

Affirmation: Valedictorians from Ka'ū Graduate from Ivy League

Two Ka'ū grown high school valedictorians graduated from Ivy League Schools this year. They are Ua Alencastre-Galimba and Brennen Nishimura.

Ua Alencastre-Galimba, of Kuahiwi Ranch between Pāhala and Nā'ālehu, graduated cum laude in history from Harvard four years after becoming valedictorian of Kamehameha Schools. She wrote her thesis on Hawaiian history.



Ua Alencastre-Galimba

Ua said she wants to spend time working this summer in archaeology and on her family's ranch, and will consider going to law school.

During her high school graduation speech at Kamehameha, Ua inspired the other graduates to call out a mahalo to their moms for their special support. Ua is daughter of rancher, now County Council member Michelle Galimba, who attended the graduation at Harvard. Her late father

is Timothy Alencastre.

Regarding the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling to end Affirmative Action at Harvard, Ua said, "It will likely result in some unfortunate consequences for students who don't have the same access to the resources that students from cities and/or wealth backgrounds have. As the situation progresses, it will be interesting to see to what extent legacy admissions are affected."



Brennen Nishimura

If one doesn't exist, neither should the other, so hopefully that imbalance is addressed."

Brennen Nishimura, who grew up in Pāhala, graduated from Princeton four years after becoming valedictorian of Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary. He graduated from Princeton with a degree in public and international affairs as well as a certificate in East Asian studies.

Affirmative Action, pg. 3

THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 21, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2023

UHERO Sounds Alarm for Affordable Housing

University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization reported in June that "Residents of Hawai'i face the highest housing costs in the nation. High housing costs lower the standard of living for residents and hinder the State's ability to attract workers. Some households are forced to live in crowded conditions, some leave the state to find housing elsewhere, and some are forced to survive without housing at all."

The report gives an example of Ocean

View as a place where the people who already live there cannot afford to buy houses. While the median annual household income in Hawai'i County is \$68,399, ranking lowest in the state, Ocean View's median household income is \$25,402, ranking last place among 63 communities analyzed across the state. The report notes that OV has the highest unemployment rate in the state at 15.9 percent. It also lists Discovery Harbour median income at \$54,474.

To inform discussions on the way forward for housing statewide, UHERO released the first edition of its annual Hawai'i Housing Factbook to provide detailed housing data for the state, counties, and the 63 local zip codes. It shows that median housing costs are 2.7 times the national level. Over the past year, the median price of a single-family home sold in Hawai'i was \$852,000 and the median condo price was \$600,000. The last 30 years have brought incredible growth in local

housing prices. Median single-family home and condominium prices have more than tripled since the mid-90s, reports UHERO, noting that the pandemic had a special effect on the cost of housing: "Over the pandemic, with mortgage interest rates falling below 3% and households in need of more space, home prices soared. Before the pandemic, the median single-family home price in the state was \$650,000. Between 2019 and 2022, prices

UHERO Affordable Housing, pg. 11



Ka'ū Paniolo rode through Volcano July 4.
Photo by Sara Espaniola



Hawaiian Volcano Observatory walked.
Photo by Sara Espaniola



Wheels of Justice support the U.S. flag.
Photo by Sara Espaniola



Ka'ū Celebrates Independence
Aloha Beck, representing Ka'ū Multicultural Society in an Independence Day Parade. See photos of Independence Day Parades in Volcano at left and on Page 14 and in Nā'ālehu on right and on Page 10.
Photo by June Domondon



Hawai'i County band at Nā'ālehu Parade also marched and played for the Volcano Parade July 4.
Photo by June Domondon



The Color Guard for the Independence Day Parade in Nā'ālehu, Makana Gravela and Dedrick Souza.
Photo by Lee McIntosh



Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū walks the Independence Day Parade in Nā'ālehu.
Photo by Lee McIntosh

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Council Member Galimba Gives Update, Outlook



County Council member Michelle Galimba with Kahu Kimo Awai at the blessing of the newly expanded Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station.
Photo by Julia Neal

County Council member Michelle Galimba released an update in June, regarding her work representing District 6, which covers Ka'ū, Volcano and South Kona. She wrote:

"I was honored to be part of the Grand Opening of the beautiful and spacious new Wai'ōhinu transfer station on June 9, 2023. While the finishing touches continue, the new transfer station is far larger, more convenient and safer than the old transfer station that was damaged by an earthquake. Our thanks go out to Mayor Mitch Roth and the entire team at the Department of

Environmental Management, but especially Director Ramzi Mansour and Ka'ū's own Deputy Director Brenda Iokepa-Moses. A special thanks also to Lee McIntosh, our District 6 representative on the Commission of Environmental Management and to former Council-member Maile David for their years of work advocating for the new transfer station!"

Galimba noted that the County Council approved the 2023-2024 County Budget early in June. "Highlights of the budget include significant and much needed
Galimba Update, pg. 4

Rural Development, HCL Partner for Affordable Home Ownership

Expanding access to home ownership and/or purchase in rural Hawai'i is the aim of a new program announced by USDA Rural Development Director for Hawai'i & Western Pacific Chris Kanazawa. He announced in June that his agency has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Hawai'i Community Lending, Inc. to cooperate in providing long-term financing to qualified applicants to build



modest, decent, safe, and sanitary homes in rural areas throughout the state. HCL provides homebuyers access to grants and consumer and affordable housing loans to assist with mortgage qualifying, including deferred payment, no-interest mortgage financing funded with public grant monies. To assist very-low and low-income families in becoming mortgage qualified, HCL will use deferred payment,

no-interest mortgage financing to increase their ability to build and/or purchase homes in the current marketplace.

Those interested in the Section 502 Direct Loan Program, can go to www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-programs/single-family-housing-direct-home-loans

Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of



Kris Kanazawa and Rural Development partner with Hawai'i Community Lending to finance home mortgages for low income families.
USDA photo

life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety, and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas.

For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. Subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates through GovDelivery subscriber page.

Kostenko & Daniele named to Hawai'i Coffee Association Board

Alla Kostenko and Louis Daniele are named to the Hawai'i Coffee Association Board of Directors.

Kostenko represents an entity entitled A Coffee Farm. Daniele is



manager of Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

In the past, Kostenko worked as an assistant to former Hawai'i Coffee Association Executive Director and Ka'ū Coffee Festival organizer Chris Manfredi and helped to produce a short film on the history of Ka'ū Coffee. She also has helped to produce the annual Hawai'i Coffee Association Conference.

Kostenko worked as manager of Ka'ū Mountain Coffee Farm in Wood Valley and with former landowners of the post-sugar

plantation coffee orchards where Ka'ū Coffee farmers bought their parcels above Pāhala. She also works with Jim McCully to develop a Ka'ū Coffee farm along Kaalaiki Road above Pāhala.

Hawai'i Coffee Association recently held its annual meeting on Kaua'i and named Fred Crowell of Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC its new president. Vice-president is Tom Greenwell, of Greenwell Farms. Treasurer is Abby Munoz, of Monarch Coffee.

Daniele, in addition to managing Ka'ū



The new wet mill at Ka'ū Coffee Mill will process 10,000 lbs. an hour.
Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Mill

Coffee Mill, is a member of Hawai'i County's Windward Planning Commission. Before his entrance into the coffee business, he owned a landscaping company. He has been a resident of Hawai'i for 32 years, living in Ka'ū for the last 20 years.

He has represented Ka'ū Coffee at Specialty Coffee Association Conventions from Boston to Seattle. He worked on the Ka'ū Coffee Festival for

may years hosting numerous events from the Miss Ka'ū Coffee Pageant, Ka'ū Coffee Recipe Contests, and the Mountain Water Hike to Stargazing in the mountains
Kostenko & Daniele, pg. 3

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Miranda, Navarro, Norberte are Tops in Ka'ū Coffee

Miranda's Farms took first in Ka'ū District and second statewide in the 14th Annual Hawai'i Coffee Association Cupping Competition, the results revealed at the annual conference in June.



