrielle Sham, who facilitated both the April 27 in-person meeting and a later online video meeting, posted some of the student feedback during a slideshow presentation, which included drawings from area youth and stories of an

easier time at Pololū. They recalled when local families could just walk to the beach—a pastime many say has been impeded due to the uptick in number of visitors.

The presentation also consisted of outlining issue areas such as sanitation (no restrooms), trail and natural hazards, parking congestion and safety, a sense of place, and impacts to natural and cultural resources.

In the last several years, due to what many believe is attention on social media, Pololū has seen up to a thousand visitors a day. This has led to littering, trail erosion and numerous safety issues resulting in rescues due to flash floods, dangerous shoreline currents and other hazards.

While some of this has been mitigated through education and awareness, thanks to Pololū trail stewards Sarah Pule-Fujii, Paul Ishukuro, Jordan Borlan and others who came before them, many issues remain.

As Sham opened the floor for comments, many called to restrict access to visitors with some suggesting issuing permits, reservations or fee systems that would only allow a certain number of people to visit a day. Others proposed a shuttle system from a parking area closer to town. Several asked to allow only residents into the valley.

"It's not just about protecting Pololū but safeguarding it from people who have no regard for what they are doing out there," said community member Michael Hawkins who was concerned about what

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New Ambulance for North Kohala



Credit: Hawaii Fire Department

North Kohala "C" Platoon with their honored guests.

Captain Troy Gibson, Firefighter Marcus Oshiro, honored guests Pastor Steve Hedlund and his wife Yumi Hedlund, Firefighter Paul Daub, Fire Equipment Operator Helaku Hedlund and Fire Medical Specialist Max Simon.

The Hawai'i Fire Department put into service two new ambulances last month, with one of the ambulances assigned to the North Kohala Fire Station. The 2022 Ford F-350 ambulance was blessed by Kohala Baptist Church Pastor Steve Hedlund on March 6 at North Kohala fire station before being put into service. Medic 15 was purchased in 2019, but due to supply

chain issues was not completed and received by Hawai'i County till February 2023. Fire Captain Joe Souza states "How appreciative we are to be involved in the procurement process to acquire our new ambulance. This ambulance will assist our department to provide the Kohala community advanced life support services for years to come... Mahalo!"

Plans for a New Kohala Health Clinic Revealed

By Toni Withington

Hāmākua Health Center, Inc. this month announced plans to build an expanded clinic and medical research learning center on the site of the old Kohala Club Hotel. The nonprofit corporation doing business as Hamakua-Kohala Health currently rents the clinic space near Kohala Hospital and plans to build the facility in three phases, possibly moving into the first structure by next year.

The ambitious \$15 million project would provide 42 full time jobs including physicians, nurses, pharmacist, dentist, a Hawaiian healing director and lomi lomi massage

therapist, as well as support staff. In addition, the facility would become a training and research center in association with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine.

"We're going to try to get as many people into training as we can," said Irene Carpenter, CEO of Hamakua-Kohala Health. "There will be more doctors, more services and more staff, so we're creating jobs right here in Kohala."

Details of the plans were revealed in the center's application for a Special Permit and Use Permit which was to be heard before the

See, Lamaloloa Page 2

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Pololū, from Page 1



Community members shared their thoughts and feelings about how to manage the current situation.

people were doing in the valley.

Keone Emiliano asked if DLNR could place someone in the valley, such as a park ranger.

Jackson Bauer of DOFAW's Na Ala Hele Trail System said there was a grant in place to expand the trail steward program that would place more stewards in the valley. He also added that DLNR has hired 13 new enforcement offices that he hoped would be helpful.

Another area woman called for Pololū to have a wilderness designation that would afford certain protections to the land.

She added that it is an important Indigenous place where Indigenous values need to dictate what's going on.

Indeed, a lot of Kohala's Native Hawaiian residents spoke up about its cultural value.

"Pololū trail was built by Hawaiians," said Jeff Coakley. "I taught my sons how to fish Pololū, but they no can pass it down. The parking lot at Pololū should be for Kohala people only. So that they can continue to preserve their cultural lifestyle."

Resident Kanani Alpis said, "That is a cultural practice site. It has been that way for decades and eons before I set foot here, before we made this a Westernized home."

She later added that if there are going to be tourists, there needs to be better education. "If we were in someone else's culture, we would respect the culture the same way. That's all we're asking as Hawaiians. If you want to partake in the things that we do, we love our culture so much, come learn, let us educate you, but don't feel entitled to make changes."

Increased education of visi-

tors was called for by many of the 29 speakers. Many also called the valley a sacred place.

Days later, at a Zoom planning session held for those who could not make it in-person, a prime topic was the dangerous traffic on the winding road approaching the valley.

"The road was not designed for that much traffic," said Beldon Kealoha. "I'm worried about our children's safety. We need to limit the number of people who drive there."

Pololū Steward Sarah Pule-Fujii said she is fine that people come to the lookout but prefers that nobody goes down the trail. She expressed concern about unregulated bike tours and drivers not yielding on the one-lane bridges.

Pule-Fujii is also part of the Protect Pololū hui, who recently rolled out the hashtag social media campaign #Pololūneedsrest after their annual E Lei 'O Pololū Day, where their social media post announcement said they received many signs that day, and that this was the overall message coming from their kūpuna.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people who come to this place say it's beautiful, it's stunning, the most beautiful place on the island. We need to keep it that way," said Pule Fujii during the Zoom session.

The projected timeline for the Pololū Planning Project includes two more open community meetings, which will result in a draft Environmental Impact Assessment in the fall of 2024. That document will also be open for public comment.

The current draft vision statement on the project website says: "Pololū is a wahi pana (sacred place) that is respected for its historical and cultural values, where its strong sense of place, scenic spaces, and resources are protected, allowing it to continue to perpetuate the way of life for the people of Kohala for current and future generations."

Comments about Pololū Valley can still be submitted in writing. Go to <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/nah/hawaii/pololu-planning-project>, or write to Gabrielle Sham at Townscape, 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1160, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

To join the mailing list for updates, please fill out the form at bit.ly/3pxiY6y.

Clinic, from Page 1

Leeward Planning Commission on May 19.

The project will take place on about 4 acres of a 5.7-acre parcel on the corner of Akoni Pule Highway and Maluhia Road. A portion of Waikalaupala Gulch runs through the property. Two buildings constructed prior to 1921 and a utility building of the former Kohala Club Hotel will be demolished. A fourth building, visible from the driveway, will remain and be used as a caretaker's residence and storage.

The first phase will include construction of a transition clinic on the makai portion of the property with access via Maluhia Road. The single-story structure will include eight examination rooms and facilities for pediatric, dental, and behavioral care, as well as a pharmacy and offices.

The second phase will see the addition of a two-story permanent clinic over the site of the existing hotel structure. It will include 13 examination rooms, a Hawaiian healing center, dental offices, and several large research and educational areas.

When it is completed, expected date in 2025, the transitional clinic will be demolished and the materials re-purposed, the application says.

The final phase will be construction of a two-story workforce housing structure located at the back of the property. The 5,700 square-foot building will include eight bedrooms, each with a bathroom, kitchen, dining and living space, as well as extensive lanai areas. It is expected to be used as temporary housing for contract workers, traveling multi-disciplinary researchers and trainees working at the clinic.

Eventually the completed project will include a much-widened driveway entrance off Akoni Pule Highway, extensive parking, a courtyard, and a garden for healing plants.

Laurel Swan, who lives in North Kohala and heads the Waimea branch of Honolulu-based WhiteSpace Architects, will serve as the project architect.

