

# Kohala Mountain News

FREE

About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007

February 27, 2026

## Kohala Girls Win BIIF Division II Basketball Championship



Photo courtesy of Chasity Cazimero  
KHS Cowgirls celebrate winning the 2026 BIIF DII Championship.

## Kohala Boys Win State Division II Basketball Championship



Photo by CJ Caraang | ScoringLive  
KHS Cowboys celebrate winning the HHSAA DII State Championship, with Layton Kauka holding the Koa Head Trophy aloft.

Story by Tom Morse

On January 28 at the Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF)

Championships, the Cowgirls were down 28-18 at half time to the  
**See Girls, Page 2**

By Tom Morse

Led by guard Laydon Kauka, the Cowboys won their fourth state

championship in the past seven years, having previously won it in  
**See Boys, Page 2**

## Kamehameha Park Gets New Trees



Photo by Shayla Fleshman

Story by Toni Withington

Two more native milo trees were added to Kamehameha Park this month. They join the four milo trees planted by volunteers in September overlooking the children's playground. The newest two were put in the ground on the same knoll, but on the far side of the existing mature milo tree overlooking the lower play field.

The project is an effort by the Parks, Roads, Viewplains and Erosion Control Group of the North Kohala Community Development Plan to replant parks with native trees providing better shade. Melody Moore, a group member,

arranged with Pono Nakamura, Kohala superintendent of the Department of Parks and Recreation, to provide the six-foot tall trees. A volunteer group of five adults and two children dug the holes and placed water-retaining coconut husks alongside the trees' roots. Special thanks go to Sam Fleshman and his family.

Nakamura said the park's crew cleared the knoll's slope facing the lower field of shrub and is replacing it with grass. The slope and shade trees will provide the park with a natural "bleachers" area for spectators to enjoy activities on the field, he added.

← New milo trees overlook Kamehameha Park's lower field. Volunteer planters included (left to right) Melody Moore, Toni Withington, Sam Fleshman and Brendan McDougall.

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Boys, from Page 1



Photo courtesy of Kohala High School

The 2025-2026 Kohala High School Boys Basketball team after winning the State DII Championship.

2020, 2023, 2025.

On February 13 at the Stan Sheriff Center at the University of Hawai'i on Oahu, they defeated Seabury, the team that knocked them out of the playoffs last year. What a remarkable run! They were

undefeated (14-0) in the Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF). They won the BIIF Championship for the fifth year in a row. Named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player for the third time, Kauka said, "This one was for the whole

community, they are a huge part of our program. We just like to represent them, they bring a lot of energy to every game, and we feed off of it." Kohala's Estavon Morales and James Wong were named to the Hawaii High School Athletic Asso-

ciation's (HHSAA) All-Tournament Team.

The team's Head Coach is Kihei Kapeliela, with Assistant Coaches Paul Antonio, Lawrence Kauka, Robin Marquez, Reeve Cazimero and Elijah Antonio.

Girls, from Page 1



Photo courtesy of Kohala High School

The Kohala High School Girls Basketball team celebrates winning the 2026 Big Island Interscholastic Federation Division II Championship.

number one seed, Kamehameha-Hawaii.

Switching defensive styles in the second half, the Cowgirls rallied to win 55-51, winning the BIIF DII Championship for the second year straight. Senoir AJ Soriano scored a season high 25 points, followed by

Chawai Dunhour with 18 points.

After a first-round win at the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) State tournament, the Cowgirls were edged out in the quarterfinals but came back and won the next two games, finishing the season fifth place in the state.

## NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

**Date:** Monday, March 2, 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 Rezoning 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

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### NKCDP AG February Meeting Notes

By Lynda Wallach

Jack Hoyt of the **Affordable Housing** group presented the first report at the February 2 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG). The group wanted clarification on whether the Hawaii County Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) was offering low interest loans or grants to low- and moderate-income homeowners.

Our County Councilmember James Hustace, who was present, explained there are limited funds for the program and there is already a wait list. It is his understanding that the County is offering very low interest loans, but he will do further research and get back to the group.

Applications for Self-Help Phase 3 waiting list are at the North Kohala Community Resource Center but so far none have been picked up. They are also available at the Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation (HICDC) website: [www.hicdcorp.org](http://www.hicdcorp.org). HICDC began infrastructure work on the Waimea project at the end of 2025 and is aiming to begin Phase 3 "Kumakua" in Kohala by mid 2026.

The **Agriculture Group** met with John Richards to answer questions raised about the North Kohala Agricultural Water Study at the water summit. The meeting mainly

addressed the technical and political realities of restoring agricultural water to Kohala.

Toni Withington, reporting for the **Community Access Group**, said that the transfer of a one-acre parcel at the old mule station from the private owner to the State has not yet been completed.

The students of Na'ao 'Oiwī are collecting data and conducting research on sites of importance in Pololū Valley. It is an Indigenous Data Hub project sponsored by the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu.

Ala Kahaki National Historic Trail got funding for an archaeological survey of Lamaloloa, the 35-acre parcel south of Lapakahi. From January until September, they will be doing a survey and meeting with members of the community to gather input and involve them in the process.

The survey will be used to develop a community-driven management plan for Lamaloloa.

Withington also gave the report from the **Growth Management Group**. It is unclear what the plans are for the old theater property, but extensive clearing has been done by the new owner and work is also being done on the residence.

The Hawaiian Style Cafe property remains undeveloped while the owners wait for the fill to settle.

Four self-storage containers are operating on Lighthouse Road on industrially zoned property.

Ila Jhaveri, a herbalist and acupuncturist, was a guest speaker and the last meeting of the **Health and Wellness** group. She has over thirty years of experience and often weaves visualization, affirmations and meditation into her sessions. Her private practice in Oriental medicine specializes in women's health.

John Winter of the **Utilities group** reported that the maintenance on the windfarm is complete, so the shutdown is over and it now has double the capacity.

The group has written a letter to the Department of Health supporting the Kumakua self-help affordable housing group's request for a variance from the requirement to build a wastewater plant for the planned thirty-two units. Forty-three houses have already installed individual septic systems. A single wastewater facility for the thirty-two homes would be a huge financial burden for the affordable housing project.

A tree fell across Beers Road and the neighbors got together to remove it. A local, trained chainsaw team is available to help in emergencies and with other projects. Services can be scheduled through Kathy Matsuda of the Resilience Hub.

Winter, also reporting for **Parks, Roads, Erosion Control and Viewplanes (PREV)**, said that the boat winch at Māhukona is now going

through the proper permitting procedures. When that is completed, it will be time to have a meeting to address the issues between the swimmers and the boaters.

The road between Māhukona and Kapa'a has been blocked by Surety for vehicular traffic. Hui Mamalahoa and the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation are fighting to open it for fisherman access only.

There has been no progress from Parks and Recreation (P&R) regarding the planning and design phases for the Māhukona park and pavilion.

P&R now requires insurance for any group activities in County parks, including Adopt-a Park and other volunteer groups doing maintenance and park improvements. PREV is looking into the possibility of getting yearly umbrella insurance policy that would cover all such local activities. Representative Hustace said he would follow up on that. He said he will be scheduling a meeting with members of the community and representatives of P&R in March.

Hustace then gave a report on the bills and resolutions currently before the County Council.

Times and places of the subgroup meetings can be found in the calendar section of this paper.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AG will be on Monday, March 2, at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

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# Kohala Intergenerational Center Celebrates 20 Years with Farm-to-Table Wok Cook-Off

By Libby Leonard

The Kohala Intergenerational Center (KIC) will mark its 20th anniversary on Saturday, March 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the center in Kamehameha Park, with a community celebration featuring a Farm-to-Table Wok Cook-Off, agricultural education booths, and a farmers market.

Built in 1996 by local leaders, volunteers, and the County of Hawai'i, KIC was created to provide a safe space for youth after the former armory (which was planned to be used as a drop-in center) was found to be contaminated with lead and fell into disrepair. Since then, KIC has served generations of youth, kūpuna, and 'ohana across Kohala. The 20th anniversary will celebrate this community-built hub and honors the people and partnerships that made it possible.

