

Kohala Mountain News

Vol. 22, No. 11

About Kohala, For Kohala

November 24, 2023

Bond Library Restoration Update

Story by Christine Richardson and Sharon Hayden

We are almost there! The last time we updated the community, seven months ago, we were waiting for County permits and eager to get started. Since then, so much has been accomplished. John Metzler of Metzler Contracting LLC has donated his time and expertise for over two years to help us get through countless hurdles and challenges to repair and restore this beautiful historic building and get it back into the hands of the community.

The Building

Before we could start the permitted work, we were able to grade and fill the back of the site, clear some old trees and install a new commercial septic system. Additionally, we did extensive hazardous material removal, including exterior lead paint and two layers of old flooring which led to saving the original

Douglas fir flooring. Once we got into the building in April, we could not predict the level of the wood rot. There has been extensive carpentry required for the windows, doors, walls and framing.

Our carpentry team continues to work very hard to rebuild and repair many areas both inside and out, always keeping it as close to original as possible. The new roof is on – a major milestone – coupled with intricate electrical upgrades that will provide beautiful interior lighting and bring the building up to code. By the end of November, we hope to see the exterior painting underway.

During the week of Thanksgiving, our hardworking carpenters are taking a much-needed break so we can tent the building while the interior is still exposed. Pacific Termite and Pest Control of Hilo is donating their service for this effort. Mahalo

See, Bond Page 2



Photo by Christine Richardson

The old Bond Library, on its way to becoming the Kohala Heritage Center, has a new roof!

Boosting Computer Speed and Education

By Toni Withington

This month, the state launched an ambitious plan to bring high-speed internet access to underserved rural communities and provide learning opportunities to folks who want to know how to better use computers. It will be funded by a whopping \$500 million in federal funds to bring reliable and affordable service to everyone in the state.

Several state agencies will be working with the existing providers. North Kohala is served primarily by Hawaiian Telcom and Spectrum. And while the federal map of communities covered shows all of our district now available for highspeed internet, there are many residents who are unserved entirely, or underserved by lower broadband access. The funds are expected to level the playing field.

For Kohala, a significant benefit will come in the educational services available to first-time computer users and those who want to improve their skills and digital literacy.

Connect Kākou, led by Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke, is a collaboration in partnership with the Hawai'i Broadband and Digital Equity Office, University of Hawai'i, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and several other state and county agencies, as well as existing servers.

"Connect Kākou conveys that this initiative is about everyone, not just the select few," said Lt. Gov. Luke. "A reliable internet connection is essential to access quality healthcare, education, government, career opportunities, and more, yet nearly one in ten households in Hawai'i does not have internet access." Hawaii has already received \$320 million in federal funding and was recently awarded more than \$149 million by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

For more information visit www.connectkakou.org. Public comments on the proposal will be accepted until December 10.

Adequate" broadband access is defined as service of at least 100 megabits per second (Mb/s) download, and 20 Mb/s uploads, although Yoshimi said the state would like to see to it that homes have faster service than that minimum.

In many cases, providing that level of service will require running fiber optic cable to homes in rural areas. But Yoshimi said that for extremely isolated properties — such as homes that are several miles from any main highway — it may be cheaper for the state to deliver some type of satellite service.

The state intends to begin signing deals to have that work done by the end of 2024, he said.

Māhukona Cultural Presentation Scheduled

The Friends of Māhukona, a committee of Kohala residents, has been working with the County of Hawaii to help rebuild the Māhukona pavilion. In the past they have been clearing the pavilion area of kiawe brush. However, at 10 a.m on Sunday, December 3, the group will be sponsoring a cultural presentation by Keone Kalawe at the Railway House at Māhukona.

Keone Kalawe is a Kahuna Kuhikuhipu'uone (heiau architect) of several heiau(s) and a papa hōlua (Hawaiian sledding) builder. His is also the co-director of Maluaka archaeological field school and an organic farmer. On several occasions, he has been a

guest speaker on Kohala's KNKR radio station on Jeffrey Coakley's "Kukakuka with Kalani," sharing his cultural knowledge on a variety of topics. Come listen and learn as Keone shares his knowledge of Hawaiian cultural values of his ancestors.

We would also like to thank the Hawaii Land Trust and Keone Emeliano for providing us with the oceanside venue.

This will be a potluck affair so bring something to share. You will need to bring your own chair. For further information contact Jeffrey Coakley (808) 443-8687, Nani Rassmusen (808) 333-6318 or Cheryl Rocha (808) 345-9738.

Kohala Mountain News
Box 639
Kapa'au, HI 96755

ECWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



Bond, from Page 1

Kaero Carter!! The interior work has started along with all new plumbing in the two bathrooms. The last two jobs scheduled for January and February are the interior painting, which we are told will take the better part of a month, followed by spot repairs and refinishing the original flooring. Of course, as with all construction jobs, we have learned these dates may extend out a bit as well.

The Bricks

We sold 310 bricks for the legacy walkway! This effort brought in over \$21,000. These beautiful, engraved bricks are currently in production and due to be delivered to the site in December. At that time, we hope to start our site plan with grading and landscaping that has similar plantings to past pictures of the library and include canoe plants like banana, ti, ipu, hala, ginger and, of course, a coconut palm on the front lawn. We are still waiting on the secondary permit to build a concrete ADA walkway from an ADA parking space on the road to the newly configured back entrance, making it easier to access the restrooms.

We are so grateful for everyone who participated in this wonderful campaign which has given the community a great sense of ownership of this beloved site. We are currently looking for a skilled bricklayer to help us implement the walkway plan. For those of you who missed the cut off date for the bricks, we are talking with the engraving company to see if we can make an annual order to extend the walkway next year. We will keep you posted.

Kohala Heritage Center

When the Library building is completed, displays and programming will be put into place by a

permanent Kohala Heritage Center (KHC) team. The site will serve as a meeting place for local non-profits, school groups, clubs and other small group gatherings. KHC will work to bring together the many ethnicities that make up the rich tapestry of North Kohala.

A group of dedicated community members are currently meeting to form a federally qualified non-profit to manage all facets of the Center. These include the day-to-day operations, which will involve a docent program, educational displays about the history of Kohala, a gift shop, ongoing evening and daytime programming, an inter-generational program involving a media lab and eventually a climate-controlled room to receive artifacts and materials to be stored in a safe repository to preserve the history of Kohala.

There is still much work to be done and this group will be posting information in the Kohala Mountain News about their plans as they become available.

A request has been made to NKCRC for a donation of the Messenger Corp storyboards that were donated to the Kohala Welcome Center in 2010. The Welcome Center has been closed to the public since 2020.

These beautiful museum quality boards were designed, built and donated to the community for public viewing. They tell the story of Kohala with beautiful imagery and language. It is our sincere hope that these boards and other public display materials from the Welcome Center will find a permanent home at the Heritage Center.

Fundraising Still Needed!

The cost of this restoration is currently estimated at just under \$1,100,000, of which we have raised \$925,000. We are getting close to our goal but still need your help. We extend a heartfelt Mahalo to all

the folks who have come forward to help us in so many ways. We look forward to the day in the near future when we will bless this beloved building and invite you to celebrate in this wonderful accomplishment. We have been able to work with two non-profits to reach our financial goals and both of them are more than happy to process your gift.

Your tax-deductible donation will be gratefully received by either 1) Friends of the Future, P. O. Box 2655, Kamuela, HI 96743 or 2) North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC), P.O. Box 519, Hāwī, HI 96719. Please be sure to designate the Bond Library on your check to either organization.

