

Foundation To Carry on Work & Philanthropy of Ed Olson

A foundation will carry on the mission of Ed Olson to support agriculture, economic development, conservation of nature and community service in Kaʻū and beyond. Before passing away on July 15, the 93-year-old entrepreneur and philanthropist set up the Edmund C. Olson Foundation to continue his work on thousands of acres of land and to provide charitable support in the community.

During his time in Kaʻū, Olson do-

minated money toward purchasing shoreline properties for the conservation of Kaʻū's Coast, agricultural lands and forest. He founded Kaʻū Coffee Mill. He and his team supported the Kaʻū Coffee Festival and Miss Kaʻū Coffee Pageants, and led promotions to international coffee conventions to help cement the success of the Kaʻū Coffee brand. He supported all the Kaʻū Coffee farmers in the presentation of their coffees at a presidential inaugural ball

in Washington, D.C.

Over the years, Olson's contributions in Kaʻū included funding for The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land. Olson outright purchased hundreds of acres along the Kaʻū Coast at Honuʻapo to prevent its development with help from TPL's Josh Stanbro. Olson also assisted with the pur-

Olson Foundation, pg. 3



Ed Olson follows Father Joel for the blessing of Kaʻū Coffee Mill in 2012. Photo by Julia Neal

THE KAʻŪ CALENDAR

Volume 22, Number 8

The Good News of Kaʻū, Hawaiʻi

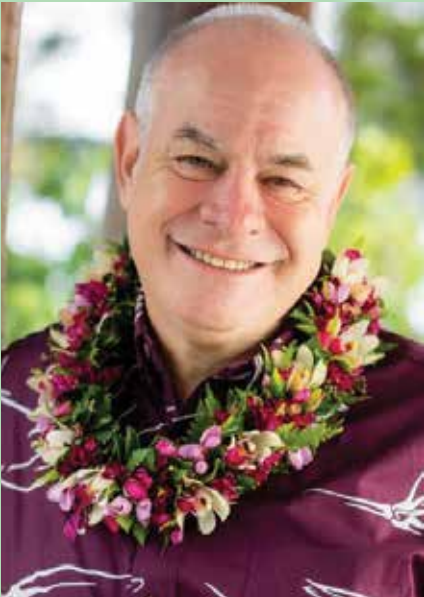
August 2024



Dr. Kimo Alameda



Breeani Kobayashi



Mayor Mitch Roth



Seaula Jr. Tupaʻi

Mayor's Race May Be Headed for Runoff

There will be a runoff in the race for Mayor of Hawaiʻi County and the most likely matchup will be Mayor Mitch Roth and Dr. Kimo Alameda, according to one of Hawaiʻi's most quoted political analysts, Colin Moore. Moore also points to Bree Kobayashi and Seaula Jr. Tupaʻi as candidates with supporters.

The election ends Aug. 10, the last day that citizens can vote - it's only in person since ballots were already sent out and are returning in the mail. Aug. 10 is the day for the completion of counting of all mail-in ballots returned by registered voters. Learn how to register and still vote at www.hawaiielections.gov.

Moore is a professor at the School of Communication and Information at University of Hawaiʻi Program and Director for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace. He works with the University of Hawaiʻi Economic Research

Organization. He has a Masters and PhD from Harvard University Department of Government.

In an analysis provided to John Burnett, reporter for *Hawaiʻi Tribune-Herald* newspaper, Moore predicted that "Roth isn't going to win on primary night" but won't lose to other candidates in the Primary. Regarding Roth and Alameda, Moore said, "I think we're likely to see them both move forward."

The contest is non partisan and is over on Aug. 10 if any candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote in the Primary. Otherwise the top two vote getters face a runoff in the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

In Moore's analysis, he points out that Roth has the backing of International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Laborers' International, International Union of Operating Engineers, and the Plumbers & Pipefitters. However, Alameda gained the endorsement of United

Public Workers and Hawaiʻi Government Employees Association, the two biggest unions representing workers in government. Also endorsing Alameda is the State of Hawaiʻi Organization of Police Officers.

The next candidate spending report, showing donations to campaigns, was due at the state Campaign Spending Commission on July 31. In the June 30 report, Roth showed \$226,513 in campaign contributions and \$132,350.26 in expenditures. Alameda reported contributions of \$140,252.32 and expenditures of \$106,735.84. Kobayashi reported \$48,615 coming in, and expenditures of \$27,244.05. Tupaʻi reported receiving \$10,591.09 with \$11,278.73 spent. Mayoral candidates Daniel Cunningham, Kavin Kahikina and Yumi Kawano have no Campaign Spending Commission reports filed.

In the June 30 report, "I think the smart money is on Roth and Alam-

eda because they have the money to spend," Moore told the *Tribune Herald*. "Raising money is also an indication of what level of support you have in the community, especially if you're getting a lot of mid-level donations. I think that indicates a broad support among people who are politically active, because the people who give are the ones who, often, will tell their friends and neighbors to vote for you — especially the mid-level donations. The big donations tend to be, usually, people with some kind of interest in the outcome of the election because they're business owners or something like that, often trying to buy goodwill." See who gives money to whom at <https://ags.hawaii.gov/campaign/reports/election-summaries/>

Moore advocates for publicly funded elections and wrote a report on it for UHERO at <https://tinyurl.com/yc5nd5rv>.

Does Punaluʻu Project Comply with Kaʻū CDP?

Kaʻū Community Development Plan Action Committee will provide an analysis of the proposed develop-

ment at Punaluʻu as testimony to the Windward Planning Commission. The Action Committee voted during its July meeting to send testimony and include a review by Ron Whitmore, who led the development of the Kaʻū CDP during his tenure as a County of Hawaiʻi long-range planner. It can be read along with other testimony at <https://tinyurl.com/3umtxmn9>.

Whitmore writes that the proposal appears to be inconsistent with three Policy Controls in the Kaʻū Community Development Plan.

Regarding Policy 6, Whitmore writes, "It does not include affordable housing." Policy 6 in the CDP says,

"The development of visitor accommodations and any resort development should complement the character of the area; protect the environment and natural beauty' respect existing lifestyles, cultural practices, and cultural resources, provide shoreline public access, and provide affordable housing to meet demand created by the development."

He notes that developers planning within the Special Management area, according to the Kaʻū CDP, "should establish setbacks at the earliest stages of the land use planning and development process at a minimum of 1,320 feet (1/4-mile); however, the applicant may request that the setback be reduced

by providing information to the Department, including information required for SMA review, which would allow for an assessment of the proposed activity's impacts and in consideration of the physical limitations of the property. For lots created prior to the date of adoption of the CDP with an average lot depth of two hundred feet or less, the shoreline setback line shall be 40 feet."

Whitmore notes that the proposed development "clearly includes 'new facilities' as well as development on parcels that abut the shore, including Artisan Garden Hales, Museum Pavilion, Welcome Center and Beach Club Cafe, *Punaluʻu Project, pg. 3*

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Also in this issue:
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Ka'ū Coffee Scores High, Miranda's First in Ka'ū

Ka'ū Coffee scored high at Hawai'i Coffee Association's 15th Annual Cupping Competition in July. The cupping was held during the annual conference and meeting of the HCA at Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu.



In the Ka'ū District competition,

Miranda's Farms took first with a score of 85.63 for its parchment-dried Geisha. Rusty's Hawaiian Farm took second with 85.42 for its fruit-dried Yellow Bourbon, Red Bourbon. Ka'ū Coffee Mill, LLC took third with 84.55 for its pulp-dried Red Bourbon.



Top Three Cupping Creative Winners of Ka'ū from left: Jose & Berta Miranda of Miranda's Farms which also took top Ka'ū Coffee, Joan Obra of Rusty's Hawaiian Farm and Louis Daniele of Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

Photo from Hawai'i Coffee Association.

In the Commercial Division, Ka'ū Coffee Mill, LLC took third in the state with 81.63 points for its pulp-dried Typica. Second was a tie between Mauka Meadows, Mountain with 82.63 for its parchment-dried Typica and Kopiko Farm with 82.63 for its parchment-dried Red Bourbon. First went to Hula Daddy Kona Coffee with 84.29 for its parchment-dried Typica.



