

Vol. 23, No. 03

About Kohala, For Kohala

March 22, 2024

Cowboys Bring Home HHSAA D2 State Championship Again



See Champs, Page 2

Photo credit: @KohalaCowboysBasketball

The 2023-2024 Kohala Cowboys Basketball team poses with their State Championship trophy.

Mayor and DEM Address Mandated Cesspool Replacement



Mayor Mitch Roth.

Stories and photos by Lynda Wallach
The State of Hawaii has mandated the replacement of all cesspools by 2050. Why, you may ask, are we worrying about something that won't happen for twenty-six years? Given that there are approximately 88,000 cesspools in the state with approximately 48,000 on Hawaii Island, the enormity of the task becomes apparent and suddenly fifty years doesn't seem like such a long time. In fact, if con-

versions were started now, 2,000 would have to be completed each year to meet the 2050 deadline. That is why Mayor Roth and representatives from the Department of Environmental Management (DEM), headed by Ramzi Mansour, have scheduled two rounds of meetings in various communities throughout the island to introduce the public to the proposed Integrated Wastewater Management Plan and to

See Cesspool, Page 2

`Upolu Point Faces PONC Scrutiny



Photo by Toni Withington

Rough waters off `Upolu Point.

By Toni Withington
The `Upolu Point nomination of 88 acres of land next to the `Upolu Airport was heard by the county's Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation

Commission March 11. Nine other projects around the island were presented to the commission, all competing for a slot on the mayor's

See Upolu, Page 2

Kohala Mountain News
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Champs from Page 1
Photo credit: @KohalaCowboysBasketball
The coaching staff from left to right:
Asst. Coach Paul Antonio III, Asst. Coach/Athletic Trainer Robin Marquez,
Head Coach Kihei Kapeliela, Asst. Coach Reeve Cazimero and Asst.
Coach Elijah Antonio.

On March 5, the Kohala High School Boys Basketball team beat Seabury Hall 49-45 in overtime play to clinch the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSA) D2 State Championship. This was the team's second straight, and third overall, HHSA championship win in four years.

- Player,
Year
#1 Isaac Salvador-Libron,
Junior
#2 Landon Kauka,
Senior
#3 Dillon Oandasan,
Sophomore
#4 Layden Kauka,
Sophomore
#5 Jayden Hook,
Junior
#10 Jordan Manantan,

- Sophomore
#11 Isaiah Antonio,
Junior
#12 Hezekiah Wilson,
Junior
#22 Lucky Kobeney,
Sophomore
#23 Justin Drew,
Junior
#32 Royden Tabiolo,
Sophomore
- Head Coach: Kihei Kapeliela
Asst. Coaches: Reeve Cazimero,
Paul Antonio III, Elijah Antonio,
Robin Marquez
Statisticians: Nohea Lee, Hinano
Lewis, Kat Belleci
Team Chaplain: Pastor Mike Kai
Team Mom: Malia Salvador
Team Dad: Nario Libron
Athletic Director: Jayme Carvalho
Principal: Amy Stafford



Upolu, from Page 1
Photo by Keith Wallis
The view from Upolu East, looking diagonally across the property toward southwest corner.

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priority list for public acquisition.

The list is the first step in the qualification for eventual use of the county's 2% Open Space Fund for either purchase, conservation easement or as matching funds for the purchase. The fund currently has \$14.7 million.

Speaking in favor of the Upolu nomination were Clarence Keali'i and Gale Ku'uleialoha Perez of the Aha Hui Pūnohu 'Ula o Kohala na Kupuna Council. The name means "Bridging the past and the future." In spelling out the importance of the entire Upolu area to the Hawaiian culture and history, Clarence said that the area is considered the Kala-huimaka, meaning literally "the eye of the nation" and figuratively "where it all began." The name was passed along by Franklyn Kapaona, whose ancestor Kapaona was half-brother of Kamehameha. The Perezes detailed the connection of the place to Kohala and Hawaiian history.

Chauncey Wong Yuen, Hawaii Island director of the State Airport Division, talked about the successful collaboration with Kohala Lihikai since 2011 to steward the mile-long trail makai of the airport. He cited the increase of native plants and installation of check dams to slow down runoff into the ocean. He especially appreciated the use of Kohala students in the restoration and signage.

Then Wong Yuen, who has family ties to Kohala, pulled out his ukulele and sang the famous song "Paliakamoa," written by Ellen Kealoha Waianuhe Kalaukoa Naipo and Elizabeth Kealaikiulani Naipo Kalaukoa Kamahoahoa of Kohala Puepa, both direct ancestors of the Perezes. The song references a village near Upolu.

Commissioner Kamuela Plunkett, representing the Kohala District, said the song was a highlight of the 6-hour long meeting.

Rick Gmirkin, archaeologist for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, confirmed the presence of some archaeological sites in the area, though many have been plowed below the surface during the sugar plantation era. He said the National Park Service has designated Upolu Point as the northern head of the 175-mile trail that reaches around the western part of the island through Hawaii Volcanoes Park.

Kohala-born Kanoa Withing-

ton said, "To me Upolu Point is an iconic place of Kohala. The saying goes 'Lele O Kohala me he lupe la.' - 'The spirit of Kohala soars like a kite'. At the airport near Upolu Point and I remember waiting for Royal Hawaiian flights to visit my grandparents as a kid. But it was standing in the wind at Upolu Point where I first got the sense that I could fly, that I could ride the wind and truly fly. Upolu Point is iconic of Kohala because it embodies the spirit of the place."

Withington recently participated in a project with the Intuitive Machine's landing of the Odysseus observatory on the moon.

Charles Anderson, representative of the landowner EWM Enterprises, said Ernest W. Moody and he were cooperating with the preservation of the land in open space because they realize the importance of the place to the people of Kohala and their history. Several previous successful purchases of coastal open space land in North Kohala and Ka'u have been completed with EWM Enterprises.

Many Kohala residents submitted written testimony in favor of preservation. They cited the high recreational use of the unfenced portion and the importance of the land to the history and culture of the whole Upolu area.

Toni Withington, spokesperson for the four Kohala groups that have nominated Kohala lands to the PONC priority list since 2009, answered questions from commissioners about the information in the 20-page submission. The groups she represented are Kohala Lihikai, Ka Makani o Kohala Ohana, Malama Kohala Kahakai, and Maika'i Kamakani o Kohala.

She corrected one error that identified a village of 233 people once located on this land as having been subsequently found to be in the adjoining ahupua'a of Upolu. It is believed there was a village in this ahupua'a of Kealahewa, but the location is uncertain.

A site visit of the property by commissioners is scheduled for later this month.

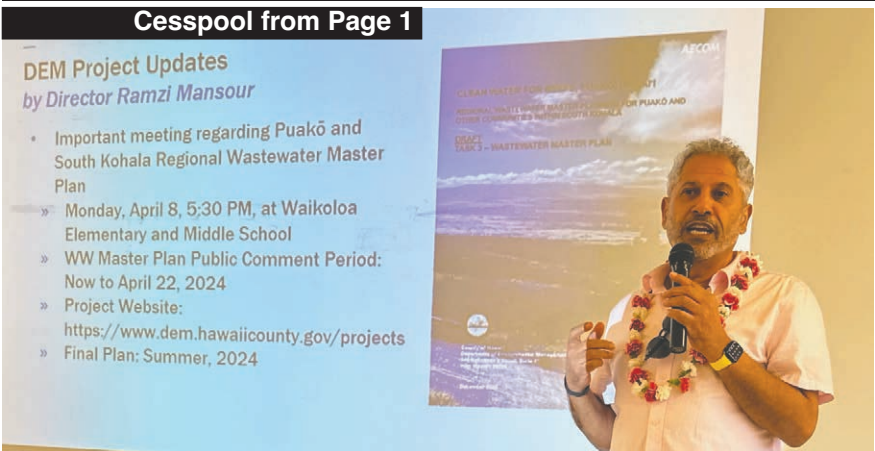
The other projects nominated were the Kawainui Makai water falls land near Onomea, an agricultural easement of Nani Kai Hoku farm in Kohala, the Minuke Ole Corral Bull Pen in South Kohala, three projects in North Kona, one in South Kona and one in Ka'u.

