# Kohala Mountain News

**FREE** **About Kohala, For Kohala - Since 2007** **November 20, 2026**


## Officer Jessica Cook Recognized as North Kohala Officer of the Quarter

*Story and photo courtesy of the Hawaii Police Department*

On October 22, the Hawai`i Police Department announced that Officer Jessica Cook was recently recognized as North Kohala Officer of the Quarter for Q3 2026 in recognition of her outstanding dedication, initiative, and commitment to serving the North Kohala community.

A three-year veteran of the department, Officer Cook has demonstrated exceptional enthusiasm and initiative in proactive DUI and traffic enforcement, consistently working to ensure the safety of motorists and the community, according to the depart-

**See Cook, Page 2**



*Officer Jessica Cook is honored as North Kohala's Officer of the Quarter.*

## In Review: Kohala Community Land Trust 2026 Workshop Series




*Photo credit: Kohala Community Land Trust*

*In September 2026, KCLT hosted a workshop on Property Tax & Home Insurance.*

*By Seb Choe*

Kohala Community Land Trust (KCLT) wrapped up its free workshop series for North Kohala homebuyers and homeowners this fall. Over four Saturday mornings at the North Kohala Senior Center, 44 community members came out to learn, ask questions, and talk story about how to buy, keep, and pass on homes and ʻāina in North Kohala.

Mahalo nui loa to the Atherton Family Foundation, whose support made the series possible and free for the community.

**What We Covered**

1. Homebuyer Readiness

Hawaiian Community Assets, Hawai'i County Office of Housing & Community Development, and Hawai'i Island Community Development Corporation shared how to get ready to buy an affordable home, and keep it in Kohala hands forever.

2. Property Tax and Home Insurance

Lisa Miura of Hawai'i County Property Tax Division and Tad Nottage of Aloha Insurance Services shared ways Kohala homeowners can save on taxes and insurance and hold on to their homes.

3. Estate Planning and Title

**See KCLT, Page 2**

## Historic Kohala Dryland Field System Shared at Heritage Center



*Photos by Sharon Hayden*

*Kēhaulani Marshall (left), Executive Director of Ulu Mau Puanui, and Keala Kahuanui, who performed the opening oli [chant].*

*By Randee Golden*

On the evening of Friday, November 6, an estimated 40 residents gathered at the Kohala Heritage Center to hear an informative talk by Kēhaulani Marshall, Executive Director of Ulu Mau Puanui, a local educational and research based organization. This nonprofit is actively managing gardens in a historical dryland agricultural field system in Kohala. Established in 2010, Ulu Mau Puanui is working in collaboration with landowner Kamehameha Schools to perpetuate Hawaiian culture through hands-on land based education and culturally driven science.

Puanui is one of the thirty-three ahupua'a in leeward Kohala that make up the 25 square mile Kohala Dryland Field System which extends from ʻUpolu

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KCLT, from Page 1

Issues

Shauna Kahiapo of Aloha Legacy Law showed us how to pull a deed online and start title research, to protect family lands from quiet title actions and title fraud. She also explained how a family trust can help ʻohana avoid long, costly and emotionally exhausting probate court, and how including KCLT in your trust can keep homes affordable for Kohala residents forever.

4. ʻOhana Decisionmaking for Homes and ʻĀina

Kumu Kama grounded us in Native Hawaiian practices of relating to ʻāina, kūpuna, and genealogy, including hoʻokuʻu ka hewa, a way for ʻohana to release past wrongs before coming together for hoʻoponopono. Eric Paul of West Hawaiʻi Mediation Center shared a story of an ʻohana in conflict over inherited property, and how checking in with our bodies (and conflict mediators, when necessary) can help us move toward compassion instead of knee-jerk reactions.

**In the Community's Words**

"Excellent workshop on ʻohana living balance', useful in my own ʻohana issues – good knowledge on mediation center in West Hawaii!" – Diane McHugh, Kohala resident

**Missed one? Watch it online!**

Several video recordings are already up on our website under "Owner Resources", in case you missed a session or want to revisit or share any of the information you heard!

**KCLT: Keeping Kohala lands and homes in Kohala hands!**

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 current and future generations of local residents. KCLT is a membership organization open to all adult residents of Kohala, and provides a path for the community to collectively buy back land for housing and other purposes.

If the time comes for a local Kohala resident to transfer their property outside of the family, they might sell or donate to KCLT. 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, the Kohala Community Land Trust holds title to the land while selling or renting the home to another community member at an affordable price.

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

**Stay in the loop**

Want a heads up when we host more workshops next year? Join our newsletter at www.kohalacommunitylandtrust.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to make sure you never miss an update! For any questions or suggestions for workshops you'd like to see us organize, write to us at info@kohalacommunitylandtrust.org.



*In October 2026, KCLT hosted a workshop on ʻOhana Decisionmaking.*

Cook, from Page 1

ment's press release. Her strong commitment to traffic safety reflects her dedication to protecting lives and maintaining safe roadways.

In addition to her enforcement efforts, Officer Cook has taken on an important mentorship role within the North Kohala district.

"She has consistently gone above and beyond to answer questions, provide guidance, share her knowledge, and ensure that fellow officers are properly supported, particularly with newly assigned recruits," says North Kohala William Derr. "Her willingness to assist others has made her a valuable resource and a positive influence within the district."

Throughout the quarter, Officer Cook has also volunteered for numerous special assignments without hesitation. Her proactive presence in the community has served as a deterrent to illegal criminal activity, further demonstrating her commitment to maintaining a safe and orderly environment.

Officer Cook's dedication was particularly evident during Hurricane Lala, when she played an instrumental role in clearing Highways 250 and 270. She willingly took on physically demanding tasks under challenging conditions, never hesitating to get dirty, endure scratches, or do whatever was necessary to help restore safe passage along these critical roadways. Her actions exemplified her strong work ethic, teamwork, and willingness to go beyond the normal call of duty.

Officer Cook's initiative, leadership, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to public service make her a highly deserving recipient of the Officer of the Quarter award.

Hawai`i Police Department congratulates Officer Jessica Cook on this well-earned recognition and thanks her for her outstanding service to the North Kohala district and the community she proudly serves.

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Field, from Page 1



*Farmer Marc Kinoshita presents information on dryland farming.*



*Presenter Kēhaulani Marshall with local farmer Marc Kinoshita, who was moderator for this presentation about Kohala's Dryland Farming System. Each is wearing a three-stranded lei laʻi, which community members can learn to make on December 5 (see adjacent story on Twisted Ti).*

Point to Puʻu Kāhua. Research at this sight began in 2008 with a National Science Foundation Grant obtained by Peter Vitousek. After the grant ended, the community supported continuing these efforts so a 501(c)(3) non-profit was created.

Scientists and educators continue research to discover and understand how ancient Hawaiians were such successful farmers growing abundent crops without irrigation. Their goal is to apply these insights to support modern agricultural sustainability.

Kēhaulani described how rows of kō (sugar cane) and ʻuala (sweet potato) were planted, with the cane catching the rain and protecting the potato vines. She shared that these ancient farmers knew how to kilo, to observe and nurture their sensory awareness. Knowing the environment was part of every day life for the mahiʻai (farmer).

