

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative



# CURRENTS



**NEW TECH:**  
It's Hammah  
Time!



## INSIDE



Youth Climate  
Practitioners

Hope Blooms  
on Kaua'i

The Solar Farm  
Under the Moon

**SPRING  
2024**

# 2024 REBATES

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 **Kaua'i Island  
Utility Cooperative**  
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# inside CURRENTS



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## Go Paperless

Currents is mailed quarterly to members of Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative. All issues are available online at [kiuc.coop](http://kiuc.coop). Want to go paperless? Send a note to [currents@kiuc.coop](mailto:currents@kiuc.coop) to be taken off the mailing list. Thank you for reading Currents.

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## Editor

Beth Amaro

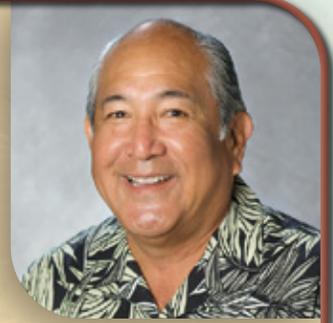
## Contributors

Beth Amaro, Byron Blanchard, Stacie Dellamano, Ana Española, Jason Honjiyo, David Iha, Jackie Kanna, Kelly King, Joey Leibrecht, Cal Murashige, Shelley Paik, Jennifer Paton, Allan A. Smith, Jan TenBruggencate, Allison Young

## On The Cover

KIUC employees complete training with Groundline on new pole-testing technology.

# Chairman's Message



As the world celebrates Earth Day 2024, I want to acknowledge that the values behind Earth Day have driven KIUC ever since we formed as a cooperative. Part of that is due to the cooperative principle of Democratic Member Control.

Our members actively participate in setting policies and making decisions through their participation in our elections for the board of directors. Through the past 20 years of member participation, KIUC has become a leader in renewable energy while always prioritizing affordability and reliability.

We show our appreciation and care for our members through rebates and affordability programs with community partners, charitable events and grants and, of course, providing the best service possible by staying up to date with new technology.

Mahalo for your participation in the 2024 election and for helping us lead the way.

Warmest regards,  
*Allan A. Smith*

## Board Actions

Actions taken by the KIUC Board of Directors from December 2023 to February 2024.

### DECEMBER 14, 2023

Motion carried, board approval request for attorney invoices over the CEO approval limit.

Motion carried, Resolution No. 06-23, 2024 results of operations budget.

Motion carried, Resolution No. 07-23, 2024 capital budget.

Motion carried, Resolution No. 08-23, authorizing PACE loan.

Motion carried, RLF loan applicant Anaina Hou Community Park, committee recommendation to deny application.

Motion carried, 2023 loan review committee annual report.

Motion carried, evaluated land proposal, recommendation to decline offer.

### JANUARY 25, 2024

Motion carried, Board Policy 26, records management.

### FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Motion carried, Board Policy 23, electioneering.

Motion carried, Board Policy 24, funding the KIUC Charitable Foundation.

Motion carried, BAR—budget variance request for steam plant write-off.

Motion carried, 2023 corporate performance results.

Motion carried, 2024 corporate performance targets.

Motion carried, general counsel agreement.

Motion carried, HCP site agreement.



Board Insights

# KIUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS Election Results

Incumbent directors David Iha and Teofilo Phil Tacbian, along with Mike Yamane, have been elected to the KIUC board of directors. These three directors will each serve a three-year term ending March 2027.

KIUC mailed 26,920 ballots and received 4,563 responses with a 16.95% turnout.

Merriman River Group, a Connecticut-based election management firm, conducted the election.

Merriman River Group submitted the official results for the 2024 board of directors election. The results are:

The elected board members will be inaugurated March 26 at the annual meeting.

1. **Mike Yamane**, 3,376
2. **David Iha**, 2,984
3. **Teofilo Phil Tacbian**, 2,678
4. **Janet Kass**, 2,648



Mike Yamane



David Iha



Teofilo Phil Tacbian

# 2024 BON DANCE SCHEDULE

- June 7-8** WAIMEA HIGASHI HONGWANJI MISSION
- June 21-22** KAUA'I SOTO ZENSHUJI - HANAPĒPĒ
- July 12-13** WEST KAUA'I HONGWANJI MISSION – HANAPĒPĒ NEXT TO THE LIBRARY
- July 19-20** LĪHU'Ē HONGWANJI MISSION
- July 26-27** KAPA'A HONGWANJI MISSION
- August 2-3** WAIMEA SHINGON MISSION



# Earth Day 2024: Our Green Bottom Line

*By Jan TenBruggencate, Board of Directors*

It has been 16 years since KIUC passed a bold strategic plan committing the cooperative to achieving 50% renewable generation within 15 years. Our cooperative hit that goal out of the park, surpassing it years ahead of schedule.

At the time, we were more than 90% oil-fired. We had just acquired a new fossil fuel plant and were planning another. But because of that 2008 strategic commitment, KIUC canceled the proposed GenX fossil fuel plant and negotiated instead for its first utility-scale solar array. It would be 12 megawatts, by far the biggest in the state at the time.

Could solar power work at a utility scale? That wasn't clear. It was a scary step, but still a baby step into a sustainable, renewable energy future.

A decade and a half later, the utility's green credentials are clear. On many sunny days, we operate a grid that is 100% renewable from morning until late in the day. Only 30 to 40% of our overall energy is generated from fossil fuels.

We have big solar fields in Mānā, Port Allen, Lāwa'i, Kōloa, Kapaia, Kapa'a and Anahola. We have significant battery capacity for storing that daytime energy and delivering it to the grid at night, and we are expanding that battery capacity.

We receive power from six hydroelectric plants around the island. When it's rainy and the solar arrays aren't at capacity, the hydro plants benefit. It is a good renewable balance.

One of our biggest generators, Mahipapa LLC at Knudsen Gap near Halfway Bridge, is a closed-loop biomass plant that burns eucalyptus wood grown locally specifically for that purpose.

One of the mantras of the green energy movement earlier this century was that you could do renewables, but they would be expensive. KIUC has turned that on its head. We had the highest electricity rates in the state when we started, and now our rates are the lowest in the state.

We have done that by aggressively negotiating new energy contracts, taking advantage of subsidies and grants, and keeping our costs under control.

We have come far, but we are far from done.

Our updated strategic goal is 100% renewable by 2033, even though we are working against moving goalposts. The island's growth and increasing electrification—think electric vehicles—mean our total electrical need rises regularly.

