

Around the state

NEWSWATCH

Land under BOH Waikiki Center sold for \$67M

A kamaaina family company has sold its land holdings under a Waikiki commercial building for \$67 million. The sale of the leased fee interest under most of the Bank of Hawaii Waikiki Center fronting Kalakaua Avenue and Beach Walk was made to an undisclosed buyer, according to Ian Clagstone of brokerage firm Standard Commercial, who represented the seller. The seller, Kapuahelani, is a limited partnership whose general partners are listed in state business records as Florence Mele Thomas, Melissa K.G. Raymond, Keoki G. Raymond and William H.D. King. Clagstone said in an announcement that the family with deep roots in Hawaii had owned the property for generations and sold the land as part of a strategic portfolio decision to invest in other assets. The sale represented about 83% of the land beneath the building leased to the building's owner, an affiliate of Shoei USA Inc.

Star-Advertiser staff

SHIP AHOY!

Today's ship departure:

HONOLULU HARBOR

AGENT	VESSEL	ETA	ETD	BERTH
TNC	Riviera	-	8 a.m.	30 to sea

ON THE MOVE

Hawaiian Community Assets has named **Jeff Aki** as director of housing and community investment. Aki will oversee HCA's Ua Hale A'ela program, which offers a rent with option to purchase, currently growing with housing purchases in Hilo in February and Maui over the next two years. Aki has nearly 30 years' experience in construction management, government and private sector contracting, environmental remediation and large-scale community projects in Hawaii and the Indo-Pacific region.



Aki COURTESY PHOTO

Send items to citydesk@staradvertiser.com.

CORRECTIONS

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser strives to make its news report fair and accurate. If you have a question or comment about news coverage, call Marsha McFadden, managing editor/news, at 808-529-4759 or email city editors at cityeditors@staradvertiser.com.

Hawaii island's storm damage estimated to top \$59 million

By John Burnett
Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Gov. Josh Green and Mayor Kimo Alameda on Tuesday toured Hawaii island sites damaged by the recent Kona-low storm, including Kona-awaena High School, which was so badly flooded it has switched to distance learning for the remainder of the school year. "We know the county (government) between road damages and other assets, has sustained an estimated minimum of \$30 million in damages," said Adam Weintraub, county Civil Defense spokesperson. He said the figure also includes the cost of the response to the emergency. According to Weintraub, authorities estimate damage to Big Island residential and commercial properties at \$29 million. He said the total came from the 377 reports of residential damage and 76 reports of commercial damage "that we've been able to review, so far, that the public has reported to us." "Of the 377, four of those would be considered destroyed, 30 sustained major damage, 83 had minor damage, and 197 were what's considered affected," Weintraub said. He added officials have been unable to access six properties because of absentee landlords or inaccessibility due to road damage.

Alameda said in a statement, "Throughout these storm events, we have been working closely with our state partners to protect public safety and to coordinate recovery efforts. I want to thank Gov. Josh Green for spending time with us to see firsthand the damage that these storms brought and for his ongoing support of our island's recovery." Weintraub said affected residents were dealing with a lot of challenges, including disposal of green waste and



COURTESY HAWAII COUNTY

Gov. Josh Green, Hawaii island Mayor Kimo Alameda and other government officials inspected a damaged roadway over a culvert on Hokulia Bypass in Kona during a tour of storm damage Tuesday.

damaged building material and green waste, and staying safe while cleaning their properties. "I think there are a lot of folks who have found a way to occupy their homes," Weintraub said. "But is it a long-term situation that they'll want to live with? I think folks are going to be dealing with mold and a lot of water damage that is hidden, that they didn't maybe catch in their first assessment. "I think there will be people who come to us to report there was more damage than they initially thought, because water is insidious." Weintraub also described the devastation at Kona-awaena High. "I did a walk-through of the whole campus at Kona-awaena, and they had major, major damage," he said. "Two-thirds of the high school, probably, had damage to the buildings. There were places where there was so much water running into what should've been a storm drainage system that it stripped the soil off the storm sewers and started to break them up. "There were places where the intake to the storm drainage system got clogged and the water just went over

the top and took all the soil with it. They had, probably, two inches of water in more than half of their classrooms in the high school." Weintraub noted Kona-awaena's adjacent intermediate and high school campuses sit on a hill below Puuhonu Subdivision. "All of the runoff from those properties came down over the practice field at the top of the campus, the ROTC, their air rifle range," he said. "And the places where it normally goes into the drainage channels, it overwhelmed those channels. And it sort of just became a sheet-wash through the woods at the top of that property. It descended down through the entire property, going through pretty much every building on the steep slope for 600 vertical feet." The high school's athletic facility and football field are toward the makai side of campus. "The locker room was inundated; the weight room was inundated," Weintraub said. "There were coolers floating around in the coaches' office, and there was mud all over the field." A long list of damage to Hawaii Island public schools provided by the Department

of Education noted numerous leaky roofs leading to damaged ceiling tiles at both Kona-awaena High and Middle schools and at Kealakehe High. Kealakehe High's damage includes gym floor rotting and delaminating from standing water, and at least three uprooted trees. An ohia tree fell at Kona-awaena Elementary School. Another tree was blown over by high winds and crashed into a roof at Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School. Kahakai Elementary also reported a fallen tree, while Keonepoko Elementary reported two large trees were down, one by the office and another near the play court. Kohala Elementary reported tree branches on the roof of a portable building. Water damage and a leaky roof also was reported by Waimea Middle Public Charter School. Hookena Elementary requested cleanup help, and several schools reported electrical problems, including Kohala High, Kona-awaena Elementary, Waikoloa Elementary and Middle School. Hookena Elementary requested cleanup assistance for offices, classrooms and restrooms due to flooding.

