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Hawaii Tribune & Herald

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

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Charting a course forward

Lawmakers considering bailout measures for Young Brothers

By CHELSEA JENSEN West Hawaii Today

As the investigation continued Tuesday into the loss of cargo containers from a Young Brothers barge on its way to Hilo Harbor, so did efforts to keep the

120-year-old shipper afloat.

The container mishap occurred about a month after the interisland shipper notified the state on May 26 that it needed \$25 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds

• Find more about the investigation into the 21 shipping containers that fell off a Young Brothers barge last week. A6

and other relief to stay afloat through the end of the year.

Without a bailout, the company said it would have

to maintain a now-extended reduced sailing schedule and make additional cuts. Since then, no additional cuts have been made and the company deferred suspending less-than-container load, or LCL, and mixed cargo and changed Hilo barge service

back to Monday after receiving community feedback.

The Public Utilities Commission subsequently opened an emergency investigative proceeding into the matter and has yet to issue a report on the request after grilling Young Brothers and executive leadership, including

See YOUNG BROTHERS Page A6



Volunteers load food into cars during The Food Basket's Ohana Food Drop on June 26 in Honokaa. Volunteers were able to give thousands of meals to people in need.

'Residents feeding residents'

Ohana Food Drops continue to serve those in need during pandemic

By KELSEY WALLING Hawaii Tribune-Herald

ehua Street in Honokaa was packed Friday afternoon with cars on their way

to pick up food during The Food Basket's Ohana Food Drop event. Ohana Food Drop

donors along with The Food Basket, CMU 'Ohana, Hilo Fish Co. and Kona Fish Co.

gave a couple of thousand meals to Hawaii Island residents in line around

• Parker Ranch donates 6,000 pounds of beef for upcoming Ohana Food Drop in Waimea. A9

the Honokaa Sports Complex and Skate Park.

The Food Basket, Hawaii Island's food bank, has provided meals to island residents during the

COVID-19 pandemic and has not been slowing down.

"We're doing about 14 food drops a month," said The Food Basket Executive Director Kristin Frost Albrecht. "People began lining up for this 1 p.m. food drop at about 8 a.m."

See OHANA Page A8

St. Joseph prepares for 2020-21 academic year

Financially strapped Catholic school expects some changes

> By STEPHANIE SALMONS Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Changes continue at St. Joseph School as administrators prepare for the upcoming school year.

The 151-year-old school announced in June it would remain open for the 2020-21 academic year after facing the prospect of closure. Community members rallied to raise nearly \$500,000 to keep the school open.

Next year's curriculum is "solid," said interim principal Susan Wehrsig, adding that

See ST. JOSEPH Page A7



The St. Joseph School marquee sign thanks the community for its support. St. Joseph School faces more changes after raising nearly \$500,000 to remain open for the 2020-21 school year.

Three ex-guards indicted

Former HCCC officers charged in 2015 beating of former inmate

> By JOHN BURNETT Hawaii Tribune-Herald

A federal grand jury indicted three former guards at Hawaii Community Correctional Center for allegedly assaulting an inmate housed at the Hilo jail and attempting to cover up their misconduct.

Jason Tagaloa, 29; Craig Pinkney, 36; and Jonathan Taum, 48, are scheduled for arraignment and plea before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kenneth J. Mansfield at 9:30 a.m. today in U.S. District Court in Honolulu. Those hearings will be conducted by phone because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three are charged in the six-count indictment with two counts of deprivation of rights under color of law, conspiracy to obstruct justice and three counts of obstruction by false report.

Maximum penalties are 20 years imprisonment for each

See INDICTED Page A7

Kaleikini gets tepid endorsement

By NANCY COOK LAUER West Hawaii Today

After grilling Michael Kaleikini for about an hour, the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee on Tuesday agreed to recommend his confirmation to the Hawaiian

Homes Commission to the full Senate. The East Hawaii seat, one of two commission

seats on the island, sat vacant for more than a year before Gov. David Ige selected Kaleikini for an interim position six months ago.

See KALEIKINI Page A8

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From the

Associated Press

News briefs

Reiner, comedy's rare untortured genius, dies

NEW YORK — No one in the world of comedy was more admired, and loved, than Carl Reiner.

Reiner was the rare untortured genius of comedy, his career a story of laughter and camaraderie, of innovation and triumph and affection. His persona was so warm and approachable — everyone's friend or favorite uncle — that you could forget he was an architect of modern comedy, a "North Star," in the words of Billy Crystal.

As a writer and director, he mastered a genial, but sophisticated brand of humor that Steve Martin, Jerry Seinfeld

and others emulated. As an actor, he was the ideal straight man for such manic performers as Mel Brooks and Sid Caesar and dependably funny on his own. As an all-around talent, he helped perfect two standard television formats sketch and situation comedy.

Reiner's death Monday at the age of 98 from natural causes prompted an outpouring from those he inspired, a group that included Brooks, Dick Van Dyke, George Clooney, Billy Eichner and millions more.

Tall and agile, equally striking whether bald or toupeed, he entertained in every medium available to him, from movies and vinyl records to Broadway and Twitter. But he will be remembered best for "The Dick Van Dyke Show," the landmark series that aired from 1961-66.

GOP, with exception of Trump, now pushes mask-wearing

WASHINGTON — In Republican circles — with the notable exception of the man who leads the party — the debate about masks is over: It's time to put one on.

As a surge of infections hammers the South and West, GOP officials are pushing back against the notion that masks are about politics, as President Donald Trump suggests, and telling Americans they can help save lives.

Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee Republican, on

Tuesday bluntly called on Trump to start wearing a mask, at least some of the time, to set a good example.

"Unfortunately, this simple, lifesaving practice has become part of a political debate that says: If you're for Trump, you don't wear a mask. If you're against Trump, you do," Alexander said.

It's a rare break for

Republicans from Trump, who earlier this month told the Wall Street Journal that some people wear masks simply to show they disapprove of him. And the Republican nudges for the public — and the president to embrace mask-wearing are coming from all corners of Trump's party and even from friendly conservative media.

Stocks close out best quarter since 1998 with more gains

Wall Street capped its best quarter since 1998 Tuesday with more gains, a fitting end to a stunning three months for investors as the market screamed back toward its record heights after a torrid plunge.

The S&P 500 climbed 1.5%, bringing its gain for the quarter to nearly 20%. That rebound followed a 20% drop in the first three months of the year, the market's worst quarter since the 2008 financial crisis. The plunge came as the coronavirus pandemic ground the economy to a halt and millions of people lost their jobs.

