

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

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

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

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

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



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

THE KA'Ū CALENDAR

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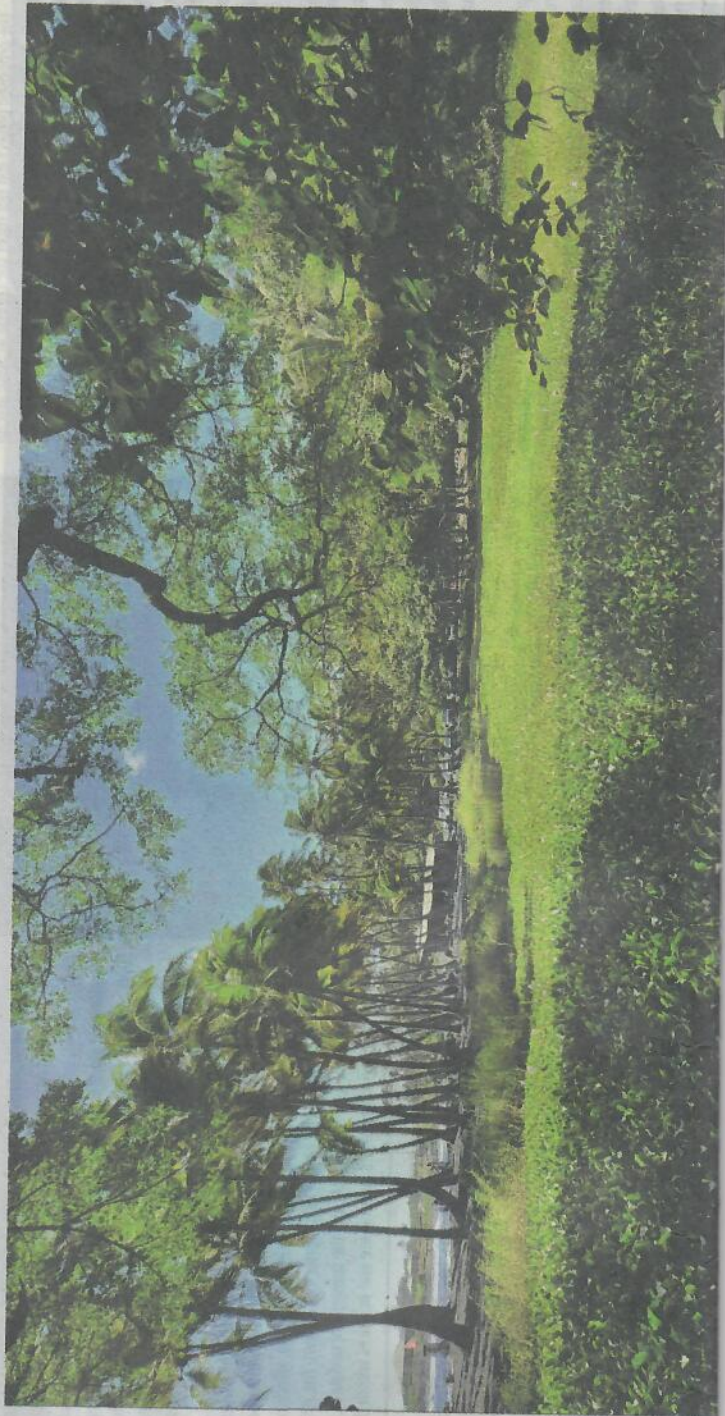
The Good News of Ka'ū, Hawai'i

Public Hearing for Punalu'u Development Set for March 7

March 2024

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

Supporters say that infrastructure, including roads, water and sewage systems, needs repair and upgrades, which would require income. They point to the accommodations planned on sites that are at least a quarter mile from the shoreline, which would be much smaller in numbers than previous proposals by other developers. They also say that their development would have a man-



request plan to control and direct visitor traffic at Punalu'u, offering free parking to locals with tourists paying. There would also be jobs in the construction period and for operations of accommodations, restaurants and other commercial ventures and a stewardship plan for environmental and cultural treasures.

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

Punalu'u Public Hearing, pg. 16

Director Recommends Approval of Punalu'u Village SMA

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

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



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

Planning files at <https://records.hawaii-county.gov/WebLink/1/doc/128725/Page1.aspx>. Here is the Planning Director's report and recommendation to the Windward Planning Commission as it considers approving the SMA permit:

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

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

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

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

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

1. The development will not have any substantial adverse environmental or ecological effect except as such adverse effect is minimized to the extent practicable and is clearly outweighed by public health, safety or compelling public interest;

2. The development is consistent with the objectives and policies and the Special Management Area guidelines as provided by Chapter 205A, HRS;

3. The development is consistent with the General Plan, Community Plan, Zoning Code and other applicable ordinances;

4. The development will, to the extent feasible, reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist, including specific factual findings regarding:

a. The identity and scope of valued cultural, historical or natural resources in the petition area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;

Punalu'u Village, pg. 2

Planning Suggests Conditions Should Punalu'u Be Approved

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

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

All driveway connections to Ninole Loop Road shall conform

to Chapter 22, County Streets, of the Hawaii County Code.

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

All earthwork and grading shall conform to Chapter 10, Erosion and Sedimentation Control of the Hawaii County Code. The applicant will submit to the Planning Department for review and approval the following updated plans: Water Quality and Marine Life Monitoring Plan; Pond Management Plan; Cultural Resources Management Plan, and Shoreline and Preservation Area Management Plan. These plans shall be submitted prior to any development activities described in this permit.

