

More than 1.6 Million People Visited Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

The visitor count at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park in 2023 topped 1.6 million. The 1,620,294 total was an increase of nearly 2.5 percent over 2022 and a 27.5 percent increase from 2008, the beginning of a 10-year eruption within Halema'uma'u crater at Kīlauea summit. The Park is asking for public input on managing the visitation. See Page 15.

"Eruptions often influence visitation at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and eruptions have also drastically changed the park," said Park Superintendent Rhonda

Loh. "Visitors should be aware that construction is now underway following the 2018 eruption and summit collapse, which compounds traffic and reduces parking at the summit of Kīlauea."

The nearly two-year disaster recovery project includes the removal of the former Jaggar Museum and USGS-operated facilities, the Okamura Building and the Annex, at Uēkahuna. A new USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory field station is being built near the historic ballfield at Kīlauea Military Camp. *HVNP Visitors, pg. 2*



Visitors enjoy the steamy views from Wahinekapu and Crater Rim Trail in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, which reports more than 1.6 million visitors last year. *NPS Photo by Janice Wei*

THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

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The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

March 2024

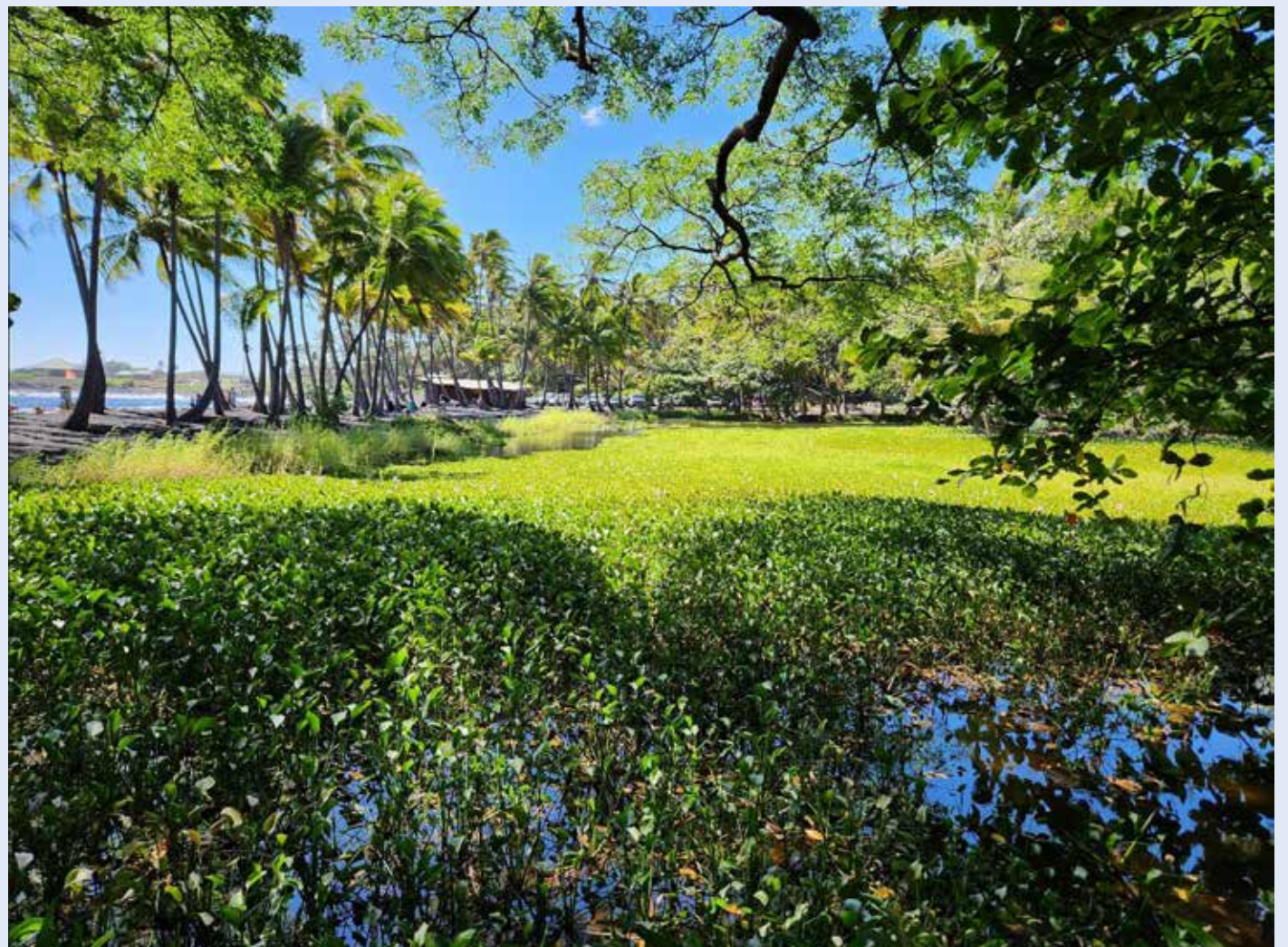
Public Hearing for Punalu'u Development Set for March 7

A hearing for the public to weigh in on the proposed development at Punalu'u is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at 9 a.m. at Hilo County Council Chambers and on Zoom. Windward Planning Commission, with Ka'ū representative Louis Danielle, will hear testimony. The decision is whether to allow the applicants to move forward with their plan to develop some 220 to 234 accommodations, including homes, condominiums, cabins and rooms, plus commercial development, some of it around the Punalu'u Black Sand Beach Pond.

Supporters say that infrastructure, including roads, water and sewage systems, needs repair and upgrades, which would require income. They point to the accommodations planned on sites that are at least a quarter mile from the shoreline, which would be much smaller in numbers than previous proposals by other developers. They also say that their development would have a management plan to control and direct visitor traffic at Punalu'u, offering free parking to locals with tourists paying. There would also be jobs in the construction period and for operations of accommodations, restaurants and other commercial ventures and a stewardship plan for environmental and cultural treasures.

Opponents say that any new development will bring more people, particularly to the beach, which has the only lifeguard stand

Punalu'u Public Hearing, pg. 16



A welcome center, tour bus drop off and food and retail are planned near Black Sand Beach pond, with hearing March 7. *Photo from SMA application.*

Director Recommends Approval of Punalu'u Village SMA

County Planning Director Zendo Kern has recommended approval of the Black Sand Beach, LLC Special Management Area permit for accommodations and other development. He noted that his approval could change after the public hearing. The proposed development is set to go to a public hearing before the Windward Planning Commission on Thursday, March 7, at Hilo County Council Chambers and on Zoom at 9 a.m.

The recommendation comes with many contingencies and requirements. His entire report can be read in County Department of

Planning files at <https://records.hawaiiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/doc/128725/Page1.aspx>

Here is the Planning Director's report and recommendation to the Windward Planning Commission as it considers approving the SMA permit:

Upon careful review of the applicant's request against the guidelines for granting a Special Management Area Use Permit, the Planning Director recommends that this request to develop 225 residential and short-stay units, a village and wellness center, retail uses, rehabilitation and use of golf courses, and dedication of a portion of coastline as a conservation area on an approximately 147-acre portion of a larger 434-acre project site within the Special Management Area be approved by the Planning Commission.

Since this recommendation is made without the benefit of public testimony, the Director reserves the right to modify and/

or alter this recommendation based upon additional information presented at the public hearing.

This approval recommendation is based on the following:

The applicant requests a Special Management Area Use Permit to develop the project area, named Punalu'u Village, which is proposed as a residential and commercial development consisting of approximately 225 residential and short-stay units, a village and wellness center, rehabilitation of the existing golf course, tennis facilities, infrastructure, and the dedication of approximately 30 acres along the project sites coastline as a conservation/preservation area.

The grounds for approving development within the Special Management Area are based on HRS, Chapter 205A-26(2) (Special Management Area guidelines) and Rule 9-11(e) of the Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure. Planning Commission Rule 9-11(e) states that the Authority (Planning Commission) may permit the proposed development only upon finding that:

1. The development will not have any substantial adverse environmental or ecological effect except as such adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and is clearly outweighed by public health, safety or compelling public interest;
2. The development is consistent with the objectives and policies and the Special Management Area guidelines as provided by Chapter 205A, HRS;
3. The development is consistent with the General Plan, Community Plan, Zoning Code and other applicable ordinances;
4. The development will, to the extent feasible, reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist, including specific factual findings regarding:
 - a. The identity and scope of valued cultural, historical or natural resources in the petition area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;

Punalu'u Village, pg. 2

Planning Suggests Conditions Should Punalu'u Be Approved

The County Planning Department has suggested conditions should the Windward Planning Commission vote to approve the Special Management Area Permit for proposed development at Punalu'u by Black Sand Beach, LLC., which meets for a public hearing on the issue on Thursday, March 7 at 9 a.m. at Hilo County Council Chambers and on Zoom. Among the proposed conditions from Planning Director Zendo Kern are the following:

Construction and operation of the proposed Punalu'u Village, and coastal preservation area shall be conducted in a manner that is substantially representative of plans and details as contained within the Special Management Area Use Permit

application dated December 18, 2023, and representations made to the Windward Planning Commission.

Construction of the proposed development shall be completed within ten years from the effective date of this permit. Prior to construction, the applicant shall secure Final Plan Approval for the proposed development from the Planning Director in accordance with Section 25-2-70, Chapter 25 (Zoning Code), Hawai'i County Code. Plans shall identify all existing and/or proposed structure(s), paved driveway access, and parking stalls associated with the proposed development. Landscaping shall be indicated on the plans for the purpose of mitigating any adverse noise or visual impacts to adjacent properties in accordance with the requirements of Planning Department's Rule No. 17 Landscaping Requirements) and Chapter 25 (Zoning Code), Hawai'i County Code

All driveway connections to Ninole Loop Road shall conform

to Chapter 22, County Streets, of the Hawai'i County Code.

All construction and maintenance activities on the subject parcel shall comply with Chapter 27, Floodplain Management, of the Hawai'i County Code.

All earthwork and grading shall conform to Chapter 10, Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Hawaii County Code.

The applicant will submit to the Planning Department for review and approval the following updated plans: Water Quality and Marine Life Monitoring Plan; Pond Management Plan; Cultural Resources Management Plan, and Shoreline and Preservation Area Management Plan. These plans shall be submitted prior to any development activities described in this permit.

The applicant shall incorporate any recommendations provided by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) into

Punalu'u Conditions, pg. 15

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Punalu'u Village, from pg. 1

b. The extent to which those resources, including traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, will be affected or impaired by the proposed action; and

c. The feasible action, if any, to be taken by the Authority to reasonably protect any valued cultural, historical or natural resources, including any existing traditional and customary native Hawai'i rights.

In the review of the SMA guidelines as listed under HRS 205A-26(2)(A), the proposed development will not have any substantial adverse environmental or ecological effect, except as such adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and clearly outweighed by public health, safety, or compelling public interest.

In considering the significance of potential environmental effects, the Director shall consider the sum of those effects that adversely affect the quality of the environment and shall evaluate the overall and cumulative impact of the action on the Special Management Area. Such adverse effects shall include, but not be limited to, the potential cumulative impact of individual developments, each one of which taken in itself might not have a substantial adverse effect and eliminate planning options.

The proposed project did not meet the criteria in State law for the requirement of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Ch. 343-5. However, the applicant chose to update both the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIS) in order to ensure those resources were preserved and protected in light of this new proposed development project. The proposed project, Punalu'u Village, provides an opportunity to properly manage, repair, and enhance this area after years of neglect.

This proposed project does represent a significant impact on the area, and coastal resources, however, the project aims to improve the resources and mitigate impacts to this area. Facility management is necessary to ensure the continued protection of environmental, cultural, and historical resources. Staff notes that the most sensitive area, those that have not been heavily impacted by previous land use activities, is the coastal portion of the project area.

The applicant intends to place a large portion of the coastal area into a preserve or other protection status to maintain those resources at the shoreline. The project is utilizing the designated zoning of the site and, as such, will be in line with the existing entitlements related to zoning and appropriate land uses, as well as re-constructing and repairing existing structures and infrastructure to minimize further impacts to the site and surrounding area. The proposed project, as designed, will not generate any adverse effects that cannot be mitigated with proper Best Management Practices (BMP) or are lands that are already impacted by previous land work, including significant grading and grubbing. The applicant intends to implement appropriate mitigation in relation to view planes, pedestrian access, and community character to ensure the varied and large site is viable for both the existing community and visitors to the area.

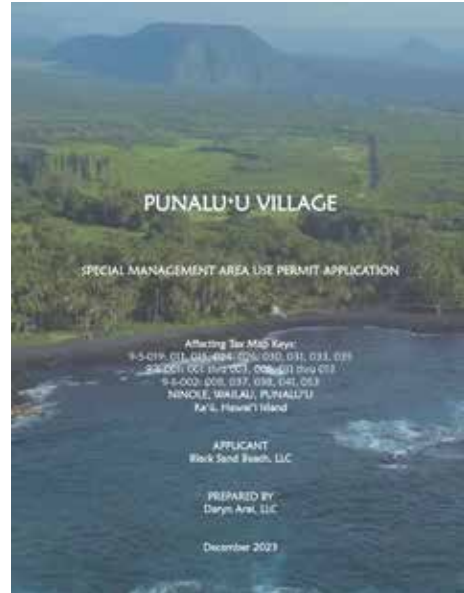
Staff believes that the past poor management of the area has led to a decline of natural resources, and this project aims to repair some of the damage while setting up the project site and surrounding area into a more comprehensive management regime.

