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**Local Kaua'i News**  
**2023 - Quarter 2 – April**

**Local Kaua'i News – Monday April 3, 2023**

A hiker is recovering after being rescued from Kauai's Sleeping Giant trail. The hiker, a 31-year-old man, got lost then injured his leg while exploring the trail on Saturday afternoon. First responders found the man down a steep, slippery area of the mountain, about a mile from the trail head. The man was too badly injured to walk down the mountain on his own and had to be airlifted to safety.

Kauai visitor spending grew to \$203.8 million in February, compared with \$149.3 million in February 2022, and \$152.8 million in pre-pandemic February 2019. There were a total of over 100,000 visitors to Kaua'i in February, compared with a bit more 88,000 in February 2022. But the most recent February total was down 3.8 percent from 104,445 visitors in February 2019.

Hawaii ranks number one among all 50 states in preventing COVID deaths. That's according to a recent study published in The Lancet, a weekly peer-reviewed general medical journal. Hawaii has the lowest COVID death rate in the nation, at 147 per 100-thousand residents. That's with age and underlying illnesses factored in. Arizona has the highest COVID death rate in the nation at 581 per 100-thousand people.

Hawaii is still struggling to come close to replicating its pre-pandemic numbers from its largest international tourism market, Japan. Economic forecasters are looking ahead to Golden Week, which runs from April 29th to May 5th. That's usually the peak of spring travel season from Japan to Hawaii, because it includes four national holidays and is the longest vacation period of the year for most Japanese workers. Experts believe this year's Golden Week will be the best for Hawaii's tourism market since before 2020. But, an actual significant spike in arrivals from Japan isn't expected until summer or later in the year.

Several bills designed to crack down on illegal fireworks appear to be dead in the state legislature. They include bills that would have increased fines, limited consumer fireworks, provided technology to search shipping containers, and allowed county police departments to track explosions. None of those four bills are crossing over into the opposite chamber for further consideration. Just two fireworks-related bills are still alive. One would establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force within the state Department of Law Enforcement. The other would establish a Shipping Container Inspection Program.

A state lawmaker is pushing to make Hawaii an official training ground for Olympic surfing. State Senator Glenn Wakai says it only makes sense to create an Olympic surf program where it all started. He stated that Hawaii needs to be on the same level as California which designated surfing at their state's official sport in 2019. Wakai says the lack of training facilities was an obstacle but that's changed with the opening of a surf park just last week. He's asking the Olympic committee to consider the idea. The summer games will be taking place next year in Paris.

New action is being taken to protect Hawaii's coral reefs. The country's first ever "reef insurance policy" was bought by the Nature Conservancy. It will provide funding for rapid coral reef repair and restoration across Hawaii right after they've been damaged from a hurricane or tropical storm. The

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funding is triggered after winds 57-miles per hour happen near reefs. Two million dollars will be paid for restoration. The policy is a pilot program that will extend through the 2023 hurricane season. The Nature Conservancy says hurricanes can cause 50-percent or more loss of live coral.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Tuesday April 4, 2023**

A portion of Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami's \$312 million budget proposal, would allot approximately \$19.6 million for our Kauai Fire Departments. 450,000 of that would go toward our Kauai Ocean Safety Bureau operations. If secured, the funds would pay for an additional 12 full-time lifeguards, and would allow the department to safeguard all monitored beaches 10 hours a day, seven days a week, through a new "Dawn to Dusk" program.

There's a push to bring more emergency services to Molokai and other rural areas across the state. Hawaii Life Flight has proposed to keep on helicopter in Maui County, one on Kauai and one on the Big Island. They're also trying to secure a second ambulance for Molokai, where there is currently only one ambulance that serves the entire island. The Senate is requesting to get the staff one-point-six million dollars to get the ambulance and other things up and running.

A man accused of beating his landlord to death outside of an apartment building in the Ala Moana area has pleaded not guilty. The suspect is accused of second-degree murder following the 64-year-old man's death on March 19th. Prosecutors say the suspect had a court order to vacate his apartment. Kendall Gray was indicted for murder in March. He's accused of killing 64-year-old Alvin Matsumoto by fatally attacking his landlord when he arrived to pick up the keys to the unit. Gray allegedly stabbed the landlord with a kitchen knife, then stomped on his head and chest several times. His trial is scheduled for June 5th.

The Hawaii Convention Center in Oahu is recovering from the recent heavy rains. Water soaked through the building's roof affecting the Kawaii Kon event and closing five other meeting rooms from service. The new damage happened as rain was falling on Oahu at a rate of two-to-three inches per hour causing floods. The Center's General Manager Teri Orton has asked the state for 64-million dollars to repair the rooftop terrace deck. State lawmakers have already allocated 15-million dollars for a temporary fix. The money won't only go towards the rooftop but also to repairing the ceiling, carpet and furniture that may need to be treated.

The cost of the Honolulu rail project could be going up by another 75-million-dollars. The Honolulu Rail Authority will soon decide on a new utility relocation contract for electrical work that's expected to cost 75-million-dollars. Utility relocation work along Dillingham Boulevard has already cost 84-million-dollars. And, contracts worth another 714-million-dollars have also been awarded to move utilities along Dillingham Boulevard and through the Downtown area to make way for the train tracks and stations. But, the contracts awarded in the past are only for so-called "backbone infrastructure." They don't cover the transformers and electrical lines needed to connect the businesses and homes along the rail route to the new electrical infrastructure being installed.

Hawaii is being ranked as the best place to live for a long and healthy life. According to a study published in Life Extension, Hawaii had the longest life expectancy of the typical American with an average of 80-point-seven years. The ranking took into account amount of exercise done, hours of sleep, body weight and more. Minnesota, Vermont, Washington, and New Hampshire round out the top five after Hawaii. West Virginia was ranked last with a life expectancy of 72-point-eight.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday April 5, 2023**

Due to a water main break, tonight's meeting at the Kekaha Elementary School Cafeteria regarding the Kekaha Road and 'Aki-aloa Road Improvements Project is canceled and will be rescheduled. The meeting tonight was to present the design concepts developed as an outcome of the Walk Audit and Visioning and Design Workshop held in Kekaha in February.

Scott Poland, 58, former federal government employee from Kauai who illegally spent \$35,000 in public money has been sentenced to three years probation and required to pay the \$35,000 back in restitution. Poland pleaded guilty in November 2022 to two counts of government theft for making dozens of unauthorized purchases while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Kauaʻi.