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Department of Environmental Management Director Ramzi Mansour.

what the conversion means for our island, our communities and every household with a cesspool.

The first of these official meetings in Kohala was held at the Inter-generational Center on Wednesday, February 28. In his opening remarks, the mayor stressed that this is not something that we can just kick down the road and that unless we start planning now, we will be in big trouble later. He also stated that another purpose of these meetings is to get community involvement in the planning and decision-making process.

Cesspools are underground pits used to dispose of household liquid waste into the ground, in many cases reaching and spreading into the water table. Fifty-three million gallons of sewage from cesspools drain into the Hawaiian environment daily. Over 90 percent of our drinking water comes from groundwater and the waste from

cesspools can cause illnesses and skin infections. Recent testing has found cesspool contaminants in the drinking water of some areas of the state. Cesspool waste also impacts aquatic plants and animals, pollutes the water we swim and fish in and has an economic impact because the health of the community and the environment are keys to Hawaii’s economy and unique culture.

Though many of us may not be around in twenty-six years, it is up to all of us to help preserve the environment for future generations. Ramzi Mansour, also addressing the question of “why now?”, said that whenever you apply for a building permit to make improvements to your property, you will not be issued the permit unless you convert your cesspool.

Three alternatives to cesspools were presented. The first is to connect to a municipal sewer system. This is clearly not an alternative

for Kohala since we are not close to any existing sewer system. Mayor Roth stated that estimates to provide a sewer system for just the district of Puna ranged from four and eleven billion dollars, so building sewer systems for most of Hawaii County is obviously not a possibility. A second alternative is to create a shared wastewater treatment plant that could serve fifty to several hundred households. This alternative also has its challenges: a Sewer Improvement District would have to be created requiring neighborhood coordination, land would need to be acquired to house the facility, upfront costs would be significant and licensed, skilled operators would be required. This, too, is prohibitively expensive in most cases.

This leaves the final alternative, a Department of Health (DOH) approved onsite system or individual wastewater system (IWS), most typically a septic system, as the one most appropriate for North Kohala residents. The costs for an onsite system are borne by the homeowner, who is also responsible for operating and maintaining the system. The site, which must be at least 10,000 square feet, must be evaluated by a licensed engineer to determine possible system options.

The engineer submits the plans to the State Department of Health, Wastewater Branch for approval. There is no County permit needed for conversion, only a DOH permit. Once the plans are approved, a licensed contractor must be hired to construct the system. The cost for IWS conversions at this time is

estimated to be between \$15,000 to \$70,000 and are site dependent. Hawaii County is exploring grant and low interest loan options for County projects and federal funding opportunities for high priority cesspools and help for the financially burdened. The waitlist for the current DOH \$20,000 grant program is filled but other state financial support programs are still being sought. Financing and funding are some of the topics that will be covered at the next DEM meeting to be held sometime in April or May.

A final item on the agenda was a review of the current House and Senate bills that address the wastewater issue. There was one that got a strong reaction from the community members in attendance. HB2743, in addition to mandating that each county develop a wastewater management plan and identify priority areas for sewerage, stipulates that beginning in July 2025 there will be a monthly fee for properties that still have cesspools. Attendees were encouraged to contact their state senator or representative.

The session was very informative and there were many questions. Though the presenters were able to answer several, this is the beginning of a long process and many decisions are yet to be made. For current information you can go to the DEM website <https://www.dem.hawaiicounty.gov/projects/integrated-wastewater-management-plan> or email cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov.

Also, watch for the announcement of the next DEM session and plan to attend.

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Series of Electrical Power Outages Explained

By Toni Withington

It seems Kohala’s had a lot of power outages this year. Wildfires too. It all adds up to questions of why. Representatives of the Hawaiian Electric Company were invited to a recent meeting of the CDP Utilities Group at the Judiciary Building and provided lots of information – ironically, during a power out.

Efforts the company is making with wildfire mitigation were spelled out and the varying reasons for the eight power outages experienced since January were explained. In some ways they are connected. Kevin Waltjen, Director of Hawaiian Electric, said some of the outages were based on safety measures that automatically switch off power when a problem is detected by the system.

Hopefully this will eliminate notorious “brown outs.” This will also reduce the likelihood of energized lines and sparks falling to the ground, which have been attributed to the starting of the Lahaina fire last August and the extra-large fire that is still tearing through parts of Texas.

With the new wildfire measures to be added here, the system will be more sensitive to problems. It will help the company to identify the location of the problem better and fix it before power can be restored. But safety provisions may extend the time repairs take.

It could mean more and longer outages, Waltjen explained.

David Kurohara, Community Consultant for the company, said they are working with emergency management agencies and communities to develop long-term actions which include power shutoffs that can be done safely.

In January, the Public Utilities Commission adopted a \$190 million resilience plan as the first phase of a program to harden the system against wildfires, hurricanes, tsunamis and flooding. Half will be paid by the federal government.

Hawaiian Electric has identified hot zones at risk for wildfires, including most of Kohala’s leeward coast, which has experienced two brush fires already in March. Installation of weather stations and infrared cameras will be installed on poles in these high-risk areas first. During heavy weather events, spotters will be sent to strategic locations. Electronics like fault current indicators will identify the location of the problems.

Meanwhile the company has undertaken efforts to reduce sag in lines, treat poles to make them fire resistant, replace old poles, reconfigure lines to minimize potential touching, and managing vegetation around the lines.

In another direction, the company is working with critical customers, such as hospitals, water system pumps, and community resources, to offer the best backup systems during outages. This includes protection for cell phone

towers.

“You can’t see electricity, which makes it harder to protect,” said Waltjen.

He went on to describe the eight outages Kohala has experienced this year. Here are the details:

January 11 – Lightning caused a tree limb to lean on a wire on Mountain Road during the night. The power was turned off to allow removal of the limb. Kohala was without power for an hour and nineteen minutes.

January 29 – One of the company’s generators tripped off unexpectedly. This caused an automatic safety system to disconnect some parts of the island to rebalance the supply of power and avoid cascading outages. Once backup generators were started, the power was restored. Kohala was without power for a half hour.

January 30 – Another tree landed on a wire in town during the morning. The auto balance turned off the power from Hala`ula toward Pololū for an hour.

February 3 – Corrosion and deterioration caused an automatic outage for 31 customers. It was replaced and power restored.

February 8 – An unknown cause automatically tripped off the power to Kohala from 11:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. The line was inspected, and the cause was not located, but power was restored successfully. Under the proposed new safety system, the problem will have to be identified before power can be

restored.

February 13 – An unknown cause tripped off a generator elsewhere on island, and the automatic system balanced power usage by cutting off some areas around the island for shorter periods. Kohala was out for 30 minutes.

