

Kohala Mountain News

Vol. 22, No. 10

About Kohala, For Kohala

October 27, 2023

Cesspool Conversion Follow-up Session

By Toni Withington

Additional information about the cesspool conversion mandates will be presented Wednesday, November 15, at an open meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center (Old Courthouse) in Kapa'au.

Ramzi Mansour, Hawaii County Director of Environmental Management, will be the main speaker at the monthly meeting of the Utilities Group of the North Kohala Community Development Plan.

All cesspools in Hawaii must be converted to either septic tanks or other wastewater treatment systems by the year 2050.

The conversions, that will affect almost all homes and businesses in North Kohala, are due to federal and state regulations, leaving it to the counties to facilitate.

A successful Cesspool Conversion Forum was conducted by the Utilities Group in August, but because of a storm, Mansour participated in an online transmission that was not heard adequately by

all the 70 participants. Mansour will repeat the County's role in facilitating the conversions, including efforts to help residents finance the changeovers. He will also answer questions from the public.

Cesspools have long been considered substandard because they don't treat human waste, but merely dump it in the ground nearby. The concentration of raw, untreated sewage can contaminate oceans, streams and groundwater from which we pump our household water. Pathogens found in untreated sewage can impact human health by contaminating drinking water.

Nitrates can damage land or aquatic ecosystems, including coral reefs. Most of the 88,000 cesspools in Hawaii serve only single-family residences and are not regulated by the Federal Environmental Protection Act, but almost all states, including Hawaii, are taking action to protect drinking water and ocean resources.

State Releases Funds for 'Upolu Ag Water Well

By Toni Withington

Construction of the 'Upolu agriculture water well slogged ahead with the release of \$1.5 million for construction of the pumping system and storage tank.

The project is located near 'Upolu Airport Road.

When completed, it will provide affordable water for farming, ranching and dairying in the area.

Governor Josh Green turned the funds over to the Department of Land Natural Resources (DLNR), which is overseeing the planning and construction of the 'Upolu well project.

When completed, DLNR plans on transferring ownership of the pumping system and storage tank to the state Department of Agriculture to manage operations.

The well is expected to be the first of several wells providing agriculture water to farms in other parts of Kohala. The system will replace water that was lost when the Kohala Ditch was severely damaged in a 2021 landslide.

Since that time, there has been no permanent flow in the ditch and it cannot be used for irrigation, dealing a heavy blow to Kohala's

farmers and ranchers.

Using an existing but unused U.S. Geological Survey observation well, the pumps can supply 475 gallons per minute, or 384,000 gallons per day.

A 20-foot-tall, 660,000-gallon reservoir and water lines running to the east and west are planned to be built.

Farmers or cooperatives would privately design and fund pipelines to convey the water to their areas.

DLNR has received bids on the construction contract and will soon be making the decision to award the contract.

Once the contractor is selected, permits from the County are needed to proceed.

Representative David Tarnas, who helped procure the funds through the legislature this year, said, "The Kohala community has made it clear that providing affordable agricultural water to producers in Kohala is a top priority.

"While this well alone won't be able to supply everyone who needs and wants irrigation water, it is an important part of the overall strategy to support Kohala's sustainable agricultural economy."

North Kohala Tool Library Welcomes You!



Photo by Leah Gibbs

North Kohala Tool Library Volunteers include (left to right) David Gibbs, Clark Jones, Jack Boyle, Wes Kalima and Karen Smagala. Not pictured: Alicia Veloria, Lani Bowman, David Frecker, Eileen Hartwings, and numerous other generous volunteers and advisors.

By David Gibbs

The North Kohala Tool Library (NKTL) is ecstatic to announce that after nearly two and a half years of development and hundreds of hours of hard work by our amazing volunteers, we are officially OPEN and eager to serve Kohala! Mahalo to our Kohala community for all the patience and support they have extended to us, whether it be through monetary donations, tool donations, volunteer time or even just enthusiasm, feedback and kind words of encouragement. Here's how the tool library works:

First, become a member! Memberships are available to North Kohala residents and are donation-based with a minimum suggested yearly donation of \$30 per year (less than the cost of gas for a round trip to Kona!). While we suggest a yearly minimum donation, we understand that extra cash isn't always easy to come by and will never turn anyone away for lack of funds, so please don't be scared off by the donation suggestion. Our main goal is to get tools into your hands! You can sign up on our website, www.nktool-library.org, or visit us in person to sign up to become a member.

Next, visit our friendly tool

librarians to check out our tool inventory OR browse our searchable online tool database. We don't just have construction tools, we also have hobby and craft tools, catering equipment, landscaping tools, etc. Expand your idea of what qualifies as a tool to "any item that can help one complete a project or task!" Most tools are completely free to borrow for one week and late fees are accrued at \$1 per tool, per day. Some "super tools" have higher maintenance requirements and therefore have a maintenance fee, shorter loan periods, and higher late fees associated with borrowing them.

For now, our open hours are Monday 4:00-5:30 p.m., Thursday 8:30-10:00 a.m., and Saturday 8:00-10:00 a.m. You can also call or text us at 808-213-7779 for an appointment. We hope to increase our operational hours as our volunteer base grows and our capacity increases. (We are looking for volunteers; see our website for more info.) We are in the "old Sunshine Hardware building" at 54-3842 Akoni Pule Highway near the entrance to Kamehameha Park.

NKTL is a nonprofit project. See Tool, Page 2

Kohala Mountain News
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Kahua Pa'a Mua Kicks Off Culture-Based Agriculture Program with County High Schools



Leaders and participants in Kahua Pa'a Mua's Ulu Hou II initiative, a project aimed at developing student-led food production projects that incorporate Native Hawaiian practices and modern technology.

Story and photo by Libby Leonard

Last month, education-based agriculture nonprofit Kahua Pa'a Mua hosted a two-day planning workshop for their new program, Ulu Hou II at Makapala Retreat Center.

Funded by Kamehameha Schools, and in partnership with four high school agriculture programs across the county, the goal of the workshop was to develop student-led food production projects that incorporate Native Hawaiian practices and modern technology.

"If we can connect agriculture with culture, that is going to be more sustainable," said David Fuertes, executive director of Kahua

Pa'a Mua.

The program comes after their partnership with Kamehameha Schools on the original Ulu Hou program.

That program resulted in development of their Ho'okahua Ai youth mentorship program, which mentors students ages 13 to 18 into career-based post-secondary education degree programs through hands-on learning about animal husbandry and crop production on the nonprofit's farm.

Ulu Hou II continues to foster entrepreneurship with the hopes of increasing the students' connection to their cultural identity, and their responsibility towards Hawai'i and

their communities, through their project-based learning.

Those in attendance were agriculture teachers and student leaders in the FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) organization from high schools in Hilo, Ka'u, Kea'au and Kohala.

Each school also brought kupauna mentors from their areas that would help ground and guide their projects with their cultural expertise.

"We've got to look to Native Hawaiian culture and values, and build the education system around that," said Ken Kajihara, who is serving as the program evaluator, as well as a speaker and facilitator on the first day of the event.

Kajihara said Ulu Hou emphasizes the importance of "ma ka hana ka 'ike," or "in doing one learns" in terms of the project's hands-on approach to learning, which is one of the tenets of Na Hopena A'o, a culturally responsive, place-based education framework introduced by the Department of Education in 2015.

The framework also involves interdependent outcomes based on increasing a sense of belonging, responsibility, excellence, aloha, well-being, and connection to Hawai'i alongside its history and culture.

Other speakers that day were former FFA state officer Chynna Chun and cultural practitioner Bronson Kainoa Azama— both of whom will also serve as consultants

for the duration of student projects— as well as Olohana Foundation's videographer Chris Schaeffer, who taught the importance of documenting progress.

After speakers were done, students, teachers, and kupauna mentors all broke out into separate groups where they identified challenges, needs and hopes for one another for the next nine-months.

