

KAILUA PIER

From the front page

the pier by the community, visitors, adjacent land-side businesses and commercial use permit holders on the pier," DOBOR said in an emailed response to questions.

The proposal follows increased violations of Hawaii Revised Statutes and Administrative Rules, including consumption of alcoholic beverages, smoking, storage of personal items, camping, sleeping and littering.

"On a daily basis, DOBOR maintenance staff, harbor agents, the district's facility security officer and district manager have cleaned and inspected the pier. They continue to request and remind individuals about the laws and rules that govern the conduct of guests visiting the pier. DOBOR employees have attempted to connect individuals on the pier with outreach providers and other services they may be entitled to, i.e. veterans benefits, and will continue to do so," DOBOR said, noting that while the efforts have had beneficial results more was needed to protect and preserve "this resource for the entire community."

Enforcement will be handled by the Hawaii Police Department,

DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and DOBOR staff.

"Users are encouraged to contact the district office if they see violations of the law or rule," DOBOR said.

Just how long the temporary night closure could last is undefined. "Temporary" means just that and is a common management practice in natural resources protection. There is no set date for when the closure will expire. Rather, the closure will remain until such time as the state determines the pier has been restored and can be sustained as the public amenity it has historically been for the community," DOBOR said.

Kona Councilwoman Rebecca Villegas said she is open to the idea, calling the state's move a "step in the right direction."

"I think that it's something that could be put into place and if it doesn't work could be revoked — it's not a do or die but it does have the potential to be effective because right now there's an issue with a population of chronically homeless people who have essentially taken ownership of that bathroom area," she

said Friday. "We have to find a way to break up their being there 24/7 and closing the space for certain hours of the late, late evenings and early, early morning creates that space, and that gap and allows a time frame for police to enforce."

The state is particularly interested in comments from community members who fish on the pier during the proposed closure hours.

"If there are hours that don't affect that gathering practice — which is a gathering practice and there are cultural rights associated with that — then those times frames should be taken into consideration when deciding which hours the pier would be closed," Villegas said, urging users to submit input on the proposal. "We all know pleasing everyone is high impossible, but we want everybody who will be affected to have a place at the table — that's the core of democracy."

To submit comments, email DOBOR at dlnr.bd.kailua-konapier@hawaii.gov or call the Hawaii District Office at 327-3685 by May 1.

Email Chelsea Jensen at cjensen@westhawaii.com.



Photos by KELSEY WALLING/Tribune-Herald

Iwalani Kalima receives the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine during Bay Clinic's vaccination event Saturday in Keaukaha.

Building a bridge

Bay Clinic administers COVID vaccine to more than 100 people during event in Keaukaha

By KELSEY WALLING
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Bay Clinic brought COVID-19 vaccines to the community with a vaccination event Saturday in Keaukaha.

Bay Clinic administered the first dose of the Moderna vaccine to 140 people during the clinic in Kawanakoa Gym. The event was open for appointments and walk-ins.

"We wanted to take away all the barriers someone would face trying to get the vaccine," said CEO Kimo Alameda. "We have seen that transportation, internet access and paperwork are the three major difficulties for people scheduling their vaccinations."

Staff and volunteers with Bay Clinic supported people throughout the entire process, from registration to scheduling their next vaccine.

"We wanted to build a bridge between the community and access to the vaccine, which is good for all of us," Alameda said. "Taking the vaccine directly to the people seems to be the best model to follow with this second phase of vaccinations."

Iwalani Kalima, a teacher and resident in Keaukaha, received her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine after struggling to make her own appointment for months.

"I was so happy



Sierra Grammer receives her first shot of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Saturday during Bay Clinic's vaccination event in Keaukaha.

to see this event happening right in my neighborhood," said Kalima. "Even though I was eligible to receive the vaccine, I was still having the hardest time scheduling an appointment for myself, so I jumped on this when a friend sent it to me."

Live music from local groups entertained people as they were vaccinated, bento lunches were offered to people as they left and Bay Clinic gave away prizes with multiple raffles throughout the day. "This is right next door to me, so I felt like I had to take the opportunity," said Franane Figueroa. "It's so nice to see musicians from my neighborhood here, too."

Since most people older than 18 are eligible to get the Moderna vaccine, Bay Clinic wanted to create a fun event to incentivize people of all ages to come out.