An archaeological survey of the property revealed some cement remnants of plantation use. The buildings were used for medical offices at some time in their long history.

The report said "no further work recommended" to the State Historic Preservation Division.

The Planning Department is expected to support approval of the permits to the Leeward Planning Commission. However, when it comes to wastewater, the department noticed that instead of providing two septic tank systems as proposed, the Department of Health may be requiring a single wastewater treatment plant.

Written testimony in favor of the new clinic project has been sent by Friends of the Future, the principals of Kohala Middle School and Kohala High School, Partners in Development Foundation, Kohala Village LLC, Big Island Substance Abuse Council, and the Growth Management Group of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group.

CEO Carpenter said, "We are currently fundraising and accepting donations."

Hāmākua-Kohala Health has four locations on the Big Island in Waimea, Honokaa, Laupahoehoe and Kohala. It has already raised \$7 million for rebuilding its clinic in Honokaa.

**'Ōlelo Hawai'i for Mei 2023 (May)
Hau'oli ka Lā Ali'i Kamehameha
(Happy King Kamehameha Day)**

By Jesse Lucas

Hau'oli ka Lā Ali'i Kamehameha (Happy King Kamehameha Day). King Kamehameha Day is on June 11th. This year the lānui (holiday) happens on a Lāpule (Sunday). I'm looking forward to a return to the traditional events of the ho'olaule'a (celebration).

In particular, the huaka'i (parade) with pa'u riders (women horseback riders). The pa'u riders wear long skirts and each wear a color that signifies one of the eight islands; ula'ula/red (Hawai'i), 'ākala/pink (Maui), 'āhinahina/gray (Kaho'olawe), 'alani/orange (Lāna'i), 'ōma'oma'o/green (Moloka'i), melemele/yellow (Oahu), poni/purple (Kaua'i), and ke'oke'o/white (Ni'ihau). I hope everyone has time to witness this event in person, it has been a while.

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Waterfront Public Access – Better Late than Never



Photo: Toni Withington

Stone walls were built at Kohala Waterfront subdivision alongside the traditionally used fishermen's trail.



Stone walls encroach on the access trail at the Kohala Waterfront development.

By Toni Withington

Thirty-nine years ago, the County of Hawaii required the developer of the Kohala Waterfront subdivision to come up with a public access plan along its shore. Even though a parking area was built, and fishermen and hikers continued to walk along the rough trail in front of million-dollar homes, the draft plan only this month made its way to the Planning Department.

The trail to this point was not without controversy. And provisions of the plan are more than likely to be challenged because it varies in several ways from public access plans that have been recently approved by the County.

The most active players in the back and forth that led the Kohala

Waterfront Community Association to finally locate the trail on the ground and submit the written plan have been the North Kohala Community Access Group (NKCAG), the Kailapa Community Association, and residents of Kohala Estates. Staff members of the Planning Department and the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail have acted as mediators.

Kohala Waterfront is one of two subdivisions makai of Akoni Pule Highway between Kawaihae and Kapa'a Park and the only one with houses built out. Controversy started when one owner built a massive stone wall along the length of the shoreline, leaving only an unstable narrow space for the trail. Another owner constructed a

gravel trail makai of where it had traditionally been, and where the subdivision map had placed it. The County cited the owner for the violation.

The community association, which has been working cooperatively with the County and Ala Kahakai for three years, was asked to move the trail inland where it crossed a steep drainage gulch. Then another place where it was too close to a cliff edge, the trail was moved mauka. Members of the watchdog groups are expected to hike the trail soon, now that the trail surface has been improved.

That leaves the wording of the agreement document, which pro-

vides no public easement and has the landowners, many who don't live here, fully maintain the trail and parking lot. This has been criticized by some for not allowing any oversight of the condition of the trail by the County or Ala Kahakai. In addition, the plan does not include provisions for moving the trail inland in the event of erosion of the sea cliff along which most of the trail is located.

A Planning Department spokesperson confirmed that the public access plan has not been accepted by the County yet. The NKCAG will discuss the matter at its next meeting on June 7 at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center (Old Courthouse).

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Road to Permits Expanding Coastline Retreat Gets Bumpy

By Toni Withington

Plans to expand the Hawaii Island Retreat at Honopueo-Hanaula from 16 to 36 units met with several obstacles this month. Requested revisions to the spa's public access easement have come to light as well as an additional opposition from a neighbor.

Owner of the retreat, Ahu Pohaku Ho'omaluhia LLC, has asked the Leeward Planning Commission to amend the Special Permit and Special Management Area permit which allow operation of the retreat on agricultural land and also provide for vehicle public access to the land and pedestrian shoreline access along the coast.

At earlier hearings on the matter, three adjoining landowners called for a contested case hearing, a quasi-judicial meeting to make recommendations to the commission.

Another landowner, William Merton, has also petitioned the commission for standing in a contested case.

Most of the comments Merton cited in previous testimony were concerns about the safety, maintenance, and liability of Maluhia Road, which the retreat shares with adjoining properties.

Two committees of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group have produced a report that calls for updating

the 2009 Grant of Public Access Easement (GOPAE) to the county to be consistent with current rules and standards required for shoreline access. The Growth Management Group produced a report comparing the previous public access plan, which covers several oceanfront properties in addition to that held by Ahu Pohaku Ho'omaluhia, to four other GOPAEs the County has approved in North Kohala subdivisions since that date.

The Kohala Community Access Group reviewed the report and is drawing up recommendations for updating the easement document. Jeanne Sunderland, representative of the owner, has told both groups

that she is open to the redrafting to ensure continued public access at the retreat site.

Changes being recommended include providing designated spaces for parking, widening the trail requirement, providing inspection oversight by the County, and establishing rules for moving the trail in the event of erosion of the cliff.

The amendments to the permits involve adding units at the retreat by building 20 individual one-to-two-person hale scattered among two existing orchards.

The contested case hearing on the matter had not been scheduled at the time of KMN deadline.

Notice Of Road Closure June 24 for Go Skate Day

On Saturday, June 24, the road will be closed for a short time, beginning at the intersection of Kynnersley Road and Akoni Pule Highway and ending at Roots Skatepark in Kamehameha Park.

The closure is part of bringing back a very fun event, "Go Skate Day Parade" presented by Roots Skate Park. The North Kohala Hawaii Police Department will close the main highway to hold a skateboarder parade in Kapa'au starting promptly at 10 a.m.

Road closure will be lifted at 10:30.

Join us as we skateboard northbound on both lanes of Akoni Pule Highway 270 from Kynnersley Road to Roots Skate Park.



The roadway between the Kynnersley Road and Akoni Pule Highway intersection and Roots Skate Park in Kamehameha Park will be closed to traffic from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 24, for the Go Skate Day Parade.

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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.

Aloha. The 2023 legislative session has ended with significant progress made on numerous issues. Over the course of four months, the Legislature worked cooperatively to introduce, hear and pass measures that address many pressing issues and needs of the State. The House of Representatives alone introduced 1,514 House Bills, 208 House Concurrent Resolutions, and 225 House Resolutions for consideration. When the Legislature adjourned on May 4, it had passed 274 bills focused on various matters impacting the State, including the following noteworthy achievements:

- 1) Providing Hawaii's working families with over \$703,000,000 in targeted tax relief for the next five years;
- 2) Appropriating \$100,000,000 for the Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority to provide solar loans to low-income families;
- 3) Appropriating \$3,500,000 per fiscal year for the Child and Adolescent Crisis Mobile Outreach Team Pilot Program;
- 4) Depositing \$280,000,000 into the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and \$100,000,000 into the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund to support affordable housing infrastructure;
- 5) Appropriating \$170,000,000 to plan and build teacher housing across the State;
- 6) Appropriating \$194,200,000 to protect, manage, and restore the State's natural resources;
- 7) Increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rates to 100% of Medicare rates;
- 8) Appropriating \$10,800,000 each year for homelessness programs;

- 9) Appropriating \$38,800,000 for the Preschool Open Doors program;
- 10) Securing over \$93,000,000 in federal funds to expand broadband infrastructure;
- 11) Taxing vaping products similar to other tobacco products, which is projected to generate \$15,000,000 per year in revenue and disincentivize use among youth and young adults;
- 12) Strengthening the State's reproductive health care services and protections;
- 13) Implementing firearms regulations that strive to balance individual rights with public safety; and
- 14) Improving the standards of conduct for public officers and employees.

