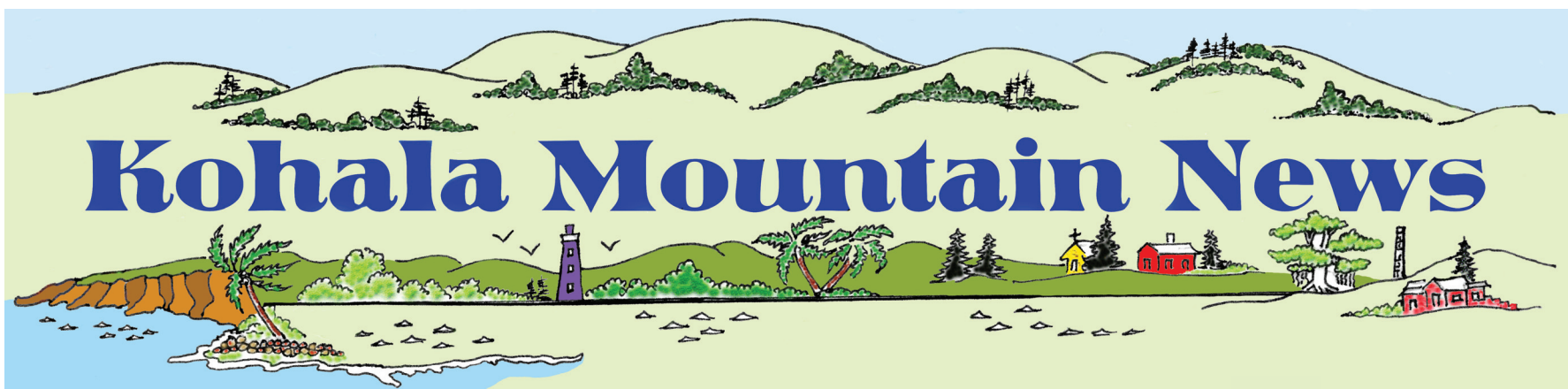




FREE

About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007

November 21, 2025

Daniel Coakley Inducted into Hall of Fame for Competitive Swimming



Daniel Coakley has been inducted into the Hawai'i Swimming Hall of Fame, Class of 2025.

Story and photo by Lani Coakley, including text from the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony program.

The Hawai'i Swimming Hall of Fame's Class of 2025 – which includes Daniel Coakley – was inducted at a dinner ceremony on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at

the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

Daniel Zane Kailikoa Coakley was born on December 13, 1990, and raised in Kohala, Hawai'i. He began swimming at the age of five, competing in novice swim meets before advancing to USA

See Daniel, Page 2

Lim 'Ohana Honored in "Lei of Stars 2025"



Courtesy of Sonny Lim

The Lim 'Ohana.

On November 15, the Lim 'Ohana will be inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame.

Music has long been part of the Lim family. When the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel opened in 1965, Mary Ann Neula Lim, an employee, was asked to perform for the hotel's guests. Her husband, Elmer K.S. Lim Sr., a full-time Parker Ranch paniolo, joined her. A family friend was the third member of the original group. Mary Ann and Elmer had six children: Leialoha, Nani,

Charmaine, Elmer Jr. (better known as "Sonny"), Lorna and James.

Growing up in Kohala, music and hula were important to the Lim family. As the children grew into their teens, they joined their parents at the hotel until every member of the group was family.

Through the years, the Lim family has won many awards, beginning with their first Na Hoku Hanohano Award in 1981 with "More Sounds from Kohala." They

See Lim, Page 2

The Story of How Kohala Got Its Name

The following is excerpted from Jeff Coakley's new book "Outhouse Mentality: Kohala, Rural Lifestyle," available at <https://jeffreycakalanicoakley.com>.

The Mo'olelo of Kohala

During the second migration to Hawai'i, a chief and navigator named Hawai'i Loa arrived. According to the story, as Hawai'i Loa gazed upon the striking red cliffs of the Kohala coastline, he named the land "Kohala." The name carries a poetic meaning: Sweet Breath of the Sun. "Ko" represents sugar or sweet, as in sugar cane. "Ha" symbolizes the breath of life inherent in all living things. "La" refers to the life-giving energy of the sun.

This beautiful interpretation of Kohala's name was entrusted to me by Aunt Emma through Jalna Keala. For many years, I shared this knowledge only with my family. Then, a few years ago, my wife, Lani, recounted the story to Kumu Hula Lorna Lim. At first, Lorna was skeptical, as the meaning of Kohala had long been considered lost. However, as Lani narrated the story, Lorna began to chant. She then confirmed, "I know that story. I know that chant."

Her recognition validated the mo'olelo shared by Aunt Emma de Fires who passed away in 1980, Kahuna Nui and Kumu Hula, great-great granddaughter of Kahuna Nui Hewahewa to King Kamehameha I.

Wind Farm Cranks Up its Power

By Toni Withington

For over a month, the giant blades of the wind farm at 'Upolu stood still, causing concern about the future wind power in Kohala. Thankfully, the pause was to upgrade the giant windmills to more than double the output of power from our windy slope. Fortunately, the turbines came back to use just before the high winds started on November 10.

The pause was caused by Hawi Renewable Development (HRD)

finishing a multi-million-dollar upgrade. Refurbishment of the stunning turbines and 50-foot-long blades has been a massive project at the windfarm for over a year. Each blade, turbine and resistor had to be removed, refurbished and returned to the towers using a giant crane.

While this work took place the facility continued to crank out more than the contracted amount

See Wind, Page 2

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Flags Placed on Graves for Veterans Day



Photo by Camilia Santiago

By Joe Carvalho
On November 8, volunteers placed flags for Veterans Day in Hawi and other cemeteries in Kohala. Ralph Galan, not pictured, did the cemeteries from Kapaau to Niuli'i. Pictured are those who placed flags at the Hāwī cemetery.
Standing (left to right): Toby Ongoy, Josiah Blair, Thalia Ongoy, Kalani Ongoy, Joe Carvalho, Susan Kobzev, Guy Sasaki, Scott Henne, Gilbert Bigtas, Sat Carpio, National Guard Alumnus Nario Libron.
Kneeling (left to right): Terry Ku and Colleen Henne.
Not pictured: Claude Pasalo.

Daniel, from Page 1 Swimming meets, where he shattered records in every age division. By age 18, Daniel had joined the ranks of the fastest 50-meter freestyle sprinters, a list that included legends like Matt Biondi and Gary Hall, Jr. He did this wearing a pair of jammers, before the introduction of high-tech fast suits. Representing his grandfather's homeland, Daniel swam exclusively for the Philippines. He dominated the Southeast Asian Games, winning gold in the 50-meter freestyle and setting new records in both Thailand and Laos. His incredible speed and dominance in the event earned him the title "Southeast Asian Sprint King" from his fellow competitors. A promise made as a child became a reality when, at 17, Daniel swam an Olympic-qualifying tie of 22.8 seconds at the Thailand SEA Games, breaking the previous record and defeating top swimmers from Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. He competed in the Philippines, Qatar, Rome, Singapore, Brazil, Thailand, Laos and China. He made friends with other swimmers from countries throughout the world, sharing their countries' beliefs, tasting various ethnic foods and laughing together. Daniel has remained connected to his community coaching novice, age group and high school swimmers, passing on his knowledge to the next generation. As a professional lifeguard stationed at Hapuna Beach, he has risked his own life to save others from treacherous rip currents. Additionally, he has led the Junior Lifeguard Program at Hapuna Beach, where he continues to serve and protect to this day.	Lim, from Page 1 won the award again the following year with "Pua 'Olena." After Elmer Sr. died in 1988, Mary Ann and the children continued as a group, while Sonny and Lorna also recorded as solo artists. Sonny received the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. The Lim Family received the HARA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012. Mary Ann died in 2017, but the musical tradition lives on in further generations, including nieces and nephews. Lorna's older daughter Brianna Wehilei Lim Ryder, performing as Wehilei, has already won three Hoku awards. Sonny added to the family legacy earlier this year with the release of "Hoene," a collection of 12 modern Hawaiian and hapa haole classics.	See Wind, Page 2 of power to the Hawaiian Electric Company grid. HDR owner Richard Horn told Carter Collins of the Utilities Group of the North Kohala Community Development Plan that the pause was needed to upgrade the control system and battery storage to produce the guaranteed annual delivery of 34 million kilowatt hours required by a new power purchase agreement with the electric company. Horn said the facility would be back spinning power from Kohala winds this month. At a meeting earlier this month a representative from Hawaiian Electric confirmed that the pause was caused by "facility upgrade." Richard Horn has agreed to meet again with the Utilities Group at its monthly meeting on January 21.
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NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

Date: Monday, December 1, 2025,
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Place: Senior Center (behind the statue)

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 adjacent NKCDP Meeting Notes for information on issues currently being addressed.)