Kohala and Hana, Maui were the only two historic locations across the Hawaiian Islands that had both wetland agricultural field systems in the valleys to grow kalo and other food staples, as well as an innovative dryland growing system further upland. The surplus of food historically grown in this district supported a much larger population and helped to elevate the status and provide power to the aliʻi of the past.

Ulu Mau Puanui provides vital land access for groups, from young children to seniors, so they can experience and learn about the Hawaiian culture and ancient sustainable farming. Please visit their website at ulumaupuanui.org to learn more about the work of this non-profit and how you might visit the site. They hold a La Hana (work day) on the third Saturday of each month.

The Kohala Heritage Center is hosting a display about Ulu Mau Puanui for the next few months. As a growing non-profit, the Heritage Center plans to continue creating displays and providing presentations about Kohala's important history. Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Both Ulu Mau Pua Nui and the Kohala Heritage Center welcome donations to help these community centered non-profits. Check their websites for further information on how you can support their efforts.






# Learn How to Make Twisted Ti



*A twisted ti lei.*

*By Randee Golden*

If you have a love for lei yet don't know how to create one, come learn how to make twisted ti. This form of lei making is one of many ways to create lei from different flowers and vegetation. Though not an ancient style, twisted lei laʻi have become popular in more recent years.

Ti grows abundantly in North Kohala, and it is available all year. Learning this technique can provide you a chance to honor and thank people with something of beauty you can make.

This workshop, being taught by local lei makers to support the Kohala Heritage Center, will be held on Saturday, December 5, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Center across from the Kamehameha Statue. No experience is needed. All materials will be provided, including cuttings of ti you can plant in your yard.

Contact Sharon Hayden to reserve one of the limited seats by calling her at 808 987-1918 or emailing her at sharonhayden10@gmail.com.

A suggested donation of $25.00 will help support operating costs of the Heritage Center.

# Veterans Honored with Placement of Flags



*Volunteers who honored our veterans on Veteran's Day by placing flags on their graves.*
*Front row (left to right): Terry Ku, Thalia Ongoy, Kazlyn Matsu, Kayzden Matsu, Toby Ongoy and Mari Ontiveros.*
*Back row: Sat Carpio, Nario Libron, Joe Carvalho, Guy Sasaki, Kalani Ongoy and Lauren Ongoy.*
*Darnell Caravalho also helped.*

*Story and photo by Joe Carvalho*

Thank you to the 4-H club who helped with placing flags on veterans' graves at the Hawi County and Catholic cemeteries. Ralph Galan also put up the flags from Kapaʻau to Niuliʻi. It is with great respect and honor of all our Veterans and their families that these volunteers help with the flags.






# 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! Now that the 2026 General Election is over, the House and Senate are finalizing their respective leadership team as well as the assignments for Chair and members for each committee. House Speaker Nadine Nakamura asked me what committee I'd like to chair.

My response was in three parts. I said my first choice would be to chair the Water and Land Committee, since the subject matter is a top priority for my constituents, and also the fact that I am an environmental planner by profession with lots of experience in land and water policy. I also said that if the Speaker felt it was necessary, I would be willing to continue serving as Chair of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) Committee. Finally, I requested that if the Speaker wanted me to continue as Chair of the JHA Committee, that she consider taking the Hawaiian Affairs portfolio and assigning that responsibility to its own committee, or at least to a committee with lesser load than the JHA Committee. In my opinion, Hawaiian Affairs is such an important policy area that it merits its own committee, or at least one in which the policy area would get more attention than it can get in the JHA Committee, considering the very broad scope of responsibilities assigned to the JHA Committee.

At this time, I have been informed that the Speaker has decided that she wants me to continue as the Chair of the Judiciary Committee and that she is transferring the Hawaiian Affairs portfolio to a different committee. The details about all this are still being worked out and will be announced by December.

This means I will begin my fifth year as Chair of the committee responsible for the budgets of the Judiciary Branch, Department of Law Enforcement, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Public Defender, Campaign Spending Commission, Office of Elections, State Ethics Commission, and more. The committee also has responsibility over all policies and programs relating to the courts, crime prevention and control, penal code, criminal enforcement, police and law enforcement, prosecution, sentencing, disposition, and punishment, probation, parole, furlough, and other alternatives to incarceration, indigent legal representation and defense matters, civil law, firearms, weapons, judicial and legal questions, constitutional matters, the Attorney General, the Judiciary, individual rights, civil rights and liberties, the Civil Rights Commission, the Ethics Code, campaign spending, and elections; and other pertinent matters referred to it by the House.

If the Hawaiian Affairs portfolio is reassigned to a different committee, that would include all policies and programs relating to persons of Hawaiian ancestry, including programs administered by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Since I may not be able to guide the consideration of Hawaiian Affairs legislation, I wanted to take the opportunity to share my thoughts about the top two priority areas of Hawaiian Affairs that should be addressed this session.

The top priority for me is the adoption of recommendations that are forthcoming from the Public Land Trust Working Group that was set up by the legislature with DLNR and OHA. We need to support this working group to complete its work on the inventory of all ceded lands that is agreed upon by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA); and to agree upon the formula to be used by each agency to determine the annual amount of ceded land revenue that would be paid to OHA to comply with the Hawaii State Constitution.

The next top priority for me is to pass legislation that provides annual appropriation to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to pay for development of DHHL homestead projects. This last session, the funding was to be generated by an increase in the conveyance tax for property valued at over two million dollars. I would support legislation in the 2027 session that takes the same approach. This annual funding for DHHL is essential to achieve the goal of providing housing to the beneficiaries on the DHHL waitlist. In our district, there is also a critical need for this funding for infrastructure investment including the development of a drinking water system for Kailapa, a DHHL homestead neighborhood near Kawaihae, as well as improvements in the agricultural water system for the pastoral land leases in Waimea.

There are many other policy areas relating to Hawaiian Affairs that merit legislative attention, such as education, healthcare, criminal justice reform, and more. I look forward to supporting the work of the committee with responsibility over Hawaiian Affairs so that they can address these important issues facing our Native Hawaiian community. In the meantime, I will focus on the policy and budget work that

is the responsibility of the Judiciary Committee.

As the legislature prepares for the 2027 legislative session, your input and advice is always welcome.

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

# County Council Update

**From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace**

Aloha Kohala!

The Thanksgiving season is a fitting time to offer a heartfelt mahalo to everyone who has called, written, stopped me at the store, or attended a meeting to share a concern. Those conversations help guide my work on the Council and remind me how fortunate we are to live in a community where neighbors look after one another.

The Kohala Resilience Hub is once again organizing its Keiki Christmas Toy Drive to bring holiday cheer to North Kohala children and families. In October, the Council approved Resolution 713-26, providing $1,000 in District 9 Contingency Relief funding through the North Kohala Community Resource Center to support this effort. If you can donate a toy or volunteer your time, please connect with the Hub. Mahalo to everyone for helping to make this possible.

Another important North Kohala priority is a permanent public restroom in Hāwī. Funding for a comfort station at Banyan Trees Park was included in this year's County capital budget. Community advocates and local businesses have worked for years to bring attention to this need. The next step is continuing to work with the administration on plan-

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.

