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May 22, 2026

Kohala Meeting Launches Marine Planning Engagement Process on Hawai'i Island



Chris Teague from the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources helps to explain the Holomua Marine Initiative, which seeks to create community-driven management strategies for Hawai'i's nearshore ecosystems.

Story and photo by Libby Leonard

On May 5, Kohala fishermen, cultural practitioners, and marine advocates packed the Kohala Intergenerational Center as the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) launched the Hawai'i Island kickoff for its Holomua Marine Initiative community engagement process.

The Holomua Marine Initiative, which first began on Maui in 2022, is a statewide effort that aims to create community-driven management strategies for Hawai'i's nearshore ecosystems.

Facilitated by Donna Ching of the Pacific Center for Collaboration, the meeting was the first in a series of five community gatherings held across Hawai'i Island this month.

Rather than relying on a top-down approach, organizers said the process is designed to work directly with residents, fishers, cultural practitioners, and other ocean users to identify local concerns and develop long-term stewardship strategies. This includes recruiting a Hawai'i Island Navigation Team, a community-nominated advisory

group that will help guide future marine management decisions.

According to DAR staff, ideal Navigation Team members are respected community members with strong local networks, long-term knowledge of place and nearshore resources, familiarity with Native Hawaiian and kama'aina practices, and the ability to work collaboratively.

Nominations from Kohala were collected during the meeting, and a seven-member independent review committee of Hawai'i Island residents will make the final selections.

The evening also included an "appreciative inquiry" session, where participants shared both cherished experiences and growing concerns about Kohala's nearshore environment. Residents spoke about fishing, snorkeling, gathering, and spending time along the coast as favorite activities, while also identifying challenges affecting those experiences.

Among the concerns raised were diminishing shoreline access due to increasing private landownership, environmental degradation tied to

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Police Chief Holds Talk Story



Left to right: Reed Mahuna, Chief of Police; Sherry Bird, Deputy Chief of Police; and Thomas Shopay, Assistant Chief Administrative Services visited Kohala for a community talk story meeting.

Story and photos by Lynda Wallach

On April 21, Reed Mahuna, the new Hawaii Island Chief of Police, brought six of his officers to the Intergenerational Center in Kapa'au to meet with members of the community. Although only five people showed up, it was an informative session. After introducing his officers, Chief Mahuna explained that the origin of the talk story meetings that he is holding in the districts throughout the island was his realization that to find out what is important to the various communities, it is necessary to connect with them directly. He said that the department has several goals, the first of which is recruitment. The second is to provide his officers with new equipment, including new vehicles and the technology to help them do their jobs more efficiently. He said he is also committed to improving morale and to doing whatever he can to make the lives of his employees better.

John Winter, Chair of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group, after thanking the officers for their presence, stressed the importance of cooperation

and coordination between our local police and the North Kohala Emergency Response Team (CERT), of which he is the head, in preparing for and responding to emergencies. Winter also explained that a solution is being worked on in to relieve the parking situation and congestion at the Pololu lookout which will involve the creation of a small parking lot at the old mule station. It may mean the police will have to get involved ticketing those who park along the highway. The final issue he brought to their attention was that of Pratt Road. Akoni Pule Highway has been blocked by landslides and fallen trees multiple times in the last ten years leaving the more than 200 people who live on the far side of the blockages with no way out to get to work or school or in case of an emergency. Pratt Road, which can serve as the bypass if the highway is blocked, is privately owned by several property owners. Agreements have been made with them to allow access, but Captain Derr agreed that he would first need to declare an emergency and that a police presence would be necessary.

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Kohala's Electrical Microgrid Project to Undergo Redesign

By Toni Withington

The project to supply a reliable electrical backup system for Kohala's Hawaiian Electric Company's (HECO) customers has been set aside, and a newer microgrid battery proposal is being redesigned.

Kevin Waltjen, HECO's director for Hawaii County, told a meeting of the community's Utilities Group last month that the new system could be smaller, more efficient, and cost less. Installation, approvals and funding, however, are still several years away.

First proposed in 2022 under the

company's former name, HELCO, the proposal for a microgrid system could not find a contractor's bid to fit within the funds available, and it was withdrawn last year. The new engineering plans will consider the Utilities Group's suggestion that the batteries for the grid be located at the Hāwī wind farm near 'Upolu Airport, Waltjen said. If that configuration can be worked out, a smaller battery may be considered.

The year-long feasibility study will also include a reassessment of the energy available through the wind farm, which has increased its

generating capacity. Also considered will be the recent proliferation of rooftop solar panels installed in the district, which a smart grid could tap into. Between the wind farm and rooftop solar units, the community can already provide energy for itself, but only if the sources were consistently reliable,

hence the batteries.

The microgrid system would also allow HECO, by working while the district is on battery power, to replace and upgrade the 75-year-old single power line from Waimea alongside Kohala Mountain Road. Waltjen identified Kohala as the

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Police, from Page 1

Police Captain Amira Edmondson, Criminal Investigation Division West Hawaii; Assistant Chief Rio Amon-Wilkins, West Hawaii; Captain William Derr, North Kohala; and Officer Curry McFadden, Community Policing North Kohala joined in the talk story meeting.

essary to direct traffic. Captain Derr said he is dealing with the problem of the large number of abandoned cars that have been dumped on a private property near Hawi.

The officers were asked about the lack of crime in Kohala and whether that is unique to our area. Chief Mahuna replied that there is not a lot of crime on the Big Island, especially violent crime and Kohala in particular is quite safe.

Most local crime is domestic. Even drug issues are confined to a small number of people that the police are aware of. When asked about the existence of meth labs, Chief Mahuna explained that it is mostly rumor since it is much more cost effective for drug dealers to import drugs than to make them locally. Attempts in the past have been small, unsuccessful operations.

An attendee questioned whether the lack of homicides on the island results in a lack of investigative

experience. Captain Edmondson said his officers have had significant, ongoing training.

When asked if the Hawaii Island Police Department has a policy regarding their relationship with ICE, Chief Mahuna said that their policy is that they do not assist with any federal immigration investigations. Firstly, the department does not have jurisdiction; secondly, they do not have the resources; and thirdly, the community does not support it. When asked if there was a problem with illegal immigration on the island, the chief said there are undocumented immigrants everywhere, but he would not characterize them as a problem since most of them are here trying to make a better life for themselves and their families.

The meeting closed with Chief Mahuna promising to be back. We want to thank him and his team for coming to Kohala and are looking forward to their return.

Marine, from Page 1

mauka-to-makai issues, agricultural runoff causing brown water events, declining spring and stream flows, reef degradation, overuse of marine resources, rising costs, and limited enforcement protecting coral reefs.

Community members also called for clearer management plans, stronger stewardship, and more effective protections for near-shore ecosystems.

DAR representatives explained that the initiative is built around a framework that combines scientific and community-based monitoring, restoration of nearshore ecosystems, regional planning with

local stakeholders, and education and enforcement efforts grounded in Native Hawaiian values and stewardship. The program's guiding 'ōlelo no'eaui is "I ola nā kai o Hawai'i i ka nui i'a" (So the waters of Hawai'i thrive with abundance).

