

FREE

About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007

December 19, 2025

North Kohala Rings in the Season with Festive Night Market



Photos by Kimi Vaka'uta

Best friends Vaitasi and Nafanua stop for a photo with Santa.

By Kimi Vaka'uta and Kathy Matsuda

The North Kohala Resilience Hub, a program of the North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC), kicked off December with a Christmas-themed Night Market. Over 200 keiki came to visit and take pictures with Santa.

Santa and his elves had toys from which keiki ages 0-12 years could choose. Rhythm Sanctuary Kohala played Christmas music throughout the night, and some of

the keiki from Kohala Elementary School and Lava Root/Jhumble even line danced with Santa.

A big thank you to everyone who donated to the toy drive, Sunshine Hardware, Kohala Grown, Takata Store, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union, Arakaki Store and NKCRC. Thank you to Councilmember James Hustace for supporting this event.

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Mayor Rejects Old Coast Guard Road Take-over



Photo by Kanoa Withington

On the right, Old Coast Guard Road winds down the photo from the highway to the dirt-colored parking lot on the ocean. The federal government owns the upper three quarters of the road to the clump of trees where it turns to the left and stops at a gate. The lower quarter and parking lot are privately owned along with the first two structures of the former Coast Guard Loran Station. The rest of the station is owned by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. Off to the left are Kamehameha's Birthsite, Mo'okini heiau, and Upolu Airport. The houses to the right are within Puakea Bay Ranch subdivision and do not have access to the road.

By Toni Withington

Thirteen years after Mayor Billy Kenoi started efforts to take over ownership of Old Coast Guard Road from the federal government, Mayor Kimo Alameda refused the offer of free transfer of the road. This came despite the efforts of several Kohala community organizations and the road's residents to encourage him to accept it.

The road is the only vehicle access to Mo'okini heiau and the Kamehameha Birthsite Monument. It also accesses the State's Na Ala Hele trailhead at Pali Akamoa, the Puerto Rican Arrival Monument, Honoipu Landing State Registered Historic Site, the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, five resi-

See Road, Page 2

2nd Annual Meeting of Kohala Community Land Trust: Kohala's Solution To The Housing Crisis

Story by Beth Robinson

Throughout 2025, the board of directors of the new non-profit Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT), worked hard to complete important groundwork that will allow us to begin keeping Kohala in community ownership in the coming years. We prepared for purchasing properties as KCLT and explored a menu of other mechanisms to support families in keeping their homes in family hands. KCLT will be able to roll out these programs in 2026. Mahalo to all who volunteered and helped with our work!

As of year-end KCLT has 139 members, and the Board wants to thank each of you for your support and patience as we bring our community-led housing and land trust to life.

It took longer than we expected to lay the foundation, but the KCLT Board felt it was essential to put proper legal mechanisms, protocols, and policies in place to be sure that KCLT will act in the best interests and reflect the values of the Kohala community.

When Kohala Community Land Trust takes ownership of property in the future – whether homes, land or commercial buildings – the property will be collectively owned by the members of the Kohala community – forever.

KCLT is a membership organization. The organization is governed by Kohala residents and your ongoing participation matters!

PLEASE JOIN US at the Second Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 5 p.m. at the Hub Barn. Members, other

community supporters, and those curious about KCLT's programs are all welcome to attend.

At the meeting, the voting membership of KCLT will elect Board members, and discuss priorities and policy issues. KCLT By-Laws encourage transparency and consensus decision making. The agenda for the Annual Meeting includes a review of the previous year, an overview of plans for the coming year, and election of the board of directors. We will also talk about opportunities to join committees or volunteer in other ways.

Three Board members have one more year to serve in their two-year term: Ashton Dircks, Beldon Kealoha, and Beth Robinson. At the annual meeting, resident members will elect or re-elect three additional Board members to represent their interests. The slate of nominees will be sent to all 2025 voting members along with the notice of annual meeting in early January.

With Kohala residents and supporters as KCLT members, we take the creation of permanently afford-

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Kohala Mountain News
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Road, from Page 1

dences, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands holdings at ‘Upolu.

It is the only public access to the ocean for a five-mile stretch between ‘Upolu Airport and Kapa’a Park.

Acceptance or further negotiations with the National Parks Service’s (NPS) Federal Lands to Parks Program had stalled for over a decade when last January, as the President began gutting the NPS of employees, the feds gave the county a deadline to accept the road. At first Mayor Alameda expressed support for having the transfer happen. He bypassed a meeting with interested parties in Kohala. After consulting with County advisors, he later told the feds the State should take it over.

NPS officers in San Francisco and local advocates worked with the Division of State Parks for many months this year, but it was determined last month that transportation regulations prohibited the State from accepting the road. In a letter to the mayor, David Seigenthaler, regional manager of the Federal Lands to Parks Program, said that while the State had shown interest and taken steps toward transfer “the State is once again deflecting to the County as the more appropriate recipient of this no-cost property transfer under the Federal Lands to Parks Program.”

He asked the mayor to let him know by December 12 if the County desires to reassert its commitment to obtain the road.

Meanwhile local groups like the Kohala Community Access Group, the Growth Management Group and the Parks, Roads and Erosion Control Group continued efforts to arrange talks with the mayor. The North Kohala Community Development Plan’s (NKCDP) Advisory Group on December 1 unanimously approved a letter imploring the mayor to accept the federal government’s offer to control the road “to ensure public access to the ocean at Honoipu.” Access over the Old Coast Guard Road is a clear recommendation of the NKCDP (County Ordinance 08-151).

Before he received the letter the next day Mayor Alameda had already, without discussions with the community, responded to the

NPS saying “every County administration that has considered the acquisition of this property has ultimately decided not to proceed.” He said the deed restrictions of the agreement are too onerous, the costs of maintenance and liability are significant, and the County would “bear long-term costs without a commensurate public benefit.”

