

Shane Palacat-Nelsen Announces County Council Candidacy



Shane Palacat-Nelsen

Shane Palacat-Nelsen has announced he is running for County Council to serve Ka‘ū into Kona. The 52 year-old from Napo‘opo‘o is President of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Hawai‘i District Council. He said that for many generations, “my family has helped shape the evolution of South Kona and parts of Ka‘ū stemming from historical events that led to the Kamehameha’s first key victory at the Battle of Moku‘ohai in Ke‘ei.”

He noted that his family was involved in producing the first coffee mill in Hawai‘i at Nāpo‘opo‘o, in reviving traditional practices at Hikiau and ‘Ale‘ale‘a heiau, and in restoring Native Hawaiian concepts within community

development and planning. “My Gaspar and Grace ‘ohana have worked resourcefully and in service to our community, and today I am excited to continue this legacy and announce my candidacy for County Council, District 6.”

Palacat-Nelsen was born and raised in Napo‘opo‘o, graduated from Konawaena High and attended Hawai‘i Pacific University. He said he grew up in South Kona “when everyone I knew picked coffee after school, and our family would go fish-

ing and shoreline gathering on Sundays for our dinners for the coming week. This very special place has come a long way since those days, and we need to navigate the course ahead to ensure our community remains vibrant, can access opportunities for economic development, and is well-served by our county government.”

For the past ten years, he has led community engagement initiatives such as directing and providing advocacy and

Shane Palacat-Nelsen, pg. 7

THE KA‘Ū CALENDAR

Volume 20, Number 4

The Good News of Ka‘ū, Hawai‘i

April 2022

Punalu‘u Work Starts in Special Management Area

The cleanup of broken down buildings, rubbish and overgrown terrain officially began in late March at Punalu‘u, with bulldozer, excavator and dump truck. Cleanup and restoration by Black Sand Beach, LLC and landowner Eva Liu comes with approval of a Special Management Area Minor Permit for some activities and exemption from the SMA process for others. Liu’s entire 464 acres at Punalu‘u makai of Highway 11 are in the Special Management Area to protect the coast.

At Nīnole Loop, the road to Punalu‘u beach and pond, the machines cleared overgrowth, picked up rubbish and brought in materials by dump truck to spread and smooth out the land along the roadside adjacent to the old Punalu‘u Restaurant and museum area. The old parking lot has been cleared and the land along Nīnole Loop looked like a possible future walking path from parking lot to beach.

Also being cleaned up is the parking lot makai of the old Punalu‘u Golf Course and the old tennis center with its courts and building, used years ago to check in for golf and tennis. The building is set to be repaired under a SMA Minor permit, as is the old Aspen Institute, with its kitchen, conference and event rooms and restrooms.



Land along Ninole Loop, near the long-abandoned restaurant, shops and museum at Punalu‘u, being cleared in late March, with fill brought in to smooth out the landscape. *Photo by Bob Martin*



Reconstruction of the tennis and former golf check-in center officially begins at Punalu‘u. *Photo by Bob Martin*

The Punalu‘u condo association looks forward to the cleanup and improvement to roads, the sewer and water system, fire hydrants and dilapidated buildings, according to Vern Hughes, President of the Board of Colony One Association of Apartment Owners. He said he welcomes the approvals from the county. He noted that deferred maintenance has been an issue for many years before the property was purchased by Black Sand Beach, LLC and Liu. Hughes said, “Eva’s got good people in place to get the jobs done now.”

There are 76 units at the condos, with the Vacation Internationale timeshare company having 29 of them, the rest privately owned. Hughes said he looks forward to visitors and the community to once again enjoy tennis courts, planned pickleball courts and eventually the golf course, which has been closed for about three years.

Hughes said, “The trees, shrubs and undergrowth - they have re-



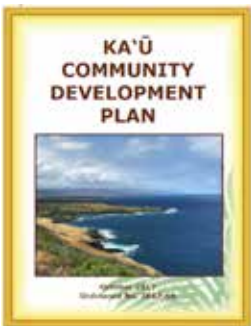
Repairs of Punalu‘u’s water and sewer systems are long overdue and exempt from SMA permits. *Photo by Bob Martin*

Punalu‘u Repairs, pg. 7

Council Candidate Galimba Invites CDP Action

Michelle Galimba, who says she plans to file papers soon to run for County Council, issued a statement in late March inviting community members to apply to serve on the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan Action Committee to help steward the future of Ka‘ū.

She said, “I had the privilege of serving on the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan Steering Committee,



which worked with County of Hawai‘i Planning Department staff and consultants to bring the Ka‘ū Community Development Plan to fruition. The Ka‘ū CDP was based on the highest level of community input and engagement of any CDP in Hawai‘i County. This input from small group meetings, surveys and speak-outs was then synthesized into our community’s values and vision statement, which then

led to a set of policies, objectives and proposed actions.

“The Ka‘ū Community Development Plan (CDP) was passed into law by the Planning Commission and the County Council in 2017. As land values and development pressure increases, the CDP is an important tool educate newcomers and to help our community shape a future that is an expression of our values and our love for this ‘āina.”

Galimba said there are “many pro-

CDP Action, pg. 2

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Electric, Hydrogen Buses to Bolster County Mass Transit

New electric buses supported by a charging network, along with new hydrogen buses, are in the future of the county's Hele-On fleet, according to a plan brought to the County Council in March. The county is planning to transition away from leasing buses from transportation companies as it builds its fleet, with the arrival of 26 vehicles ranging from 26 to 45 feet long in 2023, followed by 18 in 2024. One hydrogen bus was scheduled to arrive in March.



New transportation chief for Hawai'i County, John Andoh. Photo from Hele On

the county aims to attract more people to forgo their private vehicles for public transportation to work, school, appointments, recreation, visiting friends and family and more.

County Council Chair Maile David said: "It's a huge step in the right direction, building back the county's mass transit system with electric and hydrogen busses will begin to address historical maintenance challenges and antiquated equipment issues. More importantly, it is good for our environment. The expertise of Mass Transit Administrator John Andoh has moved Mass Transit forward and has begun the much talked about, and critical goal, of becoming less dependent on fossil fuels and the goal of moving this county forward with environmentally efficient methods



with respect to public transportation."

Andoh, who assumed the county's top transportation post in early January, presented the mass transit master plan to County Council's Committee on Public Works & Mass Transportation. He said that five of the electric buses plus solar voltaic charging stations at Hilo baseyard, Mo'ohau bus station and Puna Kai shopping center will be operated through a state contract with Sustainability Partners, LLC. Five additional electric buses will come through a federal grant.

According to the plan, which requires Council approval, Sustainability Partners will receive income from the county for their buses, maintenance and for building out and running the charging stations to serve some 20 electric buses.

With the busses running at no cost to riders, the county will pay for public transportation using income from general excise taxes. The goal is to use solar and hydrogen to eventually get the fleet off fossil fuel and avoid drawing electricity from the grid to run the buses. Another proposal presented by Andoh to the County Council is approval of accepting a dozen buses being retired from the City & County of Honolulu as a stopgap along the way to fossil-fuel free transportation.

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CDP Action, from pg. 1

posed actions in the CDP that need engaged citizens (that means you!) to shepherd them forward into reality."

The County of Hawai'i is seeking applicants to serve on the Ka'ū CDP Action Committee. "This is an opportunity to see that the values and vision that we expressed in the Ka'ū CDP are honored and that we create a thriving, sustainable community that is rooted in our district's unique natural and cultural heritage."

Find out more about the Ka'ū CDP and the Action Committee at <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/cdp/kau>.

She also offered this option: "Get in touch with me at <https://votegalimba.com> to find out more about the CDP and what it was like to serve on the Ka'ū CDP Steering Committee."

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Sewage Option: Individual Wastewater Systems in Yards

Individual Wastewater Systems in each yard, instead of a sewage treatment plant for Pāhala, is a new concept presented by County of Hawai‘i in March for homes on the old sugar plantation sewage system. During an informational meeting at Pāhala Community Center, the county suggested paying for septic tanks and other Individual Wastewater Systems for some 175 homes. Representatives of the county said it would save tens of millions of dollars over the option of building a secondary wastewater treatment plant with concrete lined aerated lagoons and sewer collection systems.

County representatives said they are looking for an affordable and timely solution to stop operating the gang cesspools left over from plantation days. They became illegal nationwide in 1999, with the changeover taking decades. The gang cesspools in Pāhala built by the C. Brewer sugar plantation, are holes in the ground receiving sewage piped from old sugar plantation houses. The county took over maintenance of the old system years after the sugar company shut down and signed an agreement with the EPA in 2017 to fix the problem. It’s called an Administrative Order on Consent.

County officials said that installing IWS could speed up the process, avoid tearing up streets to put in sewer lines, avoid sewer hook up fees, and save money for the homeowners and the county.

County representatives said that to install septic and other IWS, each houselot has to be studied for soil type, slope and other factor to design each system, with approval of the state Department of Health.

The smallest footprint for a septic system would likely be in the smaller yards where the septic tank or other IWS could be installed vertically along with seepage pits for the smaller homes. Some



Orenco 1,500-gallon tank and block-lined seepage pit.

initial impact from installing individual septic in yards could occur in the larger lots, those approximately 10,000 sq. ft. or bigger where leach fields would likely be required. To make room for the leach fields, which could later be covered with grass and other vegetation, portions of the yards would be cleared, with a likelihood of removing some trees and plants, along with moving or removing of some fences, walls, sidewalks, outbuildings and sections of driveways for installation. County representatives said they would repair or replace any damaged infrastructure.

