

The Honolulu Advertiser
2-3-84

Nukolii campaigns gain in intensity

By Jan TenBruggencate

Advertiser Kauai Bureau

LIHUE — The opposing sides in the Nukolii battle are in the endgame of their campaigns leading to tomorrow's special election, with crowds waving signs along roadsides and the major advertising efforts blaring their messages.

To all appearances, much of the last weeks of campaigning until now were quiet — but telephone calls, computer-generated "personal" letters, handouts and mailed leaflets were getting the message out.

That's changed now. Nukolii is a regular issue in radio advertisements, and the local papers have been carrying double-page ads and extra advertising sections detailing the issues.

Honolulu television stations have been here, and "60 Minutes" is on the island through election night to document the battle. Correspondent Ed Bradley yesterday expressed fascination with Hawaii's roadside sign-waving.

Both sides, and many in the middle, are trying to judge the swings of public opinion. Each side believes it is gaining strength in the final hours.

The county clerk's office has taken in 3,500 absentee ballots, most of them generated by a special effort of the Kauaians for Nukolii to get its supporters to vote early for the resort development at Nukolii.

Some analysts think the big absentee turnout, the largest in Kauai's history, ensures a win by Kauaians for Nukolii.

Special elections usually have low turnouts. And if the turnout works out to 60 percent, the absentee ballots will represent close to 30 percent of the total.

Advertiser 2/3/84