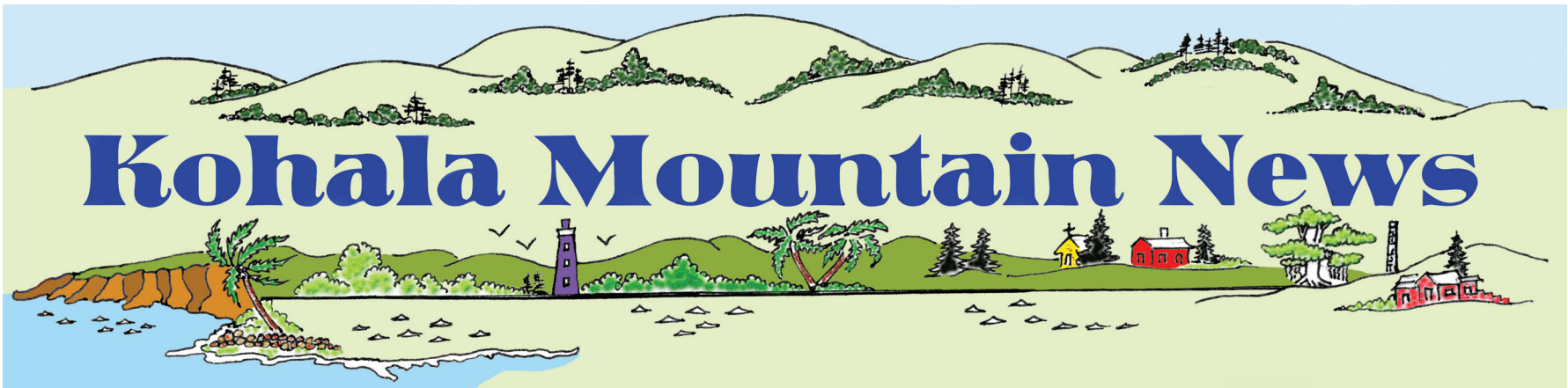




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About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007

September 25, 2026

Hurricane Lala Damage



Photo by Donna Maltz

Hurricane Lala ripped through Kohala last month, pouring down rain and blowing down trees, leaving many residents without power, water or internet—some for extended periods. This tree came down in Maliu Ridge, the bright orange heartwood a stark contrast to the surrounding stormy skies.



Photo by Annalene Kotzé

A power pole and line at the top of upper Hawi Road was blown down, leaving many without power for nearly two weeks until HECO crews could safely repair the damages. Downed power lines across Kohala affected the ability to pump water to reservoirs, leaving some residents without water for several days.

Shopping for Local, Healthy Food Just Got Easier for SNAP/EBT Customers

By Emma Moore

Kohala Food Hub has an update we're excited to share. Shopping for local food online with SNAP/EBT + a 50% Da Bux discount on your fresh produce and other eligible items just got simpler.

When you shop on Kohala Food Hub's Online Market and select Online SNAP/EBT as your payment method at checkout, the DA BUX 50% discount is now applied automatically to all eligible items in your order. No promo code. No extra checkbox. Just shop, select Online SNAP/EBT, and the discount does the work for you.

DA BUX provides a 50% discount on eligible local fruits, vegetables, starches, edible plant starts and minimally processed local produce for SNAP/EBT customers. Paired with Kohala Food Hub's online marketplace, this means families can put more nutritious, fresh, local food on the table at a price that works for their budget.

Every purchase made this way does triple duty. It helps our



Photo by Morgan Davis

Kohala Food Hub team members pack food boxes for the community.

neighbors eat well, supports the farmers and producers who grow and make our food, and it keeps our dollars circulating right here in our local economy.

Kohala Food Hub accepts SNAP/EBT both online and in person, along with credit card and cash payments. However you like to shop, we want it to work for you. Orders can be picked up at our Hāwī Warehouse on Wednesday afternoons (55-230 Ho'ea Rd.), or delivered right to your door across North Kohala, from Pololū to Puakea.

We're grateful this automatic Da Bux discount for SNAP/EBT online payments upgrade was made possible through collaboration with Maui Hub, Mālama Kaua'i, Hawai'i Farm to Car, The Food Basket, and DA BUX Hawai'i. It's a good reminder of what's possible when we work

together in the spirit of laulima.

To try it out, go to kohalafoodhub.com and click to shop Kohala Food Hub's online marketplace (open from Fridays at noon to Mondays at midnight) and look for items marked SNAP/DA BUX eligible. Questions are always welcome. Email shop@kohalafoodhub.com or call/text (808) 896-5636.

Another resource is Kohala Food Hub and St. Augustine's Food Pantry's collaborative Kōkua Kohala Project, offering boxes of fresh, locally grown and raised produce and proteins, plus shelf stable pantry items at no cost every Friday starting at 4 p.m. through October 16; first come, first served.

We hope this makes it a little easier for our neighbors to eat well and support the local food system we're all building together.

Kohala Mountain News
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NKCDP AG Meeting Notes

By Lynda Wallach

Beth Robinson of the **Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT)** opened the September 7 meeting of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG) with a detailed presentation of the four free educational workshops the group is hosting in September and October. Information on these classes was in the August addition of this paper. She also said that KCLT is developing a pipeline of buyers, sellers, donors, and families who want to keep their property but are willing to put an affordability deed restriction on their property. This would be in return for KCLT raising funds to do potentially expensive things, like fixing the property so it is eligible for property insurance or researching information on the property's title. Self-Help Phase 3 is still on hold. The Hawi Nani project is also on hold since they are unable to obtain water meters. For a more comprehensive look at the purpose and structure of the NKCDP AG, visit kohalacommunityplan.org.

Click NKCDP on the menu at the top of the page for more info on the Advisory Group.

Robinson also reported for the **Public Access** group which she said is currently focusing on stewardship issues for the already-acquired properties. Na Ala Hele has postponed work on the Pololū trail restoration because the bidders were either too expensive or unqualified. They are also waiting until the storm season is over. The Mule Station transfer is moving along. An archaeological survey has been started on the upper portion of Lamaloloa (south of Lapakahi). Public Access is working with the **Culture and History Advisory Group (KCHAG)** to get the community involved in the work. Students were taken to the area to participate and to interest them in archaeology careers.

Boyd Bond (of KCHAG) brought up a question about the Kohala Civic Club, which has not been active for several years but

was an important local institution. He wondered whether any work is being done on restarting it. He also said that there have been requests to use the Front Porch set from the Kohala Reunion, but they need to get a liability waiver for others to use it.

