

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative

# CURRENTS

***The Future Is Bright  
For Electric Workers***



## INSIDE

HowzIT? A Career in  
Information Technology

Lineworkers:  
The Eyes of the Storm

**SPRING  
2025**



# 2025 REBATES

## HOME APPLIANCES



## AIR CONDITIONERS



## EV CHARGERS



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# inside CURRENTS

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## Go Paperless

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

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## Editor

Beth Amaro

## Contributors

Beth Amaro, Allan Smith, Allison Young, Shelley Paik, Calvin Murashige, Mike Yamane, Brandon Simpliciano, Sharon De La Peña, Hallie Cristobal, Jackie Kanna, Joey Leibrecht, Jennifer Paton

## On The Cover

Kaua'i Community College students take a field trip to KIUC's Anahola Service Center and solar facility.

 **Kaua'i Island  
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# Chairman's Message

Aloha,

The cooperative difference is one that I—and all of our board members—hold very dear. A little more than 20 years ago, a group of business people on Kaua'i seized on the rare opportunity to buy the electric utility from Citizens Utilities and go cooperative. The result is KIUC.

What's the difference between an investor-owned utility and a member-owned co-op?

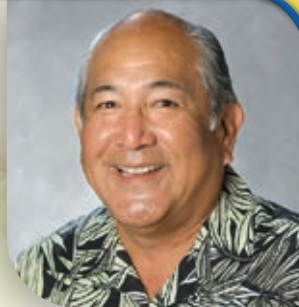
IOUs work like for-profit corporations and are publicly or privately owned by shareholders. IOUs serve three out of four electricity customers nationwide. Although there are fewer IOUs than publicly owned utilities and cooperatives, IOUs tend to be larger. Here in Hawai'i, KIUC is the only cooperative. All the other islands are subsidiaries of one IOU.

In 1942, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was established to help provide the harder-to-service rural communities in the United States with electricity. KIUC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country.

As a member-owned co-op, KIUC serves our community. Please enjoy this issue for insights into our daily efforts to demonstrate care for our employees and members, from democratically held board elections to safety awareness and education programs.

Mahalo nui loa,

*Allan A. Smith*



## Board Actions

Actions taken by the KIUC Board of Directors  
from December 2024 to February 2025.

*BAR = Budget Adjustment Request*

### DEC. 19, 2024

Approved, Resolution 06-24, equity management plan.

Approved, BAR PSA P016, North Shore transmission line.

Approved, BAR T&D, vegetation management.

Approved, BAR 2025, HCP O&M.

### JAN. 30, 2025

Approved, asset acquisition.

### FEB. 27, 2025

Approved, BAR Frm – T51 – 37.5 MVA GSU transformer.

Approved, 2024 final goal review.

Approved, 2025 proposed goals.

Approved, Policy 25, KIUC charitable/nonprofit giving.

Approved, loan review committee member—Sonia Topenio, financial.

Approved, Resolution 01-25, update bank and financial institution signatures and contacts.

Approved, Resolution 02-25, update KIUC retiree welfare benefit plan trustees.



# Election Results

Board  
Insights

## OTE 2025 KIUC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's incumbent directors Jan TenBruggencate and Peter Yukimura, along with Edmund Acoba, have been elected to the KIUC Board of Directors. These three directors will each serve a three-year term ending March 2028.

Merriman River Group submitted the official results for the 2025 board of directors election. The results are:

1. **Peter Yukimura**, 3,107
2. **Jan TenBruggencate**, 2,569
3. **Edmund Acoba**, 2,106
4. Janet Kass, 1,954
5. Dan Giovanni, 1,526
6. Steve Parsons, 696

KIUC mailed 26,788 ballots and received 4,618 responses with a 17.2% turnout.

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

The elected board members were inaugurated March 27 at the board of directors' annual meeting.



**Peter Yukimura**



**Jan TenBruggencate**



**Edmund Acoba**



*2025 Election Volunteers*

## KAUA'I POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE



**K-PAL** is committed to fostering positive youth development through sports, mentorship, and educational initiatives. With strong partnerships with local schools, businesses, and community organizations, K-PAL plays a crucial role in shaping capable and confident young individuals. Last year, over 1,100 youth participated in K-PAL's flag football, boxing, jiu jitsu, and wrestling programs.

### Parent/Guardians

K-PAL is dedicated to providing an atmosphere that motivates youth to lead drug-free lives and help them reach their full potential by providing positive activities, mentorship and most importantly, fun. Find out more about the programs that K-PAL offers and sign up your keiki today by visiting [www.kauaipal.org](http://www.kauaipal.org).

### Volunteers

Passionate about sports and want to make a difference in the lives of young athletes? K-PAL is on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteer coaches. Simply visit the K-PAL webpage and click on the Coach/Volunteer Form to get started.



# Communication Is a Two-Way Street



*By Cal Murashige*

Being a cooperative means KIUC is always striving to provide the best service to our member-owners.

Providing safe, reliable, affordable and renewable energy to the island is our job. Our most visible workers are our line crews repairing poles and lines in all weather conditions. Behind the scenes, our power plant workers ensure we have enough power to supply the entire grid all day, every day. In our main offices, we have our human resources, engineering, information technology, finance and member services workers holding up the co-op business side of things. Often, these are the workers our members interact with when they have questions about billing or electrical service.

In addition to having a line available for our members to contact us, there are times we also need to be able to reach you on short notice. In the event of an emergency that would cause outages, such as a wildfire, we would like to be able to alert you in real time. Always adopting the most useful technologies, KIUC recently started using the Everbridge Mass Notification System to alert members of significant, unplanned outages by phone call, text and email.

To receive these urgent alerts, you need to have your current contact information listed in your account. Our call center representatives are available during business hours **Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Call us at **808.246.4300** to update your phone numbers and email addresses. We can add multiple forms of contact to your account. We will never use nor share this information for anything other than emergency alerts or to contact you about your account. ⚡



*KIUC's team members are ready to assist.*

## STAY IN THE KNOW



Stay connected by keeping your contact information up to date. Current contact information benefits you in multiple ways.

- ✓ Faster outage reporting and response
- ✓ Timely alerts about planned outages and other important updates
- ✓ Smoother customer service interactions
- ✓ Improved access to member benefits and programs

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.

### How to Change or Add a Phone Number to Your Account

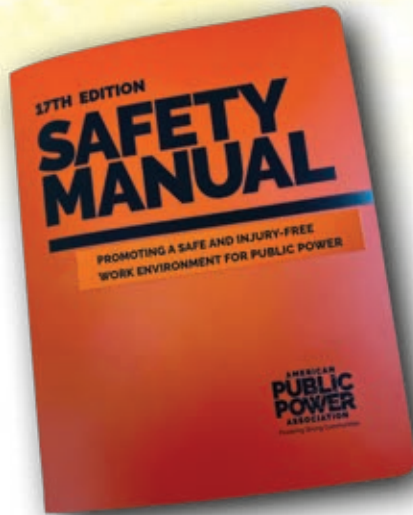
- Make sure you are the customer of record on the account
- Call us at **808.246.4300**
- Select Option 4
- When connected, let the member services representative know you want to update your phone number, mailing address or email address on file.





