



HAWAII ISLAND COVID-19 COUNT

TOTAL CASES	RELEASED FROM ISOLATION	REQUIRED HOSPITALIZATION
86	84	2

State of Hawaii — Department of Health

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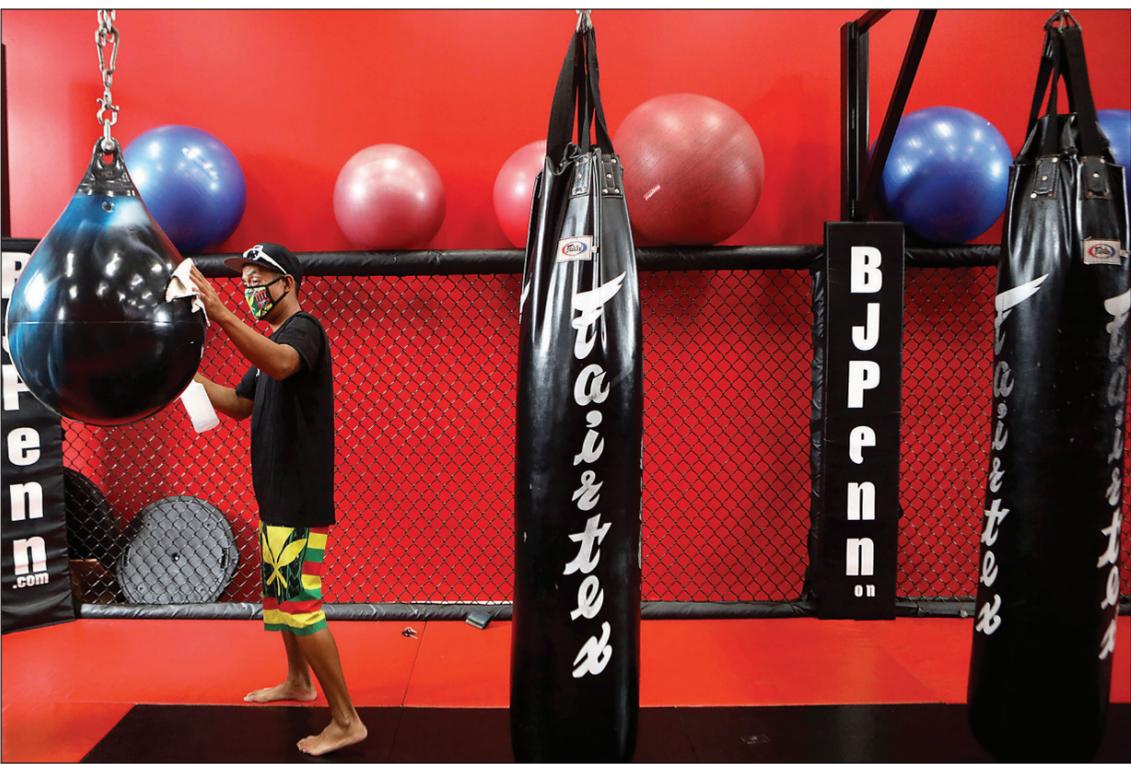
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Hawaii Tribune Herald

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Itula Suafoa cleans the boxing ring and equipment on June 11 at Penn Training and Fitness Center in Hilo.

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Marvin Nagtalon lifts weights on June 9 at Spencer Health & Fitness Center in Hilo.

Gyms, exercise-deprived patrons happy to be back in action

By KELSEY WALLING
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

After a months-long closure, many fitness centers, gyms and studios have reopened to their enthusiastic members with new regulations and rules. Aloha Fitness Club and The Brave Fitness are two of the many East Hawaii gyms that

reopened since June 1 after Mayor Harry Kim authorized indoor exercise facilities to resume business.

The separate fitness centers operate out of the same building and had been itching to reopen for their members.

"It was almost like January 2, the first day

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‘A much better alternative’

Mediation program for landlords, tenants to continue through at least end of October

By MICHAEL BRESTOVANSKY
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

A free mediation program to assist landlords and tenants throughout the COVID-19 crisis has already served more than 100 clients around the Big Island.

The Rapid Response Landlord Tenant Mediation Program, which began in May, has opened 22 mediation cases between landlords and tenants in East Hawaii alone in an effort to reduce a potential influx of pandemic-related eviction proceedings later in the year.