Miranda's took first for Ka'ū Coffee, second statewide. Photo from Miranda's Farms

In the Ka'ū District Category, Miranda's Farms' first place finish was followed by Navarro Farms and the Norberte family's JN Farms. Miranda's Farms scored 86.75 points. The Geisha beans were parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated. Navarro Farms scored 84.35 points. The Pacamara beans were parchment-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated. JN Farms scored, 83.75 points. The Bourbon beans were fruit-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated. Ka'ū's top three coffees ranked higher than any of the coffees from O'ahu and Hamakua.

its Typica beans, parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Wido Farms, LLC scored 82.50 points with its Caturra beans, parchment-dried, without yeast and conventionally grown.

Rusty's Hawaiian's second entry scored 82.35 points with its Typica beans, parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Miranda's Farms' second entry scored 82 points with its Caturra beans, parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Navarro Farms' second entry scored 81.90 points with its Pacamara beans, pulp dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Wido Farms, LLC's second entry scored 81.15 points with its Typica beans,



Delvin Navarro's Coffee took second in the Ka'ū Division. Photo from Navarro Coffee Farm

parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Silver Cloud Coffee Farm scored 80.85 points with its Catuai & Typica beans, parchment-dried, without yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Casablanca Farms, LLC's second entry scored 80.81 points with its Geisha beans, fruit-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Of the top ten coffees statewide, first place went to Kopiko Farm, of Kona, with 87 points. The Red Bourbon beans were parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated in Kona.

Second went to Miranda's Farms, with 86.75 points. The Geisha beans were parchment-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated in Ka'ū.

Third went to Greenwell Farms, Inc., with 86.35 points. The Geisha beans were fruit-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated in Kona.

Fourth went to Monarch Coffee with 85.94 points. The Pacamara beans were fruit-dried without yeast and conventionally cultivated in Kona.

Fifth went to Heavenly Hawaiian with 85 points. The Progeny 502 beans were parchment-dried without yeast and innovative conveyer belt system that loads directly from the wet mill into the driers."

Hawai'i Coffee Association recently held its annual meeting on Kaua'i and named Fred Crowell of Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC its new president. Vice-president is Tom Greenwell, of Greenwell Farms Treasurer is Abby Munoz, of Monarch Coffee.



The mauka orchard of Miranda's Farms, its coffee ranking high at the 14th annual Hawai'i Coffee Association Cupping Competition in June. Photo from Miranda's

Sixth went to Imagine 100% Kona Coffee. The Typica beans were parchment-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated in Kona.

Seventh went to Kona RainForest Farms, LLC with 84.88 points. The K7 beans were parchment-dried without yeast and organically cultivated in Kona.

Eighth went to Hula Daddy Kona Coffee, LLC with 84.75 points. The Kona Mocca beans were fruit-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated in Kona.

Ninth was Kamaole Ranch with 84.60 points. The Red Catuai beans were parchment-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated on Maui.

Tenth was Ka'awaloa Trail Farm with 84.55 points. The Typica beans were



Leo Norberte's JN Coffee took third in the Ka'ū Division. Photo from JN Farms



Ka'ū Coffees did well in the 14th annual Hawai'i Coffee Association Cupping Contest. Photo from HCA

Here are the other Ka'ū Coffees that earned a high ranking with over 80 points:

Rusty's Hawaiian scored 83.65 points with its Bourbon beans, fruit-dried with yeast and conventionally cultivated.

Casablanca Farms, LLC scored 83.44 points with its Geisha Catuai beans, pulp dried with no yeast and conventionally cultivated.

R&G Farm scored 82.65 points with

Kostenko & Daniele, from pg. 2 above the Coffee Mill and tours of the coffee and macadamia plantations.

Daniele gave an update on Ka'ū Coffee Mill: "Right now we are expanding our capacity to mill coffee with the installation of a new wet mill that will be able to process 10,000 lbs. per hour. This will reduce processing time by more than half, with an

Affirmative Action, from pg. 1

During his high school graduation speech he said he cast aside negative thoughts of being in remote Ka'ū, set his goals and achieved them. He was raised by his grandparents Ned and the late Gail Nishimura, of Pāhala. In high school, he served as a Youth Ranger for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, played numerous sports, and served in student government. Terree Oyama, one of Nishimura's classmates at Ka'ū, who serves in the Navy, attended the graduation at Princeton with Ned Nishimura.

Brennen Nishimura said he is back home in Ka'ū applying for jobs and is interested in the research, think tank side of international relations. He said he also is considering applying to graduate school at

Princeton, Columbia and other universities to earn a Masters in Public Affairs, and International Affairs.

Regarding the recent Supreme Court decision limiting Affirmative Action in schools, Nishimura said that he expects Princeton to continue its efforts to remain diverse. He said the school has many students from rich legacy backgrounds and also from low income communities like Ka'ū. With affirmative action at Princeton, "Instead of being the best school for the best students, it becomes a place to build the best students." He said that growing up in Ka'ū, he just "liked learning, motivated to go to school, get a job, get money. My grandparents told me to work hard, and that money will come."

Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi Native Hawaiian Health Care System

Mahalo to those who contributed to our 6th Annual Mālama Nā Keiki Festival!

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The Sounds of Taiko Increase with Performance & Classes



The children of famous taiko drummer Takumi Sato joined him at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji in June.

Photo by Robin Sato

Taiko drumming is picking up in Ka'ū with classes for children and adults at Pāhala Hongwanji and a concert at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji.

A Taiko drumming family traveling the U.S. stopped in to give a performance in June at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Sponsored by Pāhala Hongwanji Taiko, the free performance to spread peace and hope was 232nd of 1,000 planned for the next five years across the country. Led by acclaimed taiko drummer Takumi Sato, the group includes his three children and is called the Peaceful Forest Ensemble.

They were accompanied by the Kato lion, who nibbled the attendees to ward off bad luck and give them good health. Guests also picked up sushi made by Pāhala Hongwanji Taiko, which is expanding through buying new instruments and opening up classes for children.

Takumi Kato is winner of a grand prize in the Odaiko Division of the Tokyo International Japanese Drum Contest. He performed the dedication of Ise Jingu

Shrine and has performed for the Japanese Emperor, the Royal family, and the Prime Minister of Japan. Originally from Japan, Kato recently moved to Ohai, California.

To donate to the Peaceful Forest Ensemble tour, see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/sharing-art-of-japanese-taiko-by-1000-performs>.

To sign up for Taiko classes, contact Kayo Munnerylyn at 808-954-1187.



Takumi Sato and family take taiko to Nā'ālehu Hongwanji.

Photo by Robin Sato

Galimba Update, from pg. 1

investments in information technology across multiple departments to help County employees do their jobs more effectively and efficiently, thereby providing better customer service and timely information to the residents of Hawai'i County."

Chief, Ben Moszkowicz. I look forward to working with 'Chief Ben' in the coming year to increase public safety and security in District 6." Galimba said her office has also been working with County Department of Parks & Recreation Director Maurice Messina on many projects in the

District including extensive improvements to Miloli'i Park and Pavilion to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, skateparks at Volcano and Ocean View, renovation of the bathroom facilities at Wai'ōhinu Park and renovation of the tennis courts at the Nā'ālehu Park and Yano Hall in South Kona. "Other projects

that I am advocating for are the renovation of the Pāhala swimming pool and nighttime lighting for the ball parks in both Pāhala and Nā'ālehu."

On the legislative front, Galimba said she has been working with Council Chair Heather Kimball on Bills 43 and 44 "to

reform our agricultural real estate tax programs in order to encourage agricultural production and discourage abuse of these programs for their tax benefits. I have also been strongly supporting the creation of an Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity and Resilience, (OSCE) proposed by Chair Kimball and Council-member Rebecca Villegas. OSCE will help our County to access federal funding to address sustainability and resilience, as well

as help to coordinate our County's climate change response across departments, provide education and outreach, and notably, ensure that equity and fairness are taken into account as we grapple with these big issues."