# Creating a Culture of Safety

By Mike Yamane



Board  
Insights

Weylon Ruiz, power plant maintenance person, wears safety gear while working.

**E**huaka'i me ka palekana. This Hawaiian phrase translates to, "Travel safely on your journey."

KIUC's No. 1 operational priority is safety. While restoring power quickly is the goal, our workers' safety, safe equipment use and protecting the public come first.

Electrical line work is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. In addition to the risk of electrocution, workers often work in rainy or windy conditions in low visibility at night. Power plant workers who work with heavy machinery and tools are also at risk for on-the-job accidents.

The American Public Power Association publishes a safety manual of guidelines for all workers. This bright orange book covers everything from intoxication to power tools and transportation to chemical hazards. Lines must be deenergized and workers must wear personal protective equipment that protects them from contacting live circuits. Hard hats, insulated gloves, safety glasses, arc flash suits and face shields may not be the most fashionable, but they can prevent serious burns and on-the-job injuries.

To keep workers safe, there needs to be a culture built around safety. KIUC's Ho'oka'ana Waiwai shared values include Ho'ohiki (accountability) and Laulima (working together) which compel us to maintain the highest safety standards every day. KIUC has dedicated safety staff to provide ongoing

training and track workplace safety. Workers are instructed to look out for each other and to immediately report any safety lapses to supervisors.

As a member of our cooperative, we ask for your help creating a culture of safety by following these safety tips:

- Maintain clearance from electrical equipment. Don't sit or play on the green metal transformer boxes, which contain voltage.
- Stay clear from downed lines. If you see a downed line, assume it's energized. Call 911.
- Call the Hawai'i One Call Center at 811 before you dig or plant trees. Never plant trees near or under power lines.
- Don't post on power poles. Keep poles free of sharp hardware or signs.
- Use extreme caution around power lines. Stay away from lines while trimming, and hire certified tree-trimmers
- Slow down in the "cone zone." Keep a safe distance while our crews are working on the side of the road. Drive slowly when passing.

Mahalo for your commitment to line safety. ⚡



# HowzIT? A Career in Information Technology

*By Allison Young*



*Kiara Furutani at the 2024 National Information Solution Cooperative - Member Information Conference.*

*KIUC has many employees who work behind the scenes to help keep the lights on and support our crews. Our information technology team ensures all our systems are updated, running smoothly and secure against cyberattacks. For those who are interested in a career in IT or cybersecurity, read more about what it's like to work at KIUC.*

## **Kiara Furutani,**

IT analyst, information technology department  
Education: Kapa'a High, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa—  
Bachelor of Business Administration in management  
information systems

## **What do you like about working at KIUC?**

Getting the unique privilege of working with all staff in all departments. It is my job to support everyone in utilizing our technologies in their various workflows. No day is ever the same. I am constantly adapting as work comes my way, whether it's IT system maintenance, issue troubleshooting, user training, product research, vulnerability remediations. Sometimes, you'll also catch me on the road to provide technical support at other sites.

## **What challenges do you encounter in IT?**

Technology is constantly evolving, so as you can imagine, there is a lot to keep up with. In IT, it is important we keep ourselves accountable and stay on top of updating our software, hardware and network, as well as be on the lookout for new technical solutions that we can implement to improve work efficiency, reliability and cybersecurity for all staff. With technology's fast-paced growth, cybercriminals also get smarter. It is a vital part of our job to stay ahead of it and to also train staff to do the same.

## **What are you grateful for?**

I see my entire IT team as my mentors and am grateful for each of them. All of them have been in the IT industry for far, far longer than I have, and it is really inspiring to be able to work alongside such knowledgeable and supportive people. Especially those who have been around for most, if not all, of KIUC's history of technology. They are always looking out for me and helping me to expand my technical skillsets. I also could not do it without the support of my family, who is always pushing me to achieve my goals and infinitely believing in me.

## **What do you like to do outside of work?**

I really value spending quality time with my family or friends. I enjoy traveling and take a lot of mini weekend trips to O'ahu to visit friends and family there, and also some bigger out-of-state trips in between. I also love creative hobbies! In my free time, I'm always either working on Cricut vinyl projects, crocheting gifts, journaling/scrapbooking memories, designing/painting my nails or whatever the next trending craft is! ⚡

*"I never go more than a couple weeks without seeing my friends."  
Kiara camping at Kōke'e with friends.*







# 4 WAYS TO STAY SAFE ONLINE

## **1. Use multi-factor authentication (also known as 2-step verification).**

The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

## **2. Update your software.**

This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

## **3. Think before you click.**

Most successful cyberattacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

## **4. Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words.**

Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

*Source: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) at [cisa.gov](https://cisa.gov).*

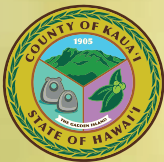


# EMERGENCY POWER PLANNING



## FOR KAUA'I RESIDENTS WITH ELECTRICITY-DEPENDENT MEDICAL NEEDS

- Breathing machines
- Power wheelchairs and scooters
- Oxygen, suction or home dialysis equipment
- Refrigerated medication



# CHECKLIST



In the event of a **Red Flag Warning** or other severe weather event, KIUC may need to de-energize power without advance warning in order to prevent the spread of wildfire. Create a plan for alternate sources of power.

- Read equipment instructions and talk to equipment suppliers about your backup power options.
- Regularly check backup or alternative power equipment to ensure it will work during an emergency.
- Teach your neighbors and caregivers how to use your backup systems and operate your equipment.
- Keep a list of emergency community power providers (hospital, fire department, school, church, etc).
- Familiarize yourself with designated emergency shelters in your area.
- Keep copies of instructions for each piece of equipment, along with serial and model numbers, in a waterproof container or in your emergency supply kits.

## CONTACT US



**KAUA'I ISLAND UTILITY COOPERATIVE**  
808.246.4300 [info@kiuc.coop](mailto:info@kiuc.coop)

**KAUA'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
808.241.1800 [kema@kauai.gov](mailto:kema@kauai.gov)

**KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
808.241.4980 [kfd@kauai.gov](mailto:kfd@kauai.gov)



# MEDICAL DEVICES

## LIFE-SUPPORT DEVICE USERS

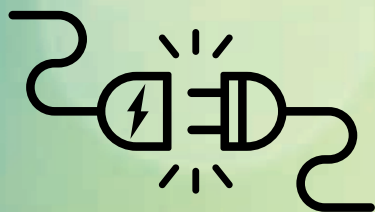
Fill out KIUC's **Elderly & Life Support Program Application** about your needs for life-support devices (home dialysis, suction, breathing machines, refrigerated medicines, etc.):\*

[www.kiuc.coop/forms](http://www.kiuc.coop/forms)

Additional useful tips:

- All ventilator users should keep a resuscitation bag handy. The bag delivers air through a mask when squeezed.
- If you receive dialysis or other medical treatments, ask your health care provider for the plans in an emergency and where you should go for treatment if your usual clinic is not available after an emergency.
- Be aware of oxygen safety practices.