"Every one of you is unique, we have a kuleana (responsibility). No one can do it but us. That's why we're here, to find our kuleana through the realm of aloha, and this is the portal where we begin this journey together," said Jennifer Holani, one of the kupauna mentors for Kea'au High School.

The following morning, students, teachers and mentors were taken to Laupahoehoe Point Park to do a Hi'u Wai ceremony, which symbolizes a rebirth, led by Azama. It involves dedicating time to thinking about their lives and the people that came before them.

Upon return to Makapala, each school broke down into groups to come up with their nine-month projects, which will involve creating value-added products while utilizing traditional growing methods and chant and protocol.

Led by advisor TJ Giel, alongside students Kenneth K Matusda and Daylan Palacay-Kaitoku, Kohala High School chose to grow kalo for a farm-to-school cafeteria initiative. Their kupauna mentor will

See, Kahua Page 3

Tool, from Page 1

cally sponsored by the Friends of the Future, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit umbrella organization. To date, all funds have been acquired through generous community donations, fundraising, tool sales, and a grant through County Councilmember Cindy Evans and the Contingency Relief Fund.

We need more funds to help us keep the doors open as we continue to pay for rent, liability insurance, utilities, tool repairs and purchases. Tax-deductible donations can be made by visiting our website and clicking on the "DONATE" button. Gently used tool donations are also always welcome and can be dropped off during open hours or by appointment.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 19, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., when NKTL will be hosting a carwash fundraiser at our location. You can meet the volunteers and become familiar with the tool library.

Again, mahalo to our Kohala community for all your support. We hope you come visit us, check out a tool, feel inspired to tackle a new project, or share your suggestions for improvement and helpful tools we should consider adding to the library. We look forward to seeing and serving you at your community tool library!

For more information or to contact us, email librarian@nktoollibrary.org, call or text 808-213-7779, or see www.nktoollibrary.org.

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Kahua, from Page 2

be Ka'iana Runnels.

Other projects ranged from raising pigs to growing sweet potato, kalo, ingredients to make haupia, and other products to be marketed, sold or shared in the community or at the schools.

Schools receive \$1,500 to \$2,500 for these startups depending on the scope of the project, while each student is also compensated \$200. An additional \$500 per school is later put toward a banquet for students to present their project at a year-end FFA banquet.

Projects will also be documented on video to be archived with the Department of Education for other educators to access.

"You are the leaders of the schools," said Kea'au teacher Terence Moniz, who was once Fuertes' student and a young member of the FFA himself.

"Our purpose is that we can create this framework and venue for you, so you can better yourselves, and where you can work with the kūpuna, so you can preserve the value and wahi pana (special place) of Hilo, Kea'au, Kohala and Ka'u," said Fuertes, who added that he hopes the students will continue to advocate for culture and agriculture 20 years from now.

Kahua Pa'a Mua would like to thank Kamehameha Schools for entrusting them with this kuleana, and for their long-standing support that allows them to assist in the schools' growing of the next generation of 'ōiwi (leaders) in our communities.

Your Donations at Work at Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation

By Betty Meinardus

Let me introduce you to our 2023 Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation (KHCF) Board of Directors:

Dixie Adams, President.
Shoshana Matsumura, Vice President.

Rebecca Miller-Steele, Recording Secretary until the end of 2023.

June Marr, Recording Secretary - will fill the vacated position.

Cindy Sakai, Treasurer.

Betty Meinardus, Corresponding Secretary.

Donna Beumler, Special Advisor.

Sara Cameron, Health Advisor.

Our KHCF Mission Statement reads: "To raise funds to help implement improvements to Kohala Hospital's facilities, in order to deliver quality care to the Kohala community." We plan to continue to do whatever we can to live up to our mission. Most of our board members have served for many years and have successfully completed many projects, including the construction and expansion of the new Emergency Department and the installation of the front garden and walkways.

Last spring, we were finally able to hold our first board meeting after the long COVID lockdown. We were joined by Gino Amar (CEO of Kohala Hospital), Clayton McGhan (regional CEO of West Hawaii Hospitals), Maria Mundell (chief nursing supervisor), and Kaneala

Rodrigues (assistant administrator for support services). We spoke at length about our shared mission and values, the needs of Kohala Hospital, and the importance of working together. It was a very successful meeting, and we all left with a sense of renewed optimism and a clear path forward to continue to do whatever we can to assist Kohala Hospital in its quest to offer state-of-the-art healthcare services to our community.

Among the projects now in the works, the board is providing custom furnishings (handmade by local craftswomen) to enhance the "day room," where many long-term patients spend a great deal of their time. The board is also financing the purchase of important items, such as new mattresses, and a much-needed blanket warmer. In addition, we are committed to assisting with funds for online continuing education of Kohala Hospital's hard-working healthcare professionals and are looking into making scholarship aid available for local students who are interested in careers in the healthcare field and wish to remain in our community.

These are our immediate plans, and as you can see, we are well on the way to help our much beloved Kohala Hospital however we can.

And finally, a heartfelt Mahalo to our long time Recording Secretary Rebecca Miller-Steele, who is moving to the mainland. We thank

you Rebecca, for your wisdom and your wonderfully produced minutes. You made sure that new board member June Marr, who takes over your position, will be just as successful. You will always be our cherished friend and we are forever grateful to you for all your hard work over the years on behalf of Kohala Hospital.

The Foundation sends our best wishes for good health to our Kohala Community. For more information about KHCF, please go to kohalahospitalcharitablefoundation.org.



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Connecting the Resources of the Leeward Coast

By Toni Withington

Working together to steward the preserved lands along Kohala's leeward shore was the topic of the second meeting of the stakeholders of the many preserved lands makai of Akoni Pule Highway.

With 16 miles of shoreline now in the hands of public agencies, land trusts or nonprofit organizations, representatives met again this month to share existing projects and talk about how to work together to see the coast not for lot parcel boundaries, but for its cultural, historic and recreational values.

Connectivity was the key word. Ancient trails, jeep roads, and possible future improved trails and bikeways expected to crisscross land between historic sites, some of which precede Western contact.

The 16 participants included representatives from county and state parks departments, the state Na Ala Hele Trail system, and the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, which is part of the National Park Service.

Local representation included the steward of Māhukona, soon to belong to the Hawaii Land Trust (HILT), and local groups as well as Kohala Lihikai, the nonprofit that stewards seven land parcels, including several along the leeward coast.

The get-together was sponsored by Mālama Māhukona (Friends of the Park) and Ke Ala La, a nonprofit seeking to improve the safety of the highway by the building of bicycle and pedestrian paths.

Michelle Hiraishi, deputy direc-

tor of County Parks and Recreation, said the demolition of the Māhukona Park pavilion is still being held up by the State Historic Preservation Division.

One more evaluation of reconnaissance level survey needs to be done, she said. A representative of Mālama Mahukona said it has prepared a timeline for the planning, permitting and building of the new park. It has called on agencies to complete an archaeological inventory of the 15-acres before the community planning decisions are contemplated.

Jaime Raduenzel of the State Parks Division said work is proceeding to clean and refurbish the welcome building at Lapakahi Historical Park. She is also working with HILT to bring Kohala High School students to the park for projects.

Aric Arakaki, superintendent of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, said the recent purchase of the Lamaloloa land has spurred their reaching out for funds to steward the land, possibly in conjunction with Kohala Lihikai. He said their office has transparent community-centric planning as the core of their work.

Jackson Bauer of the Na Ala Hele Trail system said he wants to work with community groups and agencies to legitimize some of the access trails and jeep roads to be able to get to the coast to fishing and recreation. He said the recent brush fires have removed vegetation in areas that he and Ric Gmirkin, archaeolo-

gist for Ala Kahakai, had been able to survey to locate many more ancient trails and habitation sites that had been cataloged.

