

Vol. 22, No. 09

About Kohala, For Kohala

September 22, 2023

Roth Administration Honors Pono Nakamura For Heroic Rescue



Photo Credit: County of Hawai'i

Pono Nakamura, his 'ohana, and Hawai'i County officials who honored him on September 13, 2023.

Mayor Mitch Roth and Hawai'i County officials gathered at the Kohala Intergenerational Center on September 13 to honor Parks and Recreation Supervisor Pono Nakamura for his exceptional act of heroism. Nakamura, while off-duty, rescued two distressed swimmers off the coast of Māhukona Beach Park. The ceremony, attended by community members, first responders, and local officials, commemo-

rated Mr. Nakamura's selfless actions on August 6.

On that fateful Sunday morning, Officer Kapelieli Kauahikaua Jr., a patrolman for the North Kohala District, received a distress call about four swimmers in trouble near Māhukona Beach Park. Officer Kauahikaua observed two swimmers struggling far offshore as they awaited the Hawai'i Fire Department's helicopter for assistance.

Steven Nakamura, Pono Nakamura's father and a park supervisor, stepped forward, notifying Officer Kauahikaua that Pono was fishing on his boat and reachable by phone. Without hesitation, Pono rushed to the Māhukona pier. Accompanied by Steven Nakamura and Ted Matsuda, Pono embarked on a rescue mission, safely retrieving the two distressed female swimmers.

Officer Kauahikaua acknowl-

edged the extraordinary nature of Pono's actions, stating, "Mr. Nakamura's selfless and heroic act cannot go unnoticed." Mayor Mitch Roth echoed this praise, saying, "We are immensely proud to have individuals like Pono Nakamura in our community who are willing to step up without hesitation to help those in need. His courage and selflessness reflect the true essence of the Aloha spirit that defines Hawai'i."

Peter Pomeranze



Peter Pomeranze.

Story and photo by Tom Morse

Peter Pomeranze has been a part of the Kohala Community for the last 32 years.

He grew up in Manhattan in New York City. He moved to Los Angeles at age 30 and started a

travel agency that specialized in the entertainment industry. After eight years he found that although he was successfully financially, emotionally it wasn't working for him.

Inspired by Kenny Loggins' music, he felt the message, "Listen to your heart. When it feels right take the leap of faith. Courage is always rewarded," he decided to check out Hawaii in 1991.

He visited Kauai, then the Big Island. Staying in Waikōloa, he drove into Hāwī, and was struck by it. This is the place, he decided.

People told him that he wouldn't last here. A guy from New York City and Los Angeles, Kohala wouldn't be for him.

He settled in Kohala, and first tried working at a big hotel. He found it wasn't for him. Then he took a job at a travel agency in Waimea and opened a resident-oriented store called Without Boundaries. He was able to travel to Australia and Thailand to buy items for resale for the store.

Then the travel industry went downhill. Tired of commuting to Waimea, Peter opened a second

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Kohala Microgrid Electric System Faces a Setback

By Toni Withington

Hawaiian Electric's plans to build a battery storage microgrid for North Kohala got short circuited last month when it was unable to sign up a contractor to build and run the battery part.

The glitch is likely to delay the completion date for the project, originally set for November 2024, then moved to September 2025. At the same time, the company said it will continue efforts to make the existing system more able to take high winds and wildfires.

The microgrid is expected to be a standalone source of electricity for the 2,000 Kohala customers in the event the 70-year-old transmission line from Waimea goes out. Existing plans for the first-in-the-state system are for the electric company to contract out the battery energy storage system but maintain the transmission lines and control

system in house. The construction of a new 24-mile transmission line would be done over multiple years with the batteries taking up the slack.

After a slow start getting Public Utilities Commission approval of the shared system, the company put out a call for contractor proposals in March with a May deadline for submittals. When the proposals were opened at the end of August, no contract was awarded.

"Following a comprehensive evaluation process, Hawaiian Electric concluded that the proposals did not meet the criteria set forth in the RFP (request for proposal)," the company said in a statement. "The company is determining the appropriate next steps and will provide updates as information becomes available."

The company declined to say

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Kohala Mountain News
Box 639
Kapa'au, HI 96755

ECWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Peter, from Page 1

Without Boundaries store in the space that eventually became the Sushi Rock restaurant in Hāwī.

Sushi Rock

His business partner, Rio Micelli, was a sushi chef who had grown up in Kohala. They opened Sushi Rock in 2003. Peter took the time to learn the restaurant business, and how to do business in Hawaii. He had done side jobs involving the kitchen in the past, but he had to learn sushi.

After a while it was clear that the restaurant was outpacing the store, so the store closed and the restaurant took over the whole space.

Peter bought out his partner in 2011.

He believes that a business must have a good atmosphere, and that comes from having a good relationship with his employees, building mutual trust and respect.

Further, that for any small business to succeed, the owner must be on site at all times. He was fortunate that one employee who started as a dishwasher, Eric Parayno, became a manager, a person that Peter could trust to back him up.

Profits were modest, but he enjoyed working with young people, teaching them the value of hard work.

The volume of dinners grew as the restaurant's reputation grew. He estimates that the patrons were half local residents, half visitors.

But then the pandemic hit. He was losing money every week and had to shut down in July of 2020.

Kohala Cares

Peter wanted to do something for the community, so as not to feel a victim of the conditions at the time.

In April 2020, near the start of the pandemic, he and Drew Chance started Kohala Cares.

At first, he gave out a few bags of groceries from in front of the restaurant. People started giving him donations, as the line outside grew each week. Even mainland people who loved the restaurant and came each year would see the need expressed on his Facebook page and contribute. People would come up to Peter in Takata's and give him cash to support the program. If the support fell short of the need, he made up the difference from his own savings.

The need has not gone away. As

the pandemic receded and people got jobs again, the prices of food have skyrocketed.

His goal was always not to supply all that was needed, but to supplement a family's food supply.

After the restaurant closed, Kohala Cares moved to The Kohala Village HUB, and finally, to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. Although he is not part of the congregation, the church welcomed Kohala Cares with open arms. Peter is very grateful.

He encourages recipients to carpool to avoid congestion on the highway. If they say "two families," then they get two bags.

Every Monday Peter drives his car to Costco and picks up as much foodstuffs as his budget allows. It averages about \$1,500 per week. Occasionally he has to make two trips per week. On Tuesday morning, he meets with his volunteers to lay out what is available, and then they load the bags.

From 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each Tuesday, Peter is there at the church to accept donations of money, produce, canned goods, brown bags, etc. He encourages people to also donate excess fruit from their yards.

Distribution of the bags begins at 4:30 p.m. He asks that people not come before that time to avoid congestion on the highway.

