

COQUI CONTROL

Still fighting the good fight

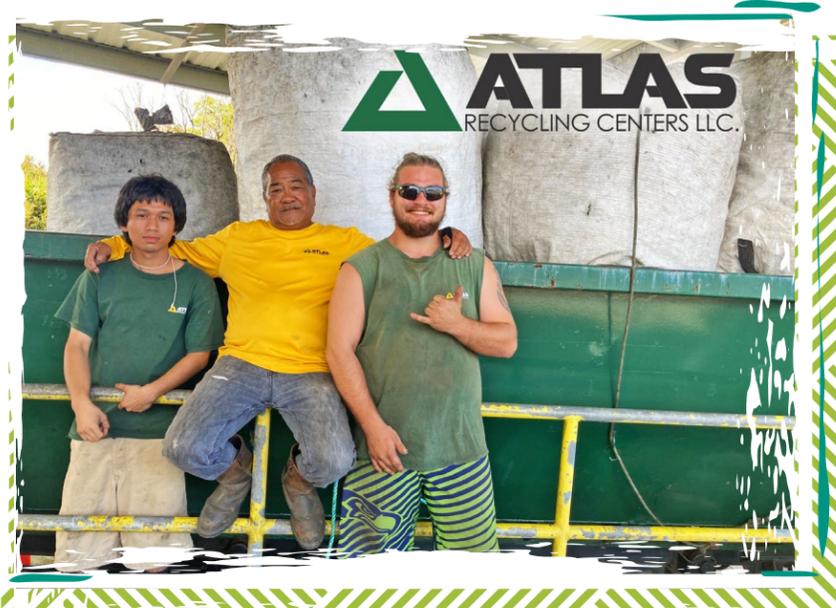
Ah, sweet silence! We made it through another noisy coqui frog season (May-October). Though our elevation and cooler temperatures mean we don't suffer from the same coqui density as other areas on the island, at our recent Volcano Community Fest, it was clear that coqui frogs and other invasive animals are a major concern for residents.

How to prevent them? Hand-catching works well, but only in areas where frogs are just becoming introduced. Unfortunately, many of our Volcano subdivisions now have more established infestations, which require the big guns: citric acid. Spraying citric acid is not harmful to plants and can easily be accomplished by homeowners with just a little bit of training.

◆ In preparation for next season, VCA will be hosting a series of informational meetings and trainings in the first quarter of 2023.

◆ Cooper Center's Coqui Fund will reimburse residents for citric acid used to control coquis. There are also sprayers available to borrow.

If interested, please email: vcainfo@yahoo.com.



Quintin, Clyde and Jarrid from Atlas Recycling with a full load of HI5 containers on Sept. 29, their last day at the Volcano Transfer Station.

UPDATE - HI5 redemption at Volcano Transfer Station

HI5 redemption may soon be coming back to Volcano!

You may know that several HI5 redemption centers at Hawaii Island solid waste transfer stations ceased operation in June. At that time we were relieved to hear that Volcano was to be spared, with the only change being a shift to Thursdays.

Subsequently, Volcano residents were dismayed to learn that HI5 redemption would in fact cease at Volcano after Thursday, September 29. Our closest HI5 redemption center is now the Kea'au Transfer Station, which makes redeeming beverage container deposits much less feasible for many local residents.

According to Atlas Recycling, on a busy day as much as \$1600 in deposit money was being returned to our community.

Thankfully, the county has re-opened bidding for recycling contractors to start up again at Volcano Transfer Station. As of publication date, we do not yet know when service will resume, but bids were to have been unsealed on Friday, November 25.

So hold onto those cans and bottles just a little bit longer—let's keep them out of the landfill and get our deposit money back soon!

Meet our new County Council representative: MICHELLE GALIMBA

As of December 5, our own Michelle Galimba of Ka'u is officially on the job representing County Council District 6.

Mahalo to Experience Volcano for hosting Michelle at Cooper Center on October 12, where many of us got to meet her for the first time.

A rancher by trade, Michelle was born in Kealakekua, then moved to Na'alehu where her father worked for a dairy farm.

After schooling on Oahu and then in Hilo, Michelle has been back in Ka'u for many years and is ready to serve our huge and diverse district, which covers Volcano, Pahala, Na'alehu, Discovery Harbor, South Point, Oceanview, Miloli'i, and Kealakekua.



Michelle Galimba, new County Council representative

She is passionate about food security and sustainability for Hawaii Island, and expressed a sincere interest in learning about our unique needs in Volcano. We look forward to working with you Michelle!

You can reach Michelle Galimba at michelle.galimba@hawaiicounty.gov

Are you PREPARED for the next disaster?

By Mahi Yong Snell

In the event of a storm, fire, earthquake or volcanic eruption, do you know how to keep yourself and your family safe? The most important thing is to make a plan of action. Inspect your home and know at least two exit routes from any room. In the case of home fires, one usually has only 2- 3 minutes to get out safely, so think this through in advance. Be prepared to exit quickly and safely with shoes and just your most essential items.

Make and map an **ESCAPE PLAN**

PACK A "GO BAG" Include cash and important documents like passports

Establish a safe **MEETING PLACE** for family and friends

Plan for those who might need **EXTRA HELP**: Kūpuna, small children, pets

Keep **SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND WATER** and pet supplies

Have a **SOLAR RADIO** and phone charger in case of extended power outages

BE AWARE of electrical lines and area hazards

Mission STATEMENT

Visit our table on Sundays at the Cooper Center Farmer's Market!

The Volcano Community Association works to DEVELOP COMMUNITY spirit and improve QUALITY OF LIFE in Volcano by promoting SOCIAL and EDUCATIONAL advancement, increasing RECREATIONAL opportunities, helping to ensure the HEALTH of our residents and our unique native ENVIRONMENT, supporting local organizations and causes, and connecting VOLCANO RESIDENTS with the many groups and resources already active here.

The Volcano Community Association represents Volcano Village, Volcano Farm Lots, Cymbidium Acres, Mauna Loa Estates, Ohi'a Estates, Volcano Golf Course, Royal Hawaiian Estates and Hawai'ian Orchid Isle Estates.

"The Voice" is published by the VCA Board of Directors: Jim Buck, Chris Corley, Molly Dolphin, Scott Fossil, Ida Gager, Aubrey Hawk, James Morgan, Dan Morimoto and Mahi Snell.