Additional meetings were also held in Pa'auilo, Hilo, Nā'ālehu, Captain Cook, and Kailua-Kona, where DAR also collected Navigation Team nominations. Officials noted that the island's size may result in the formation of more than one regional team and should be decided by the fall.

For more information, visit dlnr.hawaii.gov/holomua.

Grid, from Page 1

largest district on island that has no secondary backup to the grid. The 2,300 customers here need three to four megawatts of power at peak hours.

He described the privately owned Hawi Renewable Development wind farm as "the best in the state and one of the best in the country." However, it supplies power to the HECO grid and is not configured to divert power to Kohala independently.

Some costs, such as the price of the controller component, have come down since the earlier proposal. The battery cost is still high, but with more efficiency, the size needed could be smaller. With more backup from local sources, it could be reduced from 12-megawatt to an 8-megawatt battery. Locating it at the wind farm could stabilize the source and further reduce the cost, Waltjen said.

Once the feasibility study is complete, writing up the proposal,

securing approval of the Public Utilities Commission, and completing the bidding process could take another two to three years, he added.

"My guess is that by 2040 we should see good progress."

As for funding, Waltjen reassured the Utilities Group that, despite the high payout needed from the Lahaina wildfire litigation settlement, the company is financially secure enough to undertake the project. At issue will probably be the availability of federal funding to assist.

He extended an invitation to the group to visit HECO's Operations Center to further understand the technical issues. Candice Lucas, a member of the group, will assist with coordinating the visit.

The Utilities Group is associated with the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group. It meets monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Kohala Senior Center.

NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

Date: Monday, June 1, 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.

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NKCDP AG Meeting Notes for May 2026

By Lynda Wallach

The report from the **Affordable Housing Group** (AH) was the first item of business at the May 4 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AC). Rascha Jelks said that AH will also be giving updates from the Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT), which has received a \$15,000 grant from the Atherton Foundation to hold a series of workshops. One will provide a pathway to buyer readiness and those who participate would also meet the criteria for getting on the list for the Kohala Self-Help Phase 3. AH wants to inform, educate, and assist Kohala families in qualifying for the program and plans to provide a sign-up sheet with information on how to qualify at the Resilience Fair on August 29. At that time they will also encourage the public to complete their new housing survey, either in writing or online, and they will assess any interest or need for a financial information seminar. There are no community green spaces in the existing self-help developments, although there are very many families with children who would benefit from having them. Jack Hoyt has created a map for Phase 3 which includes a neighborhood park area; a bus stop; a covered pavilion; a sidewalk along the perimeter of the lot for trikes, strollers, and wheelchairs; a basketball hoop; picnic tables; and a water spigot. He will reach out to his contact at the Hawaii Island Community Development Corpora-

tion (HICDC), the developers of the self-help project, with his proposal.

Mark Lester, the developer of Hawi Nani, has hired a consultant to address several issues with the existing plan. It was suggested that the consultant, who does not reside on-island, come and meet with the neighbors of the project to hear their ideas and concerns before proceeding with any recommendations.

Annalene Williams, reporting for the **Agriculture Group** explained that the Kohala Ditch Co-op is a member-owned business whose purpose is to provide reliable, low-cost, non-potable agricultural water from the Kohala Ditch to its members. The individual transmission pipelines would be the responsibility of individual customers, who would need to form their own co-ops to find the money and determine how they would get the water from the ditch to where they need it to go. There are multiple sources of water available in Kohala, including several wells throughout the area, dug many years ago by the US Geological Survey, which are still intact. One of those is at Upolu Airport, where a large tank has been installed but no pipeline distribution infrastructure is in place. The State Senate has appropriated \$9 million for Kohala Ditch restoration in their Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget; the decision of the House is not yet known. Surety has blocked the return of the Saturday Farmers' Market to under the banyans, due to liability concerns, so it will continue

to be held at the Village Inn. The market, which has been rebranded as the North Kohala Community Market, along with First Wednesday Night Market will be under new management. The Farmers' Union Foundation will be covering insurance and overhead costs.

John Winter gave the report for **Community Access**. The State Senate is reviewing a \$1 million funding bill for the planning and land transfer of the Pololū Lookout parking area. The current owner is subdividing the property and donating a stretch along the highway, including the old mule station, for a limited parking area of about ten spaces. Two of the spaces would be reserved for Kohala residents and the remainder for visitors. People would not be allowed to park on the highway so there will need to be a way to control the number of visitors. Several ideas have been proposed, including a permit system.

Christine Richardson said that the members of the **Growth Management Group** are learning how to navigate three County computer sites so they can learn about planning issues. These sites are available to the general public. Hawaiipropertytax.com provides information on any property on the Big Island, such as the owner and TMK, and can be accessed by clicking on a map. The EPIC system at hawaiicountyhi-energygovpub.tylerhost.net is the County's attempt to get all of their paperwork in digital format with public access. The COH Atlas

(Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Atlas) at storymaps.arcgis.com is worth exploring for its beautiful maps and wealth of information.

The **Health and Wellness Group** sponsored a presentation at the Senior Center on oral health by Dr. Coleman from the Hamakua/Kohala Health Center. He explained several ways to reduce tooth decay and gum disease and stressed the importance of having your teeth cleaned twice a year.

The **Utilities Group** met with Kevin Waltjen, Chief Engineer of Big Island HECO, to discuss the issues with the configuration of the existing grid from Waimea to North Kohala and the history of the microgrid project to date, including funding efforts and the failure of the original Request for Proposals (RFP). The next steps involve a feasibility study to evaluate alternatives to the original design and the drafting and submitting of a new RFP, all of which may take up to three years.

Council Representative James Hustace was unable to attend but submitted information on the resolutions and bills currently before the County Council.

Times and places of the subgroup meetings are in the calendar section of this paper. The importance to the community of the work they do can be seen from their reports. They are always looking for new members, so please consider volunteering.

The next meeting of the NKCDP AG will be on Monday, June 1, at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

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North Kohala Public Library June 2026 News and Programs



By Leilani Silver

Did you know? North Kohala Public Library is getting ready for the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. The program runs from June 1 to July 31. Online pre-registration is now open. You can register and track all your reading online. Visit www.librarieshawaii.org and/or come into the library to sign-up. This year's theme, "E Heluhelu Kākou (Let's All Read) – 'Umeke Kā'eo", meaning a calabash full to the brim and a poetic way to describe someone full of knowledge.

Come to the library this summer to keep cool in the air conditioning, enjoy a program, sign up for summer reading, read or listen to audiobooks and earn rewards. There are incentives for all readers – children, teens, and adults! Sign up today and earn your first reward, a McDonald's Be Our Guest Coupon good for a delicious treat! When

you log reading in June and July, you'll unlock more rewards and earn a shot at winning round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines!

Chinese Medicine Tools for Preventing Bone Loss with Ila Jhaveri: June 1 at 3:00 p.m. All participants will walk away with useful and highly effective tips on using food-as-therapy, acupressure, and other lifestyle tools as well as info on acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Chess Club: June 1 at 5:00 p.m. Both beginners and veteran players are welcome to challenge others in this classic strategy game. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Teen Tasty Tuesday: June 2, 1:00-4:00 p.m. We will sew mini treats, eat some snacks and watch the movie *The Princess Bride*. All supplies provided.