Obituaries

Anthony James Badon, 75, of Kawaihae died April 27 at The Queen's Medical Center in Honolulu. He was born in Pepeekeo. Celebration of life at a later date. Survived by wife, Colleen Badon of Kawaihae; sons, Ronnie (Katie) Vesperas of Oahu, Tony (Marycel) Badon of Waikoloa, Dori Vesperas of Las Vegas and Chad (Ti) Badon of Waimea; daughters, Toni Ann (David) Souza of Oahu and Sara Badon of Honokaa; stepdaughters, Jennie K. Perreira of Kawaihae and Jeanise K. Miller of Waimea; sis-Alvera Casequit of Pepeekeo, Claudette (Lary) Moreno of Hilo and Melanie Kagawa of Waimea; brothers, Guy (Sabrina) Badon and Wallace Badon of Orchidland Estates, Alan (Agnes) Kagawa of Kona; nieces and

nephews. Arrangements by Nuuanu Memorial Park and Mortuary.

Barbara Kamanu Kaheiki Kekaualua, 84, of Hilo died April 10 at Hawaii Care Choices Pohai Malama Care Center. Born in Pumaile. she was a factory worker for the former Mr. Papaya member of Ahahui Ka'ahumanu Helu 'Ekolu and owner/president of Hui Wa'a O Waiakea Canoe Club. Private services held. Survived by sons, Bobby (Anna) Kekaualua of Kona, Ira Erica) Kekaualua Jr. and Dru (Marlo) Kekaualua of Hilo, Hidey (Cheyenne) Kekaualua of Maui; daughters, Nani Kekaualua-Roan, Lisa (David) Kekaualua Gail Medeiros, Momi (Leighton) Leopoldino, Nami (Robert) Manu Kekaualua and

(Ryan) Kekaualua of Hilo, Fanny (Bruce) Hashimoto of Kona; brothers, Francis V.K. (O'Tillie) Kaheiki of Tacoma, Wash., George O.K. (Kathleen) Kaheiki Sr. of Hilo and Steven M. Wash., Kaheiki of California; sisters, Rose Marie Chu and Gina Lei (Charles) Mahoe Jr. of California, Bernadette K. Roberts and Jeraldine K. Spencer of Hilo; hanai daughter, Kandi (Gary) Nakamoto of Kona; brotherin-law. Genny (Sheila) Kekaualua of Hilo; sistersin-law, Beverly Puanani "nt Pua" (Everett) Crumb, Robyn (Nixon) Pacheco and Leimomi Kekaualua of Hilo, Ramona L. Kaheiki of Tacoma, Stella Kekaualua-Newman of Hement, Calif., and Evangeline "Honey" Kekaualua of Georgia; 53 grandchildren, 80 greatgrandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren; aunts; nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Dodo Mortuary.

Janet Kinue Murakami, 91, of Honokaa died April 11 at home. Born in Honokaa. she was retired from the former Honokaa Hospital, past president and mem-ber of Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Women's Association, member of Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and Honokaa Seniors Club, organizer for Honokaa Hongwanji Obon Festival recipient of the 2015 Hawaii County Outstanding Older American Female Award, previous member of the Honokaa Hongwanji New Dharma Band, hula sister with Halau Manu Lea Hawaii and past volunteer for the

WEATHER

North Hawaii Hospice program. Memorial services at a later date at Honokaa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Survived by husband, Kiyoshi Murakami of Honokaa; son, Wesley (Debbie) Murakami of Waimea; daughter, Wendy (John "Beau" Schneider) Murakami of Monson, Mass.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Dodo Mortuary.

Maureen E.P. "Chickadee" Paradis, 83, of Hilo died June 16 at Legacy Hilo Rehabilitation & Nursing Center. Born in Honolulu, she was a school bus aide for Laupahoehoe Transit Co. Celebration of life at a later date. Survived by seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-

grandchild. Arrangements by Dodo Mortuary.

Robert Sanborn Jr., 83 of Kailua-Kona died May 13 at Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center in Honolulu. Born in Pahala, he was a retired county construction inspector and member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Kailua-Kona. Private services at a later date. Survived by wife, Doris Kuulei Sanborn of Kailua-Kona; daughters, Arline "Cookie" (Wayne) Kabasawa of Mountain View and Robin (Red Gordon) Sanborn-Dant of Kailua-Kona; sisters, Harriet Sanborn of Bentonia, Miss., Lehua Leroux of Ventura, Calif., and Calif., and Leilani Hill of Merlin, Ore.; a granddaughter; numerous nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Nuuanu Memorial Park and Mortuary.

STOCKS Market watch Dow Jones 217.08 industrials Nasdaq 184.61 composite 10,058.76 Standard & 47.05 Poor's 500 3,100.29 Russell 20.16 1,441.37 **NYSE** diary 1,750 Declined: 878 Unchanged: 51 Volume: 4.4 b Nasdaq diary Advanced: 2,079 Declined: 969 Unchanged: 140 Volume: 4.3 b ΑP

TODAY clouds and sun 85 Winds: NE 7-14 mph UV Index: 7 **ALMANAC** Hilo through 1 p.m. Tue.

Temperature

Normal high

Record high

Tuesday Month to date

Year to date

Precipitation (in inches)

Normal month to date 7.37"

Normal year to date 59.66"

High

TONIGHT Partly cloudy with a 71 Winds: WNW 4-8 mph **HILO TIDES** DAY

Thursday 12:07a 1.5

2:05p 2.9

THURSDAY'S TIDES

LOCATION HIGH LOW HIGH LOW

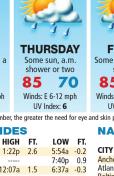
Kailua Kona 12:45a 7:14a 2:43p 9:11p Kaneohe 1:38p 6:01a 11:12p 8:22p Kawaihae 1:22a 7:13a 2:43p 9:53p

 Kealakekua
 12:55a
 7:24a
 2:53p
 9:21p

 Nawiliwili
 12:41a
 6:51a
 2:39p
 9:48p

12:18a 5:05a 1:44p 7:53p

5-Day Forecast for Hilo



8:34p 0.8



Baltimore

Boston

Chicago

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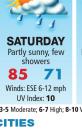
Denver Detroit

Honolulu

Houston

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Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice



69/56/s 88/72/pc 90/71/s

82/70/pd

90/70/p

86/66/9

99/78/s 94/60/pc 92/69/s 89/74/s

96/75/pc

90/69/p

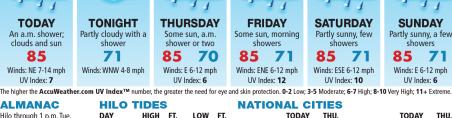
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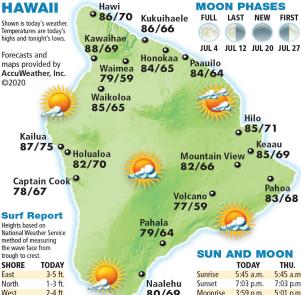
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Winds: E 6-12 mph

