

Vol. 23, No. 01

About Kohala, For Kohala

January 26, 2024

## No Place Like Home

By Nicole Gomes

What if the arts were a bigger part of community life? Would the outcome be healthier people and healthier societies? This is the question at the heart of One Nation One Project, a national arts and health initiative lead by a team of experts with the goal of leveraging the power of the arts to strengthen the social fabric in our nation and heal our communities. I have been selected, as a Kohala-born artist, to help answer these questions about the place we live in a national effort to speak from here, Kohala. Your help with this project will aid in defining our community.

Eighteen sites have been selected across the United States to take part in the project, each responding in their own way to the prompt "No Place Like Home". Two sites have been selected in the state of Hawaii – one based in Honolulu, the other in here on Hawaii Island. Led by Vibrant Hawaii, 11 artists have been selected across Hawaii Island to return to their respective communities and lead participatory artworks. The results will be as diverse as the artists themselves, who range from writers, musicians and actors to Hawaiian cultural practitioners, painters and woodworkers like me. What will unify this diversity is the theme "No Place Like Home."

All sites will simultaneously

present their work on July 27, 2024, as a celebration of unity through diversity. As a lifelong resident of North Kohala and participant in this project, I turn to the Kohala community and humbly ask all of you to think about what it is that makes Kohala "Kohala." What makes Kohala feel like home? Or not? We all want to keep Kohala "Kohala," and we need to further define what that is. To answer this question, I invite all of you to respond to these prompts with one or two words or even a drawing:

Kohala smells like...

Kohala tastes like...

Kohala sounds like...

Kohala feels like...

Kohala looks like...

With the help of the community, I will be designing a quilt based on your responses. This quilt will be made with many hands, hands of Kohala. All of you are invited to help regardless of skill level. More information on that is to come. For now, please respond by February 29 via email to [nicolekeola@gmail.com](mailto:nicolekeola@gmail.com), mail to P.O. Box 190628, Hawi, HI 96719, or text to 808-238-2178. You may remain anonymous if you are not comfortable with sharing your name. To learn more about One Nation One Project, please visit [onenationoneproject.com](http://onenationoneproject.com) or Arts for EveryBody at [www.artsforeverybody.org](http://www.artsforeverybody.org).

## Santa Comes to Nakahara Store



Photo by Tom Morse

Although the store had already been shuttered, on December 21 Santa made a visit to Nakahara Store, just as he has done every year since 1951.

## Hawai'i Land Trust Opens Māhukona Talk Story on the Land Hikes and Volunteer Days

Hawai'i Land Trust (HILT) has opened its first Talk Story on the Land hikes and Volunteer Days at the Mahukona Navigational & Ecological Complex.

HILT, in partnership with the nonprofit Nā Kālai Wa'a; Federal, State and County agencies; and the Kohala community; announced in December that it had closed on its largest-ever purchase, permanently protecting 642 acres at Māhukona. HILT seeks to raise \$1.14 million to complete its capital campaign to support immediate and ongoing needs at Māhukona.

### "Talk Story on the Land" Hikes

Join HILT for a guided cultural hike and longer service opportunity. Learn about Māhukona's cultural significance and explore sites tied to sustenance for early Hawaiians.

Participants can also join in native seed collection, invasive species removal, native planting, fire safety measures and kilo (observation and documenting changes over

time).

Talk Story on the Land hikes will take place quarterly, falling on March 2, June 1, September 7, and December 7 in 2024. Hikes will be 2 to 3 hours long. Additional information is available at [www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land](http://www.hilt.org/talk-story-on-the-land). Registration links will be available one month before the hike date.

### Volunteer Days

Starting February 18, Volunteer Days will be offered the third Sunday of each month. Registration and a waiver are available at [www.hilt.org/volunteer](http://www.hilt.org/volunteer). Volunteers will help manage invasive plants, restore native plants, and conduct basic maintenance in existing gardens and sites. Work is flexible depending on volunteer interest and capabilities.

All participants are required to wear closed-toed shoes and bring water to all HILT Talk Story on the Land hikes and Volunteer Days. Long sleeves, sunscreen, and a hat are also highly recommended.

## Kohala Real Estate Market – 2023 Review –

By Beth Thoma Robinson R(B)

### Kohala Residential Real Estate – Low Inventory, Fewer Sales, High Prices

In my review of 2022 published a year ago, I predicted that 2023 would look much like the second half of 2022. My predictions turned out to be a good summary of 2023:

There is still significant demand for Kohala homes at all price points, and with limited housing stock and very little new construction, homes prices held steady.

For sellers, homes took slightly longer to sell, but still less time than historically. Homes priced in line with recent sales sold faster than those with ambitious price expectations.

With so many homes sold to new residents, the rental market continued to be tight and rents high.

The Kohala market mirrored national and statewide real estate

trends for 2023, with low inventory of homes for sale and stable prices despite the increase in mortgage interest rates.

The number of sales in Kohala climbed from 65 homes in 2020 to a record-breaking 75 homes sold in 2021. In 2022 there were only 54 sales, as so many properties had changed hands in the previous two years. In 2023, there were still buyers looking, but fewer properties on the market resulting in only 33 sales.

In summary:

Thirty three homes sold in 2023 in Kohala, compared with 54 homes in 2022.

The lowest priced homes sold for \$ 500,000. This is a record high for the "lowest" priced home, meaning even our plantation-era homes are no longer affordable for most local and first time buyers.

See, Real Estate Page 2

Kohala Mountain News

Box 639

Kapa'au, HI 96755

ECWSS  
POSTAL CUSTOMER





Real Estate, from Page 1

The highest price sale was \$ 3,900,000 for a newer contemporary styled home on 20 acres in the Puuepa (Lincoln Avenue makai) gated subdivision.

The median home sale price rose from \$511,250 in 2019 to \$577,000 in 2020 to \$605,000 in 2021 to \$777,375 in 2022 to \$837,000 in 2023. That median price was for a home with 1,680 sq ft on a small CPR lot of 9,375 sq ft in Alalae.

There are currently 22 homes for sale in Kohala, a slight increase in inventory. The least expensive is \$319,900 for a foreclosure that will require a cash buyer. The most expensive is \$4,495,000 for two parcels totaling 141 acres, with farm equipment and a home intended as a farm manager cottage; this was also the highest priced listing at this time last year.

**Land Sales Also Decline in 2023**

Last year I wrote that whereas the Kohala residential real estate market frenzy began in 2020, the rush did not spill over into vacant land until 2021, as buyers who could not find a suitable home for sale switched to the idea of buying land to build. My prediction was that the market would be constrained by lack of inventory (supply of lots for sale) in 2023, much as what we saw to be the case in the residential market.

That turned out to be accurate. There were 12 reported sales of vacant land in Kohala in 2023, compared with 27 sales of land in 2022. Two of those were conservation sales, and another two significant properties also went into conservation, making that the real story and good news for 2023.

Four sales were of smaller properties:

A 10,000 sq ft residential lot in the Hanaula Village project sold for \$350,000. Last year, a similar lot sold for \$230,000, consistent with prior sales over many years.

The lowest priced sale was a 1.41-acre lot in Makapāla, a buildable but overgrown lot sold before print for \$315,000.

A half-acre lot on Kynnersley received multiple offers and sold for the \$400,000 asking price.

A 4-acre parcel along Hāwī Road sold for \$770,000, very close to asking price.

Six sales were of larger ag-zoned parcels – one at Puakea Bay Ranch;

two at Kaiholena; and three, ranging from 20–55 acres, along Kynnersley Road at prices ranging from \$775,000 to \$1,500,000.

Only one lot sold at Puakea Bay Ranch, compared with five lots in 2022. Prices held steady at \$450,000 for a 10-acre lot.

Both lots that had been listed for over a year in the off-grid Kaiholena subdivision finally sold. Prices were \$750,000 and \$825,000.

**Conservation Sales Fulfill Most of 2008 NKCDP Priority Goals**

There were four significant conservation sales in North Kohala in 2023. With the closing of the 50-acre Halelua property connecting Kauhola Point (owned by Maika'i Ka Makani o Kohala) to Hapu'u Bay, and the remaining parcel in the stretch from Hapu'u to Kapanaia Bay, all these shoreline parcels are now owned by the County of Hawai'i and protected from any future sale or development.

Along the Leeward Coast, the Lamaloloa property that had been advertised as a "development opportunity" was purchased by the National Park Service for conservation, and Hawai'i Land Trust completed its purchase of Māhukona, capping years of community efforts for its protection.

Among the current active land listings in Kohala, the Kukuipahu oceanfront properties have been ranked high on the PONC priority list since 2014. There is still work to be done in protecting Kohala's shoreline and mauka resources.

**Forecast for 2024**

– Not Much Change in the Real Estate Market

In looking at the year ahead, it appears 2024 will look similar to 2023, with a few differences.

As I wrote a year ago, "Real estate markets are cyclical but not all cycles are alike."

The first factor supporting continued lack of inventory is a national trend. Unlike the previous cycle that ended with a precipitous crash in late 2008 and found many homeowners underwater with mortgages they could not afford, now we see homeowners who "cannot afford to move." In other words, having locked in a three or four percent interest rate, an owner who needs to finance their new purchase is looking at an interest rate and mortgage in some cases twice their current one!

