



Punalu'u Bake Shop's Chief Financial Officer Connie Koi.

Punalu'u Bake Shop Launches Healthy Voyager Bar

Voyager Bars, some made with Ka'u Coffee, are manufactured in Nā'ālehu by the 48 employees of Punalu'u Bake Shop. A statement from Punalu'u Bake Shop's Chief Financial Officer Connie Koi describes the origins of Voyager, Hawai'i's Energy Bar.

"When ancient Polynesians paddled their canoes to the islands of Hawai'i, they carried precious life-sustaining cargo: ulu (breadfruit), niu (coconut) and ma'a (banana). Today, Punalu'u Bake Shop is honoring the rich cultural heritage of these traditional 'canoe foods' with its new Voyager Bars – nutritious energy bars made with ulu, niu and ma'a plus other delicious quality ingredients to support the health and active lifestyles of Hawai'i's

residents and visitors. The only energy bars made in Hawai'i, the Voyager Bars are baked at Punalu'u Bake Shop, located in Nā'ālehu on the southernmost part of Hawai'i Island."

Voyager Bars are dairy-free, grain-free, soy-free, egg-free and non-GMO. Each 41-gram bar contains breadfruit flour, coconut flour and dehydrated banana and provides 3.5 grams of protein from vegan ingredients including sunflower seeds, pumpkin seeds, chia seeds and pea protein. The bars are naturally sweetened with honey and tapioca syrup.

Koi said, "Our goal was to create energy bars that
Voyager Bar Launch, pg. 10

THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 22, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2024

Get Ready to Vote for Ka'ū 2024

Ka'ū has a lot to vote for in the upcoming election, its state Senator, state House House of Representative member, County Council member, the County of Hawai'i's mayor, a U.S. Senator, its U.S. House member, trustees for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and more.

While voting isn't as much of a ritual as it was when going to the polls on a set day and standing behind small curtains to cast the ballot, it is easy if people remember to register and to do it through the mail or by traveling to the few live polling places around the island. The plan is for ballots to arrive in mailboxes in the days after July 23rd, to be returned and counted by Aug. 10. Those wishing to vote can still sign up for the Primary and the General Elections. See <https://elections.hawaii.gov/register-to-vote/>.

Vote, pg. 3



Two campaigners at Grand Rally in 2016 are still in office, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono.
Photo by Julia Neal



Independence Day Comes Early to Nā'ālehu

The Independence Day Parade rolled through Nā'ālehu early on Saturday, July 29, with walking groups, sports teams, horseback riders representing

each island, floats, and decorated vehicles. Numerous candidates for office joined the parade, as did church and community groups.

Thy Word Ministries won the Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade Contest with its God Bless America
Independence Day, pg. 15

Ka'ū Coffee Farms Open for the Fest, a Peek at the Future

Seventeen Ka'ū Coffee Farms signed up to welcome guests during Ka'ū Coffee Fest Week in June. It was an example of what could come, visitors learning about the history of each coffee farmer and family and tasting their special brew right on the farms. Ka'ū Coffee farms at Cloud Rest that signed up to receive visitors were those belonging to the following growers:

Kudo, Norberte, Artizabal, Marques, Koi, and Miranda. Ka'ū Coffee farms at Pear Tree were those belonging to the following growers: A Farm, Ramos, Lazaro, Val Ramos, Hernandez, Ancheta, Tabios, Gascon, Melchor, and R&G Farms. The Ka'ū Coffee farms at Wood Valley were Silver Cloud and Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

Farmers who hosted guests during the fest included Bong Aquino, who came out of agriculture in Ka'ū and remembered the days of the sugar plantation shutting down. He and Gloria Camba, President of Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative, created R&G Farms with Aquino who takes care of their 27 acres, mostly by himself, hiring help for picking and some pruning. He told visitors that he has a good life working on the quiet farm in Pear Tree, with the extraordinary mountain and ocean views, among rows of Norfolk pines, banana and palm trees.

He said he has rejected offers to sell his Ka'ū Coffee to Kona and wants to pro-
Ka'ū Coffee Farms, pg. 2



Ka'ū Coffee Farms hosted visitors during Ka'ū Coffee Festival to meet the growers of many different journeys to become coffee farmers.
Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Festival

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P2 Business * P3 Pāhala * P5 Sports Report * P6-7 School & Youth * P8-9 Community Calendar * P10 Nā'ālehu * P11 Kahuku to Miloli'i * P12 Energy & Sustainability * P13 Health * P14 Volcano

KA'Ū BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE

Volume 22, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2024

Ka'ū Coffee Farms, from pg. 1
 tect the Ka'ū Coffee brand.

Ka'ū Coffee grower Ray Kudo talked about growing up in Pāhala and leaving for a long time to build a career as an executive with ABC stores. He and his wife Norma both worked there, with Ray running the stores in Kona and the Island of Kaua'i. After their retirement, they



Pops from A Farm along the old sugar cane road between Pāhala and Nā'ālehu visits other Ka'ū Coffee farms to celebrate their success during Ka'ū Coffee Festival Week. Photo by Julia Neal



Matt Baker and Vance Bjorn, of Silicon Valley Coffee, hear the history of R&G Coffee and the evolution of Ka'ū Coffee after sugar plantation days, as they visit with Bong Aquino, who farms 27 acres, mostly by himself. Photo by Julia Neal

couldn't keep still and decided to shift to an entire new way of life. They bought the former farm of the late Ka'ū Coffee grower Bull Kailiawa and built a small house on the property. Their acreage at Cloud Rest sits under the mountain peak. They said they love the peace and quiet and enjoy the steady work maintaining their farm.

They also own a condo on Ali'i Drive in Kona but say that 90 percent of their time is spent in the quiet countryside where they grow not only coffee but a good

deal of fresh vegetables for themselves and their friends. Ray Kudo's daughter recently graduated from Harvard University.

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The Kudos on the former Bull Kailiawa farm in Cloud Rest. Photo by Julia Neal

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Ka'ū Coffee Festival Picks Winners in Ka'ū Coffee Recipe Contest

The kickoff event of Ka'ū Coffee Festival in June drew participants to enter and view the Recipe Contest at Ka'ū Coffee Mill.

In the Pupu category, Patty Fujimoto came in first with her Tita Taquitos with Aikane Coffee, Braised Cap Kuahiwi Beef. Second was Kristen Davis with her Goat Cheese with Ka'ū Coffee Lehua Honey. Third was Zane Monteleone with his Bur-

rata Salad with Ka'ū Coffee Balsamic Reduction.

In the Entree category, first was Keone Grace with this Ka'ū Coffee Blackened Opakapaka. Second was Zane Monteleone with his Maui Nui Venison Pastrami Dip with Ka'ū Coffee Au Jus. Third was Paul Eddy with his Roasted Ka'ū Coffee Chicken.

In the Dessert category, Patty Fujimoto won with her Ka'ū Coffee Layer Cake. Brittany Zagoria was second with her Ka'ū Coffee Sponge in a Chocolate Bowl. Third was Cosette Paseka with her Ka'ū Coffee Cupcakes with Ka'ū Coffee Cayenne Candied Bacon.

See much more on the Ka'ū Coffee Festival in the week's long coverage beginning June 1 on www.kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com and on www.kaucoffee-festival.com, and on the festival's Facebook.



Ka'ū Coffee Fest Recipe Contest winners.

Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Fest



Ka'ū Coffee Mill hosted Ka'ū Coffee Fest Recipe Contest with entries in Pupu, Entree and Dessert.

Photo by Julia Neal

Ka'ū Coffee Festival Draws Many Thousands to Farms & Ho'olaule'a

The first Ka'ū Coffee Festival since the pandemic drew thousands of people to farms, activities all week and the Ho'olaule'a on June 8 at Pāhala Community Center. Sponsored by Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative, it drew a team of organizers and volunteers from throughout the district and beyond. Funding from such organizations as Hawai'i Tourism Authority. See the sponsors at www.kaucoffee-festival.com.

