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**Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday July 3, 2023**

The comfort station at Waikomo Park in Kōloa is closed until further notice due to vandalism. According to County officials, staff discovered damage to the restrooms and sports equipment on Monday morning. Updates will be made when the comfort station reopens. A police report has been made, and an investigation is ongoing. To report suspicious activity or if you have information related to this incident, the public is encouraged to call the Kauaʻi Police Department Dispatch at 808-241-1711.

Walk-up service for the Kauaʻi Police Department records and firearms window will have alternate hours for the month due to a staffing shortage. Beginning on July 3, Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays the window will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Wednesdays the window will be open 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On July 7, the window will be open 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and every Friday after will be closed.

Hawaii's new ban on carrying a concealed weapon is being legally challenged in federal court. Three Maui gun owners and the Hawaii Firearms Coalition filed a lawsuit hoping to block the new "sensitive locations" law which took effect on July 1st. The law bans guns in most public areas like beaches, hospitals, stadiums, movie theaters and bars. Lawyer Kevin O'Grady says a lot of the limitations are restricting people with permits so that they can only carry in their house and at gun ranges.

Transportation officials are working to correct some issues after the grand opening weekend of Honolulu's new rail line, Skyline. On Saturday, there were miscommunications that caused some stations to close earlier than scheduled. And, on Sunday a train sat near the Halawa Station for about 20 minutes. The train was eventually switched to manual operations and controlled by operators at the station. The city is also telling passengers not to get on the trains near seven p.m. because that's closing time, and they might not be able to get back to the station where they initially started their journey. Tens of thousands of people rode Honolulu's new rail line this weekend. Around 40-thousand people have caught a ride on Skyline so far. Fares are free through tomorrow.

On Oahu Authorities are investigating after nearly 20 cars caught fire in Pearl City this morning. Firefighters were called to the scene shortly before 7 a.m. They arrived to find 16 cars up in flames and heavy smoke billowing over the city. Honolulu Police also responded. The fire was put out by 8:30 a.m. It's unclear what sparked the blaze.

Officials with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are on Oahu. They're exploring Hawaii's fight against homelessness and focusing on ways to create more affordable housing. On Sunday, department secretary Marcia Fudge toured a pair of new affordable housing complexes. She is also planning to meet with Governor Josh Green, who has said his main goal is to end Hawaii's homeless crisis.

Three of Hawaii's observatories will be part of a new mission to explore the dark universe. The Euclid Space Telescope mission launched from Florida on Saturday. During the next six years, the telescope will be in space exploring the sky and the evolution of the dark universe. It will also have a

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Local Kaua'i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

role in creating a 3D map of the universe. The Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope on Mauna Kea, Japan's Subaru Telescope on Mauna Kea, and the U.H. Institute for Astronomy Telescope on Haleakala will all be involved in data collection.

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Pacific Media Group Kaua*ʻ*i  
KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Wednesday July 5, 2023**

Detectives are hoping recent advancements in DNA technology will crack a Kauai Cold Case Murder. In 2010, Amber Jackson from Kauai failed to show up to work one day. Her body was found by pig hunters in a Kealia ravine and her killer remains at large. But KPD is reopening her case and detectives are going to use new DNA technology on the evidence that they've had in their possession in hopes of solving the case. The Kauai Police Department also say if there is anyone who know anything about Jackson's case they want to hear about it. There is a 20-thousand dollar reward for information about the case.

Four more bills are now laws after getting Governor Josh Green's signature. One of the education-related bills signed Monday is designed to add more affordable housing for teachers. The second bill places kindergarten facilities under the Department of Education's School Facilities Authority, where they will receive 200-million dollars in additional funding. The third bill will require the Hawaii Board of Education to decide whether to make computer science a graduation requirement. The fourth bill allows school health assistants to administer medication to public school students. A healthcare professional will have to approve first.

Governor Green wants to make ten-thousand new affordable rental properties available within the next ten years. Green announced the details of his master housing plan on Monday. The rental units would be on four islands and would serve a range of income levels. The new rental homes would be built on the site of existing projects that are managed by the Hawaii Public Housing Authority. Green says it's part of an effort to reduce the state's shortage of nurses, teachers and other professionals, who are often forced to move to the mainland because housing is too expensive on the islands.

People will now be charged to use Honolulu's Skyline. The rail system opened Friday with free rides through yesterday. Customers will need a HOLO card to board. There are wider gates for wheelchairs, strollers, luggage and bikes. This is the first phase of the project. It took 12 years to build and runs eleven-miles, serving nine stations between East Kapolei and Aloha Stadium. Two more phases are planned to extend the line.

Security is ramping up at Hawaii's State Capitol building. On July 10th Hawaii will join 37 other states capitols in adding metal detectors into their security measures. Two will be installed on the street level elevators and one at the basement level entrance. Officials say the move is to protect a space that's meant for everyone. Law enforcement will also still be patrolling around the capitol building.

The Hawaii staple canned meat "SPAM" is turning 86-years-old today. According to SPAM's website, their products are sold in 48 different countries around the world but Hawaii is ranked number one in consumption selling seven million cans per year. The website also says Hawaii's love for the mean began during World War Two when the company shipped over 100-million pounds of SPAM to soldiers. The inventor, Jay Hormel named the creation after spice and ham.

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Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Friday July 7, 2023**

A flight out of Las Vegas destined for Maui was diverted to Oakland Monday after a bomb threat. Photos that alerted there was a bomb on board the Southwest Airlines flight were "air dropped" from an Apple device to a flight attendant, according to the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. The plane was evacuated once it arrived in Oakland. The aircraft, its passengers, and all luggage on board was searched. No explosive materials or devices were found. The plane continued its journey to Maui. Nobody has been arrested and the incident is being investigated by the FBI.

In the past decade, Hawaii has had more snorkeling deaths than from swimming and surfing combined. There have been 229 snorkeling-related deaths. Maui leads all islands with 98 such drownings. But, Hanauma Bay has seen the most snorkeling-related deaths of any one location during that period, with 88. John Titchen, the Chief of Honolulu County's Ocean Safety Division, says there have also been a significant number of deaths at beaches without lifeguard towers.

The Honolulu Police Commission is demanding answers after a suspect got a hold of an unattended police rifle in Pearl City. The suspect was shot to death by HPD officers while holding the rifle last month. Chief Joe Logan was grilled by commissioners on Wednesday. He says the investigation could take 60 to 90 days. He also confirms that the officer who left the rifle unattended is back on the job. The HPD is conducting criminal and administrative investigations. The Honolulu Prosecutor's Office is also planning to conduct an independent review.

Closing arguments in the trial of a cold case murder suspect will be heard today. The suspect, a 62-year-old man, is accused of killing a 25-year-old woman in Honolulu in 1982. The woman was a Delta Airlines reservation clerk. Investigators determined she was choked to death after being punched several times. The suspect, Thomas Garner, is a dental hygienist and Navy veteran from Florida. Garner is already serving a life sentence for killing another 25-year-old woman in Florida in 1984. He was linked with both deaths following advances in DNA technology.