John Winter gave the report for **Growth Management**. The design, plan and luas for the Pololū lookout have been approved. Appeals have been made to State Senator Tim Richards to advocate for the State to repair the Old Coast Guard Road so the County would agree to manage it.

Kathy Matsuda (**Health & Wellness**) said that St. Augustine's has received a grant so that the Kohala Food Hub can prepare bags of fresh produce for the Food Pantry. They will still be supplying bags of non-perishable goods, so now people will have the option of getting one bag or two. She commended the Kohala community for its outpouring of aloha in the wake of Hurricane Lala. Community members distributed food, cut down trees, sorted donations and drove long distances to help other stricken communities. The Kohala Resilience Hub has applied for and received a \$1,000 grant, which they will be using to sponsor a community meeting, in conjunction with CERT, to discuss Hurricane Lala and its aftermath. The meeting is scheduled on September 30 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

John Winter of **Parks, Roads, Erosion and View-planes (PREV)** said that the state plans to repave Akoni Pule Highway from Kawaihae to Hawi. PREV will meet senior staff of Parks and Recreation and our elected county and state representatives about the lack of progress in replacing the pavilion at Māhukona. This meeting will be in Hilo since the County was not willing to send several members of its staff to Kohala. Winter will try to schedule another meeting after that at Māhukona, where more members of the community will be able to

attend.

Karl Toubman said the meeting of the **Utilities group** centered on the outage maps and how they could be improved to provide more specificity as to the dates and times of restoration. A letter will be drafted to provide feedback to HECO on the maps and other issues concerning storm-related power failures and restoration. The effects of the outage spotlighted our dependency on the grid, its vulnerability, and the importance of conserving power and having some sort of personal back-up power supply. Some households were without power for significantly longer than others. Winter suggested that we have a local number to call with these problems, then a list could be submitted to the office in Waimea. This is one topic that

will be discussed at the September 30 meeting, along with various ways of getting off the grid permanently or temporarily and the costs involved. The power outage also affected the ability to send water to the reservoirs and some districts within Kohala were without water for several days. The Department of Water Supply has purchased a number of backup generators, but they do not have enough for all the pumps. The storm has highlighted the importance of having a water saved for such an emergency.

The subgroup meeting dates and times can be found in the calendar section of this paper.

The **next meeting** of the NKCDP AG will be held on Monday, October 5, at 4:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Members of the community are urged to attend.

NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

Date: Monday, Oct 5, 2026, **Time:** 4:30 p.m.
Place: Senior Center (behind the statue)

AGENDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kohala residents are encouraged to attend and voice their opinion on issues. They may even recommend actions and suggest subjects not presently addressed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (Please see adjacent NKCDP Meeting Notes for information on issues currently being addressed.)

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

Investigatory Subcommittee on Re-zoning and Agricultural Property Tax Rates - Kohala input to the ongoing County reassessment of zoning and agricultural tax rate reduction criteria.

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE - Councilman, District 9

NEW BUSINESS
PUBLIC INPUT AND AGENDA SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
ANNOUNCEMENTS



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An Invitation to Experience the Energy Enhancement System in Hāwī

Story and photo by Eila Algood

For about six months, we have had something rather unusual in the Wellness Lounge at Raise Your Vibration in Hāwī—an Energy Enhancement System, commonly known as the EESystem™.

How it came to be here is a bit of a story.

I first experienced an EESys-tem a few years ago while visiting New York. I spent two hours in the system, and rather than coming away with any grand conclusions, I came away curious. Curious enough that I continued research-ing it and seeking out oppor-tunities to experience it when I traveled. Over the next few years, I visited EESystems in Boulder, Colorado; Maui; and Honolulu. Holly and I even did a couple of overnight sessions, which felt particularly potent to us.

Somewhere along the way, a friend here in Hāwī mentioned that Dr. Sandra Rose Michael, the developer of the EESystem, had lived in Hāwī some years ago. I also learned that Bennett Dor-rance had owned an EESystem here about 17 years ago.

Then, synchronistically, I hap-pened to see Bennett in town one day.

I asked him about his experi-ence with the EESystem. It was



Inside the Raise Your Vibration Wellness Lounge.

simply a conversation born out of my curiosity. I had no idea at the time where that conversation would lead.

More than a year later, that chance encounter eventually led to the creation of the Wellness Lounge at Raise Your Vibration, where Bennett has generously

loaned us his EESystem so that we can make it available to our community. The entire Raise Your Vibration team is very grateful for the opportunity to share some-thing that most people would otherwise have to travel quite a distance to experience.

So, what exactly is an Energy

Enhancement System?

The EESystem was developed by Dr. Sandra Rose Michael more than two decades ago. It uses spe-cially configured computers and screens to create an environment incorporating what its developer describes as bio-scalar energy fields and bio-photonic light. The system is designed to create an energetic environment that its developers believe can support the body's own natural restor-ative processes.

That may sound complicated, but experiencing it isn't compli-cated at all.

You simply come in, settle into one of our comfortable zero-grav-ity chairs and spend some time in the Wellness Lounge. You can meditate, read, rest, listen quietly or fall asleep. You don't have to do anything. And you certainly don't have to believe anything.

We have folks from Kona, Kohala and other parts of the island who come to experience the EESystem.

People who have spent time with EESystems around the world report a wide range of experiences. Some describe feel-ing deeply relaxed and peace-ful. Others report more energy, greater mental clarity, improved

See Energy, Page 4

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Energy from Page 3

sleep or simply an overall sense of well-being. The developers of the system describe potential benefits associated with supporting the body's own natural restorative and regenerative processes.

There are also much bigger health claims that you may find if you research the EESystem online, but I don't feel a need to make those claims. The EESystem is not a medical treatment and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease. Everyone's experience is different, and anyone dealing with a medical condition should, of course, continue working with their healthcare professionals.

My approach is: experience it for yourself and see what you notice.

You don't need to understand scalar energy or bio-photonics or subscribe to a particular philosophy. You don't even need to be convinced that the technology works.

Just come in curious.

Settle into a chair. Give yourself an hour of quiet time. And notice what you notice.

We also want this experience to be accessible to people in our community. Many EESystem centers charge approximately \$40-\$60 per hour. At Raise Your Vibration,

our suggested contribution is \$25 per hour, but it is just that—a suggested contribution. There is no set fee. We don't want someone's financial circumstances to be the reason they can't come in and experience the system.

The contributions we receive help us maintain the Wellness Lounge and continue making the space available.

Perhaps you'll have a noticeable experience. Perhaps you'll simply have an hour when nobody needs anything from you, and you can deeply relax. Either one sounds pretty good to me.

For me, this whole journey began with two hours in a room in New York and the thought, "Well, that's interesting. I want to know more."

