



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAII CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2010

Planting Native!

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distribution, care, and cultural use of the native Ho'awa.

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Entering the new year, what bold and realistic policy proposals can we promote in order to ensure a greener Hawai'i? Learn about the issues the Sierra Club is advocating

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Hey Mr. Green!

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SAVE A TREE!

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Preserving Sandy Beaches

A Proposal to Protect Hawai'i's Beaches for Our Keiki

by Robert D. Harris

Growing up in Kailua, I recall being able to run up and down the entire length of Lanikai beach. To my chagrin, a significant portion of this pristine beach has disappeared in the past decade or so. To laterally access the entire Lanikai coastline, you now must hop along sand bag revetments installed to "protect"



Are sandy beaches in our future? Photo by flicker user [Mattsim](#) under a creative commons license.

private homes. Sandy areas -- where children build sand castles and sunbathers get "tan" -- are increasingly scarce and usually quite crowded.

Hawai'i coastlines are dynamic. Beaches erode or accrete depending upon their location on the coast, their proximity to various things such as piers, sandwalls, the impact of storms, etc. Anyone who buys beachfront property is made aware of the fact that boundaries between private property and the public easement may shift over time. This is an inevitable risk - just the same as someone buying property and building a house in a floodplain, in an earthquake zone, or near a volcano -- that people should understand before they invest money in developing that area.

There is a tension between public and

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The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, is Hawai'i's largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization





FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Sometimes I'm asked why the Sierra Club engages in advocacy -- including controversial lobbying and litigation -- instead of focusing solely on environmental education?

First, let me stress the Sierra Club's strong environmental education efforts. John Muir charged the Club to take people into the outdoors and let them see for themselves the beauty of the wild. The Club is actively fulfilling this mission (see Mark Glick's column on page 7, for example). We lead hikes and service projects throughout the state on a weekly basis. This doesn't include the numerous speaking opportunities, tabling events, and educational programs we participate in throughout the year.

But the Club recognizes education, by itself, does not always solve some of the tough problems Hawai'i faces. For example, like a lot of other people growing up in Hawai'i, I was taught about the values of reducing, recycling, and reusing our waste. And yet, until 2005, Hawaii's recycling rates were around 20%. Only one out of five bottles were being recycled. Education alone simply wasn't doing enough.

Significant change did not occur until a policy change -- the bottle law -- was passed as a direct result of the Sierra Club's lobbying efforts. Within *one month*, Hawai'i's recycling rates improved to around 75%. Since 2005, Hawaii has recycled nearly four billion beverage containers. Yes, that's 4 billion containers.

Obviously we can't lead Hawai'i to a green future without education. But consistent and sustained change sometimes needs policy changes. That's where the Sierra Club's efforts make a difference. We try to find game-changers that incentivize "good" behavior while discouraging non-sustainable actions. It's one of the things that separates us from other environmental organizations. While sometimes our efforts lead to controversy, we fundamentally believe positive change sometimes requires a little pushing.

Hope to see you on the trail,
Robert D. Harris

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Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

Ho'awa

Pittosporum hosmeri



Endemic: Hawai'i Island Only

Description: These are usually small trees up to about 20-25 ft. tall with long tear-drop shaped leaves. The young leaves as well as the underside of the more mature leaves are usually covered with minute, golden-brown hairs. Their flowers emerge as "manapua" shaped clusters which protrude right out of the stems. Once pollinated, they develop into large nut shaped capsules that are almost cubicle in form and about three inches long and 1-2 inches wide.

Inside are numerous reddish-black seeds which totally stand out against the bright orange inner surface of the seed capsule.

Distribution: This plant is only found on the island of Hawai'i but throughout the leeward side from Kohala to Ka'u in mesic forests.

Cultural Uses: There isn't much known about this plant from a cultural point of view but in nature it is interesting to see the seed capsules when they become ripe. At this point they open up and fold back, exposing the bright orange inner surface and dark seeds within. This is to attract birds that feed on the oily seeds and help the plant with seed dispersal. In fact this is one of the favorite foods of the nearly extinct Hawaiian crow the 'alala.

Landscape Uses and Care: Easily one of the nicest foliage plants native to Hawaii these plants do great in full sun to partial shade in well drained soil with little to moderate watering. The foliage along with the unique form of the flower clusters and stunning seed capsules make this an extraordinary plant. If left alone to grow it will be a large bush but full of foliage from bottom to top. Few pests bother this plant once it is established in the ground but prior to that happening watch out for mealy bugs, scale and the formation of sooty mold. If you notice these pests on the plant you can simply treat it with a store bought pesticide and fungicide being sure to follow the directions on the bottle carefully. Right now beautiful specimens of this plant in three gallon pots are available at Hui Ku Maoli Ola native plant nursery for \$40.

Additional Info: This plant also goes by the name ha'awa, a'awa, a'awa hua kukui. The latter name 'a'awa hua kukui probably stems from the fact that this plant's fruit (hua) somewhat resembles that of a kukui nut.

Rick Barboza co-owns Hui Ku Maoli Ola, a native Hawaiian plant nursery, with Matt Schirman. Contact him at 295-7777
Rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com

Preserving Sandy Beaches*Continued from page 1*

private interests. While most are empathic to private property owners who could potentially lose property as a result of a storm or coastal erosion, we should also recognize the public is significantly impacted by the loss of beach access as a result of beach walls or having to subsidize property owners through emergency response during storms, government removal of debris left over from the destruction of private property, and so on.

Addressing the tension between public and private interests is a question of careful planning. If, as a condition of development, a private property owner is asked to acknowledge the risks involved with building near the shoreline, the public could transfer the risk of coastline hazards to the private property owner. For example, the private property owner could be asked to ensure a minimum setback between his structure and the dynamic shoreline. If the ocean “moves” more mauka (landward), then the property structure should move as well.

This ensures the property owner assumes the risk of coastal erosion instead of the government or the public at large.

The possibility that a property owner might have to move their structure becomes a known and specified risk. The owner can factor this possibility in deciding whether to start construction, in evaluating the value of the property, or in planning for eventual contingencies (such as through purchasing tailored insurance policies).

For example, a owner contemplating a possible “move” of a structure might elect to build using a post and beam style of construction. An owner not considering the possibility of movement would likely pour a concrete slab (a relatively immovable object).

The current status quo puts too much of the risk on the public. The construction of sea walls or even “temporary” revetments (on Kaua`i one temporary revetment has been in place for over a decade) simply escalates the loss of sand and eliminates the public’s access to

beach. As we learn more about climate change and the risk of sea level rise, it’s not unfathomable to envision a Hawai`i where sandy beaches are relatively rare and highly overcrowded.

The status quo will also impact our pocketbook. Private property owners will likely look to the government to protect their coastal structures, provide compensation for lost or damaged properties, and the eventual cost of repairing and moving public utilities. Such a cost could be catastrophic and occur at the same time that Hawai`i’s tourism suffers a downturn. Waikiki, for example, brings in hundreds of millions of dollars into Hawai`i’s economy each year. And yet who would visit Waikiki if there was no beach?

The ultimate question is: if we know the risk of building near the coastline, shouldn’t we transfer these risks to the individuals who are obtaining the “gain” of building near the shoreline instead of the public? If so, we should act now before we’re suffering from the impacts of climate change.

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Preserve the Future

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Policy Proposals

No New Dirty Fuel Plants

While we've come miles in establishing policy directing the development of new renewable energy, we'll only realize a green energy future if we stop building new "dirty" fossil fuel plants. ***Hawaii is the most dependent state in the nation on imported oil.*** Some 50 million barrels are imported annually, nearly 80% of which originate from foreign sources. In addition, over 805,000 tons of coal are imported into our state. These sources provide power for over 92% of Hawaii's electricity generation. The combustion of these resources also contributes over 23 million tons of climate changing greenhouse gas into our atmosphere annually.

We need to prohibit the development of large, new fossil fuel plants while bringing onboard renewable energy sources. Controversial? It shouldn't be. No one realistically projects Hawai'i's future to lie with fossil fuel. New plants will last for at least another forty years. If we're serious about moving to renewable energy, we need to stop building new "dirty" fossil fuel plants.

Food and Energy Security ("Fossil Fee")

Creating a small "fee" on imported oil is a smart tax-shifting policy designed to foster greater food and energy independence. It taps the source of our problem to fund our preferred future. It has the additional benefit of putting Hawai'i's money to work here on the islands instead of sending it off to the Middle East.