He threw the ball back to the State or the DHHHL.

“Such agencies have mandates and resources more aligned with stewardship of Hawaiian cultural and historic sites,” he said.

What will happen to the road if the county refuses?

“This is our last chance to convey this property under our public benefit conveyance program before we return the assignment to the General Services Administration (GSA) for disposal under a different authority. Once it’s back in GSA’s hands I’m guessing they will possibly consider a transfer to Hawaiian Homelands, a negotiated sale with a government entity for public use, or put it up for private sale,” Seigenthaler said in the letter to the mayor. The GSA was the title holder of the road after the Coast Guard Station was abandoned in the 1990s.

It was later transferred to the NPS to be donated to a local government, since GSA is not structured to give land away, only sell it.

Requests to reach the mayor for comment about the story before KMN deadline were unanswered.

Federal ownership of the road only extends from Akoni Pule Highway to the red cinder road to Mo’okini heiau. The lower portion of the road and the parking lot by the ocean, once belonging to Parker Ranch, are privately owned. The owner of the land at Honoipu is also willing to transfer control of the road and parking lot to whatever agency takes over the upper portion.

Recognizing the importance of preserving the lower road segment and the parking lot, Kohala groups nominated the Honoipu land to the County’s priority list for purchase or conservation easement using the 2% Open Space Fund. The County’s Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission (PONC) put the property on the Mayor’s Annual List each year from 2018 to 2022.

KCLT, from Page 1

able housing into our own hands. The more members KCLT has, the more power we have to achieve our goals.

Current Members: Membership is for one calendar year. You can renew your membership at or before (preferable!) the meeting. We will be emailing reminders in January

Become a New Member: Every Kohala resident over the age of 18 can become a voting member. Non-residents, part time residents, or younger community members can be supporting (non-voting) mem-

bers. Membership applications are available on KohalaCommunity-LandTrust.org, at the North Kohala Community Resource Center, or from any board member.

Membership dues are still only \$20 for 2026.

For more information contact any board member or email KohalaCLT@gmail.com. Currently serving Board: Ashton Dircks, Beldon Kealoha, Beth Robinson, Denni Keyes, Keli’i Kapali, Teri Takata, Terra Sutton and Whitney Harvey.

E mālama kākou, e mālama i ko Kohala kaiāulu! [Let’s take care of Kohala’s community!]

Festive, from Page 1



Michal and Santa breaking down line dancing.



Brothers Pa’alua and Po’okela smile after getting toys from Santa.

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NKCDP AG December Meeting Notes

By Lynda Wallach

Jack Hoyt of the **Affordable Housing group** gave the first sub-group report at the December 1 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Group Advisory Group (NKCDP AG).

The Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) is looking to begin the Self-Help Phase 3 project in Kohala by mid 2026. This involves extending the present Self-Help Housing between Hawi and Takata store makai [toward the ocean]. Prospective buyers must get on the HICDC waiting list and begin working with any readiness program to understand how to qualify for a loan. They must also be prepared to meet the work commitments.

The group has resources to help applicants become financially ready. The Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development is providing low-interest loans for home repairs and upgrades for low- and moderate-income homeowners. They are offering potential principal forgiveness for eligible seniors and those with disabilities. Information can be found at www.hawaiicounty.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4125/720. The group has discussed the possibility of contracting with local licensed electrical, plumbing and building contractors who might be willing to help seniors on a pro bono basis. The group reviewed the Affordable Housing portion of the NKCDP from 2008 and determined that

the priorities are still the same but affordability is, if anything, worse now than it was then.

The **Agriculture group** invited a speaker from Design Think Hawaii to their November meeting. The organization sponsors trips to South Korea for students and educators where they visit specialized Agricultural Tech Schools and learn a wide range of practical skills. Kohala High School has established a sister school relationship with a Korean agricultural high school, which will facilitate exchanges and internships of students and teachers supported by the Korean government. Design Think Hawaii has a website with information.

Toni Withington of the **Community Access group** said there is a pending subdivision that would transfer about an acre of land at the Pololū Lookout to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for a parking lot, interpretative center, portable luas and a trail to the lookout. The luas are already in place. The subdivision on the rim is on hold because the owners have asked for a time extension. The owner of the 88 acres at Upolu Point along with Withington and Keone Kalawe met with the County Finance Department and the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) to encourage the start of negotiations to purchase the property to restrict development. The mayor will be reviewing the proposal.

Growth Management (GM) and Community Access continue to deal with the issue of the transfer of the Old Coast Guard Road from the National Park Service (NPS) to the County. The State Parks Department was willing to take it over, but it was determined that the Department was not legally able to do so. Mayor Alameda has refused to accept the transfer, although he is being encouraged to do so by the State and our groups. The AG unanimously approved a letter to the mayor and James Hustace advocating County acceptance of the road before the December 16 deadline after which time it would remain with the Department of Interior to sell. The road then would most likely not be maintained. The two groups are asking for meeting with the mayor and members of the community to persuade him of the importance of the road to Kohala. [See related story in this issue.]

The **Culture and History Advisory Group (KCHAG)** submitted testimony in opposition to the new rules proposed by the Department of Aquatic Resources to open up waters for aquarium fish harvesting. Their consensus is that there should be a complete ban. There will be another opportunity to testify in January or February, both online and in person at the West Hawaii Civic Center. Once the exact dates are known, the group will share them with the public. There needs to be more community awareness on this issue.

The **Health and Wellness group** attended a psychological first aid class which provided information and training on psychological support resources that could be established in the community following a mass violence or smaller impactful incident. Centers could provide a secure space for victims, survivors and family members where they could obtain timely and accurate information immediately after the incident. A second tier could provide information on a wide range of support services and a third could offer mid- to long-term recovery and support for all involved, including first responders. Any Kohala resident with training in psychology or a related field is encouraged to contact the Resilience Hub.