Gail Byrne Baber of Kohala Lihikai described stewardship programs at Pao'o and Kaiholena with high school students such as doing user studies and learning how to map ancient trails using GPS technology. Wildfire mitigation is also a program that allows for clearing of dead undergrowth to allow the taller live kiawe to provide shade and water retention in the soil. With good maps of historic sites, firefighters can make better decisions on where to bulldoze fire breaks, she said.

Keone Emeliano, steward of the 642 acres of land between Māhukona and Kapa'a parks, described the ongoing invasive plant cleanup and native plant restoration engaging students and community groups.

Even before the sale to HILT becomes final, the land is being used for cultural practices of many kinds. He displayed a conceptual map of the land showing possible sites restored for groves of coastal sandalwood and wiliwili trees, as well as other native plants.

Carter Collins of Ke Ala La talked about efforts to improve car and bike safety along the highway by thinking about where to locate safe scenic lookouts, turning lanes into Lapakahi and Māhukona and installing cultural interpretive signs.

He described a vision for a safe hike and bike trail between Hāwi

and Kawaihae. Bob Losey, also of Ke Ala La, showed maps and talked about working with The Department of Transportation to establish the location of the highway easement, which is from 60- to 100-feet wide, he said.

La Crivello, a map expert for Ala Kahakai, showed detailed maps she is making for each ahupua'a, or land division. The ongoing work is in collaboration with many of the participants in the first connectivity meeting.

The meeting was moderated by Meredith Speicher of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.



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Letters

From Concerned Long Time Community

For the last six months or so we have been seeing and running over plastic bags on upper Kynnersley Road, the Kokoiki stretch and, more recently, on Akoni Pule Highway between Aloha Gas and Kamehameha Park. I have heard that the bags are filled with cat litter or cat poop.

I have called the County and they have removed them a couple

of times but I am still seeing them and running over them. The contents of the bags get splattered on our beautiful roads and I see the plastic all tattered and torn in the grass and stuck in the trees and leaves. I am wondering if I should go to the police to see if they can do something about this littering. Isn't there a fine for littering?

Our town is being beautified

every day and County workers take pride in the work they do to make our town beautiful, but people are still trashing it.

Please dump that stuff around your own yard or, if not, put it in your opala.

This is your town too, why do you want to make our roads ugly?

Kaui Nakamura

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.

Kokua Maui

By Deborah Withers

The call to action by the governor's office to the Hawaiian Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers went out on August ninth, the day after the wildfires swept through Lahaina. We were asked to assist in staffing a team of licensed clinical social workers to provide trauma treatment at shelters to persons displaced by the wildfires. I completed the required Psychological First Aid Course, a Cultural Competency Course and a Children's Grief Training held at the Hawaiian Preparatory Academy and signed up for an in-person shift through the Office of Wellness and Resilience, the first of its kind in the nation to be legislated statewide in July of 2022. It was created to help solve some of the most pressing problems in Hawaii from the youth mental illness crisis and addiction to houselessness.

On my first trip, one month after the fire, I took an early Mokulele flight from Kona and arrived at the Lahaina Civic Center where I was assigned to a team which included a Department of Health worker from Puna, a clinician from O'ahu, a psychotherapist from California with ties to Maui, and two clinicians from the US Public Health Service. We were assigned to the Royal Lahaina and the Hyatt Hotels to contact people living there who had lost their homes. There were Red Cross, FEMA, Kaiser and Queens' stations set up in the lobbies. We took cups of fresh pineapple donated by Maui Gold Pineapple door to

door to offer any help that might be needed, and to talk story. Their main concerns were the uncertainty and fear around where they would next be housed, and how long they could stay at the hotels. I returned home that evening with a woman I'd seen on my flight that morning. She was a young doctor from Kaiser who'd been to Lahaina and back three days in a row and told me the Kaiser facility on Maui was destroyed.

My second trip was exactly one month later, the first week the burn zones were finally opened to residents, allowing them to return to their home sites. This time I went with the group Maui Medic Healers Hui, a grass roots Kanaka Maoli led group formed in 2019 to provide street medicine to protectors of land, water, iwi and Hawaiian rights. They had been stationed at Mauna Kea for eight months tending to our lahui [people], and then mobilized immediately in response to the Lahaina wildfires. I was on a team of three licensed mental health clinicians and one registered nurse, all Maui residents.

We met at the Lahaina Clinic where we received instructions for our shift and had a blessing with ti and chanting by Noelani Ahia, a healer trained in Traditional Eastern Medicine, and the founder of Maui Medic Healers Hui. We donned PPE - which included a hazmat suit, gloves, goggles, a respirator and booties - and loaded up two golf carts with more PPE, cold scarves, electrolyte packs and medi-

cal equipment, and headed to the zones that were open.

The fires had made a random path, leaving some streets with every other house intact, and houses on one side of a street looking untouched while the other side was reduced to ash. I was taken aback to see groups like Samaritan's Purse, Jehovah's Witnesses, The Billy Graham Rapid Response Team, and Scientologists milling around the residents. We offered PPE, modeling how important it is for their health and safety in the toxic atmosphere. We were there for emotional support and the chance to talk story in this extremely difficult time. We witnessed tremendous sadness, grief and trauma, with people seeing for the first time their destroyed childhood homes, others sifting through ash to find a ring or their grandmother's dishes. There is not much to salvage.

There is a lot of support and training being offered and developed for volunteers, with daily and weekly debriefing Zoom meetings. There are suggestions for volunteers to develop programs, especially to help residents who were displaced from the hotels and living in the new tent shelter to gather and socialize. There is a fluid and rapidly evolving, almost daily, response to changing needs.

It was important for me to be present with people facing such loss as they re-entered their home sites. Unfortunately, the long-term effects of trauma will be felt for years to come.

Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

Aloha. The State recently took an important step to provide affordable agricultural water to Kohala farmers by starting the project to convert an existing observation well at 'Upolu into a production well. This project has been a long time in the making and is the result of community input at numerous meetings and in government studies.

The need to find a long-term solution to provide affordable agricultural water in Kohala has been recognized for many years. In 2017, the State began work on the North Kohala Agricultural Water Study to "define resources, processes and procedures to allow viable agricultural endeavors of all sizes and access to water that

is cost effective, economically sound and legally compliant." Waimea Water Services was hired by the State to do the work; they identified potential sources of water, met with users of agricultural water to determine demand, and had several community meetings to update residents on their work.

The report concluded that "... for the most part, the management of water in Kohala, as a system, has ceased. Fortunately, the resources remain.... The biggest challenges in Kohala are the lack of systems planning and expertise needed to rebuild, build and manage multi user/multi land owner facilities that can provide legal, sustainable, and cost-effective

water." The report made recommendations for the short-term, mid-term, and long-term. One of the recommendations was to drill a new water well in the Hawi area that would be connected to the County Department of Water Supply (DWS) water system to supply agricultural water users with DWS water at a discount.

As the legislature was considering appropriations for this project, the Kohala Ditch suffered significant damage from a landslide in April 2021, and the flow of water stopped. Without a functioning Kohala Ditch, the legislature and leadership of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) decided to shift

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.

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

December Deadlines
Ads and News: 12/8/23
Calendar: 12/15/23
Distribution: 12/22/23

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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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 Kapa'au, Hawai'i 96755

HI Rep Update, from Page 5

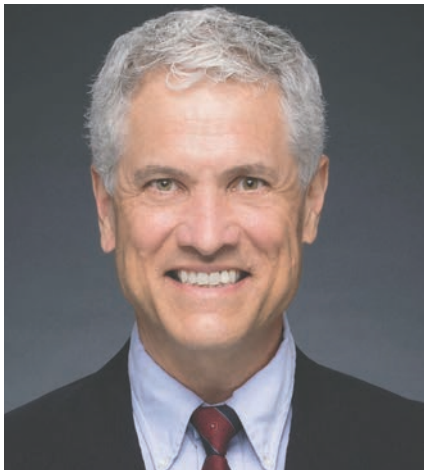


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

focus to urgently identify a new water source that could provide agricultural water to the users who relied on the Kohala Ditch water.

