

Aloha Friends, Neighbors, Ohana,

We are in a trying time in Seaview. So much uncertainty weighs heavily on all of us. Many have left, many have returned. As we moved quickly in caution we must now move slowly in determining where we are now, what is normal, what we are willing to live with. As we have seen so many times before, adversity has made our community knit together more tightly. The first few days of the Leilani Fissures had us waving and shooting shakas at every face we saw. Suddenly, we were all in the same boat and found positivity and excitement in response to the fear we all felt. It was exciting!

We all chose to be here so close to the lava and that choice has incorporated itself in the feelings we've attributed to Pele and to living in Kalapana.

I once had a landowner call me and chastise me for using the name of Pele in one of my letters to the members. He was deeply offended that I had invoked a false god. I politely laughed off his intolerance and said I would do my best to stay non-sectarian in the future. Perhaps I should have said agnostic as well. I will stand with that promise and not invoke Pele. For my faith is in myself and you, in one another. I also have a particular set of beliefs that have slowly found their way into my world over the last fifteen years. I am not Hawaiian, nor will I ever be, but I am of Hawaii. It is my home, it's cultures and values have become a deeply set part of who I am. I cherish that. It has made me better. I am more patient. I am more graceful and accepting. Probably less than most, but for me it's meaningful. I realize in this constant beauty, bounty, and diversity that we live in, that everything is fragile and worth appreciating. To those of us who left, I have no doubt that there is a sharp pain they feel. For those of us who have stayed, we see the bittersweet return to the way things had been before so much growth. This is a chance to appreciate what we have had and still do. As our community is cast to the winds we have a chance to re-evaluate. We live in a private community now! Our placards are a badge and reminder. The beach is empty, the Red Road is calm and filled with aloha. We have less drama between neighbors as our home lets out a sigh of relief to be unburdened. Look at how much material stuff we were ready to let go of! The days of needing to be gritty and pioneering to live here are back. Vog, Pele's hair, tephra, acid rain? They are mild inconveniences in comparison to the bounty of a percolating red sky, clean trade winds, and lazy friendly days. This island, while in the throes of destruction, is emitting a powerful beauty that only we get to see.

It is hard, people cannot make a living anymore. Those with children have mostly left. I feel bad for those who have so recently invested so much with so much excitement, only to be denied the joys that most of us have enjoyed here for years. We lament our missing friends.

I cannot predict what will happen. We have multiple escape routes now. We've had power and most of us kept our internet. Our catchment regimes may have to improve a bit, but we can handle it. I'm not sure how many of us will persist financially, but we will try! We see institutions like Kalani shuttered, and farms abandoned. If the lava continues as it has, it seems inevitable that things will not become safer. We all saw Pahoa almost get taken, this is familiar. This is a reality we need to plan for. I can't tell you what to do. Forty years from now I hope to laugh at my caution and enjoy reminiscing with you all on the Seaview Lawn. Not knowing is hard, but we have no choice. Anything can happen.

In the meantime Seaview is a joy to be in, Pahoa is rebelliously positive, and we here elected by you will continue to keep the lawns mowed, keep the bathroom running, and stay on top of what we can. We've explored options for alternative power with HELCO, AT&T now has a cell tower serving Seaview, and Hawaiian Telcom has been absolutely amazing at maintaining phone and DSL. The Bodacious women of Nanawale volunteers set up at the mailboxes weekly to provide food, water and supplies. The Hub sends regular loads of food, water, clothes, and supplies to Uncle Robert's. Every evening, The Hub/World Kitchen deliver

dinners there as well. Uncle Sam has provided security driving through Seaview once or twice nightly. The Awa Band plays on Wednesday nights to bring our community together.

We've had no more theft in Seaview than at any other time. Our community watches out for one another. I suspect that HWY 130 will continue to quietly steam away as the Steam Vents and most of Kamaili Rd has for so many years. That which was once terrifying will become normal. I hope that we can reopen the transfer station. I hope things stabilize and we can all thrive once again instead of twisting in this strange limbo that is now so normal.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out and email us at Board@KSECA.org Also reach out to neighbors, volunteer for those who lost homes in Leilani, Kapoho, and all the farmsteads. Support Pahoa, support Uncle Robert's, support one another, and try to laugh. With much love and aloha!

Hazen Komraus KSECA President

#punastrong #stayclassypuna #alohadoesntburn