

Q2 2022—Issues and Programs Report—HPR News

Hawai'i 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, Homelessness, Housing, Environment, Community Planning, Immigration and Assimilation, Local Food and Agriculture and Arts and Culture.

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 Economic Issues, Environment, Education, Housing, Healthcare, and Native Hawaiian Culture.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

[The busy summer travel season is already underway for Hawai'i tourism industry](#), [Casey Harlow](#), May 16, 2022

The usually busy summer travel season is right around the corner. Memorial Day weekend is widely considered the unofficial start of summer in the U.S. But as HPR's Casey Harlow reports, for the Hawai'i tourism industry, it's already underway.

[The Conversation; Hawai'i Restaurant Association has concerns about COVID messaging from local officials](#), [Catherine Cruz](#), May 19, 2022

Greg Maples, chairman of the Hawai'i Restaurant Association, says a return to restaurant restrictions would be devastating for the industry. Maples says tourists are tuning into COVID messaging from local officials, so their words do matter.

[Contract negotiations underway between Hilton Hawaiian Village and hospitality union, Casey Harlow, June 8, 2022](#)

UNITE HERE! Local 5 held a rally on Tuesday outside the Waikīkī Hilton, calling for hotel executives to bring back positions such as housekeeping. In the meantime, visitor arrivals are nearing pre-pandemic levels — and hotel revenues have skyrocketed.

[Local businesses welcome eager Merrie Monarch crowds back to Hilo after pandemic hiatus, Kuūwehi Hiraishi, April 20, 2022](#)

After the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival's pandemic-induced two-year hiatus, local businesses are taking advantage of crowds eager to do some Merrie Monarch-related shopping. HPR's Kuūwehi Hiraishi reports.

ENVIRONMENT

[The clock is ticking on the Waimanalo landfill in West Oāahu. Here are the city's options, Catherine Cruz, April 6, 2022](#)

The main garbage dump for Oāahu is supposed to close by March 2028 and the city has to decide on a new site by the end of 2022. A committee charged with finding the new site voted Monday not to recommend any of the proposed locations.

[Honolulu tops national list for solar energy generation, Casey Harlow, 4/19/22](#)

Honolulu is the best U.S. city for solar energy. That's according to a new report highlighting the adoption of PV systems in the country.

[How can Hawaiī adapt to continuing coastal erosion? Savannah Harriman-Pote, April 22, 2022](#)

Scientists say that without immediate and decisive action to stave off carbon emissions, billions of people will face the consequences of climate change firsthand. But there is some hope. The Conversation followed up on possible solutions to one climate consequence: coastal erosion as a result of sea-level rise.

[Head of Public Utilities Commission on Honua Ola, role of firm renewable energy in Hawaiī, Savannah Harriman-Pote, May 25, 2022](#)

The head of the Public Utilities Commission discusses the future of the Honua Ola wood-burning power plant on Hawaiī Island, and the role biomass may play in Hawaiī's energy future. The Conversation's Savannah Harriman-Pote has more.

EDUCATION

[Proposals to address Hawai'i's early educator shortage advance at the Legislature, Casey Harlow](#), April 6, 2022

Early childhood advocates rallied outside of the state capitol Tuesday to raise awareness of the state's shortage of preschool teachers and childcare workers.

[Documentary screening on Oahu shares the lives of Chinese communities in segregated South, Russell Subiono](#), April 8, 2022

The Hawai'i International Film Festival Spring Showcase kicked off this week. Among the films being screened is "Blurring The Color Line," a documentary about race relations between Chinese and Black communities in the Jim Crow South.

[Hawai'i is spending \\$417 less on services per child compared to 2005, report says, Casey Harlow](#), April 11, 2022

A recent report found the state spends less on services for children now than it did two decades ago. Advocates are raising the alarm to prevent a continuing slide in state investment of families and keiki. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

[New research highlights racial inequities faced by Micronesian students in Hawai'i schools, Casey Harlow](#), May 9, 2022

New research highlights the racial inequalities Micronesian students face in the state's education system. Those behind the study hope their work leads to support for changes. HPR's Casey Harlow has more.

HOUSING

[The Conversation: A potential water shortage could impact new Oahu housing projects, Catherine Cruz](#), April 4, 2022

In anticipation of a possible water shortage, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply has asked residents to voluntarily cut back on their water use. The BWS also warned lawmakers that the situation could impact new construction on Oahu.

[17 nonprofits partner to improve financial stability, affordable housing for local ALICE families, Russell Subiono](#), April 27, 2022

A new collective of nonprofits will help ALICE households achieve more financial stability and find affordable housing. Michelle Kauhane from the Hawai'i Community Foundation sat down with The Conversation to discuss how the collective will impact Hawai'i's working poor.

[Honolulu City Council passes \\$4.2B budget with funding for police, housing, removing Haikū Stairs, Sabrina Bodon, June 2, 2022](#)

The Honolulu City Council passed a combined \$4.2 billion budget Wednesday for both operations and capital improvement projects. Hallmarks of the budgets include \$1 million to increase Honolulu Police Department patrol staffing; over \$50 million for affordable housing projects; and \$1.3 million to remove Haikū Stairs.

HEALTHCARE

[Long-term care workers worry Public Health Emergency declaration is ending too soon, Zoe Dym, April 4, 2022](#)

While the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration is set to end April 16, some long-term care organizations want an extension due to the omicron BA.2 variant.

[Queen's hospital nurses on Hawai'i Island paid nearly 20% less than Oahu counterparts, Zoe Dym, April 12, 2022](#)

A Big Island hospital is struggling to retain and recruit nurses. Registered nurses at Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital shared their experience with HPR's Zoe Dym. One nurse said she has seen 12 nurses leave her department in the past three years.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURE

[2022 could be a big year for Native Hawaiian issues at the Capitol. Here are the measures to know, Ku'uwehi Hiraishi, April 11, 2022](#)

With just four weeks remaining in this year's legislative session, 2022 is potentially shaping up to be a big year for Native Hawaiian issues at the Capitol. Hawai'i lawmakers have advanced measures aimed at fixing long-standing issues from the mismanagement of Maunakea to adequate funding of Native Hawaiian-serving state agencies.

[Connection between the Maori haka and the Hawaiian ha'a, Russell Subiono,](#)
April 13, 2022

The Celebration of the Arts, one of Hawai'i's longest-running arts and cultural festivals, will celebrate a milestone this weekend on Maui. One of the many sessions is a discussion on the Maori haka and the Hawaiian ha'a.

[Hula dancers at Merrie Monarch compete before live audience for 1st time since COVID-19, Ku'uwehi Hiraishi,](#) April 18, 2022

The host town of Hilo has been preparing for the influx of hula fans to the 59th Annual Merrie Monarch Hula Festival. It's the first time since the pandemic began two years ago that hula dancers are competing before a live audience. HPR's Ku'uwehi Hiraishi reports.

[UH researchers say hula can be a good way to get the heart pumping](#)
[Ku'uwehi Hiraishi,](#) April 21, 2022

Lead scientist and professor Tetine Sentell of UH's Thompson School of Social Work and Public Health says researchers often overlook cultural practices in measuring physical activity.

[The Healer Stones of Kapaemahu': an exhibit on gender and erased history,](#) [Zoe Dym,](#) June 22, 2022

The Bishop Museum opened a bilingual exhibit on the history of māhū over the weekend. Māhū means to have a dual male and female spirit. HPR's Zoe Dym shares what to expect at "The Healer Stones of Kapaemahu" through Oct. 16.