During the Ho'olaule'a, Hālau Hula 'O Leionānani, with many members coming from Ka'ū Coffee families, performed and raised funding for their travels to represent Ka'ū in such places as Japan and Mexico. Their Kumu Debbie Ryder was the Entertainment Director for the event and brought in such classic Hawaiian performers as Darlene Ahuna, Ku'uipo Kumukahi and Victor Chock, with emcees Kurt Dela Cruz and Makana Kamahele.



Hālau Hula 'O Leionānani performs for Ka'ū Coffee Fest.

Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Festival

Vote, from pg. 1

There is also an opportunity to witness the old-style campaigning that started in 1954 and still remains on this island. It's the Grand Rally at the old Hilo Bandstand, set for Friday, July 19, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. While a tradition of the Democratic

Party, it gives voters closeup access to incumbents in one place, at one time, as they seek reelection to county, state and federal office - they are mostly Democrats. It also provides a close-up look at their challengers in the primary election. They will give speeches in the Mo'oheau Bandstand at 329

Kamehameha Ave. in downtown Hilo. It's the 63rd Annual Primary Grand Rally to get out the vote. There is no charge to attend, and everyone is welcome.

See more on all the candidates from all parties in the July www.kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com daily posts and on *The Ka'ū Calendar's* facebook page.



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THE KA'Ū CALENDAR
The Good News of Ka'ū, July 2024, Vol. 22, No. 7
 The Ka'ū Calendar, P.O. Box 940, Pāhala, HI 96777
 Phone: 808-937-9965 (www.kaucalendar.com)
 Publisher & Editor: Julia Neal, mahalo@aloha.net
 Associate Editor: Nālani Parlin
 Design/Production: Tanya Masaniai Ibarra
 Calendar: kaucalendarnews@gmail.com
 Contributors: Ann Bosted, Peter Anderson, Jodie Rosam, Joan Yoshioka
 For advertising, contact: kaucalendarads@gmail.com
 Printed by Hawai'i Hochi
 See news daily at www.kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com, Twitter, and Facebook.
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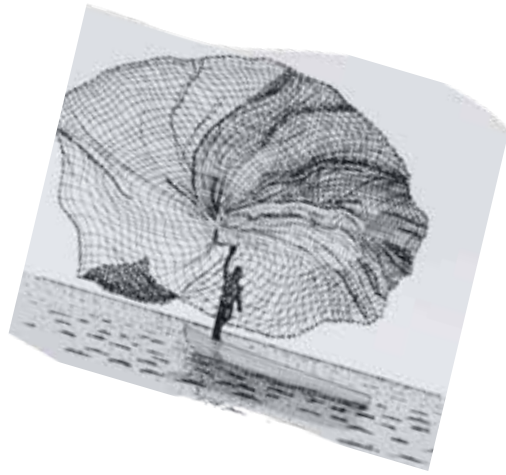
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Program Requirements: Access to high speed internet and grade level reading ability.

Kua O Ka Lā 'Aelike (School Values):

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

Kua O Ka Lā Mission and Vision:

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

Hīpu'u Program Goals:

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

Successful online students:

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

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

Mayor Roth Walks, Talks in Nā'ālehu

Mayor Mitch Roth walked the Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade with his wife Noriko and later met with the public at Nā'ālehu School Gym on June 29.

He entertained questions about animal control and increasing police presence, especially for Ocean View with its property crimes. Citizens asked him about wildfire prevention particularly in Discovery Harbour and Green Sands. The subject came up on incentivizing home and business owners to end the use of cesspools before the deadline, a quarter of a century from now.

in the works with site selection needed. He said the county is also working on animal shelters for Waimea and Kohala. County Council member Michelle Galimba attended the session and focused on the animal control and animal shelter project, which she has spearheaded on the County Council. Roth noted that the county animal shelter system has gone through a number of transitions in recent years, from being run by the Humane Society to another private contractor and temporarily to the police department. He said the county has



Mayor Mitch and Noriko Roth walk the Independence Day Parade route in Nā'ālehu.
Photo by Julia Neal

its own department now and "We are building back." He called animal control "a huge issue" and noted that an Ocean View resident has been hired, along with a Nā'ālehu resident to work on animal control and sheltering.

Roth also noted the need to encourage more people to become volunteer firefighters and more to apply for training to become county firefighters.

He talked about South Point road repairs, Wai'ōhinu Park bathrooms, improvements to the input ramp at Wai'ōhinu Transfer Station, and other

projects. Roth said that increasing the police force is in the plans, involving a stepped up a continuous police recruiting campaign islandwide, with more frequent and larger police academy training sessions. "We need more police officers."

He said that an animal shelter in Ka'ū is

He said countywide, there have been many improvements. He mentioned the county's high bond rating and talked about his vision of a sustainable Hawai'i where keiki could grow up here, stay for work and raise their families.

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KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 22, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2024

Ka'ū Youth Train to be Junior Lifeguards at Punalu'u

The County's Junior Lifeguard program accomplished two training sessions for swimmers ages 12 to 17 this in June in the waters and on the shore at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach.



One of the two classes in Junior Lifeguard training this June at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach
Photo by Laurie Roush-Ortega



One of the two Junior Lifeguard weeklong sessions, held at Punalu'u Black Sand Beach in June
Photo by Laurie Roush-Ortega

An island championship will be held for all the summer Jr. Lifeguard trainees from around the island on Saturday, Aug. 5 at Hapuna.

Each weeklong session at Punalu'u taught participants ocean safety and beach rescue skills. It trained Junior lifeguards in water safety, teamwork, first aid, CPR, surf rescue techniques, and beach and ocean hazard awareness.

Ka'ū Little League Wraps 2024 with Independence Day Parade

Ka'ū Little League made history on June 21. Its Majors team won the first district game in close to 30 years, beating North Hawai'i in the bottom of the sixth inning, 7-6.

Higashi with 11 home runs, and for the Majors team Reyceen Fukunaga with eight home runs. Caleb Crook and Devin Alpin both hit 20 home runs.

Before wrapping up the season, T-Mobile joined Ka'ū Little League to host a Home Run Derby for all registered Ka'ū Little League players. Each player got two minutes to hit as many home runs as they could. The winners of the Home Run Derby were, for the Minors teams Derek

Ka'ū Little League will begin again at the start of the New Year. A message from the organizers, including Joshua and Elizabeth Crook, says, "We would like to thank all the sponsors, those who donated equipment and money, coaches, umpires, parents and players for a successful year."



Ka'ū Little League players and parents thank the sponsors during Independence Day Parade.
Photo by Lee McIntosh

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KA'U SCHOOL & YOUTH

'O Ka'ū Kākou Names Scholarship Recipients for 2024

The non-profit community service group 'O Ka'ū Kākou gives scholarships annually and this year selected the following:

Janeea Bonoan graduated from Ka'ū High School in May and gave the commencement speech. She is enrolled in University of Hawai'i at Hilo this fall to pursue a medical career as a pediatrician or nurse. The OKK announcement says, "Janea is passionate about children's health and dreams of returning to Ka'ū frequently to hold free health check up clinics for kids. She feels that participating in volunteer community services made her realize how important it is to connect and reconnect with people in the community. She says 'It doesn't matter if it's big or small, as long as you find a ways to give back to your community.'"



Janeea Bonoan



Leinaia Andrade



Nalani Blanco-Louis

to return to Ka'ū "to be able to give people amazing care and experiences just as my dentist and orthodontist did for me." Andrade has participated in many volunteer activities and reported to OKK that her "volunteer experiences helped drive my passion for helping and aiding others in the community." OKK reports that she "wants to be able to give back to her community because they have instilled so many important values in her that created the strong and industrious individual she is today."

