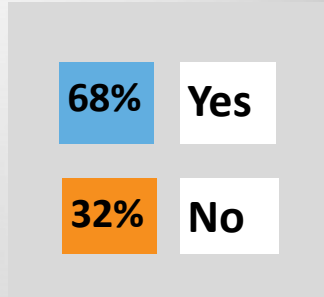
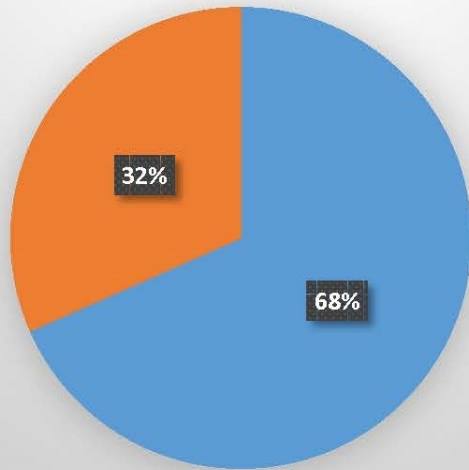




2017 Legislative Interim E-Newsletter

September 2017

Should homeowner associations solicit cell tower or broadband internet towers?



Broadband Survey

I have reached out to internet providers as far as their plans for future coverage in Lower Puna but have received vague responses because they consider their internet coverage a trade secret. The State and County commissioned a report in 2012 for a study of potential wireless coverage (the report came out in 2015) should a provider consider rural big island (including Puna) as a market. Other than Exede, satellite internet, no one new has stepped in. To determine whether there is still a demand for broadband coverage in lower Puna, I am asking everyone to please fill out this short survey (Follow Link Below)– PLEASE pass on this survey to other lower puna residents. Printed surveys are provided at Island Naturals in Pahoa.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/88KFH75>

Rural Communications Technology Comparison Report-Wireless Technologies

This report examines the potential use of several wireless technologies to extend broadband service to rural areas on Hawaii Island where wireline internet connectivity is not available.

[\(Click the here to access report\)](#)



To learn more about RS Fiber visit:

<https://muninetworks.org/reports/rs-fiber-fertile-fields-new-rural-internet-cooperative>

I recently had a meeting with Jake Rieke of RS Fiber. RS Fiber is a Minnesota co-op who successfully laid fiber cable and put broadband in rural Minnesota.

THE RAIL BILL (SB4) : Why I voted Yes with Reservations

It would have been easy and the popular thing for me to have voted "no." But I did not feel it was the right thing to do for Puna or the state.

Why?

If this compromise bill had not been passed in the special session and Honolulu had defaulted on its Sept. 15 deadline, the federal government would be owed \$800 million AND ALL federal grants statewide would have been subject to political ramifications. Federal grants, which provide over 50 percent of the funding for all of Hawaii's highways, including Hwy. 130, are subject to re-review.

We no longer have Sen. Dan Inouye or President Obama in Washington and with the current federal administration, our leaders' relationships with the day-to-day non-appointees who actually administer the fed grant dollars would become tenuous had this bill failed. This reality was impressed upon us when Congresswoman Hanabusa and Sen. Schatz saw that the legislature was willing to let rail fail when the 2017 Legislative session ended in May with no rail bill and the legislators were unwilling to schedule a special session. The special session was only scheduled after Schatz and Hanabusa persuaded the leaders of the State House and Senate and Mayor Caldwell to be realistic.

Once the state leadership called legislators back into special session to address Honolulu's pending rail default, it was inevitable that some kind of rail bill was going to pass simply because the Oahu legislators outnumber all the neighbor island legislators. In my opinion, the bill that passed was the best of the alternatives.

The original neighbor island tax bill referred to in Civil Beat was a .5% statewide GE surcharge. Instead, SB4 used the TAT (Transient Accommodations Tax) which was a state tax created in 1986 to help the tourist industry create a convention center and advertise Hawaii as a destination. SB4 was a compromise between the leaders of the State Senate, House, and the hotel/tourist industry. The last rail bill of the 2017 session was a 2.75 per cent increase in the TAT because it was meant to export the tax to tourists per Hanneman's statement that 90-99% who pay are out-of-state residents. The compromise in the special session reduced the TAT increase to 1 percent. This TAT increase should not affect the tourist industry, according to a DBEDT study that showed that Hawaii ranks 71st in TAT rates in the country even after the increase, behind cities like Kansas City. DBEDT also indicated that Hawaii hotel stays were not affected by prior TAT increases.