So, interest rates cycles have created an inventory shortage this time, rather than a glut of homes for sale.

The second factor supporting continued lack of inventory is the wrong prediction that many people who bought in Hawai'i during the pandemic would leave after two years. So far we have not seen that. There is a limited profit-taking, and a few people needing to move back for their jobs – but no more so than in any "normal" year.

There is still significant demand for Kohala homes at all price points, and with limited housing stock and very little new construction, homes prices are unlikely to drop significantly. Interest rate fluctuations have proven to have only a modest effect on sales, mostly at the very low end. For sellers, homes are taking longer to sell than they did two years ago, but still much less time than the norm in the 14 years I have tracked the market. As mentioned last year, homes priced in line with recent sales sell faster than those with ambitious price expectations. But that is true in any market.

Rental inventory will also continue to be tight and rents high. New County proposals to regulate short term vacation rentals may free up some units for the long term rental market in late 2024 and beyond.

It continues to be a very difficult time for local buyers in need of housing, whether for rental or purchase.

If you fall into this category and have not yet completed the Affordable Housing Survey, please go to the website [HomesForKohala.org](https://HomesForKohala.org) to do so. Documenting the need will assist our efforts to provide longer term solutions for Kohala people.

NKCDP AGENDA

MEETING TIME: Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Senior Center (behind the statue), Kapa`au

AGENDA  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**  
Kohala residents are encouraged to attend and voice their opinion on issues. They may even recommend actions and suggest subjects not presently addressed.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**PUBLIC INPUT AND AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

KOHALA ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE  
PRESENTS

METAMORPHOSIS

ORIGINAL WATERCOLORS  
BY CATHERINE ROTSTEIN



KOHALA ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE, KAPA'AU, HI

FEBRUARY 3RD - 29TH

JOIN & ENJOY ORIGINAL ART BY LOCAL ARTSIT CATHERINE ROTSTEIN

OPENING NIGHT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD 6PM - 8PM



Aikane

Hawi, North Kohala, Big Island, Hawaii







808-430-8198

aikanenursery.com

Contractor CT-35671, Isa Certified Arborist - Brandon Belmarez WE-12585A

MAINTENANCE

NURSERY

LANDSCAPING

TREE WORK

CHIPPING

IRRIGATION

FENCING

TRUCKING

ROAD WORK

...AND MORE



## NKCDP Advisory Group

During November and December of 2023, the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) Advisory Group (AG) prioritized Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) requests from the NKCDP list of Strategies to be considered for funding by the County for 2024-5.

In early January, John Winter, AG Chair, then sent the top five priorities on to the Director of Planning. Prioritization has been based on a combination of need and cost-effectiveness (i.e., what is needed and what is doable). These projects are:

- 1. Rebuilding the Māhukona Beach Park pavilion and restrooms.**

The historic pavilion at this heavily used park was condemned as unsafe in 2019. Both the Department of Parks and Recreation and the mayor’s office gave assurances that rebuilding the Māhukona pavilion was a top priority and yet, FOUR years later, it remains abandoned and as it was in 2019.

Any replacement must be moved mauka to conform to modern sea-level-rise criteria. The AG sees no reason that renovation and restructuring of the park and new pavilion cannot proceed while we wait for the condemned pavilion to be addressed (which has been delayed by hazardous materials and historical preservation issues).

The AG urged the County to act

- upon its promised priorities.
- 2. Improvements to Ikuo Hisaoka gymnasium in Kamehameha Park.**

This structure is not only a heavily used recreational facility, but also a meeting place for myriad events and our emergency shelter. At his Kohala Town Hall meeting this year, Mayor Roth affirmed the need to address roof leaks, air circulation and bannisters in the bleachers, suggesting they be efficiently combined into a single project.

The AG requested that a CIP be generated and funded to that effect.

- 3. Rescue of the Old Courthouse, now the Senior Center, behind the statue of King Kamehameha in Kapa’au.**

This is another historical building that, like the Māhukona pavilion, is falling into disrepair.

Serious structural problems are evident in the foundation and elsewhere in this heavily used building and it too may one day be condemned and sit in limbo for years.

The AG urged the County to abandon deferred maintenance of this precious building and fix it before it is too late.

- 4. A greenwaste facility.**

Thanks to its soil and rainfall, North Kohala is a significant agricultural area and produces considerable green “waste.”

Because there is no separate

- facility here, all greenwaste, which constitutes over half of what is presently put in the single transfer station chute, is thrown into the landfill. A greenwaste chute here solves two important problems: the availability of mulch in Kohala and reducing the volume of the West Hawaii Landfill.
- 5. Improvements to Kapa’a Beach Park.**

This is another heavily used Kohala beach park with an old pavilion, failed electrical connection, dilapidated restroom facilities and a picnic area in need of repair.

- 6. Repair/replacement of leaking plantation-era Kohala water lines.**

Several of these lines leak considerably, at times to the extent that service is interrupted to many Kohala residents.

The most serious-impact and repeatedly ruptured lines should be replaced as soon as possible and a program to replace others should be implemented.

Prioritization of North Kohala funding requests from the NKCDP AG is intended to inform the County as they consider how to spend funds next fiscal year, which will begin July 1. It is to inform them of which issues are valued by Kohala residents. It will hopefully add weight to these issues and improve their chances of being implemented.

## Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Members

*By Dixie Adams*

The Kohala Hospital Auxiliary was started in 1980 with the primary mission to promote and advance the welfare of the Kohala Hospital and its patients through ways and means approved or proposed by the administration of the Hospital.

Many things have changed over the years. The Auxiliary no longer has fundraisers or collects dues. The membership is much smaller and the Kohala Hospital now relies on the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation for many of its needs.

The Auxiliary was a vital organization in the past and did many fundraisers, such as the “Spaghetti Dinner,” when the entire Kohala community participated and, more recently, Krispy Kreme donut sales.

The Auxiliary board has made a decision to dissolve Auxiliary and combine with the Kohala Hospital Charitable Foundation. A separate account will be set up for the balance of the funds and will be used for scholarships for Kohala students that wish to go into the medical field. The scholarships can also be used for Kohala Hospital staff who would like to advance in their profession. The Kohala Hospital Auxiliary board will be scholarship advisors. The Kohala Hospital Auxiliary Board would like to thank all our faithful Auxiliary members and the support from the community all these many years.

OREO  
FAMILY SIZE  
12.08-18.70Z

~~\$7.99~~ 2/\$9

JIF PEANUT  
BUTTER  
160Z

~~\$4.99~~ \$2.99

EED WHOLE  
CORN OR CREAM  
STYLE 14.750Z

~~\$1.99~~ \$1.19

MEADOW GOLD  
SANDWICH ICE  
CREAM 6PK

~~\$4.99~~ \$3.49

FRANKS FOODS  
KALUA PORK  
1LB

~~\$10.59~~ \$6.89

NUTELLA  
HAZELNUT  
SPREAD 13 OZ

~~\$6.49~~ \$3.99

HEFTY  
FOAM PLATES  
45 CT

~~\$6.59~~ \$2.89

LIBBYS  
CORNEED BEEF  
HASH 15 OZ

~~\$4.19~~ \$2.99

SWISS MISS  
HOT COCOA  
8CT

~~\$4.79~~ \$2.99

AMANO  
IMITATION  
CRABMEAT 10 OZ

~~\$4.89~~ \$3.39

Takata

STORE

“Always leave with a Smile”

HOT DEALS FOR 1/31/24 - 2/13/24

OPEN:

MON TO SAT 8AM - 7PM

SUNDAY 8AM - 1PM

(808) 889-5413



Nourishing Neighbors



The Kama'aina Community Fruit Stand.

Story and photo by Keely Rochon

Once upon a time, nestled in the heart of the lush Hawaiian countryside, at the intersection of Akoni Pule Highway and Kapa-naia Road on The Big Island, there stood a small, humble fruit stand, its white wood adorned with vibrantly painted tropical flora and surrounded by wild Hawaiian grasses. It was a place of community, through which the spirit of aloha both lived and gave life. The Kama'aina Community Fruit Stand was a place like no other; for, in a world rife with division and selfish motives, this tiny-but-mighty structure brought neighbors together to share in the over-abundance of their respective lands' fruitfulness.

While this, indeed, sounds like something out of a fairytale - from long ago and in a faraway land - the Kama'aina Fruit Stand actually exists here and now, a beacon of the sweet and colorful generosity cultivated in one Kapa'au neighborhood. The stand is alive and present, and open to all who wish to experience its charm.

In the mornings, as the sun paints the sky in hues of tropical orange and pink, you might see locals swinging by to drop off baskets overflowing with their bounty. Throughout the day, both locals and tourists' journey to the fruit stand to see what treasures have been left for collection. And, in the waning light of each evening, you'll likely find

Lynn Huchinson, who volunteers her time every day to check on the stand and collect money from the donation box. She then distributes the money to the original fruit-bearers by either Venmo or in cash.

Oranges, tangerines, lemons, lilikoi, rambutan, mangos, avocados and bananas are just a few of the delicious gifts that fill the shelves of the stand. And the community members involved in the stand's inception and growth have no plans to stop at fruit.

Already, mangoes have been exchanged for home-grown meat, and soon, fresh chicken eggs will be added into the selection of shared

goods.

