

# Ka'ū to Enjoy Top Classical Music

World-renowned classical musicians and singers will welcome the public to two presentations at Pāhala Plantation Managers House on Sunday, Jan. 7, and Tuesday, Jan. 9, both at 7 p.m. The location is at 96-3209 Maile Street in Pāhala.

The workshop and concerts celebrate the more than a century-old Steinway D piano that was recently donated and is stationed in Pāhala.

New York Metropolitan Opera soprano Amy Shoremount-Obra has brought her talent and the skills of many singers and musicians to Pāhala since 2009 for musical training, workshops, and community outreach in this agricultural town where her

relatives are coffee farmers.

In 2016, she and internationally acclaimed violin virtuoso Eric Silberger and esteemed pianist Carlin Ma founded Hawai'i International Music Festival. This is its seventh season, from Jan. 3 through Jan. 10, with local and international students coming here to study and perform for the local community.

Performances include a vocal and instrumental Celebration of Music! on Sunday, Jan. 7 and a vocal concert of the students who are participating all week in the workshop based on The Garcia School, *Classical Musicians, pg. 9*



Public gatherings will celebrate top international singers and pianists on a 1906 Steinway donated to music education. Photo by Carlin Ma

# THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 22, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2024

## FAA Radically Reduces Copter & Plane Overflights

Reducing Air tours from 11,300 to 1,548 a year over Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and implementing no-fly days are the main takeaways from the new National Park Service and Federal Aviation

Administration Air Tour Management Plan. The Plan for HVNP, released on Dec. 20, provides for continuation of air tours at reduced levels over the park and within a half-mile of its boundary to protect natural

and cultural resources, wilderness, the integrity of Native Hawaiian sacred sites and ceremonial areas, and visitor experiences.

Operators will be permitted to continue to conduct air tours within the Air Tour

Management Plan boundary up to the limit of the Interim Operating Authority and until their Operation

Specifications are amended, which will occur no later than 180 days after the date the Plan takes effect. The Plan does the following:



- Authorizes up to 1,548 air tours per year on three specific routes within the Plan's boundary. This is a significant reduction from existing levels of more than 11,300 flights per year. The air tours can occur between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. local time on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Qualifying air tours using quiet technology may fly from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on those days, as well as on Wednesdays.
- Designates three air tour routes that avoid the summit of Kīlauea and protect key cultural and natural resources, visitor use areas, and park wilderness. Air tours will be limited to these routes.
- Identifies no-fly days to include: Sundays; Six traditional Hawaiian holidays- End of Makahiki (typically in January); Zenith Noon (typically in May); Summer Solstice (June), Zenith Noon (typically in July); Start of Makahiki (typically in October) and Winter Solstice (December). Other no fly-days are two dates that honor and acknowledge important Hawai'i Island ali'i, people of traditional nobility - Ruth

*FAA Overflights, pg. 15*



### Mahina & Her Mauna Loa Moonset

Behind Mauna Loa, the setting of the moon, the mahina, was recorded the morning of Dec. 27 by National Park Service photographer Janice Wei. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park posted: "A hui hou (until we meet again) to the last full moon of 2023." This mahina is also called the Cold Moon. See updates from the Park at <https://www.facebook.com/hawaiiivolcanoesnps>.

*Photo by Janice Wei/NPS*

## Ka'ū Keiki Readiness: Higher than Some, Programs Aim for More

Ka'ū's keiki rated higher in being ready for kindergarten than in a number of school districts across the state, according to the recent Johns Hopkins University Readiness for Kindergarten Assessment.

Statewide, less than a third of keiki

demonstrated "baseline readiness." This was the first year that Johns Hopkins Ready for Kindergarten assessment was administered in Hawai'i. The island with all school districts showing the most readiness for kindergarten is Kaua'i - all over 30 percent.

Ka'ū rated at 17.4 percent, the lowest on Hawai'i Island, with Kohala and Kea'au



just ahead with 18.5 percent readiness. The lowest statewide were Lana'i at 6.5 percent, Waiānae at 8.3 percent, Hana at 9.1 percent, Farrington at 9.3 percent, McKinley at 11.4 percent, and Kulanihako'i at 16.2 percent. Reasons given for low ratings included language spoken in homes, poverty, nutrition

*Keiki Readiness, pg. 4*

## PAR, Kanuha, Kapela Connect Ka'ū to 2024 Legislature

PAR, the Public Access Room, has released the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature Calendar. PAR, a part of the Legislative Reference Bureau, provides many ways for the public to become involved in the introduction of new legislation, testifying pro and con and following each measure through the state House

and Senate.

The 2024 Hawai'i Legislature will last about four months, opening on Jan. 17.

Public Access Room offers direct assistance to the public in helping with research and understanding the process, online, on the phone, and in person at its office and workspace in the state Capitol. It provides training, desk space and computers for people traveling to the legislature to research, testify and follow legislation. See more on PAR at <https://lrb.hawaii.gov/par/>.

The public can follow the activities of Ka'ū's state Senator, Dru Kanuha, who is the Senate's Majority Leader. His Senate District 3 runs from Kona through Ka'ū into Volcano. In the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature, he will serve on Committees on Education, Housing and Ways & Means. See

*Legislature, pg. 4*



Rep. Jeanne Kapela



Sen. Dru Kanuha

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## Is Industrial Hemp a Safe & Viable Crop to Grow in Ka'ū?

Hemp may not become a viable crop for local farmers unless appropriate legislation is passed in the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature to treat hemp separately from medical and recreational marijuana, says Hawai'i Farmers Union United. It asks farmers and others to contact the Governor, state Attorney General, and state Senate and House members to implore them to "remove all hemp elements from the Attorney General's draft cannabis bill relating to medical and recreational cannabis that is a pathway for recreational marijuana. This AG bill will turn Hawai'i's hemp industry into an import sector, wiping out Hawai'i farmers and processors. Removing hemp from this bill will not stop the bill from creating a pathway for recreational cannabis if that's what the legislature wants."



able housing pilot projects), plastics pilots to replace plastic cutlery, textiles, fuel, etc. Furthermore, the Hawai'i hemp cannabinoid sector is focused on producing high-quality health products, mirroring the success of noni, lion's mane, 'ōlena (turmeric), etc., and Hawai'i CBD products are tested to the highest standards in the U.S. for hemp products ensuring they are free of herbicide, pesticides, metals, mycotoxins, etc. and all hemp product manufacturers in Hawai'i are expected to follow good manufacturing practices."

The Hawai'i Farmers Union United statement points out that "Hemp is recognized as a federally legal agricultural commodity and stands distinctly separate from cannabis and should not be regulated similarly."

According to Hawai'i Farmers Union United, whose Ka'ū president is Andy Drayer, of Wood Valley, "The Hawai'i hemp industry has an agricultural mission that is moving Hawai'i towards greater sustainability, producing a variety of value-added products in addition to hemp cannabinoids: food, building materials (some of which are being trialed in afford-

"As a versatile crop, hemp is at the forefront of innovation of sustainable products, promising significant economic and environmental benefits for our state. Grouping hemp with cannabis in this draft bill not only overlooks the vast potential hemp offers to Hawai'i agriculture, but also disregards years of extensive work by our local farmers and preexisting legisla-



Hemp can be grown alongside many food and herb crops.

Photo from <https://www.hawaiiroyalhemp.com/> tion like HB 1359 that was just passed in 2023, which has a number of pro-consumer elements. Subjecting hemp to the same regulatory framework as medical marijuana and recreational cannabis would be as misguided and disproportionate as treating coffee with the same stringent rules as alcohol."

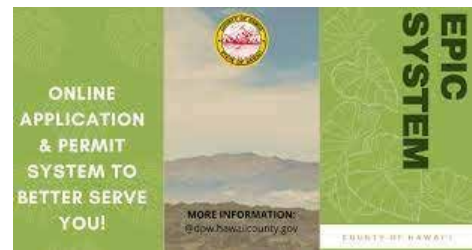
The Farmers Union offers a brief overview of hemp's legal status at the federal level: The US Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) significantly transformed the status of hemp by legaliz-

ing its production and removing it from the Drug Enforcement Agency's Controlled Substances schedule. This pivotal legislation unequivocally separates hemp from cannabis/marijuana at the federal level. As a result, hemp is now treated as an agricultural commodity, qualifying for standard farming benefits such as crop insurance, banking services, technical assistance from USDA, and adherence to federal tax and business regulations. None of these services or rights are available for medical marijuana or recreational cannabis because they are not an agricultural crop. In early 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture further solidified this distinction by establishing a uniform regulatory framework for hemp production across the country. In contrast, medical and recreational cannabis remains classified as illicit substances federally.

The statement asks that the public oppose the Attorney General's "attempt to place hemp under the same regulatory umbrella as medical or recreational cannabis. This exclusion is crucial to preserve the integrity of Hawai'i's hemp industry and to realize its full potential as a sustainable and economically viable agricultural resource."

## Hawai'i County Leads State in Building New Single-Family Homes

Hawai'i County leads the state in construction of new single-family homes. According to data from University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization, Hawai'i County leads in issuing building permits for new single-family residences. In the period from January to April 2023, the county granted 930 permits for new single-family homes, surpassing Honolulu with 303, Maui with 235, and Kaua'i with 185 permits during the same timeframe. From 2019 to April 2023, Hawai'i County issued a total of 3,884 permits for single-family homes, outpacing Honolulu (3,181), Maui (1,969), and Kaua'i (873) over the 5-year period.