In review of the SMA guidelines as listed under HRS 205A, the proposed development is consistent with the objectives and policies as provided by Chapter 205A, HRS, and Special Management Area guidelines contained in Rule No. 9 of the Planning Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Therefore, special controls on development within an area

along the shoreline are necessary to avoid the permanent loss of valuable resources and the foreclosure of management options. The objectives and policies of Chapter 205A, HRS include, but are not limited to, the protection of coastal recreational resources, historic resources, scenic and open space resources, coastal ecosystems, marine resources, beaches, and controlling development in coastal hazard areas.

Coastal Recreational Resources: All proposed improvements will occur on State Land Use (SLU) Urban designated lands, and no improvements are proposed within the entire shoreline frontage of the project site that is within the SLU Conservation District.



Portion of the shoreline frontage of the project site managed by the County as part of the Black Sand Beach Park complex of which facility and ground maintenance is conducted by the County Parks and Recreation Department. There are numerous coastal recreational resources that are currently enjoyed by community members and visitors to the area. The beach park allows for camping, fishing, hiking, and includes pavilions for gathering and other recreational uses. The black sand beach is heavily used by visitors and the community for fishing, and beach-type activities. Access to the shoreline is via the county beach park, and the black sand beach area. Lateral shoreline access (access along the shoreline) is open and accessible from many points along the shoreline of the project area. Staff visited the site and were able to traverse the entire shoreline from the most northern end of black sand beach south towards the Beach Park and beyond. The proposed coastal reserve area will also provide additional cultural and recreational access and will preserve this area of the shoreline for the future. The proposed project will not interfere with the current level of shoreline access in this area, however, the increase in development will ultimately bring more visitors to the shoreline. In order to mitigate the increased foot traffic and visitors to the coastal area the applicant will work to improve the existing infrastructure to accommodate the increase in visitors, as well as providing consistent resource management which has been severely lacking over the past 2 decades.

The applicant has already begun improving the parking area

that provides access to the Black Sand Beach area, minimizing the current parking scheme which allows vehicles to park next to the pond and on the sandy beach. Based on the proposed development being outside the shoreline area, as well as the dedication of the coastal preservation site and the improvements to existing infrastructure (i.e., parking), the Planning Department believes the impacts on coastal resources can be mitigated. Additionally, having one entity (landowner) that has the ability to holistically manage the entire project site where no management has been occurring is an improvement. The applicant will also be required to address, via study, the proposed projects potential impacts on coastal, cultural, and water quality via the submission of a Water Quality and Marine Life Monitoring and Management plan, Pond management plan, Cultural Resources Management Plan, and a Shoreline Management Plan all to be approved by the Planning Dept. prior to development to further enshrine the conservation of the areas resources. Based on our review, the proposed projects potential impacts to the coastline or other areas utilized for public recreational activities at the shoreline will be mitigated, and therefore will not impede or hinder the public's ability to access the shoreline.

Historic and Cultural Resources: The extensive project area includes cultural remains, such as a heiau, burial sites and habitation sites, and natural resources such as ponds, black sand beach, view planes, and the rugged Ka'ū coastline — all of which are considered significant cultural and historic resources. While there are numerous sites throughout the area, the project has been designed to not impact lands where known cultural sites or features have been identified by the cultural and archeological assessments conducted for this application.

Staff notes that based on the information provided, the majority of the new development will occur in areas previously disturbed by past land use activities, including extensive grading, which occurred in this area in the 1960s-1970s (prior to SMA law). The 2006 Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and the subsequent updated CIA in 2023 identified important cultural site and practices within the

project site, which include: stone cultural remains (e.g., heiau, ahu, caves, mounds, enclosures), petroglyphs and trail segments, a fishpond, marine resources important to native Hawaiians, and the black sand beach. Additionally, since 1969 the project area has been extensively developed, which included significant grading and grubbing of the landscape to create the golf course.

Several cultural resources were identified in archival literature, archaeological surveys, and interviews conducted for ethnographic study and included in the updated CIA. The sites identified include heiau and ko'a shrines, burial sites, a historic cemetery associated with a historic church, petroglyph areas, and other storied places. Other cultural resources for this community include the gathering of plants such as coconut, kukui, noni, ti, hau, hala, various medicinal plants, lei flowers, and seeds that are found throughout the project area.

One of the most significant cultural resources of the Punalu'u area is the ocean, bays, coves, and coastal areas within the project area, as well as beyond the project site boundaries. From the Volcano area to South Point, Punalu'u, is the only viable/accessible beach for the residents from Pāhala to Nā'ālehu, and as such, maintaining continued access to the beach, ocean, and coastal area is important to this region.

As stated in the 2006 CIA, the entire Punalu'u area (Punalu'u, Ninole, Hama, Wailau and Hilea) still has an abundance of cultural resources in spite of prior plantation and resort activities simply because the people of this area continue to practice these cultural traditions. Despite the vegetation overgrowth and dilapidated former resort structures, the area continues to be utilized by locals and visitors alike.

The proposed development will likely impact cultural resources during and after construction, such as sub-surface structures, midden, artifacts, or unmarked reburials. This could be mitigated with a cultural monitor and archaeologist present for any subsurface activity as well as surface activity. Preservation and Burial Treatment plans are recommended to properly care for

Punalu'u Village, pg. 9

HVNP Visitors, from pg. 1

The project also includes the construction of an administrative lane at the park entrance and a roundabout west of the entrance, with work and temporary traffic control scheduled to begin in mid-March 2024. The new configuration will improve safety and congestion at the entrance and help visitors explore the park more easily.

Visitors are urged to plan ahead and expect delays with the potential for temporary area closures, especially if an eruption happens and visitation spikes while the project is underway. A new park webpage summarizes the construction impacts.

The National Park Service announced that 400 national parks reported a total of 325.5 million visitors in 2023, an increase of 13 million or 4 percent over 2022.

Visitation figures and trends guide how the National Park Service manages parks to ensure the best ex-

perience possible for park visitors. The Visitation Statistics Dashboard provides recreational visit statistics for every park in the US for 2023 and also for previous years, dating back to 1979 for some parks. There are 429 parks in the National Park System, and 400 parks counted visitors in 2023. For the first time, there are now parks reporting their visitation numbers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four US territories. Five national parks began reporting in 2023, and this is the first year a park from Delaware is included.



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Japanese Exchange Students Immersed in Ka'ū Schools & Families

Exchange students were welcomed into the Ka'ū High School community in February with co-sponsors 'O Ka'ū Kākou and host families taking them into their homes. The students from Nakaminato High School, located in Hitachinaka City in Ibaraki Prefecture, were immersed with local students and families.

Host family sponsors were Ka'ū High coordinator 'Āina Akamu, along with Breeann Ebanes, Keone and Jennifer Grace, Wayne and Nora Kawachi, Mike



Exchange students from Japan stop along Ka'alaiki Road between Nā'ālehu and Pāhala to hear the mo'olelo, the stories about Pu'u Enuhe - caterpillar hill and Pu'u Makanau from leader 'Āina Akamu of Ka'ū High.

Photo by Myra Sumida

and Kayoko Munnerlyn and Cyrus and Myra Sumida.

Students were led by Nakaminato High School Sensei Masato Naritomi, overseas travel coordinator and teacher in charge since the Sister School relationship

began in 2018. Traveling with the group was school business teacher Kenta Abe, on his first visit to Hawai'i.

The students were boys Sena Nukagawa, Takumi Terunuma, Yusei Iyo, and girl Kune Nambu.

A Sister School Agreement between Ka'ū and Nakaminato says the schools will "contribute to a friendly relationship between the United States of America and Japan. Both schools will continue to exchange materials such as letters, works of students and photographs, or anything that promotes mutual understanding. Both schools will continue to communicate with each other and make further efforts to bring about the development and happiness of both schools. Both schools will make efforts to strengthen the ties of friendship through mutual visiting of teachers, students, and parents if they have a chance to do so."

During an Aloha Dinner sponsored by 'O Ka'ū Kākou, Pāhala Hongwanji and host families, Sensei Masato Naritomi said he and his students look forward to welcoming exchange students to Japan.

Exchange student Kune Nambu said she was very happy to come here to see animals she had never seen before, includ-

Japanese Exchange, pg. 4



The last time exchange students from Japan were hosted at Ka'ū High was in 2020 before the pandemic.

Photo by Jen Makuakane

Local Artist Gallano's Sign's Up at Pāhala Senior Garden

Local artist Kelson Gallano, grandson of senior gardener Fely Villegas, recently made a new sign for Pāhala Senior Center's garden. He based the design on Pāhala Senior Club's logo which features a local

yellow 'ohi'a blossom surrounded by a yellow and green border. Before graduating from Ka'ū High School, the artist also illustrated Joyce Iwashita's book *What the World Needs Now*.

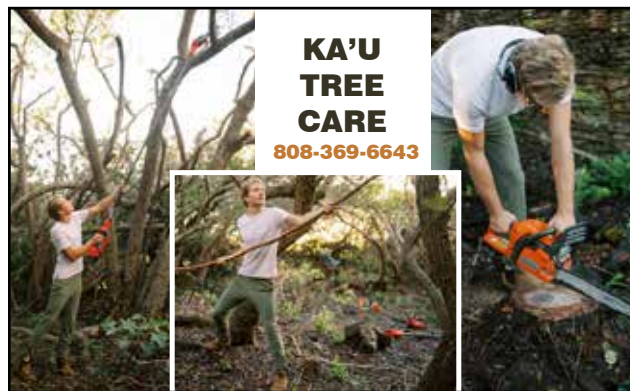
The sign replaces a years-old one made by Villegas' nephew Greg Javar that had lost some of its lettering. Gallano installed it after County of Hawai'i's recent tree-trimming and fencing projects at the garden.

Residents interested in volunteering at the garden can contact Pāhala Senior Club through Julie Pasquale at 808-928-3101. Pasquale is the site manager for the Pāhala Senior Nutrition Program, which offers lunch and activities on weekday mornings at Pāhala Community Center for persons 60 years and older.



Caption: Kelson Gallano, flanked by several Pāhala Senior Nutrition Program participants including his grandmother Fely Villegas, displays his new Pāhala Senior Center Garden sign.

Photo by Julie Pasquale



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Health Orgs Ask for Public Support at 2024 Hawai'i Legislature

Rep. Jeanné Kapela met with health and service organizations and the public at Nā'ālehu School Gym on Feb. 25. Among the presenters were Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association, Inc. and its founder Jessie Marques. The KRHCAI team asked for public support of a bill be-

fore the Hawai'i Legislature, Senate Bill 2483, which would direct the state Department of Health to launch a three-year community health worker pilot program in Ka'ū. Testimony can be submitted through the Hawai'i Legislature's website www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

The summary of the Ka'ū pilot health care worker bills says the program would "provide outreach, education, training, and navigation to individuals residing in Ka'ū" and "address social determinants of health, by a community health worker."

The text in the bill says that "The legislature finds that community health workers connect rural, underserved communities with health care, prevention, outreach and training. Often serving in rural underserved communities, community health workers spend a significant portion of their time doing telehealth and behavioral health, outreach such as assisting individuals to apply for medical insurance, providing health education resources, and locating work opportunities. Other community health workers may serve as translators, assisting their communities to navigate health care and social service systems."

The language describes community health care workers as "a critical intermediary between residents and health care and social services," with "a unique understanding of their community needs and accessibility to services."

During the pilot program, community health workers would promote health awareness, disease prevention, and healthy lifestyle practices, along with info on healthcare services, resources, and programs. "Community health care workers shall demonstrate cultural sensitivity and competence in their interactions with diverse populations within their community."

Kapela said rural communities like Ka'ū need to come together for needed funding from the legislature, particularly given the overwhelming need among victims of last year's Lahaina fire and the COVID disasters. She said places like Ka'ū, which has its own needs, could be overshadowed by funding for disasters.

Hawai'i Island Community Health Center and Hawai'i Public Health Institute focused on House Bill 1778, which would ban the sale of flavored tobacco products and mislabeled e-liquid products that con-

Japanese Exchange, from pg. 3

ing horses and nēnē. Yusea Iyo said she enjoyed shopping to buy local gifts. Sena Nukagawa focused on landscape and the opportunity "to become friends with everyone at Ka'ū High." Takumi Terunuma said he treasures making good friends, playing volleyball and visiting ranches, coffee fields, the ocean, and mountains. The students also went bowling at Kīlauea Military Camp, traveled on back roads and visited Punalu'u and Eva Liu's OKK vegetable farm.

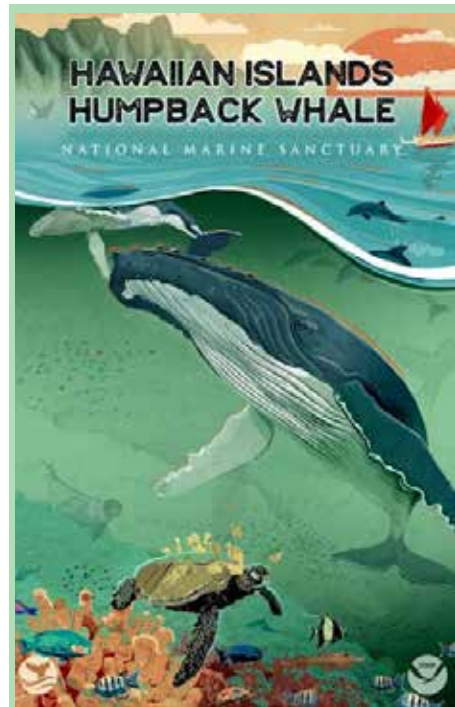
The leader from the school said this trip was difficult to permit since Japan opened up for traveling outside



Ka'ū Rural Health Community Association is asking for public testimony to support a three year community health worker pilot program for Ka'ū. Representatives attended a health fair at Nā'ālehu School Gym on Saturday. Photo by Ophir Danenberg



Sarah Kamibayashi, head librarian for Pāhala and Nā'ālehu, right, supports health care education initiatives through the library system along with library staff member Maelene Kaapana. Photo by Ophir Danenberg



Last Whale Count of 2024 is March 30

The second koholā - humpback whale - count of the year in February drew volunteers who racked up numbers totaling 2,141 statewide with 466 seen from the shores of this island, 948 from Maui, 363 from O'ahu, 239 from Kaua'i, 86 from Moloka'i and 39 from Lana'i. The volunteers reported to Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Count and Great Whale Count.

