

COUNTY / IN BRIEF

County Ag Micro Grants deadline is July 26

Qualified nonprofit and for-profit organizations in Maui County are invited to apply to administer the County of Maui Agricultural Micro Grants Program for the Fiscal Year from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

The awardee will be responsible for administering the \$2 million Maui County-funded program to qualified applicants.

Micro grants will be distributed exclusively to food-producing farm businesses that operate on fewer than 12 acres total, or up to an aggregate of 40 usable acres for livestock producers within Maui County.

The micro grants will be dispersed with efforts to ensure equitable distribution among applicants on Maui, Molokai and Lanai, with preference given to socially disadvantaged farming applicants, such as women and Native Hawaiians, and to applicants who did not receive funding in prior fiscal years from the micro grant funding.

The deadline to apply to administer the program is July 26.

To apply or for more information, call (808) 270-8349 or visit <https://mauicounty.gov/2726/Ag-riculture-Grants>.

Tabay's Mindful Kitchen opens July 1st

Tabay Atkins and his mom, Sahel Anvarinejad, can't wait to start serving up their delicious plant-based delicacies!

So much of their extensive menu items are scratch-made ... along with all of their sauces. Enjoy their old menu items that were a favorite on their menu back in California as well as their exciting new items! These new menu items include the Loco Moco, Chilaquiles, Fish Burritos, Persian Kabob Wrap, Chick'n & Waffle Tacos, and much more! As always, their menu will be 100% plant-based!

With the grand opening scheduled for July 1st, Tabay and Sahel can't wait to serve their deliciously conscious comfort foods from Tabay's Mindful Kitchen!

Follow @TabaysMindfulKitchen on Instagram and Tabay's Mindful Kitchen on Facebook for more food truck updates.

Local residents named to RIT Dean's List

ROCHESTER, NY – The following students were named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," "D" or "F" and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

- Brianna Sowers of Haiku (96708), who is in the 3D digital design program.
- Max Balter of Wailea (96753), who is in the biotechnology and molecular bioscience program.

Cassidy Ryan Graduates from Elmira College

ELMIRA, NY – Cassidy Ryan, of Haiku, HI, was among the graduates celebrated at the 166th Elmira College Commencement on Sunday, May 19. The exercises included 117 undergraduate, 12 associate, and 30 graduate students.

Ryan earned a Bachelor of Science

Kihei training pool to be closed today

The Kihei Aquatic Center's 25-yard training pool will be temporarily closed for maintenance from Wednesday, June 26, to Thursday, June 27.

The pool will reopen Friday, June 28, for its normal

hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For updated hours of operation at all County of Maui pools, call the pool hotline at (808) 270-8208. For County of Maui Parks & Recreation Aquatics Section information, visit <https://www.mauicounty.gov/1155>.

Webinar for Lahaina homeowners, June 27

Lahaina homeowners impacted by the August 2023 wildfire are encouraged to attend the County of Maui Office of Recovery's second Homeowners Webinar on Thursday, June 27, at 5:30 p.m.

Officials will discuss homeowner topics related to rebuilding, infrastructure, permitting and mortgage assistance. Among those available during the Q&A portion of the webinar will be representatives from the County Department of Public Works, Department of Water Supply, Department of Environmental Management, Planning Department and 4LEAF Inc., which has been contracted by the County to process emergency building permits.

Registration is required. To register for the webinar and submit questions prior to the meeting, visit <https://www.MauiRecovers.org/events> and click on the Lahaina Homeowners Webinar banner.

Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset hosts Red Cross

On Tuesday, July 2, 2024, Jenny Worth will be the speaker at the Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset meeting. Worth is the Maui Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross. Worth will share information about the efforts of the Maui Red Cross since the Wildfires on August 8th. She not only serves as the Maui Disaster Program Manager, but she is a resident of the West Maui Community.

Worth received her undergraduate degree at Redlands University in Sociology with an Archaeology emphasis. She earned a graduate degree in Archaeology and Geographic Information Systems at California State University San Bernardino and has worked as an archeologist at the federal, state, and local levels. She and her family moved to Maui in 2010 where she worked as Fundraising Director for Maui Preparatory Academy. She assumed her position with the Maui American Red Cross in 2020.