The decision was made to improve an existing observation well that was developed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) on a state-owned parcel located by the 'Upolu Airport Road. DLNR directed its consultant to do the planning and design for the project.

This included the preparation of a Final Environmental Assessment (EA), published in December 2022. The report is available online here:

https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2022-12-08-HA-FEA-Upolu-Well-and-Agricultural-Water-Distribution-System.pdf

Four months after the publication of the Final EA, the community met to discuss the future of agriculture in Kohala at the Kohala Agricultural Visioning Event held at Hisaoka Gym in March 2023.

The main topics were water, land, food production and processing, energy, farmer wellness, food security, and housing. While the participants recognized that all these issues needed to be addressed, providing affordable agricultural water was identified as one of the top priorities to ensure a sustainable future for agri-

culture in Kohala.

Without the Kohala Ditch, Kohala's agricultural producers were struggling to survive without a dependable source of affordable irrigation water, and there was no easy solution within reach.

With this groundswell of community support and encouragement, it was clearly time to take decisive action. Just a few months later, in May, the legislature successfully appropriated \$1,500,000 in capital improvement project funds to develop 'Upolu Well into an agricultural water production well. Reflecting the urgent need for this project, just four months later, in September, Governor Josh Green released the funds for the project to move forward.

From my perspective, the Kohala community has made it clear that providing affordable agricultural water to producers in Kohala is a top priority. Making the improvements to this former USGS observation well at 'Upolu to bring it online as a production well for agricultural water supply is an important milestone. Bringing this well to production capacity should help to provide agricultural water to the producers in the surrounding area. While this well alone won't be able to supply everyone who needs and wants irrigation water, it is an important part of the overall strategy to support Kohala's sustainable agricultural economy.

DLNR is currently overseeing the planning and construction of the 'Upolu Well project. The Department has already hired an engineering consultant for project planning and design and collaborated with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) on design reviews. DLNR has received bids on the construction contract and will soon be making the decision to award the contract. Once the contractor is selected and the contract finalized, they will need to secure some permits from the County to proceed.

When completed, DLNR plans on transferring ownership of the pumping system and storage tank to DOA to manage operations. Once online, the well will pump water through the current distribution piping, which extends to the Cloverleaf Dairy property line. The well will be capable of providing affordable irrigation water

to several agricultural operations in the area. I am grateful to the DLNR and DOA for working to support our Kohala farmers.

Mahalo for allowing me to continue serving as the State Representative for Kohala so I can help secure funding for public infrastructure projects like the 'Upolu Well to provide agricultural water to Kohala farm-

ers. As I prepare for the 2024 session, 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.

County Council Update From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Cindy Evans



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

tions. Now we have to execute. I will be involved in pushing for change and local support.

We are beginning a series of holidays. Some of our neighbors may struggle during this time with grieving a loss or with domestic violence. I encourage you to take care of yourself and know that you have a lot of support in the community.

There are a lot of programs and services available to you. My go-to resource is 211, which provides information and referral to callers on where to obtain assistance from local and national social service programs.

Another thing is to drive cautiously or not drive at all. Please remember that driving under the influence is taking a major risk. Also, speeding and passing both increase risk of accident.

Speaking of roads, we have an update on two initiatives. One bill is in process to address commercial bicycle tours on Kohala Mountain Road and the road to the Pololū Valley lookout. The second piece of legislation addresses speed limits now that the County has jurisdiction over Akoni Pule Highway from Hāwī town to the Pololū Valley lookout. We are required to adopt speed limits in our code. The Department of Public Works is evaluating traffic safety. I have asked for a community meeting; the date is yet to be determined.

Together we get things done. Let us know your concerns and suggestions. Jessica staffs the district office at 808-889-6512. Jacob staffs the council office at 808-961-8564. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you.

Be safe. Be well. Be kind.

SUNSHINE HARDWARE

"A'O"

STORY BY KA LA CORP ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTI KRANZ



EH, LA... I STAY MAKING ONE A'O (INSTRUCTION BOOK) ON LULA, (ETIQUETTE) FOR MALIHINI, (NEW-COMER) FOR WHEN THEY HEAR LOCAL KINE WORDS AND



OLELO NO'EAU (SAYING) THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I THINK MO BETTA I START WITH THE WELIWELI'A (DANGEROUS ONES). IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING R DELIVERED IN A LOUD VOICE, ALONG WITH RANTING AND RAVING, (SOMETIMES DROOLING) AND "DAGGER KINE EYE", DOUBLE DOWN ON UR RESPONSE!!!



WAT U HEAR.....MEANING AND PONO (CORRECT) RESPONSE

YOU LIKE BEEF? = THEY'RE NOT ASKING WHAT YOU WANT TO EAT, THEY LIKE HAKAKA (FIGHT). POLITELY SAY "NO", KEEP WALKING, NO MAKE EYE CONTACT.



DUMB HAOLE = SMILE, KEEP WALKING



DUMB ----- HAOLE = NO SMILE, JUST RUN



----- DUMB HAOLE = NO SMILE, NO TALK, RUN AND HIDE



WE GONNA KRANG UR ALLAS = THEY PLAN ON REARRANGING CERTAIN BODY PARTS!! RUN FAST, HIDE GOOD!!!

SUNSHINE

DAT'S HAU!

Update on the Kohala Community Plan and Talk Story Sessions

By Beth Robinson

It has been a year since the first of many Kohala Community Plan (KCP) "Talk Story" idea generation sessions took place on October 15, 2022 at the school cafeteria. Every idea offered by a community member in these sessions was recorded. With almost 200 community members interviewed, we have a clear picture of what is reaffirmed from the 2006 round of Talk Stories, and where the Kohala community has new concerns or views.

Here is a general summary of what the process documented. First, "Keep Kohala Kohala" is still what we want. In the 2008 North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) the consultants wrote: The phrase "Keep Kohala, Kohala" was expressed many times by community members throughout the planning process...The Kohala community generally believes that "Keeping Kohala, Kohala" means maintaining the Kohala lifestyle."

Doing the process ourselves without the consultant, we can be more specific than "Kohala lifestyle." The Talk Story participants were clear. Keeping Kohala, Kohala can only happen if: (1) Kohala people can remain in Kohala; (2) Kohala people can effectively educate newcomers into the values and community norms; (3) Kohala remains multi-cultural; and (4) Kohala places are accessible to Kohala people for traditional activities like hunting, fishing, gathering, ceremony as well as recreational use and family occasions.

It is clear through the Kohala Community Plan process of reviewing the County's 2008 NKCDP that goals were achieved and community needs met more as a result of community effort than through County initiative. In 2023 talk story sessions we said things like (1) the General Plan and Zoning codes should facilitate solutions appropriate to rural communities, not obstruct them; (2) the County needs to figure out how to respond more quickly; and (3) we welcome government assistance for big infrastructure goals like park upgrades and cesspool conversion...but with a collaborative approach. Community voices and ideas need to be

heard and included from the outset.

There was a consensus that Kohala can and should be more self-governing, perhaps through a "village" decision making model or some kind of town council. There was also consensus around a goal that "Kohala could lock the roads and be self sufficient" as was repeated multiple times.

Another insight was that much of what we achieved was through a proactive, collaborative land stewardship approach, rather than getting bogged down in the reactive County land use planning process where a meeting to get the community's input is only a box to be checked. For example, the Access Group kept its focus on the priority goals, then worked with County, State, Federal agencies, non-profit resources, landowners, and community to achieve those preservation goals. Kohala has the leadership and skills to get things done.

The 2023 Talk Story participants think we should apply this approach to new goals. Some examples given were: (1) restore streams, waterways, forests, native food systems; (2) include ocean resources related to land stewardship as part of each ahupua'a; and (3) use knowledge of Kohala kūpuna, both Hawaiian and plantation era, to manage today's challenges.

