

# LET'S GET IT DONE!

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### Which West Hawai'i projects are being funded by the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act?

- \$4.1 million in ARRA funding will help pay for the Makalei Fire Station in North Kona
- \$35 million in ARRA funding is for Phase I of the Ane Keohokalo Highway or Mid-Level Road in Kailua.
- \$2.69 million in ARRA funding will pay to fence and plant native vegetation on Kohala Mountain.



## ALASKA AIRLINES BEGINS DIRECT FLIGHTS TO KONA

Alaska Airlines' inaugural flight from Oakland to Kona touched down at Keahole airport on Nov. 10, providing additional seats to welcome more business and recreational travelers to West Hawai'i.

Passengers on the Boeing 737-800 aircraft were treated to hula performance and a lei greeting.

The new Alaska Airlines route brings an additional 25,000 airline seats per year into Kona.

In another significant boost to the island's tourism industry, Alaska Airlines also announced it will add four flights a week between Kona and San Jose beginning on March 12, 2010.

That new San Jose route will add another 31,000 seats per year.

"To get people into our hotels, to get people



**FIRST FLIGHT** — Alaska Airlines' decision to expand its direct-flight service to Kona will add more than 56,000 seats per year to the island's airlift capacity.

into our restaurants, to get people to visit our small businesses, we first have to get them to our island," said Mayor Billy Kenoi.

"Increasing airlift with direct flights to our beautiful island of Hawai'i is the best way to do that, and we thank Alaska Airlines for showing confi-

dence in our future and expanding their flights to this market," Mayor Kenoi said.

Direct flight airlift to Keahole has grown by 10.7 percent this year, while airlift to the state as a whole declined by 6.8 percent. Those statistics do not include the new Alaska Airlines flights.

## MID-LEVEL ROAD MOVING AHEAD

The Hawai'i Island Burial Council has unanimously approved a burial treatment plan that moves Hawai'i County another step closer to building the Ane Keohokalo Highway.

Praising the sensitivity

displayed by Mayor Billy Kenoi's administration, the Burial Council approved a plan to preserve in place four sets of remains.

The Mid Level Road, as it is also called, will connect Palani Road with

Kealakehe Parkway in its first phase, and will eventually link Kaiminani Drive and beyond.

The first phase will be funded mostly with \$35 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

## MAYOR ANNOUNCES AG PLAN FOR 1,739 ACRES AT KAPULENA

***“We want to support the hard-working Hamakua farmers and ranchers, and we also want to plant the seeds of opportunity for our next generation of farmers.”***

***Mayor Billy Kenoi***

County of Hawai'i Mayor Billy Kenoi has announced he will make 1,739 acres of county-owned land at Kapulena available for community-based agriculture.

The mayor recently outlined efforts by his administration to partner with the Hamakua County Farm Bureau and other farming experts to develop a sustainable plan for agriculture on the lands.

Uses of the Kapulena lands could range from community gardens to larger-scale ranching and commercial production of crops to educational programs that will encourage youth to enter agricultural fields.

“We want to support the hard-working Hamakua farmers and ranchers, and we also want to plant the seeds of opportunity for our next generation of farmers,” Mayor Kenoi said. “We want to make these lands available to entrepreneurs, educators and community groups with a

vision for the future of agriculture on this island.”

State Sen. Dwight Takamine, Dist. 1 (Hilo, Hamakua, Waimea) and state Rep. Mark Nakashima, Dist. 1 (North Hilo, Hamakua, N. Kohala) worked closely with the Kenoi administration on preliminary planning for the Kapulena lands.

Other participants in the discussions, planning and research related to the Kapulena lands include the Farm Bureau, the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The County owns 10 parcels of land mauka of Honoka'a-Waipio Road at Kapulena. The lands are mid-way between Honoka'a and Waipi'o Valley at elevations ranging from



**KEEP IT GREEN**—The Kapulena lands mauka of Honoka'a-Waipio Road will dramatically increase the lands available for community-based agriculture.

about 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet. The parcels range in size from 778 acres to less than 1.5 acres, and are considered the best of the County-owned lands for farming because they have the easiest access to water.

The commitment of 1,739 acres in Hamakua represents a major increase in the available opportunities for farming on the Island of Hawai'i.

The state operates agricultural parks in Pahoa, Hamakua, Panaewa and Keahole, but the 1,739 acres at Kapulena amounts to more land for farming than all of those existing state-run agricultural parks on the island combined.

## CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY BOARDS NEEDED

Kona volunteers are being recruited to represent their neighborhoods on boards and commissions that guide and advise the county.

There are openings for Kona residents on the County Transportation and Salary Commissions.

