

Letters

Mahalo for Celebrating Cheri Sproat

Dear Editor,

Mahalo nui loa to the people who gathered at Keokea Beach Park on May 31 to honor and celebrate the life of Cheryl (Cheri) Sproat. This kupuna, who moved to the district in the 1970s with her Kohala-born husband Kindy Sproat, was an example of old-style aloha, sharing an endless genuine care and concern for everyone as well as for the place she called home.

Cheri was a friend to a lot of people and Tutu to many young ones from multiple families over three generations. Those who shared stories during the pro-

gram spoke of how Tutu Cheri was always there to support them. Besides learning about her life in Oregon and how she moved to Hawaii, her lifestyle of living at the end of the road was remembered, as well as her history of dancing hula.

Great appreciation was expressed for her companion of the last decade, Brian Caravalho, who was instrumental in making this celebration happen. A thank you is also extended to many family members and friends who flew in from the mainland and neighbor islands.

One of Cheri's last wishes was to give a luncheon to thank her family,

friends and community.

These multiple families she was a part of worked in laulima with a grateful heart to make her desire a reality. Much appreciation is shared to all the people who planned, shopped, gathered, fished, prepared, cooked, served, made lei, created picture boards, printed banners, set up, decorated, shuttled people, played music, danced, sang, and cleaned up. Cheri created a large family tree with multiple branches during her stay on Earth, and all of us who were part of her life are so thankful for her.

— Rande Golden

Mahalo Parks Maintenance



Photo courtesy of Pono Nakamura
Parks maintenance crew members (left to right): Sandrex Ramos, Kalei Emeliano, Mikey Salvador, Bryant Caravalho, Blaine Crabbe and Ian Caravalho.

Kamehameha Day is a big event in Kohala with the morning ceremony at the statue site, the beautiful parade with community members in it, and the Ho'olaule'a festivities at Kamehameha Park.

But let's acknowledge and give thanks to Maintenance Supervisor Pono Nakamura and the parks maintenance crew. Prior to the event, I saw the crew mowing the lawn at the statue site and Kamehameha Park, power washing the sidewalks and staircase, and trimming the plants and hedges. I could see that their work was done with Kohala Pride.

Mahalo for keeping Kohala, Kohala through your commitment to service.

Kealoha Sugiyama

Hawai'i State House of Representatives Update

From the Desk of District 8 Representative David Tarnas

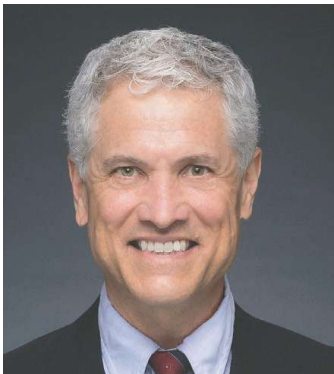


Photo courtesy of David Tarnas
Representative David Tarnas speaks for North Kohala as a member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives.

Aloha. Last month, I described important legislation approved this past session regarding the Judiciary budget and significant criminal justice reform measures. In today's article, I will provide highlights on other bills approved by the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee that passed the legislature regarding elections, ethics, campaign finance reform, firearm safety, fireworks, and wildfire pre-

vention and mitigation.

Elections, Ethics and Campaign Finance

HB300 strengthens the investigation and enforcement capacity of the Campaign Spending Commission by creating two new positions for an investigator and an elections assistant, and \$2.4 million to build a new electronic filing system. HB134 modernizes the candidate filing system by requiring the Chief Election Officer to provide a system for the electronic filing of nomination papers, and funds the system so that the electronic filing of nomination papers will be provided at no additional cost to the filer. HB408 increases the opportunity for voters to register to vote by mail by extending the deadline to register to vote by mail from 30 to 10 days prior to a primary or general election. HB412 strengthens the regulation of lobbying of government agencies by broadening the definition of "lobbying" to include certain communications with top government agency officials regarding contract and procurement decisions. HB413 prohibits campaign contributions from lobbyists during regular or special sessions during which both houses of the legislature are in session. SB176 establishes the vote difference threshold required