The Miranda family took first in cupping competition for the Ka'ū District. Photo from Miranda's Farms

In the Creative Division, Miranda's Farms took ninth with 85.63 for it parchment-dried Geisha and Rusty's Hawaiian Farm took tenth with 85.42 with its fruit-dried Yellow Bourbon, Red Bourbon. First in Creative was Geisha Kona Coffee with 87.83 for its fruit-dried Geisha. Second was Monarch Coffee Farm, of Kona, with 87.40

for its parchment-dried Geisha. Other Ka'ū Coffee farms that participated with scores above 80 were A Coffee Farm; Elepoki; Aroma Coffee Farm; Green Turtle Estate Coffee Farm; Navarro Farms, LLC; R&G Farms/Ka'ū Royal; JN Coffee Farm and DMCA Coffee Farm.

Governor Signs Truth in Labeling Law for Hawaiian Coffee

Hawai'i Coffee Association advises Ka'ū Coffee farmers on two new truth in labeling measures that Gov. Josh Green recently signed into law. Chris Manfredi, Government Affairs Coordinator for HCA, said the organization strongly supported the legislation. At the signing, Ka'ū Coffee Mill representative Jeff Clark and Ka'ū's state Senator Dru Kanuha were in attendance.

Regarding Act 198, the HCA announcement says:

"While the original form of the bill was for 100% Hawai'i-grown coffee to be used in products that use Hawai'i's

coffee growing regions on packaging and in advertising, a compromise was reached at a 51% minimum blend ratio.

"This is part of an ongoing HCA effort to protect Hawai'i's coffee producers from the introduction of poor quality and foreign-grown coffee into the supply chain. The HCA believes that poor quality blends and counterfeit coffee that use Hawai'i's origin names undermine the generations of producers who continue to work to build Hawai'i's coffee brands with high quality and integrity.

"What this means for you - If you sell 100% Hawai'i-grown coffee there

will be no change as the results of this law.

If you sell blends containing foreign-grown coffee, on and after July 1, 2027, your blends will be required to contain at least 51% Hawai'i-grown coffee to be in compliance.

"We are currently communicating with Hawai'i Department of Agriculture about the implementation and enforcement of this law, including its impacts on 'All Hawaiian' blends, and will continue to update you."

Regarding Act 211, HCA reports, "This truth-in-labeling measure was

not an HCA initiative however we did support it and offered our amendments over time. It requires that coffee origins be better disclosed on the label and in advertising."

For more on its requirements, implementation and enforcement, visit the state Department of Agriculture post at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/main/nnr2418coffeelabelinglaw/>.

For retail information and to report possible mislabeling or non-compliance, email the HDOA's Measurement Standards Branch at: hdoa.ms.labeling@hawaii.gov or call (808) 832-0690.

CTHAR Offers Coffee Leaf Rust Resistant Seedlings, Grafts

Coffee Leaf Rust Resistant trees are offered by University of Hawai'i to help farmers recover from the devastating pest. The College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources says the prices are set at market value with grafted Catimor Hybrid Trees #2 and #4 at \$15 each and ungrafted seedlings \$10 each.

"CTAHR shall not compete with industry growers," says the statement. Preorders are being taken. The plants are conventionally grown and not certified organic.

Catimor Hybrid Tree #2 and #4 will be available as seedlings and grafted trees on (coffee root-knot nematode-tolerant) liberica rootstock. Distribution of plants will

be organized according to availability of plant materials and on a first come, first serve basis.

Email andreak@hawaii.edu to express interest in Catimor hybrids and to receive a waiver and release to be completed and returned prior to purchase. The waiver advises that seeds from Catimor Hybrid Tree #2 and #4 shall not be used for propagation as there is likely genetic variability from cross pollination with non-CLR resistant trees that can reduce or eliminate CLR resistance. The Catimor Hybrid plant materials are to be used solely for the purpose of produc-



Catimor Hybrid trees are available from U.H. College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to coffee farmers. The hybrid is resistant to Coffee Leaf Rust and is sold first come, first serve.

Photo from CTAHR

tion of coffee cherry and berries and not for propagating for the use of harvesting, selling, and/or distribution of seeds, cuttings, air layers, or other propagative plant materials by the recipient or anyone else.

The minimum number of plants for an order is 12. Depending on plant availability, orders may be received in incremental batches. Payment is expected at pick-up. "Please be sure to water, fertilize, inspect and treat for disease and pests, and plant quickly after receipt," says the announcement.

Review a presentation on the Catimor Hybrid CLR-resistant Coffee Project at Kona Research Station presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11-ytPT2jFU>.

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KA PEPA PAHALA

Volume 22, Number 8

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

August 2024

Olson Foundation, from pg. 1

chase of Kawā for conservation of the Ka'ū Coast.

Olson and his team contributed vans to Ka'ū Hospital and Ka'ū High School and recently provided free eye exams and glasses to schoolchildren throughout east Hawai'i.

Olson provided the town Christmas tree and annually sponsored the Eddie Andrade's Pāhala Christmas Parade. The Olson team continued to fund the parade's transition to the Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade in 2023 when Andrade retired from the effort after 40 years.

Olson also contributed to the local Hālau Hula 'O Leionalani and other community nonprofits and has hosted the annual Ka'ū Coffee Trail Run in cooperation with 'O Ka'ū Kākou. It begins and ends at Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

A statement from the Edmund C. Olson Foundation said his mission, legacy and philanthropy will continue beyond his passing. Olson's interests in Ka'ū include thousands of acres of macadamia orchards, coffee, pastures and forests, a hydroelectric plant, two homes and the old Pāhala Clubhouse, Pāhala Center with its bank, post office, shops and Mizuno Superette. The Olson reach goes beyond Ka'ū to OK Farms in Hilo and the Wainaku Executive Center on Hilo coast, which with Olson's cooperation will become a distillery for 'ōkolehao made from the root of the ti plant.

Olson also owns land and businesses on O'ahu and in California.

The statement from the Foundation says, "Mr. Olson was a highly successful self-made businessman and philanthropist who made a significant impact on the quality of life for many people, especially residents on the Big Island of Hawai'i. He was a savvy entrepreneur who had a great vision for new opportunities and always found a way to help those in need. Most importantly, he cared about people and giving back to the community he loved."

One of his latest purchases was

Mizuno Superette in Pāhala, which was in danger of shutting down. With Olson ownership it is now operated by Carl Okuyama and his 'Ohana Foods.

One of the recent gifts from Olson was providing \$200,000 in scholarships, with preference to Ka'ū students studying agriculture at University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

The statement notes that most of Olson's 15,000 acres in Hawai'i is dedicated to sustainable agriculture. "He started the Ka'ū Coffee Mill in order to provide Ka'ū Coffee growers a place to process their coffee which led to a significant growth the Ka'ū Coffee re-



Olson built Ka'ū Coffee Mill to give farmers a place to process their coffee.

Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Mill

gion. Mr. Olson operated thousands of acres of macadamia nut orchards and purchased Hamakua Macadamia Nut Company to process and market the nuts."

In the early 2000's Olson partnered with Troy Keolanui to form OK Farms in Hilo, a tropical fruit and macadamia farm. Through their partnership, Keolanui and Olson developed a close relationship that has endured. Keolanui said, "He made everyone feel like family; we will truly miss him."

On the mainland, Olson grew A-American Storage, based in Los Angeles, to become the fifth largest self-storage operator in the country, with more

with the landowner, in implementing Community Action 20: Develop and implement plans for Punalu'u."

Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee voted to write a letter asking the Planning Commission to consider whether the proposed Special Management Permit proposed by Black Sand Beach, LLC aligns with policies of the Ka'ū Community Development Plan. Attached to the letter will be testimony from the public and the SMA permit proposal analysis by Whitmore, who worked for the County to develop the Ka'ū CDP.

The proposed development calls for more than 200 units of condos and other units for short term rent-



Troy Keolanui, front left, and his mentor, the late Ed Olson and Olson's wife Sammie Stanbro. On June 8, Olson was honored by Trust for Public Land for "his many years of dedicated service to our mission." TPL helps to place special lands in the public trust and worked with Olson to conserve Kawā, Honu'apo and other properties in Hawai'i. Right of Keolanui are daughters Dayva and Aelani, wife Ala and sister Mel Keolanui.

Photo from TPL

than 100 locations. His approach was to buy up failing mom-and-pop mini storages across the country, streamline their operations, and keep the owners on his team. On his 75th birthday, many of the mini-storage owners he rescued surprised him at a birthday party in Malibu, California and thanked him for helping them to become successful.

