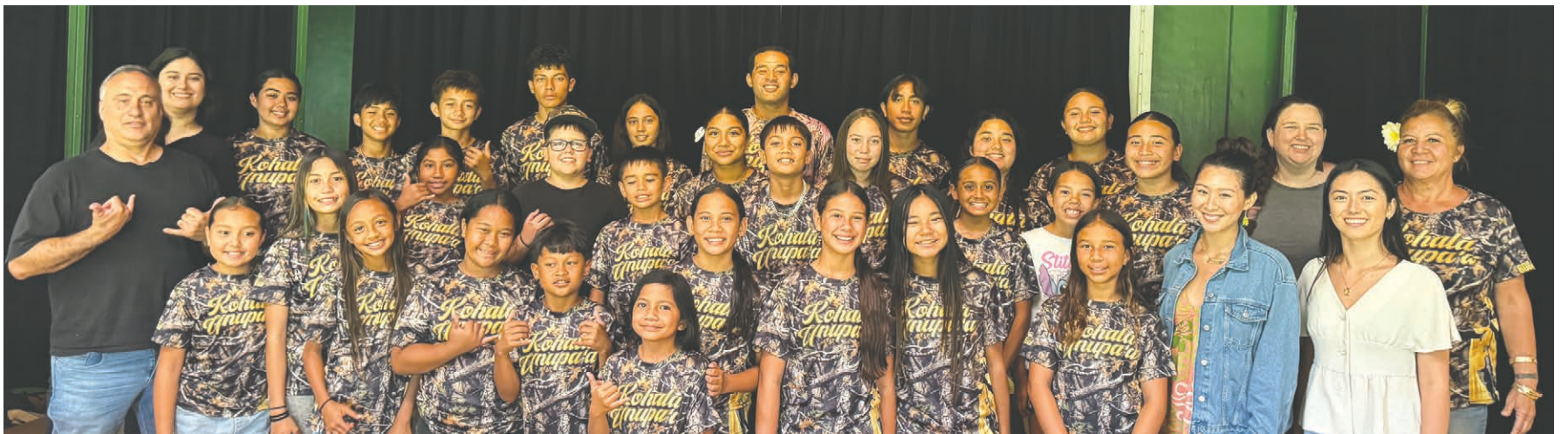


FREE

About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007

June 26, 2026

Kohala Unupa'a and Na'au Oiwi Haumana Showcase Indigenous Data Hub Projects at Community Ho'ike



Kohala Unupa'a Indigenous Data Hub Students.

Photo credit: North Kohala Community Resource Center

By Annalene Kotzé

On the evening of May 26, students from Kohala Unupa'a and Na'au Oiwi gathered at the Kohala Village Hub Barn to share the fruits of a year's worth of research and discovery with their community. The event, a student ho'ike, marked a milestone for the Kohala Indigenous Data Hub — an innovative pilot program weaving together traditional knowledge, community

storytelling, and modern data science.

The Indigenous Data Hub (IDH) is a collaboration between the North Kohala Community Resource Center (NKCRC), Kohala Schools, and the University of Hawai'i's Office of Indigenous Knowledge and Innovation. The program is rooted in a simple but powerful idea: that ancestral knowledge and contemporary sci-

ence and technology are stronger together. By grounding research projects in the stories, landscapes, and living culture of Kohala, haumana [students] develop real data science and STEM skills — often without even realizing it.

"When students are investigating something they already care about — a place they know, a story from their family, a question about their own backyard — learning

happens naturally," said Amoo Kainoa, Kohala Unupa'a Project Director.

"That's the heart of what we're trying to do here."

Because the program spans grades 3 through 12, a special curriculum had to be developed for elementary and middle school students, meeting younger learners where they are while still introduc-

See IDH, Page 2

Community Input Sought on Project to Protect Natural Area Reserve

Community members are invited to provide input on a project to protect 1,200 acres of the Pu'u o 'Umi Natural Area Reserve and adjacent private lands near Pu'u Ahia in Kohala.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Pili Nā Moku Project, as well as the Kohala Watershed Partnership.

As Hawai'i trends drier and hotter, protection of Kohala's native forest becomes increasingly pivotal. The urgency to protect these forests has increased significantly because of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, which is exacerbated by wounds from feral pigs barking and rubbing on 'ōhi'a trees, the release states.

Studies have shown two to 69 times more suspected dead 'ōhi'a trees in unfenced areas with feral pigs, compared to neighboring areas that are fenced and protected.

The proposed project would use multiple strategies to preserve Pu'u Ahia's natural resources. Crews would construct a fence that includes gates and stepovers for public access, while excluding invasive hoofed animals.

The project would remove invasive plant and animal species within the protected area. The project aims to minimize impacts to hunters by placing the fence in a remote, infrequently used area.

Individuals interested in this project are encouraged to review an educational StoryMap produced by DOFAW titled "Expanding Protection of Our Kohala Forest" at bit.ly/3QbMXid. It describes the benefits, management challenges and next steps.

A survey link at the bottom of the StoryMap can be used by readers to provide their feedback on the proposed project.

Those interested can also sign up to visit the area on June 27 to talk story with project partners and learn more.

All Welcome at Kohala High School Centennial Activities



By Amoo Kainoa

Join us at Kohala High School to kick off a weekend of fun and activities to celebrate the school's

Centennial! Come talk story beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria. Coffee and refreshments will

See KHS, Page 2

Kohala Mountain News
Box 639
Kapa'au, HI 96755

ECWSS
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KHS, from Page 1

be served.

The parade leaves at the school at 11:00 am. The school will also be open AFTER the parade until 2:00 p.m. for self-guided tours. (See adjacent map for parade route.)

On campus activities until 10:45 am:

- Recognition of former staff with special guest speakers
- Building tours, including our new STEM & CTE classroom buildings
- Two showings of "Through the Cane Fields Ring"

- Decorate a tile to commemorate your attendance at the 100th celebration; the large display will be installed in the front of the school after the reunion.

- View yearbooks, sports trophies, photos and other memorabilia in the library.
- Share your classroom memories.
- Cake cutting in the staff lounge at 10:00 am.
- Booths on campus with Kohala gear and student designed products for purchase to support school programs.