The last 2024 statewide count is Saturday, March 30. Locations on this island are Punalu'u Black Sand Beach on the Ka'ū Coast; Ho'okena Beach Park, Hōnaunau, Keāhole Point and Hualālai on the Kona Coast; Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Park and Mile Marker 7, Kapa'a Beach Park and Old Coast Guard Road on the Kohala Coast; Onekahakaha Beach Park in Hilo and Hawaiian Paradise Park in Puna.

Register and learn more at <https://oceancount.org/>.

The Hawaiian word for humpback whales is koholā. The whales come to Hawai'i to give birth, nurse their young and breed before heading north to summer waters.

tain nicotine. The bill is making its way through the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature. Miss Kona Coffee's Teen, Taira Aoki, talked about the challenge of reducing vaping among young people. Kapela is co-author of the bill.

Concerning dental health, Kapela said she appreciated an organization supporting dental health distributing 500 oral health packs with toothbrushes, floss and toothpaste going to attendees and to Nā'ālehu School.

Ka'ū Public Librarians were on hand to discuss a new initiative to support healthcare education through the libraries in Pāhala, Nā'ālehu, and beyond. The program trains and employs high school and undergraduate students to be health and digital navigators in their local libraries to help individuals and families learn how to use computers and the internet to access health and health care information.

Common Cause was also represented at the health fair and promoted Bill 2381 at the legislature. Its Program Manager Camron Hurt said the legislation would establish a comprehensive system of public financing for all candidates seeking election to state and county public offices in the State of Hawai'i, to begin with the 2028 general election year. He said it would provide funding for election campaigns and would help to reduce the amount of "dark

the country later than many other places and families were still cautious about allowing their children to travel since the pandemic.

The business teacher from the Japanese school said, "I want to cherish this visit. I want to see you in Japan." Participants noted their enjoyment of Sumo Breakfast at Ken's House of Pancakes in Hilo. When someone orders, the gong sounds and everyone calls out "Sumo!"

Host family member Kayo Munnerlyn said she is a Japanese tour guide and was able to share not only the history of Ka'ū but also discuss World War II and Japan's longstanding friendship with the U.S. She also hosted a kampyo workshop to make maki sushi.

Host family member Keone Grace said, "It was an amazing experience with two kids from a completely different culture." He said he served them a variety of food from Hawaiian to Chinese and that they enjoyed going outdoors to see the spectacular stars and night with the family



Rep. Jeanné Kapela and Miss Kona Coffee's Teen, Taira Aoki, at Nā'ālehu on Saturday. Photo by Ophir Danenberg

money" used in running for office. The bill is co-authored by Ka'ū's state Senator Dru Kanuha. For more, see <https://www.commoncause.org/hawaii/>.

telescope. His family, with student daughter Kalea, took the exchange students to a hula festival in Kona.

Host family member Breann Ebanz also mentioned the student's enjoyment of Ka'ū's night skies. She said students became immersed in her home with its big family and animals. On the road, she noted a visit to South Point and to Volcano School of the Arts & Sciences, as well as picture taking at King Kamehameha Statue and walking in Hilo and eating pancakes.



Kampyo workshop, stripping gourds for making maki sushi. Photo by Myra Sumida

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 22, Number 3

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

March 2024

Ka'ū Trojans Wrap BIIF Wrestling, Make State Finals

Trojans headed to the state finals in wrestling on O'ahu in late February. Four out of the five Trojan wrestlers qualified by placing fifth or better at the Big Island Interscholastic Federation Championship wrestling tournament.

The BIIF Championship hosted 13 teams from around the island, each entering their top wrestlers. Wrestlers representing Ka'ū were Seniors Stephen Adler II, La'akea Kajiwaru-Ke, Ocean Nihipali-Sesson, Junior Rain Nihipali-Sesson, and Freshman Eli Crook.

Senior Stephen Adler II had the toughest day out of the Trojan Wrestling team. Wrestling at 120 lbs, he faced a tough Kealakehe opponent in his first match ulti-



Ocean Nihipali-Sesson, squeezing a pin against Kamehameha. He won two matches at a Kea'au tournament.

Photo by Coach Ray Mazyck



Four of five Trojan wrestlers qualified for states and flew to O'ahu for state finals in February. Wrestlers left to right are: La'akea Kajiwaru-Ke, Ocean Nihipali-Sesson, Rain Nihipali-Sesson, Alazae Forcum, Stephen Adler II, and Eli Crook. Coaches left to right are Head Coach Ray Mazyck, Assistant Coach Joe DeYoung, and Assistant coach Connor Norton.

Photo by Elizabeth Crook

Freshman Eli Crook, one of the four qualifiers for the Trojans had a turbulent start to the day, losing his first match by pin in the second round to a Hilo wrestler. After he lost to Hilo he received a bye to advance to the consolation semi-final round, where he faced a Kealakehe wrestler and lost by pin. "Losing in the consolation semi-final allowed Eli to compete for fifth place and earn his way to state," said Coach Mazyck. In his next match Eli defeated Kohala 12-7, taking fifth in the 126

Honoka'a late in the second round," reported Coach Mazyck.

Seeded first with an overall record of 7-0 in the 175 lbs. class was senior Ocean Nihipali-Sesson. He started his day strong with a first round pin against Kealakehe, advancing him to the semi-final round. He wrestled hard but was narrowly defeated by Kamehameha 9-6 in the semi's. In his next match versus Kea'au, Nihipali-Sesson was able to pull out a decision win of 3-1 to advance him to the third-place match.

Coach Mazyck said, "Ocean put all his skills on display in an exciting match for third place against a fierce Laupahoehoe wrestler. They were quite evenly matched, going back and forth but ultimately Laupahoehoe walked away with a 5-4 decision win. "The skills and gameplan Ocean displayed in his third-place match were well

above any first year wrestler. He showed every ounce of the hard-work, athleticism, and coachability that makes him the outstanding young man that he is," said the Trojan coach.

For the Trojan girls, junior Rain Nihipali-Sesson placed fifth in the 235 lbs. class. She had to medically forfeit from the BIIF championship. "Rain quite possibly had the toughest day of all; she is incredibly passionate about the sport and loves to wrestle. For her to watch girls she beat during the season wrestle and place high really ate at her. She had aspirations to be the Big Island Champion and she very well could have been if she had the opportunity to wrestle. Next year is going to be a very big year for Rain," said Coach Mazyck.

The Coach said, "Every Trojan wrestler above any first year wrestler. He showed every ounce of the hard-work, athleticism, and coachability that makes him the outstanding young man that he is," said the Trojan coach.

Ka'ū Wrestling, pg. 7

mately losing by pin in the second round. In his second match Adler wrestled against an experienced Waiakea opponent, and got caught in a pin in the second round. He ended up taking seventh place at the tournament, just a round shy of qualifying.

Coach Ray Mazyck said, "Stephen is the hardest worker I've ever met. He has come so far since the beginning of the season, and it's tough to see him not qualify. Wrestling is an incredibly tough sport that requires a lot of technique, much of which is gained through years of experience. It is quite difficult to bridge the gap of experience in just one season, but overall he wrestled his heart out and left it all on the mat."

lbs. weight class and punched his ticket to O'ahu.

Senior La'akea Kajiwaru-Ke took fifth in the 138 lbs. class at the BIIF Championship. He suffered a first round loss to Kamehameha, which dropped him into the consolation bracket. He then defeated Kea'au with a first round pin, advancing him to the consolation semi's. Kajiwaru-Ke wrestled a Konawaena opponent in a back and forth match which went into overtime. It was close but the Konawaena opponent was able to secure the takedown to win. "In his fifth-place match with state qualification on the line the Trojan rose to the occasion and pinned his opponent from

Daughter & Dad Flores are All Around Cowgirl, Cowboy

Addie Flores took All Around Cowgirl and scored first in Wahine Barrel Racing at the annual Panaewa Stampede Rodeo in February at the Al Cabral Rodeo Center. Her dad Damien Flores took All Around Cowboy.

Addie Flores, whose time was 33.87 seconds, is a resident of South Point where her dad Damien and family operate South Point Buckers and provide rodeos with livestock. Some of the genetics are from Yellow Jacket, Sports Machine, and Houdini, with a herd foundation from Rocker G.

Rodeo Queen at Panaewa Stampede was Peyton Kekaulua-Tavares.

See more results at panaewastampederodeo.com. See more on South Point Buckers at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthPointBuckers/>

The Ka'ū Calendar



Addie Flores, of South Point Buckers, won All Around Cowgirl and her dad Damien won All Around Cowboy at the 2024 Panaewa Stampede Rodeo.

Photo from South Point Buckers

www.kaucalendar.com • kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com

Keiki Golf Training at Volcano Course

Keiki training in golf is being offered at Volcano Golf Course. Manager Alyss Tsukayma said the sessions are offered through First Tee, a youth development organization "that enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with a life skills curriculum, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that kids can carry to everything they do."

Sessions are Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$75 for all five sessions. The first ends March 26. To sign up see www.firstteehawaii.org.

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KA'Ū SCHOOL & YOUTH

Boys & Girls Club Embraces Healthy Cooking, Growing Food

Enjoying healthy cooking and growing food came to Pāhala Boys & Girls Club in February when keiki made mayonnaise from scratch and mashed it into purple 'uala, sweet potatoes, with coconut milk. The cooking was followed by getting their hands into the soil outdoors as each student transplanted a sweet potato seedling into a bigger pot to take home.

The event, sponsored by the Center for Getting Things Started, Boys & Girls Club, County of Hawai'i, The Food Bas-

hold and tip pointed down toward the cutting board. Mentors were Dr. Koh Ming Wei from Center for Getting Things Started; Karen Estabilio, manager of Pāhala Boys & Girls Club; Marielle Hampton of CTAHR; Robert Munoz of The Food Basket and community volunteers Mellanie Lee and John Enloe.

A second event in Ka'ū for healthy eating and growing food, featured the same mentors at Ocean View Community Center.

The keiki also learned a song with the

make mayonnaise. All food waste was put into a compost bucket.

A resident of Hawai'i Island, Ming Wei has lived and taught in the Marshall Islands and said she looks forward to meeting Marshallese students in Ocean View.



Boys & Girls Club elementary school students each transplanted an 'uala, a sweet potato, into their own pots to take home during an event organized by Center for Getting Things Started at Pāhala Elementary. The planting was led by Marielle Hampton of CTAHR (center). It also featured whisking up mayonnaise and mashing 'uala. Photo by Julia Neal



Dr. Koh Ming Wei teaches cooking safety, cooking fun at a healthy eating and food planting event for Boys & Girls Club. Photo by Julia Neal



Keiki whisk up mayonnaise from scratch at a Boys & Girls Club healthy eating and food planting event. Photo by Julia Neal

ket, and University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, saw more than a dozen elementary school-age children take part. They gathered at the Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary School cafeteria and put a lot of energy into whisking and whipping up the food and a lot of effort into setting up their pots with good soil and careful planting of 'uala.

saying that 'uala, "Sweet potatoes are good for me because they have nutrients."

During the class, the leader of the Center for Getting Things Started, Ming Wei, advised the keiki on Safety First cooking skills, including using a knife with a claw



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Candlelight Induction for Ka'ū High National Honor Society

Inductees to Ka'ū High National Honor Society on Feb. 23 are Tyra Wong Yuen, Shaizay Jara, Alajshae Barrios, Tatyahna Kaupu-Embrey, Hokulani Carriaga-Pascual, Kaydence Ebanz-Alcosiba, Janeé Bonoan, Megan Pierpont, Patricia Robben, Kona Smith, Stephen Throne, Dakota Seaver, Tancy David, Vladimir Fedoruk, Zayden Gallano, Danny Eder, Laci Ah Yee, Jazelle Amps (online) and Jacelyn Jara (absent from the ceremony).



ognize and encourage high school students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, exemplary character, dedicated service, and responsible leadership. With over 1.4 million members across the globe, the NHS boasts a rich history and a commitment to fostering well-rounded individuals who make a positive impact in their communities.”

It stresses academic excellence, requiring members to maintain a high GPA and demonstrate a commitment to learning.

It promotes service. Giving back is a core principle, with members participating in community service projects.



Ka'ū High National Honor Society members light up their induction ceremony.

Photo from Ka'ū High National Honor Society

It develops leadership, cultivating future leaders by encouraging members to take initiative, organize events, participate in student government, and mentor others.

Regarding character, The National Honor Society fosters honesty, integrity, responsibility, and respect.

Future Health Care Professionals Travel to Career, Tech Conference

Future health care professionals from Ka'ū High did well at the recent HOSA gathering at Hawai'i Convention Center in Honolulu, according to teacher and mentor Dr. Angie Miyashiro. The HOSA conference was part of the statewide Career & Technical State Organizations Conference, representing 45 public, private and post-secondary schools.

Miyashiro reported that Alajshae Barrios placed third, qualifying her to attend the national HOSA convention from June 26 - 29 in Houston.

Maryline Amon came close to qualifying, coming in fifth. The other attendees from Ka'ū High who followed close behind the top two are: Anastasia Kovalik, Rojelin Capueta, Aubrey-Ann Delos Santos, Coleen Ramos, Janea Bonoan and Nyori Soriano.