Years later, through a series of conversations, experiences and a rather synchronistic encounter on the streets of Hāwī, an EESystem is now available right here in our little community.

And my invitation is still the same one I gave myself all those years ago: Come in curious. Experience it for yourself. And see what you notice.

The Energy Enhancement System is a wellness technology and is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent disease. Individual experiences vary.

New Legislation Regulates Catchment Tanks

By April Lee

The recently enacted Act 209, relating to catchment tanks, had many sponsors, including our Representative David Tarnas. It was signed into law on July 8 and was effective the next day.

The law requires counties in Hawaii to allow installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems, which are defined as systems designed to collect and store rainwater from rooftops or other surfaces for both drinking water (potable) and other uses like irrigation or toilet flushing (non-potable) on all properties. This is regardless of whether they are connected to a county water system, which refers to public

water infrastructure operated by a county.

While mandating the allowance of these systems, the bill also permits counties to require registration, inspection, or notification for these systems if necessary to protect public health or water quality, but they cannot unreasonably restrict or prohibit their use.

This legislation aims to address limited water infrastructure by promoting rainwater catchment as a sustainable and low-cost way to supplement water supply, reduce strain on public infrastructure, and encourage responsible water management.

See full text at bit.ly/4rgEU1E.



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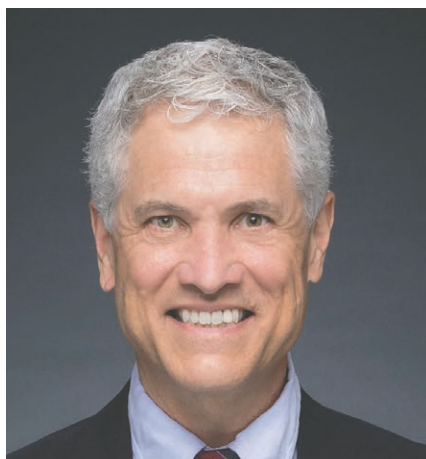
All thru September



Kohala Artist's Coop, every day except Monday from Noon until 5pm, across from the Kapaau post office

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! This has been a very challenging time for many of us in Kohala dealing with the effects of Hurricane Lala and the subsequent storms. The impacts from the high winds, heavy rain, flooding, power and water outages, and disruptions to our daily lives has been very stressful and costly. I want to express my sincere appreciation for the hard work of the first responders from Civil Defense, Fire, Police, Hawaiian Electric, Department of Water Supply, and the many community volunteers who have provided much needed assistance to community members. It will take time and effort to repair infrastructure, homes, businesses, farms and ranches. Some families will need extra assistance to compensate for the loss of animals, damage to property, and recover from the stress from these storm events. Please reach out to elderly neighbors and isolated friends to check in on their physical and mental well-being. By working together, we can recover.

During the 2026 legislative session, we worked hard to address community concerns in a wide variety of subject areas, including housing, agriculture, education, healthcare, criminal justice reform and consumer protection. One important area that received special attention was the protection of the constitutional rights of our immigrant population. Throughout the State, many agricultural enterprises depend on the hard-working labor of residents who have emigrated here from other countries. It is important for everyone to recognize that regardless of their immi-

gration status, all Hawaii residents have rights under our Constitution. These include rights of due process and legal counsel when they are detained by law enforcement. However, there have been recent cases where actions by federal immigration enforcement agencies have violated the constitutional rights of some residents. The legislature took a very measured approach to addressing this issue to make sure we protect the rights of our residents, while also not impeding the federal agencies from doing their job to enforce federal immigration laws.

In this article, I will highlight a package of bills that were passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor that relate to this subject matter. These new laws protect the due process rights of residents, ensure our local law enforcement agencies can focus their resources on enforcing state and county laws, protect sensitive community spaces, support victims of crime and human trafficking, and expand language access to assist Hawaii's residents.

These new laws include the following:

Act 161 (HB 1839) requires people brought into state or county custody to be informed of their legal due process and constitutional rights before any federal civil immigration enforcement interactions.

Act 141 (SB 2057) limits state and county law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration law enforcement. The law was carefully written so it does not interfere with or limit the federal government's legal law enforcement activities related to federal immigration law.

Act 162 (HB 1870) requires state and county agencies that operate certain community locations like schools, libraries, and health care centers to adopt policies limiting cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement with the assistance of the State Attorney General, which will provide model policies for their use.

Act 142 (HB 1838) establishes statewide standards for existing U and T visas, which are granted to victims of crime and human trafficking to allow them to stay in the U.S. to assist police, prosecutors, and defense attorneys to investigate and adjudicate these cases. It also requires the Attorney General to provide training to County and State officials responsible for certi-

fying these visa applications.

Act 143 (HB 1548) modifies the maximum sentences for nonviolent misdemeanors from 365 to 364 days so that those who are charged with these offenses are not automatically eligible for deportation. This law ensures that those found in violation of our laws are held accountable, but they are not deported for what is a nonviolent misdemeanor offense.

Act 179 (SB 3238) strengthens our state's capacity to assist residents for whom English is not their primary language by establishing at the University of Hawaii a language access and workforce development program.

As Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, I had the responsibility to work with immigration rights advocates, the Attorney General's office, and other legislators to craft the language for these laws so that they could withstand any legal constitutional and statutory challenges. I was also careful to make sure that nothing in these laws would interfere with federal agencies as they carry out legal enforcement actions to enforce federal civil immigration laws. These state laws also do not place restrictions on local law enforcement agencies from entering into cooperative agreements with federal agencies to enforce federal law in other subject areas such as preventing human trafficking and drug trafficking, interdiction of illegal fireworks, and protecting federally designated endangered and threatened species.

In Hawaii, we are a community that celebrates and cherishes the deep connections we have with our immigrant roots. Some of us are recent immigrants; some are children or grandchildren of immigrants. Every resident in Hawaii has rights enumerated in our state's constitution that must be protected. This package of laws was written to make sure our residents are safe, their constitutional rights are protected, and local police can focus on enforcing state and county laws, rather than federal civil immigration laws.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Kohala community as your State Representative. I always welcome your input and advice on state legislative matters. Please contact me anytime at (808) 586-8510 and reptarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov. Mahalo nui loa!

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace

Aloha Kohala!

The past several weeks have been a powerful reminder of the challenges our communities face and the strength we show when we come together. Most importantly, I want to recognize the many people who stepped up during Hurricane Lala. The storm challenged communities across Hawai'i Island, but it also demonstrated something that makes North Kohala special: when our neighbors need help, we come

together.