"The Kohala Intergenerational Center is the epitome of government and community working together in unison to benefit everyone," said David Fuertes, the Executive Director of educational agriculture non-profit Kahua Pa'a Mua.

The Wok Cook-Off, sponsored by Kahua Pa'a Mua, will feature five teams preparing dishes with grass-fed beef, Korean Natural Farming-raised pork, pasture-raised meat birds, and lamb. All proteins, along

with the vegetables and fruits, are produced and raised entirely in Kohala, and free samples will be available to the public.

Teams are led by Councilmember Dennis "Fresh" Onishi, Councilmember James Hustace, Benson Medina of County Research & Development, students from Hawai'i Community College Butchery Program and Culinary School, as well as Ted Matsuda and Steve Nakamura with the Local Boyz. The event aims to demonstrate that farming can be a viable business and encourage more local food production on the island, while celebrating the richness of Kohala agriculture and cultural culinary traditions.

"I'm grateful to participate in an event that highlights the value of local agriculture and community partnerships," said Councilmember Hustace, whose team includes chef and sustainable food advocate Olelo Pa'a Faith Ogawa.

"Events like this demonstrate the importance of agriculture by strengthening connections across generations," he added.

The Wok Cook Off begins at 9 a.m. with the free tasting at 11 a.m., followed by a blessing by Danny Akaka. At 1 p.m., Wok Cook-Off contest winners will be announced, alongside a special recognition ceremony for all those who helped

make KIC happen. Agriculture services booths will be available from organizations such as Hawai'i Ant Lab, USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Services, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, Hawai'i County Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity and Resilience; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, County Research & Development, Hawai'i Community College, and others.

Farmers market will include

local vendors selling goods grown and made in Kohala, including USDA-inspected grass-fed beef and pork.

In terms of both the anniversary and increasing local agriculture for food sustainability, Fuertes said, "the whole idea of the event is that our community works together to build things that are in need, and that we hope the younger generation continues that value."

The event is free and open to the public.

## HEALTHY GRAB 'N GO FOOD

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FREE EVENT | March 14th (9am - 1:30pm)  
Kohala Intergenerational Center  
(Behind Hisaoka Gym)

# LET'S "WOK" TOGETHER

Team 1: Councilman Fresh Onishi  
Team 2: Kohala Local Boyz  
Team 3: CoH R&D  
Team 4: HAWCC  
Team 5: Councilman James Hustace

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF KIC!

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SCAN TO REGISTER

Letters

Mahalo to Kohala for Minneapolis Support

On Saturday, February 7, St. Augustine's Church sponsored a car wash and bake sale to support an effort in Minneapolis. We raised over \$1,000 from the car wash, bake sale and generous community donations to send to Casa Maria.

Casa Maria is a food Ministry of Saint Nicholas Episcopal Church in Richfield, Minnesota, minutes

away from downtown Minneapolis. This is a neighborhood in crisis. Immigrant families are sheltering in place – unable to shop for food, take their kids to school, or go to work. Casa Maria has been inundated with requests for food, help with housing, transportation to work and more.

The outpouring of love, prayers

and donations has been amazing for their ministry. Yet they still need continued kōkua. Learn more at [www.saint-nicks.org/casamaria](http://www.saint-nicks.org/casamaria).

Mahalo, Kohala, for your support, love, good energy and prayers! Also, mahalo to the small but mighty crew of car washers, bakers, and those who supported this effort. – Lani Bowman

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.

The 2026 legislative session is well underway. House and Senate Committees are having hearings on the bills introduced by the administration and by legislators seeking to address priority community issues. Bills were introduced to change state laws, or to create or modify state programs, or to appropriate funds to expand existing programs or restore funding that had been cut in recent years during the economic contraction during the COVID pandemic or other recent economic slowdowns.

As Chair of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, I am responsible for leading the effort to review and approve the budget for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as for the entire Judiciary branch, which includes all the courts and related programs. I am also responsible for overseeing the budget for the Attorney General's office, the Department of Law Enforcement, Office of the Public Defender, Campaign Spending Commission, Ethics Commission, Office of Elections, the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and others.

One of my top priorities this session is to seek a steady recurring appropriation for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to fund the numerous projects started with the historic \$600 million appropriation the legislature provided to DHHL several years ago. I serve on the oversight committee that has been working closely with DHHL to ensure these funds are used productively to develop more residential projects

for DHHL beneficiaries. Because of the good work started by DHHL, the department is now ready to continue developing these projects on all the islands. To do that, DHHL needs a steady recurring source of funds. A major initiative I am leading with the support of House leadership and the Housing Committee Chair is to increase the conveyance tax on properties sold for over \$2 million and allocate the proceeds from this to DHHL housing projects, and other affordable housing projects for Hawaii residents.

Another major priority for me this session is to make substantial progress to resolve the long-standing dispute over the annual amount the State Constitution requires the State government to pay to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs that equals 20% of all ceded land revenues. There are two components to this strategy. One is to support the Public Land Trust Working Group led by the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) that is working to develop a comprehensive inventory of public lands that both agencies agree is accurate. The second component is to determine how each government agency utilizing ceded lands should calculate the revenue generated on these lands, including whether it is gross revenue or net revenue, and if the public purpose of the land use would exempt any agency from paying the 20% to OHA. This is a complicated and contentious challenge. But it is a dispute that must be resolved so that the State complies with the State Constitution and satisfies its public trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians. I am also supporting legislation that increases the annual payment to OHA from the current amount of \$21.5 million, based on the preliminary analysis and conclusions from the Public Land Trust Working Group that the actual amount should be substantially more.

In addition to legislation regarding DHHL and OHA, the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee (JHA Committee) has been having hearings every week since legislative session started. We have been busy considering legislative proposals from the Office of Elections, Campaign Spending Commission and Ethics Commission. These bills strengthen the mail-in election system and increase funding for the program established by the State Constitution that provides partial

public financing of campaigns to qualified candidates. Other bills the JHA committee has approved would ban political contributions to state elected officials by state contractors, prohibit legislators from soliciting and accepting campaign contributions during the legislative session, and strengthen our laws to prevent public corruption.

The JHA committee has also considered many bills proposed by the Judiciary, Office of Public Defender and the Attorney General including a major criminal justice reform bill to update our State's penal code. This major bill was proposed by the State Judiciary, based on input from a collaborative effort of public and private sector attorneys and legal experts through the Penal Code Review Committee. This effort will help to ensure fair and reasonable sentences are established for various offenses. Other bills implement national best practices for pretrial detention in the State. To prepare committee members to consider these bills, the JHA Committee hosted a major information briefing to learn about how the current system of pretrial detention operates, discuss the strengths and weaknesses in the system, and learn about trends and best practices in other states to determine what changes are needed in our own system. Some bills considered by the JHA Committee reduce the number of pretrial detainees by establishing certain offenses for which police can issue citations instead of arresting offenders, and other bills improve the automated systems to remind individuals to show up at their court appearance, so they don't receive a bench warrant and end up back in jail.

To learn more about these and other bills being considered by the JHA Committee, please check out the legislative website at [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov) and go to the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee webpage where you will find information on hearings and information briefings hosted by the committee. You can also sign up to be notified of all the JHA Committee hearings and track the progress of individual bills being considered.

I am grateful to serve as the State Representative for Kohala and always welcome hearing your advice and suggestions. You can always contact me at 808-586-8510 and at [reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov). Mahalo!

Future KMN Deadlines

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

**March Deadlines**  
**Ads and News: 3/13/26**  
**Calendar: 3/20/26**  
**Distribution: 3/27/26**

**April Deadlines**  
**Ads and News: 4/10/26**  
**Calendar: 4/17/26**  
**Distribution: 4/24/26**

*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.**

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**Kohala Mountain News**  
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# 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!

The North Kohala community consistently demonstrates hard work, shared values, and a sense of place. Community resilience will be front and center at the upcoming

'Ohana Fun Day at Kamehameha Park on Saturday, March 14. The Kohala Resilience Hub will host numerous booths focused on health and wellness, food sustainability, and preparedness. There will be keiki activities and opportunities for the entire family to enjoy, including a "Wok Cook-Off" led by Kahua Pa'a Mua. I am excited to join this friendly culinary competition! Events like this help to strengthen community connections, support one another, and create lasting memories.