Galimba concluded with a "Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility of representing you, and have a safe and fun Fourth of July!"



County Council member Michelle Galimba reports that among her many projects is working on renovation of the Pāhala Pool. Photo by Julia Neal

The Council member said her office "advocated for increased police presence in Ocean View during the budget process and would like to thank the Hawai'i Police Department for the heroic work they do every day, and especially our new Police

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 21, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2023

'Ohana Flag Football League Launches for Keiki in Ka'ū

'Ohana Flag Football League has launched in Ka'ū, led by former University



Luka Mook #5 and Shaizley Martinez #6 play flag football. "The emphasis is kindness, encouragement, fun and safety." Photo by Mark Peters

of Southern California quarterback Todd Marinovich, who led the Trojans to a Rose Bowl victory in his freshman year. He also served as Los Angeles Raiders quarterback. Now 54 years of age, Marinovich has made his home here and is also assisting with Ka'ū High School Trojans football.

Marinovich started 'Ohana Flag Football after seeing many of his friends suffer from CTE, the progressive brain disease that often comes from head injuries in football. He said he is passionate about youth refraining from putting on helmets and pads until they are in high school. Flag Football prevents head injuries.

The first session of 'Ohana Flag Football on July 1 drew more than 25 keiki to Pāhala Ball Field, where the second session is set for Saturday, July 8 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The League will move to Nā'ālehu Ballpark on Saturday, July 15.



Todd Marinovich launches Flag Football for keiki this summer.

Photo by Mark Peters

'Ohana Flag Football will continue until Aug. 5 on Saturdays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. A statement from the organizers says, "The emphasis is on a fun and safe environment for youth ages six to 12 to play football. This is free to all."

For more information, contact Marinovich at 949-981-8268.



Todd Marinovich inspires Ka'ū High Trojans in Spring Training. Photo by Mark Peters

Addie Rose Flores is Jr. High State Rodeo Champion

Addie Rose Flores won the Hawai'i Junior High Rodeo Championship and headed to Georgia in June with her horse Bo for National Championship competition.



Addie Rose Flores

She is the first girl from Ka'ū to take the state title. The 14-year-old who lives at South Point, just completed eighth

grade. She made the journey to Kaua'i for the state competition where she became



Addie Rose Flores, of South Point, won the Junior High School State Rodeo Championship and headed with her horse Bo to the Georgia State Fairgrounds to compete in the nationals.

Photos from Addie Rose Flores

Hawai'i High School Rodeo Association's 2023 Junior High Champion. She won

Hawai'i District Barrel Racing, State Barrel Racing and became State All Around

Champion Cowgirl. She was second in Team Roping and fourth in Breakaway Roping. On Kaua'i, she also participated in poles, goat tying and ribbon roping.

She qualified for the 2023 National Junior High Finals Rodeo held in Perry, Georgia at the Georgia National Fairgrounds, about an hour and a half south of Atlanta. She competed in Barrel Racing and Breakaway Roping.

Flores said she will be back to compete in the Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo at Nā'ālehu Rodeo Grounds on July 8 and 9.

Also headed off island for rodeo competition were Kalia Andrade, Owen Flores and Jamis Medeiros who traveled to Waimanalo for the Hawai'i High School Rodeo Association Championships.

'Ōhi'a Lehua 5K, Half Marathon Open Experience Volcano

The annual 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs are opening events of Experience Volcano Festival. The races are on Saturday, July 29. Registration for the half marathon is \$100 through July 21 and \$110 through July 28. Registration for the 5K is \$50 until July 21 and \$60 through July 28. Online registration closes on July 21, with walk-in registration at packet pickup locations. There will be no race day registration.

The 2022 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs Half Marathon drew 135 competitors. Egor Gavrilov of Clearfield, Utah won in one hour, 21 minutes and 24 seconds. He was

followed by David Collier, of Hilo, in 1:23:01 and Patrick Stover, of Kailua-Kona, in 1:25:15.

Wahine winner Bree Wee, of Kona, came in fourth overall in 1:28:43. Second was Laura Ankrum, of Holualoa, in 1:30:22. Third was Anna Gavrilova, of Clearfield, Utah in 1:35:04.

The 5K drew 169 competitors. Winner was River Brown, of Hilo, in 18:24, followed by Austin Mohica, of Hilo, in 18:35 and Alec Ankrum, of Holualoa in, 18:57.

Wahine 5K winner was Stephanie Miadinich, of Hilo, in 21:53, followed by



'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs will open Experience Volcano Festival on Saturday, July 29 with Half Marathon and 5K. The Festival runs Saturday and Sunday and registration and sponsorships for both events are open. Photo from 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs

Shaney Ha'a, of Kea'au, in 23:28 and Sofia Mattix, of Kailua-Kona, in 23:45. The 5K drew 169 competitors.

See all the age group division winners at <https://results.chronotrack.com/event/>

results/event/event-66237?lc=en.

To register for the 2023 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs Half Marathon and 5K to be held on Saturday, July 29, go to <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/72105>.

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KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

Nā'ālehu Elementary Offers 2023-2024 Free Keiki Pre-School

Nā'ālehu is the only school in the Volcano, Ka'ū, Miloli'i area with free pre-kindergarten at a public school. Sponsored by the state Executive Office on Early Learning, the program serves three and four-year old children who are in the two years prior to kindergarten entry. Children must be born on or between August 1, 2018, – July 31, 2020, and be three- or four-year-old children on or before July 31, 2023.



Priority is provided for children whose situations include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- Children who are eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) and whose Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) is determined as general education.
- Children in foster care.
- Children who are experiencing homelessness or unstable housing.
- Children who are dual or multi-language learners.
- Children whose family's income is no more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Children who are experiencing at-risk situations which may impact their development and learning.

Mayor Mitch Roth's office issued a statement in late June, urging families to sign up the keiki. "The County of Hawai'i is excited to announce the availability of free, high-quality pre-kindergarten pro-

grams through the State's Public Pre-kindergarten Program. Designed to provide valuable learning experiences, this program is open to all 3- and 4-year-old keiki on the island. With a commitment to inclusive education, the program accepts up to 20 keiki per classroom, including those with special needs."

The Mayor said, "We are thrilled that our keiki here on Hawai'i Island will be provided more options to access high-quality early education, setting them up for life-long success. We understand the immense impact of early exposure to education on students' academic journey, which is why I urge all parents of young keiki to seriously consider applying for this invaluable free opportunity. By nurturing educated and culturally grounded keiki, we are building a sustainable Hawai'i Island where our children can flourish and thrive, leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come."

There are currently 32 sites statewide that have been running for a few years, and as part of the Lieutenant Governor's Ready Keiki Plan, the EOEL is opening another 11 sites this August.

Parents and families interested in enrolling their keiki can apply now. To learn

more about the program and to submit an application, visit readykeiki.org. To apply for the 2023-2024 school year, download an application packet at EOEL-Public-Pre-K-Program-Complete-Application-Packet-SY-23-24-2023-05-26.pdf or pick one

up at Nā'ālehu Elementary.

The Executive Office on Early Learning oversees the Public Pre-kindergarten Program and can be contacted at (808) 784-5350 or via email at eoel.info@eoel.hawaii.gov.



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Keiki Flock to Mālama Nā Keiki Festival in Pāhala

Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi's Sixth Annual Mālama Nā Keiki Festival filled Pāhala Community Center in June. The event was designed for young families, expecting and first-time mothers and for women considering pregnancy.

Many keiki came with families to enjoy the fun and education day that included makahiki games, prizes, make and take crafts, growing your own plants and a bicycle that powered a blender to make smoothies. Pāhala



Lori Lei's Hula Studio was back in Ka'ū for the Keiki Festival.



Kumu Lori Lei returned to Ka'ū, accompanied by musicians Gene Akamu and Dane Sesson. They played for dancers of her Hula Studio at the Mālama Nā Keiki Festival.

known for the hula studio in Wai'ōhinu that she stewarded for decades. Now based in Hilo, she returns to Ka'ū to perform at special events and to work with students.

