

Q4 2023—Issues and Programs Report—HPR News

Hawaiian Public Radio does daily reporting on issues important to its community of listeners. Coverage is guided in part by a list of issues put together with input from the station's Community Advisory Board and HPR's Broadcast Committee and approved by HPR's Board of Directors. Issues include Education, Healthcare, Native Hawaiian Culture, Economic Issues, Neighbor Island News, Housing and Homelessness, Environment, Community Planning, Immigration and Assimilation, Local Food and Agriculture and Culture and Arts.

The station airs a locally produced and hosted public affairs talk program, "The Conversation," airing from 11am to noon each weekday. That program features guests and listener call-in segments. Each Monday from 6:30pm to 7:00pm HPR airs a half-hour locally-produced program on medical developments and trends called "The Body Show," and each Thursday from 6:30pm to 7:00pm HPR airs a half-hour locally-produced program on technology called "Bytemarks Café."

In addition, local news reporters cover these topics of interest and importance to the state-wide listening community, typically filing reports of 2-3 minutes airing each day on Morning Edition from 5am to 9am and on All Things Considered from noon to 1pm and 4pm to 6pm.

For the purposes of this report, we will focus on stories and coverage in the areas of Neighbor Island News, Culture and the Arts, Education, Environment, Housing and Homelessness, Local Food and Agriculture, and Native Hawaiian Culture.

NEIGHBOR ISLAND NEWS

[SBA disaster loans up to \\$500,000 available for damaged Maui homes](#)

[Russell Subiono](#), October 3, 2023

The U.S. Small Business Administration has distributed close to \$135 million in disaster loans to those impacted by the Maui wildfires, according to Cynthia Cowell, a public information officer based in Honolulu and from the Big Island.

[Maui farmers want to steer the island away from its dependency on tourism after the fires](#) [Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), October 4, 2023

The Aug. 8 wildfires are making many in the Maui community reconsider the role that tourism plays in the island's economy. One of the organizations working toward creating changes is the Maui Food Hub. HPR's Catherine Cluett Pactol shares how supporting farmers can be part of that shift.

[Hawaiʻi County breaks ground on Lāʻāmilō 10 Million-Gallon Reservoir Project](#)
[HPR News Staff](#), December 12, 2023

Mayor Mitch Roth said the reservoir will improve the reliability of the Lāʻāmilō Water System, which uses eight wells to supply drinking water to the South Kohala Coast. Once completed in approximately two years, it will be Hawaiʻi's largest potable water reservoir.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

[How the state art museum became Capitol Modern, a rebrand years in the making](#)
[Cassie Ordonio](#), October 3, 2023

The Hawaiʻi State Art Museum has rebranded itself as Capitol Modern, a move the museum's executive director says reflects the building as a "contemporary art space." Capitol Modern hopes the rebrand will attract diverse visitors and increase visitor counts. HPR's Cassie Ordonio reports.

[Incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII is center of new Hawaiʻi Opera Theatre show](#) **[Lillian Tsang](#)**, October 11, 2023

What do you take with you when you're forced to leave your home for good? That's the premise of "An American Dream," a Hawaiʻi Opera Theatre production that opens Friday. Conductor Lance Inouye spoke to The Conversation about sharing this story alongside an emotional, musical journey.

[Short film explores nuclear legacy through the lens of the Marshallese community](#) **[Cassie Ordonio](#)**, October 27, 2023

The debut of "In Exile" is in juxtaposition with the negotiations of the Compacts of Free Association, according to Fitch. Recently, the U.S. and the Marshall Islands have renewed their agreement to extend economic assistance for another 20 years.

[The Hawaiʻi Herald, a local Japanese community newspaper, to close up shop after 43 years](#) **[Catherine Cruz](#)**, November 3, 2023

For 43 years, The Hawaiʻi Herald publication has served the local community, calling itself "Hawaiʻi's Japanese American Journal." The company just announced it will publish its last issue in December due to dwindling revenue. Speaking to The Conversation's Catherine Cruz, the newspaper editor put out a call for a buyer in the eleventh hour.