Future Health Professionals from Ka'ū High did well at the annual HOSA state competition in Honolulu in late January.

Photo from HOSA

The Career & Technical State Organization Conference serves as a forum for students from four of the five Hawai'i CTSOs — the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), Future Health Professionals (HOSA), Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), and SkillsUSA — to apply their Career and Technical Education (CTE) learning in a competitive showcase.

“The CTSO conference is the culminating event for students to take all of this knowledge that they’ve been learning in class, and display that in front of authentic judges,” said Daniel Addis, CTE educational specialist for the Hawai'i State Department of Education.

Approximately 1,700 students from across the state participated in a range of authentic, real-world competitions in areas including

business and marketing, retail merchandising, drone operations, robotics, health science, emergency preparedness, engineering technology and more. Competitions took place at the Hawai'i Convention Center in the form of written exams, interviews and presentations, along with team and individual challenges.

Culinary, automotive technology, and

Ka'ū Wrestling, from pg. 5

...tler far surpassed any expectation that can be had for a first year team.”

“We were immensely excited to see the level of wrestling at the state tournament. Our wrestlers got an idea of what state level wrestling is like. Freshman Eli Crook

carpentry competitions took place off-site at Kapi'olani Community College, Leeward Community College, and the Carpenters Training Center in Kapolei.

Community business partners were invited to judge competitions within their respective fields or industries to help ensure that the student CTE skills were in alignment with real-world industry standards.

“We really rely on our business partnerships to make sure that we’re giving the kids the skills they need to be in that career in the future,” said CTSO State Coordinator Margaret Miura.

With leadership-building as one of the main focuses of CTSO, business partners also help to mentor and guide students looking to enter an industry.

A statement from organizers said, “The annual conference aligns with the Department’s efforts to strengthen career and college pathways by providing relevant, real-world learning opportunities that help ensure all graduates are globally competitive. Winners of the state competitions will go on to compete in national CTSO tournaments later in the school year.”

and Junior Rain Nihipali-Sesson were able to bring this experience back home to help themselves and next season’s team grow. I fully believe that these wrestlers earning their spot in state is going to be the catalyst that propels the Trojan Wrestling team to the next level.”



Alajshae Barrios qualifies to attend the national HOSA convention in Houston this June.

Photo by Dr. Angie Miyashiro



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ALOHA FRIDAY AT VAC GALLERY: Lei making with Kaipo Ah Chong on Friday, March 1 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tropical Agriculture farmer Kaipo Ah Chong will share his expert lei-making skills with VAC visitors. As a member of Hālau Nā Kamalei, his experience marries the science of agriculture with Hawaiian lei and hula traditions.

NA'OHULELUA HISTORICAL GARDEN is open Saturdays, March 2, 16, 30 & Sundays, March 10 & 24 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. or by appointment. The garden offers a variety of native and rare species such as organic Moringa (the miracle tree with many variety from Sri Lanka, India, and Nicaragua), Ma'o hau hele 'Yellow Hibiscus', Loulu & Hala Pepe, Noni, Mamami, Large Ti, Ma'o, Large Variegates Hala, Green & Variegated Hau, Wauke, Kukui, Naneam Kamani, Pohinahina, Ali'i Poe, Ahu'awa 'Native Hawaiian Vetiver', seeds such as Ali'i Poe, Kabocha & Spaghetti Squash, Hala leaves for Lau Hala weaving, U Pick Nursery Trays, Sprouted Coconuts and more. Ready to plant in the garden. Suggested donations appreciated.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA PERMIT for Punalu'u development is set for Thursday, March 7 at 9 a.m. in Hilo with testimony invited live in County Council Chambers at 9 a.m., and via Zoom. Black Sand Beach, LLC plans to restore infrastructure and build some 234 units of accommodation, as well as retail and other commercial facilities at Punalu'u. See plan and background reports at <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/1/doc/127617/Page1.aspx>. See Ka'u Community Development Plan at <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/cdp/kau>.

ALOHA FRIDAY CULTURAL DEMONSTRATION on Friday, March 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at VAC Gallery. Desiree Moana Cruz shares 'ohe kapala and contemporary textile stamping, often seen in hula kahiko style costuming. She is an advocate for Kanaka Maoli practitioners and a member of Hālau Nā Kipu'upu'u of Waimea.

A MEET YOUR KA'U RADIO STATION EVENT is set for Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., or until pau outside Mālama Market in Ocean View. Live broadcasting on 104.7 FM under the canopy with local DJs. Meet radio crew, ask questions, sign up to volunteer. Opportunities include hosting a show.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK Paradise Under Pressure: Tracking Populations of Hawai'i's Rarest Forest Birds on Tuesday, March 12 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Hawai'i has suffered extinctions of more than 70% of its native forest birds since the islands were colonized by people. Introduced avian diseases and their vectors have pushed remaining birds into upland forests on Mauna Loa and Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, where surveys to estimate population densities and trends have been conducted since the 1970s. Join avian ecologist Seth Judge, of the NPS Pacific Island Inventory and Monitoring Network, as he describes the trends of native forest birds and how a warming climate has contributed to their decline. Free.

KEIKI WATER CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST deadline on Friday, March 15. Hosted by County Department of Water Supply to bring awareness to the importance of water and protecting this precious resource. Open to all Hawai'i County K-6 students. Mail or drop off at Department of Water Supply 345 Kekuanoa'a Street, Suite 20, Hilo, HI 96720. Learn more about how to enter at hawaiidws.org.

CU HAWAII SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM deadline is Friday, March 15. Celebrating Hawai'i Island's 2024 graduating high school seniors and current undergraduates by helping provide more possibilities for their future with \$25,000 worth of scholarships. Learn more at community@cuhawaii.com or at (808) 930-7270.

HULA IN THE MOONLIGHT: Hula showcase and dinner fundraiser on Saturday, March 16 at VAC Nialani Campus, 19-4074 Old Volcano Road in Volcano Village. First show at 4:30 p.m., second show at 6:30 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes prior. Directed by Kumu Hula Meleana Manuel. Dinner by Mexi-Cali Street Tacos following each show. Tickets \$55 via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hula-in-the-moonlight-tickets-843134386647>.

LIKO A'E SPRING CAMP: A weeklong Spring Camp will be held at VAC's Nialani Campus from Monday, March 18 - Friday, March 22, from 9 a.m. - 2:30

p.m. Open to keiki ages 8-13. The Camp will include: papermaking, music and puppetry, drawing, beading, accordion bookmaking & kapa stamping. Bring snacks and lunch. Call Volcano Art Center for more information (808) 967-8222. Cost: \$250 per child/\$230 for members of VAC. Deadline to register is Monday, March 4.

FRIENDS OF KA'U LIBRARIES ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING on March 21 at 4 p.m. in Pāhala Library. Election of Board of Directors & officers. Learn about FKL and become a member. Light refreshments will be served.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: Emma Ka'ilikapuolono Nakuina, Extraordinary Woman of Hawai'i. On Tuesday March 26 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium. Emma Metcalf Beckley Nakuina was many things: Museum Curator under Kalakaua, author, and Commissioner of Water Rights under the Territorial government. Born in 1847, throughout her long and remarkable life, her work and her writing illuminated Hawaiian culture from a Hawaiian point of view. Join Park librarian Martha Janet Hoverson for highlights in the life of one of the most influential women in Hawaiian history.

TALK STORY WITH DR. KIMO ALAMEDA on Thursday, March 28, from 6 - 8 p.m. at Pāhala Community Center. Ask questions, learn about his campaign for Mayor. Free refreshments and prize giveaways.

SANCTUARY OCEAN COUNT on Saturday, March 30 from 8 a.m. - noon at Punalu'u and other locales. Ocean Count promotes awareness about humpback whales that winter here, and shore-based whale watching opportunities. Participants tally humpback whale sightings and document their surface behavior. See story on Page 4. Sign up to volunteer at <https://fs26.formsite.com/oceancount/3im9jrxk/index>.

PRINCE KUHIO DAY HO'OLAULE'A on Saturday, March 30 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Nā'ālehu County Park. Free event. Includes music, Hula, food, prizes, Hawaiian culture demos arts and crafts. Sponsored by See story on Page 9. Sponsored by Hana Laulima Lāhui O Ka'ū.

KA'U COMMUNITY EASY ACCESS PRENATAL CLINIC on Sunday, March 31 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at 94-2166 South Point Rd. All insurance plans accepted. No one turned away for lack of funds. Schedule an appointment at: 808.450.0498, <https://shinesisterhoodinitiative.com/collective>. Contact shinesisterhoodinitiative@gmail.com for more information.

DIETRICH VAREZ EXHIBITION through April 7 at VAC Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

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 Monday with Hawai'i Wildlife Fund. The team and core volunteers conduct marine debris recovery efforts targeting large debris items, including derelict fishing nets 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.

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.

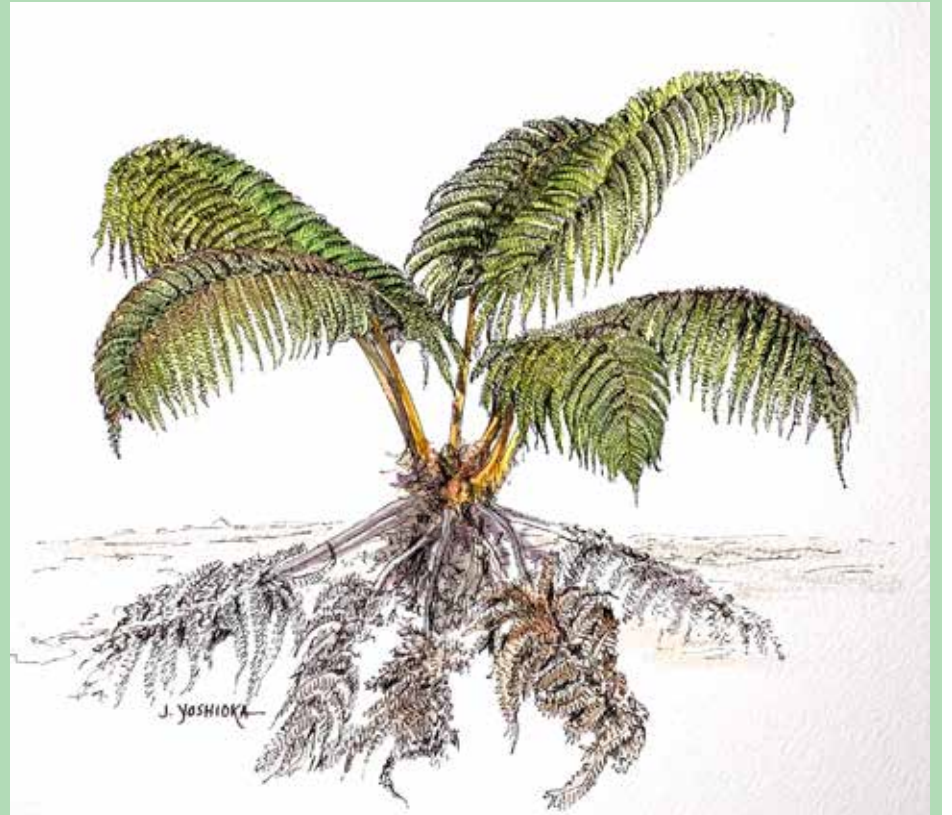
WAI'OHINU YOGA at the Wai'ohinu Park every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., weather permitting. Laurie Boyle offers the practice of yoga of all levels. Donations appreciated. No reservations needed. For more information, contact Boyle at ezmerelda5@gmail.com.

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.

March 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.



'Ama'u (*Sadleria cyatheoides*)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

'Ama'u (*Sadleria cyatheoides*)

Huli ka lau o ka 'ama'u i uka, nui ka wai o kahawai. When the leaves of the 'ama'u turn toward the upland, it is a sign of a flood. 'Olelo No'eau #1137 (Mary Kawena Pukui).

Description: 'Ama'u is an endemic fern in the Blechnaceae or chain fern family. There are actually six species in this endemic genus, divided into two groups: the Cyatheoides group (medium to large and even tree ferns found on recent lava flows and in forests), and the Squarrosa group (small ferns found on dark and wet river banks). 'Ama'u are easy to distinguish from their fern friend hapu'u with just a little bit of practice. The new fronds emerge in brilliant shades of bright red and orange, turning gold and then green with maturity. 'Ama'u fronds are also less divided than hapu'u (in other words, 'ama'u fronds are more simple). Another name for 'ama'u is ma'uma'u. That name should sound familiar...you surely have heard of Halema'uma'u, which is surrounded by beautiful, healthy 'ama'u ferns.

Uses: 'Ama'u have many uses. For agriculture, fronds were used as a mulch for dry-land kalo gardens and as a planting layer in dry areas (much like putting straw down in your home garden to cut back on evaporation). The fronds make a red dye for kapa and the leaf stems can be used for kapa beating or sizing. Fronds were used for thatching with or, in addition to, lau hala and pili. The starchy centers were occasionally eaten or even used for animal feed, and when dried and ground, 'ama'u can be made into a drink similar to coffee or tea. 'Ama'u can also be used medicinally in lā'au lapa'au. 'Ama'u is also a kinolau (form) that Kamapua'a (the son of Hina and Kahikiula) transformed into as he attempted to flee from the fire of Pele at Kīlauea. Yet another name for 'ama'u is pua'a 'ehu'ehu (which translates into red pig), referring to the relationship between 'ama'u and Kamapua'a.

Habitat: 'Ama'u can be found in low (around 150') to mid elevations (around 5,000') in dry, mesic, and wet environments on all of the main Hawaiian Islands except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe. 'Ama'u is among one of the first plants to colonize new lava flows, essentially building ecosystems and creating microhabitat sites for other species (along with its friends, 'ōhi'a and kupukupu). In Ka'ū, you can see 'ama'u colonizing new lava flows and interspersed among other early successional species throughout the district.