John Winter reporting for **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplanes (PREV)** said that the Mayor's Quarterly Letter listed park improvement priority projects and Māhukona was not on the list. In the seven years since the pavilion was condemned, it has apparently dropped from number one priority at Parks and Recreation and among the top three-to-five with the mayor. The group and Mālama Māhukona are addressing this. There continue to be issues between boaters and swimmers, so Mālama Māhukona and PREV are working to get representatives from both groups together to craft an agreement.

The Utilities group heard a presentation from WaiHome, a local

See NKCDP, Page 4

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NKCDP, from Page 3

startup from Oahu which produces “Mata,” a single-family residence solid waste interceptor and dehydrator. Mata would sit between the toilet and a cesspool or septic system and dehydrate the solid waste which can, given approval and proper processing, be used as compost. If approved, it may become possible to install Mata and retain a (cleaned) cesspool rather than replace it with a septic system on properties which are away from the shore or streams and cannot accommodate a septic system due to lot size or unsuitable terrain. There are currently two pilot test installations on North Oahu, and a pilot is being planned for the Big Island. The cost of a Mata installation is estimated at \$7,500 as opposed to \$15,000 to \$30,000 for a cesspool to septic conversion. At the moment, the Department of Public Health is not accepting applications for new technologies; however, the mayor has promised to ask the State Department of Public Works to accept the Mata product, pending test results.

Times and places of subgroup meetings can be found in the Calendar section of this paper. Members of the community are encouraged to join a group that reflects their interests.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AG will be on Monday, January 5, at 4:30 in the Senior Center. See you there.

NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

Date: Monday, JANUARY 5, 2026,
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

Letters

Mahalo for Excellent Reporting

To the Editor,

Please allow me to commend Toni [Withington] for the amazing reporting on the preservation of the 13 leeward ‘ili [sections of land].

I think this work is a benchmark for reporting, and also so wonderful to see.

Thanks Toni,
John Gray
Batanes, Philippines

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2026

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Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 8 Representative David Tarnas

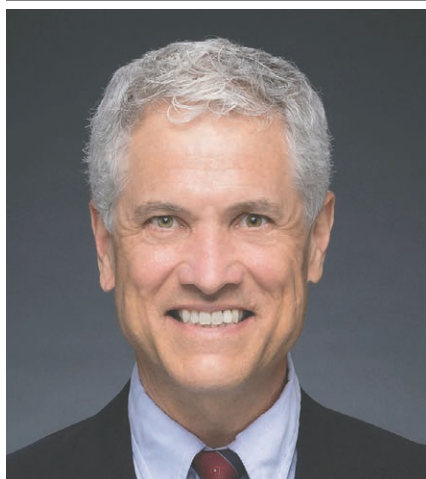


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Aloha. The 2026 legislative session begins on January 21, 2026. Since the last session ended in May, I have been working with agency officials, constituents, advocacy groups and others to draft proposed bills for next session, which will help make Hawaii healthier, safer and more affordable. Legislative proposals are also recommended by agencies in their annual reports to the legislature that provide updates on their work. Some agencies also have plans that are updated every five or ten years. In today's article, I'll focus on the "Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan," as the ocean is of great importance to Kohala.

The latest version of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) was produced in 2020; it is updated every ten years. This past year, the group of agencies responsible for implementing the ORMP (the "ORMP Network") decided to do an assessment at the midpoint in the 10-year Implementation Phase called the "2025 ORMP Evaluation & Refresh." The purpose of this document is to:

- Provide a comprehensive assessment of implementation actions completed by the ORMP Network since 2020.
- Identify emerging issues and strategic priorities for 2025 through 2030.
- Reinforce the effectiveness and value of the ORMP Network Structure.

As the lead agency of the ORMP Network, the State's Coastal Zone Management Program held conversations and conducted a survey of partner agencies to inform this Evaluation & Refresh update project. In addition to focusing on the 2020 Focus Area Goals, the ORMP Network identified additional emerging issues and strategies for

the ORMP.

The 2020 plan is organized around three primary focus areas:

Focus Area I – Development and Coastal Hazards: Focusing on developing a statewide integrated shoreline management strategy to address compounding impacts from coastal development, climate change, sea level rise, erosion, and other chronic coastal hazards.

Focus Area II – Land-Based Pollution: Recognizing the critical connection between land and sea by facilitating the broad adoption of green infrastructure practices to reduce polluted runoff from within watersheds.

Focus Area III – Marine Ecosystems: Promoting sustainable fishing practices that incorporate both traditional ecological knowledge and scientific research, effectively managing coral reef networks, and minimizing the introduction and spread of aquatic alien species.

The progress assessment used a combination of a comprehensive review of all relevant documents; engagement with stakeholders from public and private sectors; assessment of implementation progress by ORMP Network members from government, academia and the community; and a gap analysis to identify where existing strategies are falling short, priorities need recalibration, and new challenges have surfaced. This approach balances recognition of achievements with an honest evaluation of challenges to provide a realistic picture of ORMP implementation.

The gap analysis identified pressing issues that either were not fully addressed in the 2020 plan or have since become more urgent due to evolving climate pressures and regulatory developments. The three top issues that were identified through this process include (1) cesspool conversion, (2) wetland management, and (3) watershed-scale coordination. The document identified gaps and potential actions for the ORMP network for each one of these three issues.

In Focus Area I (Development and Coastal Hazards), the report highlighted successful programs including the Regional Shoreline Management Initiative, Nature-Based Solutions for Coastal Erosion, and the adoption of Sea Level Rise Exposure Area in State and County policies. The ORMP Network identified five potential implementation actions that could support continued progress. These include (1) engage more sectors in adaptation discussions, (2) improve coordination across State and County agencies, (3) identify opportunities for pilot projects and demonstration

sites to implement adaptive solutions, (4) explore options for statewide policies regarding acceptable shoreline interventions, and (5) continue providing up-to-date data and Sea Level Rise projections to inform decision making.