Nalani Blanco-Louis graduated from Ka'ū High School in May. OKK reports that "She has a passion for animals because she grew up in Ka'ū participating in ranching, hunting and fishing. She will be attending Hawai'i Community College in Hilo this fall and has plans to pursue a degree in Veterinary Medicine. Her career intentions are to open a veterinary clinic to service Ka'ū District ranchers and clients. She has been a volunteer to help restore Honu'apo Beach and states 'It felt good because I was not doing it just for any-

one, I did it for the 'āina,' She feels that her 'community has given me so much that I need to give back something.'"

See more on OKK, its scholarship program, President Wayne Kawachi and boardmembers at <https://www.facebook.com/okaukakou/> and www.okaukakou.org. In addition to the organization's continuous volunteer work from Food Bank to helping with Ka'ū Coffee Festival, upcoming events include the Ka'ū Coffee Trail Run on Sept. 24.



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PATCH helps with childcare needs, reaching out after Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade. See patchhawaii.org.

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Ka'ū Night Skies - July 2024

by Christopher Phillips

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

This July, look out for a string of celestial visitors in the eastern sky during the early morning. Mars (Holoholopinaau), Jupiter (Hokuloa), and Saturn (Nahoholo) can be seen just before dawn. All three planets are very bright and strung across the sky from the eastern horizon to the south. Jupiter will be located lowest on the horizon, with Mars and Saturn a little higher in the sky. All three are very bright and easy to spot during a cloudless dawn twilight and even in the brightness of a full moon.

JULY MOON PHASES

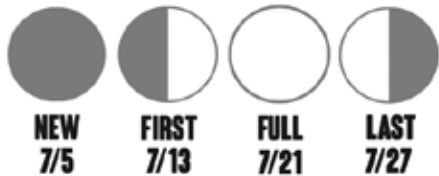


Image credit: 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i

Our Hawaiian sky

This month the Hawaiian starline of **Ka Iwikuamo'o** (The Backbone) continues to be prominent in our night sky. It is sometimes represented as the backbone of



Tidal Heating

a great lizard or that of a genealogical backbone, with each star representing a generation. This magnificent starline begins in the North ('Ākau) and extends from Hōkūpa'a (Fixed star) which in western tradition is known as the North star, Polaris. Our starline extends all the way South (Hema) to Hānaiakamalama (Cared for by the Moon), which is known as the Southern Cross. The line can be traced through the various constellations that make up Ka Iwikuamo'o just as one can trace one's own genealogy. A path from one's self to one's ancestors, back through time. Each set of stars is a unique entity with its own identity.

During this month we also see another starline rise to prominence, **Mānaiakalani**, which is known by several names depending on translation. It can be known as The Chief's Fish Line, Come-From-Heaven, or Maui's Fish Hook. The rise of this starline in our evening sky marks our transition to the stars of summer. The starline

is composed of several notable asterisms, which are collections or patterns of stars. The largest of these is the fishing spool, made up of a great triangle of three bright stars. This trio is referred to as The Navigator's Triangle (Huinakolu). Within it are the stars of Pira'atea, Keoe, and Humu. You may also know these stars by their Arabic names, Deneb, Vega, and Altair, respectively. The fishing line extends to the constellation of Sagittarius, which in this context is Pimoe, the giant Ulua fish. Next to this is the distinctive shape of the hook itself, Ka Makau Nui o Māui, also known as Scorpio, the scorpion.

The region dominated by Pimoe and Ka Makau Nui o Māui also marks the center of our Galaxy, the Milky Way. On a moonless night, the bright core of the Galaxy, filled with the light of millions of stars, is a sight to behold. On either side, the great spiral arms of the Milky Way can be seen extending out from the bright core, with vast dark clouds of star-forming material silhouetted against the light of countless stars.

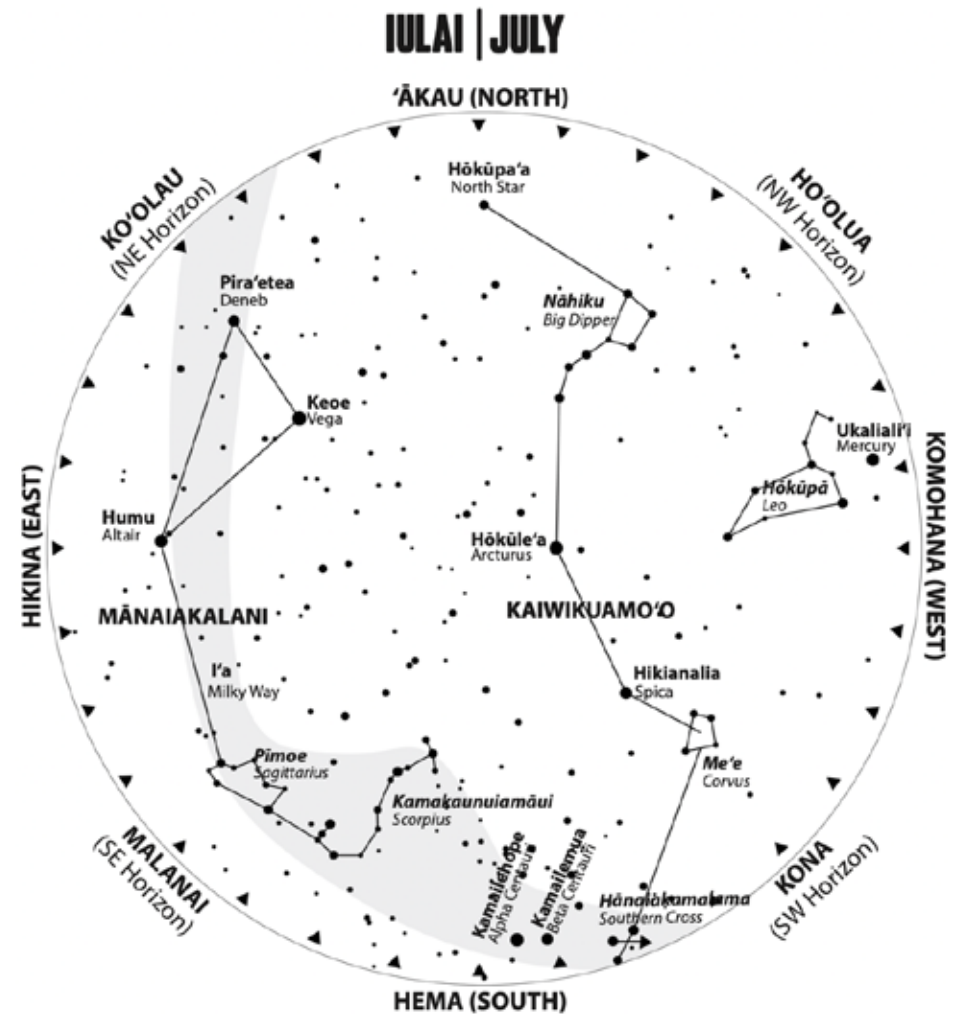
Fires in the Sky

NASA's Juno spacecraft has recently captured spectacular images of two volcanic plumes rising high over the small Jovian moon of Io. This small moon is the innermost moon of Jupiter and it is the most volcanically active body in the entire solar

system, with hundreds of active volcanoes at any one time. This extreme volcanism is driven by the small moon's proximity to the massive Jupiter. As Io orbits the giant planet, it is squeezed and stretched by the gravitational shear of Jupiter. This produces massive amounts of internal heat, a process known as tidal heating.