An average of 130 bags are given away each week. Volunteers do deliver to the home-bound, as well.

"This community service is the most valuable thing I have ever done in my life. We have to help each other." His enthusiasm shines through.

He tries to encourage community service by speaking in schools. Peter also solicits donations from the County and seeks grants from charitable organizations. Donations are tax deductible through his fiscal sponsor.

The week after the Maui fire, he did not distribute here, but instead sent the money that he would have spent to the Maui Foodbank. "It felt like the right thing to do."

On Friday, October 27, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Kohala Cares will be holding a fundraiser dinner at St. Augustine's Walker Hall. Peter will be cooking the food. There will be music, hula and a silent auction. For details on this event, or to make a donation, see KohalaCares.org.

Grid, from Page 1

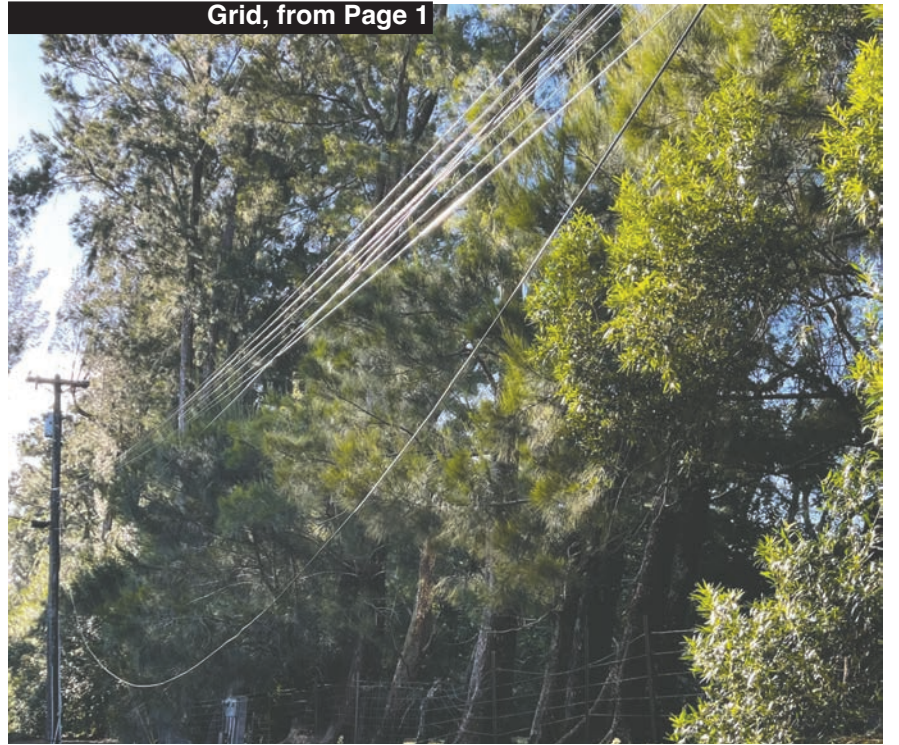


Photo by Toni Withington
High winds take a toll on poles and lines for both power and cable companies.

how many bidders responded to the proposal.

When it came to wildfire control, Sharri Thornton, a company spokesperson, was more forthcoming.

"We have protocols that may be used when high winds are expected. During the red flag warning at the end of August, we stationed spotters to monitor electrical infrastructure in more than 30 areas identified as high wildfire risk in Maui County, on Hawaii Island and Oahu to help ensure safe and reliable service.

"We continue to trim vegetation around lines and increase pole and line inspections. We're installing more wireless devices to monitor and control lines."

Asked what efforts are being made to work with other agencies, Thornton said: "We're working with emergency management officials and others on plans for keeping our communities safe during weather events through the end of this hurricane season.

Longer term, we'll work with a broad group of stakeholders to create an action plan that is appropriate for the unique conditions in Hawaii."

The US Department of Energy recently approved a \$95 million grant for Hawaiian Electric to harden the grids on the five islands it serves. The grant is meant to enable the system to better withstand severe weather-related events feuded by climate change. Federal funding is through the Infrastructure and Job Act.

"It would pay for half of the proposed Climate Adaption Transmission and Distribution Resilience Program and reduce the cost of the program to customers by 50 percent. Hardening will include replacing poles and equipment, placing critical circuits underground, removing hazardous trees near power lines, installing monitoring devices in areas prone to wildfires, and fortifying system control centers," Thornton said.

For more information on the microgrid project see www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/our-vision-and-commitment/investing-in-the-future/north-kohala-microgrid. Comments on the project can be emailed to renewableacquisition@hawaiianelectric.com For more information on climate control efforts go to hawaiianelectric.com.

Kohala Cares

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The Kohala Country Fair is Back!



Photo Mike Foley

Members of Nā Kūpuna o Kohala dance at the 2019 Kohala Country Fair.

By 'Ekela Kahuanui

Known across the island in the past as one of the best community celebrations, the Kohala Country Fair will once again be held this year on Saturday, October 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be located in the field behind the Kohala Village Inn's parking lot and will feature activities for children, music, food and vendors.

Established in 1984 by a group of dedicated North Kohala volunteers, this community event grew from a small celebration under the Banyan tree in Hāwī to a bustling event that covered the area with games for kids, vendor booths for goods and food, a big stage with continuous entertainment, and local competitions like best pie or most creatively decorated outhouse.

When the location in the center of Hāwī was no longer available, the festival moved to a pasture at 'Iole in Kapa'au. A commitment by community members to organize

the Kohala Country Fair remained strong with the celebration growing steadily for 30 years, when in 2014 the planning committee decided they needed a break.

In 2019 the Country Fair made a comeback on a much smaller scale with the help of a handful of community members. The consensus at that time was to return to a simpler offering, like the early days.

Fast forward past Covid years and the plan remains to keep this year's Kohala Country Fair a community-centered event where residents can enjoy a relaxing day filled with entertainment, local food and crafts.

There will even be a keiki zone with games, crafts and prizes. It will be a zero waste event supported by Sustainable Kohala.

The Kohala Country Fair is a project of the North Kohala Community Resource Center. For more information please call 808-889-5523. We hope to see everyone there!

August 30 NKCDP Action Committee Meeting

By Lynda Wallach

Although a quorum was not present at the August 30 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (AG), the subcommittee reports were still presented and John Winter, the Group chair, encouraged the members of the community in attendance to provide input at any time during the meeting.

The Affordable Housing Group welcomed several new members who had signed up at the Agricultural Visioning Share Back meeting. The group discussed how they could expand their efforts, given the increased local focus on affordable housing and the lack thereof at the highest levels of state and county government. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Pomaika'i Cafe.