Plastic Bag Fee

Plastic bags cost residents in Hawai'i hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and permeate the environment for generations to come. Consider:

- Plastic bags contribute to litter and pose a consistent threat to avian and marine life in Hawai'i -- the endangered species Capitol of the world;
- Plastic bags are manufactured from a nonrenewable, polluting resource (oil);
- Plastic bags contribute to a growing trash problem on all our islands;
- Americans throw away nearly 100 billion plastic bags each year; and
- Only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

Two counties, Kaua'i and Maui, have enacted bans on plastic bags. For those of us that live in less enlightened counties, one way to minimize the use of plastic bags is to ensure the cost of the bag is seen at the front end and not hidden in food costs or property taxes. A nickel fee for each plastic bag creates an incentive to avoid the use of plastic bags and creates a visible economic value for those previously "free" bags. A fee works better than a rebate inasmuch as we're more motivated to avoid the loss of money (regardless of amount) than incentivized by a small reward.

Clean Energy For All

Upfront costs can be a deterrent towards the installation of clean, renewable energy systems. Many people would be delighted to have a photovoltaic panel or solar hot water heater on their home, but are unable to qualify or find reasonable loans.

In order to tackle this problem, counties on the mainland have started something called "Property Assessed Clean Energy," which allows residents to finance clean energy and pay for the expense over time through their property taxes. This is a win-win proposal. Government has minimal risk because the bonds are backed by real property liens on the home. The homeowner is able to enjoy the benefits of a clean energy system and reduced electrical bills. Overall, we all lower our dependence on foreign oil and carbon dioxide production.

CFL Mercury Reporting and Recycling

CFL bulbs do a terrific job in reducing our electricity consumption and CO2 production. That being said, they do contain small amounts of mercury that we'd rather not have in our landfill. Accordingly, it's logical to require the reporting of mercury levels (some CFL bulbs are better than others) and require sellers to take back the used bulbs where there are no convenient recycling centers nearby. For example, Home Depot currently takes back old CFL bulbs, but what about people who don't live near a Home Depot?



Hey Mr. Green, Should I turn off my computer at night or put it to "sleep"? —Dave in Bozeman, Montana

Unless you have software or network hookups that require your PC to be on constantly, turn that sucker off. The sleep mode cuts energy use by 70 percent, but using the off switch reduces it even more—and turning off the power strip stanches the flow entirely. (Please don't confuse power saving with screen savers; though the latter may feature a heartwarming picture, they do not save energy.) Since computers in the business sector alone waste more than \$1 billion worth of electricity a year, it's surprising that more fuss isn't made about these simple steps.

Some people believe that restarting the computer each time you return consumes a significant amount of energy, but it's really not enough to worry about.

Think about it, if these devices actually required as much power to boot up as some believed, circuit breakers would be snapping like castanets and you'd be flamenco dancing back and forth to the fuse box instead of sitting there typing out pertinent questions to Mr. Green. It's also rumored that turning a computer off and on repeatedly hastens its demise. This is simply not true. Even if it were, obsolescence would likely kill off your machine first. And when your desktop PC is put to sleep—permanently—consider replacing it with a laptop, which uses a lot less power.

Hey Mr. Green, I would like to encourage my son-in-law to turn off the lights when he leaves a room. To do that, I would have to show the cost benefit. Can you help? —Ruth in Watertown, Massachusetts

In olden times, a household authority figure would say, "Turn the lights out," and that would be that. But today's contentious whippersnappers apparently need a detailed financial analysis before flipping the switch. Fortunately, the math is on your side. Electricity rates are based on the number of kilowatt-hours consumed (1 kilowatt equals 1,000 watts). All you have to do to find the daily cost of operating a light bulb is multiply its wattage by the number of hours it burns, then multiply that by the kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate printed on your utility bill and divide the result by 1,000. To summarize: (hours used \times watts \times rate) / 1,000 = daily cost.

So if a 100-watt bulb burns for ten hours a day, and the power company charges ten cents a kilowatt-hour, it costs a dime a day to keep lit. That's about \$3 per month, or \$36 per year. Leaving a half dozen bulbs burning would waste more than \$200 per year.

If your son-in-law turns off the lights and puts the annual savings into an account that draws 5 percent interest, in ten years he will have about \$2,650, a nice little sum he could invest in some booming alternative energy company.



A Path Near & Far: Thoughts from the Chapter Chair

by Mark Glick

Sierra Club Environmental Education

The Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter has an impressive history of fostering environment education in Hawai'i through our service trips to restore natural areas and hikes for children and adults. This can be traced back to the Spring of 1970 when Lorin Gill initiated the state's first High School Hikers Program, a successful Sierra Club program that has produced numerous environmental leaders. It's altogether fitting that Lorin received national recognition for his pursuit of environmental education in Hawai'i when he received the Sierra Club Special Achievement award in 1976. This award goes to the Sierra Club member, Club group, chapter, or committee for strong and consistent commitment to conservation or the Club over an extended period of time. Robert Keane continues to ably lead the High School Program today.

Today, the Hawai'i Service Trip Program and the High School Hikers Program are among the core services we provide to our Hawai'i Chapter members and the broader public. Each of our groups, Maui, Kauai, Moku Loa, and O'ahu offer hikes and service trips throughout the year. Janice Marsters works with other volunteers throughout the state to organize service trips that really make a difference in controlling or eradicating alien or invasive species or restoring a cherished campsite or trail. You can find these outings and service trip opportunities under Quick Links on the homepage of our Chapter website www.hawaii.sierraclub.org and within our quarterly Mālama newsletter.

Western Wilderness Conference 2010

Join wilderness enthusiasts from all over the Western states April 8-11, 2010 on the campus of U.C. Berkeley in the San Francisco Bay Area. Some 800 participants will gather to focus on the role of wild lands in an era of global climate change and on how to win new allies for preserving wild places. Plenary sessions, dynamic speakers, and intensive workshops will help connect wild places with climate change and offer training on how to advocate effectively. Films, music, fun, networking, join us! Go to www.westernwilderness.org for more information and for "early bird" online registration. Some scholarships available. Questions? Contact Vicky Hoover (415) 977-5527.

Take it from me, there is nothing more rewarding than to spend a weekend on a service trip to an incredibly remote and beautiful place like hiking into Haleakala Crater to help with alien plant control. In many cases, it's the first time that a child was introduced to Hawai'i's native species or was given the opportunity to camp under the stars and observe the constellations in one of the best viewing places on earth. That's why the Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter is re-dedicating itself to expansion of these outstanding programs.

In the new year, the Executive Committee and our vast volunteer network will be engaged in crafting new strategies to build a staff position to coordinate these activities and build a stronger network of schools and strategic partners who share our love of the land and water and desire to protect it for the benefit of future generations. We hope you'll want to be involved in this exciting campaign. Please contact myself at mark.glick@ganainc.com or Robert Harris, Chapter Director, at 538-6616, for more information or to get involved. See you on the trails!

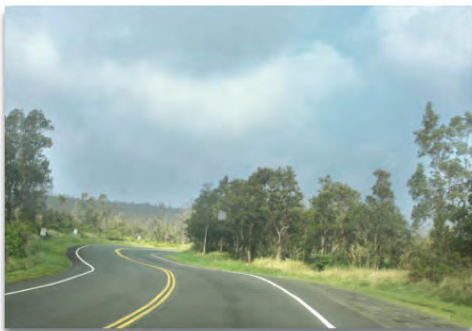


Nate's Adventures

by Nate Yuen

WAILUKU RIVER

I hiked along the middle reaches of Wailuku River, the largest river in Hawaii which flows 26-miles down the slopes of Mauna Kea into Hilo Bay, to see the plants and animals that live halfway up the river. Wailuku River begins as a trickle at the 10,800 foot level of Mauna Kea and increases substantially in volume as it drains the Hilo watershed. The water volume at the mouth of Wailuku River averages 275 cubic feet per second making it the biggest river in terms of water volume the second longest river in the Hawaiian Islands behind Kaukonahua Stream on Oahu.



From Hilo, we drove up the Saddle Road (Hwy 200) about a quarter mile past the 13 mile marker. We pulled over along a curve in the road and made a sharp right button hook turn down a lava road that headed in the opposite direction. Several lava roads turn off from the Saddle Road along this stretch, but only one has a right button hook turn.

After parking the car alongside a lava road with utility poles and lines overhead, we set off on foot hiking down a lava road for several hundred yards before making a 90 degree left turn onto a dirt road.



For the next 2 miles we hiked gently downhill along a dirt road which cut through a forest dominated by ohia lehua trees. Except for the grasses and weeds

alongside the road, the vegetation was almost entirely native. We crossed a small stream that flowed across the road and navigated around a number of deep puddles in the road before reaching Wailuku River at a point half-way up its 26-mile length.

When we reached the river, I was reminded that the geological history of Mauna Kea included torrential rainstorms that scoured a river bed 50 to 100 feet wide in the lava rock.



For the rest of the time — except when the occasional rain storm hits — the river flows gently down a series of waterfalls, pools, rapids and meanders. As the river makes its way down stream, ground water contributes to the flow and the river grows considerably in volume.



Rivers are especially vulnerable to invasive species because the water way provides an easy way for them to spread, like the dreaded gorse next to the fallen tree in the photo above. The upper reaches of Wailuku River pass through pasture lands over-run with nasty thorny gorse. Rain flushes their seeds into the river and distributes them downstream.

