



"E Ala Na Moku Kai Liloloa"

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NORTH SHORE NEWS December 17, 2025 VOLUME 42, NUMBER 13



The Royal Order of Kamehameha I and the Eddie competitors Photo © @ErikKabik

The World Gathers at THE EDDIE Opening Ceremony

The 2025-2026 Rip Curl Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational Ceremony was held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at Waimea Bay, marking the official start of the event's three-month waiting period from December 7, 2025 - March 6, 2026.

The ceremony was a powerful and culturally significant gathering, many had traveled from across the globe to attend the event honoring the legacy of legendary Hawaiian waterman and lifeguard Eddie Aikau with more than a thousand attendees,

including the world's best big wave surfers, the Aikau family, sponsors, and the North Shore community.

The ceremony began with a Hawaiian blessing and a few words from the President of the Eddie Aikau Foundation, Linda Ipsen.

These remarks were followed by singing and hula from the Pūnana Leo o Waialua Keiki and Waimea Valley's Kumu Ka'ulamealani Diamond and Halau.

Following the surfer introductions, the great-nephew of Eddie,

Keawe Kaoha Aikau Kaalekahi assisted the Royal Order of Kamehameha I and Laiana Kanoa-Wong with the blessing of the event and the competitors. Then the surfers headed into the water with their colorful array of surfboards and paddled out to the middle of Waimea Bay for the ocean blessing.

THE EDDIE happens when wave heights reach 40-foot faces and weather conditions allow for the competition to "Go" in a single day.

www.theeddieaikau.com



North Shore Chamber of Commerce News

Honoring Those Who Shape Us: A North Shore Holiday Celebration of Service

On December 11, the community gathered at Waimea Valley for an evening that celebrated the people and organizations who help define the North Shore's character and quality of life. The North Shore Chamber of Commerce's Annual Christmas Party and Community Awards Dinner brought together business leaders, educators, families, volunteers, and local representatives in a shared spirit of gratitude and aloha.

The event serves as the Chamber's primary annual fundraiser, helping sustain its work throughout the year — from supporting local businesses and cultural preservation to advocating for the protection of our natural and economic resources. Every sponsored table, every ticket purchased, and every silent auction bid played a meaningful role in keeping that mission strong.

Central to the evening were the honorees whose plaques told stories of service, stewardship, leadership, and aloha.

Howard Green, North Shore Kama'āina of the Year, was recognized for "decades of dedication to Hale'iwa's business community." As the visionary behind the North Shore Marketplace, Green created more than a commercial center — he cultivated a gathering place honoring "local artisans, small businesses, and authentic island culture," while carefully protecting Hale'iwa's historic charm. His award underscored what it means to be true kama'āina: one who "loves, serves, and uplifts the community."

Representative Sean Quinlan, North Shore Public Servant of the Year, was honored for his leadership in safeguarding "O'ahu's most vital natural resource — our groundwater." His role in passing HB 969, now Act 255, prevented development of a landfill above North Shore aquifers, a victory that protects "clean water for our families, farms, and ecosystems." His recognition highlighted public service rooted in stewardship of 'āina and responsibility to community.

Coach Mel Medrano of Waialua High School, North Shore Coach of the Year, was celebrated for building more than winning volleyball teams. His award reflected his mentorship and years of "hard work, mentorship, and aloha," which have strengthened confidence and unity among student-athletes. Under his guidance, both the boys' and girls' programs have thrived, helping shape young leaders and bringing pride to the school and community.

Michelle Cazimero of Waialua High School, North Shore Teacher of the Year, was recognized for her transformational work as student activities coordinator, creating spaces "where every student feels valued and inspired to reach their full potential." With compassion, creativity, and

high expectations, she has become "a shining example of educational excellence on the North Shore."

Ron Weidenbach of Hawai'i Fish Company, North Shore Farmer of the Year, was honored for "pioneering work in sustainable aquaculture." His leadership strengthens food security and supports "environmentally responsible fish farming practices" that advance education and community stewardship.

Friends of Ali'i Beach & the Menehune Surf Contest, North Shore Non-Profit of the Year, were celebrated for an enduring tradition that has provided generations of keiki with mentorship, confidence, and connection to the ocean. Their award reflected the spirit of "aloha in action," preserving culture and nurturing future ocean stewards.

North Shore Backpackers, led by SharLyn Foo, North Shore Business of the Year, was honored not only for business excellence but for lifelong community service — from leadership in multiple community organizations to carrying forward the Foo family legacy rooted in surf culture.

This memorable evening would not have been possible without Waimea Valley, Kenui Kitchen, the many generous silent auction donors, and the dedicated volunteers who made it all come together.

Together, we honored those who serve. Together, we strengthened the future of the North Shore. May we continue to uplift one another — in business, in stewardship, and in aloha.



H A L E I W A

**Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year**

**Bob Dylan's Lyrics are Ringing True...
"The Times...They Are a Changin'"**

Our Current New Business Hours:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Monday | 11am - 5pm |
| Tuesday | Closed |
| Wednesday | 11am - 5pm |
| Thursday | 11am - 5pm |
| Friday | 11am - 5pm |
| Saturday & Sunday | 11am - 8pm |

**Mahalo for your continued
patronage and many
Mahalos for helping push us
past the 50 year mark!**



Kama'āina Holiday Pass Sale Ends December 24!