On August 31, the Agriculture Group (AG) held a well-attended follow-up to their March 25 Visioning Event. They are now in the process of recruiting people to work on implementing the many ideas presented at the two sessions. The group meets every first Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Kohala Food Hub, 55-230 Ho'ea Road.

Joe Carvalho of the Community Access Group (CAG) said that the visitor count at Pololū Lookout has averaged about 539 a day and that the open stewardship position still has not been filled.

The public access plan for the Hawaii Island Retreat that was approved in 2001 is still in effect. It states that the landowners will maintain the trails and signage. It was suggested that the landowners maintain the public access trail with the County providing scheduled oversight visits.

Carvalho explained that, while there has been much success in purchasing of coastal properties in North Kohala for public access, funds are now needed for the stewardship of these lands, including funds for signage, trail maintenance, fire mitigation and education. The County currently has no funds available for stewardship and has proposed a reimbursement system, which is not considered a workable solution.

The Hawaii Island Land Trust (HILT) still does not have the funds to purchase the land between Kapa'a and Māhukona but with public support and fundraising they hope to have enough by the end of the year. Community meetings will be taking place at Māhukona every Wednesday from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. until December 13 to discuss such issues as acquisition, site planning, and a management plan. The public is welcome to come and talk story about their past experiences and visions for the future.

The County has committed to taking over ownership of the Old

See NKCDP, Page 4

\$2.79 HEFTY FOAM PLATES 45 CT \$6.59	2/\$8 OREO COOKIES FAMILY SIZE 13.1-19OZ \$7.99	\$6.79 GOLD LEAF CHICKEN THIGHS 5LBS \$10.69	\$4.99 FRANKS FOODS REDS 1 LB \$7.89	\$1.99 AMANO TENPURA 5.5OZ \$3.09
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NKCDP, from Page 3

Coastguard Road from the Federal government but so far, neither party has stepped up to assume the cost of the road's much-needed improvements. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The **Growth Management** group took a walking tour of the public access trails at the Hawaii Island Retreat Center. The contested case hearing regarding the expansion of the Retreat has not yet begun. Permits for the new Hāmākua-Kohala Health Center have been approved by the Leeward Planning Commission. In light of the devastating wildfire at Lahaina, the group agreed to do research into the potential wildfire situation in Kohala.

Sadie Young, reporting for the **Health and Wellness** group, stressed the need to locate all the Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Kohala and to make their locations known to every merchant in Hāwī and Kapa'au. An AED can save the life of someone experiencing sudden cardiac arrest by restoring their regular heart rhythm.

The Hāmākua-Kohala Health Center in Kohala has been approved. Permits are still needed for the transitional clinic and for widening the driveway. Of the \$5 million dollars needed for Phase 1, \$3 million has been raised but \$2 million is still needed. Community support is needed. Kai Carvalho told the group that many people are being dropped from their QUEST Medicaid coverage, some without even realizing it. Up to 45 percent of Hāmākua-Kohala patients no longer have coverage, many because they have failed to reply when they receive a pink envelope in the mail. Carvalho said she can help with reinstatement, sometimes retroactively. The issue will be brought up at a meeting of the Senior Citizens Club.

There was a question whether Naloxone (Narcan) is available in Kohala to treat opioid overdoses.

John Winter reporting for **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplanes** (PREV) congratulated all those who worked so hard to reopen the pool.

For Hisaoka Gym to be a viable emergency hurricane shelter, structural changes to improve wind resistance need to be made. At his Town

Hall meeting, the mayor said that he thought all the improvements to the gym, including fixing the roof to stop the leaks, fixing the air circulation system to reduce noise and adding banisters to the bleachers, might be bundled together with the structural changes to get them done faster. Regarding the lighting at the park, the existing lights are old and the electrical system is not strong enough to power them. Joe Carvalho met with representatives from the County and they are considering replacing them with LEDs. Electricians are scheduled to come to the park to review the situation.

He reported that the two new scoreboards that were installed at Shiro Takata Field have not been used. The boards cannot be controlled remotely so electrical lines have to be run to the dugouts so the boards can be controlled from there.

The State of Hawaii Historic Preservation District (SHPD) is still delaying signing off on demolition of the pavilion at Māhukona because it is considered an historical site. Parks & Rec and the contractors are in the process of providing them with an updated project effect determination and any proposed mitigation commitments. Winter said the group is beginning to address the necessity of having scenic lookouts or turning lanes by the entrances to Lapakahi and Māhukona.

There are no adequate warning signs so traffic must turn quickly and cars parked along the narrow verges or turning suddenly when whales are spotted present dangers to traffic.

The new Chief of Police, Ben Moszkowicz, affirmed that HPD would continue to abide by the policy of having Captain Kurashige at the North Kohala station declare an emergency should Akoni Puli Highway become blocked for more than a few hours. This would allow traffic to be diverted to a bypass section of Pratt Road and alleviate landowner liability. Winter will contact the property owners regarding the badly overgrown sections of Pratt. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The **Utilities group** will be planning another cesspool conversion informational meeting sometime in the future. The groups goal is to reduce the cost and the economic impacts of conversion on Kohala's

families. The Halaula Well came online on July 10. The group has contacted DWS to schedule a meeting regarding the lifting of the water meter moratorium, fixing old leaking lines and new lines for existing "spaghetti line" customers.

Hawaiian Telecom recently got a \$37 million grant to start a new undersea cable connecting the islands. It will include a new cable between Hana and North Kohala, providing more stabilized internet access. The company said it will send someone to meet with the group.

HELCO representatives met with the group to answer questions about their new proposed micro-grid battery system which would provide backup in the event of a problem with our existing electrical lines. Currently our system has

no redundancy. The battery system would also enable the wind farm to continue generating electricity, which it is not able to do now if there is a power outage. The group is planning a public meeting to explain the system this fall.

The CDP subgroups work on most of the important issues facing our community and they are always happy to welcome new members. The meeting dates and times can be found in the Calendar Section of this paper. Community members are also urged to attend the monthly Advisory Group meetings, which give the public the opportunity to not only learn about the issues affecting Kohala but to voice their opinions and be listened to.

The next Advisory Group Meeting will be held on Wednesday September 27, at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING TIME: Wednesday, September 27, at 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Senior Center (behind the statue), Kapa'au
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

KOHALA COUNTRY FAIR

7 OCTOBER

Live music / Festive food / Kids activities / Crafts

10am - 2pm / Free entry
Kohala Resilience Hub
Formerly the Kohala Village Hub

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Letters

Mahalo Firefighters

We would like to extend a big MAHALO to all the firefighters that worked so hard day and night to put out the Kohala Ranch fire on August 8. The fire started 1 mile north of the entrance, about 3:00 a.m., but quickly spread into the ranch. There were 22 homes that were affected by the fire, but no homes were damaged. With wind gusts measured at 82 m.p.h. during the day, it is a miracle that anything was left standing. Our gratitude and sincere thanks go out to all those firefighters that worked so hard to save homes. Our thanks also go out to the Daniel Sayre Memorial Foundation which recently funded a new rescue helicopter for Hawaii County. Many thanks!