CITY	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Las Vegas	99/76/s	101/78/s
Los Angeles	79/61/pc	79/59/pc
Miami	95/79/s	95/79/pc
Minneapolis	86/70/t	91/72/c
New Orleans	93/77/pc	94/79/c
New York	80/69/t	88/73/pc
Omaha	88/72/c	92/72/s
Philadelphia	83/70/t	90/73/s
Phoenix	104/83/s	103/84/pc
Salt Lake City	86/61/s	90/70/s
San Francisco	71/55/pc	72/55/pc
Seattle	66/54/c	68/53/pc
Wash., DC	88/72/t	90/75/pc





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Sunbelt states rush to line up hospital beds, not barstools

By TAMARA LUSH and JOHN SEEWER **Associated Press**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. -Florida and other states throughout the Sunbelt are thinning out the deck chairs, turning over the barstools and rushing to line up more hospital beds as they head into the height of the summer season amid a startling surge in confirmed cases of the coronavirus.

With newly reported infections running about 40,000 a day in the U.S., Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, warned Tuesday that the number could rocket to 100,000 if Americans don't start following public health recommendations.

During the past few days, states such as Florida, Arizona, Texas and California reversed course, closing or otherwise clamping down on bars, shutting beaches, rolling back restaurant capacity, putting limits on crowds at pools or taking other steps to curb a scourge that might be thriving because of such factors as air conditioning and resistance to wearing masks.

"Any time you have these reopenings, you're depending on people to do the right things, to follow the rules. I think that's where the weak spots come in," said Dr. Cindy Prins, a University



Associated Press

Two men drink beer Monday at the Mike Hess brewery and tasting room in San Diego. Public health officials announced Monday that all bars, wineries and breweries without restaurants in San Diego County must close July 1.

of Florida epidemiologist. She warned that things are likely to get worse before they get better.

Hospitals in the new hot spots are already stretched nearly to the limit and scrambling to add intensive care unit beds for an expected surge in COVID-19 cases in the coming weeks.

Newly confirmed cases in Florida spiked during the past week, especially in younger people, who might be more likely to survive the virus but can spread it to the Sunshine State's many vulnerable older residents.

The state reported more than 6,000 new confirmed cases Tuesday. More than 8,000

were recorded on each of three days late last week. Deaths have climbed past 3,500.

Hospital ICUs are starting to fill up in South Florida, with a steadily increasing number of patients requiring ventilators. Miami's Baptist Hospital had only six of its 82 ICU beds available, officials said.

In hard-hit Arizona, hospitals are looking for ways to cram more beds into their facilities and hiring out-of-state nurses. State officials authorized "crisis standards of care," telling hospitals which patients should get a ventilator or other scarce resources if there is a shortage.

Oahu maintains rental restrictions

HONOLULU — As other Hawaii counties prepare to loosen restrictions on vacation rentals in anticipation of the reopening of trans-Pacific tourism, Oahu rentals remain under health restrictions imposed at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell's emergency orders prohibit Oahu's vacation rentals from operating as essential businesses.

"Illegal rentals remain a problem on Oahu," said Caldwell, who wants to determine the impact of modifying quarantine rules for visitors from outside the state before agreeing to lift the rental restriction.

"I would not want to see violators in our communities, where it is more difficult to monitor them," he said.

The mayors of Kauai, the Big Island and Maui temporarily shuttered vacation rentals because of the pandemic. But they began allowing legal vacation rentals to reopen June 16 for guests who no longer have to undergo quarantine.

The timing coincided with Gov. David Ige lifting a mandatory 14-day quarantine for interisland passengers.

A 14-day quarantine for out-of-state passengers remains in effect through July 31, and Ige is expected to extend the rule. Yet passengers with approved negative COVID-19 tests taken within 72 hours of their departure for Hawaii can bypass the quarantine beginning Aug. 1.

Larry Bartley of Save Oahu's Neighborhoods said he has received comments from residents about illegal vacation rentals filling up again and that some tourists staying in the units are not following quarantine rules.

Andreea Grigore, vice president of



Hawaii Tribune-Herald

From the Associated Press

property management for Elite Pacific Properties, said vacation rentals are not being treated equally with other businesses in the accommodations sector.

EPA fines state library system \$144K

HONOLULU — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assessed nearly \$144,000 in penalties against the Hawaii State Public Library System for continued use of large-capacity cesspools.

The library system is seeking authority from state lawmakers to pay the penalties for using the cesspools.

Large-capacity cesspools were banned in 2005 under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. More than 3,600 large-capacity cesspools in Hawaii have been closed since then, although the EPA said hundreds more remain in operation.

Mallory Fujitani, special assistant to State Librarian Stacey Aldrich, said the office first learned about the illegal cesspools in 2017 when an EPA inspector visited the Waialua Public Library on Oahu.

The same inspector visited the Kealakekua Public Library on Hawaii Island later that year and identified prohibited cesspools at both facilities.

The library system set aside health and safety funding to begin planning and design work to close out the cesspools and replace them with legally allowable wastewater systems, Fujitani said.

Construction bids were opened in late May, but Fuiitani declined to say how much the work will cost because the contract has not been finalized.

Police say missing kids' mom helped keep their bodies hidden allegations and that if

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Prosecutors say the mother of two children who were found dead in rural Idaho months after they vanished in a bizarre case that captured worldwide attention had conspired with her new husband to hide or destroy the kids' bodies. The

new felony charges against Lori



Vallow Daybell came late Monday, the latest twist in a case tied to the mysterious deaths of the

couple's former spouses and their beliefs about zombies and the apocalypse that might have affected their actions.

A judge set Daybell's bail at \$1 million during her first court appearance on the new felony charges Tuesday.

The judge asked if she understood the

eyes occasionally with a tissue, answered "yes." Daybell is already charged with abandoning or deserting 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and 17-year-old Tylee Ryan, but because police found their remains buried in her husband's yard, it's not clear if those allegations will stand. She's also charged with

convicted she could

be sentenced to up to

10 years behind bars.

Daybell, who wiped her

obstructing a police investigation, asking a friend to lie to police on her behalf and contempt of court for failing to follow a order

to produce the kids.

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR NAOMI MASUNO



Naomi Masuno **Rotary International District Governor** 2020-2021

Since 1915, when Rotary International established clubs in Hawaii, Rotarians have celebrated accomplishments and leadership changes with great fanfare and aplomb.

This year, Rotarians throughout the islands acknowledge District 5000 Governor Naomi Masuno as she takes the mantle from Eric Kaler. Naomi is a member of the Rotary Club of West Honolulu; having served as Club President in 2006-2007.

Recently retired after more than thirty years in the banking industry, she has set her sights on opening opportunities for local and global service to all.