**December Deadlines**
**Ads and News: 12/4/26**
**Calendar: 12/11/26**
**Distribution: 12/18/26**

**January Deadlines**
**Ads and News: 1/8/27**
**Calendar: 1/15/27**
**Distribution: 1/27/27**

***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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We no longer offer a subscription service. The current and past issues can be found at kohalamountainnews.com.

**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**
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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.*

ning, implementation and long-term upkeep. I appreciate the thoughtful feedback and continued advocacy.

Recent storms underscored the importance of managing hazardous vegetation before it threatens homes, roads, utilities and emergency access. Resolution 706-26 urges State and County leaders to prioritize and fund proactive vegetation management, with better coordination and attention to areas of greatest risk. The County's review of its Hurricane Lala response should also help identify improvements in emergency communications and recovery. This complements my ongoing work on community wildfire resilience.

At Council, several measures have been under discussion. Bill 147 addresses transient vacation rental rules, including allowable uses and enforcement. My focus includes clear enforcement standards and fair treatment of existing approvals. Bill 208 separately addresses bona fide home exchanges, while Bill 207 proposes changes to County affordable housing requirements. I am reviewing these measures with an eye toward practical regulations, protecting existing housing commitments, and expanding opportunities for local families to find homes they can afford. Your testimony and perspective remain important as these discussions continue.

During this season of gratitude, I am thankful for our ranchers and farmers, educators and first responders, kūpuna who hold our history, and keiki who carry our future. Most of all, mahalo to the volunteers and neighbors who quietly make North Kohala stronger every day.

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 and your 'ohana a safe and joyful holiday season!

# Kokua Harvest Gleans Produce from Home Gardens




*Photo credit: North Kohala Community Resource Center*

*Kōkua Harvest's fruit stand at the North Kohala Community Resource Center's office.*

*By Lisa DeSantis*

The Food Basket's District 9 Fruit Stand Project aims to increase access to fresh, locally sourced produce, support community connection and resilience, and provide healthier, free food options for residents. The fruit stands serve as convenient distribution points for fresh fruits and vegetables while encouraging community connection and reducing food waste. Peak harvest season runs from October through January, and stands can expect to receive the most produce drops during that period, though they will be utilized year-round.

The D9 fruit stands are a project of the Kōkua Harvest Program with support from the County of Hawaii.

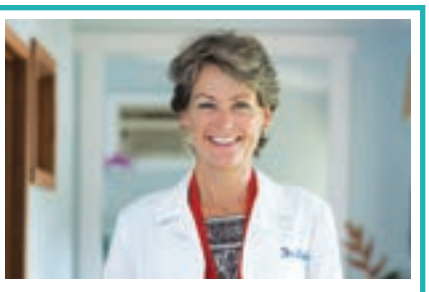
Want to get involved? Residents can contact The Food Basket's Kōkua Harvest Program to coordinate harvesting fresh produce from their farms and gardens for community distribution. Donations provided through the Kōkua Harvest Program are eligible to receive a tax receipt from The Food Basket. Donations dropped directly at the fruit stand are not eligible.

Want to receive produce? Text alerts are available when Kōkua Harvest drops produce at a fruit stand. Text NKCRC to 833-818-5134 to sign up for alerts from the stand at North Kohala Resource Center!

Want to host a fruit stand? Reach out to info@kokuaharvest.org to discuss. Limited fruit stands are available.

Contact: info@kokuaharvest.org, 808-933-6030.

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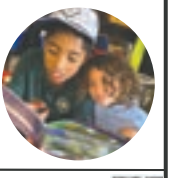
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# North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group Meeting Notes

*By Lynda Wallach*

Meetings of the North Kohala Community Development Plan Advisory Group (NKCDP AG) are mainly devoted to the reports from the subgroups. At the November 2 meeting, the first report came from the Agriculture group.

The **Agriculture group** met with Senator Tim Richards and students from the University of Hawaii Community Design Center (UHCDC) to discuss plans for the development of the two Halaula parcels which the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is planning to purchase from the Surety Kohala Corporation. One, next to the Kohala Middle School, is agriculturally zoned and the other is the industrially zoned old mill site.

Senator Richards envisions a small innovation center to help local producers capture value-added revenue. Some of the current tenants, including the Hawaii Wildlife Center (HWC), were also present.

Richards said that ongoing business like the HWC could be protected in the terms of the sale possibly through long term leases. The group had initially hoped to hold a community meeting to gather input for the UHCDC to use in the development of some conceptual designs but, because of time restraints, the group is instead sharing with them data that was already gathered at the Kohala Reunion, the agricultural visioning events and the water summit.

Local farmers are also sharing their expertise. A survey with questions specific to value-added processing is currently posted at the Kohala Food Hub.

Karl Toubman reporting for **Growth Management** (GM) said that Lapakahi State Park is still closed but GM wants to support forming a community group that will take responsibility for the site and assist the State with programs, interpretation and disaster response. Ideally, it will include both lineal descendants of Lapakahi and haumana [students] of Papa Auwae. Plans for the Mule Station at the Pololū lookout are moving forward. The State and County have come to an agreement that the County will continue to own the road and the State will manage the Mule Station.

Pressure is still being put on the mayor to have the County take over responsibility for the Old Coast Guard Road. A native Hawaiian group has a grant to create a cultural center in the area and needs the road improved.

Questions have been raised as to how a restroom on the County portion of the land by the banyan trees will be funded. The group will do further research on this.

Boyd Bond of the **Cultural and Historical Advisory Group (KCHAG)** reported that Aric Arakaki of the National Park Service is looking for volunteers to work at an archaeological site at Lamaloloa, south of Lapakahi. He can be reached at Aric_Arakaki@nps.gov. KCHAG is also working with GM on forming the support group for Lapakahi.

Kathy Matsuda of **Health and Wellness** said that the Hawaii Fentanyl Task Force hosted a special viewing of Tidal Wave, a moving documentary produced by Cole Fuertes and Amylia Gandolf that captures the voices and experiences of the community as it continues to fight against fentanyl and the opioid crisis. She said it should become available on YouTube.

John Winter of **Parks, Road, Erosion Control and View-planes (PREV)** reported that he and Toni Withington met with Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director Clayton Honma and Park Planner James Komata as well as Senator Tim Richards and Council Rep. James Hustace regarding the need to get Māhukona restoration back on the highest priority list.

The meeting grew out of the continued frustration regarding the lack of progress for many years on the project. P&R agreed to begin the planning process. They also agreed to speak with a PREV representative on a quarterly basis to report on progress. An archaeological survey needs to be done before planning can begin.

Karl Toubman said the **Utilities group** hosted a presentation by Richard Horn, the owner of the Kohala wind farm, on his plan to implement a unit to convert cellulose waste into a clean source of biogas to produce clean energy. The process involves gasification (not burning) of cellulose waste such as macadamia nut shells or wood chips at high temperatures. The gas is then cooled, filtered and fed into a generator connected to the grid.

Ash left over from the process is collected and can be used as a soil amendment. Little water is used and heat exhaust can be captured and used. He is looking to purchase property near Kawaihae, which was the site of an old coal plant and is also near a large source of mac nut shells. He has also begun working with the Hawaii Electric Company (HECO). This is not new technology that is already being used in Germany.