KOHALA HIGH SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE	
FRIDAY: JULY 3, 2026	
7:00AM - 7:55AM	COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS IN THE CAFETERIA
8:00AM - 8:30AM	OPENING CEREMONY
	PULE
	WELCOME AND MAHALO: DENNIS & AMOO
	SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
	RECOGNITION OF TEACHERS
8:30AM - 10:30AM	CAMPUS OPEN FOR SCHOOL TOURS
9:00AM	SHOWING: THROUGH THE CANE FIELDS RING IN TEACHERS LOUNGE
10:30AM - 11:00AM	TRANSITION TO AKONI PULE & KAMEHAMEHA PARK
11:00AM - 12:00PM	KHS 100 YEAR CELEBRATION PARADE
12:00PM	FOOD BOOTHS & TRUCKS OPEN
12:15PM	OPENING PULE, WELCOME BY COMMITTEE
	ALMA MATER BY KHS CHEERLEADERS - AUNTY SHIRLEY
	NATIONAL ANTHEM
	HAWAII PONO I
12:45PM - 2:00PM	KAALI & COMPANY
2:00PM - 3:00PM	LIM OHANA
3:00PM - 5:00PM	FRANK FIGUEROA & THE KATCHI KATCHI BAND
5:00PM - 5:30PM	LEIMANA ABENES & KEOLA GRACE
5:30PM - 6:30PM	KALIIHAI SERENADERS
6:30PM - 7:00PM	TRANSITION INTO CEREMONY
7:00PM - 7:30PM	REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
7:35PM - 7:55PM	SHOWING: THROUGH THE CANE FIELDS RING
8:00PM - 10:00PM	KU MA'E MA'E
SATURDAY: JULY 4, 2026	
10:00AM	OPENING CEREMONY
	OPENING PULE
	ALMA MATER BY KHS CHEERLEADERS - AUNTY SHIRLEY

	NATIONAL ANTHEM
	HAWAII PONO I
	FOOD BOOTHS & TRUCKS OPEN
10:15AM - 10:45AM	VETERANS CEREMONY
11:00AM	KOHALA TOWN SCAVENGER HUNT HOSTED BY CLASS OF 1985
11:00AM - 11:45AM	NA KUPUNA O KOHALA (JACK & KAUI) HULA HALAU KALANI UMI A LILOA
11:45AM - 12:00PM	RECOGNITION
12:00PM - 12:45PM	JOHN KEAWE
12:45PM - 1:00PM	RECOGNITION
1:00PM - 1:30PM	KUPUKA'AS - BLUE STREAM #2
1:30PM - 2:00PM	SACRED HEART COMMUNITY LINE DANCERS
2:00PM - 2:20PM	RENEE UKULELE
2:30PM - 3:00PM	TELSONICS
3:00PM - 3:30PM	RECOGNITION
3:30PM - 4:30PM	JAMES CONRAD KAAI
4:30PM - 5:30PM	KA LEO NAHENAHE O KOHALA
5:30PM - 7:30PM	NORTH SHORE LIVE
7:35PM - 7:55PM	SHOWING: KEALOHA DISAPPEARS
8:00PM - 10:00PM	I'LAND BOIZ



IDH, from Page 1

Photo credit: North Kohala Community Resource Center University of Hawaii's Office of Indigenous Knowledge & Innovation team with the Kohala Elementary, Middle and High School team

ing them to meaningful research methods. Across all grade levels, students worked alongside community practitioners and stewards, conducting data collection and analysis focused on the land, history, and environment of their moku.

The Kohala IDH is a pilot project, and the model is expected to be replicated at schools across the

Hawaiian island chain, bringing place-based, community-centered STEM education to more students statewide.

For the students who presented at the ho'ike, the night was about more than science projects — it was a chance to show their community who they are becoming: young researchers, storytellers, and leaders with deep roots and big futures.

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Kohala on Film: Mother–Son Showcase



Students Aundrea Franco and Kellin Matsuda interview Bradley Estabillo and Patty Marquez during the Kohala Reunion 2025.



Photo credit: Erin Manuel
Director Lucas Manuel-Scheibe, shooting Kealoha Disappears, June 2024.

Svensden, Beldon Kealoha, Kealoha Sugiyama, St. Augustine’s Church, and many others. This mysterious and mythic film follows a young girl and her father as they search for Kealoha, who has gone missing on the night of his high school graduation party. The film is rooted deeply in the landscapes and people Lucas grew up knowing.

July Screenings: Works in Progress

Between July 1–5 in Kohala, audiences will be invited to view these two works-in progress films – “Kealoha Disappears” and “Thru the Cane Fields Ring.” These films offer two different ways of telling Kohala stories—fictional narrative and documentary—each shaped by the Manuel family’s long relationship with the community. “Kealoha Disappears” will be screened at the Kohala Village Inn Barn on July 1 at 5:30 p.m. Lucas will lead a panel of local talent and host a Q&A after the screening. On July 3 at 9 a.m., “Thru the Cane Fields Ring” will be shown after the Kohala Reunion’s Opening Ceremonies at KHS. On July 5 at 11 a.m., “Kealoha Disappears” and “This is Kohala” will show at St. Augustine’s Church (with a community potluck preceding). The films will also be shown during the Kohala Reunion weekend, where the Kohala Oral History Project’s student crew plans to record additional interviews and footage. See kohalaorallhistoryproject.com for further schedule details.

Story by Jocelyn Manuel

Audiences will join a mother-son filmmaking journey this July, when two Kohala films screen together July 1–5.

A Project Born from Stories

The Kohala Oral History Project (KOHP) grew out of Jocelyn Manuel’s desire to hear what our kūpuna have to say and safeguard their stories for future generations. Jocelyn and her son Lucas Manuel-Scheibe began interviewing community members in winter 2021 and summer 2022. Local filmmaker Bryan Campbell shaped it into “This Is Kohala,” a short film that premiered in 2022 to a packed house at the Kohala Village Inn Barn and was broadcast three times on PBS Hawai’i. Their efforts, and the enthusiastic response from the community, formed the basis of a

new ambition: to use film to transmit Kohala’s history and culture far and wide.

From “This Is Kohala” to “Thru the Cane Fields Ring”

Following the success of her first film, Jocelyn serves as executive producer of “Thru the Cane Fields Ring,” a documentary in progress celebrating 100 years of Kohala Schools. The Kohala Oral History Project team (co-instructors Bryan Campbell and Maria Biber-Ferro; and local youth in KOHP’s Storykeepers program RC Baun, Haumea Keoholua, Aundrea Franco and Kellin Matsuda) interviewed more than 50 alumni and teachers at the 2025 Kohala Reunion. The film weaves their stories together into a tapestry depicting the impact that the school had on the Kohala community.