With Aloha,
Kim and Jerry Takata

Mahalo Kohala Zipline

The Kohala Middle School 8th graders would like to give a Big Mahalo to the Kohala Zipline. This past school year, the Zipline gave the 8th graders an opportunity to bond with their classmates and enjoy an amazing experience. It was a gift that students had to work hard for but was well worth it. The Kohala Zipline also gave KMS students a day to remember that was filled with many exciting memories and laughter that won't be forgotten. We all hope that in the future the Kohala Zipline will continue to offer this wonderful event to Kohala's youth. Again, mahalo to the Kohala Zipline staff for spreading happiness and joy.

Sincerely,
Kaleilani Ancheta, Mari Ontiveros
and the KMS 8th Grade

Viewpoint

Information and opinions expressed in viewpoint articles are the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Kohala Mountain News or its staff.

Stepping Up to Step Together

By Toni Withington

Watching the people of Lahaina pulling together to rebuild their town reminds us of Kohala's history of pulling together after the 2006 earthquake or fixing the swimming pool this year without outside help.

Kohala is known island-wide for working together, with or without the government.

What that takes is people stepping up. And now – September – is a good time of the year to think about stepping out of pandemic and summer routines to offer some of our time to this community. It takes a village.

One sign of Kohala's devotion to taking care of our own business was the massive turnout at Mayor Mitch Roth's Townhall meeting in July. Twice as many people showed up as any of his other district get-togethers.

Many Kohala volunteer groups are recovering from the summer malaise and looking for new participants. Many individuals who have worked so hard for years are looking to turn over leadership roles to new blood. New ideas.

A good place to look is the North Kohala community planning network. This includes the nine-member Advisory Group that implements the 2008 North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP), an official County ordinance. That group oversees eight

subgroups organized around the primary goals of the NKCDP. All the groups meet monthly at set times and places.

Then there is the Kohala Community Plan (KCP) organization, a sponsored project of the NKCRC. So far around 200 community members have given their ideas in Talk Story sessions in neighborhoods, churches, schools, and cultural groups. The ideas are being transmitted back to the NKCDP subgroups to give them current community input for updating their sections of the CDP on an ongoing basis.

The last official CDP was adopted in 2008 and it is 15 years past due for a County-mandated update. Kohala isn't waiting for the Planning Department to get around to a re-do. It is undertaking the task already. Each of the subgroups, including newly created ones such as the Culture and History Group, has a section on the KCP website – www.kohalacommunityplan.org. Check it out. There's a calendar of all the meetings. Questions about the planning process can be directed to imuakohala@gmail.com.

If you are knowledgeable, or even interested, in one of the following topics, the best place to start is the monthly subgroup meetings. They are all open to the public, so if you want to just see how topics are managed and who's involved, you can stop by a meeting to check

it out.

The subgroups are Community Access, Affordable Housing, Agriculture, Growth Management, Health and Wellness, History and Culture, Parks-Roads-Erosion Control-Viewplains, and Utilities. There is also a vacancy on the Advisory Group. The schedule for all these groups is listed on the KCP website and the calendar in the Kohala Mountain News.

It is worth saying here that no other district has as robust a system of community CDP participation as North Kohala.

Another breathtaking place to look for ways to contribute your time to help Kohala is through the North Kohala Community Resource Center. Acting as a non-profit umbrella for multiple projects that touch the people of Kohala directly, it can point you in a direction where volunteer service is needed and appreciated. Check out the website at www.northkohala.org. Or you can email at info@northkohala.org or phone at 808 889-5523.

While you are searching the internet, check out the beautiful website of Kohala Kupa'a, www.kohalakupaa.com, which is the site of the Kohala Resilience Hub. The organization offers many programs that bring Kohala people together for both work and play. Contact via email is kohalakupaa808@gmail.com.

Reach out. Step up.

Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

In the past couple of months, wildfires have raged across communities in North and South Kohala, threatening homes, farms, ranches and infrastructure for water, power and agriculture. People's lives and properties were protected only because of the heroic work of our professional and volunteer firefighters and first responders assisting homeowners, farmers and ranchers.

While some of our district's residents certainly experienced losses from these fires, we are all shaken by the tragic loss of life and prop-

erty experienced by the residents of Lahaina and surrounding communities on Maui. It is difficult to imagine the personal impacts of this mass tragedy. But we are all trying to figure out what we can do to assist the Maui community in their recovery.

The investigation into the August 8 wildfires on Maui is continuing, but here are some of the sobering statistics we know so far. At least 115 people died, and about 4,300 people have been displaced. More than 2,300 structures were destroyed causing about \$5.5 billion

in damages. Residents lost nearly 2,000 homes, which has resulted in displaced families now searching for housing in one of the nation's most expensive housing markets. Many also lost their jobs and workplaces.

Lahaina was one of the most popular destinations for visitors to Maui, with many historic sites and dozens of popular storefronts and restaurants lining Front Street and surrounding areas. Among the many buildings that were destroyed were about 1,500 visitor

See HI Rep Update , Page 6

Future KMN Deadlines

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

October Deadlines
Ads and News: 10/13/23
Calendar: 10/20/23
Distribution: 10/27/23

November Deadlines
Ads and News: 11/10/23
Calendar: 11/17/23
Distribution: 11/24/23

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.

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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HI Rep Update, from Page 5

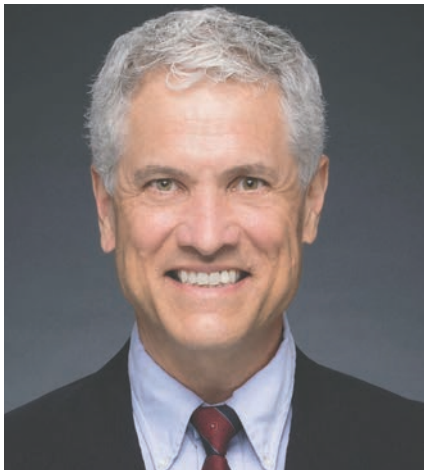


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

accommodations and short-term vacation rentals that could house about 4,000 visitors. University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) completed an analysis of the economic impact of the fires and estimated that Lahaina businesses generated more than \$70 million per month in revenue in accommodation, food services, retail sales and other categories and employed about 8,500 individuals.