\$5 per pass or 5 passes for \$20! Each pass valid for 1 single-day admission through December 2026; annual passes also available



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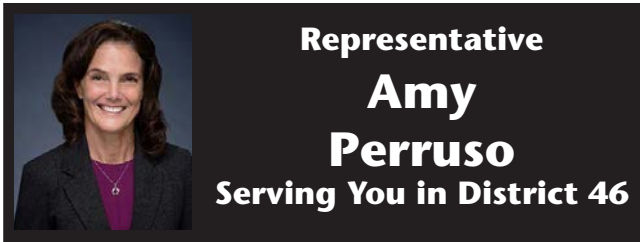


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Why Hawai'i Must Get Money Out of Politics

Hawai'i stands at a crossroads. People across the islands are exhausted by corruption, discouraged by dark money influence, and hungry for governance grounded in fairness, responsibility, and public trust. Integrity is now the public's clearest expectation of leadership.

Confronting unlimited political spending is not merely a technical fix. It is a democratic reset, a way to restore confidence that elected officials serve the community rather than private capital.

A Strategy Built for Hawai'i's Present Reality

Across the country, communities are pushing back against the corrupt political power unleashed by Citizens United. Hawai'i can learn from these efforts while shaping its own approach based on local expectations of accountability and public responsibility.

Real political legitimacy in Hawai'i does not rest on wealth. It rests on shared obligation — to one another and to future generations. Authentic democracy, here, is and has been understood as grounded in people power, not transactions. Unlimited corporate political spending cuts directly against that understanding. It invites entities with no reciprocal commitment to Hawai'i's well-being to influence decisions meant for the people who live here.

Why Corporate Spending Threatens Public Well-Being

The consequences of money driven politics appear in every major challenge the islands face: housing that working families cannot actually afford, widening inequality, land speculation, and shaken confidence in public institutions. These outcomes are not accidental. They flow from a political system increasingly shaped by monied interests whose priorities diverge from those of everyday residents.

When corporate or mainland money can overwhelm kama'āina voices, policy tilts toward speculative profit over family stability, luxury STR and development interests overshadow local workforce housing, environmental stewardship weakens under donor pressure, and elected officials face incentives to please funders rather than constituents.

A democracy shaped by corporate wealth cannot serve local people. A democracy shaped by public accountability can.

Restoring a Democratic Standard

Hawai'i can choose a path that reflects the values and expectations of its people.

By updating our corporate code to clarify that corporate entities chartered here have obligations to civic

integrity — and therefore cannot use their financial power to influence elections — we reaffirm a basic democratic truth that political voice belongs to people, not to corporations, which are merely artificial entities created for economic purposes.

This does not deny anyone speech; it prevents distortion. It ensures that elections reflect community will rather than capital advantage. It aligns Hawai'i with a broader movement for cleaner elections while responding directly to local concerns about fairness and trust.

How Corporate Money Corrupts the Process

The public feels the harm intuitively, but we should be clear about the ways in which this happens. Corporate money distorts representation, as candidates dependent on large donors subtly shape agendas around donor interests, not voter needs. When money becomes the main source of political power, elections become spending competitions rather than contests of ideas, excluding those without access to capital.

Corporate money in politics creates structural dependency. Elected officials who are reliant on donor industries become reluctant to regulate them, weakening enforcement and oversight. This corporate money discourages participation, because when people believe big money outweighs their vote, cynicism rises and turnout falls. Finally, corporate money in politics hides accountability. Dark money vehicles obscure who is funding the messaging that shapes public choices.

Removing corporate money is therefore structural, not symbolic. It restores the basic conditions of democracy: equal voice, transparency, and accountability.

Hawai'i's Contribution to a National Reform Movement

While many places pursue reform through litigation and regulatory patchwork, Hawai'i can offer a clearer model — one that directly defines corporate obligations and prevents election influence at the source. This approach strengthens public trust, protects policymaking from distortion, and reorients political life around community well-being rather than financial muscle.

By taking this path, Hawai'i moves toward a democracy where decisions arise from public deliberation and shared responsibility — not from the leverage of corporate actors whose interests may lie elsewhere. That is the democratic future Hawai'i's people deserve.

I will share the information for this bill when it gets introduced, and I hope the community can join me in supporting it by talking about it with neighbors and submitting testimony.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

From our real estate family to yours —

We're sending warm wishes, big smiles, and plenty of holiday joy!

May your home be filled with love, laughter and everything merry & bright this season.

Thank you for trusting us to be part of your journey. We look forward to making even more memories together in 2026!

With Aloha and Holiday Cheer,
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- Sandra A. Martin (R)
- Sophia Miller (R)
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- Cathryn L. Shanley (R)
- David P. Starr (R)
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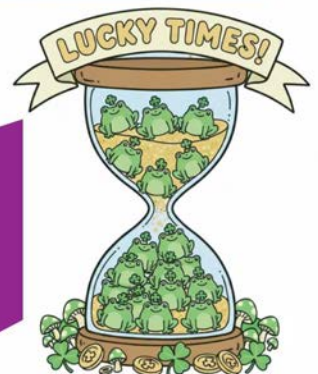
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*Offer ends December 31st. Must be an 'Ohana Club member with Hawai'i ID.
Based on space availability. Center closed on Sundays and Christmas Day.

Reviving the Mill: Haleiwa Distilling Company Brings New Life to Waialua

By Noah Grodzin

Opened on July 5th, 2025, the Haleiwa Distilling Company, located in the Waialua Sugar Mill, is the new and exciting business to welcome and support.

It is a new classic staple on the North Shore, with old mill character and a modern touch. The team enjoys answering questions, sharing the story of the Sugar Mill, and explaining how rum becomes a finished bottle. It is a relaxed spot for pau hana after work.

The distillery is currently serving its craft rum and will soon be unveiling Red Dirt Whiskey. Over time, the lineup will grow to include rum, whiskey, gin, and moonshine, all made on site.