Preschool Storytime: June 3, 10, 17, 24 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: June 3, 10, 17, 24 at 2:00-3:30 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.

Crafting Club: June 3, 10, 17, 24 at 2:00-3:30 pm. Join us every

Wednesday for some crafting fun. We will cut, paste and make cool craft creations. All supplies are provided.

Thrilling Thursdays for Keiki: June 4, 18, and 25 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

1-2 p.m. is craft time; 2-4 p.m. is a movie with a themed snack

6/4 Musubi Magnet; "Lilo & Stitch" with musubi.

6/18 Fox or Bunny Bookmark; "Zootopia 2" with popcorn bar.

6/25 Shrinky Dink Keychains; "Honey, I Shrank the Kids" with Minis.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: June 8 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: June 9 at 11:00a.m. Join us for a discussion of the bestselling Japanese novel "The Convenience Store by the Sea" by Sonoko Machida. The book is available to pick up at the library.

Family Board Game Night: June 15 at 5:30 p.m. Get together with family and friends to play some classic board games! Use our games

or bring your own!

All programs are subject to change. If you require an auxiliary aid or accommodation due to a disability, please contact the library at least seven days before the program date.

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Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 8 Representative David Tarnas

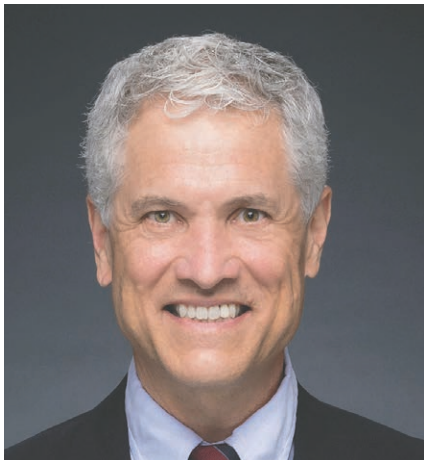


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

The 2026 legislative session concluded on May 8 with the approval of the State Budget, the Judiciary Budget, and many important bills addressing a wide range of policy matters. In the State Budget, the legislature also funded major public infrastructure projects in Kohala. Working with State Senator Tim Richards, I was able to secure project funding for the Kohala Hospital, Pololū Trailhead, and Kawaihae North Small Boat Harbor.

Federal funding has also been secured to improve Akoni Pule Highway. And a major Grant-In-Aid was awarded to help a community-based project at the former Coast Guard Station at 'Upolu. This article provides more details on these important projects.

It is important for public safety in Kohala to ensure that Kohala Hospital can withstand natural disasters. For this reason, \$2,500,000 were appropriated for the planning, design, construction, and equipment for hazard mitigation and infrastructure resilience at Kohala Hospital. This funding is being provided through the newly established Green Fee in the category of Climate and Hazard Resilience, which supports initiatives that harden infrastructure or mitigate wildfire and flood risks.

For years, the community has voiced concerns about the nega-

tive impacts of overcrowding at the Pololū Trailhead. Lack of parking causes traffic congestion and presents risks for pedestrian and traffic safety. Lack of bathroom facilities causes negative environmental impacts and increases public health risks. Community members have worked hard to educate visitors and residents about the importance of respecting the culturally important area and fragile natural environment. But many have recognized the need for interpretive panels to describe the site, its natural and cultural history, and warn visitors about the rugged trail to the valley floor. For these reasons, the legislature has appropriated \$1,000,000 to design and construct trailhead improvements including parking lot improvements, new lookout construction, and interpretive signage design and manufacturing. There will also be room for porta-potties until we can build a permanent bathroom facility. The parking lot is to be built on land at the former Mule Station that the private landowner has offered to donate to the State for this purpose.

As everyone knows, the closest boat launch to Kohala is at Kawaihae North Small Boat Harbor, which was seriously damaged several years ago. Because of the damaged boat ramp and break wall, Kohala residents have not been able to use the launch ramp for years.

Last year, the legislature appropriated \$9,450,000 to design and construct improvements to the harbor dock, break wall, and related improvements at the facility. The project engineering consultant recently reported that they are finalizing the final project permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As soon as the permit is granted, the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation will be able to issue a Request for Proposals for construction bids.

Once a contractor is selected, construction can commence. As soon as I hear any new information on this project, I will include an update in a future article.

Another important public infrastructure project coming up is a

major pavement rehabilitation project on Akoni Pule Highway from mile marker 15 to Hawi Road. The State Department of Transportation (DOT) has committed \$12,000,000 to rehabilitate the pavement on this segment of Akoni Pule Highway. The plan is to advertise the project for construction bids sometime soon after July 1, 2026. After a contractor is selected, construction can commence.

In addition to these large public construction projects, the state legislature also granted a \$325,000 Grant-In-Aid to Ho'ola, a Native Hawaiian-led, community-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2023 to serve Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and their families, with a primary focus on Hawaiian Home Lands communities in North Kohala and surrounding regions. This grant will support environmental review, cultural and archaeological studies, beneficiary consultation, and planning and design readiness activities necessary to responsibly steward the Hawaiian Home Lands parcel at the former 'Upolu Coast Guard Station for the benefit of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and the general welfare of the community.

These public investments approved by the legislature will help improve the quality of life for Kohala's residents by strengthening Kohala Hospital, better managing the use of Pololū trail and protecting Pololū Valley, rebuilding Kawaihae North Small Boat Harbor, rehabilitating the pavement on Akoni Pule Highway, and assisting the community-based project to provide a unique community facility at 'Upolu Point.

I am grateful to serve as the State Representative for Kohala and to help secure much-needed funding for these important public infrastructure improvements. During the next six months before the 2027 session, I will work with the administration to implement bills just approved and begin to prepare bills to introduce in 2027. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov or 808-586-8510. Mahalo!

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace

Aloha Kohala!

Over the past month, our community has come together in many meaningful ways, celebrating achievements, honoring traditions, and reflecting on shared values. Across the district, events highlighted the accomplishments of neighbors and friends, reminding us of the strength and connection that define North Kohala and Hawai'i Island.

Early in April, I was proud to recognize the Kohala Cowboys Boys Basketball Team during their banquet at Keōkea Beach Park, celebrating an extraordinary 2025-2026 season that culminated in an HHSAA Division II State Cham-

ampionship. Joined by Mayor Kimo Alameda and Representative David Tarnas, we honored the team's outstanding discipline, teamwork and resilience throughout an undefeated run, finishing 14-0 in league play and capturing their fourth state title under Coach Kihei Kapeliela. Beyond their success on the court, the Cowboys exemplified character, integrity and aloha, bringing immense pride to Kohala and Hawai'i Island. It was an honor to celebrate this remarkable achievement alongside their families and community.

Once again, the Young Innovators event showcased the creativity, curiosity and problem-solving abili-

ties of our Kohala Middle School students. Events like this highlight the importance of investing in education and encouraging the next generation to think boldly and pursue new ideas.

As the school year comes to a close, graduation season is now underway. This is a time of pride and accomplishment, as students reach important milestones and prepare for new chapters in their lives. Whether continuing their education, entering the workforce, or exploring new paths, graduates carry forward the support of their families and community.

At the County level, work con-

See CC update on Page 6

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.