The new goal is more difficult to achieve than the 2008 goal. We are looking at all available technologies, including pumped hydroelectric, but solar arrays with battery storage are currently the most cost-effective. Because of that, we have been in discussions with landowners for siting additional large solar arrays.

Solar plus battery storage gets us closer to our goal, but the challenge of several days of cloudy weather is real. What do we do if there isn't enough sun to charge the batteries?

We believe we will achieve 100% renewable energy by burning biofuels in our existing oil-fired generators to cover challenging periods. But biodiesel prices are currently high and would put upward pressure on electricity prices.

KIUC has received awards for being a national leader in renewable energy. But it's not just about eco-green. It's also about cash green. So, we will continue searching for alternatives that can produce reliable, renewable electricity for our members at the lowest cost possible.

That is a clear mission. As all of us on the board and staff are member-owners of our community cooperative, we are all committed to getting it done. ⚡

*We had the highest electricity rates in the state when we started, and now our rates are the lowest in the state.*

# New Appliances for Qualifying Kūpuna

By Cal Murashige, Board of Directors

Are you a senior in need of a new refrigerator or electric water heater? If so, KIUC might have the right program for you.

KIUC partners with the County of Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs (AEA) to administer the Qualifying Member Appliance Replacement Program.

This program helps qualifying low-income seniors reduce their residential electricity use by replacing older, less efficient refrigerators and defective electric water heaters with new, energy-efficient ones at no cost to the member.

To qualify, residents must:

- Be an active member on a KIUC residential account.
- Be at least 60 years old.
- Have a household annual income that meets the income eligibility guidelines of the program.
- Have assets less than or equal to \$20,000.

Please note, the refrigerator to be replaced must be the primary refrigerator and will be removed from the residence by KIUC or its agent.

From my own family's experience, replacing an older, less efficient refrigerator with a new, energy-efficient one results in lower electrical charges. When my mother went to an assisted living facility in 2008, the refrigerator in her unoccupied home remained on in case a visiting family member needed a place to stay.

When I decided to rent out her home, the old refrigerator was replaced with an energy-efficient one. The monthly electric bill was reduced in half, solely because of the replacement of the old refrigerator with a high-efficiency one.

For more information and to determine eligibility, interested members must call the County's Agency on Elderly Affairs at 808.241.4470. 📞

“The partnership that has been in place with AEA and KIUC provides services for individuals in greatest economic need. By working together, we can leverage resources to address the needs of older adults.”

**Julie Kajiwara, Information and Referral Aging and Disabilities Services Technician**

“I heard KIUC might help me and applied, and a few days before Christmas got my water heater fixed. I had been without hot water for six weeks. Financially, it was a blessing because my mom had just passed away and from the recent expenses, I didn't have the money to get the hot water heater fixed. Thank you KIUC and Agency on Elderly Affairs!”

**Arlene, Wailua Homesteads Resident**

**Hanalei**  
 Julie Kajiwara  
 Keālia-Hā'ena  
 808.241.4484

**Kawaihau**  
 Laine Carvalho  
 Kapa'a-Wailua  
 808.241.4486

**Waimea**  
 Christine Castillo  
 Hanapēpē-Mana  
 808.241.4480

**Līhu'e**  
 Patricia Gonsalves  
 Hanamā'ulu-Puhi  
 808.241.4488

**Kōloa**  
 Rose Manago  
 Kōloa-'Ele'ele  
 808.241.4485

**Kaua'i Agency on Elderly Affairs (AEA) Specialists**

# What Is LIHEAP?

By Allison Young and Jason Honjiyo

Many people on our island struggle to make ends meet and worry about keeping up with their monthly bills. One way Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative shows concern for our community is by participating in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

LIHEAP provides qualifying low-income households with one-time credits on their electric bills to help pay energy costs. This federal program operates through the coordinated efforts of Kaua'i Economic Opportunity (KEO), Hawai'i Gas Company, KIUC and the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services.

Kaua'i residents may qualify for one of two LIHEAP programs:

- **Energy Credit.** Applications are accepted during June for one-time-only assistance that is deposited into the resident's utility account during the latter part of the year to help offset the energy costs of the household.
- **Energy Crisis Intervention.** A one-time-only assistance is paid to the utility company to restore or prevent the termination of a residence's electric or gas power.

KEO also administers the separate **Emergency Electric Assistance Program**, which provides emergency assistance to KIUC customers who are past due and unable to pay their electric bills.

LIHEAP accepts applications from individuals with annual household incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level.

Last year, more than 7,500 residential customers in Hawai'i received a record \$8.1 million in LIHEAP credits. Of the statewide total, 257 KIUC members received \$321,200 in LIHEAP benefits.

The amount of credit awarded to qualifying applicants varies yearly based on several factors, including income level, total number of people per eligible household and available funds.

To find out if you are eligible and to apply, visit [keoinc.org/services/energy-assistance](https://keoinc.org/services/energy-assistance). ⚡



*"This is a great program to help Kaua'i residents cover their electricity bills. We accept applications from June 1 to June 30. Right now, we are hiring a LIHEAP coordinator for a temporary position starting June 1 until August 31 at \$17.03 an hour. Come help residents with us at KEO."*  
**Jason Honjiyo, KEO Program Director**



*"LIHEAP helps my family with the credit for electricity. People should know that it's a great program. I've applied every year since 2022. I just received a letter that said we qualified this year again. And we are very thankful."*

**Anastasia Rozhenko, Kapa'a**



# LIHEAP

**LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

***Do you need help  
with your utility bill?***

**The federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assists low income households with a one-time annual credit on their electric bill.**

**Kaua'i Economic Opportunity (KEO) accepts applications from June 1 through June 30. You must meet certain criteria to qualify.**

**Please call KEO at 808.245.4077 ext. 242 or email [liweap@keoinc.org](mailto:liweap@keoinc.org).**



# Hope Blooms on Kaua'i

*By Kelly King, Co-Founder of Pacific Biodiesel Technologies*

**N**early two decades ago, I had the vision that local crops like sunflowers could help supplement the limited supply of used cooking oil in Hawai'i as feedstock for our community-based biodiesel production. I was told time and again it couldn't be done. State economists and agronomists said crops can't be grown at scale for food and fuel in our tropical communities. Even one of our former partners was adamant the model wouldn't work.

Inspired by the beauty and utility of sunflowers, I ignored the naysayers and persevered in commitment to our company mission.

