

# Ka'ū Coffee Fest Celebrates Success, Culture & 'Āina Starting June 1

The first Ka'ū Coffee Festival since the pandemic kicks off for eight days at the beginning of June. Presented by the Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative and its President Gloria Camba, it is "designed to celebrate Ka'ū as a premium coffee growing origin and a unique visitor destination." It also celebrates the success of the multicultural community of Ka'ū Coffee growers, who were able to create a new economy to own their own farms on this Hawaiian land.

Organizers note that many of the events are free, while others require a nominal fee

and reservations.

**Saturday, June 1:** Ka'ū Coffee Recipe Contest offers a free cooking competition for adults and keiki at 11 a.m. with cash prizes at the Ka'ū Coffee Mill. Entries are accepted in pupu, entree and dessert categories for adult and student divisions. All recipes are made with Ka'ū coffee and attendees enjoy free coffee, tastings and entertainment. Entry deadline is May 27. Contact 808-928-0550 for registration info.

**Saturday, June 1:** Welcome Party at historic Pāhala Plantation House to meet

sponsors and farmers. Learn history of Ka'ū Coffee. Hear the music of The Jazz Gardeners and the voice of Cheryl Cuevas with some old-time lively Hapa Haole music on drums, sax, flute, clarinet, bass, and piano. Hear Bolo's rendition of *Kaiholena* composed during a past Ka'ū Coffee Festival to honor the place, included on a Grammy-winning album by Daniel Ho and Tia Carrere.

Enjoy performers from Hālau Hula O Leionalani and Mexican dance from the new Aloha Latinos Hawai'i Association. Meet *Ka'ū Coffee Fest*, pg. 4



Bolo will perform at the June 1 Welcome Party for Ka'ū Coffee Festival.

Photo from Ka'ū Coffee Festival

# THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

Volume 22, Number 5

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

May 2024

## Punalu'u Development Goes Back to Public Hearing

The Punalu'u proposal for a Special Management Area permit for development goes to an extended public hearing on Monday, May 6 at 9 a.m. at the County Building Council Chambers in Hilo. Those who were turned away at the end of day during the March hearing will be allowed to testify first. There will also be testimony allowed through Zoom. See the video of the March 7 public hearing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfA6VoyabyE>.

The hearing is before the Windward Planning Commission, during a special day set aside for this issue. The Commission, including its Ka'ū commissioner Louis Daniele, are tasked with deciding whether or not to issue a Special Management Area permit to allow the proposed Black Sand, LLC development, including 225 accommodations that are set back a quarter mile from the shore, makai of Hwy 11. Black Sand is also asking for other commercial enterprises, some close to Black Sand Beach as well as other renovations and expansions of the old Sea Mountain resort there. The decision is that of the Planning Commission and does not go to the County Council nor the Mayor for consideration.

Eighty persons spoke in opposition and eight in support of the SMA approval during the first hearing. That left about 50 who were invited to testify on May 6, plus any new persons who want to give their opinions.

Mālama Punalu'u has announced protest events and is encouraging those opposed to join a caravan to Hilo and to testify against the proposal. People for the development spoke at the recent Ka'ū Community Development Plan Action Committee Hearing in April. Opposition testimony was also given. See the video of the Ka'ū Community Development Steering Committee at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuYKe58UAz0>.

Three contested cases have been filed with the Planning Commission. Should any one of them go forward, the decision-making by the Planning Commission will



### Keep Ka'ū Country

Citizens in opposition and support Black Sand Beach, LLC's proposal for development at Punalu'u both state they care about the community and the environment. This illustration by a Ka'ū residents says, Keep Ka'ū Country, an issue that will be discussed at the public hearing on Monday, May 6 at County Council Chambers in Hilo at 9:00 a.m.

Illustration by John Inserra

be delayed until mediation and other legal proceedings are complete, which could take months.

Should the result be requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement, last done in the 1980s, the SMA decision making could be held up for a year or more.

Center for Biological Diversity's Maxx Phillips, along with Guy Enriquez, Nohealani Ka'awa, and Elsa Kalanikauleleaiwi Dedman, filed a petition seeking a contested case. Another contested case was filed by the homeowners of Punalu'u condominium association.

Since the first hearing, Black Sand

Beach, LLC and its supporters have added videos with testimonials to its Punalu'u Community facebook page. Testimonials include such statements as one from Sharon Morales, who said, "I support the project because the economy in Ka'ū needs to be revived." Wayne Kawachi says, "The project allowed the community to have their input for three years now. So I think it's a good project because I feel that Ka'ū needs some type of economic development so the people can stay here, the local people." Regarding the size of the project, Vance Bjorn says that the size is "less than ten percent of the proposals in the past in

terms of the number of units."

The facebook page says "Did you know what the situation was like in Punaluu over the past 30 years and how Black Sand Beach LLC has been cleaning and maintaining Punaluu in the past four years? Are you aware of how many dangers the long-unmanaged old restaurant area has posed to the community and tourists?"

"Are you aware of how much Black Sand Beach LLC has spent on cleaning the Punaluu village and restoring pedestrian pathways, and how much gratitude this has garnered from the community?"

*Punalu'u Development*, pg. 5

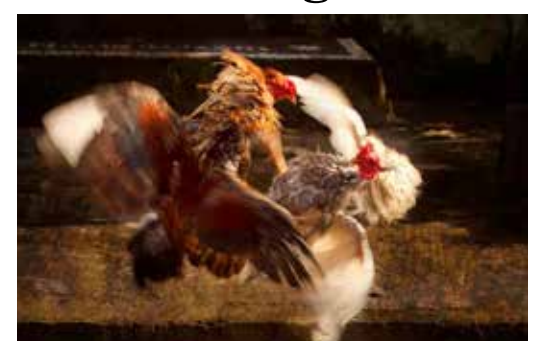
## Tough Chicken Fighting Bills Die at Hawai'i Legislature

State laws to further criminalize chicken fighting with stiff fines and arrests in Hawai'i died in the state Senate in April. Sen. Tim Richards said that the bill became caught up in concerns that people selling and buying chicks, feed, vitamins and other products used to raise legal meat chickens and egglayers could be caught up in prosecutions involving the feeding of illegal game chickens used for fighting and gambling.

The bill would have made it a felony to

take a child to a cock fight, to buy and sell fighting chickens, and it would be a crime to possess chicken fighting paraphernalia.

The state Public Defender testified against the bill, pointing to the long history of chicken fighting in Hawai'i and called it part of the culture. Those testifying against it called it animal cruelty and pointed to the illegal gambling associated with chicken fighting.



The anti-chicken fighting bill failed in the 2024 Hawai'i Legislature. Photo from Animal Wellness Association

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Also in this issue:

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## Film Tells Miranda Journey from Tragedy to Ka'ū Coffee Success

The story of Berta Miranda's escape from the El Salvador Civil War to Ka'ū and the creation of the successful Miranda's Ka'ū Coffee farms is the subject of a new film. It is called *Massacres to Miracles: One Woman's Incredible Journey to Hawai'i's Best Coffee, Where Coffee Takes You: Ka'ū*.

The production is the work of Kirk Berossian, founder of Angelino's Coffee in Los Angeles, and was filmed at Miranda's Coffee farms and, in part, at Pāhala Plantation House. It is one in a series titled *Where Coffee Takes You*, which illustrates the personal stories of coffee farmers in 48 countries.

Berta and her husband Jose came to Ka'ū in 1996. In the film, she says they

arrived as agricultural laborers, picking 1,000 lbs. of coffee a day for 12 years, and saved money towards their dream to own a coffee farm.

In the film, Berta explains why she left El Salvador. She says that during the Civil War, when she was 14, she witnessed bombs going off and people dying. She says four men came to her family home, asking for money and guns. She says her family had no money and the intruders killed her brother and grandpa, broke her mother's arm, and hung her father with a belt. Her mother cut him down and saved him. The family left El Salvador when she was 17 and picked fruit on the West Coast before coming to Ka'ū.