As I've reported before, the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct ("CISC") was convened during the 2022 Legislative Session by the State House after two members of the Hawai'i State Legislature plead guilty to corruption charges related to taking bribes to influence policy matters. The CISC was composed of representatives of the Ethics Commission, Campaign Spending Commission, Office of Elections, Common Cause, League of Women Voters, and other stakeholders.

The CISC made 33 recommendations that were introduced in bills either in whole or part. Many other bills were introduced with the same or similar language from the CISC recommendations addressing ethics and government reform issues. The legislature considered these good government bills related to government transparency and preventing public corruption proposed by CISC, the Ethics Commission, Campaign Spending Commission, Office of Elections, the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Honolulu Prosecutor, individual legislators, and other State agencies.

Of the 33 recommendations in the Commission to Improve Standards of Conduct's Finding and Legislative Proposals, 20 were addressed fully by the legislature and two were partially addressed. Of the eleven that were not addressed by the legislature, six were passed by both the House and Senate but died in conference, one was not approved by the House, two can be implemented at the discretion of Committee Chairs, one was addressed through changes

to the House Rules, and one was determined to be the responsibility of the Counties.

The legislature adopted many of the proposed bills to strengthen State laws to prevent public corruption, including SB228 that addresses three of the CISC recommendations: (1) Establishes the offense of fraud as a Class B felony, (2) establishes the offense of making false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims against the State or any County as a Class C felony, and (3) establishes the offense of using or making false statement or entries in matters within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the State as a Class C felony. As a complement to the changes made in SB228, the legislature also approved HB 710, which establishes a felony offense for obstructing an investigation into the crimes established in SB 228.

In the end, the legislature approved over thirty government reform bills in the following subject areas:

- 1) Government Transparency: HB712 and SB1513;
- 2) Ethics Reform: HB717, HB140, HB141, HB137, HB138, HB142 SB1493, SB182, and HR8 which urges the Counties to devote sufficient funding to the County ethics boards/commissions.
- 3) Campaign Finance Reform: HB97, HB90, HB93, HB99, HB91, HB92, SB203, SB51, SB1189, and HB463;
- 4) Public Corruption Prevention: SB228, HB710, HB986 and HB983; and
- 5) Election Integrity: HB130, HB1294, SB19, SB141, SB1076, SB1541 and SB179

Now that the 2023 Legislative Session has adjourned, I will begin my work during the interim on various ongoing matters in the jurisdiction of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands' execution of a \$600,000,000 appropriation to address its beneficiary waiting list.

I am grateful to serve as the State Representative for Kohala. Please share your concerns or ideas about legislative bills or community issues by contacting my office at 808-586-8510 or emailing me at reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov. You can also subscribe to my regular e-newsletter by going to bit.ly/reptarnas-signup. I am always glad to hear from you. Mahalo!

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Cindy Evans

There is a lot of chatter among elected officials across the nation, state and Hawai'i County Council about climate change. Our Mayor and your Council are considering Bill 48 to create a new office that supports County operations and programs by making recommendations based on principals of sustainability, climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience, environmental justice and equity. I want to highlight one key component of

this Bill... How we address change while at the same time creating policies that do not inadvertently and disproportionately impact low- and moderate-income individuals and families?

Another component of the Bill is the use of technology to understand the health of our native forests, for example. We need the forests to create rain and moisture that supports our water aquifers and our ecosystem, so embracing

new methods to monitor and analyze data will assist government in making informed decisions. I am encouraged that our County is embracing technology and methodology. Next? The challenge to find employees who are trained and want to work for the County.

Linked below is the County's Draft of the Integrated Climate Action Plan for our island. It focuses on greenhouse gas reduction, cli-

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Future KMN Deadlines

It's important for the Kohala Mountain News to receive ads and news submissions by the following deadlines. Otherwise, submissions may not be accommodated.

June Deadlines
Ads and News: 6/9/23
Calendar: 6/16/23
Distribution: 6/23/23

July Deadlines
Ads and News: 7/7/23
Calendar: 7/14/23
Distribution: 7/21/23

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

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Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must 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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CC Update, from Page 5



Councilmember Cindy Evans represents North Kohala as part of Hawai'i County Council District 9. (Courtesy Cindy Evans)

is requesting feedback through June 1. Visit www.rd.hawaiicounty.gov/economic-development/climate-change-action to check it out!

This month and next the County Council is working on next year's budget and responding to Mayor's submittal of final capital budget and operating budget for fiscal year 2023-2024, which starts July 1. There is an increase in funding to train current staff to assume new responsibilities and embrace technology. Personally, I find this an exciting time for the County but know there are growing pains.

Staff and I are here to listen, assist, and work with you on County issues. Please visit one of our four locations, call (808)889-6512, or email cindy.evans@hawaiicounty.gov. I remain optimistic that with citizen involvement and transparency we will tackle the external influences that are impacting our island.

To subscribe to District 9 monthly newsletter, visit eepurl.com/iqadLA.

mate adaptation and features actions to build local resilience to climate change. Our County Department of Research and Development

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING TIME: Wednesday, May 31, 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Kohala Intergenerational Center, Kamehameha Park Road, Kapa'au, HI 96755

AGENDA ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kohala residents are encouraged to attend and voice their opinion on issues. They may even recommend actions and suggest subjects not presently addressed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS *(please see accompanying article on issues being addressed)*

- **Affordable Housing:** Addresses the housing needs for families in Kohala.
- **Agriculture:** The future of agriculture in our area.
- **Community Access:** Exploring ways for Kohala residents to have more mauka and makai access.
- **Growth Management:** Addresses zoning, permits and variance requests and how they affect us.
- **Health and Wellness:** Addresses Kohala health care infrastructure and emergency response.
- **Parks, Roads, View Planes and Erosion Control:** Addresses many infrastructure problems and projects.
- **Utilities:** Addresses all utility and waste stream issues.
- **Investigatory Subcommittee on Re-zoning and Agricultural Property Tax Rates:** Works on Kohala input to the ongoing County reassessment of zoning and agricultural tax rate reduction criteria.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC INPUT AND AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CDP Advisory Group April 26, 2023

By Lynda Wallach

The April 26 meeting of the CPD Advisory Group was devoted to the reports of the various subcommittees.

The Affordable Housing Group has been focusing on Community Land Trust (CLT) options. Obtaining suitable land continues to be one of the major obstacles facing efforts to build affordable housing. The group met over Zoom with Jim and Loreeta Wickenden, who have recently used their company in conjunction with Hale O Hawai'i to build an affordable house using a method modeled on a successful Maui CLT.

The new owner was able to purchase the home from the Trust for \$190,000, which includes a 99-year renewable lease on the land held by the CLT. The longer the owner stays in the home, the more equity they accumulate. If the house is sold, the balance of the increase goes back to the CLT.