In January, we announced our expansion of operations to Kaua'i. Our choice to expand Pacific Biodiesel operations to Kaua'i for this project was intentional. Kaua'i is on track to be the first county in Hawai'i to reach 100% renewable electricity production by 2033—a decade earlier than Hawai'i's mandated timeline of 2045.

Last year, Pacific Biodiesel began supplying our locally produced biodiesel to Kaua'i's electric utility, KIUC, as the backup source for firm renewable energy. Kaua'i is showing the world a vulnerable island community can excel in community-based climate action.

Our latest project is a multiyear agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center for a project with its Construction Engineering Research Laboratory that will demonstrate renewable biofuel produced in Hawai'i from multiple locally grown oilseed cover crops. The effort will strengthen Hawai'i's food and energy security and supply-chain resiliency.

Supporting the U.S. Army Climate Strategy, this project will produce a prototype solution for biofuel as well as the agricultural model to produce renewable fuel in Hawai'i. It will validate the transition to this drop-in fuel for military applications—including transportation and power-generation installations—and will help the military reach our state goal of 100% renewable utility power by 2045.

Building upon Pacific Biodiesel's previous research in its 2011 Hawai'i Military Biofuel Crop Project, this new phase on Kaua'i will demonstrate farming at a much larger scale of 1,000 acres or more, and will incorporate sunflowers and other crops in rotation with food crops. The production model will include expanded production of culinary oils and other value-added food products, high-protein meal for animal feed, biodiesel and coproducts from biodiesel production, such as glycerin and potassium-salt cake—a potential nonpetroleum fertilizer for local agriculture.



With our committed, hard-working staff of 100 employees statewide, we have set standards for local climate action, the circular economy and integrity in innovations. I am proud and grateful for all the additional folks—our board of managers, business partners, customers, environmental organizations and supporters near and far—who keep us going through tough times. ⚡

*This editorial excerpt is reprinted with permission from Pacific Biodiesel. To read the full editorial in the Winter 2024 issue of Biobased Diesel Daily, go to: [www.biobased-diesel.com/post/hope-blooms-on-Kauai](http://www.biobased-diesel.com/post/hope-blooms-on-Kauai).*



As stated by my husband, Bob King, founder and president of Pacific Biodiesel, “At its core, this project supports Hawai’i’s local economy using local resources and creating jobs in our state to manufacture products for our local community while urgently fighting the effects of the global climate crisis.”

Hawai’i’s U.S. Sen. Mazie K. Hirono supports funding for the project.

“This federal funding will help bolster Hawai’i’s local agriculture industry while decreasing our reliance on expensive imported oil,” she says. “Not only will this project advance our state’s climate and clean energy goals, it will also provide our military installations with a reliable source of renewable fuel while supporting local jobs.”

Senate President Ron Kouchi lauds Pacific Biodiesel for its efforts, noting the benefits of the project span beyond energy and food self-sufficiency.

“Keeping agriculture land in active use also helps us with fire mitigation, which is a high priority throughout the state,” he says.

**In summer of 2024, we’re anticipating our first 100 acres of sunflowers blooming on Kaua’i as part of our expanded farming operation with this project.**



**Kaua’i senator and Hawai’i’s Senate President Ron Kouchi, Bruce Robinson and Howard Greene of Gay & Robinson, Inc. and Pacific Biodiesel founders Bob and Kelly King gather at the “Kaua’i Grown” evening reception at Kilohana Plantation in Līhu’e as part of Hawai’i Lodging & Tourism Association’s 195th General Membership Meeting.**

# Hammers, Sensors & Drones, C New Technologies for Grid Resilience

By Allison Young

## Hammah Time!

The health of utility poles is an important factor in energy resiliency. KIUC recently adopted a new technology called Thor's Hammer, which was recommended by wildfire mitigation consultants.

Thor's Hammer was first invented by Groundline Engineering founder Ian Flatley in 2006. Ian was inspired by a similar device that used seismic waves to test the integrity of concrete. The device headquarters and manufacturing are based in New Zealand.

Thor's Hammer provides data on utility pole health using a special hammer connected to a geoscope with gyroscopic sensors and a sensor hub. The sensor hub is Bluetooth-enabled and quickly transmits data to the Thor's Poletest app and interactive portal, which provide geospatial visualization and data insights on the pole's condition.

KIUC has approximately 17,000 wood poles across the island. Previously, KIUC tested approximately 2,000 poles a year, completing a full round of pole testing about every eight to nine years. The typical pole should have a 30-year lifespan.

With the use of Thor's Hammer, pole testing is more accurate, which leads to cost savings. The previously used testing methods of sounding or drilling have a lower accuracy rate, which can lead to poles being replaced unnecessarily. Thor's Hammer also saves time on labor, allowing the tester to assess each pole in less than a minute.



Transmission and Distribution Utility Inspector Robert Perreira tests out the new Thor's Hammer.

"KIUC has found the previous practice of drilling to assess pole strength and serviceability introduces an additional risk of rot and strength degradation at the evaluated drill holes near the base of the pole," Transmission and Distribution Manager John Cox says. "Thor's Poletest is a one-minute nondestructive test that can be repeated over typical inspection cycles with zero risk of shortening the serviceable life of the pole."

# Oh My!



## How's the Weather?

As part of KIUC's wildfire mitigation efforts, the cooperative is seeking to expand the tools used to keep members safe, especially in leeward areas (west and south), which are most prone to red flag warnings from the National Weather Service. Recently, KIUC began a pilot program using innovative weather sensor technology.

Using hardware and software from vendors such as WeatherFlow-Tempest and Lindsey FireSense LLC, KIUC can view high-spatial-resolution images to monitor the environment, weather and the power grid, transmitting data via cell transmission with satellite backup. Using this data, KIUC personnel can make informed decisions in real time and for the future.

For example, if severe weather conditions have caused damage to electric infrastructure in a hard-to-reach area, technology can be used to detect vegetation contact, downed lines, pole top leakage events and flashover arcing. Based on the results of the pilot, KIUC can determine if additional investment in these technologies will enhance operational and emergency preparedness efforts.

Preventing or minimizing damage to KIUC's infrastructure leads to lower operational costs and more stable electricity rates. KIUC's commitment to improving resilience against wildfire threats results in a more reliable, safe and cost-effective power supply for members.

## Reaching New Heights With Drone Inspections

KIUC recently contracted with an Oregon-based company, Wiggins Tech, to complete inspections of distribution circuits in sections of Wailua and Kapa'a.

Drones improve the inspection process because, for some locations, the height and voltage levels of the equipment and environmental conditions make it impossible for a lineworker to approach without deenergizing the lines.