The Kauaʻi Police Department is investigating a break-in at the Līhu'e wastewater treatment plant that was reported by Public Works personnel early Tuesday when wastewater personnel discovered the entrance to the plant destroyed, with the front gate apparently rammed through. Thieves stole a County Ford F-250 truck, miscellaneous tools, and personal items. At approximately 8:45 a.m., the stolen truck was located in the Līhu'e area. The County truck sustained significant damage to the front end. Police continue to investigate the incident. The estimated value of the stolen equipment and damages to the plant is over \$35,000. Anyone with information is asked to contact KPD Dispatch at 808-241-1711. Those wishing to remain anonymous may contact Crime Stoppers Kauaʻi at [www.cskauai.org](http://www.cskauai.org) and may be eligible for a \$1000 reward.

The IRS will not be taxing residents who were reimbursed during the Red Hill fuel leak crisis. The department made the announcement on Wednesday. This comes after U.S. Senator Brian Schatz and other members of Hawaii's congressional delegation said the taxes were unfair and unexpected. Some Red Hill families were forced to live in hotels for months because of the Navy's tainted tap water and were hit with huge tax bills.

The defueling of Red Hill is being put on hold. That's because the facility is in need of hundreds of repairs. About half of the repairs are finished now but 129 still need to be completed. Defueling of the tanks was scheduled to be done in mid-2024.

Hawaii is considering an annual fee for many tourists. The legislation would require a license for people who want to use state-owned parks, beaches, forests or hiking trails. Democratic governor Josh Green campaigned on an environmental platform. He and the bill's other supporters think the millions of tourist who visit the islands each year should help pay to maintain the ecosystem. There are several models under consideration but Green has mentioned a fifty dollar fee to enter the state. Most state parks and trails are currently free but some of the most popular ones already charge visitors.

Governor Josh Green is proposing a pop-up tiny home village for homeless people that would go near the state capitol. Green says the homes could be built as soon as this summer. The so-called "kauhale village" would temporarily provide shelter to the people who are currently camping in front of the state library and Iolani Palace. Green says the exact location hasn't been confirmed yet.

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The state is offering the Office of Hawaiian Affairs 165-million-dollars to ensure housing will never be developed on land the agency owns in Kakaako. State House Speaker Scott Saiki offered the deal for Kakaako Makai in a letter sent to the OHA's board of trustees on Monday. On Tuesday, the OHA said its board must give serious consideration to several issues before commenting on the offer. Saiki has been an outspoken opponent of allowing residential use of the 31-acres of peninsula land. Saiki wants to prohibit residential development and limit building height and density on the land, saying it would protect public access and scenic views.

According to the United States Lifesaving Association, City and County of Honolulu lifeguard and winner of the 2023 Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational, Luke Shepardson will be receiving the prestigious Meritorious Act Award at the USLA Board of Directors Meeting later this month in Los Angeles, California. Shepardson will be recognized by other lifeguards from around the country as part of the USLA national meeting and education conference.

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**Local Kaua'i News – Thursday April 6, 2023**

Kauai police want to warn residents of an online Craigslist property scam. According to recent reports, scammers are creating fake posting of properties to rent. Police say the scammers are asking for personal information and online payments before agreeing to show the properties to potential tenants. When they receive the payments they stop replying. Residents are being reminded to be weary of suspicious payment methods, check your phone, bank and credit card statements regularly and if something sounds too good to be true it probably is. If you or someone you know has fallen victim to this Craigslist scam or suspicious Craigslist scams or activity, please contact Kaua'i police dispatch immediately at 808-241-1711. Those wishing to remain anonymous can provide information by submitting a tip at [cskauai.org](https://www.cskauai.org). Tipsters to crime stoppers may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1000.

A former state representative is being sentenced to two years behind bars in connection to a bribery scandal at the state Capitol. Ty Cullen was convicted of accepting a 40-thousand dollars in bribes to influence legislation. Cullen and former Senate Majority leader J. Kalani English admitted they received bribes from a local business man to introduce, then kill, bills that established government funded cesspool replacement programs. The programs would have been beneficial to the businessman. English is currently serving a three-year sentence.

Hawaii is seeing a sudden surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations. Hospitalizations have nearly doubled in the past week. On Wednesday, there were 74 people hospitalized with COVID across the islands, compared with 39 in late March. State public health officials are concerned about protection from the latest COVID variants. Only about a fifth of the state's population has had the latest bivalent shot. There were a total of 1,047 new COVID infections in our state over the past seven days, along with six more deaths.

City crews are hurrying to take phony stickers off of parking meters across Honolulu. The stickers feature QR codes that, if scanned, lead customers to a fraudulent website. The site, called ParkSmarter.app, asks people for their payment and personal information. Honolulu's official parking meter website is called ParkSmarter.com and only provides billing information and the location of the meter. City officials say the bogus stickers look almost exactly like the legitimate ones, complicating matters even more.

Hawaii's undercover police officers are catching more suspected online child predators. Four men from Kona were recently charged with child sex solicitation. They were nabbed through a multi-agency undercover program called Operation Keiki Shield. The four men were arrested between last Friday and Sunday. Authorities say undercover officers posed as underage teens and interacted with the men online. Last year, Operation Keiki Shield led to the arrests of a National Guard member, a soldier, and two sailors.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday April 10, 2023**

The Kauai Office of Economic Development announces the Kauaʻi Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 12, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Kauaʻi War Memorial Convention Hall in Līhuʻe. The job fair is a collaborative effort between the State of Hawaiʻi Workforce Development Division and the County of Kauaʻi. Over 50 businesses representing a variety of industries on Kauaʻi will offer an assortment of employment opportunities at the job fair. Job seekers will be given an opportunity to make a great first impression, learn about potential employers and qualifications, and meet staff who can answer their employment questions.

On Oahu A man is still on the loose after a chemical attack in Mililani. Honolulu police say a woman in her 20s was attacked by a man in a mask in the parking lot of a 24-Hour Fitness on Friday night. He shot at her, then dumped a bucket of a liquid chemical on her, leaving the woman with second-degree chemical burns. The chemical was described as an acidic liquid. The assailant fled the scene and is wanted for attempted murder. The motive and any possible connection between the suspect and victim are not clear.