The size of leach fields would depend on the type of soil and slope of the yard. An average leach field of about 1,000 square



The visible footprint for a small home Individual Wastewater system could be this size.

Photo from County of Hawai‘i.

feet for a 2,500 sq. ft. three-bedroom home, is estimated on websites of various septic system companies.

To pay for the septic and other IWS, the county could provide vouchers and homeowners could use the money to pay authorized septic installation companies. Alternatively, the county could hire the contractors directly, said county representatives.

Maintenance of septic systems could include pumping them about every five years. One idea brought up was that the homeowners could continue paying sewer fees, which they already pay to the county for maintaining the old plantation system. Once the septic is in, the fees would go towards pumping and possibly other repairs, when needed.

One kink in the new IWS plan is that the EPA has already approved a lagoon wastewater treatment system for Pāhala and is pressing the county to go forward. County representatives pointed to economic and technical challenges of constructing the approved system on land it is acquiring for the project from Kamehameha Schools. The lagoon treatment system would require cutting down a macadamia orchard and digging into land that has lava tubes and perhaps graves. They pointed to public objections to the location next to the Norfolk Pine entry to Pāhala and said the iconic trees could be disturbed under the lagoon plan. Approval of Individual Wastewater Systems would mean the land goes back to Kamehameha Schools.

To switch the plan from lagoon to IWS, the county needs concurrence from the EPA to reopen their 2017 agreement regarding replacing the gang cesspool



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

A conventional septic system.

Image from EPA

system. County representatives said the community responded positively to the informational meeting and mentioned that representatives from the EPA are scheduled to discuss the issue with the county on April 1 and will follow up with an in-person meeting on April 6. They said that the septic systems, which are examples of available Individual Wastewater Systems, could become an example for other disconnected communities to follow. The state has mandated that all cesspools be converted by 2050.

Brenda Iokepa-Moses, who is Deputy Director of the county Department of Environmental Management, is a Pāhala resident and led the meeting. She noted that discussions about the solution to the sewage problem have been contentious within the community and that she hoped the Individual Wastewater System option could help bring the community together.

Also leading the meeting were the Director of Environmental Management, *Sewage Option, pg. 4*

Who Done It? Junk Vehicles Create Eyesore & Liability

A junk vehicle was dumped at the entrance to the county’s Pāhala Transfer Station in March. Attendees said it created a danger, with people leaving the transfer station having difficulty seeing the public roadway with cars and trucks going by.

A sign posted on the vehicle said Warning, Abandoned Vehicle Violation. The license plate is HLM-949.

Anyone abandoning or dumping a vehicle on county property and roadways is subject to a \$250 fine plus the cost of removal and disposal of the vehicle.

Several bills addressing abandoned vehicles were moving through the Hawai‘i Legislature at the end of March. Supportive testimony came from local governments around the state, including the Council of Mayors, this county’s Department of Environmental Management and Hawai‘i County Council.

HB 1414 would make “a person who is the regis-



A junk vehicle was dumped at the entrance to the Pāhala Transfer Station in March.

Photo by Julia Neal

tered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict subject to a tiered fine system.”

HB1413 would allow “the director of finance of a county to require payment of outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to the disposition of an abandoned vehicle within the county by the registered owner of the abandoned vehicle before issuing a certificate of registration or completing a transfer of ownership.”

HB 1412 “would require the counties to provide a minimum distance a vehicle must be moved within a specified timeframe after a vehicle is initially inspected for abandonment to avoid an official classification of abandonment. Requires that, before a vehicle can

be classified as being abandoned, notice be provided that the vehicle must be moved the specified distance within the specified timeframe or be subject to removal.”

HB 1411 would require that “the transferee’s and transferor’s address be provided on the certificate of ownership when the title to a motor vehicle is transferred. Clarifies that the signature of the transferee and signature of the transferor each serve as an attestation by that respective party as to the validity of the information on the certificate of ownership. Imposes a fine on a party who provides false or fraudulent information.”

Look up bills to find their status, and submit testimony at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>.

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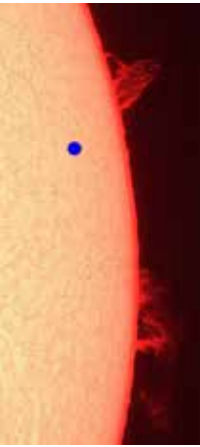
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Stars Over Ka'ū - April 2022

By Lew & Donna Cook

The Solar System

The sun is becoming more active as we move into the more active part of the 11 year sunspot cycle. This image shows several prominence. Prominences come



The sun is displaying several prominences which arise from sunspots.

Credit: Robert Minor

from active areas on the sun, like sunspots. The round contrasting dot represents the size of the earth at the sun's distance.

At the time our chart is drawn for (10 pm on the 15th) no planets are visible. However, if you saw the sun set over the ocean, you just MAY get a glimpse of Mercury above where the sun set half an hour earlier. Conditions have to be perfect: there must be no haze

or vog and the sky needs to be perfectly clear where the sun set. Binoculars will help.

Later in the night, Saturn rises first at about 2:50 am, followed by Mars at 3:15. Then Venus rises around 3:45 am and Jupiter will rise around 4:30 am.



The flooded crater Plato is shown along with the Alpine Valley in this image taken from the earth. The inset shows Plato from directly overhead, demonstrating that the oval shape seen in the view from the earth is caused by foreshortening.

Credit: Robert Minor. Inset credit: NASA LRO JMARS.

Our moon photo this month is of the crater Plato and the Alpine Valley. The lunar crater Plato is the flat-bottomed oval surrounded by a ring of mountains. The inset at the bottom shows a NASA Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter shot looking straight down on Plato, showing that it really is circular!

MOON AND SUN

EVENT		
Date.....	Moonrise	Moonset
New Moon		
Mar. 31	6:06 am	6:27 pm
First Quarter		
Apr. 8	11:38 am	1:28 am
		Apr. 9
Full Moon		
Apr. 16	7:01 pm	6:50 am
		Apr. 17
Last Quarter		
Apr. 25	1:13 am	12:33 pm
New Moon		
Apr. 30	5:55 am	6:58 pm
	SUN	
Date.....	Sunrise	Sunset
Apr. 1	6:18 am	6:34 pm
Apr. 8	6:12 am	6:35 pm
Apr. 15	6:07 am	6:37 pm
Apr. 22	6:02 am	6:39 pm
Apr. 29	5:57 am	6:42 pm

Read Ka'ū News Briefs Daily at kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com



Image was captured with a 6" APO - 8.5 hour integration. Credit: Jim Hawn

CONSTELLATIONS AND DEEP SKY OBJECTS

Along the meridian we'll find Leo overhead, the Big Bear (UMa) up north. Please see the image of M82 in the Big Bear. Jim Hawn writes "M82 is an edge-on starburst galaxy characterized by a prodigious rate of star formation. Located approximately 12 million light-years away at an apparent magnitude of 8.4, it is considered our closest starburst galaxy. The hydrogen-rich star forming regions are readily visible in Ha radiating from the core of the galaxy."

Continuing south there is Hydra, the water snake, with the cup (CRT) in very close proximity to its back. Further south we find the Vela, the sail of the ship of Jason and the Argonauts and below that are stars in Carina.

For our deep sky object this month, look south. About 10 degrees above the horizon, we find the eta Carina Nebula. We present an image of it here, taken with an iTelescope.net 20 inch diameter instrument located at Siding Spring observatory



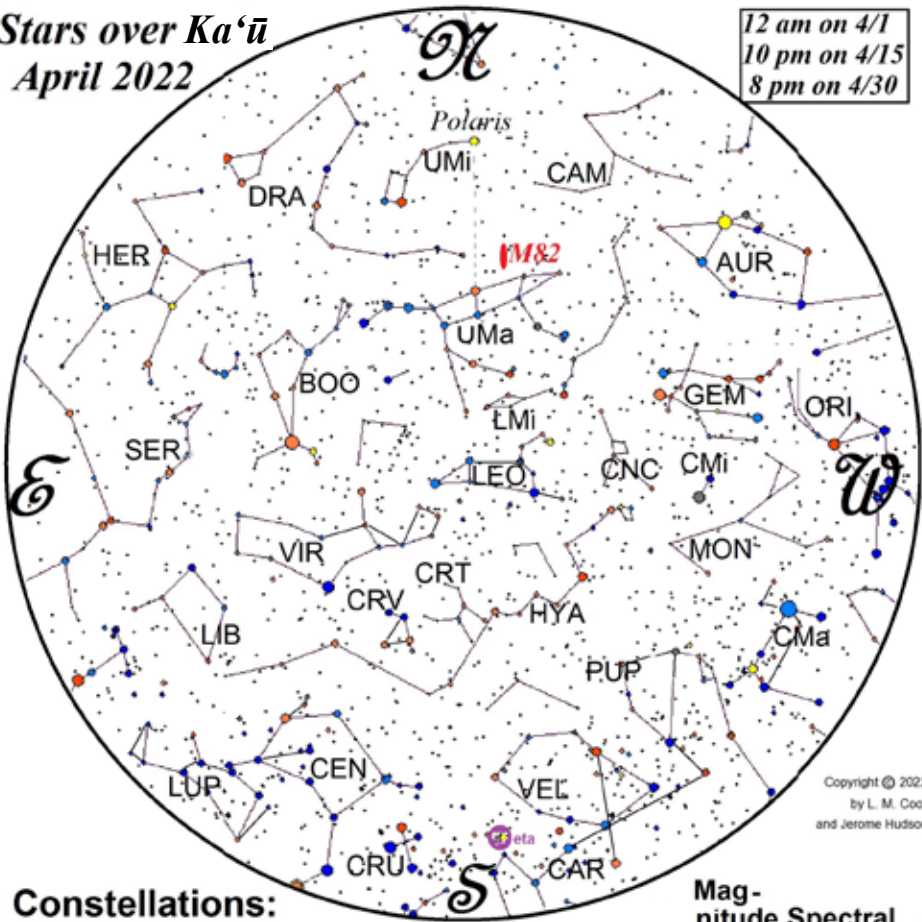
Eta Carina (in the ship's keel) is a very massive star chewing through its nuclear fuel at a super fast rate. Eta Carina itself will become a supernova in the near (astronomical*) future. *What does that mean? Anytime within the next million years! Credit: L. M. Cook

in Australia. It will cross the meridian 30 minutes before chart time. For reference, the long arm of the Southern Cross is about 5 degrees long. Total exposures were 2 hours 15 minutes. Eta Carina (the ships keel) is shown on the star map, just to the right of the Southern Cross.