The concept is simple yet profound. Neighbors leave their excess fruit at the stand, knowing that others will benefit from their overgrowth; it is a beautiful cycle of giving and receiving, where a small amount of money changes hands, but where the most valuable currency flows in the form of kindness and gratitude.

The fruit stand is quickly becoming a symbol of unity, and a testament to the power of community. Where this amazing tropical fruit grows, so too grow the bonds of friendship and support between neighbors in Kapa'au.



**BLUE DRAGON TAVERN & COSMIC MUSIQUARIUM**  
Presents the Big Island's best live music & entertainment accompanied by a dinner menu & full craft bar  
To make reservations purchase tickets online at [BlueDragonTavern.com](https://www.BlueDragonTavern.com)



**FEB 2024 LINE UP**

2/1...THU.....TOMI ISOBE	2/16..FRI.....BAD PAPA
2/2...FRI.....NEW JERUSALEM	2/17..SAT.....FUEGO
2/3...SAT.....WHATEVER HEATHER	2/18..SUN.....MISTER PEANUT BUTTER
2/4...SUN.....MATEO BELMAREZ & WEATHER PERMITTING	
2/8...THU.....JOHNNY SHOT	2/22..THU.....STEELY DEAD
2/9...FRI.....JOHNNIE NESS	2/23..FRI.....MS DEMEANOR
2/10..SAT.....UNCLE CHARLIE	2/24..SAT.....DJ JENESIS
2/11..SUN.....JOHN KEAWE	2/25..SUN.....BROTHER NOLAN
2/14..WED.....HAPA	2/29..THU.....GREG SHIRLEY'S BIG SWING MARCH
2/15..THU.....THE COURETTES	3/1...FRI.....TBD
	3/2...SAT.....FOGGY MOUNTAIN SPACESHIP

**Tacos**

Two pack: 16    Three Pack: 21

Served with housemade chips and organic black beans

- Sub in fries or salad for +2
- Sub tortilla for cheese shell +2

**\*\*Fish Tacos:** Fresh catch lightly seasoned and pan seared with cabbage slaw, cilantro-lime aioli and mango salsa **\*\***

**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:** ½ 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**

Served stacked on fries or wrapped in a giant tortilla with our housemade chips and black beans.

**\*\*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

**\*\*Also, DUh we have to say that; Consuming raw or uncooked seafood may increase your risk of foodborne illness**

**SECRET PHRASE: Feed me tacos and tell me I'm pretty**

**Ono Grindz**

**\*\*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
Extra Aioli.....	1
Avo Mayo.....	1

**Gill's LANAI**

**Olu Olu Mai O'e**

We make all our own sauces, salsas, and spreads from scratch using the freshest ingredients we can find that are always non-gmo and organic and local whenever possible. We don't use canola, peanut or other crud seed oils here in ANYTHING, including our fries. Nope nope nope. **We only use local grass-fed beef tallow, Ghee, coconut or avocado oil.** Dairy Free? Egg Free? Vegan? Let us know and we'll give you some options!

**Tuesday - Saturday 11-7:30**

**808.315.1542**

54-3866 Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapaau, HI 96755

**February Daily discounts for Kama'aina.**

**WHISPER the secret phrase to unlock your 20% discount!**

**LIVE MUSIC FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT ON OUR LANAI** starting at 4:30pm

We offer special discounts to Born and Raised Kohala Residents, Farmers, Teachers, booster card holders and anyone that can do a Kickflip.

**SECRET PHRASE: Feed me tacos and tell me I'm pretty**



## Letters

### Peaceful Walk Turns Into A Nightmare

On January 5, on a peaceful walk makai of 'Ūpolu Airport with my 22-pound dog Buddy on a leash, I noticed two women approaching, appearing to leash their dogs. As we walked by, I saw they had no leashes! The large pit bull-mix dog viciously attacked Buddy, puncturing his rectum and back. Stumbling as I held on to Buddy's leash, I managed to get us away while the owner tried to hold the attacking dog by its collar while the smaller dog was barking and charging towards us. Terrified, traumatized, bleeding and continually looking back to make sure the dogs weren't coming after us, we somehow made it to a place where a friend could rescue us and take us to a vet. I'm hopeful Buddy, injured and in pain, will recover.

I don't know who the women are. My response to, "He's never done that before," is "There's always a first time." I don't expect them to come forward to help with the mounting vet bills, but I hope they've learned something!

Mahalo to responsible pet owners I encounter who don't turn our peaceful walks into a nightmare.

Sandie Rossi

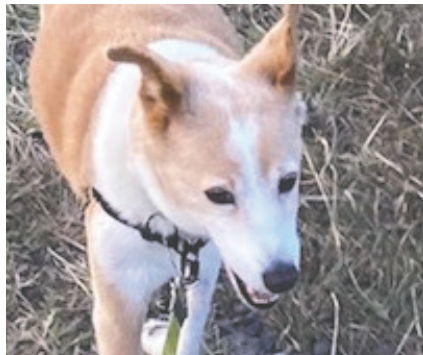


Photo by Sandie Rossi  
Buddy.

From the Hawaii Police Department

Section 4-29. Leash required for public places. No person shall bring or permit any dog in any Public accessible places, County park, public school ground, or airport unless it is held under control by

a suitable leash, not more than six feet long; provided, however, that dogs even under control by a suitable leash shall not be allowed in any County beach park.

Section 4-31. Regulation of dangerous dogs; prohibited acts; conditions on owner; penalties. (a) A dog owner commits the offense of negligent failure to control a dangerous dog, if the person negligently fails to take reasonable measures to prevent the dog from attacking, without provocation, a person or animal and such attack results in:

(1) The maiming or causing of serious injury to or the destruction of an animal; or

(2) Bodily injury to a person. A person convicted under this subsection shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Just a reminder to all dog owners that your dog needs to be leashed as according to the law.

Respectfully,  
Dayton Tagaca  
North Kohala Community Police Officer

## 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.

### 'Aha hui Pūnohu 'Ula o Kohala Nā Kūpuna Council

By Kupuna Gale Ku'uleialoha Perez

The 'Aha hui Pūnohu 'Ula o Kohala Nā Kūpuna Council of Kohala was started sometime in 2017. The meaning of this name is "bridging the past to the future." The meaning is understood by those to whom it was given. It was given by more than one kupuna (elder) and kumu.

Ancient burials in Kohala are the ancestors of the kanaka maoli (people of the bloodline) from here. Our ancestors are not just bones. To some people they are just bones, but we who understand the spiritual side believe the bones still have the mana (divine power).

In the 1980s and 90s, my husband and I were actively involved with the island-wide Kūpuna Council. We traveled from the north to the south, east and west sides of the island to learn from the knowledge of the kūpuna in the Council, learning about our sovereign rights and more from those who were leading the way. We were young parents at that time. The last kupuna heading that council was Uncle Sonny Paalua of Kohala, a memorable uncle we visited many times for his knowledge and thoughts. He has passed now, more than a few years ago. What an amazing, memorable journey for us.

Our kuleana (responsibility) for our ancestral burial sites started first by knowing where we came from and who our ancestors were. We've had 30-plus years of genealogical research and journeys while visiting family here and on other islands. We took up the kuleana of

protecting our ancient burials when the name of our ancestor was submitted in the Notice section of the newspaper by a land developer who wanted to build on the land where ancient burials exists. A developer must follow the rules of ancient burials by notifying the families of that burial on the property, especially when doing huge projects. So began our journey to speak on our tutu's behalf.

We experienced the importance of stepping up to claim our ancestors' burials to protect them from removal or, worse, desecration. After that walk for more than a few years, as we are now ourselves kūpuna, we decided to focus on Kohala, where many of our ancestors are buried and many times are at risk.

We started a grassroots kūpuna council in this community. I asked the kumu (teachers) of halau and the Hawaiian language, also kāhuna of Hawaiian medicine. I also asked genealogists of Kohala, those who hold the 'ōlelo (stories) of our past, about the stories that were passed down by our kūpuna who lived many generations before us. Those kumu learned the language and gathered the history that was written by ancestors to be saved in the archives for many generations.

Families have also kept the stories passed down generation to generation from their kūpuna. We have people who still have the ancient knowledge. They possess ancient insight, seeing and hearing beyond the natural eyes and ears. They receive ancient knowledge of their

ancestors – awareness and recognition by sensory perception, visions and dreams – even communicating to and with the ancestors' burials. We have kanaka maoli born with gifts to guide us into doing what is best for the burials. They ask the ancestors and they tell us what they want.

I and more than a few of us are standing in this Council as a voice for our ancestors and for the future education of the younger generations to carry on the kuleana. There are many more kuleana in addition to protecting burials for those who are called and connected to do so. We welcome the kokua (help, helpers) of those who stand with us in supporting the kanaka maoli descendants in keeping Kohala as it is: a unique place with the mana of our ancestors.

If you are a TMK owner and you come across one or more burials on the property, it is very important that you immediately know what to do. We would be happy to provide you information.

We are working together with others in the Kohala community, combining our efforts to not only keep Kohala Kohala for the future of our descendants and community people, but to preserve the rich history of this place beyond the plantation days. We wish to educate our descendants and community about the value of our true history of Kohala's past so we can move forward wisely and not lose the mana of this place. You may contact me at 808-493-2154 or perez.kuulei@yahoo.com. Mahalo.