Honolulu's new rail line saw an estimated 71-thousand passengers during its first five days in operation. All Skyline rides between Friday and Tuesday were free. Wednesday was the first day of paid rides. The total number of passengers from Wednesday is expected to be released sometime today. Officials are expecting a dip in numbers as the initial excitement wears off, and because rides are no longer free.

Hawaii's COVID-19 cases have been holding relatively steady since mid-May. That's according to Tim Brown, an infectious disease expert at the East-West Center in Manoa. The state Department of Health released its latest COVID numbers on Wednesday. The daily average is 71 cases, the average positivity rate is eight-point-four-percent, and an average of 48 people are hospitalized per week. There were also nine more COVID-related deaths reported during the past week, all among people aged 60 and older.

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**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Saturday July 8, 2023**

Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami has appointed Reiko Matsuyama as the County of Kauaʻi's Managing Director effective August 7, 2023, following the upcoming departure of current Managing Director Michael A. Dahilig who will be joining Senator Brian Schatz's office in September. Matsuyama joined the County of Kauaʻi in January 2019 when she was appointed as Director of Finance during Mayor Kawakami's first term in office.

Maluhia Road, from Kaumualiʻi Highway to Ala Kinoʻiki junction, will be closed on Saturday, July 8, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a community clean-up. During the road closure, traffic will be diverted to Kōloa Road. Motorists should allow for extra travel time and follow the speed limits and all traffic signs. Electronic message boards will be installed to inform motorists. The road closure will allow community groups to conduct an annual clean-up of Maluhia Road for the Kōloa Plantation Days celebration.

The Hawaiʻi Department of Transportation (HDOT) is notifying Kauaʻi motorists of upcoming closures on Kaumualiʻi Highway (Route 50) beginning the week of Monday, July 10 for tree trimming work. This will be a single-lane closure in the westbound direction, in the vicinity of Lauoho Road and Puʻuwai Road, on Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for tree trimming maintenance. Alternating traffic will be routed through the open eastbound lane. Motorists are advised to expect delays and proceed with caution through the work area. Electronic message boards will be in place to notify motorists of closure information.

Police are opening a murder investigation after an Oahu inmate was found dead in his cell. Guards at the Oahu Community Correctional Center found the inmate Thursday evening. He was unconscious with injuries to his face and was later pronounced dead. Honolulu police believe the victim may have been attacked by two other inmates. The investigation is ongoing and no arrests have been made yet.

The Honolulu rail line is proving things are often more popular when they're free. One-thousand-245 people rode the Skyline on Wednesday, which was the first day of paid rides. That translates to 88 riders per hour during the 14 hours it was open. On Tuesday, the final day of free fares, there were 18-thousand-108 riders. Honolulu officials are hoping to see an average of eight-thousand to ten-thousand riders per day by the end of the year.

The Big Island is planning to use its share of a nationwide opioid settlement to build a new drug detox and treatment facility in Hilo. Hawaii County officials say residents seeking treatment would no longer have to fly to Oahu to find it. As part of a nationwide settlement with pharmaceutical companies, Hawaii County is getting 489-thousand-dollars this year. Then it gets 110-thousand-dollars annually for the next 18 years to follow. One Big Island resident dies from a drug overdose every eleven days.

Hawaii's 600 UPS drivers could be joining a nationwide strike in about three weeks. The strike would involve some 340-thousand employees and would be one of the biggest in U.S. history. The Teamsters Union is planning to strike on August 1st if they don't get the new contract they want. Members of the Hawaii Teamsters are planning to hold informational pickets in the meantime. On

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KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

Thursday, drivers held practice pickets outside of some UPS facilities on the mainland. Both the Teamsters and UPS accuse each other of walking away from the negotiating table on Wednesday.

**FCC Public Inspection Files  
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KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Monday July 10, 2023**

A woman accused of murder and kidnapping in a brutal North Shore killing on Oahu is set to appear in court today. In 2017, Hailey Dandurand pleaded not guilty to all charges in connection to the death in Telma Boinville. She's being tried separately from her boyfriend at the time, Stephen Brown. Brown was found guilty on murder, kidnapping, and burglary charges in January. During his testimony, he said Dandurand killed the victim alone while he burglarized the home.

Hawaii's Allisen Corpuz is a winner for the first time in her LPGA Tour career. The Punahou alum won the 78th U.S. Women's Open on Sunday, standing atop a field of the world's best female golfers at Pebble Beach. It was the first time the event had ever been held at the iconic course in California. Corpuz shot a three under 69 for a three-shot victory. She's also the first American in 20 years to win her first LPGA title at the U.S. Women's Open.

The iconic reflecting pools outside of the Hawaii State Capitol building may never actually be pools again. For decades, the pools symbolizing the ocean surrounding Hawaii have caused leaks, foul odors and needed expensive cleaning. The pools are currently dry and may stay that way forever to cure the issues. The state Department of Accounting and General Services has more than 40-million-dollars set aside to fix leaks, structural damage and electrical problems with the pools. But, the money could also go toward converting the water features into waterless platforms that resemble pools.

Former Honolulu police chief Lee Donohue is dead at the age of 80. Current Chief Joe Logan confirms Donohue died Sunday morning. No cause of death has been announced. Donohue was Honolulu's eighth police chief, serving from 1998 to 2004. During his time as chief, the HPD received national accreditation, gave officers bullet-proof vests, and added AED machines. Donohue also focused on increasing hiring and retention efforts during an officer shortage.

Hawaiian pro surfer Mikala Jones is dead following a tragic surfing accident in Indonesia. There aren't many details about the accident as of this morning. Some outlets are reporting that the father of three severed an artery while surfing off the Mentawai Islands. His daughter Isabella shared a tribute on Instagram yesterday, saying he died doing what he loved most. The 44-year-old was well-known for his tube-riding and stunning surf photography.

The Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii is looking for more volunteers with tourist deaths and injuries on the rise. Volunteers help tourists when they fall victim to crimes like theft while on the islands, and aid their families when someone dies while on vacation. The president of the organization says volunteers are maxed out right now. They currently have 25 volunteers but hope to at least double that number by the end of the year. VASH has taken 28 cases so far this year and four involved a visitor's death.

Officials with the Biden Administration chartered a private plane to ensure they could get off Molokai. U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda confirms last week's decision to the Civil Beat. She and federal officials were on the island to assess its healthcare infrastructure. Tokuda says the group didn't trust

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Pacific Media Group Kauaī  
KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

Mokulele Airlines' scheduling and feared delays or cancellations might have forced them to stay the night. Mokulele Airlines provided the charter flight.



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KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday July 11, 2023**

The Kauai Police Department arrested a Kalaheo man Sunday morning following a hit-and-run in Poʻipū Saturday night that left two teenagers in critical condition. At approximately 9:40 p.m. Saturday, officers were dispatched to a report of a traffic crash involving a vehicle and two pedestrians on Poʻipū Road fronting the Poʻipū Beach Athletic Club. The 13-year-old and 15-year-old female victims are both visitors. Medics transported the victims to Wilcox Hospital and were later medevacked to Queens Hospital on Oʻahu for further treatment. The motorist, 25-year-old Noah Alejandro fled the scene and abandoned the vehicle in a hotel parking lot. He turned himself in to KPD at approximately 12:06 a.m. on Sunday morning. Alejandro was arrested for two counts of Negligent Injury in the 1st Degree, Accidents Involving Serious Bodily Injury, Inattention to Driving, Reckless Driving, and Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of an Intoxicant. He was released pending further investigation.