LOCALLY

Don't forget to visit the Planetarium in Hilo, which is open on weekends (Fri. - Sun.). Call 'Imiloa Astronomy Center (808.932.8901) at 600 'Imiloa Place, Hilo, HI 96720 or online at www.imiloahawaii.org for prices and programming times.

Stars over Ka'ū April 2022



12 am on 4/1
10 pm on 4/15
8 pm on 4/30

Constellations:

- AUR - Charioteer

BOO - Herdsman

CAM - Giraffe

CAR - Keel

CEN - Centaur

CMa - Big dog

CMi - Puppy

CNC - Crab

CRT - Cup
- CRU - S. cross

CRV - Crow

DRA - Dragon

GEM - Twins

HER - Hercules

HYA - Hydra

LEO - Lion

LIB - Scales

LMi - Lion cub
- LUP - Wolf

MON - Unicorn

ORI - Orion

PUP - Poop deck

SER - Snake

UMa - Big bear

UMi - Bear cub

VEL - Sail

VIR - Virgin

Mag-nitude	Spectral Type/Temp
-1	Blue
0	Yellow
1	Orange
2	Red
3	Dark Red
4	Very Dark Red
5	Black

How to use this map: Hold this map over your head so that the northern horizon points toward the north on the Earth. For best results, use a red flashlight to illuminate the map. If you are looking east, hold it in front of you so that east is on the bottom. For south views, south at the bottom, and for west, west at the bottom. Use this map at the times shown on its upper right corner. Keep this page handy and show it to your keiki next month. They probably have bedtimes before the time of the chart shown here. Check the colors of the stars with the color version at: <http://www.kaucaalendar.com>

The constellations are presented with their 3-letter abbreviations, with their common names shown at the bottom of our chart. Stars as faint as magnitude 5.7 are shown. This is done to take advantage of the truly dark skies Ka'ū is blessed with when there is no bright moon and the skies are clear!

The star charts are produced from a sky Atlas program written by Jerry Hudson, who has given us permission to publish it. Thank you, Jerry!

Sewage Option, from pg. 3

Ramzi Mansour, and facilitator Jessie Marques. In attendance was County Council Chair Maile David and other public officials.

The EPA's requirement for the county says the county "shall take appropriate measures to fully and properly comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the Pāhala Community Cesspools identified including constructing a secondary wastewater treatment facility to serve the Pāhala community ("Pāhala Wastewater Treatment Facility"), closing the Pāhala Community Cesspools, and replacing and expanding the wastewater collection sys-

tem serving Pāhala Community. As soon as practicable, but no later than the deadlines..." The deadlines have been extended to 2023 but the requirement remains unaltered and the county is asking for a change to accommodate the Individual Wastewater System option.

To completely shut down the old gang cesspools, all of the Individual Wastewater Systems would have to be completed but there would be less flow into the gang cesspools as each IWS is completed.

To ask questions, give input and for more information, email cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov.

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 20, Number 4

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

April 2022

Volcano's Annual 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs Come Back in July

The Volcano Runs are back. Volcano's 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs return for a third year in Volcano Village on Saturday, July 30, with a half marathon and 5k. The half-marathon will begin at 7 a.m. at The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences campus on Old Volcano Road. The 5K will follow after the half-marathon runners are on their way. The course will take runners from the Volcano School up Wright Road. Road closures may be expected around the start of the event near the Volcano School.

The Runs are part of Experience Volcano Festival weekend. This year the Festival will take place over two days, July 30 and 31 showcasing local artists, Hawaiian hula, musicians, and more. To register and for more information about this event, visit



'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs help raise money to study and protect the native trees.

Photo from 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs

<https://www.ohialehuahalf.com/>.

E-mail the Race Director with any questions at ohialehuahalf@gmail.com.

The first year of the race, the organizers raised enough money to donate to: University of Hawai'i Foundation – ROD Strategic Response Plan and The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences – Citizen Science Initiative.

In 2021, the Race made an exclusive donation to The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences.

This year, funds permitting, the organizers plan to donate again to The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences and to a ROD organization to be chosen.

Volunteer opportunities include interested persons to work as marshals directing runners on the course and assist at the start/finish line. Also need-



'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs draw competitors of all ages, including Leonard Torricer. The events return on July 30, as part of the Experience Volcano weekend. Photo by Mikey Brown

ed is a group of four to eight people to man one of the aid stations on the course.

The Race Director said, "Hawai'i Island Racers is really excited to put on the Volcano Runs for the third year. We love the Volcano community and cannot wait to see all of our local runners and walkers again this year at our half marathon and 5k

As the opening event for the Experience Volcano Festival, we hope that our runners decide to spend the weekend in Volcano and enjoy what the Festival has to offer over Saturday and Sunday. I know that Volcano is a really special place and I hope that others get to see and experience that uniqueness."

Ka'ū Coffee Trail Run Moves to Saturday, Sept. 17

The date has changed for Ka'ū Coffee Trail Runs. Originally scheduled for July 3, the event day is moved to Saturday, Sept. 17, starting and ending at Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

Registration is open at www.kaucoffeetrailruns.com. Organized by Hawai'i Island Racers, the 50K begins at 6 a.m., Half

Marathon at 7 a.m. and 5K at 7:15 a.m., all starting from Ka'ū Coffee Mill at 96-2696 Wood Valley Road in Pāhala. The 50K cut-off time is nine hours. RFID Chip Timing will come up with the results after the races take off with a gun start.

Proceeds go to support 'O Ka'ū Kākou,



Ka'ū Coffee Trail Runs move from July 3 to Saturday, Sept. 13.

Photo by Julia Neal

the Ka'ū nonprofit to fund local scholarships, land for a proposed senior housing project, purchase of life-saving equipment for Ka'ū Hospital, restoration and maintenance of three historical cemeteries, sponsorship of a free Veterans Day celebration, and Fourth of July Parades and fun day.

Registration deadline for the lowest fees is May 1, with 50K at \$100, Half Marathon \$80, and 5K \$40. From May 1 to Sept. 9, registration fees are 50K \$110, Half Marathon \$90, and 5K \$50. Registration fees Sept. 1 to Sept. 14 are 50K \$120, Half Marathon \$100, and 5K \$60. Registration closes on June Sept. 14. There will be no race day registrations.

After the race, hydration and light snacks will be provided to participants. Lo-

cal vendors from the Ka'ū community will sell chili and rice bowls, Portuguese bean soup, nachos and other foods as well as beverages. Ka'ū Coffee Mill's shop will open at 8 a.m.

The website says, "From Keiki to Kupuna, the Ka'ū Coffee Trail Run is a challenging course that meanders over Pāhala's unpaved trails. It is the perfect race venue, through coffee fields and macadamia nut groves. The Ka'ū Coffee Mill's 1,900 acres features courses from 50K, Half Marathon and 5k distances. Please join us for the southernmost race in the U.S. The run is done entirely on private property." See last year's results from the late September event, photos and much more at <https://www.kaucoffeetrailruns.com/>

Ka'ū Trojans Travel Around the Island for Spring Sports

Ka'ū Trojans High School Spring Sports teams are traveling far and wide, around the island.

Boys Volleyball is well into the season. Ka'ū hosts Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on Saturday, April 2, the encounter

Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in Waimea on Saturday, April 2 for a 10 a.m. game. Ka'ū hosts Kamehameha Schools on Thursday, April 7 at 3 p.m. and travels to Konawaena on Saturday, April 16 for a 1 p.m. game. The playoffs follow.



Ka'ū Trojans Boys Volleyball team, left to right, is comprised of Iverson Salmo, Kelson Gallano, Triton Blanco, Keali'ikoa Reyes-Nalu, Tyson Junior Kuahuia-Faafia, Syrus Baniaga, Roger Miguel and Mardani Sugai. Not shown are Dmitry Fedroruk, Micah Espejo and Patrick Riehle.

Photo by Harry McIntosh

beginning at 10 a.m. The Trojans head out to Christian Liberty Academy on Wednesday, April 6 for a start time of 6 p.m. Ka'ū heads out to Kohala on Saturday, April 9; starting time is 10 a.m. Playoff games will be announced later in the month.