From utility crews and County employees to first responders, non-profit organizations, volunteers, and residents, countless people worked long hours to restore services and support families. In North Kohala, volunteers at St. Augustine's prepared and distributed hundreds of hot meals during the extended power outages while also serving as an important source of community information. Mahalo nui loa to

everyone who served, volunteered, responded, and checked on a neighbor.

County departments and utility providers continue assessing and addressing impacts to roads, parks, public facilities, and other essential infrastructure. Lala was another reminder that resilient infrastructure is critical not only to everyday life, but also to our ability

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.

October Deadlines
Ads and News: 10/9/26
Calendar: 10/16/26
Distribution: 10/23/26

November Deadlines
Ads and News: 11/6/26
Calendar: 11/13/26
Distribution: 11/20/26

*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
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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.

to respond and recover when emergencies occur.

The storm also reinforced the importance of preparedness at home. Families should have adequate food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries, and other essential supplies, along with a plan for communicating if power or cell service is unavailable and checking on kūpuna and neighbors who may need assistance.

Preparedness and resilience remain central to my work on the County Council. Bill 169, which I co-sponsored with Council Member Michelle Galimba, continues moving through the Council. The measure establishes timelines for acquiring properties selected for preservation through the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation (PONC)

process and requires properties not acquired within those timeframes to return to the Commission for reassessment.

I am also continuing work on legislation to establish a broader community wildfire resilience framework. The first step is developing a County process to identify areas of elevated wildfire risk so future policies addressing defensible space, construction standards, access, water supply, and other mitigation measures can be grounded in a clear understanding of where risk is greatest.

The North Kohala Community Resilience Fair, originally scheduled for August 29, was postponed because many participating agencies and organizations were actively supporting Hurricane Lala recovery. We are now looking toward holding the fair in early 2027, when our partners can fully participate.

In the meantime, I invite you to my next Community Conversation in Kapa'au with Police Chief Reed Mahuna and Fire Chief Daniel Volpe on October 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Intergenerational Center. This will be an opportunity to hear directly from our first responders, ask questions, and discuss public safety and emergency preparedness in North Kohala.

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

Post Hurricane Community Impact Survey

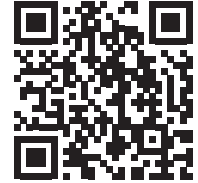
After the recent hurricane, NKCRC is reaching out to households across our community to better understand what you need for recovery—both now and in the months ahead.

It covers things like:

- Current housing and safety status
- Immediate needs (food, water, supplies, medical)
- Impacts to income
- Longer-term recovery or community impacts

Help us build an accurate, community-driven needs statement for recovery efforts in North Kohala.

www.northkohala.org/lala.



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MOVIE THEATERS IN KOHALA

The Kahei Theater 1940-2001

Third in a Series

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



Photo courtesy of Lowell Angell

The Kahei Theater in November 1940.

By Tom Morse

In 1940, movies were the thing in Kohala. Times were much different. Notice in the adjacent photo that everyone going to the movie theater is wearing long pants or skirts. Almost all are wearing dress shoes. Of the three movies shown on the posters, two are westerns, the other a murder mystery. One of the westerns on the billboard, *The Singing Hill*, starred Gene Autry, who sang several songs in the film. Westerns, rare now, were the mainstay in the

30s and 40s. About one third of all pictures made during that period were westerns, and, it seems, they were especially popular in Kohala.

The 405-seat theater originally boasted the neon lights shown here. Unfortunately, the lights were soon broken by rock-throwing children and were not replaced.

The creator of the Kahei Theater was Koichi Sugiyama. Although his brother, Harold, had operated the financially unsuccessful Hawi Theater from 1935-1940, less than a mile

away, Koichi, with his wife Kinuyo, opened his own theater. It showed movies continuously until 2001, making it the last theater operating in Kohala.

When in school he worked for the plantation in the summer, earning 10 cents for a 10-hour day. Maybe out of necessity (for Koichi had ten children), he found other ways to earn his living. In 1912, when Koichi was nineteen, his father bought a new Model-T Ford and opened a taxi service, employing Koichi as the driver. That began Koichi's life-long love of automobiles.

Beginning in 1925, he managed five silent movie theaters owned by the sugar plantations in Kohala. For 38 years he drove his own taxi from Kohala to Hilo, charging passengers \$1.50. He provided transportation to Kona; a trip that took all day on dirt roads. A trip to Waimea took four hours, with stops to shoo the cows from the road. When the passenger boat came in at midnight at Mahukona, he would meet it in his seven-passenger vehicle to provide transportation to Kohala.

Until 1951, he ran a transportation service in his station wagon between Waimea and Kohala. It did very well during the war

years, bolstered by G.I.s on leave in Kohala. There were never enough hotel rooms then, so Koichi let the soldiers sleep in the theater. The theater could only show matinees during the war because of the federally ordered blackout.

He also was in the funeral business. In his hearse, he would transport bodies to the mortuary in Hilo and back, then arrange the burial. In later years he also sold coffins, which were often on display near the stage in the theater.

Filipino and Japanese movies were also shown, with English subtitles. These films were appreciated by plantation management, as they gave entertainment to the workers from those countries.

Other than the posters on the outside of the theater, advertising was by word-of-mouth. On some nights a raffle was held.

Uniquely, the Kahei Theater on occasion had live Japanese dance-troupe performers on stage. Koichi's daughter, Ellen, recalls beating a drum up and down Hoesa Road to let everybody know there would be a stage show that night.

See Theater, on Page 8

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Theatre from Page 7



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato
Koichi Sugiyama welcomes Japanese movie stars.

Initially, admission prices were 25 cents for adults, nine cents for children. If you called ahead, Koichi would pick you up in his taxi and bring you to the theater for a few cents more.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato
Kinuyo and Koichi Sugiyama

Koichi and Kinuyo met and married in 1930. Mrs. Sugiyama could always be found in the bright pink ticket booth at the entrance. She sold candy bars and crack seeds. Most patrons brought their own drinks and popcorn. Beer was not allowed. Koichi and his family lived in their home just to the left of the theater. Their front yard served as the theater's parking lot.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato
The Kahe Theater welcomed visitors to Kohala.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato
Although the turn-around for the Ironman triathlon is now in downtown Hawi, for a time it was in the parking lot for the theater.

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Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato

A black and white portrait of a young man with dark, neatly combed hair. He is wearing a white collared shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to his right with a gentle expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

A black and white portrait of an elderly man with short, dark hair and glasses. He is wearing a light-colored, patterned shirt and a lei made of white and dark flowers. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato

When Koichi died in 1987, his son Sidney, became the general manager and projectionist. Mrs. Sugiyama continued in the ticket booth. When Sidney died in 2001, the theater closed permanently.