The use of drone inspection does not require deenergization, bucket trucks, foot patrols or climbing structures. Inspectors can assess crossarms, pole tops, hardware or any equipment not easily visible from the ground. Other potential uses include post-storm inspection, troubleshooting momentary outages and a general enhancement of the operations staff's situational information-gathering ability.

Images of the conditions are created during the inspection process so KIUC can monitor vegetation around lines and poles, which is a significant contributor to outages.

"We found this is a highly efficient way to inspect portions of our infrastructure safely and quickly," KIUC Engineering Manager Cameron Kruse says. "We're now looking at how to integrate drone inspections into our overall prevention and maintenance program." ⚡



# Lineworker Appreciation Day Is April 18



**We thank our lineworkers and all employees working to keep our members' lights on through every type of weather condition and event.**  
In honor of our lineworkers, prioritize safety by following these six important rules:

1



## Maintain Clearance From Electrical Equipment

The green, box-shaped metal transformer is not a safe place to play or sit. No one should stand on, sit on, try to open or play around these green boxes. Hazardous voltage inside may shock, burn or kill. Do not plant shrubs or trees—or put fences or other structures—around this equipment. Maintain 10 feet of clearance on the front side and 3 feet on all other sides.

Do not plant trees under or near overhead electrical lines. About half of our outages are caused by trees on the lines. Maintain at least a 10-foot distance between trees and electrical lines. More space may be needed, depending on the type of tree you plant. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain trees so they do not affect power lines. Proper planting saves you money and keeps you safe.

2



## Stay Clear of Downed Lines, Call 911

If you encounter a downed line, always assume it's energized. Stay clear and call 911.

If you have an accident involving a power pole, stay in the car until first responders tell you it's safe to exit. If you must leave—for instance, if your vehicle is on fire—hop with your feet together until you are clear from the vehicle. Do not touch any metal to prevent being shocked or killed.

3



## Call Before You Dig

Before you begin any digging—such as planting trees and shrubs or installing fencing or mailboxes—call the Hawai'i One Call Center at 811 or 866.423.7287 five working days before you plan to dig.

There may be energized underground lines that you may contact while digging, which could cause serious injury, burns and death.

4



## Don't Post on Poles

It's a safety hazard to post signs on poles. Keep utility poles free of tacks, nails, signs, balloons and other debris, which can tear lineworkers' protective clothing and increase their risk of electric shock, other serious injuries or death.

5



## Working Around Power Lines

Know your surroundings. Look up and watch out while picking fruits or pruning trees if they're close to the utility lines. Keep ladders, antennas, tools, shovels, brooms and other equipment more than 10 feet away from power lines to prevent being shocked or killed.

6



## Slow Down in the Cone Zone

Respect our lineworkers and keep a safe distance while they're working. Don't cross or move any barriers or cones they put out. These barriers are meant to keep you and them safe.

When approaching utility workers on the side of the road, move over and slow down.

# The Solar Farm Under the Moon

*By Byron Blanchard,  
Instrumentation, Controls &  
Electrical Superintendent*



**Above:** Techs Mike Young, Nelson Andres and Seaton Farias repair solar panels at night. **Background:** Kōloa Solar Farm at night.

**P**ower generation is a 24-hour operation that uses dynamic energy sources and sometimes requires our staff to work odd schedules. Examples are shift workers and callouts for unexpected maintenance or off-hours.

Recently, our instrumentation and control electricians, known as techs, performed scheduled night work at the Kōloa Solar Facility.

Solar panels can't be turned off when the sun is shining on them and, unless severely damaged, they register a voltage. Many solar systems can be

isolated on the positive or negative side of the circuit. However, the Kōloa project has a unique design. The panel arrays are wired in a series to produce around 900 volts between their positive and negative terminals. The positive side of the circuit is fused and can be isolated at the fuse holders. The negative side can't be isolated and always registers voltage while the sun shines.

Last fall, our techs found two burnt fuse holders that are used to isolate the positive side of two-panel arrays. Due to the design of the circuit, it was impossible to safely replace them while

the panels were producing a voltage. Because safety is always our No. 1 priority at KIUC, the plan to tackle this problem was to replace the fuse holders at night while the panels would not be producing a voltage. Once the fuse holders were replaced, the techs were able to troubleshoot the circuit and look for the cause of the burnt fuse holders.

We appreciate and commend all of our workers for keeping safety in mind while working hard to keep the lights on. In our industry, it takes a great deal of knowledge and experience, which our staff showcases every day. ⚡

# 2024 CALENDAR OF STUDENT ART

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST QUARTER WINNING ENTRIES!



**KIRA CARPENTER**

First Grade  
Kalāheo Elementary School



**LILY PHILLIPS**

Second Grade  
Homeschooled Phillips Academy



**MADISON GRACE SAHAGUN**

Third Grade  
Wilcox Elementary School

# Nurturing Environmental Stewards: Inside the Youth Climate Practitioners Class

*By Ana Española, Sustainability Coordinator, County of Kaua'i*



In a world increasingly concerned about climate change, a group of high school students on Kaua'i is taking proactive steps to learn how their communities are tackling the climate issue. The Youth Climate Practitioners class is a county initiative aimed at empowering young minds with the knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on their communities.

The primary goal of the class is to educate high school students about state and county sustainability goals while also introducing them to a variety of career opportunities in the field. As part of the curriculum, students have the unique opportunity to partner with local restaurants to guide them through the Hawai'i Green Business Program certification process.

Structured around the Aloha+ Challenge, each class session explores one of the six sustainability goals: clean energy, waste reduction, local food production, smart sustainable communities, natural resource management, and green workforce and education. This holistic approach allows students to grasp the interconnectedness of environmental issues and solutions.

The first field trip began at Kōke'e Lodge, a Hawai'i Green Business Certified restaurant, where students witnessed firsthand the power of conscious consumption. Kōke'e Lodge Manager Jim Ballantine Chef Dominic Garcia shared how they prioritize locally sourced ingredients to support the island's agricultural economy. The experience underscored the importance

of sustainable sourcing and highlighted the potential of businesses to lead by example in environmental stewardship.

The journey continued at Kaua'i Algae Farm, where students were amazed by the potential of algae as a renewable resource. Surrounded by vibrant green ponds, Global Algae Innovations President David Hazlebeck discussed the transformative potential of this humble organism in addressing pressing environmental challenges. From biofuels to nutritional supplements to protein, algae showcased its versatility as a renewable resource with far-reaching implications for a greener future.