West Maui is temporarily closed to visitors for the time being, which means more than 10,000 rooms in hotels, timeshares and vacation rentals are unavailable. The number of visitors to Maui dropped by about 75 percent, which means a revenue loss to the State of more than \$13

million per day. UHERO estimates the loss of TAT (Transient Accommodations Tax) and GET (General Excise Tax) to be about \$30 million for August and each subsequent month that visitors are missing. For the County, UHERO estimates TAT revenues to drop by about \$5 million per month and property taxes to drop by at least \$10.5 million for the 23-24 fiscal year.

The Governor has requested the State Attorney General to investigate the policies and performance of the State and Maui County agencies during this wildfire. State Attorney General Anne E. Lopez announced the selection of the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI), a nonprofit research organization associated with Underwriters Laboratories Inc., as the independent third-party organization to carry out the investigation. FSRI's team of former firefighters, inspectors, fire scientists and incident commanders started work on Maui on August 24.

Specifically, they will evaluate how State and Maui County agencies coordinated emergency alerts, evacuations, communications, fire-fighting and other response actions during the first 24 to 72 hours of the fire and immediately afterward.

They will determine what worked and what didn't work in the response to the fire, but it will not include an analysis of the cause of the ignition or reignition of the fires.

The FSRI team will update the Attorney General and her office with their progress and findings every two weeks. There will be three phases of the investigation. The first

phase will take about three months and gather the facts and establish a timeline of the sequence of events on August 8 as the fire started and progressed. The second phase will take about six months and include data analysis to see how various fire protection systems functioned during the fire. The final report is expected to be completed in late 2024 and will include recommendations to guide agencies to prevent such a fire incident from happening again. The Attorney General said that if there is any evidence of criminal actions, the criminal investigators in the Attorney General's office would investigate.

The Attorney General's independent investigation will be conducted while numerous lawsuits have been filed against Hawaiian Electric and Maui County by victims of the fires. Maui County has also sued Hawaiian Electric to determine if they have any civil liability for the fires.

Maui County is also conducting an after-action report of its emergency management. And the Maui Fire Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives of the U.S. Department of Justice are investigating the cause and origin of the fire that burned Lahaina.

The road to recovery for Maui will be long and difficult and will likely dominate the legislature's agenda in the 2024 session.

The legislature has begun work to prepare legislation to facilitate Maui's recovery process by establishing six different special working groups to focus on: (1) Shelter; (2)

Food, Water and Other Supplies; (3) Environmental Remediation; (4) Jobs and Business; (5) Schools; and (6) Wildfire Prevention. Over the next four months, these working groups of legislators will work on their relevant subject areas and develop recommendations for legislative action in the 2024 legislative session.

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 anytime. Mahalo!

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Try do this every day. Garenz going help!!!

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Hawai'i Wildlife Center Update and Seabird Fallout Season Reminders

Almost every day at the Hawai'i Wildlife Center (HWC) a new native Hawaiian bird (or occasionally bat!) arrives at the main hospital in Kapa'au or the O'ahu satellite housed at the Honolulu Zoo. Since its opening in 2012, the HWC has treated over 3,600 patients, with 74 percent of them being treated in the last three years. This increase in patients is showing no signs of slowing down. The next few months are going to be particularly busy though, as September marks the beginning of Seabird Fallout Season for a variety of different seabird species.

From September to December, young seabirds leave their nest for the first time. These birds use moonlight to navigate their way to the ocean. However, if they are near populated areas, artificial lighting – like streetlights or building lights – can disorient them and cause these birds to fall to the ground out of exhaustion or collide with structures. It is not only a handful of birds this happens to either, as during this time the HWC typically takes in over 600 patients. That is over half of the yearly patient count in about four months! Nevertheless, the staff looks forward to the high-paced fallout season. "The types of seabirds we get in fallout seasons are full of individual personality and sass but are one the most rewarding and gratifying birds to



Courtesy of Hawai'i Wildlife Center
Hawai'i Wildlife Center staff releasing an 'ua'u kani, or wedge-tailed shearwater, during last year's Seabird Fallout Season.

work with," says Heidi Franz, who is one of the HWC's Wildlife Rehabilitators.

While the majority of fallout birds appear in the more heavily lit cities on O'ahu, HWC has also responded to wayward seabirds on Hawai'i Island and urges everyone to keep an eye out. If you happen to find an injured or downed native

bird this time of year (or really any time), please follow these steps to ensure its safety:

- 1.) Call the Hawaii Wildlife Center at (808) 884-5000 for detailed instructions and support.
- 2.) Find and prepare an appropriate-sized container (a cardboard box, plastic tub, dog/cat carrier) and make sure it is well-ventilated.

3.) Cover the bird with a light-weight towel and gently place the covered bird in the prepared container. Please do not give it any food or water.

4.) Place the container in a quiet and dark area.

5.) Contact and deliver the bird to HWC as soon as possible during business hours.

While keeping your eye out for birds, also keep an eye out for education programs offered by the HWC. In partnership with the North Kohala Library, the HWC will be hosting a Keiki Science program every third Tuesday and a Community Science program every last Friday of the month. Interested in other events or school programs? Please email Margaret, the Community Relations Coordinator, at margaret@hawaiiwildlifecenter.org for more information, questions or suggestions.

On October 21, the HWC is collaborating with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i to host an in-person Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds at the Grand Naniiloa Hotel Hilo. This year's theme is "Hawai'i's Amazing Biodiversity" and will be a full-day event focused on community, culture, and conservation efforts to save our native manu [birds]. It will include a hō'ike [exhibit], expert guest speakers, and a bird fair. Please join us for a day of celebrating our manu!

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Kohala Food Hub Continues to Bring Food Security and Access to the Community

By Libby Leonard

As the islands import 85-90 percent of the food we consume and are vulnerable to supply chain disruption, growing an equitable and effective food system is becoming more necessary.

According to the Hawai'i Food Hub Hui, a working group of the nonprofit Good Food Alliance, Hawai'i's small and family farmers make up 90 percent of all food producers but are often left out of the broken food system.

The Food Hub Hui, which aims to create a collaborative local food movement, involves 14 food hubs that handle amassing food, distributing food, and marketing local growers and vendors across the archipelago.

One of those hubs is our very own Kohala Food Hub.

Since its inception in 2019, the Kohala Food Hub has exploded into not only a resource to support local farmers through a thriving online marketplace and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program, but a force for fresh food access throughout Kohala and beyond.

"What I want the Food Hub to be is 'of the community, for the community,'" said Kohala Food Hub Director Maya Parish. "We're here to serve and support."

Though about to be its own entity, the Food Hub was originally



Photos courtesy of Kohala Food Hub
Left to right: Kristen Nicole, Kanani Alpis and Maya Parish promote the Kohala Food Hub at Roots Skate Park on Go Skate Day.

founded by HIP Ag [Hawai'i Island Pacific Agriculture], which has provided fundraising, staffing and operational support.