Public safety remains a top priority. My office has been working alongside the Department of Public Works to support community requests. If your neighborhood needs assistance, please visit the Department of Public Works website to make a formal request. I also encourage you to inform me of this request, so I can advocate on your behalf and track progress.

I am currently working with residents and agencies to maintain road shoulders in the Niuli'i area, address safety concerns along Kapanaia Road, and find solutions for roads in limbo, such as Union Mill

Road.

At the policy level, your County Council approved resolutions to encourage our State partners to reconsider policies for the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium use (Resolution 422) and to also ensure long-term sustainability and funding for Public, Educational, Governmental access media (Resolution 448).

Following the leadership of our late Fire Chief Kazuo Todd, we approved Resolution 426 to accept grant funds from the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency for hazard mitigation planning along the Kohala coast. We also requested a performance audit of Real Property Tax revenues allocated for housing and homelessness programs (Resolution 445), which will help us to better analyze the County's role and commitment to these services.

In February, I was pleased to see two cosponsored measures move forward. Council Member Ashley Kierkiewicz and I are proposing a Construction Code Commission (Bill 127) to provide advice and recommend updates for the various

codes that govern building safety and efficiency. Additionally, Council Member Jennifer Kagiwada and I are proposing a third tax tier for higher assessed residential (non-owner occupied) properties with Bill 128. Thank you for submitting testimony on these important measures.

Finally, please mark your calendar for March 11. That evening, beginning at 5:30 p.m., I will host a Community Conversation at the Kohala Intergenerational Center. We will be joined by leadership from the Hawai'i County Parks and Recreation Department. This will be a valuable opportunity to hear directly from county leadership, get updates, ask questions, and share your thoughts.

Together in partnership, we continue to shape our communities as they reflect our shared values, and I am honored to serve as your Council Member. You are welcome to email me at james.hustace@hawaiicounty.gov, call our Waimea office at (808) 887-6077, or our Hilo office at (808) 961-8564.

Wishing you good health and aloha!

## An Invitation to the Annual Kūpuna Dinner at Makapāla

By Elisabeth EchoHawk Kawe

As snow still covers Maunakea, we look forward to spring in Kohala. April is near, and once again, it's time to gather for an evening that fills 'opū [stomachs], hands and spirit of Kohala Kūpuna. This year's Annual Kūpuna Dinner will be held on April 25th at the Makapāla Old School, featuring a gourmet meal crafted by a local chef using many local ingredients. To ensure the memories of the night last, local photographer Kimi Vakauta will be on hand to take professional portraits as a gift for kūpuna and their 'ohana.

The Makapāla Old School holds a special place in the history of this community. It is the site where many Kohala kūpuna, aunts, and uncles walked through the gulches past family lo'i to attend school through the eighth grade, before that school closed when Hala'ula



Photo by Kimi Vakauta (Left to right) Theresa Sasarita del Sol, Tony Ayoso Sr. and Elizabeth "Sheba" Kagimoto attended the 2025 Kūpuna Dinner.

opened. We are deeply honored to bring our local elders back into this space to reminisce and stand in the

same halls as their own ancestors once stood. While we honor the lifelong residents of Kohala, we wel-

come all our elders to join us. In this celebration of community, we want all to feel rooted in the richness of this community's stories.

Because all food and door prizes are generously donated by residents and businesses, this event is entirely free. We want every person to walk away knowing that Kohala is richer because of its kūpuna – their stories, their lives. The evening will be filled with dinner music, hula, and a much-requested fire knife performance.

We can only accommodate 72 guests, so encourage you to register not only yourself, if appropriate, but your parents, uncles, aunts, and grandparents early. Registration opens March 1. Sign up via the sheet at the Kapā'au Kūpuna Center or by emailing makapala.bookings@gmail.com.

We look forward to another year of honoring Kohala's deeply rooted legacy.

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### Peter Pomeranze May 17, 1954 – February 2, 2026

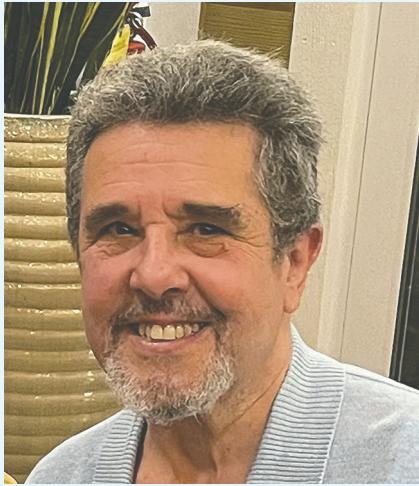


Photo by Clem Sweeney  
Peter Pomeranze.

Story by Ed McCollough

Peter Pomeranze moved to Hawi in 1991. He grew up in the New York City area, and then moved to Los Angeles for eight years, before making our beautiful island his home. Peter always liked to say that the album "Leap of Faith" by his friend Kenny Loggins was his all-time favorite. Whenever people told him a New York City boy could never make it in Hawi, he would recite his favorite line: "Listen to your heart. When it

feels right to take the leap of faith, courage is always rewarded." Peter took the leap of faith when he opened his gift shop and travel agency, Without Boundaries, in Waimea. He did it again in 2003, when he opened Sushi Rock in Hawi. Peter knew nothing about the restaurant business or sushi, but he knew he loved food. He loved Hawi, and he wanted to create a place where he and his employees would love to work, his customers would love to eat, and where everyone would know unmistakably that they belonged to a very, very special community. When Covid closed Sushi Rock in 2020, Peter leapt right into creating his beloved non-profit, Kohala Cares. Over the next five years, Kohala Cares gave out over 22,000 bags of groceries to our neighbors in need in our Kohala community. Peter's last request before he passed was that we form the St. Augustine Food Pantry and continue to give out those bags of groceries every Tuesday afternoon at 4:00, just as he did. Peter never stopped caring. A celebration of Peter's life is being planned for his birthday, May 17.

### Mālama Makali'i: A Celebration of Voyaging and Ocean Stewardship

By Ekela Kahuanui

The voyaging canoe *Makali'i* celebrated her 31st birthday on February 4. The community is invited to gather at Kawaihae Canoe Club on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to honor this milestone.

Sponsored by Nā Kālai Wa'a, Nā Maka Onaona and Kawaihae Canoe Club, the event celebrates more than three decades of Hawaiian wayfinding rooted in our community.

Built in Waimea, *Makali'i* carries the 'ike of our kūpuna and continues to serve as a floating classroom. Mālama Makali'i promotes ocean awareness and marine health alongside community partners, strengthening our shared responsibility to care for our ocean.

This free, family-friendly event includes entertainment, ocean activities, and educational booths. Food will be available for purchase. All are welcome.

### Talk Story, Eat Local with Kohala Food Hub

By Maya Parish

Kohala Food Hub warmly invites our North Kohala community to gather for "Talk Story, Eat Local," a free community dinner on Sunday, March 8, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Kohala Village Hub Barn in downtown Hāwī (55-514 Hāwī Rd.).

This event is open to all North Kohala residents and is offered in the spirit of sharing food, stories, and connection. The evening will feature a nourishing meal prepared by MaiChef (Maile Buck), a talented chef who calls North Kohala home, and visiting chef, Antonin Filicetti of Soil to Soul, using ingredients that are 100% locally grown, raised and made.

Every dish will be sourced through Kohala Food Hub's network of more than 200 local farmers, ranchers, fishers, backyard growers and small food businesses, reflecting the abundance and care that exists right here in North Kohala and across our island. In addition to the meal, there will be a short 5-10-minute talk story sharing how our community can better connect with and access Kohala Food Hub's online marketplace, including online SNAP/EBT payment options and 50 percent Da Bux dis-

counts for EBT customers on local fruits, vegetables, starches, fresh herbs, juices, dried fruits and plant starts. The intention is simple: to make it easier for our North Kohala families to enjoy healthy, local food while keeping food dollars circulating right here at home and supporting all who work hard to grow, raise and make the food we eat.