MITCHELL

Julie Mitchell, executive director of the Ku'ikahi Mediation Center, which administers the program in East Hawaii, said the program has had a successful first few months, surpassing her expectations for the number of participants.

"It's something that's equally beneficial for both sides," Mitchell said. "A lot of times, just giving people the opportunity to talk to each other about this is a huge help for everyone."

The program was founded shortly after Gov. David Ige issued a moratorium on evictions for nonpayment of rent in late April. Mitchell said the program is intended to facilitate communication between landlords and tenants who may be in precarious financial straits when the moratorium ends.

However, earlier in June, Ige extended the moratorium until the end of July, which Mitchell said likely will cause more people to seek out the program.

"And I get the feeling we're going to see even more when the courts begin to reopen," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said tenants benefit from the program by having free access to resources that let them know what options are available to

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BI Hawaiian Homes Commission nominee scrutinized

Kaleikini up for confirmation hearing Tuesday

By NANCY COOK LAUER
West Hawaii Today

After the Big Island's second seat on the Hawaiian Homes Commission sat vacant

for more than a year, Gov. David Ige's pick to fill that post has encountered resistance in the state Senate.

Three other Hawaiian Homes nominees for other islands unanimously cleared the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs and then the full Senate

last month, while the confirmation of Michael Kaleikini for the East Hawaii seat was put on hold. Hawaii Island has the largest percentage of Native Hawaiians in



KALEIKINI

its population of the state, according to 2019 census estimates.

The committee plans to take up the nomination again at a meeting at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday.

At issue for the committee were 11 testifiers opposing the nomination, including members of the Keaukaha

Pana'ewa Farmers Association, representing 285 agricultural lessees on 1,615 acres of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands trust land. Twenty-one testifiers, including several representing local business groups, supported the nomination.

Hawaiian Affairs

Committee Vice Chairman Kai Kahele, a Hilo Democrat, said Friday the committee postponed confirmation to give Kaleikini an opportunity to meet with community members.

"I'm looking forward

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LOCAL



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Erika Money waves the bisexual pride flag while volunteering Saturday at Drive-Thru Pride in Hilo.

SHOWING THEIR PRIDE



A Drive-Thru Pride volunteer smiles under her mask during the event Saturday.

Tribune-Herald staff

Volunteers spent Saturday setting up and participating in Drive-Thru Pride in front of the Hawaii County Building.

The Hawaii Island LGBTQ Pride worked together to host a socially distant celebration for islanders wanting to show their colors and support.

Volunteers waved flags and walked around the parking lot while cars drove by various tents with food, goodies and T-shirts.

Drag queens dressed in their best took photos with cars that passed through the line. Prizes were given to vehicles with the best decorations.

Although volunteers and people driving through were asked to wear masks, the excitement and fun was palpable throughout the day.

NOMINEE

From the front page

to his hearing next week," Kahele said.

"We received a lot of testimony on both sides."

Among those submitting testimony in favor of Kaleikini were several members of the Hawaiian Homes Commission, as well as representatives of the Hawaii Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce, Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference and the Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce.

"He is a role model and leader on Hawaii Island and we are truly grateful to have him in our community," said Kirstin Kahaloa, president of the Hawaii Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce. "We highly support this nomination and hope that you will too."

Kaleikini is currently senior director of Puna Geothermal Venture, where he's worked since 1991.

That position, coupled with his position on the executive committee of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board that backed a rocket launch facility on land near homesteads, has garnered some opposition.

"Once again, Governor Ige and his administration has selected someone to sit in the East Hawaii commissioner seat who will represent political and business interests focused (on) transferring DHHL trust lands and generating revenue on the backs of Native Hawaiian DHHL current and future beneficiaries," said Maile Lu'uwai, president of the Keaukaha Pana'ewa Farmers Association. "We would rather have no one in the seat than someone who is detrimental to the DHHL trust and beneficiary interests."

Kaleikini said he held a meeting with community members and offered to continue meeting the various groups with commission updates, but the coronavirus pandemic has hampered some of those plans.

"It was a good meeting; people asked questions and asked about me ... about PGV ... the chambers, etc.," Kaleikini said Friday. "There were folks at the meeting who said straight up they would not support my confirmation. ... I appreciate them for being upfront."

Still, he said, he's hoping he will be confirmed.

"If the Senate does not confirm me, so be it. I will accept that," Kaleikini said. "If confirmed, I will do my best to represent them on the Hawaiian Homes Commission."

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