Photo courtesy of Ellen Kato

Photo by Tom Morse



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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.

How to Hike Pololū Safely

Aloha, Kohala community. Hi, my name is Maluhia Vea, and I am a seventh-grade student at Kohala Middle School. The Pololū Valley Look-out and trail pose serious safety hazards because of cliffs, unstable terrain, and unpredictable ocean conditions. The steep, muddy trail is highly dangerous, frequently causing severe slips and injuries to unprepared visitors.

At the bottom, the beach features treacherous rip currents and pounding waves with no lifeguards. Because the location is remote, emergency rescues are difficult and delayed, prompting local leaders to educate tourists and limit crowd sizes. The ocean at Pololū Valley is highly dangerous and completely unsafe for swimming.

Pololū Valley is completely remote, lacking cell service, public rest-rooms, and emergency personnel. In an accident or drowning, rescues usually require a helicopter and take over 30 minutes. The trail drops steeply 400-500 feet over dirt, clay, and cobblestone switchbacks. When it rains, the path becomes eroded, slick mud that causes frequent slips and sprained ankles. Community stewards strongly recommended avoiding the hike on rainy days.

By staying on the designated trails, wearing proper hiking shoes, and checking the unpredictable weather before heading down, hikers can easily avoid dangerous slips and exhaustion.

Ultimately, safety at Pololū Valley is not just about protecting yourself—it is also about respecting the sacred Hawaiian land and preserving its beauty for future generations. If everyone hikes responsibly, this remarkable valley can remain a safe and magical destination for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your time!
Maluhia Vea

Good Sportsmanship Leads to More Fun in Sports

Dear Editor,

Aloha, my name is Joezee Roxburgh Salvador. I'm a seventh grader at Kohala Middle School and in the class of 2032. I will be sharing the importance of sportsmanship.

First of all, good sportsmanship means treating your teammates, opponents, referees, and coaches with respect whether you win or lose the game. Here in Kohala, good sportsmanship is very natural and automatic for us athletes, but in some other schools in Hawaii and in the mainland, it is very different. They talk bad about other teams, do not help their opponents up if they fall, or push them down, and some even hurt others on purpose. Now that you know what good sportsmanship is, let's see how we can fix this problem.

This might be a really serious situation in the future, so we can try to fix the problem of people not having good sportsmanship by showing it ourselves. We could play by the book, which means playing fair and following all official rules without cheating. Also, taking responsibility is another way to have good sportsmanship; you do this by accepting the blame for your own mistakes instead of putting it on teammates. Lastly, encourage your teammates. For example, if they make a mistake, say some positive words instead of getting frustrated with them. If all athletes play fair, take their own mistakes, and encourage their teammates, we can show the world that sports would be way more fun and enjoyable if everyone had good sportsmanship.

Sincerely,
Joezee Roxburgh Salvador

Peptides Offer Both Potential Risks and Benefits

Dear people of Kohala.

Aloha everyone, my name is Alakai, and I am a seventh-grade student at Kohala Middle School. Today, I want to share a story with you about something powerful that exists inside every single one of us.

Most people hear the word peptide and immediately think of health, wellness, skincare, or fitness. While it is true that peptides are fascinating for those reasons, their real job is much deeper. They are actually powerful cellular messengers. Imagine them as constantly carrying urgent mail and instructions from one cell to another to keep our entire system running smoothly. Without these tiny mail carriers, our bodies wouldn't know how to heal, grow, or fight off everyday stress.

But what exactly is a peptide? To understand them, we have to look at how they are built. Peptides are short chains of amino acids, which are among the fundamental building blocks of life. Think of amino acids as individual train cars, and when you link a few of them together, you get a peptide freight train. If enough amino acids link together, they could become a full protein.

These incredible messengers come from three main sources. First, there is our body's own natural production, where our cells build exactly what we need on demand. Second, they come

from the breakdown of the food we eat every day, like fish, eggs, milk, and beans, which our digestive system breaks down into useful pieces. Third, they can come from careful scientific creation inside a laboratory, where scientists build synthetic peptides to help treat specific medical conditions.

Because peptides are so fundamental to life and occur naturally in our bodies, many people assume they are completely harmless. However, science teaches us that even the most helpful things can have a downside, and it is important for our community to know.

While peptides can do wonders, they are not without risks. For instance, when people use peptides, they can experience noticeable side effects. Because these peptides are often administered through shots, skin reactions like redness, itching, bruising, or swelling at the injection site are quite common. But more than just skin deep, they can cause other discomfort. It is not unusual for people to experience stomach upset, unexpected fluid retention, and frequent headaches as their bodies try to process the extra signals.

As a student here in Kohala, I believe that understanding both sides of science helps us make better, safer choices for our health.

Mahalo,
Alaka'i Bobek

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North Kohala Public Library October 2026 News and Programs

By Leilani Silver

Did you know? The Hawaii State Public Library System offers online courses for improving computer and internet skills through NorthStar Digital Literacy. Visit our website and use the quick link for Northstar Digital Literacy to sign up and get started.

Becoming a Northstar Learner allows you to gain valuable tech skills and record your achievements.

After-school Board Games: October 1 at 3:00 p.m. Join us on the first Thursday of every month for an afternoon of board games. Play one of the games provided by the library or feel free to bring your own to share.

Heluhelu Quiz Bowl Team Meeting: October 2 at 3:00 p.m. Continued discussion of the books and trivia related to the Heluhelu Quiz Bowl. Snacks provided. Program is for 4th to 7th graders of any school; public, private or homeschooled.

Chinese Medicine Tools with Ila Jhaveri on October 5 at 3:00 p.m. All participants will walk away with useful and highly effective tips on using food-as-therapy, acupressure, and other lifestyle tools as well as info on acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Local Author Talk: October 5 at 4–6 p.m. University of Hawai'i presents two documentaries: "Saving 'Ohi'a, Hawaii's Sacred Tree" and "Protecting Hawaii's Native Forests." Afterward, join our presenters to talk story about Rapid 'Ohi'a Death and their organization's efforts to combat it.

Preschool Storytime: October 7, 14, 21, and 28 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: October 7, 14, 21, and 28 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.

Kohala Kendama Club: October 8th at 3:00 p.m. Join us on the second Thursday of every month for some Kendama fun. Show us your tricks or learn some new ones. All levels welcome. Complete a trick card and get a prize. Bring your own Kendama or use one provided by the library.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: October 12 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: October 13 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a discussion of the non-fiction book "Replaceable You: Adventures in Human Anatomy" by bestselling science writer Mary Roach. The book is available to pick up at the library.