At Anahola Solar Farm, KIUC Communications and Public Relations Specialist Allison Young shared the promise of renewable energy, its role

in reducing fossil fuel dependency and fostering a homegrown green workforce. While embracing the potential of clean energy, students also grappled with the complexities and trade-offs inherent in transitioning to 100% renewable energy. While solar panels can harness sunlight, the lack of proper solar panel recycling can lead to more waste that ends up in the island's landfill. This discussion ranged from land use implications to cultural and environmental impacts, highlighting the need for thoughtful and balanced decision-making.

Throughout their journey, students have learned sustainability is not just about finding solutions but understanding the broader impacts of their choices. By adopting a systems-thinking mindset, they are equipped to navigate the complexities of real-world challenges and strive for a balanced approach that benefits their island communities. ⚡



# Where Are They Now?

## Jessica Jacinto, Youth Tour 2004

*By Allison Young*

KIUC's first Youth Tour was in 2004. For the 20th anniversary of Youth Tour, we talked story with one of the first Youth Tour delegates, Maj. Jessica Jacinto. Jessica is from Kaumakani and graduated from Waimea High as valedictorian in 2005 and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2009. Jessica is stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawai'i, as a G5 logistics planner for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

Jessica enjoys hiking with her dogs, Riley and Kona.



**Aloha, Jessica. What's your favorite memory from Youth Tour?**

Visiting the nation's capital for the first time is something I will never forget. It was a great chance to learn more about our government, visit historic monuments and landmarks, and meet so many amazing people. It was amazing to visit places that I had only previously seen on TV or read about in history books.

**Tell us about your path after graduation.**

I attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa on a four-year Army ROTC Scholarship and graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and rehabilitation science. I was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army upon graduation and attended the Ordinance Officer Basic Course at Fort Gregg-Adams (formerly known as Fort Lee) in Virginia. After completing the officer basic course, I was assigned to E Company Forward Support Company, 3rd Battalion 25th Aviation Regiment at Wheeler Army Airfield Hawai'i.

In 2012, I deployed to Afghanistan. In 2013, I was promoted to captain and attended the Combined Logistics Captain Career Course at Fort Gregg-Adams. In 2014, I was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade at

Fort Riley, Kansas. While I was stationed in Kansas, I was able to reconnect with the Kansas electric cooperative director and the 2003 Kaw Valley Electric Youth Tour winner. I participated in a panel to conduct interviews and helped to select the Kaw Valley Electric Youth Tour winners for 2015.

I completed another deployment from 2015 to 2016. When I returned from deployment, I assumed command of Headquarters Support Company, 601st Aviation Support Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Riley, Kansas. After completing company command, I was assigned to the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawai'i, where I served as a Battalion S4 and the operational contract support chief.

I was promoted to major in 2021 and served as the 25th Infantry Division G4 supply and services officer, followed by the distribution integrations branch chief for 25th Infantry Division Sustainment Brigade. I am currently stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawai'i, and am a G5 logistics planner for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

In my free time, I like to travel, surf, hike, camp, and scuba or free dive. I also enjoy playing in kickball and flag football leagues.

**Which one of KIUC's Ho'oka'ana Waiwai shared values most resonates with you?**

*Kuleana. We accept our responsibilities to our island community as a privilege. To do the right thing is a privilege I accept.*

Each person has both responsibility and privilege to care for and protect the land and the 'communities to which they belong. The responsibility to take care of one another and the 'āina is rooted in the culture in Hawai'i and has helped me with my career in the military. Having integrity and personal courage to do the right thing isn't always easy, but by accepting your kuleana, holding yourself accountable, and being consistent in both actions and words, you build trust and strengthen relationships. Through traveling to and living in different places, my appreciation for Hawai'i has grown and I realize how lucky I am to be born and raised on Kaua'i. I am also grateful that the Army has allowed me to be stationed on Oahu and be so close to home. 🍕

**Photos:** Jessica celebrates her niece River's first birthday; in front of the White House with the Hawai'i Youth Tour delegates; and white water rafting in Queenstown, New Zealand.



# Green Drinks Kaua'i

*By Naomi Hazleton,  
Pacific Edge Media*

**G**reen Drinks Kaua'i is a series of pau hana networking events designed to bring together like-minded individuals interested in a greener planet. These unstructured events are a great way to make new contacts, catch up with people you know, develop ideas, strike deals and forge a sustainable future for Kaua'i.

We're part of a wider network of Green Drinks chapters around the world that meet regularly for drinks and conversations about sustainability. Our Kaua'i chapter attracts a lively mixture of professionals from nongovernmental organizations, academia, government and businesses.

Green Drinks Kaua'i first launched at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i in 2010. Events took place around the island, including Common Ground and Hukilau Lanai. After a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are happy to say Green Drinks picked up again last year. Recent hosts include Puakea Grill in Lihue and Kaua'i Poke Co at The Po'ipū Bay Golf Course Clubhouse.

Our sponsors—KIUC, The Cliffs at Princeville, Chamber of Commerce and Green Magazine Hawai'i—are excited to be a part of Green Drinks Kaua'i.

The public is invited to join us for networking, drinks and pūpūs in the effort to unify the island's environmentally conscience community. Stop by, and you'll be made welcome.

Interested in hosting a Green Drinks event? We are looking for venues available on Tuesday evenings with a capacity for up to 100 people. Please email [Naomi@elementmediahi.com](mailto:Naomi@elementmediahi.com). 📧



## Green Drinks Kaua'i Next Event:

**Tuesday, April 23**

Follow us on Facebook  
[@GreenDrinksKauai](https://www.facebook.com/GreenDrinksKauai)  
and on Instagram at  
[@Kauaigreendrinks](https://www.instagram.com/Kauaigreendrinks)  
for more details.



