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Local Kauaï News  
2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaï News – Wednesday June 1, 2022**

Hawaii raked in a monthly record of one-point-four-billion-dollars in tax revenue in April. That's also a 40-percent increase compared to April of last year. The general fund taxes came mostly from income taxes on residents and businesses, general excise taxes, and transient accommodations taxes. Each of those categories have seen high collection numbers since the start of the year, another sign the economy is rebounding from the early days of the pandemic. In fact, the state collected three-point-six-billion-dollars in general fund tax revenue in the first four months of the year. That's a 45-percent increase from the same period in 2019, before the pandemic hit.

The Hawaii Department of Health today reported 8,124 new COVID-19 infections over the previous week, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to 282,619 cases. DOH also reported six more deaths, bringing the state's COVID death toll to 1,457. The state's 7-day average of new cases today was reported at 1,210, compared to 1,098 on May 25, representing the 10th consecutive weekly increase. DOH Director Dr. Libby Char has said the average daily case counts are likely five to six times higher than reported, given that results from home test kits are not officially tallied.

The Hawaii Department of Health is warning about a Legionnaires' disease outbreak at a Waikiki hotel. There have been five confirmed cases among guests who stayed at the Grand Islander by Hilton Grand Vacations within the last year. State epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Kemble said recent guests should seek medical attention immediately if they're experiencing flu-like symptoms. The CDC reports that one in ten people who get sick from Legionnaires' disease will die.

On Oahu, A man accused of using an excavator to move tons of sand in front of his two homes on the North Shore will have more time to fight his fine. Todd Dunphy was fined 92-thousand-dollars in April for building a sand berm at Rocky Point without permits. He says he did it to protect his houses from beach erosion and eventually falling into the ocean like one of his neighbors' homes did earlier this year. On Tuesday, the Department of Land and Natural Resources granted Dunphy a contested case hearing, meaning he doesn't have to pay the fine at this time.

A 35-year-old man is dead after homemade fireworks exploded at his home in Puna. Big Island police and federal investigators say the blast happened in the Fern Forest subdivision early Saturday morning. The man was found lying on the floor of his home with a severe wound to his abdomen. He was airlifted to Honolulu for treatment but died from his injuries. His wife and three kids were asleep in the home at the time. They were not hurt. Investigators say he built fireworks as a hobby.

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**Local Kauaïi News – Thursday June 2, 2022**

The Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) fined Marine Corps Base Hawaii more than \$240,000 due to repeated wastewater violations. DOH says wastewater containing dangerous bacteria above permitted levels leaked from the Kaneohe Bay Water Reclamation Facility and into the ocean on numerous occasions between August of 2020 and February 2022. The state also says the Marine Corps did not notify the health department in a timely manner.

- Maui County closed the back road to Hana on Wednesday night after crews found severe damage under the Kukuiula Bridge. The Department of Public works said recent flooding weakened the bridge's foundation, rendering the bridge unsafe for vehicle traffic. Repairs are expected to take at least two months.

Hearings are being held this week regarding federal funding for Native Hawaiians. Senator Brian Schatz scheduled two congressional committee hearings, including one yesterday in Honolulu. A second one is slated for today at 10:30 a.m. at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Panelists include representatives from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.

On Oahu The Haiku Stairs in Honolulu are being removed. The hiking stairs were one of the items on the operating budget that was approved by the Honolulu City Council yesterday. The stairs have been a point of contention for years, with some wanting to save them. The three-point-two million dollars will also be used for housing, clean water measures, and assisting victims of domestic violence. The budget will take into effect on July 1st, provided the mayor does not veto it.

As hurricane season begins, officials are stressing the importance of being prepared. While forecasters predict a below average season for hurricane activity, city emergency officials still say people should be cautious. With the backlog in the global supply chain, just one severe storm could do damage that people don't have the supplies to handle. If a storm hit, the airports could be shut down for upwards of two weeks, delaying relief supplies even further. Officials recommend a 14-day emergency kit with food, water, and supplies. This year is the 30th anniversary of Hurricane Iniki, a category four storm that caused over a billion dollars in damages.

Hawaii has stricter gun laws than some other states in the nation. For example, no matter how they are acquired, all firearms must be registered, even if they do not work. All guns imported into Hawaii must also be registered. Those looking to purchase a weapon must be at least 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen. There is also a 14-day waiting period.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday June 3, 2022**

Mayor Derek Kawakami reported thursday that Kauaʻi County has recorded its third COVID-19-related death in as many months. The deceased was a hospitalized Kauaʻi woman in her 80s. The mayor announced the death of a hospitalized, 90-year-old man in mid-May, and the death of a hospitalized, 70-year-old man in late April. Kauai's seven-day-average case rate, which dipped last week, has since resumed its upward trajectory: Kauaʻi now averages 71 new cases per day. Kauaʻi's test-positivity rate has also risen to 25% this week Making it the highest Positivity rate county in our state. (The current statewide rate is 18.5%.)

More than 800 of Hawaii's frontline caregivers are off the job with COVID-19. The Healthcare Association of Hawaii says the number of medical workers that were out sick Thursday is near what it was at the peak of the Omicron variant-driven case surge. More than 180 people on the islands are hospitalized with the virus. The healthcare association says that's a manageable amount, but the high number of callouts is making it tough to fill shifts and is further wearing out a worn-down workforce. There are close to 250 traveling nurses working in Hawaii, with another 150 from the mainland on the way to fill the gaps.

The state Department of Education is going to spend more than 60-million-dollars to build new locker room facilities for female athletes at public schools. The money has been approved by state lawmakers, with the first installment coming in the upcoming budget, and the rest coming in next year's budget. In 2016, the DOE reported 14 schools only had athletic locker room for boys and not for girls. In 2018, female athletes at Campbell High School sued the state because they didn't have a locker room of their own. That school will now get a girls' locker room for six-million-dollars.

A coalition of Hawaii's scientists is asking President Biden to expand a Marine Monument. The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument is one of the largest protected marine sanctuaries in the world, and scientists worry climate change or human intervention will impact them if they aren't protected. This sanctuary is home to thousands of species, many of which are threatened or endangered, like sharks, whales, turtles, and sea birds. Conservationists and cultural practitioners have joined the coalition to ask Biden to expand the Monument by over two-hundred-and-fifty-thousand square miles. Marine protection advocates on the coalition say the time to protect the ocean is now.