Son’s Path to Filmmaking

While Jocelyn was busy developing the Kohala Oral History Project, Lucas left for New York University and began screening his short films at festivals around the country. Based on the mainland, Lucas often returned to Kohala, where he visited his grandmother, Martina Manuel, and drew creative inspiration from ranch lands, plantation houses and “parties in Uncle’s garage.”

In June 2024, Lucas brought an NYU thesis production to Kohala, shooting the narrative short “Kealoha Disappears” with a New York and Hawai’i-based crew, actors from Kohala and O’ahu, and the support of community members Sarah Pule-Fujii, Jeff Coakley, Kell Matsuda and family, Sam Gushiken, Merlyn Botelho and family, Nani

See film, Page 4

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North Kohala Public Library July 2026 News and Programs

By Leilani Silver

Did you know? We are halfway through the Hawaii State Public Library's 2026 Summer Reading Challenge. There is still time to sign up, log reading and earn prizes. Visit librarieshawaii.org and/or come into the library to sign up.

Celebrate this year's theme, E Heluhelu Kākou – 'Umeke Kā'eo, with exclusive gear designed by local artist Kelsie Dayna. Whether you are participating in the Summer Reading Challenge or simply want to support educational programs across Hawai'i's 51 public libraries. Shop for merchandise at friends-of-the-library-of-hawaii-shop.fourth-wall.com.

Don't miss our Summer Reading Finale featuring Magician Alex D'Mazing. In addition to a magic show, he will delight families with balloon art and bubble stations. Join us on Thursday, July 30, at 1 p.m. for some family fun.

Preschool Storytime: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 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: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 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: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. 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: July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 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.

7/2 Vegetable Printing: "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" with chips & veggie sticks.

7/9 Creeper Notepad: "Mine-craft Movie" with pinata snacks.

7/16 Ocean in a Bottle: "Moana" with candy sushi.

7/23 Wizard Wands: "Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone" with butterbeer.

Summer Reading Challenge Finale! July 30 1-3 p.m. Don't miss out on the exceptional Magic Show by Alex D'Mazing, plus balloon animals and bubble stations.

Chinese Medicine Tools with Ila Jhaveri: July 6 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: July 6 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.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: July 13 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. Participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat and water.

Adult Book Club: July 14 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a discussion of the bestselling Japanese novel "Emperor of Gladness" by Ocean Vuong. The book is available to pick up at the library.

Classics Book Club: July 27 at 3:00 p.m. Join us for a discussion of the 1925 classic "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The book is considered a masterpiece of American literature and was nominated as one of America's best loved novels by PBS's "The Great American Read." The book is available to pick up at the library. Open to all ages.

Hawaiian History Talk with Boyd Bond: July 27 at 5:30 p.m. Join us for an informative talk story about Hawaiian History with local historian Boyd Bond.

Teen Tuesday: July 28 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. We will make Shrinky Dink jewelry, eat some snacks and watch the movie "Legally Blonde"

(pg-13). All supplies provided.

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.

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

54-3645 Akoni Pule Hwy, Kapaa, HI 96755

Film, From Page 3

A Full-Circle Mother-Son Moment

For Jocelyn and Lucas, the July events mark a "full-circle moment." What started as an experiment in oral history is now returning to Kohala, the place where it all began, in the form of two parallel projects screened back-to-back. Jocelyn guides the Kohala Oral History Project, while Lucas works as a narrative filmmaker in New York. Their work invites Kohala residents—especially younger generations—to see their own stories on screen and, maybe even pick up a camera to tell their own Kohala story.



Care That Focuses on Living Well:

MEET DR. MELANIE PAYANAL

When someone is living with a serious illness, life can quickly become overwhelming - not only for patients, but for the family members caring for them.

That is why Hawaii Care Choices is honored to welcome Dr. Melanie Payanal to serve patients and families across North Hawaii through palliative care. Born and raised on O'ahu, and a graduate of Kamehameha and University of Hawaii'i,

Dr. Payanal's path into medicine was anything but traditional. Before becoming a physician, she worked as an archaeologist and physical anthropologist, including time at the Smithsonian Institution helping repatriate Native American and Native Hawaiian remains. Today, as a Family Medicine physician, her passion is helping people living with serious illness feel more comfortable, supported, informed, and in control of their quality of life. Palliative care is about helping people continue to live as fully and meaningfully as possible,"



For Dr. Payanal, palliative medicine is far more than a profession. "It's not just a job," she says. "It gives meaning to my life."

Dr. Payanal explains. "It's about dignity, independence, educating people on their choices, while supporting the people who love and care for them." For many families, palliative care may still feel unfamiliar or even intimidating. Dr. Payanal hopes to change that understanding by helping patients realize they do not have to struggle alone.

Come see us!
North Hawaii Kupu Care Palliative Clinic Details:

Located within the office space of North Hawaii Hospice
65-1328 Kawaihae Road,
Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

By appointment only
Call (808) 969-1733
to schedule



Kohala on Film



THRU THE CANE FIELDS RING

A work-in-progress screening of alumni and teachers reminiscing about Kohala School.



THIS IS KOHALA

Stories of growing up in Kohala and plantation days. As seen on PBS Hawai'i.



KEALOHA DISAPPEARS

A film shot in Kohala, featuring local talent. A work-in-progress film by Lucas Manuel-Scheibe.

EXPERIENCE KOHALA THROUGH 3 SHORT FILMS

JULY 1 - KOHALA VILLAGE INN BARN

At the Night Market:
5:30 pm - Kealoaha Disappears
work-in-progress screening, panel, and Q&A with special guests

JULY 3 - KOHALA REUNION

At Kohala High School:
9 am - Thru the Cane Fields Ring,
work-in-progress screening & Q&A

At Kamehameha Park:
2 pm - Kealoaha Disappears,
Conference Room

2:30 pm - Thru the Cane Field Ring,
Conference Room

7:30 pm - This is Kohala, outdoors on the main stage

JULY 4 - KOHALA REUNION

At Kamehameha Park:
10:30 am - This is Kohala,
Conference Room

11 am - Thru the Cane Fields Ring,
Conference Room

IN THE AFTERNOON - our student film crews will roam the Reunion to record your school memories

7:30 pm - Kealoaha Disappears,
outdoors on the main stage

JULY 5 - ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH

10:30 am - Potluck at Walker Hall

11 am - Kealoaha Disappears and This is Kohala



FOR MORE INFO



Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 8 Representative David Tarnas

