Cover and Table of Contents Photos:
The Puna Lava Flow makes its way toward Pāhoa in December 2014. Photo: Blue Hawaiian Helicopters/’Ena Media Hawai‘i
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Photo: Blue Hawaiian Helicopters/‘Ena Media Hawai‘i
In the face of strong winds, fallen trees, flooding that damaged homes, and a lava flow headed their way, the Puna community pulled together like never before to weather the storm in 2014.
The center of Tropical Storm Iselle made landfall along the southeastern coast of Hawai‘i Island in the early morning of August 8 – the strongest storm to make landfall on Hawai‘i Island in recorded history. Roads were blocked by debris after the strong winds and heavy rains. Residents took to the streets to begin clearing the roads, joining a force of County and State road crews, parks crews, private contractors, and the Hawai‘i National Guard.

Right behind them, workers from Hawai‘i Electric Light Company, their counterparts on other islands, and contractors from as far away as California began work on fixing downed power lines that at one point left 33,000 customers without power. Though many were restored sooner, power was restored to the last customers five weeks after the storm hit.

Community organizations, churches, companies, and others pulled together to open relief centers to distribute supplies to residents who may not have been able to leave their homes or did not have electricity. A total of 39 homes in Puna suffered major damage or were destroyed.

Not a month after Iselle made landfall, on September 4, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory raised Kīlauea’s volcano alert level from watch to warning, reporting that a lava flow from the Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō vent was within .8 miles of the Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve and headed toward Pāhoa. The flow threatened to destroy businesses and homes and cross Highway 130, blocking the only major access in and out of Lower Puna. Once again, the community worked together to take preventative measures in assuring safety for all those threatened by another natural disaster.

With unprecedented efficiency, County crews and contractors prepared three emergency roadways – Railroad Avenue from Nānāwale to Hawaiian Beaches and on to Hawaiian Paradise Park, Government Beach Road from Kapoho to Hawaiian Paradise Park, and Chain of Craters Road from Kalapana to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. The Pāhoa Senior Center, formerly a fire station, was converted back into a fire station to ensure that residents on both sides of the anticipated flow would have the same level of service from our first responders. Mayor Billy Kenoi, Civil Defense Administrator Darryl Oliveira, and the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory held regular community meetings to keep residents updated and address concerns.
Thankfully, the flow stalled before getting to Pāhoa Village Road and the highway beyond. Lava did enter the Pāhoa Transfer Station, which has since been repaired and reopened. ‘Āpa‘a Street was cut off just beyond the transfer station. One home was destroyed, a cemetery covered, and lava entered other properties.

Between both disasters, no lives were lost on Hawai‘i Island. It was a true testament to the power of our community pulling together.
BUDGET
The Office of Management’s operating budget for FY 2014-15 was $1,609,383.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued to provide leadership, direction, and assistance to County departments as they work toward their goals and objectives.
- Managed the County’s FY 2014-15 operating budget of $416,915,831. The budget, which required no increase in property tax rates, maintained funding for critical, core County government services and made strategic investments in services and infrastructure, despite increased costs in areas such as the retirement fund, healthcare premiums, and energy.
- The All three bond rating agencies, Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s, and Fitch, continued the county’s bond ratings of AA2, AA- and AA- respectively.
- Provided support and assistance to Civil Defense in coordinating recovery and relief following Tropical Storm Iselle and in preparation for the lava flow.
- Coordinated the improvements to Mauna Kea Recreation Area. Initial work to improve the restrooms and parking area was performed in-house by Parks & Recreation and Public Works crews.
- Added another 10.8 acres in Kona to the County’s open space portfolio, protected in perpetuity from development.
- Established a jet ski rescue program with the Fire Department’s Ocean Safety division to provide safer, quicker rescues to people in need at our most heavily used beach parks.
- Completed another 36 homes in the Kamakoa Nui workforce housing project in Waikoloa Village. All 91 lots in the neighborhood have been sold and construction continues.
- Hosted the Magic of the Season open house December 8-19, 2014, at the County Building in Hilo. The event featured tree displays, activities, refreshments, and live entertainment by local talent.
• **Richardson Ocean Center** in Keaukaha reopened in 2014 as a pilot project to host educational exhibits and programs in Hawaiian culture, lifestyle, and environmental awareness that highlight the ocean and the importance of our shared stewardship of the land and sea. Over 7,000 students and visitors participated in Richardson Ocean Center programs.

• Opened the **La’aloa Avenue Extension**, a mauka-makai connector road between Kuakini Highway and Ali‘i Drive in Kona that improves traffic flow, reduces congestion, and improves access for evacuation and emergency response. The $11.9 million project was completed in February 2015.

• Broke ground in March 2015 on the $13.6 million **Kapi‘olani Street Extension**. Contemplated in County planning documents as early as 1967, the extension between Mohouli and Lani‘kua‘ula will improve traffic on Kīlauea and Kino‘ole, connect Waiakea High and the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo to Downtown Hilo, and open up space for the university to grow.

• Began construction on the $27.9 million southern segment of the **Māmalahoa Highway Bypass**. The bypass starts at Keauhou and runs 3.5 miles to the bottom of Haleki‘i Street below Kealakekua’s Kona Scenic subdivision. This southern segment will extend the roadway another 2.2 miles from Kealakekua to a new signalized intersection with Māmalahoa Highway in Nāpo‘opo‘o.

• Resurfaced 2.5 miles of **Kaumana Drive** in Hilo, from ‘Ainakō Avenue to ‘Ākōlea Road, and one mile of Māmalahoa Highway in Waimea.

• Improvements continue on **Ka‘iminani Drive** in Kona. The 1.8 mile project includes road reconstruction, driveway tie-ins, building retaining walls, adjusting utilities, drainage, and other improvements.

• The **Kamehameha Avenue Reconstruction**, from Ponahawai Street to Wailoa Bridge involved the reconstruction of the four-lane roadway, sidewalks, and curb ramps; adding turn pocket lanes, center left turn lanes, and bike lanes; improving drainage; installing LED streetlights, and upgrading the traffic signal at the Pauahi Street intersection. Project cost is $13.2 million and will be completed in 2015.

• The $1.2 million **Ponahawai Street Resurfacing** project which started from Kapi‘olani Street to Kamehameha Avenue was completed in October 2014. It involved paving, sewer work, traffic signal system upgrades at the intersections of Kīlauea Avenue, Kino‘ole, and Kapi‘olani Streets, pavement restriping, and adjusting utilities.

• In the effort to be less dependent on fossil fuels, the use of locally produced biodiesel fuel was implemented beginning April 2015 for the County fleet. 150,590 gallons of biodiesel fuel was purchased in FY 2014-15.

• Along with the State of Hawai‘i and Global Virtual Studio, the County is a partner in the **GVS Transmedia Accelerator**, an innovative business accelerator for entrepreneurs telling stories across multiple media platforms. The partnership will accelerate businesses from around the state with products made for the world right here in Hawai‘i. The program is housed at Honua Studios in Kona’s Kaloko Industrial Area. The County’s investment in FY 2014-15 was $200,000.

**COUNTY PHYSICIANS**

County physicians advise on medical matters, render medical opinions, and conduct physical examinations as requested by the County. The County physicians are Dr. Alan De Silva and Dr. Walter Wang.

**INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**

The Information and Assistance Center provides clerical and administrative staff assistance to the Office of the Mayor, including correspondence management, human resource functions, preparation of Mayoral messages, proclamations and certificates, and processing applicants for County Boards & Commissions.
The County assumed stewardship and operational control of the 20.5 acre **Mauna Kea Recreation Area** from the State on July 1, 2014. With the recent improvements to the Daniel K. Inouye Highway between East and West Hawai‘i, a clean, safe rest stop midway for our residents and visitors alike became more important than ever.

Since assuming the responsibility, County crews renovated the existing restrooms and parking lot, and improvements were made to the grounds. New restrooms and a playground were also constructed. Renovations to the cabins and support buildings are expected to be completed in 2016.
Major services funded by the Office of Aging in FY 2014-15 were the Aging and Disability Resource Center, caregiver support, respite, case management, personal care, homemaker, chore, adult day care, transportation, information & assistance, outreach, legal services, nutrition (congregate meals and home delivered meals), home modification, elder abuse awareness and prevention, chronic disease self-management program, employment, and volunteerism.

During FY 2014-15, the Office of Aging’s operating budget was $621,193. By obtaining an additional $1.6 million in federal and state grant funds, the Office of Aging was able to administer a variety of services for older persons, people with disabilities, and caregivers on Hawai‘i Island.

RFP DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACT EXECUTION, AND CONTRACT MONITORING

- The Office of Aging solicited the interest of over 15 community agencies to provide wrap-around services and supports helping seniors and their families divert long-term institutional placement. Agencies were selected through a competitive Request for Proposals process and then monitored quarterly for the appropriate delivery of services. Hawai‘i Island providers contracted by HCOA to provide community-based services include, but are not limited to Services for Seniors, Hawai‘i Island Adult Day Care, Ho‘onani Place, Mastercare, Metrocare, Nurse Procare, Seniors Helping Seniors, Aloha Maiden, and Care Resource Hawai‘i.

AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

HCOA proposed a revised office reorganization plan which was approved by Finance and County Council for implementation in FY 2015-16. The approved plan will include the creation of five civil service positions currently held by contracted individuals.

These positions will continue to be funded by HCOA grant/administrative funds for FY 2015-16. The creation of these civil service positions will improve the stability of the “Access” component of the ADRC that provides information & assistance/referral and options counseling to the general public. On average, the ADRC provides these services for over 100 contacts per month.

- The ADRC continues to create new and lasting connections with other agencies in the community that touch the lives of our kūpuna, individuals with disabilities, and their caregivers. Aloha Independent Living Hawai‘i (AILH) was awarded a contract to serve as a “Center for Independent Living” (CIL) for Hawai‘i County and moved into the ADRC facility, closing the gap between people with disabilities and the general public. Also, the office processed an average of 125 parking placard applications per month at the East Hawai‘i center and 80 per month at the West Hawai‘i Office of Aging.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

- Throughout FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15, HCOA has focused on strengthening support for Family Caregivers islandwide. Two Caregiver Conferences - one in Hilo and the other in Waikoloa served over 500 participants. Those served included caregivers, providers, community partners and the general public. In both conferences HCOA worked closely with community and state partners to highlight educational activities which included keynote speakers, break-out educational workshops and family caregiver resource fairs.

- Hawai‘i County output data shows that the services caregivers received through HCOA helped them manage their caregiving responsibilities including:
• Counseling and Training Services: HCOA contracted for over 100 hours of counseling, peer support groups, and training to help caregivers better cope with stress.

• Respite Care Services: HCOA contracted for the services of more than 50 caregivers with 4,384 hours of temporary relief – at home, or in an adult day care or institutional setting – from their caregiving responsibilities.

• Supplemental Services: HCOA contracted for 113 requests of Home Modification items and Assisted Transportation (1:1 escort) to four caregivers.

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

• HCOA continued to work with the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i who was awarded a contract under the Elder Abuse Prevention Program to provide a variety of legal services for people at risk for abuse or long-term placement. During the fiscal year, HCOA contracted Legal Aid for the provision of 1,675 service hours at no cost to over 300 seniors islandwide.

KUPUNA CARE PROGRAM

• The Kupuna Care Case Management program provides assistance to clients, families, and caregivers in identifying needs, exploring options, and mobilizing informal as well as formal supports to achieve the highest possible level of client independence. Case Management assistance includes assessing needs, developing care plans, and coordinating provision of services among Kupuna Care and Hawai‘i County vendor pool providers. The Kupuna Care Home and Community Based Services program provided the following services in FY 2014-15:
  • Personal Care, Homemaker, and Chore Services—provided 11,145 hours of assistance to seniors unable to perform daily activities (such as eating, dressing or bathing) or instrumental activities of daily living such as shopping or light housework.
  • Adult Day Care/Day Health Services—provided 10,368 hours of care for dependent adults in a supervised, protective group setting during some portion of a twenty-four hour day thus allowing respite for the caregiver(s).

• Case Management Services—provided 6,977 hours of assistance in assessing needs, developing care plans, and arranging services for 346 seniors and their caregivers.

• HCOA is proud to report that of the 273 Kupuna Care-funded seniors receiving case management in 2014, 77 percent were able to stay in their homes at an average cost of $1,200 per month. This is an astonishingly low figure when average monthly costs at Hilo’s Life Care Center run $12,405, Okutsu Veteran’s Home at $11,200 and Foster Home Care or a Care Home between $3,000-$5,000. Kupuna Care case management reduced out of pocket costs through its “least restrictive placement” approach to transition planning that involves the development of lasting informal partnerships for seniors at every level. For every dollar from Kupuna Care funds that HCOA expends for services, the State of Hawai‘i and taxpayers save either $2-$3 in foster home costs, or $10-$12 in long-term residential costs. By listening to our kupuna and our partners in care, the whole community benefits from Kupuna Care funding.

OUTSTANDING OLDER AMERICANS

• Over 400 family members and well-wishers attended as the HCOA honored nine nominees at the recent Outstanding Older Americans Award Luncheon, held on May 8 at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. The crowd cheered as Janet Murakami of Honoka‘a and Robert Ferolano of Kea‘au were named this year’s Outstanding Older Americans for Hawai‘i County.

• In addition to the Outstanding Male and Female Older American awards, the following special awards were presented: the Community Service Award was a three-way tie presented to Beverly Aikele of Kailua-Kona, Betty Webster of Waimea, and Virginia Isbell of Kealakekua. The Senior Activities Award was presented to Lucille Chung of Laupāhoehoe. The Personal Achievement Award was presented to Annie Kaaukai of Pāhoa. The Golden Years Award was presented to Elna Pendleton of Waikoloa.

• The Office of Aging presented Perennial Partnership awards to Big Island Substance Abuse Council, HOPE Services Hawai‘i, Hui Mālama Ola Nā ‘Ōiwi, and Neighborhood Place of Puna. These agencies, without hesitation, assisted with outreach efforts after Tropical Storm Iselle and the June 27 lava flow.
PUBLIC EDUCATION

• HCOA-ADRC Public Awareness Presentations: The ADRC provided various presentations throughout the FY to agencies, support groups, and to the general public with a mission to provide education on the supports and services that the ADRC offers and how to contact the ADRC. HCOA also utilized television as a means of getting the word out. HCOA Executive Director, Dr. Kimo Alameda hosted several agency representatives and distinguished community members during the months of May and June. This weekly TV show called, “Rise Above Hawai‘i with Dr. Kimo” continues to air every Monday and Tuesday nights on the Nā Leo Public Access TV channel. Nā Leo reaches approximately 55,000 households which significantly increases the outreach efforts regarding the services that HCOA provides.

• The Silver Bulletin continues as HCOA’s monthly public education newsletter provided to subscribers via mail as well as via various pick-up points throughout the island. 4,200 copies of the Silver Bulletin are distributed each month.

• HCOA provided the Better Choices, Better Health – Ke Ola Pono (BCBH), Chronic Disease Self-Management Program in all areas of Hawai‘i Island including the rural areas of Ka‘ū and Waimea. A total of 54 individuals participated in the program island wide – Hilo, Waimea, Waikoloa, and Kona. Also in February 2015, six individuals participated in the Stanford University Master Train-the-Trainer program in Chronic Disease Self-Management Program on O‘ahu and four individuals participated in a Cross Training Diabetes/Self-Management in May 2015, on Hawai‘i Island.

• The Office of Aging provides a monthly newsletter mail-out, “The Comfort of Home Caregiver Assistance News, Caring for You, and Caring for Others.” The newsletter is mailed to approximately 400 caregivers enrolled in our programs and services. It covers an array of subjects that address the caregiver’s needs. Highlights from June through August 2015 covered subjects that included Natural Disasters-Stay at Home or Evacuate, Heat Waves and Alzheimer’s Disease Stages. The newsletter also provides suggestions on self-care, inspirational quotes, safety tips and a monthly quiz. Copies are shared with various providers and constituents within the community. It is also available in our caregiver library located in the office.
The Hawai‘i County Civil Defense Agency is the emergency management and disaster response coordination organization for Hawai‘i Island.