Da Bux and the Food Basket came to the Keiki Festival. The programs brought shelf-stable and fresh foods to give away. Da Bux representatives explained that the program can provide grocers with 50 percent of the cost of fresh fruits and vegetables to keep them affordable for families who qualify for SNAP, the

government's Supplemental Nutrition Program, formerly known as food stamps.

The only store with Da Bux in all of Ka'ū is Mālama Market in Ocean View. Some grocers in Ka'ū talked to Da Bux representatives about expanding into small local stores to support the distribution of fresh, healthy foods to families, along with supporting local farmers and the small stores themselves.



Legal Aid focused on housing issues for families.

Fire Department joined in with demonstrations for the keiki. Mamaki tea tasting and growing instructions, along with native Hawaiian plant displays were offered.

Many service providers offered help and education in health and nutrition, early learning, housing, mental health and legal counseling, and training in using a car seat safely. Programs that provide free diapers for new mothers and literacy training hosted interactive displays. Pāhala Elementary was also on hand. Police photographed and provided keiki IDs.

Lori Lei Shirakawa Katahara returned to Ka'ū with her hālau for the Hui Mālama Nā Keiki Festival. Accompanying her were musicians Dane Sesson and Gene Akamu. Keiki and young ladies performed hula under the direction of Kumu Lori Lei, who is



Child & Adolescent Mental Health Division reached out to the community.

Da Bux is funded through private donations, foundations, USDA and other agencies.



Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi promoted nutrition to keiki and families at its festival. Photos by Julia Neal



Da Bux, which provides fresh vegetables and fruit at a discount through Mālama Market in Ocean View, as well as KTA in Hilo may work on expanding to the smaller stores in Ka'ū.



Growing mamaki tea, which is also a favorite food of the endangered Kamehameha butterfly, was on display with tasting at the Keiki Festival.



Literacy was big at the Keiki Festival, sponsored by Hui Mālama in June.

This summer there is Kaukau 4 Keiki, providing free food for children during the school break. Year round there is the monthly Food Basket and Kupuna free food programs and meals programs for seniors.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

INDEPENDENCE DAY RODEO on Saturday and Sunday, July 8 and 9 at Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo Grounds in Nā'ālehu, all day.

THE KA'Ū FIELD SYSTEM: FARMING THE ROCK is a hike on Saturday, July 8 at 9:30 a.m. Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Walk along an old ranch road to the remnants of the field system. Learn how pre-western-contact Hawaiians intensively farmed this area and fed the large population of Kahuku. This is an easy 1/2 mile, 1 hour hike to kipuka kā'opapa and back.

HULA ON THE PLATFORM at Volcano on Saturday, July 8 with a presentation by Hālau Nā Mōhai Aloha o Ka Laua'e Pā Ola Kapu and Mountain View Elementary hula program under the direction of Kumuhua John Ku'uhoamele Cuban. The performance begins at 10:30 a.m. in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. National Park entrance fees apply.

'ŌHI'A LEHUA IS AN EASY WALK WITH INTERPRETATION on Sunday, July 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn about the vital role of 'ōhi'a lehua in native Hawaiian forests, the many forms of the 'ōhi'a tree, and the threat of a new fungal disease, Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Identify the many differences of the most prominent native tree in Kahuku during the one-mile (or less), one-hour walk.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: BIRDS, NOT MOSQUITOES: WOLBACHIA TO THE RESCUE is the presentation on Tuesday, July 11 at 7 p.m. in Kīlauea Visitor Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The Hawaiian honeycreepers have been called the "Jewels of the Forest." At one time there were over 55 species of these unique native Hawaiian honeycreepers. Deeply linked to Hawaiian culture, just 17 species remain with 6 of those listed as critically endangered. Join Dr. Chris Farmer, Hawai'i Program Director for American Bird Conservancy, as he shares a new message of hope. Using mosquito "birth control", a proven tool that is being used in multiple countries around the world can stop avian malaria spread by the non-native mosquitoes. This tool can help protect both birds and people from deadly tropical diseases. Program co-sponsored by Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. For information, call (808) 985-6011. Your \$2 donation helps to support park programs. Park entrance fees apply.

LEI KĪ IS THE SKILL TO LEARN on Wednesday, July 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the 'Ōhi'a Wing, across Crater Rim Drive from Kīlauea Visitor Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn to make lei with the guidance of park rangers and staff. The event is part of the Park's ongoing 'Ike Hana No'eau, Experience the Skillful Work Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

PEOPLE & LAND OF KAHUKU HIKE on Saturday, July 29 at 9:30 a.m. from Visitor Station at Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. This two-mile, three-hour guided hike loops through varied landscapes to explore the human history of Kahuku. Emerging native forests, pastures, lava fields, and other sites hold clues about ways people lived and worked on the vast Kahuku lands - from the earliest Hawaiians, through generations of ranching families, to the current staff and volunteers of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn about the powerful natural forces at work here and how people have adapted to, shaped, and restored this land. Attendees should be prepared for sun, rain, hot & cold conditions. Wear sturdy footwear and bring water.

REALMS & DIVISIONS OF KAHUKU is the program on Sunday, July 30 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Discover the classification system, the realms and the vertical and horizontal land divisions that have been used in Hawai'i for centuries. This is a moderately easy 1-mile, 1.5-hour hike on Kamakapa'a Trail.

VOLUNTEER TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS during Stewardship at the Summit on Friday, July 14 from 8:45 a.m. until noon with leaders Paul and Jane Field at Kīlauea Visitor Center. Remove non-native plant species that prevent native plants from growing in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, a World Heritage Site. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Bring a hat, rangeling, day pack, snacks and water. Gloves and tools are provided. Under 18? Parental or guardian accompaniment or written consent is required. Visit the park website for additional planning details: https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/summit_stewardship.htm.

PU'U O LOKUANA CINDER CONE is a hike on Saturday, July 15 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. On the 0.4 mile loop, learn how a cinder cone is formed and uses of this hill over time. Enjoy a breathtaking view of lower Ka'ū from its peak. Why is (and was) it considered a kumu waiwai (a source of wealth) by the many different inhabitants of Kahuku?

WONDROUS WORKS IN WOOD by Aaron Hammer opens Saturday, July 15 with a reception from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit features lathe-turned

works of art through Aug. 20. The gallery is open daily, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The artist will host a demonstration on Saturday, July 29 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. While the exhibit is free to attend, park entrance fees apply.

BIRTH OF KAHUKU EXPLORES GEOLOGIC HISTORY on a moderate 1.5-mile, 1.2-hour hike, traversing the vast 1868 lava flow on Sunday, July 16 at 9:30 a.m. from Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. See different volcanic formations, including the Southwest Rift Zone of Mauna Loa. Learn about the Kānāwai o Pele, the natural laws of land building that govern Pele's realm.

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK CULTURAL FESTIVAL AT KAHUKU on Saturday, July 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's free. Learn about Hawaiian culture and enjoy the music of these islands. Experience traditional 'oli (chant) and hula (dance) while learning a traditional craft. It will be a fun-filled, family-friendly day that shares the connection of Hawaiian people to this storied place on Mauna Loa volcano. Kahuku is on the mauka (inland) side of Highway 11 near mile marker 70.5, a 50-minute drive south of the park's main entrance. Entrance into Kahuku and all events are free. Sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Bring water, rain jacket, and ground mat or chair. This wonderful family experience is a drug- and alcohol-free event. Co-sponsored by Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and the Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association.

HI'IKA & PELE IS A MODERATE HIKE on Sunday, July 23 at 9:30 a.m. at Kahuku Visitor Contact Station in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The trail leads to discovery of two fascinating Hawaiian goddesses, sisters Pele-honua-mea (Pele) and Hi'iaka-i-ka-poli-opele, and the natural phenomena they represent. Visitors will experience the sisters through the epic stories depicted in the natural landscape of Kahuku on this moderate two-mile, 1.5-hour hike.

OPEN MIC AT TIKI MAMA'S on Sunday, June 25, noon to 5 p.m. 92-9122 Hawai'i Belt Rd, Ocean View.