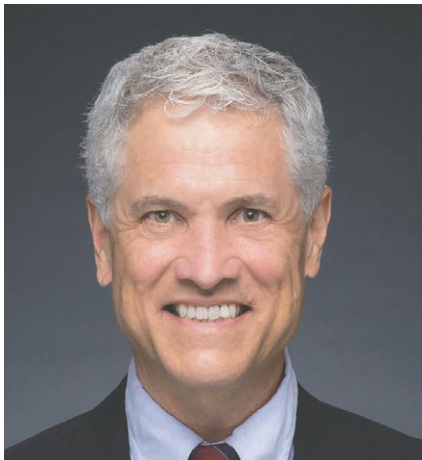


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Aloha. During the 2026 legislative session, a top priority for the State House was to pass a package of "good government bills" that strengthen our state statutes that prevent public corruption, ensure secure and fair elections, establish automatic voter registration, improve efficiency of filing campaign finance disclosure documents, increase the public funding available to candidates who choose to use public financing, and limit the role of corporate money in political campaigns.

As chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, I had the responsibility of leading the legislative review and consideration of all these bills in the State House. In today's article, I will highlight the important good government bills passed by the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee and approved by the legislature.

SB 2494 establishes a statute of limitations of nine years for a bribery offense, which is six years longer than the three-year statute of limitations in current law. Extending the statute of limitations for bribery will help ensure that serious offenses involving public corruption may be prosecuted by the State when appropriate and will promote accountability and public confidence in government.

SB 2247 prohibits any Executive Branch employee who is nominated or appointed by the Governor to a compensated position subject to confirmation by the Senate and who exercises authority or significant influence over the solicitation, award, or administration of state contracts from engaging in certain

campaign fundraising activities. This would include the Directors and Deputy Directors of all state agencies.

SB 2143 ensures stability in the Office of Elections by establishing an order of succession for an Interim Chief Election Officer in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chief Election Officer until the Elections Commission appoints a new Chief Election Officer. The absence of a clearly designated interim Chief Election Officer during a vacancy may impede the timely and lawful administration of elections. Assigning interim authority ensures continuity of operations while preserving the Elections Commission's appointment authority.

SB 2466 strengthens the non-partisan professional status of the Chief Elections Officer by specifying that the Chief Election Officer may only be terminated for cause. The stability and independence of election administration are essential to maintaining public confidence in the electoral process. The absence of clear statutory protections against the arbitrary dismissal of the Chief Election Officer may undermine continuity and impartiality in election operations. This measure addresses these concerns by establishing a for-cause termination standard to strengthen institutional stability and consistent statewide election administration.

HB 2099, which was proposed by the Office of Elections, amends the processes for addressing party candidate and state senator vacancies by clarifying and aligning timelines to allow the Office of Elections sufficient time to prepare ballots in compliance with state and federal election requirements. Meeting all the federal requirements involves significant preparation, including ballot design, proofing, printing, and programming voting systems to ensure accuracy. This bill also accounts for challenges and objections that may arise after candidate filing deadlines or primary election results, which can further impact the timeline for producing the ballot.

SB 2239 makes it easier for people to register to vote by requiring a person who applies for an identification card or driver's license to be automatically registered to vote unless the person affirmatively declines, subject to certain conditions. This measure will make registration more efficient by empowering applications at public-facing state agencies to serve as dual-purpose voter regis-

tration applications.

SB 2532 updates our campaign finance reporting laws by requiring designated campaign finance forms to be submitted electronically through the Campaign Spending Commission's upgraded electronic filing system. This measure improves the efficiency of our campaign finance reporting processes.

HB 2050 makes major improvements to the partial public financing of elections program, which is established in the Hawaii State Constitution. Because the funding levels have not been changed for over thirty years, few candidates participate in this program. To strengthen the program, this bill increases the expenditure limit and the amount of partial public campaign financing available for all elective offices. It adjusts the minimum amount of qualifying contributions that candidates for different offices must receive to participate in the program. It also increases the matching fund payments for excess qualifying contributions.

SB 2471 is a major bill passed by the legislature to address the consequences of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on Citizens United, which allowed for an unlimited amount of campaign spending by corporations. The bill reaffirms that artificial persons (such as corporations) created under state law possess only those powers that are necessary or convenient to carry out lawful business and organizational purposes, and that those powers do not include the power to spend money or contribute anything of value to influence elections or ballot measures.

In 2026, the State Legislature successfully approved a strong package of good government bills to prevent public corruption, ensure secure and fair elections, strengthen the program that provides partial public financing of elections, and limit the role of corporate money in political campaigns. During the interim before the 2027 legislative session, I will continue to work on other good government bills that were not approved, such as prohibiting campaign contributions by government contractors.

I am grateful to serve as your State Representative and appreciate your advice and suggestions.

Please contact me at reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov or 808-586-8510.

You can also subscribe to my e-newsletter at linktre.ee/rep.tarnas for more updates. Mahalo!

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace

Aloha Kohala!

Lā Kamehameha Ma Kohala was amazing once again! The Kohala community demonstrated its strong spirit for the June 11 festivities that drew residents and visitors from across the island for a memorable day honoring Kamehameha Pai'ea. The annual parade featured beauti-

fully decorated pa'u riders, paniolo, and community organizations. The community gathered at Kamehameha Park for the ho'olaule'a to enjoy local musicians, hula hālau, artisans, and food vendors. The day's celebration highlights the district's deep connection to the birthplace of Kamehameha and

reinforces the community's commitment to preserving Hawaiian culture for future generations.

At Council, we recently approved the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 County Budget. We evaluated spending priorities and property tax rates for the coming year with

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.

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

August Deadlines
Ads and News: 8/7/26
Calendar: 8/14/26
Distribution: 8/21/26

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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Current Circulation 4,000

Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must address issues affecting North Kohala and be accompanied by the author's name, address and telephone number. Letters and Viewpoints are subject to editing, and shorter submissions will receive preference for publication.

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

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.

a goal to balance infrastructure needs, public safety investments, and community services all while addressing rising operational costs. Property tax discussions remained a major focus throughout budget deliberations, with rates adjusted to support County services and providing relief for homeowners and affordable rentals.