Ka'ū Trojans Boys Baseball team travels to Hilo to play Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in a 1 p.m. game on Saturday, April 2. Ka'ū goes to Kamehameha School-Kea'au on Monday, April 4 for a 3 p.m. game. The Trojans head to Kealahou to play Konawaena for a 1 p.m. game on Saturday, April 16. Playoff dates will be announced later in the month.

Girls Softball takes the Trojan team to

BIIF Track is taking Trojans around the island. They compete on the tracks of Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on Saturday, April 2 with a 9 a.m. start; Kea'au High on Saturday, April 9 with a start time of 2 p.m.; at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy on Saturday, April 16 with start time of 9 a.m. and at Kea'au, on Saturday, April 23 with start time of 2 pm.

The Freshman & Sophomore Invitational will be on Saturday, April 30 at Konawaena, 2 p.m. Championship Trials will be on Friday, May 6 at 2 p.m. at Konawaena, which will also host Championship Finals on Saturday, May 7 at 3 p.m.

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KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

Ka Hea Mai Ka 'Āina Calls Students to Sustainability

Thirty students, from Kindergarten to 12th grade, celebrated the completion of the Ka Hea Mai Ka 'Āina three-day sustainability program held during the March Spring Break. Families convened in Nā'ālehu at Masazo's Pig Farm, where students demonstrated learning through hō'ike (Hawaiian cultural presentation). The event culmi-

nated in a lunch featuring kalua pig, cooked in an imu, which the haumāna (students) prepared with kumu Dane Shibuya, Jr., of Nā'ālehu. Each student received a program shirt, certificate, bags of kalua pig and other supplies to share with 'ohana.

Over the three days, the students and family engaged in Hawaiian cultural hands-on learning and sustainable ag skills. In addition to teaching about the imu process, Shibuya invited keiki around the piggery with opportunities to get up close and personal with the pigs and their babies.

Kupuna Jessie Ke, of Pāhala, taught place-based mo'olelo (stories) and oli (chants) along with Kumu Terry Shibuya, President of Hana Lāhūi O Ka'ū, the local non-profit which hosts the program. "Most important is learn-



Kupuna Larry Loque teaches keiki to weave coconut-frond hats.

Photo by Kamalyn Kekoa-Jara

ing about their place of belonging, where they are from, getting back to our roots and mālama the 'āina," shared Shibuya. "They learned a little bit of everything, the pigs, the mala (garden), planting kalo with sweat and putting their mana (energy) into it."

Students showcased coconut frond hats woven with Kupuna Larry Loque, of Ocean View. Each keiki wore a ti leaf lei they learned to fashion with Kumu Tiare Shibuya, who also serves as a nurse at Ka'ū Hospital. She also took daily temperature checks and ensured health and safety procedures were followed.

Kumu Kassie Ross, a Kamehameha Schools Pre-Ka Hea Mai Ka 'Āina, pg. 10

Lau Mai'a Scholarships are Open for Graduating Seniors

Lau Mai'a Scholarships for graduating high school seniors are being offered by the Purple Mai'a Foundation for those pursuing a Computer Science, Engineer-

ing, Business or Entrepreneurship degree at a four-year university in the U.S.

The Purple Mai'a Foundation is a Hawaiian non-profit organization whose

mission is "to inspire and educate the next generation of culturally grounded, community serving technology makers."

The goal of the \$2,500 Lau Mai'a Scholarship Program is to "help ease the burden of tuition and empower students to stand tall in their growth." The application states that "recipients must have a demonstrated commitment to 'āina, kaiāulu, lāhui and be willing to volunteer for a Hawaiian organization in the future."

To learn more and apply, visit purplemaia.org/education/scholarship/. Deadline to apply is April 30.

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Shane Palacat-Nelsen, from pg. 1
outreach efforts to garnish support for the Miloli'i Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area and assisted with grants for local communities for such missions as restoring, preserving, and educating 'ōpelo fishing traditions at Ho'okena and Miloli'i.

Palacat-Nelsen also organized economic resilience workshops for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs through its West Hawai'i office. "From leveraging financial and capacity building resources and adequately distributing them to support our community efficiently, especially during one of the most challenging times in our lives, I've facilitated Federal, State, and County agencies, and non-profit organizations including Kamehameha Schools, Lili'uokalani Trust, local farmers, merchants and non-profit organizations." Among the tasks was "pulling our resources together to distribute food and hygiene to Hawai'i Island residents. We extended our efforts to include temporary financial assistance for those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic."

Prior to this role, like many residents of Kona, Palacat-Nelsen said, he spent many years working in the hotel industry. "I started as a Financial Analyst in 2001 at The Fairmont Orchid, eventually taking on management roles. Over the years, my responsibilities changed, and I learned a great deal about developing processes to optimize efficiency and accountability in operations while leading a team to deliver high-quality and authentic services to all guests."

The candidate said his professional experiences "have parlayed into advisory roles. As chair of the Kahu Kū Mauna Advisory Council to the University of Hawai'i on the management of Mauna Kea, the Vice-Chair of the Kona Community Development Action Committee, a board member of the Kona Historical Society, and president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs' Hawai'i District

Punalu'u Repairs, from pg. 1
ally been working very hard to clean it up and it is really showing a lot of difference. They have been hauling away truckloads. It's amazing to have someone come in here, spend money and fix the place up, after all the years of neglect."

The SMA Minor permit and approval of exemptions were given by Planning Director Zendo Kern. The SMA document cautions that approvals and exemptions do not wave building and other county, state and federal permits, where required.

See the permit at http://kaucalendar.com/news/SMAA_Black_Sands_Decision.pdf. See the application for the permit at http://kaucalendar.com/news/SMAA_PunaluuBSB.pdf



Shane Palacat-Nelsen, right, with Kahaka'io Ravenscraft during a reforestation project.

Council, I am grateful for these opportunities to offer insights into community needs and interests to inform and educate decision makers."

Palacat-Nelsen said he is most proud of the "collaborative work in designing and implementing communication and consultation spaces I refer to as 'the lōkahi table' that bridges community-based knowledge to government resources especially in arenas of economic and community development. Outside the office is equally important."

He said, "On the weekends, you will find me restoring and maintaining traditional farmland terraces and planting crops such as mamaki, kalo, 'awa, and native plantains, to working on reforestation projects that utilize traditional concepts and protocols in the South Kona Forest Reserve, and assisting in the restoration of ki'i im-

ages at the Hale o Keawe in Hōnaunau as a lineal descendant consultant and traditional carver."

"You will also find me assisting fishpond restoration efforts at Kaloko fishpond where my paternal grandfather grew up. Among conservation planning and activities, I am excited in my new endeavor to restore the coral and natural water passages at Kealakekua Bay. I enjoy working within the community in providing options that best suit our community, by means of collaborating with individuals and experts."

As the council member for Kona and Ka'ū, Palacat-Nelsen said, "I will bring this collection of experiences to the table and build the necessary bridges to deliver government resources to community. There are new, once-in-a-lifetime federal funding opportunities for infrastructure and jobs, and we cannot afford to standby and miss the opportunity. We must do this while holding everyone to the highest accountability and transparency standards."

Contact the candidate at shane@shaneforhawaii.com. See www.shaneforhawaii.com.

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We at Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi are excited to announce our new Medical Director, Dr. John Engle. Dr. Engle graduated from medical school at Ohio State University in 1977 and completed his Family Practice residency at Grant Hospital in Columbus, Ohio in 1980. To add to his expertise, in 1993 he earned a Master of Science degree in Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Dr. Engle brings decades of experience from a wide range of locations, including teaching around the United States and practicing in Micronesia, Canada, Molokai, and Hawai'i island. As he returns to Hawai'i island in his new role as Medical Director of Hui Mālama, Dr. Engle will work closely with Family Medicine Clinic staff to continue efforts to improve the health and well-being of Hawai'i island so we can all Live Longer & Feel Better, Together!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

EVENTS OF APRIL

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING CEREMONY will be held on Friday, Apr. 1 at 6 p.m. at Old Kona Airport Park. Little League teams from Kaʻū, Kona, and Kohala will convene for this special event.

A VISIT TO EVA LIU’S FARM IN NĀʻĀLEHU on Saturday, Apr. 2 hosted by the Kaʻū Chapter of Hawaiʻi Farmers Union United. Those interested can meet at Ace Hardware in Nāʻālehu at 11:30 a.m. Potluck lunch will be served. Please email kau@hfuu.org to RSVP or with any questions.

LEMONADE PARTY AND MONTHLY CHURCH YARD CLEANUP at St. Jude’s Episcopal Church, Saturday, Apr. 2. All are welcome. Lemonade and hot dogs will be provided.

SOIL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT FREE WEBINAR SERIES on Monday, Apr. 4 and 11 from 5 - 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by CTAHR and Hawaiʻi Department of Health. Topics covered include importance of soil testing, fertilizer timing for specific plant growth stages, and the use of Sunn hemp as a cover crop. To register for the Apr. 4 webinar, visit <https://go.hawaii.edu/Ukx>. For the Apr. 11 webinar, register at <https://go.hawaii.edu/xnU>.

USDA FARMERS MARKET & LOCAL FOOD PROMOTION (FMLFPP) WEBINAR on Tuesday, Apr. 5 at 7 a.m. HST. The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service announced that \$57 million are available in competitive grant funding to strengthen market opportunities for local and regional food producers and businesses. To register for the webinar, visit: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_AWP0ij0kSk2xfBoYPzGKAQ.