Kauaʻi Fire Department first responders rescued five individuals in waters off Kealia Beach on Sunday. Four residents were admitted to Wilcox Medical Center, with one other declining medical treatment. Of the four residents, one was admitted in critical condition, one was in serious condition, and two were in stable condition. The fifth individual, a Good Samaritan, declined medical treatment. KFD personnel received a report from Kauaʻi Police Department Dispatch shortly before 4:50 p.m. of swimmers in distress in waters off Kealia Beach. When firefighters arrived on the scene, they discovered a lifeguard assisting two swimmers near Kealia Point and another two lifeguards rescuing three swimmers outside the river mouth. Using rescue tubes, firefighters assisted lifeguards and brought the swimmers back to shore.

Three people have pleaded not guilty to federal charges in connection with a deadly drug overdose in Waikiki. They are accused of providing the fentanyl that left two people dead at a hotel in early June. On Monday, the alleged suppliers pleaded not guilty, along with a man accused of being the middleman in the drug operation. Another man has been indicted on suspicion of receiving fentanyl from the third suspect. The fourth suspect is due in court today.

The Navy will allow the Honolulu Board of Water supply to test the water in its Red Hill Shaft. The Navy initially denied the request a month ago. The BWS wants to find out more about the status of the contamination plume from the 2021 Red Hill fuel spills that sickened thousands of people. Part of the test will determine how the Navy's filtration system is working. The BWS is also concerned about the state Department of Health's exposure report that mentioned additives like a de-icing agent being found in the drinking water. BWS Manager and Chief Engineer Ernie Lau says water samples could be taken from the Red Hill Shaft early next month.

The number of people paying to ride Skyline is better than initially thought. Free rides ended last Tuesday. Honolulu initially said a few more than 81-hundred people paid to ride the rails in the first five days after that. The total has now been revised to more than 18-thousand, because passengers who transferred from TheBus were not initially counted as train riders. People can pay one fare to ride buses and trains if they transfer from either system within a two-and-a-half-hour window.

**FCC Public Inspection Files  
Pacific Media Group Kauaī  
KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

A new lawsuit claims a Maui Police Department recruit who nearly died was the victim of a hazing ritual called "Beat Down Friday." The woman is suing her former supervisors. She was 27-years-old at the time of the incident in February of 2022. She was hospitalized after a life-threatening heat stroke she suffered during a training exercise. Her body temperature was 107-degrees when she arrived at a hospital and her organs had started failing. She says her training officers hazed her so bad she fell into a coma. The lawsuit claims, before she fell ill, she and other recruits had to do a cross country run that went beyond the standard physical fitness assessment.

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Local Kaua'i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua'i News – Wednesday July 12, 2023**

At a community meeting Tuesday, Attendees were told Only five of the native Hawaiian honeycreeper species, 'a-key-kiki, are left in the wild and chances of saving them are growing increasingly dire by the day. This frightening revelation was shared by the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project. The ray of hope is the planned implementation of what is known as IIT, or incompatible insect technique, proposed to begin this fall on Kaua'i. IIT involves releasing incompatible male mosquitoes that have a strain of a naturally occurring bacteria that is different than the strain in female mosquitoes, which results in female mosquitoes not having viable eggs and offspring. This is not GMO , and while this would be the first wide-scale conservation use of IIT, it has been used safely and successfully around the world for over 50 years to reduce mosquito populations causing diseases in people.

The Kauai Agency on Elderly Affairs will hold its "Cancer: Thriving and Surviving" workshop at the Līhu'e Neighborhood Center starting July 26. Cancer survivors 60 years and older and their caregivers can participate in this six-week workshop in self-management. To register for the workshop, please call 241-4898 at least five business days before the start of the workshop. The workshop is limited to 15 people.

Hawaii is adding a road usage fee directed at electric vehicle drivers. The program, which was passed by lawmakers earlier this year, was recently signed into law by Governor Josh Green. State officials say the fees should fill a revenue gap. There has been a 20-percent increase in fuel-efficient vehicles, leading to a drop in fuel tax revenue. The program starts in 2025 and will only apply to EV owners, who can pay a flat rate of 50 dollars or choose to get taxed point-eight-cents per mile. The road usage charge program will apply to all vehicles by 2033. Hawaii is the fourth state in the nation with such a program.

A man accused of murdering a woman on Oahu in 1982 has been found not guilty. Thomas Garner was acquitted by a jury on Tuesday. Garner, who is already serving a life sentence for murdering a woman in Florida in 1984, was accused of murdering a 25-year-old Delta Airlines employee who was visiting Honolulu for a softball tournament with her co-workers. She had been assaulted and strangled to death. Garner was charged after advances in DNA technology, and was allegedly in Honolulu at the same time as the victim.

Hawaii is ranked second in the nation for fatal distracted driving crashes. A new report shows New Mexico came in at number one, with 41-percent of fatal crashes involving distracted drivers. In Hawaii that number is sitting at 29-percent. Cell phone use is the most common distraction among drivers in fatal crashes.

A new lawsuit claims a Maui Police Department recruit who nearly died was the victim of a hazing ritual called "Beat Down Friday." The woman is suing her former supervisors. She was 27-years-old at the time of the incident in February of 2022. She was hospitalized after a life-threatening heat stroke she suffered during a training exercise. Her body temperature was 107-degrees when she arrived at a hospital and her organs had started failing. She says her training officers hazed her so

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**Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

bad she fell into a coma. The lawsuit claims, before she fell ill, she and other recruits had to do a cross country run that went beyond the standard physical fitness assessment.

Expect to pay more when eating at some restaurants in Hawaii. On top of the cost of the meal and the tip, some restaurants have recently added a ten-percent "supply chain fee" to bills. The Executive Director of the Hawaii Restaurant Association, Sheryl Matsuoka, says restaurants are trying to offset the growing costs of doing business. But, many customers aren't finding out about it until they're ready to pay. The Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection says it's illegal for businesses not to notify customers of the added fee with a sign before they order. Other restaurants have also added so-called "kitchen fees."

Honolulu is asking a towing company to temporarily stop charging customers 900-dollar fees. In the meantime, the city and county will investigate all of the times the fee has been applied so far this year. Since the start of the year, All Island Automotive Towing has charged at least 120 people with a 900-dollar fee, making at least 100-thousand-dollars from it. The company tells customers the fees are for a "non-statutory and difficult hook-up." The Department of Customer Services has asked the company to hand over all of its invoices that include the 900-dollar charge.

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**Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday July 13, 2023**

A judge is asking the DLNR's Department of Forestry and Wildlife to stop a process of reducing misquotes harmful to native birds that are on the verge of extinction. Hawaii Unites has filed a temporary order saying the project needs to be studied more. The project would be releasing male misquotes that are infected with a bacteria making them unable to reproduce. Forestry and Wildlife say three native honey creeper species are on the verge of extinction and their solution to saving them is not a GMO but a naturally occurring mosquitoes and bacteria which already exist in the wild. A hearing on the preliminary order and TRO are scheduled for July 21st.