- Affordable Housing** - Housing needs for families in Kohala.
- Agriculture** - The future of agriculture in our area.
- Community Access** - Ways for Kohala residents to have more mauka and makai access.
- Growth Management** - Zoning, permits, and variance requests and how they affect us.
- Health and Wellness** - Kohala health care infrastructure and emergency response.
- Parks, Roads, View Planes and Erosion Control** - Infrastructure problems and projects.
- Utilities** - Utility and waste stream issues.

Investigatory Subcommittee on Re-zoning and Agricultural Property Tax Rates - 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

November 3 Meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group

Reporting for **Affordable Housing (AH)** Jack Hoyt said that the Kohala Community Land Trust has had to spend a lot of time working through all the paperwork to create a non-profit trust. As always, the issue remains obtaining the money to purchase property or repair donated property. The Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) has a Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) which provides low-interest loans for home repairs and upgrades for low- and moderate-income homeowners so they are not in danger of losing their home insurance. More information at hawaicounty.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4125/720.
Self-Help Phase 3 for Kohala is now projected to begin in mid-2026. The group is also looking at water problems and wastewater treatment issues that are major impediments to affordable housing in Kohala. They have been reviewing alternative wastewater treatment systems.
The **Agriculture Group** joined the North Kohala Community Food Security Focus Group hosted by the Food Basket and the County of

Hawaii. The group also toured the local Meadow Gold Dairy Farm, owned by Brahman Sadeghi who purchased it in 2020 to keep the dairy industry alive in Hawaii. Water being a vital resource, he has made significant investments in a private well and conservation system but would also like to see the Kohala Ditch taken over by the state and restored. The dairy is working to reduce reliance on costly mainland feed, a key factor in the decline of Hawaii’s dairy industry, by growing crops like alfalfa and experimenting with crops like guinea grass, sun hemp and sweet potatoes. The operation relies entirely on private investment with no government involvement.
John Winter, reporting for **Community Access**, said that the Pololū subdivision (Makanikahio) is still going ahead. He said it is almost impossible to stop something if it conforms to zoning regulations so the group will be focusing on protection strategies rather than preventing the project. There is still no progress on transferring the Old Coastguard Road (Honoipu) from the federal government to the state.

See NKCDP, Page 4

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NKCDP, from Page 3

Malāma Māhukona has still not gotten a response from the Planning Department on their design progress for the park.

In October the **Health and Wellness Group/WRK group** attended a talk on autism assessment, diagnosis and treatment given by Sarah Novicks, a psychologist working with Hamakua-Kohala Health who specializes in all aspects of autism. They also discussed local efforts to assist community members experiencing food insecurity because of lack of funding for the SNAP program and the impact of the shut-down on federal workers. Sources include Kohala Resilience Hub; the monthly Food Pantry at Sacred Heart Catholic Church; the Little Food Pantries in Hawi, Kapaau, and Makapāla; and Kohala Cares every Tuesday at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church.

Boyd Bond reporting for the **Kohala Culture and History Advisory Group (KCHAG)** said that, in response to concerns over the subdivision plans at Kohala Shoreline, several community groups requested a post-fire archaeological and cultural survey.

The groups toured the area and discovered previously undocumented cultural sites. They are now trying to set up a site inspection and archaeological review with the State Historical and Preservation Division (SHPD). During a HILT talk-story session at Māhukona, Kealoha Sugiyama told of a stone

that is currently submerged in the harbor by the pier. The legend is that people used to hear the stone crying. When boats would come into the harbor they would often be damaged after running into the stone. When the decision was made to knock the stone into the water, they were told that that would be the end of the Māhukona community. Shortly after, the town of Māhukona was no more. Now the group is looking for a crane that can be used to restore the Māhukona stone to its rightful place.

The group is also looking to be able to facilitate community discussions on the many issues that need to be resolved around a proposed Rails to Trails project.

The project aims to use the old rail line in Kohala as a hiking and biking trail, but questions remain about things like cultural site impacts, bridging gulches where there are no longer trestles and easements through private land. The group proposes that a committee be formed that can carry the project forward.

The AG approved a letter written by **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and View-Planes (PREV)** to the Department of Public Works requesting the paving of the remaining stretch of Akoni Pule Highway between the hospital and Halaula.

In September the **Utilities group** hosted a public meeting with the Department of Water Supply (DWS) regarding the pump failures and the lack of communication that led

to many in the community being unaware that they needed to reduce water consumption. The group will prepare a list of various methods to disseminate information to the public, including a lighted sign at the entrance to Hāwi, which will be given to Jason Armstrong of DWS. The group continues to work with Aikane Nursery on getting some County support for their proposed green waste facility.

The real work of dealing with the issues facing North Kohala is done by the NKCDP subgroups, which are always looking for people to join them. The times and places of subgroup meetings can be found in the calendar section of this paper

The next meeting of the NKCDP AG will be on Monday, December 1, at 4:30 at the Senior Center. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

North Kohala Tool Library Survey Request

By David Gibbs

Aloha from your North Kohala Tool Library (NK5L)! Can you believe we have been lending tools for just over two years? We are constantly looking for ways to improve and here is your chance to share your input!

The North Kohala Tool Library has put together an important quick online survey to measure our impact on the community. This will help with our grant funds reporting and provide feedback on how we can improve and serve you better.

Whether you have used the tool library or not, please fill out our survey by going to www.nktl.org and clicking the “NKTL IMPACT SURVEY” button. Don’t wait, do it now! It’ll only take a few minutes — promise!

It will also only take a few minutes next time you pass by NKTL to stop in and check out our ever-expanding inventory and see how the tool library can become an important resource in your life.

Mahalo for your continued support. We look forward to receiving your feedback, sharing the results, adapting to better fit your needs in the future and seeing you at NKTL!



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FOLLOW @KOHALA NIGHT MARKET The Kohala Night Market is a Program of the Kohala Resilience Hub and the North Kohala Community Resource Center
info: KRH1@northkohala.org (808) 889-5523

Letters

Mahalo to our Kohala Community!

The Kohala Ride Wild Club (KRWC) sends our deepest mahalo to everyone who joined us for our 2nd annual Fall Festival Fund-raiser! Your incredible support and aloha spirit made this event such a joyful success. Families and friends enjoyed a day of fun, from pony rides, a hunted train ride and our cute petting zoo to face painting, delicious food and local craft vendors sharing their talents.

We extend a special thank you to our amazing vendors and community partners: Sweet&Dirty Sodas, BKH Kreationz, KC's cookies, Bellissimo Blossoms, Woven Skye, Teresa's Crafts / Meali'i Co., Rising Tide Poke, Country Girl Lemonade, J's Sugar Shack, the Hawaii Police Department, Show Systems Hawaii, Blaine Ho'opai Ohana, Kili/Larena Ohana and JNH Trucking & Services. Your participation helped

make the festival festive, flavorful, and full of aloha!

Thanks to everyone's generosity, KRWC can continue to support equestrian education, youth programs, and community outreach throughout North Kohala. To our volunteers, sponsors, vendors, and guest. Mahalo nui loa for helping us celebrate the season and strengthen our Kohala 'Ohana!