Civil Defense facilitates and coordinates requests for assistance for resources and support exceeding local capacity, including resources around the state and nation if necessary.

**BUDGET**

The operating budget for FY 2014-15 was $1,102,048.

- Salaries & Wages: $566,046 (51%)
- Operating Expenses: $186,002 (17%)
- Grant Program: $350,000 (32%)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Tropical Storm Iselle made landfall on August 8, the strongest storm to hit Hawai‘i Island in recorded history. Roads were blocked by debris and power was out for 33,000 customers. Civil Defense coordinated the response and recovery. County, State, Federal, and private crews assisted in cleanup. Hawai‘i Electric Light Company was joined by neighbor island utilities and contractors from around Hawai‘i and California to repair poles and restore power. Community organizations, churches, companies, and others pulled together to open relief centers to distribute supplies to residents without power or blocked in to their homes. 39 homes in Puna suffered major damage or were destroyed.

- On September 4, 2014, the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory raised the alert level for Kilauea from watch to warning, reporting that a flow from the Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō vent was less than a mile away from the Wao Kele o Puna Forest Reserve and headed toward Pāhoa. The flow threatened to destroy businesses and homes, and cross Highway 130 blocking the only major access in and out of Lower Puna. County crews and contractors reconstructed three emergency roadways – Railroad Avenue, Government Beach Road, and Chain of Craters Road. The flow stalled short of Pāhoa Village and the highway beyond. Lava entered the Pāhoa Recycling & Transfer Station which has since been repaired. ‘Āpa’a Street was cut off just beyond the transfer station. One home was destroyed, a cemetery was covered, and lava entered other properties. Civil Defense, the Mayor’s Office, and the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory hosted regular community update meetings.


- Activated the Emergency Operations Center for a large brushfire at Green Sands Mark Twain Estate in May 2015.
The Office of the Corporation Counsel's budget for FY 2014-15 was $2,654,373. Over 75% of that amount went to salaries and wages. The office's 16 attorneys and 12 support staff provided legal services to over 20 departments, 20 boards and commissions, and 2,500 County employees.

The office received 1,313 requests for legal assistance. This number includes requests for legal opinions, requests to provide review and comment, and requests to draft documents. The office also reviewed over 1,800 contracts for legal sufficiency.

The Counseling & Drafting attorneys provided advice and guidance at over 1,100 meetings, including board and commission meetings and meetings with other County departmental personnel.

The Litigation attorneys appeared at over 850 hearings involving the County.

The office settled three major lawsuits for a total of $320,000, and obtained dismissals in five major lawsuits. In these cases alone, the claims against County totaled approximately $5 million.

The office successfully moved for summary judgment in the Sneyers case, in which the plaintiff’s husband died while he was swimming at Punalu’u. The County also obtained a dismissal in the aerial hunting case in which the State sought to invalidate the County’s aerial hunting ban.

The County also prevailed in Molfino v. Yuen, an appeal to the Hawai’i Supreme Court, in which the Plaintiff argued the County was liable for negligent recordkeeping. The Hawai’i Supreme Court disagreed and ruled in favor of the County.

The County also prevailed in two Ninth Circuit Cases, Ignacio and Stephens. Ignacio alleged his due process rights were violated when his employment as a police recruit was terminated. However, the Ninth Circuit disagreed and ruled in favor of the County. The Plaintiff in Stephens alleged excessive force by police officers. The County’s motion for summary judgment was granted and the Plaintiff appealed to the Ninth Circuit. The Ninth Circuit affirmed the trial court’s decision and ruled in favor of the County.

83 new claims against the County for damage or injury were investigated by the office; 28 of these claims were denied. Payments on claims for FY 2014-15 totaled $107,480, which includes payments on new claims filed as well as claims continuing from previous fiscal years. The office also assisted in filing property damage claims on behalf of the County and obtained a total of $69,604 for damages or repair to County property where another party was at fault.

The office’s collection efforts recouped over $92,000 in outstanding solid waste, water service fees and property damages owed to the County.

The office provided training to County employees in a wide range of legal areas, such as Procurement, Rules of Rulemaking, Sunshine Law, Ethics and Preventing Retaliation in the Workplace. Other specialized trainings were done for Police, Fire and Department of Environmental Management for Worker’s Compensation matters as well as Civil Liability Training for Police and Fire Dispatchers. In total, the office offered 13 different courses and trained a total of 223 County officers and employees.

The office secured space in the West Hawai’i Civic Center and now has a deputy corporation counsel located there full time. This expansion has improved the office’s ability to efficiently and effectively provide services and meet various needs in West Hawai’i.
The Hawai’i County Council is comprised of nine members, each elected from one of Hawai’i County’s nine Council districts and serving two-year terms (term expires 12/05/16). At the end of FY 2014-15, the nine Council districts were represented by the following Council Members:

**DISTRICT 1 – VICE CHAIR**
**VALERIE POINDEXTER**
Portions of South Hilo, North Hilo, Hāmākua, portion of Waimea

**DISTRICT 2**
**AARON CHUNG**
Portion of South Hilo

**DISTRICT 3**
**DENNIS “FRESH” ONISHI**
Portion of S. Hilo, portion of Kea’au

**DISTRICT 4**
**GREGGOR ILAGAN**
Portion of Puna (Eastern)

**DISTRICT 5**
**DANIEL PALEKA JR.**
Portion of Puna (Western)

**DISTRICT 6**
**MAILE MEDEIROS DAVID**
Portion of N. Kona, S. Kona, Ka’ū, greater Volcano area

**DISTRICT 7 – COUNCIL CHAIR**
**DRU MAMO KANUHA**
Portion of N. Kona, portion of S. Kona

**DISTRICT 8**
**KAREN EOFF**
North Kona

**DISTRICT 9**
**MARGARET WILLE**
North and South Kohala

**STEWART MAEDA**
County Clerk

**JON HENRICKS**
Deputy County Clerk

Hilo: Hawai‘i County Building, Room 1402
Phone (808) 961-8225  |  Fax (808) 961-8912

Kona: West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Building A
Phone (808) 323-4260

Pāhoa: 15-2662 Pāhoa Village Rd., Room 304
Phone (808) 965-2713  |  Fax (808) 965-2707

Waimea: 64-1067 Māmalahoa Hwy., Suite C-5
Phone (808) 887-2069  |  Fax (808) 887-2072
For FY 2014-15, expenditures for the County Council and Office of the County Clerk totaled $4,863,614 or $372,770 (7.12%) below the projected budget amount of $5,236,384.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
- The County Council held 26 regular meetings, two special meetings, two public hearings, enacted 115 ordinances and adopted 373 resolutions.
- Council Services copied 659 DVDs of the meetings, scanned 3,133 documents, and researched 217 requests from the public.
- The Council’s committees conducted 85 regular meetings, 1 special meeting (three-day special session of the Committee on Finance to conduct the annual departmental program and budget reviews), and completed 141 Committee reports.

SUPPORT SERVICES
- The Support Services Division reproduced 3,339,469 black and white copies and 302,305 color copies of various documents including maps, booklets, and posters; mailed 308,113 pieces of various weights and is responsible for driving to various County departments and agencies located in the Hilo area to pick up and distribute inter-departmental envelopes and mail.

ELECTIONS
- The Elections Division conducted the Primary and General Elections in 2014, processed 14,035 new and updated voter registration affidavits, mailed out 48,939 absentee ballots for the Primary and General Elections, and processed 12,632 absentee walk-in voters for both elections. In preparation for the implementation of the new online voter registration system and statewide voter registration system, the Elections Division reviewed voters’ names and residence addresses before the conversion to the new system.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH BRANCH
- During FY 2014-15, the Legislative Research Branch reviewed and provided drafting assistance for 226 resolutions, 34 bills, and 65 proposed amendments to legislation before the Council; published County Code Supplements 18 and 19, and updated the online version of the Code; and assisted the Council with the budget review process, which included the submittal of 133 nonprofits to be included in the operating budget and the review and transmittal of 30 budget amendments and all amended drafts of the operating and capital budgets.
- In addition, LRB initiated and/or completed the following special projects: drafted ballot language for the proposed amendment to the County Charter for the 2014 General Election and updated the Charter to incorporate the amendment that resulted; conducted four training classes for Council district staff on legislative drafting and budget procedures and amendments; updated, published, and distributed over 500 copies of the informational brochure, Your County Government; initiated the ten-year revision of the County Code; initiated a project to manage the Clerk’s archives and LRB library; and performed other duties as assigned.
The Office of the Legislative Auditor conducts impartial financial and performance audits of County agencies, programs, and operations; is responsible for procuring an independent certified public accountant to conduct a post-audit of the County’s financial transactions; and initiates audit evaluations or special studies either on request of the Council or on its own initiative.

- For FY 2014-15, expenditures for the office totaled $630,721 or $163,597 (20.6%) below the projected budget amount of $794,318.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

- Pursuant to Hawai‘i County Charter §10-13, external auditor, N&K, CPAs, Inc., completed their first year of a four-year contract (FY 2013-14 through 2016-17).


PERFORMANCE AUDITS

- The office substantially completed a draft performance audit of the County of Hawai‘i’s Purchasing Card Program in June 2015, which was subsequently issued in July 2015.

- The office contracted with Accuity LLP to perform a performance audit of the County of Hawai‘i’s Information Technology Department of its hardware lifecycle management and software licensing management and a Notice to Proceed issued on March 17, 2015.

FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

- A follow-up audit of an agreed-upon procedures Resolution 111-13 (Draft 2) for the County Clerk and Elections Division was completed and filed with the Council on April 28, 2015.

OTHER PROJECTS

- An annual audit plan was filed with the Council on June 8, 2015, for FY 2015-16 which was based on a County-wide risk assessment of funds, programs, services and operations of any County agency, executive agency, or program, which is supported, in whole or in part, by County funds (Hawai‘i County Charter § 3-18).

- The office completed the procurement and acquisition of a data analytics software to assist in the review and analysis of County financial data on May 6, 2015, and installed May 29, 2015.
which authorizes the termination of water service for non-payment of sewer service charges effective December 31, 2015.

WASTEWATER

• Awarded a contract for construction work at the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration Upgrade and Sludge Removal Project to enhance the wastewater processing capacity of the plant and to improve energy use efficiency.

• Initiated conceptual plans for an Effluent Reuse Program for West Hawai‘i.

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

• SWD was able to relocate the Pāhoa Transfer Station in advance of the lava flow and successfully operated an alternate transfer station for several months until the lava flow activity diminished in the area of the permanent site. Operations have resumed at the Pāhoa Transfer Station.

• Improvements to the Volcano Transfer Station were completed, and improvements to the Glenwood Transfer Station were started and are expected to be substantially complete by October 2015. Improvements included: removal of deteriorated retaining walls; addition of covered concrete docks for recycling and rubbish bins; redevelopment of both transfer station site plans to increase traffic flow and provide potential sites for future services as requested by local communities. Construction was performed by Loeffler Construction.

• A new refuse cell is being constructed at the West Hawai‘i Sanitary Landfill and SWD began placement of select waste into the cell in mid-August.

• A new Request for Proposal was issued for the construction of a Compost and Green Waste Processing Facility. This facility will allow for the acceptance of food waste, contaminated paper and green waste. It will also process the greenwaste in a way that will kill invasive species.
During FY 2014-15, the department was authorized the following budget appropriation:

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The Department of Finance also oversees the appropriation for debt service, pension and retirement contributions and health fund. Listed as Miscellaneous Accounts, the net budget for these items totaled $107,286,206 for FY 2014-15.

- Driver Licensing began placing a notation of veteran status on the front of driver’s licenses, permits and state identification cards for those persons who served in any of the uniformed services of the United States and received a discharge other than dishonorable on October 1, 2014. Eligible applicants must provide proof of qualification for this distinction. For more information, please view our website at hawaiicounty.gov/finance-vrl-veteran.

- Driver Licensing administered a total of 11,694 written tests and 5,096 road tests. As of June 30, 2015, Hawai‘i County had 130,894 licensed drivers. In addition, we issued 4,559 initial state identification cards, renewed 1,364 and issued 2,365 duplicates.

- Online vehicle registration increased another 30 percent from last year. As of April 2015, we were averaging 1,130 vehicles per month. The Fleet Dealer Registration Program, a partnership between the counties and a private entity, has added four dealerships to their program resulting in a faster turnaround time in getting new vehicles registered.

- The Real Property Tax Division upgraded their data management system on June 5, 2015. This was one of the recommendations of the 2012 International Association of Assessing Officers audit and allows for greater integration of advanced technologies for the assessment of real property. In particular, the web based format will result in the use of the iField application by appraisal staff allowing for more streamlined evaluation and data entry while in the field as well as tracking workflow. In addition, the cashiering system was upgraded to improve payment processing and scanning capacity for cashiering operations.

- Additional recommendations of the 2012 audit were reviewed by the Real Property Tax Task Force and were passed by the County Council this year. They include 1) the authorization to use the income approach in assessment; 2) the shortening of the tax foreclosure period from three to two years;
3) the tying of the blind, deaf and total disability exemptions to a homeowner’s exemption on a parcel; and, 4) an added element to the homeowner’s exemption requiring that the applicant file as a resident for state tax purposes or request a waiver for legitimate reasons.

• Also at the recommendation of the 2012 audit, the Real Property Tax office mailed letters to 6,718 homeowners (20% of the current homeowners receiving a homeowner exemption) asking for reconfirmation that they meet the requirements of the exemption.

• Property Management completed the acquisition of White Sands Mauka in North Kona on October 6, 2014 for 10.775 acres on Ali‘i Drive and anticipated use will be an expansion of the adjacent Kīpapa Park. Also acquired was a .911 acre parcel in Hāwī, North Kohala known as Banyan Tree Park which will remain as open space. The funding for these purchases came from the Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation (PONC) Fund. This land will be preserved and enjoyed by the people of Hawai‘i for generations to come. Information regarding the PONC Fund can be found at: http://records.co.hawaii.hi.us/Weblink8/browse.aspx?dbid=1&startid=13770

• Treasury Division issued the County of Hawai‘i’s third series of bond anticipation notes and added another institutional buyer in order to lessen our dependence on a single purchaser. Note financing saves the county substantial interest costs in lieu of immediate issuance of long term bonds. It also increases our compliance with IRS regulations by ensuring we meet the “spend down” requirements for tax exempt monies. Interest rates for the 9-month notes ranged from 1.02% to 1.06%.

• Treasury provided assistance to the Department of Environmental Management in the establishment of the county’s first sewer improvement district. The difficult task of accurately and fairly assessing a mixed use district included using multiple correspondence to the lot owners, surveys, reassessments, and two public hearings. The passage of Resolution 72-15 cleared the way to start design work which will be followed by bid award, loan closing, and construction.

• All three bond rating agencies, Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s, and Fitch, continued the county’s bond ratings of AA2, AA- and AA- respectively.

• The budget for FY 2015-16 was balanced at $438,793,070. The majority of the increase over the previous fiscal year budget addresses negotiated collective bargaining unit agreements which significantly increases wages, salaries and fringe benefits. The FY 2015-16 budget also provides resources to Parks & Recreation and Public Works to address invasive species such as albizia trees and little fire ants, provides additional support for Civil Defense, expands Mass Transit’s paratransit program, increases motor vehicle and driver licensing services in Waimea, and improves the building permit process. The approved budget can be found at: http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/finance-budget/.