As we come into the home stretch, we have a wish list. If there are any folks in the community who would like to donate their talent or time for the following tasks, please contact Christine at 808-895-6108 to talk about ways you can help. We would love:

A skilled brick layer who is experienced in setting bricks for the walkway.

Gardeners who would enjoy participating in a planting day or donating plants.

Individuals who could help with designing and implementing a media center and a climate-controlled room.

Resources for window treatments and window seat upholstery.

As we write this, we are hoping the building will be ready for occupancy and a long-awaited blessing in March.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for all the folks who have stepped up to help us with their skills, energy and time to keep the work going in the face of short-handed crews, delayed permits and supplies and even Covid. As our dear friend and mentor Bob Martin often says, "God willing and the creek don't rise", we will get there this spring! Stay tuned for updates.

NKCDP AGENDA

MEETING TIME: Wednesday, November 29, 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.)

1. Affordable Housing - Addresses the housing needs for families in Kohala.
- Agriculture - The future of agriculture in our area.
2. Community Access - Exploring ways for Kohala residents to have more mauka and makai access.
3. Growth Management - Addresses zoning, permits and variance requests and how they affect us.
4. Health and Wellness - Addresses Kohala health care infrastructure and emergency response.
5. Parks, Roads, View Planes and Erosion Control - Addresses many infrastructure problems and projects.
6. Utilities - Addresses all utility and waste stream issues.
8. Investigatory Subcommittee on Rezoning 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

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North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group

The October 25 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG) was called to order by Chairman John Winter, who then called for the reports of the subgroups.

Jack Hoyt, reporting for the **Affordable Housing Group** said that the developer of Hāwī Nani has asked the group to sponsor a public meeting so that he can present to the community a new site plan, which includes substantially more affordable housing plots. His plan calls for the development of 15 acres of the 33-acre parcel on the Hilo side of Hāwī Hill Road and makai of Akoni Pule Highway. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Pomaika'i Cafe.

Toni Withington of the **Community Access Group** (CAG) said that the County now owns 4.5 miles of coastal properties from Hapu'u to Kapanāia. Stewardship funds have been granted to Kohala Lihikai for Hapu'u for such things as signage, trail maintenance, fire mitigation and education. Ala Kahakai and Na Ala Hele staff did a ground survey after the October fire and located many more sites and trails than had been surveyed before. She also reported on the second stakeholders meeting regarding the stewardship of the fifteen miles of leeward coast from Kaiholena to Kapa'a, which is now in public hands. A full report on that meeting can be found

in the October issue of this paper. The group also discussed how to remove the long-term squatters from state land near Kaiholena. The group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Boyd Bond reported from the **Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee**. He said that the group has decided not to be a sub-group of the NKCDP AG but rather to be a stand-alone group that would act as a hub for other groups dealing with cultural and historic issues and as a source of information for the AG and the County. They have begun working on a list of historic sites, using a list from 1984 as a starting point. Some of the sites on the list have already been lost, but members were able to come up with sites that are not on the list.

One of their aims is to work with existing groups to identify a Point of Contact (POC) for each site, if one exists and, if not, to find someone willing to be that POC. The group meets at the Hawaii Island Retreat. Meeting times are still to be determined.

Withington said that the **Growth Management** group has been discussing the draft of the County General Plan, which is now available to the public for review and comment. The group agreed to support expanding the Rural designation for lands in Kohala that are located near the towns or along the highway or are small plots that are less

suitable for agriculture. This would allow homeowners less restriction on the use of their property. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Alan Brown reporting for the **Health and Wellness** group said that Kai Carvalho of the Kohala Health Center is doing health-related education at the Kohala Elementary School with Kumu Jessica Bautista and Lani Bowman. Adult dental care is now available with Dr. Farhadi at the Kapā'au Clinic. She is taking new patients but there is a waiting list. The Big Island Substance Abuse Council (BISAC) now is active in the Kohala middle and high schools providing preventative services.

Free First Aid/CPR/AED training classes are offered periodically, and Winter encouraged people to take them. Kathy Matsuda at the Kohala Resilience Hub has information about them. A map of the AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) in Kohala is being developed and will be distributed to all Kohala merchants. There was also some discussion of certified kitchens, including what is currently available. Kohala needs more of them, especially for the processing of off-grade locally grown food. The group meets the first Friday of the month at the Hub.

John Winter, reporting for **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplanes** (PREV) said that the State

Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) is now requiring that a photographer from Oahu must take pictures of the pavilion at Māhukona before they sign off on the demolition. Sara Pule told the group that Parks and Recreation is repairing the gutters at the Keokea Beach Park pavilion. The group meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 at the Senior Center.

The **Utilities group** will hold another informational meeting with Ramzi Mansour, the

Director of the County Department of Environmental Manage-

See NKCDP Page 4




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NKCDP from Page 3

ment on November 15 regarding the State's mandate to have all cesspools converted to septic systems by 2050. According to the plan timeline, North Kohala's cesspools are mostly in Tier Three, which is the least urgent.

The group discussed the possibility of training local groups to do soil percolation tests and finding local suppliers for excavators, gravel and other project components. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 3:30 at the Senior Center.

The Agriculture group has been focusing on the new State agricultural property tax reduction rules which are scheduled to go into effect in 2028. There will be a public

meeting with some Council members to address the many questions regarding these bills, probably in January. See next month's KMN for details.

Information on the work of the Advisory Group and the various subgroups can be found on their website: kohalacommunity-plan.org. Community members are encouraged to become part of one of the subgroups and 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 November 29 at the Senior Center.

Tips On Keeping North Kohala Community a Safe Place



Courtesy of Cheryl Rocha

Kohala community members working to keep the community safe attended an informational meeting on November 8, 2023.

By Vibrant Hawaii and County of Hawaii Police Department

On November 8, Vibrant Hawaii, with Executive Director Janice Ikeda, coordinated a meeting focused on keeping communities safe.

Kohala community members who attended included Kathy Matsuda from Kohala Resilience

Hub, Kanani Keliikipi from Roots Skatepark, and Cheryl Rocha from Neighborhood Watch. Other guests included the Ambassadors from Vibrant Hawaii and Dane Dupont from Hawaii Tracker.

For more information, contact Kathy Matsuda at 808-895-5312 or Community Police Officer Dayton Tagaca at 808-889-6540.

Hāwī Dam Number 5 Demolition Approved

By Tom Morse

The State Board of Land and Natural Resources has approved the removal of the dormant Hāwī dam number five, located about one mile makai of Akoni Pule Highway between H'oea and 'Upolu Roads.

Built in 1930, this twenty-four-

foot-high earthen irrigation dam had a surface area of about ten acres. It was last used in 1975 and was drained in 2014. It is partially located on State land and partially on Hualua Farm, owned by Bahman Sadeghi. The estimated \$104,000 demolition cost will be paid for by Sadeghi.

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Kalua Pork Tacos: Local kalua style pulled-pork oozing with cheese, pickle-relish aioli, cabbage slaw and pineapple-salsa

Carne Asada Tacos: Carne asada smothered in love with cheddar cheese, cabbage slaw, lime crema and salsa fresca.