During a preliminary investigation of the hit and run that happened Saturday night along Poipu Road, police initially said the teen girls, ages 13 and 15, were crossing the road when they were struck by a pickup truck heading eastbound on Poipu Road. However After further review and witness statements, police now say the teens were walking along the shoulder of Poipu Road when they were hit, and that several family members were walking alongside them. The driver, who has since been identified as Noah Alejandro, 25, of Kalaheo, fled the scene and abandoned his truck in a hotel parking lot. Alejandro turned himself in to the Kauai Police Department several hours later. Police arrested him for two counts of first-degree negligent injury, accidents involving serious bodily injury, inattention to driving, reckless driving, and drunk driving. He was released pending further investigation.

A tropical cyclone in the eastern Pacific is expected to intensify into a category one hurricane today. Tropical Storm Calvin, which developed Tuesday, is the third named storm in the eastern Pacific this year. Winds are expected to increase to 90-miles-per-hour tomorrow. The storm is moving westward at a rate of 16-miles-per-hour. But, forecasters say Hawaii likely won't feel much of an impact, if any. Calvin is expected to run into cooler waters in the central Pacific and start weakening tomorrow night.

The NOAA is increasing the reward to find the person who intentionally killed a Hawaiian monk seal in West Oahu. The reward was bumped up from five-thousand to over eight-thousand dollars due to the community pitching in extra money to find the suspect. Investigators found the body of monk seal Malama on March 12th at Ohikilolo beach. They found she died from blunt force trauma.

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2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Friday July 14, 2023**

Hurricane Calvin is now a category three storm in the eastern Pacific. It continues to strengthen but experts believe it's near its peak intensity. Wind speeds are currently at 125-miles-per-hour. As of 11 a.m., the National Hurricane Center in Miami said Calvin was about 2,050 miles southeast of Hilo. The storm is tracking toward Hawaii, but will likely no longer be a hurricane when it gets to the islands on Tuesday afternoon. It's expected to hit cooler waters in the central Pacific and weaken. Winds speeds are expected to be at 40-miles-per-hour by the time the storm reaches Hawaii. It could bring some rain to the Big Island starting Tuesday.

The murder trial of Eric Thompson is continuing in Honolulu. Thompson is accused of killing Jon Tokuhara, an acupuncturist from Waipahu, last year. Tokuhara was allegedly having an affair with Thompson's wife. Both the defense and prosecution agree there was an affair, but disagree about the evidence. The prosecution says the evidence against Thompson is incriminating, but the defense says it's inconclusive. During day two of the trial, gruesome evidence was laid out by HPD's Garrick Baligad about the conditions where Tokuhara's body was found.

Hawaii's 12-hundred actors are on strike. The nation's first film and television actors strike since 1980 started at midnight. Their union's national board voted to issue a strike order on Thursday, after failing to reach a deal with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The strike means all active productions in Hawaii must stop. That includes "Moana" and the live-action version of "Lilo and Stitch." The writers' strike, which has been going on since early May, has also had ramifications in Hawaii. "NCIS Hawaii" halted production and NBC cancelled "Magnum PI." Actors and writers want better pay for streaming productions and guarantees against the use of artificial intelligence.

A technicality could threaten the future of Hawaii's red light camera enforcement program. A judge recently threw out a citation due to an identification issue, ruling the photo of the vehicle and its license plate were not enough to prove who owns the car. The technicality could apply to all photo citations. The registered owner of a vehicle that ran a red light in March decided to fight the citation. The judge reviewing the case says the photo shows a license plate, but not the VIN number, and can't accurately prove the license plate matches the VIN number. This is the first legal challenge to Hawaii's red-light camera enforcement program.

The head of a prominent military defense contractor based in Hawaii is stepping down. Christopher Dawson, the founder and chairman of the Hawaiian Native Corporation, announced his resignation on Thursday. It comes amid a federal investigation into alleged financial crimes. In the past 15 years, the organization has won more than one-point-four-billion-dollars in government contracts, mostly from the Department of Defense. The corporation says new leadership has been put in place to succeed Dawson.

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2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Monday July 17, 2023**

Ocean Safety Bureau officials are advising no swimming at Kekaha Beach until further notice due to a shark sighting. OSB officials report that a possible 8-foot tiger shark was sighted in waters off Kekaha Beach on Monday afternoon. No injuries were reported. As a safety precaution, Ocean Safety officials have posted warning signs and will continue to monitor the area. Lifeguards will reassess the area on Tuesday.

A tropical storm watch remains in effect for the Big Island as Calvin is expected to bring rainfall to the windward areas of Hawaii County and other Hawaiian Islands starting Tuesday. A tropical storm watch means tropical storm conditions are possible within the watch area over the next 36 to 48 hours. "From Tuesday night into Thursday, storm total rainfall amounts of 4-8 inches are possible along windward areas of the Big Island of Hawaii, with lower amounts (1-4 inches) expected elsewhere in the state. Calvin was packing maximum sustained winds of 50 mph with higher gusts as it moved toward the west near 21 mph. Calvin is forecasted to continue in the same motion and gradually weaken as it moves westward to the south of the other Hawaiian Islands on Wednesday.

The defueling of four surge tanks at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam will start today. Joint Task Force Red Hill's plan to defuel the tanks was approved by the Hawaii State Department of Health on Sunday. The four tanks contain a collective 480-thousand-gallons of fuel and are separate from the main underground fuel tanks at Red Hill. The defueling process is expected to last through July 30th.

The Honolulu Fire Department is urging residents who own lithium-powered devices to be careful. Officials say fire crews arrived to a high-rise on Ala Wai Boulevard and McCully Street early Monday morning and found a surfboard on fire. The owner said he was charging a lithium-ion e-bike battery and it malfunctioned then started the fire. Officials want to remind residents not to charge or store batteries on top of anything that could catch on fire.

a study finds most Hawaii residents aren't really prepared for a natural disaster. The study, conducted by the University of Hawaii West Oahu, finds most households lack enough food, water and medicine to last through the affects of a hurricane, earthquake, volcanic eruption, tsunami and more. Members of a thousand households were surveyed for the study. Fifty-six-percent of them said they believe they have enough supplies for a natural disaster. But, only 12-percent actually have enough supplies to meet the preparedness standard recommended by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. HI-EMA says households should be stocked with at least two weeks worth of food, water and medicine. And, 24-percent of those surveyed said they don't have enough supplies because they just weren't properly informed of how much they need.

Two people are behind bars after a body was found wrapped in plastic on Maui. Hunters discovered the body on July 5th, on a remote trail in Kula. A 58-year-old man and 48-year-old woman from Makawao have been arrested on suspicion of second-degree murder. The victim has been identified as a 36-year-old man, also from Makawao.