February 16 – A fuse at one of several partnering generation facility blew and Kohala was without power until it was replaced.

February 21 – A deteriorating line was located by a spotter. The company notified as many users as possible in Kohala on short notice that power would go out between 3 and 7 p.m. The line was manually tripped off. Repairs were completed before 6 p.m.

“You guys have had a lot of outages,” Waltjen commented. Part of it has to do with the single line coming over the mountain being over 70 years old.

Efforts to make Kohala energy resilient by building a mini grid battery storage facility in Hāwī last year took a step backward. The energy storage system was to make replacement of the old line feasible. It is now well behind the original schedule.

Jennifer Zelko, director of Government and Community Affairs, explained that specifications for building the system are being rewritten because an earlier attempt did not produce a bidder within the organization’s budget. She did not know when the bidding process would begin again.

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:
Winnah winnah taco dinnah

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***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

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Letters

Plea to Dog Owners

Dear Editor:

I often walk my dog at Māhukona and `Upolu, where I can enjoy watching whales. It's an area where dogs are often off leash. It's also where my dog was attacked.

My dog is on a leash. When I see other dogs I stop, so hopefully owners know to also leash

their dogs. That doesn't always work so now I also carry pepper spray and hope to never have to use it.

Even "friendly dogs" or ones who "have never attacked before" are unpredictable.

I would like to urge those who walk their dogs to PLEASE keep

their dog(s) near to them, carry a leash, and leash their dog(s) when they see other dogs or people so that we can all enjoy watching the whales and walking those areas without fear.

Mahalo,
Sandie Rossi

Letters from Kohala Middle School Students

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

Fire Safety in Kohala

Dear people of Kohala,

Aloha, my name is Cael Kauano-Galdones and I am here to tell you about fire safety. Fire is a very dangerous element which can lead to serious injuries and burns and maybe even certain death. I have chosen this topic because of recent events happening in Lahaina.

What if you didn't know a massive fire hazard emerged and caused our town to combust in fire. Maybe

that day there were very strong winds which took the fire and made it spread all around. Many people in our community could die or be burnt. Kohala, we can keep wild-fires from spreading by taking care of rubbish and dead branches in our yards. Be very careful when lighting campfires. We can help this problem by buying more fire extinguishers to help with house fires. We can also help by adding more

water hydrants or underground power lines. You can help by learning more about fire safety at

www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/fire.

You can also help by giving it your all and letting others know about what I am saying right now. Thank you, people of Kohala, and help save many lives.

Sincerely, Cael

Verbal Bullying

Dear Kohala Mountain News,
Aloha, my name is Mia. I am in 7th grade at Kohala Middle School. I'm writing about verbal bullying because it happens at almost every middle school. Along with other forms of bullying, verbal bullying doesn't only happen in middle school, it also occurs in elementary and high school.

Over twenty percent of middle school and high school kids report being bullied each school year. Verbal bullying is the most common way to bully someone. Verbal bullying occurs anywhere. When someone is verbally bullying, they use words to hurt you, harass you, or even threaten you.

When someone is saying hurt-

ful things to you, you should go tell someone you trust that someone is saying bad things to you. Don't keep it to yourself. Telling someone is the best thing to do because verbal hurtful words can lead to depression or even suicide.

Thank you for taking time reading my letter.

Sincerely, Mia Hayes

Cyberbullying

Aloha, my name is Tai and I am a Kohala Middle School student who chose to write about cyberbullying. I chose to write about this because it is a huge problem across the world and it needs to stop.

Cyberbullying is a serious issue that has become increasingly prevalent in today's society. It is defined as the use of digital technology to bully or harass another person. Cyberbullying can take many forms, such as sending offensive or threatening messages or photos, spreading rumors, or public shaming on social media. It can be very damaging to the individual being

targeted, leading to depression, anxiety, and even suicide in some cases.

The effects of cyberbullying are far-reaching and can be just as damaging as physical bullying. It can cause victims to experience feelings of fear, shame, and helplessness, leading to physical and emotional harm. Cyberbullying can also have long-term effects, such as damaging one's social reputation and self-esteem, leading to social isolation and a lack of trust in others.

For these reasons, it is important to take cyberbullying seriously and to do what we can to prevent it.

Parents, educators, and other adults in a child's life should be aware of the signs of cyberbullying and take steps to protect the children. This may include teaching children how to identify cyberbullying and how to respond safely, as well as monitoring their digital activities and talking to them regularly about their online experiences.

By taking a proactive approach to addressing and preventing cyberbullying, we can help create a safe and supportive environment for all just by being nice to each other.

Sincerely,
Tai Murry

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.

Kohala Ditch Solutions

We farmed in North Kohala, using Kohala Ditch water, for 22 years before the Ditch was shut down. The lack of ditch water has been devastating to our farm.

I was heartened by Governor Green's commitment to bring back the ditch within a pipe system to conserve the much-lower-flow water sources that will be available and accessible.

However, on December 13, 2023,

I attended an informational meeting about the over-budget `Upolu Well Ag water project that Rep. David Tarnas is pushing.

It became clear at the meeting that – due to the elevation, lack of easements, very high water-pumping costs, etc. – this \$2,000,000–\$3,000,000-plus (when it's fully completed) tax-payer-funded well project will only serve one entity, the large-corporation Meadow

Gold Dairy from O`ahu. Meadow Gold has already recently drilled their own commercial well just east of the `Upolu well, which is supplying the old Cloverleaf Dairy that they're acquiring.

Mr. Tarnas poo-pooed the Kohala Ditch restoration and other representatives' efforts to get the Kohala Ditch restored. The Kohala Ditch

See Ditch, Page 5

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.

April Deadlines
Ads and News: 4/12/24
Calendar: 4/19/24
Distribution: 4/26/24

May Deadlines
Ads and News: 5/10/24
Calendar: 5/17/24
Distribution: 5/24/24

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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.

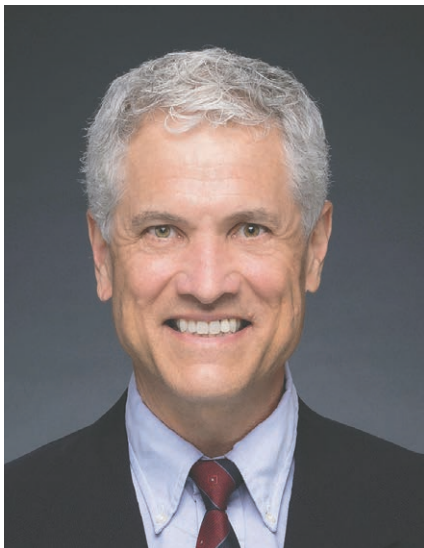
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Kohala Mountain News
P.O. Box 639,
Kapa'au, Hawai'i 96755

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. The legislative session has reached its midpoint, when House Bills have crossed from the House to the Senate, and Senate Bills have crossed from the Senate to the House. Here are some of the bills the State House approved relating to the economy, housing, public safety, education, fire prevention, mental health, and agriculture.

ECONOMY:

HB 1956 HD1: Establishes a Business Revitalization Task Force to identify methods to improve Hawai'i's general economic competitiveness and business climate, including by mitigating regulatory and tax burdens.

HB2779 HD1: Incrementally increases the amount of the Income Tax standard deduction for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026, through taxable years beginning after December 31, 2033.