"We believe wholeheartedly that every local family deserves a place to call home here on Hawai'i Island," said Mayor Mitch Roth. "Our top priority is simplifying the homebuilding process for residents to meet the growing housing demand. We have diligently worked on enhanc-

ing our permitting process, addressing issues with our EPIC system, and amending County ordinances to streamline procedures and reduce government oversight safely. Although we haven't reached our goal yet, the data reflects significant progress."

Prior to the Roth Administration, the County issued 619 building permits for single-family homes in 2019 and 654 in 2020.

In 2021, after the launch of the County's Electronic Processing and Permitting System (EPIC), the County issued 838 permits, followed by 857 in 2022.

This year, the County of Hawai'i has issued 1,059 new single-family residential permits and counting.

While the number of single-family building permits is just one aspect of addressing the State's housing shortage, it serves as an important indicator of potential housing inventory that plays a crucial role in accommodating residents amid population growth, said the statement from the County, issued in December.

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Mr. and Mrs. Santa in the first Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade on Dec 9. Photo by Stacy Lopez Sakuma



A ceremony with lighting a candle memorialized the transfer of Eddie Andrade's Pāhala Christmas Parade to Shai Lopez and his family and friends producing the first Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade on Dec. 9. Photo by Julia Neal



The crew that produced and executed the first Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade rests with Santa after the event is pau. Photo from Pāhala Town/Lighted Christmas Parade



Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative supports the farmers' industry in the parade. Photo by Stacy Lopez Sakuma



Eddie Andrade's Santa clothing displayed on the float that honored Judy and Eddie Andrade, Jr.'s 41 years of organizing the parade. It also paid tribute to late Mary Jane Ballio, Santa's faithful helper for many years. Photo by Stacy Lopez Sakuma



Lorilee Lorenzo and Ikaika Grace lead the paniolo during Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade. Photo by Stacy Lopez Sakuma



Jana Kaniho, of the U.S. Postal Service, upper right, and Santa Villanueva welcomed children to Pāhala Post Office after hours to receive gifts after they wrote letters to Santa. Photo by Julia Neal

## Writing a Letter Nets Gifts from Santa

The annual Letters to Santa through Pāhala Post Office brought gifts to keiki to put under their trees for Christmas morning.

Each keiki wrote to Santa, requesting specific gifts, which were wrapped and handed to the children on the Friday before Christmas, after hours at Pāhala Post Office.

Keiki also posed for photos with Santa. Jana Kaniho, of the U.S. Postal Service organized the letter writing to Santa program. She bought the gifts and wrapped them. Sponsors were 'O Ka'ū Kākou, *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper, Marjorie Mohror and Kaniho. Keiki received 65 gifts. Santa Brad Villanueva and helpers did the honors.

## New Generation Welcomes Andrade Pāhala Christmas Parade Tradition

The first Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade saw more than 30 entries take the route to Pāhala Community Center on Saturday Dec. 9. It followed a ceremonial transfer of the Christmas Parade from Eddie Andrade and his family and friends who organized it for 41 years to Shai Lopez and family and friends who accepted the responsibility.

The ceremony at Pāhala Plantation Managers House was attended by Mayor Mitch Roth, County Council member Michelle Galimba who both gave speeches, emcee Kurt Dela Cruz, funder Ed Olson and many other supporters of the pa-

rade. Gov. Josh Green sent a proclamation. The parade began at sundown and traveled up Pikake Street to Kamani and down to Ka'ū Hospital and back to Pāhala Community Center where keiki and families enjoyed treats and photos with Santa.



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# Ride Hele-On to Hilo & Kona, Pick up a Free Bicycle

People taking the Hele-On Bus from Ka'ū to Hilo and Kona can pick up bicycles at ten Bikeshare Stations in Hilo and 13 in Kona. These include six new stations funded with \$900,000, managed by the county Mass Transit Agency and PATH - People for Active Transportation Hawai'i. The money comes through county Department of Public Works and state Department of Transportation through the Transportation Alternatives Program.

In 2016, PATH's partnership with the County of Hawai'i's Research & Development Department piloted a bikeshare system in Kailua-Kona to test how bikeshare could work on Hawai'i Island, which was eventually expanded to the Hilo area. As part of this expansion, Mass Transit started subsidizing the bikeshare operation, incorporating it into the family of services provided by the agency.



After riding the Hele-On to Hilo and Kona, passengers can pick up a free bicycle to ride. See <https://www.heleonbus.hawaiicounty.gov/programs/hibike-bike-sharing>.

"Since bikesharing promotes active, healthy transportation and exercise, it's im-

portant to maintain this bikeshare system as part of Hawai'i County's multi-mobility or multimodal transportation plan. Bikeshare stations are also incredibly beneficial in areas where a bus route may not make sense because the destination may be close enough to mainline transit. And establishing bikeshare stations near bus routes to get to and from an off-route location eliminates the need to deviate a mainline transit route," says a statement from PATH.

With the new expansion of the HIBIKE program, PATH continues its partnership with the County of Hawai'i Mass Transit Agency under the leadership of Mass Transit Administrator Victor Kandle to provide Hele-On passengers with a viable transportation option that provides economic, health, and convenience benefits. Hele-On bus riders can continue to access HIBIKE Bikeshare at no additional cost. For free

access, every Hele-On rider can ask bus operators for a code to use at the HIBIKE kiosks. This provides Hele-On passengers with unlimited 30-minute HIBIKE rides for up to 24 hours.

A service of PATH and Hele-On, HIBIKE Bikeshare "is a form of mobility management ideal for anyone who wants to leave their car parked during a short trip or enhance their transportation options. In other cities with a bikeshare system, it's been shown that local businesses benefit, with an increase in visibility on the street level, because people are out of their cars and more aware of the businesses around them," says the PATH statement.

For more information on integrating the HIBIKE Bikeshare System, visit <https://www.heleonbus.hawaiicounty.gov/programs/hibike-bike-sharing>.

# Ka'ū Future Farmers Score Well in High School Competition

Ka'ū's Future Farmers did well at the District Convention at Kealahou High School on Dec. 9. Trojans competed against Kohala, Kea'au, Konawaena, Hilo, and Kealahou High Schools. The winning categories for Ka'ū FFA and the member names are:

- 1st place Vegetable Judging - Sherwin Agpaoa and Dreana Vierra-Mukini;
- 1st place Chapter Records - Alajshae Barrios, Ezekiel Kaawa-Kamimura, and Vladimir Fedoruk; 3rd place Plant ID - Desmond Camba and Vladimir Fedoruk;
- 1st place Creed Speaking - Sherwin Agpaoa;
- 2nd place Creed Speaking - Londyn Dacalio;

- 3rd placed Creed Speaking - Lily Dacalio;
- 1st place Floriculture - Zia Wroblewski, Delisa Breithaupt, Laci Ah Yee, and Shaylie Martinez.

Ka'ū FFA sent out a statement giving a big mahalo to: "Kupuna Ke, Aunty Sophia Hanoa, and Aunty Kehau Kalani for helping with the floriculture event and Aunty Shanna Alcoran for helping with the floriculture, creed, and vegetable judging events." FFA also thanked, "Aunty Dorothy Louis, Mrs. Mary Ibarra, and Aunty Valerie Pakele for donating materials for our floriculture event."

Ka'ū FFA plans to raise money to travel to the Hawai'i State Convention on Kaua'i at the end of February.



Ka'ū Future Farmers at December's first Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade. Photo from FFA

Ka'ū FFA also participated in the Pāhala Town Lighted Christmas Parade over the holidays. \* Story by Ka'ū High student, Alajshae Barrios, the Ka'ū FFA reporter

## Keiki Readiness, from pg. 1 and health care.

The testing was not a paper test and involved observations and interactions with keiki across the state.

Lt. Gov. Sylvia Luke is leading the state government's effort to prepare keiki for kindergarten. The plan is to expand high-quality child care and preschool for keiki three and four years of age. The state's Ready Keiki plan calls for additional preschool classrooms, increasing

## Legislature, from pg. 1

more about Kanuha, along with numerous measures he introduced for 2024 at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/membership.aspx?member=184&year=2024>.

State House of Representatives member Jeanne Kapela's District 5 runs from Ho'okena through Ocean View, Wai'ōhinu, Nā'ālehu, Punalu'u, Pāhala, and Volcano into Fern Forest, Glenwood, Mountain View and Kurtistown and por-

provider subsidies to expand preschool access, and educational partnerships to train new preschool teachers and assistants.

"Access to preschool is a social justice issue for Hawai'i," said Luke. "Children who have attended high-quality preschool or child care programs are much better prepared for success in kindergarten, but notations of Kea'au. In the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature, she will serve on Committees of Higher Education & Technology, where she is vice-chair; Culture, Arts & International Affairs; Education; and Labor & Government Operations. See more about Kapela, along with numerous measures she introduced for 2024 at <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/legislature/membership.aspx?member=71&year=2024>.



every family has access to early learning programs. If we can provide enough classrooms at an affordable price, we can make sure all of our keiki are ready to learn."