— Lachelle Crabbe

Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 8 Representative David Tarnas

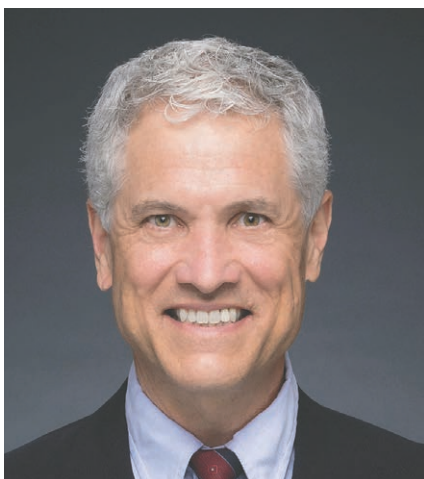


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

It is hard to imagine Kohala without palm trees. But that might happen if the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) gets established here.

Adult CRB are about 2 inches long, black, and have a horn. The larvae are about 3 inches long, white, and C-shaped. Adult CRB are nocturnal and can fly up to two miles if looking for food. To feed, CRB bite and bore into emerging palm fronds, creating holes in the top of the tree. They can kill palms if they burrow and eat below the bark. They prefer to feed on coconut, royal, date and fan palms (including loulou), but they will also feed on hala, taro, banana, pineapple and sugarcane. Adult CRB do not stay in the tree very long, preferring to live in or near any moist, rotting or composting organic matter, which is where CRB larvae live. They have been found on Oahu, Maui, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island at Keahole Point and Waikōloa.

On September 10, I joined Senator Tim Richards and Council Representative James Hustace to host a virtual community meeting on CRB Detection and Prevention. To provide accurate advice and information to community members, we were joined by experts from the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC), Department of Transportation – Biosecurity Program, Department of Land and Natural Resources,

University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (UH-CTAHR), and Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB).

The question-and-answer session was recorded (go to bit.ly/CRB0910-R) and included the following information:

Q: What is the government doing to stop invasive species from coming in?

A: The HDAB Plant Quarantine Branch regularly inspects imported agricultural commodities and is the lead in preventing new invasive pests from entering the state. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council coordinates the Ports of Entry Monitoring Program that monitors for CRB, invasive ants, mosquitos, Africanized bees and Japanese Beetles at State Harbors and Airports.

Q: How many eggs do CRB typically lay?

A: They typically lay in batches of 5-10 eggs, depending on if other females are also laying eggs nearby. A female can lay over 100 eggs in her lifetime.

Q: Do fumigation and insecticides kill the plant? Can you eat the coconuts from treated trees?

A: Chemical treatments are labeled for use on palms, and none are phytotoxic. Some treatments are only for ornamental palms, but there are some that can be used on palms used for consumption. Pyrethroids have low mammalian toxicity but are very toxic to invertebrates and aquatic life and cannot be applied close to fresh or salt water.

Q: What is the name of the pheromone? Where can I buy it?

A: Oryctalure; there are several suppliers. The chemical is ethyl 4-methyloctanoate and is available from several vendors, including Alpha Scents, Chemtika, and ISCA Technologies.

Q: Is the trap lure available from BIISC?

A: Yes! Contact BIISC at biisc@hawaii.edu and request lures.

Q: Where is the information on the location of treated trees?

A: HDAB oversees tree treatments. Contact them for updates: Ph: (808) 973-9560, Email: Dab.info@hawaii.gov.

Q: Is there a maximum elevation for CRB?

A: It is not likely to find them above 4000' elevation because they dislike sustained temperatures under 80F. They have been found at the summit of the Waianae range but are probably blown up there by winds.

Q: How does the community know when and where cypermethrin and or pyrethroids are being used?

A: If HDAB is in your community, the treatment team would go door-to-door to get consent to treat as well as inform residents about the possibility of treatment occurring. The primary area being treated is Keahole Point in Kona, where the trees are marked with Caution tape and metal tags.

Q: Since the treatment lasts for 3-4 months, have the trees been treated multiple times?

A: Trees that received crown treatments are now being injected with systemic pesticides to protect them for a year.

Q: How do we prevent CRB from getting into mulch piles?

A: A variety of netting types can entangle or exclude CRB. It's best to cover mulch piles with 2+ layers of 1/2" grid monofilament net (1" stretched hole size).

Q: When will BIISC have a real-time detection map online?

A: A "heat map" is used to show the concentration and general area of finds based on the color intensity in an area, with red showing where the detections are: uhm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/375bb1cb2cd74596b23dc4a20419f210

Q: Are Home Depot /Lowe's/ Walmart cooperative?

A: It depends on the store's manager. Some are very helpful. Some are not.

If you find suspect larvae, pupae, or adult CRB, please take photos, contain the specimen, and report it to BIISC at biisc@hawaii.edu or text 808-731-9232. Let's work together to prevent CRB from invading Kohala!

I am grateful to be your State Representative. Contact me anytime with questions and suggestions at (808) 586-8510 and reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Future KMN Deadlines

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

December Deadlines
Ads and News: 12/5/25
Calendar: 12/12/25
Distribution: 12/19/25

January Deadlines
Ads and News: 1/9/26
Calendar: 1/16/26
Distribution: 1/23/26

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

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ABOUT US

Publisher/Ad Sales Manager
Tom Morse ☎ 345-0706
ltmorse@aol.com

Managing Editor
Maureen Garry ☎ 494-4237
kohalanewseditor@gmail.com

Layout & Calendar Editor
Annalene Williams ☎ 339-4951
kohalacalendar@gmail.com

Bookkeeper
Jill Kupitz ☎ 896-2332
jillkupitz@gmail.com

November Contributors

Joe Carvalho, Jane Clement, ClimbHI, Jeff Coakley, Lachelle Crabbe, Lani Eugenio, David Gibbs, Randee Golden, James Hustace, Kohala Hospital, Kohala Lihikai, Libby Leonard, Sonny Lim, Psalms Lutz, North Kohala Public Library, Roots Wahine, Camilia Santiago, Leilani Silver, David Tarnas, Lynda Wallach, John Winter, Toni Withington.

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.

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

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace



Photo courtesy of James Hustace
Councilmember James Hustace represents North Kohala as part of Hawai'i County Council District 9.

Aloha Kohala!

As we begin to gather in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for the opportunity to reflect on recent happenings around our district and to look ahead at the ways we can share aloha and support one another. Thank you for helping make this community vibrant, resilient and compassionate.

Food insecurity is currently affecting many of our 'ohana across Hawai'i Island, and especially with recent impacts to SNAP benefits. Community partners and organizations across the island have stepped forward to provide relief. Mahalo to the Food Basket and Vibrant Hawai'i for taking the lead. If you need additional assistance or are looking for ways to lend a hand, consider supporting local efforts, including the Kohala Food Hub, the Sacred Heart Food Pantry, Kohala

Cares and 'Ohana Nui at St. Augustine's, as well as smaller pantries across Kohala. Your kōkua and generosity will help to nourish our neighbors and strengthen our community.

Last week, we honored our veterans with services at the West Hawai'i Veterans Cemetery and with the parade in Hilo. These moments of remembrance strengthen our connections and shared history as we pay respect to our kūpuna, our veterans, and all who have served to protect our freedoms.

At Council, I recently brought forward a bill to support our County Veterans Advisory Committee. I am also partnering with other Council Members to create a building codes advisory committee and to support our kūpuna farmers as they begin to transition away from an active farming lifestyle. I am also looking at ways to support generational 'ohana in our communities.

Council is also considering legislation allowing backyard henneries on residential zoned properties, allowing housing in our industrial-commercial mixed districts, adding minimum qualifications for future Civil Defense Administrators, and reducing plastic waste with prohibitions on plastic service ware. I encourage you to provide testimony and offer feedback on legislation as it makes its way through the County Council.

Mahalo to everyone who participated in our recent Community Conversation at the Kohala Intergenerational Center, hosted in collaboration with Civil Defense and Hawaiian Electric. This important discussion brought together residents, community leaders, emergency management personnel, and utility representatives to address

resilience and challenges in our rural communities. Your voices and input made the event meaningful, and together we left with actionable steps and a stronger sense of shared readiness.

Looking ahead to the season of giving, it is not too late to support the Kohala Toy Drive. Please drop off any new, unwrapped toys to the North Kohala Community Resource Center or designated sites across town. And if you are looking

to get into the holiday season, mark your calendars for the Waimea Christmas Twilight Parade on Saturday, December 6!