Tofu Tacos: Marinated Tofu lightly seasoned and pan seared with cabbage slaw, cilantro-lime aioli and mango salsa and a side of Vegan sweet potato salad
VEGETARIAN

Hot Dogs

Nuthin but the Dog in me: An all-beef classic hot dog wrapped up and ready to go. \$4

Hot Diggity Gill's Dog: An all-beef classic hot dog with pickle relish, onions, mustard & pepperoncinis. Served with fries. \$11

LA Charger Dog: An all-beef classic hot dog with applewood smoked thick cut bacon, jalapeños, caramelized onion and mustard. Served with fries. \$13

VEGAN Poodle: An all-plant based vegan dog served plain with a side Comes with a side of purple sweet potato salad. **VEGAN** \$13

Keiki Dog: An all-beef classic hot dog with nada on it so you can do it all yourself! Served with fries. \$8

Burgers

burgers served with fries unless vegan!

****Maui Venison Burger:** 1/2 pound Maui Nui venison, cooked in Ghee with cheddar cheese, homemade burger sauce and local lettuce, tomato and onion. Served on an organic sundog brioche. \$25

- Add bacon, caramelized onions or whatever you like for a few dallaz more.

****Auntie K's Fish Burger:** Our fresh catch, battered and fried in avocado oil on sundog brioche with tartar sauce, cabbage and slice of cheddahhh. \$19

VEGAN ULU burger: Our homemade ulu patty & macnut cheese with local lettuce, tomato and onion on a Sundog vegan bun with chipotle aioli and a side of our sweet potato salad. **VEGAN** \$20

Stacks and Wraps

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****Hawaiian Superman:** Fresh Catch, furikake tallow fries, the most ono pineapple salsa, a blast of our irresistible tree-braddahs aioli and some fresh cilantro. \$21

Cali Vibes Carne Asada: Carne Asada, tallow fries, shredded cheeses and black beans with a drizzle of lime crema and some yummy salsa-fresca. \$21

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****Bahn Mi:** Fresh catch, pulled pork or tofu, seasoned in a delicious lemongrass marinade on top of a SunDog Sourdough Baguette with shredded cabbage, pickled carrot, aina-culture turmeric onion and cucumber topped with lemongrass aioli, fresh cilantro and sriracha. Comes with a side of purple sweet potato salad.** \$21

***Fresh Catch Bowl:** Today's fresh catch topped with a yummy chipotle-aioli, cabbage slaw, mango salsa and black beans. Comes with some fries to brighten your day!** \$21

Pulled Pork & Goat Quesadilla: Local Kalua Pork, Goat Cheese, Caramelized Onions, Classic Quesadilla Cheese blend and some cilantro. Served with housemade chips, pineapple salsa and Lime-Crema. \$19

***Fish n' Chips:** Today's fresh catch in chilled beer batter fried in avocado oil with a mound of our tallow fries, homemade tartar sauce and a lemon wedge to kick it up a notch. \$21

SIDES

Chips and Salsa.....4
 Standard Fries.....6
 Animal Fries.....8
 Kanaka Fries.....8
 Side Taco.....7
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Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

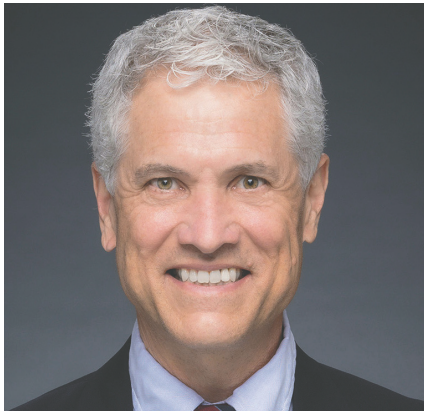


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Aloha. For my family, November and December are times marked by a big push to finish projects before end-of-the-year deadlines, as well as multiple celebrations for birthdays, holidays, and joyful gatherings. You might also be fortunate enough to be with family and friends at this time.

Please remember those in our community who do not have active social networks, which are such an important part of a healthy lifestyle. Loneliness is heartbreaking anytime a person experiences it, but it can be especially depressing this time of year, when a lonely person sees everyone else busy being social.

Please reach out to your elderly neighbor who is alone or visit someone you haven't seen around lately. Small gestures of kindness go a long way towards raising the spirits of those who are feeling lonely.

In my work as State Representative, this is the time of year I am busy preparing for the upcoming session that starts on January 17. As Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA), I am working on a wide variety of proposed legislation.

Many of these bills are ones that were proposed but not approved during the 2023 legislative session. The top ten bills for the JHA Committee are the following:

- Lower fees for reproduction of public records for the public interest (HB 719).
- Expand the authorized issuance of citations in lieu of arrests. Authorize a grace period after a missed initial court appearance (HB1336).
- Amend various provisions

related to pretrial release to adopt national best practices for pretrial detention (HB 1336).

- Allow the court to order substance abuse assessment and treatment. Prohibit the arrest of a parolee, or the revocation of parole, solely due to the defendant having one positive test for drug use (HB 1336).
- Legalize adult use of cannabis (SB 669).
- Establish one additional district court judgeship in the First Circuit (SB 485).
- Make the community court outreach project permanent (HB 1404).
- Raise pay for court interpreters (SB 813).
- Raise pay for court-appointed attorneys and guardian-ad-litem.
- Provide funding for the Judiciary's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Initiative (SB 57).

There are numerous other appropriation bills not relating to the subject matters under the JHA Committee, which are also priorities for me. These include:

- Appropriate funds to assist the reconstruction of Lahaina, Maui, after the devastating wildfire.
- Appropriate funds to increase wildfire prevention measures on public lands statewide.
- Appropriate funds to increase public education about ways residents can reduce wildfire risk at their own homes.
- Appropriate funds to provide grants to qualified residents to help pay for the costs of converting residential cesspools to individual wastewater systems.

The Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) is preparing numerous bills to be introduced in the administration's package. Once these bills are introduced, I will request the JHA Committee to schedule hearings on these bills and try to move them forward. These bills include the following:

- Allow the Hawaiian Homes Commission to retain independent legal counsel to be paid by the State and use the services of the attorney general as needed when the interests of the State and the Hawaiian Homes Commission are aligned.
- Add the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chair's designee to the Commission on Water Resource Management.
- Exempt any development of homestead lots or housing for DHHL from general excise and use

taxes.

- Allow DHHL to assume review of the effect of any proposed project on historic properties or burial sites for lands under its jurisdiction.

- Establish a compliance and enforcement program within DHHL to investigate complaints, conduct investigations, and cooperate with enforcement authorities to ensure compliance with the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920 and associated rules, as well as other state laws and rules and county ordinances on Hawaiian Home Lands.

- Make permanent the exclusion of housing developed by DHHL from school impact fees.

- Extend the lapse date for the 2023 appropriation of \$600 million to DHHL until June 30, 2025, to allow them time to fully expend the funds for homestead development.

- Appropriate \$6 million to investigate, explore, and identify geothermal resources on Hawaiian Home Lands.

- Add the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chair's designee to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

- Add the Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission or the Chair's designee to the Hawaii Community Development Authority.

- Increase the loan limit for DHHL Direct Loans to 75% of the maximum single residence loan amount allowed in Hawaii by the Federal Housing Administration instead of 50%, as is currently allowed.

- Increase the allowable loan term for DHHL Direct Loans made available to 40 years, instead of 30 years, as currently allowed.

I have also met with Office of Hawaiian Affairs officials for preliminary discussions about their legislative proposals, which were still being finalized. I look forward to reviewing the bills once they are submitted to the legislature and hope to schedule them for hearings.

The 2024 session promises to be busy. I look forward to hearing from you about any of the bills under consideration or other community concerns.

Contact my office at 808-586-8510 or email 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.

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.