A group of 14 children are filing a lawsuit against Hawaii's Department of Transportation. The lawsuit alleges that the D-O-T is violating the state constitution by using a transportation system that harms the environment. The plaintiffs, ages nine to 18, want the court to declare that Hawaii has an obligation under its constitution to protect the environment and make changes to its transportation system. Several of the children rely on Hawaii's environment to survive through fishing and farming, but climate change is making their everyday lives more difficult. A representative of the Department of Transportation has said they will not be making a comment about the lawsuit at this time.

Hawaii is the number two state in the U.S. for pothole complaints. Data analyzed by Stacker shows Hawaii averages nearly 21 complaints about potholes for every 621-miles of road. And, that's despite

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Hawaii having fewer miles of roadway than any other state per capita. One-third of the roads in the state are considered to be in poor condition. Rhode Island has the most pothole complaints, while Idaho has the least.

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**Local Kauaī News – Monday June 6, 2022**

Kauai firefighters have knocked down a 25-acre brush fire. The fire, which started at about 4:45 Saturday afternoon, burned a remote area near 'Ele'ele's Glass Beach. The fire was 100-percent contained by Sunday afternoon. No structures nor roads were considered threatened. The cause is under investigation.

Federal and Local authorities announced this morning that Four men have been indicted for smuggling drugs and running illegal game rooms on Maui and Oahu. So far, special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Maui police have seized about \$68,000, 15 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, seven fire arms, and 20 gaming machines.

A disabled competitive surfer is without a board following a burglary at the Ewa Hotel in Waikiki. Someone stole Spike Kane's custom-made board from the hotel garage on Saturday night. Surveillance footage shows two people on a moped swiping the board. Kane needed it to compete at Waikiki Beach this week. He's scheduled to be part of Access Surf's Hawaii Adaptive Surfing Championship on Wednesday. The custom adaptive surfboard costs about a thousand dollars.

A former Honolulu Police Officer is being indicted on child sex trafficking crimes. Mason Jordan was arrested late Thursday in New Mexico according to Homeland Security. Investigations found that Jordan committed the crimes between 2016 and 2020, when he was still working at the Honolulu Police Department. Jordan received multiple charges from a federal grand jury, including several counts of sexual exploitation of a child, coercion and enticement, sex trafficking of a child, and cyber stalking.

The Honolulu City Council will consider a pair of bills designed to cut down on noise in Waikiki. One bill bans amplified sound in the area, under certain conditions. The other bans trash pickup before six in the morning. That one comes after several residents have complained for months, saying the loud sounds of private garbage collection trucks often wake them up as early as 2:30 a.m., revving engines, honking horns, and crushing trash. Both bills are awaiting hearings in the Transportation, Sustainability, and Health Committee. Each bill has passed at least one reading so far.

Money from Super PACs is starting to influence Hawaii's race for governor. A Super PAC, which is called an independent expenditure committee in Hawaii, has paid about 33-thousand-dollars for a television attack ad against Lieutenant Governor Josh Green. The ad questions Green's credentials and board certification as an emergency room doctor. It's paid for by Victory Calls 2022, which is run by two businesswomen. Super PACs, or independent expenditure committees, are not subject to limits on how much money they can spend to support or oppose a candidate.

Volunteers from Maui delivered a mile-long lei to Uvalde, Texas, as a gesture of support and healing. The "Lei of Aloha" was accepted by the Uvalde community during a ceremony on Saturday, less than two weeks after 19 children and two teachers were shot to death at an elementary school. The group of volunteers has now delivered a mile-long lei to six mass shooting sites as a show of solidarity.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday June 7, 2022**

Governor Ige has less than three weeks left to decide which bills he wants to veto. All four county mayors want the pending bail reform bill to be one of them. Tomorrow, they'll host a rally featuring the state police officers' union and police union presidents from Seattle and San Jose, where bail reform laws already passed. The bill allows suspects arrested for non-violent crimes, including Class-C felonies, to get out of jail free, without having to pay bail. SHOPO President Robert Cavaco says the passing of the bail reform bills in the mainland cities has caused a big spike in crime.

Four men are facing federal charges on suspicion of running a scheme to move large amounts of crystal meth onto Oahu and Maui. All four of the suspects were charged Monday, but one is still on the loose. Authorities say the top suspect led a crime ring that distributed meth and cocaine, and ran illegal gambling businesses on the islands. They're facing drug trafficking, illegal guns, gambling, and money laundering charges. Last week, the FBI and U.S. Marshals conducted several raids on Oahu and Maui, including at a suspected illegal gambling operation in Kakaako. The raids were connected with this case. At least 15-pounds of meth, 20 illegal gaming machines, and seven guns were seized, including a pair of ghost guns. Each suspect faces five years to life in prison if convicted.

Another issue will likely further delay construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea. Last Friday, the TMT's permit that allows discharges of storm water expired. No construction is legally allowed until a new permit is issued by the state. Officials with the TMT have informed the state health department they will apply for a new permit. Construction of the controversial telescope will cost one-point-four-billion-dollars.

Despite the lingering drought and supply concerns heading into summer, Oahu's water use is up. In March, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply called for a voluntary ten-percent water use reduction. But, the agency says usage is slightly up compared to this time last year. This comes amid the water contamination crisis that shut down several key BWS water sources near Red Hill, and before what's forecasted to be a drier than normal summer. Officials say voluntary cutbacks are still crucial, since April saw nearly a third less than the usual rainfall total.

The owner of a boat moored at Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor has been fined 30-thousand-dollars for letting a family live onboard without permits. It's the largest such fine issued by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources. The boat owner will also have his DLNR Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation permits taken away. He won't be allowed to get new ones for two years. The state says the man allowed the boat's co-owner, her husband, and their child to live onboard illegally.

Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources is getting a big boost in funds. On Monday, Hawaii Democratic Senator Brian Schatz revealed that the department will get almost two-million dollars in order to increase protection on a number of birds and bees native to the state. The money is coming from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service and is aimed to help a number of projects in places like the Big Island, Kauai, Maui and Oahu. Some of the species noted in the protection efforts are forest birds, seabirds and yellow-faced bees.

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**Local Kauaï News – Wednesday June 8, 2022**

The Hawaii Department of Health today reported 8,033 new COVID-19 infections last week, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to 290,652 cases. DOH also reported eight more deaths, bringing the state's coronavirus-related death toll to 1,465. By island, there were 5,794 new infections reported on Oahu, 841 on Hawaii island, 849 on Maui, 435 on Kauai, 23 on Molokai and one on Lanai. ore than two months. DOH Director Dr. Libby Char has said the average daily case counts are likely five to six times higher than reported, given that results from home test kits are not officially tallied. The U.S. Health and Human Services hospital utilization dashboard list 209 patients with COVID-19 at 24 hospitals in Hawaii today.