In Focus Area II (Land-Based Pollution), the report highlighted successful programs including the Low Impact Development Guide Update, Expanding Water Quality Improvement Projects at He'eia Fishpond, and the establishment of the Department of Health Surface Water Protection Branch. The ORMP Network identified five potential implementation actions to support progress in these areas including (1) expand monitoring networks and data sharing mechanisms, (2) expand successful approaches of ridge-to-reef management, (3) identify opportunities for pilot projects and demonstration sites to implement Green Stormwater Infrastructure, (4) develop more comprehensive cost-benefit analyses to compare green to grey infrastructure approaches to support decision-making and investments, and (5) support professional training initiatives to expand capacity and facilitate knowledge sharing and cross-sector collaboration.

In Focus Area III (Marine Ecosystems), the report highlighted successful programs including the Kokua Community-Based Monitoring Program, the Holomua Marine Initiative – Maui Pilot Project, and the establishment of the Ocean Stewardship User Fee. The ORMP Network identified five potential implementation actions to support these areas including (1) continue to support the Holomua Marine Initiative framework, (2) collaborate with communities and fishers on action plans and rules and expand community partnerships, (3) expand and complete tools and data resources to support community-informed management decisions, (4) strengthen capacity to detect introductions of invasive species and implement timely management actions, and (5) expand and strengthen community-based education programs, partnerships with schools, community groups and cultural organizations.

More information on the ORMP Evaluation & Refresh report is at planning.hawaii.gov/czm/ormp. Annual reports from other agencies are available at capitol.hawaii.gov under Reports and Lists in the file Reports to the Legislature.

Mahalo for supporting my work as 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.

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

February Deadlines
Ads and News: 2/9/26
Calendar: 2/16/26
Distribution: 2/23/26

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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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,
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County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace

Aloha Kohala!

This holiday season offers us a chance to reflect on what we value most and the shared responsibility we hold for our community. As 2026 approaches, I am filled with

gratitude and remain committed to serving you, ensuring that our district is strong, safe and supported.

This fall, I introduced Bill 103 with Council Member Kimball to assist our kūpuna farmers, ensuring

that they can age in place as they transition away from active farming. Bill 103 safeguards our senior agricultural landowners residing on their property by extending a three



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

percent annual property assessment cap as they retire. Kūpuna farmers have spent decades caring for the land, growing food for our community, and passing on traditional knowledge and stewardship practices that benefit us all, and with this measure we recognize their contributions.

In early December, we also saw the passage of Bill 83, a meaningful step in reducing plastic waste across Hawai'i County. The bill restricts specific types of single-use plastics that often end up in landfills, along roadways, or in the ocean. By approving Bill 83, the Council has taken an important step toward sustainability, waste reduction, and environmental protection.

I introduced amendments to help our small businesses with this change; however, these were unsuccessful. I also introduced a critical amendment to better clarify standards for permissible compostable products which achieved success with unanimous support. As we

move forward, I will continue to advocate for policies that safeguard our ‘āina, wai, and kai.

Abandoned vehicle issues in North Kohala continue to be a concern. These vehicles are more than an eyesore; they present traffic hazards, fire risks, and can leak harmful fluids.

I am working with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the County's Abandoned Vehicle Program to ensure that Kohala receives support. However, the County cannot act until a vehicle is properly documented as abandoned, which begins with a report to Hawai'i Police Department (HPD). I encourage all residents to call HPD first at (808) 935-3311 if you see an abandoned vehicle. This creates the necessary case number that allows DEM to tag, tow and dispose of the vehicle through the official process. Community vigilance paired with County resources remains our strongest tool in clearing these hazards quickly.

Another ongoing priority is encouraging the administration to take ownership of Old Coast Guard Road. This historic road has long served residents. County ownership would allow for proper upkeep, clearer jurisdiction, and better planning for the future. I will continue to press this issue until we see meaningful progress.

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.

May your holidays be filled with peace and joy, and may the New Year bring blessings to you and your 'ohana. Wishing you good health. Be well. Aloha!

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

North Kohala Library January 2026 News and Programs



Courtesy of Tom Morse

By Leilani Silver

Happy New Year!! The staff at North Kohala Public Library wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2026! As you welcome in the new year, we invite you to come out to the library and join us for one or more of our wonderful program offerings for January.

Weight Loss Talk with Ila Jhaveri: January 5 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.

Chess Club: January 5 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.

Preschool Storytime: January 7, 14, 21, 28 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 par-

ents or caregivers.

Lego Club: January 7, 14, 21, 28 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: January 8 at 11 a.m. 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: January 12 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: January 13 at 11 a.m. Join us for a discussion of the graphic novel "Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands" by Kate Beaton. The book is a New York Times Notable

See Library on Page 7




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Library, from Page 6

book of 2022. It is an autobiographical account of the author's challenges as she navigates being one of the few women who worked in Alberta's Oil Sands. The book is available to pick up at the library

Children's Book vs. Movie Club: January 29 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month's selection is 2015 Nene Winner "Wonder" by R. J. Palacio. 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: January 30 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month's selection is the Pulitzer Prize winner "To

Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. 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.

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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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.



Loulu fan palms are the only endemic palm in Hawai'i.

There are many species of loulu and most are either endangered, rare or vulnerable to invasive species.



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.

Kalo, has been a fundamental food source for 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.



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.hawaiizerowaste.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

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Derek Higa Memorial Cancer Benefit, Live Concert and Car Show

Story by Kathy Matsuda

The Derek Higa Memorial Cancer Benefit was inspired by Derek's son Daylan, who wanted to honor his father's legacy on what would have been his birthday with music, a live concert, a car show, food and craft vendors as a tribute to both cancer survivors and those we've lost.

Derek worked alongside his parents at the family grocery store, Union Market, and later founded Show Systems Hawaii, a company that supported local events across the island. Derek was known for donating his time, equipment, and heart to the community. He passed away from cancer on December 1,

after a courageous battle.