Parish and her staff have been working hard trying to build up demand and markets, while also providing community resources and education around the benefits of eating locally – not just for the benefit of our health, but the health of our economy and food system.

When she initially began working for the Food Hub in November

2021, there were only ten producers. Now, there is a rich network of over one hundred, with a variety of food sourced from all over the island.

However, Parish is working hard to increase the number of Kohala producers to feed more of our community with Kohala grown food, and they don't have to be from commercial farms or businesses, but can be from backyard growers, too.

"People can sell whenever they have something. They can be sea-

sonal, it doesn't have to be all the time" she said, adding that her staff helps everyone get set up with their full profile.

While the Food Hub has a CSA box with produce from local foods that people can order, it's not the traditional model in which customers get produce from just one farm and have to pay up front. Instead, she said the Food Hub absorbs the risk by having customers pay as they go, so there is no hard commitment. The produce is also sourced from multiple farms.

The Food Hub also has a weekly online marketplace, where people can buy whatever they want from a variety of vendors. Items can either be picked up at the Food Hub's Ho'ea location (also known as the Old Chicken Farm) or Kawaihae Marketplace. They can also be delivered via the brand-new delivery truck.

They don't just deliver to the community, though, but also restaurants and resorts that order the local produce.

Shoppers choose from a variety of produce, meats, dairy, eggs and breads. Also available are desserts, jams, coffee beans, flower arrangements and plant starts for a variety of flowers and vegetables, including kalo.

Some of the many vendors

See Food Hub, Page 9

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Food Hub, from Page 8



Lila Marassi from Hāwī Farm contributes produce to the Kohala Food Hub.

are ‘Āhualoa Grown, Naked Cow Dairy, One Village Pharmacy, and Hawai‘i Ulu Co-operative. Kohala Elementary School’s keiki farm has recently been contributing herb bundles, papaya and Jamaican lilikoi.

To keep the food accessible, the Food Hub accepts SNAP and EBT benefits and has expanded food access through a variety of partners.

The most recent partnership was with “Kaukau for Keiki,” a six-week free meal program through the Department of Education that covered the summer nutrition gap, easing the financial burden on families whose kids get free breakfast

and lunch during the school year.

The first summer, the Food Hub partnered with the County and Hawai‘i Food Basket. The next it was Kohala Resilience HUB. This past summer, they partnered with Vibrant Hawai‘i.

“Vibrant and the Resilience Hub really prioritized local food for the program, when they didn’t have to,” she said, adding that they helped feed over one hundred Kohala families.

Over the summer, they also supplied produce for a program called Project Hawai‘i in Kona, which provides a weeklong camp for unhoused youth.

They also now participate in a program called Veggie Rx, a USDA-supported food access program that supplies \$30 worth of fresh and locally grown food for free, two times a month through May, for those who meet two of three criteria: are Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or Filipino; qualify as low income; or have a chronic health condition. This program serves anywhere from 40 to 70 Kohala households. The deadline to enroll has been extended to mid-October. If you are interested in enrolling, contact the Food Hub. “That’s part of what we do to increase local food access and increase our support of local farmers and thereby build a local food system,” says Parish.

The Food Hub was also one of six recipients statewide for a Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture grant through the Food Hub

Pilot Program that was created to increase the capacity of food hubs.

They plan to use the money to create a mobile market that will go directly into the community. This will likely be a 16-foot trailer made by a custom fabricator on Maui.

Parish said they’ll ideally be open two to three days a week at a few locations such as the Hāwī Farmer’s Market, Kailapa Homes in Kawaihae, and the Friday Night Market.

She also would like to set it up roadside during evening commute time when – beyond fresh produce and other value-added products – it would have nutritious, prepared meals to grab on the go. As a mother, she’s always thinking of ways to make it easier on families.

To prepare meals, they are building a commercial, certified kitchen at the Ho‘ea location that will also be available to rent out at low cost to other small local businesses and members of the community.

Lack of processing facilities have been a block to many producers all over the islands. This kitchen will be certified in both hot and cold foods.

She hopes that in the future they will be able to support farmers in getting them more access to land and provide a hub for more assistance and support – potentially with grant writers and other consultants – so farmers can continue to focus more on doing what they love.

She’s also hopeful farm-to-school programs that stopped

during Covid will be restarted so she can get produce in Kohala school cafeterias. She has been ideating on how to replicate a program on Kaua‘i that brings a snack cart into schools.

Building replicable models is also one of the Food Hub’s goals, so what they are doing can also happen in other communities.

Her new manager, Kristen Nicole, came up from Puna. She had wanted to start a food hub down there but didn’t have the resources, so she figured she’d work her way from Kohala down.

“We need production, distribution and a commercial kitchen, so we can bring the food to share with the community in a real way,” Nicole said.


Nicole is joined by other new staff members – Lina Jacobs and Cassidy Thornton, both of whom have backgrounds in farm-to-table and permaculture – as well as a host of weekly volunteers.

“There’s something about this work, because it’s about community, because it’s about service,” Parish said, adding that she has been inspired by everyone who has stepped up to come to support the Hub. “Part of the reason why I’m doing this is I think food can bring us together,” she said.

For more information or to contact the Kohala Food Hub, please visit www.kohalafoodhub.com, email manager@kohalafoodhub.com, text or call 808-896-3179, or check kohalafoodhub on Instagram.



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Kohala High Class Of 1983 Holds 40th Reunion

By Jeanne Sunderland

A joyful gathering of classmates from 1983, with guest from 1982 and 1984, was held over Labor Day weekend at Hawaii Island Retreat.

A heartfelt honoring of those that have passed was enhanced with balloons and gorgeous decorations.

Lots of ono food brought by attendees was enjoyed for all three days! Music, dancing, lots of laughing, reminiscing, catching up, and swimming in the pool held everyone's attention until late in the night.

A highlight of the weekend was the group cooking competition.



Photos by Michael Matsu

Kohala High School Class of 1983 at their 40-year Reunion.



Class of 1983, the winners of the KHS 40-year Reunion Cowboy Cook-off.



Class of 1984 Cowboy Cook-Off Team Chefs.



Class of 1982 Cowboy Cook-Off Team Chefs.

Each class was represented by six classmates that were given particular ingredients and utensils to prepare and present a dish for judging. Laughs, creativity and enthusiasm were shared.

A special thanks goes out to our talented team for planning and cre-

ating such a fun and laughter-filled event: Cathy (Marquez) Batacan, Mike Matsu, Coralee Mock Chew, Evan (Miura) Tolentino, Robert Cambra, Greg Guitang, Merlyn (Bruno) Botelho, Hualalai (Smith) Carvalho and Kathe (Pasco) Anderson.