Hawaii's Rotary Clubs support a wide variety of initiatives throughout communities on Kauai, Maui, Hawaii Island, Lanai and Oahu. Rotary is looking to share our message of "Service Above Self" on Molokai and in communities that do not yet have a Rotary Club. Offering numerous formats and opportunities, each club develops their own character, focus, and service goals (local and global). So, whether you live, work, or play in Hanalei Bay, Hilo, Lanai City or Mililani; have a passion to address food insecurity, environmental issues, literacy or scholarships, Rotary has a home and a family for you. And it is not all work and no play...we have fun too!

To find out more about Rotary International, visit: www.Rotary.org. To learn about Rotary District 5000, visit: www.RotaryD5000.org.

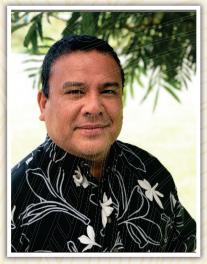




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■ Their View

Beware campaign apps

odern political campaigning requires innovative tools and technology to facilitate canvassing, phone banking and other outreach.

But the 2020 campaign apps released by President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden far exceed political organizing, instead exploiting careless users for valuable data.

Jacob Gursky and Samuel Woolley, researchers from the University of Texas, analyzed both campaign apps to see how they requested and collected user data. The findings, published in MIT Technology Review, speak to the importance of data collection and targeted messaging, and what lengths campaigns will now go to in order to reach an audience.

While the 2016 election was defined in part by data collection through Facebook — the Trump campaign was able to acquire psychological profiles of more than 230 million Americans, compiled using Facebook data, from Cambridge Analytica — public concerns about election integrity and security shifted the battlefield to mobile apps. But this change has seemingly only emboldened campaigns to vacuum up more information.

According to Gursky and Woolley, the Trump and Biden apps both want to collect as much information about the phone contacts of a user as possible. Names and phone numbers are then cross-referenced with party voter files, and people are then targeted by the campaign with messages and advertising.

The Trump app takes things a step further, as its app makes extensive permission requests that grant it access to users' location data, phone identity and control of a phone's Bluetooth capabilities.

The Bluetooth control is particularly insidious, as it allows for data capture and targeted advertising as people travel through a physical space.

Campaigns have experimented with placing Bluetooth beacons near important congregation spaces, such as churches, or even in campaign yard signs. Any time a person with Bluetooth activated passes by one of these beacons, their data is recorded and a digital data profile begins to grow.

These profiles, as 2016 proved, can provide campaigns critical information to reach voters with highly targeted messaging.

And, unlike on Facebook and other social media websites, where data collection was not always adequately labeled for users, apps are required to make their permissions requests known upfront. This means the hundreds of thousands of people who already downloaded the Trump and Biden campaign apps legally consented to these intrusions.

This speaks to a larger issue of carelessness surrounding digital data.

The fallout surrounding Facebook and its data collection did little to make people more thoughtful about what information they consent to sharing online and with whom.

So before downloading the Trump or Biden apps
— or any other app, for that matter — take a moment to examine what exactly you are signing up for and consider if the intrusion in your life is worth the cost of admission.

— Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Your Views

Abuse of power

This is regarding "An opportunity to regulate" in the June 26 Tribune-Herald.

In the course of our history, there have always been excuses to sidestep the constitutional rights of the governed by those who govern and "know better."

We citizens of Hawaii appear to be in one of those phases now.

We need a new name for our legislators, state and local. I suggest GESTAPO. **Bernard M. Geiger**

H

'Redeeming hope'

Growing up, the red, white and blue "Stars and Stripes" were adorned with patriotic well-being. Causing conflicting emotions today, the beloved American flag can be a painful reminder of Hawaii's illegal overthrow.

One day, justice will be done. Until then, Queen Lili'uokalani's desire for forgiveness and love continues in the aloha spirit.

Touring through Glacier National Park with a Native American guide, it included driving past a vast development of veteran housing. Inquiring at the high percentage of vets, with pride the man explained how the Blackfeet perpetuate their warring cultural heritage by serving in the U.S. military.

Meeting two fun-loving young women on a Maui flight, our friendship began. Originally from East Turkistan, a country illegally annexed by China, they are Muslim Uyghur refugees seeking asylum in the United States.

Months later on a visit to Washington, D.C., we reunited. Meeting one of them at Arlington National Cemetery, she wore a red shirt with an American flag on it "to honor the veterans," she said.

Hours later in the August heat, surrounded by acres of grave markers, I complained of thirst, bemoaning the lack of water to drink. Immediately my young Uyghur companion responded with an incredible insight.

She suggested it was good we were suffering. The

deprivation and discomfort would make us more appreciative of the sacrifices made for our country's freedom.

Just like every one of us, the United States has its faults and failures. Yet, as demonstrated by these oppressed and persecuted individuals, there is redeeming hope.

Michele Lincoln Lahaina, Maui

The Tribune-Herald welcomes letters from readers. Letters can be emailed to letters@hawaiitribune-herald.com, or mailed to Your Views, c/o Hawaii Tribune-Herald, P.O. Box 767, Hilo, HI 96721. Letters must include your name, phone number (which won't be published), and your town. Letters should be no longer than 300 words; shorter, emailed letters are preferred. Letters may be edited for grammar, length, clarity and taste.

Could America's pandemic response be any more medieval?

ASHINGTON — Sen. Rand Paul doesn't much care what Anthony Fauci has to say. The Kentucky Republican gets his public health advice from Friedrich Hayek.

Hayek, the Austrian-born economist and libertarian hero, died in 1992. But Paul, an ophthalmologist before he took up politics, still takes medical guidance from the 20th-century philosopher.

"Hayek had it right!" Paul proclaimed during Tuesday's Senate health committee hearing on the coronavirus pandemic. "Only decentralized power and decision-making based on millions of individualized situations can arrive at what risks and behaviors each individual should choose."

Paul focused his wrath on Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease official.

"Virtually every day
we seem to hear from you
things we can't do," Paul
complained. "All I hear is,
we can't do this, we can't do
that, we can't play baseball."

Fauci assured Paul that "I never said we can't play a certain sport."

Unsatisfied, Paul demanded: "We just need more optimism."

So that's what we need.
The United States is
hitting new records for
infection, largely because
President Donald Trump and
allied governors throughout
the South and Southwest
ignored public health guidance. While other countries



Dana Milbank

beat back the virus, we're on course to have 100,000 new cases a day, Fauci said, and doing little about it.

But we just need to be more upbeat!

Not for the first time, it feels as though 21st-century America is 14th-century Europe, reacting with all manner of useless countermeasures to the plague: balancing ill "humors" and dispelling evil "vapors" caused by planetary misalignment, religious marches and public self-flagellation, cures involving live chickens and unicorns and the wearing of amulets and reciting of "abracadabra."