### Future KMN Deadlines

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

**February Deadlines**  
Ads and News: 2/9/24  
Calendar: 2/16/24  
Distribution: 2/23/24

**March Deadlines**  
Ads and News: 1/8/24  
Calendar: 1/15/24  
Distribution: 1/22/24

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

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

#### ABOUT US

**Publisher/Ad Sales Manager**  
Tom Morse ☎ 345-0706  
[ltmorse@aol.com](mailto:ltmorse@aol.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Maureen Garry ☎ 494-4237  
[kohalanewseditor@gmail.com](mailto:kohalanewseditor@gmail.com)

**Layout & Calendar Editor**  
Annalene Williams ☎ 339-4951  
[kohalacalendar@gmail.com](mailto:kohalacalendar@gmail.com)

**Bookkeeper**  
Jill Kupitz ☎ 896-2332  
[jillkupitz@gmail.com](mailto:jillkupitz@gmail.com)

#### January Contributors

Dixie Adams, Jason Armstrong, Lani Bowman, Jeffrey Coakley, Cindy Evans, Barbara Garcia, Nicole Keola Gomes, Vicki Kometani, Tom Morse, Wendy Noritake, North Kohala Community Resource Center, Gale Ku'uleialoha Perez, Beth Thoma Robinson, Cheryl Rocha, Keely Rochon, Sandie Rossi, Jennifer Sudick, David Tarnas, Tong Wo Society, Ma'ata Tukuafu, Lynda Wallach, John Winter

#### Current Circulation 4,000

**Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must address issues affecting North Kohala and be accompanied by the author's name, address and telephone number. Letters and Viewpoints are subject to editing, and shorter submissions will receive preference for publication.**

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

All material, either in part or in whole, is protected under U.S. copyright laws. ©2023.

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



Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 7 Representative David Tarnas

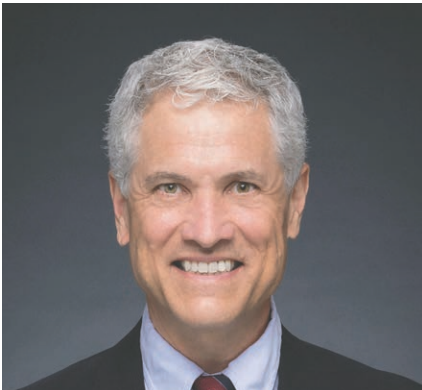


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas  
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Aloha and Happy New Year. I wish you and your families a happy and healthy 2024.

As we usher in this next legislative session, I would like to share an update on the work of our interim working groups. In response to the wildfires that continue to threaten our community, the State House of Representatives established six legislative working groups to work during the past six months on major topics related to these wildfires, conduct research, and have public hearings to listen to experts and residents, and to develop reports with recommendations for legislative action. These working groups include:

- Environmental Remediation Working Group
- Food, Water, and other Supplies Working Group
- Jobs and Business Working Group
- Schools Working Group
- Shelter Working Group
- Wildfire Prevention Working Group

Because of my experience as an environmental planner and former Chair of the Water and Land Committee, I served as a member of the Wildfire Prevention Working Group. The legislative update I wrote last month provided a summary of the findings of this working group. This month's article provides a summary of its recommendations. For more details, please go to the Hawai'i legislative website, [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov), and navigate to the State House special commit-

tee section to access the documents related to the Wildfire Working Groups.

The Wildfire Prevention Working Group report offered numerous recommendations in seven main topic areas: (1) Reducing Ignitions, (2) Reducing Fuel Loads, (3) Community Engagement, (4) Protecting Communities, (5) Wildfire Suppression, (6) Post-Fire Response, and (7) Wildfire Research. I will highlight some of these recommendations here.

**Reducing Ignitions:**

- Create a public awareness campaign about preventing ignitions.
- Increase criminal penalties for arson during red flag warnings.
- Increase monetary penalties for violations of the State and County Fire Code.
- Establish statewide limitations on consumer fireworks, except by permit for cultural events.
- Develop best practices for downed power lines and electrical power supplies during times of possible ignition.
- Promote strategic undergrounding of utility lines in priority fire hazard risk areas.

**Reducing Fuel Loads:**

- Provide additional resources, incentives, and policies to encourage mitigation actions where land use is changing.
- Require the creation and maintenance of "defensive space" by both public and private landowners with proactive enforcement.
- Preparedness planning, infrastructure improvements, and reducing fuels to increase the safety and effectiveness of firefighting efforts.
- Support large-scale green waste processing or composting to help landowners who want to reduce fuels.
- Create incentives for managed grazing as a fuel reduction tool.

**Community Engagement:**

- Encourage the establishment of Firewise Communities to adapt communities to living with wild-fire.
- Support the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans across the state.
- Modify existing emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation plans to incorporate Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

- Seek permanent funding for community programs, landowner wildfire education and technical support, and multi-partner wildfire risk reduction planning.

**Protecting Communities:**

- Develop an inventory of best practices for planning, zoning, development review, and code enforcement to address and reduce wildfire hazards and risks.
- Work with the PUC and the State Energy Office to develop best practices and laws regarding electrical infrastructure and power lines.
- Update building standards to better protect structures against wildfires.
- Incorporate fire hazard mitigation standards for community planning, design, and engineering, such as wildfire-safe subdivision designs, defensible space around homes and communities, adequate emergency access, fire roads, and water infrastructure.
- Develop recommendations for how residents can modify existing structures to make them safer.
- Create tax and insurance incentives for wildfire-safe structures.
- Disincentivize land banking through increased taxation of lands not being used for public purposes or managed through an appropriate conservation plan.
- Consider the creation of a State Fire Marshal.
- Expand the network of HIEMA

sirens and increase capacity with new technology as it becomes available.

**Wildfire Suppression:**

- Increase response capacity by state and county personnel.
- Create volunteer fire departments in rural and remote areas where fire response is limited.
- Support setting a state staffing standard, ensuring all county fire companies maintain staffing levels that, at a minimum, meet the national standard.
- Maintain and update wildfire-specific equipment and wildfire-suppression infrastructure statewide.

**Post-Fire Response:**

- Provide resources for post-fire rehabilitation efforts, such as erosion control, long-term forest restoration, planting native species where possible, and suppressing and removing weeds.
- Develop greater local capacity and resources for post-fire assessments to minimize future harm to people, property, or natural resources.

**Wildfire Research:**

- Water resources assessment to better understand the availability of water resources for fire suppression and prevention/mitigation efforts.
- Evaluate the need for a seed bank and/or nursery to deliver

See HI Rep Update , Page 7



## Kohala Dental Center

Your smile is our top priority

- New Patient Exams • Teeth Whitening
- Crowns & Bridges • Full/Partial Dentures
- Veneers • Composite Fillings • Implants
- Root Canal Therapy • Wisdom Teeth

Welcoming New Patients  
Call us today to request an appointment  
[kohaladental.com](http://kohaladental.com)  
**808-889-6277**



## KAPA'AU VETERINARY CENTER

SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE  
DENTAL - SURGERY - X-RAY

# 889-5488

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 8:30 - 5:30 Wed, Sat 8:30 - 1:00  
[www.kapaauveterinarycenter.com](http://www.kapaauveterinarycenter.com)





## Come in and try our Aloha Cuba sandwich

Please call for a reservation  
**889-5555**





County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Cindy Evans

Aloha,

This month the topic is electrical vehicle (EV) charging stations. I have asked the County Director of Research and Development to testify to the County Council on February 6 about federal funding for deployment of EV Charging Stations. One such government program is directed at Hawai'i State Department of Transportation. The goal would be to receive federal dollars to designate Alternative Fuel Corridors and build out a convenient, affordable, reliable and equitable public charging network along state highways.

Recently, I spoke to an individual who has owned several electric

vehicles. My takeaway is you need to be prepared and plan ahead. He said it is important to know the distance you can drive on the battery and know where the charging stations are located. Plus, you may want to contact tow truck operators to determine if they have mobile EV battery charger.

In keeping with the goal of 100 percent renewable energy and addressing the emerging demand for EV charging stations, the County is looking at current and proposed State initiatives that will provide incentives for installations on private property and at strategic locations. Our State is behind in meeting estimated demand.



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

We must also consider the maintenance and repair of existing stations and understand there is the challenge with having the right nozzle to connect to the EV charging station. I will be asking who is trained to maintain and respond to broken EV charging stations? What is the right location? Depending on the type of charging station, it could take 30 minutes to 2 hours to charge. Therefore, we must consider public safety and having a place to wait, especially if there are vehicles waiting for a charging station.

The County is being proactive and will plan, support implementation, and monitor. I do not drive an electric vehicle but know there are problems that must be addressed. If you wish to share your story or offer suggestions, please write me at [cindy.evans@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cindy.evans@hawaiicounty.gov). Take care. Be safe on our roads.

**HI Rep Update, from Page 6**

seeds and seedlings to public and private landowners whose properties are affected by wildfires.