to trigger an automatic recount of election results to the lower number of two benchmarks – less than one hundred votes between the top two candidates, or less than one-half of one percent of the total number of votes cast in that race. SB1030 protects voters from intimidation by specifying that the practice of election fraud intimidation includes carrying any unconcealed firearm or dangerous instrument at or within two hundred feet of a voter service center, place of deposit, or polling place. SB1202 will help candidates who have dependent children or family members by allowing campaign funds to be used for a candidate's childcare and vital household dependent care costs under certain conditions.

Firearm Safety

HB125 strengthens safe firearm storage by requiring retail sellers or transferors of firearms to provide purchasers with notice regarding the law on firearms storage, expands requirements for secure storage, and clarifies offense of criminally negligent storage of a firearm. HB137 protects public safety by providing that violent felons that are in violation of the prohibition against owning, possessing, or controlling a firearm or

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Future KMN Deadlines

It's important for the Kohala Mountain News to receive ads and news submissions by the following deadlines. Otherwise, submissions may not be accommodated.

July Deadlines

Ads and News: 7/11/25

Calendar: 7/18/25

Distribution: 7/25/25

August Deadlines

Ads and News: 8/8/25

Calendar: 8/15/25

Distribution: 8/22/25

Our purpose is to enhance and strengthen the community by fostering continuous communication and understanding among the various cultures, residents and constituents.

www.kohalamountainnews.com

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Letters to the Editor and Viewpoint articles must address issues affecting North Kohala and be accompanied by the author's name, address and telephone number. Letters and Viewpoints are subject to editing, and shorter submissions will receive preference for publication.

For a twelve month subscription, please send your check for \$36, made out to the Kohala Mountain News, P.O. Box 639, Kapa'au HI 96755. Be sure to include a note stating the name and mailing address of the recipient.

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ammunition are subject to a mandatory prison term. HB392 establishes statutory language that prohibits the possession, transfer, and sale of ghost guns, and establishes mandatory minimum sentencing for use of a ghost gun in the commission of a felony. HB995 strengthens the reporting requirements and information sharing among law enforcement agencies by amending the annual reporting requirements imposed on the Department of the Attorney General and the chief of police of each county regarding licenses to carry firearms.

Fireworks

HB1483 is the comprehensive overhaul of the laws regarding fireworks which amends multiple definitions and penalties for fireworks offenses, including heightened

penalties if another person suffers substantial bodily injury, serious bodily injury, or death. It also establishes a system for law enforcement to issue citations and impose fines to individuals who are using illegal fireworks. HB806 strengthens laws against importing illegal fireworks by appropriating funds for the Department of Law Enforcement to conduct sting operations on Oahu to enforce fireworks ordinances or laws at all stages of the supply chain, including importation, distribution, and sale.

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation

HB1001 fulfills Hawaii State government's responsibility to pay its share of money (\$807 million) to the Maui Wildfire Settlement fund to fund the settlement of claims related to the Maui wildfires.

HB1064 is a comprehensive bill that implements the recommendations of the "Phase 3" Forward-Looking Report by Fire Safety Research Institute on the August 2023 Maui wildfires, further classifies the role of the State Fire Marshal, and appropriates funds. SB223 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish an independent program relating to the prevention, control, and extinguishment of wildland fires within forest reserves; authorizes the Administrator of Forestry and Wildlife to establish and maintain facilities for the performance of fire protection, fire prevention, pest control, and forest and range protection and enhancement activities; and requires DLNR to establish and implement the Community Fuels Reduction Project. SB897 will help

electric utilities finance improvements to mitigate wildfire risk by allowing them to recover wildfire mitigation, repair, and restoration costs through an automatic rate adjustment or other mechanism; and requiring the Public Utilities Commission to initiate a proceeding for the adoption of rules, subject to the Governor's approval, to determine an aggregate limit for liability for economic damages from a covered catastrophic wildfire.