Now, we have science to tell us how to beat the coronavirus — with face masks and social distancing. Yet our response is resolutely medieval.

The president ridicules mask wearing as politically correct and unmanly. His campaign staff tears down social distancing signs at his mass rally. Governors of hard-hit states tamper with data, sideline public health experts and blame the spread on Latino farmworkers, civil rights demonstrations and increased testing — anything

but their reckless and premature relaxing of restrictions.

And then there's Vice President Mike Pence, leader of the White House coronavirus task force.

"I'd just encourage every American to continue to pray," he said during Friday's task force briefing.

I'm all for prayer. But prayer without face masks won't defeat the virus.

"The attitude of pushing back from authority and pushing back on scientific data is very concerning," Fauci told senators Tuesday, bemoaning a "lack of trust" in government. "We're in the middle of a catastrophic outbreak and we really do need to be guided by scientific principles."

Belatedly, more than a dozen states paused or scaled back their rash plans to reopen without heeding public health guidance. But we still have the White House proclaiming "remarkable progress" against the pandemic because the latest victims are younger — as though they won't infect the old and the sick.

Trump insists he wasn't joking when he said he told health officials to "slow the testing down" to suppress the number of reported cases. He's proceeding with plans for an in-person, mask-optional convention in Florida, now a virus hot spot.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis blames street protests (even though New York, Washington and Minneapolis experienced no such surge in cases) and "overwhelmingly Hispanic" workers, and as cases spiked last week, he claimed "nothing has changed." Like other GOP governors and the Trump administration, he also blames an increase in testing — which doesn't explain the

higher rate of positive tests.

Pence, too, rejects the obvious conclusion that "the reopening has to do with what we're seeing" in the viral spread. (It's the evil vapors!) He said Sunday that it's a "good idea" to wear face masks — just after attending a church event at which half the 2,200 people, including the choir, eschewed masks.

During Tuesday's committee hearing, Chairman Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., who is retiring, urged Trump to "occasionally wear a mask" so his admirers "would follow his lead and help end this political debate."

Paul, citing the successful reopening of schools in Europe, demanded U.S. schools reopen (ignoring that Europe has contained the virus). Invoking the superiority of Hayek's theories to the findings of public health officials, Paul said "we shouldn't presume that a group of experts somehow knows what's best."

Hayek must be right. After all, he never got COVID-19.

Dana Milbank is a columnist for The Washington Post whose work appears regularly in the Tribune-Herald. Email him at danamilbank@washpost.com. ©2020, Washington Post Writers Group.

Doonesbury Classics









Homeless encampment fire closes Singing Bridge overnight

By JOHN BURNETT Hawaii Tribune-Herald

A fire that destroyed a homeless encampment caused only about \$200 in damage, according to the Hawaii Fire Department, but it shut down the Singing Bridge, the main northern entrance to and exit from Hilo, overnight on Monday.

Six units responded to the 7:53 p.m. alarm of smoke coming through the metallic link roadway of the bridge on Highway 19 at the mouth of the Wailuku River. According to a written Hawaii Fire Department statement, the first firefighters arrived five minutes later and found the burning encampment beneath the asphalt decking on the north approach of the bridge.

The fire, according to the statement, consumed a number of items, including cooking items and a magnesium motorcycle engine, which could not be extinguished by water, and firefighters from Central and Kaumana fire stations extinguished the fire using foam and water.

The fire was reported under control at 8:13 p.m. and extinguished at 8:47 p.m.

None of the items involved in the fire were deemed salvageable. There were no reported injuries and no occupants on scene.

While the fire was extinguished in less than an hour, the state Department of Transportation responded to the scene and assessed damage to the bridge.

The bridge remained closed about 12 hours, until the bridge was deemed safe to drive on, and traffic in and out of Hilo was rerouted via Wainaku Street. It was reopened for traffic in both



KELSEY WALLING/Tribune-Herald

Remnants of a fire lay beneath the Singing Bridge on Tuesday in Hilo.

directions at about 8 a.m. Tuesday. East Hawaii firefighters also responded to at least two other fires Monday, both in Puna.

A unoccupied house on Akeakamai Loop in Pahoa village was destroyed by fire Monday night.

Six units, from Pahoa, Hawaiian Paradise Park and Keaau, responded to the 7:03 p.m. alarm, with the first unit arriving 13 minutes later. Firefighters found the single-story structure collapsed prior to their arrival.

The fire was reported under control by 7:22 p.m. and extinguished at 7:50 p.m. No injuries were reported and property damage was estimated at \$82,500.

The scene was turned over to the HFD fire investigator and police for investigation.

And an early afternoon brush fire in the Nanawale Cove area off Government Beach Road in Pahoa required water drops from a county helicopter and the closure of the road itself.

Five units, including the helicopter, responded to the 1:07 p.m. alarm to a 150-footby-250-foot area of ironwood trees, stumps and pine needles.

While the fire area was relatively small, challenges for firefighters included the remoteness of the area, with lack of vehicular access, uneven terrain, large cracks in the ground and the thickness of the brush.

About 1,000 feet of hose line was laid through the area for ground operations while the helicopter water drops were being performed.

The fire was reported under control at 3:30 p.m. but hot spots continued through the night and firefighters remained on scene to monitor the smoldering area so operations could resume at daylight.

The East Hawaii Fire Battalion Chief didn't immediately return a phone call, so there's no updated status on the Puna brush fire.

Email John Burnett at jburnett@ hawaiitribune-herald.com.

■ In brief

18 new COVID-19 cases in Hawaii, none on Big Island

Department of Health reported 18 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday, bringing the statewide total to 917, as one Oahu case was removed from the count as a result of updated information.

The new cases today include 15 on Oahu, one each on Maui and Kauai and one pending island of residency.

Of the cases statewide, 652 are in the City and County of Honolulu, 123 in Maui County, 87 in

Hawaii County and 38 in Kauai County.

There are currently three active cases

on Hawaii Island. Sixteen cases are residents diagnosed outside of Hawaii.

The statewide death toll from coronavirus-related illness is 18, all on Oahu or Maui.

The number of statewide cases requiring hospitalization is 113.

There have been 736 cases statewide that have been released from isolation as recovered, according to DOH.

Load restriction at sort station continues through September

The East Hawaii Regional Sort Station will continue to limit the amount of commercial waste hauled in at once through the end of September.

Businesses hauling commercially generated waste are required to limit their load sizes to 5 cubic yards until the end of September, although that restriction could end earlier depending on circumstances.

The county Department of Environmental Management advised customers that 5 cubic yards is roughly equivalent to a full-length pickup truck bed filled to the top of the cab.

