

Q1 2023—Issues and Programs Report—HPR News

Hawaiʻi 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 Housing and Homelessness, Culture and the Arts, Government and Politics, Environment, Local Goof and Agriculture, and Economic Issues.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

[Grassroots homeless care group adopted by Kalihi-Palama Health Center](#)

[Zoe Dym](#), January 23, 2023

The Hawaiʻi Homeless Healthcare Hui, also known as H4, transferred its operations to the Kalihi-Palama Health Center. H4’s Pūnāwai Clinic will receive funds from HMSA, Island Hospice and Queen’s Health System.

[Affordable housing project for older residents divides Mānoa community](#)

[Casey Harlow](#), January 23, 2023

Monday was the final day for residents to comment on a draft assessment for a controversial Oʻahu affordable housing project. Mānoa Banyan Court would provide affordable rentals for older residents, but some community members have concerns. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

[Mānoa residents say there are 'too many issues' with Banyan Court project](#)

[Casey Harlow](#), February 6, 2023

Mānoa Banyan Court is slated to provide nearly 300 affordable rental units for older residents on fixed incomes. However, some residents in the area argue the project's plans are flawed. HPR's Casey Harlow spoke with two longtime Mānoa residents concerned about the project.

[What does it take to build a community of tiny homes in Hawai'i?](#)

[Casey Harlow](#), March 13, 2023

Kauhale developments are part of Gov. Josh Green's plan to tackle homelessness. But what does it take to build a community of tiny homes? HPR's Casey Harlow spoke with the state's housing officer Nani Medeiros to find out.

[Nonprofits working to find medical respite for homeless cancer patients on Maui](#)

[Sabrina Bodon](#), March 14, 2023

Not having a home has become a barrier for some to receive cancer care. Treatment may be more dangerous if a patient does not have access to running water, a place to rest safely, or somebody to help them take medication. HPR's Sabrina Bodon reports on the effort to find a safe environment for patients to undergo treatment.

[Pilot program to return houseless people to the continent advances at the](#)

[Legislature](#) [Casey Harlow](#), March 17, 2023

A measure that would establish a three-year pilot program at the state Department of Human Services to help houseless individuals fly back to their families on the continental U.S. has progressed in the Legislature. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

[Lei and song fill the funeral procession for Abigail Kawānanakoa](#)

[Ku'uwehi Hiraishi](#), January 23, 2023

More than 1,600 people arrived at ʻIolani Palace on Sunday to pay their respects to the late Abigail Kawānanakoa. The Campbell estate heiress was considered by many a princess because of her royal lineage. HPR's Ku'uwehi Hiraishi reports.

[120th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawai'i](#)

[Stephanie Han](#), January 23, 2023

January marks the 120th anniversary of Korean immigration to Hawai'i. It's part of our state's rich cultural history tied to plantation life which has faded away. The Conversation gives us a glimpse of what and why we are marking this milestone.

[New Bishop Museum exhibit celebrates the preservation of Hawai'i's Indigenous art](#) [Zoe Dym](#), March 13, 2023

The Bishop Museum in Honolulu has opened its doors to a new exhibit focused on the lineage of Native Hawaiian art. "Ola Ka No'eau: Excellence in Hawaiian Artistry" celebrates the preservation of the islands' Indigenous art.

[Kapa maker grows her own wauke and the next generation of traditional Hawaiian artists](#) [Zoe Dym](#), March 14, 2023

A Native Hawaiian kapa maker was selected for the 2023 National Endowment of the Arts' National Heritage Fellow. Roen Hufford learned how to make the traditional fabric from her mother, who won the same award in 1990 for lei making. HPR's Zoe Dym has more.

[Hökūle'a prepares to circumnavigate the Pacific guided by the stars, winds and waves](#) [Ku'uwehi Hiraishi](#), March 22, 2023

After five years of planning and preparation, Hökūle'a is set for a four-year voyage around the Pacific starting in June. The Moananuiākea Voyage will see about 400 crew members take part in a global education campaign. Kau ka pe'a, holo ka wa'a. Up go the sails, away goes the canoe. HPR's Ku'uwehi Hiraishi reports.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

[O'ahu is looking for residents to fill over 400 neighborhood board seats](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), January 25, 2023

Fifty years have passed since O'ahu voters approved a neighborhood board system. Thirty-three boards across the island allow the public to speak directly with various local officials. The Neighborhood Commission Office told The Conversation that over 400 people are needed this election year.

[HPR's coverage of the 2023 State of the County addresses from all 4 mayors](#)

[HPR News Staff](#), March 17, 2023

Each of Hawai'i's four mayors gives their annual State of the County address in March. Housing, infrastructure, jobs, tourism and the budget consistently remain top of mind for the local leaders. HPR reporters tuned into the speeches on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Hawai'i Island and Maui to learn the latest.

[Mayor proposes splitting up Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), March 15, 2023

"Wicked" is how Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi described the issues that are vexing his administration, one being the Department of Planning and Permitting. The Conversation spoke with DPP Director Dawn Takeuchi Apuna about the backlog and the staffing challenges.