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Local Kauaïi News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaïi News – Tuesday July 18, 2023**

The Department of Water (DOW) announces an emergency water service shutdown on a portion of Kuamo’o Road; from the intersection of Opaeka’a Road to Pa’ako Street, and includes Aleo Street, Kuhoho Street, Pa’ako Street, Lihau Street, Iliki Street, Hie Street, Alahele Street and Molo Street beginning at approximately 10:30 a.m. this morning due to a recent mainline break. Water service will be turned off until approximately 2:30. A partial lane closure will be implemented on Kuamo’o Road to provide a safe work zone for waterline repairs. Motorists are advised to slow down when approaching the work area and adhere to flagger personnel.

Tropical Storm Calvin strengthened slightly this morning but is expected to weaken after it passes Hawaii County. At 11 a.m., the Central Pacific Hurricane Center said Calvin had maximum sustained winds near 50 mph with higher gusts and was about 245 miles east-southeast of Hilo moving west at 22 mph. Tropical-storm-force winds extend up to 115 miles from the center. Calvin is forecast to pass over — or very near — Hawaii County tonight, bringing heavy rain, high surf and locally strong winds. The tropical storm “is expected to weaken as it moves westward to the south of the other Hawaiian islands Wednesday and Wednesday night,” officials said.

Over 60-percent of the fuel in the Red Hill fuel surge tanks is gone. On Monday, crews started removing fuel from the tanks at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickman as part of a new defueling process. They drained about 293-gallons of fuel which is about 61-percent of the total amount. These fuel tanks are separate from the main ones at Red Hill. The rest of the fuel is expected to be drained by next Friday. State and federal officials are overseeing the operation as crews prepare to de-fuel the larger main tanks this fall.

Governor Josh Green has signed an emergency proclamation aimed at easing Hawaii's housing crisis. The proclamation, signed Monday, is expected to speed up the construction of thousands of housing developments. That includes both rentals and for-sale units. Other goals include creating a working group to improve coordination between state and county agencies, and speeding up plan reviews to get construction started faster. Governor Green says, to meet current demand, Hawaii needs 50-thousand housing units by 2025.

Four Honolulu police recruits are hospitalized after suffering exhaustion during self-defense training exercises. The Honolulu Police Department says the recruits were training in a dojo at the training academy on Monday afternoon. The room was not air conditioned. The four recruits were hospitalized in serious condition. It happened less than a week after another recruit accidentally shot himself at the training academy.

Oahu Community Correctional Center officials are voicing concerns after a large amount of contraband was found inside cells. A search of two modules at Hawaii's largest jail started Friday. It turned up illegal items including meth, steroids, and cellphones. OCCC staff members who spoke with the Civil Beat believe it's a sign of corruption involving employees. One says the search was prompted by reports that a deadly attack on an inmate earlier this month was recorded on a



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Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

cellphone. On July 6th, a man was found dead in a cell in the gang module. He suffered head injuries and Honolulu police are investigating the attack as a murder.

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2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Wednesday July 19, 2023**

Post-Tropical Storm Calvin brought heavy rains and strong winds to Hawaii's Big Island and Maui. But, Hawaii is not taking a direct hit. The storm is weakening and passing the island chain to the south.

AS of 11 am The National Weather Service dropped the Tropical Storm Warning for Calvin and has downgraded the storm to a post-tropical cyclone. Central Pacific Hurricane Center said it will not issue any further public advisories on Calvin as all tropical storm warnings and watches have been canceled, As Tropical storm conditions have ended for Hawaii. but some gusty winds will likely continue today before easing tonight, forecasters said.

Honolulu Police are investigating after they found a dead newborn baby at the Kuhio Park Terrace public housing complex on Tuesday. Authorities say she was found in a trash can as was pronounced dead at the scene. The mother was taken to a nearby hospital. HPD says they're currently investigating the case as an "unattended death."

Maui County will be adding its own surcharge to the state's general excise tax. Starting January 1st, a half-percent surcharge will be added on top of the state's four-percent general excise tax. The Maui County Council approved the increase with a vote on Tuesday. The new revenue will raise money for specific types of housing infrastructure projects. One-fifth of the revenue must be dedicated to projects that help the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands develop homesteads.

The trial of murder suspect Hailey Dandurand is underway in Honolulu. Dandurand, whose trial started Tuesday, is the second suspect accused of killing a woman hired to clean a house on the north shore in 2017. Earlier this year, her ex-boyfriend was found guilty of second-degree murder, burglary, and kidnapping the victim's eight-year-old daughter. The defense claims Dandurand was being pressured by her abusive boyfriend and feared for her own life when the woman was murdered.

A third suspect is behind bars in connection with a murder investigation on Maui. A 40-year-old man is facing a second-degree murder charge, as are the other two suspects, a man and woman from Makawao. The body of the victim, a 36-year-old man, was discovered by hunters. It was found wrapped in plastic near a remote trail in Kula on July 5th. The cause of death is not clear.

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**Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday July 20, 2023**

Kauaʻi Fire Department firefighters responded a structure fire in Kalāheo on Papalina Road Wednesday morning about 6:20 AM. No injuries were reported, and no one was displaced. According to a preliminary report, upon arrival, Kalāheo fire station personnel discovered flames through a second-story window and attacked the fire. After the fire was extinguished, personnel with the KFD Fire Prevention Bureau investigated and determined the cause of the fire to be accidental. Due to the quick action of firefighters, the blaze affected a 5-by-5-foot area of the second floor and did not spread to other portions of the structure. Damages to structure and contents are estimated at \$1,000.

Two 18-year-old male residents were rescued in waters off Kalalau Beach on Wednesday. According to a preliminary report, shortly after 10 a.m., first responders were notified of two missing kayakers in the ocean between Kalalau and Hanakoa. After 40 minutes into the search, a red kayak was spotted about a quarter mile from Kalalau Beach. Shortly thereafter responders spotted the first kayaker and brought him to Kalalau Beach. The search continued and they located the second kayaker near the shore between Kalalau and Hanaoka. The second kayaker was transported to Kalalau Beach. Both declined medical attention and transport to Kēʻē Beach.

Tropical Storm Calvin hasn't caused any significant damage to Hawaii. Officials said Wednesday that only minor flooding and fallen tree branches have been reported. The tropical storm warning for Hawaii has since been discontinued as Calvin continues to weaken. Earlier this week, the storm was producing 50 mile-an-hour winds in southern Hawaii.

The state is asking the public to weigh in on a proposal for an ocean stewardship fee. The DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources said the proposal would require permitted operators of commercial boats, watercrafts, and water sports equipment to collect a one dollar ocean stewardship use fee from each passenger. That money would then be sent to the DLNR. The public can give their two cents on the plan in person during a series of meeting next week, online, by phone, or by writing. More information can be found on [DLNR.Hawaii.gov](https://DLNR.Hawaii.gov) [[ D-L-N-R-Hawaii-dot-gov ]].

A group of Hawaiian Airlines passengers is heading home after being stuck at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport for about 32 hours. The flight was supposed to take off Tuesday morning, but was delayed several times because of maintenance issues with the aircraft. The plane finally took off for Honolulu on Wednesday night. Hawaiian Airlines says hotel accommodations were offered based on availability. The passengers also got meal vouchers and a thousand-dollar travel credit. On Sunday, a Hawaiian Airlines flight from Las Vegas to Honolulu was delayed for 26 hours.