John Winter gave an update on the results from the post-Hurricane Lala meeting which was held to evaluate what worked and what didn't in terms of disaster preparedness, communication and resilience. Problem areas were utilities, resources, communication and safety.

The plan is to draft letters to HECO and the Department of Water Supply and others based on the results of the meeting. HECO will be investigating the requirements and costs entailed in moving the power line servicing Beers Road from the back yards of multiple private residences, where it is subject to repeated damage from fallen trees and limbs, to alongside County-owned Beers Road where Hawaiian Tel poles currently run.

The Solid Waste Division has money allocated for a separate large green waste bin (similar to the cardboard and glass bins) for the Kohala transfer station.

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, December 7, at 4:30 at the Senior Center. Members of the community are urged to attend.

# NKCDP Advisory Group Agenda

**Date:** Monday, Dec 7, 2026, **Time**: 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** Senior Center (behind the statue)

**AGENDA**
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**
**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**
Kohala residents are encouraged to attend and voice their opinion on issues. They may even recommend actions and suggest subjects not presently addressed.
**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS** (Please see adjacent NKCDP Meeting Notes for information on issues currently being addressed.)
**Affordable Housing** – Housing needs for families in Kohala.
**Agriculture** – The future of agriculture in our area.
**Community Access** – Ways for Kohala residents to have more mauka and makai access.
**Growth Management** – Zoning, permits, and variance requests and how they affect us.
**Health and Wellness** – Kohala health care infrastructure and emergency response.
**Parks, Roads, View Planes and Erosion Control** – Infrastructure problems and projects.
**Utilities** – Utility and waste stream issues.

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

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



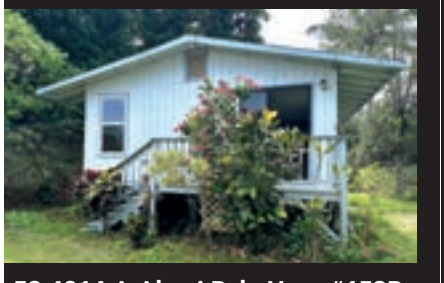

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**53-4214-A Akoni Pule Hwy, #153B,**
**MLS 731017 | $369,000 FS**

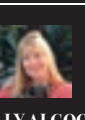
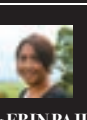
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# MOVIE THEATERS IN KOHALA

## The Kohala Theater 1940-1958, Part 2

### Fifth and final in a Series

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

*By Tom Morse*

**Life In Halaula**

Today, Halaula is a small community of less than 500 people tucked in along the Kohala coast between Kapa'au and Halawa. But seventy years ago, it was most vibrant. It was the home of the Kohala Mill from 1863 until the end of the sugar industry in Kohala in 1973.

By 1905 there were six active sugar mills in Kohala. By 1939 one had shut down, and the other five had merged with the Kohala Mill, making it the center of sugar production from Niuli'i to Hawi. In 1935 the Kohala mill hired J. Scott B. Pratt from the McBryde Sugar Company on Kauai to manage its operations. Pratt envisioned a grand design for the small community surrounding the mill.

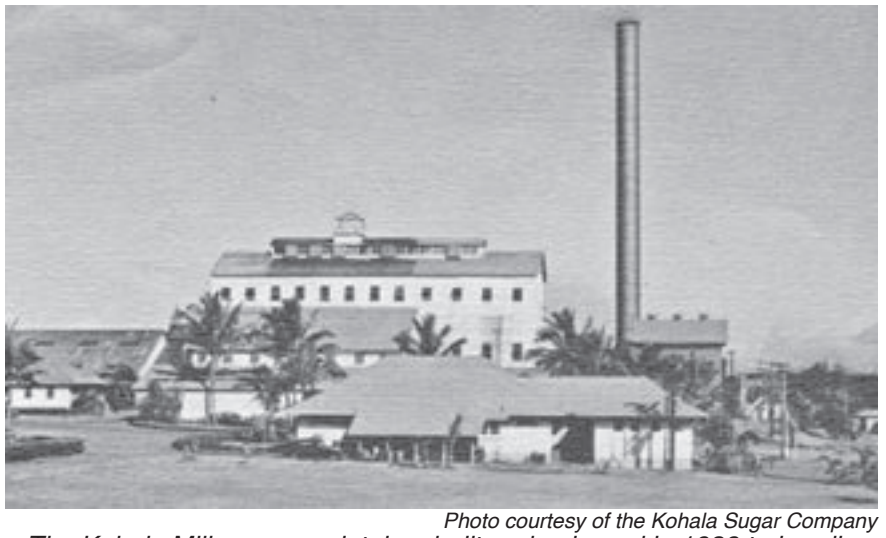


*Photo courtesy of the Kohala Sugar Company*

*The Kohala Mill was completely rebuilt and enlarged in 1938 to handle increased production.*

Located in the center of what is still Lighthouse Road, the mill area included:

- 163 houses
- the Kohala Theater
- four stores
- a post office
- two churches (Catholic and Mormon)
- a Japanese school
- two reservoirs
- a swimming pool
- a barber shop
- two "casinos"
- a fountain (restaurant) - Kohala Soda Works
- a ball field
- a shooting range
- a tennis court
- a taro patch
- a cemetery

The casinos were gambling sites (rooster fights and dice games). On weekends people came from as far away as Hilo to gamble. The houses, owned and maintained by the sugar company, were rented to mill workers. All these houses were moved to other Kohala locations from 1959 to 1961, when the workers were allowed to buy them at appraised value, and move them to lots provided by the sugar company at a cost of $1. The plantation maintained the common areas. Trimmed hibiscus plants lined what is now Old Halaula Road.

Theater patrons living in Halaula walked to the shows. Automobiles were relatively scarce in Kohala in the 1940s. The theaters at the other mills in the eastern portion of Kohala closed as the mills closed, so theater goers from those areas often walked or rode horses, either along the main road, or makai along the railroad tracks. Raymond Vega recalls jogging from Union Mill, and back (after the show) – a five-mile roundtrip.



See Theater, on Page 9

*Photo courtesy of the Kohala Sugar Company*

*Scott Pratt managed the mill and promoted the development around it. Pratt Road in Halaula is named after him. He also formed the Hawaii Rifles in 1942 for homeland defense of Kohala during World War II.*

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Theater, from Page 8

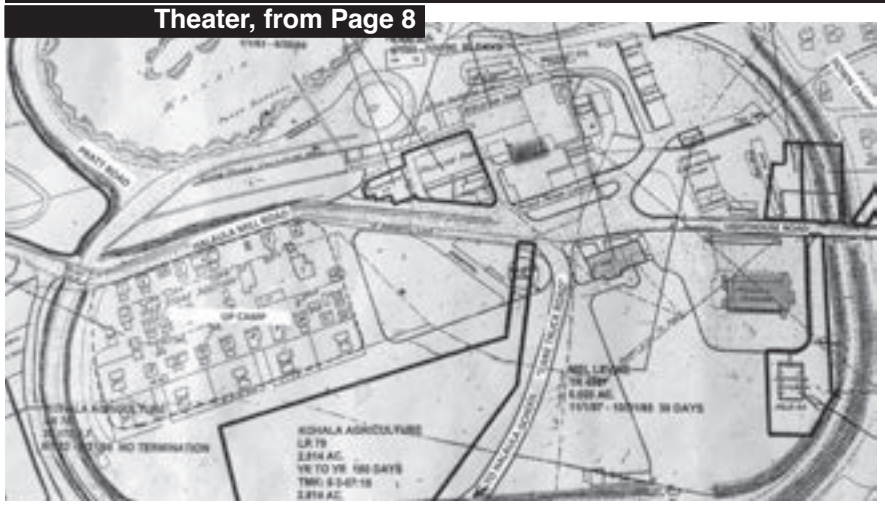


Photo courtesy of Surety Kohala Corporation

*Map of the area around Kohala Mill. The Kohala Theater can be seen at the right of the image, highlighted in pink.*