President Biden has withdrawn his nomination of Michael Contrades for Hawaii's next U.S. Marshal. The former deputy chief in the Kauai Police Department's nomination was rescinded on Tuesday. Contrades was facing backlash for his involvement in a federal retaliation lawsuit that ended in a two-million-dollar settlement. When the nomination was first announced last month, it was backed by both Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz. But, after details about allegations against Contrades came to light, Hirono pulled her support. Contrades is accused of retaliating against a fellow assistant chief who filed a discrimination complaint on behalf of a female KPD officer.

State officials are developing a plan to introduce mosquito birth control in an effort to save four native Hawaiian bird species from extinction. At a meeting in Honolulu tomorrow afternoon, the state Plant and Animal Advisory Committee will consider "listing" three invasive mosquito species. That would allow for the release of "incompatible-male" mosquitoes in areas with the disease-spreading species, and would help reduce the population of Asian tiger mosquitoes, yellow fever mosquitoes, and southern house mosquitoes.

Honolulu's upcoming law against illegal vacation rentals is already facing a lawsuit before it takes effect. Operators of several illegal vacation rentals are suing the city, call the law unconstitutional. The group, called the Hawaii Legal Short-Term Rental Alliance, says the law discriminates against landlords who have been renting out their properties on a month-to-month basis for decades. The alliance also argues rental operators aren't responsible for the problems associated with their guests, like noise, traffic, and street parking issues. Under the new law, vacation units in most parts of Oahu must be rented out for at least 90 days.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday June 9, 2022**

Our Kauaʻi Police Department is seeking the public's help in locating two vehicles that were reported stolen on Monday, June 6, 2022. The first vehicle, license plate number KCB489, is a 2015 gray Nissan Cube, with burgundy-colored rims stolen from a residence in Kōloa. The second vehicle, license plate number NZG531, is a 2000 white four-door Mazda Protégé stolen from Kaumualiʻi Highway in Waimea, fronting the establishment, "Spice Of Life Collectables And Fine Junque." Anyone with information on these stolen vehicles is urged to contact KPD Dispatch at (808) 241-1711.

Bus riders on Kauai will be able to enjoy free service all next week. Kauai Bus is offering free service during Tropic Care, from June 13th to June 20th. Tropic Care is a health event that includes free physical exams, eye exams, dental exams, and fillings and extractions. For more information on the eight-day event visit [Health-dot-Hawaii-dot-gov-slash-Kauai](http://Health-dot-Hawaii-dot-gov-slash-Kauai).

Six people are injured after a tour helicopter crashed in a lava field in a remote part of Ocean View on the Big Island. Two of those injured are in serious condition, including a 19-year-old woman who was airlifted to Kona Community Hospital. The pilot and five passengers were on board when the helicopter went down at about 5:30 Wednesday afternoon. The pilot was trapped in the wreckage and had to be extricated by firefighters. The cause of the crash is unclear. The chopper is owned by Paradise Helicopters, which hasn't said where the group was headed.

Environmental activists and members of Hawaii's solar energy industry are urging Governor Ige to add a new bill to his veto list. Hundreds of people gathered at the state capitol for a public demonstration against the bill on Wednesday. They argue it would stunt the growth of low-cost and environmentally friendly solar energy on the islands. The bill was passed by the state legislature on May 3rd. It would prevent more than two-thirds of power generated in Hawaii from coming from intermittent energy sources like the sun, wind, and waves. The other third of power production would have to come from firm renewable energy sources like geothermal, hydroelectric and incineration fueled by biomass or garbage.

Hawaiian Airlines is partnering with Par Hawaii to create sustainable jet fuel. A statement released Wednesday says the companies will work together to create fuel made from sustainable feedstock instead of kerosene. Par Hawaii, the Island's largest supplier of energy, is evaluating two processing units at their refinery to be used for renewable fuels. Since aviation fuel accounts for almost 40-percent of Hawaii's total demand, creating a sustainable alternative would benefit both the environment and economy.

Maui County is urging residents and visitors to conserve as much water as possible. If not, an official water shortage will be declared. Most of West Maui is in a severe to extreme dr-out, which is straining surface water supplies. And, the two 15-million-gallon Waikamoi Reservoirs currently sit empty. The island's other large reservoirs are below full capacity as well.



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- The state Department of Health is investigating Hawaii's second probable case of monkeypox. The person lives on Oahu and came into contact with the first probable case, which was reported last Friday. The first patient was hospitalized at Tripler Army Medical Center. They had recently traveled to an area with confirmed monkeypox cases. The CDC is conducting testing to confirm both probable cases.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday June 10, 2022**

The Yasu-take Bridge on Kauai is temporarily closed for repair work due to public safety concerns. According to the county, the bridge on Kamalu Road north of Wailua Homesteads Park will be under repair for about three to four months. Officials advise motorists use Olohena, Pu'u-opae, and Opae-ka'a roads as a detour.

Thursday The state Department of Transportation broke ground for repair work on the Wailua River Bridge. The \$55.7 million project will get underway in July and should wrap up by the end of 2024. The Wailua River Bridge was constructed in 1945. The 424-foot-long bridge is supported by seven concrete piers, which are in turn supported by timber piles which were driven into the riverbed more than seven decades ago. The wooden piles will be replaced by reinforced concrete piles, which will stand up much better to heavy rains and flooding,

Tropic Care is back. Starting Monday and continuing through June 20th clinics will be set up at the Kapa'a Middle School, Kaua'i Community College and 'Ele'ele School. Tropic care is staffed by the 149th Medical Group military reservists. Free health care services will include physical exams, eye exams, dental exams, fillings and extractions. Two mobile clinics will be offered, one at the Kilauea School from Monday through Wednesday, June 13 through 15, and the second one at the Waimea Easter Seals facility Friday, Saturday and Monday, June 17, 18 and 20. Clinic hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and service is on a first-come, first-served basis. Clinics will observe shortened hours on June 19 and 20, when the clinics close at noon each day. People attending the clinics are encouraged to bring their own water, snacks, eyeglasses and a list of prescriptions.