HB2771 HD1: Appropriates funds for the Hawaii Healthy Food Incentive Program, also known as DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks, which provides matching funds to federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) beneficiaries who use SNAP funds to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at certain food retailers.

HOUSING:

HB1808 HD1: Expands the counties' authorization to develop, construct, finance, refinance, or provide mixed-income projects and mixed-use developments.

HB1833 HD1: Appropriates funds to provide loans or grants for mixed-income rental projects or units in mixed-income rental projects for qualifying individuals and families.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

HB1856 HD2: Authorizes each county to adopt ordinances to regulate or restrict access to streets, highways, thoroughfares, or roads under certain circumstances.

HB1774 HD2: Establishes and funds a Silver Alert Program to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

EDUCATION:

HB1653 HD1: Provides automatic salary step increases for public school teachers and educa-

tional officers who have satisfactorily completed a certain amount of service and complied with certain requirements, pursuant to collective bargaining agreements.

HB1534 HD1: Establishes and appropriates funds for the Hawaii Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program to support, recruit, develop, and retain teachers for the State's public schools.

HB1827 HD2: Appropriates funds to support health care workforce development programs, specifically the Public High School Health Care Workforce Certificate Program and Glidepath Program for Certified Nurse Aides. Appropriates funds to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for health care training.

HB1535 HD1: Provides scholarships for the unmet needs of qualified students at any four-year University of Hawai'i campus who meet certain criteria.

FIRE PREVENTION:

HB1843 HD2: Establishes and funds the Office of the State Fire Marshal to direct statewide efforts in preventing and responding to fires.

Requires the State Fire Council to submit a report to the Legislature that includes an organizational plan for the Office of the State Fire Marshal, a description of the roles and division of responsibilities between the State and counties and the Office of the State Fire Marshall and State Fire Council, and a proposed operating budget for the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

HB1841 HD2: Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for operating expenses, equipment, the establishment of positions, and capital improvement projects to support wildfire prevention, emergency response, and post-fire restoration.

HB1842 HD1: Increases the maximum fine for violations of fire protection laws. Specifies that each day a violation exists or continues to exist shall constitute a distinct and separate offense.

Raises the criminal penalty for the offense of arson in the fourth degree to a Class C felony if the offense was committed during the

period and within the geographic area in which a red flag warning was in effect.

Provides that the state of mind requirement is not applicable to the fact that the red flag warning was in effect and that the actor is strictly liable with respect to the attendant circumstances that the red flag warning was in effect.

MENTAL HEALTH:

HB1831 HD1: Establishes and funds a Behavioral Health Crisis Center Pilot Program to redirect persons experiencing a mental health or substance use disorder crisis who are involved with, or are at risk for involvement with, the criminal justice system to the appropriate health care system and services.

Authorizes the Department of Health to establish or contract with behavioral health crisis centers in each county to provide care, diagnosis, or treatment for persons experiencing a mental illness or substance use disorder crisis.

AGRICULTURE

HB2144 HD1: Establishes the Access to Local Value-Added Products Act to allow homemade food operations to sell homemade food products, under certain conditions, upon registering with and receiving a permit from the Department of Health.

HB2644 HD2: Appropriates funds to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of Little Fire Ants in the State through the establishment of additional positions in the Hawai'i Ant Lab on O`ahu, increasing public awareness regarding Little Fire Ant infestations and treatments, and support for operations of the Hawai'i Ant Lab.

As the legislative committees in the House and Senate consider bills during this second half of the session, I encourage you to provide testimony. You can track the legislation on the legislative website www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

Please contact me anytime with concerns about legislation or State Government by email at reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov or by phone at 808-586-8510. Mahalo for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative.

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County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember Cindy Evans



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

Aloha North Kohala,

The County Administration has extended the comment period on the County's Draft General Plan until April 1, so please remember to enter your comments on their website: cohplanning.konveio.com/gp-draft.

The 2045 General Plan will be the primary policy document for County agencies, planning commissions, elected officials, landowners, developers, and citizens to guide land use policy decisions for our island. Notably, no public improvement or project, or subdi-

vision or zoning ordinance, shall be initiated or adopted unless the same conforms to and implements the General Plan. Hawai'i County Charter states that "zoning, subdivision, and other ordinances shall contain the necessary provisions to carry out the purpose of the general plan."

The Public Works Director responded to my request and came to North Kohala to discuss Akoni Pule Highway, triggered by the County taking over jurisdiction in a highway swap with State Department of Transportation. Key locations are being studied to design traffic calming for pedestrian and driver safety, including:

- 1) the side Road from Akoni Pule Highway to Kohala High School and intersection,
- 2) speeding and drop area in front of Kohala Middle School,
- 3) speeding on Kynnersley Road,
- 4) multiple driveways at/near Akoni Pule Highway and Union Mill Road, and
- 5) a non-conforming intersection (Hāwī Road and Old Hāwī Road) and Akoni Pule Highway.

The Traffic Safety Division is planning and designing proposed changes. The County will soon share for our review.

What happened with HELCO's battery backup proposal? North Kohala is served by a 34.5 kilovolt sub-transmission line built in the 1950s. The line spans 24 miles, from the Waimea Substation to the Hāwī and Halaula Substations and extends to the Hāwī Renewable Development wind farm. It is a radial line and the only line sending electricity to North Kohala. Annual maintenance work and emergency repairs require power outages.

HELCO's preferred solution was developed in conversations with the community, government officials, and industry experts. Hawaiian Electric would own and operate a microgrid controller but contract for a third-party battery energy storage system (BESS) which would be an energy source for the microgrid. In October 2021, the company issued a Request for Proposals seeking a 5- and 30-megawatt-hour standalone BESS. The proposals did not meet the RFP's criteria. With no selected bidder, the RFP was closed in August 2023. The company is determining the appropriate next steps and will provide updates as information becomes available. HELCO remains committed to a microgrid project to improve reliability and resilience in North Kohala. A microgrid would allow Hawaiian Electric to continue to serve customers in North Kohala during outages of the radial line connecting the area to the main power grid. It also would allow the flexibility to rebuild the line over multiple years, which would lower the costs of the rebuild. Other benefits

would be fewer and shorter outages for the area.

Project information and details on the North Kohala Energy Storage RFP are available on Hawaiian Electric's website: hawaiianelectric.com.

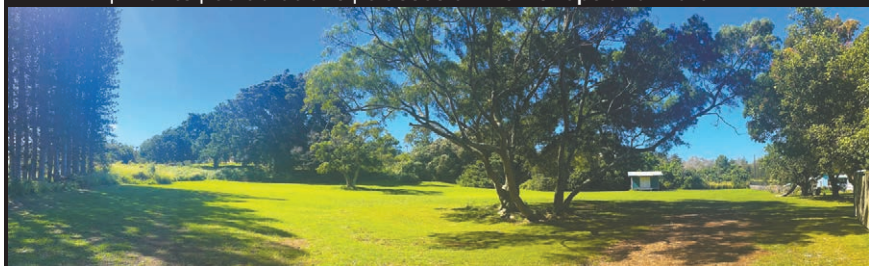
On the topic of Māhukona, the County continues to engage users about upgrades and restoration of the County park. I acknowledge the challenges of removing derelict structures, including those with hazardous materials and subject to regulations. I'm grateful to the user groups who love this park and understand its history. This park is in transition from increased usage. Social media, housing development in the region, and the recent land purchase by Hawaii Island Land Trust of the adjacent lands mauka of the pier will require continued community engagement about the future use of the park. Notably, the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources has jurisdiction on the ocean side of shoreline.