Businesses hauling residential waste can continue to do so from 7 a.m.-4:15 p.m. daily at the sort station, which is located at the South Hilo Sanitary Landfill.



Big Island Report

Citizens arrested and charged

Big Island police arrested and charged the following individuals:

- Victor Avery, 58, of Kailua-Kona with two counts of violating terms of release.
- Brandallyn Breedlove Mason, 47, of Hilo with assault and disorderly conduct.
- Bryson Keith Ikaika Hoohuli, 33, of Keaau with violating probation and contempt of court.
- Jonathan A. Webman, 53, of Hilo with disorderly conduct.
- Jesse Travis Ralston, 30, of Kailua-Kona with methamphetamine and marijuana possession.
- Richard Wayne Ganigan, 50, of Hilo with harassment.
- Alysha Puanani Aloha Sizar-Valenzuela, 38, of Pahoa with two counts of contempt
- Leah Susanna Burns, 40, of Ocean View with contempt of court.
- Westly Keao Alapai, 50, of Kailua-Kona with failure to appear.
- Katherine Marie Leilani McAtee,
- 35, of Hilo with contempt of court.

Contempt of court typically means failing to comply with a judge's order, such as paying a fine or appearing at a court proceeding. Failure to appear means not showing up in court on the date written on a traffic citation.

Man who calls police arrested on firearms, drug charges

WAMAR

DE PONTE

Police arrested and charged a 28-year-old Mountain View man with numerous firearms and drug offenses stemming from

an alleged incident Friday morning at a Hawaiian Paradise Park home.

The suspect was identified as Joshua Rylan Wamar De Ponte.

Police say officers responded shortly after 7 a.m. Friday to a 31st Avenue and reported he was floor of his vehicle and arrested him.

residence in HPP after Wamar De Ponte called them threatened by two men. Police said responding officers saw a sawed-off shotgun on the

According to

the home told officers she was a former girlfriend of Wamar De Ponte and that he arrived at the house that morning

police, a woman at

her and others with a rifle. A search warrant on the vehicle

and threatened

turned up the shotgun, which was report-

ed stolen, almost 4 grams of methamphetamine and numerous prescription pills, police said. Wamar De Ponte

was charged with four firearms offenses, two counts of terroristic threatening, plus first-degree theft, methamphetamine possession and fourth-degree promotion of a harmful drug.

His bail was set at \$106,000.

Police: 16-year-old runaway found

Police report that 16-year-old Chloe Imaino, previously reported as a runaway, was found in good health Saturday in Hilo.

12 of 21 shipping containers still missing ashore at Onomea Beach, but it was terminal operations Chris Martin.

By MICHAEL BRESTOVANSKY Hawaii Tribune-Herald

More than half of the containers that fell from a Young Brothers barge north of Hilo last week remain unaccounted for and another sunk as the investigation into the incident continues.

The U.S. Coast Guard reported Tuesday that 12 of the 21 shipping containers that fell from the Ho'omaka Hou while en route to Hilo Harbor from Honolulu last week have still not been located.

Chief Petty Officer Sara Muir with the U.S. Coast Guard 14th District's public affairs office said located since nine were found adrift in the sea the day of the incident. Only eight of those containers have been salvaged: one of them

sank in the waters north of Hilo. Another container washed

sent back out to sea and towed to Hilo Harbor, where it was pulled from the water along with the other seven accounted for containers.

As for the barge itself, the remaining cargo on the Ho'omaka Hou has since been removed and the vessel was reloaded last week, Muir said. It returned to Honolulu during the weekend without incident, but Young Brothers and the Coast Guard will assess possible damage to the barge.

The cause of the incident, however, remains under investigation, Muir said.

Young Brothers did not confirm the contents of the sunken con tainer Tuesday nor did it respond to questions about the cost of retrieving the eight containers so far. The shipping company's only response Tuesday was a statement by Young Brothers director of

"We continue to work closely with state and federal authorities to determine the cause of the first loss of containers overboard in more than 20 years, and we look forward to sharing more information at the conclusion of the investigation," Martin's statement read. "Young Brothers remains committed to connecting our island communities with reliable service and moving what matters most to

Hawaii as safely as possible." Muir said the National Transportation Safety Board is also involved in the investigation, adding that the NTSB's involve-'routine" like this. The NTSB and Coast Guard will publish their findings independently of each other.

Email Michael Brestovansky at mbrestovansky@ hawaiitribune-herald.com.

YOUNG BROTHERS From the front page

president Jay Ana,

on June 10. Meanwhile, the state House Committee on Finance on Tuesday deferred decision on a gut-and-replace bill that as currently written would allow for loans to water carriers to "address the impacts of the coronavirus 2019 disease pandemic and offset certain costs incurred."

They continue to struggle trying to figure out an approach whether DOT is the right approach, PUC proceeding is the right approach – so at this point in time, this measure will be deferred," said Finance Chairwoman Sylvia Luke on Tuesday afternoon.

Senate Bill 1427 would permit the PUC to exempt a water carrier from the Hawaii Water Carrier Act in the "public interest," authorize the state Department of Transportation to enter into a loan contract using Harbors Special Funds and temporarily authorize the DOT ratemaking authority for water carriers.

Among the provisions are that loans not exceed more than \$3 million per month and the aggregate total of all loans not exceed \$20 million in a 12-month period. The proposal also calls for the loan recipient to repay all loans plus a "reasonable rate of interest."

Further, any loan contract entered into would require Young Brothers to resume the number of port calls it serviced on Jan. 1, prior to the modified sailing schedule implemented. Further, transport of LCL cargo to or from Lanai and Molokai must continue and negotiations be made in good faith with agriculture or livestock entities or business to set standards for the interisland shipment of livestock.

Ana said Tuesday that the company "appreciates the thoughtful solutions proposed by the state House of Representatives."

We look forward to continuing the productive dialogue about weathering these challenging times and charting a

sustainable course for the future," he said.

Another bill in the Legislature, House Bill 2475, would provide subsidies to cargo carriers to offset costs incurred by providing services to ports on the neighbor island counties.

It would also authorize the PUC to appoint a receiver for a failing carrier services" and permit the PUC to authorize new water carriers to enter service in Hawaii.

Committee, before passing the measure June 24, amended the bill to allow the DOT to provide subsidies to cargo carriers. It is now awaiting a hearing before the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

In other Young Brothers-related news, a

regulated water carrier to ensure uninterrupted interisland shipping services, extend the duration the PUC can permit a regulated water carrier to operate in emergency situations, allow the PUC to waive regulatory provisions in "order to restore or protect essential water

The Transportation

resolution urging Young Brothers and the PUC to find long-term solutions to ensure uninterrupted cargo service is expected to be heard during an upcoming meeting of the Hawaii County Council.