- Evaluate the use of "green" firebreaks created through strategic planting of water-rich, fire-resistant native species that help halt the spread of wildfires.
- Fire assessment/mapping to determine areas of high risk to help prioritize mitigation and prevention efforts. Conduct research on the impacts of wildfire risk from the effects of climate change, such as drought and hurricanes.

- Examine other ecosystem benefits of wildfire mitigation actions and their use as practical incentives for promoting better land use practices.

The next step is for the legislature to prepare bills to implement these recommendations that will be considered in the 2024 session. Your input in the legislative process is very important. Please contact my office at 808-586-8510 or email me at [reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov). You can also subscribe to my regular e-newsletter by going to [bit.ly/reptarnas-signup](https://bit.ly/reptarnas-signup). Mahalo!

**H. Arakaki Store, Inc**

• Groceries • General Merchandise • Fishing & Diving Supplies  
• Fresh Flowers & Arrangements • Hawaiiana

Monday - Saturday 8 to 7, Sunday 9 to 5  
Across from the Middle School in Halaula • 889-5262

**COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Pololū Trailhead Management Plan**

The State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and their consultant, Townscape, is developing a Draft Plan for the Pololū Trailhead based on extensive consultations with individuals from the North Kohala community. The Draft Plan will include background information on Pololū, a detailed summary of the issues and concerns in the valley and at the Trailhead, and alternative scenarios for the Trailhead that aim to mitigate the issues raised by the community.

Townscape will be hosting a community meeting to present the Draft Plan to the community and to gather feedback. The Draft Plan will be available for review on the project website in late January. Please see website info and QR code below.

**IN-PERSON**  
**Tuesday January 30, 2024**  
**5:00 - 7:00 PM**  
**Kohala Intergenerational Center**  
54-382 Kamehameha Park Rd.  
Kapaau, HI 96755

**VIRTUAL**  
**Tuesday February 6, 2024**  
**5:00 - 6:30 PM**  
Log on at: **zoom.com**  
Meeting ID: 817 0530 4792  
Password: pololu  
Dial-in: (346) 248-7799 (Audio only)  
Meeting ID: 817 0530 4792  
Password: 120411

**For more information please contact:**  
 Jackson Bauer  
DLNR DOFAW  
(808) 657-8041  
[jackson.m.bauer@hawaii.gov](mailto:jackson.m.bauer@hawaii.gov)  
 Gabrielle Sham  
Townscape, Inc.  
(808) 550-3894  
[gabrielle@townscapeinc.com](mailto:gabrielle@townscapeinc.com)

Visit [bit.ly/pololu\\_planning](https://bit.ly/pololu_planning)  
for more details on the project.

**HAWAII TRUST & ESTATE COUNSEL**  
WILLS • TRUSTS • ESTATE PLANS  
(808) 334.3343  
[HAWAII TRUSTLAW.COM](https://hawaii.trustlaw.com)

**DR. ARDOLF & ASSOCIATES**  
Naturally Vibrant Health

**Naturopathic Physician**

- Full Medicinary (Physician-grade supplements)
- Homeopathy
- IV Medicine
- Herbal Medicine
- Hyperbaric Therapy
- Ozone
- Hydrotherapy
- Ultrasound

**New Location**  
**For appointments call: 808 498-4018**  
**Open 12-5, Monday - Friday**



## NKCRC Welcomes Executive Director



Photo courtesy of North Kohala Community Resource Center  
Leelan Park is the new Executive Director of the North Kohala Community Resource Center.

The North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC) has named Leelan Park as its new Executive Director.

Park most recently served as Director of Development for the Food Basket, Inc. in Hilo. He also served as District Director for Aloha Council, Hawaii Island.

“Leelan will bring additional leadership, passion and creativity to our organization along with a deep sense of commitment to his home-town community,” said board president Nathan Trump. “He has served other Hawaii Island non-profits at the program, fund-

raising and leadership levels, and has a breadth of perspective and experience that we welcome.”

Park was born and raised in North Kohala and is a graduate of Kohala High School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

“It is an incredible honor and privilege to be given this opportunity to come home after 21 years and serve the community where I was raised,” expressed Park. “Together with the dynamic board of directors and hardworking staff, I will work tirelessly to reaffirm the importance of our mission to our valued donors and supporters.”

## North Kohala Water Customers Reminded to Continue Conservation Efforts

The Department of Water Supply (DWS), County of Hawai‘i, reminds its North Kohala water customers that a Water Conservation Notice for both residential and commercial accounts remains in effect until further notice.

Affected Areas: Hāwī To Hala‘ula, including Puakea Bay, Ka‘auhuhu Homesteads, ‘Āinakea Village subdivision, and all customers along Akoni Pule Highway, Mill Road and Ma‘ulili Road.

The Water Conservation Notice, in place since December 15, 2023, asks all North Kohala water customers served by the North Kohala water system to reduce water use by 10 percent to help the Department maintain an adequate water supply and pressure for customers’ use while it continues well repairs.

Water conservation is necessary because only one of three water wells serving the region is currently operational. DWS anticipates bringing one of the inoperable wells back online by early February based on the current schedule for delivery of necessary parts.

Status updates will be issued as necessary and made available on the DWS’ website, [www.hawaiiidws.org](http://www.hawaiiidws.org).

Performing the following steps will help to conserve water:

- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes
- Check faucets and pipes for leaks
- Do not let water run when washing hands, shaving, or brushing teeth
- Reduce showering times

All affected water customers should limit water use for dust control and irrigation. Find other water-saving tips by clicking on the “Conservation” tab at [www.hawaiiidws.org](http://www.hawaiiidws.org).

To reach the DWS, please call (808) 887-3030 or (808) 961-8050 during normal business hours, (808) 961-8790 for after-hour emergencies, or email [dws@hawaiiidws.org](mailto:dws@hawaiiidws.org).

The Department of Water Supply thanks affected customers for their understanding.

NORTH KOHALA  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

SAVE THE DATE  
7TH ANNUAL  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
APRIL 6, 2024

✉ info@northkohala.org

🌐 www.northkohala.org

☎ 808-889-5523

ELEMENTS

JEWELRY and FINE CRAFTS

Jewelry

Pottery

Books

Art

Toys

11-4:00 Tues-Sun

Hawi, Hawaii

808.889.0760

elements@elementsjewelryandcrafts.com

Ōlena Gallery

Our Featured Artists for February are

Mike and Misato

Mortara

Come join us for the  
Opening Reception

Friday, Feb 2, 3-6pm

Open daily 10-5

Hawi, at the Hawi Road Intersection

@olenagallery.4636

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

(808) 345-1779

KOHALA  
VET CLINIC

Adjacent to Aloha Gas  
Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapa‘au  
Open M-F 8am - 5pm

889-6405

Dr. Daryl Stang

[rokuhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:rokuhawaii@gmail.com)



## Hawaii Diaper Bank Update



Photo by Kathy Matsuda  
Lani Bowman, Caregiver Educator at Tutu & Me (left) and Jessica Histo, Hawaii Diaper Bank.

By Lani Bowman

Mahalo to the Kohala Resilience Hub for spearheading the Hawaii Diaper Bank's (HDB's) Diaper

Drive at the January Night Market. Over 1,120 diapers were collected as well as monetary and other needed donations. Mahalo to Tim

and Yukiko for donating the proceeds from their Deco Clay craft to the Diaper Bank.

HDB's mission is to serve and support the keiki of Hawai'i by providing diapers and wipes to organizations that assist low-income families with young children.

HDB believes no child should suffer from diaper need. All children deserve access to clean, dry diapers. Access to diapers improves the physical, mental, and economic well-being of babies, families, and communities.

HDB hopes that one day, all children will have a sufficient supply

of diapers, wipes, and other basic essentials.

Mahalo to Nakahara store for serving as a collection site. Our new collection site will be Hamakua Health Center. Drop-off hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Other sites include St. Augustine's Thrift Store on Wednesdays from 12 noon-6:00 p.m. and the first Saturday from 8:00-11:00 a.m. The LAMP Cottage in the parking lot of the Kohala Elementary School is open for drop-off from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on school days.

## Mālama Māhukona Cultural Event Coming

Mālama Māhukona will be presenting another cultural event, this one on January 27 from 10 a.m.-12 noon. It will be held at the Māhukona Railway House; mahalo to the Hawaii Land Trust and Keone Emeliano for providing the venue. It will a potluck affair.

Jeffrey Coakley, vice chair of Mālama Māhukona, is coordinating the event with topics of "Genealogy, the Foundation" by reputed Kohala genealogist Clarence Perez. Clarence believes knowing your ancestors and their contributions to society helps to set our own individual course in life.

Kanani Kaulakukui will be sharing his 'ike or knowledge,

on holua sledding. A sled runway was discovered at the Lapakahi ahupua'a. He will also be auctioning off some of his drawings of his cultural renderings to raise money for the Mālama Māhukona effort.

Our third speaker will be Kahuna Kuhikuhi Pu'uone on the Ahupua'a. This is a land division of ancient Hawaii that provided a balanced lifestyle for the sustainability of the Hawaiian people that we could possibly learn from.

To save something, you have to be able to understand what you are attempting to save. The purpose of the cultural presentations is to share some of that knowledge to create an understanding that Māhukona is more than just the rebuilding of a pavilion.