We tried to amend the bill further to exempt the neighbor island from the TAT surcharge but that amendment failed. When we saw that a rail bill was inevitable, we then pushed to increase the County TAT grants to \$103 million from the \$93 million; and insisted that it never fall below \$103 million/annually. The TAT grants to the County did not occur until 1991 and it fluctuated. The big island gets 18.6% of this County grant but I fear with this state vs. county dispute that recently occurred and a tracking down of where the money is generated occurs, we will likely lose 4% because we only generate 14% of the visitors to our island.

The only way this is a neighbor island tax is if you go to a hotel on the same island. You do not pay this tax if you stay with friends or relatives. The reason certain politicians like the Oahu GE surcharge more than the TAT is because it is hidden--you do not see it in your bill unless you make on-line purchases with Walmart, Target, Best Buy, Sears, etc. <http://www.civilbeat.org/2017/07/increasing-general-excise-tax-to-pay-for-rail-would-burden-poor-and-middle-income-people/> Although I voted no on the proposed rail tax in 2015, when federal grants impacting Puna were going to be affected, I felt this compromise was better than the other choices so I voted yes with reservations.

EQUIFAX SECURITY BREACH

For more information visit: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/>

EQUIFAX SECURITY BREACH

State urges Hawaii consumers to take advantage of one year free credit monitoring in wake of data breach

"Equifax's negligence has created unnecessary risks for Hawaii consumers. Every Hawaii resident should take precautions such as placing a freeze on their credit report to reduce any damage likely to occur because of Equifax's massive data breach."

- Stephen Levins,
Office of Consumer Protection
Executive Director



Equifax is offering TrustedID Premier, which includes credit monitoring and identity theft protection product, complimentary for one year.

TrustedID Premier provides you with copies of your Equifax credit report; the ability to lock your Equifax credit report; 3-Bureau credit monitoring of your Equifax, Experian and TransUnion credit reports; Internet scanning for your Social Security number; and identity theft insurance.

How to obtain your free credit monitoring:

1. Enroll at www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/enroll for free TrustedID Premier protection by November 21, 2017.
2. You will be asked to provide additional information to verify your identity including a valid email address and mobile number. Within a few days, you will receive an email with a link to activate TrustedID Premier. Please be sure to check your spam and junk folders if you do not receive your activation email within that time frame.
3. When the email arrives, follow the link to verify your email address and complete your enrollment. You will create a password and verify your identity by answering a few brief questions that only you should know. TrustedID Premier will then be active. Keep your password in a safe and secure location.

See the reverse side for information on how to place a security freeze on your credit file.

DATA BREACH



Consumers with questions are encouraged to visit

<https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/frequently-asked-questions/>

or

call Equifax's dedicated call center at 866-447-7559

SECURITY FREEZE INFORMATION

HOW TO "FREEZE" YOUR CREDIT

A security freeze means that your file cannot be shared with potential creditors. A security freeze can help prevent identity theft. Most businesses will not open credit accounts without first checking a consumer's credit history. If your credit files are frozen, even someone who has your name and Social Security number would probably not be able to obtain credit in your name.

To place a freeze, you must write to each of the three credit bureaus. Each credit bureau will require a \$5 fee, unless the fee is waived because you are an ID theft victim. To prove you are a victim (and to avoid the fees) you must send a copy of a report of alleged identity fraud or an identity theft report to each of the credit bureaus.

Write to all three addresses below and include the information that follows:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348	Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Trans Union Security Freeze P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016
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For each, you must:

- Send a letter by certified mail
- If you are a victim of identity theft and do not want to pay a fee, you must include a copy of report of alleged identity fraud or an identity theft report
- Provide your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.) address, Social Security number, and date of birth
- If you have moved in the past 5 years, supply the addresses where you have lived over the prior 5 years
- Provide proof of current address such as a current utility bill or phone bill
- Send a photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.)
- If you are not a victim, provide payment by check, money order or credit card (Visa, Master Card, American Express, or Discover cards only) for the \$5 fee.