The Honolulu City Council is considering a bill designed to limit the number of abandoned cars on Oahu. It would create a city ordinance waiving certain vehicle taxes, fees, and penalties for people unable to pay them after five years. The measure was introduced in early June and advanced after its first reading last week. The bill, as written, says the City Council considers the abandoned vehicle problem an epidemic.

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KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

A victim of childhood sexual abuse at the hands of a Makaha church elder is entitled to 40-million-dollars. A judge has ruled in favor of the victim, only identified as "N.D." She will get 15-million-dollars in damages as compensation for the harm she suffered, and 25-million-dollars in punitive damages. The defendant, who was an elder in a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, previously admitted to sexually assaulting four girls between 1988 and 2011. The woman sued the man in 2020. The man raped and repeatedly sexually abused her in 1992, when she was 12-years-old.

An Army medic stationed on Oahu now has the Army's highest peacetime honor for valor. Specialist Rene Rodriguez was given the Soldier's Medal on Wednesday, in a ceremony at Schofield Barracks. The 22-year-old was recognized for saving a woman's life last year. Rodriguez intervened to stop a man from beating the woman in Wahiawa. The Soldier's Medal is the Army's highest award for courage off the battlefield.

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**Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp**  
**2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday July 21, 2023**

The Hawaiʻi Department of Transportation wants you to know about upcoming closures on Kaunuaʻi Highway beginning next week of Monday, July 24 for tree trimming work. This will be a shoulder closure in the westbound direction, in the vicinity of the Kauaʻi Humane Society and Halfway Bridge on Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for tree trimming maintenance. Both lanes will remain open for motorists to travel through the work area. Crews will require intermittent full closures of Kaunuaʻi Highway to cut down and remove dangerous branches that hang over the roadway. Traffic will be stopped for a maximum of five minutes at a time. Flaggers will be on site to assist with traffic control.

A Hanamāʻulu man remains hospitalized following a motorcycle crash on Tuesday. According to a preliminary report, a 34-year-old motorcyclist was riding his dirt bike southbound on Hanamāʻulu Road at approximately 5:30 p.m. when he drifted off the roadway and struck an unattended parked vehicle. He was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash. Emergency responders transported the man to Wilcox Medical Center due to injuries sustained in the collision. He was later transported to Queen's Medical Center, where he is in stable condition.

Hawaii's unemployment rate is down to three-percent. The June figure marks the lowest jobless rate Hawaii has seen in more than three years. The last time it was lower was March of 2020, right before the pandemic drastically changed the economy. That month had an unemployment rate of two-point-two-percent. The following month, it ballooned to 22-point-six-percent.

A former union boss is being sentenced to more than eleven years in prison. This week, Brian Aha-kuelo was found guilty of rigging a vote to raise union dues and taking money from members to pay for his family's expensive lifestyle. Both he and his wife, Marilyn, were also found guilty of conspiracy and wire fraud. While Marilyn was sentenced to nearly six years, Brian's extra charges have landed him in federal prison for eleven years and eight months.

NOAA officials believe a Hawaiian monk seal pup recently found dead on Oahu's north shore was killed by a dog. The agency says puncture wounds around the seal's head and flippers are consistent with dog bites. There is no evidence that the female pup had an underlying disease. This is the second documented case of a Hawaiian monk seal dying after interacting with a dog. . Officials are reminding residents to adhere to local leash laws and always keep animals close by in seal habitats

Late Hawaii politician Patsy Takemoto Mink will be honored with a new edition of the quarter. On Thursday, the U.S. Mint released its designs for new quarters honoring trailblazing women in American history. Mink, who was born on Maui, made history in several ways. She was the first woman of color, first Japanese-American woman and the youngest legislator to be elected to the U.S House of Representatives. She served between 1965 and 1977 and again between 1990 and 2002. In 1970, she became the first Democratic woman to deliver a response to a State of the Union Address. And, Mink was the first Asian-American woman to serve in Congress.

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Local Kaua'i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua'i News – Monday July 24, 2023**

You are invited to a free disaster preparedness presentation and discussion will be taking place tonight at Hanapepe Public Library from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday at Kaua'i Veterans Center along the Veterans Memorial Highway at the same 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. time frame. For information, call 808-645-1911. Sponsored by the Kaua'i Emergency Management Agency, the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant program, the state Department of Health, the American Red Cross, Kaua'i, and Zephyr Insurance Company, the meeting invites people to "find out simple and inexpensive tips for helping one be prepared for disasters."

A class-action lawsuit filed against the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands in 1998 is finally settled. A judge has approved a 328-million-dollar settlement for Native Hawaiians who have been on the homestead waitlist for decades. The lawsuit involved 28-hundred Native Hawaiian residents who argued that the state went against its legal responsibility to provide them with leases. Families who have endured the waitlist for years will get settlement payments in September. Some of the people who were on the homestead waitlist when the lawsuit was first filed have since died. Their relatives will have to go to probate court before getting a payout from the DHHL.

Two free divers are dead after an apparent drowning off Oahu's north shore. The men, aged 28 and 29, were pulled from the water on Sunday morning. First responders found the first missing diver after going toward a submerged dive light about 150 feet from shore. The pair of diving deaths add to Hawaii's high drowning count. The Department of Health said Hawaii has the second-highest drowning rate in the nation behind Alaska. The Department says from 2009 to 2018, ocean drowning was the leading cause of death for visitors and for residents it was the fifth highest cause

Two agencies are pushing for a critical habitat designation for threatened green sea turtles. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries want to designate more than two-thousand-acres of Hawaii's nesting and basking beaches as a critical habitat. It's part of a larger, nationwide proposal that aims to help five distinct populations of green sea turtles survive. If the plan becomes a reality, nearly nine-thousand acres of beaches and 428-thousand-square-miles of coastal waters in the U.S. would become protected critical habitat.

The armed suspect who had an hours-long standoff with police in Kapahulu has been charged. Police say Sheldon Young allegedly threatened to shoot a 69-year-old woman in a Kapahulu apartment then barricaded himself on the fifth floor of the building. Officials say the incident caused an evacuation of the building and several road closures. Young surrendered to the police after eight hours and a judge has set his bail at 30 thousand dollars.

Oahu officials are aiming to have homeless encampments cleared faster and more often. Honolulu is tripling its workforce that clears homeless encampments every day and night every Monday through Friday, and sometimes on weekends. There are now three crews and groups of support vehicles working from midnight to 3:30 p.m. The crews, which are guarded by Honolulu police officers,

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Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

respond to complaints about homeless people's belongings and trash piling up in parks and on sidewalks.

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources is looking to make a yacht owner pay for damaging coral and live rock off Maui. The DLNR is proposing a 117-thousand-dollar fine, which it calls "conservative." The 94-foot yacht sunk in February, damaging Maui's Honolua-Mokuleia Bay Marine Life Conservation District. More than 16-hundred-square-feet of live rock and about 120 coral colonies were damaged. The state Board of Land and Natural Resources will consider the fine on Friday, as part of what it calls "enforcement action."

