

KAUAI BUSINESS REPORT

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Kauai Plantation Railway opens at Kilohana

Jon Letman
 SPECIAL TO KAUAI BUSINESS REPORT

The future has come to Kauai and with it, a glimpse of the past.

Kauai Plantation Railway at Kilohana Estate in Puhii is the first new railroad to be built in the Hawaiian islands in 100 years, according to architect and railway designer Boone Morrison.

The new railway attraction, which opened at the end of December, is the culmination of five years of planning and consultation between Morrison and Kilohana founders Fred Atkins and Kirk Smith. What started as an informal talk over lunch in 2001 has grown into an ambitious new business venture that combines Kauai's plantation past with tourism, agriculture and

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Clearing the smoke (and steam)

There are two railroads running independently of one another on Kauai. The older of the two operations is the **Grove Farm Museum's**, which offers monthly "fire-ups" of its restored 19th and early 20th century 30-inch gauge Kauai steam locomotives. Free rides to the public on the second Thursday of each month follow the original Grove Farm Plantation/Lihue Plantation locomotive right-of-ways down by the old Lihue Sugar Mill in the Nawiliwili Valley. Call 245-3202 for more information or arrangements if you have a large group.

The second railroad, which debuted on Jan. 29, is the **Kauai Plantation Railway** which runs on three miles of newly laid 36-inch gauge track at Kilohana in Puhii. The narrow-gauge train tours operate diesel locomotives that pull four open-air passenger cars around a figure-eight track through field rows of tropical crops. Tours depart seven times a day from the new Kauai Plantation Railway Depot beside Gaylord's at Kilohana. Call 245-5608 or visit www.kilohanakauai.com.

Grove Farm locomotives chug into the past

Jon Letman
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A short whistle blast and billowing clouds of puffing steam signal the start of another run for PAULO, the solid-black, wood-burning locomotive as it chugs along refurbished tracks through a densely foliated patch in the

Nawiliwili Valley near the old Lihue Sugar Mill.

PAULO, named for Paul Isenberg, one of the founders of the sugar industry in Hawaii, is Hawaii's oldest operating plantation locomotive and gets around pretty well despite her 120 years.

Stubby, solid and black as coal,

PAULO's name is cast in gold block lettering on a red face plate alongside her place and date of birth — Düsseldorf, 1887. She is the steam engine of your childhood, a life-size version of the little locomotive you played with on toy tracks on Christmas morning.

Built in Germany, PAULO was shipped to Hawaii for use at the Koloa Sugar Company where she hauled cane until 1920. PAULO was acquired by Grove Farm Company as part of the purchase of Koloa Plantation in 1948, and joined three other Grove Farm Company locomotives built by

the Baldwin Locomotive Works (WAINIHA, KAIPU and WAHIAWA) and stored in the company's Puhii roundhouse. All four locomotives are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In 1975, Grove Farm Compa-

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Gardens break ground on research facility

NTBG leading the way in green construction

Pamela V. Brown
 SPECIAL TO KAUAI BUSINESS REPORT

KALAHEO — Construction began this month on a long-awaited new building at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens headquarters in Kalaheo, creating what some scientists across the country are

heralding as one of the state-of-the-art botanical research facilities in the nation.

A combination herbarium, library, educational, research and conservation center, the building will meet nationally accepted benchmarks for design, construction and operation of a high performance "green" building, as certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system. LEED is a program of the United States Green Building Council.

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Construction has started on a combination herbarium, library, educational, research and conservation center at National Tropical Botanical Gardens. Courtesy Dean Sakamoto Architects LLC.