Introduced by Kohala Councilman Tim Richards and Hilo Councilwoman Sue Lee Loy, Resolution 679 emphasizes the critical and unique role Young Brothers plays by ensuring food, cargo, fuel, vehicles and agriculture products are able to get to and from their destinations safely.

It also notes the alternate funding sources — from the federal government, for example — that the company can tap to remain in operation, cites the PUC's statutory oversight role in keeping charges "just and reasonable" and calls on state and federal leaders and regulators to ensure the "unthinkable threat of a shutdown in cargo operations does not happen," according

Email Chelsea Jensen at cjensen@westhawaiitoday.com.

to a press release.

High court sparks new battle over church-state separation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court elated religious freedom advocates and alarmed secular groups with its Tuesday ruling on public funding for religious education, a decision whose long-term effect on the separation of church and

state remains to be seen.

In Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue, the high court ruled 5-4 that states must give religious schools the same access to public funding other private schools receive, preserving a Montana scholarship program that largely benefited students

at religious institutions.

Sister Dale McDonald, public policy director for the National Catholic Education Association, said the ruling has the potential to stem nationwide enrollment declines at Roman Catholic schools that are forcing the closure of hundreds of institutions.

"This is a chance to get public schools and religious schools on equal footing, McDonald said. She added the extent of change would depend on how many state legislatures opt to expand tuition assistance.

Critics assailed the decision as another in a

series of setbacks for a

principle with long roots in the U.S. legal system.

It is "the latest in a disturbing line of Supreme Court cases attacking the very foundations of the separation of church and state," said Daniel Mach, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's freedom of religion program.

INDICTED

From the front page

of the false report offenses, 10 years imprisonment for each of the deprivation-of-rights offenses and five years imprisonment

for the conspiracy offense. "Those committed to the custody of our state and federal detention facilities do not jettison their constitutional rights when they pass through the doors to those facilities," said Kenji M. Price, Hawaii's U.S. District Attorney, in a statement. "They are entitled to constitutional safeguards, such as the right to be free of cruel and unusual punishment when in custody." According to the

indictment, which was returned June 10 and unsealed Tuesday, Taum, a sergeant, and Pinkney and Tagaloa, both adult corrections officers

- along with a fourth correctional officer designated as "Officer A" in the indictment, physically assaulted an inmate in the Punahele Street jail's recreation yard on June 15, 2015, then Tagaloa assaulted the same inmate in a holding cell.

Both assaults are alleged to have resulted in bodily injury.

The victim was identified in the indictment as "Inmate 1," but a

lawsuit was filed in Hilo Circuit Court in 2017, with Tagaloa, Taum and Pinkney as defendants. The plaintiff is Chawn Kaili, then an inmate at Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, Ariz., alleging essentially the same set of facts on the same date.

also included former guard Joshua Demattos, ACO watch commander Jon Waikiki and retired HCCC warden Peter MacDonald, has since been paroled.

Kaili, whose lawsuit

He alleged in his suit that Pinkney, who was identified as "Gregory

Pinkney" in the suit, Tagaloa and Demattos, beat him with their fists and kicked him to his mouth, jaw, face, head neck and back. Kaili claimed he suffered a broken jaw, facial scarring and other injuries. Kaili's suit also alleged his "jail-issued clothing was so saturated with his blood it was discarded by Department of Public Safety personnel."

Kaili also claimed in his suit he thought at least part of the beating was captured on video surveillance.

The civil lawsuit was dismissed Feb. 28, but

a motion by Kaili to set aside that dismissal was granted April 15, according to the state Judiciary website.

According to the indictment, the three officers and Officer A "watched video of the assault and devised and agreed upon ways to explain and justify their use of excessive force against Inmate 1." The indictment also alleges they "documented that false cover story in official reports and repeated the story when questioned during investigations or disciplinary proceedings arising out of the assault."

DPS spokeswoman Toni Schwartz told the Tribune-Herald in June 2017 that Taum, Pinkney, Tagaloa and Demattos were "no longer employed with the Department of Public Safety" and the last day of employment for all four was Dec. 23, 2016. She didn't disclose whether they quit or were fired. Schwartz said, as of that date, Waikiki who is not mentioned in the indictment — was still employed by DPS and assigned to HCCC.

Email John Burnett at jburnett@hawaiitribuneherald.com.

ST. JOSEPH From the front page

since COVID-19, administrators are "trying to work out all the demands that need to be met in order to keep the school safe and keep it open so we can have students here on a consistent basis."

According to Wehrsig, students in kindergarten through eighth grade will continue to have in-person classes every day, while high school students will have a blended learning experience, combining in-person

and online instruction.

Students in grades 9-12 will come every other day; however, Wehrsig said on days students take "virtual" classes, which can be done from home, they are welcome to report to the school for guidance or support.

"We've met with our parents," said Wehrsig. "They know how school is going to be run."

Wehrsig, who previously served as vice principal, began in her new role June 22.

She could not discuss the departure of previous principal Michael Pa'ekukui.

In a June 25 letter to the St. Joseph School ohana posted to the St. Joseph Catholic Church website, the Rev. Apolinario Ty, the parish priest, did not elaborate on Pa'ekukui's departure, but said Wehrsig is a 1973 graduate of the school who has served as an educator

and administrator there for 39 years.

Wehrsig did confirm, however, that some teachers, "teachers that we loved," are out of a job, but did not specify how many.

"Unfortunately due to finances and the way things are, (we) had to let teachers go," she said. "(It was) not an easy choice, but we are trying to make the year as successful as we can."

Parent and school

E CAN H

board member Misti Tyrin said she's excited about the new school year and was happy the school could raise the money to remain open.

"I think St. Joseph School is doing a really good job planning for a COVID contingency and also just doing a really good job making sure we'll be able to deliver 100% of our academic programming, whether in person or blended model,' she said. "I'm confident

in their ability to deliver a quality education." A blended model

for the upper campus

also will provide a good opportunity to open up Catholic education for students all around the island, she said. It is currently unknown

how many students will attend in the fall. Wehrsig said enrollment numbers continue to change daily.

Email Stephanie Salmons at ssalmons@ hawaiitribune-herald.com.



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OHANA From the front page

Although supplies are limited, hundreds of residents are able to collect food in bulk, which is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. People are asked to remain in their cars and wear masks if they roll down the windows.

All of the food given to help those in need has been funded by donations to The Food Basket.

"This is truly residents feeding residents," Albrecht said. "All of the food was grown on the island, nothing was purchased out of the county."

The Hawaii National Guard, North Hawaii Education and Research Center and community members volunteered to pass out food to the endless line of cars in Honokaa.

The food bank plans

to continue serving the island with Ohana Food Drop distribution

events through July.