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

January Deadlines
Ads and News: 1/12/24
Calendar: 1/19/24
Distribution: 1/26/24

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

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Cindy Evans

Aloha,
How do you feel about the future of the island?

At this time, the draft 2045 General Plan has been published for public comment. I encourage you to visit a public library if you want to look at a hard copy, or go online to Hawai'i County Office of Planning and find link on the homepage. The General Plan is intended to be a guide setting forth goals, policies,

standards, and courses of action to physically plan the lands in the County in the best interest of the island's residents. The General Plan designates lands needed for residential use, commercial and visitor services, industry, agriculture, and open space. The General Plan coordinates these uses with County's service and circulation systems.

Housing, Wildfires, Cesspools, and Roads continue to be the issues

of most concern. There are efforts underway to create low income, very low income, and workforce housing but location and the process to obtain approvals, finance, and build takes quite a bit of time. There are ongoing evaluations of current practices to prevent and fight wildfires, along with recommendations to improve response

Big Changes Coming for Agricultural Property Tax Reductions

By John Winter

Do you own property and enjoy the benefits of a significant reduction in your property taxes because you raise vegetables or fruit, or graze animals?

If so, you need to know that earlier this year the County Council passed Bill 57 repealing this "non-dedicated agricultural use assessment" entirely, effective January 1, 2028.

Do you have options? Perhaps. The Council passed two accompanying bills addressing future property tax reductions for agricultural purposes.

Bill 43 creates a new two-tiered structure for demonstrably commercial agricultural operations to receive property tax reductions. One is a 10-year, renewable, "long-term commercial agricultural dedication" and the other is

a three-year "short-term commercial agricultural dedication." The three-year dedication is a little bit easier to qualify for, but it can only be renewed twice. Both involve significant paperwork and petitioning to the Department of Finance for review and assessment. In addition to proof of being commercially viable, an application involves submitting one of the following:

- A detailed farm plan.
- Documentation of organic certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- A plan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Documentation of food safety certification from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Receipts demonstrating an investment of a minimum of \$ 10,000 in farm equipment, fertiliz-

ers, or soil amendments for use on the subject property.

• Documentation of an agricultural conservation easement with a term of at least ten years that has been recorded with the State of Hawaii Bureau of Conveyances (for 10-year dedication only).

• Property inspection by the Department of Finance will be required; it is not yet clear the extent of property tax reductions that will be granted if a property is approved.

Bill 58 attempts to provide some sort of relief for non-commercial agricultural property owners, but the application process is nearly identical to that for commercial operations. Plus, the tax reduction maxes out at 30 percent which, if granted, will result in considerably higher property taxes than those allowed by the system today.

These bills are apparently aimed at abuse of the present agricultural property tax reductions, but some question has been raised as to whether they adequately encourage

food production, which is clearly a goal in Kohala.

All three bills can be downloaded from the Council website: <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/legislative/council-council> Click on Council Records, then Council Record System, then Bills, then 2022-2024 and scroll down to Bill 043, 057 and 058.

In response to community interest, the Agricultural Subgroup of the North Kohala Community Development Plan will be hosting a public meeting with some Council members to address the many questions regarding these bills, probably in January. See next month's KMN for details.

All are invited to learn about the origins and implementation of these bills, explore challenges and opportunities, and have your voice heard on solutions moving forward.

The Agriculture Group will host its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Thursday, December 7, at 4:30 p.m. at the Kohala Food Hub on Ho'ea Road.

CC Update, from Page 5



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

and resources. The solutions for cesspools are expensive and will

require support from our Federal and State Elected Officials. Growing traffic congestion will be a pressing challenge in 2024.

There may be lots out of our control but in our own neighborhood we can make a difference this holiday season. Please consider the harm fireworks can cause to people, animals, and the environment. For those who enjoy the tradition of fireworks I hope you will enjoy the aerial displays, set off from offshore barges along the Kohala Coast, Hilo, and Kona. Did you know fireworks can trigger PTSD and frighten animals, keiki, and kupuna? Now we have another reason to stop fireworks...it causes wildfires. Mahalo for your consideration. Be well. Be safe.

My staff and I continue to look for ways to communicate. I know It takes a community to address its needs. I welcome ideas to address the challenges before us. Office number is 808-889-06512 and email is cindy.evans@hawaiicounty.gov.

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County Moves to Take Over Old Coast Guard Road

By Toni Withington

Community members turned out to support a County Council resolution calling on the mayor to begin steps to take over the Old Coast Guard Road once servicing a Loran Station at 'Upolu.

The resolution, introduced by Councilmember Cindy Evans, was favorably passed along this month to a full Council vote by the Committee on Legislative Appropriations and Acquisitions. The move was the first positive step to solve an over-thirty-year-old problem that has seen significant deterioration of the roadway surface.

Four residents, including two who live along the road, testified in person and twelve others submitted written testimony in favor of the transfer to the County.

The federal government has been trying to turn the road over to local government since the closing of the Coast Guard Loran Station in the 1990s. Control of the land shuffled between federal agencies until 2012 when a formal offer was made to the County.

Bobby Command, who is now deputy managing director, has

since then watched the County vacillate on accepting the road while he kept in touch with Kohala groups and individuals that supported the transfer.

The road extends from Akoni Pule Highway to the red cinder road leading to Mo'okini heiau. Last year, after another county refusal to take the roadway, the Department of the Interior (DOI) posted signs on the road saying "Warning - Federal Road - Authorized Users Only - Road Not Maintained."

It turned out that, despite all the contractual provisions having been worked out, the County Department of Public Works was unwilling to take on maintenance of the road, which clearly needed immediate repair.

Residents and community groups have since worked with the DOI to encourage the feds to bring the roadway up to a usable surface.

Councilmember Evans' resolution stipulates that "the road be transferred in fair condition."

Since the 15-foot-wide pavement is seriously full of potholes, Councilmembers asked Steve Pause, director of the Department of

Public Works, how much it would take to improve the road and clear grass and shrubs from the rest of the 50-foot-wide easement. Pause said he would have some figures for them before consideration by the full council, expected in several weeks. Cindy Evans pointed out that the county does not have to bring the road up to full standards, because it is similar in size to many other sideroads in North Kohala. Pause agreed.

Several council members spoke very positively about the need to keep the road open. They expressed hope that the federal government would contribute toward fixing the road before it is turned over.

The road is identified in the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) as an important mauka-makai vehicle access to the ocean, the only access for several miles either direction.

The road serves a wide public purpose as access to Kamehameha Birthsite Monument, Mo'okini Heiau, the State Na Ala Hele Trail at Puakea, the Puerto Rican Arrival Monument, the existing public shoreline trail at 'Upolu and the

proposed Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. It is used as access for fishing, shoreline gathering, hiking, as well as whale- and sunset-watching.

The lower portion of the road and the parking lot are on a private land parcel that since 2018 has been ranked high on the County's Open Space PONC priority list for public purchase. The current private owner is willing to talk about turning the lower road and parking lot over to the County, provided the upper portion is acquired.

Without waiting for the feds and County to act, a crew of Kohala people, some residents of the road, voluntarily filled thousands of monster potholes last summer.

Besides the residents who live by the road, the push for transfer has come from the North Kohala Community Access Group, the Growth Management Group, and the Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplains Group, all part of the NKCDP Advisory Group. The road is listed as preferred vehicular access between the highway and the ocean in the North Kohala Community Development Plan.

Kawaihae Harbor Improvements Moving Ahead

By Toni Withington

Boaters, canoe paddlers and drivers from North Kohala are expected to benefit from two proposed construction projects at Kawaihae Harbor.