Berta describes the first harvest of her family's own coffee in Ka'ū and says that after 16 years of working to buy land, they achieved "the American Dream." They purchased their farm in Moa'ula and entered a cupping competition, earning first



Berta Miranda tells her story of fleeing El Salvador, toiling as a picker on the mainland and landing here to become a coffee field worker, saving money to buy land and becoming a successful coffee farmer and business owner. She is featured in the series *Where Coffee Takes You*. See the film on YouTube. You at <https://angelinos.com/>.

Mirandas now own 40 acres of Ka'ū Coffee, including their farm near South Point Road along Hwy 11 where they also serve food and operate a coffee tasting and gift store. "I love to be every day in the field... My coffee trees are my babies,"

says Berta, as she teaches the filmmaker how to pick coffee.

Berta's daughter Maria Miranda is a former Miss Ka'ū Coffee and an ambassador of the local industry, as well as a partner in the Miranda coffee business.

See the film on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSxFk4rZVgE>.

Learn more about Miranda Farms at [www.mirandasfarm.com](http://www.mirandasfarm.com)

Learn more about Kirk Berossian, Angelino's Coffee and *Where Coffee Takes*

Meet Berta Miranda and other Ka'ū Coffee farmers from the diverse agricultural community on June 1 at 6 p.m. at Pāhala Plantation House Welcome Party for Ka'ū Coffee Festival.

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# KEEP KA'Ū KA'Ū MĀLAMA PUNALU'U

Show Your Support for Punalu'u & Ka'ū



**WHEN IT'S GONE...  
IT IS GONE FOREVER!**

"For far too long, Hawaiians and rural residents have been silenced in our pursuit of a regenerative future. We will not be silent any longer. We will fight tirelessly to ensure that the character of Ka'ū is controlled by our community, not by nonresident profiteers. And we will not back down."

With aloha,  
Representative Jeanné Kapela  
State House District 5

**Sign the Petition**



Add your name to the more than 15,000 who OPPOSE development.

## MAIN CONCERNS

1. Proposed Development is not in alignment with many policies outlined in the Ka'ū Community Development Plan (See how in the testimonies below). (<https://www.planning.hawaiiicounty.gov/general-plan-community-planning/cdp/kau/doc>)
2. Prior to any approval:
  - a. Require a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The last one completed was 36 years ago in 1988.
  - b. Require a new Shoreline Survey to determine current high water mark and building setbacks.
  - c. Require a Burial Treatment Plan and Cultural and Archeological Resources Protection Plan.
  - d. Require infrastructure repair (water, sewer, fire suppression) that is not contingent on SMA Application approval.
3. Proposed development will:
  - a. Accelerate property tax increases for all Ka'ū residents.
  - b. Increase overcrowding as the beach is already at capacity with current use by locals and visitors.
  - c. Further threaten endangered species and ecological resources.
  - d. Drastically constrain the Ka'ū country lifestyle for future generations.



## PUNALU'U & KA'Ū ENDANGERED LIST

- Country Lifestyle
- Rural
- No Traffic
- Quiet
- Connection
- Total Beach Access
- Undeveloped Coastline
- Self-managed Boat Ramp
- County Park & Pavilion
- Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose)
- 'Ilioholokai (Monk Seal)
- Honu (Green Sea Turtle)
- Honu'ea (Hawksbill Turtle)
- 'Ope'ape'a (Hawaiian Bat)
- Iwi (Bones)



**JOIN THE CARAVAN TO HILO ON  
MAY 6  
TO THE NEXT WINDWARD  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING!**

- 5:45a Chalking windows
- 6:00a Leave Punalu'u
- 6:10a Passing Pāhala
- 6:40a Passing Volcano
- 8:30a Arrive County Building
- 8:45a Sign in to testify



SCAN for  
HOW TO  
TESTIFY INFO

**Support by wearing RED &  
submitting your testimony or by  
testifying in-person or via Zoom!**

## Read the Key Testimonies Already Submitted!

All testimony to SUPPORT & OPPOSE is publicly available on the Hawai'i County website. Find more testimony there.



Testimony presenting concerns from a group of Ka'ū residents, 'ohana, and supporters.



Testimony from the Center for Biological Diversity's concerns and legal intervention.



Testimony from Dr. Gina McGuire, research ecologist and ethnographer in coastal and community health.



Testimony from Lillie Makaila, urban planner and lineal descendant of iwi kūpuna at Punalu'u.

**Ka'ū CDP excerpts related to the Punalu'u SMA Application 24-36. Compiled by Ron Whitmore, former Hawai'i County Planner who facilitated the CDP.**



**COMING UP...  
MAY 4, 2024  
10 AM - 12 PM**

**SIGN WAVING @  
PUNALU'U INTERSECTION**

**WEAR RED!  
SIGNS AVAILABLE OR MAKE YOUR OWN!**

Sponsored by Friends of Punalu'u



## Pāhala Sewage Treatment Plant Opening Set for Early 2027

The new Pāhala sewage treatment plan could be operating by January 2027. That is the target date set by County of Hawai'i and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, according to a presentation made at Pāhala Community Center in April. The team from the county Department of Environmental Services, including Project Coordinator and engineer Mark Grant, said final public comment is due this Monday, April 15 with a deadline for the county to submit its Final Environmental Informa-

tion Document by July 30. After EPA approval of the EID, County will submit an Implementation Plan within 30 days.

Money has been approved by the federal government to this year to bid out the contract for construction of the sewage distribution system, and bid the sewage treatment plant next year. The new system will accommodate homes, the Catholic Church, shopping center, offices and other facilities along the route of the old plantation system that carries sewage to a gang cesspool, which will be closed. No one will have to pay to hook up, though those along the way who have cesspools or septic systems, will have to pay for the pipe that goes to the hookup and for shutting down their old cesspool or septic systems.

The capacity of the sewage treatment plant will about double that of the old gang cesspools, which means that once the project is completed, homeowners and commercial property owners may be able to add on rooms and additional small dwellings and businesses on their properties, depending on their lot size and zoning. Currently, those served by the old gang cesspool system are not legally allowed to add more sewage to the system by adding onto or constructing new additions.

Presentation by the County included the statement that the Waste Water Treatment Plant and new collection system "will meet the goals of the Ka'ū Community De-

### **Ka'ū Coffee Fest, from pg. 4**

Berta, Jose and Maria Miranda and learn about the family's escape from a civil war and their success in becoming Ka'ū Coffee farmers. Enjoy food and house tours. The event is 6 p.m. -9:30 p.m. Co-hosted by Ka'ū Coffee Growers Cooperative, Pāhala Plantation Cottages and *The Ka'ū Calendar* newspaper. Free, donations accepted.

**Wednesday, June 5:** Tour Ka'ū Coffee Farms and see how this world-class coffee is grown, harvested and processed. Meet the farmers and talk story to learn their challenges and successes. Take a free, self-guided tour; participating farms will be listed on the festival website.

**Thursday, June 6:** Ka'ū Mountain Hike & Lunch explores the historic flume systems of the sugarcane era and development of hydroelectric power in the lush Wood Valley rainforest. Limited to 30 participants, time is 9 a.m.-2 p.m., \$60 per per-

son, includes lunch. Reserve a spot at 808-928-0550.

**Friday, June 7:** Coffee & Cattle Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at scenic Aikane Plantation Coffee Farm. Find out how descendants of Ka'ū's first coffee farmer sustainably

development Plan to improve environmental management facilities of extending wastewater services within the Pāhala Community, which will protect the community health, safety, and the island's environmental resources." The new collection system will be primarily in the public roadways with piping some five to eight feet underground. The location of the treatment plant is between the macadamia nut husking plant mauka of Hwy 11 and the pine tree lane on Maile Street. It will be set back from the Norfolk pine trees and macadamia orchards on the land acquired will remain in place and receive underground drip irrigation from the treated effluent within the 14.9 acres to be transferred to the County from Kamehameha Schools.