June Deadlines
Ads and News: 6/12/26
Calendar: 6/19/26
Distribution: 6/26/26

July Deadlines
Ads and News: 7/10/26
Calendar: 7/17/26
Distribution: 7/24/26

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

CC Update, from Page 5



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

tinues on the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget. Recent meetings with numerous departments have provided valuable insight into priorities, challenges, and future investments, particularly in infrastructure and essential services. These discussions are an important step in ensuring that resources are allocated thoughtfully to meet the needs of our community, and further deliberations will continue in the weeks ahead.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Kamehameha Day parade and Ho'olaule'a offer a fabulous opportunity for the community to come together in celebration of culture, history, and shared identity. These cherished traditions honor the legacy of King Kamehameha while bringing residents and families together through music, food and fellowship.

Altogether, these moments—from celebrations and milestones to planning for the future—reflect the strong sense of community that continues to guide and sustain North Kohala and District 9.

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!

Letters

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

Beach Pollution

Hello! My name is Austin Pinho, and today I'm writing about pollution on Hawaii beaches. How does this affect us and the environment? Pollution causes great risks in many ways.

For example, marine life is harmed by this pollution. The most common type of pollution is microplastics, which marine life could get tangled in. Pollution can also cause marine life to die because of contamination and chemicals, such as waste and things like batteries.

People eat a lot of seafood in Hawaii, which could be contaminated or have various diseases in them, caused by us. The rise of tourists is a major problem too. But I'm not blaming them; we who live here are also a cause of this problem. People forget trash on beaches and dump trash near beaches.

In conclusion, I think we should take better care of the beaches and the ocean, because without the oceanic environment, the world would be worse. Way, WAY worse.

Sincerely,
Austin Pinho

Vaping

Aloha peeps,

My name is Ashanti Raquiza and I am writing about vaping and the health effects of it. Y'all crack-heads need to stop vaping because it's not good for your health.

First of all, it could damage your lungs, which leads to conditions like bronchiolitis and pneumonia. Especially if you like to play sports or you are an athlete, vaping is no good and you're gonna have shortness of breath, coughing, and wheezing.

Vaping can also affect your mental health by increasing your anxiety and depression. The nicotine in vape juice can stimulate the release of your stress hormones increasing anxiety and irritability.

Vaping can also cause a lot more stuff, like cancer. I hope that my writing can make some people stop vaping. The best way to prevent addiction of vaping is just to not start because if you vape even one time you can already get addicted.

Mahalos,
Ashanti Raquiza

Sports Safety

Dear Readers,

Aloha you Hammahz of Kohala. I'm Michaella Manantan, a seventh grader from Kohala Middle School. Have you ever thought about sport safety? I'll be writing about the importance of sport safety and the way it can affect us.

Did you know that a lot of people, including us kids, get injuries from something we love doing, which is sports? It's true. Lots of people have gotten really bad injuries from sports. A total of 5,993 concussions occurred in only six years. We can try to stop getting injuries by wearing the right gear, like ankle braces, athletic wrap and more.

Don't you want your kids to play safely in their sport? Would you also hate it if your kid came home injured from practice or a game? One time I came back home from practice and my hand was sprained. It was hurting so bad that it felt like my hand would come off. What's worse is that I even thought to myself, "Should I keep playing my sport or just quit playing already?" Injuries are so bad because they can make you lose your confidence or love for your sport.

Something I would like to see is us kids enjoying the sport we play. I just think that we need to wear the correct gear and get lots of hydration and rest. Lastly, always play smart and follow all rules.

Mahalo for your time!
Sincerely,
Michaella Manantan

Clean Water

Dear People of Kohala,

Aloha, my name is Precious, and I'm in seventh grade at Kohala Middle School. The water in Kohala is running out fast! If you didn't know, Kohala has three big tanks of water, but we are sadly only using one tank of water now, because there is no more water in the other two.

Only one percent of the world's water is available for human consumption. Approximately 2.2 billion people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water. That's pretty sad, if you ask me. People should be able to drink good water to stay alive and not have to struggle to find water.

People don't realize that they can be wasting water in the simplest ways. For example, brushing their teeth. This is a very common reason why people waste water, such as leaving the water on as you brush your teeth. Also, when people wash dishes, they use a lot of water, depending on how many dishes they have.

Kohala is such a good community, we take care of each other as if we were family, even if we were not, we still find ways to help each other out with stuff. The outcome that I want to see is people using less water, so that people can thrive with a good amount of water.

Mahalo nui for listening and thank you for your time.
Precious Yamamoto-Ramos

bamboo

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What's Ecstatic About Dancing?

By Gabriela Schneider

North Kohala has always known something the rest of the world is waking up to: that people do better together. Neighbors who show up for each other. Community groups that protect the 'āina. Celebrations that bring generations into the same room.

So it's fitting that one of the most powerful community wellness practices in the world was born right here on the Big Island about a quarter century ago and has since spread to more than 200 cities around the world. It's called ecstatic dance, and it's exactly what it sounds like: people moving freely to music, together, in a space where

there are no wrong moves.

In ecstatic dance, you don't need a partner, a costume, or a single lesson. You don't even need to know how to dance. All you need is a body that can move, even from a chair or lying on the grass, and music that makes you want to.

Rhythm Sanctuary Kohala provides you with that every Sunday at the Kohala Village Hub Barn from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. (And on the first Sunday of the month, there's also a community potluck.)

"Dancing to music is such a beautiful, immersive way to be present in the moment," said Rhythm Sanctuary Kohala Founder Lori Carroll. "Plus, ecstatic dance

is a much more fun way to exercise and burn off whatever accumulated during the week than going to the gym," she added with a chuckle.

Recent scientific studies point to dance's positive impact on one's health that goes beyond keeping your physical body fit. Dancing also improves brain health, emotional resilience, and social connection — making it one of the most powerful things you can do for your mind, body, and community.

And moving freely in a room full of neighbors is what Rhythm Sanctuary Kohala is all about. The entire event is designed to create a container for you to feel safe to let go. In ecstatic dance, you leave the conversations, phones, and photo-taking behind. The goal is to immerse yourself fully in the experience and let your body lead. So don't expect any verbal instruction from the facilitator or talking on the dance floor. (There is ample outdoor space for a quiet conversation.) It's a sober dance without words, shoes, or judgement.

As you slip off your slippahs and put your phone on do not disturb, you'll hear meditative music guiding you inside where sunlight, Kohala breezes, and beautiful floral arrangements shared by volunteer Kitti Hart greet you. You may want to find a cozy corner to start stretching as you begin settling into

the moment. And if you're there at the very beginning before the music starts, you can join hands in the opening circle. (The music goes for about an hour and 45 minutes, and there's no need to arrive at the beginning nor stay until the end.)

The music begins intentionally introspective and without recognizable lyrics so you can connect with your breath and let the part of you that doesn't need words take over for a while.

The DJ isn't a superstar on the stage, but a facilitator of your musical journey on the same level as you. They artfully curate music that follows a wave that starts slow and grounding, gradually building energy and intensity to a peak, and descending back into stillness and integration. Toward the end, there is a lyrical portion where a phrase may inspire extra release. And the sound system is state of the art, so the music can do what it's meant to: move you.