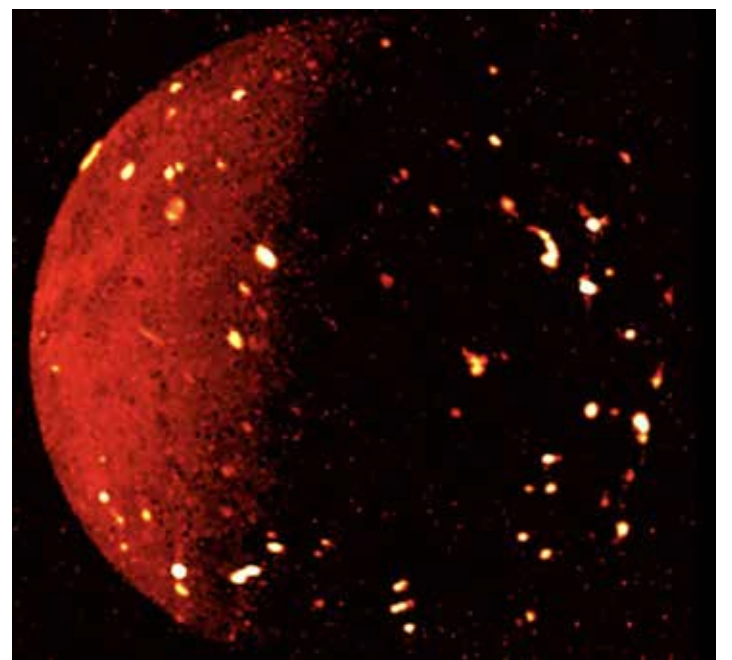
The result is non-stop volcanism on a scale that dwarfs our very own Earth.

We are no strangers to volcanism



Sky Chart from 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i

here on Hawai'i Island. We often feel the stirrings of vast geological forces as they shape and sculpt our world, both above and below the surface. The same forces that shape these islands, and indeed the entire surface of the Earth, are the same forces that shape the worlds and moons of our solar system. We see familiar geological sights when we study the rocky worlds of the inner planets. The vast shield volcanoes on Mars and Venus, almost identical to those of Mauna Loa and Maunakea, and when we look to the outer planets to the gas giant planet of Jupiter, we also see familiar features but on



Volcanoes on Io

Image Credit: NASA/JPL

a much more extreme scale. A reminder that all the planets share a common bond and that the solar system is very much alive. Each day, the worlds of our solar family are being shaped by the same forces that shape our āina and our lives here in Hawai'i.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WATERCOLOR PAINTING DEMONSTRATION WITH DIANA MILLER is Wednesday, July 3 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Volcano Arts Center gallery porch of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: Lei making with Kaipo Ah Chong. Friday, July 5 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Tropical Agriculture farmer Kaipo Ah Chong, a member of Hālau Nā Kamalei, marries the science of agriculture with Hawaiian lei and hula traditions. Free cultural event part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid (GIA) Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

THE SOUNDS OF NIAULANI MUSICAL FOREST TOUR is Saturdays, July 6 and 20 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Volcano Arts Center Niaulani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn about distinctive Hawaiian native plants and environment through song and story by Dina Kageler and Loren Brownlea. Playful and educational event suitable for all ages, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Event sponsored by the Atherton Foundation.

STEWARDSHIP AT THE SUMMIT is Fridays, July 5 & 26 and Saturdays, July 13 & 20 from 8:45 a.m. - noon, meet near Kīlauea Visitor Center restrooms in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Volunteers help remove plant species that prevent native plants growth. Wear sturdy hiking shoes and long pants. Bring hat, raingear, day pack, snacks and water. Gloves and tools provided. Under 18 years old require parental or guardian accompaniment or written consent. More at https://www.nps.gov/havo/playourvisit/summit_stewardship.htm.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SESSION is Tuesday, July 9 from 1:30 p.m. at Pāhala Community Center. Public meeting to gather community input for development of 2025-2029 Consolidation Plan. Sponsored by County of Hawai'i Office of Housing & Community Development. More at www.housing.hawaiicounty.gov.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: NĀ WA'A: THE ART OF OCEANIC CANOE BUILDING is Tuesday, July 9 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn from Dr. Doug Herman, executive director of Pacific Worlds Institute, about the history and creation of Polynesian voyaging canoes. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and co-sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

'IKE HANA NO'EAU "EXPERIENCE THE SKILLFUL ART" - KO'I (STONE ADZE) DEMONSTRATION is Wednesday, July 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 'Ōhi'a Wing of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Tom Pico shares his knowledge of the ko'i, an important tool used to carve canoes from trees, hollow out bowls, notch pots for homes and for carving ki'i (statues). Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing 'Ike Hana No'EAU (Experience the Skillful Work) Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: WITH DESIREE MOANA CRUZ is Friday, July 12 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Desiree Moana Cruz shares traditional and

contemporary dye processes and the use of repetitive symbolism featured in hula garments. She is an advocate for Hawaiian practitioners and a member of Hālau Na Kipu'upu'u of Waimea. Free cultural events are part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid (GIA) Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

BLOCK PRINTING AND STAMPING ON FABRIC WITH MARGO VITARELLI is Saturday, July 13 from 9 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Design your own tea towel. Learn to print on fabric with hand-made stamps. Class fee \$70/ (\$65 for VAC members) plus \$25 supply fee. No experience necessary. Space limited. Pre-registration required at <https://volcanoartcenter.org/events/registration-workshops-classes/>.

HAWAII NEI INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION is Saturday, July 13 - August 25 at Volcano Art Center gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ZENTANGLE® BASIC & BEYOND W/ DINGBATZ WITH LYDIA MENESES is Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn Zentangle pattern-drawing method and mindful drawing practice. No experience necessary. Class fee Cost is \$35/\$30 VAC members plus a \$15 supply and facility fee.

HULA KAHIKO featuring Hālau Ka Lehua Pua Kamaehu under the direction of Nā Kumu Hula, Kasie Puahala Kaleohano and Brandi Nohelani Barrett is Saturday, July 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. near the Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Part of yearlong Hula Arts at Kīlauea program. Free event. Park fees apply.

JAZZ IN THE FOREST: JP & THE JAZZTONES - WE'VE GOT A CRUSH ON GEORGE GERSHWIN is Saturday, July 13 from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. With songs from George Gershwin's opera. Featuring Jeannine Guillory-Kane, Joey Carroll, Greg Shirley, Jean Pierre Thoma and Owen Matsuda. Tickets at <https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/purchase-tickets-to-vac-events/>.

JOHN KEAWE IN CONCERT is Wednesday, July 17 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Hawaiian music by local performer, John Keawe, a kiho'alu (slack-key) guitarist, composer, recording artist, Grammy-award winner and Nā Hoku Hanohano music award winner. Part of the Nā Leo Manu "Heavenly Voices of Hawaiian Music" concerts and presentations. Co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association. Free event. Park fees apply.

FREE DRAWING CLASSES WITH KEN CHARON are Thursdays, July 18 and 25 from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Volcano Art Center Niaulani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn basic drawing technique and helpful tips. Sign-up is first-come, first-serve. Supplies provided. Partially supported by Hawai'i County Waiwai Program. More at (808) 967-8222.

EXHIBIT: QUILTS IN THE FOREST - 50 YEARS OF CREATIVITY is open Wednesdays to Sundays from Friday, July 19 from 10 a.m. - Sunday, August 11 at 4 p.m. in Volcano Art Center of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Featuring fabric and fiber art from artists across Hawai'i. For more contact Fia Mattice (808) 967-8222 or info@volcanoartcenter.org.

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.