Until 1945, bagged raw sugar was hauled to the wharf at Māhukona by rail. The adjacent map shows the theater, the layout of the mill, and the bordering railroad track. After that, trucking became more efficient, and the tracks fell into disuse. Today, only the bridge supports for the trestle over Lighthouse Road remain. The largest number of houses (not illustrated) were makai (right) of the track in "Down Camp". The Goya, Harata, and Kirta stores were located among the houses. Fewer houses were in the "Up Camp" on the top left above. In 1951 Kohala Sugar sold their store (in blue above) to Shoichi Nakahara, who operated it until the 1960s. The structure still remains. In 1951 Shoichi also purchased the store next to the Hawi Post Office, which is still in operation today.

The plantation maintained a public swimming pool made of concrete near the mill. The two reservoirs provided the water necessary to wash the cane in the mill. The ball field was also the site of the annual Filipino Games and country fair.

Halaula children went to the public Halaula School, now the Kohala Middle School. To reach the school, approximately two-thirds of a mile away, the children walked, rain or shine, in a line monitored by Junior Police Officers. Because of the dirt and mud created by the cane trucks, the children took off their shoes and walked barefoot with their shoes in their hands. They then washed their feet when they reached the school and put the shoes back on, repeating the process on the way back home. If it rained, wet clothes were hung near the cafeteria ovens to dry.

Never well paid, the mill workers struggled in the strike of 1958. A soup kitchen was setup by the workers and their families in the Up Camp. Men caught fish and shared with others. "No one went hungry."

**After Only Eighteen Years, The Theater Closes**

In 1958 Consolidated Amusement closed both the Kohala and Hawi Theaters. Mechanization in the sugar industry caused a dramatic decline in Kohala's population: from 5,400 in 1940 to about 3,800 in 1958. With the mountain road being the only way in and out of Kohala, there were few movie goers from outside Kohala. The Kohala Theater was abandoned. While gradually deteriorating, it was used for storage for various kinds of sugar-making equipment.



Photo courtesy of Lowell Angell

*Seen here in decline, the Kohala Theater was finally demolished in 2007. The mill buildings were abandoned after operations ceased and still stand in a state of decay behind protective fencing.*

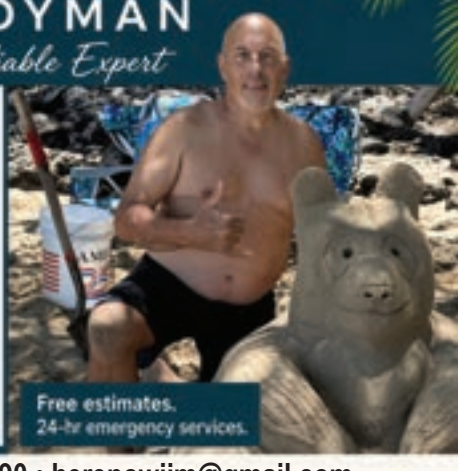

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# Pride of Kohala
# Rose Kaohu Moe: The Backbone of a Family

*This story originally ran in the Kohala Mountain News in June 2015.*



*Photos courtesy of the Moe Family*

***Kohala native Rose Kaohu Moe traveled the world playing the steel guitar.***

*By Lani Eugenio*

As I researched the various candidates for "The Pride of Kohala" display, a basic "Kohala personality" emerged. The story of Rose Kaohu Moe is an example of people raised by the Kohala community. Record producer Bob Brozman wrote, "The story of the Tau Moe Family is perhaps one of the most incredible 20th-century traveling musician stories to be found anywhere, a veritable Odyssey around the world."

**The Tau Moe Family: Multi-talented entertainers better known worldwide than at home**

Rose Opunui Kaohu, born on August 11, 1908, was the youngest daughter of the Kaohu family of the Kohala district on the Big Island. Her parents, Levi and Harriet (Hussey) Kaohu, had sixteen children: Eddie, Helen, Elizabeth, Caroline, George, Mary, Joseph, Rose and eight others who died young. Her musical family was of the Mormon faith, and her childhood was steeped in traditional music and dance. After graduating from Kohala High School, Rose left for O`ahu. She first met Tau Moe at a steel guitar class in Honolulu when they were both 18. Tau was born in American Samoa in 1908 to a Mormon family, raised in Lai`e and graduated from McKinley High School. In 1926, Rose and a group of her friends auditioned for Madame Riviere's Hawaiians, despite her father's disapproval. She was the only one chosen out of her group because she could sing, dance and play several instruments. Later, her father encouraged her to travel the world advising, "Go, but come back the same girl."

Later, Tau Moe and his three uncles joined Madame Riviere's troupe where Rose was the featured entertainer. When the Royal Hawaiian Hotel opened in 1927, Tau played the steel guitar.

Tau and Rose went on tour with Mme. Riviere's Hawaiians in 1928 and married shortly thereafter. Tau Moe was an influential pioneer of the Hawaiian steel guitar and, with Rose, formed the core of the troupe.

Madame Riviere's Hawaiians was managed by a French university professor and toured extensively in Asia from 1928 to 1934. They performed in Japan, China, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, India, Burma and Indonesia. The show included Hawaiian and Samoan music, dancing and native "rituals."

The group's success coincided with the increased interest in Polynesia. In the early 1900's, Hawaiians began touring the U.S. in small bands. Joseph Kekuku, inventor of the steel guitar, moved to the mainland in 1904 and his group performed in vaudeville theaters from coast to coast. He later spent eight years (1919-1927) touring Europe with the "Bird of Paradise" show, a successful Broadway musical that introduced Hawaiian music to Americans in 1912.

The 1915 Pan-Pacific International Exposition (World's Fair from February to December 1915) in San Francisco featured a huge saltwater fish tank, plants from Hawai`i, and a stage with continuous shows with steel guitars and hula dancers. "America went nuts and the Hawaiian craze was born," said Harry Soria, Hawaiian music historian. A year later, Hawaiian music sold more recordings than any other style in the country.

Tau and Rose's son Lani was born in 1929 while they worked in Kyoto, Japan. Lani began playing the ukulele at age three and later became adept at a variety of stringed instruments. He first went on stage at age four in Shanghai, China, singing, dancing and playing the ukulele, wearing a top hat and tailcoat. The Mme. Riviere tour broke up while in Shanghai in 1934. At age five and already an entertainer, Lani joined his parents to form a trio and went on to become a child star in Europe and Asia.