Exotic fishes, such as these golden sunfish or talapia were originally set free at the mouth of the river in Hilo. They multiplied, spread, and established themselves up the farthest reaches of the river. Invasive species run rampant in both directions in the Wailuku watershed.



But native plants and animals live in Wailuku River as well. When we saw an ohia tree with scores of red lehua blossoms, we scrambled down a slippery cascading waterfall to get a closer look.

The unexpected thing about this ohia tree is that its red lehua flowers dangle over a small stone beach along the river creating an idyllic scene.



Each turn along the river brought a new surprise like this ohia shrub growing alongside a pair of waterfalls at a mountain pool.



When pools and/or cliffs blocked the way, we climbed up out of the river bed into the native forest along the banks and emerged at a point further downstream. Hapuu tree ferns, ohia trees, and other native plants thrive along the banks of the waterway.



While making my way through a forest of hapuu tree ferns, I was thrilled to see a native mint (*stenogyne calaminthoides*) with cute little pink flowers growing as an epiphyte on the tree ferns.



After emerging below the cliffs and pool, we continued downstream to see what was around the next turn in the river.



After making our way down a few meanders, we came across a 20 foot waterfall that plunged into the biggest and deepest pool we had yet seen.



While exploring a ledge overlooking the pool, I was thrilled to see a pulelehua or Kamehameha Butterfly (*Vanessa Tameamea*) about 3 inches across sunning itself on a rocky ledge over the mountain pool.



Also known as Lepelepe o Hina, the Kamehameha Butterfly was just adopted by the State of Hawai'i as the official State Insect. It is one of just two species of butterfly endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. When the wind direction changed and the clouds began to drop their moisture, we turned around to climb upstream and return the way we had come. As we made our way back out I reflected on the great beauty we had seen at Wailuku River – truly a magnificent place to visit.

Nathan Yuen is an artist/photographer /naturalist whose body of work is a confluence of hiking, conservation, and fine art photography. Each weekend you can find him hiking, backpacking or kayaking to out-of-the-way locations to photograph Hawaii's native plants and animals, many of which are rare or endangered. His goal is to showcase these biological treasures to give you a reason to protect them for future generations. Nathan has a website at HawaiianForest.Com where you can see his art and read about his adventures.

National Ocean Policy Task Force

*by Dave Raney, Chair of the Sierra Club
Coral Reef Working Group, Marine Action
Team*

On a sunny afternoon September 29, 2009, a fascinating mix of several hundred folks from around the Islands, representing many viewpoints, gathered together in the dimly lit, air-conditioned Pikake Room of the Blaisdell Center. They came to listen to, and offer their views on, the proposals being discussed by the Ocean Policy Task Force appointed by former Hawai'i resident, Barack Obama. Among those making the sojourn to Honolulu was Chapter Vice-Chair Lucienne DeNaie from Maui. Lucienne was also among those presenting her views to the Task Force, as did Hawai'i Chapter Director Robert Harris, and Dave Raney of the Club's Marine Action Team.

Typical of President Obama's approach to important issues, the Task Force was given a bold and ambitious set of tasks to perform. His memorandum issued June 12, 2009 gave the Task Force 90 days, until September 10, 2009 to develop (1) a national policy for stewardship of our oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes, (2) a framework for policy coordination of efforts to improve stewardship of the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, and (3) a plan for implementing the objectives of the national policy. The Task Force was given 180 days, until December 9, 2009, to develop a framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The impetus for creation of the Ocean Policy Task Force included a joint letter

from many NGOs, including the Sierra Club, requesting action by the Obama Administration on the recommendations of the Pew Ocean Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and for action on the emerging threats posed by climate change, sea level rise, and changes in the Arctic Ocean ecosystem. The letter included a comprehensive set of recommendations, most of which appear to have been adopted by the Task Force in their Interim Report dated September 10, 2009.

The Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force embraces many concepts supported by the Sierra Club and other conservation groups. These include an overall responsibility to act as responsible environmental stewards who will protect, maintain, and restore the health, productivity, and resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, following a comprehensive set of principles to be followed. Those principles include managing and conduction policies, programs, and activities of the United States so as to prevent or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, including cumulative impacts, and to ensure and improve their integrity. The principles also include key concepts such as preservation of biological diversity, promotion of resiliency, use of adaptive management, and decision making guided by use of the precautionary principle. The latter is stated as follows: "where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective

measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Coastal and ocean marine spatial planning is of increasing importance as interest in offshore locations for wind turbines and other alternative energy facilities is growing. On the other end of the fossil fuel spectrum, there are increasing pressures on states to expand exploration and production of oil and gas (the Drill Baby Drill drumbeat) in the outer continental shelf and elsewhere. The push by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to promote open ocean aquaculture is of particular concern to the Hawai'i Chapter, as well as Chapters and Groups in other coastal regions of the country. The recent decision by the National Marine Fisheries Service, under NOAA, to accept a Fishery Management Plan for Marine Aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico, has raised concerns among the Chapters and Groups along the Gulf coast, as has the recent decision by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources to grant a long-time lease for open ocean aquaculture off the Kona coast.

Another major impetus for coastal and marine spatial planning is the need to mitigate impacts from rising sea levels, and to deal with the related issue of coastal erosion. Sierra Club Groups from South East Florida to Hawai'i are encountering numerous projects for "beach nourishment," and other approaches for dealing with present and projected future impacts of climate change and rising sea levels. Marine spatial planning can also lead to marine

zoning, and the granting of long-term leases for use of public trust resources. The devil will be in the details of marine zoning. There need to be adequate safeguards to assure that permitted uses of public resources by private entities are environmentally sound and provide sufficient public benefits.

At the Honolulu public meeting there was a significant turnout of persons expressing concerns from the perspective of the Native Hawaiians. I'm not sure how many of the DC panelists were able to grasp the *mana'o* expressed by the *kupuna* imploring them to *malama* the 'aina, but they certainly should have gotten the message that these folks were upset at what has happened to their islands over the past millennium. Some speakers also asserted that Native Hawaiians still have sovereignty over much of the lands considered to be a State of the United States, since the U.S. Congress has acknowledged that the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 was illegal. Other speakers traced their lineage back many generations and noted the role of Native Hawaiians as stewards of the lands and ocean, and the source of traditional knowledge about fisheries and other natural resources.

Overall, speakers appeared to recognize the need for a national Ocean Policy and support for the framework provided in the Interim Report, provided that it recognizes the distinct characteristics of islands and island cultures, and the need for a true partnership relationship

between the federal agencies and state, territorial, and local entities. The history of cooperation among the Pacific islanders, and the existing regional structures in place under the Coastal Zone Management programs and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force was noted.

The next steps for the Task Force will be completion of their work on coastal and marine spatial planning, and development of an implementation plan. "Blue" NGOs are encouraging President Obama to incorporate the Ocean Policy Task Force recommendations in an Executive Order to be issued in early 2010. This would be followed in time by legislative actions as needed to adequately fund and implement the national Ocean Policy. Blue NGOs will be conducting various events to gain public support for the Ocean Policy package, including a "Wear Something Blue for the Ocean Day on January 13, 2010." Although the Task Force public meetings produced good support for the work of the Task Force, the intent of the Wear Blue January 13 and similar events and activities, will be to provide visible support for President Obama to sign a strong Executive Order. These events are needed to counter the opposition coming from oil and gas interests, some recreational fishing groups opposed to marine protected areas, conservatives fearing any perceived expansion of the role of government, and other interest groups fearing restrictions on their uses of coastal and ocean areas.

To learn more about the work of the Ocean Policy Task Force, visit the White House Council on Environmental Quality website at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives>. To learn more about Sierra Club's Marine Action Team activities you may contact me at d_raney@hawaiiintel.net.





Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

All Creatures Great and Small



"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

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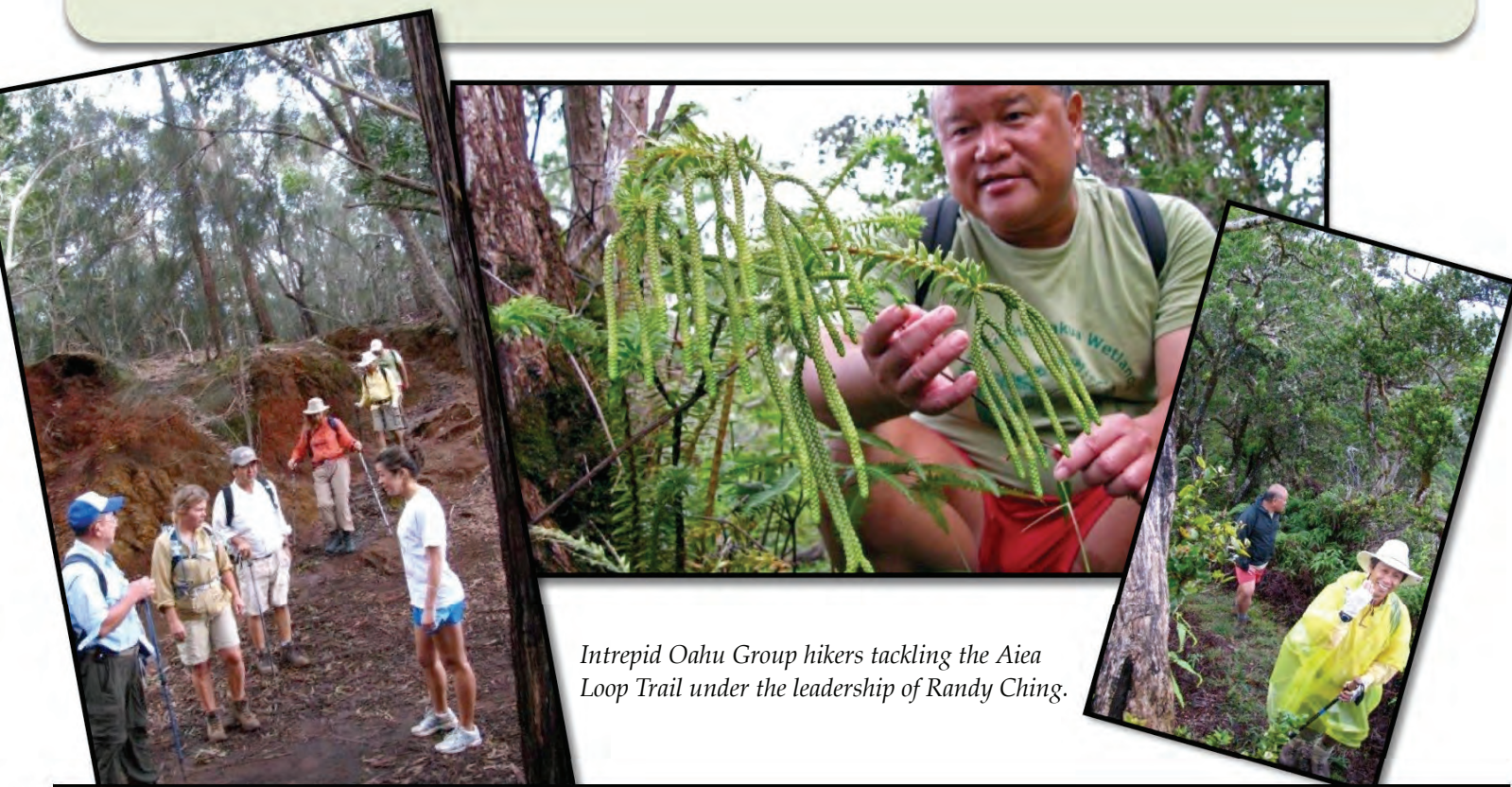
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Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

No O'ahu Group Report this quarter. For more information on the O'ahu Group's activities, please contact Jim Hayes at hayesja@pbworld.com



Intrepid Oahu Group hikers tackling the Aiea Loop Trail under the leadership of Randy Ching.

Sierra Club Outings Policy

For all Sierra Club Outings. Sierra Club outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified Outings Leaders. Our outings are group activities, and all participants are expected to follow leaders' instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members and visitors on most of our outings; however certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is only permitted at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing Leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgement, a fire hazard exists.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear/jacket and day-pack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (heeled footwear are best; no loafers), or tabis are required. Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

You will also need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or call 415-977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Service Opportunity

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2010

PRESIDENT'S DAY LONG WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 12-15, 2010



We'll stay here



Green Sands Beach



Manuka, Big Island

The Sierra Club, Oahu Group is planning another fun-filled 3-Day Service Project to the Big Island.

Sierra Club Service Projects provide an excellent opportunity for environmental volunteers to experience unique places that are

usually closed to the public.



Kiolaka'a Ranger Station

will be our home away from home for the weekend. The house is located just a few miles away from South Point.

THE WORK FOR THE WEEKEND. We will be working with NARS (Natural Area Reserve System) eradicating noxious weeds or planting native plants. For more info on NARS, you can visit their website at www.dofaw.net/nars

NOT JUST ALL WORK! On our free day we will probably hike out to Mahana Bay (Green Sands Beach) and enjoy a swim.

\$ COST OF TRIP \$ The cost of the trip is \$85.00 and covers food, accommodation, and transportation on the Big Island. Participants are responsible for their own airfares. Upon approval by the leader, they will be informed which airfares to purchase.

All trip participants are subject to approval by the leaders based upon the participants experience,

February 12-15, 2010
This trip will require a Friday Night Departure with a Monday Evening return.

disposition, and physical condition. Deposits will be returned to anyone not accepted.

To apply for this trip, please contact Deborah Blair at 955-4168 or email : deborahblair1@mac.com.

O`ahu Group Outings

O`ahu Group Outings Information

See Page 12 for General Outings Information

Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8:00 am at the back porch of the Church of the Cross roads, 2510 Bingham Street, Honolulu. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot.

Sunday, January 3

Kuaokala (C/F)

8 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Makaha

Reservations required by December 23. This is a great hike along the Waianae Range that provides wonderful views of Makua Valley and west Oahu. Not for those uneasy about heights. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, Randy Ching 942-0145

Saturday, January 9

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S/C)

Meet at 8:00 am at the Harbor Master's Office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot ews of Hilton lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring a hat, thick rubber gloves, sunscreen, and water. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact the leader for the waiver. NO SLIPPERS, closed toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, January 10

Hauula-Papali (F)

7 mi/Moderate/Contour/Hauula

This unusual hike takes us on a double loop through the forest. Sherine Boomla 527-8034, asst. Roxanne Villanueva
Sunday, January 17

Beginner hike: Kawainui Marsh Levee (E/F)

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m.

Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack and raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Randy Ching 942-0145, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Sunday, January 17

Photography Hike: Kawainui Dike Road and Na Pohaku O Hauwahine (E/F)

2 mi/Easy/Kailua

Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Flat, easy walk with

panoramas of Kawainui Marsh and Koolau vistas. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Saturday, January 23

Work'n-Learn with Ka`ala Farm in Kalaeloa (S/C)

Learn about and help preserve a population of the endangered `Ewa hinahina at the USFWS Kalaeloa Unit. We will be eliminating weeds and planting native plants at this site so please wear covered shoes (no slippers) and work clothing. Tools, gloves provided. Meet in the large parking lot near the intersection of Lexington Ave. and Yorktown St. (behind Subway Sandwiches and across from the Kalaeloa Post Office) at 8:30 a.m. We will carpool to the site. For more info, contact Bruce at koebele@hawaii.edu. Ed Mersino 223-5765, Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

Sierra Seminar: Campbell Wildlife Refuge (E)

1 mi/Easy/Kahuku

This field trip to learn about wetland birds requires you to make a reservation with the leader ahead of time. You will find out the time and meeting place once you make the reservation. A deposit will be required. There is a limit of 25 participants, so call early to ensure a spot. Don't miss this easy, interpretive trip to see native Hawaiian water birds and migratory birds who spend the winter at this refuge. Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431

Sunday, January 24

Kaluanui Ridge (F)

4 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Hawaii Kai

Hike along a windswept ridge. See spectacular views of East Oahu as we climb to the crest of the Koolaus above the Mariner's Ridge development. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, asst. John Shimogawa 227-9925

Sunday, January 31

Ihihilauakea Crater (E)

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Koko Head

We may spot some humpback whales from above Hanauma Bay as we make our way into a crater to view rare native plants. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, asst. Robert Harris

Sunday, February 7

Ka'au Crater (E/F)

6 mi/Strenuous/Valley/Ridge/Palolo

Hike up a ridge and partway around the rim of a little known and stunning tuff crater. Richard Bailey 723-2213

February 12-15. 3-Day Service Project.

Manuka, Big Island. We will be working with NARS and staying near South Point. Contact Deborah Blair 955-4168 for more info or see page 13.

Saturday, February 13

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project (S)

1 mi/Moderate/Coast/Kaneohe

Reservations required by April 8. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance, and we will send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Coordinator: Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431. Leader: Jen Harper

Saturday, February 13

Oahu Invasive Species Committee Service Project (S)

What: Fountain Grass control work

Where: Lanikai Trail + BBQ

This hike is moderate and along a ridge. Bring goodies for a rewarding BBQ at Kailua Beach after. Meet at the Church of the Crossroads parking lot. In order to join the work trip, please RSVP by Thursday Feb. 11 to oiscc@hawaii.edu or 286-4616. All participants will be required to sign a waiver. What to bring: Take along more water than you think you will need--at least 2 quarts. Please bring gloves, sunhat, sunscreen, rain jacket, long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy walking shoes. No slippers allowed. Pack a hearty lunch and snacks because we will be working hard!