Earlier in his career, after a stint in the Marines, Olson worked his way up from toiling on construction sites to becoming a contractor and specialized in Gunite. It involved the spraying of concrete for thousands of swimming pools, water and drainage canals and water piping, including some of the big waterlines coming into Los Angeles. In Washington, D.C., he built part of the Department of Labor building. In Sacramento, he worked on the California State Capitol building dome.

Olson came to Hawai'i to work on bridges on the road to Hana.

Olson lived with his wife Sammie Stanbro at their farm north of Hilo on

the Wailuku River. She is also known for her work in land conservation, in particular the passing of the "Two Percent Fund," which provides property tax funding to purchase and steward special lands on this island.

On June 8, Olson was honored by Trust for Public Land for his lifetime of work and contributions towards conservation of public spaces that benefit the community. On the same day, he came to Ka'ū Coffee Festival where he was honored by Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative for leadership and development in building Ka'ū Coffee Mill and helping to grow the local coffee industry here.

According to his family, he died peacefully at home on July 15. He is survived by his wife Sammie Stanbro, three sons, two stepsons, hānai son Troy Keolanui, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, Aug. 31 at the Palace Theatre in Hilo at 2 p.m.

years of work by the Ka'ū Community Development Plan Committee and the time that County of Hawai'i spent to craft the Ka'ū CDP with extensive community involvement. She also noted the abundance of testimony given at recent public hearings and Action Committee meetings, most of it in opposition to the Punalu'u development.

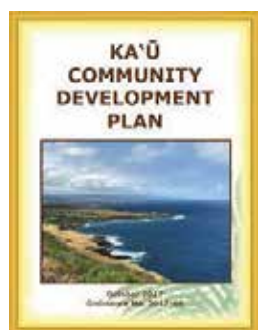
Elsa Kalanikauleleaiwi Dedman, who is a plaintiff in a contested case opposing the resort, pointed to plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Hawaiians who have lived at Punalu'u and

Punalu'u Project, pg. 4

Punalu'u Project, from pg. 1

so a new shoreline setback should have been established per Policy 28."

Regarding Policy 29, Whitmore writes: "Necessary assessments were not completed, including for impacts



<https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/cdp/kau>.

on scenic resources, view planes, water quality, marine life, and cultural resources as well as the impacts of tsunamis and sea level rise."

Policy 29 says, "No development, including subdivision, shall be approved in the SMA unless the development will not have any substantial adverse environmental or ecological effect."

Whitmore writes: "The CDP Action Committee has an opportunity to play a leadership role, in collaboration The Ka'ū Calendar

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Punalu'u Project, from pg. 3
whose ancestors lived there.

The plaintiffs call for the Planning Commission to require a new Environmental Impact Statement and a new shoreline setback study before considering the SMA approval. The last shoreline study at Punalu'u was over 40 years ago.

Action Committee Chair Jason Masters said that the Ka'u CDP recommends a quarter mile setback from the coast for development and stated that there are proposed commercial enterprises next to Black Sand Beach that are not set back a quarter mile.

Former County Council member Guy Enriques referred to the Ka'u Community Development Plan and said it is "black and white" that the proposed development is not in line with the policies of the Ka'u CDP.

Action Committee member Babette Morrow said that construction of affordable housing is missing from the developer's proposal but is one of the policies recommended by Ka'u CDP when considering development proposals. She noted that she and Masters have been studying Ka'u CDP policies and

also an analysis by planner Whitmore in preparation for drafting the letter to the Planning Commission.

Citizens speaking at the Action Committee meeting also called for protection of the endangered hawksbill turtles that nest and the green sea turtles that rest at Punalu'u.

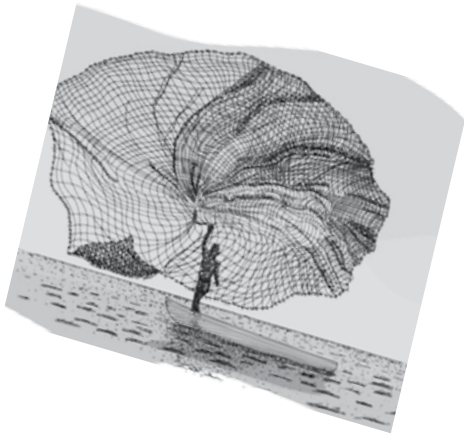
Black Sand Beach, LLC planning consultant Daryn Arai asked that the Action Committee send him and the development group a copy of the proposed testimony and attachments to the Windward Planning Commission before it is finalized so that the developers can answer concerns and give comments. Representatives of the Planning Department said the draft will be included with the agenda of the next Action Committee meeting and available online to everyone.

The next CDP Action Committee meeting will be held on Aug. 14 at 5 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Community Center. Whitmore's analysis can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/3umtxmn9>.

Read Ka'u Community Development Plan at <https://tinyurl.com/yxmxmbz>.

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Kua O Ka Lā's Hipu'u program combines an online curriculum with opportunities for face to face gatherings, community-based projects, Hawaiian Language and cultural instruction. As a Hawaiian Focused Charter School, (HFCS) we offer an online curriculum with an emphasis on Hawaiian language and culture.

Program Requirements: Access to high speed internet and grade level reading ability.

Kua O Ka Lā 'Aelike (School Values):

- Aloha kekahi i kekahi-have love for one another
- Kōkua aku kōkua mai-give help, receive help
- Mālama i kou kuleana-take care of your responsibilities
- Mahalo i ka mea loa'a- be thankful for what we have
- By implementing these 'Aelike, students will kūlia i ka nu'u-or strive for excellence

Kua O Ka Lā Mission and Vision:

- Provide Hawaiian culturally-driven, including values-based, and place-based educational experiences through pilina 'āina, pilina kānaka, and pilina 'uhane.
- Help students to thrive on Ke Ala Pono - the right path.

Hipu'u Program Goals:

- Provide opportunities for virtual and face to face instruction, monthly field trips around Hawai'i Island and social interaction virtually and in person.
- Provide an enriched cultural based online curriculum for students in Grades 4-10 in 2024-2025 SY, Grades 4-11 in 2025-2026 SY, and Grades 4-12 in 2026-2027SY

Successful online students:

- independently manage their time well, and receive dedicated support from parents and teachers
- are self-motivated learners and can learn efficiently in varied environments
- are strong readers and have a minimum of 3rd grade reading level
- find productive and creative ways of using technology to learn
- like academic challenges and appreciate hard work

Hipu'u refers to the knots that bind the strands of a fishing net. This program aims to bind students to knowledge, their families, and a supportive network of communities.

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 22, Number 8 The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i August 2024

Ka'ū Roping & Riding 45th July Rodeo Draws All Ages

Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo drew paniolo of all ages to Nā'ālehu Rodeo Grounds on July 6 and 7. Organized by Tammy Kaapana and the KR&R Association nonprofit, the event featured livestock from Ho'omau Ranch. Aki Smith announced the rodeo. It drew numerous volunteers to operate the arena and was graced with financial sponsors in the community.



Ka'ū Roping & Riding offers numerous events like keiki barrels for young paniolo.

Rodeo Queen this year is 14-year-old Jeanne Maraj, who is involved with riding and rodeo at Pana'ewa. She is daughter of Cindy Bourdier and Roger Maraj. She said riding and rodeo are her passions.

Here are the winners of the rodeo events:
Open Team Roping buckles went to Ryzaiyah and RB Botelho.
Kane Wahine Team Roping buckles went to Billy Boy Benevides and

Maddison Park.
Century Team Roping buckles went to Gilbert Smith and Danny Joseph.
Double Mugging buckles went to Justin Amaral and RJ Kahele.
Kane Wahine Ribbon Mugging buckles went to Kaila Andrade and Ryzaiyah Botelho.
Wahine Mugging buckles went to Rai-sha Karatti and Ana Grace.
Wahine Breakaway buckle went to Hilina'i Karatti.
Team Sorting buckles went to Josh Gomes, Rigan Kaapana and Cody Esperago.
Po'o Wai U buckle went to Aden Benevides.
Keiki Barrels buckle went to Elle-Marie Jose.



Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo Queen is Jeanne Maraj.