Restoration of the crane has been an ongoing project and the crane has been replaced. How will the County proceed with protection measures to ensure best practices for public safety on the pier and access into the ocean? Direct any questions and comments to the administration, specifically Deputy Managing Director Bobby Command at bobby.command@hawaiicounty.gov and cc me at cindy.evans@hawaiicounty.gov

My staff and I are here to help. Jessica: 808-889-6512 Blake: 808-961-8564 and my cell: 808-345-5810. Take care.

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March NKCDP Advisory Group Meeting Notes

By Lynda Wallach

The monthly meeting of the North Kohala Community Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG) was held on Tuesday, March 5, at the Kohala Judiciary Building. Reports from the various subcommittees were the main order of business.

The **Affordable Housing Group** has been reviewing the housing goals in County's Draft General Plan and comparing them to the Homes for Kohala objectives as stated on the Kohala Community Plan website: <https://kohalacommunityplan.org/housing>.

Jack Hoyt will be submitting comments to the General Plan on behalf of the group and members of the group were also encouraged to submit their own comments.

The group also agreed to submit a letter in support of the application by The Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) for an extension of their deadline for final subdivision approval of Self Help Phase 3, which is expected to provide forty units within five years on eighteen acres makai of Self Help 2.

The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Pomaika'i Cafe.

The **Agricultural Group** has formed several action working groups to tackle the priorities that were identified by the community at the agricultural visioning events last year. The first four groups will address issues involving land, production, housing and farmer wellness.

The Hawaii County Research and Development Department had provided facilitator training to the group and other interested members of the community, which will help them move their projects forward.

The group also hopes to bring the Master Preservers Workshop to the Kohala Food Hub certified kitchen, which should be coming online in the next few months. The group meets the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at the Kohala Food Hub.

Toni Withington of the **Community Access** group provided information on Pololū and the lookout, which has been averaging 550-600

visitors per day.

Townscape held its second public meeting on January 29 to get community feedback. While there was a lot of disagreement and negative feedback on access at that meeting, there seemed to be more consensus around possible solutions at a follow-up virtual meeting in February.

One of the ideas that was presented was the possible purchase of the old mule station and the parcel adjoining it to provide more parking and to possibly separate the lookout from the trailhead.

There was some discussion of how that purchase might be financed Townscape will be holding a third meeting before they finalize their report.

There has been much discussion about the dangers commercial bike tours present on Akoni Pule Highway from Kapa'au to Pololū and on the Mountain Road.

Councilwoman Cindy Evans has proposed a bill that would prohibit commercial bike tours on those two roads.

The result of the committee discussion of this bill was announced during the AG meeting: there were four votes for, four against and one excused. It will be passed on to the full County Council. Information as to when the bill will come before full Council will be provided once the date is known so that members of the community can provide testimony. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Growth Management has made a list of recommended changes to the Draft General Plan to change the designation for some areas near Hāwī town, Kahei Road and Kynnersley from agricultural to residential (urban) to make it possible to build affordable housing. It also recommends changing some areas where there is only farming activity or open land from urban to agricultural.

The owner of the proposed Hāwī Nani subdivision has not applied for any County permits. The group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The Parks, Roads, Erosion Con-

trol and View-planes (PREV) group is strategizing on how to get swimmers and boaters together to suggest some management rules that all can agree on once the new boat winch is installed at Māhukona. The group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

HELCO met with the **Utilities group** to discuss the status of the program to insure Kohala has redundancy during a power outage. Ironically, they were here in the midst of a power outage so had to make their presentation in the dark. Hopefully the point was made.

Our power line along the Mountain Road was built in the 1950s which can result in some unreliability. Because of the fires in Maui and possible fire dangers when a power line goes down, HELCO is no longer using its automated system which would immediately re-energize an interrupted line.

Now someone has to drive out to the line and check it out before it can be restarted.

A proposed second line along Akoni Pule Highway died because of view-planes objections and issues with Hawaiian Homelands and cultural sites. The microgrid program was tabled in August 2023 because the bids to build the system were too high.

They will try again to put out

Requests for Proposal that will hopefully be more reasonable. HELCO maintains a web page for the microgrid project: <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/about-us/our-vision-and-commitment/investing-in-the-future/north-kohala-microgrid>.

The Department of Environmental Management came to Kohala on February 28 to update the residents of the Big Island on the upcoming Master Plan for cess-pool conversion. More details on this presentation can be found in another article in this paper.

A representative from the Department of Water Supply (DWS) will attend the next Utilities meeting to discuss the water meter moratorium that DWS has said it would end once the Halaula well came online. The group meets the third Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. the Senior Center.

Following the subgroup reports, elections were held for AG officers for the coming year. John Winter will continue as Chair, David Fuertes will continue as Vice Chair and Allen Brown will take over as Secretary.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AG will be on Tuesday, April 2, at 4:30 p.m. at the Judiciary Building near the police station. The members of the community are encouraged to attend.



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4/4...THU.....SALT	4/18..THU.....HAPA
4/5...FRI.....FUEGO	4/19..FRI.....OFF DA CUFF
4/6...SAT.....RJ CHESNEY FT KENNY T	4/20..SAT.....FUEGO
4/7...SUN.....WEATHER PERMITTING	4/21..SUN.....FANYE
4/12..FRI.....TOMI ISOBE	4/25..THU.....PAU HANA PICKERS
4/13...SAT.....JOHNNY NESS	4/26..FRI.....MS DEMEANER & THE FELONS
4/14..SUN.....JOHN KEAWE	4/27..SAT.....JOHNNY SHOT
	4/28..SUN.....BROTHER NOLAND



FUEGO

HAPA

FANYE

BROTHER NOLAND

Keeping North Kohala Neighborhoods Safe



By Cheryl Rocha
Keiki ID program Officers Tagaca (left) and Bartsch and Neighborhood Watch representatives Nani Rasmussen (left) and Cheryl Rocha had a table set up at the Kohala Family Fun Day.



The Coffee with a Cop event at Pomaika'i Café gave community members interested in safety an opportunity to converse with local Hawaii Police Department (HPD) and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) officers. HPD Community Police Officer Dayton Tagaca, HPD Resource Officer Jonathan Bartsch, HPD Officer Justin Cabanting, HPD Officer Kalika Respicio, and DLNR Officer John Kahiapo engaged with interest. Ideas and concerns were presented to our officers, with one idea sparking a Kapa`au Neighborhood Watch (NHW) from Hospital Road to Kohala High School. Kathy Matsuda is the Coordinator for Kapaau NHW, Kanani Keliikipi is the Block Captain for Kapaau NHW, and Daniel and Melanie Diego are the Coordinators for Kynnersley NHW.

NKCDP ADVISORY GROUP AGENDA

MEETING TIME: Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.
PLACE: Judiciary Building (near the police station), 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



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A Rite of Passage on Kaimu Trail

The following story was originally printed in the January 27, 2017 issue of the Kohala Mountain News.

*A Story Years in the Making...
By Tim Head*

Once there was a roving reporter who lived near the end of the road. One day he met an old man who told him a story about some boys who had a very dangerous encounter with a wild pig in the mountains. But the reporter was busy with other stories at the time and said to himself, "I will talk to this old man again later." The old man died before the reporter spoke to him again. But the story continued to run through the reporter's mind and would not go away. So, seven years later, he decided to find others who could confirm and add to the story. He searched through the whole realm and could find no one who remembered the tale. Then he found the old man's brother who lived in a cabin at the end of the road. He had been present that day long ago in the mountains...