The days of the Hawaii Tourism Authority could be numbered. Two bills seeking to repeal the Hawaii Tourism Authority survived crossover and passed out of their final committees last week. Tomorrow, the House and Senate bills will each face a vote back in the chambers they originated in. They could be approved or head to conference. Both bills emphasize that the agency should be more focused on stewardship of the islands, rather than promoting tourism, which has been the bureau's main focus for many years. The HTA is also facing a more than 50-percent budget cut from the 75-million-dollars it has requested during this legislative session

A proposed campaign finance reform measure wouldn't stop money from flowing to Hawaii's lawmakers before key votes. The bill would ban registered lobbyists from giving cash to lawmakers during the legislative session. But, people and entities who aren't lobbyists but have financial interests would still be allowed to donate. That includes people like energy company executives. State lawmakers recently killed a bill that would have banned donations coming from anyone during an active legislative session. State Senator Karl Rhoads, who sponsors the bill that's still alive, says it's generally meant to separate lawmaking from fundraising.

A bill being discussed by state lawmakers would create a higher labeling standard for Hawaii's coffee. If it passes, coffee distributors would be barred from using the label "Kona Coffee," unless more than half of the blended beans were actually from Kona. The current law holds manufacturers to just a ten-percent standard. The rest of the beans can be imported from other countries and don't have to be listed on the packaging. The bill also requires the origins of all coffee beans and their percentages to be featured on packaging. Beans imported from outside of Hawaii would have to be labeled as "foreign-grown coffee."

A surfer is in serious condition after getting attacked by a shark at Kewalo Basin. An eight-foot tiger shark bit the 58-year-old man's right leg on Sunday morning. Honolulu Ocean Safety says the man's friends made a tourniquet with their leashes in an attempt to stop the bleeding, likely saving his life.



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The Department of Land and Natural Resources reports the shark returned to the area and was acting aggressively while people were assisting the man. Ocean Safety says a fisherman was also chased out of the Point Panic area by a shark on Sunday morning. This is Hawaii's fourth shark incident of the year, third bite of the year, and the first at Kewalo Basin since 2002.

Healthcare workers are leaving Hawaii at a faster rate than before the pandemic. That's according to a recent survey from the Healthcare Association of Hawaii. Vacancy rates rose from ten-percent in 2019 to 17-percent in 2022. The employee shortages are the greatest on the neighbor islands. Maui County has the highest vacancy rate, leaving few healthcare options for Molokai and Lanai residents.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday April 11, 2023**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is sending two benefits counselors to Kauai tomorrow, Wednesday April 12th to help veterans with their claim process and answer benefit questions. They will be at the Kauai Veterans Center from 9am to 3pm. No appointments are necessary, it will be on a first come first served basis.. The Kauai Veterans Center is located at 3215 Kauai Veterans Highway.

The SpaceX CEO Elon Musk announced Monday that the company’s massive Starship rocket will conduct it’s first orbital launch “near the end of third week of April,” pending final regulatory approval. The starship rocket is said to be the most powerful rocket ever built. According to documents filed with the Federal Communications Commission, the flight will launch from Starbase, Texas, and achieve orbit before conducting a “soft ocean landing” about 62 miles off the northwest coast of Kauaʻi. The U.S. Coast Guard put local mariners on notice about the projected splashdown earlier this month.

The state Department of Health says there a case of measles in Oahu. They say it's from an unvaccinated resident coming home from international travel. Health officials have already identified those with known exposure to the patient and is working with them to prevent the spread. Measles, which is a very contagious disease caused by a virus, is usually prevented with a vaccine, but vaccination rates have gone down among children globally since pre-pandemic years. While Hawaii hasn't experienced any recent outbreaks, this case serves as a reminder that, measles can be brought into the state from overseas travel.

Honolulu police are continuing their search for a suspect that allegedly shot a woman then threw a liquid chemical at her. Authorities say the suspect knows the 20-year-old woman he targeted in a parking lot last Friday. The victim is still hospitalized in a burn unit, in serious condition. Police say the man first shot at her, but missed, then dumped an acidic liquid on her, then took off. She suffered second-degree burns. Officers are in the process of gathering more evidence and looking at surveillance videos.

The military is extending its offering of medical evaluations to civilians who may have been impacted by the Red Hill water crisis. Civilians who think they were exposed to jet fuel-contaminated water are eligible for medical assessments for the next year. The Defense Health Agency Region Indo-Pacific will provide the medical assessments to any civilians who worked or lived on base between November 20th, 2021 and March 18th, 2022, and still have symptoms.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday April 12, 2023**

Kauaʻi Job Fair is being held on today from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Kauaʻi War Memorial Convention Hall . Over 50 businesses representing a variety of industries on Kauaʻi are offering an assortment of employment opportunities at the job fair. Job seekers will be given an opportunity to make a great first impression, learn about potential employers and qualifications, and meet staff who can answer their employment questions.

Friends of Mahaʻulepu has filed a motion to intervene in the Kauaʻi Island Utility Cooperative’s request to increase electric rates by an average 9.42 percent. The motion, would grant the group a seat at the table as the state Public Utilities Commission decides whether to approve or deny KIUC’s request, allowing them to directly make their case to the ultimate authority on the matter. The Friends of Mahaʻulepu say their organization has a right to intervention based on their emphasis of cultural and environmental issues — issues they say no currently involved group represent.

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) reported four new deaths related to COVID-19 and 959 new infections over the last seven days in Hawaii. The total number of deaths stands at 1,868. There were 63 new infections reported on Kauai over the past seven days.

Hawaii set a new record for fentanyl overdoses in 2022. Newly released State Department of Health records show fentanyl is linked with at least 60 deaths. Public health officials expect the number to climb once more autopsy reports are finalized. More than three-quarters of the people who overdosed on the opioid last year were men. The age range is wide. Most of the people were between 20 and 65-years-old and no particular age group stands out. About half of the deadly fentanyl overdoses happened on the neighbor islands.

Several key bills introduced during this year's legislative session are now heading to closed-door committee hearings. It's viewed as the final test of whether bills will live or die. More than 250 bills will be subject to closed-door conference committee meetings before the legislative session adjourns on May 4th. They include the bill that would prevent concealed guns from being carried into many public places, the bill that would create a system of full public funding for candidates who want to be elected to state or county offices, the bill that would impose a tax on e-cigarettes, and the bill that would replace the Hawaii Tourism Authority with a new agency. Those bills all received preliminary approval on Tuesday.

Hawaii is officially in the running to receive nearly one-billion dollars in federal funding for the development of a regional clean hydrogen production and distribution hub. The state's plan is to develop a two-billion dollar project that would use renewable energy sources to produce hydrogen for use. One of the main focuses is to supply hydrogen fuel to heavy-duty ground transportation and aviation industries. The Department of Energy is offering up to seven billion dollars to help build up to ten hubs producing clean hydrogen.