Sunday, February 14

Kaiwa Ridge (F)

2 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kailua

Scenic views from Makapuu to Kaneohe. Car shuttle required. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, asst. John Shimogawa 227-9925

Saturday, February 20

Poamoho Service Trip (S/C)

3 mi/Strenuous/Contour/Wahiawa

O`ahu Group Outings

Reservations required by Feb 14. Email Emma.Yuen@hawaii.gov. Maximum 9 persons. Hike partway up the Poamoho contour trail through native koa/ohia forest to control invasive strawberry guava and manuka. Some off-trail hiking required, and participants (18 and up) will use herbicides and need to sign a DLNR waiver. Emma Yuen 366-4788, Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, February 21

Beginner hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (E/F)

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Sunday, February 21

Photography Hike: Palehua-Palikea (E/F)

4 mi/Easy/Ridge/Makakilo
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Not for those uneasy about heights. Native plants, scenic panoramas, and exquisite tree snails are the attraction in this Nature Conservancy preserve. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Saturday, February 27

Sierra Seminar: Lyon Arboretum (E/F)

Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. \$5 suggested donation to Lyon Arboretum. Learn about native and tropical plants. Bring raingear and insect repellent. Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

Sunday, February 28

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

1 mi/Easy/Shoreline/East Oahu
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. Cleanup along highway and coastal areas until 10:30. Call Tred (394-2898) for information. Bags, gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E)

5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Pupukea
Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of central Oahu. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Sunday, March 7

Koko Crater Stairs (F)

2 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Hawaii Kai
Not for those with bad knees or a heart condition. We will climb the 1000 plus stairs 1200 feet up to the top of Koko Crater where hopefully we will see whales. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Photography Hike: Manoa Cliff Trail (E/F)

3 mi/Easy/Contour/Tantalus
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Contour trail with many native plants and scenic views of Manoa Valley. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Sunday, March 14

Kaena Point Sierra Seminar (E)

6 mi/Moderate/Coast/Mokuleia
Reservations required, space limited. The Albatross are fledging. We will learn about native coastal plants and animals on this interpretive hike. Deborah Blair 955-4168, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Beginner hike: Kuliouou

Valley (E/F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, March 21

Kulana'ahane (Moanalua Valley) (E/F)
10 mi/Moderate/Valley/Kamananui Valley
Hike along an old road for a

few miles. Then follow the stream with about a dozen crossings. It gets challenging at the end with a steep ascent to the Ko'olau summit overlooking Ha'iku Valley and the Windward side. We'll see some petroglyphs and other historical sites. Randy Ching 942-0145, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, asst. John Shimogawa 227-9925

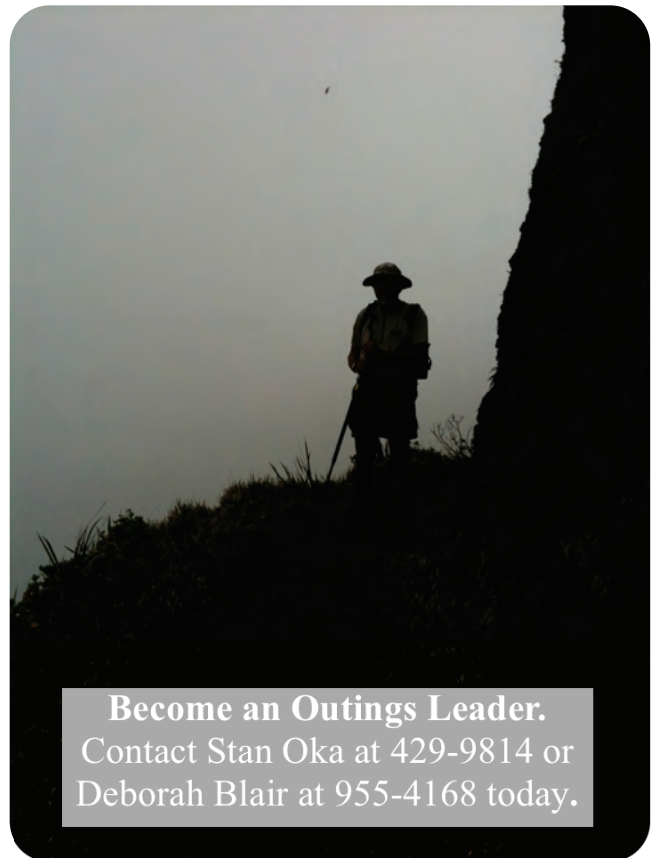
Old Pali Road Late Hike (F)

4 mi/Moderate/Contour/Nuuanu Pali
Meet at 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot at Pali Lookout. Journey from the lookout along the Old Pali Road, under Pali Highway, to a modern trail that leads to Likeke cascade. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508, Stan Oka 429-9814, asst. Robert Harris

Sunday, March 28

Waimano Valley Loop (E/F)

5 mi/Moderate/Valley/Ridge/Waimano
Hike a stretch on a ridge that follows an abandoned irrigation ditch then drops down to a pleasant peaceful stream and follow it as it meanders back to the start. Richard Bailey 723-2213, Gwen Sinclair 753-0528



Become an Outings Leader.
Contact Stan Oka at 429-9814 or
Deborah Blair at 955-4168 today.

Kaua`i Group Report

By Judy Dalton

Sierra Club Award

Hawai`i Chapter Director Robert Harris and Senator Gary Hooser presented awards to deserving individuals at our 7th annual picnic at Maha`ulepu in October.

Carl Imparato was chosen Environmentalist of the Year for his successful growth management campaign, through which the voters of Kaua`i passed a Charter Amendment in 2008 which requires that County government comply with the Kaua`i General Plan's growth scenarios when considering whether to approve new tourist development. Carl shepherded this effort from the time it was first conceived at Sierra Club meetings in the spring of 2006. He coordinated every aspect of the eight-month campaign that began in March 2008, from drafting the Charter Amendment; organizing the campaign committees; meeting with county officials; writing newspaper articles, ballot arguments and ads; to directing the daily efforts of the dozens of volunteers whose efforts led to victory.

Bruce Pleas and Andy Johnston received awards for Outstanding Community Activism. Public access to Polihale State Park might have been closed due to storm damage for up to 2 years had it not been for Bruce and Andy, who spearheaded a project to re-open the park since DLNR lacked funds to make repairs. They organized volunteers and local construction companies in March 2008 to clear storm debris, repair the road, a bridge, portions of the water system, and restore restrooms. Within a month all the work was completed and the park re-opened. State Parks staff monitored the project making a successful collaboration between government and community.

Howard Hurst and Matt Snowden of the Maluhia Group were named Pono Award recipients for their work which arose from incidents of pesticide exposure to students and staff, as well as the adverse health effects of pesticides and GMO agriculture on the lands adjacent to the Waimea Canyon Middle School. Their efforts inspired a state bill (introduced by Senator Hooser) asking the government to set safety standards protecting children from the harmful effects of pesticide drift, and to adopt no-spray buffer zones around homes, schools, parks and daycare centers for the most dangerous and drift-prone



Andy Johnston, Bruce Pleas, Robert Harris, Judy Dalton, Carl Imparato, and Gary Hooser at Maha`ulepu. Photo by Carol Ann Davis-Briant

pesticides.

Preservation of Wailua Beach

The Kaua`i Group continues to work closely with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and other groups to persuade the County of Kaua`i to reconsider its proposal to locate a 14-foot wide Trex bicycle path/boardwalk on top of the sands of Wailua Beach. Native Hawaiian groups and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs have stated in the strongest of terms that locating the proposed recreational facility directly on the narrow strand of Wailua Beach, considered to be one of the most historically, spiritually and culturally significant places in the Hawaiian islands, would be an act of cultural desecration.

We support the Native Hawaiian groups, noting that while the County's proposed routing would have negative environmental impacts on the beach, and that the County's siting and approval process has many major flaws (including the lack of a Cultural Impact Assessment, the lack of an Archaeological Impact Survey, and lack of consultation with local kanaka maoli), the cultural concerns of the Native Hawaiian practitioners are of overwhelming importance.

We support a properly- sited bike path and advocate for preserving beaches in their natural state. Both can be achieved by choosing the alternate mauka route along the canal behind Coco Palms, included in the EA and wouldn't cause any delay in the overall project.

Larsen's Beach access & marine resources at risk.

A rancher's Conservation District Permit Application to extend his cattle operations to the shoreline with only a 110 foot setback for fencing allows grazing on sloped, eroded terrain which will block public access along a customary trail and a county trail. Threats to

the marine resources of Ka`aka`aniu Reef and the endangered and threatened species - monk seals, albatross and green sea turtles were minimized. Historic evidence of native Hawaiian habitation, kuleanas and loi were omitted from the application. With so many significant impacts, we asked BLNR to require a public hearing for the permit application.

Executive Committee

Would you like to serve on the Executive Committee? If interested, please contact Judy Dalton at 246-9067 by March 1.