One project will improve highway safety at the main harbor and a second will strengthen the breakwater at the Small Boat Harbor at the northern end of the commercial harbor.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration has awarded a \$23.46 million Port Infrastructure Development Program grant to the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) for improvements to the Port of Kawaihae that will enhance operational efficiency and help reduce highway traffic congestion.

The grant will be used to widen Kawaihae Road to accommodate a left turn lane into the main port gate. The highway improvements

will address community concerns by reducing traffic congestion caused by truck queues and the added turn lane will allow drivers who are not headed for the harbor to bypass the congestion, according to a HDOT announcement.

The interior improvements will enhance operational efficiency and safety to ensure goods move off the piers and to their final destinations as quickly as possible. They include concrete paving on 10 acres over asphalted portions in the cargo yard, new 80-foot mast lighting to replace lower lighting equipment, installation of conduit and raised transformer pads for expanded electrical power plugs for refrigerated containers, and the relocation of the port office building and maintenance shed.

The federal grant covers 70 percent of the total project cost of \$33.9 million.

Requests for bids for the project

are expected to take place in 2025, pending completion of the environmental process. Once the contract is awarded, construction of the project is estimated to take two years to complete.

The North Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor Breakwater Improvement project is winding down its environmental Assessment process this month.

The Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) proposes to redesign and improve the damaged breakwater to better withstand winter swells. The existing breakwater elevation will be raised from six feet above the mean lower low water (defined as the average height of the lowest tide recorded at a tide station each day during a 19-year recording period) to ten feet above that mark. In addition, the breakwater section will be ten feet wide at its crest to accommodate

maintenance equipment.

The modified breakwater will be designed to withstand larger wave forces and reduce wave intrusion into the harbor, which repeatedly damaged harbor structures and vessels last winter. The breakwater structure will be extended approximately eighty feet shoreward from the existing end of the breakwater to prevent siltation of the boat ramp during high wave conditions.

"The proposed action is intended to improve safety conditions for harbor users and increase the usability of the small boat harbor," according to a DOBOR announcement. The changes do not include repairs to the docks, boat ramp, or canoe storage area.

The breakwater project is expected to cost \$5 million and be completed within six to eight months of receiving several other permits. Comments on the assessment were due by November 22.



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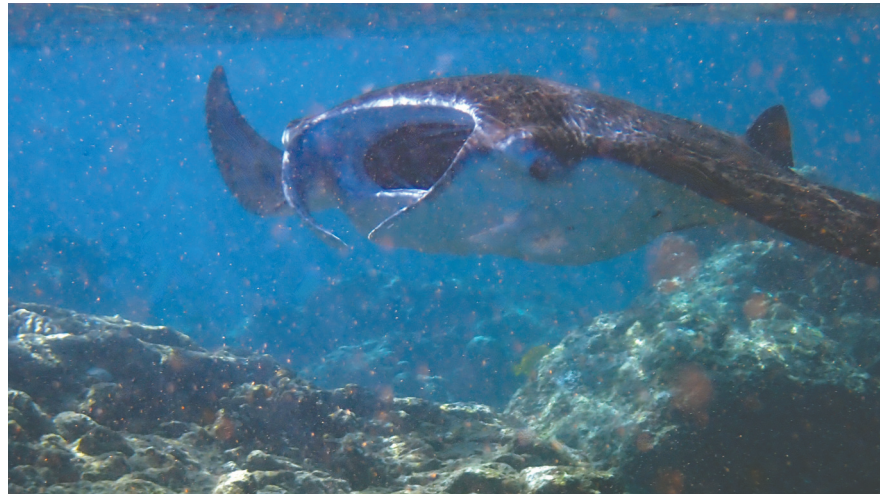


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The Devil Rays of Mahukona



Manta at Māhukona.



A manta at Nishimura Bay with open mouth and unfurled cephalic fins.

Part 1 of 2
 Story and photos by Wendy Noritake

I swam with the manta rays of Māhukona for the first time on my birthday, in 2015, the year I arrived in Kohala. A new friend, Valarie Barnes, who was also a scuba diver and ocean lover, called to see if I wanted to go for a swim. I would never turn down an opportunity to be in the ocean.

She told me that she always saw mantas out from the wharf, quite a distance into the shipping channel. While we swam in the deep blue waters, I noticed from my left periphery a string of movement. Six

manta rays were swimming toward us! They surrounded us on arrival. I panicked at first, wondering if mantas had stinging barbs on their tails, but these did not, so I relaxed a bit as they swam beneath and around us. One even tapped Val on the shoulder. I was mesmerized and enchanted while watching these giant kite-like, graceful creatures – until a guy swam to us with his GoPro. He chased the mantas until they dispersed and moved elsewhere, out of our sight.

Sad to see them leave, we then headed north to the “Blowhole” where we encountered two more

mantas. What a birthday gift!

The mantas we see at Māhukona are coastal manta rays, hāhālua, or scientifically, *Mobula alfredi*. I’ve learned that they are endemic to Hawaii and don’t travel across the oceans.

On occasion, one might see a pelagic or oceanic manta *Mobula birostris*, which is much larger than our coastal variety.

At a recent lecture on mantas that I attended in Kona, a measurement was given that for every foot in width, you can calculate about 100 pounds in weight. Our coastal mantas average from eight

to twelve feet wide, wing-tip to wing-tip. An eight-foot manta weighs about 800 pounds, and a twelve-foot manta will tip the scales around 1,200 pounds. However, the oceanic mantas are about twenty-two to twenty-five feet wide and can weigh up to 3,000 pounds.

Mantas are the gentle giants of the ocean. They cause no harm to anyone since they are searching for tiny crustaceans known as krill and plankton as their food source. But they are threatened and all too frequently die from fishing line entanglement, boat strikes, ocean acidity,

See Dentist, Page 9

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Dentist, from Page 8



Manta at Māhukona.

plankton decline, and ingestion of microplastics. In Indonesia, India, and China, they're killed not for food, but for their gill plates, which are ground up and sold as medicine. An excellent documentary to watch on this subject is called "Racing Extinction" <https://tubitv.com/movies/712062>.

The protrusions on either side of a manta's mouth are called cephalic fins, which, when unfolded, resemble arms as they scoop the water into their open mouths while feeding. When rolled up, the cephalic fins look like horns, giving them the nickname "devil rays."

On numerous occasions, I've witnessed the coastal mantas doing barrel rolls at Māhukona. These are sweeping movements resembling an underwater back flip with their mouths wide open, continuously

scooping the water with krill and plankton into their mouths. They do these rolls over and over to gather as much food as possible.

Mostly, they travel alone, but once in awhile, I've seen two swimming together. Or one coming from the north and one coming from the south who pass each other, seeming to say a "hello."

One Christmas, my freediving teacher and friend Matt Belcher and I headed out from Māhukona to Nishimura Bay. Once again we encountered six mantas that morning as we swam farther out from shore in deeper water. Four of the mantas were swimming close to the surface where needle-nose fish swam ahead of them, and a couple of mantas swam closer to the bottom. What a Christmas present!

Kohala Farms Awarded for Conservation Efforts



Photos by Alyssa Fujii

David Fuertes received the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award from the the Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District (MKSWCD).

Left to right: Willie Rice, MKSWCD director; Pono von Holt, MKSWCD chairman; David Fuertes; Carol Fuertes; Nicole Fernandez, conservation specialist and administrative assistant; and Charlie White, MKSWCD director.