The group also met with Terra Sutton, who was part of a group that formed in 2000 to work on affordable housing in Kohala. That group created the Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT) in 2003 but by 2006 the group had disbanded. The subcommittee is looking into renewing the KCLT as a blueprint for the future.

The Agriculture Group is in the process of sending out mahalo letters to the leaders, vendors, sponsors and participants that together made the North Kohala Agriculture Visioning/Strategic Planning Session such a great success. The County is synthesizing the data which the group plans to review at its next meeting after which they will decide how to share the results with the community. They will also be considering funding and fundraising for some of the priority actions that came out of the event. They are also thinking about how they best create an impact at the next legislative session.

Joe Carvalho of the Community Access Group said that contracts are being written for the purchase of Halelua (the Vipassana property) by the County. When the sale is complete, all the shoreline from Kauhola Point to Kapanaiia will be publicly owned. Kohala Lihikai

will be working with the community on plans for the stewardship of the property.

The contested case regarding the Hawaii Island Retreat grant of public access easement is likely not to be settled until this summer. The owner has committed to make any requested modifications to the Grant of Easement (GOE) and Grant of Public Access Easement (GOPAE). Community Access has expressed support for the project. The Growth Management Group is also reviewing the GOEs and GOPAEs.

The sale of 35.5 acres at Lamaloloa to the National Park Service closed in April and the land is now conserved. The container has been moved.

Parker Ranch has listed for sale 269 acres of its land at Kukuipahu, from the highway to the ocean next to the gated subdivision Ranches at Puakea. It is advertising the property as ideal for a "gated, upscale community" of up to thirteen lots, all with ocean views. The subcommittee is anticipating a lot of discussion on this.

The Growth Management Group has reviewed the proposed amendments to the Shoreline Setback regulations proposed by the Planning Department and has determined that they seem to be in line with the effects of climate change.

In keeping with their primary focus on community emergency preparedness, the Health and Wellness Group viewed the contents of the CERT supply storage container at Kamehameha Park. John Winter plans to install new shelving, after which the group will inventory and organize the items. Cindy Evans has obtained a grant of \$5,100 for additional emergency supplies and equipment. CERT is always looking for new members and will have an informational table at the Kohala Night Market.

John Winter of the Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and View Planes Group reported that the new pump at the pool is working fine. Sand has been added to three of the five filters and the other two need minor repairs. The parts have been ordered. Jeff Coakley has asked Parks and Recreation (P&R) to look

See NKCDP Page 7

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Artwork by Susan Grant

NKCDP, from Page 6

into chlorination and pH control systems.

Winter shared a map of water wells that may be considered as water sources for bicyclists using a possible new bike trail from west of Hāwī to Kawaihae.

The State Historical Society is still holding up the demolition of the pavilion at Māhukona with no expressed timeline. P&R has an option to invoke the 45-day "move forward" policy when another agency fails to act in a timely fashion; however, they have been reluctant to do so because "we do not want to go that route (in an effort to maintain a good relationship)."

In response, the Advisory Group voted unanimously to send a letter to the Director of P&R, expressing the extreme frustration of the community with the delay and urging him to invoke the move forward policy. Moreover, the existing pavilion presents the real possibility of County liability for any vandalism or injury that may occur.

The Utilities Group reported that construction of the well and reservoir at Halaula are complete and with only final permitting remaining to be done. Once redundancy is achieved, the group will be talking to the Department of Water Supply about their allowing second meters for properties with legal homes.

The group is also addressing the issue of wastewater. Hawaii's Act 125 calls for an end to all cesspools by 2050, which will impact almost all Kohala home and business owners.

All homeowners wanting to sell or refinance their properties will be under increasing pressure to replace their cesspools. Some lots may not be big enough to handle septic tanks and leach fields. Moreover, the cost of conversion to septic tank systems or the construction of sewer lines and treatment plants is very high. The group has decided to explore alternatives that are appropriate to Kohala's rural setting and to begin sharing information

with organizations throughout the county since, with 55,000 cesspools on Hawaii Island, this is a county-wide issue.

The subgroups tackle real issues impacting the citizens of Kohala and they all welcome new members. Community members are encouraged to get involved in group that is dealing with an issue that interests them and to attend the meetings of NKCDP Advisory Group. Subgroup meeting times and places can be found on the calendar page in this paper. The next meeting of the Advisory Group will be at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31, at the Old Courthouse (behind the King Kamehameha statue.)

Kohala Hospital Appoints Maria Mundell as Assistant Hospital Administrator

By Anne Padilla

Kohala Hospital is proud to announce the appointment of Maria Mundell, RN, MBA, as its new Assistant Hospital Administrator for Clinical Services, effective January 1, 2023. Mundell received her Nursing and MBA in Healthcare degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo, respectively, and is well known in the Kohala area as "Miss Bunyi" from her time as a high school teacher and track coach at Kohala High School.

Before joining Kohala Hospital (KOH), Mundell worked in nursing and education at Kona Community Hospital (KCH). In her new role, Mundell will oversee all clinical operations at Kohala Hos-

pital, including developing and implementing strategies to improve patient care, safety, and outcomes. Mundell's initiative, experience, and commitment to healthcare delivery in Kohala were key factors in her selection for the position, according to Diane Hale, Regional Chief Nurse Executive who oversees both KCH and KOH. Kohala Hospital Administrator Gino Amar also cited Mundell's energy, team player skills, and ability to empower people as important qualities that make her an excellent fit for the role.

Kohala Hospital, a 25-bed critical access hospital, provides acute medical services, skilled nursing, and long-term intermediate care

beds to the greater Kohala neighborhood, supported by an array of wraparound services, including physical therapy, complex wound and antibiotic therapies, and imaging services. Mundell aims to improve overall patient care outcomes in the greater Kohala area by leveraging and strengthening the existing partnership between KOH and KCH, both of which are part of the West Hawaii Region under the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation.

One way Mundell plans to achieve this is by highlighting the skilled nursing facility services at Kohala Hospital, which can help alleviate waitlist patients at KCH, a problem other facilities also experience nationwide. Additionally, Mundell aims to empower and invest in the current team by opening up training and opportunities for the clinical staff to offer patients more comprehensive acute services right at Kohala Hospital. "The potential at Kohala Hospital is incredible," said Mundell. "We can become the beacon of healthcare in the Kohala and Kona area through



Credit: Kohala Hospital
Maria Mundell is Kohala Hospital's new Assistant Hospital Administrator for Clinical Services.

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How Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation and the Hāmākua-affiliated Kohala Clinic Came to Be

By William Kaye

This is a story about how the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation and the Hāmākua-affiliated Kohala Clinic came to be. This story is not meant to be about me, but how the North Kohala community came together. I was merely facilitator and coordinator.

I retired as Professor of Surgery and Medicine at Brown Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island in December 1999. We moved to Kapaʻau in February 2000. I was never licensed, nor did I desire to practice medicine, in Hawaii. I came here to retire, garden and do volunteer work.

I joined the Kohala Hospital Auxiliary. Herbert Yim, the administrator of Kohala Hospital, a subsidiary of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), had worked tirelessly with Washington to have the hospital finally declared a critical access hospital, thus guaranteeing its survival.

Because it was difficult for HHSC to provide funding for capital requests – and realizing the need to protect the public health of the North Kohala community and the future of Kohala Hospital – Mr. Yim asked me to set up a Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation similar to the foundation at Kona Hospital.

A small group of us, which



Courtesy of William Kaye
Left to right: William Kaye, Keliʻi Sine, Alan Axelrod, Burt Martin, Greg Harmon at the 2002 Kohala Fair.

included Keliʻi Sine, Robert Watkins, Burton Martin, Alan Axelrod and Greg Harmon, met beginning in April 2002.