Six-year-old Lani was selected by Maurice Chevalier to do a tap number in one of his Parisian shows and was billed as "Baby Lani Moe." In the late 1930s Lani was a popular celebrity and was the champion money-raiser for the German children's orphanage. He was requested to ride with Adolf Hitler in his Mercedes-Benz during a parade.

Besides English, Hawaiian and Samoan, Lani spoke French, German, Spanish, Hungarian and Hindi. As he grew older, Lani mastered classical dance and performed with several European dance companies. He became the family's lead singer as his voice developed into a crooner style compared to Hawai`i's great Alfred Apaka.

In 1934, Tau and Rose recorded several Hawaiian and Samoan songs in Shanghai. While in Shanghai they ran into Billy and Ethel Lee (parents of songwriter Kui Lee), who were also entertaining in China, and performed with them. They also met several Hawaiians who were entertaining in China.

The Moe trio lived in India for several months then traveled to Egypt, arriving nearly broke in late 1935. They first found work in Alexandria then performed in Egypt's larger cities through 1936. From 1936-1938, their journey took them through Syria, Palestine, Turkey, Greece, Roma-

See Rose, on Page 11








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Rose, from Page 10

nia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Poland, Russia, France and Germany.

The Moe Family had become quite popular in Germany. One night after a show, the family was obliged to meet Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and company. This was before they witnessed the Nazi violence. The family was living above a Jewish-owned bookstore, and late one night the Gestapo raided the store. Rose and Tau were horrified as they helplessly witnessed the Gestapo burn the store's contents, then toss the Jewish owners on top of the fire to be burned alive.

Rose and Tau were known to be kind, compassionate people. They helped at least 150 Jewish musician friends escape Nazi Germany and Austria by having them impersonate relatives, groupies and stagehands. They also hid people under their props and clothing. As an amateur filmmaker, Tau documented atrocities committed by the Nazis.

They were advised by the American embassy to leave Germany as war loomed. Rose smuggled out a friend's valuables by wearing three fur coats and explaining to the border guards that people from Hawai`i were not acclimated to the cold in Germany.

The Gestapo had learned of the Moe family's underground efforts and were in transit to arrest the family when, warned by friends, the family slipped out the stage back door after their performance and fled the country.

They settled briefly in Lebanon, but then Italy declared war there.

The outbreak of World War II forced them to flee Europe entirely. They worked their way to the Middle East, boarding a ship at Bagdad and sailing to India. Their next gig was in Japan, but then the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. They wanted to go home to Hawai`i, but because Pearl Harbor had been bombed, the Pacific Ocean was closed for travel, so the Moe family settled in India for the rest of the war years.

While in India, Tau and Rose organized bands and orchestras



*Tau and Rose Moe's family: L-R: son Lani, Rose (Kaohu) Moe, daughter Dorian, husband Tau Moe.*

for the top hotels in the major cities, employing a multi-national group of musicians, all on the move because of the war. Tau would transcribe the latest songs from musical films, writing the melodies, chords and words so they could perform the current music of the day. They were popular, as they would do a session of jazz band music, then some classical music and end with a Hawaiian session with Tau on the steel guitar.

During their stay in India (1941-47) Tau taught several Indians how to play the steel guitar, including maharishis and the Prince of India. Their daughter Dorian was born in September 1946 during a burst of intense rioting. The Moe family troupe assisted paramedics during the riots.

In 1947, after many engagements in principle Indian cities, the Moe family returned to Europe. Dorian joined the group as soon as she was able, becoming a dancer, singer and instrumentalist in the family troupe.

The Moe quartet worked in every Western European country, on every continent except Antarctica, recording, performing and appearing in television and films through the 1950s and 1960s.

They went around the world seven times, performing and meeting with kings and queens of the various countries, including King Farouk, Prince Ranier, Winston Churchill, Adolf Hitler, Aristotle Onassis, Mohandas Gandhi and other international leaders. They performed in Paris at the Moulin Rouge and at the Casino in Monte Carlo.

In the late 1970s, father Tau decided that more than five decades on the road was enough. The children had grown up as professional musicians and world travelers. When his father talked about going "home" their son Lani asked, "What is home?" They lived in countless countries for more than half a century and "home" was hotel after hotel, meeting the rich and famous. Though they were always on the road, they never missed dinner together.

Rose Kaohu Moe and her husband Tau left Hawai`i in 1928 and introduced Hawai`i to the world, not only in music, but also in spirit. Dorian Moe Vineula stated that her mother was a great diplomat and representative of Hawai`i.

"Although she didn't speak the language of the many countries they were in, she made friends easily and had a way with people. She was happy-go-lucky, and people loved how she made them feel. When we left a country, people would come and give gifts, saying, 'From our country to yours.'"

The world-famous musical Tau Moe Family retired to Laie on Oahu in 1982. They were among the first to bring Polynesian music and dance to the world, and were one of the most influential musicians in Asia and Europe. Tau is credited for introducing the steel guitar to the Asian subcontinent. Lani and Dorian Moe were stars in their own right, and Rose was the glue and organizer who kept the family together. Rose was very patient and knew how to talk to people. While others would fly off the handle, she would calmly talk things out and look for solutions.

Despite their success abroad, few in Hawai`i knew of this talented family.

The early 1900 music they had known was changing, as Jawaiian gained popularity. The Moe Family did a final recording with Bob Brozman in 1988, which helped preserve their old-Hawaiian style music. Lani taught dance at BYU-Hawai`i until his death in 2002, and his sister Dorian became an executive with the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Rose and Tau spent their lives in Laie in relative obscurity, enjoying the contact from old fans from around the world. Rose was a world traveler but remembered what her father told her about coming back the same girl. She took those words to heart.

She never forgot her heritage… who she was. She remained that same sweet, patient and humble small-town girl from Kohala. Rose died in December 1998, Lani in 2002, and Tau in 2004.

"We were the first Polynesian group as an act that did Polynesian at the beginning, ending with modern dance and acrobatics. I think we were a little too far ahead of our time.

I go to Waikiki and they're doing all this now," stated Dorian. She summed up their exciting, illustrious lives with, "We got to be as a family, working, traveling and seeing the world together, plus getting paid for it!"

Mahalo and aloha to Dorian Moe Vineula, (daughter of Rose Kaohu and Tau Moe), who reviewed the article to make sure everything was correct.

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# North Kohala Public Library December 2026 News and Programs

*By Leilani Silver*

The North Kohala Public Library staff would like to wish you and your loved ones very Happy Holidays! Celebrate the magic of the holidays with a special visit from Santa Claus! Join us for a special Santa story time planned for Wednesday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. Come hear some holiday stories and get a photo with Santa. Recommended for ages 3 to 6, but all ages are welcome to this free event. On the evening of Monday, December 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m., join us for a family holiday cookie exchange and some grinch activities, including games, a craft, and a showing of the 2018 animated movie "Dr. Seuss' The Grinch" (PG). Suitable for all ages.