The Ready Keiki initiative is supported by all four Counties as well as public,

private and nonprofit educational partners and philanthropic foundations. The partners include: state Department of Education, Department of Human Services, School Facilities Authority and Executive Office on Early Learning; the University of Hawai'i; Kamehameha Schools; Early Childhood Action Strategy; Hawai'i P-20; Chaminade University of Honolulu; Hawai'i Data Collaborative; The Learning Coalition; Commit to Keiki; Harold

K.L. Castle Foundation and the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

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# KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 22, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2024

## Boys & Girls Trojan Wrestling is Back at Ka'ū High School

"Trojan Wrestling is back!" proclaimed Ka'ū High School Coach Ray Mazyck. Ka'ū High School's boys and girls wrestling team started off strong in December with a pre-season tournament at Pāhoa High. The Trojan Boys & Girls got their first taste of competitive wrestling since 2019 and rose to the occasion.

Ka'ū and 11 other teams sent their eligible freshman-junior wrestlers to face off, all of them getting two matches on the day. The Trojans were represented by Freshmen Eli Crook and Isaiah Salmo and Juniors Eddie Wirtz, Edzack Badua, and Rain Nihipali-Sesson.

Not able to compete in the pre-season tournament were Seniors Stephen Alder, Ralph Aurelio, Laakea Kajiwara-Ke, Ocean Nihipali-Sesson, as well as Freshman Alazae Forcum (due to an ankle sprain earlier in the week).

Mazyck said, "Each one of our wrestlers gave it their all and gained valuable experience they desperately needed. Being a brand new program and a new sport to all of our wrestlers, we went out and competed great against well-established teams."

Notably, said the Coach, "Eli Crook started off the Trojan boys with a win by pin in overtime against a Honoka'a wrestler, a tremendous start to a promising season for the freshman."

Rain Nihipali-Sesson was able to secure a rematch victory by third round pin for the Trojan girls against a Hilo wrestler. "Rain lost by pin in the first match against Hilo, but she kept a positive attitude and was able to be coachable and make the needed adjustments within a few hours allowing her to avenge the loss in the rematch," reported Mazyck.

The Coach explained, "The point of a



Rain Nihipali-Sesson, a Junior at Ka'ū High, works for pin against a Hilo girl in a pre-season high school wrestling tournament at Pāhoa High in December. Photo by Coach Ray Mazyck

pre-season tournament like this is to gain experience and get an understanding of what this sport takes, and we did exactly that. The coaching staff is extremely proud of each of our wrestlers and excited for the season to come. The most important

thing is that our team all had an incredible amount of fun, had amazing attitudes, and kept smiles on their faces throughout. We as coaches are blessed and can't ask for much more than that."

## Lady Trojans Defeat Kealakehe Waveriders in Basketball

Lady Trojans defeated Kealakehe Waveriders on the road in Kona in December, with a score of 44-32. Lady Trojans improved their record to 2-4 on the season by defeating the Division 1 Big Island Interscholastic Federation school.

Trojans executed a balanced scoring attack led by freshman Caliyah Silva-Kamei with 18 points, supported by senior Tyra Wong Yuen with 9 points and sophomore Shaylie Martinez with 8 points. Senior Alexis Bivings scored 6 points, and junior Angelica Bivings added 3 points.

Silva-Kamei helped Lady Trojans hold off a second-half charge by the Wave Riders by scoring 12 points just in the second half and making 5 of her 6 shots, including 2 of 2 on 3-point shots.

Head Coach Mark Peters said, "The



Senior Tyra Wong Yuen poses for a picture during Saturday's game on the road at Kealakehe. Photo by Dee Peters

Lady Trojans did an admirable job on the boards by leading total rebounds for the contest, led by Tyra Wong Yuen, who hauled in 6 rebounds and was supported by Shaylie Martinez with 4 rebounds." Peters added, "The girls really played their best all-around game today. A credit to the coaching staff who added some new wrinkles to our offense and, of course, the team who worked hard all week in preparation for this game. Excellent passing, better shot selection, reduced turnovers, tenacious team defense, and being strong on the boards are all things we have been working on in practice. It was great to see the hard work shine through during the game. We have a ways to go, but each week this team continues to grow."

Peters also stated, "I am so proud of

all of the players, especially those who may not show up in the box score much. For instance, Lilyana Haina and Angelica Bivings played so hard and gave us some much-needed toughness on defense. Laci Ah Yee, Kailee Cummings, and Mary Amon all gave us some great minutes on the court today." The Lady Trojans have a break before they play their next game at Konawaena on January 3rd.

Working with Head Coach Mark Peters are Assistant Coaches Megan Javar, Deishalyn Nurial-Dacalio, Paul Takson and Carla Lind. The Athletic Trainer is Moses Whitcomb, and the Athletic Director is Jaime Guerro.

The team is comprised of freshman Student Statistician Molly Akana; seniors Alexis Bivings, Tyra Wong Yuen, Lilyana Haina, and Tina Lokot; juniors Laci Ah Yee, Angelica Bivings, and Mary Amon; sophomores Chazlyn Mukini and Shaylie Martinez; and freshmen Kamalea Davis, Kailee

Cummings and Caliya Silva-Kamei.



Shaylie Martinez and Tyra Wong Yuen battle for position to grab an offensive rebound. Photo by Dee Peters

## Young Ka'ū Athletes Invited for Annual Track & Field Meets

Ka'ū athletes, ages 6-14, are invited to the annual Youth Track & Field Meets, to be held in February and March, sponsored by Hawai'i County Department of Parks & Recreation. The meets will be held in Kona and Hilo.

West Hawai'i Track & Field Meets will be Satur-



Isaiah Manila Louis, one of the track stars in Ka'ū in running and long jump. Photo by Tolu Rasmussen

day, Feb. 3 and Saturday, Feb. 17 at Kealakehe High School Track at 9 a.m. with the start of field events followed by track events.

East Hawai'i Track & Field Meets will be Saturday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, March 2 at Waiākea High School Ken Yamase Stadium at 9 a.m. with

the start of field events followed by track events.

Participants are limited to two meets and three events per meet. If participants are entering more than one event, they cannot enter exclusively running events or exclusively field events but must choose at least one of each.

To participate, students should first contact the school track program. Schools,

clubs, or individuals interested in participating in any of the meets should contact Recreation Specialist Darrell Yamamoto at 808-961-8735 or email darrell.yamamoto@hawaiiicounty.gov.

Entry forms and additional information can be found online at <https://www.parks.hawaiiicounty.gov/facilities-parks/recreation>.

## Boy & Girl Boxers to Head to Kona

Youth boxers from Ka'ū are invited to join other young boxers from around

the island and beyond for the Hawai'i Island Police Activities League (HI-PAL) Youth Boxing Spring Showdown on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the Old Kona Airport Main Event Pavilion.

Weigh-ins will be in the morning, time to be determined, with boxing matches beginning at 5:00 p.m. HI-PAL is teaming up with the Ikaikamauloa Youth Foundation (Kona Gold Boxing Club) for this exciting keiki event.

Twenty bouts are planned for boys and girls aged 8-17, with pre-matching done on a first-come, first-serve basis prior to the event.

Advance registration with the



HI-PAL invites keiki to Spring Showdown.

Boy & Girl Boxers, pg. 12

[www.kaucalendar.com](http://www.kaucalendar.com) • [kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com](http://kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com)

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# KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

## Ka'ū Girls Invited to Amelia Earhart Engineering Day

Ka'ū Girls from fourth- through eighth-grade are invited to register and be among the first 50 girls from Hawai'i Island to sign up for the 8th Annual Amelia Earhart Girls in Engineering Day. It will be Saturday, Jan. 27, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wai'ākea High School. Registration is open. This free program is underwritten by the Zonta Club of Hilo, whose mission is to build a better world for women and girls. Funding support was also provided by the County of Hawai'i.

"Held annually, the Amelia Earhart Girls in Engineering Day supports girls grades 4-8 to continue STEM curriculum throughout middle school and high school, then pursue college degrees in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)," said Zonta event chair Deb Lewis.

This annual event was launched in



2012. Instrumental in the program's success are organizers Dale Olive and Eric Hagiwara, dedicated science educators from Wai'ākea High School. Each year, the day features a

different science theme, and attendees participate in hands-on science activities.

"This year 'Flight' is our theme. The girls will build two different models of gliders, one from foam plates and one from balsa. After building them, the girls will throw the gliders to see which have the longest distance flight and the longest time in the air," said Olive. "The girls will also learn how to fly Parrot Mambo drones in teams of two and race down the course and back."

At Amelia Earhart Girls in Engineering Day, women professionals in STEM fields speak to and encourage middle school students, especially girls, to continue their

STEM pathway.

To download the registration form, visit <https://zontahilo.org/event/amelia-earhart-girls-in-engineering-day-2024/> or email [koolrain-hotrocks@gmail.com](mailto:koolrain-hotrocks@gmail.com).



To support Zonta Club of Hilo's future STEM events and celebrate the legacy of Amelia Earhart, tax-deductible donations can be made to the club's foundation at <https://www.zontahilo.org/donate/>.