Maile (*Alyxia stellata*)

Description: Graduation season has just ended, which is why this month we are talking about maile. Maile is a well-known, partially-woody, sprawling liana in the dogbane or Apocynaceae family. It is a cousin to the native trees hōlei (*Ochrosia* spp.), two species of kaulu (*Pteralyxia* spp.) and hao (*Rauvolfia sandwicensis*), and the non-native plumeria. Between two and four green and glossy leaves emerge from each node and can be quite variable, so it is no surprise that there are multiple names for maile relative to their forms, such as: maile ha'i wale (brittle maile), maile lau nui (big-leaved maile), maile lau li'i (small-leaved maile), maile lau li'i li'i (very small-leaved maile), and maile kaluhea (fragrant maile). The leaves, flowers, and bark all contain the organic chemical compound coumarin, which is responsible for the strong yet sweet scent we all associate with maile. When crushed, the leaves smell similar to lau'a'e, as do the small white or yellow flowers, and the stripped bark smells almost like vanilla and honey with a dash of cinnamon. Maile produces deep purple, olive-shaped drupes (fruits) which typically ripen in the winter months and are a favorite food of native forest birds, such as the 'ōma'o.

Uses: Maile was formerly a very common component of Hawai'i's forests, and its uses were plentiful. It makes sense that many uses were centered around its aroma. Scented plants like maile were stored with kapa (cloth) that was used for clothing and bedding to give them a sweet smell. Maile kaluhea was also used to make a washing fluid for lacerations or abscesses and in sweat or steam baths. Maile was also used for bird catching (and maile is a name for a snare used to catch kōlea or plovers around the leg). Maile is a major component in hula because of its association with Laka and its importance to the forest.

Maile was also historically prized for lei making, which is undoubtedly the most well-known use of this plant today, as maile lei are popular for weddings and graduations. While there are a few commercial maile growers, many lei makers tend to harvest maile in the forests. There is a reason why maile is the plant of the month right now - to highlight the direct association between an increase in unsustainable maile harvesting for lei around graduation times and the decrease in wild populations of maile in our forests. I encourage you to get creative next year, and try using plant materials other than maile to drape around and celebrate the graduate in your 'ohana. Together we can bring maile back to abundance!

Habitat: Maile's natural range spans from Hawai'i Island to Kaua'i and in vegetation types from dry to closed-canopy wet forests from approximately 150 to 6,500 feet elevation. Again, while maile was a very common component of mesic to wet native forests, it is becoming much more scarce. Unsustainable harvesting methods and general overharvesting for profit around graduation season has had a detrimental impact on this species specifically, notably in the forests of Ka'ū. With time to heal, however, maile could very well be one of the most common species encountered once again.

Growing and Purchasing: There are a few commercial maile growers (which should be applauded for taking the pressure off of the forests!), so you can grow your own maile at home and harvest from that as you please. Maile is quite individualistic when not naturally-occurring, so take the time to get to know your plant's sun requirements before you place her into the ground. Maile like partial sun and a decent amount of water, just be sure the soil is well drained. Maile tend to do best when planted with friends such as 'ōhi'a or hāpu'u, so they make a great addition to the native plant garden you have started. Once established, play around with pruning at the nodes to encourage vigorous growth. I highly encourage you to bring maile into your life, and remember that we have the chance right now to change the trajectory of the fate of this species persistence in the forests.



Joan Yoshioka

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

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



Jodie Rosam



Maile (*Alyxia stellata*)
Art by Joan Yoshioka



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July Calendar, from pg. 8

ALOHA FRIDAYS AT VAC GALLERY: 'UKULELE WITH WES AWANA on Friday July 19 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Wes Awana offers family-friendly lessons on the iconic and inviting 'ukulele. Free cultural events are part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported by in part by Hawai'i State GIA Wai Wai Programs. Park fees apply.

REIKI 1 CERTIFICATION WITH HEATHER PENFIELD is Saturday, July 20 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Volcano Art Center Nialani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Reiki is a complimentary holistic healing technique used to relax and balance the nervous system, assisting the body's natural ability to heal and restore itself on a physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual level. Class fee \$160/ \$155 for VAC members. Register at <https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/registration-workshops-classes/>.

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK'S 40TH HAWAIIAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL is Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Kahuku. With local performers, Hawaiian arts and craft demonstrations and food. Family event. Recommended to bring water, sun protection and rain gear. Co-sponsored by Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event.

AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: KENICHI MAEHARA: PELE'S PHOTOGRAPHER is Tuesday, July 23 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Park Ranger Anekele Hubner shares the life story and eruption photography of Kenichi Maehara, an early 20th century photographer from Hiroshima, Japan. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes' ongoing After Dark in the Park programs and co-sponsored by the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free event. Park fees apply.

ALOHA FRIDAY AT VAC GALLERY: LAUHALA WEAVING WITH KUIIPO KALAHIKI-MORALES is Friday, July 26 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Visitors and kama'aina alike are invited to experience a free, hands-on workshop. Free cultural events are part of VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid (GIA) Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY

COOPER CENTER BOOK SHOP/ THRIFT STORE is open Tuesday - Saturday from 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and Sunday 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. in 19-4030 Wright Rd. Volcano. ½ off day every 3rd Saturday. Donations welcome.

NA'OHULELUA HISTORICAL GARDEN, NURSERY & NATIVE PROPAGATION CENTER IS OPEN by appointment only. 94-6488 Kama'ōa Road, Nā'ālehu. Offering rare & endangered native Hawaiian plants, several varieties of organic Moringa "The Miracle Tree" & more, ready to plant. A Mission of Alanui 'O Ka'ū a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization. Private appointments, special orders, volunteer opportunities and other inquiries alanuiokau@gmail.com or text 808-256-3193.

PICKLEBALL on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Kahuku Park in Ocean View. Beginner classes periodically available on Tuesdays. Contact Jaquie Woodmansee at 808-929-7092.

TALK TO A PARK RANGER: Unveiling the Wonders of Nature and Culture at Uekahuna, daily at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. It's a 30-to-45-minute guided walk from the table at Uekahuna at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Meet at Uekahuna parking. Free.

SOTO NO MICHI AIKIDO MARTIAL ART & MOVEMENT CLASSES are open to new students on Thursdays and Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Pāhala Hongwanji. Keiki and adults 8 and older. Led by Sensei Gabriel Cuevas. New students call 206-291-8832.

YOGA is Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Kahuku Park in Ocean View. Learn more and register, Trisha Meyer at (208) 353-3594.

KUPUNA YOGA is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. - 2:17 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji Mission's Garden. Engage mana'o, kino and akua for stress relief, increased breath/blood flow and regenerative energy. Limited mats. Donation or trade for teacher and temple appreciated. Sign up 11 minutes before start time.

WAI'OHINU YOGA is Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m., Wai'ohinu Park. Weather permitting. Laurie Boyle offers

yoga, all levels. Donations appreciated. No reservations needed. Contact ezmerelda5@gmail.com.

FREE GUIDED NIAULANI NATURE WALK is Mondays, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. starting at Nialani Gallery in Volcano Village in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Introduction to diverse, intact, accessible, old-growth koa/'ōhi'a rain forest. No reservations are required for groups 5 or less. Partially funded by Hawai'i Tourism Authority through Community Enrichment Program. Donations appreciated.

MR. K'S RECYCLE & REDEMPTION ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION is Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 73-5631 Kauhola St., Kona. Free. Open to public. Businesses, government agencies and organizations must make appointment 808-969-1222. <https://www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com/westhawaii.html>.

ST. JUDE'S COMPUTER LAB open Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at 96-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Work-Station Laptops. Printing and shredding available. Training on Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint. Set up email, Facebook, Zoom and more. Game playing limited. No streaming. Privileges can be suspended by Administrator or Lab Coordinator.

ST. JUDE'S SHOWER MINISTRY open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at 92-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Service includes hot water, soap, shampoo, conditioner and clean towels. Must sign up for a time slot from 9 a.m., last sign-up by 11:30 a.m. Supported by Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i's Commission on Mission Beyond Church and St. Jude's own outreach fund. Congregation built the facility.