Learn more by reviewing documents at <https://www.dem.hawaii.gov/projects/pahala-naalehu-large-capacity-cesspool-closures>. The YouTube channel is at [www.youtube.com/@cohenenvironmentalmanagement](http://www.youtube.com/@cohenenvironmentalmanagement). The EPA website is at <https://www.epa.gov/uic/closure-cesspools-pahala-and-naalehu-administrative-order-consent-county-hawaii>.

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### **Ka'ū Coffee Fest, pg. 11**



Project manager Mark Grant shows a Pāhala resident the wastewater treatment plan.

Photo by Michael Neal

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• Seasonal \* \$14.30 \*  
(Ka'ū Location)

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# KA'Ū SPORTS REPORT

Volume 22, Number 5

The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

May 2024



Left to right are Head Coach Joshua Ortega, senior Chaz La'a Kajiwaru-Ke, freshman Emil Soriano, sophomore Cy Zeiah Silva-Kamei, junior Vladimir Fedoruk, senior Tyson Junior Kuahuia-Faafia, junior Kayson Pagan, junior Adahdiah Ellis-Reyes, sophomore Karsen Polido-Tuaifaiva, junior Triton Blanco, sophomore Desmond Camba, sophomore Zayden Gallano and Assistant Coach Sarah Ortega.

Photo from Trojan Volleyball

## Ka'ū Trojans Take a Winning Season in Boys Volleyball

Trojans Boys Volleyball secured a winning season. The Ka'ū High team beat Honoka'a, 3-2 in five sets at home on the last Saturday in April, under coach Josh Ortega at Herkes Ka'ū District Gym. Athletic Director Jaime

Guerpo reported that set scores were 21-25, 25-16, 17-25, 15-21 and 15-10.

Trojans were ranked third in the Big Island Interscholastic Federation league after defeating the seventh ranked

Dragons. Honoka'a won the first and third set and Trojans took the rest, coming up with 9-2 season. Trojans headed to the playoffs to take on undefeated top seed Konawaena.

The Trojan Volleyball team includes senior Chaz La'a Kajiwaru-Punalu'u Development, from pg. 1

It also states that "Cultural, Archaeological and Biological studies have been updated. There is no legal requirement for an Environmental Assessment (EA). The analysis typical of an EA has been included within the SMA application.

"Past studies have noted that 90% of the project area was previously disturbed or altered when Sea Mountain was built in the late 1960s."

Ke, freshman Emil Soriano, sophomore Cy Zeiah Silva-Kamei, junior Vladimir Fedoruk, senior Tyson Junior Kuahuia-Faafia, junior Kayson Pagan, junior Adahdiah Ellis-Reyes, sophomore Karsen Polido-Tuaifaiva, junior Triton Blanco, sophomore Desmond Camba, sophomore Zayden Gallano



Ka'ū Trojans secured a winning season and were headed to the Boys Volleyball finals at the end of April. Photo by Ophir Dannenberg

## HOKULELE BASKETBALL CLUB

PROCEEDS HELP HOKULELE'S 9TH GRADE TEAM TRAVEL TO LAS VEGAS THIS SUMMER!

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## GO TROJANS!

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# BLACK SAND BEACH LLC

Committed to Community, Culture and Conservation

## DOING WHAT'S PONO

- Protecting the Federally protected honu (turtles)
- Moving all commercial activities off of the shoreline
- Protecting Native Hawaiian gathering and fishing rights
- Restoring Kawaihūokauila Pond and Native Hawaiian vegetation
- Working to limit or eliminate tour buses at Punalu'u Beach
- Establishing Shoreline Conservation Management Areas to ensure preservation for future generations
- Creating a community-led and community-driven Foundation to manage and steward the conservation areas and wahi pana (sacred sites)
- Working to nurture, steward and manage these lands in a manner that reflects the vision of the Ka'ū Community Development Plan



*"Always listening and learning to better balance the needs and desires of the community, my hope is to work with the Ka'ū community to nurture, steward and manage Punalu'u Village in a manner that reflects the vision of the community."*

EVA LIU

***Black Sand Beach LLC's Punalu'u Village is a bold step towards creating an environment where the entire community can take a collaborative part in sharing a place that can be enjoyed by all, while protecting what makes this place so special.***

### **PUNALU'U DEVELOPMENT HISTORY**

90% of the Punalu'u Village project area was previously disturbed or altered when Sea Mountain was built in the late 1960s by C. Brewer Properties, Ltd. After nearly 30 years of neglect, Punalu'u Village was purchased by Black Sand Beach LLC in 2020.

Since then, more than a million dollars has been spent on the upkeep of the land and maintenance of the existing private infrastructure systems, including the water and wastewater systems that serve the surrounding community.





# BLACK SAND BEACH LLC

Committed to Community, Culture and Conservation

## BRINGING OPPORTUNITIES

*"Our number one economy has always been tourism. Our tax dollars we pay the state goes towards the promotion of tourism. If you don't want Punalu'u to be impacted by tourism, then stand at the airport with a sign that says "Don't Go Punaluu". You cannot stop the impact of tourism and people moving to our island. Lots of concerns on the Punalu'u development are coming from retired people having no historical knowledge of the place. Conservationist that were not concerned about Punalu'u in the past, the three proposed rocket launch sites, and other resort owners who proposed more development. There was never any voice from environmentalist. Conservationist are more interested in grabbing lands and using the Kanaka in the process, and never considered the Kanaka traditions as part of the environment. There has never been a conservationist management plan, as well as National Parks management plan where there is no mention of our traditional practice to these lands.*



*So what now? With no jobs in the area, no sugar mill, limited mac nuts, and no resort there is no future for our young people. For those who are against these job opportunities should come to Ka'u and offer an alternative.*

PALIKAPU DEDMAN, PRESIDENT  
PELE DEFENSE FUND

**We support the Black Sand Beach team and the Punalu'u Village project. Join us to bring about these needed changes for our keiki and Ka'u.**



Keamalu Waltjen



Jamie Kawauchi



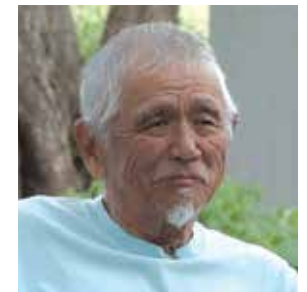
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Sweetie Grace



Wayne Kawachi

### PROJECT DOWNSIZED

After listening to the community for three years, the project was downsized from a previous plan for 2,900 accommodation units to 225 units today. Punalu'u Village proposes an impressive shoreline set back of at least 1,100 feet or approximately three Ka'u High School football fields.

### JOIN OUR VISION

Punalu'u Village represents a commitment to responsible stewardship of the land and proactive engagement with the community. We invite every resident to join us in this transformative journey, to help shape a future that honors our shared heritage and ensures the prosperity and beauty of Punalu'u for generations to come.



**Learn more about the project at [punaluublacksandbeach.com](http://punaluublacksandbeach.com) or scan the QR code:**

Paid for by Black Sands Beach, LLC



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**SPRING STUDENT SHOWCASE AT KA'Ū HIGH & PĀHALA ELEMENTARY** is Wednesday, May 1. From 9:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Attendees move between classrooms where students present special projects. Check-in at District Gym Multipurpose Room begins 9:15 a.m. and open until noon. Visit 7-12 grades 10 a.m.-11:15; K-6 from 11:25 a.m. -12:25 p.m.

**MAY DAY IS LEI DAY CELEBRATION** on Wednesday, May 1 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Volcano Arts Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Hands-on lei making activities, local musicians and hula. Free.