The timing is perfect, as the County just released a draft General Plan 2045 with comments due by the end of November. Kohala's Talk Story ideas have been categorized into ten focus areas and shared with community focus groups working on each topic to generate proposals to be included in the Kohala Community Plan. In other words, thanks to the Kohala Community Plan effort, we can comment on the draft General Plan looking at what we expect to include in the eventual update to the 2008 North Kohala Community Development Plan. (See related story on the County General Plan Roadshow in this issue.)

You can find the focus groups and a summary of the ideas online at KohalaCommunityPlan.org. All are welcome to participate in the groups where you have interest and desire to contribute!

County Schedules Draft General Plan Road Show

By Kohala Community Plan Working Group

In September, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department released the draft General Plan 2045 for review by the public. This is the first time the Hawai'i County General Plan has been updated since 2005. The district Community Development Plans, including our North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP), apply the General Plan to our particular needs. It is important that as a community we review and make suggestions to be sure the General Plan will enable and support the goals and projects that are priorities for our Kohala community.

Important sections of the General Plan include Housing, Agriculture, Health and Wellness, Education, Parks, and Wastewater Systems. Specific recommendations for land use planning including zoning code changes, and a Climate Change response plan, are also sections of the General Plan 2045.

There are several ways to review the draft General Plan and contribute. The County has an interactive website where the public can view and comment on the General Plan. You can even view and respond to other citizen comments. The link to the website is cohplanning.konveio.com.

If you prefer to talk with County planners and give them your feedback in person, there is a "Roadshow" event scheduled for the Kohala Intergenerational Center at Kamehameha Park on Thursday, November 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The County of Hawai'i General Plan was in the process of being updated in 2019, before being put on hold due to the pandemic. When the previous draft General Plan was presented in Kohala, the County planners were overwhelmed by the turnout. Let's make sure Kohala's voice is strong once again! Every resident's opinion counts.

The County will accept public feedback until March 1, 2024.

NKCDP AG MEETING

By Lynda Wallach

The September 27 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group was called to order by Chairman John Winter.

Jack Hoyt, reporting for the **Affordable Housing Group**, expressed the group's frustration that, although there has been an increased focus on the lack of affordable housing at the highest levels of state and federal government, no action has been taken by the state legislature and discussions never make it out of committee. There are still hurdles facing the next phase of the Kohala Self-Help project and the County has yet to come up with concrete plans. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am at the Pomaika'i Cafe. Next meeting: November 14.

Joe Carvalho of the **Community Access Group (CAG)** said that the open stewardship position at Pololū has been filled. Kohala Lihikai has gotten approval for the 2021-2023 stewardship grant for the Hapu'u to Kapanāia coastal properties,

but still has not received the funds from the County. The Hawaii Island Land Trust (HILT) is close to reaching its fundraising goal for the purchase of the land between Kapa'a and Māhukona. Community meetings are taking place at Māhukona every Wednesday from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. until December 13 to talk story over Hawaiian culture, Māhukona history, and HILT's efforts to protect the 642 cultural, historical, and environmentally significant acres of Māhukona land in perpetuity. CAG is working to nominate the PONC purchase of eighty-eight acres east of Upolu Airport. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 at the Senior Center. Next meeting: November 1.

Boyd Bond gave the first report from the newly reconstituted **Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee**. One of their first priorities would be to begin an inventory of known cultural and historic sites in North Kohala. Bond stated that, although the emphasis has been on Native Hawaiian sites, there are

See NCKDP, Page 8

Kohala Artists' Co-operative invites you to: **WINGS, WOOD AND WATER** our November show by Wendy Noritake underwater photography Melody Moore painting/mixed media Tom Loomis wood and surf art Opening Saturday November 4, 6-8pm

Hale 'Ula
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✉ rentals@northkohala.org
🌐 northkohala.org/krh-rentals

NORTH KOHALA
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
KOHALA
RESILIENCE HUB

NKCDP fom Page 7

many other cultures represented in our community that may have places of cultural significance that they believe are also worthy of protection. Noting what happened in June when the owner of the historic Bond Homestead was stopped by residents from continuing non-permitted deconstruction of historic buildings, Bond said it was important that the community is aware of where these important sites are to protect them. Winter quoted from page one of the NKCDP to stress the importance of this group: "In order to honor and preserve an unparalleled historical heritage that includes heiau, ancient settlements and other sites of great significance to the Hawaiian people and its uniquely multi-ethnic community, North Kohala shall be regarded as a Cultural and Historical preservation Community. Thus, all decisions regarding the development of land shall be required to assess and disclose their potential impact on the cultural sites and resources within the district and shall be in keeping with the heritage and culture of North Kohala." The group meets at the Hawaii Island Retreat. Meeting times: TBD.

The **Growth Management group** reported on their walking tour of the public access trails at the Hawaii Island Retreat Center. They recommended adequate vehicle access, a parking area, and trails along the shore and to the gulch be provided. The County

has approved permits for the new Hāmākua-Kohala Health Center. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Senior Center. Next meeting: November 8.

Alan Brown, reporting for the **Health and Wellness group** said that they are working with Kathy Matsuda of the Kohala Resilience Hub in several areas, including improving emergency preparedness and increasing community awareness of the services available. He said that the Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) now has a presence at the Kohala Middle School, and that services are still needed to meet the basic requirements of food, shelter and safety for people in Kohala who are recovering from alcohol and drug abuse.

The group is also following the progress of the the Hāmākua-Kohala Health Center. Special permits have been approved but building permits are still needed for the transitional clinic and for widening the driveway. The timetable which had Phase 1 completed by the end of 2023/early 2024 has had to be revised. The group meets the first Friday of the month at the Hub. Next meeting: November 3.

John Winter reporting for **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplanes (PREV)** said that progress on the pavilion demolition and replacement is slow and that monthly meetings with Parks and Recreation continue. The group meets the third Wednesday of the

month at 5:00 at the Senior Center. Next meeting is changed to 3:30, November 15.

The **Utilities group** is planning another cesspool conversion informational meeting with Ramzi Mansour, the head of Public Works, on November 15 at 5:00 at the Senior Center. The group hopes to have the absolute minimum cost of a septic system by that date. The group has contacted the Department of Water Supply to schedule a meeting regarding the lifting of the water meter moratorium imposed by DWS for newly subdivided lots, fixing old leaking lines and new lines for existing "spaghetti line" customers. The contractor bids for the battery part of the HELCO micro grid project were unsatisfactory so a new request for proposal will be issued. This delays further the revised completion date of September 2025. Only when the battery system is completed, HELCO will be able to address replacing the 70-year-old transmission line serving North Kohala. The group usually meets the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 at the Senior Center but has changed to 5 p.m. on November 15 for the (second) cesspool conversion discussion.

Information on the work of the Advisory Group and the various subgroups can be found on their website: kohalacommunityplan.org.

The next Advisory Group Meeting will be held on Wednesday October 25, at 4:30 at the Senior Center.

NKCDP AGENDA

MEETING TIME: WED, OCTOBER 25, 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

‘Olena Gallery

Our Featured Artist for November is **Helen White**

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Artwork by Susan Grant

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

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Mary Kawena Puki (1983) ‘OLELO NO ‘EAU

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info@northkohala.org
808-889-5523

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- Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems
- Computer keyboards & mice
- Printers, copiers, fax
- Mobile & Landline phones
- Digital cameras
- VCRs, DVD/Blue-ray players
- Stereo components (no speakers)
- Items NOT on this list will NOT be accepted for recycling.

State of Hawai'i Electronic Device Recycling & Recovery Law <https://health.hawaii.gov/ewaste/>

Hāmākua-Kohala Health Appoints New Senior Management Team

Hāmākua-Kohala Health and its Board of Directors appointed new Interim Chief Executive Officer Catherine Marquette, Family Nurse Practitioner and Medical Director, to lead the four health centers located in North Hawai'i.