FREE HELP WITH FAMILY HISTORY Wednesdays from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Family History Center, 95-5682 Hawai'i Belt Road in Nā'ālehu. All are welcome. "Come Discover Your Past," says the statement from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Drop-in assistance includes free Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org, other online resources.

BOOK SHACK open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Kauhaha'ao Congregational Church grounds at 95-1642 Pinao St. in Wai'ohinu.

NĀ'ĀLEHU THRIFT SHOP open Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. All proceeds go toward purchasing food for the Nā'ālehu Resilience Hub Soup Kitchen. All donations and volunteers appreciated. Contact Marcia Masters at 808-936-5639.

OUTDOOR MARKETS

COOPER CENTER'S FARMERS MARKET Sundays from 6 a.m. - 10 a.m. at 19-4030 Wright Rd. Volcano. Breakfast and coffee, local produce, artisan crafts. Local produce, baked goods, food to go, island beef and Ka'ū Coffee. EBT accepted. More at 808-967-7800.

'O KA'Ū KAKOU MARKET Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Nā'ālehu. Contact Nadine Ebert at (808) 938-5124 or June Domondon 808-938-4875.

VOLCANO EVENING MARKET is Thursdays from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 19-4030 Wright Rd, Cooper Center, Volcano Village. Live music, artisan crafts, ono grindz, and fresh produce. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/656338372906619/>.

OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET is Saturdays from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Kona St. and Mamālahoa Highway. Fresh produce, community crafts, local vendors.

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

OCEAN VIEW SWAP & MEET is Saturdays and Sundays, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Ocean View near Mālama Market. Local vendors, fresh-cooked food, eclectic goods.

VOLCANO SWAP & MEET is every second and fourth Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 19-4030 Wright Rd, Cooper Center, Volcano Village. Local artisan crafts and goods, thrift shop with gently used goods, ono grindz and music.

FREE FOOD

FREE MEALS IN NĀ'ĀLEHU served Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Hongwanji. Food donations and volunteers greatly appreciated. A donation of \$1 suggested per meal. <https://www.facebook.com/Naalehu-ResilienceHub/>. Contact Marcia Masters at 808-936-5639.

ST JUDE'S HOT MEALS free to those in need on Saturdays 9 a.m. until food runs out (no later than 1 p.m.), 92-8606 Paradise Circle Drive in Ocean View. Volunteers from the community welcome. Contact Karen at pooch53@gmail.com.

'O KA'Ū KĀKOU FOOD PANTRY open Tuesday, July 23 from 10 a.m., Ka'ū District Gym - Food Distribution Center in Pāhala, 96-1149 Kamani Street Pāhala. More at 808-938-5124.

COOPER CENTER COMMUNITY PANTRY open Wednesday, July 31 from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Cooper Center, 19-4030 Wright Rd Volcano. Closed on holidays. More at 808-967-7800.

SACRED HEARTS - LOAVES AND FISHES open Thursday, July 25 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at 95-5558 Mamālahoa Hwy., Nā'ālehu. More at 808-929-7474.

KA'Ū FOOD PANTRY open Tuesday, July 30 from 9:30 a.m., 92-8606 Paradise Mauka Cir Ocean View. Distribution is at St. Jude's Episcopalian Church above Kahuku Park in Ocean View. More at 224-209-9404.

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NŪPEPA NĀ'ĀLEHU

Volume 22, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2024

Voyager Bar Launch, from pg. 1

are richly delicious and healthy, featuring the foods that provided sustained energy and vital nutrition for the earliest Hawaiians. While other energy bars are imported to Hawai'i, our amazing crew of local Ka'ū residents bake our Voyager Bars right here at our locally owned bakery in Nā'ālehu.

"Voyager Bars are perfect as an easily digestible, tasty snack when you need energy for work or school, as well as for swimming, surfing, paddling, hiking or other sports. They are individually wrapped and don't require refrigeration, so you can tuck them into a lunch box, bag, backpack or purse."

Voyager Bars are available in three flavors:

Dark Chocolate Espresso features locally sourced Ka'ū coffee from Hawai'i Island, with rich notes of dark

chocolate complimenting the bold, invigorating essence of espresso.

Pineapple Coconut Macadamia offers a delightful fusion of tropical flavors, including sun-ripened pineapple, dehydrated bananas,

macadamia nuts and rich coconut.

Chocolate Chip Ginger blends dark chocolate chips with the invigorating zing of tropical ginger.

Voyager Bars are available in KTA, Foodland, Sack & Save, ABC Stores, Nā'ālehu 76, Abundant Life Natural Food Store in Hilo as well as at the Punalu'u Bake



Shop and Visitor Center in Nā'ālehu. The price per bar at most retail outlets ranges from \$2.49 to \$2.99. A box of 12 bars can be purchased at the Punalu'u Bake Shop for \$23.88 or \$1.99 per bar.

Established in 1991 in Nā'ālehu and locally owned, Punalu'u Bake Shop and Visitor Center is known for its world-famous sweet bread (in flavors including taro, guava and honey whole wheat), fresh malasadas, irresistible tropical-flavored cookies and baked goods, fresh-brewed Ka'ū coffee and beverages, salads, sandwiches and local-style plate lunches.

The most visited bakery in the state of Hawai'i, Punalu'u Bake Shop is located on Māmalahoa Highway (Route 11) midway between Kailua-Kona and Volcanoes National Park in the town of Nā'ālehu. It welcomes more than 400,000 visitors from near and far every year, who enjoy strolling the tropical landscaped grounds, shopping in its gift shop and dining in comfortably shaded gazebos.

In addition to employing the 48 local residents, Punalu'u Bake Shop has a proud tradition of supporting local community groups with fundraisers featuring its bread and local products. To learn more, visit www.bakeshophawaii.com.

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Service Times

Sunday Worship Service 9:30am

Live stream at 10:00am
(<https://naalehuag.org/live-stream>)

Filipino Service.... 1st & 3rd Sunday at 6:00pm

Wednesday Family Bible Adventure at 5:30pm

NA'ALEHU Nā'ālehu Assembly of God
95-5678 Hawai'i Belt Rd
Nā'ālehu, HI 96772
(808) 929-7278

Ka'ū Roping & Riding Rodeo set for July 6 & 7

The 45th Annual Ka'ū Roping & Riding 4th of July Rodeo will be held at the Nā'ālehu Rodeo Arena July 6 and 7, with Slack Roping starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday and the show starting on Saturday and Sunday at noon.

Paniolo can enter: Open Dally, Kane/Wahine Dally, Century Team Roping, Double Mugging, Kane/Wahine Ribbon Mugging, Wahine Mugging, Team Sorting. Po'o Wai U, Wahine Breakaway, Keiki Barrels for 9 and Under, Dummy Roping for 4 and Under, Goat Undecorating for 4 and under and 5 to 8 years of age and Calf Riding for 6 to 10 years of age.

See the sign up sheet at Ka'ū Roping & Riding facebook page, along with the rules.

Ka'ū Newsbriefs Blog



Scan here

MAHALO

'O Ka'ū Kākou thanks all who contributed to the 2024 Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade and festivities:

- Carl Okuyama of Ohana Foods
- Hawai'i County
- Honua's Coffee House
- Ka'ū Little League
- Nā'ālehu Ace Hardware
- Nā'ālehu Elementary School
- Nā'ālehu Hongwanji Buddhist Mission
- Punalu'u Bake Shop
- State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation Highways Division

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OV, KAHUKU, MILOLI'I

Volume 22, Number 7

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

July 2024

Hulō! Hawai'i Volcanoes 40th Cultural Fest Comes to Kahuku

Hulō! Local musicians, hālau hula, Hawaiian games, arts and crafts plus exhibitors and food vendors will be featured at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park 40th Cultural Festival happening in Kahuku on Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's free. The theme E Ho'omau i ka Po'ohala, is exemplified in the many performances and hands-on activities that carry on the virtues, arts and skills of the 'ohana.