I am honored to serve as your Council Member. Please reach out if you have any questions. You are welcome to email me at james.hustace@hawaiiicounty.gov, call our Waimea office at (808) 887-6077, or our Hilo office at (808) 961-8564.

Wishing you good health. Be well. Aloha!

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We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration! Your support and presence made this milestone truly special. For five decades, we've been proud to be part of this community, and it's because of loyal customers and friends like you that we've reached this incredible moment.

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WITH SINCEREST GRATITUDE,
THE SUNSHINE HARDWARE OHANA

New Community-Led Project Targets Fire Ants

By Libby Leonard

Late October marked the first community workshop held by Kohala Community Fire Ant Solutions (KCFAS), a new grassroots treatment and education effort formed to fight back against the spread of the Little Fire Ants (LFA).

The event took place at agriculture nonprofit Kahua Pa'a Mua's Kapa Farm near Hālawā and brought together several residents ready to learn and act.

KCFAS, run by Kohala residents Jorgen Mathisen and Amber Martin, led a hands-on session on identifying fire ants, applying treatments safely, and building a united

community response. Their goal is to organize eradication efforts ahupua'a by ahupua'a, with neighbors in each area working together to stop the spread.

The ahupua'a system is a traditional Hawaiian land division from mountain to sea, with each section managed by its own community to sustainably care for resources and each other.

Two years ago, Mathisen was raking leaves at his Niuli'i home when he was bitten by fire ants for the first time. Having just moved from O'ahu, he didn't yet know what the stings meant. When he learned it was fire ants, he said he

felt hopeless and unsure where to turn.

After reaching out to neighbors without much luck, he connected with Kiyoshi Adachi, an extension agent with the Hawai'i Ant Lab, who helped answer his long list of questions and gave guidance.

Mathisen began treating his property, but soon his cat showed painful bite marks around its eyes, and a neighbor's cat was nearly blinded. Heartbroken, Mathisen realized he needed to extend treatments beyond his own yard. "I was ready to put a mortgage on my house," he said, describing his determination to protect his pet.

He began doing free treatments with Siesta and Tango in neighbors' yards, sometimes with Adachi's help.

While Mathisen was treating a property, Martin, who was housesitting nearby, asked to film him so the videos could help the wider community learn how to treat fire ants. At the time, several of her friends were struggling. One couldn't even walk to the stream behind his house, and another's child was being bitten in the bathtub. That same friend had even abandoned their food garden.

"Nobody knew how to treat at all," she said.

See LFA on Page 8

The Kuleana Is Ours

Plants brought to Hawai'i by the original Polynesian settlers have been the foundation of life for generations of Hawaiians.

Today, protecting these heritage plants and others from coconut rhinoceros beetles and any invasive species is the kuleana (responsibility) of everyone on Hawai'i Island.

Coconut palm, niu, the beloved "tree of life" provides food, water, weaving material, chordage, thatch, musical drums and more.

Coconut palms are part of the iconic imagery of Hawai'i.

Kalo, has been a fundamental food source for more than 1,200 years in Hawai'i.

It is a significant source of nutrition and an integral part of achieving the State's food sustainability goals.



Bananas are loved and enjoyed by many.

Farmed around the island, they are an important economic crop.



Hala, or pandanus, is cherished for its cultural significance.

Hala is a source of thatch and weaving material for baskets and mats. It was used for canoe sails by Polynesians who discovered Hawai'i.



THREATENED BY...

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles

CRB eat and kill coconut, loulu and other palms, hala, kalo, banana, pineapple, sugar cane and more!



Protect Hawai'i's Plants

Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB) have been found in some locations on Hawai'i Island!



CRB breed by laying eggs in decomposing organic materials: green waste, leaves, branches, logs, stumps, mulch, compost, soil and grass thatch.

There they live as grubs for 4 to 6 months and turn into beetles that fly at night.

SEARCH

- Search for CRB grubs, pupae and beetles in green waste or any decomposing materials. CRB have a short lifecycle so they must be searched for every four months.
- Search for CRB in store-bought plants, mulch and soil.

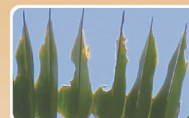
- Search for plant damage:



holes



V-cuts



scallops

REPORT

- signs of damage
- grubs that could be CRB
- large beetles or pupae
- unmanaged green waste



grubs: three instar stages



pupa

beetle



Take photos/video and

IMMEDIATELY call or text 808-731-9232

Big Island Invasive Species Committee info & map: www.BIISC.org

PREVENTION & TREATMENTS

- Don't move untreated breeding materials or potted plants from or within CRB detected areas.
- Every four months thoroughly search all areas that have decaying green waste, logs, stumps, mulch, compost, soil & grass thatch.
- Green waste can be taken to County designated locations listed here: www.hawaiiwastewaste.org/recycle/greenwaste-recycling/



The County of Hawai'i makes mulch from green waste. It's processed with natural heat to kill invasive pests.

The resulting free mulch can be used as a ground cover or to enrich soil.

- Keep organic materials in hard CRB proof containers or treat it: www.crbhawaii.org/treatments-breeding
- Don't keep piles of green waste. Spread mulch thinly right away to make it less desirable to CRB.
- Consider non-organic mulch alternatives.



"Together, only as one big 'ohana can we overcome the CRB."
Lito Arkangel

Sponsored by
County of Hawai'i DEM
& State of Hawai'i DAB



LFA, from Page 7



Photo by James Hustace

Jorgen Mathisen of Kohala Community Fire Ants Solutions gives presentation at little fire ants workshop.

The two joined forces, talking with neighbors in Niuli'i, offering free treatments – especially for kūpuna – and fostering a shared sense of responsibility. Mathisen, who lives modestly, has spent thousands of dollars from his retirement fund on treatments.

Fire ants may seem small, but their impact is enormous. They attack birds, pets, livestock, and other native species, reducing biodiversity and harming ecosystems. They damage crops and can even disrupt cultural gathering practices.

Regulatory gaps and a lack of unified treatment programs have

made controlling the spread difficult. There is no centralized database tracking infestations or treatments, though the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture has been directed by the legislature to create one starting December 1.

KCFAS is building its own system with the help of a resident who volunteered to do data mapping – someone whose property Mathisen had previously helped treat. One major barrier, Martin said, is shame. People often don't want others to know they have ants. Mathisen added that the stigma worsens the problem.

"We can't get this done if somebody isn't communicating with somebody else," Martin said. "So many people have it now, there is no need for shame."

Finances are another obstacle. Treatments can cost hundreds or thousands of dollars, depending on property size. Currently, O'ahu is the only island offering free treatments, though the Department of Agriculture hopes to roll out similar programs on neighboring islands.

"It creates limitations," said David Fuertes, executive director of Kahua Pa'a Mua, whose farm has also been affected.

As part of the workshop, Mathisen and Martin returned to demonstrate mixing treatments, test the property with tape to locate the worst infestations, and begin treating the farm. They then partnered with Kahua Pa'a Mua to launch a pilot project in Halawa, a heavily infested area, aiming to get neighbors working together on eradication.

Fuertes said his farm could serve as a location for a community mixing station, where neighbors join teams, fill containers with treatment solutions for free, and receive instructions on proper application on their properties. Mathisen said their long-term goal is to establish several mixing stations and treatment teams across Kohala, along with instructional videos and more community workshops. All are seeking funding options to expand operations, with the support of the

Sustainable Kohala 'Ohana, which is connecting them with potential partners, resources and opportunities for community outreach.

"My vision is that we work like the ants in large numbers of teams and then eradicate them together," Mathisen said. "That's my mission for all the islands."

Martin added that this project is about more than just fighting ants. It's about rebuilding local connection and self-reliance.

"We keep thinking somebody's coming to save us," Martin said. "The truth has always been that we take care of each other. [Once] we get a teamwork feeling going, we start talking about the big picture. We need food security. We need happiness." She continued, noting that once the land is clear of the ants we can grow more food to provide for one another.

For more information about KCFAS, and to learn about upcoming workshops, please contact KCFAS808@gmail.com.

