



2019 Legislative E-Newsletter **March 2019**

February 23, 2019 Lava Disaster Update

Mahalo to everyone who participated in my Lava Disaster Update. Your participation helps to remind the rest of our state that although the lava flow is over, our recovery is ongoing.



Mahalo to Big Island Video News for their coverage of this event!

If you were unable to attend in person, please visit:

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2019/02/24/video-eruption-recovery-panel-discussion-held-in-pahoa/?fbclid=IwAR0-MesSHD2EC8riZGK8Et2YV1trzhycfcpdBOJ4NypDOQY0OV0AeFO5oc>

February 23, 2019 Lava Disaster Update



To start the meeting I discussed my efforts to get funding for Puna as the first fissures began opening. During the interim, I worked on the drafting of House Bill 1180 (HB1180). After over six months of lobbying and countless meetings, we were able to finalize the details of HB1180 and convince House leadership and the Governor to fast-track the bill. In its current form HB1180 will appropriate \$60 Million dollars towards disaster recovery efforts. \$20 Million of subsidy directly to the county and \$40 Million in a no-interest loan to the county. This money is in addition to the \$14-20 Million that was given to the county to during the emergency proclamation.

I also discussed my efforts to get funding to support faith-based community efforts, which, include projects such as the Sacred Hearts Church Micro Housing Shelter. Last session the legislature passed a landmark Homelessness bill (Ohana Zones), which, provides \$30 Million towards living areas for the homeless individuals and families. The bills current language excludes these money's to be given to private lands, so this session I introduced HB257, which would allow for private lands to be considered for Ohana Zones money under certain conditions. HB257 would also extend the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2022. By making private lands eligible to receive funding from the Ohana Zones bill, we are able to continue to support more community based efforts to provide shelter for evacuees who are still struggling with their housing situation and also provide temporary shelter and support to those who are struggling with homelessness.

[HB257 - RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS.](#) (link)

Report Title: Homelessness; Human Services; Housing: Shelters

Description: Authorizes the use of private lands for the Ohana Zones Pilot Program. Extends the Ohana Zones Pilot Program to June 30, 2022. Extends the Emergency Department Homelessness Assessment Pilot Program and the Medical Respite Pilot Program to June 30, 2020. (HB257 HD1)

[HB1180 - RELATING TO NATURAL DISASTERS.](#) (link)

Report Title: State Budget; Disaster Relief; Kilauea Eruption; County of Hawaii; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for disaster relief, recovery, mitigation, and remediation activities for the County of Hawaii. Requires reporting of monthly expenditures to the Department of Budget and Finance. (HB1180 HD1)

February 23, 2019 Lava Disaster Update



SHARON HIROTA
HAWAII COUNTY

Sharon Hirota (Office of the Mayor, County of Hawaii) explained that the County of Hawaii a grant for a long-term case management program. This will allow them to continue to provide support for those in the database. Ms. Hirota asks that anyone who has an unmet need or needs assistance, please contact the Neighborhood Place of Puna to be placed in the database and/or reactivate your account in the database. This will help those in charge of allocating resources identify who needs assistance and what programs will best serve the needs of the community.



PAUL NORMANN
NEIGHBORHOOD PLACE OF PUNA

Paul Normann (Neighborhood Place of Puna) provided us with a count of how many people were helped and how many are still in need and what they need assistance with. Total unduplicated needs household needs met as of 02/21/2019 were 450 (Total duplicated is 635). These needs include Housing assistance, airfare, medical, counseling, financial assistance, Household, Clothing, Legal Counseling, and Building/Home repair.



ASHLEY KIERKIEWICZ
HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

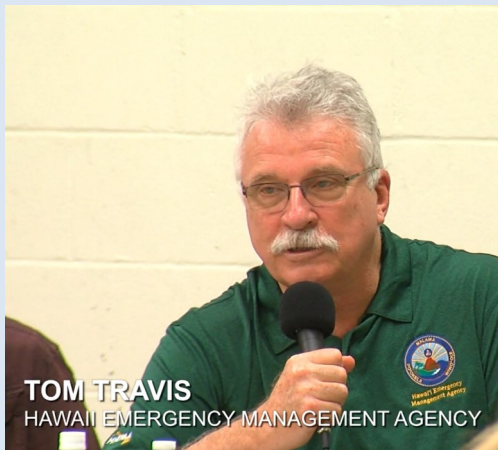
Ashley Kierkiewicz (Hawaii County Council) provided updates on grassroots community recovery efforts and county priorities. Funds granted to date include: \$12 Million for emergency response (remainder of money will be used for Pahoa District Park renovations and temporary access roads). Councilmember Kierkiewicz also discussed programs she is working on. These programs include: Economic Redevelopment Strategy, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Risk Assessment to name a few.