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## National Honor Society Members Announced at Ka'ū High School

Ka'ū High School welcomed new members to the year 2023-2024 of the National Honor Society in December. Top row: David Brooks (Advisor), Kaydence Ebanes-Alcosiba, Hokulani Carriaga Pascual, Vladimir Fedoruk and Danny Eder (Vice President); Middle row: Chayane Brooks (Advisor), Megan Pierpont, Kona Smith, Dakota Seaver, Tancy David, and Stephen Throne; Bottom row: Tatyahna Kaupu-Embrey, Tyra Wong Yuen (President), Laci Ah Yee (Treasurer). The Induction Ceremony will be held on Feb 9.

*Photo from National Honor Society*

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# Students Showcase Education at Pāhala High & Elementary

Students presented a showcase of education at Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School in December. Families, community and business leaders, and representatives of the Department of Education walked door to door and were welcomed by students themselves, who invited them in for an experience.

Experiences included hands-on science projects like extracting DNA into a vial and giving it to a visitor to take home. Another class invited guests to accompany students to the ballfield to carry out a lesson in trigonometry using the real world to shoot the line and get the angle. Another

class put on a play. Another focuses on health and took visitors' blood pressure. An elementary school class used pillows they stuffed to explain the concepts of length, width and perimeter.

Students, not the teachers, welcomed visitors to each classroom and invited them to become involved. The showcase showed how excited and proud the students are regarding what they are learning. Their interaction with the public is aimed at showing the community that they are learning and they like it.

Some students, known to be shy, took the lead in welcoming and informing the adults. It builds their confidence, said the other more outgoing students, stepping aside to let them do it. The showcase also revealed the 'ohana relationships in the classroom between students, teachers and classroom aides. A lot of laughter and joy filled the rooms as students took the lead.



Students show the public how they extract DNA for science studies.

Photo by Julia Neal



Students take blood pressure of excited visitors to their Showcase at Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary, including school staff member 'Āina Akamu.

Photo from Ka'ū High & Elementary



Elementary students stuff pillows and handle their edges to learn about length, width and perimeter.

Photo by Julia Neal

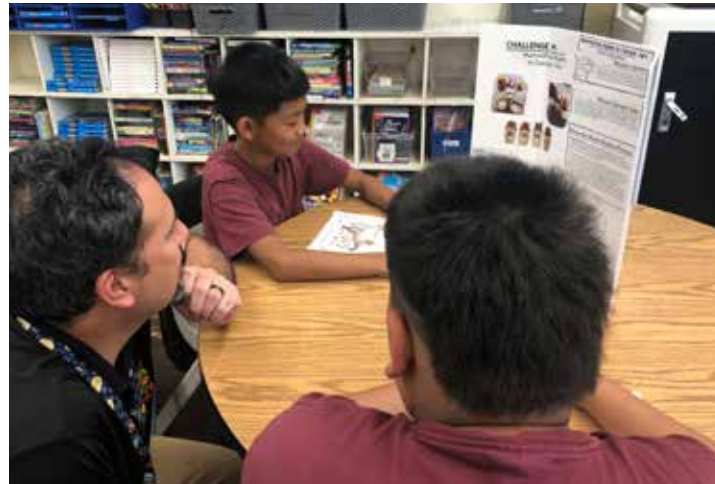


Ka'ū High's Journalism Class celebrates making documentary films and writing for *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper.



Students created short films in Journalism class.

Photo from YouTube



Students teach a representative from Department of Education about mummification of apples, using canopic jars.

Photo by Julia Neal



The mysteries and practicalities of science on display, courtesy of Ka'ū High students showing off their marine science lab.



Students carry a nonviolent "gun" to shoot a line to solve trigonometry and geometry problems.

Photo by Ka'ū High student Lexi

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**SOUNDS OF NIAULANI Musical Forest Tour,** Monday, Jan. 6, at 9:30 a.m. with Dina Kageler at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Volcano Village.

**BIRTH OF KAHUKU** on Sunday, Jan. 7, at 9:30 a.m. Join a park ranger on an easy 1.5-hour, 1.5-mile walk to explore the rich geologic history of Kahuku. Traverse the vast 1868 lava flow, see different volcanic formations including the South-west Rift Zone of Mauna Loa. Meet at the Kahuku Visitor Contact Station.

**AFTER DARK IN THE PARK (Volcano Awareness Month) - Kīlauea's Crater Filling Summit Eruptions,** Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Join USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist Matt Patrick as he summarizes the recent activity at Kīlauea summit and highlights its patterns of behavior and Hawaiian Volcano Observatory monitoring techniques. Park entrance fees apply.

**LEARN TO PLAY 'UKULELE** on Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Ōhi'a Wing (across Crater Rim Drive from Kīlauea Visitor Center). The modern Hawaiian 'ukulele evolved from the machete de braga, a small stringed instrument introduced by Portuguese immigrants to Hawai'i in the late 1800s. Come join Kumu Hula Meleana Manuel who will show you how to play simple and fun Hawaiian songs. Several 'ukulele will be provided, or bring your own!

**VAC'S HERITAGE AND ARCHIVE PROGRAM** on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 5:30 p.m. Volcano Art Center presents the first of the Archive Film Series. This project shares a glimpse of VAC's unique 50-year history. This program will run monthly at VAC Nialani Campus (19-4074 Old Volcano Old).

**VAC'S HULA ARTS AT KILAUEA PERFORMANCE** on Saturday, Jan. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This hula kahiko performance features Pele & Kekoa Harman Hālau I Ka Leo Ola o Nā Mamo. The performance begins at 10:30am in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Park entrance fees apply.

**KAHUKU HIKE: PEOPLE AND LAND OF KAHUKU** on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024, at Kahuku unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. A moderate two-mile, three-hour guided hike that loops through varied landscapes to explore the human history of Kahuku. Attendees should be prepared for sun, rain, hot & cold conditions. Wear sturdy footwear and bring water.

**COFFEE TALK AT KAHUKU: THE KOA AND SANDALWOOD FORESTS OF HAWAI'I NEI,** Saturday, Jan. 20, at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station. Join Dr. J.B. Friday and learn about the sustainable management of the majestic acacia koa and the almost-harvested-to-extinction 'ili'ahi (sandalwood), two very important trees in the Hawaiian forest. For more information, call 808-929-8075.

**AMELIA EARHART ENGINEERING DAY,** Saturday, Jan. 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Wai'ākea High School. This event supports girls grades 4-8 to continue STEM curriculum throughout middle school and high school, then pursue college degrees in STEM

**DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY**

**EXPLORE THE SUMMIT DAILY** at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park for an easy one-hour, ranger-led walk from Kīlauea Visitor Center through the rainforest out to Kūpina'i Pali on the crater's edge. Walks are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Meet at Kīlauea Visitor Center lānai. Visit Kīlauea Visitor Center for other ranger-led programs.

**PICKLEBALL** at Kahuku Park in Ocean View on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. To learn more and register, contact Jaquie Woodmansee at (808) 929-7092.

**YOGA** at Kahuku Park in Ocean View on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 - 10 a.m. To learn more and register, contact Trisha Meyer at +1 (208) 353-3594.

**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. 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.

**KEIKI DRAWING CLASSES WITH KEN CHARON,** Tuesdays starting Jan. 9 - Feb. 20, at 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A series of 6 drawing classes for children ages 8 to 14 at Volcano Art Center's Nialani Campus. Ken's lessons focus on drawing things from life. Portraits, landscapes, and still-lives will be encouraged as a way to prepare for more personal imaginary works. Field trips into the Nialani Rainforest will also be included, weather permitting. Fee: \$120/\$110 VAC Members plus a \$17 supply fee. Financial scholarships are available for those in need. For more information, visit <https://volcanoartcenter.org/events/>.

**KUPUNA YOGA:** Gather for 77-minute group class 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Nā'ālehu Hongwongji Mission's garden. Engage your mana'o, kino & akua for stress relief, increased breath/blood flow & regenerative energy. Limited mats. Money donation or heart-based trade for teacher & temple appreciated. Sign up 11 minutes before start time.

**ST. JUDE'S SHOWER MINISTRY** open to the public on Saturdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon with last Check-in at 11:30 a.m. Offered are hot water, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and clean towels. Masks and social distancing are required before and after showering. The public shower service is supported by the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i's Commission on Mission Beyond Church and St. Jude's own outreach fund. Location is 92-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Members of the congregation built the facility.

**WAI'ŌHINU YOGA** at the Wai'ōhinu Park every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., weather permitting. Laurie Boyle offers the practice of yoga of all levels. Donations appreciated. No reservations needed. For more information, contact Boyle at ezmerelda5@gmail.com.

**FREE HELP WITH FAMILY HISTORY** in Ka'ū is available 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday. 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.

**STEWARDSHIP OF KĪPUKAPUAULU** on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Help remove troublesome plants at Kīpukapuauulu, home to diverse native forest and understory plants. Bring clippers or pruners, sturdy gloves, a hat, and water. Wear closed-toe shoes and clothing that you don't mind getting

January Calendar, pg. 9

## Lā'au Letters: Native Plants of Ka'ū

Welcome to *Lā'au Letters: Native Plants of Ka'ū*. Read about Ka'ū's native plants and their mo'olelo (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.