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North Kohala Library December 2025 News and Programs

By Leilani Silver

December is your last chance to come and check out the light table and rainbow spectrometer that was generously loaned to the library from the Hawaii Keiki Museum.

North Kohala Library staff would like to wish everyone a very joyous and peaceful holiday season. This month we are offering many opportunities to read, learn and connect.

Chess Club: December 1 at 5 p.m. Both beginners and veteran players are welcome to challenge others in this classic game of strategy. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Feel Happier and More Relaxed with Ila Jhaveri: December 1 at 3:00 p.m. All participants will walk away with useful and highly effective tips on using food-as-therapy, acupressure, and other lifestyle tools as well as info on acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Preschool Storytime: December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 10 a.m. We gather to sing songs, read a few simple stories, then make a craft or do an activity every Wednesday. Great fun for 2-5-year-olds and their parents or caregivers.

Lego Club: December 3, 10, 17,

24 and 31 at 2 p.m. Join us every Wednesday for some imaginative fun as we build cool creations out of Legos. Creations will be displayed at the library.

Homeschool Thursday: December 4 at 11 a.m. is Join us for an informational story followed by a related activity or craft. This program is best suited for kids 6-12.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: December 8 at 5:30 p.m. Join Leilani Silver for a unique immersive experience of being “bathed” in the vibrations of eight 432 Hz Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowls made from 99.9 percent clear quartz. The tremendously powerful high frequencies instantly reduce stress and tension and create a relaxed and meditative state that supports healing and regeneration.

Adult Book Club: December 9 at 11 a.m. Join us for a lively discussion of “The Snow Child” by Eowyn Ivey. The book is based on the life of a couple who are forever changed by the arrival of a wild and secretive little girl. It was a nominee for Best Historical Fiction in 2012 by Goodreads and a Best Book of 2012 by Amazon Books. Available for pick up at the library.

Cold/Flu Prevention with Ila

Jhaveri: December 9 at 3:00 p.m. All participants will walk away with useful and highly effective tips on using food-as-therapy, acupressure, and other lifestyle tools as well as info on acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Special Preschool Storytime with Santa Claus: December 10 at 10 a.m. Santa Claus will be spreading joy through a delightful 30-minute story session, sharing beloved holiday tales, and taking photos with keiki and their families. Use your own camera to capture the special moment with Santa! Keiki will receive a special gift, while supplies last.

Local Author Talk: December 15 at 5:30 p.m. Join local authors Joel and Michelle Levey for a reading and discussion of their newly released book “Manual for the Awakening Warrior: The Special Forces Secret Mind-Body-Spirit Training Program.” From the authors website, “This is a book for awakening the special kind of courage needed in these challenging times to keep our eyes, minds, and hearts open without being overwhelmed or turning away.”

Children’s Book vs. Movie Club: December 18 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month’s selection is “The

Wild Robot” by Peter Brown. Read the book and/or come watch the movie. Short discussion will follow. Popcorn provided! Program is for ages 7-12. The book is available to pick up at the library or for digital download from www.librarieshawaii.org.

Teen Book Club: December 19 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month’s selection is “Stardust” by Neil Gaiman. Read the book and/or come watch the movie. Short discussion will follow. Popcorn provided! Program is for ages 13 and up. The book is available to pick up at the library or for digital download from www.librarieshawaii.org.

Family Holiday Storytime: December 22 at 5 p.m. is a Celebrate the holiday season at the library with your family. Children’s Librarian Leilani Silver will read some holiday stories, then we will make a holiday craft as well as spend time decorating a cookie.

North Kohala Public Library Hours:
Mon: 12-4 p.m., 5-7 p.m.
Tues-Thurs: 9 a.m.–12 p.m., 1-4 p.m.
Fri: 12-4 p.m.
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Preservation Progress on the Leeward Coast

Story by Toni Withington

The North Kohala coastline has always been a place for fishing, gathering, and recreation. Economic pressure has changed that. The story of Kohala’s local community effort to protect its access to the ocean spans 50 years and engulfs many generations of people. What started in the 1970s as protests against the zoning of two large resort developments has evolved into the transfer of over a thousand acres of private land to open space held for the benefit for Kohala residents today and for future generations. Much of the open space rests along the 16 miles of leeward coast.

In addition, miles of coastal trails have been opened officially for access across private land. As consequence, stewardship of the coast and its many historical and cultural treasures is an ongoing volunteer activity.

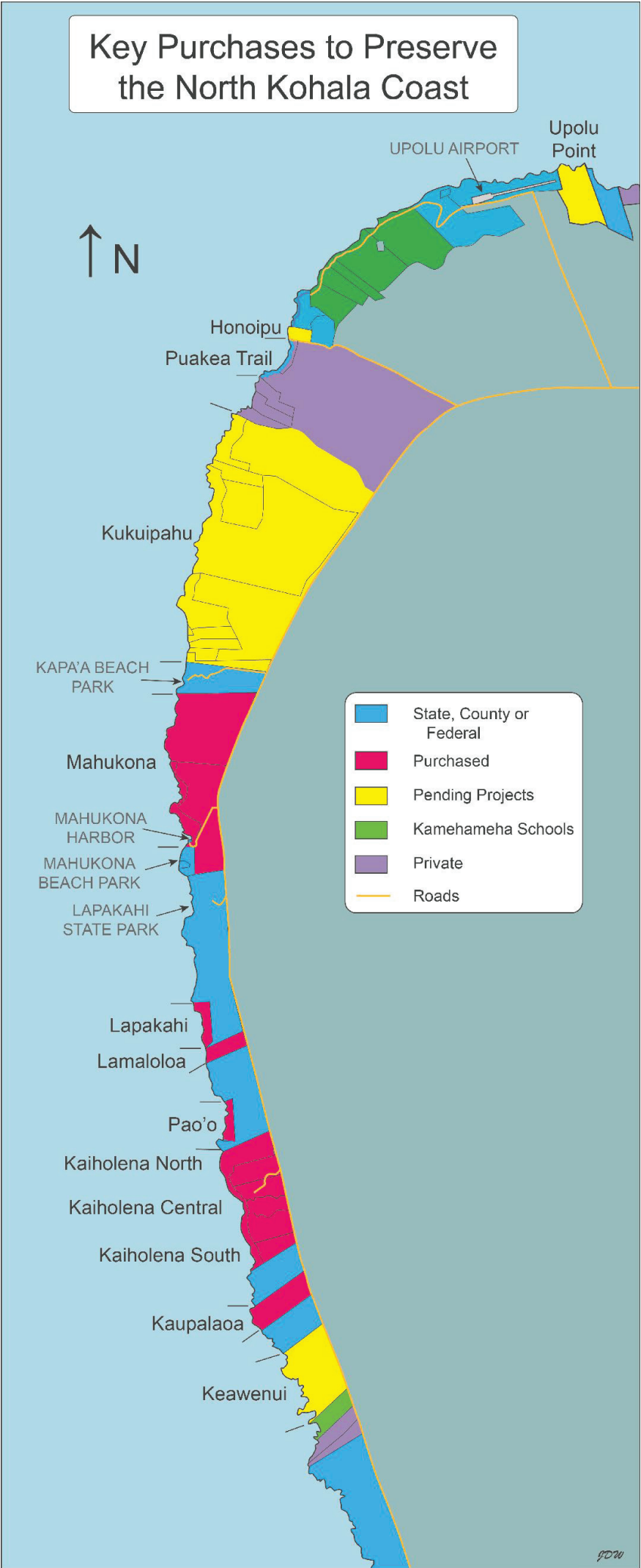
The coast was well populated seven hundred years ago, but archaeologists are just beginning to understand the treasure trove of knowledge about early Hawaiian life on the undeveloped leeward coast and the northern coast, which was the homeland of Kamehameha the Great.

Through the efforts of six Kohala community organizations in partnership with County, State, and Federal governments, four Hawaii

land trusts, and generous landowners, 1,197 acres of coastal land have been protected from development in perpetuity during the last fifteen years. The partners participated in raising a total of \$51.3 million to make the transfers happen. This doesn’t include the millions of dollars discounted by cooperating landowners.