Bylaws were written, a board was formed with elected officers, the Foundation was incorporated in the State of Hawaii and charitable 501(c)(3) status was obtained. According to the bylaws, the Foundation was organized exclusively

for charitable, scientific, and/or educational purposes to provide assistance to Kohala Hospital, its programs, facilities, staff and patients.

Officers of the newly formed Foundation participated in the Kohala Fair in October 2002, informing about the Foundation and inviting Kohala residents to adopt the hospital. The Foundation held its

first silent auction in March 2003 at the Puakea Ranch home of Robert Watkins and Jean Sunderland, with a sumptuous buffet provided by Jean Sunderland. Items for the auction were donated primarily by the merchants of Hāwī and Kapaʻau. The money raised was deposited into a special account to begin the accumulation of funds for the Foundation and Kohala Hospital.

From the beginning in 2002 to the present, the Foundation has grown. It recently funded a new emergency department at Kohala Hospital.

In 2003 I learned that the one D.O. and the two M.D. physicians in North Kohala who practiced traditional allopathic medicine were planning either to retire or leave the community, which would mean there would be no M.D. or D.O. physicians in North Kohala. I also learned that West Hawaii was considering a proposal for a community health center. I attended the first meeting in Kona, during which Susan Hunt, the CEO of Hāmākua Health Center, described federally qualified community health centers which were funded by the government and provided health care to all, regardless of ability to pay. It became clear to me that it made more sense to work with Hāmākua

See KHCF, Page 9

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Mahalo nunui to everyone that helped to make the 6th annual **North Kohala Community Resource Center's** golf tournament a sweet success!

First place-Mel Macy, Geoy Purdy, Jason Macy and Mauae Purdy (Pictured)
Second place-Felix Asia, Chad Osaki, Jon Thiebault, and Mike Zierdt
Third place-John Bartholomew, John Kushi, Ted Young and Al Tanaka
Closest to the pin:
 hole 5 - Mike Milare
 hole 7 - Al Tanaka
 hole 13 - Ed Doherty
 hole 16 - Jon Tiebaut
Longest drive wahine - Michelle Q.
Longest drive kane - Mauae Purdy

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KHCF fom Page 8



Courtesy of William Kaye
William Kaye with surveys at the 2004 Kohala Fair.

to expand care to Kohala. I soon begin a dialogue with the Hāmākua CEO and the chairman of the board. For Hāmākua to consider moving into Kohala, they requested that we conduct a needs survey and provide an invitation for Hāmākua to come into Kohala.

Because providing physicians and healthcare for North Kohala were not the purpose of the Foundation, I resigned from the Foundation to devote my full efforts to bringing Hāmākua into Kohala.

Some North Kohala residents – including Diana Moriarty, Ida

Otake, Anne Fojtasek, Vivian Moku, Pastor `Ilima Moiha and Vi Lamog – who were concerned about healthcare in North Kohala joined together as a task force. The purpose of the task force was to survey the North Kohala population to assess their abilities to access medical and dental healthcare, and whether they wanted a federally qualified clinic that provided healthcare regardless of ability to pay.

They developed a simple, one-page questionnaire with only 11 questions written in easily understandable language. Except for

asking if the respondent lived in North Kohala, personally identifying information was excluded.

Between August and November 2004, surveys were administered to adult (18 years or older) North Kohala residents.

The people targeted for the survey were participants at the October 2004 Kohala Fair in Hāwī, North Kohala merchants, members of church groups, the Hawaiian Civic Club, the Kohala Seniors Club, Kohala Community Athletic Association, visitors to the Public Health Clinic in Kapa`au, the dental van at St. Augustine Church and the Hawaii Food Bank in Hāwī. To achieve compliance, all surveys were completed on the spot; none were handed out to be taken home; none were mailed.

Surveys were completed by 481

North Kohala adults. Respondents were unable to meet medical needs for several reasons: no insurance for 23 percent, inability to pay for 27 percent, and transportation problems for 9 percent. In the previous year, one or more people in 32 percent of households needed, but had gone without, medical care. Ninety three percent thought that we needed a community health center for North Kohala.

In 2006, Hāmākua purchased the Kohala Clinic, which became part of Hāmākua-Kohala Health, along with clinics in Honaka`a, Waimea and Laupahoehoe. Plans are ongoing for a new facility in Kapa`au.

This is how North Kohala worked together to produce two success stories of Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation and the Kohala Clinic. Way to go, Kohala!

Public Library Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Summer is here and so is the Summer Reading Challenge! The North Kohala Public Library is kicking things off with “A Storybook Adventure” on June 5 at 2:30 p.m. You are the game piece, and each roll of your dice gets you and your reading buddy closer to safety. But beware, some of those book characters are trickier than they seem! This family program will feature water activities, so please come prepared.

The library will be hosting a variety of programs throughout the summer, from ongoing favorites such as story time every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m., to special events such as Boyd Bond providing a historical lecture on King Kamehameha on Monday, June 19, at 5:00 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public! You can pick up a calendar of events at the library, find program dates online at LibrariesHawaii.org, or check out the weekly and monthly calendars in the Kohala Mountain News.

Summer Reading is a fun and simple way to exercise your brain and encourage lifelong learning and reading. The Summer Reading Challenge runs from June 1 to July 31. Anyone interested in participating can sign up online through LibrariesHawaii.org/SummerReading or in person at any public library. Just keep track of how much time you spend reading and remember all kinds of reading counts for Summer Reading, not just library materials.

For more information, stop by the library or call (808) 889-6655. We hope to see you this summer!

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Theodore "Jan" Janson/Jankowski, Artist

By Becki Jankowski, Malia Welch and Cathy Morgan-Standard

A longtime Kohala resident, a well-known and respected painter, a passionate musician and social activist, Ted "Jan" Jankowski/Janson recently died. He was 76 years old. He is survived by his wife, painter and educator Rebecca Buck Jankowski; and his son Tito and daughter-in-law Shova, who are now living in San Francisco. His twin sister, Theodora Janson, lives in Owen Sound, Canada, and his brother, Jonathan Janson, lives in Rome, Italy.

Jan and Becki's marriage was built upon their love for painting and their willingness to live a simple life, affording them the precious gift of time to make art. They met while studying impressionist color with Henry Hensche at the Cape School of Art in Provincetown, an art colony in Massachusetts. For many years they followed a seasonal art circuit from New England to Florida, living and painting from their car and sailboat. After their son Tito was born in 1986, they searched for a place where they could paint year-round outdoors.

Eventually, their search led them to Kohala. Early on they lived at the Kohala Girls School at 'ole. When the Ainakea subdivision was being built, they entered a lottery for an option to buy one of the available homes and won.

They joined a community of other expectant homeowners waiting for loans to go through. By and by, after camping at Māhukona, they took possession of a modest home Rebecca still lives in today.

Kohala people remember seeing them up on Mountain Road or in Waimea, with the wind blowing their canvases (which were strapped to their big, old, paint-speckled car), furiously painting the gorgeous



Theodore "Jan" Janson/Jankowski
Courtesy of Becki Jankowski



Hundreds of his original songs have been played weekly for fifteen years by DJ Denis Howard on his Friday morning show "Morning Maine" at station WERU in Blue Hill.

In 2008, Ted and Becki joined ten other local artists to form the Kohala Artists Co-operative, then located at "Kenji's House" in Kapa'au. His dual abstract and impressionist paintings and constructions enlivened the gallery, always bringing a new perspective on his subject matter. Ted sent his work all over the world, intending to take his place, with other great artists, in as many museums as possible.