Loulu (*Pritchardia* spp.)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

### Loulu (*Pritchardia* spp.)

**Description:** Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! I am excited to introduce you to a great friend to kick off 2024. Meet loulu! Loulu (not to be confused with lo'ulu, the name of the endemic fern *Cochlidium pilosum*), is the name for all species of the only native Hawaiian palms, which are perhaps the most distinctive and conspicuous native plants. Of the 27 species of *Pritchardia* found in the east-central Pacific, Hawai'i is home to 24 endemic species, all of which are either a species of concern, endangered, or critically endangered. Loulu are unarmed (thornless) tree palms with palmate or fan-shaped leaves which naturally senesce, die, brown, and fall off of the tree in one intact unit, although sometimes in drier areas, they persist on the tree giving it a lovely pā'ū or skirt. The underside of the leaf blades can vary in color because of a covering of light-colored hairs which can densely cover the underside of the leaf blade surface, giving them a silvery appearance. Interestingly, a marine kinolau to the native palm is the filefish, perhaps named loulu because the greenish-white skin resembles the colors of the bottom of the fronds. The trunks are smooth but tend to have longitudinal grooves and are sometimes ringed with leaf (or climbing) scars. Small yellow flowers and round fruits emerge on stalks that may hang down when they are full of fruits. The length of the flower and fruit stalks relative to other parts of the leaf - and the leaf coloration itself - are some of the most useful characteristics to identify species of loulu.

**Uses:** Leaves were typically the most commonly-utilized part of loulu, specifically for thatching roofs and weaving fans, umbrellas, hats, and baskets. The word loulu can be translated into umbrella, so called because the fronds from the palms were used as rain / sun protection. Heiau māpele (a seasonal heiau used to appease Lono and encourage an adequate seasonal catch of fish) were erected using the large fronds of loulu. Trunks were also used to make spears and for construction, as they are surprisingly durable. The fruits of loulu were given a specific name, hāwane, and they were gathered immature to consume while the endosperm was still soft. Loulu were often cultivated around areas of habitation, which is even greater evidence that loulu have played a prominent role in Hawaiian life and culture.

**Habitat:** Loulu can inhabit a variety of conditions, and each species of loulu is uniquely adapted to live in a specific climate type. Hawai'i Island is home to five species of loulu spanning ranges from Kohala to Ka'ū, including *P. beccariana*, *P. gordonii*, *P. maideniana*, *P. schattaueri*, and *P. lanigera*, none of which occur on other islands. Unfortunately, direct or indirect human activity is responsible for the degraded and declining state of loulu habitat - though it should be noted that fossil evidence has shown that loulu were once one of the most abundant trees in Hawaiian forests, and potentially even a dominant species in dry coastal lowland and moist mid-elevation forests. Even more noteworthy is that loulu easily succumb to the damage of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), which makes the conservation of these amazing species even more of a priority. On that note, if you see anything resembling CRB damage or CRB grub, please report it to (808) 643-PEST.

**Growing and Purchasing:** It is a true shame that native loulu are not used in commercial landscaping to replace the other Pacific fan palms, but hopefully that will change. I do, however, encourage you to learn about the different Hawai'i Island (and beyond) species of loulu and see which species may do well in your home landscape. Because these are protected species, only certified growers are permitted to propagate and sell loulu on the market. These are all tagged and recorded, and must only be planted in home garden settings - it is not a good idea to plant endangered species into wild landscapes because of the risk of losing the genetic variability across species which is key to their individual success. Amy Greenwell often sells loulu, and they do great in the climate of Ka'ū! I hope you enjoy learning more about these fabulous frond friends and incorporate them into your lives, somehow.

**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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i'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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# JANUARY '23

## January Calendar, from pg. 8

permanently stained from morning glory sap. Be prepared for cool and wet or hot and sunny weather. New volunteer? Contact Marilyn Nicholson for more info: [nickem@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:nickem@hawaii.rr.com). Meet at the Kīpukapuau parking lot, Mauna Loa Road, off Highway 11 in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

ST. JUDE'S COMPUTER LAB open Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Work-Station Laptops will be provided. Printing and shredding is available. Training sessions on Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and assistance with setting up email accounts, Facebook, Zoom, and more are provided. Assigned times are available for individual help. Game playing is limited and no streaming is allowed. Privileges can be suspended by Administrator or Lab Coordinator.

### OUTDOOR MARKETS

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, Wednesdays, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact Nadine Ebert at 808-938-5124 or June Domondon 808-938-4875. See [facebook.com/OKauKakouMarket](https://facebook.com/OKauKakouMarket).

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

VOLCANO EVENING MARKET, Cooper Center, Volcano Village, Thursdays, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with live music, artisan crafts, ono grinds, and fresh produce. See [facebook.com/Volcano-Evening-Market-105888795330870](https://facebook.com/Volcano-Evening-Market-105888795330870).

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OCEAN VIEW MARKET & DANCE PARTY with Ka'ū Radio from 3 p.m. until pau. \$10 booth fees, no reservations required. Kona St. and Mamālahoa Highway. Contact [HOVEMarket@gmail.com](mailto:HOVEMarket@gmail.com).

OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY MARKET, Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kona St. and Mamālahoa Highway, \$10 booth fees, no reservations needed. Contact [HOVEMarket@gmail.com](mailto:HOVEMarket@gmail.com) with any questions.

VOLCANO SWAP MEET, 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Large variety of vendors with numerous products. Tools, clothes, books, toys, local-made healing extract and creams, antiques, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, food, music, plants,

fruits, and vegetables. Also offered are cakes, coffee, and shave ice.

OCEAN VIEW SWAP MEET 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.

### FOOD

FREE MEALS IN NĀ'ĀLEHU are served Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Volunteers prepare the food provided by 'O Ka'ū Kākou with fresh produce from its gardens on the farm of Eva Liu. Other community members also make donations and approximately 150 meals are served each day. A donation of \$1 is suggested per meal.

KA'Ū FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m. - Pau. St. Jude's Episcopal Church above Kahuku Park in Ocean View. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

'O KA'Ū KĀKOU PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, Jan. 23, 10 a.m. - Pau. Ka'ū District Gym in Pāhala. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

COOPER CENTER COMMUNITY PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Located at 19- 4030 Wright Road in Volcano. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

ST JUDE'S HOT MEALS are free to those in need on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until food runs out, no later than noon. Volunteers from the community are welcome to help and can contact Karen at [pooch53@gmail.com](mailto:pooch53@gmail.com). Location is 96-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View.

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## Classical Musicians, from pg. 1

which is "committed to carrying on the great bel canto singing tradition made famous by legendary voice teacher Manuel Garcia in the 1800s," says Shoremount-Obra. She says that in addition to taking master classes and performing, the artists will connect with the culture of Hawai'i by exchanging talents and ideas with local artists.

Operations Manager Taylor Yasui, of Honolulu, states, "We are excited to showcase the music and stories of acclaimed international and local artists, which adds to the unique and diverse musical landscape we have here in Hawai'i. Each year Hawai'i International Music Festival strives to build upon our mission of presenting unique interdisciplinary classical music events and educational outreach programs for the community of Hawai'i."

The workshop at Pāhala Plantation Managers House features a local and internationally acclaimed artist faculty - Silberger; Shoremount-Obra; pianist and Kaua'i resident Monica Chung; pianist, music director, coach and Hawai'i resident Maika'i Nash; Conductor and Artistic Director/Principal Conductor of TerpsiKord Carine Aufier; Associate Vocal Department Chair of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and Mezzo-Soprano Maya Syper.

Ten local and international singers from the US Mainland, Mexico and China will join the workshop to participate in daily lessons, classes, and masterclasses and concerts.

*The Celebration of Music!* at Pāhala Plantation Managers House on Sunday, Jan. 7 will feature music of Franck, Chaminade, Bachelet, R. Strauss and more. Vocal and instrumental performers will be violinist Silberger, internationally acclaimed Canadian pianist Oskar Yao, soprano Shoremount-Obra, pianist Chung, coach Nash, conductor Aifiero and three young singers from The Garcia School workshop. They are Chinese soprano Zoe Gao, San Francisco-based baritone Andrew Fellows and Mexican soprano Sandra Aldaz Meraz.

Suggested donations are \$30; to reserve seats see [www.himusicfestival.org](http://www.himusicfestival.org).

The workshop concludes with the additional concert featuring all singers of The Garcia School Vocal Workshop



Monica Chung



Amy Shoremount-Obra

on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at Pāhala Plantation Managers House. Conducted by TerpsiKord's Carmine Aifiero, with music director coach Maika'i Nash at the piano, the first half of the program will include ensembles from several of Mozart's most beloved operas, and the second half of the program will include art songs, arias and musical theater selections by various composers.

Suggested donations are \$30 and reservations are available on the Hawai'i International Music Festival website at [www.himusicfestival.org](http://www.himusicfestival.org).



Eric Silberger



# NŪPEPA NĀ'ĀLEHU

Volume 22, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2024

## Ki'eki'e Ka'ū Welcomes Haumana to Compete at Makahiki Grounds

Makahiki 2023 welcomed many students in December to participate in Hawaiian games at the Makahiki grounds just outside Nā'ālehu. Ki'eki'e Ka'ū sent out a statement saying that this year's Makahiki event featured 355 Keiki competitors including haumāna who assisted as Kia'i at differing stations for the games.

Haumāna of Kua o Ka Lā from as far as Miloli'i, Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences, Ka'ū High and Pāhala Elementary, Pāhoa High School and several haumāna of Nā'ālehu School attended.