Nate Sisler, the owner and founder, and his team of twelve have set their sights on one thing: crafting an above and beyond premium product that the North Shore community can be proud of.

Nate is a third generation moonshiner originally from West Virginia and has lived on the North Shore for nearly two decades. The North Shore is special to Nate because this is where he chose to raise his family and chase his dreams.

After much blood, sweat, and grit, Nate built the new facility from the ground up. The result is stunning. Who knew the Old Waialua Sugar Mill had so much potential.

When you first step on the property, you enter a massive lanai that includes a full size Vietnam era helicopter. Visitors can walk right up to it, climb in, and snap a photo. From the patio, you enter the grand tasting room, where you can try a variety of craft cocktails prepared with all North Shore ingredients such as mint and lime from a nearby farm and honey from HI Honey. All ingredients are sourced within just a few miles of the distillery.

Book a tour, you will get the opportunity to go behind the scenes into the Distilled Spirits Plant. First, the manufacturing room is clean and organized. There is a lot going on, but there is an order to it, and Nate and his staff seem to know every nook and cranny of the operation. As you look around, you quickly notice one of the most beautiful pieces of machinery you will ever see: a custom, state of the art copper still, hand assembled here in Waialua. Willy Wonka might as well have made this bit of machinery himself due to its whimsical and artistic nature. Beyond the eye-catching shine, the still is a high performing, masterful contraption that can produce any spirit Nate would like while meeting and exceeding production goals.

The true heart of the business is the artisan passion inspired product of handcrafted Hawaiian spirits. Nate is implementing amazing ideas like his special mac nut charcoal filtration system. He truly wants you to taste the "spirit of aloha in every sip".

To learn more about the distillery, book a tour, or host an event visit HaleiwaDistillingCo.com.

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

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would like to thank you
for your continued support
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Councilmember
Matt Weyer
Serving You in District 2

Aloha North Shore Community,

Happy Holidays! As we close out the year, I want to send a mahalo to you and your 'ohana. This season reminds us of what matters most, including supporting one another, meeting the needs of our residents, caring for our natural and cultural resources, and ensuring that our communities are improved for future generations. Mahalo for your continued aloha.

Mount Ka'ala Gondola Project Update

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has issued a formal notice of reconsideration to the Mt. Ka'ala gondola project applicant for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) originally approved in 2019. This step allows the DPP Director to determine whether the CUP should be affirmed, modified, or revoked based on new evidence, changed conditions resulting from the applicant's proposed modifications, public safety concerns, and the applicant's failure to comply with existing conditions. Recent information from the U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i indicates the project area lies close to or within military training sites where unexploded ordnance may be present—facts not available during the original review. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife has also raised concerns, including impacts to native species, endangered plants, and natural resources, alongside concerns expressed by other agencies and officials.

The applicant has additionally conducted new studies and consultations that were not available during the initial review, further supporting the Director's decision to pursue reconsideration. The applicant now has 15 days from receipt of the notice to submit a written response, and the Director will hold a public hearing to allow the applicant and the community to be heard, with a written decision expected within 30 days thereafter. DPP's willingness to re-evaluate the permit reflects the community's vigilance, and I remain proud to stand with this community and will continue to keep you updated as the process moves forward.

Lā'ie DMV Kiosk Now Open

I am excited to announce that a brand-new self-service DMV kiosk is now open inside the Lā'ie Foodland. The yellow machine operates like an ATM and lets you renew and print your motor vehicle registration in minutes while avoiding lines and minimizing wait times. This kiosk gives our residents more flexibility. It's also able to process renewals up to 10 months past expiration (with a \$16 late fee) and is part of a growing network of 10 kiosks across O'ahu that processed a record 165,656

renewals last year. Mahalo to the Department of Customer Services for their hard work on this effort. Proud to support more convenient, accessible services to our North Shore community. Stop by Foodland Lā'ie and give it a try! For additional questions or information on how to use a DMV kiosk, please visit hawaiiidmvnowkiosk.com/faq/

Mahalo for Joining Our Waiialua Talk Story

I appreciate everyone who attended our recent Talk Story at Waiialua District Park. It was great spending time with community members, listening to your concerns and discussing priorities for our district. Topics included public infrastructure improvements, the ongoing effort to protect Mount Ka'ala, and ways to increase public safety across the region. Your mana'o is essential in guiding our work, and I remain committed to ensuring that community voices stay at the center of every decision.

Joseph P. Leong Highway & Kamehameha Highway Rehabilitation

The State Hawai'i Department of Transportation is moving forward with the rehabilitation of Joseph P. Leong Highway and Kamehameha Highway, from Waimea Bay to the 'Ōpae'ula Stream Bridge. Crews will shift traffic and close one lane at a time from Weed Circle toward Hale'iwa to install permanent striping on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Additionally, repaving near Waimea Bay is scheduled to start in January 2026 at night. You may contact the department for more information at complainthighwayoahu@hawaii.gov.