Kaua`i Group Outings

Join us on one of these great outings to explore, enjoy and care for our island. Please note levels of hiking proficiency. Mileage is round trip unless otherwise indicated. Requested donation for members and participants under 18: \$1. Donation for others: \$5. Outings **Classifications: (C) Conservation/ Interpretive (E) Educational (F) Family/ Fun (S) Service.** For more information check our website: www.hi.sierrclub.org/kauai

Mon. Jan. 4 Waimea Canyon Road CleanUp/Easy/ 2 miles.(S) Afternoon clean up of Sierra Club's adopted highway requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Please call Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

Sat. Jan. 9 Ho'opi'i Falls/ East Side/3 miles/moderate. (E/F) You'll be in for a delightful surprise discovering this forest trail along a river featuring two beautiful waterfalls. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Fri. Jan. 15 Jewel of Koke'e, Strenuous/7 miles. (E/F) Spectacular hike through the forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Please call Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

Sat. Jan. 16 -Moloa'a Trail and Beach Clean up.(C/F) Eastside/Moderate/1.5 miles. Walk up the ancient coastal Alaloa trail, watch for whales, then pick up flotsam on our return along the beautiful beach. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sat. Jan 23 Kuilau Ridge Trail/ Eastside/moderate/3.5 miles/(E/F) Beautiful valley and mountain views. Great reward for moderate effort. Erica Watson and Judy Dalton. Call Erica at 647-0727

Thurs. Jan 28 National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk. (C/E) South Side/Moderate/2 miles. Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens, plus volunteer service. Sierra Club members only. Call Bob Nishek 346-0476

Fri. Jan. 2 9 Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight walk. South Shore/Moderate 4 miles. (C/E/F) Enjoy whale watching all along this coastal hike starting at Shipwreck Beach ending with a full moon glistening on the ocean off the spectacular shores of Maha'ulepu. We'll shuttle cars for a leisurely one way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sat. Jan. 30 - Full moon Kealia to Donkey Beach/East side/Easy/3 miles (E/F) A leisurely stroll starting at sunset and returning under the light of a full moon. Lovely views along this rugged coastline. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sun. Feb. 7 Maha'ulepu/South Shore/Moderate/3 Miles. (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views each step of the way! This magnificent coastline is unique with its fascinating craggy rock formations. It's the beginning of whale season, too. Allan Rachap 742-1001

Sun. Feb. 14 - Sleeping Giant/East side/moderate/4 miles. (C/F) Bring your Valentine on an afternoon hike with a steady climb to panoramic views of Kauai's eastern shore and mountains. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Sat. Feb. 20 - Kuilau & Moalepe trails/ east side/ Strenuous/ 8.5 miles. (C/E) panoramic views of Mt. Waiale'ale on these two connecting trails. Jane Schmitt

Thurs. Feb. 25 Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project. (C/E/S) East Side/strenuous/4 miles. Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a moon light walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476.

Sat. Feb. 27 Sunset to Full Moon walk Wailua to Nukoli'i Beach. Socialize and Exercise. East Shore/Easy 3.5 miles. (C/E/ F) We'll have a picnic dinner at Lydgate Beach Park & walk on miles of undeveloped coastline. Opportunity to

enjoy whale watching this time of year. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sat. Mar 6 - Berry Flats Loop Kokee/ Moderate/3.5 miles. (C/F) Beautiful forested loop trail walking through methel plum groves, sugi, and redwoods. We'll see birds and the restoration of native forest. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson 647-0727

Sat. Mar 13 - Larsen's beach Hike and Clean up. East side/easy/3 miles. (F/C/S). Spectacular coastal walk along beautiful undeveloped coast. We'll also relax and enjoy the lovely beach and whale-watch. On the way back, we'll pick up litter and flotsam. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sun. Mar. 21 - Kukui Trail/Westside/Strenuous/7 miles/ (C/F) Get out and celebrate the first day of spring! This trail drops from 2500 feet into Waimea Canyon, with stunning views along the way. We'll walk a ways downstream for more views before heading back UP. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

Thurs. Mar 25 - National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk. (C/E) South Side/Moderate/2 miles. Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens, plus volunteer service. Sierra Club members only. Call Bob Nishek 346-0476

Sat. March 27- Kalalau to Space Rock/ North shore/ strenuous/ 7 miles (C/E) Spectacular coastal views from this famous trail, but muddy and steep sections. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sun. Mar 28 - Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight walk. South Shore/Moderate 4 miles. (C/E/F) Enjoy whale watching all along this coastal hike starting at Shipwreck Beach ending with a full moon glistening on the ocean off the spectacular shores of Maha'ulepu. We'll shuttle cars for a leisurely one way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Key: D=distance, the estimated round trip for the day; E=elevation in feet: + is gain, - is loss, +/- is up and down. Classification of hikes: (E) Education/Interpretation; (C) Conservation; (F) Family/Fun; (S) Service

Maui Group Report

For the complete Maui Group Newsletter, please go to www.mauisierraclub.org and click on "Newsletters" and for the latest on hikes and activities, please click on "Hikes and Activities."

The Maui Group of the Sierra Club gave comments to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, at their hearings in Hawaii, regarding the environmental consequences of increasing the long line fishing industry within the North West Hawaiian Archipelago, continued Aquarium Collecting of Herbivores from our coastal reefs, a 300 acre Industrial Aquaculture project offshore from Kona and other matters of serious consequence impacting the sustainability of Hawaii's and Maui's ocean waters. The Maui Group of The Sierra Club were successful in communicating to Federal Officials that NOAA could hold their the North American Public Natural Resource and Oceanographic hearings in Hawaii, the only state surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and containing the 1000 mile long Papahānaumokuākea National Monument www.papahānaumokuākea.gov. The hearings were held in Oahu with Internet links from Saipan to the Neighbor Islands.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

• **North Shore Heritage Park & Ho'okipa Expansion:** Thanks to Kai Nishiki and other community activists, the recently opened bike path from Baldwin Beach Park to Paia Bay will have a community friendly low rail fence and some landscaping. Kai and MG Chair Lance Holter have asked Council member Johnson to introduce a funding bill for the purchase of coastal lands between Baby Beach (Wawau) and the bike path route.

• **East Maui Streams:** Maui Group submitted extensive comments to the State Water Commission supporting returned flows to key East Maui streams like Waikamoi, Puohakamoa and Haipuaena. These streams all have extensive recreational use, habitat for native plants, animals and insects and cultural importance. Final public hearings on citizen petitions to return water to the streams will be held in December, 2009.

• **Tao & Waibe'e Stream Restoration:** Water Commission hears final arguments October

15. OHA attorney Pam Bunn made a strong case concerning dual stories the Commission was presented: Did Wailuku Water Co. have an extra 14 mgd of stream water that they transported to a sandy marginal HC&S cane field where each acre consumed 14,000 gallons per acre a day? Standard sugar irrigation = 4.5 to 5k/acre a day. Final decision on the matter is expected by the water commission in late 2009.

• **Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP):** Citizen input is welcomed while Maui Board of water Supply and then Maui county council review this 25 year plan to supply water to the central Maui system (Makena to Maalaea, Waikapu to Waihee, Kahului and Paia). Conservation and water and energy efficiency strategies are recommended in the plan along with improvement of existing water sources in Iao and Waihee aquifers. Most controversial discussions are a proposed joint A&B/ County Waiale water treatment plant using Iao stream water. The plant could give up to 50% of its output to A&B, even though the County will pay back construction costs and assume all operations and maintenance expense for the lifetime of the facility. WUDP is posted at mauiwater.org

• **Hamakuapoko Wells:** No final action has been taken on Councilmember Victorino's proposal to use the treated Hamakuapoko well water for drought emergencies. MG supports careful analysis of costs, risks, and benefits of this and any prospective new water source before they are brought into the County water system.

• **Sustainable Ag: GMO TARO BAN:** MG supported a Council Bill banning GMO taro in Maui County which was passed by the Council in early October.

• **Fish Farm Education:** Big Island fish farms were okayed by the state BLNR, but public scrutiny of this unproven technology that relies on imported feedstock remains strong.

• **Wastewater Injection Wells:** MG continues to advocate for phase out of injection wells and more reclaimed water use through the County's Water Use and Development Plan process. MG is part of Island-wide DIRE (Don't Inject, Re-Direct) initiative that is working with Mayor Tavares's wastewater task force.

• **Sustainable Energy:** Maui Group submitted comments on Maui County's Draft Energy Plan. Comments are posted on the MG website www.mauisierraclub.org.

• **Superferry Update:** The Superferry bankruptcy proceedings continue. Groups who successfully appealed in the courts for an EIS will receive an update on the status of their legal expense reimbursement early next year.

• **Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST):** Local cultural practitioners found that the Final EIS for telescope project did not address their comments or concerns. The project is supported by UH, but legal challenges are possible. Updates: www.kilakilalahaleakala.org.

