

Q1 2024—Hawaiian Public Radio: Issues and Programs

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 Recovery from the Maui Wildfires, 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,” 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 Recovery from the Maui Wildfires, Environment, Culture and the Arts, Housing and Homelessness, Local Food and Agriculture, Healthcare, and Native Hawaiian Culture.

RECOVERY FROM THE MAUI WILDFIRES

**[‘Come walk with us’: Lahaina event to bring unity and healing to community](#)
[Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), January 3, 2024**

Lahaina resident and renowned waterman Archie Kalepa opened up his home after the August fires to anyone who needed shelter. Now, he’s inviting residents from across the state to the Ho’ūlu Lahaina Unity Gathering on Jan. 20. As HPR’s Catherine Cluett Pactol reports, he says the event will help bring healing to the community.

**[A focus on mental health during this phase of Maui’s recovery](#)
[Catherine Cruz](#), January 11, 2024**

Health equity and behavioral health are among the priorities for federal officials in this phase of Maui wildfire recovery. The Conversation talked to Jeffrey Reynoso, the Region 9 director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[This Maui community hub is still a lifeline for survivors 6 months after the fires](#)
[Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), February 8, 2024

Immediately after the Maui fires, community hubs sprang into action to support the immediate needs of displaced families. HPR's Catherine Cluett Pactol checked in on one that's been open for six months.

[Lahaina fire survivors reflect on the past 6 months as they plan for the future](#)
[Kuꞑuwehi Hiraishi](#), February 8, 2024

Thursday marked six months since the Maui wildfires. HPR reporter Kuꞑuwehi Hiraishi has been in West Maui hearing from Lahaina residents as they navigate these uncertain times.

[Maui fires caused an increase in health issues and insecurity among survivors, UHERO says](#)
[Mark Ladao](#), February 9, 2024

Maui fire survivors are still experiencing high rates of physical and mental illnesses, along with food, housing and job insecurity. Most have reduced incomes, and about 24% are still jobless. Those are the initial findings from a recent UHERO survey of 224 people six months after the fires. HPR's Mark Ladao has more.

ENVIRONMENT

[EPA official on concerns over low levels of petroleum hydrocarbons in Navy water](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), January 3, 2024

It's been almost two weeks since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pressed the Navy to determine the source of low levels of petroleum hydrocarbons found in water at a handful of military homes. Amy Miller is the head of the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division for Region 9 out of San Francisco. She said the source of the contaminants is still unclear.

[Could artificial intelligence help Hawaiꞑi prevent wildfires?](#)

[Savannah Harriman-Pote](#), February 28, 2024

Artificial intelligence can refine weather forecasts for Hawaiꞑi. That could help state officials predict where the next wildfire will be. HPR's Savannah Harriman-Pote has more.

[Here's how a bee from Australia established itself 2,000 miles away in Polynesia](#)
[Maddie Bender](#), February 28, 2024

A nearly 100-year mystery has finally been solved. How did a bee from Australia manage to establish itself 2,000 miles away in Polynesia? The Conversation talked to lead study author James Dorey of the University of Wollongong.

CULTURE AND THE ARTS

[Local play 'Nothing Micro About Micronesia' combines magic with social justice](#)

[Cassie Ordonio](#), January 5, 2024

Inspired by stories and experiences from Hawai'i's Micronesian communities, the play explores one's sense of belonging and cultural adaptation. It also dives into topics like the prison pipeline and the Micronesian youth experience in Hawai'i. The play will premiere on March 22, with three showings at the Honolulu Theatre for Youth. HPR's Cassie Ordonio has more.

[Bassoonist Tommy Morrison to take the stage in HPR's classical music concert series](#)

[Russell Subiono](#), January 5, 2024

When you think of classical music instruments, the violin or the cello is probably the first that comes to mind. But not for Tommy Morrison. For him, it's the bassoon. The Conversation sat down with Morrison to talk about the underappreciated bassoon, one of the unsung heroes of an orchestra.

[Bamboo Ridge Press celebrates 45 years of elevating stories and authors of Hawai'i](#)

[Catherine Cruz](#), February 26, 2024

For 45 years, Bamboo Ridge Press has been making what writers call “literary mischief.” To celebrate its publishing anniversary, Bamboo Ridge Press is throwing a fundraising dinner on March 2 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i.

[Public art funding faces obstacles at the Legislature with proposed budget cuts](#)

[Cassie Ordonio](#), February 14, 2024

1% of the construction costs to build or renovate state buildings currently goes to a fund that supports the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts. House Bill 1807, introduced by Rep. Kyle Yamashita, would exempt state building renovations and drastically cut funding. HPR's Cassie Ordonio explains.

[Hawai'i artists rally at the Capitol to oppose possible funding cuts](#)

[Cassie Ordonio](#), February 15, 2024

Artists rallied to oppose a measure that would exempt renovations from a law that transfers 1% of state construction costs of state buildings to an art fund. But the House Culture, Arts and International Affairs Committee passed additional measures that would fund the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, including developing an arts for healing program for people affected by the Aug. 8 wildfire on Maui.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

[City to turn condemned Waikīkī apartment building into affordable housing](#)

[HPR News Staff](#), February 1, 2024

The City and County of Honolulu has assumed ownership of a condemned apartment building in Waikīkī. The city says the three-story building at 1615 Ala Wai Blvd., across from the Hawaiī Convention Center, has been abandoned for two decades. It also reported that the dilapidated building has been subjected to squatting, graffiti, and other illegal activity.