Sway and sing along to Hawaiian and island-inspired music by well known performers including Kenneth Makuakāne, the Pandanus Club, and Keaīwa. Enjoy

hula arts performed by Kaleilaniakeali'i and LoriLei's Hula Studio. Lauhala artist Joni Mae Makuakāne-Jarrell, an ardent supporter of the Cultural Festival for decades, will emcee.

Everyone is invited to test their skills at nā pā'ani (Hawaiian games), makau (Hawaiian fishhook making), and weaving with lau niu (coconut palm leaves) and lau hala (pandanus leaves). Learn to make lei lā'i (tī leaf lei) and kāhili (feather stan-



Demetrius Oliveria and Gene Beck of the band Keaīwa. Photo from Keaīwa

dards), and how lā'au lapa'au (Hawaiian medicinal plants) can improve one's health. Don't forget to make the mark with 'ohe kāpala - bamboo stamping. Organizers sent a statement saying, "These activities are an integral part of Hawaiian culture and an enlightening, hands-on way to learn about the deep connection between Hawaiians and the natural environment."

Ka'ū Multicultural Society will host a display about paniolo history, and local conservation organizations will share the latest information about Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (University of Hawai'i), honu'ea (Hawai'i Island Hawkbill Project) and efforts to save native forest birds from deadly mosquito-borne illnesses (Birds Not Mosquitoes).

Entrance and the Cultural Festival are free. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase or pack a picnic. Laulima Catering and 4 Scoops of Aloha will offer Hawaiian food, and the Hawaiian Civic Club of Ka'ū will sell lunch plates. The Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park will give away 40th Cultural Fest, pg. 12



Joni Mae Makuakane - Jarrell is a lau hala artist who will emcee the 2024 Cultural Festival at Kahuku on Saturday, July 20. Here she demonstrates weaving a lau hala hat.

NPS Photo by Jessica Ferracane

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Hawai'i Youth Plaintiffs Settle Suit to Reduce Pollution

Hawai'i youth plaintiffs announced, in late June, the settlement of their lawsuit against the state Department of Transportation for emissions that pollute the environment. The announcement said the Navahine v. Hawai'i Department of Transportation constitutional climate case is the world's first youth-led case seeking to address transportation emissions. It was filed by youth ages nine to 19 in 2022 in First Circuit Court. Judge John Tonaki of the Hawai'i State Environmental Court accepted the settlement on June 20. Gov. Josh Green hosted the plaintiffs in his office and vowed to make sure the pollution reduction takes place.

Earth Justice and Children's Trust noted that transportation ranks as the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i, and in the United States.

The settlement acknowledges the constitutional rights of Hawai'i youth to a life-sustaining cli-



State Environmental Judge John Tonaki accepted the settlement between youth plaintiffs and state.

40th Cultural Fest, from pg. 11

free ice shave minis and will sell the official 2024 festival T-shirt. The Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association will sell items from the park store, and a free shuttle between the festival grounds and the parking area on the former air strip will be provided by KapohoKine Adventures.

The 40th Cultural Festival will be a fun-filled, family-friendly drug- and alcohol-free event, say the organizers. Sunscreen and a hat are recommended. Bring water, rain jacket, and ground mat or chair. The cultural festival is co-sponsored by Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, and the Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association.

The Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes is located on the mauka side of Highway 11 near mile marker 70.5 in Ka'ū, a 50-minute drive south of Hawai'i Volcano National Park's main entrance.



Plaintiff Kawena K was nine when the suit was filed. Her family grows kalo, sweet potato, ginger, 'ōlena (turmeric). Photo by Elyse Butler for Earth Justice

mate and confirms the commitment by HDOT to plan and implement transformative changes of Hawai'i's transportation system to achieve the state's goal of net-negative emissions by 2045.

"The passion demonstrated by these young people in advocating for a healthy, sustainable future for their generation and those to come, is laudable," said the Governor. "This settlement informs how we as a state can best move forward to achieve life-sustaining goals and further, we can surely expect to see these and other youth in Hawai'i continue to step up to build the type of future they desire."

Thirteen youth from across the Ha-



Several of the youth plaintiffs' families grow kalo on Hawai'i Island.

Photo by Elyse Butler for Earth Justice

waiian Islands brought the case in June 2022, asserting their rights to a safe and healthy climate and asking the Hawai'i state government to take action to meet the climate emergency and enable Hawai'i's paradigm shift to a climate-safe, zero-emissions transportation system.

Navahine is also the first settlement agreement in which state government departments and agencies have agreed to work with youth plaintiffs, pg. 13

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Mental Health Care Training & Support Become Law

The Hawai'i Legislature passed Senate and House of Representatives bills to address mental health challenges and training for mental health care workers. Gov. Josh Green signed them into law in June.

SB 3139 creates a crisis intervention and diversion services program within the Department of Health, aimed at steering individuals with mental health and substance use disorders away from the criminal justice system and toward appropriate health care services. "Through this bill, we affirm our commitment to a more humane and effective approach to addressing mental health crises in our communities. By prioritizing access to crisis intervention services, we can support individuals in need and foster healthier outcomes for everyone," said the Governor.

HB 2159 amends Hawai'i's mental health statutes, emphasizing enhanced support for individuals needing Assisted Community Treatment. This bill requires the Department of the Attorney General to assist in preparing and filing petitions for ACT, ensuring that individuals receive necessary psychiatric evaluations before discharge from psychiatric facilities, and allowing private petitioners the option to decline state assistance. These changes aim to streamline access to mental health services and divert individuals away from the criminal justice system, promoting a more compassionate and effective approach to mental health care in Hawai'i.

Youth Plaintiffs, from pg. 12

tiffs to address concerns regarding constitutional issues arising from climate change, and commit to implementing specific plans and programs designed to decarbonize a state transportation system and reduce greenhouse gas pollution and fossil fuel dependence.

The statement from the Governor says that the agreement reaffirms Hawai'i's commitment to move from a fossil fuel dependent transportation system to a cleaner, safer system with more electric vehicles and more options for walking, cycling, and public transit. "The agreement offers an exemplary model for decarbonizing transportation systems across the country and the world, including provisions and ongoing action by HDOT." It lists the fol-

lowing actions:

Establishing a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan within one year of the agreement, laying the foundation and roadmap to decarbonize Hawai'i's transportation system within the next 20 years.

Creating a lead unit and responsible positions within HDOT to coordinate the mission of GHG reduction throughout the agency; oversee climate change mitigation and adaptation for the highways program; and ensure implementation of the Complete Streets policy of building and upgrading public highways for all users, ages, and

abilities.

SB 3094 establishes a temporary peer support specialist working group within the Office of Wellness and Resilience to enhance the role and effectiveness of peer support specialists in Hawai'i. Peer support is recognized for its benefits in mental and behavioral health, as well as for individuals facing homelessness, substance abuse, and involvement in child welfare or justice systems.

"Creating the Office of Wellness and Resilience and establishing this working group are visionary steps toward a healthier, more resilient, and more supportive Hawai'i," said the Governor. "Peer support specialists play a vital role in fostering recovery and resilience, and this legislation will strengthen our state's mental health infrastructure."

Establishing a volunteer youth council to advise on HDOT mitigation and adaptation commitments in the years to come.

Improving the state transportation infrastructure budgeting process to prioritize

Youth Plaintiffs, pg. 15

Abundant Health Acupuncture



Mindfulness for Abundant Health

Right now...this moment...is a good time to simply take a deep breath...in through the nose deep down into the belly then out through the mouth...slowly. Let all thoughts release out with the breath.