Mahalo to our community of Kohala who attended; those who helped with the event; our food, craft and merchandise vendors; entertainers Tita Alcoran, John Keawe, Ku Ma'e Ma'e and North Shore; Emcee G-Cruz; and the Show Systems Hawaii Crew.

Car show prizes were awarded in multiple categories. Best Race Car: Mario Quebral; Best Bike: Kalani Lopez; Best Paint: Kelly and Danny from Big Island European; Best Motor: Kailee Paro; Best Interior: Keana Mateo; Best 4 x 4: Rolly Ansagai; Fun Class: Pat Cooty; Best of show: Elmer Nakasato.



Photo courtesy: Vic and Gwen Comesario
Josh Berdon (left) and Daylan Higa.



Photo courtesy: Vic and Gwen Comesario
Derek Higa was memorialized in the Cancer Benefit.



Photo courtesy: Vic and Gwen Comesario
Winners in the car show's multiple categories.

Mahalo!

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50 Years Later....

By Boyd Bond

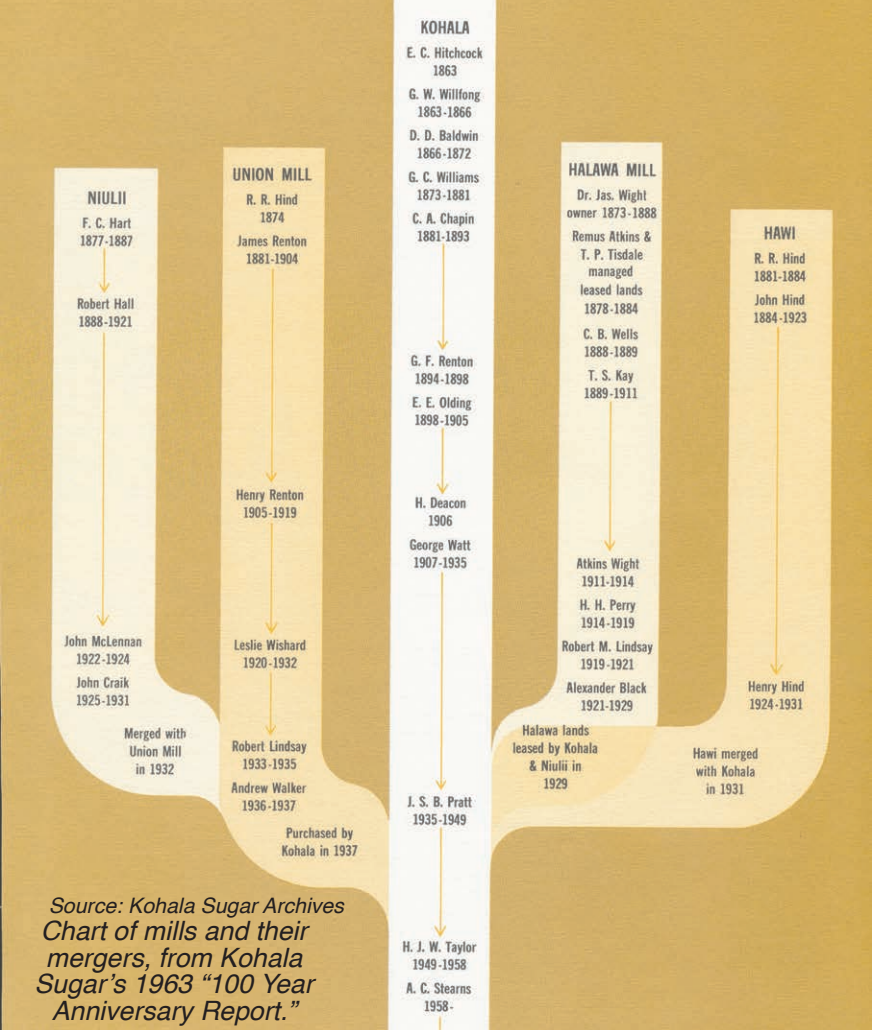
October 2025 marked 50 years – a half century – since the closing of Kohala Sugar Company. A subsidiary of Castle and Cooke, Ltd., it operated from 1863–1975. When one looks around Kohala today there are few mill structures that would remind us of the plantation at all, were it not for the buildings, the stories and the memories of so many people still around from that period. One might argue that many of us that were born and raised in Kohala in the last fifty years are also physical reminders of that time, even though we might have born after the plantation closed. How so? Let’s look back to look forward.

In Kohala, before Capt. Cook and contact with the Western world, the population was more than 8,000 Hawaiians. They could feed 10,000, depending on the season, with visiting ali’i and other factors considered. People had dispersed almost evenly between the windward, Pololū side and the leeward, Lapakahi side with, according to the archaeology record, slightly more people on the Lapakahi side. In Kohala, the ahupua’a are typically long and skinny, stretching up toward mauka but usually ending at the kula lands below the mountain top. Everything everyone needed was created here and traded freely. In most places, fewer than 200 people lived in any one ahupua’a, with exceptions in places like Kukuipahu, Pu’uepa (Mo’okini heiau), Kapa’au, Halaula, Makapāla, Niuli’i and Pololū. Between 400 and 600 people lived in each of these places.

From the time of the Great Mahele in the 1840s-50s, the population reduced dramatically to fewer than 4,000, mostly due to death from foreign diseases, and had shifted from the dry, leeward side to the arable, windward side. Father Bond worked diligently over several years to make sure the people registered their land claims, with more claims than any other district in the islands. Other than ali’i, few people made claims on the leeward side, indicating that that side remained largely uninhabited. This success created a new problem, that of taxation by the Crown. Younger men and women were leaving to find work on Maui and O’ahu in hopes of sending money home to Kohala to pay land and other taxes.