Rite of Passage on Kaimu Trail
A True Story

Nearly sixty years ago, when an unarmed troop of ten Boy Scouts came face to face with a large wild boar on a narrow path deep in the Kohala Mountains, everyone was frozen in terror.

The journey into the rugged mountains was part of a merit badge test put together by their scoutmaster, himself an Eagle Scout and a skilled woodsman who knew the terrain well. The plan was to take the scouts into tropical wilderness - nearly to the rim of distant Waimanu valley - and live off the land for a few days.

They set out on foot from the Pololu lookout, each carrying a full pack filled with tents, sleeping bags, clothes, but no weapons. This was an adventure, not a pig hunt. After two nights of camping and fishing for prawns in the streams,



Illustration by Jim Channon

they passed Awini and Kaukini cabins, and then Waikoloa gulch, which marked the end of the ditch trail system. From there on, headed for Waimanu and Waipio valleys, the trail became a narrow footpath.

The scoutmaster told the boys they might have to brave dangers. Part of the test. In addition to slip-

pery footing and steep palis, there were wild animals. He reminded them that feral cattle roamed the mountains. The traditional "fight or flight" response often would not work. Best to step off the trail, make yourself small and let the beast pass. Wild boars were even more lethal and numerous. Slashed

by razor sharp boar tusks, a hiker could quickly bleed to death.

When they reached Kaimu gulch they saw a narrow path winding down the mountain. One of the boys said, "I sure hope we don't meet any wild boars." Perhaps it was a premonition. A few moments

See Rite, Page 11

SUNSHINE

PAHU PA'AHANA

STORY BY KA LA CORP
ILLUSTRATED BY KRISTI KRANZ

EH, KA....
WATS UP WITH THE
PAHU PA'AHANA?

TOOL KITS FOR HELP HAVE
ONE GOOD LIFE!!

HOW COME GET TWO?

GOTTA CHOOSE ONE.....
TOO HEAVY FOR CARRY BOTH!

WHAT GET INSIDE?

ONE GET PLENTY:
KALA (MONEY)
KALAKUPUA (POWER)
BEAUTIFUL HALE (HOUSE)
SUCCESS
TROPHY SPOUSE
DIAMONDS AND GOLD

ONE GET PLENTY:
KINDNESS
UNDERSTANDING
FORGIVENESS
COMPASSION
ACCEPTANCE

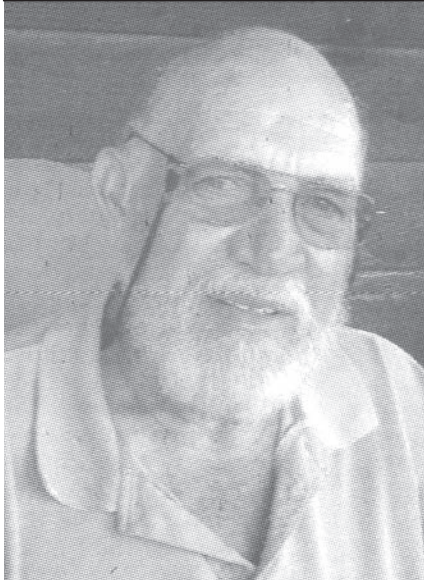
CHOOSE WISELY!

WHICH ONE
GOING
GIVE U
CONTENTMENT?

DATS HAU!

sunshine

Rite, From Page 10



Kohala Mountain News file photo
Kindy Sproat

later their dog sounded the alarm. A 200-pound boar emerged from under a hapu log, stepped onto the path and started up directly toward them. The troop froze in fear and dread. After a moment's hesitation, the animal charged.

The scoutmaster was bringing up the rear and was not in sight. The path was no more than two feet wide. There was nowhere to "step off the trail". No trees to climb. Sheer cliffs soared above and below. As the boar continued his terrifying approach, an older brother (who had come along to help out) shouted from behind, "Everyone sit

down!"

With barely an instant to react or think, the boy in the front of the single line of hikers, turned around and sat down. His expedition backpack faced the boar. The other boys grabbed hold of him as the boar arrived. WHAM! The pig crashed into the scout, slashing his pack. To their credit, no one tried to escape. All hands were outstretched to provide support and solidarity.

The boar shook his head and stepped back a few steps, then charged again. WHAM! Again the scouts reached beneath their fear to find strength, determination and courage to hold their ground - and to avoid getting knocked off the sheer cliff - just inches away. After this second unsuccessful charge, the boar retreated a few yards down the path, as if to consider his options. Everyone was hoping that he would just leave.

During this brief break, a large pack was handed forward. The first boy in line had just put on the additional padding when the call rang out "Here he comes again!" The horrified scouts braced for a third assault. WHAM!! The teenagers were like a rock. This time the pig did not leave. He stood with his nose near the expedition pack, looking for a way to get around the troop. At this moment Older Brother worked his way forward, holding a guava walking stick. He leaned over the scouts in front, found the animal nearly on the edge and gave him a sharp shove with the stick.

The pig stepped back and vanished without a sound down a four-hundred-foot pali.

The scouts picked themselves up from the trail and dusted off their fear. The first boy, whose pack was nearly demolished by the boar's sharp tusks, miraculously escaped without a scratch. He looked at his comrades, grinned and said, "Well, I think we've earned our merit badges." The scouts exchanged exuberant laughter and sighs of relief. They had passed the test. They had faced the dragon and survived.

Older Brother put it plainly. "Sometimes in life the best choice is not to charge forward or not to run away, but to just sit down."

Continuing down the path they came to a suspension bridge across a chasm. There were a few redwood planks missing. No pig would venture onto such a bridge. For the boar, the trail had become a dead end. Perhaps that is why the animal was so desperate to push the scouts out of his way. It was his only option.

What happened that day was much more than a hair-raising scrape with a wild beast in the woods. Consider the elements of a classic rite of passage. The narrow path can be seen as a "threshold of passage" where the youngsters entered a dangerous wilderness empty handed - without the advantage of human weapons technology. Then came the three challenges by the beast, which were overcome by the collective "brave heart" of the troop that manifested the archetype of the maturing male, who stepped forward to dispatch the obstacle from their path. Having passed through such a profound experience, the teenage boys earned much more than a merit badge. They emerged from those mountains as young men - forever changed and bonded for life.

Reporter's Postscript

The "scoutmaster" in this story was Bill Sproat, water luna for the Kohala Ditch in 1949. The "older brother" was Bill's second son, Dale, home on leave from the Navy. Dale's two younger brothers, Kamaka and Kindy, were also among the ten scouts. Two others were Wallace Ching and a scout remembered only as Paiasu. The names of the remaining scouts have faded from memory,

including the "lead boy" whose pack absorbed the boar's three charges.

Dale Sproat first told me this tale seven years ago when I was doing research for some stories on pig hunting in Kohala. I asked him who else was there. He responded, "My Alzheimer's... can't remember. All dead now."

When the Kohala Mountain News discontinued publication in 2001, I stopped writing. With the reemergence of this newspaper, I decided to pursue what had become for me a compelling story. In the meantime, Dale had died, and so had Kamaka and Wallace. I found no one among the old timers in Kohala who remembered the tale. Sometimes a reporter follows a trail to a dead end. Maybe I had a fragment, not a story. And I needed another eyewitness account to call it a true story.