You can dance alone or with a partner, as long as there is 100% consent. You'll often see dancers on the lawn or resting against one of the majestic trees. Rhythm Sanctuary Kohala welcomes the whole ohana, so you may also see keiki blowing bubbles or babies with earmuffs snuggling with their mamas.

Back on the dance floor, the bass

See Dance on Page 8

Free Bone Density and Muscle Tone Building Classes

Uttara Nelica Lozej will be offering free group exercise sessions at the Yoga Hale at the Kohala Food Hub in Hawi from June 29 through July 16: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

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June 29 through July 16

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Dance, from Page 7

Photo by Lori Carroll

Ecstatic dance celebrates people moving freely to music, together, in a space where there are no wrong moves.

gets thumping as the wave begins to peak. On any given Sunday, you'll also experience co-organizers Lori Carroll and Gabriela Schneider practically levitating as they jump up and down and laugh.

You may find yourself laughing, too. The communal vibe of celebration on the dance floor is infectious.

National Geographic describes the phenomenon this way: "in those peak moments — when the beat drops, the floor vibrates, and strangers move as one — researchers have observed a phenomenon called interbrain synchrony." Moving in sync with others causes a

meaningful increase in connection.

That's the power of moving together.

When the music's over, the group integrates experiences in a closing circle to transition from the heightened state of the dance back into ordinary life. It's a time to share and bond with your neighbors. What a sweet antidote to the algorithms and other forces that try to divide us.

See you on the dance floor Sundays at 10 a.m. and at a special night dance Friday, June 12, with DJ NTU from 6-8 p.m. More info at rhythm-sanctuaryhi.com.

Movie Theaters in Kohala

First in a Series

This multi-part story originally ran in the Kohala Mountain News beginning in June of 2014.

By Tom Morse

Today, if you live in Kohala and want to see a movie in a theater, you must drive at least an hour. But there was a time when there were multiple movie theaters all over Kohala. In fact, at various times there were ten separate movie theaters. This cannot be explained by differences in population. In 1930 (at the transition point between silent and sound movies), the population was 6,275, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. By 1940, when the three largest sound theaters in Kohala were new, it was 5,362. And yet those three theaters, open every evening, had a combined seating capacity of 1,430 seats!

Not many people came from other parts of the island to attend Kohala theaters. The Kohala Mountain Road was the only access to Kohala till 1968. Until it was paved about 1934, a one-way trip to Waimea took about four hours.

The lifestyle of this area was integrally tied to the six sugar mills, which stretched from Hawi to Niuli'i. Especially in the silent film era (1921-1930),

the mills wanted after-work entertainment for the workers, many of whom were single men of various ethnic backgrounds brought in to work on the plantations. Transportation was much more likely to be by foot or horseback, as very few people owned cars. The mills supplied the theaters, not only for entertainment, but also to assure that the workers did not go to another mill nearby in search of recreation. Plantation workers were generally housed in "camps" surrounding the mill. The mill theater was located near the camps. Although the theaters were open to the public, most people, even up to 1950, did not travel far from their mill area, even though the distance between mills was only three or four miles. As there were very few entertainment alternatives, many people went to the theaters more than one night a week. And of course, several relate that they met their spouses at the theaters.

The early theaters were very basic. Benches were the usual seats. In Māhukona, where there

See Theater, on Page 9

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Kohala Movie Theaters

SILENT FILMS
1921-1934

HAWI MOVIES - 1920S
PINEAPPLE CANNERY - 1920S
HALAWA MILL - 1920S
UNION MILL - 1920S - EARLY 1930S*
KOHALA MILL (HALAULA) 1920S - LATE 1930S*

DOWNTOWN KAPA'AU 1920S - EARLY 1930S*

SOUND FILMS
1930-2001

MAKAPĀLA THEATER - 1920S-1939
HAWI THEATER - 1935-1973
KAHEI THEATER - 1940-2001
KOHALA THEATER - 1940-1958

* SILENT, THEN SOUND FILMS SHOWN

was no theater, movie goers sat on bags of raw sugar awaiting shipment. Admission price to most theaters was nine cents for adults, seven cents for children.

A movie industry trade magazine in 1921 refers to the "Hawi Movies", the earliest reference to a movie theater in Kohala. It most surely was located on the open space area between the banyan trees and Akoni Pule Highway in the center of Hawi, and was built by the plantation. The manager was Johnny Medieros. Showing only silent films, the theater later became a U.S.O. hall until some time after World War II. Prior to the war, there were live shows by Japanese performers. The site is



Photo courtesy of Ellen Sato
Koichi Sugiyama managed all the Kohala theaters showing silent films.

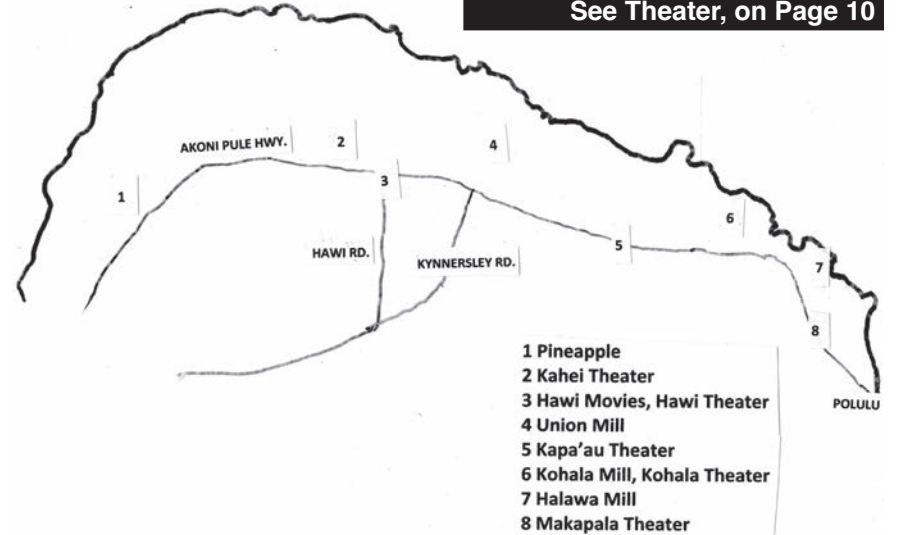
still marked by the stone steps and walkway leading up from the intersection of the highway and Shige's Service Station. The theater stood near where the pine tree now stands.

Koichi Sugiyama

Beginning in 1925, Koichi Sugiyama managed all the theaters showing silent films. Born in Kohala in 1893, the son of one of the first Japanese plantation workers to come to the Big Island, Koichi picked up the films at the wharf in Mahukona, where they came in once a week on a sugar freighter. He then lined up projectionists to show the movies each night at the various theaters, often using his own projection equipment. No electricity? No problem, he ran the projector with power from his car engine.

At times theater patrons would play their ukuleles to accompany the action on the screen. Far and away the most well received were "cowboy" films. The silent film era especially featured many male

See Theater, on Page 10



Theater Locator Map

Map courtesy of Tom Morse



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Theater, from Page 9

cowboy film stars. This trend continued when sound was introduced, although only a few stars transitioned well. Sound also introduced the singing cowboys, such as Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, and Tex Ritter. And of course, John Wayne, who made at least five films a year beginning in 1932. The first technicolor films were introduced in 1935. Some theaters had one night each week for Japanese or Filipino films only.