A man is behind bars after bringing a gun and drugs into a Honolulu courthouse. On Monday morning, Jordan Mineshima Jr. approached the First Circuit Court building on Punchbowl Street and

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admitted to a security officer that he had a gun in his bag. He gave officers permission to search his bag where they found a firearm, ammunition, and drugs. Mineshima did not have permits or registration to own a firearm. He was arrested for several possible felonies and police are continuing to investigate.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Thursday April 13, 2023**

A federal grand jury is launching a criminal probe into the Red Hill fuel spills of 2021. Reports indicate that several military and civilian officials have been subpoenaed in recent months to testify about the fuel spills that contaminated tap water with jet fuel and sickened thousands of people. However, it's not clear who the grand jury is targeting, and what criminal charges are being pursued through the investigation. Navy officials have not commented on the reported criminal probe.

The suspect accused of bringing a gun and drugs to Honolulu Circuit Court is a free man again. The suspect, who was arrested Tuesday, was released pending further investigation. The Department of the Attorney General has yet to say why he was let go. Records show the man is a convicted felon with 37 past arrests and citations to his name. He's accused of bringing a ghost gun and drug paraphernalia to court.

A career criminal is being sentenced to ten years behind bars. On Wednesday, Jonah Perry walked into a Honolulu courtroom expecting to just get probation. Instead, a judge sentenced him to a decade in prison for stealing multiple cars and burglary. Although Perry's charges are considered non-violent, the judge noted he threatened violence while committing some of the crimes. Perry has a criminal history dating back to 1999 when he began stealing cars as a teenager.

The family of a 16-year-old girl who was killed by a hit-and-run driver is getting ready to sue the Honolulu Prosecutor's Office. The family's attorney argues more should have been done to keep the driver from getting back behind the wheel. Sara Yara was killed while walking to McKinley High School in February. Records show the suspect has more than 160 traffic violations on his record, including several times he drove without a license. The man turned himself in but was released pending investigation. He has not yet been charged.

A phantom organization with ties to Alaska is believed to be behind a fake parking meter sticker scam in Honolulu, Hawaii. A few weeks ago, fake stickers that look a lot like the legitimate ones started appearing on hundreds of parking meters in Honolulu. People who scan a QR code with their phones are tricked into submitting parking payments to an unauthorized website. The Civil Beat reports the organization was incorporated in Alaska just weeks ago. And, the two people registered as its officials claim there's actually someone else using their names. City Department of Transportation Services crews have removed about 200 of the phony stickers.

A talent search is coming to Hawaii. "Young Stars 360," which was co-founded by "Saturday Night Lives" Kenan Thompson, is a talent search and workshop for aspiring young performers. The search is open for youth between the ages of five and 17 years old. "Young Stars 360" will be here this Sunday, April 16th at the Hard Rock Cafe in Honolulu. For more information visit [Young-Stars-360-dot-com](http://Young-Stars-360-dot-com).

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday April 14, 2023**

Two Kauaʻi men Steven Ng, 39, and Daniel Moke, 65, of Kauai could be facing heavy prison time after federal agents discovered 2 kilos of cocaine in a suitcase at Lihue Airport last week. DEA investigators tracked Ng's April 4 flight into Lihue Airport and waited for him to arrive after which he admitted that he was transporting cocaine in his suitcase. He consented to a search of his luggage, which yielded 2 kilos of the drug. Ng told investigators that he had delivered drug-filled suitcases on three separate occasions in the past year, making \$8,000 per trip. The following day, Moke was contacted by a "cooperating defendant," who appears to be Ng. The pair arranged a meeting during which Moke gave the cooperating defendant approximately \$34,000 in exchange for "what he believed to be cocaine." Ng was charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine, while Moke was charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute cocaine.

The trial for Michael J. Miske Jr. the alleged leader of a Hawaii organized crime outfit and six of his co-conspirators will be continued until January 2024 to allow the defense more time to prepare, a judge ruled this morning. Chief U.S. District Court Judge Derrick K. Watson granted a request to move the start date of the trial from Sept. 11 to sometime in January 2024.

Investigators believe Wednesday night's large boat fire at Ala Wai Harbor was an act of arson. A 63-year-old man was arrested late Thursday, on suspicion of intentionally starting the fire. He's now facing a first-degree arson charge. No one was onboard the boat when the fire started, and no one was hurt. Witnesses reported hearing a couple loud explosions before seeing the flames. The motive is not clear.

Oahu's only public gun range is reopening in about two weeks. The pistol and rifle ranges at the Koko Head Shooting Complex will reopen on April 29th. But, it will only be open on weekends for now because of a staffing shortage. The complex suddenly shut down in September because of lead contamination. It was later revealed several employees tested positive for lead in their blood. The city is still looking to hire two range masters to replace the two who retired since September.

Mauna Kea is getting a dusting of winter weather in the spring. The summit saw snow flurries through Thursday night. Some areas were expected to get up to an inch of snow, prompting a winter weather advisory. The Mauna Kea Access Road is closed above the 92-hundred-foot elevation line because of snow and ice.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday April 17, 2023**

Kauai Firefighters responded to a male hiker in distress Sunday afternoon along the Kalalau Trail. Shortly before 2 p.m., firefighters were notified of a 40-year-old visitor from Madrid, Spain, who reportedly dislocated his shoulder while hiking along the Kalalau Trail. Rescue 3 personnel found the man approximately 2 miles from the trailhead. Rescuers assessed the man's injuries and assisted him to the Hanakāpī'ai landing zone. From there, he was airlifted to Princeville Airport where awaiting AMR medics provided further treatment.

Thursday, a 62-year-old male visitor from Utah died while snorkeling in waters off Po'ipū Beach Park. Kaua'i Police have identified the victim as Leonard Bo-teil-ho of Riverton, Utah. shortly before 10:35 a.m. on Thursday, bystanders noticed an unresponsive snorkeler in waters off the west end of Po'ipū Beach Park. Bystanders in the water brought the man to shore where they began administering CPR. Ocean Safty personnel at the Po'ipū Beach Lifeguard Tower were notified and took over CPR efforts once on scene. According to witness reports, the victim had been snorkeling for approximately 15 minutes and did not show signs of distress before being pulled from the water. An autopsy is pending to determine the cause of his death.