USDA REGIONAL FOOD SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS (RFSP) WEBINAR on Wednesday, Apr. 6 at 7 a.m. HST. The USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service announced the availability of \$40 million in competitive grant funding to strengthen the viability and resilience of local or regional food systems by increasing market opportunities for locally and regionally produced agricultural products. To register for the webinar, visit: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_n43uQhdhR2aZw15YeZY7iw.

KUHIKUHI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: ACING THE PROBATION PERIOD WORKSHOP on Friday, Apr. 8 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Vibrant Hawaiʻi, the Kūhikūhi Project connects participants with working professionals in the community who provide individualized feedback and coaching. This workshop will give participants insight into what it means to “perform well” in the first 90 days of a new job. To learn more and register, visit vibranthawaii.org/get-involved.

KAʻŪ LITTLE LEAGUE GAMES on Saturday, Apr. 9 at Nāʻālehu Park. Coach Pitch (7 & 8 year old team) will play at 9 a.m. T-Ball (5 & 6 year old team) will play at 11 a.m.

KAHUKU COFFEE TALK: ʻĀHINAHINA (KAʻŪ SILVERWORDS) on Saturday, Apr. 9 at 9:30 - 11 a.m. at Kahuku Unit Visitor Center. Coffee Talk at Kahuku is an opportunity to get to know your park and neighbors. Held on the second Saturday of every month. Attendance is limited to 25 and reservations are required. To make a reservation, call (808) 464-3550 and leave a message. Coffee will be available for purchase by credit card only.

FREE CLEAN WATER CLASS will be taught by Todd Lolla of Uncle Tilo’s Clean Water, LLC. on Saturday, Apr. 9 from 1 - 3 p.m. at Ocean View Community Center. Lolla will focus on safe rain-water harvesting, “a technology that communities across the globe will increasingly rely upon to adapt to climate change and environmental pollution issues.” Learn more at TilosCleanWater.com.

LOVE THE ARTS FUNDRAISER GALA: 2022 PAʻINA PANIOLo at Volcano Art Center’s Nīaui Campus on Saturday, Apr. 9 from 2 - 6 p.m. This gala is the main event to raise funds for Volcano Art Center which allows them to fund classes, exhibits, workshops, and more. Will include food, drinks, live entertainment, and a silent auction with unique offerings. Tickets are on sale. \$70/\$65 VAC members.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA at Ocean View Community Market on Sunday, Apr. 17 from 12 - 4 p.m. The event will be free to all and will feature games, prizes, raffle, treats, live music, and food trucks. The Easter Bunny will also be present, handing out candy-filled eggs and available for photo shoots. Sponsors are needed and welcome. Vendor booths will also be available. To participate as a vendor, contact Helen McCullough at 209-9204. The event is located on Kona Drive at the corner of Hwy 11.

HOKU NIGHTS AT HIPUʻU, Sunday, Apr. 17, 6:30 p.m. Hosted by Ohana Miloliʻi and Hipuʻu o Miloliʻi Kumu every full moon. Topic is Youth Alakaʻi. Zoom ID: 227 574 9157.

USDA RURAL INNOVATION STRONGER ECONOMY (RISE) GRANT deadline to apply is April 19 at 11:59 p.m. EST. The USDA encourages applications that serve the smallest communities with the lowest incomes. RISE offers federal funding assistance for (1) building or supporting a business incubator facility, (2) providing worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs, (3) training the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs, and (4) developing a base of skilled workers and improving their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries. Grant amounts are awarded competitively with a minimum of \$500,000 and a maximum of \$2,000,000. Learn more and apply by visiting <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-innovation-stronger-economy-rise-grants>.

MILOLIʻI-KAʻŪ SOUTHSIDE ADULT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT at Kaʻū District Gym on Saturday, Apr. 30 and Jun. 4 from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Men’s 5-on-5 and womens 8-on-8. Entry fee is \$50. All proceeds will fund Miloliʻi Southside 18U travel expenses to Oahu and Las Vegas. For more information, contact Yolanda Kuahuia at kuahuia@aol.com or (808) 443-7133.

LAU MAIʻA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS are being offered by the Purple Maiʻa Foundation for those pursuing a Computer Science, Engineering, Business or Entrepreneurship degree at a 4-year university in the U.S. The Purple Maiʻa Foundation is a Hawaiian non-profit organization whose mission is “to inspire and educate the next generation of culturally grounded, community serving technology makers.” The goal of the \$2,500 Lau Maiʻa Scholarship Program is to “help ease the burden of tuition and empower students to stand tall in their growth.” The application states that “recipients must have a demonstrated commitment to ʻāina, kaiāulu, lāhui and be willing to volunteer for a Hawaiian organization in the future. To learn more and apply, visit purplemaia.org/education/scholarship/. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2022.

FREE FOOD

ST JUDE’S HOT MEALS are free to those in need on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until they run out, no later than noon. Volunteers from the community are welcome to help and can contact Karen at pooch53@gmail.com. Location is 8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View.

KAʻŪ FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, Apr. 26, 9:30 a.m. - Pau. Located at St. Jude’s Episcopal Church above Kahuku Park in Ocean View. Sponsored by Hawaiʻi Island Food Basket.

ʻO KAʻŪ KĀKOU PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, Apr. 26, 10 a.m. - Pau. Located at Kaʻū District Gym in Pāhala. Sponsored by Hawaiʻi Island Food Basket.

COOPER CENTER COMMUNITY PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Wednesday, Apr. 27, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Located at 19- 4030 Wright Road in Volcano. Sponsored by Hawaiʻi Island Food Basket.

SACRED HEART: LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Thursday, Apr. 28, 9 - 11 a.m. Located at 95-5558 Mamalahoa Hwy in Nāʻālehu. Sponsored by Hawaiʻi Island Food Basket.

KUPUNA FOOD BASKET, Thursday, Apr. 28, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Located at Kaʻū District Gym in Pāhala. Sponsored by Hawaiʻi Island Food Basket.

Lāʻau Letters: Native Plants of Kaʻū

Welcome to *Lāʻau Letters: Native Plants of Kaʻū*. Read about Kaʻū’s native plants and their moʻolelo (stories), uses, preferred habitats, and opportunities to adopt them for stewardship. This column seeks to encourage making new plant friends and to reunite with others.



ʻŌhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) by Joan Yoshioka

ʻŌhai (*Sesbania tomentosa*)

Description: ʻŌhai is another one of Hawaiʻi’s endangered endemic species (like last month’s featured friend, hala pepe), and belongs to the Fabaceae family (a cousin to wiliwili and māmane). This lovely lāʻau is variable, growing as a sprawling ground cover or even an upright shrub. Similar to other Fabaceae, each ʻōhai leaf is made up of many small, oval-shaped leaflets which in some cases are covered in tiny silver hairs. This trait is called tomentose (note that the species name of ʻōhai makes a connection to its namesake), and it is an evolutionary adaptation to the intense sun and heat. On sunny days, these leaflet clusters smell like sweet tangerines. The flowers commonly form in pairs, and are most often a crimson red, scarlet, or salmon color, although a very unique Kaʻū population bloom a lovely pure pastel yellow.

Uses: The bright and showy flowers of ʻōhai were historically used to make a gorgeous lei, although that was when the plants were more abundant. Because ʻōhai is an endangered species, there are legal protections which restrict collection of plant material. With that said, if you are able to purchase ʻōhai and cultivate it, the flowers are okay to pick (if you can bring yourself to pluck them - they are such a beautiful sight on the plant when in bloom). In addition, ʻōhai leaves can be placed under your pillow before bedtime to induce the dreamscape and help open up the space of learning and receiving messages.

Habitat: ʻŌhai have the potential to inhabit coastal and lowland dry areas from sea level to 2,500 feet elevation, though local populations today tend to be restricted to undeveloped coastlines (and are under the constant threat of habitat loss, displacement by invasive species, and feral ungulate pressures). ʻŌhai have been successfully outplanted in the Waikōloa Dry Forest Preserve (go visit them!) and protected along the coastline within Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. In Kaʻū, a wild population remains along the coast within the Kamāʻoa Puʻuʻeo Ahupuaʻa. This area is known for off-roading, which, if not done responsibly, can ultimately decimate Kaʻū’s beloved ʻōhai population.

Growing and Purchasing: Because ʻōhai are endangered, it is not pono to collect seeds or plant material from wild plants. However, some nurseries specializing in native species are able to obtain the necessary permits to grow and sell them. ʻŌhai are nitrogen-fixing plants (as are all Fabaceae), so planting them in the landscape will enrich the soil and benefit surrounding plants. They prefer full sun and well-drained substrates, and enjoy being planted with a bit of clean beach sand. ʻŌhai would undoubtedly make a gorgeous addition to any landscape, preferably planted with plenty of room to sprawl and near other native plant friends.

About the artist: Joan Yoshioka says she is a conservationist at heart and has dedicated her life to preserving the native plants and animals of Hawaiʻi through her work with federal, state, and private organizations over the past 30+ years. She describes herself as an outdoor-lovin’ optimist, biologist/botanist, and habitual creator of art-stuff. She says the key to our most fundamental and truest part of ourselves is found in nature and she constantly draws on it for inspiration.



Joan Yoshioka

About the author: Jodie Rosam says she has a deep love for native plants and a passion for exploration, with over 15 years of experience in working in the restoration of Hawaiʻi’s forests. As a mother and an educator, she says the next generation has the power to lead the world to a sustainable future, and is committed to teaching her children (and others) from a place-based perspective.