They competed in Kōnane, Kūkini, Hukihuki, Pala'ie, 'Ō'ō'ihe, Ulu Maika, Moa Pahe'e, Pōhaku Ho'oikaika, Pā 'Uma, Haka Moa and Hū. In addition, a new featured game station, the Hōlua, was introduced by 'Anakala Keone Kalawe of Puna. Tūtū Pele and Poli'ahu were known in mo'olelo for their expertise in the tra-



Hukihuki, Hawaiian tug of war at the Makahiki Grounds celebration in December.

Photo from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū



Hōlua, Hawaiian sliding was introduced to the 2023 Makahiki.

Photo from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū

ditions of Hōlua, sled riding.

Another new station featured Ku'i Kalo, implemented by Kamomi Bivings and his 'Ohana of

Honaunau Momona. They also taught keiki how to weave lau niu.

Kumu Hula Debbie Ryder, Demetrius Oliveira and Hālau Hula O Leonalani

entertained, along with emcee Kumu Kilion Moku.

The statement from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū said, "Mahalo to many 'Ohana from Ka'ū, South Kona and Puna Moku and to our Ka'ū community along with all who contributed with helping hands to make this successful event happen for all of our keiki.

"Special Mahalo to our collaborators: Kua O Ka Lā, Kahua 'Olohū Stewardship group, Ka 'Ohana o Honu'apo, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Waikapuna hui, The Nature Conservancy, Ho'omalua Ka'ū, to all of our Kumu Kula who brought their haumāna and mostly, to our Kupuna who continues to guide us in the work that we do! Lonoikamakahiki."



Haumāna from numerous schools gather for the Makahiki.

Photo from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū



Kōnane, the Hawaiian board game.

Photo from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū



Pā 'Uma, Hawaiian arm wrestling.

Photo from Ki'eki'e Ka'ū

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 Top of Long Driveway



# OV, KAHUKU, MILOLI'I

Volume 22, Number 1

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

January 2024

## Ka'ū Keiki Singers Launches New Classes, Concerts for 2024

Teresa Fitzgerald, of Ocean View, continues her Ka'ū Keiki Singers choir and music classes on Jan. 18, offering scholarships. This follows her Ka'ū Keiki Singers concert in December. Anyone aged 4-18 can join. No experience is necessary. She said, "We start with the basics and work our way up. We learn rhythm, pitch matching, reading music, harmony, and proper singing techniques and have fun doing it. The choir meets every Thursday afternoon during the spring and fall and performs two Christmas and two spring concerts every year, one at OV Community Center and one at St Jude's Episcopal Church, who kindly lets us rehearse at their church for free." Spring rehearsals begin Jan. 18.



Teresa Fitzgerald teaches music to children, held a Christmas in Ka'ū Concert, and begins classes again on Jan. 18 in Ocean View. She offers scholarships. Photo from Ka'ū Keiki Singers

Teresa Fitzgerald said that most of her experience occurred in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she sang and was Assistant Director, semi-professionally.

"I've worked with numerous famous directors and musicians John Williams, Garison Keeler, Kurt Bestor and more. I sang at numerous venues during the 2002 Winter Olympics including the opening ceremonies. And I've performed and

*Keiki Singers, pg. 15*



A young pianist who learns music in Ocean View from Teresa Fitzgerald.

Photo from Ka'ū Keiki Singers



Ka'ū Keiki Singers perform a Christmas in Ka'ū Concert in Ocean View.

Photo from Ka'ū Keiki Singers

The fee for the choir is \$10 per class but she offers scholarships to anyone in need. She also teaches private piano and voice classes. Five of her piano students played solos during the concert.

"I just want to bring as many keiki together as possible in a positive environment while share my passion with them," said Fitzgerald. "I take suggestions from the kids on songs they would like to learn. I always incorporate at least one song to allow the kids the opportunity to sing a short

solo. We are non-denominational and sing songs from a variety of traditions."

Fitzgerald is the director and her husband Gannon Fitzgerald helps move equipment and runs sound at the performances.

## OV Cell Tower a Contested Case

A contested case has been approved for Ocean View residents opposing the location of the construction of a new 150-foot cell phone tower within 500 feet of their homes. The Windward Planning Commission approved the proposal to file a contested case to challenge the tower during its meeting in December.

The cell tower Petition for Standing was opposed by Renegade Towers, LLC, which owns a one-acre lot near St. Jude's Church and the

county-owned Kahuku Park. Without "standing," the residents would not be permitted to have a contested case.

In their Petition for Standing, four residents, Colleen Conifer, Donna Durgin, Dana Jackson and Al Sherman, stated

that "close proximity to the proposed tower is what brings us to this meeting, and distinguishes our interests from that of the general public".

The petition contends that, if the cell tower is built, it would have a negative effect on a "high-use area," which includes

*Cell Tower Contested, pg. 16*

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## County Offers to Help Clean Out Junkers for New Year

Cleaning out the junk cars and trucks for the New Year is encouraged by County of Hawai'i Office of Housing & Community Development. The agency and partner Department of Environmental Management are offering to help residents to remove free-of-charge up to two junked or abandoned vehicles from private property.

The updated Vehicle Disposal Assistance Program was launched on Aug. 7 to reduce the number of derelict and abandoned vehicles littering Hawai'i Island.

The program, administered by the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management's Derelict/Abandoned Vehicle Section, provides residents with the opportunity to dispose legally and properly two permanently junked or derelict vehicles each fiscal year.

The service is provided free of charge to residents and is subject to fund availability. The program has a handful of requirements, which are outlined online at [www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/automotive](http://www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/automotive).

Applications can also be found on the website. Registered vehicle owners and property owners are encouraged to submit their applications early, as this program will only be available while funding is available. Residents who rent but are looking to remove a junked vehicle still registered in their name must obtain the landowner's approval for the tow company to enter the property.

Direct questions to the Derelict/Abandoned Vehicle Section at (808) 961-8552 or [VDAP@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:VDAP@hawaiicounty.gov).



**GOT A JUNK OR DERELICT VEHICLE YOU NEED TO GET RID OF?**

OHCD encourages its housing voucher program participants and partner landlords to take advantage of a new County of Hawai'i program that allows residents to remove free-of-charge up to two junked or abandoned vehicles from private property.

For more information, program requirements and an application, visit [www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/automotive/](http://www.hawaiiizerowaste.org/recycle/automotive/) or contact the Department of Environmental Management's Derelict/Abandoned Vehicle Section by calling (808) 961-8552 or via email to [VDAP@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:VDAP@hawaiicounty.gov)

## County: Solar Permitting is Easier, Costs Lower

A County of Hawai'i measure to reduce the cost of installing solar and make permitting easier is a reality. The County Council passed the bill and Mayor Mitch Roth signed Bill 66 in December. He said that it will bring about cost reductions for

Bill 66 amends Chapter 5, Article 4, Section 5-4-3 of Hawai'i County Code 1983 and streamlines the permitting process for solar electric systems and ensures that electrical design drawings and specifications, as well as plans and specifications

by working to eliminate the red tape and replacing it with commonsense approaches. We'd like to mahalo Councilmember Kāneali'i-Kleinfelder for drafting this bill and our Council for ultimately approving it."

Marco Mangelsdorf, representing ProVision Solar, commended the collaborative effort that led to the successful passage of Bill 66. "From the initial idea this past summer to implementation in the fall, this beneficial and practical policy change coming to fruition reminds me that the government can and does work to promote the needed change to accelerate the clean, green energy transition on our island." Mangelsdorf said, "Bill 66, going into effect, will make it easier to get the vast majority of solar electric systems permitted and bring down the cost to homeowners."



Cost of installing solar and ease with permitting is expected under new bill from the county council signed into law this week. Photo from ProVision Solar

homeowners and bolster the clean, green energy transition on Hawai'i Island.

It was authored and introduced by Councilmember Matt Kāneali'i-Kleinfelder, who stated, "The intent of the bill is to align Hawai'i County with our sister counties, create cohesive efficiency in permitting requirements, and decrease the cost of Residential Solar Installations for our community."

for building work, are prepared by licensed professionals, simplifying the process for most solar electric systems, says the statement from the County.

The Mayor said, "We know that the cost of living is going up, that building material prices are increasing, and that interest rates are at a high. That's why we're doing all we can to ensure that our residents can continue calling Hawai'i Island home

The Mayor said he encourages residents to explore the benefits of this policy change and take proactive steps toward adopting solar energy solutions for their homes.

### Boy & Girl Boxers, from pg. 5

following groups is required to participate:

Register with USA Boxing. Go to <https://www.usaboxing.org/membership/registration> to register your child with USA Boxing.

Register with the Ikaikamauloa Youth Foundation. Click on the link below, email [konagoldboxingclub@gmail.com](mailto:konagoldboxingclub@gmail.com), or call (808) 854-4469. Ikaikamauloa Youth Foundation registration form: <http://tinyurl.com/dh28kwj6>

Fill out a HI-PAL permission/release form with the Kona Community Policing Section. Contact Officer Leonard Warren of Kona Community Policing via email: [leonard.warren@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:leonard.warren@hawaiicounty.gov) for the HI-PAL permission/release forms and for more information.

For additional questions, contact Kona Community Policing Officer Leonard Warren at (808) 326-4646, ext. 259.