Santa Storytime: December 2nd, at 1:00 p.m. Celebrate the magic of the holidays with a special visit from Santa Claus! Keiki and their families are invited to enjoy an engaging 30-minute storytelling session filled with beloved holiday tales, followed by a chance to capture a memorable photo with Santa. Keiki will also receive a special gift to take home (while supplies last). Recommended for ages 3 to 6, but all ages are welcome to this free event. All keiki must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

Preschool Storytime: December 9, 16, 23 and 30 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: December 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 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.

Kohala Kendama Club: December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Join us every Thursday 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.



Photo by Tom Morse

Heluhelu Quiz Bowl Team Meeting: December 4 at 2:45 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 for Cough Remedies with Ila Jhaveri on December 7 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: December 7 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.

Adult Book Club: December 8 at 11:00 a.m. Join us for a discussion of the international bestseller, "Time of the Child" by Niall Williams. The book is available to pick up at the library.

Crystal Alchemy Singing Bowl Soundbath: December 14 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.

Family Holiday Cookie Exchange & Movie: December 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. Join us for a fun holiday celebration featuring some grinch activities and a movie. We will have games, a craft and a cookie exchange. After that we will show the 2018 animated movie "Dr. Seuss' The Grinch" (PG). Cookies will be exchanged before the movie, and hot cocoa will be available. Bring a recipe card and they will be printed up and passed around to exchange participants.

Teen/Adult Board Games: December 28 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: December 29 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 challenge other experienced players or come talk about deck building and card collecting.

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.***
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**From left to right:** Tai Vuniwai, chief HR officer of WHR; Regina Leon, assistant chief nurse executive of WHR; Janet Schmidt, director of patient care at KOH; Diane Hale, chief nurse executive of WHR; Paola Abaro, nurse lead at KOH; Ed Chu, CEO of HHSC; Gino Amar, administrator of KOH; Jane Clement, director of marketing, legislative affairs, and strategy of WHR; Clayton McGhan, CEO of WHR; Congresswoman Tokuda; Sen. Richards; Tawnie McDonald, director of quality of WHR; Jeff Palmgren, MD, chief medical officer of WHR; Rich Mears, director of MedSurge of WHR.

# Expanding Care for Kohala

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

Kohala Hospital (KOH) has blessed its new administration building, a milestone that creates more room for patient care in North Kohala. West Hawaii Region (WHR) leadership, Congresswoman Jill Tokuda and Sen. Tim Richards joined the ceremony in Kapa'au on November 2.



Gino Amar, administrator of KOH, shows Congresswoman Tokuda and Sen. Richards around Kohala Hospital's imaging department.

The new building gives administrative operations a dedicated home, which frees up space in the main hospital for patient care and future services. It is the first addition to the hospital's campus since the hospital was built in 1962.

The building also includes a registration window and conference rooms for regional meetings.

The main hospital's former administration offices will become a dedicated family admission area. The new space will give residents and their loved ones a comfortable, private place to talk.

"From their first to last breath, West Hawai'i families have long relied on the care and healing they receive at Kohala Hospital," said Congresswoman Tokuda. "These patient centered improvements are critical investments that ensure our residents don't need to travel far from home to get the healthcare they need, and we must continue to support additional resources and increased reimbursements to keep our hospital doors open."

"Kohala Hospital has served this community for generations, and this building helps make sure it can continue to do so," said Sen. Richards. "More space for patients and families means healthier families in North Kohala."

WHR of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) is excited about what this new building will bring and the ways it will help better serve the residents of Kohala.

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@WestHawaiiRegion

**WEST HAWAII REGION IS HIRING!**

Scan the QR code to view opportunities at Kohala Hospital, Kona Community Hospital, and Kona Health.

## KOHALA HONGWANJI SHIN BUDDHISM

**Celebrate Bodhi Day at Kohala Hongwanji Buddhist temple on Dec 13, 11 a.m. Come commemorate Buddha's day of enlightenment, with our sangha and guest speaker Holly Park. All are 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"

The Gift of Grace

December 12,2026 @ 3pm
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808-551-0665 for info

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## 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**




## To Advertise In The Kohala Mountain News Call Tom (808) 345 0706





## 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 | KOHALA INTERGENERATIONAL CENTER | 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) | 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 | 4PM | TOOL LIBRARY | 54-3842 AKONI PULE HWY | 213-7779 |
| SUN | 8AM | 12PM | HAWI FARMERS MARKET | HUB MURAL | 895-7870 |
| | 6PM | 7PM | SEIBUKAN KARATE ACADEMY | HISAOKA GYM | 889-1828 |
| | 7PM | 8PM | RECOVERY DHARMA MEETING | RED COTTAGE VILLAGE HUB | (907) 888-8166 |



**Steven Glenn "Screama" Viernes**, age 69, of Kohala, passed away September 28, 2026. Born October 13, 1956, he graduated from Kohala High School, Class of 1974, and Hawai'i Community College in Welding and Sheet Metal. He worked for 35 years at Kona Village Resort and later at various Waikoloa Coast resorts, concluding his years of service at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel. He was a proud family man, avid fisherman, and member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hāwī.

Visitation is Saturday, December 5th, 8:30–9:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Hāwī.

A eulogy begins at 9:45 a.m., mass at 10:00 a.m., with lunch following at Father Damien Hall. Flowers, leis, and wreaths are welcome.

Steven is survived by his wife, Brendalyn "Tweetie"; daughter, Shyann (Keli'iae'a) Davis; sons, Alston "Kiwini" (Reynelle) and Brensen "Mana"; grandchildren, Ke'olu, Keli'a, Keani Davis, Alston "Kiah", Aleia, Ayzen, and Aleli Viernes; brothers, Dr. Jay (Bonnie) Viernes, Melvin (Amy) Enriques, Rodney (Cheryle) Enriques; sister, Linda (Irvin) Ching; sister-in-law, Lety Viernes; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by parents, Damiano and Nancy (Suzuki) Viernes; brothers, Amante Viernes, Dr. Nelson Enriques-Redfern; sister, Josephine "Joyce" Estabilio; and brother-in-law, Gilbert "Bobby" Estabilio.