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Kīlauea Visitor Center to Close for Major Park Renovations

Kīlauea Visitor Center will close and After Dark in the Park will be suspended as early as September.

The purpose is renovations and expansion at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Parking adjacent to the Visitor Center will

be limited during construction.

According to the the Park, the project contract is expected to go out for bid in July, and if awarded next month, construction could begin in September. Once awarded, the contract is expected to take

up to two years to complete.

What this means for visitors is the complete closure of Kīlauea Visitor Center, including the restrooms, water station, and sidewalks around the building. Visitors should expect limited parking at KVC, along Crater Rim Drive West and reduced services. Once KVC closes, programs such as After Dark in the Park and Nā Leo Manu will be suspended until KVC reopens.

Limited visitor services and the Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association store will relocate to a temporary visitor contact station adjacent to the historic ball field near Kīlauea Military Camp.

Volcano House and the Volcano Art Center Gallery will remain open during the project.

Park managers will share details of the renovation and expansion at an After Dark in the Park program August 20 at 7 p.m. in the Kīlauea Visitor Center auditorium.

Renovations planned for Kīlauea Visi-

tor Center include:

- The addition of a covered hālau (pavilion) on the western end of the building;
- Restrooms relocated to the eastern end of the building;
- Full accessibility;
- Interior will be expanded by converting office space into visitor-use space;
- Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association store will shift into a larger interior space, and
- New bilingual exhibits in English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i.

Although September is the soonest the visitor center would close, a delayed start date is possible, according to the Park. Hawai'i Volcanoes staff says the Park will continue to notify the public through news releases, social media and its website. Construction closures and delays are regularly updated on the park's construction webpage: <https://ow.ly/nw5o50SpJ9H>.



Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park staff raises the flag at Kīlauea Visitor Center which is expected to close for up to two years for renovations, as early as September. *NPS Photo*

Quilts In The Forest – 50 Years Creativity

The Volcano Art Center show *Quilts in the Forest - 50 Years of Creativity* invited artists to create works of quilting art steeped in the rich traditions and history of the past or to explore new and innovative ways in quilting. The show displays

the talent of Hawai'i Island quilters, both amateur and professional. The exhibition is free of charge; however, donations are gladly accepted.

The exhibition will be open Wednesdays – Sundays from July 19 – Aug. 11 at VAC's Niaulani campus at 19-4074 Old Volcano Rd. in Volcano Village.

For more information contact Fia Matice, at (808) 967-8222 or via email info@volcanoartcenter.org. Visit www.volcanoartcenter.org



JULY EVENTS

Exhibit: Preserving Hawai'i's Native Environment Through Art:
Paintings by Diana Miller continues through July 7th at VAC gallery in HVNP

Hawai'i Nei Invitational Exhibition
July 13th - August 25th
at VAC gallery in HVNP

Exhibit: Quilts In The Forest - 50 Years of Creativity
July 19th - August 11th
at VAC Niaulani Campus

July 3 - Painting Demonstration with Diana Miller

July 6 - Indigo Dyeing Workshop

July 8 - July 12 - Liko A'e July Art Camp

July 6 & July 20 - Free Musical Forest Tour

July 13 - Block Printing & Stamping Class

July 13 - Zentangle

July 13 - Hula Kahiko in the Park

July 13 - Jazz in the Forest: JP and the Jazztones

We've Got a Crush on George Gershwin

July 18 & 25 - Free Drawing Class

July 20 - Reiki 1

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'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs are a half-marathon and 5k on Saturday, July 27 in Volcano, with all ages and levels of running talent invited. *Photo from 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs*

'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs Launch Experience Volcano Event

The annual Volcano 'Ōhi'a Lehua Runs, with a half marathon and 5k, will take participants into an 'ōhi'a forest through Volcano Village on Saturday, July 27. The course heads up Wright Road with scenic views of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. Registration is \$100 for the half-marathon and \$50 for the 5k through July 20 and \$110 for

the half and \$60 for the 5k when picking up a packet July 25 or 26. To register and find out more, see <https://www.ohialehuahalf.com/>. People of all ages enter the events with the half drawing professional racers.

The races take place during Experience Volcano Hawai'i weekend of events.

See ExperienceVolcano.com.

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Independence Day, from pg. 1
Float.

Featured were Pā‘ū riders on horseback, with a princess wearing traditional gowns representing each island riding beside their escorts. The annual tradition shows off the colors, flowers and foliage of the islands and the enormous lei made for the horses.

The Nā‘ālehu Independence Day Parade was organized by the community group ‘O Ka‘ū Kākou. Sponsors of the parade were OKK, Hawai‘i County, Ace Hardware, Ka‘ū Little League, Nā‘ālehu Elementary School, Nā‘ālehu Hongwanji Buddhist Mission, Punalu‘u Bake Shop, Carl Oyama of ‘Ohana Foods, State of Hawai‘i Department of Transportation Highways Division, and Honua’s Coffee Shop. Crowds gathered beneath the monkeypod trees that line Highway 11 to see the action. Following the parade was a gathering at the sponsoring organization OKK’s market grounds. It featured free hot dogs, watermelon and shave ice, music from local musicians, educational games and presentations by non-profits and a giant waterslide. See more photos from the parade in upcoming Ka‘ū News Briefs.

The next Independence Day Parade is Thursday, July 4 in Volcano Village, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a post-parade celebration at Cooper Center until 1 p.m. Independence Day activities continue Saturday and Sunday, July 6 and 7 at Nā‘ālehu Rodeo Grounds with Kā‘ū Roping & Riding Association Rodeo.

See more photos from Nā‘ālehu Independence Day Parade and upcoming events at www.kaunewsbriefs.blogspot.com and on *The Ka‘ū Calendar* facebook page.



Thy Word Ministries won the parade contest.

Photo by Lee McIntosh



Princess Pua Calicdan and Escort Jennifer Caruthers, representing O‘ahu with its color of yellow.

Photo by Kehau Kalani



Pink is the color of Maui, its flower Lokelani rose, presented by Richard Souza III and Laina Souza.

Photo by Julia Neal



Purple is the color of Kaua‘i, its plant mokihana presented by Lorilee Lorenzo and Ikaika Grace.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



Red is the color of Hawai‘i Island, its flower ‘ōhi‘a lehua, presented by Graydon and Mckella Akana.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



Green is the color of Moloka‘i, its flower from the kukui nut tree, as presented by London Dacalio and Justin Amarillo, Jr. in the Nā‘ālehu Independence Day Parade on June 29.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



Orange is color of Lana‘i, its plant Kanaoa, presented by Lily Dacalio and Mauka Balucan.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



White is the color of Ni‘ihau, its flower the Ni‘ihau shell lei, presented by Richard and Tiana Souza.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



Gray is the color of Koho‘olawe, its plant Hinahina, presented by Jesse Lorenzo and Jayliana Kabele-Lorenzo.

Photo by Kamamalu Kauwe



Ka‘ū’s Hulali Waltjen-Kuilipule Runs for OHA

Hulali Waltjen-Kuilipule is a Ka‘ū resident running for OHA. Here she campaigns for Hawai‘i Island Trustee for Office of Hawaiian Affairs during Ka‘ū Family Fun Day in Nā‘ālehu in June. See hulali4oha.com.

Reach More People

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Youth Plaintiffs, from pg. 13

reduction of GHG and vehicles miles traveled (VMT) and transparently analyze and disclose the GHG and VMT impacts of each project and the overall program.

Making immediate, ambitious investments in clean transportation infrastructure, including completing the pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks in five years, and dedicating a minimum of \$40 million to expanding the public electric vehicle charging network by 2030.

Children have successfully filed climate change cases in Germany and Montana. A suit involving all of the European nations was

dismissed. The verdict in a case in South Korea is expected this year.

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

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



DRU KANUHA

State Senate  Kona - Ka'ū - Volcano