The Kapunapuna Pineapple

Cannery began in 1919 to grow and can pineapples in the acreage between Puakea and Puuhui. In the early 1920s this area housed a small movie theater, as well as a store. The pineapple venture was not commercially successful, and the theater closed with it in 1931.

The Union Mill began in 1874. It was located makai on what is now Union Mill Road in Kapa'au. Sometime in the 1920s, the mill erected a theater with benches which seated about fifty. Movies were shown every night by Koichi Sugiyama. In the 20s the films were silent. In the 30s sound films were shown on a permanent projector/speaker system. It remained in operation as a theater until the merger with the Kohala Mill in Halaula in 1937. It then held boxing matches until it was torn down, sometime around 1942.

The Halawa Mill began in 1873. It was located adjacent to the highway just past the Wo On Store. A mill theater was built here also. The theater closed when the Halawa Mill merged into the Kohala Mill in 1929.

A theater was built sometime in the 1920s in central Kapa'au on the old road to the hospital. It showed silent films at first, and then sound films until it was

torn down in the early 1930s.

The Kohala Mill in Halaula was the first mill in operation, beginning in 1863. In the 1920s it too built a theater at the makai end of the property near the shooting range. As the other mills merged one by one with the Kohala Mill, this became the last mill theater. It closed in 1939 with the completion of the luxurious Kohala Theater which opened in 1940. The building remained in use as a recreational hall, well into the 1950s.

Kazuo Komoto

The Makapala Theater likewise was built sometime in the 1920s. Although it was not owned by a sugar mill, it was the main recreational outlet for the nearby Niuli'i Mill. It was owned by the Zane family, who also owned a store next door, until it was sold to Kiyomatsu Komoto in about 1929. His son, Kazuo, was the projectionist. It also showed silent films at first, and then converted to sound in the early 1930s. It closed in 1939, at the time that the Niuli'i Mill merged with Kohala Mill.

The store continued on for many years. The Komotos sold the store to the Pasamonte family in the early 1950s. The



Photo courtesy of Roy Komoto
Kazuo Komoto was the projectionist at the Makapala Theater.

theater building housed various businesses into the early 1990s. Today the stone steps leading to the site of the theater can still be seen directly across the street from the walkway to the Makapala School (now the Makapala Christian Retreat Center) on Akoni Pule Highway, just past the road to the Kohala Baptist Church (formerly St. Paul's Church).

The Makapala Store still stands
See Theater, on Page 11

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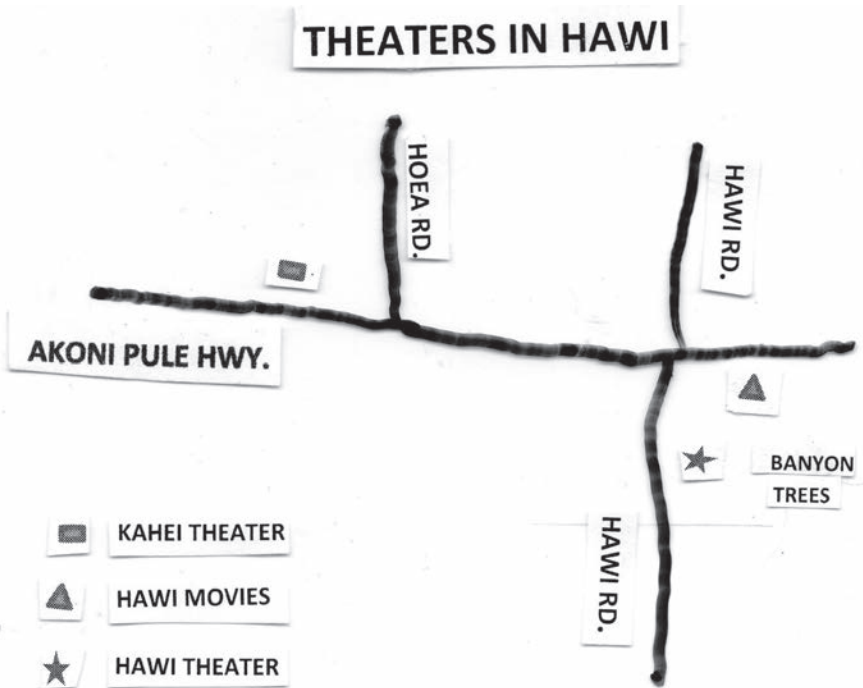
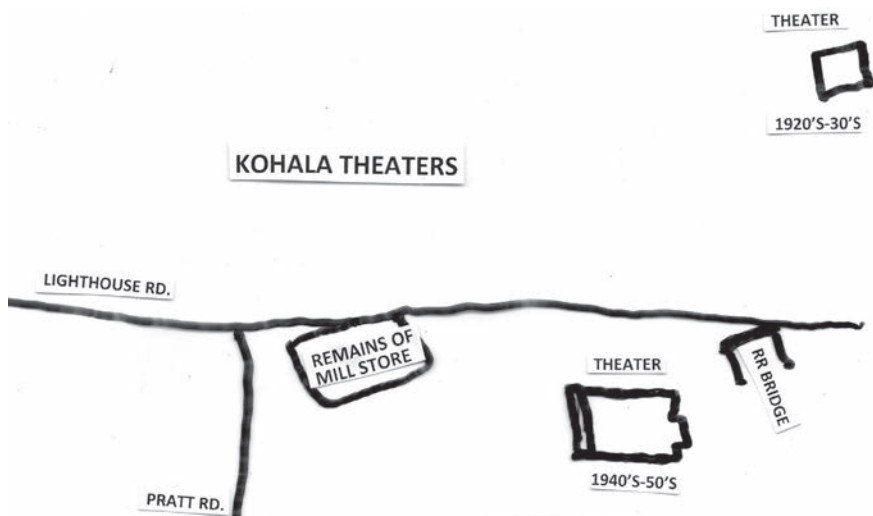
Makapāla Theater

Photo courtesy of the North Kohala Public Library, Reference Room

next to the site of what was once the Makapāla Theater.

Individual maps show more detailed locations of North Kohala theaters.

Author's note: The information presented in this article was gleaned primarily from interviews with Kohala's kupuna. If after reading this you find any inaccuracies, or if you have additional insights, please contact me. Future articles will feature the big three sound theaters: The Hawi, The Kahei and The Kohala. Special thanks to Ellen (Sugiyama) Sato, Lucy Hinokawa, Rod Hinokawa, Jr., Zen and Iris Fugii, Shiro Takata, Henry Dulan, Joe Mattos, Roy Komoto, Harold Sugiyama, Jr., and Lowell Angell.