**THIRD HAWAII COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT** is Thursday, Friday and Saturday May 2 - 4 at the Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa. A statement from Hawai'i County says the event is about "Community leaders called to convene in a series of events celebrating a collective commitment to building a sustainable Hawai'i." Organized with Hawai'i Green Growth Local 2030 Hub, Aloha+ Challenge, and Friends of the Future. Goals are Natural Resource Management, Smart Sustainable Communities, Solid Waste Reduction, Clean Energy Transformation, Local Food and Green Workforce & Education.

**LEI MAKING WITH KAIPO AH CHONG**, May 3 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Tropical Agriculture farmer Ah Chong, a member of Hālau Nā Kamalei, marries science of agriculture with Hawaiian lei and hula traditions. Free, a Cultural Connections Initiative for Aloha Fridays, supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

**HOKULELE BASKETBALL CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER** is Saturday May 4 at Volcano Country Club, 99-1621 Piimauna Drive. Proceeds help send ninth grade team to Las Vegas in July to enter the Jam On It West Coast Championships. To donate or participate, contact Ravel Kaupu Jr (808) 217-7243 or Jan Kaeza Penea Email: Kaeza.Hokulele@gmail.com.

**THE SOUNDS OF NIAULANI MUSICAL FOREST TOUR** is Saturday, May 4 and Saturday, May 18 from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at Volcano Arts Center Niauani 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. Sponsored by Atherton Foundation.

**SIGN WAVING AT HWY 11 AND ROAD TO PUNALU'U** with Mālama Punalu'u is Saturday, May 4 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Mālama Punalu'u has announced protest events and is encouraging those opposing development at Punalu'u to testify at public hearing on Monday, May 6 at 9 a.m. at County Council Chambers in Hilo. Also via Zoom.

**1<sup>ST</sup> LIVE AUCTION BY CAROL MAIKALANI HANNUM FOUNDATION FOR ARTS, CULTURE & HEALING** is Saturday, May 4 from 3 p.m. at Ocean View Community Center, 92-8924 Leilani Circle. Registration and preview at 3 p.m. auction at 4 p.m. Features Hannum art, products, services from business community, door prizes and food and beverage court. To donate product, item or service or volunteer, contact alanuikau@gmail.com or text (808) 256-3193. Sponsored by Alanui 'O Ka'ū.

**PUNALU'U DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL PUBLIC HEARING** is Monday, May 6 from 9 a.m. at County Building Council Chambers in Hilo. Also via Zoom. Hearing is before Windward Planning Commission, considering approval of Special Management Area permit to allow proposed Black Sand, LLC development. See story page 1.

**HAWAIIAN FABRIC DYING WITH DESIREE MOANA CRUZ** is Friday, May 10 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Cruz shares traditional and contemporary dye processes for repetitive symbolism featured in hula garments. An advocate for Hawaiian practitioners and member of Hālau Na Kipu'upu'u of Waimea. Free for Aloha Fridays through Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

**HOME HERBALIST WORKSHOP WITH HEATHER PENFIELD** is Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Volcano Arts Center Niauani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Learn germ boosting powers of plants and herbs and how to make remedies at home. Receive recipes and samples. Fee is \$60/\$55 for VAC members plus a \$20 for supplies. Register at

https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/registration-workshops-classes/.

https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/registration-workshops-classes/.

**NA'OHULELUA HISTORICAL GARDEN, NURSERY & NATIVE PROPAGATION CENTER IS OPEN** Saturday May 11, Sunday May 19 and Saturday May 25 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 94-6488 Kama'ōa Road, Nā'ālehu. Offering rare and 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 text (808) 256-3193.

**ZENTANGLE® RIXTY VARIATIONS WORKSHOP WITH IRIS THORNTON** is Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Volcano Arts Center Niauani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Zentangle involves drawing structured patterns. Rixty is simple and dynamic, odd and familiar. Class open to all levels, no Zentangle or art experience necessary. Bring snacks/beverages to share. Cost is \$35/\$30 VAC members plus a \$15 supply and facility fee. Register at https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/registration-workshops-classes/.

**HULA KAHIKO FEATURING PĀHOA HIGH & MIDDLE SCHOOL WITH KUMU KINI KA'AWA** is Saturday, May 11 from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Volcano Art Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Part of a year-round series in an outdoor setting, rain or shine without electronic amplification. Audience encouraged to bring sun/rain gear and sitting mats. For more information call (808) 967-7565.

**JAZZ IN THE FOREST: TAKE A GIANT STEP OUTSIDE YOUR MIND – A HISTORY OF JAZZ GUITAR MUSIC** is Saturday, May 11 from 5:30 p.m.

- 7 p.m. at Volcano Arts Center Niauani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Featuring guitarist and vocalist Benny Yutake, along with JP and the Jazz-tones W JP Thoma on saxophones and clarinet, Joey Carroll on vocals, acoustic as well as electric bass, and Owen Matsui on percussion. Tickets are \$25 for VAC members and \$30 for non-members. Purchase at www.volcanoartcenter.org, or at VAC's Administration Office in Volcano Village.

**MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT: FEATURING VOLCANO CHAMBER PLAYERS** is Sunday, May 12 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Volcano Art Center's Dietrich Varez Hall in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Beverages and pupu available for purchase. Tickets at https://volcanoartcenter.org/classes-and-workshops/

purchase-tickets-to-vac-events/.

**AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: SIXTEEN EXPLOSIVE DAYS AT KĪLAUEA IN MAY 1924.** Tuesday, May 14 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kilauea Visitor Center auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. In May 1924, more than 50 explosions from Halema'uma'u produced volcanic ash that fell from South Hilo to South Kona. Thousands of rocks weighing as much as 12 tons crashed to the ground in Kilauea caldera. Electrical storms and torrential rain accompanied several of the explosions, earthquakes repeatedly shook the summit, and Halema'uma'u doubled in width. Don Swanson, USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory geologist emeritus, and Ben Gaddis, USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory volunteer, describe the preamble to

## 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.



Naupaka kuahiwi (*Scaevola gaudichaudii*)

Art by Joan Yoshioka

### Naupaka kuahiwi (*Scaevola gaudichaudii*)

**Description:** Last month, you met naupaka kahakai. This month, I want to introduce you to another *Scaevola* species known as naupaka kuahiwi or "mountain naupaka," a name it shares with five other species. Unlike the indigenous naupaka kahakai, this naupaka is endemic to Hawai'i and grows mauka rather than along the coast. It stands upright (typically around 3-4 feet but can grow taller) and has thick green leaves around 2" long that are slightly serrated near the tips. But the most beautiful and defining characteristic of this *Scaevola* is the gorgeous deep orange or yellow half flowers with a fragrance that will be forever tied to your memory. In fact, only one other species of naupaka has yellow flowers, *S. glabra*, but *S. glabra* flowers are shaped more like a native lobelia rather than the typical naupaka half flowers that we all know and love. The flowers, once pollinated, give way to small, round, deep black fruits that hold a single seed within.

**Uses:** With their beauty and sweet fragrance, flowers of naupaka kuahiwi can be used in lei making. The fruits can be used to make a dark dye. The nectar of the beautiful half flowers can also be a source of nutrition for endemic birds and insects. Surely there are other lā'au lapa'au uses of this species that I am unaware of, so if you know of any, please share!

**Habitat:** This species of naupaka kuahiwi can be found in dry to mesic areas on all of the main Hawaiian islands aside from Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe, and grows in dry ridges and open shrublands and forests from about 250 to 2,600 feet in elevation. Unfortunately, their habitat is quickly being lost to development, and whatever plants remain are being threatened and/or impacted by feral ungulate pressures such as grazing and bark stripping (does this sound familiar yet?). In Ka'ū, plants have been recorded from Kahuku to Kapāpala, though today they are quite uncommon and only a few wild plants remain in an unmanaged area in Kahuku.

