



4359 Kukui Grove Street #103
Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: (808) 245-4049
Email: kbr@kauaiboard.com

October 6, 2021:

Aloha:

Ever wonder what does the Kauai Board of REALTORS® (KBR) do and what is a REALTOR®? Well, you're not alone. So, what is KBR, what do we do and what is a REALTOR®. So here goes:

REALTOR is a registered trademark of the National Association of REALTORS® that represents over 1.4 million licensed real estate agents throughout the Country. Each Chartered State or Local Association is under the umbrella of the National Association of REALTORS®. This three-tiered level of services and the enforcement of the Code of Ethics is what distinguishes a REALTOR® from all real estate agents. REALTOR® membership is voluntary and only those agents who have joined the REALTOR® Organization can use the term or trademark "REALTOR®". Before you select your real estate agent, ask them if they are members of the National Association of REALTORS® or the REALTOR® organization on your respective island.

KBR is a non-profit membership dues driven organization, chartered in 1974 by the National Association of REALTORS® and registered in the State of Hawaii in 1979. Today the Kauai Board of REALTORS® represents 653 licensed real estate agents called "REALTORS®" representing a relatively small portion of the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® 9,000 members.

The Kauai Board of REALTORS® is governed by its Board of Directors who are elected by the membership to represent the interest of the organization and its membership. The daily business is conducted by two staff members: Toni Ishimoto who serves as the Director of Member Services (37 years) and myself, Karen Ono (42 years) who serves as the Association Executive overseeing the programs, products and services that we provide to the membership and the general public.

The Kauai Board of REALTORS® is the responsible entity to enforce the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics and has no authority to regulate the real estate license that is under the control of the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs.

All real estate licensees as a requirement of the State law shall complete 20 hours of educational training every two years. REALTORS® are obligated to take an additional 3 hours of Ethical Training approved by the National Association of REALTORS® every 3 years. This requirement in itself, assures the public that REALTORS® are held to a higher standard.

Each real estate office has a Principal Broker who manages the activities of his/her sales agents on a daily basis. Licensees are either a Real Estate Salesperson or Real Estate Broker. All of these licensees work under the Principal Broker for the Brokerage Firm that they are registered with. You can search the status of your agent or the company by searching My PVL at the following: <https://mypvl.dcca.hawaii.gov/public-license-search/>

Each year, the Kauai Board of REALTORS® staff with the assistance of the Strategic Planning Committee reviews the Strategic Plan for the organization outlining the programs and scope of work for each committee. This plan also provides the financial guidance for the association based on the projected number of members.

The REALTOR® organization promotes itself as the “Voice for Real Estate” through **Advocacy**. Last year KBR tracked over 32 bills for Kauai pertaining to zoning, real property taxes and various Community Development Plans. This year we continue to track the Waimea 400; the Kilauea Town Community Plan; real property tax bills (Residential Investor & TAT) and zoning amendments. Two Workgroups have been initiated to create white papers on housing and infrastructure. The goal of both workgroups is to circulate these white papers within the community and government to better understand the issues that we face on Kauai pertaining to housing and wastewater.

Advocacy on the National Level, focuses on the support for Flood Insurance; the Taxpayer Relief Act that includes Capital Gains Tax and retaining the 1031 Exchange program; as well as investments in infrastructure (transportation, energy, water and communications systems).

In the State Legislature, the REALTOR® organization focused on Affordable Housing; Sea Level Rise; and Infrastructure Improvements as part of the 2021 session. In total, the committee spent 3,203 volunteer hours tracking 496 bills

out of the 1,397 bills that were introduced relating to real estate. There was a total of 87 written testimony in support or opposition.

Our **community involvement** this year has been a clothing drive for Women in Need, the YWCA and Nana's House. Other community projects include the contributions and distribution in partnership with the Kukui Grove School Supply Drive; the distribution of "Blessing Bags" containing hygiene products that were distributed to Nana's House. The largest project so far has been the REALTOR® funding of Virtual Food Boxes for the Kauai Independent Food Bank. These boxes are physically distributed by Kauai Independent Food Bank to families who are unable to visit the site location. To date, we have collected over \$20,000 from REALTOR® members. The drive will continue through November and the funds will be distributed in December.

Other projects in partnership with the Hawaii Association of REALTORS® include the "one can, can" food drive and the (RAD) REALTOR Action Day improving the Kekaha Elementary School campus garden.

This year we hosted two **public Education** Programs for First Time Homebuyers via Zoom with Hawaii Homeownership Center and the Hawaiian Community Assets. Other sessions available on the [KBR YouTube Channel](#) include Zoning 101 and the Role of the Planning Commission; Opportunity Zones; Residential Investor Tax and more. Information can be found on our website at www.kauaiboard.com

Educating our Students: KBR hosted a "College is Possible" session with Debbie Ching earlier this year. There are plans to host a second event this year in mid-November to provide parents and students with the information to register for college without breaking that piggy bank. This program is geared for middle and high school students and their parents providing them with the skills to apply to various ivy league colleges.

Working in partnership for a better Kauai.

Sincerely,

Karen Ono

Association Executive