Public health officials have identified a third probable case of monkeypox on Oahu. This person has no recent travel history, meaning the illness may be starting to spread locally. The first two patients did have a recent travel history. The first probable case of monkeypox in Hawaii was identified in an Oahu resident one week ago. The person was in isolation at Tripler Army Medical Center. The second case was identified Wednesday.

Big Island prosecutors say a man arrested in connection with four recent stabbings is a "modern-day serial killer." The man is accused of stabbing people between Kailua-Kona and Hilo during the past three weeks. Two of the victims died. The most recent victim was found dead Tuesday in Hale Halawai County Park. The suspect is facing a first-degree murder charge, which is rare for suspects in Hawaii. A conviction would land him behind bars for life without the possibility of parole.

The man accused of killing a security guard in a brutal attack in Downtown Honolulu has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder. The 30-year-old man's bail has been set at half-a-million-dollars, and his trial starts in August. He's accused of hitting the security guard in the head with a stainless-steel water bottle at Fort Street Mall on May 3rd. The victim, who worked as a security post commander at Pioneer Plaza, died nine days later.

A glamping business is facing backlash after it set up a lavish campsite for profit just a few yards away from a homeless encampment at Waimanalo Beach Park. The business, Glamping Hawaii, set

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up the campsite one week ago, and now the city is investigating. The campsite is in a county beach park, meaning it violates the new law banning commercial activities at beaches between Makapuu and Bellows. The business is renting campsites out for several hundred dollars a night. Police were called, but didn't shut the glamp site down. No citation was issued either.

An undercover operation by Big Island police is leading to a big bust. On Wednesday, three women and two men were arrested during an anti-theft operation in Hilo. Police say in one day of the operation they prevented more than 16-hundred dollars in merchandise from being stolen. All five suspects, ranging in age from 21 to 47, appeared in court yesterday with each facing various charges including theft and criminal trespassing.

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**Local Kauaī News – Monday June 13, 2022**

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**Local Kauaī News – Tuesday June 14, 2022**

Four new X-ray scanners are being installed at Lihū'e Airport this week. The (CT) scanners — create 3-D images of individual items in a carry-on bag. Officials hope that the new tech will make life easier for travelers leaving Lihū'e Airport, since the improved scanning capabilities will allow passengers to leave liquids, aerosols and large electronics like computers in their bags as they pass through the security checkpoint. As the new machines are being installed, though — which will take a week and a half to two weeks — the security checkpoint lines will take longer. The TSA recommends that travelers arrive at the airport two hours before their flight to make up for any delays while the machines are being installed, and the state Department of Transportation recommended on its Facebook page that travelers arrive a full two and a half hours early.

Three fishermen were rescued Sunday morning after their boat sunk in waters off Nāwiliwili. No injuries were reported. According to a preliminary report, the boat the men were aboard sunk, and they proceeded to swim to a remote shoreline nearby. Two of the fishermen were able to walk along the shoreline to the Nāwiliwili break wall, where personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard brought them back to the harbor. The remaining fisherman was located on the northern coastline of Kawai Point and needed further assistance. Rescue 3 personnel aboard Air 1 short hauled the man to a landing zone at Nāwiliwili boat ramp.

Kauai County is back in the CDC's high community level for COVID-19 transmission. It was bumped up to the high-risk category late last week, joining Honolulu and Maui Counties. The distinction was caused by rising hospital admission rates that have left more beds occupied by COVID patients, and the seven-day case rate per 100-thousand residents. The case rate per 100-thousand is now about 602, and the rate of new hospital admissions per 100-thousand is more than 15. New hospital admissions nearly doubled in a week. About seven-percent of hospital beds in Kauai County are occupied by COVID patients.

Two environmental groups are threatening a lawsuit to stop a planned luxury condo development on Kauai. Conservationists say a pair of blind endangered species would be harmed by the development. They're planning to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if it doesn't immediately act to block construction. There are underground caves in the area adjacent to the property. Activists say it's one of the only known habitats left for the Kauai cave wolf spider, which has three teeth and no eyes, and the Kauai cave amphipod, which is a blind, shrimp-like creature no larger than a fingernail. The species are only found on Kauai.

The man who filed a restraining order against the son of incoming Honolulu Police Chief Arthur Logan is speaking out. The man tells Hawaii News Now he bought a gun and pepper spray to protect himself from 36-year-old Zane Logan. He says Logan broke into the condo he rents out in Waikiki. Logan was dating a woman who lived there for a while, and allegedly attacked her. Surveillance footage from late 2020 shows a man breaking into the condo unit, and another video shows him trying to set an outside security camera on fire with a lighter. Logan was arrested May 24th, on suspicion of threatening someone at Ala Moana Beach Park. That case is not connected with the

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man he's accused of harassing at the condo. Logan remains behind bars, but is due in court in the terroristic threatening case today.

The man behind bars in connection with four stabbing attacks on the Big Island is accused of targeting sleeping homeless people. Court documents say he told investigators he wanted to kill homeless people to get them to a "better place." His attorney says his client targeted people who were sleeping because it would be a more peaceful way to die. Two of those attacked last month died and two survived their wounds. On Monday, a judge ruled the man must undergo a mental health evaluation before the case can continue. The man's attorney says his client doesn't have a history of mental illness.

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**Local Kauaï News – Wednesday June 15, 2022**

Kauai Fire Chief Steven Goble is resigning next Thursday. He only says he's stepping away from the department for personal reasons. Goble has been leading the KFD for the past two years. The Kauai Fire Commission is in the process of picking an interim chief.

The Hawaii Department of Health today reported 7,199 new COVID-19 infections over the past week, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic to 297,851 cases. State health officials also reported nine coronavirus-related deaths, bringing the state's coronavirus-related death toll to 1,474. By island, there were 5,276 new infections reported on Oahu, 803 on Hawaii island, 602 on Maui, 377 on Kauai, 10 on Molokai and 10 on Lanai. Another 121 infections were reported out of state.

The Honolulu Police Department is facing backlash on the first full day of Arthur Logan's time as chief. After promising to restore transparency, Logan was sworn-in during a secret ceremony on Tuesday. The ceremony was not announced to the public and happened in private. Hawaii News Now reports Mayor Blangiardi wasn't in attendance, and members of the HPD's command staff didn't know it was happening. Former interim chief Rade Vanic and Keith Horikawa were also sworn-in as deputy chiefs. An HPD spokesperson says there will be a public swearing-in ceremony open to the media at the end of the month.