• The Budget Office processed non-profit grant applications for FY 2015-16, and 133 grants were awarded by the County Council totaling $1,500,000. This represents a 45% increase over the 92 grants awarded for FY 2014-15.

• The County of Hawai‘i was again awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014. The county’s current and prior year CAFRs can be found at: http://records.co.hawaii.hi.us/Weblink8/1/doc/71683/Electronic.aspx

• The Purchasing Division revised and updated the Purchasing Manual, with training being provided to 90 employees from all county departments and agencies. In addition, the Purchasing Division provided general procurement training sessions to the Office of Aging, Public Works, Fire and Police Departments. Finance Director Rule 4, Rules and Regulations Relating to the Purchase of Materials, Supplies, Equipment and Services were updated to reflect the current policies and procedures of the Purchasing Division.

• Strides were made to expedite the contract signature and approval process by increasing the threshold to require a contract, allowing electronic or scanned signatures for contracts up to a certain dollar amount, and eliminating the notary requirement on certain contracts. Contracts are now being signed and returned to the County within days, instead of weeks.
The Hawai‘i Fire Department operates with 346 career or paid Fire Fighters assigned to three shifts at 20 fire stations islandwide, 56 Water Safety Officers protecting 12 beach parks, 145 Volunteer Members (20 volunteer companies), 16 Fire Radio Dispatchers, eight Fire Prevention Officers, five Training Officers, and 29 Administrative Services Personnel.

The Department is primarily responsible for fire protection and suppression, pre hospital emergency medical services, land and sea search and rescue, hazardous materials response, ocean safety, and fire prevention and public education for the County.

As the State of Hawai‘i contract provider for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the County of Hawai‘i, the Department receives funding from the State Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Branch to operate 15 Advanced Life Support (ALS) transport units (ambulances) and one Air Medical (ALS) transport helicopter. Those funds account for approximately 38% of the department’s annual operating budget.

During FY 2014-15, the department responded to a total of 24,431 calls for assistance from the public: 676 fire/explosion related, 16,489 EMS related, 147 water/land rescue, 311 hazardous conditions, 1,954 public service, 4,439 good intent, 386 false, 24 severe weather, and five public complaint incidents.

BUDGET
The Fire Department’s total operating budget for FY 2014-15 was $42,929,950.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Filling of critical vacant positions in the Fire Department through internal promotional examinations and new hiring.
- Continued to provide optimum service to the residents and visitors of Hawai‘i County by coordinating effective training with partnering agencies and providing proper staffing.
- National Fire Academy (NFA): continue training with the NFA Programs; on and off campus courses offered to our personnel.
- Smoke Detector/Home Inspection Program reached 243 homes and over 1,000 smoke detectors were installed.
- Conducted Fire Prevention Week/Month assemblies at 20 elementary schools with over 5,000 children.
- Arson K9 Ka‘imi was featured on the U.S. Fire Administration Arson Awareness Week poster.
- Received two new build ambulances delivered by Braun Northwest Inc. These were the first ambulances to receive the new Liquid Spring suspension system to enhance patient care and driver safety. Ambulances are providing service in Districts 5 and 20.
- Replaced all of the major lifeguard towers in East Hawai‘i with the new surveyor type towers that protect our Water Safety Officers from the harsh elements and provide a clearer view of the beach and its patrons.
- Worked with the 93rd Civil Support Team in a Vigilant Guard tabletop and full-scale exercise simulating a chemical leak following a hurricane.
- Certified one of our personnel as a dive instructor and can now conduct in-house training for our rescue personnel as well as for any personnel who do not possess a SCUBA certification.

Hilo: Hawai‘i County Building, Room 2501 | Phone (808) 932-2900 | Fax (808) 932-2928 | Fire Prevention (808) 932-2912
Kona: West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Building E | Phone (808) 323-4760 | Fax (808) 323-4768
fire@hawaiicounty.gov | hawaiicounty.gov/fire
An in-service training was developed upon receipt of new thermal imaging cameras. The new units are currently assigned to both Operations Battalion Chief units, Captain Cook, Kailua, Honoka’a, Waimea, Pāhoa and Pāhala Fire Stations.

A grant was awarded for the purchase of a Driving Simulator that would aid in our Driver Training Program.

Integration of training with volunteers and online operations personnel, which included instruction of Hands-Only CPR (HO CPR) provided by the EMS Bureau.

On August 26, 2014 principals and the Complex Area Superintendent of the Waiākea - Hilo Complex area were trained in Hands Only CPR. The DOE Administrators provided positive feedback of the HFD Hands Only CPR program. The intent for this meeting was to gain the buy in and support at the Administrators level to have all high school seniors trained in Hands Only CPR prior to graduation.

The first Cardiac Arrest save from our Hands Only CPR program in schools arrived back on island after 3 – 4 weeks of rehab on O‘ahu. The survivor was a senior at Waiākea High School who amongst his friends attended the HO CPR training. The student went into cardiac arrest while playing basketball off campus and his friends did HO CPR for 12 minutes before the arrival of our HFD units.

From November 1, 2014 to April 16, 2015, additional and augmented Emergency Medical Services were established out in the Puna district in lieu of the impending lava flow. ALS Medic – 10 Alpha (Pāhoa Village Fire Station) was implemented providing services for the affected area.

In recognition of National Child Passenger Safety Week, HFD held a first ever islandwide Child Passenger Safety inspection clinics on September 20, 2014. Clinics were held at the Central, Pāhoa, Pāhala, Kailua, Waikoloa, and Waimea Fire Stations. The hands on clinic closed out three days of training where 22 HFD personnel became certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

Received notification of award for two State Highways DOT grants; $64,120 for specialized eDrualic vehicle extrication equipment for the Waiākea and Kailua Rescue companies, and $97,390 for vehicle stabilization equipment for all HFD Engine Companies.

On August 14, 2014, three personnel completed the year-long Kapi‘olani Community College Mobile Intensive Care Technician Program adding a much needed relief to the Fire Medical Specialist pool.
Ocean rescues got a little quicker when the Ocean Safety division implemented a rescue watercraft program to get lifeguards to people in distress and back to shore quicker. A $320,000 appropriation in the FY 2014-15 County operating budget allowed for the development of the program. The first two rescue watercrafts are stationed at Hāpuna Beach Park in West Hawai‘i, which sees over 690,000 beachgoers a year, and Issac Hale Beach Park in East Hawai‘i, which sees 190,000 beachgoers annually.

Other recent investments in ocean safety include replacing old, weathered lifeguard towers with new models that increase durability, visibility, and safety for personnel.
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUSAN AKIYAMA  
Administrator

ANNIE BAILEY  
Assistant Administrator

CHRISTINE NGUYEN, Accounting  
KALOA ROBINSON, Community Development  
SHARON HIROTA, Existing Housing  
NOEL FUJIMOTO, Grants Management

Budget

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<th>Housing Fund</th>
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TOTAL  $ 17,968,955

The expenditures from the Housing Fund includes $13,337,528 expended on Section 8 Rental Assistance and Family Self Sufficiency Programs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **Ulu Wini Housing Program:** Completed construction of final 20 units in September 2014, for a total of 96 units in this project. A new playground was donated and added to the facility. Habitat for Humanity for West Hawai‘i opened their new ReStore in the adjoining Educational Training Facility.

- **Kamakoa Nui – Waikoloa Workforce Housing Project:** Completed 20 homes in Phase III and 16 homes in Phase IV. All lots have been sold in this Workforce Housing Project.

- **Friendly Place:** Expanded meal service and service area for clients.

- **West Hawai‘i Emergency Shelter:** Secured CDBG funding for renovations for a commercial kitchen.

- **West Hawai‘i Micro-Unit shelters:** Secured federal funds to develop shelters for the chronic homeless.

- **Fair Housing:** Conducted 15 seminars and provided technical assistance for inquiries, grant applications and tax exemptions.

- **Affordable Housing:** Implemented Chapter 11 affordable housing requirements on three development projects that will result in 140 affordable units.

EXISTING HOUSING

- **Rent Assistance Program:** Assisted over 1,700 low and moderate-income persons/families through the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) and Tenant Based Rent Assistance Programs. Provided emergency housing assistance to six eligible families who were impacted by Tropical Storm Iselle. Maintained a 95% utilization rate of funds.

- **Family Self Sufficiency Program:** Working with 18 families. Graduated three participants from the program, paying out $35,000 in escrow savings.

- **Home Repair Programs:** Ten low and moderate-income homeowners received loans and completed their home repairs.

- **Section 8 Homeownership Option Program:** Completed one Homeownership transaction.

- **Ho‘owaiwai Empowerment Services:** Contracted with Hawaiian Community Assets to provide free monthly Financial Education Workshops, Homebuyer Education Workshops, and one-on-one financial education and literacy counseling services.
• Volunteer Income Tax Assistance – coordinated three tax clinics in East and West Hawai’i. Completed over 200 federal tax returns that resulted in over $600,000 in tax refunds and credits that were collected by eligible individuals.

• Created and implemented a program providing opportunities for the youth living at Nā Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini to increase their financial capacity through financial education, incentivized savings programs and entrepreneurship opportunities and activities.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

• Grants: Applied and was awarded federal HUD and USDOL Workforce Grants totaling $3,800,163.

• Workforce Development Programs: Assisted 155 adults, 125 dislocated workers and 112 youth with employment and training activities. The One Stop Partners hosted various training workshops and job fairs.

• Projects: Completed Tenant Based Rental Assistance assisting a total of 42 families; completed architectural barrier removal at the North Kohala Senior Center; completed re-roofing Yano Hall; completed plans and design for ROAB Kona Imim Center and Hilo Adult Day Care; and acquisition of a fire ladder truck for the Waiākea Fire Station.
The Department of Human Resources is responsible for strategic workforce planning, employment, equal opportunity, personnel and organizational development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations, and occupational health and safety for County of Hawai‘i.

During FY 2014-15, the department’s operating budget was $1,915,916. In addition to the Director and Deputy Director, the department had 24 permanent full-time positions and one student position from the Hawai‘i Community College under the Cooperative Vocational Educational Program.

- Received 11,570 applications to fill 457 vacancies.
- Conducted 188 open-competitive recruitments and 117 internal recruitments.
- The Equal Opportunity Division, at times solely and other times in conjunction with the Office of Corporation Counsel, conducted 27 civil rights education classes for 413 participants. The classes include Non-Supervisory and Supervisory Anti-Discrimination and Harassment; Prevention of Retaliation; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Sensitivity; and the ADA for Law Enforcement.
- Provided and/or coordinated islandwide safety training to over 1,000 employees on various safety topics.
- Conducted or participated in safety inspections of seven County of Hawai‘i facilities and conducted file reviews of 254 workers compensation files.
- Coordinated island wide influenza vaccines with KTA Super Stores for 424 employees.
- Coordinated County’s Leave Sharing Program: 13 requests for shared leave hours were approved; 115 employees donated 3,396 hours of vacation.
- Facilitated Flexible Spending Plan: As a cafeteria plan under section 125 of the Internal Revenue Service Code, the County’s Flexible Spending Plan allows participants to pay for health insurance premiums and medical and dependent care expenses with pretax dollars. As a result, participants realize both state and federal income tax savings as well as FICA tax savings. In Plan Year 2014-15, the County saved approximately $529,551 in FICA taxes. During this period, 2,016 employees participated.
- A total of 6,791 personnel action forms were processed. 3,166 of those forms were for mass pay adjustments.
- Conducted five customer service training modules that covered customer service basics, building relationships, dealing with difficult customers, effective communication, and customer contact.
The County of Hawai‘i’s 49th Annual Employee Recognition Program was held at Aupuni Center in Hilo in November 2014. Mayor Billy Kenoi honored and recognized 23 outstanding County of Hawai‘i employees for their dedicated service and commitment to the people of Hawai‘i County. Employees were honored from each department, and three were selected as Manager, Supervisor and Employee of the Year:

**Manager of the Year**
April Surprenant
Planning Program Manager
Planning Department

**Supervisor of the Year**
Lance Uchida
Battalion Chief
Fire Department

**Employee of the Year**
Kimberly Hashimoto
Victim/Witness Counselor II
Office of the Prosecuting Attorney

- Conducted five supervisory skills training modules that covered supervisory basics, performance management, employee development, and delegation.
- Assisted the County Tuition Reimbursement Committee in awarding $14,131 to nine employees.
- Assisted in the planning and re-design of the building permit process that resulted in a process improvement model to help departments expedite plan approval while still ensuring compliance with appropriate laws, rules, codes, etc.

- Conducted a comprehensive classification re-pricing study to address compensation concerns within a department.
- Heard and responded to 35 employer-level grievances.
- Participated in the negotiation of three collective bargaining agreements (for bargaining units that represent approximately 25% of the County’s workforce).
FY 2014–15 was a year of technical improvements and growth for the County. Major upgrade projects have increased the efficiency, reliability and user accessibility to resources and technologies. The projects completed in FY 2014–15 laid the groundwork for increased technical improvements in the coming fiscal years.

- The County fiber network was extended to include connectivity to Pāhoa Council Offices, the Pāhoa Lava EOC, and Pu'uanahulu Landfill.
- Active Directory software upgraded to the latest version.
- Network redesign and new infrastructure installed to increase network reliability and support.
- Exchange email system consolidated and upgraded to the latest version.
- A Virtual Machine server system was implemented to improve efficiency and reliability.
- Completed Gas Boy to Fuel Master System upgrade for Police & DPW Automotive.
- New iasWorld software was installed and configured for the Real Property Division in conjunction with the Finance Department.
- A custom data capture system was created for Finance and Human Resources to assist with required Federal Affordable Care Act reporting.
- SharePoint installation project was completed with the successful debut of the new County Intranet.
- Federal grants were secured for VoIP telephone upgrade and Enterprise GIS upgrade.
- Assisted Office of the County Clerk with the purchase and installation of the Granicus system for live stream and archives of Council and Committee Meetings.
- Provided hands-on training to County employees in Adobe Fillable Forms, ADA compliance and SharePoint Intranet editing.
- Purchased one year of online training with unlimited course vouchers that can be used by any County of Hawai'i employee. The course materials span back office technical products from Cisco, Microsoft, VMware and more, as well as end user training for Windows 8.1, Office 2013 suite and SharePoint.
- Coordinated and managed a County-wide PC replacement program for units with the XP operating system. Over 400 new PCs were deployed in the fiscal year.
The department is a regulatory agency of the County of Hawai‘i consisting of the Liquor Commission, the Liquor Control Adjudication Board, the Director, administrative staff and investigators. The primary function of the department is to regulate the manufacture, importation, sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors.

The Liquor Commission consists of nine volunteer members representing each council district and is authorized to grant, renew or refuse and set conditions to applications for liquor licenses.

The Liquor Control Adjudication Board consists of five volunteer members that hear and decide complaints on violations of the liquor laws and may impose penalties as provided by law.

The department’s staff provides administrative services to and on behalf of the Liquor Commission and the Liquor Control Adjudication Board and performs duties that regulate the liquor industry.

The investigators conduct on-premise checks on a daily basis and are responsible for investigating and citing licensees for violations of the liquor laws.