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ANDY WARNER, A NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLING COMICS JOURNALIST, returns with an After Dark in the Park talk on Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Warner will present the creative mind behind the art. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and the National Parks Arts Foundation. Free, but park entrance fees apply.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT Papahānaumokuākea is the free program on Tuesday, July 25 at 7 p.m. in Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium. The Monument is the single largest, fully protected conservation area on Earth as well as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This protected area is critical habitat for endangered Hawaiian monk seals, threatened Hawaiian green sea turtles, and over 14 million seabirds. Native Hawaiian cultural reconnection with these islands, and active leadership in management, has also ensured this protection is lasting. Join Andy Collins, Education Coordinator with the Mokuāpapa Discovery Center on a virtual visit and hear how it's managed, and see what lies ahead. Program co-sponsored by Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. For information, call (808) 985-6011. Your \$2 donation helps to support park programs. Park entrance fees apply.

DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY

A WALK INTO THE PAST WITH DR. THOMAS A. JAGGAR, founder of Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. The one-man presentation and tour takes visitors back to 1912. It is every Friday until September at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Space is limited; pick up free ticket at Kīlauea Visitor Center lānai the day of the program. Supported by the Kīlauea Drama Entertainment Network (KDEN).

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,

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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.



'Ilima (*Sida fallax*)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

'Ilima (*Sida fallax*)

Description: 'Ilima is one of Hawai'i's marvelous Malvaceae, and the only species in the Sida genus native to Hawai'i (although it is not endemic; it is found elsewhere in the world). 'Ilima leaves range from less than 1" long to over 5", and can be light or dark green, or even silvery in color, and while they can be smooth, they are usually very soft and sweetly fuzzy. The delicate 'ilima flower is the official flower of the island of O'ahu. They are referred to by different adjectives including kaukea (light yellow), meleleme (strong yellow), 'ilima lei (deep gold), 'ilima 'ula'ula (bronze red), and kolī kukui (rusty red). They bloom year round, and the flowers open fully by midday and only last about 24 hours. Once pollinated (often by the native nalo meli maoli or yellow-faced bee), they give way to small tan seeds which are readily dispersed by the wind. Early Hawaiians recognized and named many wild forms of 'ilima, including 'ilima kū kahakai a.k.a. 'ilima papa (a flat coastal form), 'ilima kū kula (a tall form), 'ilima kuahiwi (from the mountains), and 'ilima makana'ā (a plant with smaller flowers, medium in height, and found on old lava flows in Ka'ū).

Uses: Ola no i ka pua o ka 'ilima (there is healing in the 'ilima blossoms; 'Ōlelo No'eau #2489). You guessed it! 'Ilima is a very useful plant. Medicinally, pua 'ilima ('ilima flowers) were given to young babies as a pleasant-tasting and mild laxative, and also to help women during pregnancy. The root bark and flowers are helpful to those suffering from asthma, and when mixed with other plants, can be consumed as a tonic to revitalize energy. 'Ilima was used in house furnishings (and to some degree, construction), and even used as a layer in imu to prevent the food from being burned by the hot stones. 'Ilima was one of the few plants cultivated by Kānaka Maoli specifically for lei making. Pua 'ilima make a treasured lei po'o (around the head) and lei 'ā'i (around the neck) - but both require a lot of flowers to make! The flowers are edible and taste delicately sweet - I recommend sprinkling some on top of a fresh salad or even a cake as a native plant bonus to your meals.

Habitat: 'Ilima grows across all of Hawai'i Nei, and can be found from sea level to over 6,000' elevation. They can be found growing on rocky or sandy coastlines, lava fields, dry forests, and even in mesic forests, with different forms found in different environments. They are even a prominent part of the flora of Pihemanu (Midway) and Moku Manu (Nīhoa). Pollen records indicate that they were plentiful on Kamole a.k.a. Kauō (Laysan). In Ka'ū, you can find 'ilima along the coast and in the lowlands. Learn to recognize them, and you will quickly realize how plentiful they are in your neck of the woods.

Growing and Purchasing: 'Ilima are often sold at local big box stores (and of course, you can contact the author for plants, too), so no excuses - go get yourself a couple! Just one plant will continue to provide lovely flowers and an abundance of seeds for you to propagate. Propagation is easy (and usually happens without any intervention): simply remove the seeds from the capsule and place them in a moist but well-drained media and sit tight! Germination is variable (so is viability), but with plenty of seeds to sow, 'ilima keiki should begin to germinate within a couple of weeks. Plant them in a sunny spot that won't get too wet (they are susceptible to fungal diseases if overwatered). Prune them as needed (though not necessary), and enjoy the sweetness that 'ilima provides!



Joan Yoshioka

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.

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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Wednesday Family Bible Adventure at 5:30pm



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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.

KUPUNA YOGA: Gather for 77-minute group class 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji Mission's garden. Engage your mana'o, kīno & 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 8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Members of the congregation built the facility.

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.

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'u 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.

KAHUKU RANGER GUIDED HIKES, Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Join a Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park ranger to learn about the history, geology, and ecology of Kahuku while hiking through varied landscapes. Meet at the Visitor Contact Station.

EXPLORE KAHUKU UNIT OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK Thursdays through Sundays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for eight self-guided hiking trails. Join monthly Coffee Talk second Saturday of the month, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Take a guided trek with rangers on Saturdays and Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a ranger presentation on fourth Sunday of the month. Kahuku entrance is on mauka side of Hwy 11 near mile marker 70.5. See www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/kahuku.htm.

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.

OUTDOOR MARKETS

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.

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.

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'u 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.

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

FIRST FRIDAY NIGHT OCEAN VIEW MARKET & DANCE PARTY with Ka'u Radio from 3 p.m. until pau. \$10 booth fees, no reservations required. Kona St. and Māmalahoa Highway. Contact HOVEMarket@gmail.com.

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.

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

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'u 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.

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. Location is 96-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View.

KA'Ū FOOD PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Tuesday, July 25, 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, July 25, 10 a.m. - Pau. Ka'u District Gym in Pāhala. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

COOPER CENTER COMMUNITY PANTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Wednesday, July 26, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Located at 19- 4030 Wright Road in Volcano. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

SACRED HEART: LOAVES & FISHES FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Thursday, July 27, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at 95-5558 Hwy 11 in Nā'ālehu. Sponsored by Hawai'i Island Food Basket.

ShaniaLee Silva is Named Queen for July 8 & 9 Rodeo

Ka'u Roping & Riding Association has named ShaniaLee Silva to be Rodeo Queen. ShaniaLee Silva and Shaelia Freitas ran to reign over the Independence Day Rodeo July 8 and 9 at Nā'ālehu Rodeo Grounds.

ShaniaLee Silva is a 2023 Ka'u High & Pāhala Elementary graduate. She finished Magna Cum Laude, served as Senior Class Secretary and was named Senior Class Athlete. She completed CTE and was a member of the Health Occupation Student Association.

She is 17 years of age and plans to enter the U.S. Air Force this Fall when she turns 18.

Silva, of Hawaiian and Portuguese heritage, is the youngest daughter and seventh of eight children in the family of Mike and Wendy Silva in Pāhala.

She grew up riding horses, competing in rodeo and taking care of the family cattle, goats and hunting dogs. She became a member of Future Farmers of America. Throughout school, she excelled in sports, including basketball and softball.

The younger Ka'u Roping & Riding Rodeo Queen contestant, Shaelia Freitas, lives on a coffee and food farm above Pāhala and will be eight years of age by rodeo weekend. Of Hawaiian, Japanese and European heritage, including Portuguese, she is the daughter of Rodney and Marlene Freitas. Shaelia will be in third grade at Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences this coming school year.

She is the youngest of five children,

with three older sisters Jessica, Michaela and Sheri and one brother Ikaika.

Shaelia is a born country girl, raised on her 'ohana's Ka'ili Mali'e Farms. A statement from her family says that Shaelia loves anything outdoors, especially animals.