Hawaiian History Talk with Boyd Bond: October 19 5:30 p.m. Join us for an informative talk story about Hawaiian History with local historian Boyd Bond.

Teen/Adult Board Games: October 26, at 5:15 p.m. Calling teens and adults! Come for a fun night of board games! Play one of the games provided or feel free to bring your own to share!

Pokémon Trading Card Game: October 27 at 3:00 p.m. Interested in the Pokémon Trading Card Game, but don't know how to play? Join us to play your first Pokémon card game and learn all about using the Battle Academy board game, generously provided by the Friends of the North Kohala Library. Already know how to play? Bring your deck and chal-

lenge other experienced players or come talk about deck building and card collecting.

Afterschool Halloween Movie: October 29, 3:00–4:30 p.m. Join us for a screening of the Halloween movie "Hocus Pocus." (PG) Snacks provided.

Teen Book Club: October 30 from 3:00–5:00 p.m. This month's selection is "The 5th Wave" by Rick Yancy. Read the book and/or come watch the movie. Short discussion will follow. Popcorn provided! Program is for ages 13 and up. The book is available to pick up at the library or for digital download from www.librarieshawaii.org.

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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Richard Elliott, a devoted father, proud veteran, beloved partner, and cornerstone of the Hawi community, passed away leaving behind a legacy of service, laughter, and lifelong friendship. He was 68 years old and died Aug 15th 2026 in Boise Idaho while undergoing bone marrow transplant for cancer. A man of action and dynamic community spirit, Richard served his country as a veteran before bringing his energy to the big island of Hawaii. As the proud owner and operator of Paradise Postal in Hawi, Richard created far more than a local business—he built a welcoming gathering place for neighbors and friends. His dedication to his home was evident in everything he touched, from his role as past president of the Merchants Association to his active membership in the Lions Club and his constant support for local fundraisers. Richard loved engaging in lively community discussions on public affairs, always standing up for the town and people he adored.

Beyond his civic leadership, Richard knew how to truly enjoy life. He was happiest spending an afternoon on the golf course, unwinding in his own distinct way, and sharing a good laugh with those around him. He was deeply loved and widely admired throughout the island for his warmth, generosity, and genuine character. Richard is survived by his devoted longtime partner, Beverly Aslett, who shared in his life and adventures; his three cherished daughters, Sydnie, Samantha, and Maxine; and his son, Ricky, who carries forward his father's strength and spirit.



Melvalyne Melody Ma'i Raymond Taomia
March 25, 1963 – August 9, 2026

Some people leave behind no monuments or accolades, but something far more lasting—the memory of how they made people feel. Melvalyne Melody Ma'i Raymond Taomia, lovingly known as Mel, leaves a legacy of family, faith, hard work, and kindness. Born in Kohala on March 25, 1963, Mel was the daughter of Benjamin Ka'onohi Raymond and Madeline Kahinawe Pia, both from families with deep roots in Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i. As a young woman, Mel attended BYU Church College in Lā'ie, pursuing her dream of studying Hospitality Management. There, she met her husband, Ukilei Kaulavea Taomia, from Vaitupu, Niutao, Tuvalu. Mel and Ukilei built their life around family, welcoming five children: Leilyne, Madeline, Lydell, Kaylen, and Stardale. As the wife of a U.S. Army serviceman, Mel spent years traveling with Ukilei and making a home wherever military life took their family. After Ukilei left the service, they returned to Hawai'i, where he continued his education and Mel continued working and caring for her family. In 1999, Mel began working in Banquets at Hilton Waikoloa, where she became much more than an employee. Over the decades, coworkers became friends, and friends became family. Her faith was another cornerstone of her life. A devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mel was cherished by her church 'ohana for her warmth, service, and devotion to others. Mel understood that love is not merely something we say, love is something we do. It is working when you are tired. It is caring for someone who needs you. It is feeding people, helping people, laughing with people, worrying about your children no matter how old they become, and making sure your family knows they belong. She leaves behind her siblings, Major "Puna" (Susan), Diamond "Kama" (Ceci), Darringer "Mana" (Toma), and Janalynn (Vaifoa) Faiva; her daughters, Leilyne and Madeline (Adam); her son, Stardale; and her beloved grandchildren, Lexi, Benny, James, Gemmsin, Keilani, Tan'e, and La'a. Melvalyne was preceded in death by her parents, Benjamin and Madeline Raymond; her beloved husband, Ukilei; her son, Lydell; and her daughter, Kaylen. Though their absence brought profound loss, the love she carried for them never diminished.

Aloha 'oe, Mel.
You were deeply loved. You will be profoundly missed.



Matsue Matsumoto (Ralph), Karen Setsue Maki (Henry), Tomie Matsumoto (Richard "Masa"), Eiko Sexton (Eugene "Gene"), and Jeanne Tsuyuko Jahn (Clarence "Lucky").

Her lifetime career was spent at Blue Shield of California in San Francisco, where she started in the secretarial pool and retired as executive secretary to the Director of Medicine. Ann loved to travel, making several trips to Japan and taking many cruises to various destinations. She was an active member of the Diamond Senior Center, (now Castro Senior Center), where she took yoga and Spanish, worked the rummage sales, and was a member of the walking club. She had many, many wonderful friends.

She gave charitably to the Hamakua Jodo Mission, Legion of Art S.F., the deYoung Museum S.F., Asian Art Museum S.F., the California Academy of Sciences, and many more.

There will be a private ceremony at sea under the Golden Gate Bridge.

The family of Ann Yayoe Higaki are sad to announce her passing. Ms. Higaki was born in Paauhau, Hawaii on June 10, 1932 to Eizuchi Higaki and Yaeno Osako Higaki. She died on August 15, 2026 in Glenview, Illinois and is survived by her brother George Higaki (Jean) and many loved nephews and nieces. She is predeceased by her brother Sakae Higaki (Rose), sisters Hisae Takahashi (Takio "Taki"),

A Legacy of Wonder

By Christine Hustace

Dissecting cow eyeballs, reconstructing Rodentia from owl pellets, listening to evening lectures on a research vessel at sea. If you were a student of Susan Lehner's in the last three decades, you were probably doing these things. To say that Susan had an impact would be a gross understatement in both quantity and quality; Susan was a force of nature.

Kohala—and the Big Island at large—lost a treasure when Susan passed away on Thursday, August 27th after battling pulmonary disease. She lived a full and extraordinary life: she was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a teacher, an artist, a scientist, a motorcyclist, a deep-sea scuba diver, and most recently, a volunteer at the Humane Society. She was deeply loved by so many, and she will be sorely missed.

