

Kawaihae Harbor Meeting

Representative Cindy Evans will be holding a meeting regarding South Kawaihae Recreational Harbor and North Kawaihae Recreational Harbor on **Saturday September 19 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Kawaihae Canoe Club.**

Officials from the Department of Land and Natural Resources Boating Division will give an overview of the South Kawaihae Harbor and ask for input regarding improvements to North Kawaihae Harbor. Community input is encouraged.

Some of the items that will be discussed are: damages from flooding, the boat ramp for south harbor, security measures, possibility of mooring buoys at south harbor, update on road and waterline construction, and potential master plan for south harbor, breakwater at north harbor, and needs for north harbor. If cannot attend, please email or call. See contact information below.

Hawai'i Island Public Hearings On Governor's Health Care Initiatives

There will be public hearings on the Governor's health care initiatives. In particular 3 specific plans to improve health insurance coverage, health care, and access to health services in our state.

- **Proposed Waiver of Certain Provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**
- **Health Innovation Plan for Improving Behavioral Health**
- **"No Wrong Door" Plan for Improving Access to Services for Older Adults, Individuals with Disabilities, and Veterans**

The public hearings for Hawai'i Island will be held:

In Kona

September 21, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – noon

County Council Chambers at the West Hawai'i Civic Center, Building A

74-677 Kealakehe Pkwy

Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

In Hilo

September 25, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – noon

University of Hawai'i at Hilo, College of Hawaiian Language, Hale'ōlelo, Lumi

Pāhiahia (Performing Arts Hall)

200 West Kawili Street

Hilo, Hawai'i

For any questions, please contact Teal Takayama at teal.m.takayama@hawaii.gov

Hawai'i's 3R's To Assist Hawai'i State Department Of Education (HIDOE) With Donations To Cool Schools

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) is teaming up with Hawai'i 3R's to raise funds towards cooling schools. Hawai'i 3R's is a local nonprofit organization aimed to repair, remodel, and restore Hawai'i's public schools.

HIDOE has been working on long-term solutions to cool classrooms that lack air conditioning units. However, the record-breaking temperatures have caused extreme conditions in classrooms and the Department is purchasing up to 250 portable AC units to place in high priority classrooms for heat-relief.

Hawai'i 3R's provides an opportunity individuals and organizations to donate funds so that schools can make the purchases that fit their immediate needs to cool classrooms. Hawai'i 3R's is accepting monetary donations to reimburse schools who purchase fans and other heat-relief items. To learn more visit: <http://hawaii3rs.com/cool-schools-2015/>

Hawai'i State Judiciary's Self-Help Centers Provide Legal Information To 10,000+ People

More than 10,000 people have now been assisted at courthouse self-help centers in the State of Hawai'i. These centers were established through collaboration among the Hawai'i State Judiciary, the Hawai'i Access to Justice Commission, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i State Bar Association. The first Self-Help Center was opened four years ago on Kauai, and these centers are now available statewide to self-represented litigants who wish to consult with volunteer attorneys regarding civil legal matters at no cost to the litigant, and virtually no cost to the state.

There are currently six locations, including at circuit courthouses in Lihue, Wailuku, Kona and Hilo, and on Oahu, where they are called Access to Justice Rooms, at Family Court in Kapolei and at District Court in Honolulu.

"Legal Aid receives nearly 20,000 calls a year and we are grateful to the Hawai'i State Judiciary for its commitment to the court self-help centers and expanding the resources available for those navigating the legal system on their own," added Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i Executive Director, M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina. Each month, the Self-Help Centers and Access to Justice Rooms statewide serve hundreds of people. In addition, the Hawai'i State Judiciary has also partnered with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i State Public Library System to make self-help interactive court forms software available at the Self-Help Centers and Access to Justice Rooms and public libraries across the state as well as online.

For more information, go to http://www.courts.state.hi.us/general_information/access_to_justice_rooms_self_help_centers.html

Record Ocean Temperatures Causing Coral Bleaching Across Hawai'i

As predicted, coral reefs across Hawai'i from Kure Atoll, the northmost land feature in the Hawaiian Archipelago, to Hawai'i Island are starting to feel the effects of coral bleaching. This is the result of coral sensitivity to rises in ocean. Brian Neilson, an aquatic biologist with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) said, "Coral bleaching is a result of a loss of algae living within the coral's tissue that provide them with energy and give them their colors. This loss results in the pale or white 'bleached' appearance of the impacted corals.

There are also concerns of corals dying from bleaching because degraded reefs diminish shoreline protection and the availability of habitat for fish and other marine species, which negatively impacts ocean-related businesses and tourism, availability of fish, as well as quality of life for humans. To measure and respond to anticipated coral bleaching effects, DLNR has begun mobilizing monitoring surveys and meeting with partners statewide to devise coordinated response actions. In addition, DLNR Chair Suzanne Case encourages people across Hawai'i to help reduce stressors and help promote the recovery of reefs. "Being extra careful to not damage corals, preventing pollution inputs, and using pono fishing practices can help corals to recover from this bleaching event" said Case.

The state encourages people to report and document coral bleaching to the volunteer Eyes of the Reef Network <http://www.eorhawaii.org> send images of coral bleaching to rrcpcoordinator@gmail.com and help coral reef ecosystems during these times of high stress. To learn more, go to current coral bleaching conditions: www.coralreefwatch.noaa.gov and DLNR coral bleaching response: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/reefresponse/>

If there is anything that Representative Cindy Evans can help you with, please feel free to contact our office at 808-586-8510 or email her at repevans@capitol.hawaii.gov If you would like to be taken off this list please let me know at t.perez@capitol.hawaii.gov

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