"Her love of animals started at a very young age and has grown as she's gotten older." She has an ardent interest in horses and rodeo. Her wish is to one day have a horse to call her own.

To support the entire rodeo, there are sponsorships for belt buckles and arena advertising, as well as opportunities for direct contributions to the nonprofit Ka'u Roping & Riding Association. The group is raising money to purchase land to expand the rodeo grounds to include more parking. Call or text Tammy Kaapana at 808-854-7917.

The annual rodeo starts with Slack Roping at 8 a.m. both days, July 8 and 9, with competition beginning at noon. Paniolo will vie for the titles of All Around Cowgirl and All Around Cowboy. Working and recreational paniolo from keiki to kupuna compete.

Events include: Open Dally, Kane-Wahine Dally, Century Team Roping, Ranch Mugging, Double Mugging, Rescue Race and Po'o Wai U, Tie Down, Wahine Breakaway and Youth Barrels. Events for keiki include: Goat undecorating and dummy roping.

Ka'u Roping & Riding is considered the organization that puts on one of the most traditional family style rodeo experiences in all of Hawai'i.



ShaniaLee Silva recently graduated from Ka'u High and will head to the Air Force



Ka'u Rodeo Princess Shaelia Freitas to attend Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences.

Photo by Michaela Morales

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NŪPEPA NĀ'ĀLEHU

Volume 21, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2023



Ni'ihau color is white, with the adornment, the pūpū shell, presented by London Dacalio and Justin Amarillo, Jr.



Kaua'i color is purple, its plant the mokihana berry, presented by Richard and Tehani Souza.



Lana'i color is orange and its plant the Kaunaoa, presented by Richard Souza III and Laina Souza. *Photos by Lee McIntosh*



Moloka'i color is green, its flower from the kukui nut tree, presented by Jen Caruthers and Pua Calicdan. *Photo by June Domondon*



Hawai'i Island color is red and the flower 'ōhi'a lehua, presented by Nova Lorenzo and Frank Lorenzo, Jr.



O'ahu color is yellow, its flower 'ilima, presented by Mckella and Graydon Akana.



Maui color is pink, its flower lokelani rose, presented by Lily Dacalio and Mauka Balucan.



Kaho'olawe color is gray, its plant Hinahina, presented by Lorilee Lorenzo and Ikaika Grace.

Nā'ālehu Walks the Walk, Rides the Ride for Independence Day

Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade on July 1 drew revelers on horseback, classic vehicles, floats and on foot. Mayor Mitch Roth walked with the carriers of the banner beneath the shade of tree-lined streets of the village of Nā'ālehu. Also coming to Ka'ū was the Hawai'i County Band. Live



Assembly of God rocked the Nā'ālehu Parade. *Photo by June Domondon*

music also came from a lone bagpipe player and church singers.

The winning float was Thy Word Ministries, the Christian church. Pā'ū riders with princesses and escorts, organized by Ka'ū Multicultural Society, represented the colors and flowers of each island, their horses bedecked with giant lei.



Thy Word Ministries took first place in the Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade. *Photo by Lee McIntosh*

More than 20 groups participated, from Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū to Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Friends of Ka'ū Libraries and Nā'ālehu Assembly of God to Ka'ū

Baseball and Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School.

Volunteer and County of Hawai'i fire departments joined the parade.

Businesses on parade included Ka'ū Auto Repair and Ocean View Auto Parts.

The non-profit 'O Ka'ū Kākou community organization and its President Wayne Kawachi put on the parade each year. This year OKK expanded the number of giant inflatables, including two long slides. OKK gave out free hot dogs and held bingo for seniors in the community center. Kawachi said that 'Ohana Foods, which operates grocers in Nā'ālehu and Pāhala, and Honua Coffee Shop in Nā'ālehu donated certificates for seniors.

Punalu'u Bake Shop gave out bread. Eva Liu donated tee shirts for seniors and keiki.



Ka'ū Auto Repair & Towing promotes safe and sober driving with its entry into every Independence Day Parade in Nā'ālehu. *Photo by June Domondon*



The iconic eagle, symbol of U.S. Independence. *Photo by June Domondon*



'O Ka'ū Kākou made a big splash adding onto its inflatables for keiki at Independence Day celebration. *Photo by Lee McIntosh*



Ka'ū Multicultural Society leader Darlyne Vierra. *Photo by Lee McIntosh*



The Kahuku Unit and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park paraded together. *Photo by June Domondon*



Nā'ālehu Hongwanji carries the banner. *Photo by June Domondon*



The lone bagpipe player fills the air as the parade rolled through Nā'ālehu honoring Independence Day. *Photo by Lee McIntosh*



Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary marches on. *Photo by June Domondon*



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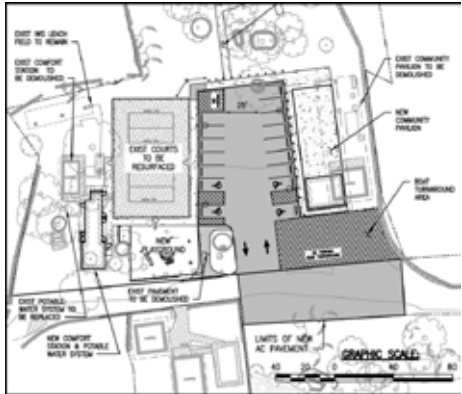
Across Playground Area
of Nā'ālehu Elementary School
Top of Long Driveway

Reconstruction of Miloli'i Halau & Park Meeting July 15

Renovation and reconstruction of Miloli'i Halau and County Park will be presented and discussed on Saturday, July 15 at 9 a.m. A statement from the County regarding the Miloli'i Beach Park

opportunities for additional comments, community input and address new questions or concerns related to the project as well as the operation and maintenance of your county park in Miloli'i."

Accessibility Improvements Project says the Department of Parks & Recreation "cordially invites you and all interested persons to a community meeting where the department will share new information and updated project details, address issues raised at prior meetings, and provide oppor-



The new halau at Miloli'i, the community pavilion, will be set back from the ocean. Drawing from project EA

Representing Department of Parks & Recreation will be Director Maurice Messina, Park Planner James Komata, and Park Projects Manager Jeffrey Ochi. The Parks statement says, "We ask for your assistance to forward this information to any individual, group, or entity that you feel would ben-



A new community pavilion has been approved and a public meeting will be held by the County at the Miloli'i Halau on Saturday, July 15 at 9 a.m. Photo from Environmental Assessment

efit from attending this meeting or that has expressed any interest in the proposed project in the past."

Those with questions in advance of this meeting or requiring accommodation to participate in this meeting, can contact Jeffrey Ochi by 3:30 p.m. Friday, July 14 at Jeffrey.Ochi@hawaiiicounty.gov or (808)

961-8311.

See the final Environmental Assessment published in February for the project, with photos and diagrams at https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/erp/Doc_Library/2023-02-08-HA-FEA-Milolii-Beach-Park-Accessibility-Improvement-Project.pdf

UHERO Affordable Housing, from pg. 1 rose by 35%, before leveling off in 2023. Median condo prices saw a 30% pandemic increase, jumping from \$453,000 in 2019 to \$587,000 in 2022, and have since risen further to \$600,000. Mortgage interest rates rose sharply in 2022, and have remained near 7%. While high mortgage rates have dampened demand and reduced transaction activity, median prices have not fallen significantly."

was \$498,576.92 with 2,133 sales." You would have to go back to the year 2019 to find a median price that low. When I look at YTD as of today the median price for the big island is \$508,108.33 and an average YTD price of \$849,375.53, but I know we are talking median."

UHERO replied that its numbers are based on the home price recorded in deeds. That includes homes being sold to relatives, friends and business partners for deep discounts. UHERO also reports that "High condo prices indicate a lack of multifamily housing supply and an aging stock of single-family homes. At the zip code level, the differences are even more substantial. The North Shore of O'ahu, as well as some neighborhoods on Kaua'i rank among the most expensive areas. Kīlauea (zip code: 96754) on Kaua'i had the highest median sales price over the past year, at \$2.3 million, though only 16 properties

transacted during that time. Contrastingly, the cheapest zip codes are all located in Hawai'i County, where two zip codes have median sales prices under \$300,000. The combination of high housing prices and high-interest rates has drastically reduced housing affordability.