Susan was born in 1948 in Cleveland, Ohio, where she was raised with her brother and ten stepsiblings. She graduated from Hiram College in Ohio, where she majored in Chemistry. She attended two years of medical school before returning to her real passion and earning a master's degree in Biochemistry from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

As Susan was known to say to her students, she had "never once been bored." As one might imagine, someone so curious and hard-working had some interesting jobs along the way: toy-store clerk, librarian, program manager for a rock and roll station. At one point, she was an adhesives chemist for a plywood mill. She learned to scuba dive and became part-owner of a Cleveland dive shop, leading certification dives in the Cayman Islands. She graduated to specialized diving, retrieving equipment from the bottom of Lake Erie and the Cuyahoga River. Later, she was a research diver with Oregon State University.

Her daughter Lise was born in 1969, and after funding for the diver position ran out, Susan, with three-year-old Lise in tow, hitchhiked to Mexico. After traveling throughout Mexico and spending time in Los Angeles and San Francisco, she and Lise settled down in Eugene, Oregon. In Eugene,



Susan met Scott Bedingfield, who would become her life partner, and they welcomed their second child, Rueben, in 1978. After visiting Scott's parents on the Big Island several times, Susan, Scott, and Rueben pulled up stakes in 1987 and decided to call Hawai'i home. Oregon continued to hold a special place in Susan's heart, and in later years she divided her time between the Big Island and Eugene, where her children now live.

Susan met a few interesting folks throughout her many adventures. Shortly after Jacques Cousteau helped to invent scuba gear, he visited her dive shop and they compared notes of the sea. Jacques' son Jean-Michele would become a close friend of Susan's in later years as they worked together to develop a marine studies curriculum for Ritz Carlton Hotels. During her time in Mexico, Susan met and convinced her new friend Margaret to marry Pierre Trudeau, future Prime Minister of Canada. Susan also became friends with renowned marine biologist, explorer, and writer Sylvia Earle, even introducing her to some students. Author Ken Kesey used to hang out at the radio station Susan managed. Her influence extended far beyond our little community.

The Big Island was an adventure playground for Susan thanks to its prime location for marine research, an active volcano, a premier astronomical site, and 11 out of 13 climes. Her brain and her heart were nourished in Hawai'i. Susan continued the teaching she'd begun in Eugene but now added classes and summer programs in hands-on marine studies. She had a hand and taught in most of the educational settings in town. Together with her husband Scott and artist/educator Malia Welch, she transformed Kenji's House into an art and learning center. Susan was instrumental in creating classes for homeschooling families at the Hub. She and Scott sought funding and managed the reconstruction of the Science building at Kohala School. When Susan learned about the work of peace activist and teacher John Hunter, she immediately got in touch. Susan replicated his World Peace Game, and for a few years, her lucky students got to learn about how countries work together (or don't). Relaxing meant you'd find her in her home studio, making Christmas ornaments, dollhouses, and fairies for her business, Banana Ranch. If you recognize the name, it's because the street in Hawi is named after that business.

Her favorite project, though, was developing curriculum for her own students. Susan would spend weeks in the summer designing projects and ordering materials (one year she bought her whole class lab coats). She was devoted to learning. She believed any subject could be fun and understandable if taught well. And Susan taught very well.

Susan adored her students, and they became part of her. She'd greet them at the stroke of 9 a.m. (and not a second before) with her severe middle part and long black hair clipped up, in her black camisole and flowy white button-up shirt. One student described her as "a mythical being: impossibly intelligent, wickedly funny, and unrelentingly curious." She imbued each child she taught with that same curiosity and instilled in them a fierce joy of discovery.

Her classroom was filled to the brim with board games, books, seashells, skeletons, exoskeletons, past projects and current interests, and an eyeball of uncertain origin. She started most days with the mystery "Feely Box" where kids would bravely put their hands into a hole in the side of a mysterious wooden box to guess what might be inside (all too often for anyone's comfort, the answer was "something gross"), and the jar of little animals that never seemed to run out, even after years of letting children choose their favorites to take home. She planned all manner of interesting field trips: a seahorse nursery, the Kilauea



volcano, museums, tide pools, and boat trips. Board games were a staple; she literally made learning fun. Students dissected squid, learned how to balance a checkbook, studied French, practiced American sign language, poured plaster casts of animal footprints, explored tide pools, and—most importantly—learned how to think critically.

Unlike many educators, Susan never struggled with disciplining her students. She treated them with respect and expected it in return. She also expected it between the students and modeled compassion and empathy, calling out any lack of it immediately. If things got a little rowdy, "I am talking, you are not," usually did the trick. She had few rules in the classroom, but if you couldn't follow them, you were out. (There were rumors about duct tape, but we were unable to independently verify.)

Susan understood that all children learn differently. She took the time to assess their learning styles and adjusted her teaching to meet their needs. One student recalled that whenever Susan handed out instructions, she made sure to read them out loud to quietly support her navigating dyslexia.

Once you were Susan's student, you were never not her student. She kept up with them, bantered with them as adults on Facebook, and her countless letters of recommendation got many into college and grad school.

The sheer beauty and extent of her impact might be best summed up in the words of another former student: "So much of who I am today is because of Susan. Every time I learn something new, I think of her."

You will be missed beyond measure, my friend.

Born and Raised in Kohala: Janet Schmidt

By: **Jane Clement**, Director of Marketing, Legislative Affairs and Strategy, West Hawaii Region

Kohala Hospital (KOH) is proud to welcome Janet Schmidt, MSN, BSN, APRN, as its new director of patient care, overseeing the hospital’s clinical and nursing operations.

Taking on this role is a homecoming. Janet was raised in Kohala and born at KOH, when the hospital was run by Kohala Sugar Plantation. She has watched the hospital grow since, through the 2018 emergency department renovation and the transition from a then nursing home to now a critical access hospital, evidence of how far it has come in support of meeting the needs in the community. Building on that progress is what she hopes to do next.

Janet joins KOH from Kona Community Hospital (KCH), where she served on the leadership team for the medical-surgical unit. She looks forward to applying what she learned from KCH to KOH. Through West Hawaii Region’s move to provide better coordinated care between the two facilities, Janet's move strengthens that effort.

Having spent more than eight years at KCH, Janet brings a wealth of experience in operations, building relationships across teams, and valuable knowledge in bridging processes.

Outside of work, Janet enjoys riding her horses around the Big Island.



“My goal is to give residents of Kohala the opportunity to heal close to home.” – Janet

BE PREPARED FOR ANY EMERGENCY

Know what to do before, during, and after a disaster.

Scan the QR code to access Hawai’i County's emergency preparedness resources.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE HO’OLOLI NEWSLETTER!