"Talk Story, Eat Local" is the first of four quarterly pop-up gatherings planned across Kohala, Waimea, Honoka'a, and Waikoloa, each featuring a fully local meal prepared by a local chef, paired with opportunities to learn about Kohala Food Hub's multi-farm CSA and online market. Guided by its mission to strengthen Hawai'i Island's local food system, Kohala Food Hub works to support farmers and producers, improve food access, and build a resilient local economy rooted in community values.

These gatherings are one small way to deepen relationships, celebrate local agriculture, and invest together in a thriving future for our keiki and our 'āina. We hope to see you there! To learn more, go to kohalafoodhub.com. For fresh, creative and locavore private chef and catering services, reach out to MaiChef at Maichef808@gmail.com.



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## A Forgotten Wartime Tragedy in the Alenuihāhā Channel Remembered

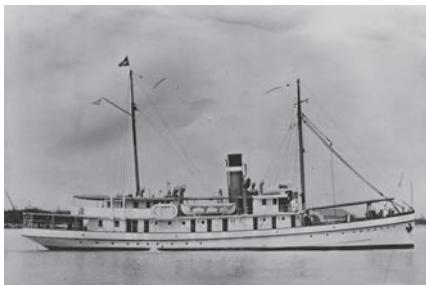


Photo credit: U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command (public domain)  
The Royal T. Frank.

Just seven weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, war arrived quietly — and with deadly speed — in the waters between Maui and Hawai'i Island.

Times were tense. Japanese submarines were active in Hawaiian waters and had already sunk three ships. They had surfaced to shell Maui's Kahului Harbor, and others had fired at Hilo and Nawiliwili Harbor on Kauai.

On the morning of January 28, 1942, the U.S. Army transport Royal T. Frank was crossing the Alenuihāhā Channel as part of a small convoy — including a Navy destroyer for defense against enemy aggression — bound for Hilo. The 200-ton Frank, long used for inter-island service, now carried newly trained soldiers rather than cargo or passengers. Among them were 26 young men who had just completed basic training at Schofield Barracks and were returning home to rejoin their units, many with the 299th Infantry Regiment on Hawai'i Island.

Shortly after 7 a.m., a Japanese submarine — later identified in U.S. naval records as I-71 — fired a spread of torpedoes at the convoy. Two missed their mark. The third struck the Frank on the starboard side near the boilers.

The explosion was catastrophic.

The ship sank in less than a minute, giving those below deck almost no chance to escape. Seventeen Hawai'i Army National Guard soldiers were killed, including 12 Nisei Guardsmen. It remains one of the deadliest single losses in the history of the Hawai'i Army National Guard during World War II.

Nine Guardsmen survived because they had been sleeping above deck when the torpedo hit. Thrown into the sea, they found themselves surrounded by burning fuel, floating debris, and shockingly cold water. For



Photo credit: Deborah M.S. Murray for the Hawaii Department of Defense  
"The Torpedo Gang" in 1955. (Front row, left to right) George Taketa, Yoshio Ogomori, Shigeru Ushijima, Haruo Yamashita. (Back row, left to right) Shizuo Toma, John R. Souza and Takimaru Takamoto.

hours they clung to life rings, waterproof mailbags, and fragments of the ship as the convoy vessels maneuvered and rescue efforts began.

In total, roughly 36 survivors — soldiers and crew — were pulled from the water. They were taken ashore to Hana, Maui, where residents opened a gymnasium to provide shelter. Local families and schoolchildren brought blankets, food, and comfort until medical care arrived. In a moment when the war felt frighteningly close, a small East Maui community responded with quiet generosity.

Yet for decades, few people in Hawai'i knew this story.

Under martial law and strict wartime censorship, the sinking of the Frank was not widely reported. Survivors were ordered not to speak about what had happened, even to their families. Relatives of the fallen were given little information.

However, the U.S. mainland newspapers were not subject to Hawai'i's martial law, and one of the ship's officers gave an official account, released by U.S. Army authorities and reported in the New York Times on February 11, 1942.

An unnamed officer recounted, "I saw a torpedo coming straight at us. It veered as it approached. It appeared to be moving very slowly and seemed to be running down. It struck opposite the starboard boiler. There was a terrific explosion. As soon as I had seen the wake (of the torpedo), I ran forward shouting, 'torpedo!'"

The nine surviving Guardsmen, all from Hawaii Island, were George Taketa, Yoshio Ogomori, John R. Souza, Takimaru Takamoto, Shizuo

Toma, Shigeru Ushijima, Haruo Yamashita, Sasuma Yoshioka and Tsutomu "Mac" Wakimoto. They would later be known among themselves as the "Torpedo Gang." All returned to Army service. Most were assigned to the newly formed 100th Infantry Battalion, composed largely of Nisei soldiers from Hawai'i. Despite their earlier ordeal, they were not spared combat. Instead, they fought in some of the fiercest battles of the European Theater, earning Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic Badges, Bronze Stars, Purple Hearts, and other decorations.

Their survival — first in the Alenuihāhā Channel and later on dis-

tant battlefields — stands as a remarkable testament to resilience and duty. Fourteen Hawaii Island soldiers and three from O'ahu were killed that day. The soldiers from Hawaii were Iwao Nakamura, Yoshito Nii, Larry M. Oku, Reginald M. Osato, John Pereira, John S. Rodrigues, Raymond H. Shirakawa, Yeishun A. Soken, Bushichi Tani, Pemal C. Torrijos, Alfred Veriato, Torao Yamamizu, Albert H. Yano and Yonezo Yonemura.

The wreck of the Frank has never been found. Experts believe it lies in very deep water approximately 30 miles north of Upolu Point; the coordinates of the sinking were never precisely recorded. The Japanese submarine that launched the attack, the I-71, was itself sunk with all hands by American forces off Bougainville in 1944.

In January of 2026, the Guards-

men who perished aboard the Royal T. Frank were formally memorialized at the Lt. Col. Henry S. Hara Armed Forces Reserve Center at Keaukaha Military Reservation in Hilo. For families, descendants, and the wider community, the remembrance brings long-overdue recognition to a sacrifice made close to home, in waters many still cross without knowing what lies beneath.

The Alenuihāhā Channel is known today for its rough seas and strong winds. But it is also a place of memory — where Hawai'i soldiers paid an early and terrible price in a war that would reshape the world.

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## Awards Dinner to Honor Community Members and Support Heritage Center Planned

By Pat Aho

With great anticipation, the Kohala Heritage Center announces creation of a new annual Kohala award entitled “Ka Mea Hana No Ka Pono ‘O Kohala,” (One Who Works for the Benefit of Kohala). Community members are invited to a special dinner to be catered by the Kohala High School Culinary Program on Thursday, March 12, at the STEM building courtyard. This is the third quarter assessment for these students.

The two community members being honored have demonstrated their love and commitment to Kohala for many years by preserving and showcasing Kohala’s land

and traditions. They are Toni Withington and Kauai Nakamura.

Toni, a gifted writer and early advocate for land preservation, has successfully fought poorly planned development along the Kohala Coast for many years. A mahalo letter in the Kohala Mountain News on December 19, 2025, from John Gray of Batanes, Philippines thanked Toni for her “amazing reporting on the preservation of 13 leeward ‘ili (sections of land).” He called it “benchmark for reporting and so wonderful to see.” She is a Kohala treasure who is responsible for saving many sections of historical coastline for future generations. Kumu Hula Kauai Nakamura has

practiced her art for many years, continuing the traditions of her mother, Kumu Pat Roxburgh. She teaches all ages, from young keiki to kūpuna. Kauai has been the guiding force for the senior dance group to participate in the annual Kūpuna Hula Festival in Kona, where they have received numerous awards. Her halau regularly performs for many local programs and events, and the kūpuna dance each week at Bamboo, where they share their aloha. Kauai recently retired from a Hawaii State position with Social Services, where she helped countless Kohala community members for many years. She is also a special Kohala treasure.

