



TUESDAY  
April 28, 2015

# tgi

# THE GARDEN ISLAND

75¢  
Serving Kauai  
and Niihau since 1902

**REDUCE OR ELIMINATE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL**

**Call for a FREE site analysis!**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

**NATHAN WOOD GENERAL CONTRACTOR**

**Solar Photovoltaic Systems**

Kauai Owned and Operated

Lic. General Contractor (BC-31122) • Lic. Electrical Contractor (BC-31122)  
Lic. Electrical Engineer (PE-13970) • Lic. Solar Contractor (BC-31122)

**(808) 639-8776 • NathanWoodGC.com**

**BEST OF KAUAI 2014**



**NBA PLAYOFFS, B1**  
**HAWKS LOSE**

## Survey: Half of coral diseased

Researcher to recommend how to respond to Kauai's 'epidemic'

**Brittany Lyte**  
THE GARDEN ISLAND

Half the coral reef sites surveyed by state scientists in nearshore Kauaian waters in the last year are plagued by disease, environmental officials announced Monday.

The finding, mined from the research of Christine Runyon, a graduate research assistant at University of Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology, is part of an ongoing investigation launched by the Department of Land and Natural Resources a year ago to research black band disease on Kauai and identify options for treatment. The project marks the first time that DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources has formed a management response team specifically to address coral disease, officials have said.

All told, 23 of the 47 sites surveyed by Runyon are being killed by black band coral disease, which derives its name from the black band lesion it forms on three types of Montipora coral, also known as rice coral, living in local waters. This lesion quickly progresses until the coral colony is dead.

"When a coral completely dies, it's gone, it's history," Runyon said. "It can't just

SEE CORAL, A6



DENNIS FUJIMOTO / THE GARDEN ISLAND

Akiko Tsukada of Japan paints one of the railings leading to the "Dream Room," the second Boys & Girls Club building in Lihue, Monday during the VMware work day.

## Old fashioned teamwork

High tech company volunteers by the hundreds to fix up Boys & Girls Club

**Dennis Fujimoto**  
THE GARDEN ISLAND

LIHUE — It is amazing what an army can do in just a couple of hours.

"This is like a colony of bees," said Lisa Johnshoy of American

Medical Response on Monday. "The amount of work being done in such a short time is phenomenal. What a gift!"

Edward Perotti, the senior director for Global meetings, events, and travel for VMware, led more than 700 VMware sales personnel and their families to the Boys & Girls Club, Lihue Clubhouse where the group broke into different teams to tackle a ton of chores.

VMware, a global technology

company based in Palo Alto, California, is hosting a meeting of its top sales performers from around the world at the Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa. To launch the meeting, VMware set out to contribute to the community and the people of Hawaii.

"Giving back is something everybody does," Perotti said. "Writing a check is easy, but to get the people to come out and do the work is pretty meaningful. We work on the

principal of leaving more than when we came."

Tina Albao, the B&G Club Kauai business manager, said the scope of work included finishing the second building, an unused portable building that was stored in the area outside the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall parking lot. Utilizing concepts within VMware, the group converted the building into

SEE TEAM, A6

## Allergic man sues neighbor over bee sting

Wailua Homesteads resident says owner should never have let swarms out

**Tom Hasslinger**  
THE GARDEN ISLAND

LIHUE — A Wailua Homesteads man allergic to bees is suing his beekeeping neighbor after twice being stung by a bee and rushed to the hospital.

There's no difference "between a bullet and a bee,"

Luis Soltren said in court on Monday, describing the dangers of living next to swarms of honey bee when he is allergic to them.

"When someone is allergic to bees," he said. "They can kill them."

Twice, Soltren said he was poked and rushed to Wilcox Memorial Hospital. The

stings and the roughly \$2,000 in hospital bills are part of a small claims suit he filed against his neighbor, Jesse Castro.

Soltren blamed Castro, who used to keep "more than 1,000" bees on the property next to Soltren's home, for the stings.

"Those honey bees are very aggressive," Soltren said. "They protect their hive."

But Castro, a Kauai police

officer, said it wasn't his bees who stung Soltren. He said the Homesteads neighborhood is home to hundreds of swarms, and that his bees were in their boxes at the time of the June 15, 2014 stinging. The bees that pierced Soltren on the face appeared to be swarming — the process by which bees make a new home — which was not the case with Castro's bees, who were in their homes at the time.

It was after the sting that Castro learned that his neighbor was allergic, he said. He then made plans to remove the bees, which Soltren had complained about to the county for being unpermitted in the residential neighborhood.

"We did comply with the law," Castro said about getting rid of the hives once he learned of his neighbor's allergy and rules that he needed proper permitting.

"We made arrangements" to have them removed.

The small claims case seeks damages up to \$5,000. Besides the bee sting bill, Soltren is seeking reimbursement for a fence he put up between the neighbors' yards. He said the agreement had the neighbors splitting the bill, while Castro's defense said they hadn't agreed to the deal.

SEE BEE, A6

### Dedication ceremony for mural honors queen

Local, A4



### Riot erupts after funeral for man hurt in custody

Wire, A3

Forum / A5

Local / A4

Sports / B1-3

Pau Hana / B4



245-0433  
CALL TO SUBSCRIBE  
thegardenisland.com

Volume 112 Number 118

**NEW AND PRE-OWNED KAWASAKI SPORT BIKE SALE! STARTING AT \$4,299.00\***

**AND, WE HAVE YAMAHAS, TOO!**

SEE BILL OR MARCI FOR EASY FINANCING!

ALL BIKES PLUS TAX AND FEES AND \$245.00 DOC FEE.

**2011 EX650R (#20629B)** **2012 EX250R (#0943)** **2011 Z1000(#8965C)** **2013 EX636 (#19405)**

LICENSED CARRIER OF **GoPro**

**KAWAII HARLEY-DAVIDSON**  
KAWAIIHARLEY.COM  
**212-9462**  
OPEN 8-5 | 7 DAYS A WEEK  
3-1878 Kaunualii Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766

**YAMAHA** **Kawasaki**