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.



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MARCH '23

March Calendar, from pg. 8

STEWARDSHIP OF KĪPUKAPUAULU on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Help remove troublesome plants at Kīpukapuau, 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 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. Meet at the Kīpukapuau parking lot, Mauna Loa Road, off Highway 11 in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

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://www.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://www.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.

OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY MARKET, Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kona St. and Mamālahoa Highway.

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, localmade 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.

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.

SACRED HEARTS - LOAVES AND FISHES Thursday, March 28, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Located at 95-5558 Mamalahoa Hwy., Nā'ālehu.

Punalu'u Village, from pg. 2

identified archaeological features recommended for preservation. In addition, the CIA Update recommended that mitigation should include a walk-through of kupuna/cultural practitioners, Kuleana landowners, the archaeologist, and the development planners to record all the burial areas that are not recorded in the archaeology report or SMA application.

An advisory group made up of primarily kūpuna knowledgeable of the area, Kuleana owners, and other Punalu'u landowners could be formed to advise planners of cultural protocol, sensitive areas, cultural resources, burials, medicine, food and craft plants, and other cultural resources). Before any future construction is started an additional Burial Treatment Plan for inadvertent burials or reburials is recommended that includes cultural protocols (i.e. re-wrapping 'iwi kūpuna, ceremony, etc.) as well as State and County regulations. Any construction ground activity will include the requirement to have a cultural and archeological monitor on-site during all ground-disturbing activities.

Scenic and Open Space Resources: The beauty of the project site is very well known, which is why residents refer to this area as the "piko" of Ka'ū. All repair and maintenance activities will generally be situated in the area mauka of the coastal section of Ninole Loop Road and Ninole Cove Place rights-of-way and away from the shoreline areas and the State Land Use Conservation area. No new structures are being proposed by this application within the proposed coastal preservation easement, and managing the lands through the removal of excessive overgrowth from the remainder of the project area should enhance the scenic beauty and open space character within the Project Site. The understory of overgrown non-native and invasive grasses and weeds is the target of cleanup; however, non-native vegetation is pervasive throughout the project site. Staff notes that the project is designed to fit in with the surrounding landscape and area and will be sited to minimize potential view plane impacts from the ocean towards the mountains.

Coastal Ecosystems, Marine Resources, Beaches: A primary portion of the proposed project involves the continued repair and maintenance of existing infrastructure systems (e.g., wastewater treatment system) that have been neglected for decades. Failure of these systems could have a significant adverse impact on the coastal ecosystem and as such the proposed project aims to minimize those impacts by upgrading and maintaining roads, water systems, wastewater systems, trails, and other necessary infrastructure such as electricity. Land within the SLU Conservation District located along the shoreline will not be directly subjected to activities included in this proposed project. By not developing the Conservation District portion of the project site, an in situ coastal buffer zone will be created, and when coupled with the existing County beach park and preservation area, will alleviate or mitigate any impacts to the coastal zone from this proposed project.

Coastal Hazards: The majority of the proposed projects development are located within Flood Zone X which represents areas determined to be outside the 500 year flood plain; no new facilities are proposed along the coastal portions of the project site. The development will be subject to the requirements of Chapter 27 - Flood Control, of the Hawai'i County Code in order to minimize the effects of coastal hazards. In addition, all buildings will be constructed in conformance with Uniform Building Code specifications.

In the event of a tsunami or other major weather event, the evacuation of this site would be via Ninole Loop Road to Mamalahoa Highway.

The proposed development is consistent with the County General Plan, Ka'ū Community Development Plan (KCDP), Zoning Code, and other applicable ordinances. The General Plan Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) for the County of Hawai'i is a policy document expressing the broad goals and policies for the long-range development of the Island of Hawai'i. The General Plan (GP) was adopted by ordinance in 1989 and revised in 2005. The project site is designated as a Minor Resort Area by the General Plan. This designation allows development that accommodates no more than 500 visitor units and should provide both active and passive recreational opportunities commensurate with the scale of development. As described previously, the project area has varied zoning designations, ranging from Low Density Urban (ldu), Medium Density Urban (mdu), Resort (res), and Open (ope) depending on location.

All the proposed activities and proposed improvements presented in this application are aligned with its designation as a minor resort area and do not require any changes or amendments to current zoning designations.

The significance of the project site is highlighted in the KCDP, which states: A large number of CDP objectives and strategies intersect at Punalu'u, which has a rich ecological, historical, and cultural legacy. The CDP outlines a community-driven, collaborative process for planning the future of Punalu'u. In order to accomplish the community objectives detailed within the KCDP, policies and goals were created to provide a framework for the applicant's support of a community-based planning approach to the proposed project.

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


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The following policies listed are most related to the proposed development:

Policy 23 — Protect the shoreline from the encroachment of man-made improvements and structures.

Policy 24 — Maintain the shoreline for recreational, cultural, educational, and/or scientific uses in a manner that preserves the resources of this area.

Policy 54 — Protect scenic vistas and view planes from becoming obstructed, considering structural setbacks from major thoroughfares and highways to protect view planes.

Policy 62 — Protect, preserve, and effectively manage forests, watersheds, shoreline areas, natural areas, and rare or endangered species and their habitats.

Policy 69 — Protect, restore, and enhance the sites, buildings, and objects of significant historical and cultural importance to Hawaii.

Policy 70 — Protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes, and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians in this area.

Policy 79 — Ensure appropriate public access to the shoreline, public trails, hunting areas, scenic places and vistas, and significant historic sites, buildings, and objects of public interest. Additionally, it ensures access for cultural practitioners.

Policy 88 — Establish the Punalu'u-Ninole Springs region as

a recreation area.

The following policy controls from the KCDP are related to the development of the proposed project:

Policy Control 1 — Rehabilitate and develop within existing zoned urban areas already served by basic infrastructure or close to such areas instead of scattered development.

Policy Control 5 — Rehabilitate and optimize the utilization of designated resort areas that are presently serviced by basic facilities and utilities, and before new resorts are allowed in undeveloped coastal areas.

Policy Control 6 — The development of visitor accommodations and a resort development should complement the character of the area; protect the environment and natural beauty; respect existing lifestyles, cultural practices, and cultural resources; provide shoreline public access; and provide affordable housing to meet the demand created by the development.

The policies and policy controls listed above are utilized to set community actions according to the KCDP, which specifically calls out Community Action (No. 29) to develop and implement plans for Punalu'u. The applicant has integrated a number of policies related to the long-term planning of this area, and the project will serve to protect and preserve environmental, historic and cultural, and recreational activities, all while providing a new revenue stream to the area to support ongoing restoration efforts and the

Punalu'u Village, pg. 10

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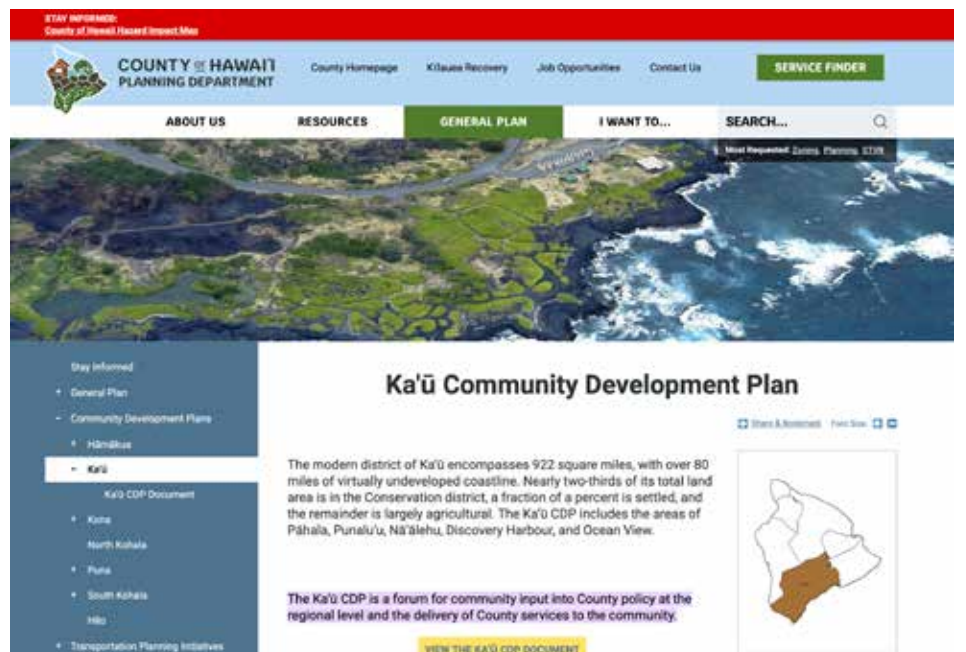
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County of Hawaii Planning Department

GENERAL PLAN

Ka'ū Community Development Plan

The modern district of Ka'ū encompasses 922 square miles, with over 80 miles of virtually undeveloped coastline. Nearly two-thirds of its total land area is in the Conservation district, a fraction of a percent is settled, and the remainder is largely agricultural. The Ka'ū CDP includes the areas of Pāhala, Punalu'u, Nā'ālehu, Discovery Harbour, and Ocean View.

The Ka'ū CDP is a forum for community input into County policy at the regional level and the delivery of County services to the community.

[VIEW THE KA'Ū CDP DOCUMENT](#)

A public hearing will be held Thursday, March 7 on development at Punalu'u. See Black Sand Beach, LLC plans for Punalu'u and background reports at <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/web/1/doc/127617/Page1.aspx>. See Ka'ū Community Development Plan at <https://www.planning.hawaiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/cdp/kau>. Image from Ka'ū Community Development Plan.

Students & Mentors Paint a Mele Mural at Nā'ālehu Elementary

A Mele Mural is the new big art at Nā'ālehu Elementary School. The large-scale artwork is named Ka'ū Mākaha and is one in a "mural series that deepens connection to place through Hawaiian culture, mele, mindfulness meditation, and big art!" according to the project's Instagram. It was painted by the Nā'ālehu Mele Murals Core Hui, Nainoa Rosehill, Angela Natrassvski, and her student Pualilia Duboit and the organization Estria.

"This Mele Murals experience was

amazing from start to finish," shared Nā'ālehu El Principal Wilma Roddy. Every grade from preK to 6th select 5 students to be part of the mural core hui. Over the course of a week the students learned about meditation, visited Honu'apo with local experts Nohea Kaawa and John Replogle and Jodi Rosam to learn science & historical perspectives of the area as well as place-based mo'olelo. These experiences inspired student sketches and ideas for the mural, which they helped to paint.

"What's also special is that the whole school had a part in painting the mural. Every class signed up and got to paint," said Roddy.

At the February mural reveal students spoke about their experiences and connections to the school art piece. Core Hui student member Jochelle Koi pointed out the mural butterflies which reminded her of the symbol of transformation and healing, adding that the her favorite part is the moth that depicts honuapo within its wings. Koi said that she hoped (the mural) can connect to others. Fourth-grader Taevyn Jara evoked images of Honu'apo as a historical thriving port town with freshwater estuary with native ae'o birds.

Kaiko'o Kaawa spoke referenced famed Ka'ū hills Makanau and Pu'u 'Enuhe. He told of the mo'olelo of Kumuheha, the greedy shapeshifter also an 'enuhe or caterpillar, who was destroyed by the Ka'ū people for his mistreatment of his beautiful Ka'ū wahine.

Third-grader Mana'o Hashimoto said that when he sees Honu'apo in the mural it reminds him to take care of the land. He hopes one day that "My future family knows I put my heart in this painting." After the speeches, students from Nā'ālehu kumu Ulu Makuakane's hula hālau performed. A rain shower followed, which some in attendance referenced as a

Mele Mural, pg. 16



Students, sponsors and leaders of the Mele Mural project revealed their finished work at Nā'ālehu Elementary School. Photos from Nā'ālehu Elementary Principal Wilma Roddy

Punalu'u Village, from pg. 9

The project area is adequately served with essential services, such as water, electricity, and telephone. Wastewater will be directed to the existing privately owned WWTP, and stormwater will be managed on-site via approved drainage and other supporting structures. Additionally, DEM-Solid Waste Division is requiring a Solid Waste Management Plan to be submitted and approved by DEM prior to occupancy of the development. As such, the proposed development is consistent with the County General Plan, Zoning Code, and Ka'ū Community Development Plan.

The development will, to the extent feasible, reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist. In view of the Hawaii State Supreme Court's "PASH" and "Ka Pa'akai O Ka'Aina" decisions, the issue relative to native Hawaiian rights, such as gathering and fishing rights, must be addressed in terms of the cultural, historical, and natural resources and the associated traditional and customary practices of the site.

Investigation of valued resources: A Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) was completed in 2006 to complement the 2006 Draft EIS for the SeaMountain at Punalu'u Project. The report identified important cultural places and uses present within the project site such as stone cultural remains, petroglyphs and trail segments, a fishpond, marine resources, and the black sand beach itself. An update to the 2006 CIA was conducted in

April 2023 which consisted of an archival review of the 2006 CIA, a review of the 2023 archaeology report, and an ethnographic survey (which included oral history interviews).

A draft Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS) of the entire project area was conducted in 2005 as part of the 2006 Draft EIS. In preparation for this current project, the applicant conducted an update to the 2005 draft AIS with an "Addendum Archeological Inventory Survey" for the Punalu'u black sand beach property, which was conducted in March 2023.