• **Honolua Bay Development:** The recent announcement that Maui Land and Pine would cease pineapple farming at year's end casts more uncertainty over the company's plans for Honolua Bay, Lipoa Point and surrounding valleys. County Planners included Honolua/Lipoa as a Conservation/Park area in the latest version of Maui Island Plan maps sent to the County Council. The Council Planning committee will review MIP maps during 2010 for final adoption. Stay involved. Go to www.savehonolua.org.

• **Wailea 670:** Sierra Club Maui submitted extensive comments on a draft EIS for the proposed golf course and housing project. The EIS failed to note a recommended 130-acre preserve in the southern portion of Wailea 670 where an endangered species of native moth and 24 species of native plants still survive, including two so rare that they are proposed as Endangered.

• **Makena Resort Rezoning:** No new details have been released concerning the Makena Resort foreclosure. Maui Group recently sent a letter to the foreclosure trustees detailing the many promises made as conditions during the rezoning process that the community expects to be fulfilled.

• **Makena State Park Master Plan:** A stakeholders group formed as a result of Makena Resort rezoning conditions is advocating for Makena remaining a "wilderness" style park. A survey to allow park users to share their visions is planned for December and January and will be posted on the MG website.

Maui Group Outings

Maui Group Outings Information

See Page 12 for All Outings Information

A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Pre-registration is required for some hikes. Call the hike leader number shown below. Also, please check our web site, www.mauisierraclub.org, and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

JANUARY HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, January 16, 8:30 am to noon: Community Work Day: Aloha Aina Cleanup! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524 for the cleanup nearest you. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Sunday, January 17: Hike beautiful Kapalua Resort Trails. Maui Land and Pine has recently opened up these beautiful trails through pristine forests for the public to enjoy for free. We start at the Kapalua Resort Center (aka golf club house on Office road immediately above the Ritz Carlton at the intersection with Village Road). We must sign waivers there. Then, ML&P provides free buses to the top where the trail begins at approximately 1,500 feet. We will catch the 9:30 am bus. We then hike through the Maunalei Arboretum and up the Honolua Ridge Trail 3 miles to a spectacular mountain top view point of the West Maui Mountains. Many trees, flowers and plants are named along the trail and labeled endemic or indigenous if applicable. Very educational hike. From there we hike down the Mahana Ridge Trail 6 miles back to the Kapalua Resort Center where we parked our cars. All day hike. Meet at 8:00 am at Buzz's Wharf to carpool to Kapalua. If you live in the Lahaina area, meet at 9:00 am at the Kapalua Resort Center on Office Road. Please call hike leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. Limit 18. (C) (E) D = 9 miles: 3 miles of moderate upslope and 6 miles of moderate downslope.

Thursday, January 28, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Saturday, January 30: Sierra Club Annual Membership Meeting. 11am-3pm, Kaunoa Senior

Center, Spreckelsville. This year's topic will be "Drinking Water!" Members and general public welcome! Awards, updates and panel discussion at noon. Potluck picnic to follow (main dish and beverages provided). Please check for updates at: www.mauisierraclub.org. Sierra Club t-shirts (Great new colors) and other items will be for sale. Please come and talk story! Bring your questions and ideas! Free!

FEBRUARY HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, February 6: Pali Trail Hike. Hike to the top of the Pali. Spectacular views of whales, ocean, mountains and the Kaheawa wind farm. This is the same trail ancient Hawaiians walked to get from Lahaina to Wailuku. It rises from sea level to 1,500 feet and is 6 miles round trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and camera. Meet 8:30 am at Pali trailhead (Lahaina side of tunnel just as the highway comes down to sea level at mile marker 10.8). Please call hike leader Mitch Skaggeberg at 875-4970 to register. Limit 18. (C) (E) D = 6 miles all day hike.

Saturday, February 20: Maui's Whale Day Celebration sponsored by the Pacific Whale Foundation. 10 am to 5 pm at Kalama Park on South Kihei Road (by the big whale statue). The Sierra Club will have an information booth in "Eco-Alley." Come enjoy and talk story. Free admission. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Thursday, February 25, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Sunday, February 28: Visit beautiful Waianapanapa State Park and hike along the trail overlooking the ocean in both directions observing archeological sites and birds along the way. Then visit Hana Cultural Center Museum and see reproductions of pre-contact hale's and the old Hana courthouse on the way to Hamoa Beach where we will have lunch and swim. Bring lunch, sunscreen, bathing suit and camera. Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Call hike leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. Limit 12. (C) (E) D = 5 miles all day hike.

MARCH HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, March 6: Haiku Ho'olaulea and Flower Festival. Free admission! Music, food, contests, auction, farmer's market, historical display & family fun! Check out the Sierra Club PLANT SALE booth in the Farmer's Market! 9 am-3:30 pm, Haiku Community Center on Hana Highway. Plant sale help needed. We need donated plants as well as volunteers to work at the event. Start your keiki plants now! Please call Lucienne de Naie for information about how to donate plants and to volunteer at 214-0147.

Saturday, March 13: Hike down Sliding Sands Trail into Haleakala Crater to Ka Lu'u o ka 'O'o cinder cone. Breathtaking beauty! Observe Silverswords and Chuckers in the crater. This is a 3 mile hike roundtrip and is at a high elevation so hikers should be in good shape. We will also visit the summit and hike to the top of White's Hill near the visitor center for additional astonishing views. On most clear days, you can see Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea 100 miles away on the Big Island. Bring lunch, sunscreen and water. Meet at 8:30 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center near the Bank of Hawaii to carpool. \$10 per car entrance fee. Limit 12. Call hike leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. Limit 12. (C) (E) D = 3 miles roundtrip all day hike.

Thursday, March 25, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Saturday, March 27: La Perouse Bay - 8 mile version. Hike south on the Kings Highway to Kanao - one of the most remote and beautiful areas on Maui. Visit anchialine ponds (unusual shallow ponds with tiny red shrimp) and archeological sites along the way. We actually walk off the recent lava flow onto the ancient shoreline where we explore further south and visit and learn about archeological sites. Bring bathing suit, lunch, water, hat, snorkel equipment and sunscreen. This hike goes about 2 miles further than our regular La Perouse Bay hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Call hike leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. Limit 18. (C) (E) D = 8 miles roundtrip all day hike.

Key: D=distance, the estimated round trip for the day; E=elevation in feet: + is gain, - is loss, +/- is up and down. Classification of hikes: (E) Education/Interpretation; (C) Conservation; (F) Family/Fun; (S) Service

Moku Loa Group Report

CHAIR REPORT

BY ROBERTA BRASHEAR-KAULFERS

As we come to the close of another year, a year with a new President Obama, a new Mayor Mr. Billy Kenoi and our new County Council, several potential environmental disasters have been averted. Yes, it truly was a year of change. Nationally, many of the deeds done by the Bush administration have been reversed. Our Hawai'i economy is still the main issue on everyone's mind, with Furlough Fridays and State layoffs; but remember that maintaining a safe and healthy environment is also crucial.

We look forward to increased member participation in 2010 in fighting to keep our "local" environment sustainable. MLG is tracking our Council members' votes on environmental bills to prevent yet another major assault on our environment. Our new Council and Mayor Kenoi have not been as accessible as the previous administration. We are still in the process of building some bridges; but remember, 2010 is yet another election year. The 2% Land Fund has been reduced to a ½% Land Fund; still something, but not the best!

I also serve as the Hawai'i Chapter delegate from Moku Loa Group and as Vice Chair of the Council of Club leaders at the National Sierra Club. If you would like to find out more about issues at the Chapter or National level, feel free to e-mail me at <brashear@hawaii.edu>.

I will be stepping down as Moku Loa Group Chair this year. Having served three different times over the past decade, I feel it is time to encourage some new participation on our Group Executive Committee. I would like to continue on with fund raising and with increasing our group membership.

Mahalo Nui Loa to the 2009 MLG EXCOM and Committee Chairs

- To Justin Avery (Vice-Chair) who volunteered his mother's home and helped coordinate our successful annual garage sale. Justin continues to run the UH-Hilo Global Hope film festival.
- To Rose Acevedo (Secretary and Outings) for providing excellent meeting minutes and outing leadership training.
- To Haili Debus (Treasurer) for getting all of our finances in order. She is our newest member and a UH Hilo accounting major.
- To Al Beeman (Legislative), who provided legislative updates and a wealth of information on renewable energy options.
- To Phil Barnes (Programs), compadre, program coordinator and man who wears many hats! I tip my hat to you, Phil.
- To Diane Ware (East Hawai'i Conservation), who is ever so vigilant and passionate on issues involving outings, endangered species and laws to prevent further environmental degradation.
- To Cory Harden (East Hawai'i Conservation), who is never too busy to attend public hearings, write letters and testimony & be the thorn in the side of the County Council and other government agencies.
- To Debby Hecht (West Hawai'i Conservation), who pushed so hard for passage of the 2% Land Fund, soon to be decreased to the ½% Land Fund.
- To Janice Palma-Glennie (West Hawai'i Conservation), who has kept us informed of new and ongoing development projects on the West side of Hawai'i.