Voter registration in Honolulu County is growing as the August primary election draws closer. During the 2020 primary, the county had a little more than 525-thousand registered voters. It now has more than 561-thousand registered voters, and there's still several weeks left for people to register. The number is a new all-time high. Kauai County also has 26-hundred more registered voters, and Hawaii County has more than six-thousand of them.

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**Local Kauaï News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaï News – Thursday June 16, 2022**

A man from Kauai has been arrested after a raid on his home turned up a big stash of homemade explosives. Several law enforcement agencies raided the home in Hanamualu on Tuesday and found a pipe bomb, homemade fireworks, materials to make explosives, and drugs. The suspect was released pending further investigation. The KPD, FBI, ATF, and Interisland Bomb Squad conducted the raid.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today moved Hawaii County from a yellow, medium-level community to an orange, high-level community for COVID-19 impacts. Hawaii County now joins Kauai, Honolulu, and Maui counties, which are also categorized as orange, high-risk COVID communities. Under CDC guidelines, those living in high-level communities should wear a well-fitting mask in public indoor settings and on public transportation, regardless of vaccination status.

A congressional committee has approved spending another one-point-one-billion-dollars on response to the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis. The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations advanced two bills on Wednesday. Together, they fund infrastructure improvements, the defueling of the facility, and the planning, design and construction of water treatment and distribution facilities. The funding will kick in when the federal government's 2023 fiscal year begins on October 1st.

A 325-million-dollar Russian superyacht seized by U.S. officials is heading to Hawaii. The nearly 350-foot yacht with ties to a Russian billionaire sailed in Honolulu Harbor just before 11 a.m. Earlier this week, the U.S. won a ruling in Fiji's Supreme Court to take control of the vessel. That's where the yacht was moored before the U.S. began targeting assets from oligarchs with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. There's no word yet from the Department of Justice on what happens to the vessel now that its in Hawaii.

Hawaii is first in a new national ranking for COVID-19 response efforts. The Commonwealth Fund ranked states based on factors like pandemic-related deaths, vaccination rates, and strains on hospital resources. The report credits Hawaii for already having a strong healthcare system in place before the pandemic. Hawaii had the fewest "excess deaths" related to factors of the pandemic of any state.

A congressional committee has approved spending another one-point-one-billion-dollars on response to the Red Hill fuel contamination crisis. The U.S. House Committee on Appropriations advanced two bills on Wednesday. Together, they fund infrastructure improvements, the defueling of the facility, and the planning, design and construction of water treatment and distribution facilities. The funding will kick in when the federal government's 2023 fiscal year begins on October 1st. Hawaii Congressman Ed Case is a member of the appropriations committee and requested the funding.



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**Local Kauaʻi News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday June 17, 2022**

Former Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro and politically influential engineering executive Dennis Mit-sunaga were arrested by federal agents this morning in connection with a long-running public corruption investigation by a special prosecutor from California, according to the FBI. Kaneshiro surrendered to FBI agents this morning . He was indicted on the following counts: Conspiracy to commit honest services fraud and federal program bribery and also conspiracy against rights. In addition to Kaneshiro, the indictment names multiple defendants connected to engineering firm Mitsunaga & Associates. According to the indictment, Kaneshiro and his co-conspirators allegedly worked to frame a former Mitsunaga & Associates employee who sued the firm for discrimination, using the Prosecutor's Office to go after the woman for a crime she didn't commit. The employees of the firm and their families have donated thousands of dollars to Kaneshiro's campaigns in the years he was running as prosecutor.

Two top officials of the police officers union are being placed on restrictive duty by the Honolulu Police Department. The two are being investigated by the state after being accused of extortion by former union vice president, David Hallums. Hallums claims he was falsely accused of stealing from the union's travel funds and blackmailed. He is now filing a lawsuit against the union officials. Union President Robert Cavaco is denying all allegations.

The University of Hawaii is being awarded 25-million-dollars to create a hybrid coral reef. The project is being sponsored by the Department of Defense who is trying to combat the impacts of flooding, storms, and erosion. The reef structure take five years to complete and will be over three-hundred feet long. A base of thin concrete structures will be built and coral fragments will be carefully attached to promote biodiverse sea life. Researchers believe by the end of the five year mark, the reef will be thriving with corals and fish.

Hawaii's official monkeypox case count is up to five. The CDC confirmed three previously suspected cases on Thursday. The state health department says all five cases are connected in some way. At least one of the connections might be related to a social gathering. Public health officials say the risk to the general population is still low. People usually show signs of illness within 21 days of exposure to monkeypox.

More Hawaii residents are going to work. Data from the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism says from May of last year to May of this year, jobs increased to almost 22-thousand. That's a one-point-seven percent decrease in unemployment during that time span. Some of the industries seeing the most growth were government and leisure and hospitality.

Governor Ige has signed three new bills into law expanding rights for LGBTQ people in Hawaii. The governor held a signing ceremony at Bishop Museum on Thursday. One of the bills makes the Gender Affirming Treatment Act official. It bans health insurance companies from denying coverage for gender-identity treatments. Another bill outlaws discrimination from jury service based on gender identity. And, the third creates Hawaii's first LGBTQ-plus commission.

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**Local Kauaʻi News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday June 20, 2022**

Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendation of both Pfizer and Moderna's COVID 19 vaccines for keiki ages 5 and under, the Hawaii rollout is now set to begin. More than 27,000 infant doses are on their way to the islands. About 80,000 keiki under the age of 5 years old will now be newly eligible for the vaccine. Vaccines will be available at hospitals, Pediatrician's offices, and clinics soon. Vaccine locations will be listed on the vaccine page of hawaii covid19 dot com. once the vaccines are ready for distribution.

The Waikiki surf racks are about to go away, eight months after they were badly damaged by a fire that destroyed more than 500 boards. Next week, the city will start removing the surfboard lockers next to the Waikiki police sub-station. A man was arrested on suspicion of arson following the fire that also damaged the Moana Surfrider Hotel last October. Then, a privately-owned surfboard rack just a block away was also set on fire a few weeks later. The city has yet to announce a permanent plan for replacing the public racks in Waikiki.

Results of a new survey suggest the pandemic has had some sort of negative impact on two-thirds of Hawaii's population. Twenty-three-percent of people surveyed by the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization say their savings were completely depleted because of the pandemic. Fifteen-percent were unable to pay their bills, nine-percent lost their jobs, and eight-percent didn't have enough food to feed their households. And, 12-and-a-half-percent of people were furloughed or worked reduced hours at one point.