By Ken Wills

Three North Kohala agricultural groups received awards for their promotion of environmental concerns. The G&C Freitas Ranch Inc., Island Harvest Inc., and David Fuertes were singled out by the

Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District for exemplary programs to promote soil, water and resource conservation.

The awards were presented to the groups at the Ponoholo Ranch

See Farms, Page 11

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Farms, from Page 9



G&C Freitas Ranch was awarded the Outstanding Rancher of the Year award by the Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District (MKSWCD).

Left to right: Willie Rice, MKSWCD director; Pono von Holt, MKSWCD chairman; Phyllis Badayos; Reuben Badayos; Georgette Freitas; Nicole Fernandez, conservation specialist and administrative assistant; and Charlie White, MKSWCD director.



Island Harvest was awarded the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award by the Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District (MKSWCD).

Left to right: Willie Rice, MKSWCD director; Pono von Holt, MKSWCD chairman; Nicole Fernandez, conservation specialist and administrative assistant; Jim Trump; Debbie Trump; Nathan Trump; and Charlie White, MKSWCD director.

in Kapa'au on October 14.

Pono von Holt, chairman of the conservation district, which partners with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), said, "The awards recognize the good work that people in farming and ranching are doing. It's a way to say thank you for their participation in the community."

Island Harvest Inc., which claims

to be the only large macadamia nut orchard in the state, was awarded the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award. Island Harvest has been farming in Kohala for over 30 years and seeks to build healthy soils on its more than 500 acres of orchards. Island Harvest has partnered with Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District to help mitigate erosion in the macadamia nut orchards

and ensure healthy nutrient management and ground cover to preserve the life of the soil.

David Fuertes, executive director of Kahua Pa'a Mua, also received the Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award. The Kapa'au-based non-profit organization provides community training in support of food sustainability, resource conservation, food donations, natural

farming and mentorships. It has also linked up with the Hawai'i Department of Education to establish FFA agriculture programs at 28 schools in the state. Fuertes is a retired teacher of agriculture in the Hawai'i public school system.

G&C Freitas Ranch, which has had a presence in Kohala for decades, was presented with the

See Farms on Page 11



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General Plan Roadshow in Kohala

By Toni Withington

The latest draft of the proposed 2045 General Plan was presented by the County Planning Department at a special meeting for Kohala residents earlier this month. The department's Long Term Planning Division had unveiled the plan ear-

lier at meetings in Kona and Hilo.

The meeting on November 2 was requested by the Community Development Plan Advisory Group and 25 residents came to review the plan and learn how to enter comments on the provisions.

The latest draft contains many changes from the 2015 draft that was put on the shelf for several years because of the pandemic. The new version includes more provisions for dealing with climate change along with increased emphasis on renewable energy and multimodal transportation.

Planners Bethany Morrison and Janice Hata projected portions of the plan, many specific to Kohala, on a large screen. They brought up the online version of the plan with its many tools for reading and commenting on the written goals and strategies, but also the detailed map that projects where the county would like to be 20 years from now.

Some comments from the audience were tagged and entered in the database to show its easy workings.

One provision that will affect many homeowners in Kohala is a gradual shifting from agriculture zoning to rural zoning on land that is nearer town and not productive for agriculture.

The shift would relieve landowners from the more restrictive regulations in agriculture zoning

but would likely raise property taxes somewhat.

Issues brought up by those attending included the following:

More county help for lessening the burden of the state-mandated cesspool conversion.

Specific recommendations to mitigate the threat of wildfires.

Emphasis on sustainable alternative energy production.

More specific goals for health and wellness issues.

Coordination between police and fire preparedness.

It was pointed out that the accompanying map still contains a resort designation at Māhukona even though the County has committed \$8 million to the preservation of the land in open space. The resort designation had also received significant opposition in Kohala during the public comment period for the 2015 plan.

The comment period on the draft 2045 General Plan was recently extended to March 1, 2024. To read the plan and to learn more about how to comment on all provisions and the map go to the General Plan Konveio website: cohplanning.konveio.com

To download a PDF copy of the draft plan, go to <https://cohplanning.konveio.com/gp-draft> and click the download icon above the window showing the document.

Raku Art Opening at Artists' Coop

By Mark Somers and Melisa Hicks

On December 2 from 6-8 p.m., the Kohala Artists' Cooperative will host the opening of the Ocean Raku Pottery Island Style show, celebrating the captivating beauty of naked raku ceramics and sgraffito porcelain ceramics with an island influence.

Ocean Raku Pottery is a husband-and-wife creative team local to Hāwī. They moved here from Southern California six years ago and couldn't be happier.

Upon moving here, they immediately joined the Kohala Artists' Cooperative and found a supportive, energetic and inspiring artist community.

Their newest work features porcelain vases that are hand carved using a technique called sgraffito. There will also be naked raku vases, which were first fired in a raku kiln with a sacrificial glaze.

After firing the piece, the sacrificial glaze is removed to reveal the newly created art.

Join us to meet the artists during an evening of awe-inspiring island art, perfect for your 'ohana or to give as gifts for the holidays.

If you can't make it on opening night the show will be at the Kohala Artist Cooperative until December 31.

Farms, from Page 10

Outstanding Rancher of the Year award. The third-generation ranch was named for George and Clifford Freitas, grandfather and father, respectively, of sisters Georgette Freitas and Phyllis Badayos who, along with Reuben Badayos, manage 130 cows on 300 acres in Hāwī. The ranch was cited for its conservation efforts.

The Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District covers 730,460 acres spanning from Kohala to Mauna Loa and aims to promote land stewardship and sustainable land use. Its website says it assists the NRCS to create conservation plans and has helped farmers, ranchers and conservationists since 1955, providing educational and technical assistance to protect and manage natural resources.

Holt encouraged farmers and ranchers in the district to visit the Waimea office of NRCS to see how they might qualify for conservation plan programs that can receive federal funding assistance.



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Coffee With a Cop



Photo by Cheryl Rocha

Hawaii Police Department Officers Dayton Tagaca (left) and Jonathan Bartsch met with citizens at the Coffee with a Cop event held on October 17 at Pomaika'i Cafe. Community members gathered to share their concerns and express ideas for a safer North Kohala. An added plus was bonding with new community participants.

P&R Sports League Calendar Boys Age Group Basketball (10U, 12U, 14U)

- Scheduler will be Jansen "Kekai" Nakamura at Hisaoka Gym
- Season practices run from January 2, 2024–March 15, 2024
- Season games run from February 1–March 14, 2024
- Games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Game times will be 4:15 and 5:00 p.m. at Hisoka Gym and Honoka'a Sports Complex
- Game times will be 5:00 and 5:45 p.m. at WDP Gym
- Coaches meeting TBD by Kekai
- Super Saturday TBD by P&R staff



Olena Gallery

Our Featured Artist for December is
Gary Leveque

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Saturday, Dec 9, 3-6pm

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www.olenagallery.com
(808) 345-1779



WEEKLY EVENTS IN DECEMBER 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 12/6, 12/20, BOARD GAMES: 12/13, KEIKI CRAFT: 12/27	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	3:30 PM	4:30PM	RMD TAIKO CLASSES (NOT 1ST WED)	HUB BARN	895-2025
	6PM	8PM	FREE 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		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
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
	10AM	11:15AM	YOGA	HUB HALE	202 746 0439
	6PM	7PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM	8PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	HUB BARN	805-452-9501

KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

- Takata Store
- Nakahara Store
- Arakaki Store
- Hawaii Community FCU

Donations accepted through Dec 8, 23

Donations for Kohala Keiki Distributed at Santa's Workshop Sat, Dec 9, 23 from 4:30 - 6:30pm @Kohala Resilience Hub Barn

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Halloween Spooktacular a Success

Story and photo by Kathy Matsuda

On October 31, the Kohala Resilience Hub, a program of the North Kohala Community Resource Center, put on a Halloween Spooktacular event.