To get updated on latest happenings at Kona Community Hospital and Kohala Hospital, subscribe to the Ho’ololi Newsletter.

Scan the QR code and stay connected with West Hawaii Region.





KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

Please join us on
Sunday, Oct. 18, 10 a.m.
for a special Hawaii Dharma School Gathering at our temple! The public is welcome!



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



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

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!



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
"Beating Swords into Plowshares"
October 10, 2026 at 3 PM
Call Bob and Elaine Losey
at 808-551-0665 for more information

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



The Temple of Spiritual Healing & Education.

We have evidence Life is Forever.
Services: Sun 10AM; Wed 5:30
Rev. April Lee 808-989-5995.
TempleofHealing@proton.me

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



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WEEKLY EVENTS IN 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
	3PM	4:30PM	KOHALA KENDOMA CLUB	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	889-6655
	5PM		OPEN CIRCLE MEDITATION (NOT 2ND)	KEOEKA 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
	10AM	12PM	KOHALA COMMUNITY LAND TRUST WORKSHOPS	SENIOR CENTER	CONTACT: INFO@KOHALACOMMUNITYLANDTRUST.ORG
			9/26: TITLE AND ESTATE PLANNING 10/10: DECISIONMAKING		
	6PM	8:30PM	KARAOKE	KO PIZZA	313-0514
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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MONTHLY CALENDAR 2026							
	DAY	START	END	EVENT	DESCRIPTION	VENUE	PHONE
9/30	WED	5:00 PM	7:00 PM	COMMUNITY MEETING	POST HURRICANE LA LA TALK STORY	KHS CAFETERIA	808-889-5523
10/2	FRI	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	BIG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL MEETING	MEET TO DISCUSS BOOKS AND TRIVIA!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/3	SAT	8:00 AM	11:00AM	THRIFT SHOP		ST AUGUSTINE'S	808-889-5390
10/3	SAT	5:30 PM	8:00PM	OPEN HOUSE PARTY	ART, STORIES, MUSIC & PUPUS	ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE	808-854-1058
10/5	MON	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	ILA JHAVERI TALK-COLD/FLU PREVENTION	FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, LIFESTYLE TOOLS	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/5	MON	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	RAPID 'OH'I'A DEATH INFO PRESENTATION	U OF H PRESENTS TWO DOCUMENTARIES	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/6	MON	4:30 PM		ADVISORY GROUP MEETING	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/7	WED	4:00 PM	6:00 PM	KOHALA NIGHT MARKET	FOOD TRUCKS, CRAFT VENDORS, MUSIC	HUB MURAL	(808) 895-2025
10/7	WED	4:30 PM		KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/7	WED	5:30 PM		TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK	ZOOM	808-989-5995
10/10	SAT	3:00 PM	6:00 PM	ARTIST MEET & GREET	OLENA GALLERY	OLENA GALLERY	808-345-1779
10/12	MON	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	SOUND BATH	WITH LEILANI SILVER	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/13	TUE	11:00 AM	12:00 PM	BOOK CLUB	DISCUSS REPLACABLE YOU BY MARY ROACH WITH US!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/14	WED	9:00 AM		AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP	NKCDP	LIBRARY	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/14	WED	5:00 PM		GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/15	THU	9:00 AM	11:00AM	SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET	FOOD DISTRIBUTION	SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH	808-889-6436
10/15	FRI	4:00 PM		HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/17	SAT	11:00 AM	1:00PM	TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS	USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS	TOOL LIBRARY	808-213-7779
10/19	MON	5:30 PM	7:00 PM	HAWAIIAN HISTORY TALK	COME LISTEN TO LOCAL HISTORIAN BOYD BOND TALK STORY	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/21	WED	3:30 PM		UTILITIES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/21	WED	5:00 PM		PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP	NKCDP	OLD COURTHOUSE	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/28	WED	4:00 PM		RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS	WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST	CALL FOR LOCATION	808-238-6111
10/29	THU	5:00 PM		AGRICULTURE GROUP	NKCDP	NKCRC	IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM
10/29	THU	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	HALLOWEEN MOVIE	COME WATCH HOCUS POCUS AT THE LIBRARY!	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655
10/30	FRI	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	TEEN BOOK VS. MOVIE CLUB	THE 5TH WAVE BY RICK YANCY	NK PUBLIC LIBRARY	808-889-6655

IMPORTANT MED-QUEST UPDATE

UPCOMING ELIGIBILITY CHANGES FOR 2027

New Federal Requirements: H.R. 1

WHO MAY BE IMPACTED?

Most adults ages 19–64 who receive Med-QUEST coverage may be affected. Some people are exempt, including children (0–18), adults 65+, and others.

WHEN DOES THIS START?

New requirements take effect January 1, 2027.

WHAT'S CHANGING?

To keep your Med-QUEST coverage, you may need to meet at least one of these requirements during the 6 months before your renewal:

EARN

Receive household income of \$580 or more in at least one month.

LEARN

Be enrolled at least half-time in an educational program.

WORK OR VOLUNTEER

Work or volunteer at least 80 hours in at least one month during the previous six months.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- ✓ Make sure your contact information is up to date.
- ✓ Use or create your online account to report changes, complete your renewal, and upload documents at mybenefits.hawaii.gov



NEED KŌKUA?

Our Community Navigators are here to help.

Call (808) 746-0126



Med-QUEST Division



Kōhala COMMUNITY MEETING

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Our Community Our Voices A Stronger Kōhala

RESILIENT TODAY BRIGHTER TOMORROW



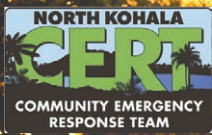
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



5:00 PM - 7:00 PM



KOHALA HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA



NORTH KOHALA CERT
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



KOHALA RESILIENCE HUB



NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



ST. AUGUSTINE'S
Episcopal Church in Kapa'au, Hawai'i



NKCDP UTILITIES SUBGROUP



Kkr 96.1 FM

How did Hurricane Lala impact you?

What can we do to handle the situation better?



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LET'S LISTEN • LEARN • SUPPORT
AND BUILD A MORE RESILIENT KŌHALA.

Stronger Together

KHS Girls Volleyball



Photo by Tom Morse

The Kohala High 2026 Girls Volleyball team.

Left to right: Assistant Coach Keali'i Carvalho, Raine Cazimero, Loryn-Rose Carvalho, Hazely "Mele" Cazimero, Ailee Afaga, Kalea Perez, Khloe Luga-Benedicto, Lexi Isabel, Easterine Edmond, Jasmine Genetiano, Head Coach Braddah Keyes. On the floor: Chardonnay Lili Mackowiak.

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