Among the capital budget amendments I introduced this year, I brought forward the idea of reactivating Banyan Trees Park in Hāwī. This parcel has remained dormant for some time and given restrictions in the PONC program little can be done to energize this space. However, my proposal is to establish a comfort station, providing a much-needed public restroom facility in Hāwī to support residents and visitors. Community advocates and businesses have long identified this need, and I am excited to have this

dialogue with the administration.

At the beginning of June, I introduced new legislation (Bill 163) establishing an 'Aina Kūpuna Dedication Program aimed at helping preserve generational family lands by providing property tax relief for qualifying descendants of pre-1926 landowners. The proposal offers an opportunity to ease the financial burden of rising property taxes, helping families maintain ownership of ancestral lands and pass them on to future generations. By reducing ongoing costs associated with land ownership, the program can strengthen long-term family stewardship, support cultural and historical connections to place, and provide greater stability for descendants seeking to retain their family lands amid increasing property values.

Looking ahead, residents are encouraged to save the date for

upcoming events hosted by my office. On Monday, July 20, I will hold a Community Conversation with Senator Richards and Representative Tarnas. On Saturday, August 29, I will be partnering with Hawaiian Electric and Kohala community leaders for a Kohala Resilience Fair. Much like the Kohala 'Ohana Fun Day, this free family event will feature panel discussions and information booths about emergency preparedness, including keiki activities. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend and learn practical ways to strengthen resilience for future emergencies.

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

Wishing you good health and aloha!

NKCDP AG June Meeting Notes

By Lynda Wallach

Rascha Jelks gave the report from the **Affordable Housing** group (AH) which was the first item on the agenda at the June 1 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG). Since AH works closely with the Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT) and reported for them as well. KCLT is developing a selection matrix to distinguish people in need of

housing. They are also working on ground leases where a tenant leases land from a property owner and then builds and owns the structures on the site. The KCLT would hold the title to any property it acquires in the name of the Trust. The group was told that the empty units at the Senior Housing Project are not filled immediately due to financial issues. Mike Kier reported that he has had 97 visitors over six Sundays to his container home model at the

bottom of Kynnersley.

Annalene Kotzé of the **Agriculture** group said that there is going to be a regional food summit in North Kohala on Monday, June 22, from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m. at the Hub Barn.

Toni Withington, reporting for **Community Access**, said that the \$1 million budget package for the new lookout at Pololū will not be part of the green fee program but the funding is still part of the State

Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) budget. The fate of those funds is still unclear. The land donation for the parking lot is on track but is waiting for the landowner to complete the rezoning requirement. Engineering needs Governor Green's approval before construction can begin on the parking area. Na Ala Hele has funds for the trail head restoration.

Withington also gave the report

See NKCDP, Page 7

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NKCDP, from Page 6

from Growth Management. Surety's proposed subdivision on the Pololu Valley rim has not gotten final approval; however, Surety has begun building an access road. They have told the County inspector that they are not building the road for the subdivision, they are just building a road which is their right as owners of the land. A water variance for the property has been approved so each of the lots will be using catchment.

The status of the Old Coast Guard Road has not changed. Withington is trying to get State Rep. David Tarnas and Senator Tim Richards to convince the State to resurface it so that the County would be willing to take it over. Surety has plans to divide 97 acres of land from the top of Kynnersley Road to the subdivision at the bottom into four lots, all of which are more than twenty acres and thus appropriate for the current agricultural zoning. Both the Affordable Housing group and Growth Management have identified the property as a prime affordable housing land if the zoning were changed to residential.

Brian Alejandro, RN of the Kohala Hospital told the Health and Wellness group that the hospital plans to offer inpatient dialysis soon it will be operated by Mid Pacific Hospitalists, the new inpatient physician team. Radiology hours are expanding and services are now available Monday through

Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The emergency room waiting area has reopened to the public for the first time since the COVID pandemic. Hamakua-Kohala Health is planning on expanding its dental services in Kohala to an alternative location in Hāwī. The Saturday Farmers Market and the First Wednesday Night Market are now under the management of the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation. The food program formerly called Kohala Kares is now sponsored by St. Augustine's Church Food Pantry and is held at 4:00 p.m. each Friday.

John Winter of the Utilities group said that the County's Solid Waste office has still not responded to Aikane Nursery's questions regarding the volume and/or cost of transporting green waste from our transfer station to the main dump. They have been hoping to show the County that processing green waste locally would save the County money and thus convince them that giving money to the nursery to build a facility here would be cost effective.

The Kohala Emergency Preparedness Fair is scheduled for August 29 at Kamehameha Park.

The dates, times and places of the subcommittee meetings can be found in the calendar section of this paper. The next NKCDP Advisory Group meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Please consider attending; your input is welcome.

NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

Date: Monday, July 6, 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.

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE - from James Hustace Councilman, District 9 NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC INPUT AND AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Correction

On the front page of the May 2026 issue, the order of members of the police department was inaccurately listed in the caption. The order of officers in the photo (left to right) is Assistant Chief Thomas Shopay, Deputy Chief Sherry Bird, and Chief Reed Mahuna. On page two, the correct order is (seated, left to right) Captain William Derr, Assistant Chief Rio Amon-Wilkins, Captain Akira Edmondson, and (standing) Community Policing Officer Curry McFadden. We apologize for the error.

Advertisement for Kapa'au Veterinary Center featuring a photo of Melisa Hicks, DVM, and the phone number 808 889-5488. Services include Small Animal Medicine, Dental, Surgery, and X-Ray.



New Listing - Beautiful Keokea Park Rd. Permitted Duplex MLS 731020 \$924,000. Imagine owning two 3 bedroom 2 bath homes on a lot filled with tropical fruiting and flowering trees — biking distance to Keokea Beach Park. Great investment potential.

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Advertisement for a 'Celebration of Life' for Marcia Carvalho, scheduled for Saturday, July 11, 10:30-3:00 at Hawi Jodo Mission Hall. The ad features a photo of Marcia and floral decorations.

Lā Kamehameha Ma Kohala 2026



Lei draping on the statue of King Kamehameha. Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder



Sunrise ceremony. Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder



Royal court. Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder



See Kamehameha, on Page 9 Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder

Story by Randee Golden

June 11 was an exceptionally beautiful day in North Kohala, with a gentle shower rolling down the mountainside around 5:00 a.m. to bless Lā Kamehameha Ma Kohala (Kamehameha Day in Kohala). The trades picked up, the clouds lifted,

and the sun and gentle winds were present all day.