# Sharing Aloha With Kaua'i's Nonprofits

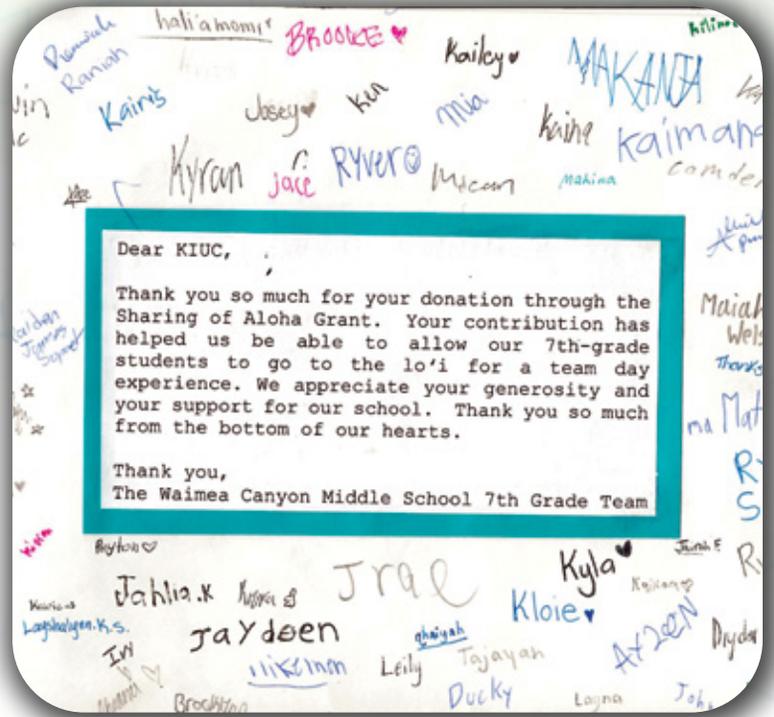
The Sharing of Aloha program supports various local nonprofit organizations that contribute to Kaua'i's quality of life.

In keeping with the cooperative principle Commitment to Community and in the spirit of aloha, KIUC grants recreational groups up to \$300 and nonprofit organizations up to \$1,000.

Grants are awarded by a group of KIUC employees who serve on the Sharing of Aloha Committee. Groups can apply at [www.kiuc.coop/sharing-aloha](http://www.kiuc.coop/sharing-aloha). Applications must be received by the first week of the month and meet eligibility requirements.

Applicants may only submit one application per month, not to exceed three applications a calendar year; and must be at least 18 years old. If the event has already occurred, the application must be submitted within 60 days of the event. Once the application has been reviewed, KIUC notifies the applicant of the results.

Good luck with your work in the community! 🍀



Thank

you!



# KIUC in the Community



Yeehaw! KIUC staff participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake fundraiser.



Staff helps at Hawai'i Foodbank-Kaua'i's food distribution at Kaua'i Community College.



Reyton Siliado, Information Technology, and Brandon Simpliciano, Transmission and Distribution, conduct mock job interviews for Waimea High School students.



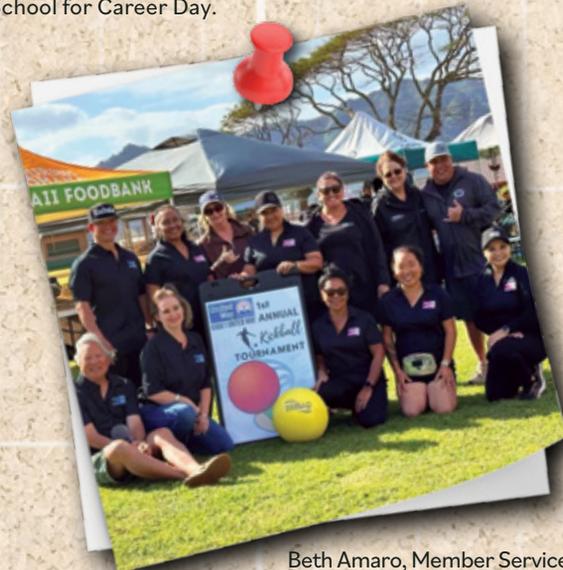
Allison Young, Communications, presents to fourth grade students at Kōloa Elementary School for Career Day.



Island School middle school students tour Kapaia Power Station with Brooks Braun, Power Supply.



Team KIUC representing at the Kaua'i High School Project Graduation Bike-A-Thon.



Beth Amaro, Member Services and Communications, volunteers for the Kaua'i United Way 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Kickball Tournament.

# Member Mahalos

Dear KIUC,

On behalf of Kaua'i Community Alliance, the local chapter of the Continuum of Care & Bridging the Gap for the State of Hawai'i, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of items.

Our work to end homelessness takes many forms, including but not limited to developing homeless and housing services, ensuring that homeless persons are treated with dignity and respect, maximizing the use of existing resources, advocating for policy changes, and providing public education and awareness of issues relating to homelessness. Each year, our KCA-CoC has the responsibility to conduct HUD's National Point In Time Count here on Kauai. This annual count is a key data point for measuring our progress towards reducing and ending homelessness. HUD aggregates our data with other CoC's nationally. The Point In Time Count information is also integral to federal funding to our state and the evaluation processes.

During the last week of January, KCA organized a group of over 30 volunteers and homeless service providers to conduct our canvassing efforts from the North Shore to the West end of the island. We met with hundreds of folks to complete our PJTC survey and our 7-day efforts were successful. Because of your generous donation, we were able to provide a valuable incentive gift bag of necessity items to each person who participated in our Point In Time Count survey.

Thank you so much for contributing to help our work of ending homelessness. We wish you and your business success in your future endeavors.

Mahalo,

Makana Kamibayashi



Helloha!

The other day, Makani came out to my home after I think someone may have notified him of a post I made on Facebook about my high electric bills.

He was courteous and very professional and a genuinely good guy!

He showed me some areas where we could cut down on costs, and he made some adjustments, and I think it will help me cut down on my monthly bills.

He also followed up a few days later with a phone call and a further breakdown assessment of my electrical usage, and that was very informative and professional as well.

I have great respect for all the hard workers at KIUC who keep our power coming into our homes—and that goes for all the office workers as well!

Thank you again— and please give him a pat on the back and raise! I don't know him personally— he did not put me up to that! And nobody put me up to this glowing review, I am just grateful and wanted to let you know.

Sincerely,

Raymond O'Flaherty

# Healthy Spring Cuisine

## Almond Goji Chocolate Chip No-Bake Cookies

½ cup almond butter  
3 tablespoons agave syrup  
2 tablespoons vanilla extract  
¼ teaspoon sea salt

1½ cups almond meal  
¼ cup goji berries  
3 tablespoons cacao nibs

Add almond butter, agave, vanilla and salt to a mixing bowl. Mix well. Add almond meal, goji berries and cacao nibs. Mix well. Form the dough into 1½ tablespoon balls, and place on a sheet lined with parchment paper. Use a fork to press the balls into flattened cookies. Serve immediately or refrigerate for an hour to firm up. Store in the refrigerator or freezer.

Makes 12 to 16 cookies.



## Kimchi Cucumber Salad

4 cucumbers  
1 cup kimchi  
4 tablespoons vegan mayo  
2 tablespoons furikake

Slice cucumbers into ½-inch rounds. Place in a mixing bowl with the remaining ingredients. Mix well.