The American Civil War had interrupted the supply of sugar on the West Coast, and the market demand there presented an opportunity. The paperwork was filed and the first Hawaiian crop planted in 1863 and harvested two years later. Some of the stalks were cut for replanting; the rest was carted

See 50 Years, on Page 10



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50 Years, from Page 9

Source: Kohala Sugar Archives
Kohala Sugar Mill, from Kohala Sugar’s 1963 “100 Year Anniversary Report.”



Source: Hawaii State Archives
Māhukona port and train tracks.

off to the mill to be squeezed into juice and dried into crystals, raw sugar, for ease of shipping on the high seas. The original Kohala Sugar Company, “the missionary plantation,” was about 3,000 acres and wasn’t expected to last five years. It did, in fact, lose money for the first nine years, but did make payroll every month, employing around 300 people in the population of just above 2,000 Hawaiians. Others could make money doing

“gig work” when extra hands were needed. King David Kalākaua signed a treaty with the United States in 1875 that removed tariffs on Hawaiian sugar, and a sugar boom began in Kohala and in other districts throughout the islands. At its peak near the turn of the century, there were numerous sugar plantations growing sugarcane and seven mills processing sugar in Kohala! A railroad now connected Niuli’i

with Māhukona, and the harbor at Māhukona connected Kohala to the rest of the world. Workers were needed to make this expansion happen, and they arrived from many countries to make new homes in Kohala. The Kohala Ditch was completed in 1906. The precious water opened even more fields, which required even more workers, and the population grew to about 6,000 people. When President McKinley

reinstated the tariffs on Hawaiian sugar, profitability began to decrease, leading to the overthrow of the Queen and occupation by the United States. Between 1929 and 1937, the various mills in Kohala closed and consolidated, eventually merging into one large company, Kohala Sugar. The original plantation became the last one still standing, now about 20,000 acres. Housing was consolidated closer

See 50 Years, on Page 11



Melisa Hicks, DVM





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THE THREAT IS GREAT! BE PREPARED! TEST TODAY!


Mahalo ka mālama 'ana i ko kākou one hānau
(Thank you for caring for our beloved home)



JEANNETTE HENSEL WAS BORN IN 1925 IN HONESDALE PENNSYLVANIA. SHE MOVED TO HONOLULU WITH HER HUSBAND AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN IN 1949, LATER HAVING TWO MORE CHILDREN. JEANNETTE WAS A REAL ESTATE BROKER FOR MANY YEARS. IN 1981 SEVERAL YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND WALTER LENT, JEANNETTE MOVED TO THE BIG ISLAND, AFTER HER MARRIAGE TO GEORGE HENSEL.

IN RETIREMENT SHE WAS VERY INVOLVED IN THE KAPA'AU COMMUNITY THROUGH ST. AUGUSTINE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND KOHALA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY. SHE WAS A LONGTIME WALKER IN KAMEHAMEHA PARK AND SHE ALWAYS SAID "IF YOU WANT TO LIVE AND BE HEALTHY YOU HAVE TO WALK". JEANNETTE LOST HER SECOND HUSBAND IN 1991 AND CONTINUED HER INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. JEANNETTE CELEBRATED HER 100TH BIRTHDAY AT WALKER HALL IN JUNE 2025.

SHE PASSED PEACEFULLY IN HER HOME NOVEMBER 1ST 2025. THE MEMORIAL SERVICE AND CELEBRATION OF HER LIFE WAS HELD NOVEMBER 22ND AT ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH.



50 Years, from Page 10



Source: Kohala Sugar Archives
The Kohala Sugar locomotive "Kinau."



Courtesy of the Bond Family Collection
Kohala Chinese Church and Sunday School, 1907.

to the mills, subsistence lifestyle giving way to a cash economy. With a majority Hawaiian population still present, many of the old practices continued and were passed down to successive generations, with newcomers learning some of the old ways of doing things.

The population began to mingle and marry, and the roots of our modern population were planted in this period. Hāwī and Kapa'au emerged as the new population and economic centers, with stores and schools, social halls and movie theaters, yet the sugar industry remained challenging. A 30-year drought between the 1920s and '50s reduced yields and profitability,

and by the end of WWII the population had dwindled down to about 4,000. Statehood in 1959 brought subsidies, and investment and mechanization helped increased productivity while reducing the number of workers needed. Ten years later the population of Kohala was about 3,500, with about 600 employees, down from a high of over 2,000. After losing almost \$1 Million in 1970, in 1971 Castle and Cooke announced its intention to close Kohala Sugar.

At the time, sugar from cane was still the leading agricultural product of the islands, literally in its own category above all other agriculture, so the closing of Kohala

Sugar in far-away Kohala was barely noticed elsewhere. Looking back, we now know that it would prove to be that first domino tipping over which sets the collapse of all the others in motion. In the next twenty years all other sugar production on every island, save Maui, came to an end and "King Sugar" no longer dominated the Hawaiian economy.

When Castle and Cooke announced their intention to close Kohala Sugar, the State of Hawai'i organized the Kohala Task Force to search for alternative employment for the displaced sugar workers. This effort proved largely unsuccessful. The Mauna Kea Hotel had

opened near Kawaihae, and several hundred people found work there, while others transitioned to related endeavors that served the growing visitor industry. Still others left Kohala to find work elsewhere. Kohala's population hovered at just below 3,500 residents. We were fortunate in that the plantation lands were bought up largely by a single owner, Chalon International, and Kohala did not suffer the rapid development of former sugar lands that has occurred in so many other places across the state for most of the past 50 years. This has started to change recently, with Chalon, now Surety Kohala, selling off parcels

See 50 Years, on Page 12

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50 Years, from Page 11

large and small.

The railroad and the harbor are no longer operating, although some small ranches still exist, and old timers and newcomers are starting to operate farms with an eye toward returning Kohala to a higher state of self-sufficiency. Community groups have led the effort to retain open spaces and preserve our sacred places and favorite spots. The sense of community that was here before and during the plantation period remains strong.