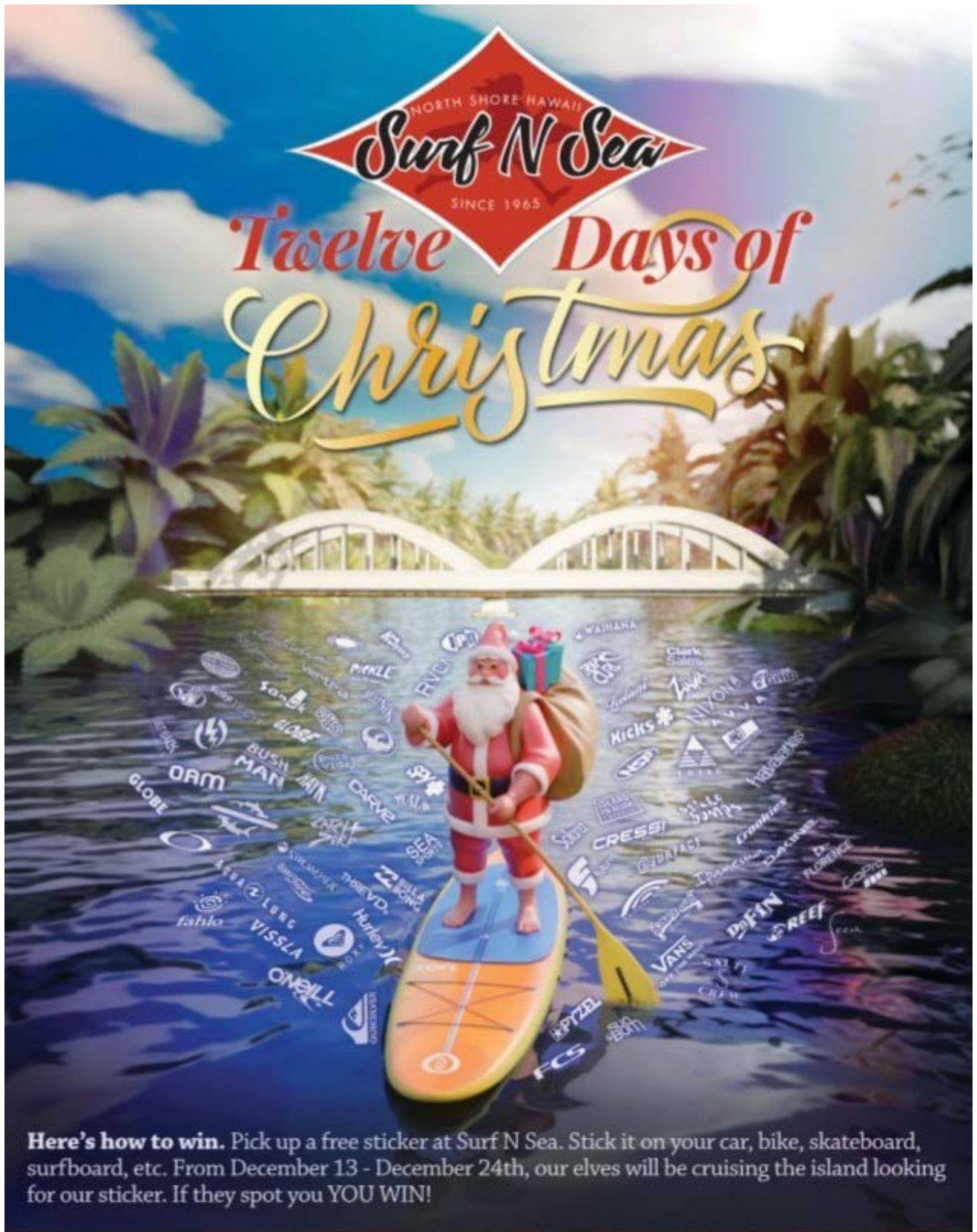
Pūpūkea Road Guardrail and Stabilization Project

The City Department of Design and Construction began a guardrail installation and roadway stabilization project on Pūpūkea Road on October 29th. The nine-month project will include new guardrails, pavement reconstruction, and a soil-nail retaining wall to strengthen the hillside and improve roadway safety. Work hours are weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (excluding holidays). Please expect contraflow operations while construction is underway.


Waimea Bay Beach Park Comfort Station Renovations Completed

Mahalo to the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) for completing major repairs to the Waimea Bay Beach Park comfort stations. The work included roof reconstruction and significant bathroom renovations, combining contractor services with in-house maintenance. The facilities are now open to the public. The project began in April and combined contractor work with in-house DPR maintenance. Mahalo to everyone who helped make these improvements happen just in time for the winter season.

Happy Holidays!



Here's how to win. Pick up a free sticker at Surf N Sea. Stick it on your car, bike, skateboard, surfboard, etc. From December 13 - December 24th, our elves will be cruising the island looking for our sticker. If they spot you YOU WIN!

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Lili`uokalani Protestant Church and the Endeavor Arch

By: The Historic Preservation Committee of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce

The Lili`uokalani Protestant Church was established in 1832 by Chief Gideon La`anui, the ruling Chief of Waialua and grandnephew of Kamehameha I, together with New England Protestant missionaries Rev. John and Ursula Emerson, all three of whom are buried in the adjacent cemetery. The first church, near the mouth of Anahulu Stream, was a large pili-grass pavilion. In 1840, a second church was built of adobe and in 1890, a third wood-frame church was built on the present site. Queen Lili`uokalani was a frequent visitor, inspiring the congregation to change its name to Lili`uokalani Protestant Church in her honor. The present church, dedicated in 1961, features a unique Iwa bird weathervane and stained-glass windows by renowned artist Erica Karawina.

The Endeavor Arch at the entrance to the church grounds was conceived and designed by Judge Archibald Mahaulu, a spiritual leader and prominent public figure whose parents were retainers of the Emersons. In 1909, Mahaulu represented Hawaii at a Christian Endeavor Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, a likely inspiration for the name of the arch which was completed and dedicated in 1910 as a tribute to the Emersons. In addition to other public service positions, Mahaulu was appointed District Magistrate of Waialua in 1900, serving until his death in 1916. Also buried in the church cemetery, Judge Archibald Mahaulu is mainly responsible although not widely recognized for the historic and symbolic tribute to the Emersons and missionaries who followed them. The splendid memorial archway, described as Moorish in structure, was built entirely of field lava rock without mortar. It has long been adorned with night blooming cereus that blooms but once a year. The large white blossoms open after dusk and are usually gone by morning. The arch and the church remain as inseparable icons of historic Hale`iwa.