Makes four servings



## Happy Rice

4½ cups rice  
16-ounce bag shelled frozen edamame  
7.05-ounce bottle shirakiku nametake  
(Japanese seasoned mushrooms)  
1.7- to 1.8-ounce bottle ochazuke wakame  
(Japanese rice seasoning)

Cook rice. About 10 minutes before rice is done, cook edamame according to package directions but do not chill in ice water.

Place hot, cooked rice in a large bowl. Add edamame, nametake and ochazuke wakame. Toss to combine. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Makes 10 servings.



## Sweet and Sour Tofu

### Tofu:

16-ounce block firm  
or extra firm tofu  
½ cup cornstarch  
¼ cup oil of choice

### Sauce:

⅓ cup agave or maple syrup  
⅓ cup low-sodium soy sauce  
2 tablespoons rice vinegar  
1 tablespoon sesame oil  
1 clove garlic, minced  
½-inch fresh ginger, minced  
1-2 teaspoons chili  
garlic sauce, optional  
2 teaspoons cornstarch  
plus 2 tablespoons water

### Topping:

1 tablespoon sesame seeds  
1 green onion, chopped

To make the crispy tofu, drain and press the tofu for at least 30 minutes. Cut the tofu into small cubes.

Place the cornstarch in a mixing bowl. Place the tofu pieces into the bowl. Shake the bowl until all pieces are coated.

Heat the oil in a large nonstick frying pan over medium-high heat. Place the tofu in the pan. Allow the tofu pieces to get crispy on the bottom side, then flip them around to get crisp on every side.

Remove the tofu from the pan. Place it on a plate or in a bowl.

To make the sauce, combine the syrup and soy sauce in a saucepan over

medium heat. Whisk. Add rice vinegar and sesame oil. Mix. Add chopped garlic, ginger and chili garlic sauce. Mix.

In a separate bowl, combine the cornstarch and water. Mix until the cornstarch is dissolved. Add cornstarch/water mixture to the saucepan. Mix. Turn up the heat to medium-high. Continuously stir the sauce until it becomes thick and sticky. Once it has thickened, turn the heat to low.

Add crispy tofu to the pan. Mix until the tofu is completely coated. Serve as is or over cooked rice. Top with sesame seeds and green onions.

*Makes 4 servings.*

### Recipes provided by:

**Sharon De La Peña**, RDN, LDN, CDE,  
MS - Ho'ola Lahui Hawai'i

**Hallie Cristobal**, MS, UH Extension Agent  
for 4H Youth and Generational Programs





February is heart month where expressions of love are shared in different ways.

One of those ways is caring for your heart through healthy food choices that will make a difference in the long run.

So why not show your heart some love today by making those choices that lead to less carbs, more vegetables and fruits and increased hydration in your daily intake. Exercise is also important. It aids to maintain or lose weight and helps lift your mood while keeping your heart healthy and loved.

Should you feel like you're not "feeling the love" we welcome you to stop in and see one of our healthcare providers. Call us today at (808) 338-8311. Our primary healthcare clinics are located across Kaua'i island for your convenience.



## HHSC KAUA'I REGION

Kaua'i Veterans Memorial Hospital (KVMH)  
Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital (SMMH)  
Kaua'i Region Clinics

*E Pono Mau Loa ~ Always Excellent*

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4643A Waimea Canyon Dr.,  
Waimea, HI 96796 (808) 338-9431

**Urgent Care at Po'ipū**  
2829 Ala Kalanikaumaka St., B-201  
Kōloa, HI 96756 (808) 742-0999

**The Clinic at Waimea**  
4643B Waimea Canyon Dr.,  
Waimea, HI 96796 (808) 338-8311

**The Clinic at Port Allen**  
4353 Waialo Rd., 'Ele'ele, HI 96705  
(808) 335-0579

**Samuel Mahelona Memorial Hospital (SMMH)**  
4800 Kawaihau Rd., Kapa'a, HI 96746  
(808) 822-4961

**The Clinic at Kalāheo**  
4489 Papalina Rd., Kalāheo, HI 96741  
(808) 332-8523

**The Specialty Clinic at Kalāheo**  
2469-C Puu Rd., Kalāheo, HI 96741  
(808) 378-4557

**The Clinic at Kapa'a**  
4800 Kawaihau Rd., Kapa'a, HI 96746  
(808) 823-4157

## OPENING IN MAY 2024! • THE CLINIC AT LĪHU'Ē

HHSC Kaua'i Region Clinics will be expanding to serve the Līhu'ē Community in May, 2024.  
Hana Kukui Center (KIUC) - 2nd Floor Suite 206, 4463 Pahe'e Street, Līhu'ē, HI 96766

# Taking care of **YOU** is taking care of **YOUR FAMILY.**

*Good nutrition is vital to good health.*

Eating a healthful diet of vegetables, fruits, healthy fats and whole grains can reduce your risk of obesity and other diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

Here are our top five favorite heart healthy food picks to include in your diet!

## **OLIVE OIL**

is a heart healthy fat made from smashed olives. Use this in place of butter when cooking!



## **SALMON**

is rich in a heart-healthy fat called Omega-3's. Did you know the American Heart Association recommends two servings of salmon or other oily fish every week?



## **FRESH HERBS**

Use these in place of salt with meals to enhance the flavor of your dishes!



## **UNSALTED WALNUTS**

are packed with omega-3's and a small handful makes a great tasty snack!



## **BLUEBERRIES**

are packed with antioxidants and are so versatile! You may add them to oatmeal, smoothies, baked goods or simply enjoy a handful for a yummy sweet snack!



*Food tastes even better when prepared and shared together!* 

# Get Your Steps for Charity

By Beth Amaro



**2023 Visitor Industry Charity Walk participants helped raise more than \$570,000 for Kaua'i charities.**

It's that time of year again when we all put on our walking shoes for a great cause.

The Hawai'i Lodging and Tourism Association hosts the 45th annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk on Saturday, May 4, at the Vidinha Stadium soccer fields. This year's theme is, "May the 4th Be With You!"

"We're coming off an incredible fundraising year in 2023, where we exceeded our goal and raised more than \$570,000," HLTA Executive Director Samira Siale says. "We couldn't have been so successful without the support of many community partners, sponsors, participants and volunteers."

Samira credits Ike Cockett, general manager of the Hilton Garden Inn Kaua'i, with leading the successful 2023 effort, which provided crucial financial aid to more than 50 nonprofit organizations on Kaua'i. "We're so grateful that he's agreed to lead our charity walk event again this year," she says.