**Growing and Purchasing:** While I have never seen *S. gaudichaudii* for sale, I believe some nurseries like Future Forests would be able to propagate this species upon request. If you happen to find a plant with ripe fruits, remove the seeds from the fruit, sow in a well-drained media, and be patient while they germinate. Your naupaka kuahiwi will be a hardy addition to the Ka'ū landscape, and requires little water once it establishes in the ground. Feel free to plant it in full sun and offer it a mild fertilizer every year to keep it happy. And when your naupaka kuahiwi fruits, try growing them from seed so you can share the love with a friend.

**About the artist:** Joan Yoshioka says she is a conservationist at heart and has dedicated her



Joan Yoshioka

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

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



Jodie Rosam

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## May Calendar, from pg. 8

that eventful May. Program co-sponsored by Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free. Park fees apply.

**LEARN TO MAKE HŪ** with park rangers and staff from Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association. Wednesday, May 15 from 10 a.m. - noon at 'Ōhi'a Wing (across Crater Rim Drive from Kilauea Visitor Center) in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Top-spinning and making hū (kukui nut top) was a favorite activity for keiki (children) and people of all ages. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's ongoing 'Ike Hana No'eau (Experience the Skillful Work) Hawaiian cultural programs, and co-sponsored by Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association and the Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free. Park entrance fees apply.

**'UKULELE WITH WES AWANA** on Friday, May 17 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Family-friendly lessons on 'ukulele. Free for Aloha Fridays through VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State GIA Wai Wai Programs. Park fees apply.

**MĀLAMA NĀ KEIKI FESTIVAL** is Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Pāhala Community Center, 96 Kamani Street, Pāhala. Event includes keiki activities, prizes and food. Keiki (0-13 years old) must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required, call (808) 769-3792. First come, first serve. Hosted by Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi.

**NANI O KAHUKU: A LIVING HISTORY PLAY** is Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, south of 70.5 mile marker, mauka of Highway 11. One-woman living history play adapted by Jackie Pualani-Johnson from diary of Hannah Pi'ilani Jones (portrayed by Alya-Joy Kanehailua), 11th and youngest child of Kahuku Ranch owner from 1871-1887, George W.C. Jones. Free.

**EMPTINESS & FORM: INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION OF VISUAL ART**, May 18 - June 7, Wednesdays - Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Volcano Arts Center Nialani Campus in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Accompanies 17th annual meeting of Comparative & Continental Philosophy Circle, hosted by Humanities Division at University of Hawai'i-Hilo. Features invited artists from mainland and Hawai'i Island sharing artistic explorations of Emptiness & Form. Meet artists at reception, Saturday, May 18, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closing reception with artists and philosophers is Friday, June 7, from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

**KA'Ū COMMUNITY EASY ACCESS PRENATAL CLINIC** is on Sunday, May 19 from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. at 94-2166 South Point Road, Nā'ālehu. All insurance plans accepted. No one turned away for lack of funds. Schedule an appointment at: 808.450.0498, <https://shinesisterhoodinitiative.com/collective>. Con-

tact [shinesisterhoodinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:shinesisterhoodinitiative@gmail.com) for more information.

**AFTER DARK IN THE PARK: HAWAIIAN 'AWA: A CROSS-CULTURAL TRADITION** on Tuesday, May 21 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kilauea Visitor Center auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. 'Awa (kava) is a traditional ceremonial beverage in the Pacific with its many cultures. The first 'awa plants were brought to Hawai'i by Polynesian voyagers. Join Sam Valdez, Farm Manager for Pu'iwa Hawaiian Farms, whose mission is to bring the nearly extinct Hawaiian 'awa back to the forefront of island culture and share its healing powers. Part of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's ongoing After Dark in the Park. Co-sponsored by Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Free. Park entrance fees apply.

**NĀ LEO MANU: MUSIC WITH KAINANI KA-HAUNAELE** is Wednesday, May 22 from 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Kilauea Visitor Center Auditorium in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Enjoy the mele (music) of Kainani Kahunaele, an advocate for Hawaiian music. She shares her passion by teaching Hawaiian language, music, and Ethnobotany at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language & Literature at University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Free. Park fees apply.

**LAUHALA WEAVING WITH KUIIPO KALAHIKI-MORALE** is Friday, May 24 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on porch of Volcano Art Center Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Experience free, hands-on workshop. Free for Aloha Fridays through VAC's Cultural Connections Initiative supported in part by Hawai'i State Grant In Aid Wai Wai Program. Park fees apply.

**DIETRICH VAREZ EXHIBITION** through Sunday, May 26 at VAC Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

### DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY

**FREE 'UKULELE CLASSES WITH WOODLEY WHITE** Wednesdays through May 15. Beginners class at 12:30 p.m., Music Theory at 1:30 p.m. and Kani-kapila Sing Along at 2:30 p.m. at Nā'ālehu Methodist Church, 95-5664 Hawai'i Belt Rd, Nā'ālehu. White is a luthier and music theory teacher. Classes are free and 'ukulele are available. All ages are welcome.

**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 Uēkahuna at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Meet at Uēkahuna 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'ŌHINU YOGA** is Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m., Wai'ōhinu Park. Weather permitting. Laurie Boyle offers yoga, all levels. Donations appreciated. No reservations needed. Contact [ezmerelda5@gmail.com](mailto: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/ohi'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.mrk-recyclehawaii.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 Kauaha'ao Congregational Church grounds at 95-1642 Pinao St. in Wai'ōhinu.

**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.

May Calendar, pg. 15



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## Nohopapa Seeks Input on Kaunāmano Stewardship

Nohopapa Hawai'i is asking for more public input after it hosted a session about Kaunāmano stewardship in October. Kaunāmano includes the sweeping land to the Ka'ū Coast from the scenic overlook above Honu'apo. It extends to areas behind homes in Nā'ālehu and includes four miles of Ka'ū Coast.

Nohopapa representatives said they invite engagement "with individuals, 'ohana and organizations that have long-standing lineal, cultural, and community connections to this wahi pana, and have knowledge and mana'o on traditional uses or ongoing cultural practices in the area or general vicinity."

### Nā'ālehu Annual Independence Day Parade Announced

'O Ka'ū Kākou has announced the Nā'ālehu Independence Day Parade for Saturday, June 29 at 11 a.m. along Highway 11 in Nā'ālehu. OKK is looking for businesses, churches, organizations, and individuals that would like to be in the parade. Call or text Lee McIntosh 808-854-7846 as soon as possible.

In 2014, when community members were seeking funding for the purchase of Kaunāmano to preserve it, Trust for Public Land stated that "Acquisition would protect native gathering rights, subsistence fishing, the Ka'ū community's access to the property's nearly four miles of coastline, native ecosystems, possible endangered species, cultural sites and burials, and a cultural landscape of historic significance.

"Acquisition would also allow for some recreational practices to continue such as recreational fishing, flying kites from the property's lookout area Pohina Pali Lookout, and possibly camping.

"Excluding the coastal village, the property is grazed by a local rancher. Since there are no trees on this land, the huge, open vistas from the top of the property down to the shoreline allow ocean views almost unparalleled from any other site in Ka'ū. The property offers high educational and cultural benefits from being able to visit and learn from the many cultural sites. Kaunāmano means 'the multitudes are placed here.' Protecting Kaunāmano will honor a place where Ka'ū's kupuna lived and where the people of Ka'ū visit today to remember their past."

TPL described it as "a place of great historic significance as a seat of gov-



Local residents were invited to Kamehameha School's Kahuku Ranch in April to participate in community input for a stewardship plan for the 1,368 acres at Kaunāmano on the Ka'ū Coast.