*\*Note: KIUC cannot guarantee power even if you have completed the form, so ensure you have a backup plan.*



# BACKUP POWER

## GENERATORS

- Buy a portable generator to meet your basic energy consumption needs. A 2,000-2,500 watt device is recommended. A 2,000 to 2,500-watt gas-powered portable generator can power a refrigerator and several lamps. *Note: A refrigerator needs to run only 15 minutes an hour to stay cool if you keep the door closed. So, you could unplug it to operate other devices.*
- Operate generators in open areas to ensure good air circulation.
- Safely store fuel if using a gas powered generator.
- Store a gas siphon kit. Siphoning gas from a vehicle is a way to power a generator if needed.
- Test your generator from time to time to make sure it will work when needed.

## RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

- Stored extra batteries require periodic charging even when they are unused.
- Know the working time of any batteries that support your systems.
- When you have a choice, choose equipment that uses batteries that are easily purchased from nearby stores.

*If you need an ASL Interpreter, materials in an alternate format or other auxiliary aid support, or an interpreter for a language other than English, please contact KIUC or the Kaua'i Fire Department.*

*Requests made as early as possible will allow adequate time to fulfill your request. Upon request, this notice is available in alternate formats such as large print, Braille, or electronic copy.*



# The Eyes of the Storm

**By Brandon Simpliciano, Transmission and Distribution Engineer**

*In honor of National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18, I want to highlight the KIUC T&D line crews, who are based on the east and west sides of Kaua'i. They are in the field working hard to keep the lights on, and they endure the worst natural disasters Kaua'i has to offer.*

*Being a lineworker is no easy feat, and it takes years of dedication to the craft and a lifelong practice of safety and reliability. Safety is paramount. I have heard the phrase "my brother's keeper" used heavily when speaking about the crews' camaraderie and care for each other's safety.*

*Rather than just celebrating their duties, I wanted to pick their brains on their mindsets and motivations. Stepping into the boots of a lineworker is the best way to fully appreciate their services. Ranging from the pioneers who worked through Hurricane 'Iniki before KIUC formed as a cooperative to the next generation of KIUC's lineworkers, here are their stories.*



## The Best of the West

### **Patrick "Kanani" Malama, Troubleshooter (32 years)**

In 1987, Kanani became the youngest line crew journeyman in Hawai'i. At 24, he was the youngest pusher (working foreman equivalent) in the state.

Transferring from working in a construction environment he viewed as too stagnant, Kanani aimed to become a lineworker to experience a more dynamic outdoor atmosphere. He learned to overcome challenges task by task, each coming with its own set of difficulties.

Kanani has been a part of the KIUC 'ohana from the beginning and witnessed all the changes we've had as a co-op. For anyone looking to become a future lineworker, his advice is, "Stay in school and lead a clean life."

### **John Ludington, Construction Coordinator/Inspector (25 years)**

Upon graduating high school on a Friday night in 1987, John realized the following Monday that line work was his calling. Hailing from Mauna Kea Electric, John already had his fair share of pole-climbing and line work when he started at Kaua'i Electric in 1999. His years of experience at a young age led him to taking on the Kapa'a troubleshooter position, which he says gave him his most challenging days.

John believes he gained the most knowledge of the system in an environment where he had to be on his own during outages, having to make his own calls and decisions.

"For anyone who has a desire to become a lineperson, as an apprentice, never be afraid to ask questions and fully understand safe work practices and procedures," he says. "Understanding those key principles will translate well in your pursuit of becoming a journeyman."

## The Beasts of the East

### **Ken Yamamoto, Construction Coordinator/Inspector (32 years)**

"You gotta work hard, it doesn't just come to you," says Ken, a longtime lineworker for the Kapa'a (now Anahola) line crew. "Hard work doesn't lie, and you will always tell apart the hard workers when trouble arrives."

As someone who also experienced groundman work, the labor during the days of Kaua'i Electric was highly intense. Hand-digging 12-foot holes for pole planting or trekking into the mountains for outage repairs, Ken had his share of memorable experiences in his career.

"Having a good work ethic and understanding that nothing will just come to you," he advises anyone looking to enter the trade.







### **RJ Quinsaat, Working Foreman (20 years)**

At first, being a lineworker did not interest RJ, but his passion grew when he became an apprentice. His most challenging times were on the 10-plus mile-long Powerline Trail, hauling tools, insulators and every piece of equipment needed for work.

Seldom do people recognize what happens in these hard-to-navigate areas. They don't realize the full scope of work for a lineworker, who is usually only visible where people regularly live and drive. Deep in the island, out of the view of the public, RJ made the repairs necessary to keep the utility running smoothly and reliably.

### **Ranson "Kai" Camat, Working Foreman (10 years)**

Kai's motivation for becoming a lineworker comes from Kaua'i's culture.

"To help the community, my kuleana was to be of service to my island," he says.

One of his most memorable challenges as a lineworker was a hike up Ohiki in Hanalei, with all the equipment, crossarms and wire needed for repairs. Repairing insulators deep in the mountains via helicopter up Powerline Trail, these feats were completed with a "whatever needs to get done" mindset.

As you can see from these stories, being a lineworker takes hard work and a strong sense of purpose. For people like me, who don't always see the rough realities in the field, I am humbled by their drive and passion for what they do every day to keep Kaua'i running as smoothly as possible.

If you haven't done so already, this Lineworker Appreciation Day, and every day, please thank a lineworker for their service. ⚡







# Do you need help with your utility bill?

The **Hawai'i Home Energy Assistance Program (H-HEAP)\*** can help!

The **Energy Crisis Intervention** program provides households with a one-time payment deposited into their utility accounts.

**Kaua'i Economic Opportunity, Inc.** accepts applications from **June 1 - June 30.**

You must meet certain criteria to qualify.

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

\*formerly LIHEAP





# LIGHTS OUT FOR FLUORESCENT LIGHTS

The State of Hawai'i has passed a law that bans the sale of all fluorescent lighting as of Jan. 1, 2026. After that date, the use of light-emitting diode (LED) products will be required. At the same time, KIUC will be discontinuing all lighting rebate programs.

Commercial members are encouraged to replace their fluorescent lights and take advantage of our lighting rebates prior to Dec. 31, 2025.



Kyle Cremer,  
Commercial Energy  
Services Specialist  
[kcremer@kiuc.coop](mailto:kcremer@kiuc.coop)  
808.246.4300

## Q: What's not to love about fluorescent lighting?

A: Fluorescents (along with CFL, halogen, high-pressure sodium and incandescent lightbulbs) are less efficient, have a shorter life span and also produce more heat than LEDs. Businesses end up with a higher heat load, and air conditioning use increases. Air conditioning is one of the biggest costs on a member's bill. The heat from older lights could make air conditioners run less efficiently, resulting in higher electricity use.