[Green touts housing, tax proposals in first 100 days in office](#)

[Sabrina Bodon](#), March 16, 2023

Gov. Josh Green celebrated 100 days in office this week. Per campaign promises, Green has pushed efforts to build more affordable housing. For example, his administration initiated the building of the first neighbor island kauhale village on Hawai'i Island.

ENVIRONMENT

[Community-based solar projects offer energy independence to Moloka'i renters](#)

[Savannah Harriman-Pote](#), January 27, 2023

Hawai'i has more rooftop solar per capita than any other U.S. state. But this popular sunny-side solution leaves renters out of the clean energy equation. HPR's Savannah Harriman-Pote has more about upcoming community-owned solar projects on Moloka'i.

[Public Utilities Commission tackles energy equity with new docket](#)

[Savannah Harriman-Pote](#), March 10, 2023

The Public Utilities Commission is requesting public input on how the state's energy system can be more equitable. A Hawai'i Energy spokesperson said there's a growing consensus that the state needs to shift its focus to folks that have been left behind in the renewable energy transition. HPR's Savannah Harriman-Pote reports.

[Hawai'i Supreme Court ruling means no energy production for Big Island biomass plant](#) [HPR News Staff](#), March 14, 2023

The court upheld the Public Utilities Commission's decision to deny a power purchase agreement that Hū Honua, also known as Honua Ola Bioenergy, had reached with Hawaiian Electric on Hawai'i Island.

[Biden to expand Pacific marine sanctuary with his latest preservation push](#)

[Savannah Harriman-Pote](#), March 22, 2023

In addition to establishing two new U.S. national monuments on the continent, Biden said he has directed the secretary of commerce to consider reclassifying the water surrounding Pacific remote islands as a National Marine Sanctuary.

[Board approves final EA needed to start saving endangered birds from mosquitos](#) [Zoe Dym](#), March 28, 2023

The Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the Environmental Assessment to suppress the mosquito population to save native birds in East Maui.

LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

[Chefs band together against fast food with new #MauiEatLocal movement](#)

[Zoe Dym](#), February 2, 2023

Chefs on Maui are banding together to support the island's local restaurants and food trucks. The #MauiEatLocal movement began in response to seven new fast-food restaurants opening in Kahului and Wailuku last summer.

[Local ranchers say they need more land available for agricultural use to stay in business](#) [Catherine Cruz](#), March 10, 2023

Hawai'i's ranchers say they cannot continue to watch pasture land reduced year after year under state land leases that are not managed by the Department of Agriculture. A priority is to have some 100,000 acres of public pasture and farmland transferred from the DLNR. The Conversation's Catherine Cruz spoke with local ranchers about the state of the industry.

[Hawai'i Department of Ag leadership gets crucial vote of confidence from Senate](#) [Savannah Harriman-Pote](#), March 14, 2023

The governor's appointees to lead the state Department of Agriculture received a crucial vote of confidence from the Hawai'i Senate on Monday. HPR's Savannah Harriman-Pote has more.

[Sust'ainable Moloka'i's new food box program connects local farmers to kūpuna](#) [Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), March 21, 2023

A new food box program on Moloka'i offers residents the opportunity to support kūpuna and local farmers at the same time. Kupuna 'Ai from Sust'ainable Moloka'i launched last month, and community members have already purchased nearly 70 boxes for donation. Catherine Cluett Pactol from The Molokai Dispatch reports.

[Kohala agriculture event invites Hawai'i Island farmers to plan their future](#)

[Zoe Dym](#), March 21, 2023

Members of an agricultural community on Hawai'i Island will gather to discuss the future of sustainable farming and ranching. The Kohala Agricultural Visioning event will provide details on water-use, energy and land preservation.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

[The state's economic growth predicted to slow for most of 2023, UHERO says](#)

[Casey Harlow](#), March 10, 2023

Economists at the University of Hawai'i are projecting a more optimistic view for the state. But inflation, a worker shortage and the slowing of U.S. visitor arrivals could dampen expectations. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

[Honolulu considers allowing some commercial activities at parks, beaches with uniform rules](#) [Casey Harlow](#), March 16, 2023

The rules around wedding photography, tour groups, and other commercial activities at Oahu parks and beaches may once again change with a new city proposal. The proposal would reverse the efforts of previous city councils and community members. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

[Behind the conversion of a Bishop Street high-rise from offices to apartment rentals](#) [Catherine Cruz](#), March 21, 2023

The transformation of a downtown Honolulu office building into a residential tower called The Residences at Bishop Place marks a bit of a seismic shift in the land use world. It's still home to the federal bankruptcy courthouse, but the floors above are mostly apartments for rent. The Conversation's Catherine Cruz has more.

[Hawaiian Airlines enters sustainable aviation fuel purchase agreement](#) [HPR News Staff](#), March 24, 2023

Hawaiian Airlines plans to buy 50 million gallons of sustainable aviation fuel over five years from biofuel company Gevo, Inc.