Waialua Memorial Arch photo courtesy of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library

The North Shore Chamber of Commerce presents
Christmas Ornaments of Historic Haleiwa!

Limited Editions!

2025 Ornament * *Lili`uokalani Protestant Church, est. 1832*

For nearly 200 years, the Lili`uokalani Protestant Church has been in the heart of Haleiwa. This familiar image is commemorated as the 2025 one-of-a-kind brass ornament created by Tom Pollard Designs exclusively for the North Shore Chamber of Commerce. You can support the Chamber's effort to preserve and protect the buildings of historic Haleiwa by purchasing one or more of these keepsake ornaments for \$20 each.

In consideration of its legacy of service to the community and standing as a non-profit institution, a portion of the sales will be donated to Lili`uokalani Protestant Church. Call the NSCC at 808-637-4558 to order!

Also Available!

Anahulu Stream Bridge Historic Haleiwa Hotel
Historic Haleiwa Theater

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Passing Time

By Valerie Powell Sheppard Tudor

I knew I couldn't get down to the beach so I didn't even try. I stayed above and communed with the grand old Kamani nut tree at #280 beach access that I have known for over 60 years, since it was just a sapling. The neighborhood tough guys would hang out there and hang on the little tree causing it to bend. I feared for it but feared the toughies more so said nothing. Now, that same tree is huge and has a labyrinth of giant roots holding up the hillside. Kids climb up into the high branches playing "monkey" and others play tag around the many exposed roots which act as a stairway to get down to the beach. Dozens of finches chatter non-stop in the canopy. This ancestor tree has many offspring limbs now larger than it was when I first met it in 1965. It witnesses families gathering around it these days when 60 years ago there were way fewer families in Sunset Beach and "Mothers" didn't have a name or many visitors. It seems to have settled into comfortable old age just watching the waves break and all the activities going on around it, but maybe that's just me talking about myself.

Happy Christmas! We really need your story! *The Shorebreak is a collection of personal stories/prose from North Shore residents designed to unify via common experiences, struggles, and joys. ALL AGES please submit pieces (and any questions) to Kezia at shorebreakbooks@gmail.com. 300 word limit. Pieces will be considered for publication in the North Shore News as well as a Shorebreak book for the community to enjoy together :)*



Wishing you and your families a happy and healthy holiday season!



Ask the Doctor

Nash Witten, MD

Dear Doctor, "What vaccinations are recommended during pregnancy and for people coming to see our newborn?"

During pregnancy, it is recommended to receive the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccination between 32 and 36 weeks of gestational age, between September and January. RSV causes an upper respiratory tract infection, similar to COVID-19 and influenza, and is especially dangerous to newborns. By having the mother receive the vaccine during pregnancy, the newborn can build an immune response against RSV, so that if/when exposed after birth, they will be able to fight off the virus more effectively!

The tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis vaccine (Tdap) is recommended between 27 and 36 weeks of gestational age. By having the mother receive the vaccine during pregnancy, the newborn similarly builds an immune response against these organisms, so that if exposed after birth, they will hopefully not be as severely affected. Thankfully, since most adults have received this vaccine at some point and it is part of the routine childhood immunization series, we as a society are unfamiliar with these diseases. Despite this, they are quite dangerous to infants, which is why it's important to vaccinate the mother during the above timeframe to, in turn, protect the newborn.

If you're going to be seeing a newborn or will be having one join your household, it's also recommended that you be vaccinated to protect the baby. It is recommended that you be up to date on your Tdap (every 10 years) and influenza (annual), and that you have previously been vaccinated against measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) and varicella (chicken pox). If you've had chickenpox, you don't need the varicella vaccine. It is important to note, however, that if you get a shingles outbreak, you are contagious by direct contact with blister fluid until the blisters have crusted over and scabbed. You are only infectious to people who never previously had chicken pox or are unvaccinated, like the newborn.

If you need to catch up on your vaccinations, reach out to your primary care provider, or you can often schedule them at a local pharmacy.

Dr. Nash Witten is a Board-Certified Family Medicine physician at Queen's Health Care Centers, Hale'iwa. You can submit questions at nsnaskthedoctor@gmail.com.

Waialua Community Association
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 21, 2025

At the Old Haleiwa Gym

Sign-In at 6:00 PM

Meeting at 7:00 PM

For questions call: 637-4606

All members and the community are invited but only members whose membership dues were received on or before **January 16, 2025** will be allowed to vote in this meeting. Membership applications are available online at waialuacommunityassociation.org for those wishing to join.

Pūpūkea Bike Path Update

Bowers and Kubota, the Honolulu employee-owned engineering firm, is still working on the planning and design of the new Bike Path. It will be built in three stages starting at Kapo'o (Shark's Cove). Construction should begin in about a year and a half.

In the meantime, maintenance of the Bike Path is an issue.

Please, call 311, the City Community Concerns Hotline - Ask for City support to keep the Pūpūkea Bike Path safe and beautiful.



As we embrace the holiday season, let's celebrate the many blessings that make our community strong and vibrant. This is a time to reflect on the good in the world, and to look forward with hope and optimism for the year ahead. From all of us, our warmest aloha, a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with hope, peace, and prosperity.