BRANDEE MENINO
HOPE SERVICES HAWAII

Brandee Menino (Hope Services Hawaii) discussed the future of the Sacred Heart's Church now that the Mayor's proclamation has ended. Plans are to request that the Sacred Heart's shelter stay in Pahoa as a homeless services shelter. They are currently leveraging the Governor's proclamation on Homelessness to get building exemptions and waivers to move forward with the homeless services shelter project.

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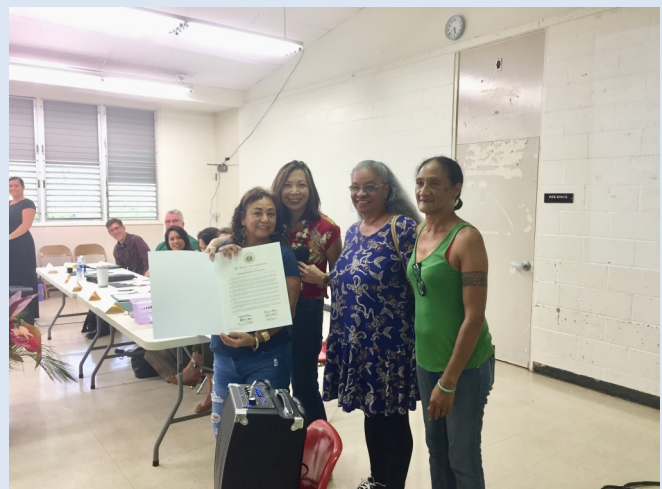


Tom Travis (HI-EMA) explained that the federal government intends to spend about \$177 million on this disaster (about \$20 million has been spent). FEMA will be closing the joint field office at the end of the month, however, a long-range recovery office will be opened to keep some FEMA staff here and provide assistance to the county as federal recovery money starts to come in. Mr. Travis reiterated that FEMA rental assistance will not be subtracted from your housing assistance allotment. This will allow people to maintain rental assistance as they seek more permanent living situations.

Thank you again for all who participated in the meeting. Special thanks to Paul Normann, Tom Travis, Sharon Hirota, Councilmember Kierkiewicz, and Brandee Menino for taking the time to provide updates to the community.

To Watch Question & Answer portion of the meeting, please visit:

http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2019/02/27/video-questions-answers-at-puna-eruption-recovery-meeting/?fbclid=IwAR1WqpfFf6FMNi80QNSGWI4ldDYgT_o6yrVFAYow2uTVe-19-sWf6UT5TNE



Around the Capitol



With the Invasive Species Committee during the 2019 Agriculture Day at the Capitol



National Wear Red Day to raise awareness of Heart Disease. To learn more visit: <https://www.heart.org/>



With Ryan Kusumoto and Dawn Kurisu of Parents And Children Together (PACT) Hawaii. One of PACT's early childhood education programs include Head Start. Head Start is a federally funded program that provides early childhood education and comprehensive services for low-income families with children ages three to five years old. Head Start supports children's growth and development in a positive learning environment. Head Start is offered on Hawaii Island in Puna, East Hawaii, Waimea, and West Hawaii. Future plans are being made for classroom locations at Hawaiian Beaches. To learn more and/or download an application, please visit:

<https://pacthawaii.org/.../early-childhood-education-hawaii/>



Mahalo to PBS Insights for inviting me to speak on the topic of recreational marijuana.

Full video here;

<https://www.pbshawaii.org/insights-on-pbs-hawaii-recreational-marijuana/>

I am please to announce that my Uniform Controlled Substances Act (HB290) passed the House Judiciary Committee and will be moving to the Senate. HB290 updates the Uniform Controlled Substances Act to make it consistent with amendments in federal controlled substances law as required under the authority to schedule controlled substances. This bill will move "Approved Cannabidiol drugs" from schedule I to schedule IV.

For more information on House Bill 290, please visit:

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=290&year=2019



Grants Available to Help Farmers and Ranchers with Costs for Food Safety Certification

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is currently accepting applications for grants to help Hawaii farmers and ranchers with the cost of bringing their operations in compliance with state and federal food safety regulations aimed at preventing foodborne illnesses.

During the 2018 session, the state legislature appropriated a total of \$475,000 toward the grant program to help local food producers comply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and other state food safety requirements.

Hawaii farmers and ranchers may apply for reimbursement of costs up to \$5,000 which will be distributed on a pro rata basis depending on the number of applicants and reimbursements costs submitted. The application deadline is April 15, 2019.

"All farms, regardless of size, should follow good agricultural practices to prevent foodborne illnesses," said Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, acting chairperson of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture. "For many commercial farms, compliance is mandatory and this grant program will help to defray some of the costs associated with implementing the required food safety practices."

Costs that are eligible for reimbursement include, but are not limited to:

Training in FSMA and costs of audits for good agricultural and handling practices

Installation of water systems, sanitizer treatment supplies and monitoring meters

Bacteriological analysis of water, raw produce or the facility

Personal hygiene equipment and supplies, including portable restrooms and hand-washing sinks, and worker protection clothing.