The meeting will be held at the Aston Paki Maui Resort Ali'i meeting room. Social begins at 5:00 pm and the meeting starts at 5:30 pm. A light dinner will be served; there is no cost to attend the meeting. To make reservations to attend the meeting please email Joanne Laird at: mamalrd01@gmail.com.

June Bingo Blast to take place June 27

Kaunoa Senior Services announced that it will offer free bingo for seniors from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 27, 2024, at Kaunoa Clubhouse in Royal Lahaina Resort's Ali'i Ballroom, 2780 Kekaa Drive, Ka'anapali.

People 55 years old and older are invited to join the Kaunoa Senior Services event called "June Bingo Blast!" Prizes and refreshments will be included.

To register, call (808) 270-7308, option 3.

Kaunoa Senior Services is a division of the County of Maui's Department of Housing and Human Concerns. It provides opportunities for seniors to learn and grow through a variety of services, programs and activities throughout Maui County.

For general information about Kaunoa Senior Services, visit <https://www.mauicounty.gov/254>. Sign up to receive Kaunoa's newsletter at <http://maui-county.gov/thebestyears>.

Rotarians unite to give gift cards at temporary housing fairs



Courtesy photo

Liz May (from left), Al Weiland, Renee Ward and Karen Weiland display gifts and cards at a Temporary Housing Fair this May.

The Maui News

KAHULUI – The 9 Maui Rotary Clubs are actively working to make a significant difference in the lives of the Maui Fire Survivors.

With the support of the Hawaii Rotary District 5000 Disaster Relief Fund, Rotary club members set up tables at seven Temporary Housing Resource Fairs. These fairs took place weekly in the spring of 2024 at West Maui Resorts, providing fire survivors with the opportunity to discuss their next steps towards securing intermediate housing in person.

Sponsored by the State of Hawaii, the fairs also featured representatives from agencies like FEMA, the American Red Cross, Legal Aid Society, and more.

Upon arrival, attendees

received a drawing ticket. Throughout the fair, numbers were called every 30 minutes, allowing attendees to visit the Rotary table and choose from a variety of gift cards generously provided by the Rotary Disaster Relief Fund.

These gift cards were from local businesses: Foodland, CVS-Longs, Ace Hardware, Safeway, Target and Kumu Farms.

The emotional impact of these gift cards was profound, with many recipients moved to tears as they made their selections.

Organizer Liz May said of the gifts at temporary housing fairs, "Their gratitude was genuine, with many expressing how the gift cards helped ease the pain of losing their homes."

Hawaii unemployment rate for May stands at 3%, Maui County at 3.7%

Jobs increased by 3,900 year-over-year

The Maui News

KAHULUI – The Hawai'i State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) announced on Monday that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 3.0 percent, compared to 3.1 percent in April for the state of Hawaii.

Maui County posted a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 3.7% for the entire county. Maui island had a 3.7% rate, Molokai had a 3.8% rate,

and Lanai had the lowest of the three with a .8% unemployment rate.

That is a decrease of .7% from April to May where the unemployment rate for Maui County as a whole stood at 4.3%. Maui island was at 4.3% in April, with Molokai at 4.5%, and Lanai at a 3.5% unemployment rate.

In May of 2023, Maui County as a whole posted a 2.5% not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. Maui island had a 2.5% unemployment rate in May of 2023, with Molokai standing at 4.2% a year ago, and Lanai was at 1.6%.

In May, 649,550 persons were employed statewide and 20,050 were unemployed, for a total seasonally adjusted labor force of 669,600 statewide. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent in May, up from 3.9 percent in April.

The unemployment rate figures for the state of Hawai'i and the U.S. in this release are seasonally adjusted, in accordance with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) methodology. The not-seasonally adjusted rate for the state was 2.4 percent in May, compared to 2.8 percent in April.

Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group convenes inaugural meeting

The Maui News

KAHULUI – On June 24, the Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group (NHIPWG) comprised of experts in native Hawaiian law, indigenous intellectual property, and cultural practitioners held its first meeting at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

The working group was established following the adoption of HCR108 by the House of Representatives in 2023. This resolution urged the creation of a nine-member working group to study policies and legislation concerning native Hawaiian intellectual property. Representative Darius K. Kila, who introduced HCR108, explained that the formation of the group represents efforts to protect the intellectual property rights of Kānaka Maoli, as well as their cultural expressions, language, and art form.