Hawaii's teachers union has a tentative contract agreement in place with the state. The deal between the Hawaii State Teachers Association and Board of Education runs from July 1st of this year to June 30th, 2027. Union members will cast a final vote on whether to approve the contract on April 26th. The contract includes salary increases for teachers in each of the next four years. There are also increases in the state's contribution to health premiums, supplementary pay, and changes in the salary structure. It also includes streamlining and expanding instructor pay on the schedule.

A manhunt continues today after two people were shot to death and three more were wounded in Ma-ili. Honolulu police say a suspect opened fire on a group of people late Friday night. Investigators believe the suspect and victims were arguing following a chicken fight. Two of the victims, a man and woman, were rushed to the hospital in personal vehicles, and later died. The three surviving victims are now out of the hospital. The suspect is described as a man in his 20s.

Technical problems are preventing SpaceX from test launching its new Starship rocket. In a tweet, Elon Musk said that a pressure valve was frozen on the giant rocket, causing a delay. SpaceX used the countdown to give the launch team a chance to run through all the normal procedures at their base in southern Texas. The uncrewed Starship is launching on a test flight that will send the rocket around most of the Earth, splashing down off Hawaii. A new launch date for the most powerful rocket ever built has not been announced.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday April 18, 2023**

County of Kauaʻi officials are urging the public to be vigilant due to potential severe weather conditions starting Tuesday afternoon and continuing through the overnight hours into Wednesday morning. According to the National Weather Service (NWS) forecast, a vigorous cold front will bring the potential for elevated, gusty Kona winds, heavy rain, and possible strong thunderstorms over Kauaʻi Tuesday afternoon through the evening and into Wednesday morning. According to the NWS, strong thunderstorms may bring gusts near 50 mph, frequent lightning, visibility near zero in heavy rain, and the potential for small hail. Officials also note that Kūhiō Highway, near the Hanalei Bridge, may need to be closed with short to no-advanced notice, particularly if a Flash Flood Warning is issued, and that utilities and other services may be disrupted.

The Kauaʻi Police Department (KPD), in partnership with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), is collecting unused, unwanted, or expired medications for National Drug Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22, at KPD headquarters in Lihue. The collection will consist of a drive-thru, drop-off service in the breezeway at the parking lot roundabout. Tablets, capsules, liquids and other forms of medication – prescription or nonprescription – including patches, will be accepted. New or used needles and syringes will not be accepted. This service is free and anonymous, and no questions will be asked.

The Honolulu Police Department is stepping up its enforcement of gambling laws after last weekend's deadly shooting in Maili. Two people were shot to death and three others were wounded after an argument during an illegal chicken fight. HPD Chief Joe Logan says there will be an increased police presence following the shooting, but hasn't said where. Meanwhile, the shooter is still on the loose. Logan says chicken fighting cases are tough to investigate, since the fights are usually highly organized and happen on private property.

Another critical step in the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility is underway. Joint Task Force Red Hill started the dewatering process on Monday. The military says it's a precursor to defueling. Water is being removed from condensation on the fuel tanks to prevent corrosion. Officials say 253 repairs need to be done as part of this step in the process, and 174 repairs are completed so far. Dewatering is expected to take place for several days this week. The Navy says the full defueling should be done by June of 2024.

There are new details about the tentative four-year contract agreement in place for Hawaii's teachers. The deal is worth 577-million-dollars and includes annual pay raises of three to five-percent. The total pay raise after four years would be 14-and-a-half-percent. It also features a 32-percent pay increase for new entry-level hires, higher pay for nontraditional teachers, and the creation of a new pay class for veteran teachers. Teachers will vote on whether to ratify the deal on April 26th.

Honolulu police continue to investigate a suspected first-degree arson at a Disney film trailer on the north shore of Oahu. The fire happened late Sunday night, at the base camp for the production of the live-action remake of "Lilo and Stitch." A wardrobe trailer caught fire, causing an estimated more than



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200-thousand-dollars in damage. No one was hurt in the fire and no arrests have been made. Filming of the movie is expected to begin today after being delayed Monday because of the fire.

SpaceX is targeting Thursday for its next attempt to launch the most powerful rocket ever built. Technical problems on Monday prevented the test launch of its new Starship rocket. In a tweet, CEO Elon Musk said that a pressure valve was frozen on the giant rocket, causing a delay. The uncrewed Starship is set to launch on a test flight that will send the rocket around most of the Earth, splashing down off Hawaii.

A new leak of an anti-freezing chemical has been discovered at the Subaru telescope on top of Mauna Kea. Officials say over an eight-month period, about six liters of Ethylene glycol leaked onto the concrete floor before it was found this month. It came from a non-operating piece of equipment. According to the University of Hawaii, there is no indication that any of the chemical leaked out of the building.

The long-anticipated Honolulu rail line is expected to be carrying its first passengers in about three months. Lori Kahikina, executive director and CEO of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, confirms the ten-billion-dollar rail line will partially open in July. That's what she told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser's Spotlight Hawaii program on Monday. Mayor Rick Blangiardi first announced the July opening during his State of the City Address in March. Kahikina says she was expecting the mayor to say summer and not a specific month. But, she decided to get her more than 150 staff members mobilized to "not make a liar of out him." The first rail segment will run from East Kapolei to Aloha Stadium.

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**Local Kauaï News – Wednesday April 19, 2023**

Vicente Hilario of Kauai has been found guilty of first-degree murder for the execution-style killing of a robbery witness. The victim Aureo Moore was shot six times at Anahola Beach Park on Kauai in 2010. The suspect was initially convicted in 2013, but the first case was remanded for a new trial by the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals. The appeals court found the man was denied the right to meaningfully participate in his defense, because he wasn't allowed to approach the bench during jury selection. The verdict on Tuesday ended a long second trial which, including jury selection, lasted more than 10 weeks. Hilario will be sentenced on May 4th and faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The suspects wanted in connection with last weekend's deadly shooting at a chicken fight in Maili are behind bars. A 23-year-old man and 16-year-old boy turned themselves in on Tuesday. Both are facing first-degree murder charges. The shooting, which happened at about midnight Friday, left a man and woman dead and three other people wounded. Honolulu police say the shooting stemmed from an argument at the end of an illegal chicken fight.

A major investigation is underway at a home in West Oahu after authorities found what they believe are explosives and a drug lab inside. DEA agents made the discovery while serving a search warrant at a home in Kapolei on Tuesday night. Residents in as many as ten nearby homes were asked to evacuate for their safety while authorities descended on the property. The DEA says the agents found chemicals and materials that resemble a meth lab. The FBI, bomb, squad and ATF are also investigating. There is no word of any arrests.