The Kohala Artists Co-operative will honor Ted's/Jan's lifework with a two-part retrospective show entitled, "JANKOWSKI: Paint, Passion, Persistence."

Please join us for the opening on Saturday, June 3, from 6-8 p.m. June's Show will be "Through the Eyes of Cowboy Van Gogh: People and Places of Kohala." Some of the over 600 sunlit portraits Ted painted at the Kohala Coffee Mill and local landscape paintings will be shown. July's Show will feature his "Flowers of Fatima," "Goongala," "Feed the Children," and "Waterworld" series.

We encourage you to come and view the enormous scope of this great artist's work. He will be remembered with a dedicated brick on the walkway into the newly renovated Bond Library Heritage Center, lovingly given by the artists of the Co-operative.

Saturday, June 24, the family invites all who knew him to attend a mass for Theodore at the Sacred Heart Parish in Hāwī. Please don't wear beachwear. Public visitation is at 9:00 a.m. with mass at 10:00, followed by a potluck gathering at noon at the Kohala Village HUB Barn.

views below. Or sitting quietly on the seawall at Māhukona, capturing scenes of the action on the pier or the stately old Railroad building.

Ted often parked up on the Ka'auhuhu Homestead Road, looking down on a bucolic Hāwī Town nestled in green fields, rimmed by tall pines, stretching to the sea. He painted this beloved landscape hundreds of times.

There were years when he

positioned his easel at the Kohala Coffee Mill, painting portraits of anyone willing to model, and then giving hundreds of works away. Art was his obsession, his passion, and his lifeline. A day did not go by that Ted did not make art or sing his kooky, inventive songs like, "I Found Out the Hard Way," "Wing Dang Jammy," "French Fries and Alcohol," "Too Skinny for Tattoos," and "I Got an Email From Jesus."

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

Her Smile and Lei Will Be Missed

By Randee Golden

"We have lost another remarkable woman," a friend commented on an April 26 social media post that shared about the passing of long time North Kohala resident Dr. Susan vdH Barnes. Born on February 25, 1943 in New York City, this woman with an amazing smile and huge heart left this world 80 years later from her beloved Kohala, which she made a better place for many.

Susan began visiting North Kohala in the mid 90s, when she invested in her first home on Kapanaia Road. At that time she was still working as a professor in the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies at Sonoma State University in Northern California and running a private psychotherapy practice. In 2004, after 32 years at the University, Susan retired to Hawi full time.

While she was sprouting roots here, this professor met Kumu Raylene Kawaiaie'a and ended up pursuing her interest in Jungian symbology through the study of Hawaiian mythology. She joined Kumu Raylene's new halau, Na Huapala 'O Hawai'i Halau 'O Ha'alelea. Though hula never became her thing, she stayed friends with Raylene and a supporter of the halau throughout the years.

This mana wahine shared many passions while she lived here. She created a beautiful home along with her small farm featuring many lei flower gardens and a variety of fruit trees. Known for her crown, gardenia and pikake lei, she would always make beautiful adornments for her friends on their birthdays. If gardenias were blooming, she visited with beautiful blossoms to share.

Susan's involvement in Kohala life was varied and shifted while



Dr. Susan vdH Barnes.

Courtesy of Susan Barnes

here. In the early years, she was a regular member of the Kohala Book Club, where she developed some enduring friendships.

This active senior was also involved with the women's gym created at Bozo's, the former gas station in Kapa'au. When that business ended, Susan worked hard to get equipment saved and moved to Kamehameha Park, where she faithfully worked out and cared for the exercise room. You would also find Susan in yoga and Pilates classes, growing strength as well as more friendships.

In recent years, golfing became her passion and Susan could be seen at the North Kohala Golf Park on Sunday mornings driving one of Mary Lou Greisser's carts and enjoying when a few good balls were hit. She was a generous supporter of Kohala's links, and always appreciated the folks who cared for the place.

When Susan believed in something, she put forth effort to make it happen. Since the Kohala Ditch closed, she worked with the Ho'ea Water Hui to figure out how to get water to the area farmers. She was always interested in community happenings and made regular donations to the North Kohala Community Resource Center. A lover of art, she supported her favorite artists in Kohala, gathering a beautiful collection of island-inspired artwork.

Creating art was an important part of Susan's life, and during her retired years she spent time learning lauhala and coconut weaving and painting. Yet the creations we remember the most are those heart-felt whimsical lei that she patiently sewed from her beloved garden.

Susan's two daughters, Sarah and Becky Graff, will be working with her friends to plan a celebration of life for Doctor Barnes, tentatively at the end of summer. Donations can be made on Susan's behalf to your favorite project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center or one of Susan's favorites, the North Kohala Golf Park.

Meanwhile, when you play golf, smell a gardenia, wear a lei, or watch sunset from Kapa'a, send a little shout out to this kind, smiling woman who loved North Kohala and its people.



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KHS Students Are Stock Market Game Winners

By Brenda Swan

Kohala High School swept the top spots in the state of Hawaii in a year-long Stock Market Game. Students Zanaiah Murai and Averie Sasaki place first with Lucius Nicholas and Mahea Pasco placing second among the state's high schoolers.

The U.S. History students, along with their teacher Amber Corrales and KHS, were honored in recognition of their outstanding performance.

Playing individually or in teams of up to five, students use a simulation with an imaginary investment of \$100,000 to trade stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds on the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ. Students conduct research and follow global news that can impact financial markets, then place trades in real-time via computer or the SMG

(Stock Market Game) smartphone app, competing with peers in their classroom and with teams across the state to increase their portfolio value. In addition, students can choose socially responsible investments by selecting companies in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

In the simulation, the first-place team, Zanaiah Murai and Averie Sasaki, earned \$109,447.49. The second-place team, Lucius Nicholas and Mahea Pasco, came in with \$108,673.05 in earnings over the year.

Students participating in Stock Market Game learn first-hand the value of long-term investing via an online educational program used by Hawaii teachers to boost students' math, economics, and personal finance knowledge, while also improving their test scores and instilling essential skills for financially independent futures.

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WEEKLY EVENTS IN MAY 2023					
DAY	START	END	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT
M-S	8:30AM		NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	RAINBOW CAFE	
MON	9AM		SENIOR CLUB @ CIVIC CENTER	KOHALASENIORS@GMAIL.COM	
	10AM	3PM	BIG ISLAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL	THE HUB	969-9994 X860
	4:30PM		RMD TAIKO CLASSES	HUB HALE	889-0404 EXT. 104
	5:30PM		DEFIANT BRATS (WOMENS' AA)	KAMEHAMEHA PARK PAVILLION BEHIND TENNIS COURT	
AL ANON MEETINGS ON ZOOM HTTPS://WWW.AL-ANONHAWAII.ORG/MEETING-SCHEDULES					
TUE	8AM	9AM	NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	KAMEHAMEHA PARK NEAR SKATE PARK 805-452-9501	
	8AM	9AM	TAI CHI WITH PETER BEEMER	OUTSIDE HISAOKA GYM	895-0737
	8AM		YOGA/PILATES BEGINNER CLASS	CALL FOR LOCATION	333-8275
	4:30PM	6PM	BELLY DANCE FITNESS	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111
	4:30PM		KOHALA CARES FOOD DRIVE	ST AUGUSTINE'S	ALOHAPETER@YAHOO.COM
	5:30PM	7PM	PICKLE BALL	HISAOKA GYM	333-8712
	6PM	8PM	TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG	OLD COURT HOUSE	889-1099
WED	10AM	11AM	STORY TIME	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	12PM	6PM	THRIFT SHOP	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
	2PM	4PM	OPEN GUIDED ART STUDIO	ARTISTS' CO-OP	960-3597
	2PM	3PM	LEGO CLUB 6/7 & 6/21 BOARD GAMES: 6/14	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	3:30 PM	4:30PM	RMD TAIKO CLASSES (NOT 1ST WED)	HUB HALE	889-0404 EXT. 104
	6PM	7:30PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM		SPIRITUAL HEALING SERVICE	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	989-5995
	7PM		ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	WYLIE HALL, 'IOLE	889-6703
THU	8AM	5PM	COMMUNITY HARVEST	TOUCHING THE EARTH FARM	
	8AM		YOGA/PILATES BEGINNER CLASS	CALL FOR LOCATION	333-8275
	9AM	10:15PM	HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501
	5:30PM	7PM	PICKLE BALL	HISAOKA GYM	333-8712
	6PM	8PM	TABLE TENNIS/PING PONG	OLD COURT HOUSE	889-1099
FRI	8AM		NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETING	WILEY HALL ON IOLE	805-452-9501
	8AM	9AM	TAI CHI WITH PETER BEEMER	OUTSIDE HISAOKA GYM	895-0737
	9:30AM	10:45AM	YOGA	HUB HALE	202 746 0439
	10AM	3PM	BIG ISLAND SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL	THE HUB	969-9994-X860
SAT	8AM	12PM	FARMERS MARKET	THE HUB	313-338-7090
	10AM	11PM	FREE GOLF LESSONS	NORTH KOHALA GOLF PARK	KOHALAGOLF@GMAIL.COM
SUN	8AM		YOGA/PILATES BEGINNER CLASS	CALL FOR LOCATION	333-8275
	6PM	7PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM	8PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	HUB BARN	805-452-9501