Out of the gate, the horses and riders demonstrate strength and agility as they focus on capturing the steer.
Photos by Julia Neal

Dummy Roping 4 & Under buckle went to Hayzlee Kua.
Dummy Roping 5 to 8 buckle went to Elle-Marie Jose.
Goat Undecorating 4 & Under buckle went to Kekai Mello.
Goat Undecorating 5 to 8 buckle went to Baylie-Ann Lorenzo-Kuahiwi.
Buckle sponsors were: Camino Properties, 4K Ranch, Miranda Country Store, Kiser Motorcycles, C&F Trucking, CU Hawai'i Federal Credit Union, Deep Wellness Chiropractic, Hana Hou Restaurant & Tita Taco, 'O Ka'ū Kākou, Punalu'u Bakeshop and Pāhala Pops.
Organizers said they would like to mahalo the sponsors and also Wally Andrade who provided water for the event.
Keiki events are a feature of Ka'ū July Rodeo, pg. 6



A keiki calf rider makes it out of the gate, holds on for a moment and is launched by the calf onto the rodeo grounds at Ka'ū Roping & Riding arena in Nā'ālehu. Rodeo mentors were quick to retrieve him, no injuries reported.



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KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

Community Marshallese & Hawaiian Coordinator Jobs at Ka'ū High

Community Marshallese and Hawaiian coordinator jobs are offered in Ka'ū along with a Lead Student Coordinator position. See <https://www.recyclehawaii.org/join-our-team>. The three positions, with work available as early as Aug. 5, come through Recycle Hawai'i and Ka'ū High's Global Learning Lab with its three-year Hawai'i Youth Clean Stream Campaign and Waste-to-Wealth Initiative, funded by the EPA. The slogan of Recycle Hawai'i is "Think Global, Act Island," and its mission is "Transforming the Culture of Waste."

Both the Marshallese and Hawai-



ian positions require native language reading and writing skills and a commitment and ability to outreach into these communities. They are part-time positions, with three days a week at the school, and include off-island travel. The positions earn \$35,000 to \$42,000 a year.

The Lead Student Coordinator position is for someone who has worked with high school students and will coordinate group field trips, assist with classroom instruction and help students with photography, videography and documenting their progress. The coordinator will also help transport

students in the program from around Ka'ū and assist with travel. The position provides \$45,000 to \$50,000 a year in compensation.

The Hawai'i Youth Clean Stream Campaign and Waste-to-Wealth Initiative is a three-year grant program that aims to embed environmental justice initiatives in programs designed to significantly reduce the volume of waste sent to landfills on Hawai'i Island. The

partnership between Recycle Hawai'i and the Ka'ū Global Learning Lab fosters the development of youth-led, community-based education campaigns that promote composting, raise awareness about plastic pollution, and inform the public about ongoing recycling opportunities.

See details of the program, and jobs available and apply at <https://www.recyclehawaii.org/join-our-team>.

July Rodeo, from pg. 5

Roping & Riding Rodeo, with practices and training throughout the year. They range from dummy roping, to barrel racing and calf riding, along with goat undecorating. Many Ka'ū young wahine and kane paniolo start their relationship with livestock and horses as soon as they can walk, after being carried on horseback by their parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles when they were

infants. The keiki win buckles for their efforts at the annual Fourth of July Rodeo and other events at Nā'ālehu arena, sponsored by Ka'ū Roping & Riding Association, and grow into the sport as they grow up within their ranching paniolo families in Ka'ū.

To volunteer, make a donation or become a sponsor of a rodeo event, call Tammy Kaapana at 808-854-7917.



Learn about the history of Ka'ū High School at the reunion in August.

Reminisce & Talk Story, Learn Ka'ū History at Aug. 18 Reunion

The public is invited to learn more about the history of Ka'ū and to interact with locals who grew up here during the Ka'ū High Reunion to be held on Aug. 18 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pāhala Community Center.

The PBS film *Ka'ū Sugar: A Town Remembers* will be shown. The filmmaker is Cliff Watson, whose wife grew up in Pāhala. Oldtimers who worked

for the plantation, including Eddie Andrade, will be on hand to interact with the public. Ka'ū Multicultural Society will put on its history display.

Another film *Ka'ū Coffee, the Gold that Replaced Sugar*, will also be shown.

Attendees are invited to bring a pot luck dish. Sponsor of the event is Ka'ū High Alumni & Friends.



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GO TROJANS!

Ka'ū Night Skies - August 2024

by Christopher Phillips

Christopher Phillips is an astronomer, resident of Volcano and co-host of *Stargazer* on Hawai'i Public Radio.

During August, look for a few planets that can be spotted beginning after sunset with the planet Venus (Hokulua) which sets shortly after the Sun and can be seen more easily a little later in the month. Saturn (Naholoholo) rises in the east at around 9 p.m. and will remain with us throughout the night. It is also quite bright, so easy to spot. For you early risers out there, at around 2 a.m., Mars (Holoholopinaau)

AUGUST MOON PHASES

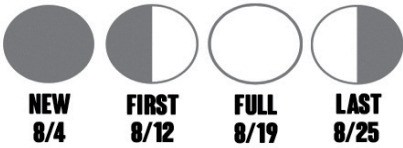


Image credit: 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i

and Jupiter (Ikaika) will also rise in the east and should be visible till the dawn light begins to brighten the sky.

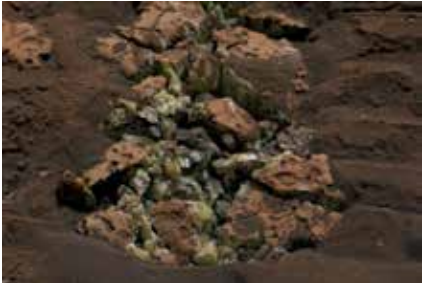
Our Hawaiian sky

This month the Hawaiian starline of **Ka Iwikuamo'o** (The Backbone) begins to wane in prominence in our night sky. Making way for **Mānaiakalani** to take the stage during the nights of the month of August. You may recall that **Ka Iwikuamo'o** is sometimes represented as the backbone of a great lizard or that of a genealogical backbone, with each star representing a generation. This magnificent starline begins in the North ('Ākau) and extends from Hōkūpa'a (Fixed star) which in western tradition is known as the North star, Polaris. Our starline extends all the way South (Hema) to Hānaiakamalama (Cared for by the Moon), which is known as the Southern Cross. The line can be traced through the various constellations that make up Ka Iwikuamo'o just as one can trace one's own genealogy. A path from one's self to one's ancestors, back through time. Each set of stars is a unique entity with it's own identity.

Mānaiakalani is known by several names depending on translation. It can be known as The Chief's Fish Line, Come-From-Heaven, or Maui's Fish Hook. The prominence of this starline

in our evening sky marks the height of summer. The starline is composed of several notable asterisms (collections or patterns of stars); the largest of these is the fishing spool, made up of a great triangle of three bright stars. This trio is referred to as The Navigator's Triangle (Huinakolu), or the Polynesian triangle. Within it are the stars of Pira'atea, Keoe, and Humu. In the Polynesian triangle they represent the islands of Aotearoa (New Zealand), Hawai'i, and Rapa Nui (Easter Island). You may also know these stars by their Arabic names, Deneb, Vega, and Altair, respectively. The fishing line extends to the constellation of Sagittarius, which in this context is Pimoe, the giant Ulua fish. Next to this is the distinctive shape of the hook itself, Ka Makau Nui o Māui, also known as Scorpio, the scorpion.