Cathy Marquette has been a health care provider of the Honoka'a clinic site for more than thirty years, starting at

the health center in 1993 at the former Hāmākua Health Center.

Additional members to the Senior Management Team of Hāmākua-Kohala Health include recently appointed Chief Financial Officer Sharon Espejo, Human Resources Director Arlene Cruz, Director of Information Technology Alexis McDougall, Public Relations Director Kai Carvalho, Execu-

tive Assistant Stephanie Dullum, and Clinic Operations Manager Regina Gantala.

The 100+ staff-member organization provides care for more than 7,950 patients at clinic sites located in Honoka'a, Kohala, Laupāhoehoe, and Waimea.

Services include primary care; behavioral health; pediatrics; dental services for all ages; cultural health program; wom-

en's health, including prenatal care; tobacco treatment program; care coordination; family planning; and health insurance enrollment.

Plans for the future of the Hāmākua-Kohala Health centers include a pharmacy in Honoka'a, and a new health and teaching center in Kohala.

For more information, visit www.hamakua-health.org.

Vending and Other Commercial Activities on State and County Highways

The Hawai'i Police Department, in collaboration with the State Department of Transportation and the County of Hawai'i Planning Department, wishes to inform the public of an upcoming island-wide enforcement initia-

tive focused on the illegal use of state highways and county roadways for commercial activities, including street vending.

This enforcement initiative aims to ensure that our roadways and highways are utilized for their

designated purposes. While we recognize the value and appeal of local vendors in enhancing the vibrant culture of our island, it is essential to maintain order and consistency in the use of public spaces.

Hawaii County Code 22-22.5 (Commercial use of County Roads) and Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 264-101 (Vending from Highway Prohibited) are applicable to roadside vendors. Violators may be issued a citation and given a notice to appear in court.

Beginning Friday, December 1, authorities will actively monitor,

address and enforce regulations prohibiting unauthorized commercial activities on state highways and county roadways across Hawai'i Island. Those found in violation could face criminal prosecution and fines up to \$1,000.

The Hawai'i Police Department appreciates the community's understanding and cooperation in this matter. For questions or further information regarding this initiative, please contact Kona Community Policing Sergeant Brandon Mansur at (808) 326-4646, extension 256, or via email at brandon.mansur@hawaiiicounty.gov.

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MAHALO!

for supporting our church & the North Kohala community!

A **BIG MAHALO** from St. Augustine's Episcopal Church to our **SILENT AUCTION PARTNERS** who generously supported our Annual Bazaar held on Sep. 23, 2023.

Kohala UTV Adventure Tour	Arakaki Store
Takata Store	Sunshine Hardware
Kat's Kutz	Rebecca Bartholomy
Kohala Coffee Mill	Nakahara Store
Waimea Coffee Company	Kohala Tax LLC
Maurine Gomes	Kathy Matsuda
Virginia Fortner Educational Services	Elements
Mauna Kea Resort	Pueo's Garden
Westin Hapuna Resort	Ebikes Hawaii
Hot Glass Hawaii	Gomes Guitars & Ukeleles
Mi Ranchito	Raise Your Vibration
KTA	L&L
Kohala Grown Market	Diann Wilson & Steve Hoffman

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With gratitude from our families to yours for your connection, friendship and contributions to our community. We wish you a most wonderful Thanksgiving

Erin John Cielita Tammi MK Holly Joey Golden Charito Kerry

Big Island Author Launches Book

By Virginia Fortner

On October 7, eager Kohala readers walked past Diann Wilson's garden palms anticipating a book launch. They were not disappointed as they snatched up copies of "Goodbye Big City Hello Big Island." Its cover, featuring a photo taken by Diann, showed an even more unusual palm. Its trunk twists off in unexpected directions, as do her chapters.

Over pupu, Diann and husband, Steve, kept the captivating stories coming. He proposed a toast, ending with "because I'm not beat up too badly in the book." Diann's hearty laugh punctuated her answer to, "Why did you write about Hāwī?"

"My corporate friends didn't think our move here would last. We've been here eight years, nut and fruit farming. All this from a dream that we didn't know we had until it came true."

To prove her point, we read the thumbnail sketch on the back of her book cover. "A sisters' trip to celebrate retirement from the corporate rat race ends in an accident that leads to an impulsive decision. Big city life is exchanged for (Kohala living)..."

Upon moving to Hāwī in 2015, Diann threw herself into local activities. Kohala Library's Book Club, qi gong, belly dancing, golf, swim-

ming and a writing group. She started piano lessons and joined the Artists' Coop, sewing island-motif placemat sets. From day one, part of her considerable daily energy went to working the land and remodeling the house.

No stranger to writing, Diann had already had several newspaper and literary journal articles published. She also co-authored "The Other Blended Learning: A Classroom Centered Approach." That knowledge helped when she filled in at Kohala Elementary as substitute teacher.

The Hawaii Writers Guild elected her president from 2019-2021, when Big Island board members allegedly learned what it meant to follow an agenda. She still hosts the "Write On!" show on the Hawaii Writers Guild's YouTube channel.

Settling into Kohala life, Diann met Helen White, a talented local nature artist who hasn't lost her Australian-born accent. Her mixed media illustrations enhance the book's short stories chronicling ever-present chickens in "Fearless Farming"; the dog that still greets visitors with a squeaky toy in its jaws in "New Tricks"; a sketch of Diann herself contrasting yoga in her mainland health club with chair yoga in "Namaste"; and Diann's "Build It" Hoe'a Road Farmstead.

The tone of the book, while evoking belly laughs and showing an author who brings poking fun at yourself to a new level, keeps the tone that lists her explanation of joy. She reports, "A note left on my farmstead began, "Dear kind lady..."

The 2023 book's short chapters stand alone or can be read as an entire city-dweller's transition to island-living surprises. Be pre-

pared to chuckle as you find situations you've lived. Humor (her husband's broken ribs are featured in "Lucky Breaks") is ever-present. Her writing is sound. And the price is right: \$16. The book is now available at North Kohala Artists' Cooperative in Kapa'au, at Elements in Hāwī, on www.StoneCompassPress/GoodbyeBigCityHelloBigIsland, or on Amazon.

In Memory of Ricky Ching



Taric "Ricky" Kealuhelemauna Nihipali Raymond Ching was born on October 25, 1996, in Kona, Hawaii. He was a very skilled and talented athlete who played football, baseball and soccer for the Kohala Cowboys. He graduated from Kohala High School in 2014 and enlisted in the Army Infantry Division in 2015. Ricky passed away on July 23, 2023, in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was loved by his mother, Johnelle "Amoo" (Godfrey) Kainoa of Kawaihae; father, Darrell (Amber) Corrales of Kohala; birth mother, Lurline Raymond of Waikoloa; grandmother, "Honey Pat" Ching

of Kohala; daughter, Christina Cirian of Las Vegas, Nevada; brothers Sione Ching, Kekoa (Kristian Ellazar) Ching, and Keanu Kainoa of Kohala; and sisters Micharline (Rudy) Kunishige of Hilo, and Leilani Salvador of Honoka'a. He was caring, genuine and a Hawaiian Braddah that was so full of Aloha who was cared for and loved by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and many braddahs and sistahs who was always there for him. Celebration of Ricky's life will be on Saturday, October 28, at Keokea Beach Park.

Visitation starting at 10 a.m. Service at 11:00 a.m.

NEW BOOK
BY KOHALA AUTHOR
DIANN WILSON:
GOODBYE BIG CITY,
HELLO BIG ISLAND

NOW AVAILABLE ON
AMAZON

DIANN WILSON

Goodbye
Big City Hello
Big Island

Illustrations by Helen White

NORTH HAWAII HOSPICE

North Hawaii Hospice is looking for volunteers to help with our Bereavement Program. The program provides support for family members, partners and caregivers for 13 months after the passing of a loved one. Areas where volunteer help is needed include monthly mailings and regular phone calls to check in on the bereaved to see how they are doing and offer support based on the need.