## Keeping Our Students and Community Safe



Story by and photo courtesy of Cheryl Rocha  
A Safety meeting was held with Councilwoman Cindy Evans, Amy Stafford (Kohala High School) Dayton Tagaca (Community Police Officer), Kathy Matsuda (Kohala Resilience Hub), Cheryl Rocha (Neighborhood Watch), and TJ Giel (Educational Assistant, morning traffic watch). Topics were morning and afternoon traffic at Kohala High and Elementary schools and getting a school resource police officer (SRO) for both Kohala High and Elementary Schools.

**Did you know?**  
**The Kohala Mountain News is online at**  
**kohalamountainnews.com**  
**Now SEARCHABLE**  
**back to 2011**

**MI RANCHITO**  
**MEXICAN CUISINE**

**Lunch and Dinner**  
**11:30 am - 4:00 pm**  
**& 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**  
**daily except Sundays**  
**Dine-in in our spacious**  
**new dining room**  
**Downtown Hawi**  
**New Phone Number**  
**808-289-1465**



**New Listing**  
**54-2533 Kynnersley Road, Kapaa, HI 96755**  
**MLS 706780      \$985,000**  
**Recently renovated 3 bedroom 2 bath**  
**Ocean Maui view home with a long list of amenities.**  
**Upgraded kitchen and bathrooms in sea glass colors.**  
**Open House 2/9/2024 from 9am - Noon.**

  
**Algood Hawaii, LLC**  
**REAL ESTATE IS OUR KULEANA**

**www.algoodhi.com**  
**55-3410 Akoni Pule Highway, Building 2**  
**PO 190694, Hawi, HI 96719**



**HOLLY ALGOOD, PB**  
**RB22414 | Algood Hawaii LLC**  
**Cell 808-557-0354**  
**holly@algoodhi.com**



The Viper Moray



A viper moray and shrimp.

Story and photos by Wendy Noritake  
It was late November when I saw the return of the six-foot-long, ten-inch-diameter, reddish-brown eel with piercing dark eyes and sharp, pointed teeth within its intimidating mouth. The viper moray, *puhi kauila*, had arrived on schedule, the fifth year in a row, at its hole in a

reef at Māhukona. It usually visits through January.  
As winter approached, I anticipated the viper's return and often wondered where it was during the rest of the year. After it departs, the home is left empty for others, such as a yellow margin moray, porcupine pufferfish, lobsters, or a large

7-11 spot crab.  
Two years ago, I swam slowly to its hideout from the inside of the reef. I stopped. First, its head appeared from the top of the rocky condo, then the large body followed. It swam straight toward me. I gasped in my mask and snorkel and froze. My eyes probably looked like saucers while watching this serpent-like monster moving in my direction. I stared in amazement as it swiftly passed, not even acknowledging I was there.  
The viper moray is the only member of the genus *Enchelynassa* of the family *Muraenidae*, who are found in the Indo-Pacific oceans. They are carnivores who are adept at hunting and capturing their prey. As nocturnal creatures with a keen sense of smell, they usually feed at night, so it's not surprising to find our Māhukona viper resting in its home during the day. As solitary animals, they prefer to hunt and live alone, and in reality, appear to be rather shy. I was impressed to learn that they can live up to thirty years in the wild, but average twelve to fifteen years.  
The vipers play an important role in the ecosystem. They are apex hunters, keeping the reefs in balance by regulating the numbers of smaller fish. With a keen sense of hearing, they can detect prey as well as predators. And because they are venomous, it's wise to keep a safe distance from them. You don't want to get bitten by one. A friend of mine dived to grab a shell for his collection and was bitten by a moray. His hand resembled a catcher's baseball mitt. Important lesson: look before you take.  
I was selling my underwater photo greeting cards at the farmers market in Hāwī one day when a woman stopped by and peered at the viper photo. I told her that

the viper moray was the most dangerous and vicious of the eels. She said that her last name was Moray. "My brother is the most mean and vicious man I know, and I'm going to get that card for him!" she laughed.  
Even though the viper moray can look frightening and menacing, they're usually hiding or retreating, and are never aggressive. This creature has taught me that something that looks so terrifying can also be breathtakingly beautiful at the same time. I expect to see him again later this year.  
Wendy's photography can be seen at the 'Olena Gallery, downtown Hāwī.



Viper moray eel.

# SUNSHINE "Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!"

STORY BY KA LA  
ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTI KRANZ.

HOOWEEE! U HEARD? NAKAHARA STORE GOING CLOSE!

YES, THE NAKAHARA O'HANA WANTS TO THANK THE MANY CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS THEY'VE MADE THROUGH THE YEARS, BUT THEY WANT TO MOVE ON.

SUNSHINE SECURED A LEASE FROM THE VERY HELPFUL SURETY CORPORATION WHO OWNS THE PROPERTY. SUNSHINE WILL CARRY THE NAKAHARA TRADITION FORWARD AS "THE PLANTATION MARKET".

THE NAKAHARAS SET A HIGH BAR, AND SUNSHINE WILL DO IT'S BEST TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!

WE'LL CONTINUE WITH MOST OF UR FAVORITE STUFFEZES AND INTRODUCE A FEW NEW THINGS!

THE NAKAHARA AND SUNSHINE O'HANAS WISH ALL A HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU AND REMINDS US TO BE THANKFUL FOR ALL OUR BLESSINGS!!

DATS HAU !!!

SUNSHINE



## Tong Wo Society's Historic Kapa'au Building Opens Once a Year



Credit: Tong Wo Society  
Kapa'au Tong Wo Society Building.

By Ma'ata Tukuafu

This story, originally printed in the Jan-Feb 2020 issue of *Ke Ola Magazine*, is reprinted here with permission.

Situated high on a hill in Kapa'au is a colorful historical building constructed by early Chinese immigrants in 1884. Called the Tong Wo Society building, it served several purposes: a spiritual Taoist gathering place, a meeting house for an Eastern type of Masonic organization, and a disguise against mainland Chinese government emissaries who were sent to check

that expatriates were not plotting against them.

Clyde Wong has been the caretaker for the Tong Wo Society building since the early 1970s. He and his brother, Gordon Oshiro, maintain the grounds and watch over the building, opening it up only once a year to the public for the Chinese New Year celebration. Clyde is very knowledgeable of the customs, the history, and the legacy of these early pioneers.

Between 1840 and 1850, many Chinese immigrants to Hawai'i



Credit: Ma'ata Tukuafu  
Clyde Wong flips through an old calendar of Sun Yat-sen photos.

were Hakka, an ethnic society who never assimilated into the Chinese culture. The first wave of Hakka Chinese were very poor men who left wives and families behind or who were single. Many of the men had three-year contracts to pay for their boat passage, and worked six days a week, from sunrise to sunset. Wages were around 10 to 15 cents a day, depending on the whim of the plantation owners or bosses, totaling about \$3.00 per month.

"They immediately became involved with the Hawaiian popu-

lation," Clyde says, "and got along so well with the Hawaiians that it alarmed the plantation owners. Eventually they were making big families and didn't want to work for the plantations anymore."

After contact, many Hawaiians had contracted diseases and were too ill to work or had died. The Chinese were able to lease a lot of the land; they refurbished fishponds, revived the taro patches, and cultivated rice paddies, eventually exporting rice to the continental US. As an industrious people, they would grow, harvest, and cook the taro, making it ready for the Hawaiians to buy and pound themselves. They plucked lauhala and would strip, cure, and roll it to sell to Hawaiians so they could weave mats, sails, thatching and more. The later immigrants brought their families with them, settling into life in the islands.

### Acquiring the Land

It was in 1883, Clyde explains, that the Chinese purchased the Kapa'au land upon which the Tong Wo Society building was built. Many of the Hakka who had finished out their contracts started their own farms or businesses. Concerned with the welfare of their fellow countrymen in the islands, they began to build clubhouses for meeting together, later becoming a

**See Tong Wo, Page 12**

### Mr. K's Recycle & Redemption ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION



**New Schedule  
Tuesdays & Saturdays  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

73-5631 Kauhola St., Kona

\* FREE. Open to public \*

Businesses, government agencies and non-profit organizations

**MUST MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

To schedule an appointment, call 808-969-1222

For more info visit

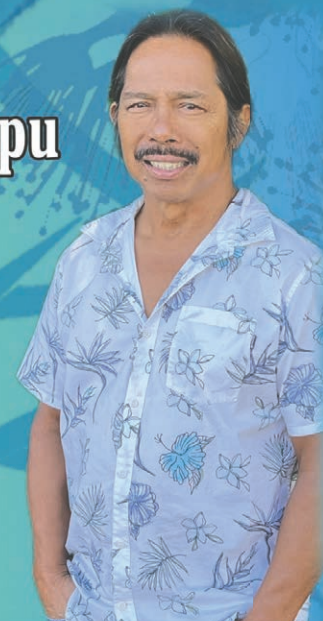
[www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com/electronic-waste.html](http://www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com/electronic-waste.html)

#### ACCEPTABLE DEVICES:

- Computers, laptops, tablets
- TVs and monitors (plasma, CRT, LCD & LED)
- 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/>

### Darrell Lapulapu Cultural Practitioner



[WWW.HAMAKUA-HEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.HAMAKUA-HEALTH.ORG)

#### Darrell Lapulapu, Cultural Practitioner

Practices the traditional healing technique of lomilomi, a method of massage. He is passionate about Hawaiian, Eastern, and alternative healing medicine. These practices assess the healing process for the body, mind and soul. He studied with Papa Henry Auwae, Master of Hawaiian Herbal medicine.