The region dominated by Pimoe, and Ka Makau Nui o Māui also marks

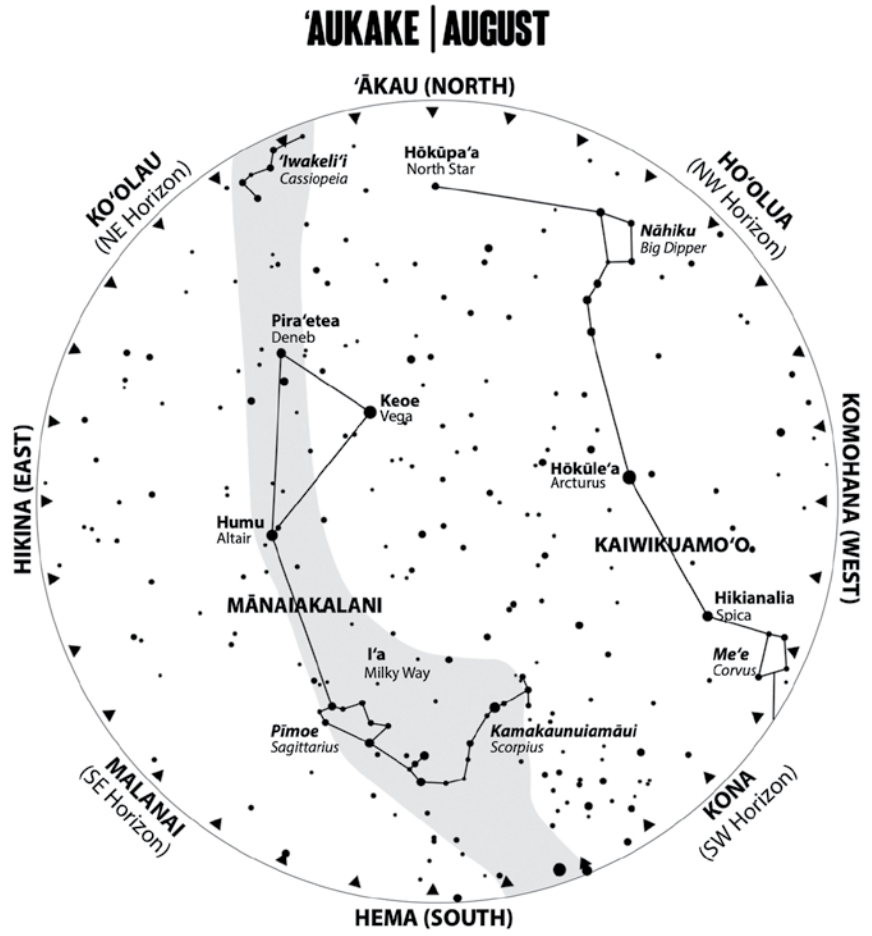


Sulfur Crystals on the Martian Surface
Image credit: NASA/JPL

the center of our Galaxy, the Milky Way. On a moonless night the bright core of the Galaxy, filled with the light of millions of stars, is a sight to behold. On either side, the great spiral arms of the Milky Way can be seen extending out from the bright core, with vast dark clouds of star forming material silhouetted against the light of countless stars.

Robot Geologist Makes Discovery on Mars!

NASA's interplanetary robot geologist, the 'Curiosity' rover, recently made a fascinating discovery on Mars. While traversing a region known as Gale Crater, Curiosity drove over a rock breaking it open and revealing a yellow, crystal-like mineral - pure sulfur. This may seem like a somewhat mundane discovery to us Earthbound folk, since sulfur is abundant on our planet (you can even go and smell it at the steam vents in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park!), this is yet more



Sky Chart from 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i



Gale Crater on Mars
Image Credit: NASA/JPL

exciting evidence that in the distant past Mars had large quantities of liquid water covering its surface.

The rock was found in the Gediz Vallis channel, a feature thought to be formed through water erosion billions of years ago. The presence of silica, a mineral often associated with water supports the theory that Mars was once a very different place and perhaps quite similar to our own Earth at one point.

Curiosity has been exploring Mars since 2012, with its primary mission to study the Martian climate and geology. It aims to assess whether Gale Crater ever offered environmental conditions favorable for microbial life. The rover's journey up Mount Sharp has been particularly revealing, uncovering layers of sediment that chronicle the

planet's transition from a wetter past to its current arid state.

The recent find of sulfur crystals could indicate ideal conditions for preserving ancient organic material, making it a high-priority target for future explorers, human or robot. The mineral veins observed around the cracked rock might reveal more about the historical interactions between water and the Martian surface. However, Curiosity is a geologist not an exobiologist (a biologist that studies life on other worlds), and so we might have to wait a little longer before we find out whether there was life on Mars, and if it might still exist there today in some humble form. The quest continues!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

STEWARDSHIP AT THE SUMMIT is Fridays, August 2, 16 & 30 and Saturdays, August 10 & 24 from 8:45 a.m. - noon, meet near Kīlauea Visitor Center restrooms in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Volunteers help remove plant species that prevent native plants growth. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Bring hat, raingear, day pack, snacks and water. Gloves and tools provided. Under 18 years old require parental or guardian accompaniment or written consent. More at https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/summit_stewardship.htm.

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: Lei making with Kaipo Ah Chong. Friday, August 2 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Tropical Agriculture farmer Kaipo Ah Chong, a member of Hālau Nā Kamalei, marries the science of agriculture with Hawaiian lei and hula traditions. Free cultural event part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawaiʻi State Grant In Aid (GIA) Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

FABRIC & FIBER POP-UP SHOP is Saturday, August 3 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Volcano Art Center's Niaulani campus in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Meet the artists and learn about fabric and fiber art.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: The Forest in the Pit Crater: A Tale of Ancient Hawaiʻi is Tuesday, August 6 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Hear how former park ecologist, David Benitez, along with multi-agency teams, rappelled into the Kahuku Pit Crater and how their research is used today to restore rare and endangered native plants throughout the park. Part of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and co-sponsored by the Friends of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: WITH DESIREE MOANA CRUZ is Friday, August 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Desiree Moana Cruz shares traditional and contemporary dye processes and the use of repetitive symbolism featured in hula garments. She is an advocate for Hawaiian practitioners and a member of Hālau Na Kipu'upu'u of Waimea. Free cultural events are part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawaiʻi State Grant In Aid (GIA) Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

ABSTRACT WATERCOLORS WITH BROKEN GLASS WITH PATTI PEASE JOHNSON is Saturday, August 10 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Volcano Art Center in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Beginner and intermediate artists welcome. Cost is \$75/ \$70 for VAC Members plus \$15 supply fee.

HULA KAHIKO: Featuring Kumu hula Moses Kaho'okele Crabbe with hālau Halauolaokalani is Saturday, August 10 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at kahua hula (platform) in the Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Part of Volcano Art Center's Hula Arts at Kīlauea performance series. Donations welcome. Free event. Park fees apply.

ʻIKE HANA NOʻEAU ʻEXPERIENCE THE SKILLFUL ARTʻ - KUʻI KALO DEMO is Wednesday, August 14 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at ʻŌhiʻa Wing located across the street from the Kīlauea Visitor Center in Hawaiʻi

Volcanoes National Park. Learn about the staple food in the Hawaiian diet and make poi the traditional way with Ranger Keoni. Part of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes' ongoing ʻIke Hana Noʻeau (Experience the Skillful Work) Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawaiʻi Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: ʻUKULELE WITH WES AWANA on Friday, August 16 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Wes Awana offers family-friendly lessons on the iconic and inviting ʻukulele. Free cultural events are part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported by in part by Hawaiʻi State GIA Wai Wai Programs. Park fees apply.

EXHIBIT: DANCING AT THE SOURCE! TREASURING THE LEGACY is open Wednesdays - Sundays, starting Saturday, August 17 until Sunday, September 8 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Part of VAC's Heritage and Archive Program focused on VAC's history of dance. More at (808) 967-8222. Free event. Park fees apply.

COFFEE TALK AT KAHUKU: PELE AND HIʻIAKA: MYTH OR HISTORY? Is Saturday, August 17 from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Kahuku unit of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Located an hour's drive from Kīlauea Visitor Center. Retired USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist and volcanologist Don Swanson teaches about Pele-Hiʻiaka oli (chants) describing metaphorically the two largest volcanic events at Kīlauea since Polynesians came to Hawaiʻi. Part of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes' Kahuku Coffee Talk programs.

DANCING AT THE SOURCE! MOVING THE FUTURE! EVENT is Saturday, August 17 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Dietrich Varez Hall at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Free dance performance at 5 p.m. in The Sculpture Garden at Niaulani. Second event from 7 p.m. Tickets needed. Presented by VAC in partnership with Grassroots Community Development Group (GCDDG), and Compassion & Choices (CC).

KAʻŪ HIGH REUNION: Reminisce and talk story, Sunday, Aug 18, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pāhala Community Center. See PBS film *Kaʻū Sugar: A Town Remembers* and meet old timers who worked for the plantation, including Eddie Andrade. See the Kaʻū Multicultural Society display and a second film *Kaʻū Coffee, the Gold that Replaced Sugar*. Bring a potluck dish. Sponsor is Kaʻū High Alumni & Friends.