Air Force veteran pleads guilty in \$37M scheme

By Peter Boylan
pboylan@staradvertiser.com

A former U.S. Air Force master sergeant pleaded guilty Wednesday to leading a complex bid rigging and bribery conspiracy for nearly 10 years that inflated the cost of information technology contracts for the U.S. Pacific Air Forces and cost taxpayers over \$37 million. Alan Hayward James, 51, of Devine, Texas, is facing decades in prison after weaving a web of co-conspirators and collusive companies who stole money from contracts at U.S. Air Force installations in Hawaii, Japan, Korea and elsewhere by making up invoices, quotes, materials, labor and other fake deliverables. James directed at least five companies and eight people from April 2016 to April 2025 to bribe a "federal public official in PACAF," whom they nicknamed the "Godfather," according to the 38-page plea agreement that James signed with the U.S. Department of Justice. On Wednesday in federal court in Honolulu, James pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, bribery and conspiracy to rig bids. The names of the federal public official who was bribed and the companies and co-conspirators who helped James were not immediately made public. James bought the "Godfather" and other co-conspirators a stay at a "luxury resort on the North Shore of Oahu" in October 2023. The federal public official, his family and friends golfed, rode horses, got massages and racked up a \$234,025 bill paid for with money stolen from

taxpayers, according to federal court records. James and his crew paid off the public official, his "romantic partner," brother, sister, brother-in-law and others with annual payments that ranged from \$10,000 to \$200,000. James listed the family members of the public official he paid off as "Godfather M," "Godfather B," "Godfather D," "Godmother M," and "Al Capone," among other nicknames. He must pay \$1,451,656.80 in restitution to the U.S. Department of Defense. The investigation into the conspiracy is ongoing. James will be sentenced Oct. 7 by U.S. District Judge Shanlyn A.S. Park. He is free on a \$50,000 unsecured bond, may only travel in west Texas and Oahu, and had to surrender his passport. James and his criminal network distributed the money they stole among themselves. They also paid off their friends and family by disguising them as employees on paper but who did no actual work. James and his fellow fraudsters falsely inflated contracts related to a refresh of the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, Cyber Resiliency Experienced Workforce, Data Center Sustainment, End User Computer Modernization, Enhanced Virtual Desktop Infrastructure Expansion, and at least five other major military IT initiatives. "Through this bid-rigging scheme, the defendant not only stole from American taxpayers and harmed companies seeking to compete honestly for government contracts, he also ultimately harmed essential military

services designed to keep our nation safe by diverting resources away from other services," U.S. Attorney Ken Sorenson said in a statement. "Bid-rigging and anti-competitive behavior in government contracts erodes trust in our institutions, harms taxpayers, and will not be tolerated. We will continue to investigate and prosecute any and all who would seek to manipulate markets and undermine fair competition for their own personal gain." Federal prosecutors included an example from a contract to refresh the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, a critical component of the Defense Information Systems Network. On Nov. 18, 2022, James circulated a ledger with three co-conspirators that "identified the excess funds in the contracts" that they would steal. The ledger showed over \$9.8 million of "material savings" and more than \$6.1 million in "PMI costs" that were billed to the government and paid for work that never happened and materials that were never delivered. Federal prosecutors also detailed how James kept records of the \$386,990 that a company which conspired with him got for its work on an IT project at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in 2018. That same ledger showed another company conspiring with James received \$386,990 for work at Osan Air Base in South Korea and \$386,990 for a project at Yokota Air Base in Japan. None of the companies did any of the work they were paid for.

James used his "Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business," T.R.A.P. LLC as a shell company to move the stolen money throughout the members of his criminal organization. Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General Daniel Glad of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, said in a statement, "Over \$37 million — that's how much the U.S. Air Force overpaid because of the scheme that the defendant admitted to, under oath and in open court. Criminals who rig bids and commit fraud on government contracts steal from taxpayers and threaten the public's confidence in government institutions. The Antitrust Division's Procurement Collusion Strike Force will detect and prosecute those who rig bids and defraud their government customers." James faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for conspiracy to commit wire fraud. He faces up to 15 years in prison and a fine of either \$250,000 or three times the monetary value of the bribe, whichever is greater, according to federal prosecutors. The maximum penalty for a conspiracy to rig bids in violation of the Sherman Act for an individual is 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine, according to federal prosecutors. The Antitrust Division's San Francisco Office and Sorenson's office are prosecuting the case. James' attorneys, Candace M. Hough of Honolulu and Erica B. Giese of San Antonio, did not respond to Honolulu Star-Advertiser's requests for comment.

Hawaii State Legals/Public Notices Maui

Public Notice | Public Notice | Public Notice

Notice of Public Comment: Annual State Application under Part B of the IDEA

In accordance with the provisions of the General Education Provisions Act, the Hawaii State Department of Education's (HIDOE) application for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 funds under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act will be available for review from **March 18, 2026**, through **May 18, 2026**, on the following website:

<https://bit.ly/HIDOE-PartB2026>

The HIDOE, Exceptional Support Branch will accept public comments regarding the application from **March 24, 2026** to **April 24, 2026**, at 4:00 p.m. Please include the following information:

Name:
Contact phone number:
Email address:
School/Office:
Comments:

Submit this information to drew.saranillio@k12.hi.us.

Comments may also be mailed to:

Mr. Drew Saranillio, Educational Specialist
Exceptional Support Branch
475 22nd Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

If there are any questions or clarifications needed, please contact Mr. Saranillio, at (808) 305-9750.

NOTE: Comments must be received by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 24, 2026.
(MA1523497 3/24, 3/25, 3/26, 3/27, 3/29, 3/30, 3/31, 4/01, 4/02, 4/03, 4/05, 4/06, 4/07, 4/08, 4/09/26)