The County’s 2% Open Space Fund and the State’s Legacy Land Preservation Program accounted for much of the funding. Hawaii Land Trust (HILT) as well as federal grants, added to that. Private donors pitched in. It was the cooperative work of the Kohala groups that kept focus on the goals, stated clearly in the North Kohala Community Development Plan (County Ordinance #08-151), which was, and continues to be, the driving force. What’s truly remarkable is that the accomplishments were achieved with all volunteer labor and little publicity.

The six groups are Kohala Lihikai, led by Joe Carvalho; Malama Na Wahi Pana O Kohala, led by the late Fred Cachola; Ka Makani of Kohala – Kako’o, led by Toni Withington; Malama Kohala Kahakai, led by Gail Byrne Baber; Maika’i Kamakani O Kohala, led by Stephanie Naihe Laxton; and Kohala Historic and Cultural Preservation Group, led by the late



Courtesy of Kohala Lihikai

Mike Isaacs. Together they have annually nominated Kohala lands to the County Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Conservation Commission (PONC) priority list since 2006. Three additional

See Coast on Page 11

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Coast from Page 10

properties totaling 1,954 acres have been prioritized by PONC with actions toward their preservation proceeding. So, the story is not over. The next generation is stepping up.

Opening the Leeward Coast Step by Step

Upolu Point – The County is in the process of purchasing 88 acres next to the 'Upolu Airport that is the northern point of the island. It is culturally and recreationally important to the people of Kohala.

Honoipu – Once a part of the Coast Guard Loran Station, this land includes part of Old Coast Guard Road and the parking lot at the Na Ala Hele coastal trailhead. It has been on the County Open Space Priority List since 2018. Transfer of ownership of the upper road from the federal government is pending.

Puakea Trail – The State was granted ownership of a trail corridor along the cliff top by the State Land Board as a result of action brought by Kohala residents. The trail is administered by the State Na Ala Hele trail program. Erosion of the cliff means the trail needs to be realigned for safety.

Kukuipahu – Because of its outstanding historic sites and recreational use, this land is singled out by the North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP) for preservation. It has been on the County Open Space Priority List for purchase since 2007. Talks have been ongoing with Parker Ranch for conservation of the makai portion.

Māhukona – Purchase by Hawaii Land Trust (HILT) of 642 acres of

land was completed in December 2023. Māhukona is Kohala's primary ocean recreation area and home to hundreds of historic sites including a famous navigational heiau. Once zoned for resort development, the NKCDP in 2008 called for public purchase of the land, which had been on the County Open Space Priority List since 2006. Funds were raised from federal, state, county, and private sources.

Lapakahi – The 17 acres, known locally as Tabrah's, were purchased in 2011 with State Legacy Land Preservation Funds (LLPF) and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant with the help of The Trust for Public Lands. It is now part of Lapakahi State Historical Park.

Lamaloloa – Once slated for resort development, this 35-acre parcel was purchased in 2023 by the National Park Service. It had appeared on the County Open Space Priority List annually since 2014.

Pao'o – Home to a popular surf break and many historic sites, the 10.6-acre parcel was the focus of several legal battles to prevent construction of large vacation homes. It was purchased in 2010 with matching funds from the County Open Space Fund and the State LLPF. The County holds title.

Kaiholena North – During the 1980s, the land division of Kaiholena was rezoned for resort and golf course. In 2000 it was subdivided into six parcels. All parcels were named for public purchase in the NKCDP and listed annually on the

County Open Space Priority List for many years. The first three lots totaling 151 acres were purchased outright by the County Open Space Fund in 2010. The land is highly significant, both culturally and historically.

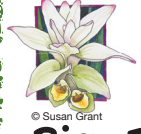
Kaiholena Central – The next two parcels, totaling 77 acres, were purchased in 2013 with two thirds of the price coming from the State LLPF and the rest from the County Open Space Fund. The County holds title to the land.

Kaiholena South – The last 35-acre parcel was purchased in 2015 with funds primarily from the State LLPF. The rest was raised by

the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, which holds the title. Several private donors were joined by Hawaii Land Trust (HILT), which holds a conservation easement on the land.

Kaupalaoa – Another site once designated for resort development, this 64-acre parcel was first named to the Open Space Priority List in 2018. It was purchased by the North Kohala Land Trust in 2021.

Keawenui – This popular fishing and former camping site has been listed every year on the County's Open Space Priority List since 2010. Privately owned, it is known to have pre-Western contact historic sites and old fishing villages.



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Free Sessions to Improve Your Health



Acupuncturist Ila Jhaveri will be giving free community talks December 2025 through March 2026.

Story and photo by Randee Golden

Want to learn some ways to become healthier? If yes, plan to attend free community talks by licensed Acupuncturist Ila Jhaveri. Four hour-long informal classes are scheduled on the first Mondays of December 2025 through March 2026 at the Kohala Library. Starting at 3:00 p.m., sessions are held on the library lawn under a tree, so bring a chair or mat. (If it's raining, check the meeting room.) All are welcome.

Born in San Francisco, at 10 months old she moved to O'ahu, where she grew up and obtained her training. With a master's degree in Oriental Medicine, she started her practice in 1996. Previously, Ila's focus was on women's health. Now she has a more general practice, treating concerns like diabetes, high blood pressure, mental/emotional health and issues of aging. Her passion is helping people learn health enhancing practices so they can thrive.

Ila relocated to North Kohala in 2021, where she began to learn about the community and create a space to do her work and farm. Recognizing the magic of her new home, she searched for a way to show her gratitude to this land and its people. Her unique solution is to offer treatment to native Hawaiians at a reduced rate and to treat Hawaiian kūpuna free of charge.

Those patients who can pay full price, therefore, are also helping to care for Kohala by making Ila's gift possible.

During her talks, this soft spoken and knowledgeable practitioner shares how lifestyle changes, custom formulated granular herbs, and acupuncture can help people improve their health and thrive. Ila shows participants acupressure points to use on themselves and others and discusses practical information, like how food can be therapy.

In December, Ila will present two talks. On December 1 she will focus on how we can consciously work on our health and wellbeing to feel happier and more relaxed. By request, on December 9 Ila will repeat her November talk on preventing and treating colds and flu.

Specific topics for talks in 2026 will be shared via the Kohala Library announcement board and in the Community Calendar.

Helping Kohala residents become healthier and more vibrant is Ila's sincere desire. You can find her on some Saturdays at the Hub Farmer's Market, sharing information and connecting with patients. You can also contact her at Ilajhaveri@mac.com or 808-333-5594 (land line). Mahalo to Ila for actively sharing her knowledge and supporting the people of Kohala.

WEEKLY EVENTS IN DECEMBER 2025					
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	
	12:00PM		SENIOR BALANCE, STRENGTH & FITNESS	KIC	238-6111
	4PM	6PM	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
	4PM	6PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	4:30PM	6PM	LOVE YOUR BELLY DANCE CLASSES	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111
	4:30PM		KOHALA CARES FOOD DRIVE	ST AUGUSTINE'S	ALOHA PETER @YAHOO.COM
	6PM	8PM	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	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	3:30 PM	4:30PM	RMD TAIKO CLASSES (NOT 1ST WED)	JODO MISSION	895-2025
	5PM	6PM	CHOIR PRACTICE	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
	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	ZOOM	989-5995
	7PM	8PM	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	KALIKAHOLA CHURCH	747 9627
THU	8:30AM	1PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
	9:30AM	10:45PM	HEALING CIRCLE FOR ADDICTS	NANI'S GARDEN	805-452-9501
	5PM		OPEN CIRCLE MEDITATION (NOT 2ND)	KEOKEA BEACH PARK	889-5390
	6PM	8PM	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	12PM	HAWI FARMERS MARKET	KOHALA VILLAGE INN	895-7870
	8AM	5PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
SUN	10AM	12PM	ECSTATIC DANCE	HUB BARN	
	6PM	7PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM	8PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	RED COTTAGE VILLAGE HUB	(907) 888-8166