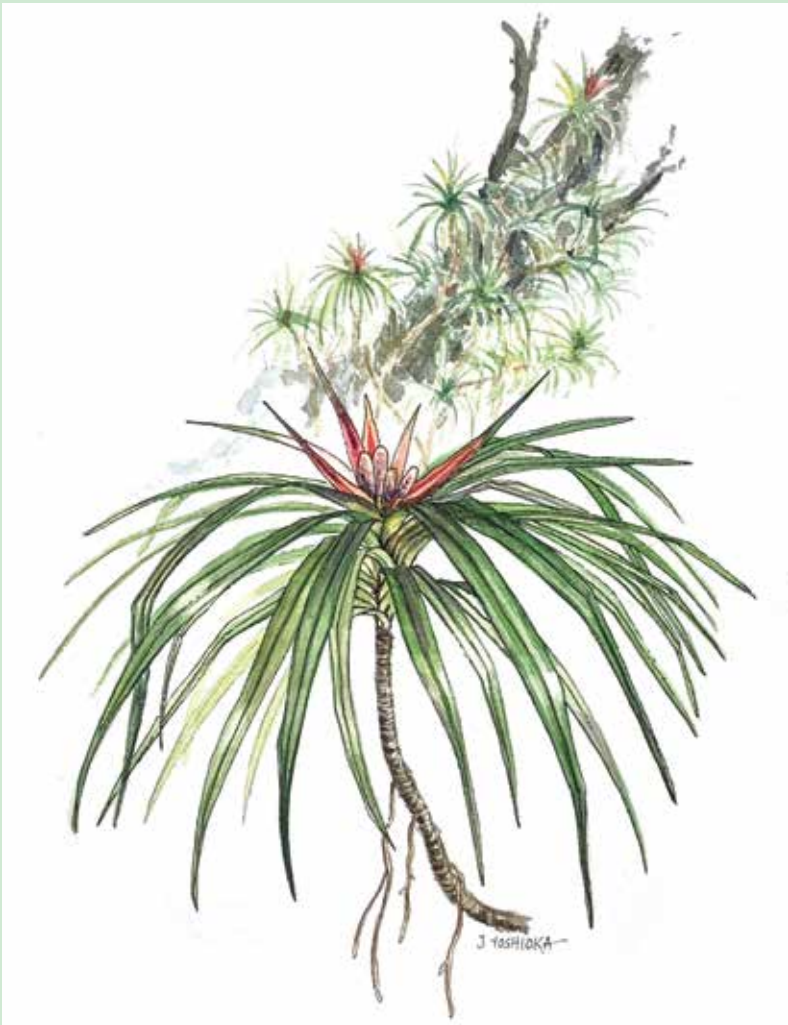
AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: KĪLAUEA VISITOR CENTER RENOVATION UPDATE is Tuesday, August 20 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Park managers will share details on the temporary relocation of visitor services and share updates about the ongoing 2018 disaster recovery projects. Part of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and co-sponsored by the Friends of Hawaiʻi Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAY AT VAC GALLERY: LAUHALA WEAVING WITH KUIUPO KALAHIKI-MORALES

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.

ʻIeʻie (*Freycinetia arborea*)



ʻIeʻie (*Freycinetia arborea*)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

Description: Have you met ʻieʻie before? ʻIeʻie is a densely-branched, woody, climbing liana in the Pandanaceae family (a cousin to hala and also to kiekie, which is found in New Zealand). This lovely vine can be seen growing in extraordinary entangled mats on the forest floor, but is most commonly seen luxuriously scaling ʻōhiʻa (or another host tree) up into the canopy in a true Pandanaceae twisty style. The ringed stems end in spiral tufts of leaves that are long (15-30 inch) and thin (less than 1 inch) and are a shiny bright green, coming to a point on the ends. They have small spines along the edges and under the midrib. The flowers form on inflorescences (clusters) at the end of the branches on cylindrical 3-4 spikes surrounded by bright orange or green with orange base bracts (modified leaves). The small fruits of ʻieʻie contain many small seeds. ʻIeʻie bracts and fruits were a favorite meal of the extinct ʻōʻū, a honeycreeper that was a seed disperser for small seeded and fleshy fruits, and was also a favorite food of the ʻalalā, which is currently extinct in the wild.

Uses: ʻIeʻie is an indicator of forest health - where the ʻieʻie is plentiful, the forest thrives, thus the connection between ʻieʻie and Laka and its importance to hula. If you have never heard the story of Laukaʻieʻie, I encourage you to find it and read it, and form an even deeper bond and connection to ʻieʻie in the forests. Medicinally, ʻieʻie can be combined with other lāʻau lapaʻau species such as kukui, ʻōhiʻa ʻai, ʻuhaloa, kō kea, and ʻalaʻala wai nui pehu to treat childhood diseases like ʻea and paʻaoʻao. The aerial roots of ʻieʻie are used in weaving of kiʻi, baskets, hīnaʻi hoʻomoe iʻa (fish baskets) and hīnaʻi hoʻoluʻuluʻu (fish traps), and even to make handles for ʻuliʻuli (gourd rattles) and for mahiole iʻe (aliʻi helmets). The colorful orange bracts are used in lei. Ecologically, ʻieʻie is habitat for kāhuli, native land snails.

Habitat: ʻIeʻie can be found in wet to mesic forests on all of the main Hawaiian Islands except Niʻihau and Kahoʻolawe, at elevations between 300-1500 meters. In Kaʻū, you can gaze at ʻieʻie in wet and mesic forests of Manukā and Kahuku, and from Kiolakaʻa to Keauhou Ahupuaʻa.

Growing and Purchasing: Even though ʻieʻie is a common component of the forest, it is not really seen in cultivation, but it should be! ʻIeʻie is a hardy plant and requires enough water, a substantial host, and a healthy plant community (and love, of course). I hope that we, as a collective, can push for native species to be selected for home and commercial landscaping rather than using non-native and potentially invasive plant species. While this is slowly happening (check out the West Hawaiʻi Civic Center as a great example - they have planted many natives including wiliwili, alaheʻe, ʻaʻaliʻi, and pōhinahina, among others), the County, State Parks, and big businesses can do better. We can all encourage the Plant Pono and Go Native mottos in our communities!

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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August 2024 Page 9

Summer Fun Youth Learn About Jobs, Volunteerism in Kaʻū

Kaʻū Summer Fun youth met professionals in their community and visited workplaces during this year's session from June 12 to July 19 at Nāʻālehu Community Center. The Summer Fun Program hosted nearly 40 participants and ran for six weeks.



Summer Fun keiki gets upfront experience with a county firefighter as the youth visited work places and hosted speakers this summer during the County program at Nāʻālehu Community Center. Photo by Elijah Navarro

Students visited Punaluʻu Bake-shop and the adjacent Ke Ola Puʻuhonua cultural grounds, Nāʻālehu Library and Kaʻū Coffee Mill. Guests interacting with the Summer Fun youth included county firefighters, medics, and Hawaiʻi Police Department Officer Calican.

Elijah Navarro, County of Hawaiʻi Recreation Director II at Nāʻālehu Community Center, said he would like to thank all the venues and the police and fire department representatives. He said he would also like to thank guest speakers and other programs, including: John Kahiapo with the state Department of Land & Natural Resources; Gemini

Observatory; West Hawaiʻi – Tobacco & HEAL Coalition: James Akau, caretaker of Kahuku Ranch; Nohea Kaawa with The Nature Conservancy; Karratti ʻOhana ranching fam-



Summer fun keiki interact with a Hawaiʻi Police Department officer during their school break. Photo by Elijah Navarro

ily; CU Hawaiʻi Federal Credit Union; and County Council member Michelle Galimba.



Nāʻālehu Park is the target of improvements, including new lights so the park can be used at night.

Three Kaʻū Community Parks to Be Improved

Improvements in community parks in Nāʻālehu, Waiʻōhinu and Miloliʻi have been announced by County of Hawaiʻi Department of Parks & Recreation. “They are among the department’s many efforts to ensure residents have safe, accessible, and quality parks and recreational facilities to meet their varied and numerous needs, says a statement from the County, which notes more than 130 projects at parks around the island.

“We have worked diligently to address the years of deferred maintenance at our parks and facilities island-wide, and I am incredibly proud of our team for the tremendous progress we’ve made thus far,” said Mayor Mitch Roth.

Maurice Messina, Director of Parks & Recreation, said, “Ensuring everyone can access our parks

has been a top priority these last several years, and we are proud to have made tremendous progress in this area. Three years ago, the department had 12 remaining ADA Transition Plan park projects to implement, but we are now about to start the final project on that list.”