It was found that the proposed development and redevelopment activities will occur within previously disturbed portions of

Punalu'u Village, pg. 11



Honubots Robotics in State Finals

Nā'ālehu School's Honubots 5 Robotics Team recently flew to Honolulu for the state finals for the VEX IQ Middle School Regional Championship presented by Northrop Grumman Foundation. This is the robotics program's second year at the school.

Team members Guy Salmo, Jr. and Juleann Miller scored overall 15th in the state and fifth in the finals. Robotics coaches are Melissa Skadan, Aprille Carriaga and Heather Bernard.

Disco Golf Tourney Raises \$5K for Ka'ū Little League

Ka'ū Little League's first golf tournament fundraiser at Discovery Harbour Golf Course in February drew 24 teams and raised over \$5,000. The two-man-team scramble offered prizes for the longest drive for both men and women and a prize for the closest to the pin. Cash prizes went to first, second and third place.

Hole number 1 featured a game where Ka'ū Little League baseball players hit off a batting tee for the golfer, and the golfer teed off from the ball's landing place. "We couldn't have done it without the support of local businesses and individuals who donated money and prizes," said Elizabeth Crook, Ka'ū Little League Vice President. "Ka'ū Little League would like to thank all the hole sponsors, prize donations, silent auction prizes, cash donations, and volunteers."

Ka'ū Little League also set up a giving tree at Club at the Discovery Harbour. That money goes to scholarships for players who have financial difficulty paying the \$100 registration fees for Little League. Also assisting was an Amazon wish list for equipment.

Ka'ū Little League thanked Jim Hathaway, Connor Norton, and The Club at

Discovery Harbour for all their help in making this a fantastic event. The following individuals and businesses helped make



The giant tee with a baseball on it allowed Little League players to hit a ball down the Discovery Harbour fairway with the baseball bat. The golfer started with their ball and golf clubs from there.

Photo by Elizabeth Crook

this event a success: 'O Ka'ū Kākou, Yolanda's gifts with Aloha, Wayne Kawachi, Mike Suminzky, The Koehler Family, Right Way Pool and Spa, Scott Taylor, Taylors Bears, Cole Jensen, Dean Crook, Centralia-Chehalis Professional Firefighters Local 451, Sungazer Rising, Artistry Bodywork Wellness, Volcano Winery, The Loman Family, Pāhala Pops, The Odom Corporation, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawai'i, Da Bomb BBQ, CROOKed C Ranch, Ocean View Property Management and Sales,

Buddy the Golf Dog, Volcano Golf Course, Discovery Harbour Yoga group, Connor Norton, The Body Glove, Girl Next Door, Punalu'u Bake Shop, Kona Coffee and Tea, Raising Arrows with Essential Oils, Flyin' Hawaiian, The Land Office, Thai Thai Restaurant, Kīlauea Lodge and Restaurant, Kapu's Hawaiian Makana, Miranda's Coffee, Ka'ū Auto and Repair, Shave Ice Shack, Keith Helit, Oven Treats and South Point Salsa, Fred deRu, United Country Real Estate | Hawai'i Lifestyle Properties, and Ka'ū Concrete Pumping

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Symphony Plays Hit Movie Soundtracks

The South Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra will present a concert titled An Afternoon at the Movies on Saturday, March 23



at Ocean View Community Center, 2 p.m. Concert is free; donations appreciated.

The concert will be largely composed of pieces of music that were either soundtracks or theme songs for a large variety of popular movies, such as Ben Hur, Star Wars, Lion King and many others.

The orchestra will be conducted by Farley Sangels, a musician with a long career in many of the country's top orchestras, and more recently with the Hong Kong Philharmonic. The orchestra is composed of about 20 musicians, largely from Ka'ū, who play a wide variety of orchestral instruments. They perform as volunteers in the community orchestra.

This will be the third concert that the South Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra has presented. Its previous shows drew audiences of over 100 music fans and culminated in standing ovations

Punalu'u Village, from pg. 10

the project site and will avoid direct impacts to any of the previously identified historic properties. Staff notes that in July 2023, the Planning Department submitted the addendum to the AIS to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) for a Ch. 6E-42 historic preservation review, and confirmation of reservation and buffer plans. The submittal was done prior to the submittal of the SMA application under the director of SHPD. To date SHPD has not responded to our initial request, and no correspondence from SHPD regarding the status of the review has been submitted to the Planning Department. The Planning Department will require the applicant to confer with SHPD to assure the updated CIA and AIS are reviewed and approved prior to any proposed development related to this SMA application.

The applicant has worked diligently towards establishing relationships with kūpuna, residents, and various community organizations to seek their collective guidance on how these lands can be property preserved as a historical, cultural, environmental, and economic resource for the future of this area. The applicant has committed to revitalize Punalu'u in a measured way by focusing on the community-based priorities that can be

accomplished prior to engaging in the larger development such as the developing the farmers market, removing overgrown vegetation, and improving existing infrastructure.

The valuable cultural, historical, and natural resources found in the area:

The 2006 archaeological inventory survey (AIS) of the entire 434-acre project area was completed and it was determined that approximately 90% of the resort area had been mechanically cleared or altered by floods and tsunamis. According to the applicant, by 2006, more than 100 cultural sites had been destroyed by development projects in the coastal portion of Punalu'u, Wailau, and Ninole Ahupua'a, and it appears that none of the mitigation recommendations presented in any of the earlier archaeological studies had been followed through on. The 2006 AIS identified a total of 34 extant historic properties within the overall resort property. Twenty-four (24) of the sites were previously identified and nine (9) were thought to be newly identified. The 2006 survey Tulchin et al. (2006) attempted to correlate the sites they identified during their survey with previously recorded sites, but they were hindered by the extent of land disturbance within the resort property and the brevity of the site descriptions presented in the prior reports, as well as the confusion that multiple site numbers were given for the same feature throughout the years. Ultimately, existing SIHP site designations were retained for fifteen of the recorded sites (Sites 50-10-68-03512, -03513, -03515, -03519 to -03522, -03524, -04309, -04310, -04330, -

04360, -04368, -07361, and -07370), and new SIHP designations were assigned to nineteen of the sites (Sites 50-10-68-24897 through -24916). The sites documented in the 2006 AIS were in various states of disrepair. It was determined that approximately 75% of the petroglyphs originally documented were reported destroyed, most likely being bulldozed during the construction of the Punalu'u Beach Park access road and parking lot.

Cultural land resources include plants, such as coconut, kukui, noni, tea plants, hau, hala, various medicine (undisclosed) plants, lei flower and seeds. One of the major cultural resources of the Punalu'u area is the ocean, bays, coves, and coastal areas as they provide for the continued cultural practices of fishing and gathering. Many of the cultural practices today continue to include marine and land resources. The entire Punalu'u area (Punalu'u, Ninole, Hama, Wailau and Hilea) still has an abundance of cultural resources despite prior plantation and resort activities simply because the people of this area continue to practice these cultural traditions. And despite the vegetation overgrowth and dilapidated former resort structures, the area continues to be utilized by locals and visitors alike. The proposed development will likely impact some cultural resources during and after construction, such as

Punalu'u Village, pg. 12

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The view from Ocean View, celebrated by Ka'ū Radio 104.7 FM, which has announced a live broadcast from outside Mālama Market on Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until pau.

Photo from Ka'ū Radio

Meet Your Ka'ū Radio Station Set for March 9

A Meet Your Ka'ū Radio Station event will be held on Saturday, March 9 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., or until pau outside of Mālama Market in Ocean View. There will be live broadcasting on 104.7 FM under the canopy with local DJs.

Attendees are invited to meet the radio crew, ask questions, sign up to volunteer. Opportunities include hosting a show.

Founder Tim Reed said Ka'ū Radio is Ocean View's first 100 percent legal FM radio station.

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Councilmember Galimba Weighs in on Industrial Solar in Neighborhoods

County Council member Michelle Galimba filed a letter sharing community opposition to the construction of 18 solar farms in Ocean View Ranchos. The letter went to the state Public Utilities Commission in February concerning the use of house lots for commercial solar farms in residential neighborhoods among existing homes. The solar developer is SPI. The project has also drawn concern from the state Consumer Advocate.



Michelle Galimba

Galimba wrote, "As the Hawai'i County Council Member for District 6, which includes the site for SPI's proposed Feed In Tariff (FIT) project in the community of Ocean View, and specifically in the Ranchos residential subdivision of Ocean View, I would like to communicate my constituent communities' concerns about and strong opposition to the proposed SPI project.

"I would also like to echo the concerns expressed by the Consumer Advocate in regard to adverse impacts on the cost of power for all ratepayers on the Island of Hawai'i. I understand that Hawaiian Electric (formerly HELCO) must purchase power from the Ocean View Project at the FIT rate of 23.8c per kWh – a generous rate set in about 2010. At present, more modern projects with battery storage are coming online for less than 10c per kWh. If built, this project would have the effect of driving up already high prices, and producing revenue for SPI, which will largely flow off island. This project will have a lasting negative impact on all ratepayers in Hawai'i County for the next 20 years and add to the already difficult economic realities that working families face in our County and State.

"I understand that a hearing officer had been appointed for the above-referenced Formal Complaint and the FIT Program. Complementary to the hearing officer's investigations, I would like to bring to the Commission's attention some local issues that may fall outside the officer's purview

but are part of my responsibility to communicate issues concerning the health, welfare, and future of my constituents.

"This project poses substantial risks that could result in fatal fires akin to the one that destroyed Lāhaina on Maui. Ocean View is on the path of the same trade winds that drive the Pakini Nui Wind Farm at Kalae (South Point.) Electrical malfunction, whether caused by fallen poles or lines, equipment faults or accidents, arson, theft, or sabotage could generate a brush fire which could spread quickly to adjacent homes. Additionally, there is no piped water, and no fire hydrants serving the sites slated for the solar installations. Furthermore, Ocean View only has a volunteer fire department with one fire truck. As such, siting this project in a residential subdivision with substandard safety infrastructure is a poor policy decision that exposes the State to risk and liability.

"It is my understanding that the FIT program was developed over 14 years ago to encourage agricultural producers to develop or host solar energy projects. While technically zoned Agricultural, the land that SPI proposed to locate the Ocean View project is a rural residential subdivision and thus the proposed project is not appropriately sited. Furthermore, SPI is not an agricultural producer, but rather an off-shore company. As such, revenues from this project will not benefit local communities.

"Finally I would like to note that this project is extremely unpopular among local residents in the community of Ocean View, as well as against the best economic interests of residents of rate-payers in Hawai'i as a whole," concluded Galimba's letter.

A petition for the PUC, signed by more than 700 OV residents, cited fire danger, industrialization of a rural community and other concerns as objections to the project. A formal complaint against HECO and HELCO for mismanagement of the Feed In Tariff Program was filed at the PUC by

Ocean View residents in 2016. At that time the project to construct 18 solar farms on housing lots among existing homes was put on hold while the PUC investigated the complaint. That investigation is ongoing.

Galimba's letter comes on the heels of a letter from SPI in an email to PUC Hearing Officer Mike Wallerstein, concerning "crippling delays" in approvals for the project. Wallerstein copied other parties to the case, including the complainants from Ocean View. Both SPI's attorneys and Wallerstein allude to the Lahina fires as the cause of the delay in advancing in the Ocean View solar case. An attorney representing the solar developer, SPI, wrote in an email to the PUC Hearing Officer Wallerstein:

"As you know, when Intervenor filed their Motion to Move this Matter to a Final Decision and Order back in November of 2022, the parties had been waiting for the scheduling of the evidentiary hearing in this matter for over a year, and so your prompt action of finally holding the evidentiary hearing in June of 2023 was, and is, greatly appreciated.

"As all parties have now completed their Post-Hearing Briefs in September 2023, respectfully, we would like to know if you are able to give a time frame for the recommended decision to be issued in this matter?"

"We certainly understand that there are pressing matters circling the Commission (especially since the events of this past August) and thus, we understand if you can't. However, any input



that you can offer as to the expected timing would be greatly appreciated, as our clients are urgently seeking to plan their future course of action amidst these ongoing, crippling delays," concluded the SPI email.

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Punalu'u Village, from pg. 11

sub-surface structures, midden, artifacts or unmarked reburials. Possible adverse effects or impairment of valued resources: Given the limited scope of the proposed activities within the project site, the applicant is not able to identify any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of cultural, historical, recreational, or ecological resources as a result of the proposed improvements. As mentioned above, this application presents a proposal that protects valued coastal resources in the area by properly managing all facilities and resources. Decades of neglect have severely impacted this area and without proper management and preservation will lead towards the continued loss of valuable resources and opportunities. The applicant, along with its community stakeholders, will commit its resources towards the revitalization of Punalu'u in a manner that can be embraced by the community of Ka'ū.

Feasible actions to protect native Hawaiian rights: Preservation and Burial Treatment plans are recommended to properly care for identified archaeological features recommended for preservation. In addition, the CIA Update recommended that mitigation should include a walk-through of kupuna/cultural practitioners, kuleana landowners, the archaeologist and the development planners to record all the burial areas that are not recorded in the archaeology report or Master Plan. An advisory group made up of primarily kupuna knowledgeable of the area, kuleana owners and other Punalu'u landowners, should be formed to advise planners of cultural protocol, sensitive areas, and cultural resources (burials, medicine, food and craft plants, and other cultural resources).

Any construction ground activity should include a cultural monitor, as well as an archaeologist. Of the 34 historic sites identified in the draft 2005 survey, 3 sites were not located within the five (5) Development Sites and therefore not closely inspected. One site (SHPD# 50-10-68-04330), a historic animal pen/ enclosure, was apparently destroyed in 2016 by land clearing activities. The remaining 30 historic sites were inspected with updated condition assessment, and all are recommended for preservation. A preservation plan will be prepared for 26 sites and a burial treatment plan will be prepared for the

Punalu'u Village, pg. 13

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Midwife Offers Free Prenatal Clinics Monthly

Shine Sisterhood Initiative and Tara Compehos host free monthly easy-access prenatal clinics on the last Sunday of every month from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 94-2166 South Point Road at the old Kalae Coffee.