A bill still alive in the Hawaii legislature would subsidize pay for childcare workers. It would create a two-year pilot program that increases pay for people who work with infants and toddlers. Childcare centers would be allowed to apply for the subsidy to boost their staff's wages. Then, approved childcare centers would be required to pay their workers at least 16 dollars per hour. That's higher than the current median pay for childcare workers in the U.S.

Three former Honolulu city officials will likely have their legal fees paid for by the city's taxpayers. Former Managing Director Roy Amemiya, Corporation Counsel Donna Leong and Police Commission Chair Max Sword are accused of illegally paying former Honolulu Police Chief Louis Kealoha 250-thousand-dollars to retire. The trio was indicted by a federal grand jury 16 months ago. They're each represented by a high-paid lawyer, but those lawyers could soon be paid by the city instead, through tax dollars. Today, the Honolulu City Council is expected to approve a request that the city pay for their defense.

Maui County is paying about 150-thousand-dollars in fines for occupational safety violations connected with the death of a firefighter. The 24-year-old man died in Kihei in January, after being sucked into a storm drain and swept out to sea. The Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division issued the fines following an investigation into his death. Investigators say the firefighter should have been wearing a personal flotation device. And, the Maui County Fire Department was found at fault for instructing firefighters to remove a chain link fence that was acting as a safeguard from anyone

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going near the storm drain. Finally, the report says the firefighters who responded to the flooding were not adequately trained in flood incident response. Maui County has decided not to challenge the findings.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday April 20, 2023**

A company trying to redevelop the site of the old Coco Palms Hotel on Kauai has received a cease-and-desist order from the state. The Utah-based company wants to build a new 350-room hotel on the property in Wailua. It's had crews clearing trees off the property. But, the state land board says that's unpermitted, and it's ordering them to stop. If not, the company will face fines of 15-thousand-dollars per day. Coco Palms, built in the 1950's, has been closed since Hurricane Iniki hit in 1992. Community members are fighting against the redevelopment, citing the area's cultural significance.

Our Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources is announcing that Polihale State Park is CLOSED until further notice because of water service outage at the Park. We will notify you when the park reopens.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaiʻi dismissed a federal constitutional challenge to COVID-19 emergency proclamations issued by former Gov. David Ige. Gov. Ige issued the first emergency proclamation concerning COVID-19 on March 4, 2020. The last COVID-19 emergency proclamation in Hawaiʻi expired on March 25, 2022. The plaintiffs, a group called "For Our Rights" and five residents of Kauaʻi—sought monetary damages, claiming that Gov. Ige violated their due process rights under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by issuing the emergency proclamations without first making individualized health assessments, offering timely notice about the requirement to quarantine and the right to challenge it, and holding hearings. U.S. District Court Judge Jill A. Otake rejected these arguments and dismissed the case.

The Kalaheo Water System Improvements Project in Kauai is set to begin in late May. The Kauai Department of Water says two large storage tanks and 115-thousand linear feet of water mainline will be replaced. Upgrades will be made to water meter service connections, fire protection facilities and appurtenances, as well a paving work. The project is part of a three phase plan along a portion of Pu'uwai Road and a portion of Kikala Road. Water shutoffs, road closures and other occurrences typical of a construction are expected.

SpaceX's starship prototype exploded four minutes into its flight. The rocket was supposed to be the most powerful ever made. The ship was supposed to complete one full lap of Earth and reenter the atmosphere near Hawaii. This comes after SpaceX had to scrub a launch attempt on Monday after a pressure valve froze.

A man who lit a sleeping homeless man on fire in Downtown Honolulu has been convicted of attempted second-degree murder. He threw a gasoline mixture on the victim in May of 2021, then set him on fire with a torch once he woke up. The victim survived, but suffered second and third-degree burns on 18-percent of his body. The suspect, who has eight prior felony convictions, will be sentenced in late August. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole, or ancestral bones.

Hawaii is reporting ten new COVID deaths within the last week. Officials announced 935 new cases have popped up across the islands in the last seven days, along with ten related deaths. The latest

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numbers bring the total number of cases reported in Hawaii to over 385-thousand and the statewide COVID death toll to nearly 19-hundred.

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**Local Kauaïi News – Friday April 21, 2023**

The Kalaheo Water System Improvements Project on Kauai is set to begin in late May. The Kauai Department of Water says two large storage tanks and 115-thousand linear feet of water mainline will be replaced. The project is part of a three phase plan along a portion of Pu'uwai Road and a portion of Kikala Road. Water shutoffs, road closures and other occurrences typical of a construction are expected. The work is a \$21.7 million plan to replace water mains and storage tanks in Kalaheo. The Kalaheo Water System Improvements Project will be the department's largest ever undertaking, and is expected to last from late May 2023 into 2025, according to the department.

A 16-year-old boy is accused of firing the deadly shot that killed a woman at a chicken fight in Maili, and a 23-year-old is suspected to have shot and killed the woman's nephew. Three other people were wounded in a violent brawl last weekend. New court documents say the shooting stemmed from a fight that started as more than 100 people were leaving the property where an illegal chicken fight was being held. The man who died was trying to break up a scrap between two groups and was reportedly shot by two people he punched. Both suspects are behind bars and the adult suspect has been charged.

Nine more men are behind bars on suspicion of sex-related crimes against minors in Hawaii. The suspects were all arrested in Maui County between last Friday and Sunday and range between the ages of 19 and 74. It was the 17th edition of Operation Keiki Shield, in which law enforcement officials from across Hawaii pose as minors online and communicate with suspects. The suspects are arrested after trying to solicit sex from minors and after taking steps to meet them in-person. Thirty-five suspects have been arrested on Maui since Operation Keiki Shield started a little more than three years ago.

The state Department of Education is starting to distribute Narcan to Hawaii's schools. The nasal spray, if applied in time, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. There has been a growing demand for Narcan on school campuses as the number of deadly fentanyl overdoses rises across the islands. Fentanyl was likely linked with at least 60 deaths in Hawaii last year. Public health officials are working to have Narcan on hand in every school in the state. But, the DOE is only letting schools have Narcan if at least one staff member has completed a training course overseen by the state Health Department. More than 300 DOE employees have taken the course since December.