Here are the Kaʻū area projects as described by the County:

- Nāʻālehu Park – A contract has been executed for a contractor to remove the deteriorated and non-functioning lights, ballasts, and metal platform/cages atop the tall, metal light poles that serve the ball field. The contractor will also remove all existing electrical conductors and components due to past issues

Community Parks, pg. 11

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Across Playground Area
of Naʻālehu Elementary School
Top of Long Driveway

Community Parks, from pg. 10
with shorts and unintended electrification of the metal poles. The intent is to safely remove these failing elements to ensure the ongoing safety of park users but retain the poles for potential future restoration of the lighting system for nighttime play. Materials have

been ordered for this project and a start date is being coordinated.

- Wai'ōhinu Park – Efforts are underway to contract a design team to prepare plans for a new comfort station at this park to replace the original facilities that were closed due to multiple failures of its utilities and continued

failings of the structure itself. The department is committed to seeing this new facility realized and the park's dependence on portable toilets eliminated for good.

- Miloli'i Beach Park – This accessibility improvement project, which will provide for a new pavilion and comfort station (in replacement of existing facilities); new children's playground equipment; improvements to the existing outdoor sports court; development of a new paved parking lot; new accessible walkways and picnic amenities; and new potable water system, fire protection system, and electrical system, is scheduled to begin construction early September. This project is the final full park site requiring modifications for compliance with the County's federally-mandated ADA



Miloli'i Pavilion will be replaced with new parking, restrooms and expanded recreational areas.
Photo by Julia Neal

Transition Plan.

The statement says the projects at Miloli'i Beach Park mark a significant milestone in the decades-long effort to ensure island-wide accessibility at numerous park sites and facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. When work begins at Miloli'i Beach Park in September, it will represent a significant milestone for the County as the final park site from a 1998 legal settlement to undergo construction.



Hawai'i Volcanoes 40th Annual Cultural Festival

Lori Lei Shirakawa Katahara, on 'ukulele, who taught generations of hula in Ka'ū with her Shirakawa hula studio, sings with Dane Sesson on bass and Gene Akamu on guitar at the 40th Annual Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival in July. Staged at the Kahuku Unit, it featured food, song, dance, cultural practices and participation by the public. It was sponsored by Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. See more on Page 15.

Photo by Sara Espaniola

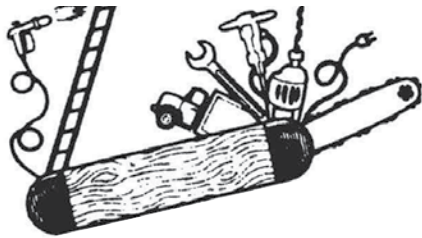
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Summer King Tides Raise the Water, Peak on Aug. 21

The King Tides are raising the water level at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach with the highest predicted to be on Aug. 18, following a very high tide on July 21.

The King Tides draw warnings to beach goers. Lifeguards place a Strong Current sign on the sand. However, no damage or harm to people has come to pass from King Tides this year.

King Tides are the highest tides of

the year, happening when Earth, moon and sun are aligned and the moon comes the closest to Earth as it orbits around the planet. King Tides happen in summer and winter and can create inundation, waves washing higher onto shore and flooding.

A NOAA statement says, "Above-normal tides can trigger high tide flooding, disrupting coastal communities. This flooding can occur on sunny

days and in the absence of storms. More severe flooding may occur if high tides coincide with heavy rains, strong winds, or large waves. As sea levels continue to rise, our coastal communities will experience more frequent high tide flooding - about 45-85 days/year on average nationally by 2050. Predicting the likelihood of high tide flooding helps coastal communities plan for and mitigate impacts."



The possibility of King Tides causing flooding prompted lifeguards to put up warning signs at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach in July. The highest King Tide on August is expected on the 18th. Photo by Bob Martin

UHERO Focuses on Water Related Enterprise for Future

Opportunities in diversifying the economy is the subject of a new University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization study. It points to water transportation, aquaculture, fish-

ing, finfish fishing and shellfish fishing. "These all seem logical diversification options given Hawai'i's location in the Pacific Ocean providing the necessary natural resource. Industries are also more likely to remain in the long term if they rely on local resources."

The report written by Steve Bond-Smith and Sumit Ilamkar, of UHERO, says, "The economy of Hawai'i is extraordinarily concentrated in the tourism industry. As a result of tourism's dominance, Hawai'i's economy faces short-term risks from shocks that impact visitor numbers and long-term stagnation from flat and volatile tourism spending over the last three decades. In response to these issues—which became especially salient during the COVID-19 pandemic—policymakers in

Hawai'i increasingly emphasize the need to diversify. Still, it is not clear which industries Hawai'i could diversify into."

The study posed three questions and provides the following analyses:

What is the case for diversifying the Hawai'i economy? UHERO reports that "spe-

cializing is natural for a small open economy. Small and isolated economies are less able to access the productivity benefits of external increasing returns

UHERO, pg. 15



Boatbuilding is a suggestion in the new study on diversifying the economy from U.H. Economic Research Organization. This wa'a kalua, double hulled canoe was crafted by Ka'ū boatbuilder Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa.

ing and other water related enterprise as having large potential while being "under-performing" in Hawai'i. It notes that the study "reflects in part what is already known to Kana-ka Maoli, given Hawai'i's history of Polynesian ocean-faring and fishponds."

Suggestions include boat building, finfish farming and hatcheries, seafood preparation and packag-

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DOH Launches Beat Diabetes Prevention Program

State Department of Health recently launched the Beat Diabetes Prevention Program to motivate people with pre-diabetes to adopt healthier behaviors to prevent Type 2 diabetes. The public is encouraged to take the Prediabetes Risk Assessment and talk with a health care provider about the need for additional testing. For people with blood glucose levels in the prediabetes range, participation in a lifestyle change program, like the Beat Diabetes Prevention Program, can lower the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

Type 2 diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in Hawai'i and the number one cause of blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputations in the U.S. Diabetes complications are caused by high blood glucose, also known as blood sugar that damages small blood vessels and nerves. People with prediabetes do not yet have blood sugar levels in the diabetes range, but are at high risk for developing diabetes.

"We should be investing more in preventing diabetes than expanding dialysis capacity," said state Director of Health



Dr. Kenneth Fink. "We unfortunately have significant health inequities with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders having higher rates of diabetes and progression to kidney failure. Increasing prevention efforts and improving disease management will help address this."

"The good news about prediabetes is that having it doesn't automatically mean that you will develop diabetes," said Lola Irvin, DOH Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion Division administrator. "Making lifestyle changes to lose weight, such as eating healthier and increasing physical activity, can prevent the development of diabetes and may also reverse prediabetes back into the normal blood glucose range."

For people with prediabetes, losing just 5-7 percent of body weight may reduce the chance of developing diabetes by

more than 50 percent for adults at high risk. However, making the necessary lifestyle changes to prevent diabetes may feel overwhelming. Enrolling in a lifestyle change program like the Beat Diabetes Prevention Program can be the easy first step to help build new, healthy habits. Participants will join a group of people with prediabetes and learn from a trained lifestyle coach.

"My role is to guide our participants through a certified Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) diabetes prevention program, providing support and encouragement as they go through their journey to a healthier lifestyle to prevent Type 2 diabetes," said Jen Valera, a master life coach with the Hawai'i Primary Care Association.

The DOH statement said that participants have highlighted how the program and the group support have led to positive life changes:

"Having the support of others helps me stay motivated. When I'm not feeling up to eating healthy or exercising, they help me through it." - Cory A.

"The program started my weight loss journey. It's inspired me to do a lot of things in life, and I've come a long way." - Lei K.

The Beat Diabetes campaign emphasizes preventing diabetes in the prediabetes stage to avoid its serious complications. It will run through October. To take the Prediabetes Risk Test or sign up for the Beat Diabetes Prevention Program, visit BeatDiabetes.hawaii.gov.

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End of an Era, Begin Anew: Jaggar & USGS Buildings Gone

Removal of Jaggar Museum and USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory buildings from Uēkahuna was headed for completion at the end of July with the Jaggar tower gone. July 25 saw workers taking down the Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory Tower. It was “a solemn occasion for the USGS HVO

scientists who fulfilled important work in these facilities,” said a post from Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. The buildings, which were constructed at the edge of Kaluapele (Kīlauea caldera), were irreparably damaged in the 2018 summit collapse of Kīlauea volcano.



USGS webcam view of the construction project to build the new USGS field station.