This work can be done from your home and on your own time. Complete training will be provided. The time commitment is flexible depending on your availability and schedule.

For more information and to volunteer please email volunteer.manager@northhawaiihospice.org or call 885-7547

CALLING ALL

Breast Cancer Awareness Event

Venue Honoka'a Gym Complex 45-541 Lehua St. Honoka'a, HI 96727	Date and Time: November 3, 2023 5:00pm to 8:00pm
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Admission **FREE** event!
"All Ladies 16+ years and Older"

Massage
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SCAN ME

DON'T FORGET YOUR PINK LADIES ATTIRE!

Heart and Soul, Rock ‘n’ Roll Pizza—Serving Knock Out Slices in Hāwī

Story and photos by Karolina Garrett

When that Sunday afternoon arrives, or even Monday evening, and most cooks in your house have scampered, the newish Hāwī food save is KO Pizza. The establishment delivers New York style pizza directly to the food truck window, where you are standing under the banyan tree on Hāwī Road. Owner Kelly Woods admits that “our heart and soul has gone into the pizza truck. Pizza is the people’s food.”

Woods and her pizza business partner Oliver Van Zandt gathered momentum when returning in 2016 to live on Big Island as a couple, yes, hoping to purchase a home in the Kohala area. And that meant securing second jobs above and beyond their full-time commitments. Yet they wondered if another avenue or street existed, as in affordable street food priced accessibly for locals? And so, a knock out idea baked. Welcome to KO pizza.

Oliver’s is a third generation Van Zandt family, thriving in Kohala. He and Kelly reunited with that ongoing family history when crossing 2,800 miles of Pacific ocean to rejoin Hawaiian shores. A few years ago, when his grandparents needed more health attention, Oliver motivated Kelly to make Hawai’i home again, to reconnect with and support family, in their return to where



KO Pizza owners Kelly Woods and Oliver Van Zandt.

each was born and raised.

It remains a truism that startups encounter challenges, meaning the KO Pizza food truck road has had some bumps. Building the food truck from its origins as just four wheels meant Oliver next had to design new walls and a roof. Rather than a “had to” point-of-view, these two adopted a “want to” build creative spirit that delivers on a dream. So, for one year while working their day jobs and earning those funds, the food truck evolved to being

mostly complete, based on cash flow and a business loan. Some upgrades are still in the future works.

In an already-hectic day, Kelly made the phone calls that matter most yet bring uncertainty: how small businesses quest forward. Would Kohala Surety allow them to open for business under the banyan tree adjacent to Minit Stop on every Sunday and Monday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.?

So far, the answer is yes. Would the right insurance company pres-

ent a policy that covers food trucks? One has been located and at a cost, another one to juggle. Would the heavy and huge brick pizza oven in Hilo be possibly extracted from a building there and delivered to Hāwī? Possible when one business partner has construction connections. And would the vigilant food truck health inspector award the paper? The required green card now sits high on a shiny metal wall.

Despite midnight wonderings if KO Pizza could even work, Kelly and Oliver stayed true north while sourcing the prized pizza item—that would be the dough. The couple met at Rock & Roll Pizza in Moorpark, California, working together for ten years. Served at this restaurant was the classic thin crust New York style dough. Magic is in the ratio of five basics combining to align just-so: flour, warm water, yeast, olive oil, and salt. Kelly and Oliver source their dough from a former mainland pizza colleague and stock enough for weeks forward in a commercial food kitchen freezer.

Standing outside the pizza truck on Hāwī Road, what you observe watching the culinary acolytes in action—Mashayla Van Zandt and Eric Steinhoff—is KO Pizza got hustle. Mashayla balances the phone on her shoulder while writ-

See Pizza, Page 12

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Pizza, from Page 11

ing an order and saying thank you to a customer standing outside the pizza truck window and handing a quantity of grated mozzarella grabbed from the freezer to Eric a few feet away and then removing a few slices from the 550-degree brick oven. We got pizza making, baking, and delivering calisthenics inside this food truck. Her pizza colleague Eric occupies a key niche as the pizza chef. Fresh dough gets an air toss, cornmeal sprinkled on a wooden pizza spatula, dough placed here, one scoop tomato sauce, (proprietary) spice ingredients sprinkled, shredded cheese arranged...and voila, whole pizza success.

One crunchy thin crust slice gives flavor room to savor melted cheese and tomato depth with spicy pepperoni. (Pizza slices that are more bread than other ingredients are not this.) Today's food research (a writer's labor) was that I had to order a second slice—Portuguese sausage with onion. Again, New York style thin crust means a fold in the slice's middle and bites combining piping gooey cheese, onion, sausage, and tomato all in one savory adventure are quite rewarding.

The KO pizza team savor their culinary success so far. Mashayla stays jazzed that her pizza work is "connecting with local community in this unique experience." Music blares at the right decibels and makes for festive vibes. She appreciates that families bring whole pizzas to the grassy lawn, enjoying a meal

outdoors. Eric finds that joining a food start-up in its entrepreneurial roots demonstrates how to succeed. New to pizza cheffing, he values pizza learning, and being heard by the bosses. Those two close up shop for the day, since Kelly and Oliver arrive around 5 p.m. to create and to serve the last pizzas of the day.

KO Pizza open every Sunday and Monday, 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. Phone orders accepted: 808-313-0514. <https://www.kopizzahawaii.com>.



KO employee Mashayla Van Zandt with a fresh pizza.

WEEKLY EVENTS IN NOVEMBER 2023

DAY	START	END	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT (808)
M-S	8:30AM		NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	RAINBOW CAFE	
MON	8:30AM	10AM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	9AM		SENIOR CLUB @ CIVIC CENTER	KOHALASENIORS@GMAIL.COM	
	11:30AM		SENIOR DANCE CLASSES	KIC	238-6111
	4:30PM		RMD TAIKO CLASSES	HUB HALE	895-2025
	5:30PM		DEFIANT BRATS (WOMENS' AA)	AINAKEA HOME	747 9627
TUE	8AM	9AM	NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS	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 11/1, 11/15, BOARD GAMES: 11/8, 11/22, CRAFT: 11/29	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	3:30 PM	4:30PM	RMD TAIKO CLASSES (NOT 1ST WED)	HUB BARN	895-2025
	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
	4PM	5PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	5PM		OPEN CIRCLE MEDITATION (NOT 2ND)	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
	8AM	10AM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
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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Senior Citizens Live On

By Virginia Fortner

Where can you hear the latest plans for Kohala, learn a fun balance exercise, sing with ukuleles, and have a light meal each week? The answer is "Behind Kamehameha's statue, Monday mornings, 9-11:00 a.m. at the Kohala Senior Citizens Club meeting!"

In the Know

Since Charles Kitz's presidency in 1969, kūpuna age 55 and older have met regularly. They hear speakers about what's new, with folks like Toni Withington showing Ali'i Trail acquisition or Bob Martin before the local KNKR 96.1 FM radio station was launched. Tim Richards recently described his new job as Hawaii state senator and asked for suggestions from wise listeners.

Young people's ocean clean-up projects, documentary-making hopefuls' interviews about history of cane field days, and the latest grant-writing projects enlighten members. It works two ways; seniors often share their advice. County health experts frequently bring materials and information for enhancing lifestyle and well-being during golden years.

Up for Fun

Perhaps you saw the Western-

ers line dancing "Electric Slide" at the Hub's First Wednesday. Those fancy steps were the result of weekly classes with Ginger, who donated her time. They will be ready for the next all-island dance moment. Monthly Bingo is also popular. Everyone takes home a prize. Some are gift certificates from Kohala merchants.

Past activities include monthly movie night, hand painting tees, and decorating Easter bonnets for a Spring parade—with prizes, of course. Popular president Faye's husband has served as grill chef for numerous Spencer Beach picnics. You can learn hanafuda and other card games or harmonize to Carma's uke in the shade.