Very near my house the old government road stops at the Pololu lookout - a dead end. Perched above the parking lot overlooking the valley and the windward coastline is a dwelling - the home of Kindy and Cheryl Sproat. I had been postponing an interview with Kindy because he has been in poor health lately, and I didn't want to disturb him. But the clock was ticking. With the story pumping through my veins, I ended up on his porch unannounced and was graciously welcomed.

For anyone seeking factual information about a long-ago event, there are three words that make the search worthwhile. In response to my first question Kindy said, "I was there." Much of the detail of this story comes from Kindy and closely matches what his older brother Dale told me in 1999.

Some people may have difficulty enjoying stories that end with the violent death of something or someone. Clyde "Kindy" Halemaumau Sproat has survived many bloody encounters with pigs during his seventy-six years. Sitting on his porch in 2007, in the sunset of his life, he thought about that day more than a half a century ago when the pig went over the pali. Holding an old guava hiking stick in his hands, Kindy looked out over the ridges towards Honokane Iki where he was born. In an expression of empathy he said, "The boar seemed like he was just as scared as we were."

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Hoa‘āina Stewardship Days at Niuli‘i



photo curtesy of <https://www.instagram.com/thekohalacenter/>

Community members of all ages are invited to join in the Kohala Center’s 2024 Hoa‘āina Stewardship Experiences.

These guided, half-day learning journeys are designed to deepen our pilina with Kohala’s natural and cultural landscape, create space for meaningful exchanges between place and people, and share in

mālama ‘āina in this moku we call home.

Our Hoa‘āina Stewardship Days in Niuli‘i take place on ‘āina gifted to The Kohala Center in 2016. Participants will meet and get to know ohiohikupua (lauhala) and the ulu hala (hala groves) of Niuli‘i, build foundational skills of hana lauhala (working with and caring for lauhala), and ulana lauhala (lauhala weaving) to perpetuate these traditional practices and strengthen pilina between ‘āina and kānaka.

Contact Mia Akau-LaClair at 808-887-6411 or makaulaclair@kohalacenter.org for more information.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 16
(Registration opens March 4)
April 13
(Registration opens April 1)
May 18
(Registration opens May 6)
June 15
(Registration opens June 3)
Visit koha.la/hoaaaina2024 to register.

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WEEKLY EVENTS IN APRIL 2024					
DAY	START	END	EVENT	VENUE	CONTACT (808)
M-S	8:30AM		NARCOTICS TALK STORY	RAINBOW CAFE	
MON	9AM		SENIOR CLUB @ CIVIC CENTER	KOHALASENIORS@GMAIL.COM	
	11:30AM		SENIOR DANCE CLASSES	KIC	238-6111
	4PM	5:30PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	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: 4/3 BOARD GAMES: KEIKI CRAFT:	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	8:30AM	10AM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	9AM	10:15PM	HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501
	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
	6:30PM		AL ANON MEETING	KALAIKIOLA CHURCH	802-334-8447
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

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Tool Library Plans Grand Opening Celebration

By David Gibbs

Five months after opening, the North Kohala Tool Library (NKTL) has over 75 people signed up, has completed almost 300 tool loans, and has over 500 tools available in its online inventory.

As NKTL is completely operated by a dedicated group of volunteers, we are so grateful to our Kohala community for your support and aloha and want you to join us in celebrating our beginning at our

Grand Opening Celebration event on Sunday, April 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It will be at our location, 54-3842 Akoni Pule Highway in Kapaau (old Sunshine Hardware Building near the park entrance).

Come celebrate, enjoy food and entertainment, get lucky in the raffle, tour the tool library and learn more about this amazing community resource that is available to everyone in Kohala!

We will kick things off with a

blessing by Kealoha Sugiyama at 11:00. Entertainment will include Kohala RMD Taiko at 1:00 p.m. and Halau Hula Kalaniumi a Liloa with Kumu Kau Nakamura at 2:00 p.m. A free, lucky-number raffle featuring prizes from local businesses and NKTL will be ongoing throughout the event. Shave ice will be available as will food and goodies for purchase from AJ's Grindz and others.

Tool Librarians will be on hand to share information about how the tool library works, help you sign up for a membership (available to EVERYONE in Kohala regardless of ability to pay, donation based) and show you around the tool library to introduce you to our ever-expanding inventory. It won't be a celebration without you, we hope to see you there!

For more information on NKTL please visit our website, www.nktoolibrary.org.



NORTH KOHALA CHURCHES

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

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(Matthew 11:28)

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The Bahá'í Faith

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Saturday, April 13,th
3-4 PM in Hawi, HI

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KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

April Hanamatsuri Service
Buddha's Birthday! Come join us! Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m.

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Rev. Masanari Yamagishi
(808)798-2075

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Divine Service: 10:45 AM

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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
@northhawaiihospice.org
or call **885-7547**



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TSHE.org@Protonmail.com
808-989-5995

“This is Kohala” to Air on PBS Hawaii on March 28



Photo credit: Bryan Campbell
Students and staff involved in the interview of Godfrey Kainoa, Sr. for the Kohala Oral History Project.
Left to right: Bryan Campbell (Instructor), Aundrea Franco, Kellin Matsuda, RC Baun, Amoo Kainoa and Godfrey Kainoa, Sr..

By Jocelyn Manuel

Kohala will take center stage with the premiere of “This is Kohala” on PBS Hawai‘i on March 28 at 8:30 p.m. as part of the PBS Hawai‘i Presents program. The broadcast will also be live streamed in Hawaii.

PBS Hawai‘i will also host a special virtual screening and Q&A on March 27 at 1 p.m. The Q&A will include the film’s producer, Jocelyn Manuel, the producer / editor, Bryan Campbell, and special guest Joe

Carvalho, one of the kūpuna interviewed for the oral history project on which the film was based. Look for the RSVP link on the Kohala Kakou Facebook Group.

This is Kohala - A Living Testament to Kohala’s Resilience

Inspired by the stories of his grandmother, Martina Manuel, Lucas Manuel-Scheibe, alongside his mother Jocelyn, embarked on a mission to document the narratives of Kohala’s kūpuna. Thus was born the Kohala Oral History Project.



Photo credit: Johnelle Kainoa
Kohala students interview Uncle Dennis Matsuda for the Kohala Oral History Project.



Photo credit: Johnelle Kainoa
Kellin Matsuda interviews Auntie Audrey Veloria for the Kohala Oral History Project.

Documentary filmmaker Bryan Campbell worked with Jocelyn to create the 30-minute film from the 24 kupuna interviews that were gathered. The interviews, captured in 2021-22, highlight Kohala’s values and sugar plantation history and includes archival footage and video, many of which are from the community.

The film includes stories from Brad Ballesteros, Boyd Bond, Maydean Bowman, the late Fred

Cachola, Joe Carvalho, Elsie and Saturnino Carpio, Connie Chun, Carolyn Sugiyama Classen, Jeff Coakley, David Fuertes, Dennis Gonsalves, Elaine Ishimine Hokama, Larry Kanda, Hope and John Keawe, Martina Manuel, Maile Spencer Napoleon, Violet Oliver, Marcelo Pagat, Jr., Earl Shimabukuro and Betsy Tamanaha, Kealoha Sugiyama, Gloria Teo, and Melvin Yanos.