Wildlife fencing, pest deterrents and traps

General clean up and removal of hazardous materials

Food traceability software

Agricultural producers may find more information on the grant program requirements and the application form on the HDOA Food Safety website at: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/qad/commodities-branch/food-safety-information/>

Information on FMSA is available on the FDA's website at: <https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/>

PAHOA 2nd SATURDAY MUSIC & ARTWALK

Sat. March 9 lineup

*******NO COVER CHARGE! FREE!*******

At Black Rock Café

BAREFOOT IN THE ACRES 7-10pm

At Boogie Woogie Pizza

T.RAY 5-7pm

At Island Naturals, Pahoa

TERRAPIN STATION 5-7pm

At Kaleo's

RANDY LORENZO 7-10pm

At La Hiki Ola (Kava Bar)

TBA

At Lava Shack

TONY LO AND THE LO DOWNS 5-8pm

SOULTOWN 9-pau

At Mystic Closet Boutique

DJ CHUCKY 420 7-10pm

At Pahoa Village Museum

ALANA MIRROR 6pm, GREEN FLASH 7:45pm

At Puna Gallery

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

At Senior Center (Laulima Pahoa)

FRM PAHOA W/LAVA SIGNUP, GECKOS 5-8pm

At Tin Shack Bakery

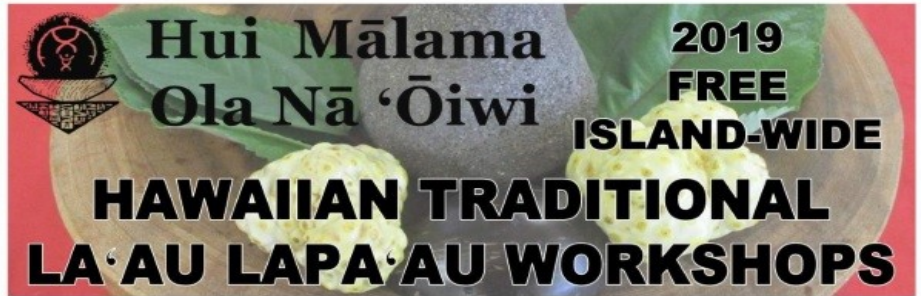
ROBERT SAVERY AND FRIENDS 6-8pm

Sponsors: Mainstreet Pahoa Association & community volunteers



La'au Lapa'au Workshops

The Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi La'au Lapa'au workshops will be in full swing starting next month with the first one scheduled for March 9! The theme of this year's workshops, Ho'omana Ke Ola Na Kanaka 'Oiwi translates to "empowering the health of the Hawaiian people". This is the goal of Po'okela Ikaika Dombrigues who leads the workshops. In this day and age, many people experience illnesses that stem from stress, depression, lifestyle choices, and even cultural conflict. Po'okela Ikaika shares, "These la'au lapa'au workshops are about empowering the people to take care of their mind, body, and spirit." The workshops are also meant to remind people of the resources we can find in our own backyard instead of relying solely on foreign import for sustenance. There are a total of five workshops that will be offered throughout the island of Hawai'i. Want to learn about the different plants that were used in traditional Hawaiian healing? Join us for any of the upcoming La'au Lapa'au workshops across the island!



Presented by **Po'okela Ikaika Dombrigues**
"Ho'omana Ke Ola Na Kanaka 'Oiwi"
 HO'OPONOPONO • LA'AU LAPA'AU
 LOMILOMI HA HA • LA'AU KAHEA

HILO - Saturday, March 9, 2019
 Aunty Sally's Luau Hale • 9am - 3pm

WAIMEA - Saturday, April 6, 2019
 Waimea Park Community Center • 10am - 3pm

KONA - Saturday, May 4, 2019
 Old Kona Airport Special Events Pavilion • 10am - 3pm



Funded by:
 HAWAII TOURISM AUTHORITY Health Resources & Services Administration

KA'Ū - Saturday, June 1, 2019
 Ka'ū District Gym • 10am - 3pm

PUNA - Saturday, July 13, 2019
 Pahoia Gym Patio Area • 9am - 3pm

Light refreshments provided. Please bring your lunch.



If you have a community event that you want featured in my newsletter/e-newsletter e-mail us at j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov. No guarantee that it will be included; however, we will do our best.

Thank you for subscribing to my E-Newsletter!

This allows me to send out more information about what's going on here at the State Legislature. If you know anyone who would be interested in receiving the E-Newsletter please have them contact my office at: j.honda@capitol.hawaii.gov

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E-mail Address: rep-sanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov

Visit my capitol website for updates on bills and other legislative activities:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=Sanbuenaventura&year=2017>

Chair: Human Services & Homelessness

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Contact Information:

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 442, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

Neighbor Island Access dial 974-4000 then extension 66530#, after the recording.