Jodie Rosam

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APRIL

April Calendar, from pg. 8

p.m., with live music, artisan crafts, ono grinds, and fresh produce. See facebook.com/Volcano-Evening-Market-105888795330870.

VOLCANO FARMERS MARKET, Cooper Center, Volcano Village on Sundays, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., with local produce, baked goods, food to go, island beef and Ka'ū Coffee. EBT is used for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamps. Call 808-967-7800.

‘O KA’Ū KĀKOU MARKET, in Nā‘ālehu, open Wednesday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Masks, temperature checks and hand sanitizing required. Social distancing enforced. No vaccination proof required. Contact Sue Barnett, OKK Market Manager, at 808-345-9374 (voice or text) or kaufarmer@aol.com for more and to apply to vend. See facebook.com/OKauKakouMarket.

OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY MARKET, open Saturdays and Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the corner of Kona Drive and Highway 11, where Thai Grindz is located. Masks mandatory. 100-person limit, social distancing required. Gate unlocked for vendors at 5:30 a.m., \$15 dollars, no reservations needed. Parking in the upper lot only. Vendors must provide their own sanitizer. Food vendor permits required. Carpooling is encouraged.

OCEAN VIEW SWAP MEET open at Ocean View makai shopping center, near Mālama Market. Hours for patrons are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. Vendor set-up time is 5 a.m. Masks required.

ALOHA FRIDAY MARKETPLACE is hosted by Nā‘ālehu Main Street on Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Old Shirakawa Estate in Wai‘ōhinu. It features Made in Hawai‘i products, organic produce, creative crafts, art, flowers & plants, food, music, and more. Email AlohaFridayMarket@gmail.com.

THE BOOK SHACK is open every Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Kauaha‘ao Congregational Church grounds, located at 95-1642 Pinao St. in Wai‘ōhinu.

DAILY/WEEKLY/MONTHLY

REFLECTIONS EXHIBIT BY GARY EOFF at the Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park from Apr. 9 through May 15. The exhibit will feature prints, cultural reproductions, and kapa influenced by Hawaiian culture and traditions. While admission is free, park entrance fees apply.

NET RECOVERY PATROL on Mondays with Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund. The team and core volunteers conduct marine debris recovery efforts targeting large debris items, including derelict fishing net and line bundles, that are especially hazardous to marine wildlife. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, these events are limited to current HWF volunteers. Please contact kahakai.cleanups@gmail.com for more info. Check <https://www.wildhawaii.org/> with its HWF calendar for more opportunities to

get involved with its bi-weekly net recovery patrols.

ST. JUDE’S SHOWER MINISTRY has reopened to the public on Saturdays from 9 a.m. noon, with hot water, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and clean towels. Masks and social distancing are required before and after showering. The long standing public shower service, put on pause by Covid, is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i’s Commission on Mission Beyond Church and St. Jude’s own outreach fund. Location is 8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Members of the congregation built the facility.

FREE HELP WITH FAMILY HISTORY in Ka’ū is available 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Tuesday. All are welcome to the Family History Center. The aim is to “Come Discover Your Past,” says the statement from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which hosts the weekly sessions at 95-5682 Hawai‘i Belt Road in Nā‘ālehu. The drop-in assistance includes free Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, and other online resources.

KAHUKU ORIENTATION TALK on Thursdays and Fridays every week from Apr. 1 to Apr. 29 from 10 - 10:30 a.m. at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Kahuku Unit. The talks will include a general overview of the park and volcanic activity update. Topics will vary and will highlight the natural, cultural, and historic attributes of Kahuku.

STEWARDSHIP AT THE SUMMIT at Kīlauea Visitor Center on Apr. 2, Apr. 16, and Apr. 30 from 8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m. Volunteer to help remove invasive, non-native plant species that prevent native plants from growing in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Bring a hat, raingear, day pack, snacks and water. Gloves and tools are provided. Under 18? Parental or guardian accompaniment or written consent is required.

VOLCANO SWAP MEET, Cooper Center, Wright Road, Volcano Village, 2nd & 4th Saturdays monthly. April 9th & 23rd, 8AM to 12Noonish. Expect Ono Grinds, Crafts & Art, Jewelry, Local Plants, Produce & Honey, New & Gently Used Treasures. See Craigslist & Facebook under Volcano Cooper Center Swap Meet. For more info or to vend, contact Auntie Frances @ 808-985-8646.

KAHUKU RANGER GUIDED HIKES, Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Join a Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park ranger to learn about the history, geology, and ecology of Kahuku while hik-



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ing through varied landscapes. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station. See www.nps.gov/havo/planyour-visit/kahuku.htm.

KEIKI UKULELE WITH DINA KAGELER at Volcano Art Center’s Niaulani Campus on Thursdays from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. from Apr. 28 - May 26. This 5-week series will be available for children grades 2-4. Students should bring a ukulele to play during class and be willing to practice at home. Cost is \$55/\$50 VAC members.

ZENTANGLE FOR KEIKI’S WITH DINA KAGELER at Volcano Art Center’s Niaulani Campus on Fridays from 2:30 - 4 p.m. from Apr. 29 - May 27. This 5-week series will be available for children ages 7 - 13 years old and will begin with Zentangle Basics and go on to explore Stacks and inspirations from Dr. Seuss. Instructor will provide tiles, pens, and other supplies. Cost is \$90 for VAC and non-VAC members.

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Ka'ū Quilters present \$2,000 to 'O Ka'ū Kākou President Wayne Kawachi and OKK's Nadine Ebert.

Photo from Ka'ū Quilters

Ka'ū Quilters Gives a \$2k Scholarship to 'O Ka'ū Kākou

Ka'ū Quilters recently presented \$2,000 to 'O Ka'ū Kākou President Wayne Kawachi during its monthly gathering at Discovery Harbour Community Association meeting hall.

Funds were earned by the quilters through craft sales in the Ka'ū District and by donations.

These funds are intended for the OKK

scholarship fund. Ka'ū Quilters have a history of supporting community needs such as: quilts for people experiencing trauma,



distributed by the Ka'ū unit of the Hawai'i Police Department; Ka'ū Hospital Emergency Room Equipment; Camp Erin Quilts; and Pink Pouches to Hilo Medical Center for patients recovering from breast cancer surgery. This dedicated group of ladies continue to support the community.

Ka Hea Mai Ka 'Āina, from pg. 6

school teacher, shared mo'olelo of Hāloa, and instructed on the parts of the kalo. Each program participant experienced ku'i kalo, pounding the kalo with a board and stone, tasting their own product, with Kumu Nālani Parlin, of Kamehameha Schools' Strategy and Transformation Group. Mālama 'Āina Foundation's education specialist Kumu Kaweni Ibarra, his sister Malie Ibarra, and Bradley Llanes, were also on hand helping in all areas on the farm.

Students took home bags of organic compost dirt which they had screened and bagged themselves. Students presented their families with baby kalo plants that they transplanted into mobile containers ready to start their own gardens at home. Families were also gifted banana, tī leaf, spinach and turmeric plants for their home gardens. Terry shared that the students' kuleana (responsibility) is to "take the mana'o they learned and continue it in their backyards to be sustainable and feed their 'ohana."

Program sponsors and helpers also included Kamehameha Schools, Hana Lulima Lāhui O Ka'ū, Kona Lua, J's & D's Construction, Coldwell Banker Island Properties - Hawai'i Global Luxury Group, Elizabeth Naholowa'a Murph, Dane Shibuya Sr., Brandy Shibuya, Kehau Ke, Kendal Ho'opai, WikiWiki Mart, Ocean View L&L, Mahoe Dancel, Kent & Joan Polido, Jesse & Kulea Potter and Masazo's Pig Farm.

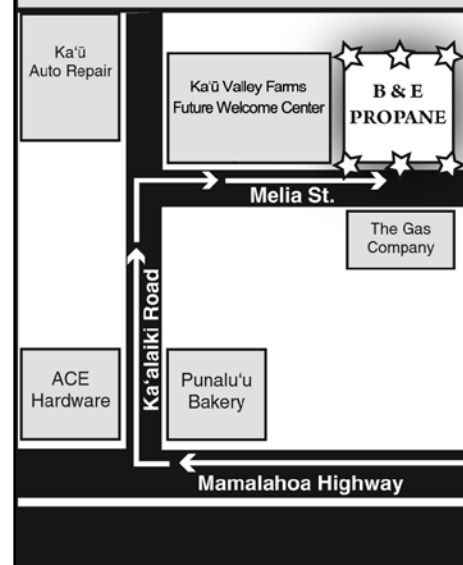
Ka Hea Mai Ka 'Āina, a program started by Dane Shibuya, Sr. and his wife Terry, has been teaching Hawaiian Culture integrated with sustainability for 20 years at Masazo's Pig Farm. Teaching about and having students experience farm-to-table living, the program has always had the goal of students taking lessons learned to share with and feed their own 'ohana, knowing that they have local resources like the Shibuya's and other kumu to turn to for kōkua, or help.

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Lava Tube Research Draws \$1.29 M in Federal Funding

Lava Tubes on Hawai'i Island, many of them in Ka'ū, particularly in Ocean View, are the focus of a four-year, \$1.29-million grant from the National Science Foundation. The funding has been awarded to University of Hawai'i at Mānoa researchers from the School of Life Sciences to study subterranean biodiversity associated with lava tubes in Hawai'i. The grant was awarded to Assistant Professor Rebecca Chong and Associate Professor Megan Porter, and collaborator Professor Annette Engel at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

"With significant potential to discover more subterranean diversity, we will conduct systematic biological surveys of lava



Assistant Professor Rebecca Chong explores lava tube caves on Hawai'i Island. Photo by Megan Porter

tubes on Hawai'i Island to compare arthropod species diversity and ecological roles across different volcanoes," said Chong. "Our research will uncover important ecosystem-level feedbacks between the surface and subsurface that explain how Hawaiian subterranean ecosystems form."

