

Hanakila, Kaua'i Ballers to meet for Boys 14 title

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Home births on the rise

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South Sudan becomes world's newest nation

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KIUC members affirm Free Flow contract

Petition circulating for new vote

Vanessa Van Voorhis
THE GARDEN ISLAND

LIHU'E — By a more than two-to-one margin, members of the island's sole elec-

tric provider have directed their elected co-op's leaders to stay the course. Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative on Friday announced the results of a

member-driven vote on whether to overturn its Board of Directors' recent decision to contract with Free Flow Power to explore hydropower on six island waterways. The ballot initiative produced 5,404 votes in favor of

continuing the contract and 2,098 votes against. Voter participation was more than 30 percent. Comparatively, voter participation for the Board of Directors election last March was 25 percent, down from 28 percent the previous year.

"We would like to say mahalo to the hundreds of community members who came out to our public meetings and actively participated in KIUC's outreach process," KIUC Board Chair Teofilo "Phil" Tacbian said in a press release. "We take to heart

all of your comments, both supportive and critical, and we look forward to continuing to reach out to the entire Kaua'i community as we explore hydropower for our island."

See **KIUC**, A5

Hawai'i spending growth nearly 4 times national average

Nanea Kalani
HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT

Even as the nation struggles to bounce back from the recession, most state governments — including Hawai'i's — are increasing their spending. General fund spending is higher in all but 10 states this year. The general fund por-

tion of Hawai'i's operating budget is up by 10 percent — nearly four times the national average. Only four states projected larger percentage budget growths than Hawai'i for 2012. In all, 40 states including Hawai'i increased spend-

See **Spending**, A5

Yes, he stuck it



Dennis Fujimoto/The Garden Island

Corey Nemeth shoots off the top of an Ammonia's break, Friday afternoon. Surfers in the know claim when winds come up, Ammonia's breaks. A crop of body boarders and surfers peppered the way throughout the day. The National Weather Service, in its high surf advisory Friday, said gusty trade winds will create rough wind-driven surf along east-facing shores. The advisory remains in effect until 6 p.m. today.

Pa'anau Village breaks ground

Project to create jobs, add affordable rental units

Dennis Fujimoto
THE GARDEN ISLAND

KOLOA — Fifty Kaua'i families will soon be able to rent affordable housing on the South Shore.

Ground was broken Thursday for Pa'anau Village, Phase II, in Koloa. Located just across the street from Koloa Elementary School and adjacent to Pa'anau Village, Phase I, the construction of the \$13.8 million affordable housing project adds 50 rental units to the Kaua'i inventory, states a county release.

The first phase of the Koloa housing project was completed in 1994. Some 60 families currently live there. "This project is being built during a time when many construction workers are in need of jobs," said John Frazier, director of the Kaua'i Housing Development Corp. "Priority for this project is being given to local Kaua'i workers."

Conrad Murashige, president of Shioi Construction, contractor for the project, said although Kaua'i is at about 9 percent unemployment overall, in the

construction industry that figure is more than 70 percent and the project presents a tremendous opportunity for putting workers back on the job.

Dennis Nakahara, board president of KHDC, said land for the project was provided by Kukui'ula Development Co. and A&B Hawai'i. He said the project will stimulate local business, infuse jobs into the community and be a step toward more environmentally friendly development.

"This is the most important work we do for the community," said JoAnn Yukimura, vice chair of the Kaua'i County Council and chair of the Housing Committee. "It's safe, healthy and energy efficient, close to the school and transit lines. When people have a safe place to live, the community grows."

Pa'anau Village, Phase II, is considered one of the greenest, least toxic affordable housing projects in the state, the county release states.

Among the list of green

See **Pa'anau**, A5

On-bill solar financing one step closer

Mark Niesse
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — Hawai'i home solar power installations could become more affordable under a law signed Friday by Gov. Neil Abercrombie.

The legislation calls for the investigation and possible creation of a system where residents could finance expensive up-front costs of solar power installations through their electric bills.

Abercrombie threatened to veto the measure just last week because of the unfunded strain it would

The biggest obstacle that residents face when it comes to adopting clean energy is the upfront cost, and on-bill financing eliminates that.

Jeff Mikulina
Executive director, Blue Planet Foundation

put on state regulators, but private renewable energy groups led by the Blue Planet Foundation then offered to work with the state to cover expenses, his office said.

"If this partnership can come together as envisioned ... we can determine whether and how an on-bill financing program can be designed so that more people can participate in Hawai'i's

clean energy future," the Democratic governor said in a statement. "Working together, we can advance our clean energy goals with the kind of urgency and determination that these times demand."

The law could help defray costs of any renewable energy system, with its most widespread use being to aid homeowners when they want to install solar-powered hot water heaters or rooftop photovoltaic panels. Residents could slowly pay off their systems over several years through their

See **Solar**, A5

Robots to remove ordnance off Wai'anae

Audrey McAvoy
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — The Army plans to remove decades-old unexploded munitions from the ocean floor off the coast of Wai'anae over the next three weeks.

Normally, the military has divers take potentially dangerous munitions out of the ocean, but this time it is testing the use of a remotely controlled robot to do the job.

The target is an area so littered with munitions that it is commonly known as "Ordnance Reef."

The weapons range from small arms munitions to large-caliber projectiles and naval gun ammunition. They're believed to be from the World War II era and were likely dumped in

the ocean after the war. The military threw out its old weapons in the sea up to 1970 because it thought doing so was safer than burying them in the ground or burning them.

"Sea disposal was an internationally accepted practice. Not just for munitions, but for municipal waste and everything else. So DOD was doing what everyone else was doing," said J.C. King, the assistant for munitions and chemical matters at the Army. "It was a good idea at the time — maybe not so much now?"

The military hopes to take away and destroy about 75 percent of the roughly 2,000 munitions in the area. The rest have become so encrusted with coral that removing them would



Audrey McAvoy/Associated Press

The Army plans to use this robot to remove unexploded ordnance from the sea off O'ahu's Wai'anae Coast over the next three weeks.

See **Ordnance**, A5



TODAY OUTSIDE

Mostly sunny
High 87 | Low 70
WINDS: East 10-15 mph, higher gusts
High surf advisory for south and east shores
WAVES: North 0-1 East 5-8 South 5-8 West 3-5



County should spend our money better

Without intending to circumscribe the discretion that our council should have, observance of these two guidelines would serve to assure that spending of our citizens' funds would be better safeguarded.

A Better Kaua'i, A4

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