Next month, I will highlight other important bills passed by the legislature that address priority issues for our community. I am grateful to serve as your State Representative and am always happy to hear from you. Please contact me anytime at (808) 586-8510 and rep-tarnas@capitol.hawaii.gov. Mahalo!

County Council Update

From the Desk of District 9 Councilmember James Hustace



Photo courtesy of James Hustace
Councilmember James Hustace represents North Kohala as part of Hawai'i County Council District 9.

Aloha Kohala!

With summer comes celebrations, moments of reflection, and opportunities to reconnect. At the end of May, I had the honor of attending the Celebration of Life for Cheryl Sproat, a beloved member of the Kohala community. Tūtū Cheri gave tirelessly to North Kohala through her work and spirit. The gathering at Keokea Beach Park was a moving tribute that reflected the deep impact she had on those around her.

It was also wonderful to join many of you at the Young Innovators Hawai'i "Live Show" and the Kohala High School graduation ceremony. I would like to extend heart-

felt congratulations to the Class of 2025. You are the future of Kohala, and we are proud of what you have accomplished and for what lies ahead.

We began June by celebrating King Kamehameha Day, a day that holds special significance here in North Kohala. The parade and lei draping ceremony reminded us not only of our legacy, but also of the strength and unity of family and the community members who keep these traditions alive. Mahalo to all who participated and prepared for the success of the day.

On the legislative front, your Hawai'i County Council passed the County Budget at the beginning of the month. As part of the Capital Budget, I successfully appropriated \$19M for projects across District 9, including a request for major repairs to the Kohala swimming pool to better complement the community efforts in caring for this beloved space. The budget also includes funding for the redevelopment of the Mahukona Beach Park. I look forward to working with the administration on these projects and meeting community needs.

Additionally, the Council recently passed legislation regarding telecommunication towers and the registration of short-term vacation rentals. I also co-sponsored a bill, which will take effect this fall, providing property tax relief to our

Hawaiian homestead communities and brings us into alignment with the other counties. Mahalo for submitting testimony during this process.

The Kohala Reunion is fast approaching, and I look forward to joining you. The theme this year, "Kohala 'Aina Momona" - Kohala, the abundant land - which reminds us of the richness of this homeland, not just in its lush beauty, but in its history, culture, and people. What a blessing for the community to come together over three days. Enjoy this special time to reconnect and to pass on the history of Kohala to

the next generation, so they too will understand the meaning of 'ohana.

I want to wish every family a safe and fun filled Fourth of July. As we gather for fireworks, BBQs, and time with loved ones, let us also reflect on the freedoms we cherish and our shared kuleana.

I am honored to serve as your Councilmember. Please reach out if you have any questions. You are welcome to email me at james.hustace@hawaiiicounty.gov or call our Hilo (808-961-8564) or Waimea office (808-887-6077).

Wishing you good health. Be well. Aloha!

Laulima Community Survey

The County of Hawai'i invites the public to help shape the future of Hawai'i Island through the Laulima Community Survey, available through July 31.

The anonymous online survey aims to capture the voices and sentiments of residents and provide insights into what is most important to them. By repeating the survey every four years, the County will be able to monitor trends and ensure that policies and investments are aligned with the evolving needs and priorities of communities across the island.

"This survey is a chance for Hawai'i Island residents to share

their thoughts and concerns about life in our communities — what is working, what is not, and what matters most to you and your 'ohana," said Mayor Kimo Alameda. "It only takes a few minutes, but your input can have a lasting impact on the direction of our island."

Complete the survey at www.rd.hawaiiicounty.gov/data-information/laulima-community-survey.

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**Thank you Kohala!**

After 25 great years we are proud to pass the torch and welcome the new Elements of Kohala in Hawi!

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