



## On the calendar

### On February 2

A decision-making hearing will be held regarding a development permit for the proposed Ka'ulu Residential Community by Gentry Kalaehoa LLC, which is proposing to build an approximately 390-unit residential project consisting of 262 multi-family attached units and about 128 single-family detached units on a 29.8-acre lot located in Kalaehoa.

### February 2

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held.

For more information on the public hearings, board meetings or about HCDA visit [dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda](http://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda).

### Know someone?

If you want to include an event, know an individual or a business in Kakaako, Kalaehoa or Heeia that we could feature, or just want more Community Connection, let us know by emailing us at: [dbedt.hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.hawaii.gov).

## Artspace Lofts

Opportunity to live and create my art

Right here in Kakaako, at Point Panic Pamela Mathis took the photo of the surfer on the right. It seems she's so close that she must be in the water with him, but she's not. "When I go to Ala Moana Park they are further out, but here at Point Panic they are right in your face. It's awesome," said Pamela.

"I call that photo being one with the water.

Because of course they are waiting for that special wave to ride, and just then, they are being one with the water. I come in as a photographer and I'm going to be one with them, being one with the waves. I wanted to show the expertise of the surfer in what they do."

HCDA reached out to artists living at Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Loft to see if they would like to have their art featured in the HCDA Annual Report. Pamela was one of the artist that responded.

"Living at Ola Ka 'Ilima Artspace Loft is a great opportunity to live and create my art," she said.

In November 2021, she photographed amazing photos of the solar eclipse, which she shared with us.

But prior to her moving into the Artspace Lofts, she lived in Molokai.

"When I was living in Molokai, I was living right on the water," said Pamela. "I was photographing that luna moon because it was red. Just for 15 minutes right at the highlight of that luna moon, you felt the waves, the gushing, it was amazing. It was something that I will never, ever forget. Because that moon was in the luna phase, it had it's affects on the waves. It was amazing, really it was."

"I actually tried to take video of it as well. It was very dramatic." It is very difficult to shoot a decent video at night without the proper lighting. "I did not think that redness of the moon was going to come out, because the



moon was totally red and it was totally dark. I really didn't think that my camera would pick it up. But as you can see in that second photo, you can see the brightness of that moon. There are no filters or anything."

"Those types of things with the moon I love photographing."

"I also love taking sunset photos, and the ones in Molokai are really special."

The third image that she shared with us is of canoe paddlers. Pamela was in Molokai, standing at a place called the Wharf, Kaunakakai, when she



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## Helping challenged youth become independent


In November and December at Kewalo Basin a group was using sign language to teach students to use weed wackers and lawn mowers among other yard care tips and tricks. (Photo on the left.)

HCDA partnered with and contracted Work Now Hawaii to maintain the lawn near the parking and restroom area at Kewalo Basin between the Harbor and Ala Moana Beach Park, near the volley ball court.

"We want to thank HCDA for the opportunity to run our Transition Age Youth Work Experience and Training Program for the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind," Patrick of Work Now Hawaii posted on Instagram with photographs of a few students at their first job. "Students gained valuable work experience for their resumes, while learning new skills and navigating their first employment opportunity."

Work Now Hawaii is a non-profit organization that helps people living with disabilities achieve independence through gainful employment. Work Now Hawaii offers career planning - job coaching, training and development in office administration, web development, online marketing and custodial services. Learn more at [www.worknowhawaii.org](http://www.worknowhawaii.org).

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took the "Canoe" photo. "After showing the photo to a few people, they said it reminds them of Jacob's ladder." Pamela elaborated, "basically, the way the light is illuminating the mountain in the background it's almost as if it's a ladder, leading up to the heavens. That's what they call Jacobs Ladder - it's a way to get up into the heavens. That was happening in the background."

The chicken skin moment captured in the photo makes it very special to Pamela, "that photo is one of my best. I don't usually tell people that, but just when it was happening you have the men canoeing across. To me that explains all of Hawaii."

## VA ALOHA Groundbreaking

"The Aloha Clinic will be a fantastic anchor and addition to the growing Kalaheo community, providing needed outpatient services to our military veterans, in the community which it is needed," said HCDA Chair Susan Todani, who attended the groundbreaking and blessing in December. "I was glad that the Veteran's Administration and Hunt invited the late Senator Daniel K. Akaka's son Daniel, his wife Anna and his daughter Millannie Watson to be a part of the ceremony, as the late Senator Daniel Akaka was the key champion of this project."

"The late Senator Daniel K. Akaka was the first Native Hawaiian to serve in Congress. In the 109th Congress, Senator Akaka introduced legislation to establish an Advanced Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Access (ALOHA) project, a VA primary care outpatient facility to service more than 87,000 veterans on the 'leeward' or western side of Oahu. Sixteen years later, I am proud to have helped take this project across the finish line," said Sen. Kai Kahele in his testimony to the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

When Sen. Akaka lobbied to create the ALOHA VA Center, the funding was not available. In 2021, Congress approved the \$120 million for construction. Hunt Communities Hawaii, LLC, the landowner, established VA Aloha, LLC to build the state-of-the-art Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Multi-Specialty Outpatient Clinic and the center is expected to be completed in 2023.



VA ALOHA Groundbreaking. The late Senator Daniel K. Akaka's son Daniel Jr., and his wife Anna, in yellow, offered a blessing. Sen. Akaka's daughter Millannie Watson, in red, was among elected officials, members of the VA and Hunt in the ceremony. Photos - HCDA Chair Susan Todani

"I believe that the right thing to do is to honor the late Senator Akaka by renaming the facility the 'Daniel K. Akaka Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Center.' Alongside Senator Hirono, I have introduced legislation to do so," Kahele continued. "Senator Akaka was a World War II veteran and a tireless champion for veterans' affairs." Senator Akaka also served as the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate. While chairman, he enacted laws to provide educational assistance, cost-of-living compensation adjustments, mental health care improvements and other benefits to veterans.

The renaming of the ALOHA VA Center is pending Congressional House approval.



## What's cooking?

Dr. Amy's Slow Cooker Italian Beef *By Craig Nakamoto*

During the baseball playoffs, I'm reminded about my friend, Dr. Amy. We worked together. She grew up in the Midwest and is an avid Cubs fan. When you walked into Dr. Amy's office, there was no doubt that she is a Cubs fan. During the baseball season she would go on about the Cubs, and I about the Red Sox.

3-5 lb roast	3 cups water	1 package of Italian dressing dry mix	1 tsp dry oregano	1 tsp dry basil	1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp garlic powder	1 tsp salt	1 tsp ground pepper	Red pepper flakes to taste		1 bay leaf

Place roast in slow cooker, add dry ingredients and then water. Cook on low for 10-12 hours or on high for 4-5 hours (better outcome on low). Remove and discard bay leaf and shred roast meat. Add shredded meat back in slow cooker and heat for 20-30 minutes. Serve on hoagie rolls with provolone cheese and pepperoncini or banana peppers.