['I'm not homeless, I'm from here': Unsheltered Maui fire survivors navigate alternative living](#) [Adia White](#), January 10, 2024

The outreach group A Cup of Cold Water now serves about 40 unsheltered people in Kīhei, 80 to 100 in Central Maui, and 60 to 80 in West Maui. Volunteers are unsure if the population will surpass where it used to be before the fires, but they say their services will continue regardless. HPR contributor Adia White has more from Maui.

[New 10-bedroom facility for homeless youth opens on Oāhu's Leeward Coast](#)

[Lillian Tsang](#), February 22, 2024

A new facility opened its doors this month to help homeless youth in the Waiānae area. Raphael House aims to serve young people between the ages of 18 and 24. The Conversation sat down with RYSE Executive Director Carla Houser to learn more.

[Hawaiī could lose thousands of affordable housing units in coming years, report says](#) [Ashley Mizuo](#), February 27, 2024

Affordable housing project developers are given funding subsidies and in return, they agree to keep their units affordable for a set period of time. But that time is coming to an end for some properties. HPR's Ashley Mizuo has the story.

LOCAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

[Sharon Hurd reflects on her 1st year leading Hawaiī's agriculture department](#)

[Mark Ladao](#), January 9, 2024

The state Department of Agriculture asked for an additional \$55 million in its budget at a Senate Ways and Means Committee meeting on Monday. Sharon Hurd has served as director of the department for the past year. She talked to HPR about the state of Hawaiī's agriculture.

[DOE's Farm to School program moves forward with growing support from state leaders](#) [Mark Ladao](#), January 24, 2024

There is some cautious optimism for the future of the state's Farm to School program. The goal of the state Department of Education program is to use local agriculture to feed students.

[Bill this session would create a sustainable food systems working group for the state](#) [Mark Ladao](#), February 5, 2024

The state Legislature could create a working group to improve local agriculture, food resilience and access to healthy food. Senate Bill 2414 and its companion bill would create a sustainable food systems working group and place it within the state Department of Agriculture.

[Proposed DOE Farm to School meal program could include plant-based options at high schools](#) [Mark Ladao](#), February 9, 2024

The state legislature is moving House Bill 2083 forward, which would give the DOE the ability to incentivize Hawai'i public schools to locally source their meals. HPR's Mark Ladao has the story.

[Report finds increase in Hawai'i's small farm closures, yet remaining prove profitable](#) [Mark Ladao](#), February 27, 2024

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture released a report this month revealing Hawai'i lost hundreds of its smallest farms and thousands of acres in recent years. HPR's Mark Ladao explains.

HEALTHCARE

[Nurses at Kapi'olani Medical Center give notice of upcoming strike](#) [Pixie Clay](#), January 11, 2024

The Hawai'i Nurses' Association said the hospital's management team has failed to bargain in good faith, adding they were stonewalled when asked for some concessions while accepting many terms and conditions. Kapi'olani's chief operating officer said the strike notice is disappointing as they have addressed the priorities presented. The two sides have been trying to work out a new contract since September. HPR's Pixie Clay has more.

[US senators push bill to increase medicare reimbursements for Hawai'i hospitals](#) [Cassie Ordonio](#), February 5, 2024

The legislation recognizes the unique cost-of-living challenges that hospitals in Hawai'i and Alaska face. It would help perform outpatient care, such as emergency department visits and imaging services for enrolled older adults.

[Moloka'i and Lāna'i residents say unreliable flights hinder access to critical health care](#) [Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), March 1, 2024

Rural island residents say they can't count on flights because frequent airline delays are causing them to miss critical medical appointments. A bill moving through the state legislature seeks to improve air service reliability for Moloka'i and Lana'i patients. HPR's Catherine Cluett Pactol reports.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

[‘Onipa‘a march draws thousands to commemorate overthrow of Hawaiian Kingdom](#) [Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi](#), January 18, 2024

Wednesday marked the anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom more than 130 years ago. Native Hawaiian students, teachers and community leaders from across the islands commemorated the date with the annual ‘Onipa‘a Peace March, which coincided with opening day at the state Legislature. HPR's Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi reports.

[New kaiapuni program brings Hawaiian language education to West O‘ahu](#) [Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi](#), February 22, 2024

A growing demand for Hawaiian language education has prompted communities in Leeward O‘ahu to establish their own immersion school. HPR reporter Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi visited the newest kaiapuni program at Kapolei Middle School. Seventh graders spent the year carving canoes from clay, creating Makahiki dioramas, and studying the phases of the Kumulipo creation chant.

[Pioneer in Native Hawaiian education awarded seat on a national panel](#) [Cassie Ordonio](#), February 12, 2024

David Kekaulike Sing was appointed to the National Endowment for the Humanities advisory board last week. Sing, a professor emeritus at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, is known for being a pioneer of Native Hawaiian education.

[Maui musician Kamalei Kawa‘a highlights Hawaiian culture on 'The Voice'](#) [Catherine Cluett Pactol](#), March 7, 2024

Kamalei Kawa‘a wowed judges on the music competition show with his emotional rendition of Bob Marley’s “Redemption Song.” The 26-year-old Hawaiian musician is from Paukūkalo, where his ‘ohana has lived for generations. Kawa‘a said the goal is to represent all Native people. HPR’s Catherine Cluett Pactol has more.

[Fishpond purchase gives Waipā community protection from development](#) [Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi](#), March 12, 2024

A traditional Hawaiian fishpond on Kaua‘i's north shore is now permanently in the hands of the community. This is welcome news to generations of Hanalei families who pushed back against resort development more than 40 years ago. HPR's Ku‘uwehi Hiraishi reports.