Congressman Kai Kahele is now eligible to collect state campaign funds to use on boosting his bid for governor. Kahele has raised one-hundred-thousand-dollars through individual donations of one-hundred dollars or less. That was a campaign promise. When Kahele announced he was running for governor on May 7th, he vowed not to take donations of more than one-hundred bucks from corporations, unions, and political action committees as he did in prior campaigns.

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is getting nearly 15-million federal dollars for water projects following the Red Hill contamination crisis. The funding, from the Department of Defense, will go toward projects designed to protect drinking water resources that supply the base and most of Honolulu beyond it. The funding is the most ever awarded to a DOD installation in the decade its Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program has existed.

A pair of companies are working together to bring a seaglider transportation network to Hawaii. REGENT is partnering with Pacific Current, which is a subsidiary of Hawaiian Electric Industries. The companies want Mokulele Airlines to serve as their first partner. The propeller-driven planes would be all-electric and emission free. They'd take off from the sea, fly just ten to 30-feet above the surface of the ocean, and land at docks without ever touching land. The planes would travel at up to 180-miles-per-hour, which is also the maximum distance they can fly. A 12-seater could start flying by 2025, with a 100-seater planned for takeoff in 2028.

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**Local Kauaï News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaï News – Tuesday June 21, 2022**

Our Hawaiï Department of Transportation wants you to know that the Hanalei Bridge on Kūhiō Highway near mile marker 1.2 will be undergoing routine maintenance of its wooden plank deck. The work is scheduled for Sunday and Monday night, June 26 and 27, from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Throughout the evening work hours there will be short, intermittent closures (5-10 minutes) to replace damaged boards. Traffic control flaggers will be stationed at either end of the work zone to assist with traffic flow during the work period. Emergency vehicles will continue to have access through the area during this time.

The Kauai Police Department (KPD) is asking for your help in locating a missing juvenile runaway. Kaila Suzuki, age 16, of Kapa'a, was reported missing on Tuesday May 31, 2022, from the Kapahi area. Suzuki is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 95 pounds. She has brown eyes and brown hair. She is known to frequent areas in Koloa. Anyone with information about Suzuki's whereabouts on Kauai is urged to call KPD Dispatch at 808-241-1711. Or to remain anonymous contact Crime Stoppers at C S Kauai dot org.

The federal government might need to spend 100-million-dollars repairing the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility before the Navy can even start the defueling process. And, the repairs could take more than two years. That's according to Congressman Kai Kahele, who held a town hall meeting with fellow Congressman Ed Case on Monday night. A third-party contractor made the estimates in a report released last month. The report made note of extensive damage across Red Hill's fuel distribution system. The damage needs to be fixed before tens of millions of gallons of jet fuel can be safely transported through the pipeline system and out of the facility for good. More than 200 repairs are needed and 43 need to happen before defueling can safely begin.

The ongoing coronavirus case surge on the Big Island is getting worse, prompting public health officials to call for more testing. As of last week's report, Hawaii County is averaging 117 new cases per day. Doctor Kaohimanu Dang Akiona of Premier Medical Group thinks the number is actually seven to ten times higher than what's being reported. She tells Hawaii News Now there's not enough testing going on to confirm what are very likely hundreds more cases. There haven't been any county-run or county-sponsored testing sites on the Big Island since late March.

Despite an uncertain economic future, the number of bankruptcy filings in Hawaii is down again. New figures released by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Hawaii show bankruptcy filings across the islands went down by 33-percent in May. It marked the eleventh straight month of fewer than 100 bankruptcy cases statewide, and the 13th straight month with an overall decline. There were just 67 cases last month, even though inflation and mortgage rates both increased.

Hawaii public schools will now stock free feminine products. On Monday, Governor David Ige posted on Twitter saying that he signed a law that requires public schools to have those types products on hand. With the new law, around one-million dollars will be sent to the state's Department of Education in order to make it happen. Ige explained on Twitter that children should not have to stay home because they can't afford menstrual pads or tampons.

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There are no girls locked up in the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility. It's the first time it's happened since the facility in Kailua opened six decades ago. The last girl behind bars left two weeks ago, and state officials say the number of girls behind held at HYCF fell by 42-percent since 2018. The state credits years of programs meant to divert kids away from juvenile facilities and into community and mental health support programs. The number of boys jailed at the facility is down too. There are only 15 right now. There were more than 100 kids serving time there eight years ago.

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2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaī News – Wednesday June 22, 2022**

The Hawaii Department of Health today reported 5,482 new COVID-19 infections over the past week, bringing the total since the start of the pandemic past the 300,000 mark to 303,333 cases. DOH also reported 15 more deaths, bringing the state's coronavirus-related death toll to 1,489. The state's average positivity rate, meanwhile, declined to 17.1% from 18.9% reported last week. It was the second weekly decline in a row. Kauai County continues to have a higher average positivity rate than the rest of the state, at 23%. There were 326 new infections reported Kauai.

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) wants to alert travelers to arrive early at Lihue Airport for the remainder of this week. If you are travelling between 10:30am and 1:30pm you're advised to arrive three hours before your flight due to long lines at the TSA checkpoint.

Hawaii Pacific Health will start giving the youngest keiki on Oahu and Kauai coronavirus shots this Saturday. Keiki between the ages of six-months and five years old will be offered their first doses of the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine for younger kids comes in a three-dose series. For more information go to [hawaii.covid19.com](http://hawaii.covid19.com)

Dozens of fake ID's won't be making it to their destination in Hawaii. The shipment was intercepted by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agents in Chicago on Tuesday. Federal authorities say they were ordered from China and hidden away in packages of other stuff. Homeland Security investigators say they were ordered by 16 students from a pair of private schools on Oahu. The counterfeit driver's licenses were made to appear like the official driver's licenses issued by several different states.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is getting a record 22-point-three-million-dollars in federal funding. The money will be used to support low-income Native Hawaiian families with housing needs. It's the most money the federal government has ever sent for Native Hawaiian housing. By comparison, last year it appropriated just two-million-dollars for the cause. The cash, which comes in something called the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant, can be used for building and buying homes, building infrastructure, and rental assistance.