On Hawai'i Island, continuous volcanic activities over hundreds of thousands of years created subterranean habitats, known

as lava tubes, that are of different geologic ages. The lava tubes are occupied by communities of cave-adapted arthropod species, such as planthoppers, millipedes and spiders, which are sustained by the roots of the native 'ōhi'a tree.

The lava tube species on Hawai'i Island are found nowhere else in the world. Ecological threats facing lava tubes are similar to threats facing native forests and other Hawaiian ecosystems, including urbanization, climate change, biodiversity loss, and the spread of invasive species and pathogens, such as Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

Recent exploration of lava tubes on Hawai'i Island by the team and their collaborators has already uncovered species that are new to science and new distributions for species underground in different lava flows across the island.

The project also has outreach goals that include educating both the next generation of diverse sci-



Newly-described cave beetle species *Paratychys aaa* occupies the dark zone of recently developed lava tube caves on Hawai'i Island. Photo by Michael E. Slay

entists and the public about integrative biological research, including collaborative training for students and researchers, year-long cross-disciplinary research internships for undergraduate students, and public outreach programs for the local community with researchers at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum.



Associate Professor Megan Porter searches for cave-adapted arthropods in a lava tube cave on Hawai'i Island. Photo by Michael E. Slay

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Uncle Tilo's to Train for Safe Rainwater Harvesting

"The quality of your water is a direct link to the quality of your health." This is the mantra of Todd Lolla, who founded Uncle Tilo's Clean Water, LLC. He is bringing a free Clean Water class to Ocean View Community Center on Saturday, April 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Lolla focuses on rainwater harvesting, "a technology that communities across the globe will increasingly rely upon to adapt to climate change and environmental pollution issues."



In addition to hosting informational sessions, Lolla recruits Field Technicians to train and provide knowledge, services, and products "to further contribute to the well-being of our local rainwater harvesters." He offers Water Partnerships, along with training and support to those who would like to become certified technicians through the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association.

"We support rainwater harvesters with peace of mind," said Lolla. "Uncle Tilo's mission provides economically viable and environmentally friendly solutions for rainwater harvesters." He said, "rainwater harvesting is a necessary component into the future."

Lolla, who is known as Uncle Tilo, grew up in the Midwest and remembers harvesting rainwater on his family's dairy farm through the mid 1970's. He is a graduate of the South Dakota School of Mines, with a BS in Geological Engineering. A career in Arizona combined consulting and contractor skills.

While working for a civil engineering firm in Phoenix, his projects involved groundwater studies and subsequent clean-up of fuel spills at gasoline stations. This led him to earn a license to be a well-driller in Arizona for ten years. He said his focus on



Ocean View and communities across the globe will increasingly rely on rainwater harvesting to adapt to climate change and environmental pollution issues, says founder of Uncle Tilo's who offers a Clean Water class at Ocean View Community Center April 9.

Photo from Todd Lolla

groundwater issues moved him to specialize in storm water management. He worked with state environmental agencies during the 1990's to set standards for the protection of groundwater across the desert Southwest.

In 2009, he left the engineering world and moved to Hawai'i Island with a calling to "return to community." He saw the large demand for rain catchment systems as a potable water source.

In 2017, Lolla founded Uncle Tilo's Clean Water LLC to "fill the need for both

education and service involving one of the most basic of human needs, clean water."

Lolla points to World Population Review, showing the number of Hawai'i county residents recently increased to more than 200,000, with a large percentage dependent on rainwater catchment as a primary domestic water source.

Lolla noted, "The Island of Hawai'i, the largest and most southerly island in the Hawaiian archipelago, is characterized

Safe Rainwater, pg. 15

Stice Scholarship for this Summer's Science Camp

The new scholarship is for Land & Sea Camp courtesy of the Gary and Apolonia Stice 'Ohana. "Their generous gift will pay the full registration fee for a student from Ka'ū who will be entering grades 8-12 in the fall," said Science Camps founder Mike Richards.

"Hawai'i Island is the classroom, with exploration spanning the magnificent forests, shores, and mountains," said Richards. Land & Sea Camp is one of two

science camps held in Pāhala each year by Science Camps of America. Land & Sea camp is from July 1-10 and Air & Space Camp will run from July 11-20. Teens can attend one or both of the sleepaway camp sessions.

Land & Sea Camp offers hands-on experience with geology, forestry, marine biology, environmental engineering, and ecosystems. Air & Space Camp invites students to investigate the atmosphere,

climate, astronomy, planetary science, aerospace engineering, and space exploration. "Either way, teens will make lifelong connections with campers from around the globe as science becomes an adventure," said Richards.

The Stice 'Ohana joins the Edmund C. Olson Trust as sponsors of scholarships for Ka'ū students to attend Science Camp. To apply, visit <https://scicamp.org/scholarship>.

Rosam Represents Ka'ū & Volcano on PONC

Jodie Rosam is a new commissioner for PONC. As a member of the Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Commission, the Ka'ū resident represents the County Council district that includes Volcano through Ka'ū into Kona. The eight-member PONC is tasked with studying, reviewing and recommending special properties to be conserved through purchase, using county property tax money. Funding also goes to stewarding the properties.

Rosam said, "I am truly humbled to serve on the PONC Commission. I see this as an opportunity to make real-time contributions to protecting the land, water,

Rosam Represents, pg. 14



Jodie Rosam, a new member of PONC, examining a wiliwili tree.

Photo by Nohea Ka'awa

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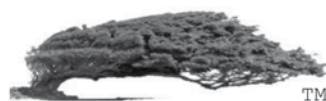
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Mask Mandates Vary in Ka'ū & Volcano Venues

Most businesses in Ka'ū and Volcano ended mask wearing requirements, according to a phone and drive-by survey taken on Saturday, March 26. The state ended its indoor mask-wearing mandate after midnight that morning. However, a few places stuck with the protective policy to help prevent another rise in Covid cases.



"Masks are still to be used here!" said a sign at Mizuno's in Pāhala on Saturday, March 26. It also said, "Thanks for your understanding."

Photo by Julia Neal

In Volcano, 'Ōhelo Café not only still requires the wearing of masks, diners must also show a vaccination certificate.

In Pāhala, Mizuno's, a tightly packed food, liquor and general store, is keeping its mask requirement. A sign on the front door said, "Masks are still to be worn here. Thanks for your understanding."

A post on The Ka'ū Calendar facebook said, "The people that own and operate this small store are amazing. They have taken care of this community all the way through this, above and beyond. I myself will do anything to help them feel safe as they have stood by me I will stand by them."

In Nā'ālehu, Will & Grace, which provides packaged and fresh food and Ka'ū Coffee, also kept its mask mandate. "Please wear your safety mask. Before Enter the Store," is the message from management.

In Ocean View, L&L Drive-In requires mask wearing to pick up food indoors. Close by, Kahuku Gift & Garden Shop posted the sign, "No Mask Needed." Owner of the shop, Lisa Barsell, expressed her gratitude towards the community for wearing masks during the pandemic and keeping Ka'ū safe. Ace Hardware in Ocean View made it optional to wear a mask, with most employees wearing them. At Kahuku Country Market, mask wearing was mixed, with no requirements.

People at several Ocean View businesses said some places hadn't imposed mask wearing during the pandemic.

In Nā'ālehu, Punalu'u Bake Shop, South Side Shaka's and Hana Hou restaurants and Ace Hardware made mask wearing optional. Down the highway, the 76 station with gasoline, liquor, snacks and a mini box store for food and household supplies, lifted the indoor mask wearing requirement.

In Pāhala, Longs Drugs lifted its mask mandate. Down the sidewalk, Bank of Hawai'i lifted the indoor wearing of masks, but the staff still wears them.

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KA PEPA VOLCANO

Volume 20, Number 4

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

April 2022

Specialty Volcanoes Park License Plates Fund Skillful Work

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park license plates have brought in \$153,000. The fundraiser benefits the Park from sales of the license plates featuring lava flows and nēnē geese. They were authorized by a 2015 state law to raise funds for resource protection and education projects at



Developing 'Ike Hana No'eau - Experience the Skillful Work craft demonstrations on video will be supported by the sales of specialty license plates showing the Nene and lava at Hawai'i Volcanoes.

Photo from Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association

Haleakalā and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Parks. The specialty license plate program revenues are distributed by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association.

Hawai'i Pacific Parks recently presented the check to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Superintendent Rhonda Loh for \$153,356. These funds will be dedicated to supporting the 'Ike Hana No'eau - Experience the Skillful Work craft demonstrations and workshops through video. These workshops were, in pre-pandemic years, open to visitors on the park lānai for instruction in such Hawaiian arts and crafts as lei making, lauhala weaving, hula, and much more. Now the park plans to develop 'Ike Hana No'eau instructional videos to be available online for everyone, around the world.

Other national parks that benefit from specialty license plate programs include



Specialty License Plates featuring Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is bringing in money for 'Ike Hana No'eau - Experience the Skillful Work.
Image from Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Crater Lake National Park, and Yosemite National Park.

For more information on how to purchase a specialty plate, visit <https://vehicleregistrationlicensing.as.me/specialtyplates>.