Please support this Awards Dinner, a fundraiser for the Kohala Heritage Center. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with entertainment by David Gomes, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Multiple entrees as well as side dishes and dessert are being planned by the culinary students, whose participation will be part of their assessment. Heritage Center Board Members are selling 80 donation tickets priced at \$35.00 each at the Kohala Heritage Center during the open hours of 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mahalo for supporting these awardees, the culinary students, and the Heritage Center through your attendance.

## Hawai‘i Care Choices Expands Kupu Palliative Care Services to North Hawai‘i

By Lani Weigert

Hawai‘i Care Choices is pleased to announce the expansion of its Kupu Palliative Care Program into North Hawai‘i, increasing access to compassionate, patient-centered care for individuals living with serious illness and the families who care for them.

Beginning February 2026, Kupu Palliative Care will be available through a dedicated clinic space located within the North Hawai‘i Hospice office. This will extend palliative care services to those living

in Hāmākua, Waimea, as well as North and South Kohala. This generous collaboration reflects a shared commitment to helping patients and families in North Hawai‘i access the care and support they need, close to home.

Leadership from North Hawai‘i Hospice highlighted the importance of the collaboration.

“This partnership with Hawai‘i Care Choices expands the support available to our community,” said Faye Mitchell, Executive Director of North Hawai‘i Hospice. “By

welcoming Kupu Palliative Care into our space, we’re able to help patients and families in North Hawai‘i receive compassionate, expert support earlier—when it can make a meaningful difference in their quality of life.”

Through this expansion, patients in North Hawai‘i will benefit from coordinated palliative care visits, interdisciplinary support, and increased access to specialized clinical expertise. The clinic-based model will offer both in-person and telehealth visits, promoting steady,

connected care without interruptions, and flexibility for patients and caregivers.

Patients will be seen by appointment only; learn more or make an appointment today by calling (808) 969-1733.

Founded in 1983, Hawai‘i Care Choices is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hospice, palliative care, and supportive services that enhance quality of life for individuals and families across Hawai‘i.

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By Hawai‘i Care Choices



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Kupu Care supports people and their ‘ohana living with cancer, heart failure, lung disease, kidney disease, dementia, and more.

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# Have We Lost the Kohala Ditch?

Part 1 of 2

Story and photos by David Barclay

High on the windward slopes of Kohala Mountain, rain fell almost every afternoon, drifting in on the trade winds and breaking open against the forest. The streams ran fast and cold, dropping suddenly into deep gulches, then vanishing toward the sea. For centuries, that water fed lo'i kalo and villages below. Then, in the early years of the twentieth century, new eyes began to follow those streams—not downward, but sideways. Sugar wanted water, and Kohala's leeward fields were thirsty.

In 1905, men arrived with notebooks, measuring chains, and an ingenious idea: the water could be rerouted from the valleys and carried along the plateaus, held just high enough to flow by gravity alone. Michael O'Shaughnessy, the engineer in charge, walked the ridges and peered into gulches so deep the bottoms were hidden by mist. He drew a line across the mountain that many said could not be built.

Then the work began. Laborers—mostly immigrant workers from Japan, China, Portugal, and Hawai'i—cut a narrow scar into the mountain using picks, shovels, and dynamite. Some days they stood knee-deep in mud; other days they hung from ropes, drilling into vertical rock walls with nothing below



Looking East from Kynnersley Road, from where the ditch crosses under the road. Grasses, weeds and ironwoods are taking over the ditch.

them but air and the sound of water far beneath. Wooden flumes crossed gulches. Tunnels were blasted through stubborn stone. Men were injured. Some did not come home. Slowly, mile by mile, the ditch took shape—an open channel hugging the cliffs and hidden in tunnels catching stream after stream and bending the water toward the dry plains of Kohala. When the water was finally released into the system,

it moved quietly, almost politely, as if it had always meant to be there.

The sugar fields that depended upon rainfall became productive fields. Plantation whistles marked the hours. Towns grew. The ditch became invisible in its success, just another part of the landscape—until sugar itself began to fade. By the mid 1970s, the mills fell silent. Fields were abandoned. The great thirst that had justified the ditch

was gone. For a moment, it seemed the waterway might finally be allowed to rest.

But the ditch did not disappear. Instead, it changed hands and purpose. Ranchers relied on it. Small farmers tapped into it. I was one of them, our farm used ditch water for over 20 years. Questions once ignored grew loud: Who owns the water? Who should benefit from it? What was taken, and what must be restored?

Today, a dry Kohala Ditch still traces its narrow path along the mountain over wooden flumes and through tunnels carved through the ridges. On April 6, 2021, the tunnels, earthen ditch and flumes that once carried millions of gallons of agricultural water to the dry lands of North Kohala ceased flowing after a landslide destroyed a wooden flume in Honokane Valley. The ditch today remains as a monument made of concrete, stone and wood: a triumph of engineering, a stark reminder of an irreplaceable infrastructure that we are on the verge of losing, but it is also valuable resource that can still be rehabilitated to play an important role in the agricultural future of Kohala. The completed ditch measured 22.5 miles with 16 miles of tunnels, six miles of open ditch and 29 flumes. This does not include the

See Ditch, on Page 11

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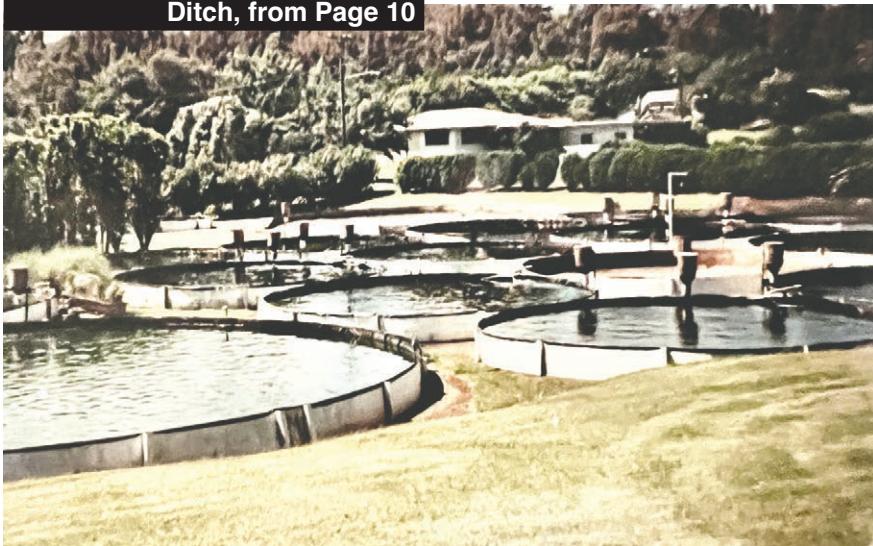
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Ditch, from Page 10



Intensive Asian Catfish farm in Kokoiki, Kohala, c. 1990.

many lateral waterlines that fed the fields and mills.

The cost to build the ditch in 1905 was close to \$600,000. In today's dollars that would be roughly \$25 million; however, I suspect it would cost many times that if it were to be constructed today.

The important question we must ask before we commit to resurrecting the ditch system is what we would do with the water and how do we make the system self-sustaining. How do we generate successful agri-businesses that can use this water profitably and benefit the community? How best to achieve this development in a timely manner? One pos-

sible answer is through creation of agricultural park(s) in Kohala that would incubate, develop, and demonstrate various profitable agricultural enterprises.

See Part 2 of this story, focusing on agricultural parks, in next month's issue.

David Barclay, a Zoologist and a Construction Project Manager, operated a successful aquaculture operation in Kohala for over 20 years. He was also board member of the United States Department of Agriculture Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture for nearly a decade and was a member of the original OTEC Aquaculture research team in 1981.

## Walawala – Kohala's Forgotten Chiefess. Part 1 of 2

By Susie Davis

In the telling of Kohala's rich history, there is an important figure who has been largely overlooked: The Chiefess Walawala. According to many sources, she "had charge of the whole district of Kohala" from the early 1800s through the 1840s. The story of this ali'i wahine who guided her people through profound political, cultural, religious, and economic transitions survives only in fragments, but missionary records, Land Commission awards, genealogies, Hawaiian newspaper articles, and Māhele records allow us to piece it back together.