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Letters

Mr. Duncan Anderson teaches seventh grade at Kohala Middle School. Every year he asks his students to choose a problem on Hawai'i Island they would like to help solve. Students spend the earlier part of the school year researching and doing projects related to their chosen topic. Toward the end of the year, the students are charged with bringing their message out to the community in whatever way they see fit. Part of that goal can be accomplished by writing a Letter the Editor for publication in the Kohala Mountain News. The following are some of those letters. Additional letters from other students will be published in upcoming issues.

Skateboard Safety

Dear new skateboarders,
Hi, my name is Steve. I'm in seventh grade and I will be writing about skateboard safety. The problem is that new skateboarders don't wear safety gear. When they fall, they can get really hurt, break something or even die. About 15 people a year die from skateboarding. The most important thing is to wear a helmet because the head is the most important thing to protect. Some people think it's uncool to wear safety gear but what's most important is your life. If people wear helmets and pads while skateboarding, fewer people will get hurt and die.
Thank you for reading!
Sincerely,
Steven

Hunting Safety

Hi, my name is Nai. I am writing about hunting safety. Here are some tips to stay safe.
When hunting, always wear bright clothes so other people can see you. Make sure your gun safety is on if you are not shooting the gun. Aim your gun at the animal you are going to shoot. Never aim the gun at anybody. Can you hunt with a gun in Hawaii? Yes, but you need a gun license. To get your license you will need to take a Hunting Safety Class online or in person. Getting your license is important. Hunting can be fun if you follow the rules and always think safety first. Do it right and get plenty smoke meat.
Mahalo,
Nai Rivera

Social Media

Dear people of Kohala,
Social media is a big problem. TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter can cause depression and make you have body dysmorphia (a mental health condition that causes you to worry about your body).
Over the years social media is getting worse and worse. People get addicted to it and when they see people that have a better body than they do, they tend to get insecure. It could cause you to starve yourself and make you have an eating disorder.
Please don't let your child have a social media account at a young age. Furthermore, monitor older children's use of their accounts. Thank you for taking your time to read my letter!
Sincerely,
Ailee Afaga



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Volunteers are an essential part of the care we provide at Hospice, and our volunteers truly feel that they always come away with more than they give. Please volunteer, help a neighbor, or reach out to a friend with the confidence to offer compassionate support and guidance during a difficult time.
info@northhawaii hospice.org

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Gamer Rage

Dear Editor,
Hello, I am Evin Ryder Bumanglag, a 7th grader at KMS and I'm choosing to write to you about gamer rage and the downsides of gaming!

Parents, this article is for you and your millennials. If you and/or kids play video games, you know if you get killed in the game, you'll get pissed and want to fly your electronics in the trash. It's widespread in online games and battle royale games. Gamer rage gets a little more extreme if you've been on the game for more than an hour.

Here are some things to help prevent gamer rage and the other downsides of gaming. 1) Time Limits, an hour should be enough time for a game after that, time to turn off the gaming! 2) Parental Controls, installing parental controls will help limit the amount of gaming the person is exposed to. 3) UV glasses and Hylo Fresh eye drops, these products will help to lessen eyestrain! Lastly, 4) Multiplayer Games, these games will help you keep each other safe from getting too mad. I hope these tips keep you safe in the gaming community.

Sincerely,
Evin R. Bumanglag

Vaping

Aloha KMN Editor,

My name is Easterine Edmond and I am a student from Kohala Middle School. I have chosen to write about the dangers of vaping.

Although it might be a common topic to write or talk about, I chose it because vaping affects many people and their health. Currently, there are nearly 82 million people in the world that are vaping. This includes pre-teens, teenagers and adults.

Vaping is really harmful to the human body because it's full of metals and chemicals that can be linked to serious diseases and infections. For example, flavorings that are added to vapes, such as diacetyl, are linked to a very serious lung disease that can cause death. Vaping often can raise your blood pressure, spike your adrenaline and weaken the heart, which increases your heart rate and the chance of having a heart attack.

If more people quit vaping it could help change their life in a positive direction. Help me spread the word about the dangers of vaping!

Mahalo, thank you for reading my letter, and I hope you're having a great day or night!

Sincerely,
Easterine Edmond

Environmental Manifesto Exam

The following exam was given to Kohala High School students in Mr. Douglas's science class. Their answers describe the way they believe their planet would be run if they were in charge.

"You have been elected the Prime Minister of Mars. This planet is the new home for humans in the year 3000. You and your people have been given a serum that extends your life by 500 years to ensure fidelity in leadership. Your mission is to ensure that humans in the year 3000 will have a habitable and fully sustainable planet to live on. Earth's systems have already stopped making oxygen due to massive coral deaths and bleaching events, natural farms have all failed, the fish in the ocean are all gone, people on earth are already fighting for their lives and global war has taken place. People are grouping by ethnicity and excluding others. People are hoarding food, seeds stocks, air containers, and water and arming themselves with large weapons. You need to develop 10 laws that your people and you willingly abide by to create a sustainable and inclusive culture on your planet."

LAWS

The most common laws thus far have been:

- Law 1: Maintain stable ecosystems.
- Law 2: Recycle and reuse everything, no waste is allowed.
- Law 3: Everyone must grow food and plants.
- Law 4: No smoking, drugs or alcohol.
- Law 5: Renewable energy only.
- Law 6: No weapons or violence.
- Law 7: Help each other and everyone works together.
- Law 8: No toxins.
- Law 9: Mandatory education for all.
- Law 10: No discrimination of people.

PROMISE

What is your 500-year promise from you to your people on Mars?

Student 1: My promise to you is that this world is going to last way longer, and I will make sure everyone lives for all 3,000 years.

Student 2: My 500-year promise is to make Mars livable for my people.

Student 3: My 500-year promise is that we are going to turn Mars into our very own Earth and discover unusual things that we have never seen before. Our experience in our new home is going to be out of the ordinary. My promise to you is that you are going to experience nothing like ever before, exploring universes.

Student 4: Life here on Mars will be incomparable to the lives once lived on Earth.