County-wide Casino Days, Spooktacular events, bon dances, and gate/ground/softball tournaments fill buses for fieldtrips to Hilo or Kona. RSVP (Retired Seniors Volunteer Program) thank you lunch, Thanksgiving at Puakea Ranch with prime rib and lobster, and Christmas brunch at Mauna Kea stand out as reasons they would don the latest finery and let their hair down before Covid.

Programming is resuming gradually now, with masks optional. Delightful Island Breeze's hula dinner at Makapāla may resume this season, and the club has car-

pool plans to attend the Kahilu Theatre's Tuesday monthly \$5 movie.

Before the summer break, Seniors baked and brought rummage sale items for a Saturday sale in Kamehameha Park. The pasteles, maki and varieties of sushi all sold, as did most of the plants. Seniors have green thumbs!

Remembering and Learning

Memories of growing up in Kohala are hit topics that draw a lot of participation at Senior Club. One year, programming featured each of the heritages represented in the membership. Costumes, dances, foods, skits, and talk story brought learning while celebrating, keeping our ethnic backgrounds alive. If you are curious about the taste of Stone Soup, ask Lana. Which kupuna has the most candles on the monthly birthday cake? Ask percussionist Dora. Who knows a rascal hula song to make you smile? Ask Sue.

Welcoming New Members

Come join us! You might learn how to avoid scams, acquire gardening techniques, or catch up on Kohala's latest land-use proposal. This writer first attended in 2012 and has renewed her \$25 membership yearly. She considers it one of our island's best bargains.



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55-146 Kokoiki Road

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www.gos-kohala.org

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2023 Kohala High School Football Roster



Photo by Tom Morse

The 2023 Kohala High School Varsity Football Team.

1 Perez, Tiras; 2 Anchetta-AhPuck, Sheldon; 3 Parks, Leo; 4 Ramos-Salvador, Leroy; 5 Cazimero-Bautista, Ryzen; 6 Reyes, Aukai; 7 Peritore, Paul; 8 Ittner, Kayzen; 9 Yamamoto-Perez, Ayzan; 10 Antonio, Isaiah; 11 Catrett, Kahaka; 12 Wilson, Hezekiah; 13 Viernes, Alston; 14 Kahalioumi, Kuokalani; 15 Manantan, Jordan; 21 Carvalho, Akoni; 22 Durflionger, Micah; 23 Sabastian, Drake; 25 Murry, Dante; 27 Sulliban, Tyler; 32 Kaai, James; 50 Incillio-Cummins, Kamalu; 53 Barayuga, John; 54 Blanco, Asher; 55 Mattos, Wiley; 56 Mederios, Jeremiah; 57 Hooke, Nainoa; 58 Cabral, Benjamin; 64 Rabang, Wyatt; 65 Camara, Payton; 68 White, Joshua Kasauwai; 69 Acacia, Zayden; 75 Duque, Denali.

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MONTHLY CALENDAR NOVEMBER 2023

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
10/29	SUN	8:30 AM	4:30 PM	ELECTRONICS RECYCLING	ONE DAY SPECIAL EVENT	PARKER RANCH CENTER	
11/1	WED	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	MĀHUKONA TALK STORY SESSIONS	REGISTER AT HTTPS://WWW.HILT.ORG/MAHUKONA	MĀHUKONA	
11/1	WED	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB BARN	808-895-2025
11/1	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/1	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
11/2	THU	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	DRAFT GENERAL PLAN ROAD SHOW	HTTPS://COHPLANNING.KONVEIO.COM/	KIC	
11/3	FRI	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	DOWN TO EARTH STUDIO	OPENING RECEPTION: HELEN WHITE	DOWN TO EARTH STUDIO	808-366-5335
11/3	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/4	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
11/4	SAT	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	WINGS, WOOD & WATER	OPENING RECEPTION	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
11/6	MON	10:00 AM		KOHALA CULTURE AND HISTORY GROUP	NKCDP	ISLAND RETREAT	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/6	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/8	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/8	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/13	MON	2:00 PM	3:30 PM	JEWELRY MAKING	LIMITED SPACE, RSVP REQUIRED.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/13	MON	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	JEWELRY MAKING	LIMITED SPACE, RSVP REQUIRED.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/14	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE BY ANTHONY DOERR.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/15	WED	3:30 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/15	WED	5:00 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/16	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
11/18	SAT	8:00 AM	1:00 PM	KOHALA COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET		KAMEHAMEHA PARK	808-225-3666
11/19	SAT	11:00 AM	2:00 PM	TOOL LIBRARY	FUNDRAISER - CARWASH	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	808-213-7779
11/19	WED	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
11/20	MON	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	HAWAIIAN HISTORY TALK STORY	KING KAMEHAMEHA PART 3.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/21	TUE	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	KEIKI SCIENCE WITH HWC	MAKING BIRD FEEDERS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/24	FRI	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	SCIENCE WITH HWC	MAKING BIRD FEEDERS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
11/26		5:30 PM		MINI CONCERT		ST AUGUSTINES	808-889-5390
11/28	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	HUB BARN	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
11/29	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111

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LOT #31 | 54-3719 LEHUULA CIR 0.28 ac



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Wahine Skate Club Hosts Event for Hawaiian History Month

By Libby Leonard

On September 30 at Kamehameha Park, Roots Skatepark's Wahine Skate Club hosted its first Mo'olelo Potluck in honor of Hawaiian history month, featuring area kupuna Jeff Coakley, who came to share some of that history and what it was like living during the plantation era in Kohala.

The event was organized and emceed by skate club mentor Kanani Alpis who, alongside five other mentors, started the all-girl skate club over the summer. The club currently has 16 girls from elementary school to high school.

The event was well-attended by several skatepark parents and their keiki, who sat attentively listening to Coakley as he shared about Queen Liliuokalani and Bernice Pauahi Bishop, who was the founder of Kamehameha Schools, where Coakley graduated in 1964.

Coakley also shared about the importance of Hawaiian language, and reminisced about what he did for recreation living in Kohala when he was younger. This included stories of swimming in Queen's Bath in Halawa and diving at 'Upolu, Kapa'a and Pololū, where he and friends would go to catch o'opu fish and a'ama crabs.

He also spoke about going hunting in the forest reserve in many areas closed off to the public today, but back then you could go freely.

When asked by one of the attendees if anyone skateboarded



Wahine Skate Club mentor Kanani Alpis strikes a pose.

back then, Coakley smiled and said that he and others built their own out of two by fours and roller skates.

Dennis Matsuda, who was born and raised in Kohala, was also supposed to be in attendance, but was on the continent. He, however, allowed Alpis to share some of his story, which he had typed ahead of time. In it, he spoke of how the park used to be cane fields and a location for Makahiki season.

Makahiki season is traditionally a time of rest and rejuvenation

that involves celebrations, harvests, sports and renewing community bonds.

Wahine Skate Club mentor Jessica Goodoni was also asked to share about her upbringing in Kohala with her mother, who was a marine biologist, and father, who was a boat captain. Both moved here from the continent before she was born. She said they studied Hawaiian culture that they used to educate on boat tours, and were mentored by the Veloria family, who became their hanai 'ohana.

Goodoni said that it's not about how you can change Hawai'i, but how Hawai'i changes you, and referenced the book Thinking Like an Island, which promotes "i ka nāna no a 'ike" or "by observing one learns."

Along the tables, keiki were able to peruse several books of prominent Hawaiian figures, as well as legends about Hawaiian Gods like Kāne and Kanaloa, and La'ieikawai.

"It's very important for our youth to hear these stories," said Alpis, who added that she hoped to have more of these events in the future with other kupauna as a means to continue to help perpetuate their stories.

Wahine Skate Club meets every Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. for group skate. New participant registration will open December 27 and close January 7. Email kkelikiiki808@gmail.com for more information.

Roots Skatepark will also hold a youth-led skate contest on October 29 from 10-2 p.m.

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