## LET US HELP YOU WITH THE TRANSITION TO ENERGY- EFFICIENT LIGHTING!



# The Future Is **Bright** for Electric Workers

*By Allison Young*



*The Anahola Solar facility opened in 2015 in partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead Association.*

**E**very day is different,” KIUC Staff Engineer Gregg Matsuo told students from the Kaua’i Community College advanced renewable energy class.

In January, the class toured KIUC’s Anahola Service Center, which opened operations in 2023. The center serves as a base for east and north shore transmission and distribution operations, storm preparation area, and equipment depot during hurricane season. It’s adjacent to the Anahola Solar Facility and the Anahola Substation.

It was a sunny, dry morning. A dozen sheep, which graze under the 55,000 solar panels, scurried past the class. The students walked through the center and past the substation to the solar farm, which is on land leased from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Gregg described how KIUC’s renewable portfolio consists of solar, battery, hydro, biomass and biodiesel, and discussed the costs and benefits of each power source. He showed them the building that houses the inverters, which convert direct current electricity from the solar panels to alternating current electricity. He explained how a synchronous condenser at Kapaia Power Station can bring Kaua’i up to 100% for periods when the sun is out and discussed upcoming projects for the cooperative.

“I wanted to give my students a broader understanding of the renewable energy world, and KIUC is doing so much,” KCC instructor Thomas Conlee said.

Thomas is a former electrical contractor and CEO of Kilohana Electric Inc., a job he started just weeks after Hurricane ‘Iniki. He became an instructor at KCC to give back to the next



generation. The tour gave the students the opportunity to ask questions about underground lines, weather variations, how to get a job at KIUC and more.

The renewable energy courses are a part of the electrical installation and maintenance technology program at KCC. Students graduate with an associate in applied science degree and are equipped for entry-level electrician jobs with the technical knowledge and hands-on skills to meet industry standards and the State of Hawai'i Maintenance Electrician License test.

Potential professions include:

- Linemen and utility engineers, who install and maintain power lines.
- Journey-person electricians, who install electrical systems in buildings.
- Security and telecom technicians, who install low-voltage systems.
- Residential wiremen, who install electrical systems in homes.
- Solar installation technicians, who install solar power systems.
- Maintenance electrician, who maintain electrical systems.

For more information on the KCC EIMT program, visit:

[kauai.hawaii.edu/electrical-installation-maintenance-technology](http://kauai.hawaii.edu/electrical-installation-maintenance-technology). 



*KCC students learn about KIUC's renewable progress at the Anahola Service Center.*

*KIUC's Gregg Matsuo explains how power generated from the solar panels feeds into the grid.*





# *Where Are They Now?*

*By Allison Young*



A family photo of Kelli-Rose, Isabella, Harper and Justin before leaving New Jersey.



*For this issue, we talked story with Kelli-Rose Simmons, an alumnus from Youth Tour 2005. Kelli-Rose is from Wailua and graduated from Island School. She graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelor of Science in political science and a minor in communications and studio art. Kelli-Rose lives in Prattville, Alabama, with her 'ohana.*

**Aloha, Kelli-Rose. What's your favorite memory from Youth Tour?**

Meeting all the different kids who were there, I loved collecting the pins from different delegates and states. (They're) still in my parents' house. Meeting all of these people who were in the same stage of life from different places across the U.S. Growing up in Hawai'i we have a melting pot, but we're the same small-town upbringing. Going to meet people from across the people and their experiences, different yet the same, was a cool experience.

I've always been into politics, my family has always been involved in it. Washington, D.C., has always inspired me, and Youth Tour further stimulated my interest. I loved learning how a bill becomes a law, starting with community input and the entire process. Kansas State House and learning about how their process worked and how it was similar to Hawai'i's Same outline of the process.

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

After graduation, I moved to O'ahu and worked for State Sen. Roz Baker, Maui, as committee clerk for five years. I met my husband, Justin, who is in the Air Force, when he was stationed at Wheeler, and we got married in 2014. In 2017, we had our daughter Isabella and moved to Japan at Yokota Air Base, where he was stationed for three years.

I loved living in Japan, it was amazing. It's a very accessible country and very family-friendly. Coming from Hawai'i, some things you just understand, like not wearing shoes in the house, you respect your elders and take care of your community, omiyage gifts. The food is an easy adjustment.

From Japan we moved to New Jersey. I volunteered for Brookline Lab Rescue, and we fostered a lab there. I also work part-time as a senior project manager for Merriman River Group, an election management group. I like encouraging democracy at all levels. The first step is voting. If you don't have a free and fair election, you don't have much.

In August 2023, we welcomed our daughter Harper. Last year, in July 2024, Justin started a master's program in Alabama. Later this year, we will be moving to Washington, D.C.. We do miss Hawai'i and hope we'll get back someday.

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

My daughters are now 8 and almost 2, so I don't have a lot of free time, but I love to cook and bake. I also knit, which I learned when we were living in Japan. I still volunteer at the lab rescue organization and manage intake for new volunteers and fosters.



2005 Youth Tour delegates Nick Hasegawa, Grayson Boyer, Kelli-Rose and Sharla Shimono at the U.S. Capitol.

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

Kuleana and Kupono are values I hold very dear. As a mom, I find myself teaching those values to my children so they understand we do what we can to help others. That's so important as an individual and as a community. ⚡

Harper, Kelli-Rose and Isabella at the Prattville, Alabama, County Fair in 2024.





# KIUC in the Community



Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce Pau Hana



Third graders at Hanalei School learned how electricity is generated using a Pedal Power activity.



Boys & Girls Club  
Kanikapila in Paradise



RE+ Energy Conference (O'ahu)



Kaua'i United Way 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kickball Tournament



# Member Mahalos



Masiofo John Haliza  
mya Mallthid Brenteh  
Mara Mes Bailey Kaylin Roddy  
Indi anarson  
Kyrenny Jacie Thomas  
Teresa Mikaela

## Social Media Shout Outs

Thank you for the updates and thank you KIUC Crew for working on Christmas Day to provide power for us. We appreciate you!

Hey big shoutout to KIUC and their crews who replaced damaged pole on Moana Rd. Professional polite and TOTALLY cleaned up site on leaving. Mahalo!

Mahalo! KIUC for taking the time to figure it out, then giving me a follow up phone call a couple weeks later when all the paperwork was finalized. I appreciated that.

KIUC and I was part of that convo. KIUC not only figured out what we needed but when they found out the meter was being changed they said "oh wait your meters being changed, let's get that done first so things keep moving then we will make the changes to the account after and give you a call when it's all done!" KIUC was super helpful, and friendly.



Dear KIUC,  
Thank you for coming to our Career Day. We learned how to properly keep ourselves safe so we don't get shocked. We also learned about your jobs and careers. We appreciate the rulers and yummy treats too! Our teachers thank you too for their treats too. Thank you again for volunteering your time. We hope you had fun too.  
You are Awesome!!