This annual celebration of Kohala's No.1 son activates a large number of people to share their time, knowledge and energy in a multitude of ways, all for the love of Hawai'i nei, Kohala and Kame-

hameha I. Spearheading this community event is a very dedicated planning committee, Ka Hui O Lā Kamehameha Ma Kohala. They start their meetings in January.

The day began with a powerful sunrise ceremony at the Kamehameha Ki'i, followed by offerings of oli and hula from multiple halau sitting together around the Statue in a beautiful rainbow of colors. The respect for the Mo'i as well as each other sent out an energy of lōkahi

and reverence.

Offerings of dance and lei continued, with great care taken to place each strand of flowers, fern, and leaves on the ki'i with respect. Narrative was offered to help observers learn about the protocols and ho'okupu being presented.

Mahalo to Ka Hui members Hokani Maria for coordinating the ceremony, Nani Tolentino for being in charge of lei draping, and Keke Kaniho, who also helped with drap-



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Kamehameha, from Page 8

Pa'u Queen Fern White.

Photo by Libby Leonard



Grand Marshall Alvin Kawamoto.

Photo by Libby Leonard



Hālau Kawehileimamoikawēkiu 'O Kohala.

Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder



Unit representing the Big Island in the Pa'u parade.

Photo by Bri Wehilei Ryder

ing of lei, receiving of ho'okupu, and was Noa on the pā, holding the sacred space.

Thanks are extended to Na Kupuna O Kohala Halau who create the floral arrangements and add ti lei to the statue chain each year. Appreciation is also sent out to all who offered lei and to the halau who honored Kamehameha I by sharing their aloha.

Next was Kohalas traditional pa'u parade, with beautiful princesses and multiple outriders representing each island. The Queen this

year was Fern White, with Alvin Kawamoto as Grand Marshall. This well known couple have given back to North Kohala for many years, working in our schools and also teaching equestrian skills from their home.

Organizing a pa'u parade takes multiple Ka Hui members. Lachelle Crabbe is the Coordinator for floats and overall organization, while Ha'aeo Neves is the person organizing and supporting the Pa'u units. Amoo Kainoa held the critical position of Roving Marshall and

Security Coordinator, helping keep everyone safe.

Special thanks are extended to those who created amazing lei for horses and riders, trained horses, road in a unit, provided greenery, worked on floats, helped dress the princesses, decorated pooper scoopers, rode as a roving marshall, stood security, created the script, announced along the parade route, and participated in this tradition in so many more ways.

A well organized Ho'olaulea at Kamehameha Park followed the

parade, offering a welcoming environment filled with a variety of food booths and trucks, hands-on experiences, local crafters, cultural organizations sharing information, and a great music lineup.

Ka Hui member responsible for the overall planning and organization is Ho'olaulea Coordinator Leoni Lancaster. Coordinator for both entertainment and the road-side emcees is Miulan Pa'alua. Kailee Paro, who is Ka Hui Treasurer, also helped with operational

See Kamehameha, on Page 10



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Kamehameha, from Page 9



Photo by Libby Leonard 'Ahahui [Society] Ka'ahumanu O Kohala.



Photo by Libby Leonard Keiki riding as part of the Maui unit.

support for the Ho'olaulea and the communications team. Wehileimamo Lim-Ryder is in charge of social media, branding and the Hana No'eau Village where people experience making things like lei and kapa.

Most important to thank are the two mana wahine who have guided this long preparation process, Lokelani Hooton, Ka Hui chairperson, and 'Ekela Kahuanui, co-chair. Both are fully committed to their Hawaiian culture, community service, and Kohala; the amount of knowledge and experience each woman offers runs deep. They work to ensure that this important Kohala celebration remains rooted in aloha, respect, and community pride. Mahalo nui loa for years of service and providing a foundation for the newer Ka Hui members,

mentoring them so that Lā Kamehameha ma Kohala continues to thrive for years to come.

Community support is always appreciated for Lā Kamehameha Ma Kohala. Funding for this event is through small grants, sales of merchandise, and private contributions. Donations can be sent through the North Kohala Community Resource Center, designating Lā Kamehameha ma Kohala/Kamehameha Day Celebration as recipient, at www.northkohala.org.

Maintaining the Kamehameha Statue also requires funds. A group of volunteers wash this ki'i twice a year and check for any needed repairs. Mahalo to these folks, led by Sharon Hayden, who has cared for this statue for many years. Please contact Sharon to find out how you can donate: 808 889-0169. Mahalo!

Kohala Christian Churches Unite for Worship Night

By Mark Blair

Members of Kohala Baptist, Overflow, Gospel of Salvation, and Kalahikiola churches gathered to worship and sing songs of praise to the Lord Jesus Christ. People from our Kohala community nearly filled the Kalahikiola sanctuary for this program on Sunday night, May 31.

Musicians and singers from the four churches took turns sharing songs and hymns.

It was a beautiful expression of Christian unity. Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed that we might have such gatherings – and, even more importantly, live together in true unity. "I do not ask for these only,

but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17.20,21 ESV)

Even though we come from different traditions, nationalities and backgrounds, we sang with a united voice. Following the program there was a delicious potluck dinner in Wylie Hall.

The churches have announced their hope to hold united worship nights whenever there are five Sundays in the month. The next one is planned for August 30.

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KCLT to Offer First Time Buyer and Homeowner Resource Workshops

By Beth Thoma Robinson

How do we Keep Kohala, Kohala? Number one is keeping Kohala people in Kohala!

That is why Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT) was formed in 2024. KCLT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve the availability and affordability of Kohala's housing for future generations of local residents.

We are pleased to announce that KCLT received a grant to put on a series of Buyer Readiness and Current Homeowner Resource workshops. One set of workshops will inform and prepare residents in need of housing to qualify as potential home buyers. Another set of workshops will focus on helping current owners of property hold on to their homes for their families. If the time comes for a local Kohalan to transfer their property outside of the family, they might sell or donate to KCLT, to help keep Kohala, Kohala.

Because KCLT is a membership organization open to all adult residents of Kohala, it provides a way for the Kohala community to collectively buy back land for housing and other purposes. KCLT keeps land in community hands permanently, breaking the endless cycle of rising prices. When a home transfers

to KCLT rather than to a newcomer to Kohala, the Kohala Community Land Trust holds title to the land while selling or renting the home to another community member at an affordable price.

Topics for the upcoming workshops are:

Workshop #1: Buyer Readiness

Goal: Qualify a pool of local residents for upcoming opportunities through KCLT, the next phase of Self Help Housing, or to buy market listings. We are partnering with Hawaiian Community Assets to provide certified credit and homeownership counseling. This is an introductory workshop laying out the process.