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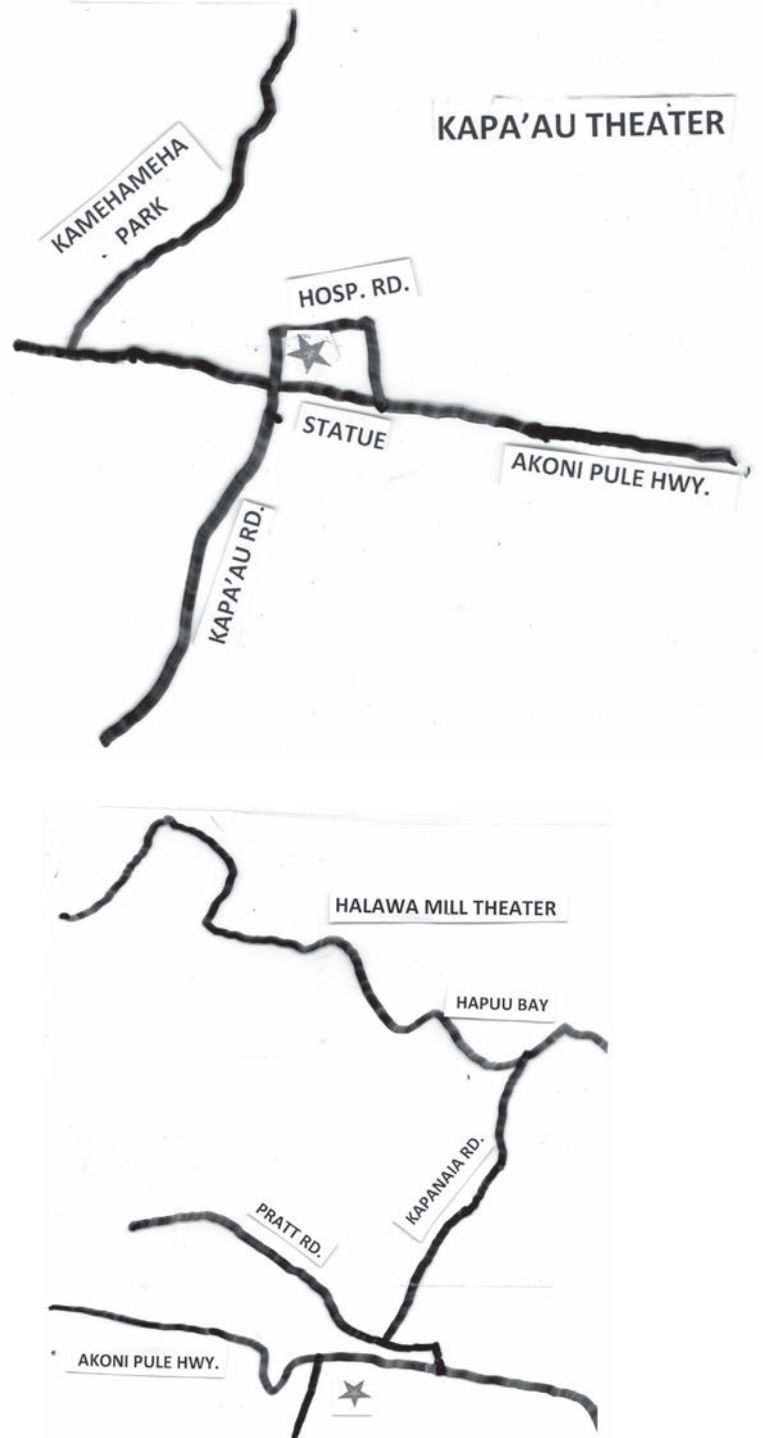
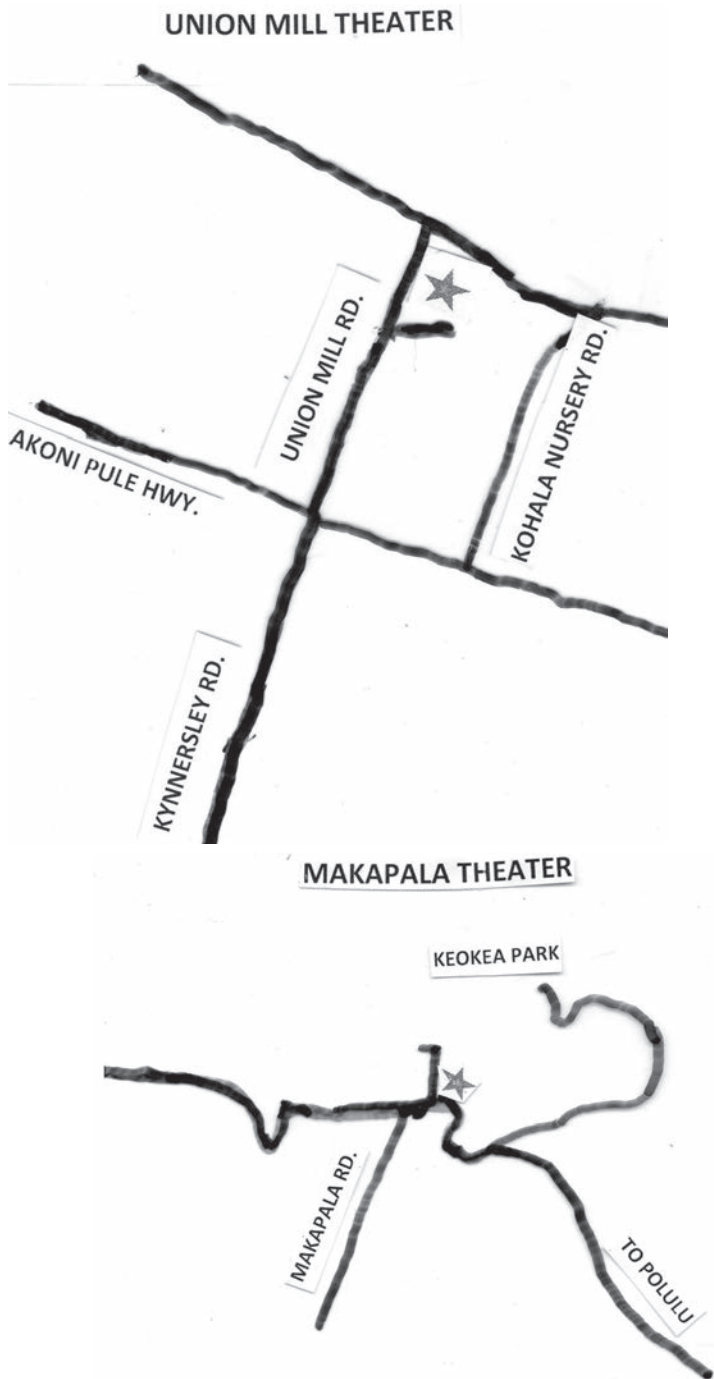
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 55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway, Hawi HI
 (808)889-5646
 Kohalasda.com

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
 Hawi, Hawai'i • The Welcoming Church
Masses: Saturday 4 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

KOHALA VET CLINIC
 Adjacent to Aloha Gas
 Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapa'au
 Open M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm
889-6405
Dr. Daryl Stang
 rokuhawaii@gmail.com

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

The Bahá'í Faith
 "May we unite as the waves of one sea"
 Please join us to explore **About the Baha'i Faith**
"Hope for Humanity" on June 20, at 3 PM in Hawi, HI
 Call Bob and Elaine Losey at 808-551-0665 for more information