Mrs. Joto's Class  
and the 2nd grade  
Obama



November 23, 2024  
2024 Mokihana Benefit Concert  
Keola Beamer & Jeff Peterson

Dear Friends at KIUC,

Our 2024 Benefit Concert in support of our Nursing Education Scholarship was a delightful and successful evening.

This would not have been possible without your support. Qualified students from Kauai Community College School of Nursing will now be able to focus on their studies with a reduced concern for expenses.

Members of the Mokihana Club wish to sincerely thank you for your generous donation valued at \$500 for which no goods or services were received.

Your kokua is greatly appreciated by the Mokihana Club and the dedicated scholarship recipients who will be serving our community.

Suzanne Ellis / Beverley Tobias  
Sponsorship Co-Chairs



# Spring Cuisine



## Special Mountain Camp Hash Patties

### Ingredients

1 can corned beef  
½ block Spam, minced  
2 potatoes, cubed  
1 bunch green onion, chopped  
3 eggs  
¼ cup flour  
¼ cup cornstarch  
Avocado oil

*Recipe by Allan Smith*

### Directions

Boil potatoes for about 10 minutes until tender. Mash half of the potatoes, leaving the other half cubed. Combine corned beef, Spam, potatoes, green onion and eggs. Mix well. On a plate, combine the flour and cornstarch. Scoop about 2 tablespoons of the mixture, and form a patty. Dredge the patty in the flour/cornstarch mixture. Place avocado oil in a heated skillet, and fry patties until crispy on both sides.



## Sweet Potato Hash

### Ingredients

1 purple sweet potato, peeled and cubed  
1 sweet potato, peeled and cubed  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
½ onion, sliced  
1 roll of spicy sausage  
1 bag chopped spinach  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
¼ cup water

### Directions

Brown sausage and garlic in olive oil. Add sweet potato, onions, spinach and water. Cover. Simmer until water evaporates and potatoes are tender.





## Fast and Easy Corned Beef Hash

### Ingredients

- 1 can corned beef
- ½ onion, sliced
- 2 potatoes, cubed
- ¼ cup water

### Directions

Put all ingredients in a pot. Turn heat to medium heat. Cover. When the water starts boiling, lower the heat. Simmer until potatoes are tender. Stir before serving.



## Unicorn Noodles

### Ingredients

- 4-5 leaves red/purple cabbage
- 1 package clear rice/vermicelli noodles
- 2 cups water
- ½ lemon

### Sauce

- ¼ cup nut butter (peanut or almond butter)
- 2 tablespoon pure maple syrup
- 2 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon tamari or soy sauce
- 1 inch knob of ginger, minced or grated
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 to 2 tablespoon rice vinegar, optional
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes, optional

### Directions

Roughly chop the red cabbage. Use the outer leaves with a deeper color. Add water and cabbage to a pot, and bring to a boil. Let it simmer for 5 to 10 minutes, bruising the cabbage with a wooden spoon. Remove the cabbage, and discard. Add the noodles to the purple water, and turn over until they spread out in the pot and are fully submerged in liquid. Turn off the heat. Cover the pot for 10 to 15 minutes until the noodles have absorbed all the liquid. Stir the noodles, and strain off any excess liquid. Place the noodles in a bowl. Before serving, roughly squeeze the lemon over the purple noodles. The acidity will change the color to pink. Use with your favorite summer roll ingredients.

*Guest recipe by Sharon De La Peña and Hallie Cristobal of Ho'ōla Lāhui Hawai'i and Kaua'i County Cooperative Extension*



# Your HHSC Kaua'i Region updates



This summer, we welcome to  
**THE CLINIC AT WAIMEA: (808) 338-8311**  
**DR. DOUGLAS ELIKA CHING**  
Hawai'i-born Board-Certified Orthopedic Surgeon  
*with over 20 years of experience providing expert care, specializing in:*

- **Fracture Care:** Surgical and Non-Operative
- **Knee Replacement Surgery:** Certified in Robotic-Assisted Total Knee Arthroplasty
- **Knee Arthroscopy & Ligament Reconstruction**
- **General Orthopedic Surgery:** Care for bone, tendon, and ligament injuries and conditions with a focus on restoring mobility and function



## SPORTS PHYSICAL

**Summer is here and we got you covered!** Get your child's annual wellness exam and sports physical at the same time! It's a win-win for their health and for busy parents.

**Schedule an appointment at any of our HHSC Kaua'i Region clinics**

Waimea: (808) 338-8311

Sp. Kalāheo: (808) 378-4557

Port Allen: (808) 335-0579

Līhu'e: (808) 241-5799

Kalāheo: (808) 332-8523

Kapa'a (13yo & above): (808) 823-4157

## JOIN US! REGISTER NOW!

### First Annual HHSC KAUA'I REGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 28, 2025**

**CHECK IN @ 7AM  
SHOTGUN @ 8AM  
PUAKEA GOLF COURSE**



TITLE SPONSOR

**REGISTER NOW  
ALL WELCOME TO PLAY**

**Deadline:  
JUNE 21, 2025**

**Call for more info: (808) 341-4737**







## HHSC KAUAI REGION

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

*E Pono Mau Loa ~ Always Excellent*

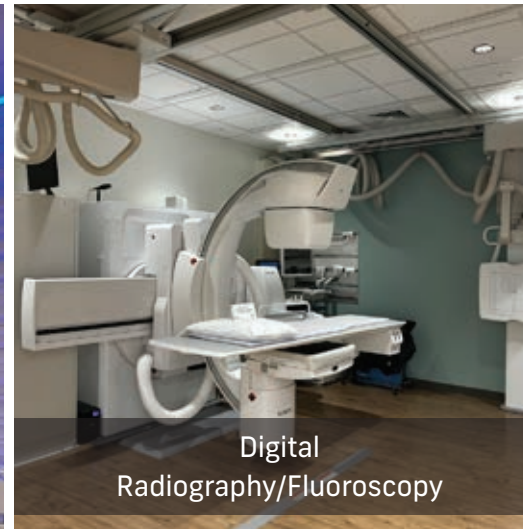
GET UPDATES



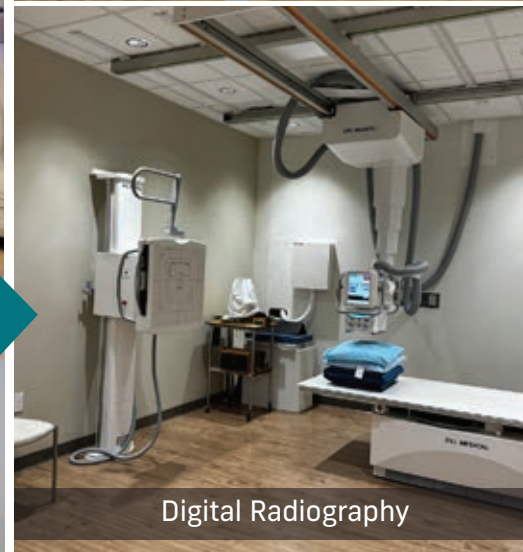
HHSC Kauai Region hhsckauai  
[www.kauai.hhs.org](http://www.kauai.hhs.org)