The prenatal care clinic aims to improve access to care for mothers in rural Ka'ū. No one is turned away for lack of funds. Any pregnant person can receive a free prenatal by a state-licensed midwife.

Compehos is a Certified Professional Midwife and founding member of Ka'ū Women's Health Collective. She was Vice Chair of the state's Home Birth Task Force and is licensed as a midwife in Hawai'i and Louisiana. For 18 years, she has advocated for peoples' rights to personal, cultural, and traditional birth practices. She teaches Childbirth Education and other classes on-



Tara Compehos offers free prenatal clinics, as a licensed midwife.

Compehos provided some background information about access to care in Ka'ū. She said she offers an alternative to "the medical model of care" and noted the shortage of physicians here. In her easy-access prenatal clinic, she offers the midwifery model of care, "the antidote to the maternal health care crisis that we are having in our country. Problems in the crisis

include the highest maternal mortality and morbidity in all developed nations. This rate is even higher for Hawaiian and African American people." See more at nacpm.org.

Shine Sisterhood, with Compehos, offers continuity of care, with access to the same care providers during the pregnancy. Monthly sessions provide a sense of community for those preparing to give birth, with access to herbal remedies and education.



For example, a session may include a conversation and sharing circle, followed by making tinctures and oils with herbs such as yarrow, plantain leaf, rose petals, white oak bark, and rosemary.

Funding for the clinic is provided by the Women's Fund of Hawai'i. One of its supporters is Oprah Winfrey.

For more information about Shine Sisterhood Initiative, see: <https://shinesisterhoodinitiative.com/>



The future of Punalu'u will largely be determined by the Windward Planning Commission which meets March 7. Photo by Julia Neal

Punalu'u Village, from pg. 12 remaining 4 sites. Archaeological monitoring will be conducted during any ground disturbing activities within the five Development Sites.

Lastly, this approval is made with the understanding that the applicant remains responsible for complying with all other applicable government requirements in connection with the approved use prior to its commencement or establishment upon the subject property. Additional governmental requirements may include the issuance of building permits, the installation of approved wastewater disposal systems, compliance with Fire Code, the installation of improvements required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), among many others. Compliance with all applicable governmental requirements is a condition

of this approval; failure to comply with such requirements will be considered a violation that may result in enforcement action by the Planning Department and/or the affected agencies.




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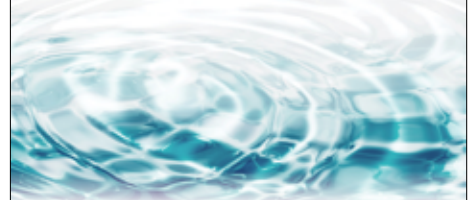
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Volcano Observatory Employs 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in *Volcano Watch*

Hawaiian language told the story in a *Volcano Watch* published in February. Written by Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i geologist Katie Mulliken with HVO volunteer and naturalist Bobby Camara, the article was translated from English into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i by Nakamakanikolonahe Obrero.

He 'atikala puka pule me nā nūhou 'īnana 'o Kia'i Lua Pele i kākau 'ia e nā akeakamai o U.S. Geological Survey Hawaiian Volcano Observatory a me kona mau hoa kākō'o. Kākau 'ia maila kēia pukana 'atikala e ke kanaka huluhonua 'o Katie Mulliken a me ke kanaka puni ao kūlohelohe 'o Bobby Camara.

It noted that February was 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Hawaiian Language Month, and an opportunity to appreciate the value that the Native Hawaiian language has provided to volcanology, especially here in Hawai'i nei:

'O Pepeleuli ka Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, a he manawa kūpono ia e mahalo aku ai ka waiwai na ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i i ho'olako i ke kālaipele, 'oi loa aku ma Hawai'i nei.

The 'Ōlelo Hawai'i alphabet consists of twelve letters, along with two diacritical marks that indicate pronunciation. The 'okina (glottal stop) appears like a backwards apostrophe and is treated like a consonant, while kahakō (macrons) ap-



Nakamakanikolonahe Obrero translated *Volcano Watch* into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Photo from *Ka Wai Ola*

pear as a line over vowels, indicating a long vowel pronunciation. Both 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and English are the official languages of the State of Hawai'i.



HVO volunteer naturalist Bobby Camara writes about Hawaiian language and volcanology

He 'umikūmālua huapala ma ka pī'āpā Hawai'i, me nā maka puana 'elua e hō'ike ai i ka puana pololei. 'O ka 'okina, he koku koma luna i huli 'oko'a lā me ka ho'ohana 'ia 'ana ma ke 'ano he koneka, a 'o ke kahakō, he koku laina pololei i luna o nā woela e hō'ike ana ka puana

woela lō'ihi. 'O ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i a me ka 'Ōlelo Pelekānia pū nā 'ōlelo kūhelu o ka moku'āina o Hawai'i.

Native Hawaiians were the first observers of volcanic activity in Hawai'i and used words for geologic features that science communities continue to apply today. Volcanologists around the world use pāhoehoe, 'a'ā, and kīpuka, for example. Pāhoehoe and 'a'ā are the two main types of basaltic lava flows. Pāhoehoe has a smooth, sometimes ropy texture whereas 'a'ā is rough and broken. Kīpuka color the lava flow landscape like patchwork. They are pockets of vegetation surrounded by younger lava flows, illustrating one definition of kīpuka as "a variation or change in form."

'O nā kanaka 'ōiwi kai kia'i mua loa o ka lua pele 'ā, a ho'ohana 'ia akula nā hua'ōlelo no nā hi'ohi'ona huluhonua na ke kaiaulu akeakamai e ho'opili nei i kēia mau lā. Ho'ohana akula nā kanaka kālaipele a puni ka honua i ia mau hua'ōlelo i la'a me ka 'a'ā, ka pāhoehoe, a me ke kīpuka. 'O ka pāhoehoe a me ka 'a'ā nā 'ano 'ā pele 'alā nui 'elua. He hi'onapā'ili laumania me kekahi 'ano kaula lā ka pāhoehoe, no



Geologist Katie Mulliken, of University of Hawai'i, writes about Hawaiian language and volcanology.

Photo from University of Hawai'i

ka mea kākala a me nāpelepele ka 'a'ā. Palapalaulu ke kīpuka i ka hi'onaina 'ā pele me he pāhono lā. He mau 'āpana 'āina nāhelehele ia e ka'apuni 'ia e ka 'ā pele hou loa, e hō'ike ana kekahi mana'o o ke kīpuka ma ke 'ano he loli i kona kino.

Numerous newspapers of the 1800s written by Native speakers, and published in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, provide us valuable insight to eruptions and their effects, while 'Ōlelo Hawai'i place names help us understand landscapes and their use. Keanakāko'i, for example, is a small crater near the summit caldera of Kīlauea. Its name means "the cave in which azdes were made," providing us with an understanding of the place (a crater) and how the location was used in the past (adze source).

Manomano nā nūpepa o nā makahiki 1800 i kākau 'ia e nā mānaleo, a ho'opuka 'ia ho'i ma ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, e ho'olako ana iā kākou i ka 'ike waiwai no ka hua'i 'ana o ka lua pele a me kona mau hopena, 'oi ai ho'omaopopo pū mai nā inoa wahi i nā hi'ohi'ona 'āina a me kona mau waiwai. I la'ana, he lua li'ili'i 'o Keanakāko'i i ka nu'u o Kīlauea. 'O ka mana'o o kona inoa, 'o ia 'o ke ana nona ke ko'i, a he hō'ike kēia i ka ho'omaopopo 'ana mai i ia wahi a me ke 'ano ona i ho'ohana 'ia ma ka wā i hala.

Native Hawaiian oral traditions also inform volcanologists of the range of behaviors at Hawai'i's active volcanoes. For example, when a water lake appeared at the bottom of Halema'uma'u following the 2018 caldera collapse, Hawaiian chants provided clues that surface water had been found at the summit in earlier times. Likewise, the saga of Pele and Hi'iaka is thought to record extensive

lava flows, as well as an earlier collapse of Kīlauea summit caldera, in about the year 1500.

Ho'ona'auao pū mai nā mo'olelo ku'una Hawai'i i nā kanaka kālaipele no ka lawena laulā ma nā luapele o Hawai'i. I la'ana, i ka wā i hua'i ai ka loko wai i ka piko o Halema'uma'u ma hope o ka hāne'e 'ana o Kaluapele ma 2018, aia ma nā oli Hawai'i he mau 'āhuoi no ka hua'i 'ana o ka wai i ka lua ma ka wā ma mua. E like pū me ka mo'olelo o Pele a me Hi'iaka e ho'opa'a ana i ka nui 'ā pele, me kekahi hāne'e 'ana o ka nu'u o Kīlauea ma kahi o ka makahiki 1500.

Native Hawaiians today continue to call the elemental force creating the 'āina (land) Pelehonuamea (Pele of the red earth), while molten lava is pele (no longer used with English additions such as "Madame, Goddess, or Deity"). 'Ōlelo no'eau (Hawaiian sayings and proverbs compiled and interpreted by Mary Kawena Pukui) pertaining to Pelehonuamea describe her relationship with landscapes and people living on them, particularly in the District of Puna. "Ka wahine 'ai lā'au o Puna" translates to the "tree-eating woman of Puna." "Pō'ele ka 'āina o Puna," tells us that "The land of Puna is blackened [by lava flows]." These sayings convey a sense of geologic history of destructive lava flows from Kīlauea in Puna.

Mau nō nā kanaka maoli e kapa aku ana i ke akua nāna ka hānau 'āina 'o Pelehonuamea, 'o Pele o ka honua mea ho'i, a 'o ka pele ho'ohē'e 'ia ka pele, 'oi ai 'a'ole ho'ohana i nā inoa kapakapa e like me Madame, Goddess, a i 'ole 'o Deity. Wehewehe nā 'Ōlelo no'eau, 'o ia nā 'ōlelo akamai na Mary Kawena Pukui i hō'ulu'ulu a unuhi, no Pelehonuamea i kona pilina me nā hi'ohi'ona 'āina a me ka po'e e noho ana ma laila, keu ho'i ma ka moku 'o Puna. Unuhi 'ia 'o Ka wahine 'ai lā'au o Puna i ka mana'o no ka wahine o

'Ōlelo *Volcano Watch*, pg. 15

The Ka'ū Calendar



MARCH EVENTS

Exhibition: The Dietrich Varez Legacy: Expanded Collection continues through May 26 at VAC gallery in HVNP

- 3/2 - The Sounds of Nialani Musical Forest Tour with Dina Kageler
- 3/9 - Soft Pastel Still Life with Patti Pease Johnson
- 3/9 - Hula Kahiko: Unulau, a hālau hula under the direction of Kumu Hula Pele Kaio in HVNP
- 3/9 - Zentangle with Lydia Meneses
- 3/9 - Jazz in the Forest: "Maiden Voyage" with JP Thoma & the Jazztones
- 3/18 through 3/22 - Liko A'e Spring Camp
- 3/23 - Reiki 2 Certification with Heather Penfield
- 3/23 - Puppets on the Path
- 3/30 - Papermaking with Mary Milezcik

Aloha Fridays Cultural Demonstration at VAC gallery in HVNP

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Input Sought: Kīlauea Summit Congestion, Safety, Resource Protection, Experience

Congestion, safety, resource protection, and improvement of experience at the busy Kīlauea Summit are subjects of a call for public input on a Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park plan. Kīlauea Summit Area and Corridor Management Plan aim to identify management strategies and solutions to reduce conflicts among cars, buses, motorcycles, bicyclists (including e-bikes), and pedestrians on park roads and trails that traverse the popular and often-crowded summit of Kīlauea volcano.

“We want to hear from those who hold a deep connection to the park, who participate in cultural protocol, and who recreate or conduct business here. Your voice matters and will help park management develop

solutions to the many problems overcrowding has created,” said Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park Superintendent Rhonda Loh.

An online newsletter describes the desired conditions of the project, the issues the plan will address, and project goals. It is available for comment at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/kilaueasummitcmp>.

The public comment period began Thursday, Feb. 22 and ends March 22. The statement released by the Park says the “comment period is the initial phase of the plan, and future opportunities to provide input will be announced as the plan develops.”

It says that since 2008, following the first significant summit eruption since 1924, park visitation has soared, with most visi-



Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is asking for public input on developing a plan to tackle crowding at Kīlauea summit and other areas. Need for the plan was described in the 2016 Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park General Management Plan.