Workshop #2 – Solving Current Challenges Facing Kohala Homeowners

Goal: Provide information and solutions for local property-owning residents on issues that currently affect their ability to retain and maintain their properties (homes and undeveloped land). Issues to be covered include rising property taxes, homeowners insurance, and maintenance and repair needs.

Workshop #3 – Title Issues and Estate Planning

Goal: Provide information to local buyers and property-owning residents on strategies to retain and maintain their properties (homes and undeveloped land) over gener-

ations. Local attorneys will explain the basics so residents can figure out their own next steps.

Workshop #4 – How 'Ohana Can Work Together to Make Decisions Around Caring for Homes and 'Aina

Goal: Provide information to local property-owning families on how to have the hard conversations with 'ohana about their properties (homes, commercial, and undeveloped land). These conversations should lead to clear goals and responsibilities, whether the decision is to retain and maintain the property, or to sell/donate the property. Options for facilitation include the traditional cultural practice of ho'oponopono or formal mediation.

The Kohala Community Land Trust Housing Resources workshop series will kick off in July. Dates are not available at press time but will be publicized by flyers and social media as soon as they are confirmed.

KCLT's Board Secretary, Beth Robinson, has volunteered to serve as interim Executive Director for the rest of 2026. To get on our mailing list and receive information directly if you are not already a KCLT member, or if you have questions about what Kohala Community Land Trust does or how we can help with your particular situation,

feel free to contact Beth and others at KohalaCLT@gmail.com. We welcome volunteers and donors who can help us build the organization.

Kohala Community Land Trust – keeping Kohala lands and homes in Kohala hands!

2026 Board of Directors: Ashton Dircks, Beldon Kealoha, Beth Robinson, Cat Givarz, Denni Keyes, Jared Terpak, Keli'i Kapali, Terra Sutton, and Whitney Harvey.

Tool Library to Change Hours

By Harry Taylor

The North Kohala Tool Library has new hours of operation:

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Thursdays 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.,
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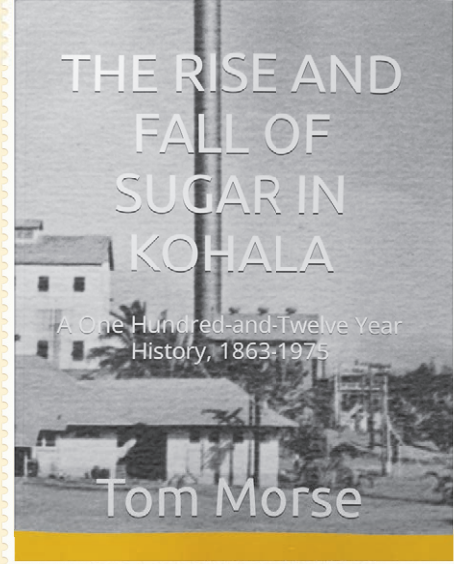
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Kohala Cowboys' Track and Field Among State's Best



Courtesy of Kohala High School

The 2026 Kohala High School Track and Field team won BIIF championships, broke school records and send four athletes to the state championships.

By Libby Leonard

The 2026 track and field season at Kohala High School was one of the most successful in over a decade, with athletes winning Big Island Interscholastic Federation (BIIF) championships, breaking school records, and sending four individual qualifiers to the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) State Championships.

From the throwing circle and jumping pits to the sprint races, several athletes finished the season among the top performers in school history while competing against some of the BIIF's strongest programs.

Mari Ontiveros led the team's postseason effort, winning BIIF titles in both the shot put and discus. She went on to place second in the shot put at the HHSAA State Championships with a throw of 38 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

Freshman Na'i Rivera had a breakout season, winning BIIF championships in both the high jump and triple jump after earning MVP honors earlier in the year. He also qualified for states in both events and finished in the top eight in the high jump, clearing 5 feet, 11 inches.

The Cowboys also saw school records fall in the throwing events. Payton Camara broke the school's all-time discus record and qualified for the state championships, while Jeremiah Medeiros broke the school shot put record, finished second

at the BIIF Championships and advanced to the state meet.

On the track, senior Jordan Manatan moved into second place on Kohala's all-time lists in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, highlighting a season of steady improvement for the sprint group.

The team was led by coaches Jason Ontiveros, Wilton Camara, Lis Kawe and Earl Hoshida.

"This track season was truly one for the Kohala community to be proud of," said Ontiveros. "The athletes worked hard and earned their place in the history books."



Photo courtesy of Shots by Thirds
Mari Ontiveros breaking both the venue and school record in shot put at the BIIF championships. She went on to place second in the shot put at the HHSAA State Championships.

WEEKLY EVENTS IN JULY 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
	4:45PM	6PM	THE JOY OF BELLY DANCING	CALL FOR LOCATION	238-6111
	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	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	8AM	4PM	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
	4PM		FOOD PANTRY	ST AUGUSTINE'S	889-5390
SAT	8AM	12PM	HAWI FARMERS MARKET	HUB MURAL	895-7870
	8AM	4PM	TOOL LIBRARY	54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY	213-7779
SUN	6PM	7PM	SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY	HISAOKA GYM	889-1828
	7PM	8PM	RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING	RED COTTAGE VILLAGE HUB	(907) 888-8166

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

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

KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

Obon Festival Sat., July 4
4 pm Keokea Graveyard Service
5 pm Hatsubon Service at the temple
Bon Dance to follow. Please come and dance with us to celebrate and remember our ancestors.
Reverend Daido Baba
808-884-4481

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

Gospel of Salvation Kohala
 55-146 Kokoiki Road
Service: Sunday 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study: Monday 7 PM
Prayer Meeting: Friday 7 PM
 Pastor Kawika Kihara
 www.gos-kohala.org

Kohala SDA Church
WHERE FRIENDSHIP MEETS FELLOWSHIP
 Saturday Services:
 Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
 Divine Service: 10:45 AM

Potluck-Fellowship Lunch every Sabbath
 55-3361 Akoni Pule Highway, Hawi HI
 (808)889-5646
 Kohalasda.com

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

The Bahá'í Faith
 "May we unite as the waves of one sea"
 Please join us to explore **About the Baha'i Faith**
Advancing Along a Spiritual Path on 11th of July, 3 PM - 4PM in Hawi
 Call Bob and Elaine Losey at 808-551-0665 for more information