Walawala was the daughter of Nae'ole, the same high chief of Hālāwa who took the infant Kamehameha to 'Āwini to protect him from death at the hands of Alapa'i's soldiers. Nae'ole's half-sister Kaha'ōpūlani was then the chiefess of Kohala and according to tradition, both she and Nae'ole became Kamehameha's hānai parents. It is likely that Walawala and her brother Kaiakoili spent much of their childhood and early adult lives near the future king. Future generous land awards by Kamehameha to each suggest a strong familial bond.

During Kamehameha's campaign to conquer O'ahu, Walawala actively supported the war effort.

Mary Jane Montano, the hānai granddaughter of Walawala, wrote that as Kamehameha was preparing to attack O'ahu in 1795, "Walawala brought over the wives of Kamehameha's warriors with her fleet of canoes. They were from the 'Ī, the Mahi and the Palena. They were all settled in Mānoa Valley while Kamehameha's armies were being prepared for the battles. The east ridge of Mānoa Valley, called Wa'ahila, was called Kapala Luahine, and it is called so until this day, after the old chiefess."

After the war Kamehameha granted Walawala rich lands, cementing her political and economic power. Mahele records of 1848 show that Walawala's lands in Kohala (which by then had passed to her son Chief Kamakahonu) included the ahupua'a of 'Āinakea, Māuilili, Lā'aumama, Hihui, Makeanehu and Kalala. She was gifted lands in Hāmākua, Hilo, Puna, Kā'ū and Lahaina.

Included in her war gift was "the island of Mokolii, off the windward shore of Oahu, and the ahupua'a of Kualoa and Kaneohe." Gifting these sacred lands was a mark of great favor. Kualoa, "where the sacred drums and heiau were located," was revered as a sacred training

See Walawala, on Page 12

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**Walawala, from Page 11**

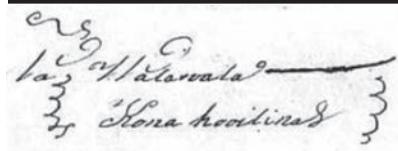


Photo courtesy of Digital Archives of Hawaii  
Signature of Chiefess Walawala from her 1844 will, which she "wrote with my own hand."

ground of Ō'ahu's chiefs and is considered one of the most sacred places on the island.

Walawala's brother, Kaiakoili, was also favored by Kamehameha. Kaiakoili was the chief of the Palena, who had proven themselves invaluable in the war, and afterwards Kamehameha awarded them the Kohala ahupua'a of Nunulu, 'Iole, Halalua, Kapa'au, Kaiholena and Kalala to live on.

In 1825, missionary Artemus Bishop first visited Kohala and met "Walawala, a chief woman of distinction." He returned three years later to visit the "chief woman who governs Kohala under Kuakini" and for his visit, Walawala prepared a feast at her residence in Kapa'au. Bishop writes, "200 hens, several ducks, 3 hogs and vegetables uncounted were brought and presented to me by the scholars and head men. Being at a loss to know what to do with them all, I asked the advice of Walawala. She told me

to commit the fowls to the care of the teachers to keep for me, and as to the provisions she would superintend their distribution as I should direct."

Though it had only been five years since the end of the kapu system, by 1825 Walawala was a devoted Christian and was insistent that her people follow the new religion. Bishop writes of having "assisted Walawala in examining the cases of several transgressors who had forsaken their wives and taken others. I exhorted them to return to their duty, as Walawala had directed them." He also mentions another case, where one man had taken the widow of his deceased son as his wife, and despite wishing to be married, Walawala had insisted that they separate as "it was not lawful for them to be married"

Walawala also had full authority in the management of the land. In 1832 she had her people build the first Kalāhikiola Church at Nunulu at the behest of Governor Kuakini. It was Walawala who decreed that Nunulu would be the site of "the large, thatched structure in the uplands above Kapa'au so prominent as to be easily visible for miles around." (Nunulu is located off present day Kynnersley Road about two miles uphill from the highway).

See next month's issue for Part 2. Go to [tinyurl.com/5d7tāhdw](https://tinyurl.com/5d7tāhdw) for a list of references used in writing this story.

WEEKLY EVENTS IN MARCH 2026					
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 PANTRY	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



**LEARN HOW TO CAN FOOD!**



**SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY FOR A WORKSHOP!**

**2026 FOOD CANNING WORKSHOPS**  
Walker Hall at St. Augustine's Church in Kapa'au

Sign up to learn water bath and high pressure canning methods. All are welcome, no experience necessary!

- Workshop 1** - Feb. 21 (8 AM - 5 PM) & Feb. 22 (8 AM - 9 AM)
- Workshop 2** - Feb 28 (8 AM - 5 PM) & Mar 1 (8 AM - 9 AM)
- Workshop 3** - Mar 5 (8 AM - 5 PM) & Mar 6 (8 AM - 9 AM)
- Workshop 4** - Apr 11 (8 AM - 5 PM) & Apr 12 (8 AM - 9 AM)
- Workshop 5** - May 21 (8 AM - 5 PM)



**KOHALA VET CLINIC**



Adjacent to Aloha Gas  
Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapa'au  
Open M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm

**889-6405**  
**Dr. Daryl Stang**  
[rokihawaii@gmail.com](mailto:rokihawaii@gmail.com)



**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**  
 March Service: Sun, March 15  
 Kalopa State Park, 9:00 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

**“Life is Forever”**  
 We have the proof!

**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  
 Kohalasd.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

Join with like-minded individuals at The Temple of Spiritual Healing & Education, an interdenominational Spiritualist church that offers teachings on: Eternal questions of Life & death, Healing, Prayer, Inner Peace, Meditation, Spirit-Guides, Prophecy, Your Spiritual Development & Protection, the Prophets & Musical Inspiration in Songs & Chants.

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**CHRIS JOHNSON BUILDER**  
  
 Happy to quote your home improvement projects and/or repairs.  
 Call 936-7064  
 kohalachris@gmail.com  
 References and projects online at:  
 www.chrisbuilds.com

**The Bahá'í Faith**  
 "May we unite as the waves of one sea"  
 Please welcome Author Jake Eagle  
 Sharing his book  
**The Power of Awe**  
 March 14, 2026  
 3-4:00 PM in Hawi, HI  
 Call Bob and Elaine Losey at 808-551-0665 for information

**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

Review the evidence in published reports and eyewitness accounts for the source of our Teachings, including some from Hawai'i policemen.  
 Temple of Spiritual Healing & Education online.  
 Contact April Lee for link to Services; Sun, 10AM; Wed, 7PM & Meditation Circle  
 TempleofHealing@proton.me  
 or 808-989-5995.

**MONTHLY CALENDAR MARCH 2026**

	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
3/2	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	CHINESE MEDICINE TOOLS TALK W/ ILA JHAVERI	ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/2	MON	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/2	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/4	WED	4:00 PM	7:00PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	FOOD TRUCKS AND LOCAL VENDORS	HUB MURAL	808-889-5523
3/4	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/4	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
3/5	THU	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	HOMESCHOOL GROUP	SOCIALIZE WITH A STORY AND ACTIVITY	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/6	SAT	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	FEATURED ARTIST RECEPTION	CAROLYN LANCASTER & MARIE RIZZO	OLENA GALERY	808 345 1779
3/7	SAT	5:30 PM	8:00PM	ARTIST RECEPTION	SURF PARTY	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
3/8	SUN	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	KOHALA FOOD HUB	RSVP FOR TALK STORY & EAT LOCAL	HUB BARN	INFO@KOHALAFOODHUB.COM
3/9	MON	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	SOUND BATH	SOUND BATH WITH LEILANI SILVER	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/10	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	SEA PEOPLE BY CHRISTINA THOMPSON	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/11	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/11	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/14	SAT	9:00 AM		KOHALA INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY	WOK COOK OFF	KIC	DCFUERTES808@GMAIL.COM
3/14	SAT	10:00 AM		OHANA FUN DAY	RESILIENCE FAIR	HISAOKA GYM	808-889-5523
3/14	SAT & SUN			MAHUKONA FISHING TOURNAMENT	WORKSHOP & TOURNAMENT	MAHUKONA	
3/18	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/18	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/19	THU	9:00 AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET		SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-6436
3/19	THU	2:30 PM	4:30 PM	CHILDREN'S BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	BLACK STALLION BY WALTER FARLEY	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/20	FRI	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	"UNDER THE 'ŌHI'A TREE" WORKSHOP	FOR KEIKI K-3RD	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/20	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/21	SAT	11:00 AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	(808) 213-7779
3/23	MON	5:30 PM	6:50 PM	HAWAIIAN HISTORY TALK	BOYD BOND TALK STORY,	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/25	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
3/26	THU	5:00 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
3/27	MON	12:00 PM	12:45 PM	MR. KNEEL	EDUCATIONAL RAP ARTIST	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
3/27	FRI	2:30 PM	4:30 PM	TEEN BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	FALLEN BY LAUREN KATE	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655