Anyone can drive up to receive food in bulk during these planned Ohana Food Drop events:

- 10 a.m. Friday, July 3, Waimea District Park.
- 10 a.m. July
- 10, Waikoloa Elementary School.
- 10 a.m. July 23, Kekuaokalani Gymnasium in Kona.
- 10 a.m. July 24, Honokaa Sports Complex & Skate Park.

The Food Basket has additional donation dates listed on its website at www.hawaiifoodbasket.org, where it also continues to accept monetary donations.

Email Kelsey Walling at kwalling@ hawaiitribune-herald.com.



KELSEY WALLING/Tribune Herald

Spc. Kale Haina puts a box of food donated by The Food Basket into the trunk of a car during the food bank's Ohana Food Drop on June 26 in Honokaa. The Food Basket has been distributing food at about 14 events a month.

KALEIKINI From the front page

Committee members weren't unanimous in their approval. One senator voted no and two voted with reservations, leaving only Committee Chairwoman Maile Shimabukuro and Vice Chairman Kai Kahele voting a straight yes. Most of the concerns were about the selection process, not Kaleikini's qualifications, committee members said.

"On the nominee himself, I am a complete yes; on the process itself, I am a complete no," said Sen. Les Ihara, an Oahu Democrat who voted yes with reservations.

Still, a flurry of testifiers submitting written comments urged the committee to vote no, saying Ige had better candidates to choose from. Testifiers living on Hawaiian homelands or on the waiting list said Kaleikini, who doesn't live on homelands and hadn't attended commission meetings prior to his appointment, is out of touch with beneficiaries.

Bills to allow homestead associations to have more input into the selection of commissioners have consistently failed in the Legislature. Beneficiaries often complain the commission won't put them on the agenda to address problems. And problems abound, with almost 45,000 families on the waiting list for homelands, water, roads and other infrastructure lagging and structures in disrepair.

"I feel that I can help out in moving the department forward and improving the rehabilitation of East Hawaii and hopefully with West Hawaii and the rest of the state," Kaleikini said. "The past six months have really opened my eyes to the challenges and opportunities of Hawaiian homelands."

Kaleikini is currently senior director of Puna Geothermal Venture, where he's worked since 1991. That position, coupled with his position on the executive committee of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board that backed a rocket launch facility on land near homesteads, garnered opposition.

Appearing before the commission via Zoom, Kaleikini said the development board went through the process of vetting the rocket launch site and the landowner pulled out after community opposition. He said he would continue that process on other sites if proposals come before the board.

"The outreach, the community involvement, that is critical," he said. "If not, a project like that will be doomed."

Kahele gave Kaleikini

a lot of homework before he ultimately agreed to support him. He wanted Kaleikini to study the Hawaiian Homes Act, the minutes of prior commission meetings and the writings of Prince Kuhio. Kahele said Kaleikini should spend time with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands staff and learn how the agency works.

"You really have to take the time and effort," Kahele said, noting that the appointment expires in June 2021. "We don't need just a warm body in the seat. ... He has his marching orders and I encourage you to fulfill them."

Sen. Kurt Fevella, an

Oahu Republican, voted no. He said he wrote a letter to Ige protesting the nomination because he thinks Kaleikini was hand-picked by Hawaiian Homes Commission Chairman William Aila despite more qualified candidates who applied. With so many neglected problems on Hawaii Island and statewide, he objects to "rubber-stamping," he said.

"Nothing against the candidate," Fevella said. "It's the nation of Aila ... destruction of Hawaiian homes and him being destructive of everything he touches."

Email Nancy Cook Lauer at ncook-lauer@ westhawaiitoday.com.

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Hawaii Tribune-Herald Wednesday, July 1, 2020 A9

HOMETOWN HEROES

Editor's note: Each Wednesday, the Tribune-Herald is publishing a story about individuals, groups or organizations that have helped make life better for others in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TUNS OF SUPPORT

Parker Ranch donates 6K pounds of beef to The Food Basket

> By TOM LINDER West Hawaii Today

onstantly in need as the coronavirus pandemic continues, The Food Basket recently received a large donation for its next Ohana Food Drop.

Parker Ranch provided 6,000 pounds of its local, grass-fed beef for the nonprofit food bank's food distribution event Friday, July 3, at Waimea District Park. The donation comes on the heels of Parker Ranch's announcement canceling its annual Fourth of July Rodeo.

'The team has been working very hard to support the mission of the organization; this includes our cowboys, maintenance, land asset management, finance and administration," said president and CEO of Parker Ranch Dutch Kuyper.

"Everybody has been working hard toward this day, even though it won't involve a rodeo. We donated the beef because we thought Richard (Smart) would want us to give back to the community in this way given the challenges posed by COVID-19. "Even though



there will be no rodeo, we will be helping our community with their needs." The decision

to cancel the

annual rodeo was a difficult but ultimately unavoidable one. In donating to The Food Basket, as well as by increasing annual distribution to its beneficiaries by 50% to \$3.6 million in 2020, Parker Ranch aims to maintain a sense of community in North Hawaii during the pandemic.

"The rodeo is our way of showing the community how



LAURA RUMINSKI/West Hawaii Today

Cars line up for The Food Basket's Ohana Drop on June 26 in the parking lot of Kekuaokalani Gymnasium and the Kona Community Aquatic Center. Fifty-thousand pounds of food were distributed to 2,314 individuals. Parker Ranch recently donated 6,000 pounds of beef for the food bank's Ohana Drop this week in Waimea.

much we love the lifestyle of the paniolo," Kuyper said.

Also teaming up to provide assistance for the latest food drop in Waimea is Kokua Christian Ministries, which will provide BBQ bags, and Young Brothers, which donated a cold storage container for the day.

The food drop will be Waimea's fourth since Gov. David Ige's stayat-home order took effect in late March.

'The number of families needing the kind of food assistance The Food Basket provides has increased

exponentially over the last several months with the onset of the pandemic," said Kristin Frost Albrecht, executive director of Hawaii Island's food bank. "More and more families with young children are vulnerable, and they need the kind of support provided by Parker Ranch. We are grateful for the contribution."

Kuyper maintains the donations have been a group effort for Parker Ranch, highlighting employees, customers, partners and its producer, Hawaii Beef Producers.

"We are deeply grateful

to Jill Mattos, the general manager of Hawaii Beef Producers. Jill was our honoree at our rodeo last year for her leadership in managing the plant and her markets," Kuyper said. "Jill is a 'superwoman' in my view. We would not able to make this donation available without her support, cooperation and management skills."

The Ohana Food Drop in Waimea this week is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Friday at Waimea District Park.

Email Tom Linder at tlinder@ westhawaiitoday.com.

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A10 Wednesday, July 1, 2020 Hawaii Tribune-Herald



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