Waialua Bandstand
Presents

The Royal Hawaiian Band

Sunday, January 4, 4pm

Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the show!



On December 19, 2025, Jan Lerner, of Pūpūkea, will retire after 38 years of service at the clinic! She was hired at Hale'iwa Family Health Center in 1987 by Dr. Rodman Miller. Upon Dr. Miller's retirement, she worked at the clinic under the leadership of Dr. Randall Suzuka and has continued working there since it transitioned to the Queen's Health Care Centers, Hale'iwa, in 2019. Our clinic staff will miss our "Tutu Jan" but look forward to seeing her enjoy her retirement! Pictured are the current and some of the former employees of the Hale'iwa Family Health Center/Queen's Health Care Centers Hale'iwa.



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EARTH TECH



Waialua Woman Receives FBI's Highest Civilian Honor

North Shore resident Connie Durant was presented with the 2025 Louis C. Peters Memorial Award last month in Nashville. The award, jointly given by the FBI and The Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI recognizes civilians for "outstanding contributions to the community and country" and is regarded as the Bureau's highest civilian honor.

Durant's recognition stems from her pivotal role in exposing and confronting decades of child sexual abuse committed by former educator Steve Myers, her then colleague in his innovative educational program called Traveling School.

After bringing her concerns to federal authorities, Durant worked closely with investigators, connecting them with former students and colleagues who had critical information. Her contributions became essential to advancing the case, and the Special Agent who nominated Durant for the award said she was "an indispensable investigative partner, but arguably and even more importantly, was always a steadfast and trusted advocate for the victims."

Durant contacted journalists across the country and abroad to cover the story, established a therapy fund for survivors, and created a website, to share information and resources. The efforts of Durant, in partnership with fellow advocates, have led to nearly \$6 million in civil settlements for survivors, the removal of Myers from multiple schools, and the discovery of additional victims.

"This award truly is the result of the efforts of an exceptional group of people — survivors and their families, and former colleagues and students of Myers," Durant said. "Unfortunately, the U.S. Attorney's Office declined to prosecute the FBI's case, so Myers remains free. But we're not done — we will continue to fight for the justice these men deserve."

www.infostevemyersjackson.org



Congratulations Connie Durant!

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FINN MCGILL & BETTYLOU JOHNSON WIN AGAIN

The break Haleiwa at Haleiwa Alii park is as iconic as it gets. It's not such an easy wave with its relentless currents and sometimes death defying waves. Then there's the "toilet bowl" on the inside that can snap your board or as the good surfers do, snap turns off of it. The spot has proved to be a very exciting venue for the World Surf League's second local Qualifying Series season contest. The waves were perfect, mostly! Some were saying the surfing was some of the best they have seen in years, I have to agree. Some even called this three event series, Sunset, Haleiwa and Pipeline the mini Triple Crown. So far, 14 year old Kiara Gould from Tahiti took out the Sunset event and our own Finn McGill won the mens. Then he won again in Haleiwa! "I'm just absolutely stoked. It was such a crazy final with me, Barron, Ian, who were just on the CT this year, and Shion, and any of us could win... it's crazy to have this contest at home and just to have one of those finals with just waves, waves, waves," said McGill... "The last time I won out here, I think I was 10 years old", said McGill. Such a deserving win in perfect 4-6 PLUS foot solid surf.

The big story was Moore. Carissa Moore, our Olympic gold medal champion is back on tour. The WSL gave her a wildcard competitor entry. Moore just had a baby girl, little Olena. Anticipation was high, questions were whispered. Is she in shape? Could she win? Would she fail? No, moms are tough, that is for sure! She was solid in her turns, getting air on off the lips and her fins loose on her turns. The whole beach was stunned at her comeback! In the final it was close. With a bad start, falling on her first attempt. Was her board broken? No, back out there. Carissa did recover with an 8.40 and an 8.20 score out of ten. Not enough though after Bettylou Sakura Johnson's 9.47 and later 8.83. Johnson is by far the Haleiwa local, now dubbed "The Queen of Haleiwa". She has won there before, "after the runner-up last year, I was definitely more fired up to get it this year. I'm super grateful to be able to compete at home when the waves are really good, and just happy to show my surfing in my hometown," said Johnson. Johnson is a WSL championship tour surfer who ended up 5th in 2025 in Fiji. She is coming back after a hip labrum injury, not fun! She did say she will surf at Pipeline, the last event of our wishful triple crown.



Hale'iwa Pro - Bettylou Sakura Johnson, Carissa Moore, Erin Brooks, Moana Jones Wong Photo: @banzaibetty