"The surge in mortgage interest rates over the past year has radically decreased housing affordability for buyers. The share of local households who can afford the median-priced home has fallen dramatically. In the below figures, we consider a mortgage to be 'affordable' if no more than 30% of the household's income is devoted to mortgage payments on a standard 30-year mortgage. In 2012, households needed to earn 120% of the state's median income to afford the mortgage on the median-priced single-family home. In 2022, home buyers needed to earn nearly 180% of the state's median income (or \$150,000 per year) to afford the median home. While condo prices are lower, affordability has also decreased with condo buyers

now needing to earn \$100,000, or 120% of Hawai'i's median income, to afford the median condo. The collapse in affordability of homeownership has been driven by the rise in interest rates over the past year. Even before the spike in rates, housing was unaffordable compared to most US markets."

See the entire report at <https://uhero.hawaii.edu/the-hawaii-housing-factbook/>.

The report calls Hawai'i Island an outlier, in home prices. It notes that median single-family home prices on Maui and Honolulu have hovered near the \$1 million mark for the past year. Prices on Kaua'i are comparable, with a median price near \$900,000. Contrastingly, the median single-family home in Hawai'i County sells for \$400,000. Median condominium prices in Hawai'i County (\$550,000) actually exceed that of single-family homes, reported UHERO.

The data reported by UHERO for Hawai'i County showed two of the three least expensive areas on the island in Ka'ū. It stated that the median price at Discovery Harbour was \$272,500 and Hawaiian Ocean View Estates was \$307,500. Local realtors, however, report recent sales and prices at Discovery Harbour much higher.

Lance Owens, who is involved in real estate on this island weighed in with UHERO, writing that the medium home price for Hawai'i Island in its report is "off by a staggering 25 percent." He wrote that the Hawai'i Island median home price June 1, 2022 to May 31 2023

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Blessings for Expanded Wai'ōhinu Recycling & Transfer Station

A blessing of the greatly expanded Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station was held Friday, June 9. It celebrated the end of construction and the May 1 soft opening of the improved county facility. It serves southernmost Hawai'i Island communities of Wai'ōhinu, Nā'ālehu, Discovery Harbour, Green Sands, Mark Twain and South Point.



Ramzi Mansour, Director of Environmental Management for Hawai'i County.

Photo by Julia Neal

The project involved building out new facilities for dumping at the lower end of the site and then building a circular one-way road for ease-of-use and improved traffic flow. See more at http://kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com/2023_04_27_archive.html.

Attendees included Kahu Kimo Awai who blessed the facility, Mayor Mitch Roth, Department of Environmental Management Director Ramzi Mansour, Deputy Director Brenda Iokepa-Moses, Solid Waste Division Chief Michael Kaha, County Council Member Michelle Galimba, Environmental Commission member Lee McIntosh, and representatives of the Department of Parks & Recreation, Hawai'i Fire Department and SSFM, the engineering consulting and construction management company that handled the job. Praise went to Loeffler Construction, which built the facility.

Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station, pg. 16



Solid Waste Division Chief Mike Kaha and Mayor Mitch Roth untie the maile with Kahu Kimo Awai leading the blessing at the vastly expanded Wai'ōhinu Recycling & Transfer Station. Photo by Julia Neal



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News you need to know

Catchment Cleaning & Flushing House Lines 101

Catchment cleaning is more than just removing the sediment on the bottom of the tank. Flushing the house lines, doing a bleach treatment, adding minerals and replacing filters with new ones are activities that a thorough tank clean involves. After all, this is your water supply! Cleaning the debris can be achieved by siphon method with a swimming pool vacuum attached to a hose. It is best to have more than 3/4 full tank. Depending on how much sediment is in the tank will determine how much water will be withdrawn. It is never a good idea to drain your tank, get inside, and scrub the vinyl liner. This is a waste of water resources and hard on the integrity and lifespan of the liner.

To disinfect the tank water, start with enough chlorine to hold 3 ppm solution in your tank for at least two hours.

Start with 6 ounces of bleach per 1000 gallons of water. Stir the water to spread the chlorine around the tank. Only use plain, unscented household bleach and test every 30 minutes to add more chlorine if needed. Chlorine off gases quickly.

Flush House Lines: By removing the carbon filter temporarily and running the water at the kitchen and bathroom sinks, tubs, flushing toilets inside the home, and don't forget outdoor faucets for a minute or two will allow chlorine to flush the house lines. Let chlorine set in house lines for about 40 minutes. Remove the aerators in bathroom and kitchen spigots. This will allow the built-up debris in the houseline to flow out. This is also a good time to run a load of laundry using hot water, in order to flush both your washing machine pipes and your hot water tank.

UNCLE TILO'S Use pool vacuum to siphon debris.
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Dr. Josh Green Expands Gov's Health Care Budget

"Getting people the care they need," are the words of Governor and physician Josh Green in describing the new state operating budget for health. He said, "This budget invests in Hawai'i's people. Access to high-quality, comprehensive health care services is vital for physical, social, and mental health. This budget increases the provider reimbursement rate for Medicaid recipients (\$30M in general funds and \$42.8M in federal funds each fiscal year). This means that thousands of low-income individuals and families will get better access to high-quality healthcare. This budget also appropriates \$3.3M in FY24 and \$4.5M in FY25 for the Child Wellness Incentive Program which will pay \$50 to state Medicaid benefit recipients for each completed well-child examination. This will incentivize more care, early on, for our keiki which leads to healthier outcomes later in life."

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| Certified Nurse-Midwife | Dentists |
| Physician Assistant | Alcohol Abuse Counselors |
| Nurse Practitioner | Substance Abuse Counselors |
| Pharmacist | |
| Registered Nurse | |

If you need loan repayment but don't meet the above criteria, contact us about the Innovative Loan Repayment Program.



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Green also addressed the health care worker shortage: "To help recruit and retain the health care workers we need for our residents, we are making big investments (\$30M) in the Hawai'i State Loan Repayment Program. This program helps pay off educational loans for healthcare workers, including social workers, therapists, and many others who care for patients in Hawai'i in areas where there is a healthcare shortage."

He also noted large investments in the hospital system. "We are appropriating \$50M to expand the Intensive Care Unit and Medical Surgical Unit at Hilo Medical Center, \$2.3M for the Kona community Hospital Pharmacy Expansion, and nearly \$30M for Hawai'i Health Systems statewide to improve and renovate hospitals, including on our neighbor islands and in our most rural areas."

Green Links Success to Service in Ka'ū

Dr. Josh Green's experience as a physician in Ka'ū influences his actions as a governor, he told the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce in June. According to a story in the *Hawai'i Tribune Herald*, Green talked about coming to Ka'ū after his residency to serve some 8,000 people. He said, "Those months and years are what got into my blood. I saw limited access to trauma services in the rural parts of our state, which is all of the Big Island." He linked his approach to serving in an Emergency Room to his approach at serving as Governor. "They come in, you deal with it, find a solution and move on. That is basically the role I am using to run our government now."

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Interior Secretary Views Uēkahuna Restoration Site

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and Assistant Secretary of Fish & Wildlife & Parks visited Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park in late June. They toured areas damaged by earthquakes and summit collapse at Kīlauea in 2018. The Park posted that they "were briefed on park plans to restore Uēkahuna to a more natural landscape befitting of this sacred place." See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oncuVRHRrVU>

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary also engaged with the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory team and the Park's non-profit supporting partner organizations, Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

During Haaland's visit to Hawai'i, she joined Sen. Brian Schatz and U.S. Geological Survey Director David Applegate as well as federal, state, local and University of Hawai'i leaders to launch the new facility to monitor volcanoes and support conservation science. The site is University of Hawai'i at Hilo campus. It will replace



U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland with Sen. Brian Schatz, visited Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, its partners, USGS and University of Hawai'i at Hilo in June. Photo from Department of Interior HAVO's facility that was irreparably damaged by the 2018 eruption on the edge of Kīlauea caldera in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. It will also be the site of Pacific Island Ecosystems Research Center.