Hawaii's unemployment rate is at an eight-month low of three-point-five-percent. The number of people without jobs in March fell by 600 compared to February, when the unemployment rate was three-point-six-percent. Hawaii's labor force is now at 678-thousand-450 people. That includes residents with jobs, the self-employed, and those who are jobless but actively seeking work. The nationwide unemployment rate was also three-point-five-percent in March.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday April 24, 2023**

The Kauaʻi Police Department (KPD) is urging residents and visitors to be more vigilant of suspicious activity to avoid becoming a victim of theft. According to officials, a recent rash of car break-ins and thefts have occurred in residential neighborhoods islandwide. KPD recommends locking all doors to your vehicles and your residence. Avoid leaving any valuables in your vehicles or in plain view from the outside. Additionally, you are advised to be more observant of suspicious activity and any unfamiliar vehicles or persons in your neighborhood.

This is the beginning of a critical week for the fate of the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Lawmakers are considering a state budget that could eliminate or drastically reduce its funding. Friday is also the decking deadline for a pair of bills that aim to repeal the 25-year-old agency. The state budget bill is scheduled to go to conference at 4:30 this afternoon. The House version gives 35-million-dollars to the Hawaii Tourism Authority for the upcoming fiscal year. The Senate Version gives it nothing. The HTA has requested a 75-million-dollar budget.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority is planning to build at least ten-thousand new homes within the next decade. Officials are planning to pick a private master developer partner within the next 60 days. The developer would redevelop nine of the agency's low-income rental housing subdivisions on four islands. The plan calls for nearly 12-hundred existing apartments being replaced, and a maximum of nearly eleven-thousand new homes being added for low and middle-income residents. The initiative would redevelop a third of the Hawaii Public Housing Authority's inventory of public housing, some of which dates back to 1953.

The number of child abuse cases in Hawaii is on the rise. That's according to new data released by Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Oahu, State Judiciary's Children's Justice Centers, and their partner agencies. There were two-thousand-114 reported child abuse cases statewide in 2022. That's an increase of 332 cases from 2020. Oahu and Kauai had the highest number of increases among all islands. The report shows girls are still the most common victims of child abuse, but the number of boys being abused is going up, as is the number of physical abuse victims.

The National Weather Service has issued a flood advisory for the island of Kauai, effective until 2:45 p.m. today. Radar indicated the presence of slow-moving, heavy showers over portions of northern and eastern Kauai, with rain falling at a rate of up to 1 inch per hour. Weather officials warn of minor flooding on roads, in streams and in poor drainage areas. The public should stay away from streams, drainage ditches and low-lying areas prone to flooding.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday April 25, 2023**

Jared Denault of Wailua has been sentenced to 10 months in prison. Denault drove a Nissan pickup truck across the center line on Kaumualiʻi Highway near Koloa on June 19, 2020 — crashing head-on into a 60-year-old Lihuʻe resident who died. After the crash Police said he fled the area. Denault was driving 30 miles per hour over the speed limit was also ordered to pay \$3,427 in restitution. In addition to the criminal charges, Denault was also ordered to pay \$111,526 to the victims insurance provider. Of that restitution, \$100,000 is for personal injuries and \$11,026 for property damage to the vehicle.

State health officials are confirming a second case of measles on Oahu. Both cases involve residents. The newest infection, announced Monday, involves a person who may have been exposed to the first infected person, who tested positive for measles after traveling internationally. The first patient was unvaccinated. The Department of Health is now reaching out to people who may have been exposed to the second case. Measles spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

There are new details about the 21-year-old man behind bars in connection with a brutal chemical attack in Mililani. The man is accused of dumping a chemical on a 20-year-old woman in the parking lot of a 24-Hour Fitness on April 7th. Court documents say the man asked a friend about how he could get a ghost gun and hydrochloric acid less than two weeks before the attack. He's also accused of trying to hide his movements by faking GPS data on his cellphone. The victim told detectives the man tried to shoot her first, but missed. She suffered severe chemical burns to her face, back, shoulders and lower extremities. The man is facing an attempted murder charge.

State officials are asking the public to stay away from Kaimana Beach for the next couple of weeks to protect the monk seal who gave birth in the area. There are currently fencing, signs, and 24-hour security set up on the Waikiki beach to keep visitors away from the seal and her newborn pup. Officers on Jet skis will also be monitoring the seals while they're in the water. This is expected to go on for the next five-to-seven weeks. People who get too close to the seals risk getting a citation or arrested.

It appears Hawaii residents will be getting tax breaks this year after all. On Monday, key state lawmakers announced they've reached a tentative deal on tax breaks as the legislative session winds down. Monday was the first formal negotiation about the 20-billion-dollar state budget. State Senator Donovan Dela Cruz is leading the Senate side of negotiations and says just a few technical issues are standing in the way of a package of tax breaks designed to help low and middle-income working families. The tax relief package is expected to total 350-million-dollars.

Hawaii Pharmacies are rolling out a new tool aimed at preventing theft of prescription medicine. Sixty-one Longs locations across the state are implementing new-time delay safes to stop pharmacy robberies. Time-delay safes can only be unlocked at preset times. CVS Health first started using the technology in 2015 in Indianapolis, where the company says they were experiencing



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a high number of robberies in their pharmacies. Because of the time-delay safes, there's been a 70-percent decline in robberies there.

Hawaii's Iam Tongi is a step closer to becoming the next American Idol. The 18-year-old Kahuku native was voted into the round of 12 on Monday night's show. On Monday, he sung Lionel Richie's 'Stuck On You' in the first live show of the season. This Sunday, Tongi and the other contestants will try to win America's votes by performing songs from the Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday April 26, 2023**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is officially cleared of wrongdoing in connection with the Red Hill water crisis. That's according to a report by the EPA's inspector general, released Tuesday. The EPA was responsible for overseeing the Navy when it contaminated the drinking water supplying 93-thousand Honolulu residents with jet fuel in 2021. The inspector general says the EPA provided adequate oversight and there's nothing more it could have done to prevent the disaster. The report also notes that the Navy was subject to a regulatory agreement with the EPA and the state health department at the time of the contamination. That Administrative Order on Consent was signed after another leak at the Red Hill fuel storage facility in 2014. It was in place to prevent another disaster, but failed to do so seven years later.

Some inmates from the Hawaii Community Correctional Center are now free after they had to make room in what is the most overcrowded jail in the state. The facility is designed to hold 206 inmates but over capacity with 295 inmates. The center's system oversight commission coordinator says some women are being housed inappropriately in areas that aren't meant to be cells with no toilets or sinks. Department of Public Safety director, Tommy Johnson says before an inmate or a pre-trial defendant is released, an assessment is done by the courts and intake service center.