"If we can build trust with the community and make this process easier, more people will want to be vaccinated," Alameda said. "This is new territory for all of us, but I'm feeling excited and positive that this is the way to go."

Sierra Grammer wasn't thinking about getting the COVID-19 vaccine until she saw the opportunity right down the street. "It didn't hit me to get the vaccine until I heard about this event," said Grammer. "I realized I needed to get it now. It's important to me since I have children at home to protect."

Bay Clinic helped all 140 of those getting shots Saturday schedule their second appointments and arrange rides to their Hilo clinic for when the time comes.

Email Kelsey Walling at kwalling@hawaiitribune-herald.com.



Photos by KELSEY WALLING/Tribune-Herald

Work has started at the site for the new housing project by HOPE Services in Pahoa.

HOUSING

From the front page

Puna County Council members Ashley Kierkiewicz and Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder, as well as community partners who helped support the project.

The new efficiency studios will be located on 14.5 acres in Pahoa, adjacent to existing micro units built at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to house evacuees from the 2018 eruption of Kilauea volcano which are now being used as a shelter.

The new units will be long-term rentals, and 30% of an individual's income will go toward rent.

After nearly a decade of work on the project, HOPE Services CEO Brandee Menino said following the ceremony it's "super exciting" to get to this point.

"There's a need in Pahoa," she said. "There's a need in our entire community. Homelessness is apparent as you go throughout our community. ... We just want to make sure there's resources, housing in which people already live. Before this (micro unit) build there was no shelter in Pahoa. The nearest one was in Hilo. People would rather choose homelessness, because they want to stay in their community. So, we've got to bring services to them."

The modular homes will be built off-site by



Seajay Pool sends a shaka from the porch of his temporary home Friday in Pahoa. Pool's temporary home was one of several micro units built at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to house evacuees from the 2018 Kilauea volcano eruption, which are now being used as a shelter. The location for the new HOPE Services Hawaii modular units for homeless kupuna will be adjacent to those micro units.

HPM Building Supply.

"We needed a product that was transportable due to the realization that lava threatens this community," Menino said. "We wouldn't want to ignore that. That may happen."

The project sits on land currently owned by the Roman Catholic Church, but Menino said HOPE Services is in the process of purchasing the property.

"Affordable housing is everyone's priority right now, and it's been interesting getting projects off the ground," said Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder following Friday's ceremony. "You can see the benefit of having public-private partnership. ... The county

can support a project, but (it is) hard for us to actually go out and build one ... so when you have all the private players come in, it's simpler and they can get it done faster than us."

The housing is much needed, he said.

"Pahoa is rural, we're real low income. Our community just needs projects like this, so this is beautiful."

The total cost of the project is \$2.2 million, not including another \$25,000 HOPE Services is trying to raise to furnish the homes.

Donations can be made online at hopeserviceshawaii.org/donate.

Email Stephanie Salmon at ssalmons@hawaiitribune-herald.com.

US, China agree to cooperate on climate crisis with urgency

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and China, the world's two biggest carbon polluters, agreed to cooperate to curb climate change with urgency, just days before President Joe Biden hosts a virtual summit of world leaders to discuss the issue.

The agreement was reached by U.S. special envoy for climate John Kerry and his Chinese counterpart Xie Zhenhua during two days of talks in Shanghai last week, according to a joint statement.

The two countries "are committed to cooperating with each other and with other countries to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands," the statement said.

China and the United States are the world's top carbon polluters, pumping out nearly half of the fossil fuel fumes that are warming the planet's atmosphere. Their cooperation is key to a success of global efforts to curb climate change, but frayed ties

over human rights, trade and China's territorial claims to Taiwan and the South China Sea have been threatening to undermine such efforts.

Kerry's Shanghai trip marked the highest-level travel to China by a U.S. official since Biden took office in January. From Shanghai, the former secretary of state flew to South Korea for talks.

Biden invited 40 world leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, to the April 22-23 summit. The U.S. and other countries are expected to announce more ambitious national targets for cutting carbon emissions ahead of or during the meeting, along with pledging financial help for climate efforts by less wealthy nations.

It's unclear how much Kerry's China visit would promote U.S.-China cooperation on climate issues.

When Kerry was still in Shanghai, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng signaled Friday that China is unlikely to make any new pledges during next week's summit.

"For a big country with 1.4 billion people, these goals are not easily delivered," Le said.



KERRY