- The department’s budget for FY 2014-15 was $1,947,044. The department is not a general fund agency and collects annual license fees, percentage fees on gross sales of liquor as well as fines to subsidize the department's operational costs. Any funds that are not expended will be refunded to the licensees.
- The Department of Liquor Control supported the pilot Weekend Bus Rides at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo campuses. This program provided students free transportation to the Prince Kūhiō Plaza and downtown Hilo areas to run errands, shop and/or go to the movies. Most importantly, the rides are safe and alcohol, drug and tobacco free.
- The department donated $9,000 as part of its Project Grad Program. The funds were used to provide seven high school senior classes with fun-filled, alcohol and drug free activities on their graduation night.
- The Department of Liquor Control processed 10 district contingency fund grants requested by our Council Members that included a lunch wagon for Nā Wai Ola (Waters of Life) Public Charter School from Councilman Zendo Kern, a Beach Clean-Up from Councilwoman Karen Eoff and eight grants to five graduating senior classes for grad night.
- A training video titled “Under 21...No Can” starring Augie T was funded and produced by all four counties and the State of Hawai‘i. The video focuses on the sales and service of alcoholic beverages to minors and will be used in our liquor card training classes.
- Compliance checks are conducted year round against retail and dispenser licensees to combat the sale of liquor to minors.
The Mass Transit Agency provides islandwide public transportation as the Hele-On Bus system. Services operate daily from 3:15 a.m. – 1:15 a.m. with limited services on Sundays and holidays. Hele-On Bus riders consist of the general public including seniors, students, and workforce. In addition, the Mass Transit Agency has a Shared Ride Taxi program available through use of a voucher system. The agency also provides administrative support for the Transportation Commission and oversees taxicab operators for Hawai'i Island. During FY 2014-15, a total of 142 taxicabs were registered in the county.

The total budget for FY 2014-15 amounted to $11,844,983. Of this amount, $1,710,500 was appropriated through Federal grants. The remaining balance came from County funds. In addition to the general fund, the transit agency received highway funds in the amount of $7,449,005. General funds and highway funds covered operating costs for bus drivers, the shared ride taxi program, fuel, insurance, salaries and wages for eleven employees, and various programs.

- Bus ridership amounted to nearly 1 million passenger trips.
- Completed vehicle specifications and awarded a bid to purchase two 49-passenger motor coach buses. These buses are wheelchair accessible, air conditioned, and will be received during FY 2015-16.
- Expanded the Intra Kona bus route to service the new Kaiser Permanente Clinic and lower Palisades.
- Supplemented the Keaukaha/Banyan Drive bus route by adding services to Hilo International Airport.
- Continued to support various local community events by providing safe and efficient transportation.
- Implemented a pilot program for expanded weekend bus services and Shared Ride Taxi coupons for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. This program continues to be supported by Hawai'i County.
- Islandwide bus shelter expansion program is ongoing. Latest addition is a bus shelter in Pa'auilo.
- Secured funding to begin the engineering and design of the Mass Transit Baseyard facility.
- Improved the Shared Ride Taxi Program by coordinating services with taxicab companies to add ADA accessible vehicles to their fleet. The added vehicles equally afford taxicab services to individuals with a disability.

Received three new 41-passenger buses to replace part of an aging fleet.
DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Obtained three grant awards to finance the little fire ant control program aimed at reducing this invasive species in parks with high infestations. The awards totalled $425,000.
- Reopened the Pāhoa Senior Center on June 29, 2015, after having to close the facility so the Fire Department could use it as an emergency station in response to the advancing Puna lava flow.
- Staff worked daily at Pāhoa Lava Informational Center to provide information and other services to Puna residents affected by the advancing lava flow.

CULTURE AND EDUCATION DIVISION

The mission of the Culture and Education Division is to promote, perpetuate and encourage activities involving culture, art and the humanities. Operational highlights from FY 2014-15 included:

- Conducted 125 workshops/classes throughout Hawai‘i Island in various disciplines such as music, arts, dance, crafts, and natural sciences;
- Fourth of July Hilo Bay Blast 2014 was held July 4, 2014, along Hilo’s entire Bayfront area. Festivities included children’s games, BBQ contest, live musical entertainment, and free fireworks display;
- Culture and Education administrator represented Mayor Billy Kenoi at the Ikaho Hawaiian Festival, “Japan’s Merrie Monarch Festival,” held August 2-11, 2014, in Shibukawa Japan;
- Held Hāmākua Plantation Days Celebration August 16, 2014, in Honoka’a. Multicultural entertainment, food, exhibits, demonstration and free movies of the last plantation cane harvest highlighted the event;
- Held Family Fun Fest 2014 on August 3, 2014, at Mo‘oheau Park Bandstand in downtown Hilo. This free event, which included live entertainment, children’s games and food vendors, featured a rescheduled fireworks show to make up for the July 4th fireworks display that ended prematurely due to operator malfunction;
After pausing in late 2014 due to the Puna Lava Flow, construction resumed in April 2015 on the $22.3 million, 29 acre first phase of the Pāhoa District Park. When complete, this phase of the park will include a covered play court building, two baseball fields, two multipurpose fields, a playground, concession building, comfort station, accessible walkways, and ample parking. These features will complement Pāhoa’s existing recreational facilities that include the Community Aquatic Center, Neighborhood Facility, and Skate Park.
Held the 2014 Queen Lili’uokalani Festival on September 7, 2014, at Lili’uokalani Gardens in Hilo. Free live entertainment, craft vendors, informational booths, a floral rain, children’s games, Japanese tea ceremony, and mass hula involving more than 400 dancers were among the featured events that attracted approximately 3,800 people;

 Held the Hilo World Peace Festival on October 4, 2014, at Hilo’s Moku Ola or Coconut Island. An estimated 3,000 people attended the free, daylong event co-sponsored by the Hilo Downtown Improvement Association, Soka Gakkai International USA, and the International Committee of Artists for Peace. In addition to food, entertainment, crafts and informational booths, the event featured Mayor Billy Kenoi presenting the International Committee on Artists for Peace with the same distinguished award Nelson Mandela and Carlos Santana have received;

 The Merrie Monarch Keiki Hula Competition was held October 17, 2014, at Hilo’s Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium. Culture and Education staff provided assistance with the printing of tickets, posters, and programs. A total of 15 hula halau from throughout Hawai’i participated in this event;

 Moku O Keawe International Festival was held November 6-9, 2014, in Waikoloa. Hula competition, craft displays and workshops were part of the event;

 Held December’s Christmas Wreath Exhibition December 1-31, 2014, at Aupuni Center in Hilo, and featured a display of wreaths created by the Hawai’i Ballroom Dance Association – Hilo Chapter. The event was free and open to the public;

 Held “The Magic of the Season” program December 8-19, 2014, at the Hawai’i County Building in Hilo. The free event featured more than 30 tree displays, games, activities, refreshments, and live entertainment by local talent every evening;

 Held the 2015 Waimea Cherry Blossom Heritage Festival on February 7, 2015, at various sites throughout Waimea. The cultural activities, displays, exhibits, entertainment, mochi-tsuki, bon dance Taiko drums, Chinese Lion Dance, and ethnic food attracted approximately 30,000 people;

 The Hilo Armory, which serves as the main office for the Culture and Education Division, underwent termite treatment and received a new roof. This work resulted in the facility’s extended closure and required adjusting certain class schedules.

HAWAI’I COUNTY BAND
Delivered 41 performances, including free monthly concerts at Mo’oheau Park, parades, patriotic ceremonies, the Hawai’i Community College graduation, and other events held throughout East Hawai’i.

WEST HAWAI’I BAND
Delivered 30 performances at Hulihe’e Palace, parades, veterans’ ceremonies, holiday events, and monthly concerts at Hale Hālāwai

ELDERLY ACTIVITIES DIVISION
The mission of the Elderly Activities Division (EAD) is to provide and/or facilitate a wide array of services for the public with excellence, integrity and aloha. The Division operates six related programs; Coordinated Services for the Elderly (CSE); Elderly Recreation Services (ERS); Hawai’i County Nutrition Program (HNCP); Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP); Senior Training & Employment Program (STEP); and Special Programs (SP). During FY 2014-15, the Elderly Activities Division served 12,262 older adults, an increase from the previous fiscal year, while its Retired and Senior Volunteer Program benefitted from the work of 1,132 volunteers. Major accomplishments from FY 2014-15 included:

 Held three RSVP recognition luncheons in Hilo and Kona, honoring 1,132 volunteers and logging 99,534 hours islandwide along with the 158 volunteer stations;

 Held the Hawai’i State Senior Karaoke Revue April 16, 2014, in Hilo with 235 seniors participating;

 Assisted with the evacuation, temporary shelter and American Red Cross food distribution following Tropical Storm Iselle in August and September 2014;

 Assisted with the community meetings and agency meetings held during the Pāhoa lava flow threat and worked to keep area seniors informed and updated;

 Closed the Pāhoa Senior Center on September 23, 2014, so it could revert back for use as a fire station due to the impending lava threat to lower Puna. Relocated programs to Nanawale Community Center, Āinaola Longhouse, and Kea’au Community Center;

 Moved EAD programs back to Pāhoa Senior Center on June 29, 2015;

 Assisted with the Big Island Senior Golf Tournament, sponsored by Big Island Candies. Some 143 golfers
participated in the tournament held May 15, 2015, at the Waikoloa Kings Course;

- Scheduled a wide variety of classes (educational, recreational, cultural and health) islandwide for the benefit of 3,327 participating seniors;
- CSE staff completed 3,250 referrals, an increase of more than 1,000 from the previous fiscal year, for seniors needing services/benefits such as supplemental security income, Medicare, Medicaid, tax assistance, food stamps, and essential transportation;
- CSE staff provided 5,755 chore-service hours to qualified seniors;
- Arranged seven EAD Senior Advisory Council meetings in July 2014 and January 2015 for 40 club presidents and representatives along with EAD staff to discuss senior activities, services and concerns;
- Provided islandwide transportation services to 60 disabled individuals under age 60 and completed 1,518 trips;
- Scheduled the 2015 Kūpuna Softball League games and County tournaments with 463 players and 25 teams participating;
- Supported the Mayor’s Senior Softball Cup held in January 2015 in Kailua-Kona with an international field of 441 players participating;
- Held the 32nd Annual Kūpuna Hula Festival, which showcased 23 hālau and 607 performers along with more than 1,200 spectators during the event held September 10-11, 2014, at the Sheraton Kona Resort & Spa at Keauhou Bay;
- Held the First Hawaiian Bank Primetime Wellness Fair on October 24, 2014, at the Edith Kanakaʻole Multipurpose Stadium in Hilo. It offered 55 health information and services, and attracted 627 participants;
- The RSVP program supported four successful Blood Bank Community Drives; two in East Hawai‘i and two in West Hawai‘i;
- ERS held 11 district events that served a combined 1,545 seniors;
- Conducted a Fresh Produce Distribution Program that served more than 1,600 qualified seniors island-wide at more than 20 sites;
- Held the 2014 Instructor/Volunteer Appreciation Christmas Luncheon in Hilo with more than 225 seniors attending to honor the instructors and volunteers at Kamanā, Kea‘au and Pāmaika‘i Senior centers;
- Issued 1,165 senior identification cards;
- CSE staff provided transportation services to 1,164 seniors and completed 40,138 trips;
- Held the Big Island Senior Stars Talent Show May 6, 2015, in Hilo attended by 220 seniors;
- CSE staff assisted more than 800 seniors with free transportation to and/or scheduling for the free Senior Tax Assistance Program held between February and April 2015;
- EAD staff helped East Hawai‘i be chosen for the Blue Zones Project;
- Continued partnering with the Veteran’s Administration for a Kohala pilot program that provided medical and psychology screening services to seniors.

HILO MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

As operator of Hawai‘i Island’s only public golf course, the Department of Parks and Recreation strives to provide a quality recreational experience for the golfing community with excellence, integrity and aloha. During FY 2014-15, 65,093 rounds of golf were played and 17 tournaments were held at the course.

- Performed daily routine inspections and maintenance of equipment, course vehicles and safety gear;
- Aerated all course greens twice during the fiscal year;
- Applied weekly application of fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide to greens, fairways and tees;
- Weekly rolling of greens, except for a two-month period due to equipment failure;
- Performed monthly top dressing of greens;
- Conducted quarterly inspection and repair of course structures, clubhouse facilities and maintenance warehouse;
- All staff attended monthly safety talks;
- Achieved objective of having half of the staff attended at least one training course;
- Achieved objective to receive a rank of satisfactory or better on 80 percent of service surveys received from golfers.
PARKS MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Parks Maintenance Division supplies personnel and equipment needed to maintain, repair, and beautify more than 200 facilities islandwide. Its mission is to provide the public with safe, clean, and aesthetically pleasing recreational facilities.

- Completed 1,560 work orders;
- Completed 87 beautification and improvement projects, including tree planting, landscaping, land-clearing, painting and major repairs islandwide;
- Staff provided logistical support in the form of personnel, equipment, supplies, and funding for numerous events and functions. Some of the larger ones included: Kamehameha Day Celebration at Hilo’s Coconut Island; Hilo Bayfront Fourth of July festivities; Hilo Community Players’ Shakespeare in the Park performances at Kalākaua Park; Hilo Bayfront Canoe Races; American Heart Association Run at Lili'uokalani Park; Ho'olaule'a in Downtown Hilo; the Hilo Jaycees Hawai'i County Fair at Ho'olulu Complex; Veterans and Memorial Day Ceremonies at veterans cemeteries; Ireito Memorial Services at Alae Cemetery; Kamehameha Day Parade in North Kohala; the Waimea Cherry Blossom Festival; the Merrie Monarch Festival; the Kona Ironman World Championships; and various softball tournaments;
- Conducted 468 comprehensive weekly safety inspections of assigned facilities;
- Conducted more than 170 safety-training classes covering a myriad of Hawai'i Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) and site-specific safety topics;
- A total of 11 vandalism incidents were reported at a cost of $7,859 during FY 2014-15. This was the fewest vandalism incidents in at least six years and less than half of last fiscal year’s total;
- Service complaints totaled 37 during FY 2014-15;
- Hired a three-person crew, funded entirely with grant proceeds, to control little fire ants in parks with high ant concentrations.

RECREATION DIVISION

The Recreation Division’s mission is to provide a diversified recreation program that addresses the needs and interests of the respective communities in a safe environment with zero tolerance for illegal drugs or violence.

- Opened a new skateboard park at Honoka'a Park;
- Obtained a $8,920 grant from the state Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Hunter Education Program to purchase a replacement trap machine for the Hilo Trap and Skeet Range;
- Held the 2nd Annual Jimmy Yagi Summer Hoops Camp for children 9-17 years old July 21-24, 2014, in Hilo;
- The 34th Annual HI-PAL Winter Basketball Classic and Kevin Kai'ea PAVEL Skills Challenge were held December 26-29, 2014, at various East Hawai’i gyms;
- Held the annual Summer Fun Program, with more than 1,200 keiki participating;
- Held keiki age-group and exponent track meets at Konawaena and Kamehameha fields;
- Held the 2014 ‘Ohana Shoreline Fishing Tournament August 15-17, 2014, attracting 550 participants;
- Held a Peace Day Celebration that attracted 1,000 participants;
- Conducted a youth winter intersession program at Waiakea-Uka Gymnasium;
- Kaha Wong’s Pa’auilo Baseball Clinic, featuring guest instructors Kolten Wong of the St. Louis Cardinals and Kean Wong of the Tampa Bay Rays, was held January 10, 2015, at Pa’auilo ball field;
- Held the 22nd Annual Biggest Easter Egg Hunt April 3, 2015, at the Ho’olulu Complex’s Wong Stadium in conjunction with Hilo Jaycees.
AQUATICS

- Novice Swim Championships were conducted October 25, 2014, at Kona Community Aquatic Center;
- Learn to Swim Program started at all department pools;
- Coordinated the Get the Drift and Bag It! Volunteer clean-up project that involved 697 volunteers removing 3,888 pounds of marine debris from a combined 20 sites around the island.

HO'OLULU COMPLEX

- A very successful 52nd Annual Merrie Monarch Festival was held April 8-11, 2015;
- Other major Ho'oolulu Complex events included the Hilo Jaycees Hawai'i County Fair, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Merrie Monarch Keiki Hula Festival, Hawai'i Pony League Baseball Tournament, Haili Invitational Volleyball Tournament, University of Hawai'i at Hilo basketball and baseball games, Hawaii State PONY League Baseball Tournament, high school and college commencements, various high school football, basketball and softball games, Big Island Hawaiian Music Festival, Paradise Roller Girls roller derbies, and HI-PAL Winter Basketball Classic.