Photo by Julia Neal

ernment for Ka'ū chiefs who kept a watchful eye on Kaunāmano from a vantage point overlooking the large coastal property and the Kahua 'Olohu makahiki grounds directly mauka of the property. The property contains at least 444 ancient Hawaiian cultural sites with more than 3,900 features, including enclosures, mounds, platforms, walls, salt pans, walled terraces, petroglyphs, papamu, heiau, ceremonial sites, burial sites, a refuge cave (and other lava tubes) and a portion of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail which connects the coastal

villages of Honu'apo to the north with Waikapuna to the south. Many of these sites are in the largely intact ancient coastal village of Pa'ula. Native coastal plants dominate the coastal landscape, 'opae 'ula (native red shrimp) abound in the large coastal cave of Puhi'ula, and its pristine waters are home to numerous native fish, limu and other marine species."

In 2015, the property was listed for \$11.5 million by Hawai'i Pacific Brokers with the listing noting its potential for subdivision. It was later preserved through governmental funding.

The Nohopapa organization, which has been contracted to develop a Resource Stewardship Plan in cooperation with Ala

with Waika-

Nohopapa, pg. 11

# KA'Ū

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## Ocean View Fire Draws Copters & Drama Story

A fire in Hawai'i Ocean View Estates drew firefighters and helicopters to douse it on Sunday, April 29. A report on the Ka'ū Bulletin Board by Serafina Deegan said the fire broke out between Aloha and Coconut, the fire department staging just off Catamaran.

While the fire was also reported as a brushfire, Deegan said that before it began, a person claimed to have seen federal unmarked cars coming down King Kam with a few officers in each car. Another reported 4runners on Hawai'i Blvd. near KaiLoki's full of "extra suited up law enforcement" this morning. Deegan theorized: "So I'm thinking a warrant search, and/or bust, or a swat on a drug, and or theft ring house. People are surmising that there was a swat on a house. And the criminals set the house on fire. They thought they had the fire put out, but looks like it reignited. Someone is helping, the firefighters said there's no fire anymore just smoke on the ground and hotspots. Someone else said they're gonna have firefighters overnight here to



A county helicopter drops water on a fire in Ocean View.

Photo by Amy James

make sure it doesn't flare up again."

Other Ocean View residents near the fire reported being evacuated from their homes and 'ohia trees burning.

end of November.

See more on Nohopapa at [www.nohopapa.com](http://www.nohopapa.com) and more on Ala Kahaki Trail Association at <https://www.alakahakitrail.org/kaunamano>.

### Nohopapa, from pg. 10

Kahakai Trail Association, is asking for input from the public on: Mo'oku'auhau 'Āina, Wahi Kupuna - cultural, historical and archaeological resources; 'Āina Maui Ola - Native plants, marine and avian resources; Traditional and Existing Access Structures and Fire Prevention; Recommendations or mana'o for stewardship planning for Hawaiian wahi kupuna or traditional customary practices within or around the area; and Referrals of Kupuna and Kama'aina who would be willing to share their cultural knowledge of the area.

Input is also sought on public access with a key challenge of determining the use of the place by the local community, including the timing and number of people who can go there.

To participate, contact [rachel@nohopapa.com](mailto:rachel@nohopapa.com).

According to representatives of Nohopapa and Ala Kahakai Trail Association, community outreach, consultation and interviews will be conducted through July and the stewardship plan will be presented by the

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### Ka'ū Coffee Fest, from pg. 4

integrate coffee with pasture-raised beef. \$35 fee includes a hearty, all-you-can-eat outdoor buffet featuring local specialties. Reserve your spot at 808-927-2252.

**Friday, June 7:** Ka'ū Star Gazing enables sky seekers to view the heavens via telescopes guided by professional astronomers from the hills surrounding Ka'ū Coffee Mill. Find out how stars are instrumental in the age-old Hawaiian art of wayfinding and navigation. Time is 5:30 p.m. -10 p.m., \$60 fee includes a barbecue dinner and shuttle transport from Ka'ū Coffee Mill. Reservations: 808-928-0550.

**Friday, June 7:** Coffee & Cattle Day 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at scenic Aikane Plantation Coffee Farm. Find out how descendants of Ka'ū's first coffee farmer sustainably integrate coffee with pasture-raised beef. \$35 fee includes a hearty, all-you-can-eat outdoor buffet featuring local specialties. Reserve spot at 808-927-2252.

**Friday, June 7:** Ka'ū Star Gazing en-

ables sky seekers to view the heavens via telescopes guided by professional astronomers from the hills surrounding Ka'ū Coffee Mill. Find out how stars are instrumental in the age-old Hawaiian art of wayfinding and navigation. Time is 5:30 p.m. -10 p.m., \$60 fee includes a barbecue dinner and shuttle transport from Ka'ū Coffee Mill. Reservations: 808-928-0550.

**Saturday, June 8:** Fun is perking 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the free Ka'ū Coffee Festival Ho'olaule'a—the festival's grand finale of live music, hula, local food and crafts, keiki activities, educational displays, guided coffee tastings and farm and mill tours headquartered inside and out of Pāhala Community Center. Entertainment includes famed vocalist Darlene Ahuna, Ku'uipo Kumukai, Victor Chock & Friends, Halau Hula O Leionalani and Demetrius Oliveira and Gene Beck.

Visit [kaucoffeefestival.com](http://kaucoffeefestival.com) and follow Ka'ū Coffee Festival on Facebook and @kaucoffeefest on Twitter and Instagram.

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## UH Advises Caution When Considering Infrastructure Near the Ocean

Putting infrastructure in places near the ocean should be carefully considered, according to a new University of Hawai'i study by Earth scientists. A statement from UH says, "As sea levels rise, coastal groundwater is lifted closer to the surface while also becoming saltier and more corrosive." It says that "networks of buried and partially buried infrastructure have increased danger of corrosion and failure of critical systems such as sewer lines, roadways and building foundations due to interaction with this shallower and saltier groundwater."

Shellie Habel, lead author and coastal geologist in the UH Mānoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST), said, "While it has been recognized that shallowing groundwater will eventually result in chronic flooding as it surfaces, what's less known is that it can start causing problems decades beforehand as groundwater interacts with buried infrastructure. This knowledge gap often results in coastal groundwater changes being fully overlooked in infrastructure planning."

The research team aimed to create awareness about these issues and offer guidance from world experts on managing them. Habel and co-authors reviewed

existing literature to examine the diverse effects on different types of infrastructure. Additionally, by employing worldwide elevation data and geospatial data that indicate the extent of urban development, they identified 1,546 low-lying coastal cities and towns globally, where around 1.42 billion people live, that are likely experiencing these impacts.

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report tells us that sea-level rise is an unstoppable and irreversible reality for centuries to millennia," said Chip Fletcher, study co-author, interim dean of SOEST, and director of the UH Mānoa Climate Resilience Collaborative "Now is the time to prepare for the challenges posed by this problem by redesigning our communities for greater resilience and social equity."

The report states that "Well before the visible effects of surface flooding, sea-level rise pushes up the water table and shifts salty water landward. With this, the subsurface environment becomes more corrosive to critical underground infrastructure networks—buried drainage and sewage lines

can become compromised and mobilize urban contamination, and building foundations can weaken." It says that "Extensive research conducted by CRC has substantiated that critical infrastructure around the world, including drainage and basements, is likely currently experiencing flooding from rising groundwater levels.

"The damage caused by sea level rise-influenced coastal groundwater is often concealed and not immediately perceptible," said Habel, who is based at CRC and Hawai'i Sea Grant in SOEST. "As a result, it tends to be overlooked in infrastructure management and planning efforts."

Habel said that "Being aware of these hidden impacts of sea-level rise is of significant importance for the State of Hawai'i due to the concentration of communities situated along low-lying coastal zones where groundwater is generally very shallow."

CRC collaborates with partners across the nation and infrastructure managers in Hawai'i to gain a comprehensive assessment of how vital infrastructure, encompassing pipe networks, roadways and buildings, is impacted. "Understanding the impacts and risks associated with sea

level rise-influenced coastal groundwater enables more effective management and adaptation," according to CRC.