Pā'ina Paniolo: Love the Arts Comes to Volcano Art Center

Volcano Art Center's 17th Annual Love the Arts fundraiser comes to Niaulani Campus with a Pā'ina Paniolo on Saturday, April 9, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. This gala is the main event each year to raise funds for Volcano Art Center's classes, exhibits, workshops, and additional creative arts experiences.

The 2022 Love the Arts will feature paniolo decorations, food, beer, wines and live entertainment with Gone Coun-

try. Live and silent auctions will include original artwork, hotel stays, tours, dining out restaurant certificates, attractions, local products, and services. and jewelry. Everyone will have an opportunity to bid.

Each year local artists are asked to contribute their artwork to be auctioned. "These artists and businesses who give to the event do so with the knowledge that their donation will have a direct impact on the survival of the Art Center. The Volcano



Art Center is an integral part of this unique community offering a sense of belonging to those who live and work around it," says the VAC statement.

Tickets are \$70 to the public and \$65 for VAC members. See https://volcanoartcenter.org/event/17th-annual-love-the-arts-fundraiser-gala-2022-paina-paniolo/?instance_id=16390

COVID Sniffing Canine Cobra Joins the Staff of Volcano School of Arts & Sciences

A canine named Cobra joins Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences community in April. Principal Kalima Kinney explained that Cobra is trained to detect the presence of COVID-19. The seven-year-old female Belgian Malinois is part of a COVID-19 dog detection pilot program in five public schools on Hawai'i Island.

Cobra was previously trained to detect the scent of a fungus that causes Rapid 'Ōhia Death and had highly accurate results. When the pandemic began, Cobra began putting her nose to work to detect coronavirus after researchers were able to isolate the odor of the body's response to the virus.

Beginning the week of April 4, students and staff at Volcano School can begin signing up for Cobra's weekly "sniffer

tests" to keep Volcano School coronavirus free.

The principal also noted that Volcano School lifted its indoor mask mandate on March 28 for faculty, staff, and students. The change was anticipated after outdoor masking became optional at VSAS in early March and the state mask mandate was lifted on March 26. Safety precautions, however, are still in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, with weekly testing available for all students and staff and quarantine requirements for those who

are in close contact with someone with COVID-19



Cobra joins the staff of Volcano School of Arts & Sciences to sniff out COVID-19.
Photo from Volcano School of Arts & Sciences



APRIL EVENTS

Collection of Calabash, continues through April 3, 2022 at VAC gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

4/9 New Exhibit:
Reflections with Gary Eoff opens 4/9 - 5/15
4/9 - 17th Annual Love The Arts Fundraiser:
Pā'ina Paniolo
4/13 & 4/27 - Free!
Sculpture Garden Tour at Niaulani Campus
4/23 -Mixed Media Encaustics with Mary Milezcik
4/28 Keiki Ukulele with Dina Kageler (5 classes)
4/29 Keiki Zentangle with Dina Kageler (5 classes)



Niaulani Gallery in Volcano Village & VAC Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park are OPEN! Visit our website for current hours

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Jodie Rosam, from pg. 12 ecosystem, and cultural resources that we cherish, while also granting the stewards who have invested their love and commitment the peace of mind that these places will be protected in perpetuity. I look forward to representing Ka'ū and seeing what else our community can accomplish together."

Rosam earned a Master's of Science in Tropical Conservation Biology & Environmental Science from University of Hawai'i at Hilo

and has a background in ecosystem restoration and natural and cultural resource conservation. In addition to PONC, she serves as board member of The Volcano School of Arts & Sciences, Ka 'Ohana O Honu'apo, Three Mountain Alliance Foundation, and The Book Shack. She is the Plant Program Coordinator for Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and the owner of Pūlama Mau Environmental Consulting. She is the author of the monthly Ka'ū Calendar newspaper column Lā'au Letters: Native Plants of Ka'ū.

She said she thrives on sparking a love for nature in her children, making new friends in the plant kingdom, and sharing her passion with others. Her work in stewardship of the land spans more than 20 years on Hawai'i Island.

The Ka'ū Calendar

Mask Mandates, from pg. 13
patrons are allowed to check to see if anyone is immunized. One worker said he wears a mask for his own protection.

At the KMC check-in desk for accommodations and at nearby Lava Lounge, Crater Rim Café and KMC's general store, masks aren't required for those who are vaccinated but vaccination cards are not checked.

At Volcano House check-in desk and its Uncle George's Lounge and The Rim restaurant, the mask mandate has been lifted, but social distancing is still enforced by splitting up dining parties larger than four.

Volcano Art Center Gallery and campus have new entry signs that say, "Masks are recommended indoors, however no longer required."



Kahuku Mini Mart welcomed customers with and without masks on Saturday.
Photo by Katie Graham

In Volcano Village, Kīlauea Lodge lifted mask requirements for its restaurant, store and check-in desk.

Volcano Store and Kīlauea General Store with their adjacent Lava Rock Café also lifted mask requirements, as did Thai Rim Bistro & Bar, along with its adjacent visitor center and True Value Hardware



Kahuku Garden & Gift advertises, "No Mask Needed."
Photo by Katie Graham

Store. Volcano Winery also lifted its mask requirement.

Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i reports its poll showing 29 percent of businesses plan to keep mask mandates for now.

Public transportation, hospitals, clinics and care homes kept the policy for wearing masks.

Public schools in Pāhala and Nā'ālehu require masks indoors. Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences lifted indoor mask wearing. Kamehameha Schools kept the mask wearing policy for indoors.

University of Hawai'i and its community colleges are keeping mask wearing for classrooms, labs and other confined teaching spaces but lifting for dining halls, libraries and student lounges and other public spaces.

Masks are also required on school buses and all public transportation, as well as in hospitals, clinics and care homes.

Safe Rainwater, from pg. 12
by dynamic communities including rural and remote areas not served by municipal water. These communities rely on private or shared wells, water trucked from public spigots and rainwater catchment. Hawai'i Island's population has increased steadily in recent years, as the global demand for access to clean water grows."

Uncle Tilo's has hosted more than 50 free Clean Water classes, provided sponsorships, and social media marketing to focus attention on the issues surrounding rainwater harvesting. TilosCleanWater.com "is designed for empowerment through education," said Lolla.

He said, "It is very important that those using water from a rainwater catchment system understand all the potential dangers and benefits. In Hawai'i, there are no government agencies overseeing the safety of private rainwater catchment systems. It is up to the owner or user of the system to know how to maintain this type of water source and use it in an appropriate manner. With proper design, maintenance, water treatment, and disinfection, a rainwater catchment system can provide water that is free of contamination; soft, clear, odorless, and suitable for drinking and other daily needs. However, improperly designed or maintained rainwater catchment systems may pose a health risk; for example, via the introduction of waterborne illness and exposure to heavy metals."

Lolla said that waterborne and vector-borne illness may be transmitted to users from rainwater catchment systems that lack appropriate system elements, maintenance, or from insufficient treatment of stored water. For example, catchment tanks lacking covers or with damaged or poorly sealed covers can provide breeding opportunities for mosquitos known to be disease vectors.

Lolla pointed out that the 2015-2016 dengue virus outbreak on Hawai'i Island sickened hundreds. The state Department of Health identified "uncovered catchment systems..." as a potential source of dengue

virus infected mosquitos and suggested essential actions be taken to control mosquito breeding in rainwater harvest systems.

Other vector-borne diseases transmitted by mosquitos, such as the globally emerging Zika virus, are of concern in areas where mosquitos may breed. The invasive semi-slug, with a propensity to climb up and into water tanks, is a known host of the parasitic nematode responsible for infecting humans with rat lungworm disease, Lolla noted.

Lolla cautions that when it comes to exposure to heavy metals, "the fact that all rainwater is corrosive is at the top of the list. Most rainwater is acidic, regardless of where you are on the planet. Here in Hawai'i, we also have volcanic emissions at this time that adds to this problem as was confirmed by testing one tank while hosting a class in Ocean View last month. The owners expressed they had never added any minerals in the tank, and it tested out with a pH of 4.5. Typical rainfall has a pH around 6, that means the rainwater we catch in the Ka'u District is very corrosive."

Lolla warns, "If your pipes, sinks, tubs, or toilet have stains, it's because metals have leached into your water supply. If you are brushing your teeth, showering, drinking, or cooking with this untreated water you are being exposed to heavy metals. Corrosive water may leach metals from your plumbing system, such as lead, cadmium, zinc, iron or copper into your water supply. It also shortens the life expectancy of all plumbing fixtures and appliances."

Uncle Tilo's recommendation is to add minerals to neutralize rainwater to help mitigate ongoing events of the volcanic eruption that are carried along by vog, with its impact on air and rain. Lolla reported a recent increase in calls due to vogggy conditions.

He said Uncle Tilo's principle is simple: "From the raindrop to your faucet the whole system affects the quality of the water you use, and ultimately affects the quality of your health."

Learn more at TilosCleanWater.com.

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The Ka'u Calendar

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Aloha Ka'ū!

It has been an honor representing parts of Ka'ū in the Hawai'i State Senate since 2018. Together, we've improved the schools and health care facilities our families count on, protected our Kona and Ka'ū coffee farmers, worked to expand access to broadband connectivity, and come together to care for our community through the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, Senate District 3 will expand to include Pāhala and Volcano Village.* Over the coming months, I look forward to meeting you, learning how I can best advocate for your needs, and earning your trust and your vote. Mahalo for the opportunity to serve you!



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