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**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday June 23, 2022**

Kauai Prosecuting Attorney Rebecca Lee-kay announced Wednesday that the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court has DENIED a petition for review by Cody Safa-dago who sought to overturn his life in prison sentence . He was convicted of those offenses after a jury trial in 2019. On the night of April 27, 2017, while driving a stolen truck on Kuhio Highway in Wailua he crossed the center line and crashed head-on with a sedan being driven by 19-year-old Kay-la Huddy-Lemn who died as a result of the collision . His Life sentence has thus been upheld for 2017 fatal Wailua traffic collision

Hawaii's minimum wage is going up to 18-dollars per hour. It'll happen in increments, with minimum wage becoming 18-bucks by the start of 2028. The current ten-dollar, ten-cent minimum wage will rise to 12-dollars in October. Then it'll increase by two-dollars every two years. About 90-thousand workers in Hawaii earn minimum wage.

Tax refunds are coming to thousands of Hawaii's residents. Governor Ige has signed a bill that will provide 300-dollar refund checks to people who make less than 100-thousand-dollars per year, or less than 200-grand as a family. Individuals who make more than 100-grand a year will get checks for 100-dollars. The state will start processing the refunds in the last week of August.

A wayward skunk is in the custody of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Stevedores spotted it on the dock at Pier One at Honolulu Harbor Wednesday morning. They used a fishing net to catch the male skunk then handed it off to agriculture inspectors. Skunks aren't allowed in Hawaii without a permit for research or exhibition at a zoo. Officials are now testing it for rabies. They say it came aboard the ship somewhere in North America.

The state Department of Human Services will hand about 80-million-dollars to struggling childcare providers. Officials believe the money will help businesses that have been battling lower enrollment and staffing shortages since the pandemic started. The DHS says the number of childcare providers in the state has decreased by ten-percent since January of 2020. And, more than three-quarters of Hawaii's licensed providers have applied for the federal childcare stabilization grant. The 80-million-dollars comes from the American Rescue Plan Act. Another 13-million-dollars will be available in August.

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**Local Kauaʻi News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday June 24, 2022**

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) informs Kauaʻi motorists of a multi-lane closure of Kūhiō Highway (Route 56) between Kuamoo Road and the Temporary Kapaʻa Bypass Road starting Monday night, June 27 from 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. The closures are necessary to allow room for paving the new southbound lane on the mauka side of the highway. Drivers are told to expect delays and allow for extra travel time.

Governor David Ige is promising to protect women's rights to abortion after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Ige called the Court's decision "outrageous" and a huge step backward for women's rights. He went on to say that women in Hawaii will continue to have access to the medical care they need, and that Hawaii law already exists to allow individuals to make their own decisions when it comes to healthcare.

The Honolulu Authority For Rapid Transportation overpaid residents and business owners who were forced to relocate because of rail development. HART says it overpaid people by at least two-point-three-million-dollars. Last month, the HART board found out some displaced tenants were also underpaid by about 885-thousand-dollars. HART has been dealing with issues with its relocation payments since 2017. Investigations have revealed missing documents, mathematical errors, and payments made without justification. HART says it's taking responsibility for the overpayment mistakes and won't be asking for reimbursement.

Another probable case of monkeypox has been identified in Oahu, bringing the total number of cases up to six. The Hawaii Department of Health has identified a connection between all six people and says the risk to the general public is still low. Health officials will still be contact tracing to be safe and are encouraging anyone with symptoms to contact their doctor.

New research shows Hawaii residents use most of their income on rent. The report from NiceRx says the statewide rent average is nearly 30-thousand dollars a year. And annually, residents are losing a little over 49 percent of their salary to that cost. On top of that, Hawaii residents are also spending almost ten percent on health insurance, and nearly 14 percent on childcare. That list puts the Aloha State at the top for places where most of an annual income is spent on rent. California and Oregon are second and third respectively.

The Hawaii Department of Health supports the FDA's decision to ban the sale of Juul electronic cigarettes. On Thursday, DOH administrator Lola Irvin said the department applauds the FDA. Irvin also says the DOH has been concerned about high e-cigarette use rates in Hawaii. She adds the chemicals in e-cigs are harmful, and the nicotine in them can prime the brain for addiction to other substances. Juul is blamed for causing a national spike in teen vaping.

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**Local Kauaīi News**  
**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaīi News – Monday June 27, 2022**

The multi-lane closure of Kūhiō Highway (Route 56) between Kuamoo Road and the Temporary Kapaāa Bypass Road starts tonight, Monday night, from 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. During the working hours Alternating traffic will be r-outed through the makai northbound lane by traffic control flaggers. The weekly work schedule will run Sunday–Thursday night, from 8 p.m. to 4:30 a.m., Motorists are advised to expect delays and allow for extra travel time to get to their destinations. The project is anticipated to take two months, weather permitting.

And our DOT also wants to remind north shore communities and visitors that the Hanalei Bridge on Kūhiō Highway (Route 560) near mile marker 1.2 is undergoing routine maintenance of its wooden plank deck. The work continues tonight Monday night, June 26 and 27, from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

RIMPAC 2022 starts Wednesday. The Rim of the Pacific Exercise, which happens every other year, will feature 25-thousand military personnel from 26 countries. There will be 38 surface ships, four submarines, and more than 170 aircraft taking part in simulated battle scenarios. RIMPAC runs through August 4th.

A plan to decommission one of the telescopes on Mauna Kea is moving forward. The final environmental assessment found there'd be no significant negative impacts by removing the University of Hawaii's Hoku Kea Observatory. The plan includes taking down its two buildings and restoring the site, with the goal to get it done by the end of next year. The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources still has to sign off on the plan.

Without admitting to any wrongdoing, Tripler Army Medical Center is settling a multi-million-dollar lawsuit linked to the allegedly botched delivery of a baby more than four years ago. Officials say the infant's parents received a 38-million-dollar settlement after the infant suffered permanent brain damage due to lack of oxygen during childbirth in February 2018. The suit had alleged that Tripler staffers failed to act quickly to perform a cesarean section, leading to oxygen deprivation before birth.



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**2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday June 28, 2022**

Thirty bills passed by the state legislature earlier this year are on Governor Ige's intent to veto list. One of them is a bail reform measure that all four county mayors and police departments have urged him to kill. It would eliminate cash bail for some non-violent criminals. Ige says it could lead to the release of criminals who pose a danger to public safety. Ige is also going to veto a controversial renewable energy bill. It would require up to a third of Hawaii's renewable energy supply to be generated by firm sources like geothermal, hydroelectric and biomass, instead of intermittent sources like wind and solar power.