•To Sarah Moon (Outings) for her continuous work in organizing outing leader trainings and putting together a good slate of outings each year.

•To Edith Worsencroft (Newsletter), a meticulous woman and former outings leader who keeps us on track with deadlines, so the newsletter can be sent out on time.

•To Terry Reim (Webmaster) for providing timely updates to our MLG website.

To All Our Volunteers who help maintain a strong environmental presence on Hawai'i. Mahalo to all!

Make an End-of-Year Donation and Support your local Moku Loa Group

Our group membership is down from an all-time high of 1,000 members. With these difficult financial times, some former members may not have been able to renew. Any financial support will enable us to continue our conservation work and track key issues which will affect us in years to come.

Become a supporter; make an End-of-Year donation (no matter how large or small). All donations made to Moku Loa Group go toward our local environmental projects. Participate in an outing, make a donation at a program, and buy one of the Sierra Club calendars. All of these opportunities help us locally. Send your contribution to Moku Loa Group, PO Box 1137, Hilo, HI 96721.

Sierra Club Calendars Are for Sale

The 2010 Wilderness Calendars (wall) are \$12.95, and Engagement Calendars (planner) are \$13.95. Contact Roberta <brashear@hawaii.edu> or 966-7002 to place an order. They will also be available at the Annual Membership meeting.

Moku Loa Outings

Moku Loa Group Outings Information

See Page 12 for All Outings Information

Donation for non-members is \$3.00. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday-Monday, January 2-4 - Ka`alu`alu Bay Hike, Mountain Bike & Camping Trip (S)(F)(E)(C) D = 16 miles; E = coastline

Hikers, bikers and campers welcome on this scenic section of the newly designated National Historic Trail. 4x4 vehicles will support hikers and bikers and carry campers to beautiful Ka`alu`alu Bay where we will camp under the trees. Layover day with opportunity to explore further or relax in camp. Service consists of piling up trash 1-2 hours/day for later pickup by tractors. Expect hot and windy conditions along this trail with cultural and historic sites, native flora and fauna. (4x4s needed). Leader, Diane Ware (967-8642); Assistant Leader, Cheryl Hoover (985-9601).

Saturday, January 9 - Kiholo Bay to Anaehoomalu Bay (E) D = 7 miles, E = sea level

Hike is on the Ala Kahakai Trail beginning at Kiholo Bay and ending at Anaeho`omalua Beach. The trail follows the coastline over ancient fishermen's trails and Ala Loa (King's) Highway that have been connected through generations of use to form a single continuous route. Much of the trail receives only limited maintenance and can be hot in direct sunlight exposed areas. Leader, Rich Vogler (328-8387); Assistant Leader, Diane Ware (967-8642)

Saturday, January 16 - Escape Road to Pu`u Huluhulu, HVNP (F) D = 5.5 miles, E = 3800' - 500'

We will do this trail as a car shuttle from Hahuku (also called Thurston Lava Tube) to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. This pleasant family hike is almost all downhill. We start out in the forest, traverse a pahoehoe lava field, climb Pu`u Huluhulu (where we will eat lunch with a view of Pu`u O`o and then return to our cars). Leader, Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Assistant Leader, Linda Larish (966-6337).

Saturday, January 23 - New Moon Foundation Estate in Kohala - Contact leaders for details
Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Rich Vogler (328-8387)

Saturday, January 30 - Pu`u O`o Trail Day Hike (Saddle Road) (E)(C)(F) D = 4 miles, E = 5700' +/- 100'

This is an easy-paced interpretive nature walk on a well-marked fairly level old trail that was used long ago to drive cattle across the island. It begins off Saddle Road at the 5700' elevation and crosses through pristine native forest kipukas surrounded by old lava flows. We'll go as far as the group decides, then have lunch and retrace our route. The weather may be changeable, so bring warm clothes, 1 quart of water, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, lunch; and wear sturdy shoes. Optional gear may include camera, binoculars and sketching materials. Leaders, Michael & Sunny La Plante (964-5017).

Saturday, February 20 - Lokoaka Trail Service Trip (S) D = 0.5 miles, E = sea level

Clear trails to pristine lagoons, plant native plants and clear noxious plants. Tools, gloves, water and insect repellent provided. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and protective clothing; bring swimsuits for a cool swim after the project.

Leaders, Jan and Sarah Moon (935-3475).

Saturday, February 27 - Kalapana Coastal Day Hike (E)(F)(C) D = 4 miles, E = sea level

This hike begins at Verna's Restaurant parking lot in Kalapana. We will hike out to the new beach at Kaimu, then explore the shoreline south over rough new lava, stopping for lunch at a remote beach. Bring lunch, 2 quarts of water, hiking boots and rain gear. Trip limited to 15 hikers. Leaders, Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Assistant, Sunny and Michael La Plante (964-5017).

Saturday-Monday, March 20-22 - Waimanu Valley Backpack (E) D = 19 miles round trip; E = +/- 1200'

This is an energetic backpack for individuals with backpacking experience and proper gear. We will start from the rim of Waipi`o Valley, descend into the valley, cross and ascend the far side, and continue on this trail until we drop down into Waimanu Valley 9 miles from our starting point. After a layover day in incomparable Waimanu Valley we will return via the same route. Previous backpacking experience, sturdy boots, leader approval required. Leaders, Diane Ware (967-8642) and Cheryl Hoover (985-9601).

Saturday, March 27 - Mauna Iki (Twin Pit Craters) (E) D = 9 miles, E = -500' We don't hike this trail across the Ka`u Desert very much. Often the access is closed because of nene nesting or fire danger. Start at Hilina Pali. Hike to Twin Pit Craters. Hike across pahoehoe fields to site of 1974 lava flow. Climb adjacent cone crater (optional). No shade. Bring 2-3 quarts of water, lunch, sunscreen, rain gear and wear sturdy boots. Leaders, Sunny and Michael La Plante (964-5017).

Key: D=distance, the estimated round trip for the day; E=elevation in feet: + is gain, - is loss, +/- is up and down. Classification of hikes: (E) Education/Interpretation; (C) Conservation; (F) Family/Fun; (S) Service



Can You Lend a Hand?

The Sierra Club is looking for new volunteers. Volunteering is a great way to grow new talents and meet new people. We're particularly interested in individuals (like you?) who want to coordinate educational events, assist with fundraising, promote good legislation, or write journalistic articles.

Do you want to expand your horizons? Want to make the world a better place? Give us a call (808.538.6616) or email (hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org) and we'll talk it over.

Photo by [aussiegall](#). Used under flickr creative commons license.

Chapter Directory



“To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.”

MAIN OFFICE

Mail.....P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96813
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 Telephone:.....(808) 538 - 6616
 Email.....hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org
 Web.....hawaii.sierraclub.org

CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Director.....Robert D. Harris, robertharris@mac.com, (808) 538-6616

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair.....Mark Glick, mark.glick@ganainc.com
Vice Chair.....Lucienne De Naie, (808) 572-8331
Treasurer.....Helen Chong
Secretary.....Laura Edmunds Ka`akua
Hawai`i Service Trip Program.....Janice Marsters, 988-3899, janice@lava.net
High School Hikers.....Bob Keane, 623-3208
Kaua`i Group.....Rayne Regush
Moku Loa Group.....Roberta Brasher-Kaulfers
O`ahu Group.....Steve Montgomery
Maui Group.....Lance Holter, 579-9442
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At-Large.....Isaac Moriwake, imoriwake@yahoo.com
At-Large.....Gary Gill
At-Large.....Judy Dalton, dalton@aloha.net, 246-9067

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Leadership Dev......John Cummings III (527-5490)
Finance.....Pauline Sato (621-2008)
Secretary.....Waimea Williams (239-5423)
Project Evaluation.....Amber O`Reilly
Recruitment.....Scott Rowland (259-5416)
Treasurer.....Jim Waddington (947-2732)

HIGH SCHOOL HIKERS PROGRAM

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Vice-President.....Sandra Nakagawa
Treasurer.....Jeannette Keane
Secretary.....Pauline Kawamata
Membership.....Fred Nakaguma (487-3098)
Newsletter.....Adaline Kam
Outings.....John Cummings

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At-Large.....Carey Morishige

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 Karen Chun, Secretary, Web Master & Publicity Chair, karen@redwoodgames.com
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Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

April - June 2009

We Need You!



Congratulations to our new Chapter Executive Committee Members:

Gary Gill

Caren Diamond

Lucienne de Naie

Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

** Subject to approval of the election results by the Executive Committee **

Sign up to volunteer with the Sierra Club today!

Become a Club leader. Send an email to hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org to learn more.