MONTHLY CALENDAR JUNE 2026

	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
6/1	MON	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/1	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	CHINESE MEDICINE W/ ILA JHAVERI	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/1	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/2	TUE	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	TEEN TASTY TUESDAY	LEARN TO SEW A MINI TASTY TREAT AND WATCH THE PRINCESS BRIDE.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/3	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/3	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
6/5	FRI	3:00 PM	6:00PM	FEATURED ARTIST RECEPTION	BIG ISLAND ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN	OLENA GALERY	808-345-1779
6/6	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
6/6	SAT	5:30 PM	8:00PM	FEATURED ARTIST RECEPTION	MALUHIA CAMARILLO	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
6/8	MON	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	SOUND BATH	SOUND BATH WITH LEILANI SILVER	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/9	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	THE CONVENIENCE STORE BY THE SEA BY SONOKO MACHIDA	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/10	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/10	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/15	MON	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	FAMILY BOARD GAMES	PLAY SOME CLASSIC BOARD GAMES.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/16	TUE	2:00 PM	4:00 PM	WRITER'S WORKSHOP	USING SENSORY DETAILS IN WRITING	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/17	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/17	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/18	THU	9:00 AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET	FOOD DISTRIBUTION	SACRED HEART CHURCH	808-889-6436
6/19	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/20	SAT	11:00 AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	808-213-7779
6/22	MON	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	HAWAIIAN HISTORY TALK	WITH BOYD BOND	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/23	TUE	3:00 PM	4:30 PM	POKEMON TCG CLUB	COME PLAY. AGES 6-18	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
6/24	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
6/25	THU	5:00 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
6/29	MON	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	TEEN AND ADULT BOARD GAMES	BOARD GAMING NIGHT FOR TEENS AND ADULTS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655

WEEKLY EVENTS IN JUNE 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
	4:45PM	6PM	THE JOY OF BELLY DANCING	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	ST. AUGUSTINE'S	895-5843
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
	1PM	4PM	THRILLING THURSDAYS FOR KEIKI	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	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

Kohala High School Students Attend ClimbHI Hiring Blitz

On May 7, Hawai'i workforce development nonprofit ClimbHI partnered with West Hawai'i high schools, businesses and organizations to host its annual West Hawai'i Hiring Blitz for high school students.

Students from eight high schools had the opportunity to apply on-site for internships, apprenticeships, trades, jobs and training.

Hiring Blitz events help expedite the hiring process for high school juniors and seniors by connecting them with available opportunities. Nearly 30 businesses and organizations with immediate job, internship and training opportunities participated, representing a variety of industries.

"We are working collaboratively with our schools and local businesses to offer our juniors and seniors a one-stop-shop where they can ask questions, interview and apply for opportunities," said Julie Morikawa, President of ClimbHI. "This is a final step for many stu-

dents who have already participated in ClimbHI's Leadership, Exploration, Inspiration (LEI) and Exposure Fair events. These events are designed to help them identify their interests, understand the training and education needed, and build contacts and relationships – with the goal of ultimately securing their dream career."

Reimagining and streamlining the hiring process creates much greater interest and more connections than a typical career fair. Importantly, these events link students up with career paths that offer economic self-sufficiency with a clear progression plan.

Founded in 2009, the Hawai'i-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit ClimbHI seeks to inspire students to finish high school and proceed to post-secondary education or employment by exposing them to future career paths and the steps necessary to achieve those goals. For more, visit climbhi.org.

See ClimbHI, on Page 15

Roots Skatepark Summer Skate Nights

Attention all skaters! Head to Roots Skatepark every second Saturday from June through August for Summer Skate Nights. All ages, all levels. Check @roots_skatepark on Instagram for more details.

PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP

NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



@ the NKCRC office

JUNE 2 - 5:30PM - 6:30 PM

JUNE 9 - 5:30PM - 6:30 PM

JUNE 16 - 5:30PM - 6:30 PM

JUNE 27 - 10AM - 2PM

THE GRANTSMANSHIP CENTER

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\$100 for projects not sponsored by NKCRC

Register

www.northkohala.org/workshop

808 889 5523

info@northkohala.org



Kohala Artists Coop

June 6th opening party

"Between Two Worlds" With Maluhia Camarillo

Exploring her identity, rooted in Hawaii of Hawaiian, Filipino and Armenian heritage and the path she traveled between Hawaii and America. Watercolor, Gouache, Sculpture, Graphic Design & Textiles

Art, stories, laughter, music & pupus at the Kohala Artist's Coop, from 6-8pm, June 6th, 2026, across from the Kapaau post office

Aikane TRUCKING

GREEN WASTE REMOVAL
COMPOST
CINDER SAND
MULCH
GRAVEL
SOIL

808-430-8198

ClimbHI, from Page 14



Photos courtesy of ClimbHI
The Four Seasons Resort.



Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union.




Health insurer HMSA.



The Fairmont Orchid Resort.

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Well-maintained 2,660 SF custom home on 1.16 acres of terraced, fully fenced land. Open-concept interior features 3 BR / 2.5 BA, a dedicated office, plus solar power, a central vacuum system, and a primary suite with a jacuzzi tub. New carpet and updated fixtures.

56-771 Kualapa Pl.
Hawi, HI 96719 MLS 727701 | \$1,600,000


RECENTLY REMODELED!



REFRESHED PLANTATION HOME
Don't miss out on this North Kohala gem, with a new roof on home and garage, new windows and doors, new water heater, and new vinyl plank flooring. Freshly painted and ready for your move-in. Fully fenced with new hog wire and front gate. 3 BR / 2 BA; 965 SF. Luscious tropical landscaping on 0.34 acres.

53-460 Halaula Maulili Rd.
Kapa'au, HI 96755 MLS 729296 | \$710,000

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Custom 3 BR, 2.5 BA home offers 1,786 SF of living space, vaulted ceilings, a gourmet kitchen, and beautiful red oak flooring. 250 SF ocean-view lanai & extensive outdoor entertaining area. Detached garage, a 320 SF workshop with 220V power, separate carport, and a solar-electric system.

54-3701 Lehuula Cir.
Kapa'au, HI 96755 MLS 728496 | \$1,149,000

**Did you know?
The Kohala Mountain News is online at
kohalamountainnews.com**




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SCAN ME

KHS Girls Softball 2026



Photo by Tom Morse

The Kohala High School 2026 Girls Softball Team.

Front row (left to right): Raine Cazimero, Mele Cazimero, Raea Akana, Saydee Kawai. Back Row: Sophia Godoy-Bach, Kalista Carvalho, TT Keawe, Malie Karratti, Ilima Napoleon, Lily Hook, Lo Carvalho. Manager: Lexi Isabel.

\$7.79 \$5.49	FRANK FOODS PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 12oz	\$7.99 \$5.69	FRANK FOODS REDS 16oz	\$19.99 \$14.99	DIAMOND G RICE 15LBS
\$13.29 \$10.99	CLUB SHOYU GALLON	\$12.99 \$8.99	GOLD LEAF 5lbs BOX THIGHS	\$8.69 \$4.99	NABISCO FAMILY SIZE RITZ ASSORTED
\$3.29 \$2.29	AMANO KAMABOKO 5.5OZ	\$2.89 \$1.99	RED BUTANE	\$9.19 \$4.99	NABISCO FAMILY SIZE OREOS ASSORTED
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OPEN: MON TO SAT 8AM - 7PM & SUNDAY 8AM - 4PM					
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				\$8.99 \$6.99	HEARTH & HARVEST WHITE/WHEAT 22oz