By the year 2000, the population was back up to about 6,000, and Kohala was beginning to adapt to the new paradigm of finding our own way without ali'i or lunas and managers responsible for giving us direction.

The first Kohala Reunion invited everyone to come home and share pictures, memories, songs and stories, and take a day to look ahead and plan our future. We have been holding a Reunion every five years since, in a celebration of our past, our present, our future and each

other that is unique in the Hawaiian Islands.

It has been said many times that Kohala is the Hawaiian community that other local communities would like to be! We look out for ourselves and our neighbors, we pitch in when the community needs to move all the books from the old library to the new one; we celebrate when our school athletes excel and we mourn together when an 'ohana loses a loved one. The plantation, for good and for bad, was the foundation that forged our modern story. Community preceded the plantation, community held the plantation together, and community is what remains now that the plantation is gone.

The Community Development Plan Advisory Group meets on the first Monday of each month and is helping to direct resources towards projects in need, so that we can be the makers of our own destiny. If you can, please get involved as we look together to what we can achieve in the next fifty years!

Let's "Keep Kohala, Kohala!"



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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
	4:00PM		FOOD DRIVE	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
	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	KALAHIKIOLA 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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Kalahikiola Church
"Since 1832, proclaiming Jesus Christ to Kohala"
Sunday Worship and Children's Program 9:30 am
Tuesday Prayer 11:30 am
Wednesday Bible Study 7 pm
www.kalahikiolacc.com
53-540 'Iole Rd., Kapa'au
Pastor Mark Blair
E Komo Mai!

Kohala Baptist Church
Across from Makapala Retreat
'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'
(Matthew 11:28)
Please join us Sundays for Bible Study at 9:00 AM and Worship and children's Sunday School at 10:30 AM
Pastor Steven E. Hedlund (808)889-5416
Follow us on  Kohala Baptist Church

**KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM**
January service
Sunday, Jan.18, 10:00 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME to learn about Buddhism and how it can help you in today's world
Reverend Daido Baba
808-884-4481

**ST. AUGUSTINE'S**
Episcopal Church in Kapa'au, Hawai'i
E komo mai!
Sunday services 7 am & 9 am
Keiki Sunday School 9 am
Facebook Livestream 9 am
www.staugustineskohala.com

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

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Hawi, Hawai'i • The Welcoming Church
Masses: Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 7 a.m. • 9:30 am
Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday at 7 am
Adoration: 1st Friday 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Father Lambert Hurint 808-889-6436

The Bahá'í Faith
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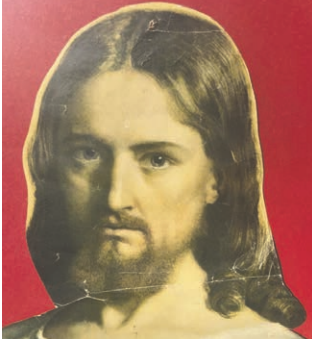


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April Lee 808-989-5995**

MONTHLY CALENDAR JANUARY 2026

	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
1/3	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
1/3	SAT	5:30 PM	8:00PM	SALE	ARTIST RECEPTION	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
1/5	MON	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/5	MON	5:00 PM	6:30PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/5	MON	3:00 PM	4:00PM	CHINESE MEDICINE W/ ILA JHAVERI	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/7	WED	4:00 PM	7:00PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	FOOD TRUCKS AND LOCAL VENDORS	HUB MURAL	808-889-5523
1/7	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/7	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
1/8	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
1/9	SAT	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	JAMIE LESOURD	ARTIST RECEPTION	OLENA GALLERY	808 345 1779
1/12	MON	3:00 PM	4:00PM	SOUND BATH	CRYSTAL ALCHEMY SINGING BOWL SOUND BATH WITH LEILANI SILVER	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/13	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00PM	BOOK CLUB	DISCUSS DUCKS BY KATE BEATON WITH US!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/14	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA`I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/14	WED	2:00 PM	3:00PM	PICNIC TABLE PAINTING	COME PAINT OUR NEW PICNIC TABLE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/14	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/15	THU	9:00 AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-6436
1/16	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/17	SAT	11:00 AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	(808) 213-7779
1/21	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/21	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
1/28	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
1/29	THU	2:30 PM	4:30PM	CHILDREN'S BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	READ THE BOOK, THEN COME WATCH THE MOVIE! WONDER BY R.J PALACIO.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/30	FRI	2:30 PM	4:30PM	TEEN BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD BY HARPER LEE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
1/31	THU	5:00 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM

NKCRC Welcomes Five New Projects



Photo courtesy of Nicole Hayes
Kohala Baseball League.



Photo courtesy of Todd Andrews
Beginner Fishing Workshop.

By North Kohala Community Resource Center

The North Kohala Community Resource Center would like to welcome five new projects to the NKCRC Ohana:

Kohala Alpaca Wranglers: This program was established by Christine Hustace in 2021 to equip Kohala’s youth with both personal and technical skills through hands-on alpaca husbandry. Over the past four years, Kohala Alpaca Wranglers has served over 40 families (typically 10 students), maintained a continuous waitlist, and operated entirely free of charge. The program provides consistent, structured learning in an agricultural setting, blending science education, life skills and community engagement.

KHS 100-year Reunion Committee: The Committee was formed in March 2025 to begin planning for a community-wide celebration honoring Kohala High School’s centennial. The committee is composed of dedicated graduates of Kohala High School.

They will host a centennial event in Kohala on July 3–5, 2026. The event will include reenactments of beloved school traditions, such as class competitions, intramural games and class yells; a parade where alumni from every class can participate; a class reunion area, with tents for each graduating class to gather, share stories and reconnect; and a staging area where musicians, hula halau, and entertainers from Kohala can share their talent. Each class will feature a history exhibit, highlighting memorable events and milestones from their years at Kohala High.