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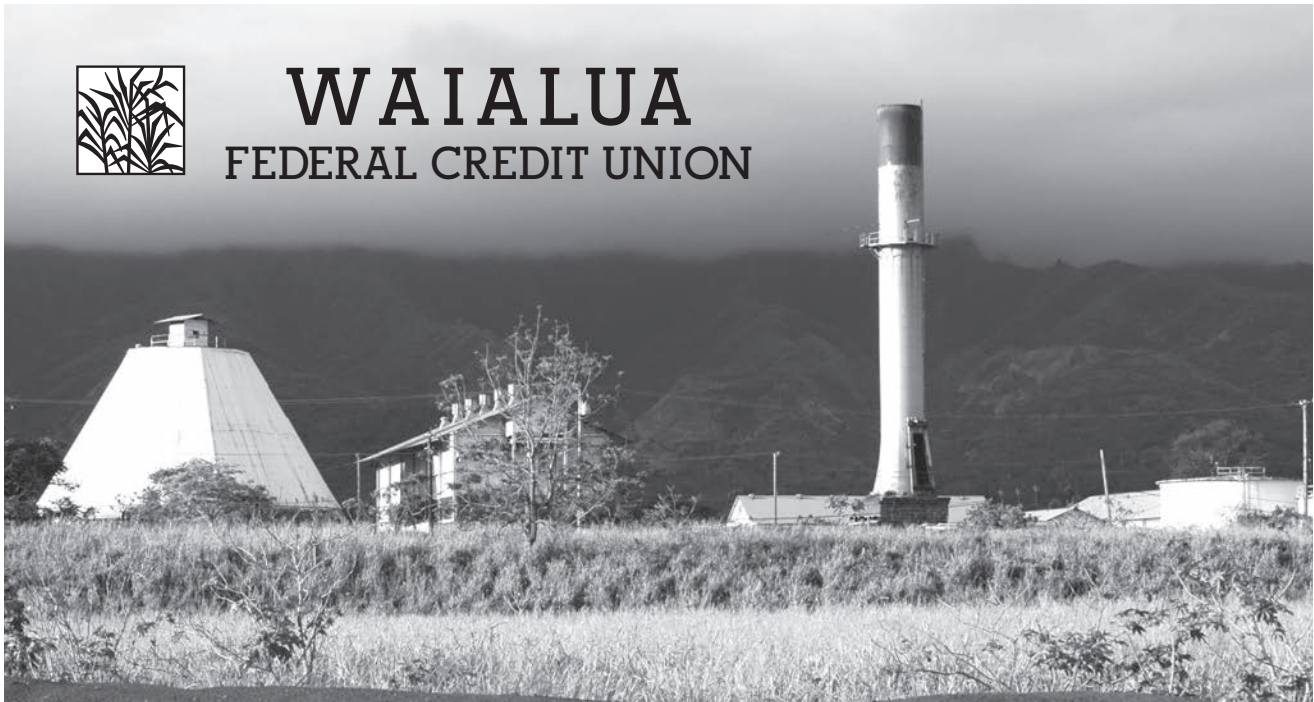
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Hale'iwa Pro - Barron Mamiya, Finn McGill, Ian Gentil, Shion Crawford Photo: @banzaibetty



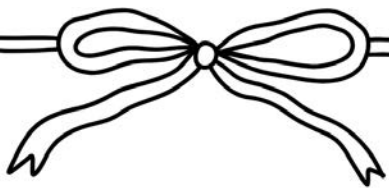
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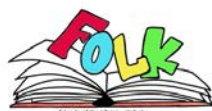
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OFF da Island in Patagonia, Argentina -
Happy Holidays from Penny Nakamura and Hal Koyama. They made it to the top near Mt. Fitzroy on one of their hardest hikes ever and with the NSN in hand!

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Guardians of the Valley: Exploring the Biodiversity of Waimea

By Mike Denis, Plant Propagator Hi'ipaka, LLC

Winding deep into the Ko'olau Mountain Range on the island of O'ahu are the twisting and turning, life giving waters of Kamananui stream forming Waimea Valley. From ancient times to modern times, this Valley has provided an oasis to the community and those who venture into this Valley. You will find something special to take away, whether it is peace of mind, 'ike knowledge and a deeper understanding of the traditional Hawaiian way of life, or a plant for your garden from our plant sale on Saturdays 9am-12pm. Right now there is a holiday promotion of 20% off at the plant sale for the month of December.

From mauka to makai you can find a rich diversity of native flora and fauna, which we aim to protect and share with visitors. When visiting the Valley, you will see everything from giant trees to the tiniest of insects, all of which are residents of this special place. Don't be afraid of the creepy crawlers, as they are part of this wonderful ecosystem. From the pollinators to the decomposers, to the seed disperser, insects are crucial components that make the Valley come alive.

One of my favorite insects to watch and observe is the endemic native Hawaiian Pinao (Green Darner Dragonfly – *Anax strenuus*). I call dragonflies the "Lord of the Skies" because they were the first animals on the planet to learn how to fly. Their four wings that move independently of each other allow them to dominate the skyways. You can observe them zipping through the air, making 90-degree angle turns without slowing down, while devouring their prey in mid-flight. There are global fossil records of dragonflies existing 350 million years ago. They are the most powerful fliers of all the winged insects and the most dominant insect in their environment. A single adult dragonfly can eat up to 100 mosquitoes a day.

The native Hawaiian Pinao is the largest species of dragonfly in the northern hemisphere. Seen with vibrant colors of greens and blues, the Pinao will run other species of dragonflies out of its path. They also dominate water habitats, as their nymphs live aquatically for up to 2 years, overpowering anything smaller than itself, including fish, tadpoles, and other insects. These are the real dragons! Beware of these juvenile insects, they can deliver a powerful punch as their lower jaw extends forward with two big fangs that will puncture any prey including a human finger, drawing blood! The presence of all dragonflies over the waterways is a good indication of clean, pollution-free water. If you take a stroll down to the estuary of Waimea Valley, you can sit under the shade of a giant monkeypod tree and observe these spectacular dragonflies feeding in flight.

This is just one of many animals that take up residence in Waimea Valley. Come to the Valley and observe our abundant wildlife of butterflies, moths, and birds, including the beloved native Hawaiian 'Alae 'Ula (Hawaiian

Moorhen – *Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*). Waimea Valley is a rich and vibrant sanctuary for a variety of native Hawaiian wildlife. In addition to the native Pinao and 'Alae 'Ula, you can find an array of endemic, indigenous and migratory birds that thrive in this unique watershed. Native birds like the Hawaiian stilt (*Ae'o – Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat (*'Ope'ape'a – Lasiurus semotus*), and the Koa'e Kea (White-Tailed Tropicbird – *Phaethon lepturus*) soar through the sky. Endemic insects such as the Hawaiian yellow-faced bee (*Nalo Meli Maoli - Hylaeus spp.*) play crucial roles in pollination, while native plants provide habitat for these incredible species. The Valley's streams and estuary wetlands are also home to five species of the native Hawaiian O'opu (freshwater gobies) and the Āholehole (Hawaiian flagtail – *Kuhlia xenura*) are seen swimming in its crystal-clear waters.