PANA'EWA RECREATION COMPLEX

The attendance count at the Pana’ewa Zoo during FY 2014-15 was 214,249, including numerous mainland and international visitors who enjoyed the free zoo and gardens.

- Added a 7-foot-long Boa Constrictor exhibit, marking the first time a snake has been placed on public display in Hawai'i Island history. The snake is on loan to the zoo through an agreement with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture;
- Received a donation of three Bartlett’s Bleeding Heart Doves;
- A baby Two-toed Sloth was born at the zoo. Mother and baby continue to do well;
- Added a Sacred Ibis chick that was successfully hatched and reared at the zoo;
- Provided a venue for three rodeos, including the Hawai'i Horse Owners’ Association 2015 Pana'ewa Stampede Rodeo that has grown to become the largest event of its kind in Hawai'i;
- Provided a venue for two dressage events;
- Hosted two new equestrian events – the American Driving Society’s Pleasure Driving Show;
- The Friends of the Zoo held its Annual Plant Sale and Exhibition on May 3, 2015. This popular event serves as a fundraiser for the zoo and the Friends of the Zoo;
- The Friends of the Zoo hosted a Christmas for the Animals celebration on December 6, 2014;
- Worked with community groups to facilitate five major volunteer projects to maintain and improve the facility.
Since the County of Hawai‘i purchased the Richardson family estate in 1973 and opened Richardson Beach Park in Keaukaha, the former family home has served as a police substation, a space for lifeguards, and a visitor center before its latest transformation into an educational center. At its lowest point, the center accommodated two employees and storage at the busiest county beach park in Hilo, with about 187,000 visits annually.

In April 2014, Richardson Ocean Center reopened as a pilot project to host educational exhibits and programs in Hawaiian culture, lifestyle, and environmental awareness that highlight the significance of the ocean and the importance of our shared stewardship of the land and sea.
The current exhibit in the center allows Hawai‘i Island students to join the excitement of Hōkūle‘a’s Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage, sharing with the world the lessons of environmental responsibility and stewardship that Pacific islanders learned over generations. The exhibit features photographs from Hōkūle‘a’s past and present voyages, video presentations, equipment from the canoes, and a map showing the voyage’s course.

Richardson Ocean Center programs have touched over 7,000 students and residents.
DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

The department has been moving forward with several mandated initiatives, the foremost being the comprehensive review of the Hawai‘i County General Plan. This effort is being coordinated through the departments Long Range Planning Division and over a multi-year period, will involve several major consultants in areas ranging from scenario software development to scenic corridor studies to economic projections.

Initiated this fiscal year was the strategic planning groundwork for implementation of a planning and permitting re-organization between the Planning Department and Department of Public Works (DPW). Planning will assume a pre-check of all building permit applications before the applications can be submitted to DPW’s Building Division. This new approach to permit processing will be initiated in FY 2015-16 and is anticipated to foster more predictability, transparency, and fairness after an expected transition period during which the various staff members and the public will become more familiar with the new process.

Ongoing departmental functions related to servicing the various Community Development Plan (CDP) Action Committees; newly formed Cultural Resources Commission; and finalization of the Ka‘ū and Hāmākua CDP’s will continue throughout the remainder of this fiscal period.

BUDGET

Salaries and wages increased due to the HGEA agreement for BU 03, 04 and 13. There were several open positions throughout the year due to retirements and/or attrition. Overtime ended up over budget, but the overall S&W was 96% of budget. There were additional unbudgeted expenses in equipment and construction to prepare for the launching of the new building permit process, but we still held other expenses to 96% of budget. In FY 2014-15, the overall expenditure was 97% of budget for the department with an approximate fund balance of $120K. Coastal Zone Management also ended the fiscal year within budget.

Continued budgeting for the County’s CDPs has helped immensely during the last fiscal year to address the needs of the community(s).

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

- The first 10 Geothermal Relocation Applications were process over the course of the fiscal year, with only one still outstanding. There are 27 additional applications on file to be processed.
- GIS is an ongoing project that impacts the entire department, other agencies and the community. We have added several new layers to the project and continue to expand to make information readily available to other government agencies and the general public. New computers have mandated the need to upgrade our GIS software. Hopefully with this improvement, our GIS product will become more user friendly and provide even more information to staff and the public.
- Planning Department website http://www.cohplanningdept.com continues to provide much information to the public. All notices and information regarding the Planning Department and its various
boards, committees and commissions can be found on our website.

ADMINISTRATIVE PERMITS DIVISION

• The most significant changes within the Administrative Permits Division has been our engagement in developing a Plan to transition the Intake of Building Permits from DPW to the Planning Department. Both Hilo and Kona Planning staffs have been involved with other agencies, who participate as reviewers of building permits, to design a new ‘Permit to Build’ process that would develop a more streamlined, transparent, and predictable process. In order to accommodate the new changes, Zoning Clerks have been reclassified as Land Use Plan Checkers to enable the review of building plans and to check land use requirements prior to intake of an application. Once completed application is accepted it would be entered into the record system called Magnet. The application then follows an intake, distribution, and review process that categorizes applications in ‘buckets’ that are similar in nature. The process will be designed to allow intermediate and more complex applications to undergo concurrent reviews rather than follow a linear review process that now exists. Both Planning and DPW will continue to work together as the responsibility to issue permits and to conduct building permit inspections would still remain at DPW. Implementation of this new ‘Permit to Build’ process will require continued coordination and collaboration between multiple agencies to assess current procedures and explore new ways to effectively create a new and improved process.

• The Administrative Permits Division continued to process the various administrative permits and requests that are approved by the Planning Director. This included reviewing: four Additional Farm Dwelling Agreements, seven Di Minimis, two Non-Significant Zoning, four Ohana, eight Planned Unit Development Applications, and Pre-Existing Lot of Record determinations. In addition: 60 Plan Approvals, 99 Subdivisions, 29 Consolidations, and 68 Variances.

• Zoning Clerks reviewed over 1,348 Building Permits, a high volume of Requests for Public Records, Zoning Clearance forms, and various Land Use inquiries at the counter, by phone and email. Planning Inspectors investigated 133 new complaints and potential SMA, Planning Permits, Zoning, and Subdivision Code violations.

• Tax Map Technicians issued 1,177 new street addresses and 22 street names for development; updated new subdivision maps; and re-created older subdivisions in a CAD format when time permitted.

• Public Notices (Subdivision, Variances, Dept. wide Public Notice, etc.) for the Hawai‘i Tribune Herald and West Hawai‘i Today continued to be prepared in a condensed format. This reduced lines and white space which saved a considerable amount of money for the county.

• Staff continued to develop a manual of operations for the Administrative Permits Division by identifying a Vision, Mission, Focus Areas and Actions that this division needs to work on to become a more efficient, sustainable, and progressive division.

• Monthly Administrative Permits staff meetings served as an important component for staff development and teamwork. Due to the large number of staff and nature of the division’s responsibility, this is a valuable opportunity for this diverse division to be in one room to provide section reports, to dialogue hot topics, and to cross-train on subjects to broaden our understanding of the tasks and challenges.

• Monthly Hot Topics meetings, which include Kona Planning staff, continued with the Planning Deputy Corporation Counsel to discuss hot topics that require dialogue and legal advice or interpretation.

• We continued to receive a Senior Clerical Aide, under the Senior Community Service Program, who provides valuable support to our staff.

• Collaboration between Land Use Plan Checkers and Planning Inspectors in Kona and Hilo on code interpretation and compliance issues remain both a priority and a challenge.

LONG RANGE DIVISION

• Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). Participated regularly in the ORMP monthly working group and quarterly policy group meetings.

• Planning Commission Rule 9 (SMA Rule). We are working on drafting amendments to the rule to reflect changes to HRS 205A.
• Processed 217 Special Management Area Assessments and 57 Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements.
• Puna Community Development Plan (CDP). Worked with emerging community-based efforts in Puna to move forward with implementation of actions in the Puna CDP including:
  • Village Center Plan for Volcano
  • Village Center Plan for Mt. View
  • Developing criteria for identifying appropriate locations for creating roadway connections between neighboring subdivisions
• Pāhoa Village Adopted the Village Design Guidelines an ordinance that created the Special Village District for Pāhoa Town. Now working with the community to establish the Design Review Committee.
• Kaʻū Community Development Plan. Completed draft policies and strategies, reviewed with Steering Committee, conducted community workshops, and now scheduling for Steering Committee comments and amendments starting in July 2015.
• Hāmākua Community Development Plan. Completed draft policies and strategies and now scheduling to review with the Steering Committee starting in August 2015.
• Hilo Mobility Master Plan. We contracted with SSFM and completed the research and community outreach phase. We are now identifying alternative strategies to review with community stakeholders.
• Complete Streets Manual. Contracted with SSFM. Project estimated to start in Fall 2015.
• Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Completed comprehensive summary of CIP projects in the General Plan and CDP’s to inform CIP prioritization to provide better guidance to the relevant departments.
• Completed the preparation of the CIP and submitted to Council.
• General Plan (GP) Comprehensive Review. Initiated the GP comprehensive review process. Engaged various consultants to provide background research. Starting phase 2: Planning Director review and analysis of input, preparation of recommended amendments, and engage communities and agencies to review and refine, June 2015 – April 2017.
• Participated in various meetings and workshops held by the State Department of Transportation regarding the Statewide Transportations Plan, the State Transportation Improvement Program, and the State Transportation Action Committee.

PLANNING DIVISION
• We are managing resources to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in processing applications and code amendments before the Windward and Leeward Planning Commissions in a timely manner.
• The Division continues to work on additional proposed amendments that will hopefully address issues relating to community buildings and uses, and home occupations. All of this is based on an effort to provide a Zoning Code that evolves with and addresses issues related to the use of land within this County.
• This past fiscal year saw the first full year for the Cultural Resources Commission as a Certified Local Government (CLG), that saw them conducting site visits for projects in both Hilo and Kona, offering comments and recommendations that promotes the protection of historical and cultural resources. Commissioners also have been attending various workshops relevant to preservation processes to enhance their effectiveness in their roles. As a newer commission, continuing education will be essential as well as establishing a historic sites inventory for the island in order to establish the commission as a vital component in the historic and cultural protection process. To facilitate the processing of requests, draft rules of practice and procedures have been development for the Cultural Resources Commission that outlines its responsibilities and processes that will facilitate coordination with applicants and other agencies, including the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.
• The department has also initiated rulemaking for Planning Commission Rules relating to Planned Unit Development Permits due to a recent amendment to the Zoning Code, which provides opportunities to effect housekeeping measures to other rules of the Planning Commission, including possible adjustment to processing fees, and clarity of requirements.
To ensure the continued efficiencies of and compliance with processes before the Planning Commissions, a significant amount of effort is made by the department to offer consultation with existing or potential applicants to manage applications or requests in a manner that attempts to minimize incomplete filings or unresolved issues that would inhibit the Planning Director and the Planning Commissions from making their best informed decisions. This coordination is also extended to applicants working with and responding to governmental agencies and community organizations. While much effort and time is devoted to this practice, we believe it is a valuable service that brings the best work product before our Planning Commissions.

On a similar note, a significant amount of time and effort is devoted to working with applicants to maintain their land use approvals and ensuring compliance with its conditions of approval and performance deadlines. The economy, while slowly improving, has apparently not reached that point of recovery where applicants are financially able to capitalize on their land use approvals and meet their performance deadlines. There are also a number of applicants that have exceeded the range of uses allowed by their permits or approvals, prompting enforcement action by this office and the Commission. In both of these situations, the department has taken a proactive role to manage things to the extent represented to and expected by the Planning Commissions.

WEST HAWAI'I DIVISION

The North Kohala Community Development Plan (NKCDP). Action Committee has continued its efforts to implement the NKCDP through its six subcommittees (Growth Management; Public Access; Water, Parks and Roads; Power, View Planes and Erosion Control; Agriculture, with their newest subcommittee-Historical and Cultural Preservation). Each subcommittee meets monthly and encourages public participation. The Action Committee also actively participated in providing comments on the General Plan.

South Kohala Community Development Plan. Action Committee continues to operate with location-based subcommittees for Waikoloa, Kawaihae, Puakō, and Waimea. Action Committee continues to work on implementation of the plan and to involve communities with their subcommittees and liaison groups. The Action Committee has supported community efforts such as Puakō’s research to get an innovative wastewater system, and has monitored proposed developments in the district, with the intent to protect the land and culture, and to develop intelligently. The Action Committee has made an effort to encourage the various communities to participate in the General Plan update efforts.

Kona Community Development Plan (CDP). The Kona CDP Design Center consists of planning staff, and staff from other county and state agencies, and provides review of proposed “Smart Code” - master planned projects, consistent with the Kona CDP. Design Center planning staff has also reviewed Planned Unit Development (PUD) projects that utilize Kona CDP Clustered Rural Subdivision Guidelines, and preliminary master plans in the Kona Urban Area.

The Action Committee has reviewed the Kona CDP and has identified goals that may need to be revised to make the CDP more implementable. The Action Committee recommended changes to the General Plan, and Zoning Code, and recommended that the 2008 Kona CDP 10-year review start immediately. The Action Committee wanted the Zoning Code to include a definition for the regional community development plans, recommended that a process be started to create a redevelopment plan for Kailua Village.

Kailua Village Design Commission. The commission is responsible for reviewing proposals for buildings and signs in the Kailua Village Special District. The commission has been successful in making constructive design recommendations to applicants, consistent with the Master Plan for Kailua Kona, which has resulted in applicants modifying their building designs, landscaping, and signage, to be consistent with the Master Plan. The commission has expressed that the sign code and its implementation in Kailua needs improvement.
MESSAGE FROM CHIEF HARRY KUBOJIRI

In FY 2014-15, as in previous years, the Hawai‘i Police Department followed its mission to work cooperatively with the community to enforce the laws, preserve peace and provide a safe environment.

This fiscal year, nature presented additional challenges. In August 2014, Tropical Storm Iselle damaged homes, toppled power lines and left thousands of residents, mostly in Puna, without water or refrigeration. In addition to regular police duties, officers helped distribute water and ice to residents in need and increased patrols to discourage looting. Then, before normalcy could be restored, lava threatened to cross Highway 130, isolate Puna residents and cause the Pāhoa police station to become inaccessible to some of the citizens it serves. The department made contingency plans and participated in weekly meetings designed to update the public about what appeared at the time to be an imminent disaster.

Also this fiscal year, our officers made Active Shooter presentations in Waimea, Kona, Nā‘ālehu, Laupāhoehoe, North Kohala and Puna to help individuals learn how to increase their survivability should they encounter an active shooter or other type of active violent incident.

Additionally, the department reached out to our kupuna by holding community meetings in Kona, South Kohala, Hilo and Puna in a multiagency presentation addressing Medicare and securities fraud prevention, prescription drug misuse prevention, medical identity theft, and tips on how to secure homes to prevent burglaries and thefts. We also partnered with the State of Hawai‘i Narcotics Enforcement Division and the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration to accept and safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medication.

Community interactions like these, in conjunction with Community Policing operations throughout the island, help us stay in touch with the needs of our community. I am honored to oversee the men and women of the Hawai‘i Police Department as we continue to develop partnerships with the community so we can work together to keep you safe.
ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

• The department operated on a budget of $57,817,093 in FY 2014-15.

• The Dispatch Center received 230,113 emergency 911 calls (including 11.6 percent that were transferred to the Hawai‘i Fire Department). In all, dispatchers documented 224,209 requests for police service.

• The Training Section provided more than 62,239 hours of training to existing personnel and a new recruit class. The 82nd Police Recruit Class began with 16 police officers. The department continued providing “Aloha in Difficult Times” and “Cultural Diversity” training.