## Reach More People

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## Vibrant Hawai'i Promotes, Health, Nutrition

Vibrant Hawai'i released a year-end report, and its leader, Janice Ikeda, says the non-profit is looking forward to continuing work in Ka'ū. Vibrant helps Ka'ū Food Hubs that serve Ocean View, Pāhala, Nā'ālehu and surrounding areas and communities in between. In 2023, they partnered for the Kaukau 4 Keiki program. Co-captains Marlene Freitas and



Pāhala Co-captain Marlene Freitas and volunteers help distribute fresh produce during Kaukau 4 Keiki. Photo by Julia Neal



Ka'ū Food Hubs participated in the distribution of food that reached 4,000 keiki weekly, islandwide during Kaukau 4 Keiki. Photo by Julia Neal

Julia Neal led the effort for Pāhala and Captain Marcia Masters led the effort for Nā'ālehu.

For Kaukau 4 Keiki during the summer school break, the Vibrant Hawai'i report notes that Hawai'i Alliance, LLC, Hilo Products, Inc. Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture and Hō'ola Farms rough pallets of canned goods, milk and

boxes of locally grown produce every week to Pāhala Hongwanji, Nā'ālehu Hongwanji and 12 other drop-sites across the island.

The report says, "These deliveries were an incredible orchestration of logistics that sourced pantry items and produce for 56,000 meals a week. During the regular academic year, thousands of students receive free or reduced-priced meals, but during the summer, many schools are unable to continue their meal program due to staffing and logistical challenges. For students living in rural areas, transportation challenges or conflicting family work schedules make picking up Department of Education Grab and Go meals difficult.

"In an economy that already imports 90 percent of its food, the Kaukau 4 Keiki project provided keiki and teens access to healthy meals, especially in low-income rural areas."

Meal kits were provided to the families of 4,000 keiki weekly. They were designed to USDA food guidelines and included over five pounds of locally sourced fruits and vegetables, bread, shelf-stable milk, and protein. "There was a purposeful emphasis on incorporating local produce as part of the Summer Food Series Program: a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimbursed Vibrant Hawai'i for the meal kits."

See this and other Vibrant Hawai'i programs at [www.vibranthawaii.org](http://www.vibranthawaii.org).

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## Ag Tours, Volcano Tea Farm Endorsed by Hawai'i Tourism Authority

Hawai'i Tourism Authority is promoting ag tours to benefit the local economy and food producers. The promotion features Eva Lee and Chiu Leong's Tea Tasting and Farm Tour in Volcano and Ed Olson and Troy Keolanui's OK Farms with their food-growing enterprises in Ka'ū and Hilo.

According to a 2022 Visitor Satisfaction and Activity Survey by the Hawai'i Tourism Authority, 20 percent of domestic visitors to Hawai'i Island took a farm tour. "With the high cost of doing business in Hawai'i, local farms rely on ag-tourism to help their bottom line. During guided, on-site tours, farmers have the opportunity to directly sell their local fresh and value-added products while employing residents," says HTA.

Pomai Weigert, ag business consultant with GoFarm Hawai'i, says opportunities like ag tours, which connect local farmers with residents and visitors, are important as the tourism and ag industries have shifted.

"There is a labor shortage, a goods and housing crisis, and in Hawai'i, we don't have industries that can be siloed (left to work alone)," Weigert explains. "We need to try and weave more commerce into each industry because if we don't, the people who do the tourism jobs will move away and the people who grow food won't be as successful."

Tea Hawai'i and Company in Volcano offers a two-hour Tea Tasting and



Tea Hawai'i and Company in Volcano offers a two-hour Tea Tasting and Farm Tour by demand. Guests walk through over two acres of easy terrain and learn about growing tea, its processing and see any stages of production underway. Photo from HTA

Farm Tour by demand. For over two decades, Eva Lee and Chiu Leong have been giving tours of their operation that pro-

duces white, green, oolong and black teas. Guests walk through over two acres of easy terrain and learn about growing tea and its processing, see any stages of production underway (depending on season), and hear about the history of tea agriculture in Hawai'i.

Lee says she appreciates the interest of guests during visits as "it's like sharing any other art form." Leong adds, "The whole world comes to us; we get people from so many countries, so we learn about their cultural understanding or relationship to tea, and that's a big plus for us."

The couple says they love sharing how tea is "good in so many ways." That includes how a tea plant can live for 1,000 years and so communities are endeared to the plant itself.

"Something good to know is tea helps our climate and environment," continues Lee. "It has a great integration with native forests. Fresh tea leaf is used in culinary as you can pair tea with leafy greens for a salad and it can be used in place of basil to make a great pesto. These are all drivers to keep us inspired."

Plans are in the works at Tea Hawai'i to launch a matcha tea by milling green tea into the fine powder needed for matcha. The company sells its tea after tours, online and through Hawai'i Island food hubs: Ho'ōla Farms and Adaptations. Lee notes the tours have enabled them to meet people involved in wholesale who want to sell their teas. Visits can be booked at <http://teahawaii.com/about/tour/>.

OK Farms offers a Rainbow Falls Farm Tour 15 times weekly through Hawai'i Eco. In addition to touring Waiānuenu (Rainbow) and Kaimukanaka Waterfalls, the 1.5-hour tour introduces visitors to an abundance of tropical and exotic crops like lychee, longan, heart of palm, cacao and spices. OK employs four tour guides who drive guests to different crop plantings. Guests see food under cultivation, learn how it's harvested and processed, and sample three different seasonal fruits and mac nuts.

Ala Keolanui, assistant manager, who helps with tours as needed, says while a goal is for tours to be fun and educational, they also strive to enable guests to make a

Tea Tours, pg. 15

## Public Input Sought on Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Accessibility

Public input for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is sought by Jan. 11. The requested review and comment is for recommendations to improve in-park access and timeframes to implement changes and such improvements as upgrades to park structures, programs and services. The document is called Draft Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

The stated goals of the plan are to "document existing park barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities; provide an effective approach for upgrading facilities, services, activities, and programs; and instill a culture around creating universal access."

The document is set to become available this week for public review and comment, following work by an NPS interdisciplinary team, including individuals with expertise in planning, design, construction, and interpretive, resource, visitor safety,



Access to the volcanic landscape is the subject of the request for comments and review by Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Photo by NPS

maintenance, and accessibility specialists. The team developed site plans identifying the location of accessibility barriers and crafted an implementation strategy to assist park staff in scheduling and performing required actions and documenting completed work.

"It is important that visitors of all abilities are able to enjoy the incredible experience that Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park offers," said Superintendent Rhonda Loh. "This plan describes our proposed strategy to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment in popular locations throughout the park. We look forward to hearing from you."

The Draft Accessibility Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was prepared to provide analysis and an opportunity for public review and comment. The link to the draft plan is available on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HAVO-SETP>.

Comments may be submitted online at the project website by clicking on "Open for Comment." Comments will be accepted through Jan. 11, 2024.

All comments, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Although respondents may request that their comments and personal information are withheld from public review, the park cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

For more information on Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, visit the park website, [www.nps.gov/hawaiivolcanoes](http://www.nps.gov/hawaiivolcanoes).



### JANUARY EVENTS

**Exhibition: Gathering Bowls: Celebrating Aloha**  
at VAC gallery in HVNP

**Aloha Fridays:**  
cultural demonstration at VAC gallery

**1/6 - The Sounds of Niaulani Musical Tour with Dina Kageler**

**1/9 - 2/20 - Keiki Drawing Class with Ken Charon**

**1/11 - VAC Heritage & Archival Film**

**1/13 - Zentangle with Lydia Menese**

**1/13 Experimental Watercolors with Patti Pease Johnson**

**1/13 - Sounds at the Summit with Muriel Anderson**

**1/13 - Hula Kahiko: Pele & Kekoa Harman Hālau I Ka Leo Ola o Nā Mamo in HVNP near VAC gallery**

**1/20 - Encaustics with Mary Mileczik**

**1/20 - Edible Landscaping with Zach Mermel**

**1/25 - Thursday Night at the Center Amalya's Beads with Dina Kageler**

VAC gallery in HVNP will be open New Years Eve & New Years Day

VAC Niaulani Campus Office/Gallery closed New Years Day

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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# January is Volcano Awareness Month, Many Ka'ū Events Planned

For Volcano Awareness Month, USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory has issued a statement saying, "Volcanoes are a part of life for Hawai'i residents. We live on the

Civil Defense Agency, and other organizations to deliver a range of talks and guided walks for residents and visitors to learn more about the volcanoes in Hawai'i.



Vigorous fountaining within the Kīlauea caldera was visible from near the Uēkahuna overlook in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park during the most recent Kīlauea summit eruption in September 2023. USGS image by M. Patrick

In 2023, there were three eruptions at the summit of Kīlauea. Since the beginning of Oct. 2023, an intrusion in the region southwest of Kīlauea's summit has been causing pulses of increased earthquakes and rates of ground deformation as magma moves below the surface. HVO is closely monitoring this region, watching for signs of potential eruptive activity.

To learn more about Kīlauea activity, head to After Dark in the Park Programs in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16, and 23. Programs will summarize the recent crater-filling summit eruptions, past eruptions near the summit of Kīlauea, and past Southwest Rift Zone eruptions.

flanks, feeling earthquakes beneath our feet, smelling vog, and experiencing the effects of eruptions. It's important to keep up awareness of the types of volcanic activity and associated hazards possible in Hawai'i nei. During January 2024, join us at a Volcano Awareness Month program to learn something new about the volcanoes in our backyard!