The Secretary of the Interior said, "Partnership and collaboration are at the heart of everything we do. I'm so excited about the collaborations that will be formed

in this facility between USGS scientists and personnel, the brilliant faculty and the students who have already accomplished so much. As we celebrate this facility today, we celebrate the enduring relationship it represents for the Department of the Interior and the community at large, as well as the benefits this partnership will bring long after our time doing this important work is

done."

During her trip to Hawai'i, the Secretary of the Interior also gave the opening address at the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance annual conference. It is attended by numerous organizations with a large presence in Ka'ū including Three Mountain Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund and Kamehameha Schools.

Haaland announced that \$16 million will be deployed to prevent the imminent extinction of Hawai'i Forest Birds, saying, "Hawaiian Forest Birds are a national treasure and represent an irreplaceable component of our natural heritage. Birds like the 'I'iwi, Kiwīkiwi and 'Akikiki are found nowhere else in the world and have evolved over millennia to adapt to the distinct ecosystems and habitats of the Hawaiian Islands." Haaland said that through the Investing in America agenda, "we are working collaboratively with the Native Hawaiian Community and our partners to protect Hawaiian Forest Birds now and for future generations."

Volcano Village Community Parades for Independence Day

The Volcano Village community comes out each year for its July 4 parade, followed by a community event at Cooper Center. This year featured good weather and many participants from Ka'ū Paniolo to Volcano School, Hawai'i Volcanoes Na-



A patriotic color guard for Volcano Fourth of July Parade.

tional Park, Friends of the Park and USGS to Mayor Mitch Roth, the County

Band, a marching Color Guard and church and community organizations.



Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences.



Moses Espaniola of Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park



Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam are regulars each year at Volcano's parade.

Photos by Sara Espaniola



Grand Marshals for this year's Volcano Fourth of July Parade.



Mayor and crew walked in Volcano and Na'ālehu Parades.



Exhibit: A Celebrating of 50 yrs. Exhibiting with Daniel Van Zyle continues through July 9 at VAC gallery in HVNP

Exhibit: Wondrous Works in Woods by Aaron Hammer July 15 through August 20 at VAC gallery in HVNP

Exhibit: Conversation: Spirit & Nature opens July 29 - August 19

7/8 - Poured Watercolors with Patti Pease Johnson
7/8 - Zentangle: Basics in Black with Val Odachi
7/8 - Hula Kahiko: Hālau Nā Mōhai Aloha o Ka Laua'e Pā Ola Kapu and Mountain View Elementary hula program
7/17-7/21 - Liko A'e Summer Camp 2

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Mokuhali'i Honored, Ka'ū 4-H Competes in Waimea

Ka'ohi Mokuhali'i is honored by Hawai'i County 4-H this year. This year's 66th annual 4-H Livestock Show & Auction's Show Book is dedicated to her. The islandwide event in June was held in Waimea with 4-H youth from Ka'ū traveling around the island with their livestock to participate.

The Show Book says, "Aunty Kaohi has been in 4-H since she was nine years old. Without her knowledge of over 50 years of experience we would not have the program we have today. She has put in a lot of time and energy into our program for our children. She has endless information about 4-H and years of collections of our 4-H show books. Sort of like our 4-H librarian. Aunty Kaohi has been a 4-H Club Leader, on the State Livestock Council. She has also

been the treasurer on the County 4-H Executive Board for many years. She has worked on the animal guidelines rule books and by-laws for both the State and County level. Aunty Kaohi is a mana wahine and has been a part of the Ka'ū Roping Club, Hawai'i Quarter Horse Association and High School rodeo to name a few. You can still find Aunty Kaohi at the Hawai'i County Livestock Show and Auction every year continually supporting the young men and women of tomorrow."

Mokuhali'i works with Kuahiwi Ranch and is on the Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee. She is seen on Sundays at Cooper Center's market in Volcano where she sells grass-fed Kuahiwi beef.



Ka'ohi Mokuhali'i and her 4-H youth from Ka'ū. This year's island 4-H Livestock Show & Auction Show Book is dedicated to her. Photo from 4-H



Hilina'i Karratti and her pig from Ka'ū at the 4-H Livestock Show & Auction in Waimea. Photos from 4-H



Ayden Benevides and his pig at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Jaysha Marshall and her white rabbit at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Kimo Boy Dacalio and Kaleopa'a Dacalio and their rabbit at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Skyler Fernandez and her pig at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Jaylynn Marshall and pig at 4-Livestock Show & Auction.



Hi'ilei Karratti and her rooster at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Hezykiah Fernandez and her pig at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Jared Marshall and his pig at the 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Kila'i Karratti and her steer at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Lily Dacalio and her steer at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Kingslee Fernandez and rabbit at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Ayden Benevides and his steer at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



London Dacalio with her Reserve Champion at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Hilina'i Karratti and her steer at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Hezykiah Fernandez with her Grand Champion Steer at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction.



Jared Marshall with his Reserve Champion Lamb at 4-H Livestock Show & Auction held in Waimea with competitors from Ka'ū.

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

Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station, from pg. 12

Iokepa-Moses sent out a big mahalo to former County Council Chair Maile Medeiros David who worked on the project during her four terms in office.

Solid Waste Division Chief Kaha said he is very proud of the place.

It's County Council member joked, "I kind of miss the old dump.... it's been forever, backing up to that thing, or carrying trash to that thing. It's kind of funny too because when I was thinking about running (for Council), should I run? What should my theme be? Everybody is like, well, you know, obvious one is fix the

dump, cause that's what everybody really cared about." Galimba also gave credit to Maile David, saying the project was well on its way when Galimba took office. Galimba thanked those who attended and the county "from everyone in Ka'ū."

The Director of Environmental Management noted that sustainability and environmental protection are top priorities for the mayor. He said there are many challenges, including recycling. "China stopped taking our products." He vowed that the County will work more on recycling, including energy conversion.

Mansour praised those who work at

the 21 transfer stations in the County of Hawai'i. "They work for you - the citizens." He noted that during holidays the supervisors and managers help out by taking the trucks on their routes.

Mayor Mitch Roth also praised the hardworking employees in the field of solid waste. "A lot of people don't really give them the due course. Really oftentimes a thankless job. People don't really understand how hard these guys are working... These guys really put in a lot of time, a lot of work, a lot of heart."

He said the county is investing in equipment, particularly new trucks.

He said the County's vision is to have a "sustainable Hawai'i...the goal is to have our keiki raise their keiki here and for their keiki to raise their keiki on this island." He pointed to the need for more affordable housing, more quality jobs. "We also look at energy and affordability." The mayor noted that Hawai'i has the highest gas and electricity cost and is looking at creating hydrogen fuel from landfills and wastewater treatment facilities.

Turning to the Wai'ōhinu Recycling & Transfer Station's acres of land with an ocean view, the Mayor said it is the "best looking landfill" and the absolute "best on the island." He noted that improving in-



The new Wai'ōhinu Recycling & Transfer station. Photo by Ann Bosted

rastructure will continue and that Ka'ū's council member comes to his office about every two months and talks about the need for infrastructure.

The mayor said that often times "we think that this part of the island is forgotten," and vowed to continue work in Ka'ū, including further improving the transfer stations at Ocean View and Miloli'i and upgrading water infrastructure to help with affordable housing. He also said he is very proud of the Deputy Director of the Department of Environmental Services, Brenda Iokepa-Moses who lives in Ka'ū.

Kahu Kimo Awai, with his own roots in Wai'ōhinu, gave the blessing in Hawaiian and English asking attendees to "preserve, protect, make good." He led the pa, clapping three times, each for Past, Present and Future and led the untying of the ti lei by Mike Kaha and the Mayor. See the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMwbd8j7jgs>.



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