Beginner Fishing Workshop: The goal for a North Kohala learn-to-fish program for keiki emerged in 2025, when our community, led by Todd Andrews, hosted three successful Māhukona fishing tournaments. Many children who participated wanted to learn more about fishing and to fish more. Their mission is to fill that need and teach kids how to fish in the ocean, safely, for healthy sustenance and the love of nature.

The Kohala Baseball League: The league was founded with the vision of inspiring local youth through baseball. By offering a structured and engaging program, the league aims to reduce screen time, encourage outdoor activity, and instill valuable life skills. The organization is led by a dedicated team of experienced volunteer coaches and community members who are passionate about youth development and the future of baseball in Kohala. The Project Organizer is Nicole Hayes.

West Kohala Wildfire Alliance: a collaboration of six local Firewise communities: Kohala Ranch, Kohala Estates, Kohala by the Sea, Kohala Waterfront, Kailapa (Kawaihae Hawaiian Home Lands) and Kawaihae Village. Their focus is to reduce the wildfire risk for our communities, located in a dry savannah region along the northwest side of Hawai’i Island that is particularly prone to fire. The Project Organizer is Bernard Sadoulet.

As we approach the end of the year, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to NKCRC’s sponsored projects by mailing a check to P.O. Box 519, Hawi, HI 96719. Make the check payable to NKCRC and designate the project you would like to donate to in the check’s memo. Alternatively, you can donate online at www.northkohala.org/donate. More info about all the sponsored projects available at www.northkohala.org/projects.

NORTH KOHALA
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Mele Kalikimaka

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Dr. Daryl Stang
rokuhawaii@gmail.com

Fun and Skill Development at Skate Camp

By Psalms Lutz

For the third time, Roots Skatepark recently hosted the Roots Skate Camp in Kamehameha Park. Many young keiki travelled to be part of the three-day event. Over 50 youth and adults came to participate and learn from the pros.

Mahalo to Richey Riggs and Brian Sandlin for making Roots such a great place for this event. Thanks to sponsors such as Oasis Skate, Waiakea Water, Hawaii Coffee Company, Miller Surf and Wailoa Direct Care, the day included lots of giveaways, skate gear and plenty skate friends.

Stay updated at rootsskatepark.org or follow @roots_skatepark or @roots.pikake on Instagram for monthly skate meets.



Photo courtesy of Roots Skatepark
Kyle, a skate coach (left), and Andrew Kelsey, who organized the Skate Camp and brought it from Waimea to Roots Skatepark, connecting with some of the best skate mentors on the mainland and bringing them to Hawaii.



Photo courtesy of Roots Skatepark
Pauline Sala has come to Roots Skate Camp from Venice Beach, CA three times to mentor and teach at all levels.



Photo by Jess Goodoni
Moses Vinnedge, 11 years old, of south Kona shows custom Roots Skatepark artwork on his board.



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Celebrating Lā Kū'oko'a With Kūka'i Waiwai

By Olivia Farinacci-Svendsen

On November 28, a small group of Kohala residents gathered in Hāwī to celebrate Lā Kū'oko'a—Hawaiian Independence Day. In honor of this historic day, the event centered around a Kūka'i Waiwai, an exchange of abundance that invited the community to grow pilina [connection], share harvests, and reignite ancestral pathways to collective thriving in North Kohala.

Organized by Lilinoe McDonough, Alohilani Fero, and Vanessa Stone, the day began with local 'ohana gathering for opening pule, a sharing of protocol, and clear invitations to engage with one another and explore pathways to revive traditional practices—on the land, in community, and within ourselves.

Participants were encouraged to bring what they had in abundance, take what they needed, build relationships, honor protocol, care for the keiki, and help maintain a respectful space.

Throughout the afternoon, a steady flow of Kohala residents arrived carrying harvest from their farms, gardens, and yards: 'ulu [breadfruit], 'uala [sweet potato], mai'a [banana], niu [coconut], citrus, homemade coconut milk, kale, spinach, mustard greens, daikon, plant starts, fresh herbs, and more.

Everyone left with baskets full of



Community members select from produce that others brought to share.

Kohala-grown produce, a renewed sense of pilina, and a deeper appreciation for the traditions of reciprocal exchange that once sustained this moku [district].

In speaking with Lilinoe McDonough, she shares, “This event is inspired by the ‘ike kūpuna [ancestral knowledge/insight] of the Puanui Field System of Kohala which was developed by our ancestors centuries ago. This legacy of ingenuity and abundance offers a tangible reminder that Kohala once sustained itself through our intimate knowledge of ‘āina, careful stewardship, collective labor, and kōkua-based exchange.

Referencing Puanui in our work is more than historical context—it signals our commitment to sovereignty, resilience, and the ancestral brilliance that still guides us today.”

Today, much of our own back-

yard abundance goes unrecognized: the avocado tree that produces more than a household can enjoy, the rosemary bush offering more sprigs than anyone can use, or the overflowing gardens and farms throughout our moku.

Imagine trading a portion of that abundance for a diverse basket of ‘āina-grown foods—meals filled with ingredients you may not grow yourself. In a time of soaring food prices and heavy reliance on imported goods, these small acts of exchange echo the solutions our communities practiced for generations.

We recognize efforts such as the Honalo Community Ku'aku'ai Market, the Kohala Food Hub, and our local farmers markets, all of which demonstrate that rebuilding a community-centered food system is not only possible—it is already underway.

By looking to those who came before us, we rediscover pathways toward a more grounded, interdependent and abundant Kohala.

‘A’ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia. [No task is too big when done together.] I ka wā ma mua, i ka wā ma hope. [The future is in the past.]

If you would like to learn more, or if you have mana’o [thoughts/ideas] to share before the next event, please email us at: kukaiwaiwai@gmail.com.

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