• The Records and Identification Section registered 10,815 firearms and processed 9,357 public requests for copies of police records, 18,931 court documents and 7,432 sets of fingerprints.

• The Word Processing Center transcribed nearly 30,000 reports totaling more than 270,000 minutes of dictation.

• The Traffic Services Section issued 81 road closure permits, sent 174 violation letters to motorists, conducted 48 school crossing guard checks, sent 177 impound letters to owners of abandoned vehicles, and received $468,172 in federal grant funds for traffic enforcement and equipment purchases to improve traffic safety.

• The Human Resources Section, in cooperation with the Hawai‘i County Department of Human Resources, conducted various recruitments, resulting in the hiring of 35 recruits, seven radio dispatchers, one inter-governmental movement, five school crossing guards, three clerks, two account clerks, one storekeeper, one accountant IV, one operations clerk, one evidence specialist, one criminalist, one records clerk, two information systems analysts and one human resources specialist. Internally, there were 17 temporary promotions to Police Officer III, one temporary promotion to Police Investigative Operations Clerk, one promotion to Police Records Analyst and one promotion to Police Records Clerk.

• The Accreditation Section prepared for the first re-assessment to determine if the department continues to meet the 469 various standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.®. Accreditation raises the professionalism of the agency and provides improved community service.

• The Computer Center provided support and maintenance for approximately 300 desktop computer systems primarily purchased in 2003, and more than 300 Mobile Data Terminals installed in officer vehicles.

• The Public Relations Section published 543 media releases to the department’s website and through the Nixle service that allows the public to receive text messages, emails or both directly from the Hawai‘i Police Department.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Criminal Investigations Section detectives investigated four murders, nine attempted murders and one manslaughter. In all, CIS detectives investigated 2,708 major crimes, including 973 burglaries, 402 thefts and 617 financial crimes.

Vice Section officers conducted 1,906 drug investigations resulting in 539 arrests and 2,035 charges. In addition, Vice officers recovered the following illegal drugs:

• 37 pounds of crystal methamphetamine
• 1,910 marijuana plants
• 57 pounds of dried marijuana
• 18 grams of hashish
• 292 grams of heroin
• 436 grams of cocaine
• 58 grams of crack cocaine
• 1,912 assorted prescription pills

Juvenile Aid Section detectives investigated 1,146 cases, including sexual assaults, domestic violence, other crimes against women, child pornography and juvenile-related crimes.
COMMUNITY POLICING
The Police Department continues to expand and improve its Community Policing partnerships with community, neighborhood and business organizations. These partnerships help the police department with preventing crime, reducing the fear of crime, arresting those who commit crimes and providing a safe environment through the use of a proactive problem-solving techniques, enhanced community awareness and increased community and neighborhood involvement.

At the end of FY 2014-15, the Community Policing Unit had 39 authorized positions island wide, including a supervising sergeant in Area II and a lieutenant in Area I. Of those, 28 positions were allocated for community police officers, eight for school resource officers and one for a civilian clerk.

PATROL DIVISIONS
As always, officers in the South Hilo, North Hilo, Hāmākua, Puna, Kaʻū, Kona, South Kohala and North Kohala Districts patrolled our streets to keep our citizens safe and responded to some 224,290 requests for police service.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM
The Special Response Team served one high-risk warrant, responded to two barricaded situations and assisted Federal agencies in three security details involving dignitaries and diplomats representing the U.S. government or foreign leaders.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT
The Traffic Enforcement Unit investigated 15 fatal crashes. Of those, 13 involved drugs, alcohol or both. TEU officers conducted 187 DUI sobriety checkpoints and arrested 187 motorists for driving under the influence of intoxicants.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
The Office of Professional Standards conducted 21 administrative investigations, 55 internal inquiries into actions by police department personnel, and provided 36 in-service training sessions to employees.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT
The Criminal Intelligence Unit provided intelligence information, which led to the initiation of 60 criminal investigations. The unit also submitted 336 intelligence reports, conducted 431 criminal history checks, and provided 144 in-service training sessions.
In FY 2014-15, the office had a total projected operating budget of $9,421,282 of which 29% or $2,744,576 was from federal grants, state grants and asset forfeitures. Federal funds through the U.S. Department of Justice provided funding for the Victims of Crime Act, Violence Against Women, Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, Elder Abuse Prosecution, Big Island Juvenile Intake & Assessment Center and HI Teen Outreach programs. Other federal funds were received for the Highway Safety training project.

After the fiscal year started we received $160,000 from federal sources for the Sexual Assault Grant and $34,576 in federal funds for the Hawai‘i Airport Task force. State funding was received for the Career Criminal Program, Victim/Witness Program, Justice Reinvestment Initiative and Domestic Violence Strategic Plan Implementation projects and the Department of Human Services’ Youth Activities Crime Prevention Grant.

TRADITIONAL PROSECUTION

- Processed 12,672 in-custody, bailout and referral cases, consisting of 16,917 charges
- Serviced daily court calendars for four circuit courts, three district courts, three family courts, two drug courts and two mental health court in Hilo, Kona and Waimea courthouses. Calendars from these courts covered all districts including Puna (in Hilo), S. Kohala, N. Kohala and Hāmākua (in Waimea) and Ka‘ū (in Kona).

VICTIM SERVICES

- Opened 1,924 cases for victim assistance
- Served 6,312 individuals (4,442 victims, 270 secondary victims, 1,263 witnesses, 341 other)
- Sent 4,628 notification letters to victims
- Provided federal funding to Child and Family Services and YWCA Sexual Assault Support Service for services to victims of child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence
- Provided information/training to three organizations and participated in 24 community events on program services for victims

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Coordinated a Statewide Department of Transportation funded “Prosecuting Drugged Drivers” training for 58 Prosecuting Attorneys and Police Officers
- Sponsored/co-sponsored activities, workshops and conferences to improve the criminal justice system response
- Coordinated the Domestic violence walks and vigils in Hilo and Kona
- Facilitated quarterly Legal Procedures Subcommittee meetings
- Facilitated the Family Violence Interagency Committee meetings in East and West Hawai‘i. First Annual Family Violence Summit held in September 2014
- Provided updated 704 (court ordered mental health exams) handbooks
• Facilitated meetings at the University of Hawai‘i Hilo and the Hawai‘i Community College to develop a coordinated response to student victims of violence

• Office of the Prosecuting Attorney (Dale) took the lead in addressing homelessness in downtown Hilo and Kailua-Kona – facilitated the multi-disciplinary team approach to specific situations and solutions

• Hawaii County Committee on the Status of Women projects included teen dating violence, real women writing competition and equal pay campaigns

• Coordinated the efforts of the Sexual Violence Prevention Project East Hawai‘i Community Action Team (DOH project) addressing sexual violence prevention

• Coordinator of Smarter Sentencing and Smart Prosecution reforms in Hawai‘i County.

• Helped to establish STARS (Surviving to Thriving *Advocacy *Resources *Support) a homicide survivors education and support group

• Established the Specialized Sexual Assault Unit grant through a Department of Attorney General grant

• Handled over 20 council contingency fund requests

**JUVENILE ISSUES**

• Provided federal grant funding to The Salvation Army – Family Intervention Services to engage and strengthen families of youth who are referred by Hawai‘i Police Department, Family Court Juvenile Services, or otherwise self-referred

• Continued federal grant funding to The Salvation Army - Family Intervention Services to implement the Big Island Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center

• Sponsored/Coordinated cultural training on the people of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia to enhance juvenile and family services delivery; 149 persons in attendance

• Provided two Teen Outreach Program® facilitator trainings – trained five persons to be TOP® facilitators

• Provided funds, training, and oversight to Youth Challenge Academy to implement four Teen Outreach Program® clubs

• Contracted with Goodwill Industries of Hawai‘i, Inc. to implement seven Teen Outreach Program® Clubs in Puna, Hilo, and Kona

• Participated in four committees and initiatives to collaborate on issues relating to high-risk juveniles

• Co-Coordinated the Youth Action summit to promote positive youth involvement in communities; 45 youth in attendance

• Worked in partnership with the Department of Education, the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Hawai‘i Community College and Micronesians United – Big Island to conduct a Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment Day with over 185 Pacific Island Youth in attendance

• Co-Coordinated Career Opportunities Expo to assist youth in job and career planning; 557 youth in attendance

**ELDERLY ISSUES**

• Partnered with our elder abuse law enforcement collaborators (Prosecutor’s EA Unit, HCPD CID captains, APS supervisors and DCCA investigators) to continue the collaboration meetings initiated during the grant-funded period

• Participated in regular meetings of the DOH/Public Health Nurses-sponsored elder inter-disciplinary team meetings which meet monthly to problem solve the more complex elder care cases

• Reviewed over 500 cases involving elder victims

• Accepted nearly 200 cases into the elder project

• Provided three elder abuse and prevention presentations

• Was one of the presenters at the AARP-sponsored Scam Jam in Hilo

• Participated in two “talk story” meetings with residents of senior housing complexes and numerous smaller meetings and conversations about problems being experienced by residents of senior housing complexes
COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

The Office of the Prosecuting Attorney has adopted and continues to employ Community Oriented Prosecution strategies. The basic focus of these strategies is to build partnerships and act proactively to solve reoccurring crime related issues.

- The Community Oriented Prosecution project provided outreach and support to all communities on the Island of Hawai‘i
- Sponsored/Co-Sponsored workshops and seminars to address community issues including drugs, burglary, residential theft, shoplifting, homelessness, trespassing, blight, and agricultural crimes
- Provided seminars and talks in the community and at schools on youth leadership, traffic safety, criminal justice processes and positive coaching to strengthen communities
- Trained 16 volunteers to be Victim Offender Conferencing Facilitators to divert cases from traditional prosecution
- Provided strategies to combat crime and reduce the demand on the criminal justice system
- Provided over 3,625 keiki identification cards to promote child safety at 69 community events

ADMINISTRATIVE/OTHER

- Received $1,024,772 in federal funding for the Victims of Crime Act program, a Sexual Assault deputy, Traffic Safety training, Justice Assistance Grant, Assistance to the Airport Task force, Big Island Juvenile Intake & Assessment Center, HI Teen Outreach Program and Technology Improvement projects
- Received $376,093 in state funding for the Career Criminal Prosecution Program and Victim/Witness program
- Replaced and installed the last two-thirds of the employee’s computers
- Began testing of iPads for use by prosecutors in the courtrooms
- Replaced the Hilo office phone system
- Coordinated over 4,140 volunteer hours for 54 volunteers in the Hilo, Kona and Waimea offices. Volunteers provided support to clerical, administrative, legal and investigative staff
- Coordinated volunteers to shred 713 boxes of confidential documents for the office and Finance, Human Resources, Parks & Recreation, and Public Works departments with savings for the County exceeding $29,000
- Active participant of the Hawai‘i County Magic of the Season event
- Coordinated Hawai‘i Island United Way Campaign with 30% of staff participating
- Staff participated in 17 community charity events
The Department of Public Work’s Mission Statement is “Working together as ONE, to improve the quality of service for the health and safety of our Big Island ‘Ohana.” The department’s Vision Statement is “We will be a premier Public Works department highly respected for the excellent services provided by our highly skilled and responsive employees.”

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- **Construction begins for the southern section of Ali‘i Drive (Māmalahoa Highway Bypass Road):** The Māmalahoa Highway Bypass Road and Nāpō‘opo‘o Road Intersection Improvement projects involved the construction of a two-lane roadway from Haleki‘i Street 2.2 miles to the vicinity of the Nāpō‘opo‘o

<table>
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<th>Division</th>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Highway Fund</th>
<th>Beautification Fund</th>
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Road/Māmalahoa Highway intersection. The $30 million project includes two travel lanes, paved shoulders, traffic signals at Nāpō'opo'o intersection, driveway tie-ins, water utilities, and drainage improvements.

- **Improvements to Manono Street**: This on-going project consists of improvements to Manono Street between Lanikāula Street and Kekūanao'a Street. This involves new concrete curbs, gutter, sidewalks, roadway reconstruction, drainage improvements, utility relocation, roadway signing and striping and other related improvements. The estimated completion date of the project will be in the 2nd quarter of 2016. The Federal Highway Administration is funding 80 percent of the $5.1 million project cost, and the county the remaining 20 percent.

- **Tropical Storm Iselle**: On August 7, 2014 Tropical Storm Iselle produced severe storms, heavy rains and strong winds which resulted in storm-related vegetative debris being strewn across roads in the North Kohala, South Kohala, Hāmākua, North Hilo, South Hilo, Puna and Ka‘u districts. To date, 1,318 loads or 3,459 tons of debris have been removed throughout the County of Hawai‘i and taken to Sanford's Quarry. Work began on August 10, 2014 and ended on August 19, 2014. The project’s cost to the County was $2,399,715.77 with FEMA reimbursing the County $1,964,674.62. Iselle also caused severe flooding throughout Hawai‘i County. Flood waters caused severe damage to two asphalt concrete fords in the Ka‘alāikī Road area. The high volume and velocity of flood waters generated tremendous erosive forces which washed out and created huge cavities at both of the ford’s outlets. Repair work was conducted on the scoured/eroded washed out area with the construction of a structural foundation, within the existing cavities, consisting of one and two man size boulders in 36-inch lifts with all voids filled with 3000 psi concrete. A combined total of 475 cubic yards was repaired. The project’s cost to the county was $316,094.93 with FEMA reimbursing the County $237,071.20.

- **Lava Threat from June 27th Lava Flow**: Construction of alternate emergency roads to temporarily replace State Highway 130 which was expected to be inundated by lava associated with the Pu‘u ʻŌ‘ō Eruption and Lava Flow.

- **Railroad Avenue**: This alternate route follows the abandoned road known as Railroad Avenue from Nānāwale Boulevard to Maku‘u Drive in the community of Hawaiian Paradise Park. The project involved vegetation clearing, grading, depositing and compacting roadbed material, installation of signage, security gates and other traffic control devices. A total of seven miles of roadway was upgraded or repaired to be used as an alternate emergency route. The project started on September 10, 2015, and was completed on September 24, 2015. The total cost of the project was $2,131,728.19.

- **Chain of Craters Road**: The Chain of Craters Road from Kalapana to Volcano National Park was established as a Southern emergency alternate access route. Work began on September 23, 2014, starting from the Kalapana side and was completed on April 24, 2015. The roadwork involved creating a two lane compacted gravel road that bisected all north to south routes (Pāhoa Village Road, Highway 130, and Railroad Avenue). The total cost of the project was $4,389,568.50.

Public Works issued 13,080 permits for building, electrical, plumbing, and signs in FY 2014-15, worth $975.5 million.
Contemplated in County planning documents as early as 1967, the $13.6 million Kapiʻolani Street Extension between Mohouli and Lanikāula Streets will improve traffic on Kīlauea Avenue and Kinoʻole Street, connect Waiākea High School and the University of Hawaiʻi at Hilo to Downtown Hilo, and allow the university to grow. Ground was broken in March 2015, and the project is expected to be completed in mid-2016. The street will include a bridge across Waiākea Stream, sidewalks, bike lanes, turn lanes, and traffic signals at Mohouli and Lanikāula Streets.
• **Government Beach Road**: Improved 3.9 linear miles of Government Beach Road right-of-way from Maku’u Drive in the community of Hawaiian Paradise Park to Alu Lepe Street in the community of Hawaiian Beaches. This project consisted of establishing a one-lane, gravel road as an emergency alternate route to temporarily replace State Highway 130. The alternate route follows Government Beach Road, which is open to the public and maintained by Hawai’i County as a one-lane road. Work included the widening and grading of the existing route by clearing vegetation within the road right-of-way, constructing pull-outs, depositing and compacting roadbed material, and installing signage and other traffic control devices. The improved route is 10 feet wide with pull-outs every 250 feet. The project started on September 10, 2015, and was completed on September 24, 2015. The total cost of the project was $370,238.46.