KVMH CT Scan and Imaging Dept. staff



Digital  
Radiography/Fluoroscopy



Digital Radiography



KVMH Imaging lobby and check-in



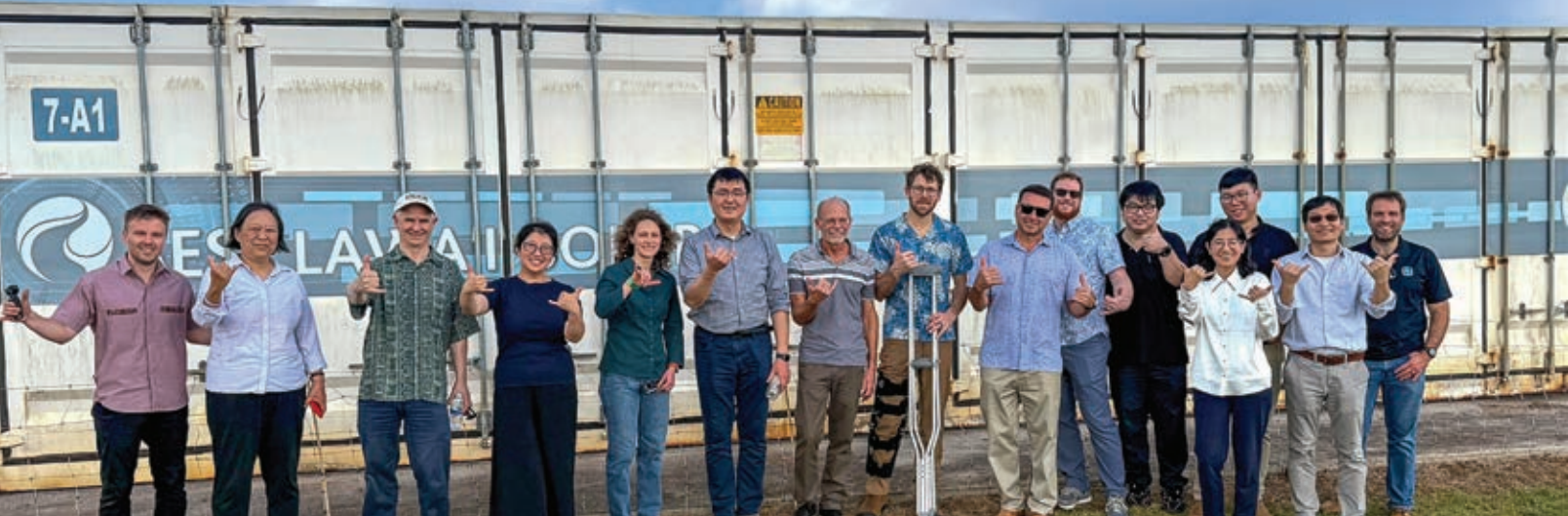
2D/3D  
Tomosynthesis Mammography  
and Ultrasound

## THE NEW IMAGING DEPARTMENT AT KVMH



# E Komo Mai: A Renewable Energy Research Hui Visits Kaua'i

*By Allison Young*



*Researchers studying renewable energy and grid-forming inverters visited KIUC and sites around Kaua'i.*

KIUC recently hosted a group of researchers from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory, Hawaiian Electric, AES, University of Tennessee and Purdue University. Many traveled from NREL's Colorado campus. Over the course of three days, the group visited power plants on Kaua'i and O'ahu to learn how Hawai'i plans to reach 100% renewable energy.

Most of the guests were involved in project SAPPHIRE: Stability-Augmented Optimal Control of Hybrid PV Plants with Very High Penetration of Inverter-based Resources. The three-year project modeled how grid-forming inverters could stabilize power grids dominated by inverter-based resources like solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage systems.

A grid-forming inverter creates and controls its own voltage. This allows it to operate independently or in coordination with other sources and helps restore the grid after a blackout. Conventional power plants use large rotating synchronous generators to produce electricity, whereas renewables and batteries use inverters to produce electricity.

Jin Tan, SAPPHIRE principal investigator, presented the group's findings. She said that by studying an islanded grid like Kaua'i's, they could take the lessons learned and hope to apply them later to larger grids on the mainland. Kaua'i was the first power grid in the world to operate grid-forming inverters.

KIUC engineers talked about the co-op's formation and history of renewable progress, and discussed the challenges and opportunities from their experiences. In addition to finding innovative ways to increase renewable energy generation, KIUC has to consider real-life variables such as electric demand, weather, electric rates, development permits, wildfire and safety policies, and habitat conservation regulations.

The researchers were fascinated to hear how AES' solar + battery facility at PMRF can act as a microgrid to supply power to part of the west side of Kaua'i, which was deenergized for safety reasons during a wildfire July 15, 2024.

KIUC Engineering Manager Cameron Kruse explained this was an excellent test of the reliability of a microgrid of this kind. He suggested ways inverter manufacturers could further help utilities by improving telecommunication.

Ben Kroposki, director of the Power Systems Engineering Center at NREL, said that by studying KIUC's system, they could run tests on models to better define its abilities and create future standards that could be useful for any grid operator.

"We're excited to visit Kaua'i because KIUC offers a very unique case with the most cutting-edge renewable energy system in the country," he said. ⚡



*KIUC's Richard Vetter conducts a tour of the Port Allen Generation Station.*



*AES Lāwa'i Solar + Storage facility*





# Investing in Our Youth

*By Allison Young*



*Kaua'i High students prepared for their Hawai'i State Distributive Education Clubs of America mock competition with KIUC staff and other businesses.*

Many young people on Kaua'i, too young to remember the formation of KIUC as a co-op 23 years ago, only know KIUC as the island's power company. By attending career days and educating the next generation, KIUC gives students the chance to see our values in action as a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative as we work for the sustainable development of our communities and provide education, training and information.

KIUC visits elementary, middle and high school students around the island. Career Day and science, technology, engineering and math events serve as opportunities for students to learn where their electricity comes from and what makes an electric cooperative different from investor-owned utilities.

The co-op has dedicated employees across all departments who are eager to give back to the community and share their

educational and professional journeys with the next generation. In addition to a diverse mix of jobs as electrical workers, engineers, member services representatives, finance and human resource professionals, many of the presenters are also parents.

Oliver Moniz, operator at Port Allen Generating Station, volunteered to teach at Kalāheo School, where his children are students.

"I enjoyed seeing the familiar faces and educating them about what we do at KIUC," Oliver says. "Even though my kids weren't in this group, they loved seeing Dad at school."

IT Associate Engineer Reyton Siliado says inspiring young minds is not only an act of Aloha, but also guides the younger generation through a world of many career options.





Oliver Moniz, John "Scooby" Mattos, Kyle Ruiz and Reyton Siliado teach students at Kalāheo Elementary.

"In this modern time, lots of students strive to be engineers, computer science, IT or anything technology-based," he says.