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Local Kauaʻi News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Tuesday July 25, 2023**

A shortage of drivers has prompted the state Department of Education to partially or fully suspend school bus service to 14 Hawaii campuses. The changes will take effect in the new school year, which begins Aug. 7. Officials said the disruptions will impact the following schools here on Kauai: Kapaa High Kapaa Middle Kapaa Elementary and Hanalei Elementary. The changes come a little more than a week before the kickoff of the new school year, giving parents little time to prepare. The state Education Department says they are trying to mitigate the impact by providing students with subsidized bus passes. The DOE characterized the changes as temporary, but did not say when the suspended routes would resume. Officials said the DOE is short about 230 school bus drivers.

County officials would like to remind Kauaʻi property owners that the first installment of real property taxes for the 2023-2024 tax year are due on Monday, August 21, 2023. Real property tax bills were mailed out on July 20, 2023. If you have not yet received your bill, please call the Real Property Collections Division at 808-241-4272. Payments can be made online, by mail, in person, or at the drop box located outside the Kapulē Building at the LʻHuʻe Civic Center. Please make checks payable to the Director of Finance.

Another associate of alleged Oahu crime boss Michael Miske is pleading guilty to federal charges. The 44-year-old man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit kidnapping on Monday. The man admitted to setting up the kidnapping and assault of an accountant who owed his friend's father 900-thousand-dollars. Sentencing is scheduled for August 15th. But, the man is not done with federal investigators. As part of the plea deal, he is also agreeing to fully cooperate with investigators. He must make himself available to speak with law enforcement officials at any time.

The 75-foot-wide video board from Aloha Stadium officially has a second life. The board was recently installed on the Diamond Head side of the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex at U.H. Manoa. That means, just like in the Aloha Stadium days, it will be working during Rainbow Warriors football games during the upcoming season. The installation was part of a 30-million-dollar expansion project to make the stadium a more comfortable home for players and fans. More than 56-hundred seats were also added to grow the capacity to 15-thousand.

Native Hawaiians are turning to the United Nations to help them stop the construction of a multi billion dollar telescope on the sacred mountain of Mauna Kea. The telescope, which is called the Thirty Meter Telescope, began construction in 2014 but was stopped due to a strong opposition. The petitioners against the TMT say Mauna Kea is a "sacred site of immense religious, spiritual, and cultural importance for Native Hawaiians" and argue that the construction of the large telescope goes against indigenous rights. They're criticizing Canada's involvement as one of the projects stakeholders and are asking the UN to intervene to prevent "irreparable harm to the Native Hawaiians' lands, practices and sacred sites."

A Hilo woman is being charged in connection with the abuse of a four-year-old and assault of an elderly woman in Kurtistown. Alicia Jean Nakamura was charged with several felonies and



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Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

misdemeanors including abuse of a family member. According to the complaint, Nakamura put pressure on a four-year-old throat making it hard for the child to breath. It also alleges she caused bodily harm to a person over 60 and was in possession of methamphetamine during that incident. Nakamura could face years in prison if she's convicted.

The Department of Labor recovered \$73K in back wages, damages from Hawaii food wholesaler who denied overtime pay to 11 warehouse employees. US. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division investigators found Family Food Co. failed to pay 11 warehouse workers at least time and one-half for hours over 40 in a workweek, in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Investigators determined the employer illegally gave workers the option to either clock in overtime hours worked or to accept cash payments to avoid paying taxes on those earnings. The employer also violated recordkeeping requirements by keeping inaccurate time and payroll records.

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KFMN FM96.9 / KQNG FM93.5 / KSHK FM103.1 / KSRF FM95.9 / KUAI AM570  
Local Kaua*ʻ*i News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Wednesday July 26, 2023**

Honolulu's bars and nightclubs are now required to carry the opioid reversal drug Narcan at all times. Mayor Rick Blangiardi signed a bill into law on Tuesday, making Honolulu the first major U.S. city to require Narcan in high-risk venues. It will also apply to restaurants that serve alcohol. The Honolulu Liquor Commission will be providing free starter doses of Narcan to all businesses that hold liquor licenses. Then, the city will use some of its opioid settlement money to buy businesses replacement doses.

Murder suspect Hailey Dandurand claims her ex-boyfriend is the only person responsible for brutally murdering a woman hired to clean a house on Oahu's north shore. Dandurand testified in her own defense on Tuesday. She says she thought she was also going to die on the day Telma Boinville was murdered in 2017. Dandurand says her ex-boyfriend Stephen Brown was abusive and beat her, claiming she tried to leave him three times. She says he forced her to help him kill Boinville, threatening he'd kill her if she didn't comply with his orders. Brown was convicted of the murder earlier this year and will be sentenced next month.

A new payment method for the maintenance of roads is set to be introduced to Hawaii in 2025. The plan involves charging drivers for using the state's roads. The road charge mostly targets electric vehicles as their usage has lowered the Department of Transportation's gas tax revenue. To fill the gap, electric car owners will be charged either eight-tenths of a cent per mile driven or a 50-dollar gas tax. The system is set to apply to all vehicles by 2033 to replace the gas tax.

The Honolulu City Council is considering the ultimate penalty for illegal monster homes: Demolition. That was proposed during Tuesday's meeting of the Council's Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs. The council is already discussing a bill that would penalize people for lying to city officials to get monster home plans approved. Fines and jail time are some of the possible punishments. But, the panel and members of the public who spoke at the meeting are now entertaining the idea of requiring the demolition of any monster homes discovered by the city.

The state Department of Land and Natural Resources is looking to make a yacht owner pay for damaging coral and live rock off Maui. The DLNR is proposing a 117-thousand-dollar fine, which it calls "conservative." The 94-foot yacht sunk in February, damaging Maui's Honolua-Mokuleia Bay Marine Life Conservation District. More than 16-hundred-square-feet of live rock and about 120 coral colonies were damaged. The state Board of Land and Natural Resources will consider the fine on Friday, as part of what it calls "enforcement action."

Hana Highway is back open. A portion of the highway from Alelele Bridge to Lelekea Bridge near Kipahulu had been closed for rockfall mitigation and slope stabilization work for over two months. Crews removed about 23-hundred tons of debris.

Hawaiian Airlines is reporting a 12-point-three-million-dollar loss during the second quarter of 2023. The company says it lost 24 cents per share. But, some independent estimates put the actual loss as

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Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

high as 55 cents per share. Despite the loss, Hawaiian Airlines exceeded Wall Street expectations. That's being credited in part to increased travel demand from Japan.

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2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

**Local Kauaʻi News – Thursday July 27, 2023**

The state is getting ready to collect a one dollar fee from every customer on a commercial vessel, watercraft, and from water sports equipment operators. But businesses and residents want more clarity as to what exactly the money will be going towards. As of now, The Department of Land and Natural Resources only have a vague goal of supporting marine conservation and protection efforts and the fee is set to take effect in five months. A public hearing about the fee will be held today at 5:30 p.m. for Kauaʻi – Thursday, July 27, 2023, 5:30-8:30 pm

Hawaiian Airlines is preparing to ground some of its planes on the mainland because of a jet engine recall. Manufacturer Pratt and Whitney is recalling the engines that power Airbus A321neo planes. The company recently found contamination in the metals used to make some engine parts. That means certain parts might wear out faster than expected. Hawaiian Airlines has 18 of the affected planes in its mainland fleet. The aircraft mostly serve the small to mid-size mainland west coast to Hawaii routes.