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	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
12/1	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	ANXIETY TALK W/ ILA JHAVERI	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/1	MON	4:30PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/1	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESSE CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/3	SAT	3:00PM	5:00M	YOUTH ART EXHIBIT	ARTIST RECEPTION	OLENA GALERY	808 345 1779
12/3	WED	4:00PM	7:00PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	FOOD TRUCKS AND LOCAL VENDORS	HUB MURAL	808-889-5523
12/3	WED	4:30PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/3	WED	7:00PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
12/4	THU	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	HOMESCHOOL GROUP	LEARN AND SOCIALIZE AT THE LIBRARY WITH A STORY AND ACTIVITY.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/6	SAT	8:00AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
12/6	SAT	5:30PM	8:00PM	HOLIDAY FAIR	ARTIST RECEPTION	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
12/8	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	SOUND BATH	CRYSTAL ALCHEMY SINGING BOWL SOUND BATH WITH LEILANI SILVER	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/9	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	DISCUSS SNOW CHILD BY EOWYN IVEY WITH US!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/9	TUE	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	COLD AND ILLNESS PREVENTION TALK W/ ILA JHAVERI	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/10	WED	9:00AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA `I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/10	WED	5:00PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/15	MON	5:30 PM	6:45 PM	LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK TALK	JOIN LOCAL AUTHORS JOEL & MICHELLE LEVEY FOR A READING OF THEIR NEWLY RELEASED BOOK, MANUAL FOR THE AWAKENING WARRIOR	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/17	WED	3:30PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/17	WED	5:00PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/18	THU	9:00AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-5115
12/18	THU	2:30 PM	4:30 PM	CHILDREN'S BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	READ THE BOOK, WATCH THE MOVIE! THE WILD ROBOT BY PETER BROWN.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/18	THU	5:00PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	HUB BARN	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/19	FRI	02:30 PM	04:30 PM	TEEN BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	READ THE BOOK, THEN COME WATCH THE MOVIE! STARDUST BY NEIL GAIMAN	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
12/19	FRI	4:00PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
12/20	SAT	11:00AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	{808} 213-7779
12/22	MON	5:00 PM	6:45 PM	HOLIDAY FAMILY EVENING	HOLIDAY STORIES, CRAFT AND COOKIE DECORATING!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655

Culture Group Celebrates Local Author

Story and photo by Libby Leonard

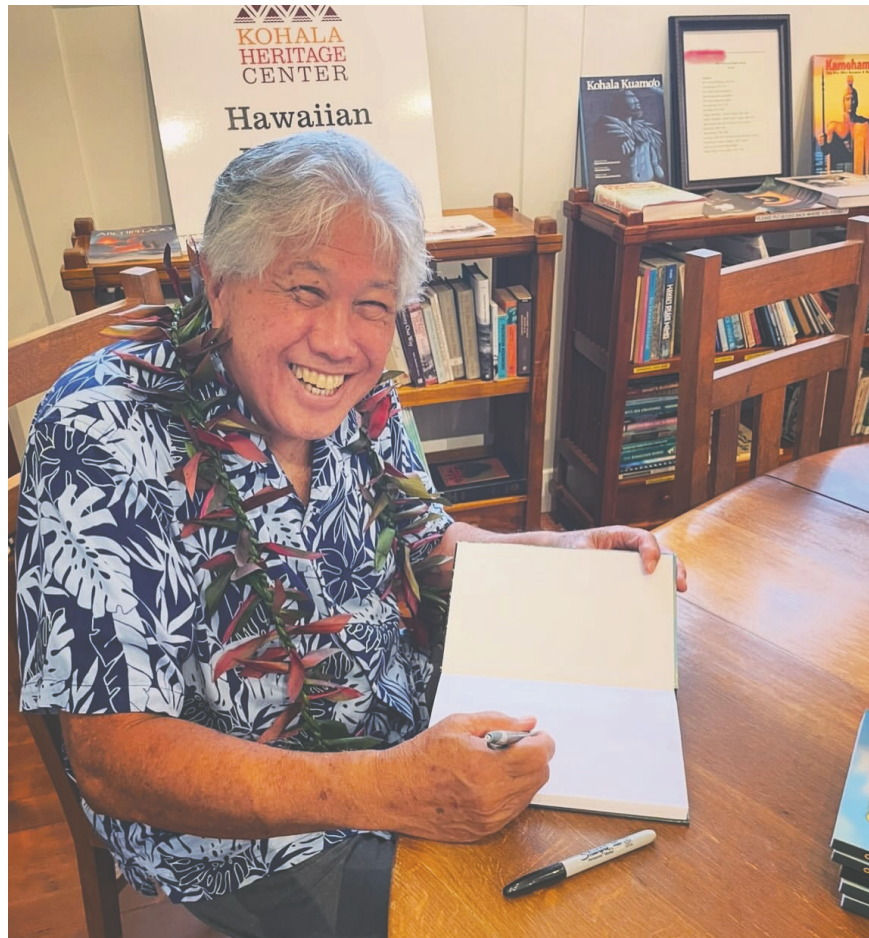
On the evening of October 6th, at Kohala Heritage Center, the Kohala Culture History and Advisory Group (KCHAG) celebrated the release of Jeff Kalani Coakley's new book *Outhouse Mentality*, which came out on July 14.

Outhouse Mentality is a collection of heartfelt nonfiction stories reflecting on memories, lessons and voices from the community in Kohala during the plantation era.

The event was the first of its kind hosted at the beautifully renovated Heritage Center. It included a talk story, where Coakley was interviewed by long-time friend and fellow community advocate Marc Kinoshita, who grew up in Kohala. They both reflected on values, old times and hopes for the future.

The phrase "outhouse mentality" was a phrase sometimes used in a mocking way to refer to those who chose traditional ways of living instead of what some claimed was so-called progress. However, Coakley reclaims it to reflect a community who lived by the values of humility, sustainability, and sharing.

"Everybody was poor, so everyone was humble," he said,



Jeff Coakley signs a copy of his book at an event at the Kohala Heritage Center celebrating its release.

adding that "true wealth isn't from possessions, but is found in the people's connection to the land, and the culture," Coakley told the audience filled with several local residents, family and friends.

Coakley came from O'ahu to live in Kohala in the 1970s and spent decades listening to Kohala's treasured kūpuna while spearfishing, taro farming, and raising his sons near Niuli'i stream.

Kinoshita reflected on how many of the names mentioned in the book were important and beloved kūpuna who have passed away, and how important it was to capture what they shared to keep it preserved.

"These stories carrying on [in the book], makes it possible in this community to still have that ability to create this aloha and sustainability and the specialness of why people move here," Kinoshita said.

After the Talk Story, several members of the audience lined up to buy t-shirts, and books that they had the author personally sign. Books sold out quickly, with Coakley later announcing his plans to write *Outhouse Mentality 2*.



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West Hawai'i Students Participate in Third Annual ClimbHI Exposure Fair



Photo courtesy of ClimbHI
Students discuss career opportunities and requirements with representatives of Clinical Labs.

On November 4, Hawai'i workforce development nonprofit ClimbHI, in partnership with West Hawai'i high schools, businesses and organizations, hosted the third-annual West Hawai'i Exposure Fair at the Mauna Kea Resort Ballroom. The event was intended to reimagine and transform the hiring process for high school students.

Students in grades 9-12 from eight schools, including Kohala High School, attended.

More than 45 businesses and organizations participated in the event, allowing students to rotate in 5-minute sessions in a "speed-dating" style. This unique format provides businesses, organizations and students with dedicated time to connect, helping students uncover opportunities and career paths that lead to economic self-sufficiency here in our islands. In a 2024 survey

of participating West Hawai'i Exposure Fair students, 78 percent said they were interested in careers outside their current pathway.

"West Hawai'i helped us kick off our initial Exposure Fairs, and we have since had incredible success statewide in exposing students to high-quality careers, progression plans, requirements, and the experience needed to begin their path to success," said Julie Morikawa, President of ClimbHI.

Exposure Fairs are a public-private effort followed throughout the year with additional relationship-building opportunities such as ClimbHI Leadership Exploration Inspiration (LEI) and the ClimbHI Service Excellence Certificate, as well as events through ClimbHI's Bridge portal and a ClimbHI Hiring Blitz closer to graduation. Founded in 2009, the Hawai'i-based 501(c)(3)

nonprofit ClimbHI seeks to inspire students to finish high school and proceed to post-secondary education or employment by exposing

them to future career paths and the steps necessary to achieve those goals. For more information, visit climbhi.org.