# MONTHLY CALENDAR 2026

| | DAY | START | END | EVENT | DESCRIPTION | VENUE | PHONE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11/29 | SUN | 2:00 PM | | CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN THE MOVIES | WAIMEA COMMUNITY CHORUS PERFORMING WITH THE WAIMEA JAZZ ENSEMBLE. TICKETS AT KAHILU.ORG. | KAHILU THEATRE | 808-885-6868 |
| 12/2 | WED | 1:00 PM | | SANTA STORYTIME | HOLIDAY STORIES AND A PHOTO WITH SANTA; KEIKI RECEIVE A GIFT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. AGES 3-6 RECOMMENDED, ALL WELCOME. KEIKI MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR CAREGIVER. | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/2 | WED | 4:00 PM | 6:00 PM | KOHALA NIGHT MARKET | FOOD TRUCKS, CRAFT VENDORS, MUSIC | HUB MURAL | (808) 895-2025 |
| 12/2 | WED | 4:30 PM | | KOHALA COMMUNITY ACCESS GROUP | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/2 | WED | 5:30 PM | | TEMPLE OF SPIRITUAL HEALING | GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - CALL FOR ZOOM LINK | ZOOM | 808-989-5995 |
| 12/4 | FRI | 2:45 PM | | HELUHELU QUIZ BOWL TEAM MEETING | BOOKS AND TRIVIA DISCUSSION, SNACKS PROVIDED. FOR 4TH-7TH GRADERS. | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/5 | SAT | 8:00 AM | 11:00AM | THRIFT SHOP | | ST AUGUSTINE'S | 808-889-5390 |
| 12/5 | SAT | 8:00 AM | 2:00 PM | RUMMAGE SALE | NEW INVENTORY, LARGE VARIETY, LOW PRICES | KOHALA JODO MISSION TEMPLE | 310-347-5379 |
| 12/5 | SAT | 8:30 AM | 5:00 PM | AS HĀWĪ TURNS HOLIDAY SALE | ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE: 20-60% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE, 50% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE CONSIGNMENT SHOP | AS HĀWĪ TURNS | |
| 12/5 | SAT | 5:00 PM | 7:00PM | CELEBRATE THE SEASON | HOLIDAY CELEBRATION WITH MUSIC, DANCING, PUPUS AND A SURPRISE VISIT FROM THE NORTH POLE. COMMUNITY ARTISTS' CREATIONS ON DISPLAY FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS. | KOHALA ARTIST COOPERATIVE | 808-854-1058 |
| 12/6 | SUN | 8:00 AM | 2:00 PM | RUMMAGE SALE | NEW INVENTORY, LARGE VARIETY, LOW PRICES | KOHALA JODO MISSION TEMPLE | 310-347-5379 |
| 12/6 | SUN | 8:30 AM | 5:00 PM | AS HĀWĪ TURNS HOLIDAY SALE | ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE: 20-60% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE, 50% OFF EVERYTHING IN THE CONSIGNMENT SHOP | AS HĀWĪ TURNS | |
| 12/7 | MON | 3:00 PM | | ILA JHAVERI TALK-COUGH REMEDIES | CHINESE MEDICINE TOOLS: FOOD-AS-THERAPY, ACUPRESSURE, AND OTHER LIFESTYLE TOOLS | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/7 | MON | 4:30 PM | | ADVISORY GROUP MEETING | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/7 | MON | 5:00 PM | | CHESS CLUB | BEGINNERS AND VETERAN PLAYERS WELCOME. CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT. | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/8 | TUE | 11:00 AM | | ADULT BOOK CLUB | DISCUSS "TIME OF THE CHILD" BY NIALL WILLIAMS | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/9 | WED | 9:00 AM | | AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP | NKCDP | LIBRARY | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/9 | WED | 5:00 PM | | GROWTH MANAGEMENT GROUP | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/14 | MON | 5:30 PM | 6:30 PM | SOUND BATH | CRYSTAL ALCHEMY SINGING BOWL SOUNDBATH WITH LEILANI SILVER. BRING A YOGA MAT AND WATER. | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/16 | WED | 3:30 PM | | UTILITIES GROUP | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/16 | WED | 5:00 PM | | PARKS, ROADS VIEW PLANES GROUP | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/17 | THU | 9:00 AM | 11:00AM | SACRED HEART FOOD BASKET | FOOD DISTRIBUTION | SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH | 808-889-6436 |
| 12/18 | FRI | 4:00 PM | | HEALTH & WELLNESS GROUP | NKCDP | OLD COURTHOUSE | IMUAKOHALA@GMAIL.COM |
| 12/19 | SAT | 11:00 AM | 1:00PM | TOOL LIBRARY WORKSHOPS | USEFUL AND BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TOPICS | TOOL LIBRARY | 808-213-7779 |
| 12/21 | MON | 5:00 PM | 7:30 PM | FAMILY HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE & MOVIE | GRINCH GAMES, CRAFT, COOKIE EXCHANGE AND HOT COCOA, THEN "DR. SEUSS' THE GRINCH" (PG). BRING A RECIPE CARD TO SHARE. | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/28 | MON | 5:15 PM | | TEEN/ADULT BOARD GAMES | PLAY GAMES PROVIDED OR BRING YOUR OWN TO SHARE | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/29 | TUE | 3:00 PM | | POKÉMON TRADING CARD GAME | LEARN TO PLAY OR BRING YOUR DECK TO CHALLENGE OTHERS | NK PUBLIC LIBRARY | 808-889-6655 |
| 12/30 | WED | 4:00 PM | | RESTORATIVE YOGA THERAPY CLASS | WITH CARLA ORELLANA - BY REQUEST | CALL FOR LOCATION | 808-238-6111 |




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# Following the Storms: Leeward Coast Cleanup

*By Toni Withington*

Extreme winds, flooding, and high surf during the past three months have taken a toll on trails and public areas of the 16 miles of open lands along Kohala's leeward coast. Updates on efforts to clean up the damage were shared at the quarterly meeting of the Kohala Coastal Network (KCN) last month.

Extensive kiawe tree loss and loss of limbs occurred in the parks at Māhukona, Kapa'a and Lapakahi. They were closed during the storms and Lapakahi remains closed until further notice. Damage to the Māhukona wharf and the concrete barriers has curtailed access to that area as well. The barriers in the parking area were washed into the sea and had to be returned to shore.

Keone Emiliano, educator and steward of the Hawaii Land Trust acres at Māhukona, said volunteer crews help clear the mile-long public access trail between Māhukona and Kapa'a. He praised the volunteers for the large turnout. Work to remove other damaged trees is underway.

High surf tossed banks of boulders and coral onto the coastal trail at Lapakahi State Historical Park. Jaime Raduenzel of State Parks Division reported that the trail has been restored, although the park remained closed at the KMN deadline. Lapakahi also lost many of its kiawe trees and some of the native plants that had been introduced. An empty water tank blew away in the wind. She said volunteers have restored and refenced much of the native plants area.




*Photo Credit: Hawaii Land Trust*

*The road to Māhukona after Huricane Lala.*

Raduenzel and Boyd Bond talked about organizing additional volunteers to help with the clean-up. Volunteers will also be needed for replacing the interpretive signs at the park, she said.

An archaeological survey underway at Lamaloloa had to be paused, Aric Arakaki, superintendent of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, reported. He invited community residents to learn about the archaeological study process on the site, which is 36 acres just south of Lapakahi preserved by the National Park Service. He can be reached at aric_arakaki@nps.gov.

Another issue discussed was a recently approved Environmental Assessment of improvements to Kawaihae Harbor and the highway alongside, which was drawn up by the State Department of Transportation (DOT). The stated plans for a truck turn lane into the new entrance to the harbor made no mention of a pedestrian or bikeway corridor or crosswalks.

A footnote to the plan, made in response to a question about public access, noted that a 10-foot-wide strip of land would be set aside next to the chain link fence–a trail that would have to be improved by a different agency. The usual representative from the DOT at coastal network meetings was not in attendance, so clarification of the issue will be sought out by groups that had previously called for safe pedestrian/bike travel alongside the highway.

The Kohala Coastal Network is a quarterly online gathering of stakeholders of the 16-mile protected leeward coast. It includes representatives of government agencies, land trusts, non-profits and community groups. The goal of the network is to keep all organizations and individuals updated on activities along the coast. The community-initiated effort was started three years ago with the sponsorship of Mālama Māhukona, Ke Ala Lā, Kohala Community Access Group, and Kohala Lihikai.