[New Zealand-based author shares Indigenous vision of science fiction storytelling](#) **[Stephanie Han](#)**, November 6, 2023

Gina Cole is a science fiction writer of Fijian descent from New Zealand. She's currently in residence at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa as a Fulbright creative writing scholar. Speaking to The Conversation, Cole shared how science fiction rooted in the Pacific cultures can play a part in our future.

EDUCATION

[Hawaiian language immersion advocates want additional funding for Kaiapuni schools](#) [Cassie Ordonio](#), October 5, 2023

As Hawaiian language immersion schools gain traction in the state, so do the demands for funding. A group of teachers, administrators and community members met over the summer to discuss alternative funding options for the Kaiapuni schools, which exclusively teach in Hawaiian. HPR's Cassie Ordonio reports.

[Federal grant seeks to support students of military families with STEM programs](#) [HPR News Staff](#), October 30, 2023

Select Hawaiʻi schools educating students of military parents have received funding from the Department of Defense Education Activity to improve STEM learning initiatives. Campbell-Kapolei, Kailua-Kalāheo, and Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua complex areas will each receive \$2 million for separate projects.

[State DOE settles gender inequity lawsuit with Campbell High female athletes](#) [Cassie Ordonio](#), November 1, 2023

Part of the settlement reached last week requires the Department of Education and the Oʻahu Interscholastic Association to hire an independent evaluator to ensure Campbell High girls receive equivalent sports offerings and athletic benefits. HPR's Cassie Ordonio spoke to the lead plaintiff about Title IX and paving the way for future student-athletes.

[Lawmakers question DOE about basic safety equipment at Lahaina schools](#) [Cassie Ordonio](#), November 17, 2023

The panel of lawmakers is one of six interim working groups created by the state House of Representatives to address preparedness for natural disasters. Lawmakers recommended what the education department should address, but the final report will come out Dec. 15.

ENVIRONMENT

[Local divers collect and reattach broken coral along Hawaiʻi Island coastline](#) [HPR News Staff](#), November 2, 2023

Divers and community members from the area worked together this week to collect coral pieces that had broken off the reef in Kahuwai Bay during recent high swells.

[Honolulu maps out strategy to deal with climate change in new plan](#) [Russell Subiono](#), November 2, 2023

Hotter temperatures, less rain, and rising sea levels. Those are the realities of climate change. The City and County of Honolulu has drafted a blueprint to deal with future impacts and wants your input.

[This conservationist's mission started with buying 330 acres in Pia Valley](#)

[Russell Subiono](#), November 3, 2023

To mark Arbor Day Hawai'i, we introduce you to mechanic-turned-conservationist Tyrone Montayre. In 2018, Montayre unexpectedly found himself the owner of 330 acres of preservation land on O'ahu. He soon founded Protect & Preserve Hawai'i and created a management plan.

[National report features Indigenous climate change data from local researchers](#)

[Cassie Ordonio](#), November 15, 2023

The Fifth National Climate Assessment, a collaboration between academic researchers and federal agencies, was released Tuesday. It comes out every five years and is the most comprehensive evaluation of climate change risks and responses.

[Climate researcher outlines findings and solutions from national report](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), November 16, 2023

Abby Frazier, a lead researcher for the Fifth National Climate Assessment, is a former Hawai'i resident. She has been working on climate variability across the U.S.-affiliated Pacific for more than a decade before recently taking a position at Clark University in Massachusetts.

[Proposed Kaua'i landfill faces ongoing agricultural and residential pushback](#)

[Mark Ladao](#), November 17, 2023

The County of Kaua'i is getting some pushback for a proposed landfill site. Kaua'i's only landfill is located in Kekaha on the island's west side. It's scheduled to reach capacity in 2026.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

[State wants nearly \\$10M in federal funds to build affordable housing](#)

[HPR News Staff](#), October 6, 2023

The state is applying for a federal grant worth nearly \$10 million to help construct thousands of new affordable homes in Hawai'i. The grant would come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing Program.