Halloween Fun at Roots Skatepark's Annual Costume Parade



Photo courtesy of Roots Wahine
Skating with friends and practicing skills is a great way to spend part of the day.

Story by Psalms Lutz

Rain or shine, keiki had a blast at the 2nd Annual Costume Parade at Roots Skatepark.

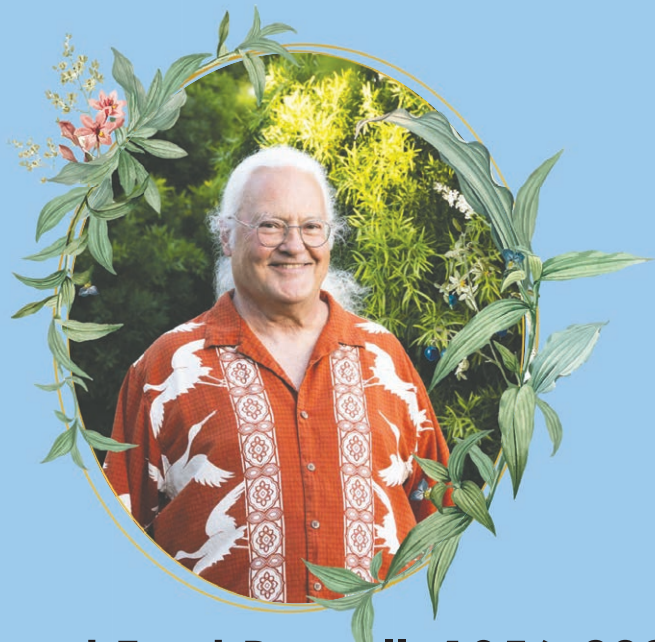
Skaters of all ages enjoyed riding, carving and doing tricks on the variety of grades, bowls and rails at the park.

The building of Phase 3 is underway. Richey Riggs and Brian Sandlin, owner of Abstract Concrete, are driving the construction that will make the skatepark one of the

best in the islands and should bring many skaters to Kohala.

The organizers also look forward to adding a crosswalk at the skatepark for safety. They hope to bring a show to the community in December so keiki can show off their moves and tricks.

Come to Roots Skatepark to support our youth and witness their talent. Stay involved with the project and support it as you are able at Rootsskatepark.org.



Richard Ford Russell, 1956-2025

Richard Ford Russell died peacefully at his home on September 22nd, 2025, his wife Jileen and son Zac by his side. Born in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on November 19, 1956, Richard was the eldest of five children to George and Jane Russell. His early passions defined his life among Pacific Northwest forests, climbing Mount Rainier, and traveling the length of the Salish Sea.

Richard had a spirit beyond the Northwest attending Phillips Exeter ('76) and then Stanford ('80), where he studied international relations. After graduation, Richard moved back to the Northwest to focus on painting and would meet Jileen on a beach one sunset. They married in 1982 and moved to London, where Richard joined the family business, The Frank Russell Company. On their

return to the states, Richard and Jileen welcomed their son Zac. In 1999, Richard and Jileen founded Pu'u O Kumau Ranch in North Kohala, Hawaii, which embodied their belief that business could regenerate rather than extract and communities could be built around shared values. Richard's artistic output throughout his life was prolific. He painted, primarily in oils. He was a musician and songwriter, produced twelve albums, and created documentary films. His art was how he processed and shared his experience of the world.

Richard's most lasting work may be in philanthropy. He co-founded The Russell Family Foundation in 1999 with his parents and siblings, where he served as a trustee and president granting close to \$150 million to local initiatives throughout the Salish Sea region. In 2021, he co-founded Clementine Fund with Jileen, Zac, and his daughter-in-law Mariko. As executive director Richard originated a new approach, modeling trust-based philanthropy through streamlined grantmaking and unrestricted gifts. Richard believed that real change happens when funders step back so communities can step forward, a vision fully realized with Clementine Fund.

Richard approached his various roles – businessman, artist, philanthropist, husband, father, grandfather – not as separate identities but as expressions of a single philosophy: that life is meant to be lived fully and talents are meant to be shared. He made people everywhere feel seen and valued. Creativity flourished in his presence because judgment did not.

Richard often watched the Pacific Ocean perform its daily drama of light and water from his home perched on the world's edge, rarely missing a sunset with Jileen. He is survived by Jileen, his wife of forty-two years; his son Zac and daughter-in-law Mariko; his grandson Rumi; his father George Russell, and three siblings Dion, Eric & Sarah.

Celebration of Life December 21.2025 Kumau Barn 2pm until sunset.

Kohala Hospital: More Than Just Long-term Care

Story by Jane Clement

Located near the statue of King Kamehameha the Great in Kapa’au stands Kohala Hospital – a small community hospital with a big mission: to provide a healing environment to all the people of Hawaii. Kohala Hospital is a critical access hospital providing emergency services, skilled nursing care, rehabilitation, imaging and laboratory services. It has come a long way since 1917, when it first opened its doors to patients.

“I think a lot of the community members, or maybe islandwide, are not aware that there are other services provided here at Kohala Hospital besides the long-term care that we were better known for in the past,” said Kohala Hospital human resources specialist Rae Yangson. “A lot of patients come from all sides of the island, for recovery after surgery as well.”

While Kohala Hospital now offers a wide spectrum of services, it continues to care for those who require long-term care. Yangson’s grandmother, Nora Fernandez, is one of those residents.

“Kohala Hospital is special to me because, first of all, I was born here, raised in this small community,” said Yangson. “Now it’s even more special because this is the place that my grandma calls her home.”

Kohala Hospital is more than the services it provides. It is a place where healthcare transcends the usual metrics, where care is deliv-



Courtesy of Kohala Hospital

Kohala Hospital staff member with patient.

ered with heart, and where the human touch matters just as much as medical excellence.

“Being that we are a smaller facility with a 25-bed maximum, we have the staffing that can provide personal, personalized care for each patient, ensuring that each patient’s needs and wants are taken care of,” said Yangson. “And I think that is important for their recovery and for those who call this place home.”

Here, the nurses and staff make sure that patients feel seen, valued, and celebrated. From impromptu birthday parties to the heartwarming ceremonies when patients are discharged, the care at Kohala comes with personal touches that leave a lasting impact. It is no surprise that former patients frequently stop by to

say hello long after their discharge. The staff’s genuine care and kindness create strong, lasting bonds.

Yangson is proud to work at Kohala Hospital alongside many others who also grew up in the community and now care for their aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends. She is also following in the footsteps of her aunt, Lenora Oshita, who retired after working at Kohala Hospital for 32 years.

It’s more than just teamwork – it’s a finely tuned family dynamic where friendship is an essential part of the healing process.

“The care we give is special in a genuine and unscripted way,” said Kohala Hospital administrator Gino Amar.

One patient’s story perfectly

captures the essence of Kohala Hospital. After retiring from a successful 30-year career in accounting, Nohokula Kahananui of Kona was ready to enjoy her new chapter in life when a stroke changed her plans. After receiving care at several hospitals across the island, she was given options for her rehabilitation and recovery. She chose Kohala Hospital.

“I like this town. It’s so peaceful and quiet. I get to focus on my rehab and get better. And I’m glad I chose to come here,” said Kahananui.

She added that Kohala Hospital provided a tranquil, healing environment where she could focus on her recovery. With the support of the hospital’s rehabilitation team, she made remarkable progress, regaining mobility and independence after her stroke.

Kohala Hospital may be small, but its impact on its community is immense. It is a place where excellent medical services meet compassionate, personalized care. Whether through emergency services, long-term care, or rehabilitation programs, the staff at Kohala Hospital goes the extra mile to ensure that every patient feels like family.

Kohala Hospital is part of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation’s West Hawaii Region, which also includes Kona Community Hospital. Together, they focus on taking great care of every patient, every day.

For more information, visit kohala.hhsc.org or call 808-889-6211.

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