#### To schedule an appointment at our Kohala or Waimea clinic locations:

Please call us at (808) 887-6460 or schedule with our Front Office Registrar

**Lomilomi services covered by most insurances, Sliding Fee Scale also available for non-insured and self-pay patients.**

*Caring for your 'ohana, Caring for you!*

\*\*Hāmākua-Kohala Health is now accepting new patients, no matter your health insurance status or ability to pay.





Credit: Ma'ata Tukuafu  
Some of the marked graves at the back of the property.

viable political force.

The North Kohala settlers recognized the perfect feng shui placement of that parcel: the wind blew from east to west, the stream ran alongside, and the mountains were at the back of the property.

At that time, Chinese could purchase land in Hawai'i, unlike their counterparts on the continental US. While certain "scrub" properties could be purchased for 25 cents, a Scotsman named Sheldon agreed to sell this 2.5-acre property for \$500 with a 12 percent interest

note. Everyone who could afford to pitched in to pay the entire land note in only three payments within one year.

In 1884 construction began on the building itself, having been prefabricated on the West Coast with an interior of old-growth redwood beams and shipped by floating the lumber in the ocean. Clyde says this saturation of salt wasn't good for the nails—they rusted—but was excellent for preventing termites. After the lumber made it to

See Tong Wo, Page 13



Credit: Ma'ata Tukuafu  
Antique wood desks in the main hall.

*Hair Spectrum*  
**Family Salon**

**Open:**  
**Tue - Fri 8:30 - 5:30**  
**Sat 9 - 3**

*889~5077*

WEEKLY EVENTS IN FEBRUARY 2024					
DAY	START	END	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT (808)
M-S	8:30AM		NARCOTICS TALK STORY	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	ALOHA PETER@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 2/7, 2/21, BOARD GAMES: 2/14, KEIKI CRAFT: 2/28	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	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	6PM	7PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM	8PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	HUB BARN	805-452-9501

**EBIKES HAWAII**  
Located In ⚡ Hawi Town  
**RENTALS**

**Rocky Mnt. Growler   Lil' Buddy   Wild Flow**

**Call or Text: 808-796-0620**  
**ebikeshawaiiibigisland.com**

**KOHALA Real Estate**  
**& 2ND HOME SERVICES, LLC**  
"PERSONALIZED PROPERTY SOLUTIONS FOR YOU"

**Call: Realtor w/47 Years Experience**  
**April K. Lee, RB, BA   808-989-5995**

**Green Realtor**

1/2024 Testimonial: April, I can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for your handling everything for the 2 houses. We have bought & sold 6 houses...What you have done over the last 2 months is so much more!...I am telling everyone that our realtor far outshines all other realtors. D & N Cohler



Tong Wo, from Page 12



Photo by Barbara Garcia

Reception area decorated for lunar new year 2019.

Māhukona, the wood was carried by mule and oxen cart up to the site. Originally built on huge beach rock, it has since been retrofitted on post and pier. Stock windows were purchased through the Plantation General Store and the roof was constructed of redwood shingles. The exterior paint colors were originally a whitewash brown with red trim and are now a vibrant green for yin and cherry red for yang.

Clyde tells a story about an "old

guy" who was turning the dowels used for the railings. He would call out for the neighborhood kids to come and spin the machinery for hours, paying them five cents so he could lathe the dowels. "They were hungry boys, and five cents was a lot!" explains Clyde. "Eventually the old man died during the project, and so the right side of the building is finished with cross beams under the railings, instead of dowels."

When it was completed and

dedicated in 1886, the Tong Wo Society building became the first Chinese gathering house on the island. Eventually more society houses were built – Chi Hing in Kailua-Kona (where McDonald's is now), Bo Sing Ton in Na'ālehu, and Lin Hing in Hilo. Clyde says there were also society buildings in Honoka'a and Waipi'o.

Downstairs is the big hall where many gatherings took place. Old student desks line the walls and banners hang, with memories of bygone days. The stairway upstairs has been replaced; the original was too steep and not built to code. Once upstairs, there are altars everywhere; door gods are responsible for looking after the building while an entrance table with incense and offerings are for the gods of heaven. Inside the middle of the room is a statue of a deity who was a real-life general with a history of military success. Known as the patron of restaurateurs, bankers, firemen, and policemen, he is the epitome of the Hakka people who are known to be fierce fighters and excellent military leaders. The ornately decorated tables are filled with flowers, incense and fruit, and the antique chandeliers have survived many earthquakes. "In the northern corner," Clyde explains, "is an earth gods altar for respect to the land, the haole gods, and the Hawaiian gods. We respect all of them."

On the left side of the great room

See Tong Wo, Page 14

## ACCOUNTING, PAYROLL, TAX PREPARATION



Shanna Baldos

Located in Honoka'a

Ho'okipa Financial  
Connections, LLC

Email: [info@hookipaafc.com](mailto:info@hookipaafc.com)

Website: [www.hookipaafc.com](http://www.hookipaafc.com)

808-854-4995



## 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

## Rod's Repair

Factory Authorized Appliance Service

- Appliances and parts
- Ice makers
- Refrigeration
- Locksmith service

Service is Our Business

Aloa # 021349

## Hinokawa Electric LLC

Serving All of Your Electrical Needs

- Home stand-by generators
- Generac generators
- Sales and repairs
- Alternate energy systems
- New homes and renovations
- Trouble calls

License C-16154

High Voltage Specialist  
**889-5613**  
**rod@rodsrepair.com**



Sunday Worship  
Service 10 AM

Wednesday Spiritual  
Healing Service 7 PM

54-3876 Akoni Pule Hwy Behind  
Ackerman Gallery; S of L&L

Attend ON ZOOM Notify Rev. Lee:  
[TSHE.org@Protonmail.com](mailto:TSHE.org@Protonmail.com)  
808-989-5995

## 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](http://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 [f Kohala Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/KohalaBaptistChurch)

## The Bahá'í Faith

"May we unite as the waves of one sea"



Please join us for an  
interfaith gathering  
with prayers and  
songs for Unity.

February 10th  
3-5 PM in Hawi, HI

Call The Loseys at 808-551-0665 for information



## KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

February Service

Sunday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.

On the right approx. one mile past the

Kohala Middle School in Halaula

Rev. Masanari Yamagishi

(808)798-2075

## Kohala SDA Church

WHERE FRIENDSHIP  
MEETS FELLOWSHIP

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](http://Kohalasda.com)



## ST. AUGUSTINE'S

Episcopal Church in Kapa'au, Hawai'i

E komo mai!

Sunday services 7 am & 9 am

Keiki Sunday School 9 am

Facebook Livestream 9 am

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

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Hawi, Hawai'i • The Welcoming Church

Masses: Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 7 a.m. • 9:30 am

Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday at 7 am

Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Rev Elias Escanilla 808-889-6436

## Kalahikiola Church

"since 1832, proclaiming Jesus Christ  
to Kohala"

Sunday Worship and  
Children's Program 9:30 am

Tuesday Prayer 11:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm

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

53-540 'Iole Rd., Kapa'au

Pastor Mark Blair

E Komo Mail!



## CARTOW KOHALA

- 24-hour Towing, Recovery, and Lock-out Service
- Vehicle Repairs
- Oil Changes and Service
- Equipment Hauling
- Vehicle Safety Inspections
- Propane

Open Monday - Friday 10 - 6,  
Saturday 10 - 2, closed Sunday

Located at the bottom of Hawi Rd.  
KAD, Inc. dba Cartow Kohala

**889-1061**



Tong Wo, from Page 13

is a smaller room dedicated to the goddess of compassion, Kwan Yin, and to Kwan Kung, god of war known to defend the guiltless and righteous. It is no surprise that the strong, hard-working Hakka women wanted to have these deities represented. Of all the society buildings in Hawai'i, Tong Wo is the only one that allowed females inside. The women came for special occasions and spent years of devotion and prayers to ask for bountiful crops, happy families and good health.

The room on the right side is dedicated to Sun Yat-sen, a philosopher, physician, and politician who spent his early years in Honolulu. He eventually became the first president of the Republic of China, and many Hawaiian Chinese were involved in his leadership through their support within the society.

A kitchen building, which used to be a barn, is connected with a walkway. In the evenings, men would gather, purchase tickets and gamble. Clyde says fortunes were made with games like Mah Jong and any other Chinese game that could be played. There were five small cookhouses to the side of the slab. The remaining cookhouse is the largest of the now-collapsed progressively smaller ones. They held huge woks and iron pots, and the women who cooked could accommodate food for 2,000 people on some celebrations.

The heyday for the Tong Wo Soci-



Photo by Barbara Garcia  
Main altar with traditional lunar new year offerings.

ety was during the 1920s and 30s. The attack at Pearl Harbor changed everything. Most of the Chinese left North Kohala for Honolulu to fill jobs the Japanese had held after they were taken to mainland internment camps. Families also wanted their kids to have better educations and with that migration, the aging 80- and 90-year-old immigrants

with no families were left behind. "They could barely make it up the stairs," Clyde says, "but would reminisce about younger days and wait to die. The society for them was like a home away from home."