## Farmers, Soil, and Coconuts Bringing Kohala Agriculture Together

By Katie Wortman

On April 4, 2026, the community is invited to gather in Hawi for LIFT UP Farmers: Coconuts, Processing, and Soil Health, a hands-on educational event bringing together farmers, food producers, land stewards, and agricultural partners from across Hawai'i Island, hosted by Touching the Earth Farm, in collaboration with HIP Agriculture.

The day is centered on the systems that hold our agricultural communities together: healthy soil, strong crops, local processing, and shared knowledge. As farmers across the island navigate rising costs, invasive species pressure, and ongoing reliance on imported inputs, there is a growing need for practical solutions that are rooted right here at home.

A major focus of the gathering

will be soil health and regenerative practices that build fertility over time. Participants will be able to walk through an on-farm soil health demonstration plot and learn how compost, biochar, cover cropping, and living soils support productive farms and long-term resilience.

The role of worms and vermiculture will also be highlighted, showing how food scraps and organic waste can be transformed into nutrient rich soil amendments that support healthier plants and reduce dependence on imported inputs.

Coconuts will be a central theme throughout the day. Deeply rooted in Hawai'i's cultural and agricultural landscape, coconuts are increasingly threatened by the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB). This gathering will provide space to share up-to-date information on

CRB, discuss monitoring and prevention strategies, and talk story about what growers can do on their own land to protect palms and support replanting. The day will also invite conversation around cooperative and shared approaches, recognizing that long-term coconut resilience will be strengthened not just through individual action, but through collaboration, shared processing, and collective stewardship.

In addition to growing crops, the gathering will explore local processing and food business development as essential pieces of a resilient food system. Access to shared kitchens, processing equipment, and value-added pathways can help farmers keep more value on island, reduce waste, and build viable livelihoods. Demonstrations throughout the afternoon will highlight coconut

processing, frozen and dehydrated products, and shared kitchen resources available to local producers.

More than anything, the day is designed to create space for people to connect, ask questions, and talk story. Farmers will have opportunities to walk the farm, see systems in action, and spend time with researchers, organizations, and neighbors who are all working toward the same goal: a thriving agricultural community in Kohala.

LIFT UP Farmers is open to growers at all stages, food producers, land stewards, and community members, from backyard gardeners to commercial producers, and reflects a shared commitment to caring for the land, feeding our communities, and strengthening Hawai'i's local food system together.

## North Kohala Public Library March 2026 News and Programs

By Leilani Silver

Did you know? The Hawaii State Public Library is now offering 1-on-1 Tech Help. Visit the library's website to reserve an appointment time or come to the North Kohala Public Library on Tuesdays from 1:00-3:30 p.m. or Fridays from 12:00-3:30 p.m. to get help from our digital navigator.

Stop by and say hi at the library's table during the Kohala Resilience Hub's Ohana Fun Day on Saturday, March 14, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Kamehameha Park's Hisaoka Gym. We will have some games to play and paper crafts to make. Show us your library card and win a small prize (while supplies last).

Chinese Medicine Tools for Cancer Prevention with Ila Jhaveri: March 2 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: March 2 at 5:00 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: March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 10:00 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: March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 2:00 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: March 5 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for an informa-

tional story followed by a related activity or craft. This program is best suited for kids 6-12.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: March 9 from 5:30-6:30 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: March 10 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a discussion of the book "Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia" by Christina Thompson. The Boston Globe describes it as "an archive-researched historical account that has the page-turning qualities of an all-absorbing mys-

tery." The book is available to pick up at the library.

Children's Book vs. Movie Club: March 19 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month's selection is "The Black Stallion" by Walter Farley. 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](http://www.librarieshawaii.org).

Special Spring Break Event-Under the Ohia Tree: Native Forest Poem and Puppet Workshop with Local Author/Illustrator Erzsi Palko: March 20 at 1:00 p.m. Come and hear "Under the 'Ohi'a Tree," a brand-new children's book about our native forest species—read by local author/illustrator, Erzsi Palko.

See Library, on Page 15

### JOIN DR. ARDOLF FOR SPRING BREAK HEALTHY HAPPY HOUR(S)

Monday, March 16th through Friday, March 20th, 2026 from 3-5pm

Enjoy the sunset, perfect temperature and tropical breeze on our outdoor lanai Get the boost you need to have a great busy fun week with family and friends

#### MENU

##### MINI MYERS COCKTAIL

contains all the essential vitamins & minerals for the day, 35ml.

\$100 or 2 for \$150

##### DOUBLE SHOT MYERS COCKTAIL

contains all the essential vitamins and minerals with extra Vitamain C, 60ml

\$150 or 2 for \$250

You do not need to be an existing patient to enjoy this offer

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S)  
808.498.4018



THE MYERS' COCKTAIL WAS CREATED BY DR. JOHN MYERS, MD IN 1970 TO TREAT FATIGUE, MIGRAINES, FIBROMYALGIA, AND ASTHMA.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS VERY SLOW TO BE ACCEPTED AS MEDICINE, WHICH WAS FURTHER DELAYED BY HIS PASSING IN 1984. GRATEFULLY DR. ALAN GABY, MD, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS AUTHORS ON NUTRITIONAL THERAPIES, CONTINUED TO TREAT DR. MYERS' PATIENTS UPON THEIR REQUEST. HE TOOK IT A STEP FURTHER BY COMPILING DATA, ALTERING THE FORMULA, THEN PUBLISHING HIS FINDINGS IN 2002 IN A JOURNAL CALLED "ALTERNATIVE MEDICAL REVIEW."

THE UPDATED MYERS' COCKTAIL WAS FOUND TO BE HELPFUL FOR A WIDE RANGE OF HEALTH ISSUES OFTEN PRODUCING DRAMATIC RESULTS. SIMPLY IT IS A WAY TO RECEIVE YOUR DAILY DOSE OF VITAMINS AND MINERALS THROUGH YOUR VEIN INSTEAD OF POPPING PILLS. THIS ROUTE OF INTAKE WAS ADVANTAGEOUS AS 100% WAS IMMEDIATELY ABSORBED INTO THE BLOODSTREAM AND TRANSFERRED THROUGHOUT ALL THE CELLS OF THE BODY FOR AN INSTANT FEEL-GOOD. OBVIOUSLY, IT WAS ESPECIALLY POWERFUL AND EVEN LIFESAVING TO THOSE SUFFERING FROM AN INABILITY TO ABSORB THEIR NUTRIENTS THROUGH DIGESTION, WHETHER IT WAS FROM DAYS OF VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA, ULCERATIVE COLITIS, OR TEMPORARY LOSS OF APPETITE. TODAY MORE THAN EVER WE TEND TO BE DEFICIENT IN OUR VITAMIN AND MINERAL INTAKE, AS OUR FOOD SUPPLY AND FOOD CHOICES DO NOT CONTAIN WHAT OUR BODIES NEED DAILY.