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MONTHLY CALENDAR JULY 2026

	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
7/1	WED	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	FOOD TRUCKS, CRAFT VENDORS, MUSIC	HUB MURAL	[808] 895-2025
7/1	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/1	WED	5:30 PM	6:30 PM	"KEALOHA DISAPPEARS"	Q&A W/LUCAS MANUEL-SCHEIBE	HUB BARN	LUCAS.MANUELSCHEIBE@GMAIL.COM
7/1	WED	7:00 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
7/3 - 7/5		7:00 AM	10:00 PM	KHS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION	ACTIVITIES AT KHS & KAMEHAMEHA PARK		
7/3	FRI	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	"THRU THE CANE FIELDS RING"	WORK-IN-PROGRESS FILM SCREENING	KHS	KOHALAORALHISTORYPROJECT@GMAIL.COM
7/3	FRI	7:30 PM		"THIS IS KOHALA"	SHORT FILM BY THE KOHALA ORAL HISTORY PROJECT	KAMEHAMEHA PARK	KOHALAORALHISTORYPROJECT@GMAIL.COM
7/4	FRI	3:00 PM	6:00PM	FEATURED ARTIST RECEPTION	BIG ISLAND ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN	OLENA GALERY	808-345-1779
7/4	SAT	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	"KEALOHA DISAPPEARS"	WORK-IN-PROGRESS FILM SCREENING	KAMEHAMEHA PARK	LUCAS.MANUELSCHEIBE@GMAIL.COM
7/5	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
7/5	SAT	5:30 PM	8:00PM	FEATURED ARTIST RECEPTION	MALUHIA CAMARILLO	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
7/5	SUN	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	POTLUCK AND FILM SCREENING	"KEALOHA DISAPPEARS" AND "THIS IS KOHALA"	ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
7/6	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	CHINESE MEDICINE TOOLS TALK W/ ILA JHAVERI	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS.	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
7/6	MON	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/6	MON	5:00 PM	6:30 PM	CHESS CLUB	ALL AGES WELCOME!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
7/8	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	POMAIKA I CAFE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/8	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/11	SAT			SUMMER SKATE NIGHTS	ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS	SKATE PARK	INSTA: @ROOTS_SKATEPARK
7/14	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	"EMPEROR OF GLADNESS" BY OCEAN VUONG	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
7/15	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/15	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/16	THU	9:00 AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET	FOOD DISTRIBUTION, MUST REGISTER	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-6436
7/17	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
7/18	SAT	11:00 AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	808-213-7779
7/29	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
7/30	THU	5:00 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM

Obon Traditions on Display at Kohala Heritage Center



Photos by Joy Ohta
 Hāwī Jodo Mission Bon dancers (left to right) Debbie Choo, Leslie Naito, Arlene Ohta, Jerby Ito, Joy Ohta, Esteban Rabang, Neli Aguiran, Susan Laughlin, Renee Ito, Karla Park and Paz Rivera



In the Fune Nagashi ceremony, the fune, a special handmade boat, is filled with offerings and memorial messages for loved ones, then released to journey with ancestral spirits back to the Pure Land.

By Joy Ohta and Randee Golden

Summertime in Hawaii begins Obon season, an important Japanese Buddhist tradition celebrated throughout the islands. In North Kohala, these practices continue to thrive due to dedicated temple members who work hard to maintain this district's four Buddhist Temples built during the plantation era.

Obon is a time to remember and honor family ancestors and friends who have passed away. Different Buddhist denominations add their own unique touch to the observance. This yearly tradition, which brings many family members home, generally runs from June to September.

A special display will be on exhibit from July 1 through August 31 at the Kohala Heritage Center across from Kamehameha Statue. This exhibit will share about the history of Obon at these temples.

Photos, information and special artifacts will be on view. The Center is usually open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Many people think of Obon as bon dancing, offered annually and enjoyed by many in the community. People may not be aware of other Obon traditions passed down for generations.

In fact, Hawi Jodo Mission is likely the only Buddhist temple that continues the tradition of Fune Nagashi, which marks the end of Obon observance. The fune, a special handmade boat, is filled with food, flowers and memorial messages of love and gratitude. The day after Hawi's bon dance, the boat is taken out to sea and released to make its journey with the spirits of our ancestors back to the Pure Land. Clyde Nakashima, Hawi Jodo Mission member and son of Kohala, has been building the boat for over 20 years and it will be on display at the

Kohala Heritage Center.

During Obon, families respectfully tend ancestors' graves, cleaning and bringing flowers, food, water and incense. Before the Obon service, the minister and families visit graves with offerings and prayers. At the Kohala Jodo Mission, Obon Service is conducted in front of a special temple altar (Gakido) decorated with colorful lanterns and small paper banners of the five Buddhist colors. Various food items and drinks are placed on the altar for ancestors to enjoy. A special Hatsubon memorial service commemorates the first Obon following passing of a loved one.

Toba-Eko is a special ceremony to welcome and guide the spirits of family and friends. Prayers are offered along with Toba, a written expression of love and gratitude placed on the special altar.

A Lantern Ceremony is held to remember, reflect, and offer grati-

tude to those who have passed on. Everyone is welcome to participate. A special lantern tribute is held to honor and remember the twenty-two Kohala military personnel for their supreme sacrifice in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Bon dance is traditional Japanese and Okinawan Buddhist folk dancing performed after the Obon service to honor those who have passed away. Japanese immigrants who worked in the sugarcane and pineapple fields generations ago came together to bon dance. This joyful and festive dancing, a tradition in the islands since the early 1900s, is open to everyone.

Below is information about North Kohala's 2026 Obon Observances. Many others are held islandwide throughout the summer. No experience is needed to join the dancers circling the Yagura. Just follow along, feel the joy, and listen to the beat of the taiko drums while remembering those you love who have passed. These events are free to the public.

-Kohala Hongwanji Temple (Halaula) Bon Dance – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 4

-Hawi Jodo Mission Temple Bon Dance – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 15

-Kohala Jodo Mission Temple Bon Dance – 4:30-7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, at the Kohala Night Market.

All are welcome to join bon dance practices:

-Kohala Hongwanji Mission Temple – June 29 at the Temple

-Kohala Jodo Mission Temple – July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7, 14, 21, 28 from 9:00 a.m. at the Kohala Senior Center behind Kamehameha Statue.

Dates and times are subject to change. Contact Joy Ohta at (310) 347-5379 for further information.

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