There are more than 200 burial sites on the society grounds. Many graves are marked, many more are not. Some are for children who

died during the influenza outbreak, while others are for men who died while digging the Kohala Ditch. The Hakka Chinese traditional burials are ideally on a hillside with their feet toward the stream. The spring-cleaning ceremony of Ming Ching is part of the New Year celebration, the streams open up and the spirits are called. A big feast is served, incense is burned and candles are lit. Once the last candle and incense is out, the spirits cross back over the bridge and everyone goes home happy until the next year.

In essence, the Tong Wo building is a record of severe times of change, a legacy of a strong people who crossed oceans and survived hard times while their sole point of being was to give their children a better life. It is the perfect lesson in survival and a people who built a treasure to take into the future.

Annual Lunar New Year Celebration\*

The Tong Wo Society usually hosts a Lunar New Year celebration, which includes massive firecrackers, a traditional lion dance, a potluck luncheon, and a lecture series on the Chinese in Hawai'i. However, due to ongoing public health concerns, there will again be no public celebration this year. The Society is looking forward to resuming festivities and welcoming the public when the time is right.

\* Paragraph updated for 2024 Lunar New Year Celebration.

See Tong Wo, Page 16



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

YEAR OF THE DRAGON

May 2024 be filled with prosperity and happiness.

KOHALA NIGHT MARKET

FEBRUARY 7, 2024    4:00PM- 7:00PM

RESILIENCE HUB BARN

FEATURING: FOOD, CRAFTS, SPECIALTY ITEMS, AND INFORMATION BOOTHS.

 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @KOHALA NIGHT MARKET

THE KOHALA NIGHT MARKET IS A PROGRAM OF THE KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB AND THE NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER





This private Maliu Ridge home has so much to offer!  
The desirable neighborhood has become a coveted place to live and play, and this property is well situated within the neighborhood.

Over 1 acre of land with an abundance of fruit trees and natives. This includes mango, avocado, coconut, banana, lilikoi, ulu, orange, tangerine, pink grapefruit, loquat, cinnamon, lime, lemon, mountain apple, dragon fruit, and more.

The gated and fully fenced property has a beautiful moss rock wall along the front property line, as well as established trees which help protect the property from prevailing winds.

The views are over acres of pasture land, ocean and Maui views, not to mention overlooking your own lovely orchard.

The classic plantation style home complete with covered lanai has an attached garage, 15 owned photovoltaic panels with a net metering system, and has solar hot water. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, one half bath, and a bonus room for office/nursery which is just off the master suite. There is a cedar ofuro off the master bedroom private deck that is included in the sale. The second master also has access to the lanai, at the other end of the house. The layout works really well. The open beam ceiling in the living area is really beautiful, along with the Brazilian cherry wood floors, this is a very homey, inviting opportunity!

The panels and roofing have recently been washed, and fresh paint has been applied to the decking. Fresh and ready to impress! Come take a look!

1894 square feet                      1.08 acres                      MLS 706304



aloha kohala  
realty

Nancy Carr Smith, Realtor

Owner and Principal Broker RB18104

65-1174 Kahawai St.  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
Phone and text 808-896-2239  
nancy@alohakohalarealty.com

HEALTHY GRAB 'N GO FOOD

Kohala Trade Center, Hawi

Local Foods  
Products  
Produce  
Meats  
Smoothies  
& Hot Deli

Mon - Thur 10-6, Fri 10 - 8  
Sat 10 - 6 & Sun 10 - 5

Hot Lunch Menu 11- 3    808-937-4930

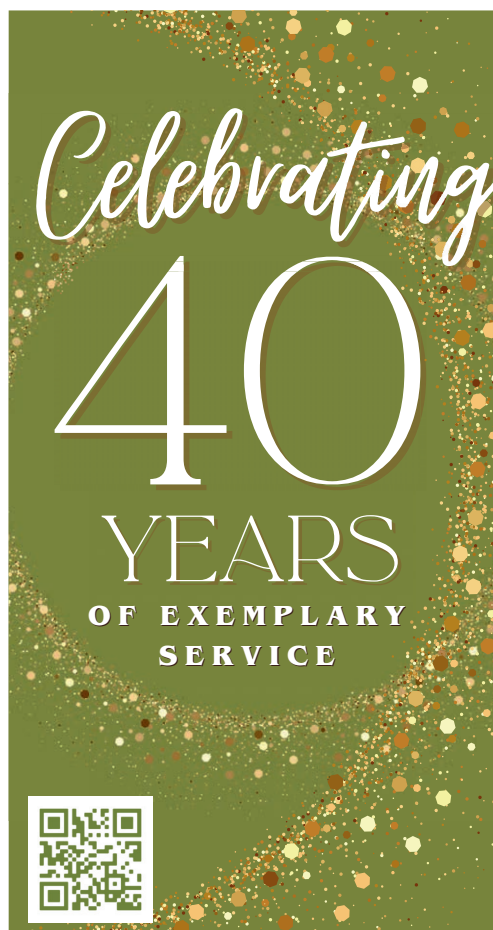





## MONTHLY CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2024

DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
2/2	FRI	4:00PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/3	SAT	8:00AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
2/3	SAT	6:00PM	8:00PM	METAMOPHOSIS	OPENING RECEPTION	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
2/5	MON	5:00PM	6:30PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
2/6	TUE	4:30PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/6	TUE	5:00PM	6:30PM	POLOLŪ TRAILHEAD MANAGEMENT PLAN	VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING ON ZOOM MEETING ID: 817 0530 4792 PW: pololu	ZOOM	
2/7	WED	4:00PM	7:00PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB BARN	
2/7	WED	4:30PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/7	WED	7:00PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
2/12	MON	2:00PM	3:30PM	JEWELRY CLASS	FOR ADULTS, RSVP REQUIRED	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
2/12	MON	5:30PM	7:00PM	JEWELRY CLASS	FOR ADULTS, RSVP REQUIRED	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
2/13	TUE	11:00AM	12:00PM	BOOK CLUB	MAD HONEY BY JODI PICOULT	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
2/14	WED	9:00AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIKA'I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/14	WED	5:00PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/15	THU	9:00AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
2/21	WED	3:30PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/21	WED	5:00PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
2/22	TUE	6:00PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	HUB BARN	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
2/26	WED	5:30PM	7:00PM	HAWAIIAN HISTORY TALK	ROYAL WOMEN OF HAWAII	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
2/28	WED	4:00PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111

**Email calendar listings to: [kohalacalendar@gmail.com](mailto:kohalacalendar@gmail.com)**  
 Subscribe to our montly calendar on <https://kohalamountainnews.com/events/month/>

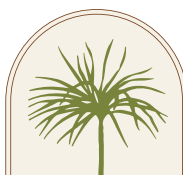


*Celebrating*  
**40**  
**YEARS**  
**OF EXEMPLARY**  
**SERVICE**



*Your trusted local source*

HOME & LAND SALES | MID- & LONG-  
TERM HOME RENTALS | SECOND-HOME  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



KOHALA  
*Pacific Realty*

808-889-5181 | KohalaPacificRealty.com  
Located in Downtown Hawi | SERVING HAWAI'I SINCE 1984

RB-23657



**To Advertise In  
The Kohala  
Mountain  
News  
Call Tom  
(808) 345 0706**

**J. Lorenzo Construction**  
*QUALITY CONSTRUCTION*  
*AT ITS BEST*

- Reasonable prices
- Fast turnover time
- 35 years of experience with projects done all over Kohala
- Residential, commercial, industrial or remodeling

# John Lorenzo

Lic# BC13017

896-0432

lorenzoboyz@gmail.com





Photo by Barbara Garcia  
Main altar with traditional lunar new year offerings.



Photo by Barbara Garcia  
Central altar dedicated to Patron Diety Kwan Kung, patron saint of the Tong Wo Society.

# Join a team that cares about you— in and out of the office.

At HCFCU, “community” is in our name, and it’s in our DNA. We recognize the value of our employees both as part of our ohana, and as members of the community we serve.

“I enjoy malama ‘āina—  
to take care of the land—  
from maintaining and  
preserving the ancient  
and historic trails, to  
planting taro.

HCFCU’s flexibility and leave policies  
allow me to balance work with the other  
aspects of life that fulfill me; family,  
friends and farm-life!”

— Nellie Medeiros  
Corporate Development & Marketing  
Manager and ‘āina enthusiast  
Member of the HCFCU ohana since 1973

Scan the QR code  
to view listing  
of available  
positions & start  
your application  
today!

**Now  
HIRING**

Hawaii Community  
Federal Credit Union is  
an Equal Opportunity  
Employer & a drug-free  
work place.

**\$2,000**  
Sign-on Bonus

**BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- ✓ Medical / Dental / Drug & Vision Plans
- ✓ Paid Holidays, including Birthdays & Employment Anniversary
- ✓ Merit Increases
- ✓ Semi-Annual Bonus Incentives
- ✓ 401K Retirement Plan with Employer Match
- ✓ Wellness Program Reimbursement

**Hawaii Community**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

[hicommfcu.com/careers](http://hicommfcu.com/careers) | (808) 930-7700