"Today demonstrates native Hawaiians leading the charge in protecting and preserving their cultural legacy. The establishment of the working group stems from a profound concern over the blatant exploitation and dilution of native Hawaiian culture, language, and artifacts for profit across the globe," said Representative Darius K. Kila (D-44 Honokai Hale, Nānākūli, Mā'ili). "The group's primary objectives are to draft and propose substantive legislation and policies that can be enacted in the upcoming legislative session."

During the first meeting, NHIPWG members voted on leadership roles and elected Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine to serve as Chair, and Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation Executive Director Makalika Naholowaa to serve as



Photo courtesy Hawai'i House of Representatives

The Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group (NHIPWG) poses for its first meeting at the Hawai'i State Capitol.

Vice-Chair. Additionally, the group approved Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Representative Darius K. Kila, and Representative David A. Tarnas as non-voting members. These legislators will participate in policy discussions and provide additional support to the working group.

Discussions taken place at today's meeting included examples of disputes over indigenous intellectual property that have taken place within the past decade. For example, Aloha Poke Co., a Chicago-based food chain, sent cease-and-desist letters to Hawaiian poke shops to stop using "Aloha" and "Poke." Similarly, a baking mix company 'Okina recently faced backlash for trademarking the name of a Hawaiian diacritical mark.

"You can't trademark aloha. It's not for sale," said NHIPWG Chair Vicky Holt Takamine. "We now have a working group that will develop policies and procedures to educate the general

public about native Hawaiian intellectual property and protect our cultural rights as native Hawaiians in our own ancestral home."

"This is the first time native Hawaiians are being invited to give our mana'o and participate in the conversation about governance, coming up with ways to improve our law so we can better protect the intangible assets like native Hawaiian intellectual property," said NHIPWG Vice Chair Makalika Naholowaa.

The concept of preserving intellectual property is widespread among indigenous groups, which have developed strategies and frameworks to protect their collective rights. Examples include the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Toi Iho registered trademark for Maori art and artists, supported by a charitable trust; and the Alaska State Council on the Arts Silver Hand Program for Alaska Native artists, funded

by the state.

"This initiative holds monumental significance, offering groundbreaking opportunities for indigenous communities in Hawai'i, and across the United States. It paves the way for these communities to assert true control and direction over their culture, language, arts, and artifacts. The potential impact of this work is boundless, promising a future where indigenous heritage is respected, preserved, and celebrated," said Rep. Kila.

The Native Hawaiian Intellectual Property Working Group currently has eight members, with one vacancy awaiting appointment by Senator Ron Kouchi. The group will meet twice a month to deliberate on policies and ideas for the 2025 legislative session. They are scheduled to submit a final report no later than forty days before the commencement of the 2025 legislative session.

Maui Open Studios third annual Summer Edition begins July 13

The Maui News

KAHULUI – The well-loved annual art event, Maui Open Studios, announces its 3rd Annual Summer Edition.

The MOS 2024 Summer Edition will begin on July 13 and runs for three consecutive weekends islandwide.

Now with three events a year (July, November, and February), the annual Maui Open Studios events offer up great art, inspiration and an opportunity to meet artists in person and buy art directly from them. Support at these events helps keep local artists continuing on in their artistic pursuits.

Over three weekends in July, artists open up their studios and exhibition spaces to show and sell their work to the public as well as talk story, connect, and inspire visitors through one-on-one interactions and in some cases, live demonstrations.

The entire event is free to the public and refreshments are often served.

The MOS 2024 Summer Edition in July features 27 participating artists working in various mediums including ceramics, mixed media, fiber, painting, and more.

Visit online artist directories at

MauiOpenStudios.com to design your self-guided tours and use your GPS to find artists on each weekend of the event. An interactive Google map is also provided on our website and can be used as an independent resource.

Artists will be open from 11am - 6pm each weekend.

Weekend 1: South Maui • Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14

Weekend 2: Central and North Maui (including Haiku) • Saturday and Sunday, July 20 and 21

Weekend 3: Upcountry Maui • Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28