The applicant shall incorporate any recommendations provided by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) into **Punalu'u Conditions, pg. 15**

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Punalu'u Village, from pg. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

The applicant intends to place a large portion of the coastal area into a preserve or other protection status to maintain those resources at the shoreline. The project is utilizing the designated zoning of the site and, as such, will be in line with the existing entitlements related to zoning and appropriate land uses, as well as re-constructing and repairing existing structures and infrastructure to minimize further impacts to the site and surrounding area. The proposed project, as designed, will not generate any adverse

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

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

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

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

Portion of the shoreline frontage of the project site managed by the County as part of the Black Sand Beach Park complex of which facility and ground maintenance is conducted by the County Parks and Recreation Department. There are numerous coastal recreational resources that are currently enjoyed by community members and visitors to the area. The beach park allows for camping, fishing, hiking, and includes pavilions for gathering and other recreational uses. The black sand beach is heavily used by visitors and the community for fishing, and beach-type activities. Access to the shoreline is via the county beach park, and the black sand beach area. Lateral shoreline access (access along the shoreline) is open and accessible from many points along the shoreline of the project area. Staff visited the site and were able to traverse the

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

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HVNP Visitors, from pg. 1

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

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

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

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

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

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

Punalu'u Village, pg. 9

perience possible for park visitors. The Visitor Statistics Dashboard provides recreational visit statistics for every park in the US for 2023 and also for previous years, dating back to 1979 for some parks. There are 429 parks in the National Park System, and 400 parks counted visitors in 2023. For



Practices (BMP) or are lands that are already impacted by previous land work, including significant grading and grubbing. The applicant intends to implement appropriate mitigation in relation to view planes, pedestrian access, and community character to ensure the varied and large site is viable for both the existing community and visitors to the area.

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

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

Therefore, special controls on development within an area



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the entrance and help visitors explore the park more easily.

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

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

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

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK
 reporting their visitation numbers from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four US territories. Five national parks began reporting in 2023, and this is the first year a park from Delaware is included.



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KEEPING KA'U HEALTHY

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Midwife Offers Free Prenatal Clinics Monthly

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

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

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



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

Compehos provided some background information about access to care in Ka'u. She said she offers an alternative to "the medical model of care" and noted the shortage of physicians here. In her easy-access prenatal clinic, she offers the midwifery model of care, "the antidote to the maternal health care crisis that we are having in our country. Problems in the crisis include the highest maternal mortality and morbidity in all developed nations. This rate is even higher for Hawaiian and African American people." See more at nacpm.org.

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

Punalu'u Village, from pg. 12

Archaeological monitoring will be conducted during any ground disturbing activities within the five Development Sites.

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



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

SHINE Sisterhood Initiative & Ka'u Women's Health Collective



Ka'u Community Easy Access Prenatal Clinic

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

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

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

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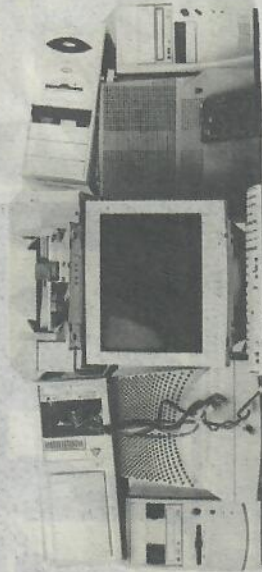
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of this approval; failure to comply with such requirements will be considered a violation that may result in enforcement action by the Planning Department and/or the affected agencies.

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- Stereo components (*no speakers*)
- Items NOT on this list will NOT be accepted for recycling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the event that surface or subsurface historic resources, including human skeletal remains, structural remains (e.g., rock walls, terraces, platforms, etc.), cultural deposits, marine shell concentrations, sand deposits, or sinkholes are identified during the demolition and/or construction work, cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find, protect the find from additional disturbance and contact the State Historic Preservation Office at (808) 935-3111.

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

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

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

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

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

Punalu'u Conditions, from pg. 1

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

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

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

'Ōlelo Volcano Watch, from pg. 14

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

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

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

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

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

This year the entertainment lineup

Mele Mural, from pg. 10

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

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

Original Development Plan (1997)

2,983 units



Coastline developed for private projects

Development Plan (2006)

1,823 units



Coastline developed for private projects

Proposed Development Plan (2024)

230 units



Permanently conservation area open to the community

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

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

Punalu'u Conditions, from pg. 15

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

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

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

The non-performance is the result of conditions that could

Punalu'u Public Hearing, from pg. 1

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

Letters of support and opposition have

Image from Black Sand Beach, LLC not have been foreseen or are beyond the control of the applicant, successors or assigns, and that are not the result of their fault or negligence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Read the notice with options to testify



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

Visit hanalaulimalahuiokau.org for more information.

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

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

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



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This year the entertainment lineup **Mele Mural, from pg. 10** blessing upon faculty, staff and community members. Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa complex area Superintendent Stacey Bello and 'Iwalani Harris, also from the KKP complex area office also attended to congratulate the student body on their collective effort.

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and Braddan Dane Sesson, Hāhau Nā Wai Iwi Ola and Ka'ū Crown. Hawaiian cultural demos will showcase wa'a and voyaging, weaving, ku'i kalo, 'ukulele and more. Ho'olaule'a T-shirts will also be on sale, along with food and crafts.

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

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

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

Reach More People

Contact us for rates and space reservation 808-937-9965 or email: mahalo@aloha.net and kaucaledar@gmail.com