Waimea Valley is more than just a place of beauty; it's also a vital watershed that provides freshwater to the surrounding communities and supports the rich biodiversity of the region. Protecting this watershed ensures that the life-giving waters continue to flow and nourish the land, sustaining the unique ecosystem that depends on it. By safeguarding these precious resources, we help preserve the fragile balance of life in this valley, ensuring that future generations can also experience its natural wonders. Volunteering at Waimea Valley is a good way to start your journey here. Volunteer dates are listed on our website and require a reservation. You can email our volunteer coordinator at volunteers@waimeavalley.net to set up your event today. See you in the Valley!



Photo: Andrew Pezzulo

Mahalo to Waimea Valley: Makahiki Maoloha Food Drive

This year Waimea Valley introduced a special Makahiki Maoloha Food Drive event with the traditional Mo'olelo of the Maoloha net. Legend goes, if the collected amount of food fell through or broke the Maoloha net, the next year is expected to be a prosperous one. If not much fell through the Maoloha net a famine could fall upon the land.

Mahalo to Waimea Valley, the North Shore community and donors. All the food collected was donated to the North Shore Food Bank.

Waialua Heritage Center Receives Historic Hawai'i Foundation Award

Historic Hawai'i Foundation presented a Programmatic Achievement Award to the Waialua Heritage Center at the 2025 Preservation Honor Awards ceremony on October 18th at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. The award recognized the Heritage Center's 22 thoughtfully curated displays, careful restoration of the 1936 Waialua Sugar Company Administration Building, and dedication to celebrating Waialua's rich history. The Center has become a vibrant gathering place where the past inspires the future.

The vision was to save the deteriorating 9,000-square-foot plantation-era administration building, the hub of sugar plantation operations. After the plantation closed in 1996, it remained largely unused. In 2023, the Hale'iwa Waialua Historical Society rented the former Manager's Office, cleared away graffiti, and overgrowth, and laid the groundwork for a broader community vision. In April, 2025, the Waialua Heritage Center dedication was attended by more than 150 community members, and supporters.

Contact the Society at www.WaialuaHistoricalSociety.org, or Historic Hawai'i Foundation, at www.HistoricHawaii.org. Abridged version reprinted with permission from Historic Hawai'i Foundation's blog.



Thanksgiving Day Celebration

Mahalo from the North Shore News, Waialua Community Association and the North Shore Food Bank to the cooks, sponsors and volunteers.

Mahalo: Loko Ea, Waialua United Church of Christ, YMCA-Camp Erdman, Haleiwa Jodo Mission, Ted's Bakery, Paalaa Kai Bakery, Haleiwa Evangelical Mission, Haleiwa Elementary, Waialua Elementary, Dole Food Company, Malama Market, Waimea Valley, Waialua Bakery, WHIS- Noelani Green, Kawaiipu'ilani Hula- Kumu Keith Awai & Makana a ke Aloha Hula - Kumu La'ai Felix.

North Shore
News



2026
Schedule

| PUBLICATION DATE | EDITION | DEADLINE DATE |
|------------------|---------|---------------|
| January 14 | 1 | December 30 |
| February 11 | 2 | January 28 |
| March 11 | 3 | February 25 |
| April 8 | 4 | March 25 |
| May 6 | 5 | April 22 |
| June 3 | 6 | May 20 |
| July 1 | 7 | June 17 |
| July 29 | 8 | July 15 |
| August 26 | 9 | August 12 |
| September 23 | 10 | September 9 |
| October 21 | 11 | October 7 |
| November 18 | 12 | November 4 |
| December 16 | 13 | December 2 |

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Wednesday, January 21, 12 noon

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For more information and
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Deadline Date - Dec 30, 2025

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Wednesday, Jan 14
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Mahalo for your continued support. Enjoy a safe holiday season!

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Wednesdays, 1pm - 6pm at Liliuokalani Church in Haleiwa.
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December 1-23

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Toy Swap - all month long!
During regular store hours

Saturday, January 3

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Monday, January 19

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BECOME A KHF MEMBER!

FARMRAISER SUPPORT



The **'ĀINA Farm Stand** carries fresh produce, meats, seafood, value-added products, fresh coffee, and daily cafe items all sourced from local farmers, food producers, and businesses in Hawai'i. We also carry seasonal flowers & lei to honor what this space once was, the old Hale'iwa Flower Shop! Visit us and follow the [@ainafarmstand](#) on socials to get the latest information.



KŌKUA GENERAL STORE HOLIDAY HOURS

DECEMBER 9 - 12 10AM - 5PM
DECEMBER 13 - 14 10AM - 3PM
DECEMBER 15 - 23 10AM - 5PM
DECEMBER 24 10AM - 3PM
DECEMBER 25 - 27 CLOSED

The **Kōkua General Store** is your destination for bulk, refill, and low-waste products, empowering our community to reduce waste. This holiday, support eco-friendly businesses by shopping with purpose or visit our gift wrapping station where you can choose & create your own eco gift wrap with upcycled materials. Continue to follow [@kokuageneralstore](#) for more **Simplify The Holiday** tips.