• **Fire Breaks**: Project involved creating fire break to protect life and property along Pāhoa Village and Highway 130 in the community of Ainaloa from forest fires ignited by lava associated with the lava flow. On September 20, 2014, the lava flow started a brush fire just south of the community of Ainaloa. Hawai’i County created a fire break approximately 3.7 miles long and an average of 50 feet wide at the request of the Hawai’i County Civil Defense and Hawai’i County Fire Department. Work was completed on October 1, 2014. The total cost of the project was $75,777.07

• **DPW Traffic Division launched punatraffic.com**, a publicly available web based traffic monitoring service for the lower Puna to Kea’au area. Traffic conditions along several transportation corridors including HWY 130 are monitored with thirty cameras. The images are available for public viewing at punatraffic.com. The camera images refresh every three to five minutes and are meant to assist the public in making their travel plans. The website also provides estimated drive times based on current traffic conditions. The traffic monitoring system is a part of the county’s overall plan to monitor traffic flow that may have to be re-routed as a result of the June 27 Lava Flow. The cameras were installed by ICX Transportation Group. The service went live on March 25, 2015.

• **Kaumana Drive Road Resurfacing**: The project involved the resurfacing of 2.5 miles of Kaumana Drive that started approximately from ‘Ainakō Avenue/Mohouli Street to ‘Ākōlea Road.

• **Hāmākua Road Resurfacing**: The resurfacing was completed of approximately 4,910 feet of the Old Māmalahoa Highway. Work started approximately one mile from Lakeland Subdivision and proceed towards Honoka’a.

• **Ka’iminani Drive Roadway Improvements**: Improvements continue on Ka’iminani Drive to Ane Keohokālole Highway. The 1.8 mile project includes road reconstruction, driveway tie-ins, building retaining walls, adjusting underground utilities, drainage, and other related improvements from Ahiahi Street to Ane Keohokālole Highway. The project is estimated to complete in the 4th quarter of 2016. The Federal Highway Administration is funding 80 percent of the $16.9 million project cost, and the County the remaining 20 percent.

• **The Kamehameha Avenue Reconstruction** project, from Ponahawai Street to the canoe landing near Wailoa Bridge involved the reconstruction of the four-lane-roadway, sidewalks, and curb ramps; adding turn pocket lanes, center left turn lanes, and bike lanes; improving drainage; installing LED streetlights; and upgrading the traffic signal at the Pauahi Street intersection. Project cost is $13.2 million and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2015.

• **The Ponahawai Street Resurfacing** project which started from Kapi’olani Street to Kamehameha Avenue was completed in October 2014. It involved road paving, sewer lateral work, traffic signal system upgrades at the intersections of Kilauea Avenue, Kino’ole, and Kapi’olani Streets, pavement restriping, and adjusting and repairing utility laterals, valves, and boxes. The cost of the project was $1.2 million and was completed in October 2014.

• **North Kona Flood Study**: Proposed flood map changes were sent to 326 property owners in North Kona, informing owners of proposed floodplain changes to the 1988, 1994 & 1995 “Flood
Insurance Rate Maps” or FIRMs. The areas in the preliminary flood study include: Wai‘aha Drainage Way, Split Flows & Tributaries - Kona Hawaiian Village Fairfield Resorts, Kona Hill Crest, Hualālai Colony, Kula Kai Estates, Halewili Places, Kona Makai, Royal Seacliff, Kahakai Estate, Omilo Place; Hōlualoa Drainage Way, Hōlualoa Bay Village, Ali‘i Kai, Kamani Trees, Komohana Kai, Io View Estates, Pakalakala Place, Hōlualoa. The preliminary flood study may take six months to over a year to complete before officially adopted by FEMA.

Green Stripes Added to Bike Lane: The Traffic Division is conducting an experiment on bike lanes and cyclist visibility in Hilo and Kona. In Hilo at the University of Hawai‘i, green stripes mimicking the existing white stripes were added to bike lanes starting from the intersection at the entrance to the UH and going in both directions on both sides of the road. Green stripes were also added to bike lanes in Kona between Palani Road and Kaiwi Street on Kuakini Highway. This experiment aims to increase cyclist visibility when bikes and vehicles merge and to create a safer environment for cyclists.

LED Streetlights Installed in West Hawai‘i: Ali‘i Heights was the first residential area on the Big Island that benefited from a new streetlight for neighborhoods. The new LED light is designed to focus onto the street and not into people’s homes. They are easier on the eye, less glare, sensitive to the astronomy industry, as well as deliver an energy savings of over fifty (50%) percent. In FY 2014-15, 642 streetlights were converted to LED lamps in the North and South Kona area.

Biodiesel Fuel: In the effort to be less dependent on fossil fuels, the use of locally produced biodiesel fuel was implemented beginning April 2015 for the County fleet. 150,590 gallons of biodiesel fuel was purchased in the FY 2014-15.

Paving/Roadwork: The Highways Division resurfaced a total of 6.5 miles in FY 2014–15.
The Laʻaloa Avenue Extension is another much needed mauka-makai connector road between Kuakini Highway and Aliʻi Drive in Kona that improves traffic flow, reduces congestion, and provides better access for evacuation and emergency response operations. The project improved the existing makai segment of Laʻaloa Avenue, and built 1,900 feet of new roadway mauka to Kuakini Highway. The $11.9 million project was completed in February 2015.
The department’s budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year was $3,916,213. Department operations are divided into six program areas that provide advocacy, support, coordination, and funding to non-profits in crucial segments of Hawai‘i Island’s economy. This department conducted two solicitations for proposals during the year that provided more than $1.1 million in supplemental funding to various non-profit agencies and educational institutions across the department’s six program areas.

AGRICULTURE

Supporting and growing agriculture is vital to Hawai‘i Island not only for the economic benefits, but also for food security and for preserving the island’s rural character. The Agriculture program advocates for and supports the industry.

- Soil and Water Conservation District: Continued support of the County’s grubbing and grading ordinance by providing $300,000 to preserve the island’s land and water resources.

- Training New Farmers: Funding granted to two projects to train and educate new farmers on farming methodology, as well as to a 4-H Youth program.

- Research & Promotion of Local Products: Support provided to promote local products and improve the export marketing of Hawai‘i’s papaya, tropical flowers and foliage plants. Such investment allowed for large organizations to participate in several off-shore trade shows that showcased Hawai‘i agriculture to the U.S. mainland and beyond.

- Coqui Frog Control: The County continues to implement the program that assists community members in controlling the spread of the coqui frog, by providing discounted vouchers for bulk citric acid used in sprayers. The program allows purchasing of vouchers by mail or in person at the Hawai‘i County Economic Opportunity Council, and pick-up from sites in Hilo and Kealakekua.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Business Development Program supports workforce training initiatives and the development of small businesses in key economic sectors.

- Enterprise Zone (EZ) Program: Continued support resulted in 84 businesses participating in the program that provides tax reduction incentives to qualified businesses. Five of the six zones have reached their 20-year designation and the process to designate these zones have been initiated.

- Multi-Purpose Manufacturing Advance Development Enterprise (MMADE in Hawai‘i): R&D participated along with a coordinated group of business leaders, government, PISCES and astronomy, in working on plans and development utilizing the $8.5M awarded by the State Legislature, for a manufacturing facility to support the establishment of new business opportunities in science and technology.
• Astronomy Workforce Pipeline Program: Collaborated with the University of Hawai’i at Hilo to develop and offer an Applied Engineering Program on campus, as well as participated in a working group to restructure the existing Electronics and Computer Software programs on campus to more closely train future workers for positions currently available in the workforce.

• American Culinary Federation Program: Partnered with a successful program which provided support, scholarships, mentorships and opportunities in the development of future chefs for food establishments.

ENERGY
Reducing our dependence on imported resources for energy is one of the biggest challenges of our generation. The Energy program advocates for cheaper renewable energy and lower electricity costs for local families and businesses.

• Lālāmilo Wind Farm Repowering: Assisted the Department of Water Supply in negotiating a Power Purchase Agreement with Site Constructors to power North Hawai’i’s water needs with a 3 megawatt wind farm. The savings of $1 million a year will be passed on to Department of Water Supply ratepayers when the wind farm is operational in late 2016.

• Hydrogen Fueling Station: Worked with Hawai’i Natural Energy Institute, Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai’i Authority (NELHA), and Blue Planet to site the first Hydrogen Fueling Stations on the Island of Hawai’i. Through collaboration, NELHA has been selected as the island’s first hydrogen fueling station.

• Large-Scale Electricity Storage: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NELHA, HELCO and the County of Hawai’i has been prepared and executed to deploy storage systems to the NELHA compound for testing and verification.

• Hawai’i Energy: The organization has worked with the Mayor’s Energy Advisory Commission Community, Outreach and Education Committee to ensure hard-to-reach, low-income residents are aware of funds available through Energy Efficiency rebates and other HE programs such as free solar water heaters, and that such are deployed to the residents most in need to reduce their energy bill and increase their disposable income.

• Biodiesel: A Transportation Fuels Request for Bids was modified to accept biodiesel at County facility pumping stations for use in our Mass Transit and other diesel vehicles. Through this effort, Department of Public Works diesel vehicles and Mass Transit vehicles are now using the locally produced biodiesel regularly.

• Public Utilities Commission: The County of Hawai’i is an active intervenor in three dockets before the commission, advocating for the interests of Hawai’i Island utility ratepayers.

FILM & MEDIA PRODUCTION
The Big Island Film Office supports film, television, and new media production on the island while marketing the island as a location to filmmakers worldwide.

• The County of Hawai’i permitted 82 productions in FY 2014-15, accounting for an estimated $13 million in spending on the island. Notable productions that required additional support were:
  • The $6 million “Wheel of Fortune” remote at the Hilton Waikoloa Village (20 shows, averaging 12 million viewers nightly).
  • An entire season of the MTV reality show “Are You the One?” in Kona which spent $5 million.
  • 2 days of shooting “Hawai’i Five-O” at Mauna Loa, Kalapana, and the Hilo Airport worth $350,000 (averaging 9 million viewers)

• Transmedia Accelerator: Along with the State of Hawai’i and Global Virtual Studio, the County is a partner in the GVS Transmedia Accelerator, an innovative business accelerator for entrepreneurs telling stories across multiple media platforms. The partnership will accelerate a cohort of businesses from around the state every year with products made for the world right here in Hawai’i. The GVS Transmedia Accelerator program is housed at Honua Studios in Kona’s Kaloko Industrial Area. The County’s investment in FY 2014-15 was $200,000.

• Social Media: The Big Island Film Office established a social media presence to connect the local filmmaking community with potential productions from near and far. Find BIFO on Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter at FilmBigIsland.
Research & Development supported Wheel of Fortune’s 20-episode shoot at the Hilton Waikoloa Village, bringing $6 million in production spending to Hawai‘i Island and exposing the island to 12 million viewers.

• Locations Trade Show: As part of the Film Offices of the Hawaiian Islands, the film office maintained a presence at the 2015 Locations Trade Show in Los Angeles, a premiere showcase for film locations around the world. Between meetings with studio executives and filmmakers stopping by the booth, fielded over 80 inquiries regarding future production on Hawai‘i Island.

• Big Island Film Festival: Supported the 10th annual Big Island Film Festival, a five-day event screening feature and short films for thousands of audience members at venues around the Mauna Lani Resort.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE CENTER
The department’s Resource Center supports family asset building and financial empowerment, green business and government, and projects for sustainable, livable, healthy communities. The center also collects, maintains, and provides statistical data and information to County departments, other agencies, businesses, policy makers and the general public.

• Access To Grants: Supported community organizations seeking outside grants by offering access to the eCivis Grants Network, and assisting with a local nonprofit’s successful $2 million U.S. Department of Commerce and Economic Development Administration grant application.

• Community Health: Participated in Community First initiatives to educate the public about taking personal responsibility for one’s own health and healthcare. Most recently Community First promoted the “Hawai‘i Island Well-Being Challenge.”

• Medical Home Initiative: Support provided on two concurrent projects to implement one of three recommendations made by the Mayor’s Healthcare Sustainability Task Force; an initiative to measure and map the provider shortage, conduct public outreach on the importance of a medical home, and support provider recruitment efforts.

• Mahalo ‘Āina Hawai‘i Public Radio Educational Radio Series: Funding provided for this series to educate the public on forest preservation, watershed protection, and the forest industry’s career path opportunities.
• The Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative: Continued support provided for its work in green growth measures development and its three-day program on Hawai'i Island in November 2014.

TOURISM

The Tourism program supports and advocates for the visitor industry, particularly in initiatives where the visitor industry benefits residents, while also providing support to non-profit organizations.

• County Product Enrichment Program: Supported 15 projects with over $300,000 in Hawai'i Tourism Authority funding, including the Hawai'i Songwriting Festival, the Puna Music Festival, Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Races, the Hula Arts at Kilauea, the Ka'ū Coffee Festival, 'Imiloa's Live from Mauna Kea, Experience Aloha First Fridays in downtown Hilo, and special events in Kailua Village.

• Supplemental Funding: Supported 10 initiatives with $710,000 in County funding, including the activities of the Big Island Visitors Bureau, pier greeting programs in Hilo and Kona, and the Financial and Insurance Conference of Planners conference held in November, 2014 wherein 160 qualified meeting planners attended with a return on investment of $1.5 million in room, food and beverage revenue in Waikoloa.

• Industry Partners: Engaged with visitor industry partner organizations including the Big Island Visitor Security Association, Big Island Visitors Bureau Advisory Board, Hawai'i Agritourism Association, Hilo Downtown Improvement Association, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, Hawai'i Island Visitors Bureau, and Visitor Aloha Society of Hawai'i.
With a customer base of over 42,000 water service accounts, the DWS has a staff of 163 employees operating from several locations around the island. In addition to the main office at the Waiākea Office Plaza on Kekūanaō’a Street and the Operations Center on Leilani Street in Hilo, the department maintains district offices and base yards in Waimea, Kona, and Ka‘ū. The department is organized into four major divisions: Administration, Finance, Engineering, and Operations.

Operating budget for this period was $52.2 million. Water consumption during this period increased from 91 billion gallons to 9.2 billion gallons while total number of services increased from 42,378 to 42,759 islandwide.

**ENGINEERING DIVISION**

The following capital improvement projects were under construction, in various stages of contract award, or in the planning and design phase during the FY 2014-15:

- **Kona Oceanview Water System Improvements:** Completed in early 2015 through the improvement district process, this project now provides a county water system to lots within the existing Kona Oceanview Properties (Pu‘ukala) Subdivision. Construction Contract Cost: $1,121,545.

- **Wai‘aha Water System Improvements:** Construction of this project was completed in the fall of 2014. The department participated in this private-public partnership by oversizing the water system improvements that now serves as a critical mauka to makai corridor for high quality water from the high level aquifer to Kailua-Kona. DWS Share: $2,967,650.

- **Queen Ka‘ahumanu Highway Widening, Phase 2:** The original design was completed and the redesign of the southern segment is in process per State Department of Transportation. The construction is now scheduled to begin in September 2015. This project will install approximately five miles of 16-inch waterline between Kealakehe Parkway to Keāhole Airport which is currently being served by an undersized 12-inch waterline. Estimated Cost: $3,500,000.

- **Water Use and Development Plan Update (Keauhou Aquifer System Area):** The Department began the update of the 2010 Water Use and Development Plan for the Keauhou Aquifer System Area in the fall of 2014 and has completed Phase 1. The department continues to collaborate with other County departments as well as the State Commission on Water Resource Management in completing the plan. The update not only incorporates new information from other agency plan updates including the Kona Community Development Plan, but also addresses many of the concerns brought about by the petition to designate the Keauhou Aquifer System Area.