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It Takes a Village

Story and photo by Diann Wilson

Many community members have dropped off items, bought items, or both at St. Augustine Episcopal Church's Thrift Shop, but not many of us realize what it takes to run the thrift shop and everything it does for the community.

More than a dozen volunteers help to keep the shop up and running. On the front end, donations of gently used, clean items are accepted by staff on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Thursdays from 8 to 11 a.m. During those times you may find the smiling faces of Iris, Carol or Mavis collecting, sorting and displaying goods.

Then the shop itself is open to the public on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month 8 to 11 a.m. Even more volunteers can be found in the shop during those times.

A variety of items are offered for sale, including clothing, books, small household items, kitchenware, toys, bedding and crafts. They will accept donated items that are in good shape, but no electronics or large furniture. The store is currently in need of men's clothing, so check your closets for shirts and pants that no longer fit you but could be of help to someone else in the community.

The money that is made from



Volunteer Mavis Ruest helps to organize donations at St. Augustine Episcopal Church's Thrift Shop.

the sale of goods goes back into the community. Proceeds help fund the community meal that is held at the church on the fourth Monday of every month. In addition, the money collected helps to fund scholarships for local North Kohala students attending college or trade school. In 2024, the church

gave over \$10,000 in scholarships to five students who are members of the church. Earnings are also used to partner with Kohala Cares to provide food distribution and to keep the Little Free Pantry stocked with food. And money from the shop is used to help maintain buildings on the church campus, including the

historic landmark sanctuary built in 1884. Funds also go to the upkeep of the thrift shop and Walker Hall, which sits next to the thrift shop and is used by partnering non-profit organizations.

And if that isn't enough, the shop has been opened when special circumstances occur. The church allowed a North Kohala family to shop off-hours when they had a house fire. Some Maui residents have been here to get items as well. When there are extenuating circumstances, the shop will open during other hours, and they sometimes donate items to families in need.

Vicar Jennifer Masada said, "We are so grateful for the generosity of our community! People bring new and gently used items to the shop, which gives folks access to items they need, keeps things out of the transfer station, and provides a fun shopping experience to all who drop in. Mahalo nui to North Kohala for allowing us to serve this community!" The Thrift Shop is located at 54-3801 Akoni Pule Highway in Kapa'au, next to St. Augustine Episcopal Church. They are currently looking for additional volunteers to help with sorting or staffing the store when it is open. To volunteer, call the church office at 808-889-5390 or email admin@staugustines-kohala.com.



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Hawaii Diaper Bank Offers Additional Drop Off Location



Photo courtesy of Partners in Development Foundation
Partners in Development Foundation staff members Lani Bowman (left), Home Visitor with Tutu and Me; and Celene Kobayashi, Program Specialist with Piha Me Ka Pono.

By Lani Bowman

Kohala is fortunate to now have three locations to drop off diapers and other needed items for the Hawaii Diaper Bank. Items may be dropped at Nakahara Store in the bin near the entrance; St. Augustine's Thrift Store on either Wednesdays from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m., or the first Saturday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.; or the newest location, the LAMP Cottage in the parking lot of the Kohala Elementary School.

Donations will be accepted at the Cottage from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on school days.

Tutu & Me Home Visiting Program is a partner with Hawaii Diaper Bank. This free program serves families with keiki from birth to age five. For more information on how to qualify for diapers and the program, please contact Lani Bowman at 808-895-5753 or email lbowman@pidfoundation.org.



North Kohala Microgrid Project Update

September 2023

Hawaiian Electric is developing a microgrid project to improve reliability and resilience in North Kohala. The project is designed specifically to operate as a microgrid to provide electric service to North Kohala when power cannot be provided by the interconnected island grid. It would be located next to Hawaiian Electric's Hāwī Substation and be the first utility microgrid based on storage in the state of Hawai'i, if approved by the Public Utilities Commission.

In October 2021, Hawaiian Electric filed a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) with the Commission for the microgrid's battery energy storage system (BESS). The Commission opened Docket 2022-0012 in January 2022. In November 2022, the Commission suspended the docket to allow the company to file a revised draft RFP based on the results of a restudy. The results were filed in December 2022. The revised draft RFP and related documents were filed in January 2023.

The final RFP was approved and opened to bidders on March 24, 2023, with proposals due by May 31, 2023. On August 29, 2023, the RFP was closed without an award. Following a comprehensive evaluation process, Hawaiian Electric concluded that the proposals did not meet the criteria set forth in the RFP. The company is determining the appropriate next steps and will provide updates as information becomes available.

To learn more about the microgrid project and receive status updates, visit the Hawaiian Electric website or call (808) 969-0137. Comments on the project can be emailed to renewableacquisition@hawaiianelectric.com or submitted to the PUC via their website puc.hawaii.gov/contact for Docket No. 2022-0012.

hawaiianelectric.com/northkohalamicrogrid

WEEKLY EVENTS IN OCTOBER 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	OUTSIDE HISAOKA GYM	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
	5PM	6PM	CHOIR PRACTICE	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
	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 10/4, 10/18, BOARD GAMES: 10/11, CRAFT: 10/25	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	3:30 PM	4:30PM	RMD TAIKO CLASSES (NOT 1ST WED)	HUB HALE	889-0404 EXT. 104
	6PM	8PM	MEAL AND BIBLE STUDY	KALAHIKIOLA CHURCH	218-4872
	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	AINAKEA HOME	747 9627
THU	8AM	5PM	COMMUNITY HARVEST	TOUCHING THE EARTH FARM	
	8AM		YOGA/PILATES BEGINNER CLASS	OUTSIDE HISAOKA GYM	333-8275
	9AM	10:15PM	HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501
	5PM		OPEN CIRCLE MEDITATION	KEOKEA BEACH PARK	889-5390
	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
SAT	8AM	1PM	COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET	KAMEHAMEHA PARK	225-3666
	8AM	12PM	FARMERS MARKET	THE HUB	313-338-7090
SUN	8AM		YOGA/PILATES BEGINNER CLASS	OUTSIDE HISAOKA GYM	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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Looking Together to the Leeward Coast

By Toni Withington

Now that over 15 miles of the North Kohala leeward shore have been preserved from future commercial development, where to go from here?

The process of looking at the open coast as a single resource for the public began with a preliminary gathering last month.

The endeavor is eventually expected to involve many community groups, land trusts and multiple government agencies. Descendants with connections to the multiple land divisions, or ahupua'a, and generations-long users of the lands for fishing and recreation are expected to play a key role in the process.

What kicked off the collaborative effort was an August 25 outdoor gathering of stakeholders in the area to discuss parks and trails connectivity.

Attending were representatives of county, state and federal park systems, multiple community groups and Hawaii Land Trust (HILT), which is in the process of purchasing the former resort-designated land at Māhukona.

