

What shoppers need for the holidays ... Inside

# Hawaii Tribune-Herald

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**Sports**  
Physical Alabama battles past gutsy Hawaii in a nationally televised game  
Page 15



**World**  
China no longer scoffs at those who predict 10 million will contract AIDS  
Page 4



**Travel**  
A visit to Kawaihae and Puukohola Heia, birthplace of a kingdom  
Page 9

## Sex ed furor erupts at middle school

Parent protest leads to 'lewd' material being pulled from classroom

By Hunter Bishop  
HawaiiHerald

Sex education material was removed from an eighth-grade health class at Kohala Middle School last

month after parents objected to content they called "lewd," "obscene" and "pornographic."  
Lani Figueroa, who took her objections to the state Board of Education on Nov. 19, said parents need to be more aware of what their children are being taught in public schools.  
Figueroa found an ally on the board in Carol Gabbard (Oahu, at-large), who said she would propose a policy

requiring written parental permission before controversial material on sexuality is introduced to students in public school classrooms.  
Gabbard described the material presented in Kohala as "sexual freedom and pro-homosexual propaganda."  
"I fully understand why the parents are outraged," Gabbard wrote in a press release. "This material teaches children that homosexual behavior is

normal and natural and encourages them to consider that they might be homosexual."  
State Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said the department will review the issue but said parents are supposed to be notified about potentially objectionable material, under existing school policy. Parents can choose not to have their children participate when such material is

taught.  
Teacher Janet Weiss admits she failed to provide the proper notice before giving the handbook in question to her eighth-grade health students this semester.  
"I jumped the gun," she said, because the material was only to get her students familiar with the vocabularies.  
See SEX ED, Page 6

## Shooting claims Volcano woman



### Thanksgiving killings on mainland shatters Big Island family

Kimberly Riley, 19, and a 5-year-old boy killed in Tacoma home

By Dave Smith  
HawaiiHerald

Family and friends are mourning the death of a young Volcano woman killed in a Thanksgiving Day shooting on the mainland.  
Kimberly "Kim" Riley was celebrating the holiday at a home in Tacoma, Wash., when shots were

fired through a first-story window. Riley, 19, and a 5-year-old boy were killed and two others wounded.  
A spokesman at the University of Washington, Riley was visiting with her brother, James, at the South Tacoma home of Joseph and Evangelie Brit when the shooting occurred. The 5-year-old who died was identified as Jeremy Baymstrong, Brit's grandson.  
Also injured were Brit's 20-year-old niece, Harmony Spencer, and her 22-year-old brother, Jeff Spencer. Both were listed in satisfactory con-

dition at a local hospital.  
No arrests have been made and Tacoma police have not identified a motive.  
Police don't believe Riley or Baymstrong were specifically targeted. The shots were fired through a window with the shades partially drawn and the window obscured by condensation on the cold, foggy night. Witnesses said seven or eight shots were fired.  
A Tacoma police spokesman said, however, that the shooting was not believed to be random and the shoot-



Photo courtesy Riley family  
Above, a photo from the family album captures Kimberly Riley, who volunteered at a Hilo veterinary clinic while in high school, making some health-care friends. At left, the Riley family is happy times. Kimberly, brother James, mom Carol and dad Mike.

## Vote or shop ... it's no contest

Citizens flock to the malls, the holiday sales — but not to the polls

Associated Press

HONOLULU — The competition among the 38 candidates in Hawaii's special congressional election Saturday appeared to be no match for the start of the Christmas shopping season and the college football game between Hawaii and Alabama.  
Few of the 500,000 registered voters in the 2nd District — which encompasses rural Oahu and the Neighbor Islands — went to the polls Saturday to choose who would serve the remaining five weeks of U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink's term in the 107th Congress.  
The winner of the special election, to be announced Sunday after votes are counted, most likely will never cast a vote on the House floor and may not be sworn in, since Congress is not in session.

State election officials had expected a low voter turnout for the Thanksgiving weekend special election.  
Statewide turnout was estimated at 7 percent at 1:30 p.m., said Rex Quillix, spokesman for the state Office of Elections.  
By 11:15 a.m., only a dozen of the more than 700 eligible voters had cast ballots at Maui Elementary School, where an area Christmas parade was drawing much more attention.  
Absentee voting by mail and walk-in totaled 13,510.  
Election officials also had to deal with voter apathy related to what many saw as an insignificant election and a

## Short circuit leaves Big Isle in the dark

Friday's outage affects 42 percent of HELCO clients

By Chris Loos  
HawaiiHerald

For the fourth time in a month, thousands of Big Island residents were without electricity Friday morning.  
The latest power blackout was the most widespread of the four, affecting nearly 28,000 of Hawaii Electric Light Company's 66,000 customers.  
HELCO spokesman Jay Ignacio said short circuit problems began shortly after 4:30 a.m. affecting HELCO's Hualaie substations in North Kona. He said HELCO officials were investigating whether the short

circuit originated at the substation or if a problem on a transmission line caused the circuit breaker to disconnect.  
The resulting loss of demand forced the Hamakua Energy Partners power plant in Hama to shut down to protect its equipment. That sudden loss of 60 megawatts of electricity in turn forced HELCO to cut power to Hilo, Kona, Waimea, Puna and Waialua.  
"We're pretty sure it's related to what occurred at Hualaie substation," Ignacio said Friday.  
Hamakua Energy is one of several independent power producers selling electricity to HELCO that, along with HELCO-generated power, is then distributed to customers' over.

Index  
79th year/ No. 286  
9 sections/96 pages

Classified	34-40
Crossword	24
Dear Abby	24
Horoscope	24
Movie Listings	25
Obituaries	8
Opinion	6-7
Sports	13-17
Stocks	32
Travel	9-11
Weather	2

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## Democracy in action



Christian Wong waits in the Waikawa Elementary School cafeteria while his fiancée, Tricia Kaneshiro, signs in to vote in Saturday's special election to fill out the late U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink's unexpired term. The precinct reporters said traffic had been steady since opening at 7 a.m., with some 1,000 ballots cast by 1 p.m.  
The photo by William Ng