- **Hala‘ula Well Development – Phase 2:** Phase 1 completed; however, Phase 2 which includes the outfitting of the well and a reservoir is still pending land acquisition. Estimated Construction Cost: $3,500,000

- **Waikoloa Reservoir No. 1:** Reservoir No. 1 design is near completion. The contract for Reservoir No. 1 is expected to be bid out by the end of 2015. Estimated Cost: $4,000,000
The Lālāmilo Wind Farm will power the water system supplying parts of South Kohala, saving DWS customers up to $1,000,000 per year in energy costs when it is operational in late 2016. This will be an “own-operate-maintain” system where the developer will own, operate, and maintain the system and sell wind-generated power to DWS for the Lālāmilo and Parker Wells as a supplement to grid power.

- **Waimea Water Treatment Plant Compliance Upgrades, Ph. II**: Testing and Design for the project was completed and bids for this project were received in May 2015. Construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2015. This project will treat the Waimea surface water with microfiltration and nearly double the treatment plant capacity. Estimated Cost: $10,800,000

- **Āhualoa-Honoka’a Transmission Waterline, Phase 2**: Construction of this project is on-going. Along with Phase 1, this project will increase the water system capacity of the Āhualoa and Honoka’a Water System by increasing the transmission line size to 12”. This project includes approximately 3 miles of new waterline. Estimated Cost: $3,000,000

- **Kapulena Well Development, Phase 2**: The design for this project is complete and is currently out to bid (Summer 2015). Construction is expected to begin in early 2016. This project will receive nearly $1,000,000 in federal grant money to help fund this project that will become the main source for the Kapulena and Kukuihaele Water Systems. Estimated Cost: $3,000,000

- **Laupāhoehoe (Manowai’ōpae) 0.5 MG Reservoir**: This project is under construction and expected to be completed in the fall of 2015. This project replaces an undersized and aging reservoir and involves realigning piping from two deepwells and a new control building. Estimated Cost: $2,500,000

- **Pāpa’ikou Transite and G.I. Pipeline Replacement - Phases 1 and 2**: The design was completed for the project and pending federal funding, will be bid out near the end of 2015. This project will replace existing asbestos cement (transite) and galvanized waterlines which are currently undersized and in need of replacement. This project will replace approximately 15,000 l.f. of waterline and services approximately 240 customers. Estimated Cost: $7,000,000

- **Pi’ihonua-Kūkūau 2.0 MG Reservoir and Transmission Waterline**: Design of this project is nearly complete and it is anticipated that this project will be bid out late 2015 with construction possibly starting in the spring of 2016. This project will replace an undersized and aging reservoir and increase transmission capacity to a large portion of the South Hilo Water System. Estimated Cost: $7,000,000
• *Ôl’a’a No. 2 - 0.5 MG Reservoir Replacement:*
  Design of the reservoir is near complete and the acquisition of land is being negotiated for this project that will replace an existing 0.2 MG steel tank that is degraded as well as replace existing asbestos cement pipelines within Milo Street. Booster Pumps will also be replaced with this project. Estimated Cost: $2,500,000

**OPERATIONS DIVISION**

• Deepwell pump production decreased slightly and power costs dropped slightly from previous years. Previous well production volumes were:
  - FY 2014-15 = 10.3 billion gallons
  - FY 2013-14 = 10.4 billion gallons
  - FY 2012-13 = 10.5 billion gallons

• Energy use increased by 3.0%:
  - FY 2014-15 = 56,257,504 kilowatt hours
  - FY 2013-14 = 54,615,476 kilowatt hours

• The Power Cost Charges to the water service customers dropped from $2.35/1000 gallons to $2.32/1000 gallons on May 1, 2015, and again to $1.85/1000 gallons on September 1, 2015. The overall fiscal year power costs dropped 3.4% from the previous fiscal year:
  - FY 2014-15 = $19,828,240
  - FY 2013-14 = $20,527,727

• Continuous upgrading and development of Unaccounted Water Program (Leak Detection).
• Continued water meter change out program for meters 30 years and older.
• Continued repairs as recommended from Department of Health sanitary surveys.
• Repaired the following Deepwells: Kahalu’u D, Pāhoa Deepwell B, Kula’imanu A, Kahalu’u Shaft Pump #3 and Kahalu’u B Deepwell.
• Installed Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at Haina Deepwell to improve energy efficiency.
• Repaired or replaced the following Booster Pumps: *Ôl’a’a No. 6, Ôl’a’a No. 3, Pi’ihonua #3 Booster B and Ke’ei #2

**Operations Work Summary**

**Water Service**

- New Service: 78
- Change Meters: 1,382
- Lock/Remove Meters: 381
- Unlock/Reinstall Meters: 566
- Relocate Service/Meters: 24

**Service Laterals**

- Changes: 38
- Repairs: 428
- Main Repairs/Connections: 252
- Hydrants: 35

**Plant Repair**

- Tank Mechanical Repairs: 48
- Tank Electrical Repairs: 130
- Tank Meter Box Repairs: 162
- Pump Motor Repairs: 215
- Pump Control Repairs: 402
- Building Repairs: 48
- Reservoir Repairs: 28

**Telephone**

- Answering Service Calls 1,250
County Boards & Commissions bring together citizens with a variety of skills and life experiences who are active in and respected by the community, and knowledgeable about and able to represent the entire community’s interests and concerns.

These Boards & Commissions advise the Mayor and various departments, oversee programs or departments, and work with the County to make our community stronger.

We thank our volunteer commissioners for their contribution of time and expertise that make our Hawai‘i Island a better place to live.

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Advises the Mayor on sustainable agriculture development strategies and programs.
Marissa Harman, Chair
Tane Datta, Vice Chair
Sotero Agoot
Loreto Obra
Tim Richards
Michael Robinson
Nina Ann Tanabe
Eric Tanouye
David Tarnas

BOARD OF APPEALS
Hears and determines all appeals from the final decisions of the Planning Director or the Director of Public Works regarding matters within their respective jurisdictions.
Dean Au
Nancy Carr-Smith
Frank Commendador
Henry Kaahilue
Max Newberg
Kelly Ann Valenzuela

BOARD OF ETHICS
Interprets the County’s Code of Ethics for officers, employees and the public, conducts hearings on violations and renders opinions.
Dr. Kū Kahakalau, Chair
Kenneth Goodenow
Douglass Adams

COMMITTEE ON AGING
Advises the Mayor and Office of Aging on matters relating to senior citizens.
Dorothy J. Baxter
Judith M. Bell
John J. Fernandez
Lily Y. Inouye
George M. Ito
Meizhu Lui
Robert Masuda
Amos D. Meyers, Jr.
Steve Ono
Chris Ridley
Earl Tanaka
Rowena L. Tiqui
Nona B. Wilson

COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Advises the Mayor on matters related to persons with disabilities, recommends actions to improve quality of life.
Paige De Lima, Chair
Wesley H. Tanigawa, Vice Chair
Pauline Aughe
Gene Avilla
Janice Mancini
Sabine “Sam” Nagasawa
James Souza
Laura Tobosa

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Advises the county on protection, preservation and perpetuation of historic and cultural resources on Hawai‘i Island.
Deborah Chang
Ronald Dela Cruz
Lily Dudoit
Nicole Lui
Barbara J. Meheula
Maile Melrose
Boone Morrison
Alapaki Nahale-a
Christine Y. Wada

ENERGY ADVISORY COMMISSION
Advises the Mayor on energy sustainability.
Hank Banquer
Stephen Bowles
Steven Burns
David De Luz, Jr.
Thomas Goya
Michael Kaleikini
Kelvin Kohatsu
Marvin Min
Julie Myhre, Ex-Officio

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Advises the Department of Environmental Management.
Luana Neff
Thomas Randle
Trina Nahm-Mijo
Susie Osborne
Jeff Fear
James Fritz
**FIRE COMMISSION**
Appoints and advises Fire Chief.
Carol Ignacio
James “Kimo” Lee
W. Mapuana Waipa
David DeLuz
Robert A. Becher
Carol S. Kitaoka

**GAME MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION**
Advises county, state and federal officials on issues related to hunting and fishing as well as traditional gathering rights.
Willie-Joe Camara
Dwayne D. Yoshina
Ryan N. Kohatsu
Paul E. Buelmann
Thomas H. Lodge
Kenneth DeCoito
Robert P. White
Mark C. Bartell
Cleon M. Bailey

**HAWA’I COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**
Oversees the administration of Workforce Investment Act programs.
Dan Banks
David Deluz, Jr.
Phyllis Funada
Blayne Hanagami
Wayne Higaki
Jim Kennedy
Carla Kurokawa
Alison Lee
Marion Makaimoku
George Martin
Gay Mathews
Chad Okinaka
Clyde Oshiro
Denise Pacheco
Delan Rusty Perry
Kathy Perry
Debbie Shigehara
Charmaine Shigemura
Gary Sirman
Donald Straney
Mike Tulang

**KAILUA VILLAGE DESIGN COMMISSION**
Reviews projects within the Kailua Village Special District requiring plan approval.
Alvin Akina
Theresa Andreae
Fanny Au Hoy
Paul Bleck
Adam Broderson
Peter Dahlberg
Ann Kern
Shaun Roth
Zon Sullenberger

**KA’Ū CDP STEERING COMMITTEE**
Steers development of the Ka’ū CDP.
Patti Barry
John Cross
Bob DaMate
Ron Ebert
Leina’ala Enos, Chair
Michelle Galimba
Loren Heck
Eldridge Naboaa, Vice Chair
Marino Ramones
Simon Torres

**KONA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE**
Oversees the implementation and update of the Kona CDP.
Kenneth M. Melrose
George “Keoki” Schattauer
Gregory G. Ogín
Elaine Fukushima
Hiram P. Rivera
Douglas Payne
Barbara Defranco

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Elaine Fukushima
Hiram P. Rivera
Douglas Payne
Barbara Defranco

**LIQUOR COMMISSION**
Adopts regulations related to liquor control, and grants licenses for the manufacture, importation and sale of liquor in the County.
Shelby K. Nahale-a
Arthur Taniguchi
William T. Takaba
Dwayne T. Mukai
Leinaala Enos
Rodney Watanabe
Stephen Lopez
Riley Smith

**LIQUOR CONTROL ADJUDICATION BOARD**
Hears complaints regarding violations of liquor laws or rules and imposes penalties.
Claude S. Onizuka
Joseph Kealoha
Bryan H. Lindsey
Sidney Fuke
Geraldine Giffin

**MERIT APPEALS BOARD**
Hears appeals relating to recruitment and examination, position classification, and other employment actions.
George “David” Nahuina
Ida Otake
Jubilee N. Kuewa
June R. Rabago
Julie Tulang

**PENSION BOARD**
Oversees pensions for Police, Fire, and County Band employees who do not participate in the State Employee Retirement System.
Jerry Hamamoto
Nyalia L. Neill
Guillerma (Irma) Sumera
David Heaukulani
Arlene P. Waugh
LEEWARD PLANNING COMMISSION
Advises the Mayor, Council and Planning Director in matters concerning planning and land use in Kohala and Kona.
Brandi Beaudet
Scott Church
Collin Kaholo
Barbara Nobriga
Oliver Shimaoka
Keith Unger
Thomas Whittemore

WINDWARD PLANNING COMMISSION
Advises the Mayor, Council and Planning Director in matters concerning planning and land use in Puna, Hilo, Hāmākua, and Kaʻū.
Charles Heaukulani
Greg Henkel
Donald Ikeda
Myles Miyasato
Raylene Moses
Donn Dela Cruz

POLICE COMMISSION
Appoints and advises Police Chief. Investigates charges brought by the public against the department or any of its members.
Peter L. Hendrichs
Peggy Hilton
Keith Morioka
Arthur F. Buckman
Robert Gomes Sr.
John Bertsch
Guy K. Schutte

PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Maintains an islandwide prioritized list of lands worthy of preservation.
Tim DeLozier
David Bishaw
William Meyers
Barbara Bell
Rene Siracusa
Marilyn Nicholson
Cynthia Nazara
Kekaulike P. Tomich
Gail Byrne Baber

PUNA CDP ACTION COMMITTEE
Oversees the implementation and update of the Puna CDP.
June Conant
Sharon Daun
Madeline Greene
Patti Pinto
Keikialoha Kekipi
Oshi Simsarian
Rene Siracusa
Daniel Taylor
Farris Etterlee

SALARY COMMISSION
Establishes the salaries of elected officials and appointed directors.
George J. Handgis
Brian J. De Lima
Marcella L. Stroh
Pudding Lassiter
Melvin S. Morimoto

TAX BOARD OF REVIEW
Hears disputes between taxpayers and the Real Property Tax Division.
Reiko Ford
Richard Dinges
Donald David
Melvin Ventura
Wesley Takai

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Regulates passenger carrying motor vehicles and advises on mass transit and other transportation matters.
Neal Herbert
Alton Nosaka
Kenneth Obenski
Paul Maddox

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Advises on matters pertaining to the operation of veteran’s cemeteries and other issues.
Don Bennett
David Carlson
Caleb Churchill
Penny Fox
Antonio Gaspar
Minoru Hanato
Joseph Nimori
Wayne Nishijima
Delbert Nishimoto
John Okino
Emile Wery
George Yamamoto

WATER BOARD
Oversees the County water system and the Department of Water Supply.
Bryant K. Balog
Craig Takamine
Russell M. Arikawa
Susan L. Lee Loy
Kanoe A. Wilson
Brenda Iokepa-Moses
G. Rick Robinson
Jay Uyeda
Leningrad Elarionoff

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Advises on the status of women within the County of Hawaiʻi.
Carol S. Kitaoka
Farrah-Marie Gomes
Brooke Derby
Mele Spencer
Hazel Beck
Cyd Hoffield
Jessanie Marques
Ohshima, Japan – February 1962
Izu Ohshima, which means “Big Island,” is home to waterfalls, valleys, black sand beaches, hot springs, camillias, and Mt. Mihara, an active volcano standing at 2,507 feet.

Nago, Okinawa, Japan – April 1986
The first place in Japan where the cherry blossoms bloom, and home to a Cherry Blossom Festival similar to Waimea’s. Teams from Nago participate in Hilo’s annual Haari Boat Race.

La Serena, Chile – November 1994
La Serena is home to the southern twin telescope of Mauna Kea’s Gemini North. This sister city relationship was based on the link of our astronomy communities and the benefits to both areas.

Yurihama (formerly Hawai-Cho), Japan – October 1996
A Hawaiian festival takes place every July with hula hālau from all over Japan and Hawai‘i. Also, students from Yurihama and Hilo Intermediate School participate in an annual student exchange.

Shibukawa, Japan – January 1997
Just as Mauna Kea is considered the piko of the Pacific, Shibukawa is the bellybutton of Japan. The annual Ikaho Hawaiian Festival features winning hālau from Hilo’s Merrie Monarch Festival.

Sumoto, Japan – August 2000
Students from Sumoto and Hilo High School have participated in a student exchange every summer since 2000. Sumoto City is famous for its Kobe Beef, Naruto oranges and Awaji onions.

Kumejima, Okinawa, Japan – May 2011
Kumejima has a deep sea water pipe like Kona’s Natural Energy Lab, and the development of ocean thermal energy conversion there occurred in tandem with similar development here.

Ormoc, Philippines – September 2011
Located in the province of Leyte,Ormoc is an economic, cultural, commercial and transportation hub. Ormoc harnesses their geothermal resources to generate electricity for the whole region.

Gokseong, South Korea – September 2011
Gokseong is the center of nature-friendly agriculture devoted to restoring the environment. A Mountain View piggery was the first to adopt Korean Natural Farming methods in the U.S.

La Réunion, France – January 2012
A French island located east of Madagascar, La Réunion’s environment is both unique and similar to Hawai‘i Island. Like Kīlauea, their Piton de la Fournais Volcano is a World Heritage Site.