WHAT DR. MYERS STARTED TO PROVIDE TO HIS PATIENTS IN A 10ML SYRINGE IS NOW PROVIDED IN A 35ML OR 60 ML SYRINGE. IN THE MODERN ERA, OTHER FORMULAS HAVE BEEN CREATED, RANGING FAR BEYOND THE 60 ML SIZE TO, MOST COMMONLY, 250ML OR 500ML TO TREAT MORE SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES. THESE ARE OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "IV BAGS." ROUGH WEEK? STRESSED OUT? ACHY FROM TOO MUCH PHYSICAL LABOR? JUST NEED SOME RELAXATION TIME? CONSIDER TRYING THE FAMOUS MODIFIED MYERS' COCKTAIL DURING OUR SPRING BREAK SPECIAL. BOTH 35ML AND 60ML SIZES ARE AVAILABLE FROM 3-5PM. CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT(S). 808 498-4018.

Did you know?

The Kohala Mountain News is online at [kohalamountainnews.com](http://kohalamountainnews.com) Now SEARCHABLE back to 2011

Hair Spectrum

Family Salon



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

889~5077

## Free Talk on Healing Pain Using Conscious Discipline

By Lani Bowman

As a community, we are all invested in helping our keiki navigate and heal from the pain they experience. On March 12 from 4:30–6:00 p.m. at St. Augustine’s Walker Hall, Lani Bowman will offer a free presentation for the community titled “Language of Pain, Language of Healing.” All are welcome to attend.

For the last 40 years, Lani has worked extensively with families and children. She has been a director of a local preschool, a trainer for families interested in fostering children, a foster and adoptive parent, and presently works as a Caregiver Educator with Tūtū and Me Travel-

ing Preschool.

The presentation is sponsored by her company, SET IT UP! (Sensible Education Through Innovative Techniques and Uplifting Programs), a motivational and instructional company. Lani loves teaching through her LIPS (Laughter, Information, Purpose and Stories). She is a local and national presenter, focusing on practical, strength-based skills crucial for our well-being and for those we love and serve.

Through her work, Lani has observed that experiencing pain is difficult and deeply personal. Describing that pain in a way others can understand can be challenging for adults—and even more so for

keiki.

In this presentation, participants will be introduced to three key brain states identified by the Conscious Discipline model. Lani will share examples of how both keiki and adults may “act out” their pain within each of these brain states, helping caregivers better recognize what is happening beneath the surface of certain behaviors.

Participants will also explore the harmful effects of minimizing or dismissing pain through phrases such as, “You’re okay” or “Nothing is wrong, I don’t see why you’re upset.” The presentation will address how unresolved pain from the past can influence the ways both

adults and keiki listen, respond, and relate to others.

In addition, participants will examine Hawai’i’s unique social, cultural, emotional, and historical context, including deeply embedded patterns around addressing pain and healing that may impact our keiki. Foster care experiences and placements outside the immediate family, in particular, can result in complex layers of pain for children. Learning to identify and work with the brain states described in this presentation can offer practical tools for support and healing.

Ultimately, participants will discover that the language of healing often involves no words at all.

### Library, from Page 14

Make paper “puppet” art and be guided in simple prompts to give voice to your favorite native forest friends. Book signing to follow!

Hawaiian History Talk Story with Local Historian Boyd Bond: March 23 at 5:30 p.m. This month’s topic is “Travel of the Young Princes, Alexander Liholiho and Lot Kapuaiwa.”

Teen Book Club: March 27 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. This month’s selection is “Fallen” by Lauren Kate. 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](http://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.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and State Holidays

(808) 889-6655

[www.librarieshawaii.org](http://www.librarieshawaii.org)

54-3645 Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapaau, HI 96755

## Update on Recycling Fishing Line

Story and photo by Wendy Noritake

As of December 2025, recycling bins at 10 locations from North Kohala to South Kona have brought in 24.93 miles of fishing line. The bins were first installed in 2022 to promote environmental sustainability by recycling and disposing fishing line.

Big mahalo to the public at Māhukona and Kapa’a Beach Parks for collecting 5.57 miles of monofilament and braided fishing line.

After analysis at Hawaii Preparatory Academy, the line is sent to Berkley Fishing Line Recycling Program where it is made into pellets for consumer projects.

The public is asked to not take the contents of the bins for safety reasons (hooks can injure hands and fingers), and because the collected line is counted and repurposed.

Stay safe when swimming and diving while picking up the fishing line. It’s easy to become ensnared while using knives or shears. I’ve entangled myself with line around



Recycling fishing line in one of the 10 bins located from North Kohala to South Kona helps to keep wildlife safe and plastics out of the ocean.

the legs and even my snorkel! Having a buddy helps.

Recently, my friend David Gappell of Motek Bakery in Kapa’au helped me haul in a huge amount of heavy fishing line at Kapa’a. It took two of us to gather the line, one reeling it in and the other going ahead to pull up the line from the reef. While we were gathering it, a young honu came over to watch intently what we were doing. I hope the juvenile green turtle observed that it should always stay clear of fishing line. Beside sharks, getting entangled in this abandoned material is the honu’s biggest threat.

How can you help? Pick up the fishing line from the ground or in the water and place in the bins. Please put only fishing line in the receptacles, not garbage. Donate money to support the program, and volunteer to sponsor a bin.

The recycling program is overseen by Keep Puako Beautiful, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, and Hawaii Preparatory Academy.



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SCAN ME

# Maika'i Kohala High School Centennial Class of 2026

Story and photo by Jamie Belmarez

Kohala has a special way of showing up for its own, especially in moments of celebration. A coming event offers a beautiful example of that spirit in action. On March 4 at the Kohala Night Market, members of the Kohala High School ensemble will perform as part of a fundraiser to support the Class of 2026 – a class made even more meaningful as the school's centennial graduating class. Music, food and community will come together in a way that feels uniquely Kohala.

That evening also marks the pickup opportunity for those who purchased presale tickets for Molokai Hot Bread, with a limited number of loaves available for sale at the booth for anyone who missed the presale window.

In addition, a variety of baked goods and miscellaneous items will be available, with one hundred percent of the proceeds going directly toward supporting graduation needs for Kohala High School seniors. Every purchase helps ensure these students are celebrated in a way that honors both their milestone and the century of graduates who came before them.

As someone not born and raised in Kohala, I have nonetheless always felt gratitude for a genuine welcome here. My ohana chose to put down roots in this place, and over time I have come to see our community like a great tree. Some families have



Class of 2026 students Mateo Belmarez and James Ka'ai perform at the Night Market in May of 2025. See them again at the upcoming March 4 Night Market.

roots that run deep through generations, others are newer plantings finding their place in and tending to the soil, but beneath the surface we are connected through the same living root system. We draw strength from one another, share nourishment, and steady each other when the winds pick up. Supporting our school and our keiki is part of our kuleana.

Whether you live in Kohala or simply love it, we invite you to join us at the Night Market. Come listen to the next generation of talented musicians, pick up a loaf of Molokai Hot Bread, take home something

sweet, and most importantly, stand with the Class of 2026 as they prepare to mark this historic centennial graduation. Let's show up, show our support, and help the next generation continue to grow strong in this remarkable place we call home.

Dates to keep in mind:  
KHS 2026 Graduation Ceremony: May 23  
KHS Centennial Celebration: Fourth of July weekend

Interested in getting involved with planning the Centennial celebration? Email kohalahundred-year@gmail.com to learn more.

# County Responds to Squatters on Northern Coast

By Toni Withington

Piles of rubbish, tents and two abandoned vehicles were what remained after multiple County agencies inspected a site where occupants had reportedly been staying for over a month between Hapu'u and Kapanaiia Bays. The land is owned by the County and was purchased to preserve its cultural and historic connections to King Kamehameha I.

The Fire Department, Police Department and Finance Department took interest in the illegal campsite when reports of campfires, cutting of pasture fences, and stripped and abandoned cars were reported. Visits by officials apparently led to the vacating of the site, which was near a State Registered Historic Site. Efforts to remove the trash and vehicles are underway.

The multiple parcels of coastal land between the bays were purchased by the County between 2018 and 2023 through the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Program. The area is often called the Kula Iwi O Kamehameha, the king's homelands. Public access along the clifftop is permitted during daylight hours. The area is regularly visited by fishermen, hikers and cultural practitioners. Camping is prohibited.

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