Two local groups initiated the

meeting. Mālama Māhukona, the official Friends of Māhukona Park, wanted to start collaborative talks, particularly about the historic and cultural importance of the area, and Ke ala La, a group seeking ways to connect trails and increase safety on Akoni Pule Highway.

Looking at the coast from Keawenui to Kapa'a Park as a single challenge became possible last spring when the National Park Service (NPS) purchased 36 acres at Lamaloloa to complete the chain of preserved land.

The 22 participants first met at the picnic tables at Māhukona Park, then moved to a shaded area of Lapakahi State Historical Park. Information about ancient trails and historic sites was brought forward. Maps were laid out.

Ideas were shared for how to make the visitor experience of the area enhance, not take away from, the primary experience of residents.

Attending were Martha Yent, archaeologist for State Parks, and five others from State Parks; Michelle Hiraishi, deputy director, and James Komata, chief

planner for County Parks and Recreation Department; Aric Arakaki, superintendent, Rick Gmirkin, chief archaeologist, and Cayla Crivello, GIS mapper, for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail; Jackson Bauer, trails and access program manager for the state's Na Ala Hele Trail System; Shae Kamakaala, director of 'āina protection, and Keone Emeliano, steward of Māhukona lands, represented Hawaii Land Trust.

From the community, Noelani Rassmussen, chair of Mālama Māhukona; Carter Collins, team leader of Ke ala La; John Winter, chair of the NKCDP Advisory Group, and Toni Withington, representing Kohala Lihikai and the Kohala Community Access Group.

The only decisions made at the meeting were to meet again, possibly in late October, and to bring other agencies and groups into the discussion. The event was organized by Meredith Speicher of the Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance Program of the NPS in consort with Ke ala La. Toni Withington acted as the emcee.



Gospel of Salvation Kohala

55-146 Kokoiki Road
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Adult Bible Study: Monday 7 PM
Prayer Meeting: Friday 7 PM
 Pastor Kawika Kihara
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KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

October Service will be held in Hilo on Sunday, October 15, 1:00 p.m.
 Please contact Reverend Yamagishi with any questions.
 Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
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For more information and to volunteer please email **volunteer.manager@northhawaiihospice.org** or call **885-7547**



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Remembering Frank Asch at the Library



Photo by Mathew Kaip

Readers (left to right) Clara Maia, Carla Orellana, Lani Bowman, Jan Asch and Chassidie Keyes are joined by their 'ohana at the library's Remembering Frank Asch Storytime.



Photo by Lani Bowman

Jan Asch uses her bear puppet to enhance her reading of the story "Good Night, Baby Bear."

By Lani Bowman

On Monday, August 8, keiki and makua [parents or relatives in the parents' generation] enjoyed the "Remembering Frank Asch" Storytime held at North Kohala library. Uncle Frank was a regular storyteller along with his friends, Moonbear and Little Bird.

Frank was author of many wonderful children's stories that delight both keiki and adults.

His heartfelt books teach lifelong values of love, adventure and fun!

His wife, Jan, worked alongside Frank in developing his stories and songs.

Jan shared some beautiful songs they wrote. "Bubblegum Song" had the audience in hysterics, while "Come Play with Me" echoed the importance of friendship and love. She and other readers entertained the engaged audience with their readings, which included "Pancakes in Pajamas," "Good Night, Baby Bear" and "Gia and the One Hundred Dollars Worth of Bubble Gum."

A time of talk story and refreshments followed. Mahalo to community members for their donations. Mahalo also to Children's Librarian Mathew Kaip and North Kohala Public Library for hosting the event and to Lani Bowman from Tutu & Me Home Visiting Program for helping coordinate the event. A big Mahalo to our readers, Jan Asch, Chassidie Keyes, Clara Maia, Carla Orellana and Lani Bowman.

Attendees appreciated the event and the man it celebrated. "We've made friends and lifelong memo-

ries at the library and that afternoon you could feel the Aloha in the room as we gathered to celebrate our friend's life and literary legacy. Mahalo to North Kohala Library, Aunty Lani, Uncle Frank's sweet family and to our community for this special afternoon together." - Clara Maia and 'Ohana

North Kohala Library will be featuring Frank Asch's books on display for the month of October. Please stop by to read his amazing books with so many great lessons for the young and young at heart!

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MONTHLY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2023

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
9/13 - 29	M-TH	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	CO-ED VOLLEY BALL AGES 9-14	REGISTRATION ENDS 9/29, PICK UP FORMS AT GYM	HISAOKA GYM	808-889-6505
9/30	SAT	9:00AM	2:00 PM	RUMMAGE SALE	TOOLS, PLANTS, HOT DOGS, FURNITURE CRAFTS	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808 - 960-3597
10/2	MON	9:00 AM		KOHALA CULTURE AND HISTORY GROUP	NKCDP		IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/2	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/4	WED	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	MĀHUKONA TALK STORY SESSIONS	REGISTER AT HTTPS://WWW.HILT.ORG/MAHUKONA	MĀHUKONA	
10/4	WED	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB BARN	808-889-5312
10/4	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/4	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
10/5	THU	4:30 PM		AGRICULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE	NKCDP	KOHALA FOOD HUB	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/6	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/7	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
10/7	SAT	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	KOHALA COUNTRY FAIR	LIVE MUSIC, FESTIVE FOOD, KEIKI ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS	KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB	
10/7	SAT	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	LOOK AGAIN! SHOW OPENING	BY ORANGE CLEGHORN & LAYTON KLIBLINGER	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
10/9	MON	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	HISTORY TALK	LEARN ABOUT KING KAMEHAMEHA.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/10	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	THE FOUR WINDS BY KRISTIN HANNAH	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/11	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/11	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/17	TUE	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	KEIKI SCIENCE WITH HWC	BUILD-A-BIRD WITH MISS MARGARET.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/18	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/18	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/19	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
10/21	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
10/21	SAT	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	ANNUAL BAZAAR	KALAHIKIOLA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	WYLIE HALL, IOLE	(808) 889-6703
10/23	MON	4:30 PM		COMMUNITY MEAL	SIT DOWN OR TAKE OUT	ST AUGUSTINES	808-889-5390
10/24	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
10/25	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
10/25	WED	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/27	FRI	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	SCIENCE WITH HWC	MAKE YOUR YARD BIRD-FRIENDLY. AGES 13+	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/27	FRI	5:00 PM		KOHALA CARES FUNDRAISER	DINNER, RSVP	ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH	808-987-4970

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- ANIMAL FRIES.....8
- KANAKA FRIES.....8
- SIDE TACO.....7
- EXTRA AIOLI.....1
- AVO MAYO.....1