The Park reported that “This revered area at the summit of Kīlauea volcano will eventually reopen to Hawaiian cultural practitioners and visitors without buildings. The historic low rock walls and viewing platform will remain, and awe-inspiring Kaluapele will dominate the viewscape again.”

Meanwhile, construction of the new USGS HVO field station is underway well away from the caldera’s unstable edge, near the historic ballfield adjacent to Kīlauea Military Camp. Soon, the next wave of volcanic research will build within its walls.



USGS webcam view of the deconstruction process of Jaggar Museum and the USGS HVO facilities. Photos from USGS webcam

Experience Volcano Celebrates Fifth Annual Festival

Experience Volcano Hawai‘i held its fifth annual festival in late July with an exposition of arts, crafts, food, music, dance, culture and more at venues around Volcano Village. Experience Volcano President and Festival Director Jesse Tunison said the support from the creative community to provide 84 hours of programing at seven separate



Ke ‘Olu Makani O Mauna Loa. Photo by Sara Espaniola

venues over two days “was amazing.” Music director was Makana Kamahele. Attendees won prizes from the Festival Drawing by taking venue maps to all seven festival locations in Volcano and getting them stamped. Grand prizes included five-night hotel stays in Las Vegas, luxury lodging from At the Crater’s Edge, gift certificates at venues, fine art, wine tastings, and goodies from many participating vendors and sponsors. Sponsors of Experience Volcano Festival included Volcano Golf Course, Hawai‘i Pacific Parks, Akatsuka Orchid Gardens, Kuahiwi Ranch, HPM Building Supply, Mary Begier Realty and the more than 60 vendors, commu-

nity organizations and performing groups and artists. The organizer was Jesse Tunison. Among the musicians were Chaslen Hualani, Keoki Kahumoku, Tui Masaniai, Ti Chun, Makana Kamahele and Boni Narito. Other Hawaiian music came from Huliau, Ola Loa, Mano Ali‘i, Brandon Nakano, Kyle Stringz, Tutu Bee, Wes Awana,



Joe Camacho gives the opening pule honoring the late Nona Wilson. Photo by Sara Espaniola

Among the presenters were Aikane Plantation Coffee Co., Ultra-violet Alchemist, Picking Up the Pieces, Breathing Space Hawai‘i, Ola’s Creations, Nap Glass & Spiral Triangle Studios, Coby’s Creations, Bao & Dim and Paradise Preserved. Also presenting were Bella Anela Jewelry, 50 Designz/Grindz & Ka‘ū Designz, Kolea Creations,



Participants learned Taiko Drumming during Experience Volcano Festival. Photo by Sara Espaniola

50

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Adam Kay and Genesis Pililani. More live music came from Tom Gagne, The Screaming Geckos, Wendell Ing Jazz, and Rocky D’amore.

Volcano Community Foundation, Lock-Jaw Lemon Peel, Ka‘ū Kreations Boutique, TLC Oils, Fused Fragments, Dov Abrams, Marty Davis, Love Bali By Archer Kelly, Yurts Of Hawai‘i, Hilo Baykery, Diane Hanzel, Nani Diaz, and Periwinkle Moon.

On hand were Gari-mo’s Real Soap Studio, Eclectic Virgo Creations, Kealoha Gifts, Pukana Lā Farms, Looking Glass Stained Glass Artwork, Misty Vaught, Lakuna Links, Aunties Aloha Lemonade, Alchemy Farm Hawai‘i, Experience Volcano, pg. 15

Ka‘ū Newsbriefs Blog

Scan Here

The Ka‘ū Calendar

Kahuku Hosts 40th Hawai‘i Volcanoes Park Cultural Fest

Nearly 900 people gathered in Kahuku, reports Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. They learned about, participated and shared in Hawaiian culture at the 40th Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival. Sounds of the pū, pū‘ohe and the oli E Hō Mai led by Kumu Ka‘uhane Heloca, opened the festival, while a light makani and intermittent cloud



Ken Makuakane sang solo and performed with the original members of his legacy band The Pandanus Club. NPS Photo by Janice Wei

The scent of maile and puakenikeni lei filled the air as performers took the stage at the Kahuku Visitor Contact Station. “Every cultural festival is a wonderful experience for the park and the community,” said Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Superintendent, Rhonda Loh. “We send our biggest mahalo nui loa to all the performers, partners, food vendors, exhibitors and cultural practitioners who made Saturday

such a huge success. It really is a kākou thing and I deeply appreciate everyone, including our staff and volunteers, who worked hard together to make the 40th fun and memorable!”

Festival goers were dazzled with hula performances by nā ‘ōlapa (danc-



Lori Lei Studio hula at Kahuku. Photo by Sara Espaniola

cover kept everyone cool in Ka‘ū. Hundreds of community members and visitors made ti leaf lei, wove bracelets from lauhala, sanded their own makau (fishhooks), and created ‘ohe kāpala designs on canvas bags.



Chaslen Hualani. Photo by Sara Espaniola
Experience Volcano, from pg. 14
Yolanda’s Gifts With aloha, Kumiko Designs, Cocoa Rose Hawai‘i and Scott Pincus.

Other presenters included Warren Ink, Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association, Na Makua Designs, Lynda Nolte Watercolors, Momi’s Confections, Island Love Studio, Tamisha Lee Glassworks, Luti Fine Arts, Big Island Luffa, Shay Hachiya, J.M. Designs, Lucky’s Island Street Food & Tacos, Mystic Rebel, Mala Hanai Pua, Ohu Bean, Chunkies, Quilts In The Forest, and Aunty Ponds Thai Food Truck.



Joni Mae Makuakāne-Jarrell (left) emceed. She and her ‘ohana have been lead organizers and participants since the first of the 40 annual cultural festivals. Photo by Sara Espaniola

ers) from Kaleilaniakeali‘i and Lori Lei’s Hula Studio, and were treated to a day of mele by the original members of the legendary Pandanus Club: Ken Makuakāne, Roddy Lopez and Alden Kai‘aokamālie. Ken Makuakāne, a multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano award winner, also performed solo.

The theme of the festival, E UHERO, from pg. 12

to scale. External increasing returns describe how the productivity of firms can increase with the size of something external to the firm such as a market, city, or industry. Small, open, and isolated places tend to become more specialized because it creates a local external scale—the scale of their industry specialization—that offers similar productivity advantages. Specialization initially generates growth due to external scale economies. But if various devel-



Kani ka pū welcome at the 40th Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Cultural Festival. NPS photo by Janice Wei



Keiki learn how to play the Hawaiian game, kōnane. NPS Photo by Janice Wei



Ulane lauhala with ‘Aha Pūhala o Puna. NPS photo by Janice Wei



Dancers with Hālau Kaleilaniakeali‘i perform at the 40th Cultural Festival at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. NPS Photo by Janice Wei

Ho‘omau i ka Po‘ohala, was personified by generations of the Makuakāne ‘ohana who have helped organize, emcee, perform, and share Hawaiian cultural practices from the very first Hawaiian cultural at Kamoamoa through Saturday’s 40th event. The park sends a special mahalo to the ‘ohana, especially Joni Mae Makuakāne-Jarrell, who

opmental barriers have prevented some industries from emerging, then Hawai‘i could be over-specialized. Specialization generates both short and long-term risks due to greater exposure to a single industry.

UHERO concludes, “With this theoretical basis, we show how Hawai‘i initially benefited from specializing in the tourism industry and how this specialization now exposes Hawai‘i to short and long-term risks. These risks are especially apparent when we exam-

served as a vivacious emcee and helped organize the event.

The Park statement said, “In addition, the cultural festival would not be possible without the dedicated support of the park’s supporting partners, the Friends of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and Hawai‘i Pacific Parks Association.”

ine how total visitor spending has been relatively flat for decades, punctured by periodic crises. In this way, diversification is not an end in itself but aims to build a more resilient economy that is less exposed to the short- and long-term risks that to some extent can be expected in a small and open economy like Hawai‘i.”

See a summary and the complete report at <https://tinyurl.com/4d2cmwxb>.

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There is much left to be done. We need to make health care more accessible to all who need it, no matter where you live. We need to keep supporting our schools and the teachers and staff who inspire our next generation. And we need to protect our heritage, culture, and those things that make Ka‘ū so special.

I would be honored to keep working for you in the Hawai‘i State Senate. Mahalo for the opportunity to serve as your Senator.



DRU KANUHA
State Senate 🗺️ Kona - Ka‘ū - Volcano