Amazing community effort

came forth to create a safe venue for trunk or treaters. Everyone headed to the Hub Barn afterward for food, drinks, Halloween crafts, and a costume contest.

Mahalo to Kalahikiola Church, Sunshine True Value Hard-

ware, Partners in Development, Kohala Middle School, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union (HCFCU), Jonathan and Shandelle Ubrig, Daniel and Melanie Matsuda, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and our many volunteers.



Representatives from Kohala Middle School showed up ready for frightening fun.



The Jurassic Park Rangers couldn't tame these dinosaurs.



Gospel of Salvation Kohala

55-146 Kokoiki Road

Service: Sunday 9:00 AM

Adult Bible Study: Monday 7 PM

Prayer Meeting: Friday 7 PM

Pastor Kawika Kihara

www.gos-kohala.org

Kohala Baptist Church

Across from Makapala Retreat
 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."
 (Matthew 11:28)

Please join us Sundays for Bible study at 9 AM in the chapel and Worship at 10:30 AM outside under the Royal Poinciana tree
 Pastor Steven E. Hedlund (808)889-5416
 Follow us on Kohala Baptist Church



KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

December service

Sunday, Dec. 17, 10 a.m.

On the right approx. one mile past the Kohala Middle School in Halaula
 Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
 (808)798-2075

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

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

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

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 Sat 9 - 3

889~5077

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Saturday Services:
 Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
 Divine Service: 10:45 AM
 Potluck-Fellowship Lunch every Sabbath
 55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway, Hawi HI
 (808)889-5646
 Kohalasda.com



ST. AUGUSTINE'S Episcopal Church in Kapa'au, Hawai'i

E komo mai!

12/10/23 5 - 8 pm - Kohala Ecumenical Christmas Gathering, St. Damien Hall, Sacred Heart
 12/24/23, 2023 - 5:30 - 6:30 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service
 12/25/23 9 - 10 am - Christmas Day service
 www.staugustineskohala.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Hawi, Hawai'i • The Welcoming Church
 Masses: Saturday 5 pm
 Sunday 7 a.m. - 9:30 am
 Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday at 7 am
 Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm
 12/13/23, 5pm - 7pm
 Sacred Heart Parish drive-by Living Nativity
 Rev Elias Escanilla 808-889-6436

Kalahikiola Congregational Church

Service every Sunday Morning at 9:30 followed by pupus & fellowship
 Prayer time Tuesdays at 11:30
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 www.kalahikiolacc.com
 info@kalahikiolacc.com

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Reducing Surfboard and Canoe Waste

By Tom Loomis

In a big stride towards sustainable practices, Tom Loomis, the innovator behind Tom Loomis Custom Woodworking and Composites, and Rise Up Surfboards, has partnered with Tiger Canoe to collectively tackle waste associated from surfboard and outrigger canoe production. This collaboration not only amplifies the impact but also sets a precedent for industry-wide environmental responsibility. This is a first of its kind in Hawaii and one of only a couple similar projects across the country.

Expanding his eco-friendly initiatives, Tom extends his reach to include waste from fellow surfboard shapers, like Bart Demarr Surfboards. By bringing together the efforts of multiple artisans, Tom is fostering a sense of community in the pursuit of a common goal: reducing and repurposing waste.

Tom's commitment to sustainability is not just individual but community driven. The acquisition of the 10-horsepower industrial shredder, the backbone of this transformative process, was made possible through a generous contribution from the local group, Wastestream. Not only has Tom embraced the machine, but he has also taken on a leadership role within Wastestream, further solidifying his dedication to steering the community towards eco-



Photo by Kathy Morgan
Tom Loomis with his plastic shredder, which keeps plastic waste such as surfboards out of landfills and available for molding into new products.

friendly practices.

What sets this initiative apart is Tom's approach to reusing the shredded materials. Surfboards and canoes, as well as many other types of ocean equipment, are made from a category of plastics known as thermosets. The chemistry of these types of plastics



Photo by Tom Loomis
The shredder is sized to accommodate surfboards and other items made of thermoset plastics.

renders them completely non-recyclable by standard recycling methods. Their end of use destiny has ultimately always been the landfill. With the integration of a bio-based epoxy, the shredded waste is molded into fresh, usable items. This not only extends the life of the materials but also keeps them from ending up in landfills. The innovation continues as these

new products are designed to be re-shredded at their end of life, creating a sustainable loop that prevents them from contributing to landfill waste.

Looking ahead, Tom envisions incorporating the other large category of plastics, known as thermoplastics, in this transformative process. Thermoplastics, collected from beach cleanups and households, can be recycled using heat. However, this ambitious goal hinges on establishing the necessary infrastructure, including a heated extruder unit for thermoplastics.

Under Tom Loomis's leadership, the collaborative efforts of Tiger Canoe, Bart Demarr Surfboards, and the support of Wastestream are creating a ripple effect of positive change. Together, they are not just shredding waste but shredding the norms of conventional production and forging a path towards a greener and more sustainable tomorrow. Stay tuned as this local initiative continues to gather momentum and inspire others to join the wave of change. Please find and follow riseupsurfboards on Instagram as well as connect with Tom directly at TLC-woodcomposites@gmail.com if you have ideas, or old broken boards, canoes, paddles, or other composite items you'd like to donate and keep out of the landfill.



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ALOHACARE



MONTHLY CALENDAR DECEMBER 2023

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
12/1	FRI	4:00PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/2	SAT	8:00AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
12/2	SAT	6:00PM	8:00PM	OCEAN RAKU POTTERY	OPENING RECEPTION	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
12/3	SUN	10:00AM		FRIENDS OF MAHUKONA	CULTURAL PRESENTATION	MAHUKONA RAILWAY HOUSE	(808) 443-8687
12/3	SUN	11:00AM	12:00PM	KEIKI HOLIDAY GIVING SPREE	(KIDS-ONLY SHOPPING), ST. AUGUSTINE'S THRIFT SHOP	ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
12/3	SUN	5:30PM	6:00PM	MUSIC AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S	FEATURING FRANK PALANI CIPRIANI, POTLUCK AT 6:00 PM	ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
12/4	MON	5:00PM	6:30PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/6	WED	4:00PM	7:00PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB BARN	808-889-0404 EXT. 104
12/6	WED	4:30PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/6	WED	7:00PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
12/12	TUE	11:00AM	12:00PM	BOOK CLUB	THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD BY ZORA NEALE HURSTON	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/13	WED	9:00AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/13	WED	9:00AM	11:00AM	MĀHUKONA TALK STORY SESSIONS	REGISTER AT HTTPS://WWW.HILT.ORG/MAHUKONA	MĀHUKONA	
12/13	WED	5:00PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/14	THU	9:00AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
12/15	FRI	3:00PM	4:00PM	SCIENCE WITH HWC	DIY SIMPLE BIRD FEEDERS	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/19	TUE	3:00PM	4:00PM	KEIKI SCIENCE WITH HWC	DIY BIRD FEEDERS	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/20	WED	3:30PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/20	WED	5:00PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/26	TUE	6:00PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	HUB BARN	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
12/27	WED	4:00PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
12/27	WED	4:30PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/29	WED	2:00PM	3:00PM	REINDEER GAMES	PARTY GAMES FOR KEIKI 5 AND UP.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655