ON Oahu The ACLU is suing Honolulu in a bid to put a stop to ongoing homeless encampment sweeps. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday on behalf of five homeless people. It claims the sweeps are violating the constitution and asks a judge to end so-called "targeted enforcement and harassment." The ACLU also wants the city to stop citing and arresting homeless people, saying it is criminalizing living on the streets. The lawsuit says the sweeps and other enforcement should stop until the inventory of shelter beds and affordable housing units matches demand. The ACLU claims Oahu has 23-hundred homeless people but fewer than 50 vacancies in its shelters.

Records show Governor Josh Green stepped in and gave Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke a major financial bailout. Luke was 49-thousand-dollars in the red after choosing to give her staff big pay raises. She paid them far more than her predecessor, Governor Green. In doing so, she overspent her budget without having money to actually pay for it. Public records show, on June 30th, the last day of the previous fiscal year, Green authorized the use of general funds to cover the difference so Luke could make her payroll in time. Keeping Luke in debt would have thrown the state budget out of balance. Luke could have been exposed for a liability and eventually, removed from office.

A hearing regarding the construction of the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope has been postponed by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Members of the DLNR who were expected to be there have scheduling conflicts. A new meeting date has not been announced. The meeting, initially scheduled for tomorrow, will feature a hearing about whether construction of the telescope has officially started. The dispute centers around a provision of the Thirty Meter Telescope project's conservation district use permit. The permit was issued in 2017 and required construction to start within two years.

The Honolulu Police Department's new pickup trucks are off the road after just one month. On Tuesday, the HPD sent an internal memo to members of the department, saying the trucks are not safe for patrol work. Last month, the HPD announced it would be using a fleet of ten Chevrolet Colorados as patrol vehicles, saying they'd be used to haul evidence and do other jobs cars and

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Local Kauaī News by Wilma Lee Kapp  
2023 - Quarter 3 – July**

cruisers can't do. The trucks are now being stripped of their blue lights and will only be used as support or utility vehicles.

The average credit card debt in Hawaii is soaring. Already the second highest per borrower in the country, the average is up 14-percent from last year, just above four-thousand dollars. Alaska has the highest amount in the country, while Mississippi has the lowest. Total debt average in the state is third in the country at just over 80-thousand dollars.

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**Local Kauaʻi News – Friday July 28, 2023**

An architect is getting a lighter sentence than expected after paying more than 100-thousand-dollars in bribes to Honolulu building inspectors. On Thursday, 73-year-old William Wong was sentenced to a year in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay a five-thousand-dollar fine. Prosecutors had recommended a sentence of at least 15 months behind bars. But, Wong cooperated with FBI investigators, helping them convict five Department of Planning and Permitting inspectors who were involved in the same pay-to-play scheme.

A man accused of murdering his wife's ex-lover in Waipahu last year says he didn't do it. On Thursday, Eric Thompson took the witness stand in his own defense. Under oath, he denied killing Jon Tokuhara, whose body was found inside his acupuncture office. Thompson denied being in Waipahu the night before the body was discovered. He also denied burning evidence in his yard, claiming flames seen in surveillance footage actually came from tiki torches. Thompson's wife was a former patient of Tokuhara's. Cross-examination is expected to begin today.

The former fuel director at Red Hill is speaking out publicly for the first time. Navy Lieutenant Commander Shannon Bencs spoke in an article published today. Bencs says her superiors prevented her from reporting a fuel leak at Red Hill, and were misusing federal funds to cover it up. She says she was later silenced, sidelined, and ultimately removed from her position after speaking up. Bencs also says Red Hill's 54-million-dollar fire suppression system was never fully functional. It too eventually had a leak, spilling forever chemicals into the ground. Records show Bencs reported issues to the Navy Inspector General in February of 2021. Three months later, Red Hill experienced the first of two major fuel leaks that year.

The number of people visiting Hawaii is steadily growing. Nearly 900-thousand people came to the state in June, a five-and-a-half-percent increase from June of last year. During the month, visitors spend roughly two-billion-dollars on the Islands. Oahu experienced the highest increase in visitor arrivals and the numbers are expected to grow.

On Oahu Local outreach programs are mourning the death of yet another young homeless person in Hawaii. Acacia Brown was found injured in some bushes this week and died just a few hours later. Outreach workers with RYSE, who help homeless youth, say Brown was "vivacious" with "a lot of energy." RYSE was in the process of getting guardianship over Brown at the time of her death. The outreach program says she is the third homeless youth to die in the last four months. Anyone with information about Brown's death is asked to call Honolulu Crimestoppers.

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**Local Kaua*ʻ*i News – Monday July 31, 2023**

Our Department of Water will be holding a series of public meetings regarding the Kauai water use and development plan. Meetings will be held during August at various locations around our island.. The first meeting will be Happening Aug 10th At the Kalaheo Neighborhood Center 5pm to 7pm.

Blood bank of Hawaii will be on our island Aug. 22,23 and 24 accepting your donation of the gift of life at the Sheraton Kauai at Coconut Beach.. For more information or to make and appointment at BBH.Org

Hawaii's public schools have several safety vulnerabilities that the Department of Education is looking to address. Only 140 of the state's 258 regular public-school campuses have been formally evaluated since 2017. But, the assessments that have been conducted have found outdated door locks and campus fencing, and inconsistent security staffing, announcement systems, and threat-assessment initiatives. The DOE says these issues make schools more vulnerable and need critical attention. Campus vulnerability assessments used to be optional. But, this year, the DOE has made them mandatory. It is planning to survey all 118 remaining campuses by the end of the fiscal year in June.

It's official: a six-year-old child who disappeared almost two years ago is dead. This according to city officials in Honolulu following yesterday's circuit court ruling on the disappearance of Isabella "Ariel" Kalua, who was last seen in mid-August, 2021. Authorities say the probate court ruling clears the way for Isabella's siblings to sue the state in civil court. Meanwhile, the child's adoptive parents, Isaac and Lehua Kalua, now face murder charges for their alleged roles in her death. Their trial reportedly is set to start at the end of next month.

The National Weather Service is issuing a coastal flood statement for all Hawaiian islands. Forecasters say King Tides will bring minor coastal flooding during the afternoon peak high tides through Wednesday. Officials are warning residents to avoid driving through flooded roadways and to move cars to higher ground.

Skyline is now a month old and ridership continues to fall. Honolulu's new rail system opened on June 30th, and saw 72-thousand riders during its first five days of operation. Rides were free for those five days. The daily average has now settled in to between three thousand and four-thousand riders. For those who are riding Skyline, they're at least getting their trains on time. Officials say 98-point-five-percent of trains are arriving on schedule.

Hawaii's schools and childcare facilities are getting 184-thousand-dollars to remove lead from drinking water. That's Hawaii's share of 58-million-dollars in federal grant money, announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Schools and childcare facilities can use the funding for voluntary water testing, identifying the source of lead contamination, or to pay for remediation projects like replacing internal plumbing, lead pipes or lead connectors. Activities that remove sources of lead from drinking water are now eligible for federal funding thanks to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act.

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