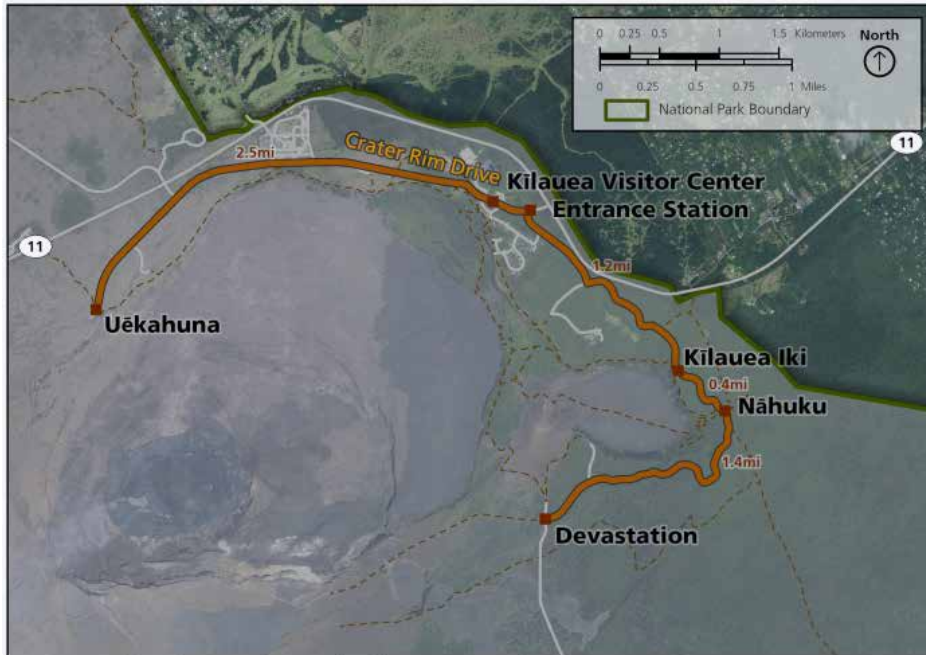
NPS photo

tors drawn to areas between Uēkahuna and Devastation, including Nāhuku lava tube, Kīlauea Iki, Kīlauea Visitor Center, the entrance station and the overall summit corridor. “The high concentration of vehicles and people in a relatively small area often results in full parking lots, lines of traffic at the entrance station, crowded overlooks and frustrated visitors.”

Major damage to Crater Rim Drive and the loss of buildings and infrastructure during the 2018 Kīlauea eruption and summit collapse “has exacerbated

park congestion, especially during the busy winter and summer holiday travel seasons. The park lost Jaggar Museum, a portion of Crater Rim Drive, Halema‘uma‘u Overlook and ‘Iliahi Trail due to the eruptive events that year,” says the Park statement.

The need for, and development of a Kīlauea summit site plan was included in https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/management/upload/Hawaii-Volcanoes-General-Management-Plan_2016_508.pdf.



Punalu‘u Conditions, from pg. 1

the project design prior to development activities described in this permit. The applicant will ensure that any recommendations or requirements made by SHPD related to either cultural or archaeological sites will be implemented as directed, which may include, but not be limited to, cultural and archaeological monitoring during development of the project.

Artificial light from exterior lighting fixtures, including, but not necessarily limited to floodlights, up- lights or spotlights used for decorative or aesthetic purposes shall be prohibited if the light directly illuminates or is directed to project across property boundaries, or toward the shoreline and ocean waters, except as may otherwise be permitted pursuant to Section 205A-71(b), Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

All development-generated runoff shall be disposed of on-site and shall not be directed toward any adjacent properties. A drainage study shall be prepared by a professional civil engineer licensed in the State of Hawaii and submitted to the Department of Public Works prior to issuance of Final Plan Approval. Any recommended drainage improvements, if required,

‘Ōlelo Volcano Watch, from pg. 14

Puna nāna e pau ana ka ululā‘au i ka ‘ai ‘ia.” Hō‘ike ‘ia ka mana‘o ‘o Pō‘ele ka ‘āina o Puna i ka ‘āina o Puna i pō‘ele ‘ia e ka ‘ā pele. Hō‘ike kēia mau ‘ōlelo no‘eau i ka mō‘aukala hulihonua o nā ‘ā pele lauahi mai Kīlauea i Puna.

Over the years, spellings of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i words and place names have evolved, to better reflect their pronunciation, meaning, or grammar. For example, the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names provides guidance to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN), which standardizes the spellings names of places, features, and areas within the United States. They recently corrected the spelling of lava shield features on the Southwest Rift Zone and East Rift Zone of Kīlauea. Maunaiki and Maunaulu, both of which used to be two words (Mauna Iki and Mauna Ulu), are now one to better align with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i rules, grammar, and usage.

Ma ka holo ‘ana o nā makahiki, lili- uewe maila ka pela ‘ana o nā hua‘ōlelo Hawai‘i a me nā inoa ‘āina, i mea e hō‘ike kūpono ai kona puana, kona mana‘o, a i ‘ole kona ‘ōlelo. I la‘ana, alaka‘i mai ka ‘Aha Kūkā Hawai‘i i ka ‘Aha Kūkā ‘Amelika hui pū ‘ia, ‘o USBGN ho‘i, ma nā inoa hulihonua, e ho‘opa‘a kūmau ana

shall be constructed meeting with the approval of the Department of Public Works prior to receipt of a Certificate of Occupancy for any portion of the development.

A Solid Waste Management Plan shall be submitted to the Department of Environmental Management for review and approval prior to the issuance of Final Plan Approval.

During construction, measures shall be taken to minimize the potential of both fugitive dust and runoff sedimentation. Such measures shall be in compliance with construction industry standards and practices utilized during construction projects of the State of Hawai‘i.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, if required, shall be secured from the State Department of Health before the commencement of construction activities.

The applicant shall submit for review and approval a Traffic Assessment (TA) as required by the State Department of Transportation prior to issuance of any construction permits. The applicant shall construct any required improvements.

The applicant shall include the location of all preserves, sites, preservation buffers or similar protection strategies on the site plan and all future maps submitted to the County in conjunction with any application reviews or approval requests.

In the event that surface or subsurface historic resources, including human skeletal remains, structural remains (e. g., rock walls, terraces, platforms, etc.), cultural deposits, marine shell concentrations, sand deposits, or sinkholes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance and contact the State Historic

Punalu‘u Conditions, pg. 16

ka pela inoa ‘ana o nā ‘āina, nā hi‘ohi‘ona, a me nā wahi i loko o ‘Amelika hui pū ‘ia. ‘Akahi nō lākou a ho‘opololei i ka pela ‘ana o nā hi‘ohi‘ona kuahene pele ma ke kā‘ei māwae komohana hema a me ke kā‘ei māwae hikina o Kīlauea. Ho‘oku‘i ‘ia ‘o Maunaiki a me Maunaulu, ‘oia he ‘elua hua‘ōlelo nā inoa ‘elua ma mua ‘o ia ‘o Mauna Iki a me Mauna Ulu, i mea e hahai pololei ai i nā lula, ka ‘ōlelo a me kona mau ‘ano i ho‘ohana ‘ia ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.

The names of some locations have also changed over time. Using details found on archival maps of the early 19th century, the name of Kīlauea caldera, the site of frequent eruptions over the past 200 years, was recently updated in the USBGN database to be Kaluapele, meaning “the pit of Pele.” The seamount formerly named Lō‘ihi (because of its length) was updated based on Native Hawaiian cultural knowledge, including chants, to Kama‘ehuakanaloa—“the ruddy, reddish child of Kanaloa,” the elemental force whose kuleana (responsibility) includes the ocean.

Ho‘ololi pū nā inoa o kekahi o kēia mau ‘āina ma ka holo ‘ana o ka wā. Ma ka ho‘ohana ‘ana i nā lāli‘i i ho‘okumu ‘ia ma nā palapala ‘āina kahiko o ke kenekulia ‘umikūmāiwa hiki mua, ho‘ololi ‘ia ka inoa o ka lua ‘o Kīlauea i Kaluapele, ‘o ia ho‘i kahi e hua‘i pinepine ana ma nā makahiki he 200 i hala aku nei, ma ka polokalamu hōkeo ‘ikepili USBGN me ka mana‘o o ka lua a Pele. Ua ho‘ololi ka mauna kai i kapa inoa mua ‘ia ‘o Lō‘ihi, no kona lō‘ihi ho‘i, ma muli o ka ‘ike ku‘una ‘ōiwi e like me nā oli, i ka inoa ‘o Kama‘ehuakanaloa - ‘o ia ke kama ‘ehu a Kanaloa, ‘o ke akua ho‘i nona ke kuleana o ka moana.

The USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory stated that it “looks forward to future opportunities to incorporate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i vocabulary, and deeply appreciates valuable observations of volcanic activity made by Native Hawaiians.”

Hoihoi Ka Hale Kilo Lua Pele Hawai‘i USGS i nā wā kūpono mai kēia mua aku e ho‘okomo i ka hua‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, a mahalo maoli ‘ia nā kilo waiwai o nā ‘īnana ‘ā pele i waiho ‘ia e nā kanaka maoli.

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<https://health.hawaii.gov/ewaste/>

Hana Lāulima's Ho'olaule'a Set for March 30

Enjoy food, music, hula, crafts and Hawaiian cultural demos with the 'ohana at the Prince Kūhiō Day Ho'olaule'a held on Saturday, March 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Nā'ālehu County Park. Put on annually by local non-profit Hana Lāulima and Lāhui O Ka'ū, the event serves to be a mini model of Hawaiian Cultural Center for Ka'ū, a longtime dream for many residents, some of which have passed on. While Hana Lāulima continues to make positive progress in making this a reality, the community can come out to the ho'olaule'a to show support for the project and take advantage of having a variety of educational exhibits, public information booths, food and craft vendors all in one place.



includes Green Sands Trio, Na 'A'ali'i, Backyahd Bruddahs, Bruddah Ben Mejia and Braddah Dane Sesson, Hālau Nā Wai Iwi Ola and Ka'ū Grown. Hawaiian cultural demos will showcase wa'a and voyaging, weaving, ku'i kalo, 'ukulele and more. Ho'olaule'a T-shirts will also be on sale, along with food and crafts.

Event co-sponsors are Hawai'i County Parks & Rec, Nā'ālehu Shopping Center - WKI Inc. Masazo's Pig Farm, 'O Ka'ū Kākou, Punalu'u Black Sand Beach LLC, Edmund C. Olson Trust, Punalu'u Bake Shop, Ocean View L&L and Office of County Councilmember Michelle Galimba.

Visit hanalaulimalahuiokau.org for more information.

This year the entertainment lineup

Mele Mural, from pg. 10

blessing upon faculty, staff and community members. Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa complex area Superintendent Stacey Bello and 'Iwalani Harris, also from the KKP complex area office also attended to congratulate the student body on their collective effort.

Estria Foundation creates art in public with assistance from artists, youth, educators, and activists. "Our goal is to raise awareness and inspire action in the movement to resolve human and environmental issues while educating and developing youth," says its website at melemurals.org. The Estria Foundation was founded in 2010 by mural artist Todd "Estria" Johnson and technologist Jeremy LaTrasse. Their aim is to "raise the social conscious-

ness on human and environmental issues through public art projects, education, and community events across the globe." Another local mural project of Estria is at Ka'ū High and Pāhala Elementary.

During the Nā'ālehu Elementary production, family and friends of the students were invited to help with the painting, pai'ena pena, including outlining the mural images.

The signage for the mural gives mahalo to Ke Akua, Nā Akua, Nā Aumākua, Nā Kupuna, Principal Wilma Roddy, Cas Stacey Bello, 'Iwalani Harris, Ulu Makuakane, Corina Adams, Jessica Lorenzo, 'Aliohilani Housman, staff of Nā'ālehu Elementary School, Estria and Nā Kia'i O Ka'ū.



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50-Year Comparison of Punalu'u Development Plans

Original Development Plan (1967)

2,983 units



Coastline developed for private projects

Development Plan (2006)

1,823 units



Coastline developed for private projects

Proposed Development Plan (2024)

230 units



Permanent conservation area open to the community

Current development plans incorporate years of community engagement to drastically reduce units and permanently open shoreline to the community by placing it into conservation

Black Sand Beach, LLC notes that its current development plans are for far fewer units than in previous proposals by other developers.

Punalu'u Conditions, from pg. 15

Preservation Division at (808) 933- 7651. Subsequent work shall proceed upon an archaeological clearance from DLNR-SHPD when it finds that sufficient mitigation measures have been taken.

An annual progress report shall be submitted to the Planning Director prior to the anniversary date of the effective date of this permit. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the status of the development and to what extent the conditions of approval are being complied with. This condition shall remain in effect until all of the conditions of approval have been complied with and the Planning Director acknowledges that further reports are not required.

An initial extension of time for the performance of conditions within this permit may be granted by the Planning Director upon the following circumstances:

The non-performance is the result of conditions that could

Punalu'u Public Hearing, from pg. 1

between Kona and Hilo and is the main ocean gathering place for Ka'ū families. They also point to hawksbill turtles nesting and green turtles basking on the Black Sand Beach and contend that more people will impact the endangered species there and deter locals from going to the place. During construction, there could be a rise in home rental prices to accommodate construction workers. As the resort develops, more people could come here and start buying houses, driving prices up, say opponents.

Letters of support and opposition have circulated, along with a petition online opposing the project with more than 800 signatures as of late Feb. 29. A Save Punalu'u

not have been foreseen or are beyond the control of the applicant, successors or assigns, and that are not the result of their fault or negligence.

Granting of the time extension would not be contrary to the General Plan or Zoning Code.

The granting of the time extension would not be contrary to the original reasons for the granting of this permit.

The time extension granted shall be for a period not to exceed the period originally granted for performance (i.e., a condition to be performed within one year may be extended for up to one additional year).

If the applicant should require an additional extension of time, the Planning Department shall submit the applicant's request to the Planning Commission for appropriate action.

Should any of the foregoing conditions not be met or substantially complied with in a timely fashion, the Planning Director may initiate procedures to revoke the permit.

meeting sign-waving rally was set for Saturday, March 2, at Punalu'u Pavilion at 10 a.m. Ka'ū Advisory Council announced a meeting on March 3 to discuss concerns about Punalu'u and Ka'ū at Pāhala Community Center at 1 p.m. A Zoom event at KaiLoki's in Ocean View is sponsored by Ka'ū Radio to participate and watch the Punalu'u public hearing at 9 a.m. on March 7.

Attendees at the Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee meeting in late February asked the group to become more involved in the future of Punalu'u.

Read the notice with options to testify by Zoom and watch via YouTube at <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/WebLink/1/edoc/128532/2024-03-07%>

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