If you are not a victim of identity theft you have the option to request to place, lift, or remove a security freeze by a secure website or telephone. Payment of the \$5 fee is required.

www.freeze.equifax.com 1-800-685-1111	www.experian.com/freeze/center.html 1-888-397-3742	www.freeze.transunion.com 1-888-909-8872
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24th ANNUAL
KWX HO'OLAULE'A
#kwxhoolaulea
94.7 FM Hilo • 101.5 FM Kona
SATURDAY, SEPT. 30, 2017
Downtown Hilo • 5:00pm - 10:30pm

Hawaii County Fair



The Hawaii County Fair will take place on September 21–24, 2017 at the Hilo Civic Center grounds.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiCountyFairFoundation>

MAINSTREET PAHOA ASSOCIATION



**FIRST ANNUAL
SCHOLARS
FEAST**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2017
PAHOA SACRED HEART PARISH HALL
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
\$15.00**

VEGAN LASAGNE MEAL / BBQ STEAK MEAL
Giving EVERYONE the opportunity to support OUR scholars
POTATOES, BEANS, SALAD, GARLIC BREAD, DESSERT, WATER
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT PAHOA SCHOLARS
HAAS, KUA O KA LA, PAHOA
'RICK' EDWARDS**

ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIPS
7/31/2017 \$21,000 \$ 750 + as can

2022 \$50,000 <<<GOAL>>> \$2,250 2018

MAINSTREET PAHOA ASSOCIATION

"Seeking to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of Pāhoa since 1993"

A 501 C (6) Non-profit Corporation of Businesses and Citizens For Info call 965-7110

SNAP (Was EBT)
DOUBLE BUCKS!

WHERE:
Maku'u Farmers Market*
And
Volcano Farmers Market**

SCAN \$10; GET \$10 = \$20
When you redeem \$10 in benefits, receive an additional \$10.00 for FREE!

BUY EXTRA FRUITS & VEGETABLES

*Maku'u Farmers Market - ONLY the first 90 Card Holders per Sunday
**Volcano Farmers Market - ONLY the first 45 Card Holders per Sunday
*** For a LIMITED time only! While Double Bucks last!

Ma'halo Nui Loa to Hawaii County Council Members: Maile David, Eileen O'Hara, and Jen Ruggles

County of Hawaii—Mass Transit Master Plan/SSFM International:

The County of Hawaii Mass Transit Agency and SSFM International will be holding community meetings to discuss the Transit Master Plan.

LOCATION	DATE	VENUE	TIME
KONA	October 09, 2017	West Hawaii Civic Center	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
KEAAU	October 11, 2017	Keaau Community Center	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
PAHOA	October 12, 2017	Pahoa Neighborhood Facility	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
WAIMEA	October 19, 2017	Waimea Elementary School	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
HILO	October 24, 2017	Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Luau Hale	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

For more information visit: <http://www.heleonbus.org/news/transit-master-plan-community-meetings-october-9-to-24-2017>



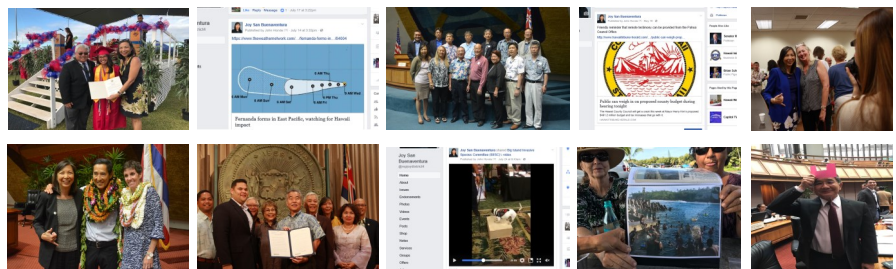
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to Offer Free Admission Days in 2017

The remaining 2017 entrance fee-free days are:
September 30: National Public Lands Day
November 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend

For more information check out:
https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/news/20161130_pr_2017feefree.htm



Please follow me on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/rejoydistrict4/>



Looking for live volcano updates? Check out: <https://hvo.wr.usgs.gov/> for recent Kilauea status reports, updates, and information releases.

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: b.iwasaki@capitol.hawaii.gov

Please FOLLOW my Twitter and Instagram!

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<https://www.instagram.com/rejoysanbuenaventura/>



Be sure to LIKE my page!

<https://www.facebook.com/rejoydistrict4>

E-mail Address: repsanbuenaventura@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>

Vice Chair: Judiciary

Committee Member: Housing and Transportation

Contact Information:

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302, 415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808)586-6530

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