Email calendar listings to: kohalacalendar@gmail.com
 Subscribe to our montly calendar on <https://kohalamountainnews.com/events/month/>



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Kohala High School Recognizes Performance with Academic Honors



Congratulations to these Kohala High School students, who made the Q1 2023 Principal's List with a GPA of 4.0 or above:

Afaga, Makenzie
 Ancheta Morin, Ezra
 Arraujo-Medeiros, Promise
 Bartsch, Taeya
 Belmarez, Mateo
 Douglas, Zalea
 Emeliano, Trini
 Emeliano, Gabriel
 Hansen, Titan
 Kapeliela, Cassidy
 Kimball, Christine
 Kolly, Elia
 Majors, Natalie Mae
 Miyamoto, Ayla
 Nakamura, Kiona
 Nicolas, Princess Shalei
 Perez, Eden
 Ramos, James
 Salvador, Jayline
 Salvador-Libron, Isaac
 Stenson Jr., Edward
 Thomas, Keilla
 Van Berg, River
 Van Housen, Adela

Congratulations to these Kohala High School students, who made the Q1 2023 Honor Roll with a GPA of 3.5 or above:

Alejandro, Trycen-Anthony
 Ancheta AhPuck, Sheldon
 Angelo, Taniel
 Basilio, Jussaine
 Baun, RC
 Blanco, Ascher
 Bolosan, Aadyne
 Cambra, Anela
 Fernandez, Joden
 Fuertes, Camille
 Galam, Maekayela
 Godoy, Madisyn
 Heu-Mathieu, Amillio
 Ittner, Kayzen
 Jose, Jensel Merice
 Kaai, James-Conrad
 Kaitoku, Daylan
 Kauka, Layden
 Kauka, Landon
 Kawe, Terongomau awa wai
 Kuhr, Cyrus
 Kupukaa, Savannah
 Lewis, Landon
 Lum, Yvanka Leyria
 Marquez, Sydney
 Matsuda, Kenneth
 Medeiros, Jeremiah
 Millet, Ashley
 Morris, Benjamin
 Olson, Chavis
 Pascual III, Matias
 Perez, Kalea
 Perez, Lulia
 Rees, Soul

Sandlin, Jaden
 Sandlin, Julian
 Sasaki, Averie
 Secuya, Destinee
 Soriano, Adriana Jayne
 Sugse, Tatiana
 Terrell, Pela
 Valenzuela-Conte, Kailani
 Wilson, Hezekiah
 Yamamoto, Zen

Congratulations to these Kohala High School students, who earned an Honorable Mention with a GPA 3.0-3.49:

Afaga, Kristine Joy
 Amnuankhana, Ponpailin
 Ancheta DeMello, Kaleilani
 Apollo, Jennifer
 Ariola, Jered
 Ariola, Jazelle
 Artiga, Ricardo
 Barayuga, John Aaron
 Bautista, Alyssa Marie
 Bermudez, Natasha
 Bumanglag, Arianne Ysabelle
 Camara, Payton
 Cambra, Kalena
 Candaroma Jr., Marino
 Carvalho, Lilyanna
 Carvalho-Soares, Kenneth
 Carlos-Carvalho, Teygan
 Carvalho, Loryn-Rose

Carvalho-Fernandez, Mahina
 Cazimero-Bautista, Ryzen
 Ching, Kody
 Cordeiro, Faith
 Cornejo, Lluvia
 Cureg, Princes Rain
 Damasco, Barbie Def
 Dela Cruz, Zuri Anaya
 Domingo, Francis
 Drew, Nicole
 Drew, Justin
 Elmer, Adam
 Emeliano, Samuela
 Faisca, Alexander
 Ferris, Gene
 Francisco, Rhobie Kyle
 Franco, Aundrea
 Hawkins, Leah
 Hirano, Kaylee
 Hirayama, Kylea
 Hook, Jayden
 Hook, Esaias
 Howard, Liam
 Hutchinson, Kathrine
 Hutchinson, Hiro
 Incillio-Cummins, Craig
 Ishimine, Ava-Grace
 Jessop, Madelyn
 Kahalioumi, Kuokalani
 Ke-a, Chanceton
 Keliikipi, Halia
 Kobeney, Ellis
 Lactaon, Kuulei Kanani

Leitch, Ryder
 Leong, Ihilani
 Lewis, Ku upau
 Lucas, Noreen
 Luga-Benedicto, Devin
 Lum Won, Nahiku
 Mackillop, Solomon
 Manantan, Jordan
 Marquez, Kalia
 Medeiros, Harmonie
 Morris, Dillan
 Murai, Zanaiah
 Murry, Dante
 Oandasan, Dillon
 Ontiveros, Mari
 Pagala, Sarah Lynnell
 Parks, Leo
 Pascual, Tyler
 Perez-Neves, Ryson
 Pine-Ramos, Liana
 Polelia, Isaiiah
 Prentice, Jean Luke
 Quidang Parayno, Elijah
 Roxburgh, Uriah
 Salvador, Mary Joy
 Stevens, Stacenwayne
 Suetos, Gabriel Timothy
 Tabiolo, Royden
 Terry, Kiara
 Valdez, Erinielle Irish
 Viernes, Alston Hezekiah
 Walsh, Kirah
 Yee, Teyla-Rose

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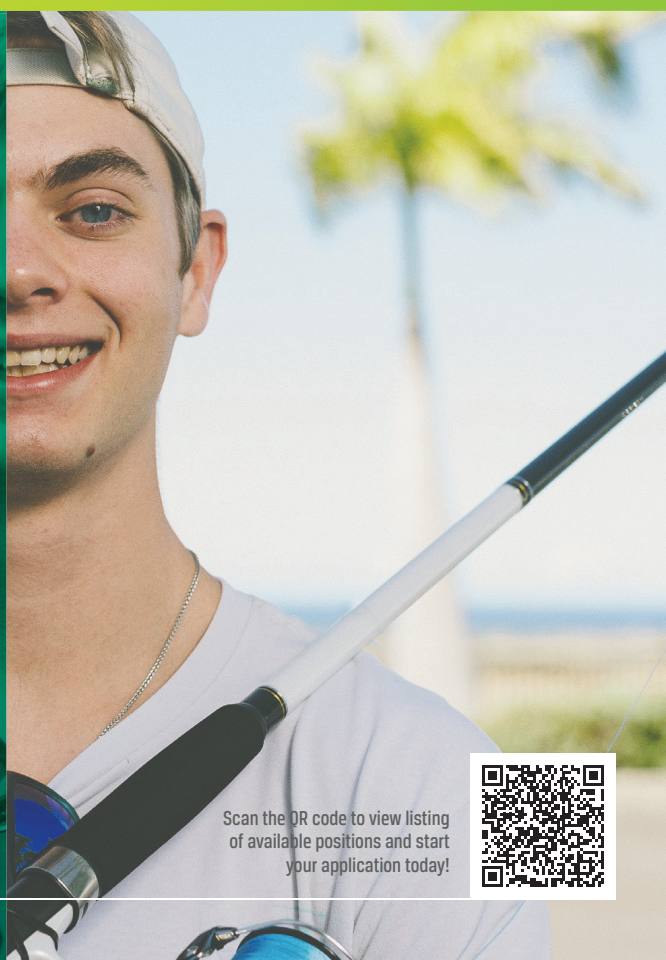
— Connor Moss

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