For Volcano Awareness Month USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory partners with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, County of Hawai'i

Another After Dark in the Park program on Tuesday, Jan. 30 will summarize the Mauna Loa 2022 eruption and monitoring observations over the past year.

Talks at University of Hawai'i on Wednesdays, Jan. 17 and 31 will describe collaborative work between HVO and UHH to analyze lava samples and HVO's work to monitor volcanoes in American Samoa.

A talk at Pāhala Community Center on Thursday, Jan. 18, will summarize what USGS has learned about the on-

## Tea Tours, from pg. 14

connection to the land and people of Hawai'i.

"All of us giving the tours get great satisfaction from the feedback of our guests," Keolanui details. "People are so grateful to learn about how food is grown."

She cites how visitors marvel at how cinnamon comes from a tree. "It's that one-on-one connection with the guests...they are blown away when seeing spices in their natural state. Guests view what we farm and get a feeling of a family operation."

OK Farms, also a food hub, has an on-site farm store selling produce and value-added products like jams and jellies directly to guests. Keolanui adds the farm tour "is a growing process, and so far, we have been doing well with people wanting to see and learn about what we do here. We strive



Guests taste and see how tea is grown on customized experiences offered by Chiu Leong (pictured) and Eva Lee of Tea Hawai'i and Company. The couple, who produce green, oolong, white and black teas, has been offering ag tours for two decades in Volcano. Photo from HTA

## FAA Overflights, from pg. 1

Ke'elikōlani on Feb. 9 and Bernice Pauahi Bishop on Dec. 19.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Superintendent Rhonda Loh said, "The Air Tour Management Plan is more than 20 years in the making. It significantly reduces the number of low-flying air tours over the park to protect the natural and cultural resources, the wilderness character and general visitor experience. We deeply appreciate everyone's input throughout this long process with us."

The Plan was developed in cooperation with stakeholders representing a variety of interests, including Native Hawaiian organizations, other land management agencies, local communities, and recreation groups. The Plan addresses and responds to concerns identified during



these consultations and through public comment.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park is one of several national parks for which the NPS and FAA have developed or are currently developing an air tour management plan or voluntary agreement to meet the requirements of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act. Each air tour management plan or agreement is developed to manage commercial air tours in a way that is consistent with the NPS's mission, the individual park's purposes, and the FAA's authority regarding aviation safety, says the Park statement.

The final Air Tour Management Plan is available on the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/HawaiiVolcanoesATMP>. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/sound/airtours.htm> for more info.

## Keiki Singers, from pg. 11

prepped children's choirs to sing for people like the Dalai Lama, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and countless dignitaries."

However, 11 years ago, her family moved to Ocean View to get away from the stress of the "real world." After battling stage four breast cancer for five years, she said, "I decided I couldn't wait to follow my dreams any longer,

so I started the choir."

Fitzgerald said, "Christmas in Ka'ū was a great concert performing for a full house with wonderful audience participation and support."

People interested in signing up their keiki for classes, the choir and receiving scholarships can contact Teresa Fitzgerald at [kaukeikisingers@gmail.com](mailto:kaukeikisingers@gmail.com).

going earthquake swarm deep beneath that area, which has generated over 250 felt earthquakes since 2019.

Island of Hawai'i Volcano Awareness Month programs are scheduled throughout the month of January 2024. See <https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/news/announcing-island-hawaii-volcano-awareness-month-programs-january-2024> for details on these talks, walks, and talk story events. The public is also invited to sip on coffee at the Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on Saturday, Jan. 27, while attending a presentation on the destructive sequence of events that occurred on Mauna Loa in 1868.

Those who prefer the outdoors, can participate in guided walks throughout January. Learn the history of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's Kahuku Unit during a guided walk on Sunday, Jan. 7. In Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, trek the Kīlauea Iki and Maunaulu trails with guides on Saturdays, Jan. 13 and 20 to learn about those eruptions. Hike through Ha'akulamanu (Sulphur Banks Trail) on Saturday, Jan. 27 to see volcanic degassing at Kīlauea and learn how HVO measures volcanic gas emissions, which can cause vog (volcanic air pollution) downwind. Head back to the Kahuku Unit on Sunday, Jan. 28, to hike Pu'u o Lokuana and learn about the cinder cone while admiring the view of Ka'ū from the top.

HVO will host tables for several hours at the Nā'ālehu Library on Wednesday, Jan. 10, where the public can talk story with HVO staff.

A calendar with descriptions of all Volcano Awareness Month 2024 programs is provided on HVO's website (<https://www.usgs.gov/observatories/hvo/news/announcing-island-hawaii-volcano-awareness-month-programs-january-2024>). Questions about Hawai'i's volcanoes or Volcano Awareness Month can be emailed to [askHVO@usgs.gov](mailto:askHVO@usgs.gov).

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State of Hawai'i Electronic Device Recycling & Recovery Law <https://health.hawaii.gov/ewaste/>



# Dr. Kimo Alameda Brings his Mayoral Campaign to Ka‘ū

Dr. Kimo Alameda carried his campaign for Hawai‘i County mayor to Ka‘ū on Dec. 30 with sign waving followed by an ‘Ohana Fun Day at Nā‘ālehu Park.

He said, “The event was incredibly successful with the help of campaign manager Raylene Moses and her team. Nearly 400 attendees came to hear a message of hope and inspiration.”

Alameda said he made note of concerns about Pāhala’s broken lights and scoreboard at its ball field to Nā‘ālehu’s “condemned lights and unfinished tennis court.

“I also spoke to residents from Wai‘ōhinu requesting a simple fix of a long overdue, broken bathroom. Ocean View



Tent of kupuna set to meet with mayoral candidate. Photo from Friends of Kimo Alameda



Mayoral candidate Kimo Alameda sign waving in December ahead of his ‘Ohana Fun Day in Nā‘ālehu. Photo from Friends of Kimo Alameda

residents expressed concerns of wild dogs and drug houses.”

He said, “I was happy to see that connections in Ka‘ū are still strong with everybody being related or somehow connected through their church, work, or a friend of a friend. I look forward to connecting with the Ka‘ū team to do this again sometime in July.”

## Cell Tower Contested, from pg. 11

Kahuku Park that provides recreation and “vital social community activities” such as basketball, pickleball, a childrens’ playground, a gathering space for groups and a weekly food distribution center for dozens of residents. The petitioners argue that St. Jude’s Church would be affected. They also list five documented fires in cell phone towers nationwide in 2022 - 2023.

According to the petitioners, more than 150 residents have signed a second petition against the tower, citing a “negative impact on the residents, including health, safety

and property values.” Conifer and friends said they continue to collect signatures at the Saturday swap meet and at SolarWorks! in Ocean View.

The four petitioners are asking the Commission to “reject the proposed site and instruct Renegade Towers to search for an appropriate location with a recommended minimum of 400 meters, 1320 feet, distance from homes and other high-use areas in Ocean View.” They wrote, “We ask that the Commission rules in favor of the people it serves over profits to a company that has no stake in our community’s well-being.”

Alameda is the former executive director of the Bay Clinic, which is now Hawai‘i Community Health Center in Nā‘ālehu, after a merger he helped to orchestrate. He is also known for his time with the County Office of Aging, where he ran services for seniors.

Alameda has led anti-fentanyl campaigns, including distributing the antidote

In a letter to the Windward Planning Commission dated Dec. 6, Danette Martin, a consultant for Renegade Towers, opposed standing for the Ocean View petitioners, objecting to many of the petitioners’ claims. Martin asserted that the tower would have no ill effects on the health, safety, or property values and that towers are often located on school, park and church properties.

At the Dec. 7 meeting of the Windward Planning Commission in Hilo, Louis Daniele, the planning commissioner for the Ocean View area and manager of the Ka‘ū Coffee Mill in Pāhala, made a motion to deny standing for the four Ocean View residents. He stated that he lives in upper HOVE and that he supports the construction of the cell phone tower. He alleged that hundreds of homes without cell service would have service with the new cell tower and claimed that the dead area for cell along highway 11 would be corrected.

Before a vote was taken on Daniele’s

Narcan. He said these the anti-addiction campaign around the island solidified his aim to run for mayor on the Democratic ticket.

Alameda also served as late Mayor Billy Kenoi’s Campaign Manager but said he didn’t think he would ever run till he “saw the need.”

See more at [kimoformayor.com](http://kimoformayor.com)



Mayoral hopeful Kimo Alameda talking with Ka‘ū folks in Nā‘ālehu. Photo from Friends of Kimo Alameda

motion, the Commission held an executive session. Daniele said he was advised that the nearby residents have legal standing and he changed his stance and supported the petitioners’ standing. The Commission also agreed to mediation between Renegade Towers and the petitioners, using a professional mediator.

Conifer told *The Ka‘ū Calendar* that petitioners are waiting for the Planning Commission to contact them and that they expect to be allowed to select a mediator from a slate presented by the Commission.

She also said that she and other opponents of the tower are concerned about fire risk, saying, “We don’t want any hazards built in the middle of our rural neighborhood when there are better alternatives.”

Last year, Renegade Towers was given approval for a cell tower in upper Kaumana in Hilo with the Windward Planning Commission recommending that it be disguised as a tree.

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