



Hanalei-Wainiha-Hā'ena Community Association Newsletter

Summer 2025

Aloha Neighbors! As your Community Association for more than 60 years, it's an honor to serve such a vibrant and engaged community! We are here for you—and we're excited to share some updates and hear what's on your mind. We've just launched our new website: www.hwhca.org—which is a great way to connect, share important info and help us know how we can help you! You can also reach us anytime at hwhcommunityassociation@gmail.com and follow us on Instagram [@hanaleiwainihahaenacommassoc](https://www.instagram.com/hanaleiwainihahaenacommassoc)

**Upcoming
HWHCA Event:
Community Supper!**
*Come join us for
ono kaukau!!*
*See below for
details and to RSVP!*

HWHCA Updates:

SB1511 New Protections for Hanalei Bay: Last month, new legislation went into effect that limits the size of vessels that enter Hanalei Bay to no more than 75 feet. The legislation, which was introduced and shepherded by our state Representative Nadine Nakamura and our state Senator Ron Kouchi, is the result of HWHCA's 11-year effort to prevent Hanalei Bay from becoming a port-of-call on the luxury mega-yacht circuit. Mega-yachts - some as long as the height of a 30-story building - have illegally operated their launches in Hanalei's swimming zones and illegally moored them at the Hanalei Pier; and their on-board helicopters have routinely conducted noisy overflights of the bay, beaches and town. The new rule will prevent mega-yachts from transforming the quiet recreational character of Hanalei Bay and its beaches, but will still allow even the largest of the Hawaiian voyaging canoes to come to Hanalei Bay.

Welcome to Hanalei's New Ambulance Base: This June, after a six-year effort by community members and HWHCA, a new ambulance base was dedicated in Hanalei. The north shore will now have two ambulances - one stationed in Hanalei and one in Kilauea - which will enable the north shore's ambulances to meet the state's emergency response time standards, improving the safety and well-being of our communities. Special thanks are due to Ha'ena resident Steve Drapkin for his tireless work, leadership and perseverance on this project, to Mike Ching for spearheading the fundraising needed to complete the new facility, and to the state Department of Health and AMR (our emergency services provider) for supporting the creation of this important community resource.

Proposed AT&T Hā'ena Cell Tower: Last August, Hā'ena residents filed a lawsuit to stop AT&T's proposed cell tower and telecom facility, which would have been located less than 50' from a local family's home in Hā'ena. The parties agreed to mediation prior to the June 2025 trial date. But before mediation commenced, AT&T requested a 12 month postponement. Trial is now set for May 2026. A new mediation date has not yet been scheduled. Despite our repeated requests, AT&T has not provided any updates on its plans. We remain hopeful that AT&T has abandoned this project, which would have caused significant harm to our neighbors.

Wainiha Double Bridges Grass Cutting: HWHCA continues to co-sponsor grass cutting at the double bridges to ensure good visibility, which is essential to avoid traffic conflicts on the bridges.

Route 560 (Princeville to Ke'e): HWHCA continues to hold monthly meetings with the Department of Transportation, as we have for the past seven years. At these meetings HWHCA acts as a voice for the community, advocating for traffic solutions that reduce backups and the impact of road projects on residents. A summary of each month's meeting is posted to the HWHCA website at HWHCA.org.

RSVP Here to Join Us at the HWHCA Community Supper!

The Hanalei-Wainiha-Hā'ena Community Association is sponsoring a free community supper at Waipa. Please join us for a night of ono kaukau and community fellowship!

Guests must live in Hanalei, Wainiha or Hā'ena and must RSVP, by September 18, to attend.

For more information text or call Joëll Edwards at 808-482-7852 or [email](#)

Click here to RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/HHWCA>

HWHCA Board 2025

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About HWHCA

Founded in 1964 by Larry Ching, Henry Gomes, Nancy Kobayashi, Bob Mahikoa, Murphy Maka, Barbara Masada, Bernie Midkiff, Bobby Tasaka, Howard Yokotake and Rev Yoshida, our community association is a locally rooted, community-driven organization dedicated to promoting the well-being and resilience of the communities of the Hanalei, Wai'oli, Waipā, Waikoko, Wainiha, Lumahai and Hā'ena ahupua'a. For over six decades, HWHCA has served as a unified voice of these communities, working collaboratively to preserve our unique cultural heritage, protect our natural resources, and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our region.

[Learn more about HWHCA](#)