The Navy continues to pump about four-point-five-million-gallons of water out of its fuel-contaminated Red Hill Shaft each day. It started at the beginning of February. To date, nearly 600-million-gallons of water have been pumped out of the well, filtered, then sent into the Halawa Stream. The Navy has no use for the water, which is catching the attention of the state health department. The DOH is pushing the Navy to find a way to reuse the water. So far, there are no signs dumping the water into the Halawa Stream is hurting the environment, however. The Navy has not announced when the daily pumping is expected to end.

A longtime employee of the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting will do prison time after taking bribes for a decade. Seventy-two-year-old Jennie Javon-illo worked for the DPP for 32 years. She pleaded guilty to taking 63-thousand-dollars in bribes during the last ten years of her career. She took cash from at least ten people and companies. In exchange, Javonillo sped up the permitting process for their projects. Javonillo has been sentenced to two-and-a-half years behind bars.

Two soldiers from Hawaii will get the Congressional Medal of Honor next Tuesday. They're among the four soldiers who will be awarded medals of honor from President Biden. Specialist Fifth Class Dennis M. Fujii will be honored for his actions during a botched rescue mission. Staff Sergeant Edward N. Kaneshiro will be awarded posthumously for actions he took during an ambush in Vietnam. Two other soldiers from the mainland will also be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions in Vietnam.

A new report details the growing gap between Hawaii's wages and rising cost of living. The report, released by online careers website Lensa, declares Hawaii the least affordable state in the nation. One of the highlights is a more than 20-percent difference between the living wage and average wage. The report also says almost all essential items are more expensive on the islands than in any other state. That includes housing, utility bills, groceries, and transportation. Oregon and Maine are ranked the second and third least affordable states.

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2022 - Quarter 2 – June**

**Local Kauaī News – Wednesday June 29, 2022**

The Hawaii Department of Health today reported 5,362 new COVID-19 infections over the past week, lower than the number reported the previous week. The new infections bring the total since the start of the pandemic to 308,695 cases. DOH also reported 15 more deaths, bringing the state's coronavirus-related death toll to 1,504. The state's average positivity rate declined to 16.5% from 17.1% reported last week, representing tests performed between June 21 to 27. It was the third weekly decline in a row. Kauai County continues to have a higher average positivity rate than the rest of the state, at 21.1%. There were 254 new infections reported on Kauai.

Millions of mosquitoes will be imported to Hawaii in the name of saving endangered forest birds. The state Board of Agriculture signed off on the plan Tuesday. Tens of millions of male mosquitoes will be released into the wild to control the population. A lab on the mainland will give the mosquitoes a naturally occurring birth control bacteria. When the male mosquitoes mate with females, their eggs won't hatch. The mosquitoes will initially be released on Maui and Kauai, to save the critically endangered birds, many of which have died off from diseases carried by mosquitoes. Scientists say some species could go extinct in less than two years without some kind of human intervention.

A labor dispute is threatening to disrupt service at Hawaii's largest hotel. Union contracts for Hilton Hawaiian Village employees expire tomorrow. They're demanding better pay and benefits, and more staffing. They say the number of new hires is lagging behind with visitor arrival numbers nearing pre-pandemic levels, especially with the summer travel rush underway. Many fed up employees say low staffing was an issue even before the pandemic.

Hawaii will be one of the first nine states getting new shipments of monkeypox vaccines from the federal government. On Tuesday, the Biden Administration announced thousands of doses will be sent to clinics nationwide to slow the spread of the virus. Twenty-seven states and the District of Columbia have confirmed cases. Hawaii has five confirmed cases and one probable case. Governor Ige believes the small spread of monkeypox in Hawaii has been contained.

Police are reporting an influx of opioid trafficking to the Big Island. Earlier this month, more than 13-hundred counterfeit oxycodone and fentanyl pills were mailed from Washington state to Kona. A Hawaii Police Department spokesperson says criminals are trying to disguise it as a legitimate prescription pill. Last November, police also recovered a million-dollars worth of fentanyl in Kona. That batch of fentanyl was linked to the death of a minor. Authorities say some of the opioid seizures involve enough drugs to kill an entire island the size of Kauai.

A man who tried to open the emergency exit door three times on a 2020 Hawaiian Airlines flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu will be staying behind bars. On Tuesday, a judge rejected the terms of a plea deal that would have set him free after serving eight to nine months in prison. The man from Honolulu will instead stay locked up for at least another three months, after being sentenced to a year and a day in prison. The man also attacked and injured a flight attendant who tried to stop him from opening the emergency door. Passengers and crew members eventually grabbed the man and zip-tied his hands and legs.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday June 30, 2022**

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) is advising if you're traveling out of Hawaii's to arrive early. With the 4th of July holiday falling on Monday, HDOT recommends those catching a flight between the peak hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. should arrive at the airport at least three hours in advance. Other recommendations for summer travel include: Catching a ride to the airport as Public parking is in short supply during the summer travel season.

The Department of Defense is trying to figure out what went wrong after another hypersonic missile system flight test off the coast of Hawaii failed. Federal officials say there was an "anomaly" after ignition during Wednesday's launch. Experts will review the cause to make sure it doesn't happen again during future flight tests. It's the second failed trial flight of the prototype weapon called Conventional Prompt Strike. Last October, its first flight test suffered a booster failure, stopping the missile from leaving the launch pad.

A manslaughter trial is underway on the Big Island following the death of one of three friends who were visiting from the mainland. Benjamin Fleming choked his friend Ab-his-hik Gupta to death at a vacation rental in March of last year. Prosecutors say the men were drinking heavily, when Gupta got into a fight with a third friend, Alexander Germany-Wald. Fleming jumped in and choked Gupta from behind. The defense says the death was an accident, but the prosecution says Fleming meant to kill him with a dangerous neck restraint, or sleeper hold. The defense says Gupta was still breathing after Fleming released the choke. His attorney suggests Gupta actually choked to death on his own vomit.

Over half-a-million-dollars in grants is going towards supporting Native Hawaiian organizations throughout the islands. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs awarded more than 600-thousand-dollars to fund 13 OHA programs this year. The grants will be used to support education, behavioral and mental health services. This is the first of OHA's four award cycles planned throughout the year.

Honolulu has spent more than 18-million-dollars settling police-related misconduct lawsuits and legal claims in the past decade. More than four-million of the 18-million-dollars has been paid out so far this year. There's also been no consistent level of punishment for officers named in the misconduct lawsuits and claims. Some have been fired or suspended and others stayed with the department before getting fired for unrelated issues. Other officers have been reassigned to the training academy or successfully fought their suspensions so they were downgraded to written reprimands.