“Kohala Voices” Youth Documentary Film Program Launched

The Kohala Oral History Project is also excited to announce that it launched Kohala Voices, a youth documentary film program. In collaboration with Johnelle “Amoo” Kainoa and Kohala Unupa’a, this program is teaching students how to conduct oral history interviews and film and edit videos. The goal is to capture more Kohala kūpuna stories.

The program would not have been possible without support from Hawaii Council for the Humanities, through support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Oscar L. & Ernestine H. Armstrong Advised Fund of the Hawai‘i Community Foundation, the Dorrance Family Foundation and Councilwoman Cindy Evans.

If you’re interested in being interviewed for the project, contact kohalaoralhistoryproject@gmail.com and learn more at www.kohalaoralhistoryproject.com.

Update on Hāmākua-Kohala Health's New Healthcare Facility in Kapa'au



The process continues towards reaching our goals and accomplishing our plans for the nearly five-acre parcel at the former Kohala Club Hotel. We have obtained a usage permit to convert from a hotel to a health care facility. On August 9th, 2023 the Leeward Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve our special permit to build

1) a transitional facility that will include primary care, behavioral health, dental, and lomilomi services,

2) a permanent health center and training

facility for those pursuing a health care profession, and

3) housing units for health care professionals and students. It has been a long process, but we are optimistic about making these goals a reality.

The following are some of the strides we have taken since purchasing the property:

- ✓ Botanical report
- ✓ Flora and fauna report
- ✓ Usage permit change
- ✓ Driveway permitting

✓ Historical research with site visit and evaluation

With the completion of the above evaluations, and permitting needed, we are now able to move on to the next steps of phase one to build our new transitional health center. We will be widening the driveway onto the property from Akoni Pule Highway. We will also be continuing our efforts to fundraise for the build-out. In the meantime, we continue to provide services at our current location next to the Kohala Hospital with primary care, dental services, behavioral health services, pediatrics, women’s health, and most recently, adding lomilomi services by our Cultural Practitioner Darrell Lapulapu. To make a donation to our Kohala project, please visit our website at www.hamakua-health.org and visit our “Ways to Give”. You can also contact us for more information on this project by calling Kai Carvalho at (808) 930-2759.

Hāmākua-Kohala Health is now accepting new patients no matter their health insurance status or ability to pay. We offer health insurance enrollment assistance and a sliding fee scale program.

For more information on the services we offer, and to schedule an appointment, please call (808) 889-6236, or visit us online at hamakua-health.org. “Caring for your ‘ohana, Caring for you.”



THIS IS KOHALA
On PBS Hawai‘i


Broadcast:
March 28, 2024
8:30 pm HST

Advance Virtual Screening and Q&A on
PBS Hawai‘i’s YouTube Channel:
March 27 from 1 – 2 pm HST




MONTHLY CALENDAR APRIL 2024							
DATE	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
4/1	MON	5:00PM	7:00 PM	CHESS CLUB	BEGINNERS AND VETERAN PLAYERS ARE WELCOME	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
4/2	TUE	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	JUDICIARY BUILDING	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/3	WED	4:00 PM	7:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	VENDORS & ENTERTAINMENT	HUB BARN	808-889-5523
4/3	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP	54-3876 AKONI PULE STE 4	808-989-5995
4/4	THU	4:30 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	FOOD HUB	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/5	FRI	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	FRANK MCCLURE	OPENING RECEPTION	OLENA GALLERY	808-345-1779
4/5	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/6	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00 AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSINE'S	808-889-5390
4/6	SAT	8:30AM		NKCRC'S 7TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT	REGISTER: NORTHKOHALA.ORG/GOLF	HAPUNA GOLF COURSE	808-889-5523
4/9	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	BRAIDING SWEETGRASS BY ROBIN WALL KIMMERE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
4/10	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIKA`I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/13	SAT	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	HOA`ĀINA STEWARDSHIP DAY	NIULI`I HALA GROVE REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1 KOHA.LA/HOAAINA2024	KĒŌKEA BEACH RD	808-887-6411
4/17	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/17	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/18	THU	9:00 AM	11:00 AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
4/19	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
4/21	SUN	11:00 AM	3:00 PM	NORTH KOHALA TOOL LIBRARY	GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION	NKTL	808 -213-7779
4/22	SAT	12:00 PM	4:00 PM	EARTH DAY CELEBRATION	ART SHOW	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
4/23	TUE	6:00 PM		HAWAII FARMERS UNION UNITED	FACEBOOK.COM/KOHALACHAPTERHFUU/	HUB BARN	KOHALA.HFUU@GMAIL.COM
4/24	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
4/24	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
FOR NORTH KOHALA PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS PLEASE HEAD OVER TO HTTPS://WWW.LIBRARIESHAWAII.ORG/BRANCH/NORTH-KOHALA-PUBLIC-LIBRARY/							

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



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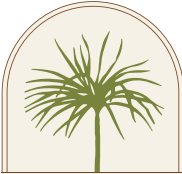
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Māhukona Crane Repaired

By Lynda Wallach

On March 5, the repairs of the boat crane and winch at Māhukona Wharf were completed. In February 2023, the condition of the crane had rendered it unsafe for use and it was removed by local volunteers. At that time the group, coordinated by Mike Feelig and consisting of boaters, contractors, and journeymen, came together and decided to repair it. Using donated labor, equipment, materials, and some original parts, they reconstructed the crane, basing the design on original plans that had been drawn up by Todd Andrews' father in approximately 1960. At every turn, the group was in contact with Director Maurice Messina and James Komata of the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Division of Boating and Recreation under the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, all of whom have given their support for the project.

The Mahukona Wharf has been used continuously by the fishing and boating community from as far back as 1948 when it was given to the County by the Territory of Hawaii. It has also been used to launch watercraft for ocean rescue efforts along the North Kohala Coast. Māhukona Wharf is not designated as a swimming area by the Department of Parks and Recreation, which has authority over the



The newly restored boat crane and winch at Māhukona Wharf with some of the team who completed the project.

area because, unlike the other part of the property, is not considered a beach park. However, the Department recognizes that other forms of ocean recreation occur there and intends to institute additional safety protocols so that the ocean may be enjoyed by all. Since the crane became inoperable, Mahukona Wharf has been used almost entirely for swimming and snorkeling. Because of the clear

waters and the abundance and variety of aquatic life, it has also been featured in guidebooks and has become popular with tourists. With the imminent return of boating activity and the fact that the ocean at Māhukona will now have to be shared, there has been much concern about how the safety of swimmers can be guaranteed. The issue of boaters and swimmers sharing the same space has

been a major topic of discussion by Mālama Māhukona (Friends of Māhukona Park) and the Parks, Roads, Erosion Control, and Viewplanes Group of the CDP. Both groups are seeking ways to have the actual users of the wharf area participate in creating solutions for shared use. The issue of safety for both swimmers and boaters has been of paramount importance for everyone involved in the project. Many measure are being implemented, including multiple warning signs for both swimmers and boaters and an informational flyer that will be available in a plexiglass box at the wharf that explains the rules of boating and boating safety. These include no wakes and a speed of two miles per hour entering the harbor. To legally use the crane, boats will need to be registered with DLNR. Further safety measures are still being discussed. There are also methods being put in place to track crane usage. Conditions at Māhukona are not always favorable for boating, so usage of the crane may not be heavy. Parking is often an issue at the wharf and is also something that is being addressed, now that trucks with trailers are in the mix again. Māhukona will once again be a mixed-use facility that can be enjoyed by boaters and swimmers alike if each agree to respect the rights and concerns of the other.



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