The Transportation Commission regulates

passenger-carrying motor vehicles such as taxis that are exempted by the Public Utilities Commission, and advises the County on mass transit and other transportation matters.

The Salary Commission establishes the salaries of all County elected officials and appointed directors and deputy di-

rectors of County departments.

There are also openings on the Kailua Village Design Commission, which advises the Planning Department on issues related to the design of buildings in Kailua-Kona.

For more information, contact Charmaine Shigemura at 961-8503.

## COUNTY, OHA TEAM UP ON CANOE HALAU

Members of the Kai Opua Canoe Club gathered with state and county officials last month for a ceremonial signing of a contract to complete the unfinished canoe halau at the Old Kona Airport Park.

The work by Lowney Contracting Co., Inc. of Waimea is being funded from a \$300,000 grant by the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The project to replace the termite-eaten existing canoe

storage building stalled years ago after the state declined to release funding for the project. For years the concrete pad and pillars stood unused while Kai Opua members tried to raise money to complete the project.

The County of Hawai'i leases the airport site to the canoe club, and also provided legal assistance to help the project to move forward.

Kai Opua was founded in 1929.



County Parks Director Bob Fitzgerald watches Kai Opua's Bo Campos sign a deal to complete the Old Kona Airport canoe halau (T.Iihia Gionson photos)



## ENVIRONET MOVES ON WAIKOLOA PROJECT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$70 million contract to the Hawai'i-based Environet Inc. to remove unexploded artillery shells and other ordnance from the 100,000-acre former Waikoloa Maneuver Area.

The contract involves cleanup of Department of Hawaiian Homelands and Parker Ranch lands over five years.

"This represents a significant investment that will make our island safer for residents and visitors, and will provide good jobs for County of Hawai'i residents who will be employed on the project," said Mayor Billy Kenoi.

"I want to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Sen. Daniel K. Inouye for their efforts to bring this project to our island,"

Mayor Kenoi said. In July 2009, 25 Big Island students graduated from an Unexploded Ordnance Tech I course at the Hawai'i Community

College in Hilo, and Environet Inc. hired a number of those graduates.

The total cleanup of the former Waikoloa Maneuver Area to remove what the military calls Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) is expected to cost more than \$600 million.

Over the past seven years a total of \$82 million has been spent on the cleanup effort, and more than 2,100 munitions or explosives items and 260 tons of military debris were successfully removed.

The Waikoloa cleanup project involves more than 100,000 acres on the western side of the Island of Hawai'i. The U.S. Navy acquired the area in 1943 for use as a military training camp and artillery range.

***"This represents a significant investment that will make our island safer for residents and visitors, and will provide good jobs for County of Hawaii residents..."***

***Mayor Billy Kenoi***



Mayor Kenoi greets some of Environet Inc.'s workers at the employee orientation. (Ralph W. Smith photo)

**Office of Mayor Billy Kenoi**

County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: 808-961-8211  
Fax: 808-961-6553  
E-mail: cohmayor@co.hawaii.hi.us

**We're on the Web:**  
<http://co.hawaii.hi.us/>

*Let's Get It Done!*

*Let's Get It Done! is a publication of the County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor designed to keep residents informed about events in their communities and to offer opportunities for citizens to participate in county government.*

*For more news and regular updates on county activities and events, please visit the news Web site provided by the Office of the Mayor at <http://www.hawconews.com/>*



**NEW PLANS** — The Honokohau Village planning session began with a presentation by Auntie Elizabeth Lee, master lauhala weaver from the Honokohau ahupua'a. She described the ahupua'a as Deputy Managing Director Wally Lau looked on.

## Honokohau Village planning sessions develop a vision for a new community

Community members, landowners, County officials, and planners joined in a week of public workshops last month in a "charrette" or planning session to envision the future Honokohau Village.

The planning effort focused on the 80-acre site in the area surrounding the County's new West Hawaii Civic Center.

This is the first major planning effort since the

award-winning Kona Community Development Plan was completed. The process also incorporated the concept of Transit-Oriented Development.

Transit-Oriented Development, or TOD, uses a neighborhood development approach to planning encouraged under the new Kona CDP. The transit orientation comes into play when development can be designed to

make the most of biking, walking, and transit.

A TOD maximizes the advantages of mobility choices so that people representing a wide range of ages, abilities, and incomes can share the advantages of living, working, and playing in a compact, walkable community.

The typography of Kona also determines the placement of buildings or windows for cross-ventilation because of the trade winds, and to maximize solar energy.

Planning Director Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd said the County will apply concepts from Kona Honokohau Village to other neighborhoods.

For more information, visit the Honokohau Village project Web site at [honokohauvillage.com](http://honokohauvillage.com).