KIUC helped prepare Kaua'i High students for their Hawai'i State Distributive Education Clubs of America mock competition, which challenges students to demonstrate their business acumen by presenting solutions for a scenario under time constraints. Waimea High students toured Port Allen Generating Station. Richard Vetter taught them how electricity is generated and how the grid works.

"I wish we had these when I was a kid," said Weylon Ruiz, as he observed Waimea High 10th graders touring the generating station.

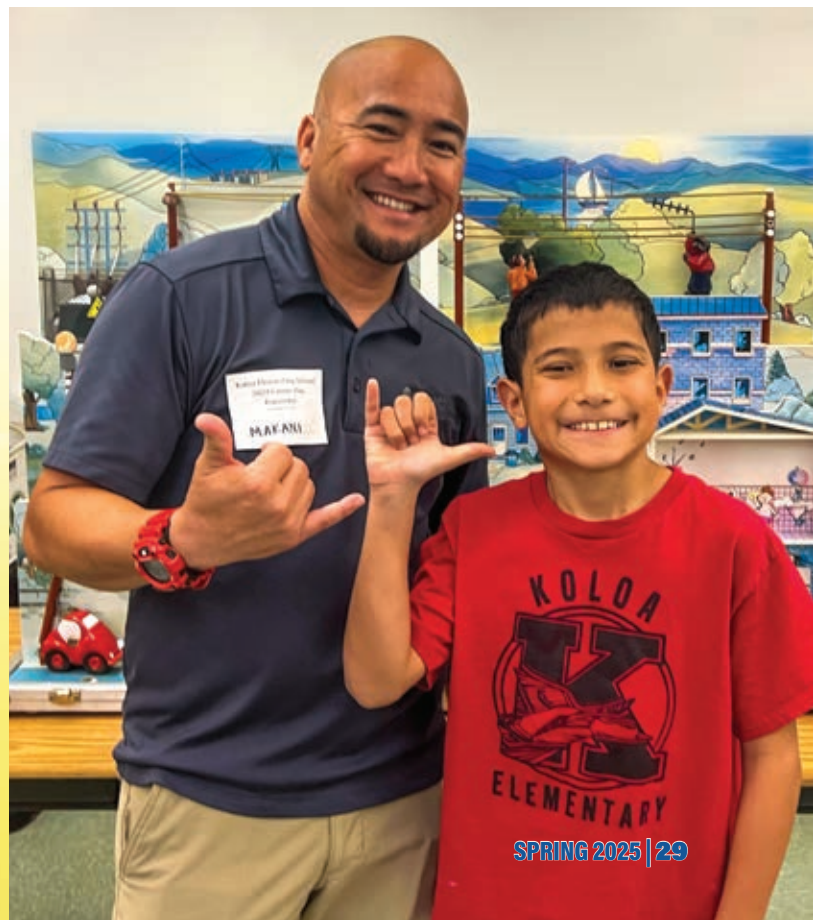
"I'm thankful for the opportunity," Oliver said. "Your energy is currency. Spend it well. Invest it wisely."

Gunner is a fifth grader at Kōloa Elementary School. His mother, Shaylece Masuda, is one of KIUC's Member Service representatives.

"I enjoyed the safe electricity activity and learned not to touch wires," Gunner told his mom. "Now I'm interested in being an electrician."

If you would like to request KIUC staff for a school-based event, email requests to [info@kiuc.coop](mailto:info@kiuc.coop). For more information on job openings at KIUC, visit [kiuc.coop/careers](http://kiuc.coop/careers). ⚡

Makani Taniguchi with Gunner at Kōloa Elementary.



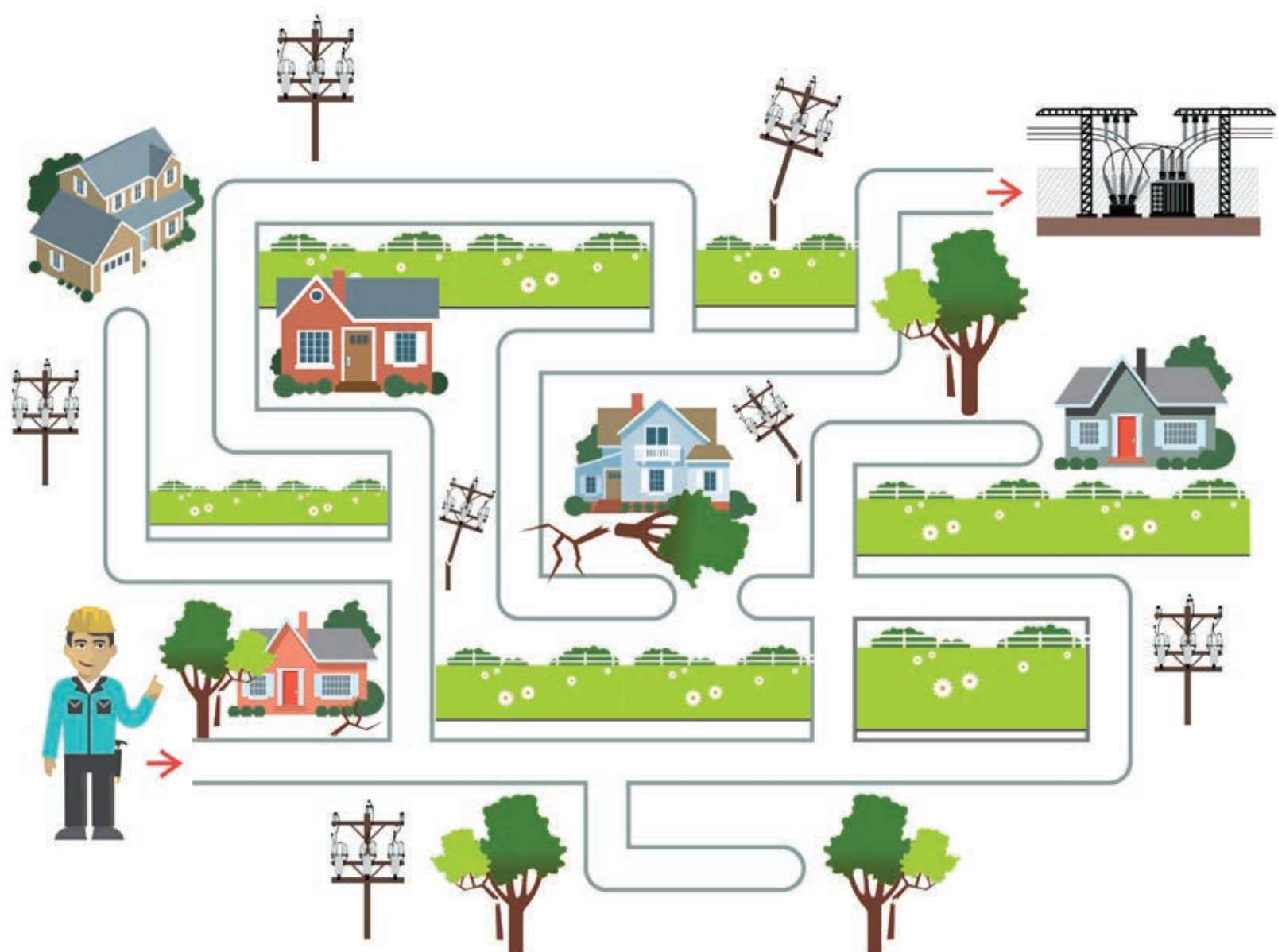


# HELP THE LINEWORKER REACH THE SUBSTATION



Lineworkers work in dangerous conditions to restore electricity after major storms and other types of power outages. Many times, lineworkers make substation repairs to get the power back on.