[New county law gives affordable housing priority to Hawai'i Island residents](#)

[HPR News Staff](#), November 21, 2023

Mayor Mitch Roth signed Bill 72 on Monday to amend the county's Affordable Housing Policy. The changes give housing priority to residents, workers who earn most of their income near an affordable housing project, and returning residents who left the island for school.

[Is converting short-term rentals the answer to Maui's housing crisis?](#)

[Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), November 22, 2023

Maui's housing shortage is in crisis. As Lahaina residents are shuffled between temporary housing options, calls are getting louder to convert short-term rentals into long-term housing. What would that take? And is it even possible? HPR's Catherine Cluett Pactol reports.

[State aims to cut unsheltered homelessness in half by 2026](#)

[Mark Ladao](#), November 29, 2023

There are around 6,500 homeless individuals in the state, according to last year's Point in Time Count, which provides a snapshot of the homeless population. Of that number, more than 4,000 live in unsheltered areas like beaches or sidewalks. Part of the state's plan to decrease unsheltered homelessness includes providing "deeply affordable" housing, at no more than \$500 per month. HPR's Mark Ladao has more.

LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

[Eat Local Challenge encourages families to explore Hawai'i-grown food](#)

[Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), November 10, 2023

Every year, Maui resident Lauryn Rego and her family go seven days using 100% locally sourced food. That means substituting a lot of staples like bread and rice — even cooking oil. The Eat Local Challenge seeks to raise awareness of the local alternatives, support Hawai'i farmers, and increase sustainability. HPR's Catherine Cluett Pactol has more.

[Maui Food Innovation Center's new facility brings sizzling opportunities for agribusiness](#) **[HPR News Staff](#)**, November 10, 2023

A new 4,000 square food certified kitchen and education center at UH Maui College is geared towards fostering growth of agribusinesses and food entrepreneurs.

[Kona coffee farmers evolve with labor demands and environmental concerns](#)

[Krista Rados](#), November 16, 2023

The Kona Coffee Cultural Festival wrapped up over the weekend on the Big Island. But as HPR's Krista Rados reports, this harvest season marks more than just tasty coffee. Top of mind were the hardships that Kona farmers face with labor shortages and environmental concerns on a day-to-day basis.

[New funding program for commercial farmers to start agroforestry](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), December 5, 2023

Commercial farmers have a chance at the gift of a federal grant aimed at building food security in agroforestry. The Hawai'i Ulu Cooperative and The Nature Conservancy are shepherding the program.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

[Hōkūleʻa's journey through California continues to draw crowds — and familiar faces](#) [Kuʻuwehi Hiraishi](#), November 1, 2023

Hōkūleʻa and her crew have arrived in Newport Beach, California, where they will remain for the next couple of days. The double-hulled canoe continues to attract crowds along the California coast — some even following Hōkūleʻa to multiple ports. HPR's Kuʻuwehi Hiraishi has more.

[Who is Stacy Ferreira? Meet the new CEO at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#) [Kuʻuwehi Hiraishi](#), November 2, 2023

The OHA trustees have chosen Stacy Ann Kealohalani Ferreira, the former budget chief with the Senate Ways and Means Committee, to serve as the new CEO. Her top priority is implementing the agency's 15-year strategic plan, which aims to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians by focusing on education, housing, health care and economic stability. HPR's Kuʻuwehi Hiraishi reports.

[Survey assesses wildfire impacts on Native Hawaiian businesses](#) [HPR News Staff](#), November 3, 2023

Businesses across the state that have been impacted by the Maui wildfires are asked to complete the Native Hawaiian Business Maui Wildfire Impact Survey, conducted by the Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

[Documentary highlights Big Island kūpuna and their mastery of Hawaiian traditions](#) [Russell Subiono](#), November 16, 2023

The new documentary "Hometown Legends" features five beloved kūpuna living on the Big Island. It captures their mastery of various Hawaiian traditions and skills, from pahu drum-making to the ranching life of a paniolo.