## EPA: Solar Funding for Low-Income

State of Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Fund will disperse \$62 million for solar systems, the funding provided by the federal Environmental Protection Agency for homes in this state.

The federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund is providing the money from a \$27 billion federal investment to cut the cost of electric bills and carbon emissions nationwide.

The funding will finance residential rooftop solar, storage systems, and community-owned solar systems for low-income households.



"For years, the benefits of household solar — such as the significant savings on energy bills — have been out of reach for too many in Hawai'i," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. "With this new EPA investment of over \$62 million, residents across Hawai'i, including those in our disadvantaged communities, will now be able to adopt solar and reap the advantages of this climate change-fighting technology."

## NOAA Funds School Ocean Guardians

Funding for Hawai'i Schools that commit to be Ocean Guardian Schools is available with a deadline to apply on June 1 through Office of National Marine

Sanctuaries, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The program supports PreK-12 teachers and students to promote watershed education and ocean stewardship in the school and community.

An Ocean Guardian School makes a commitment to protect and conserve local watersheds, the world's oceans, and special ocean areas. Each school proposes and implements a school or community-based conservation project. Grant applications range from \$1,000 to \$4,000 per school. The application is available at <https://tinyurl.com/4yz8dfeh>.

In Hawai'i, for more information, contact [mahealani.bambico@noaa.gov](mailto:mahealani.bambico@noaa.gov)



Schools in Ka'ū and beyond can become Ocean Guardian Schools, with funding from NOAA. Photo from NOAA



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## Scholarships for Students & Ka'ū Hospital Staff

Scholarships are available from Ka'ū Hospital Charitable Foundation to students seeking to pursue a career in the medical field. Scholarships are also available to Ka'ū Hospital staff members who wish to further their medical education. Scholarships are \$1,000 per year per recipient.

Any student who resides in the Ka'ū District or any staff employee of Ka'ū Hospital are eligible to apply. Email Ka'ū Hospital Foundation at [kauhospitalfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:kauhospitalfoundation@gmail.com) to receive an application. There is no application deadline. Scholarships are available as funding permits.

'O Ka'ū Kākou continues to offer scholarship mentoring at no cost "Millions of dollars of scholarship money go unclaimed each year - mostly due to a lack of

applications from qualified college students," says statement from the mentors. "Scholarships are free money, tax free, and don't have to be repaid," says a joint statement from OKK an Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary. Mentors assist with online research of available scholarships, help keep organized, review applications for completeness and grammar, not miss deadlines and proof read applications, essays and other submissions. For more information and to sign up with a scholarship mentor, contact the committee at [okaukakou.org](mailto:okaukakou.org).

[org.scholarship@gmail.com](mailto:org.scholarship@gmail.com) or contact Ka'ū High School Counselor Regina Blanchard-Walker.

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## May Begins: Quakes, Cautionary Closings, Eruption Expectations

As May approached, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park temporarily closed Chain of Craters Road and other locations that "could put visitors and staff at risk if the volcano erupts." Following significant spike in quakes, with some 400 a day, temporary closures involved:

Chain of Craters Road from intersection at Crater Rim Drive;

Hilina Pali Road, closed to all use. Kulanaokuaiki Campground also closed;

Overnight camping, suspended for all coastal sites, Nāpau and Pepeiao Cabin;

Ka'ū Desert Trail, closed from the Footprints Exhibit;

Maunaiki Trail, closed.

"Safety is our main focus, and the uncertainty of where an eruption could break out increases risk," said Chief Ranger Jack



Thermal Hotspot area near Puhimau Crater on Chain of Craters Road, which was closed at end of May with possibility of a new eruption.

NPS Photo by Janice Wei

Corrao. "Elevated volcanic gases, dangerous lava activity, damaging earthquakes and lava-ignited wildfire are all potential hazards associated with an eruption."

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park reported: "According to USGS Hawaiian

Volcano Observatory, it is not possible at this time to know if this increase in activity will lead to an eruption in the near future or simply remain confined below ground. However, the gradual strengthening of seismic swarms suggest that an eruption in the summit region of Kīlauea or beneath the upper East Rift Zone in the park is one potential outcome."

About 360 shallow earthquakes in 24 hours ping-ponged between areas south of Kīlauea caldera to the upper East Rift Zone across Chain of Craters Road near Puhimau Crater, "adding to the uncertainty of where an eruption could occur. Their magnitude has ranged from M-1 to M-3." The Park reported that "Increased seismicity has not impacted traffic safety or infrastructure projects at the summit."

The park statement noted that "Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park encompasses two of the world's most active volcanoes, making it distinct among national parks. In 2022, the park closed the summit of Mauna Loa weeks ahead of its historic and nearly two-week eruption. As a result, no evacuations or search and rescue missions were necessary."

Many popular areas in the park remained open, including Kīlauea Visitor Center, overlooks along Crater Rim Trail, Volcano House, and Nāhuku lava tube. Park visitors are urged to plan ahead and check the park website for any closure or hazard alerts at [www.nps.gov/hawaii/volcanoes](http://www.nps.gov/hawaii/volcanoes).

## Forest Birds & Blue Pheasant Painted for Hunting & Wildlife Stamps

Winner of the Game Bird and Hawai'i Wildlife Conservation Stamp Art Contest are announced for 2024-2025. State Department of Land & Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife named the winners in April and thanked wildlife artists who submitted entries and the committee who reviewed all submissions.

The conservation stamp is required on state of Hawai'i hunting licenses, and the game bird hunting stamp is required for those intending to hunt game birds. Funds from sales of these stamps go into the state Wildlife Revolving Fund to support wildlife populations and habitats and to manage

hunting programs in Hawai'i.

Both stamps will be available on July 1 for the 2024-2025 hunting season. Wildlife stamp collectors can receive stamps by calling 808-587-0166 or visiting the DOWFA office at 1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325, in Honolulu.

Game bird stamp winner is Buck Spenser who painted the Melanistic blue pheasant. A self-taught wildlife artist from Junction City, Oregon, Spencer started his artistic journey using pencil and transitioned into painting. Spencer's father worked for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, inspiring him to start studying and drawing animals at a very young age. His older brother is a wildlife biologist and outdoor writer. Recently, Spencer won the California duck stamp contest, Oregon habitat stamp contest, and Louisiana duck stamp



Jon Ching won the Conservation stamp contest hosted by DLNR and partners.

Birds. Ching grew up steeped in O'ahu's natural beauty, which formed the foundation of his deep fascination with the natural and wild world. A self-taught painter, Jon's devoted art practice and detailed realism is inspired by the interconnectedness of nature. He has a keen interest in endangered species, specifically endemic Hawaiian birds, and seeks to share their stories and increase awareness of their plight. Ching's winning artwork for this contest features 'akeke'e, kiwikiu, 'akikiki, and 'ākohekohe. These four honeycreepers are at risk of extinction due in large part to avian malaria and are currently a major focus of conservation efforts.



Buck Spenser won the art contest for the game bird stamp. He featured the Melanistic blue pheasant.



Jon Ching grew up in Hawai'i and won the Conservation stamp art contest this year.

contest. Aside from painting, he enjoys fishing, hunting, and wildlife photography.