Student 5: We live safely and stably. We will unite as one to create a stable community. We will live in peace and take care of our land.

Student 6: My promise to my people is for my people to be safe and have freedom. Everyone needs to do their part and make sure all laws are followed. This is our last chance to continue the human race. Mars is our new earth and will be for the rest of eternity. I promise to keep everyone safe and regulate all our bad choices we made on earth.

Student 7: I promise to improve upon our ancestors' mistakes by enforcing what they did too late. Here, everyone will contribute to the new era of Mars...dead or alive.

Student 8: Mars will be a safe, stable and habitable planet. Everyone will respect each other and put aside their differences. Mars is ensured to never become like our old planet, Earth.

Student 9: Mars will be and stay habitable for the future generations to come.

Student 10: I promise to you, the people of Mars, that I will make a sustainable, thriving, and abundant planet with absolutely no worry or risk of climate change for thousands of generations to come.

Student 11: I promise to try my best to keep everything as non-toxic as possible for both the economy and its people for as long as I am here.

Student 12: My promise is that Mars will be a safe place, and no one will be left out or hungry.

Student 13: I promise that everyone will be happy with what they have and be the best version of themselves. Suffering won't be a thing since everyone will be busy with themselves having the time of their life. Overall, I promise true freedom for my people on Mars.

Student 14: I promise that everyone will get their say in the laws that are upcoming. Freedom of speech. Not one person will get to decide everything.

Student 15: I promise that life here will be different, and that the planet's health will be prioritized over our comforts.

- Kohala High Science Students, 2023

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Nellie Villena serves as Assistant Office Manager at our Hāmākua-Kohala Health, Kapa`au site. She has been a nurse for more than 40 years. "As a nurse I love working at Hāmākua-Kohala Health because of the patients we serve and my fellow colleagues I get to work with daily, working in the healthcare field is challenging yet very rewarding."

-Nellie

MONTHLY CALENDAR MAY 2023

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
5/31	WED	4:30 PM		NKCDP	ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/1	THU	4:30 PM		NKCDP	AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE	KOHALA FOOD HUB	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/3	SAT	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	KOHALA COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET		KAMEHAMEHA PARK	808-225-3666
6/3	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSINES	808-889-5390
6/3	SAT	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	JANKOWSKI - COWBOY VAN GOGH	EXHIBIT: KOHALA FACES AND PLACES	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
6/5	MON	5:00PM	6:30PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/5	MON	2:30PM	3:30PM	SUMMER READING KICK-OFF	PLAY A LIFE SIZE BOARD GAME WHERE YOU ARE THE GAME PIECE!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/7	WED	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB MURAL	808-889-0404 EXT. 104
6/7	WED	4:30 PM		NKCDP	KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/7	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
6/13	TUE	9:00 AM		NKCDP	AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/13	TUE	11:00AM	12:00PM	BOOK CLUB	HEAVEN, MY HOME BY ATTICA LOCKE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/13	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/		KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
6/14	WED	5:00 PM		NKCDP	GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/15	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
6/15	THU	4:00 PM		NKCDP	HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	KAM PARK SMALL PAVILLION	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/17	SAT	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	KOHALA COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET		KAMEHAMEHA PARK	808-225-3666
6/19	MON	5:00PM	6:30PM	BOYD BOND: KING KAMEHAMEHA	LEARN ABOUT THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/21	WED	3:30 PM		NKCDP	UTILITIES GROUP	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/21	WED	5:00 PM		NKCDP	PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/24	SAT	10:00 AM	10:30 AM	GO SKATE DAY	ROAD CLOSURE	AKONI PULE HWY	
6/26	MON	4:30 PM		COMMUNITY MEAL	SIT DOWN OR TAKE OUT	ST AUGUSINES	808-889-5390
6/26	MON	5:30PM	6:30PM	TALK STORY: HAWAIIAN LUNAR CALENDAR	LEARN ABOUT THE HAWAIIAN CALENDAR.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/28	WED	2:00PM	3:00PM	KEIKI CRAFT	EXPLORE ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT WITH UV BEADS!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/28	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
6/28	WED	4:30 PM		NKCDP	ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM

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North Kohala Golf Park: Volunteers' Best Kept Secret

By Virginia Fortner

Where can you relax, improve fitness, enjoy ocean views, and meet friends to play all day for zero to 17 dollars? If you answered North Kohala Golf Park (NKG) or Kohala Winds Disc Golf Course, you may be one of the 20-or-so daily users of Kamehameha Park's northernmost gem. Drive past the skate park and through the open gate with a "E Komo Mai" sign. A friendly volunteer will likely greet you with their first name, whether you wish to walk the grassy expanse, borrow clubs, or get a tip on improving your swing. Most players and volunteers are known on a first name basis.

The golf course began decades ago with six holes laid out along Pratt Road and a gulch. Since 2016, the NKG Restoration Project has been entirely developed and maintained by volunteers. The entire project wouldn't have gotten off the ground without commitment—financial and otherwise—from Debra Imonti and John Watson. When they moved to the mainland, countless others contributed time, money and effort to provide a special place for families to get some exercise while swinging a club or tossing a disc.

Tim was asked about stretching the course into nine holes. He saw a way, and nine par-three holes came into being. Christine and North Kohala Community Resource Center championed the project.



Photo courtesy of North Kohala Golf Park

A disc basket at the North Kohala Golf Park waits for a hole-in-one!

Hilton Grand Vacations provided tree trimmers and bins to haul away old equipment. Their volunteers painted and clean buildings. Todd knocked down massive weed growths. Jesse ran a weed-eater under countless trees. Jimmie built the putting green.

Mary Lou provided golf carts. Aikane taught Tim and Donna how to safely operate the Skag to mow the fairways and the rough. Bob cleaned up fallen fronds. Over the years, local golf courses donated equipment, flag pins, balls and clubs.

Many tireless, generous souls continue contributing to upkeep with Chelsea and Abe LaFrance, the present managers. Harold goes

above and beyond to maintain the park in its exemplary condition against wild pigs' damage and encroaching vegetation. John, Tim, Mike and others regularly maintain the park with the help of contributions of many toward costs of fuel, mowers, blades, etc. In recent weeks, Theresa and Glen, on their yearly extended visit from Alaska, offered to organize a fundraising tournament for much-needed equipment.

Open Houses and Fun Tournaments celebrated the park's expansion to nine holes in 2017, and again in 2018 to include the now-popular disc golf. Participants enjoyed food, music, and prizes. Diann, Steve, Brian, Sharon, and Susan helped

make Opening Day a success. A local food truck donated profits back to the club.

Volunteer lists could go on and on. Whether named or not, all efforts are invaluable and appreciated.

Beginners and near-pros of any age can enjoy welcome breezes, sweeping views, ocean glimpses, and the newest challenge of sending discs closer to the blue baskets (the closest is 222 feet, while the 16th is par 4 at 434 feet). Kama'aina on early morning walks point out errant golf balls. Kona people like Penny and coach Frank urge you to play through as they trim around trees while playing nine holes twice. A local picks up ripe guava for jam-making, leaving it easier to find balls landing in groves of trees. Non-golfers relax at tables under inviting shade for golfing friends or family to finish their rounds.

Visitors from mainland and other countries, new residents, and locals will tell you they started playing on this course. They usually add "No other course is as affordable, safe, or beautiful!" Its community effort stretches far beyond Kohala. Come down and hit a bucket of balls. Add your name as a volunteer or tell them how much Kohala appreciates their efforts.

For more information about programs – including the PGA Jr. League – and memberships, visit northkohalagolfpark.org or call 808-937-0768.

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