While the charity walk exceeded its fundraising goal in 2023, Samira says HLTA's partnership with local food banks and essential agencies revealed there are many more families requesting assistance from our island community.

"With your support, our aim this year is to raise \$600,000, enabling us to extend our assistance to as many Kaua'i families as we can," she says.

Ike says involvement in the event brings personal satisfaction.

"Approximately 33 years ago, during the Persian Gulf War, I was a young manager and faced the reality of an economic downturn in the hospitality industry," he says. "My 'ohana was blessed to receive food items from the local food bank. To this day, the experience fuels my passion for paying it forward."

While the Visitor Industry Charity Walk culminates in the May 4 event, there are many ways for individuals and/or companies to be involved. To learn more about the event and HLTA, visit [www.charitywalkHawaii.org/Kauai](http://www.charitywalkHawaii.org/Kauai). ⚡

# KIUC Statement of Operations

## For the Period - 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023

By Stacie Dellamano

Year-end financial results serve several important purposes for KIUC, a not-for-profit organization. Reviewing financial statements helps ensure transparency and allows members to understand how the organization is managing its financial resources; financial statements provide a snapshot of the organization's financial health; financial statements can reveal adherence to financial reporting standards; and understanding financial statements facilitates communication between the organization's leadership and its members. KIUC provides both written and graph format of financial statement presentations both quarterly and annually to its members. Until KIUC's auditors issue the 2023 audit, the financial results presented herein will be provided in an interim state. The key numbers on the year-end operating statement are discussed below.

Revenues, expenses and net margins totaled \$170.1 million, \$165.8 million and \$4.3 million respectively, for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2023. KIUC is pleased to report the 2023 fiscal calendar year with a positive net margin. KIUC's request to the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission for a revenue increase was granted an interim decision and order by the PUC on November 27, 2023, with the PUC approving tariffs and an interim implementation date of January 11, 2024. Rate case information can be found at [www.kiuc.coop/ratecase](http://www.kiuc.coop/ratecase).

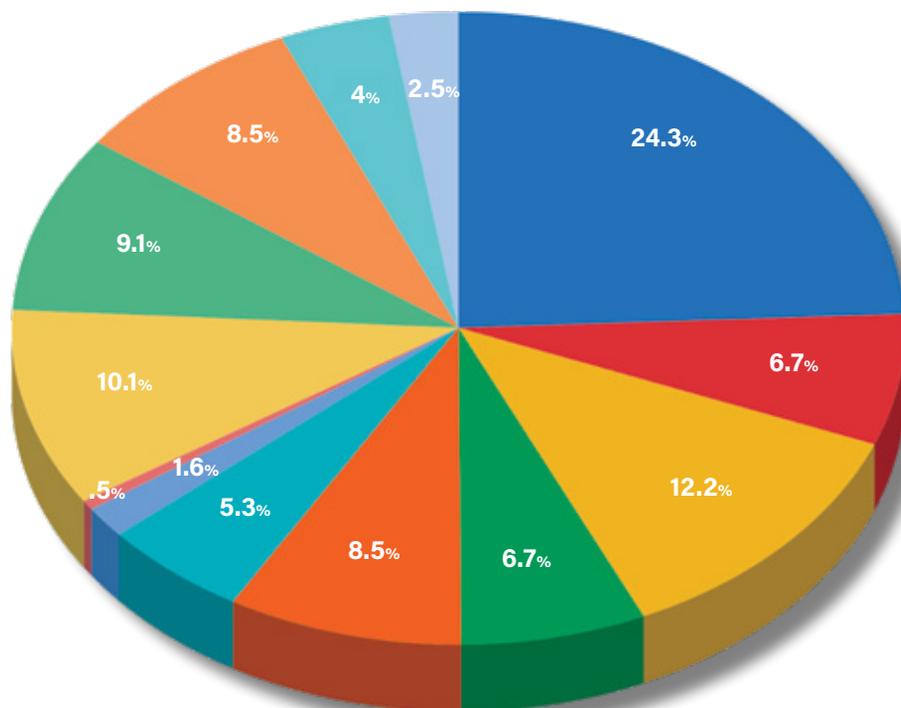
Similar to other electric utilities, the cost of power generation is the largest expense, totaling \$99.3 million or 58.4% of revenues. Commodities, which are fuel and purchased power costs, are the largest component of power generation totaling \$84.9 million or 50% of revenues. Fossil fuel is the largest single component of commodities, totaling \$41.4 million or 24.3% of revenues. However, our renewable sources combined (hydro, biomass and solar) comprise 25.6% of revenue.

The cost of operating and maintaining the electric lines totaled \$9.0 million or 5.3% of total revenues. The cost of servicing our members totaled \$2.8 million or 1.6% of revenues. The cost of keeping our members informed totaled \$0.9 million or 0.5% of revenues. Administrative and general costs, which include legislative and regulatory expenses, engineering, executive, human resources, safety and facilities, information services, financial and corporate services, and board of director expenses, totaled \$17.2 million or 10.1% of revenues.

Being capital intensive, depreciation and amortization of the utility plant costs \$15.4 million or 9.1% of revenues. Although not subject to federal income taxes, state and local taxes amounted to \$14.4 million or 8.5% of revenues. Interest on long-term debt, at a favorable sub-5% interest rate, totals \$6.7 million or 4.0% of revenues. Nonoperating net margins (e.g. interest income) added \$2.1 million to overall net margins. 🚀

### % of Total Revenue

- 24.3 Fossil Fuel
- 6.7 Hydro
- 12.2 Solar
- 6.7 Biomass
- 8.5 Production Operation & Maintenance
- 5.3 Transmission & Distribution Operation & Maintenance
- 1.6 Member Services
- 0.5 Communications
- 10.1 Administrative & General Net of Non-Operating Margins
- 9.1 Depreciation & Amortization
- 8.5 Taxes
- 4.0 Interest
- 2.5 Net Margins



Spring 2024  
Volume 21, Number 1

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President and CEO

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  - Leadership Kaua'i Alumni Network and Guest Speakers
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- **Knowledge to Discuss Community Issues at the Local and State Levels**
- **Highly Visible Public Recognition Linked to Achieving Results**

**Our Adult Program Delivers Value to Participants, Companies, Sponsors, and the Community.**

For inquiries regarding program tuition please call 808-246-8727. In many cases, a participant's company or organization will cover the cost. Payment plans and a very limited number of scholarships are also available.

**JOIN THE RANKS**  
Download your  
application **TODAY**