Winner of the Conservation Stamp is Jon Ching who painted Hawaiian Forest



## Experience Volcano Festival Gears up for July

The fifth annual Experience Volcano Festival has announced its call for vendors. It will be held Saturday, July 27 and Sunday, July 28 at venues throughout Volcano Village. Learn more, sign up to be a vendor or volunteer and join the Experience Volcano organization at [www.experiencevolcano.com](http://www.experiencevolcano.com) or email [experiencevolcano@pb06.wixemails.com](mailto:experiencevolcano@pb06.wixemails.com). To see more on the festival, visit [www.experiencevolcano.com](http://www.experiencevolcano.com). Photo by Jesse Tunison

The Ka'ū Calendar



### MAY EVENTS

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

**May 4 & May 18 - Free Musical Forest Tour**  
**May 5 - VAC Annual Membership Meeting**  
**May 9 - Archival Film**  
**May 11 - Home Herbalist Workshop with Heather Penfield**  
**May 11 - Zentangle with Iris Thornton**  
**May 11 - Jazz in the Forest: JP Thoma & the Jazztones**  
**May 12 - Mothers Day Concert with the Volcano Chamber Players**  
**May 11 - Hula Kahiko in the Park: Pahoa High & Middle School under the direction of kumu hula Kini Kā'awa**

**May 18 through June 7 - Exhibit at VAC Nialani Campus Emptiness and Form: An Invitational Exhibition of Visual Art**

**Aloha Fridays Cultural Demonstration at VAC gallery in HVNP Every Friday from 11am - 1pm**

Nialani Gallery in Volcano Village & VAC Gallery in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park are OPEN! Visit our website for current hours

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# Ka'ū Student Musicians Win Session with The Green



Brad Watanabe of The Green mentors Ka'ū music award winners in SPARX Hawai'i. Photo from Kendall Calumpit

## May Calendar, from pg. 9

'O KA'Ū KAKOU MARKET Wednesdays 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 KAKOU FOOD PANTRY open Tuesday May 28 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 May 29 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 May 23 from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. at 95-5558 Mamalahoa Hwy., Nā'ālehu. More at (808) 929-7474.

KA'Ū FOOD PANTRY open Tuesday May 28 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.

Student musicians from Ka'ū High & Pāhala Elementary earned a mentoring session on O'ahu from guitarist, pianist, and music producer Brad Watanabe of the band The Green. In October, Kendall Calumpit, Kaileo Kane-Broadfoot and Emil Soriano, Jr. traveled to O'ahu and Ko Olina Four Seasons Hotel as winners in the HI Sessions, SPARX Hawai'i Music Contest.

They performed and received recommendations from Watanabe, along with

meeting other winners of the music competition from around the state and touring the Four Seasons hotel, including the Presidential Suite with its own theater, said Calumpit.

SPARX "is a musical talent search throughout four Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa schools to platform budding artists and encourage them to create their own path in life." See [www.sparxhi.com](http://www.sparxhi.com).



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808-883-1088

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808-329-1677

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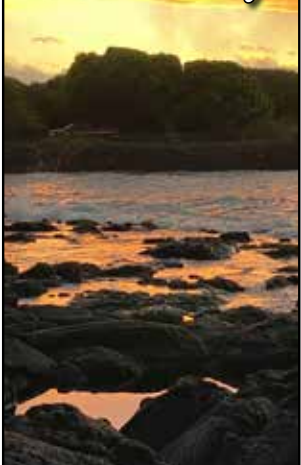
For more info visit  
[www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com/electronic-waste.html](http://www.mrksrecyclehawaii.com/electronic-waste.html)

### ACCEPTABLE DEVICES:

- Computers, laptops, tablets
- TVs and monitors (plasma, CRT, LCD & LED)
- Uninterruptible Power Supply Systems
- Computer keyboards & mice
- Printers, copiers, fax
- Mobile & Landline phones
- Digital cameras
- VCRs, DVD/Blue-ray players
- Stereo components (no speakers)
- Items **NOT** on this list will **NOT** be accepted for recycling.

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

You don't  
have to  
Fly Away  
to  
Get Away



808-937-9965







# Ka'u Coffee Festival

Events run June 1 - June 8, 2024

## **Ka'u Coffee Recipe Contest: Saturday, June 1**

Those with a passion for cooking and coffee can bring their your entries to the no-entry-fee recipe competition at 11 a.m. at Ka'u Coffee Mill. Show off culinary skills using Ka'u Coffee as an ingredient. Enter in one of the three categories: pupu (appetizer), entrée, or dessert, and compete for cash prizes in the adult or student division. All entries will be judged by a panel of experts; winners will be announced at the end of the event. All attendees will enjoy free coffee tastings and entertainment. Entry deadline is May 27, 2024. Register at [www.kaucoffeemill.com](http://www.kaucoffeemill.com) or contact (808) 928-0550.

## **Welcome Party @ Pāhala Plantation House, Saturday, June 1**

Meet sponsors, farmers, their families. Learn history of Ka'u Coffee, enjoy music of The Jazz Gardeners, Bolo, hula of Halau Leo Leonalani and Latin dance. Co-hosts Ka'u Coffee Farmers Cooperative, Pāhala Plantation Cottages and The Ka'u Calendar newspaper. 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Free. 808-937-9965.

## **Tour Ka'u Coffee Farms: Wednesday, June 5**

Take a self-guided tour of the Ka'u Coffee farms and see how the world-class coffee is grown, harvested and processed. Meet the farmers and learn about their stories, challenges and successes. Sample and purchase coffee products, as well as other local delicacies. A list of participating coffee farms will be made available in the festival brochure and at [kaucoffeefestival.com](http://kaucoffeefestival.com).

## **Ka'u Mountain Hike & Lunch: Thursday, June 6**

Join Ka'u Mountain Hike & Lunch in the Wood Valley rainforest, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Hike along the historic flume systems of the sugar cane era and learn about the development of hydroelectric power in Ka'u by the Ka'u Coffee industry. Enjoy stunning views of mountains, the valley, waterways and native plants and animals. The hike will be followed by a delicious lunch prepared with local ingredients. Limited to 30 participants; costs \$60 per person, which includes lunch. Reserve at [www.kaucoffeemill.com](http://www.kaucoffeemill.com) or contact (808) 928-0550.

## **Coffee & Cattle Day: Friday, June 7**

Those who love coffee and beef will love Coffee & Cattle Day at scenic Aikane Plantation Coffee Company, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Discover how descendants of Ka'u's first coffee farmer integrate coffee with pasture-raised beef, and how they manage their land sustainably. See cattle and coffee trees up close, and learn about the varieties and processing methods of Ka'u Coffee. The event will end with a sprawling, all-you-can-eat outdoor buffet featuring Ka'u Coffee and beef dishes, as well as other local specialties. Enjoy a hayride around the plantation and live entertainment. The event costs \$35 per person and requires a reservation at (808) 927-2252.

## **Stargazing Night: Friday, June 7**

If fascinated by the stars, don't miss Stargazing Night on the hills around Ka'u Coffee Mill, from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Observe the heavens from one of the best locations on the island, with the help of professional astronomers and telescopes. Learn the importance of stars in Hawaiian culture, and how navigation by stars led to the first landings of Polynesians in Hawai'i right here in Ka'u. The event costs \$60 per person and includes a barbecue dinner. Parking is available at Ka'u Coffee Mill for boarding a shuttle to the viewing site. Reservations are required at [www.kaucoffeemill.com](http://www.kaucoffeemill.com) or contact (808) 928-0550.

## **Ka'u Coffee Festival Ho'olaule'a: Saturday, June 8**

The grand finale of the Ka'u Coffee Festival is the Ho'olaule'a, a full day of fun and celebration, coffee tasting and interaction with Ka'u Coffee farmers on the spacious grounds of Pāhala Community Center. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., enjoy live music, hula, local food and crafts, keiki activities, educational displays, guided coffee tastings and farm and mill tours. It's a great place to talk story with Ka'u Coffee growers and learn more about their passion and dedication. Within Pāhala Community Center, The Ka'u Coffee Experience will offer Ka'u Coffees prepared with a variety of brewing methods by professional baristas from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Taste the difference and discover your favorite Ka'u Coffee.

**Apply for a Ho'olaule'a Booth at [www.kaucoffeefest.com](http://www.kaucoffeefest.com)**



For more information, see  
**[www.kaucoffeefest.com](http://www.kaucoffeefest.com)**

Sponsors include: Ka'u Coffee Growers Cooperative, County of Hawai'i, County Councilmember Michelle Galimba, Edmund C. Olson Trust II