A large number of older folks are falling victim to scammers. The FBI's elder fraud report shows about 400 Hawaii residents aged 60 and older lost big money to scams in 2022. Collectively, they lost more than 16-point-three-million-dollars. The FBI says scammers are impersonating family members, government agencies, or offering investment opportunities in the form of real estate or phony startup companies.

More details are coming to light in the trial against a couple accused of living under false identities. Walter Glenn Primrose and Gwynn Darle Morrison have been accused of living under the names Bobby Fort and Julie Montague for decades. The names were taken from deceased children but the trial has yet to reveal why the two took new identities in the first place. Prosecutors say Primrose spent more than 20 years in the Coast Guard under his fake name where he obtained secret-level security clearance. Photos of the two in what appears to be authentic KGB uniforms have also surfaced, although the judge ruled those pictures were irrelevant to the charges. The two have pled not-guilty to conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, and making false statements in a passport application.

Governor Josh Green is planning to put up the state's first medical respite for homeless people "in [his] backyard." Many homeless patients leaving the ER end up on the other side of Punchbowl Street near Washington Place where the Governor lives. He's told reporters he wants to put up a medical respite there to show other Hawaii residents that homeless people are already in their own backyards. Green plans on erecting another 25 medical respites across Oahu.

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**Local Kauaïi News – Thursday April 27, 2023**

Our Kauai police Department is looking for a man suspected of several car break-ins in Koloa. They believe he broke into nine cars along Kipuka Street on April 21st. KPD did release images that were taken from a surveillance camera but they're hard to make out. To view the images go to our County of Kauai facebook page. There's an ongoing investigation. Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect or with information on these reported incidents is encouraged to contact KPD Dispatch at 808-241-1711. Those wishing to remain anonymous can provide information at CSKauai.org. and may be eligible for a reward.

Hawaii's public school teachers have a new four-year contract. On Wednesday, it was announced that 92-percent of the members of the Hawaii State Teachers Association voted in favor of ratifying the deal. The contract, which takes effect July 1st, includes an eventual 14-and-a-half-percent wage increase and several improvements to working conditions. State lawmakers are expected to approve 577-million-dollars to fund the contract in the coming days. Some teachers will also get bonuses, and employer contributions to teachers' health insurance premiums will grow as well.

The Hawaii Tourism Authority could be coming to an end. Operational funding for the HTA is not included in the final version of the state budget, which was tentatively approved by lawmakers on Wednesday. But, this also affects the Hawaii Convention Center. The center's annual operating budget of four to four-and-a-half-million-dollars comes from the HTA's annual appropriation. The budget does not include operational funding for the convention center, but does include 64-million-dollars to repair the building's leaky roof. There is also a bill still being considered that would specifically repeal the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

Leaders of the state House and Senate are in agreement on a new state budget. The budget is now awaiting the full approval of both chambers before it's sent to Governor Josh Green. The budget, unanimously approved by negotiators on Wednesday, prioritizes early childhood education, homelessness, housing, increasing the number of nurses, and improving neighbor island and rural hospitals. The budget has eleven-point-three-billion-dollars in general funds and two-point-nine-billion-dollars in capital improvement funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

The search is over for a passenger who went overboard during a cruise from Australia to Hawaii. The U.S. Coast Guard says it received a report from the Quantum of the Seas cruise ship of a man overboard about 500 miles south of Hawaii's Big Island. The Coast Guard says a rescue helicopter conducted an aerial search for six hours on Wednesday. The search was called off this morning. The passengers identify hasn't been released yet.

Hawaii has seen six new COVID deaths in the last week. Officials announced 858 new cases have popped up across the islands in the last seven days, along with six related deaths. The latest numbers bring the total number of cases reported in Hawaii to over 386-thousand and the statewide COVID death toll to nearly 19-hundred.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday April 28, 2023**

Firefighters responded to a man in distress Tuesday afternoon along the Kalepa Ridge trail in Līhuʻe. At approximately 4:50 p.m., first responders were notified of a 24-year-old male resident who was having difficulty breathing along the Kalepa Ridge trail. Soon after rescue personnel arrival, they discovered the man had lost consciousness and was in severe distress. Rescuers airlifted the man to a landing zone at Nukoliʻi Beach, where awaiting Kapaʻa firefighters and AMR medics provided additional support. AMR medics provided advanced life support while transporting the man to Wilcox Medical Center. The man was later medevacked to Oʻahu where he currently remains in critical condition.

A man has been cited after allegedly trying to pass through the Honolulu Airport with several weapons. The TSA intercepted the weapons during a routine screening on April 13th, but did not make the information public until this week. The TSA says he had a club-like item in his carry-on bag. Officers searched the bag and found a collapsible baton, along with a knife concealed inside a comb. A body scan then revealed the man had a butterfly knife taped to his lower leg. The items were confiscated by the TSA, while the man was cited by Hawaii State Sheriffs. Last week, TSA officers intercepted another man with a ceramic knife at Kahului International Airport on Maui.

Honolulu police say a man is under arrested in connection to road rage incidents in West Oahu. He was taken in on first-degree terroristic threatening, harassment, and promoting dangerous drugs, but has not been charged. Two victims of the incident told Hawaii News Now that the same driver of a Silver Mustang accosted them in Ewa Beach, with one saying the man stopped traffic to confront them.

There are forever chemicals in another well in Kunia Village. A second well in the small agricultural community in central Oahu tested positive for the chemicals, also called PFAs, this week. The other drinking water well in Kunia Village tested positive for forever chemicals in January. Both of the affected wells have been shut down. Long-term exposure to the contaminants can increase the risk of getting certain cancers and other health problems. The water system serves about 650 people who will continue to be provided with bottled water until the state Department of Health comes up with a permanent solution.

It's a girl. Wildlife officials say the pup Kaiwi the Hawaiian monk seal give birth to on Kaimana Beach two weeks ago is a female. NOAA made the determination after getting a good look at the pup's belly. The pup, currently named P-O-Five, is the fourth pup born on the popular beach in Waikiki. Visitors are being told to stay behind posted signs, fencing and ropes, and keep their distance from the mother and daughter.

A retired Maui County wastewater maintenance mechanic has been sentenced to 16 months in prison for taking bribes. The 71-year-old man pleaded guilty in December. He took 40-thousand-dollars in cash and first-class trips to Las Vegas from businessman Milton Choi. In exchange, the worker helped direct 19-million-dollars in government contracts to Choi's company, H2O Process Systems. On Thursday, he was ordered to serve 16 months in federal prison and two months on house arrest.

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The same corruption scandal also led to the resignations of former state lawmakers Ty Cullen and Kalani English.