**Can you help the lineworker get to the substation?**





# KIUC Statement of Operations

## For the period 01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024

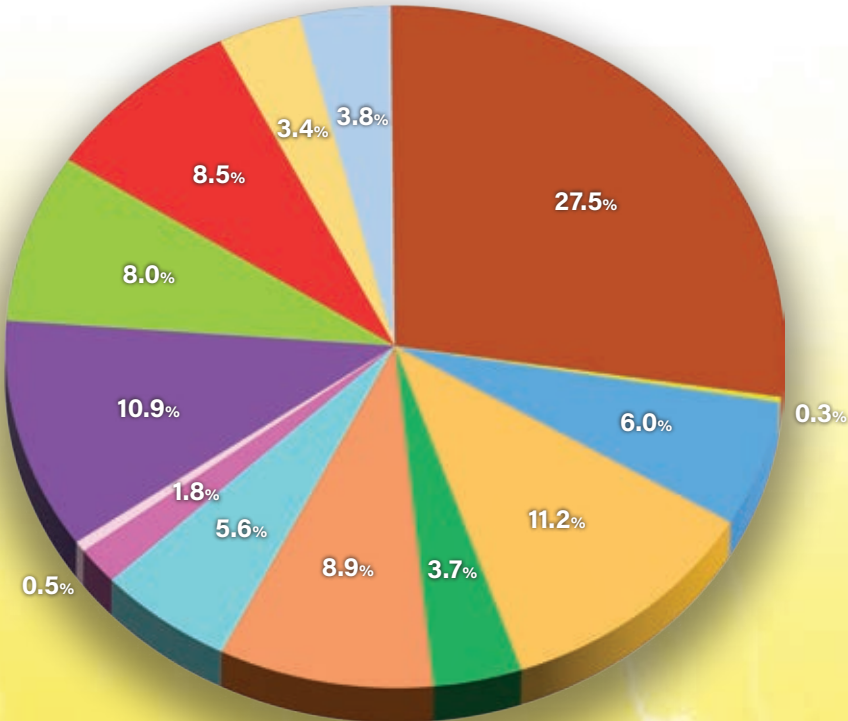
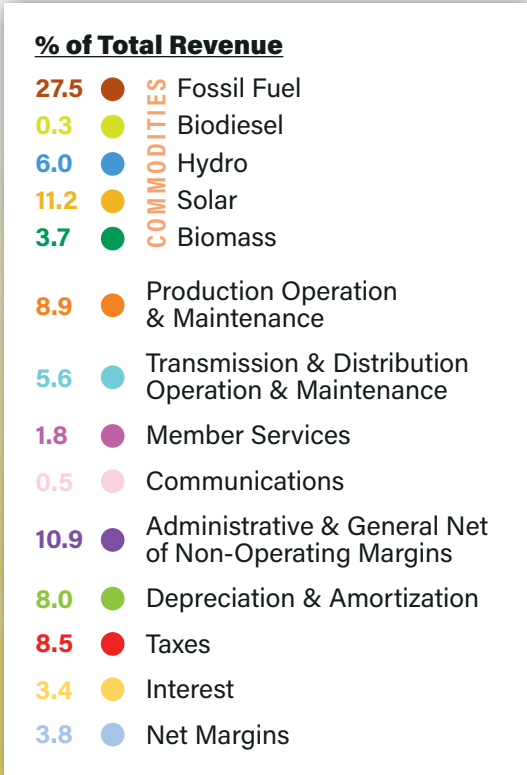
Year-end financial results serve several important purposes for KIUC, a not-for-profit organization. Reviewing financial statements helps ensure transparency and allows members to understand how the organization manages its financial resources. Financial statements provide a snapshot of the organization’s financial health and can reveal adherence to financial reporting standards. Understanding financial statements facilitates communication between the organization’s leadership and its members. KIUC provides information in written and graphic format for financial statement presentations quarterly and annually to its members. The key figures for the year-end operating statement are discussed below.

Revenues, expenses and net margins totaled \$185.4 million, \$178.4 million and \$7 million respectively, for the 12-month period ending Dec. 31, 2024. KIUC is pleased to report the 2024 fiscal calendar year with a positive net margin. KIUC’s request to the Hawai’i Public Utilities Commission for a revenue increase was granted an interim Decision and Order by the PUC on Nov. 27, 2023, with the HPUC approving tariffs and an interim implementation date of Jan. 11, 2024. I am pleased to report that after a year of implementing the new rate structure, our financial position has significantly strengthened.

Similar to other utilities, the cost of power generation is the largest expense, totaling \$106.6 million or 57.5% of revenues. Commodities, which are fuel and purchased power costs, are the largest component of power generation, totaling \$90.1 million or 48.6% of revenues. Fossil fuel is the largest single component of commodities, totaling \$50.9 million or 27.5% of revenues. However, our renewable sources combined—hydro, biomass and solar—comprise 21.1% of revenue.

The cost of operating and maintaining the electric lines totaled \$10.4 million or 5.6% of total revenues. The cost of servicing our members totaled \$3.3 million or 1.8% of revenues. The cost of keeping our members informed totaled \$0.9 million or 0.5% of revenues. Administrative and general costs, which include legislative and regulatory expenses, engineering, executive, human resources, safety and facilities, information services, financial and corporate services, and board of director expenses, totaled \$22.5 million or 12.2% of revenues.

Being capital intensive, depreciation and amortization of the utility plant costs \$14.9 million or 8% of revenues. Although not subject to federal income taxes, state and local taxes amounted to \$15.7 million or 8.5% of revenues. Interest on long-term debt, at a favorable sub-4% interest rate, totals \$6.4 million or 3.4% of revenues. Nonoperating net margins—e.g., interest income—added \$2.3 million to overall net margins.





Spring 2025  
Volume 22, Number 1

**David Bissell**  
President and CEO

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808.246.4300 ■ [kiuc.coop](mailto:kiuc.coop)  
[info@kiuc.coop](mailto:info@kiuc.coop)

## BON DANCE SCHEDULE

June 13-14 Waimea Shingon Mission

June 20-21 Līhu'e Hongwanji Mission

June 27-28 Kaua'i Soto Zenshuji Temple

July 11-12 West Kaua'i Hongwanji Mission

July 18-19 Kapa'a Hongwanji Mission

July 25-26 Waimea Higashi Hongwanji

*\*All Bon Dances start at 7:30pm and Obon services are held prior*

