



MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

APRIL-JUNE 2020



STANDING FOR OUR

common ground

KEEPING PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS

MĀLAMA 'ĀINA CASE

EAST MAUI STREAMS

MAUNA KEA

COASTAL LANDS



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII

How We Will “Keep On Keepin On” Amidst COVID-19

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

As each of us cope with the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, I want to share with you—“we got this.” As we have learned in our work to save the climate, each and every one of us has an important role to play in stemming the spread of this disease. Our work together over the years has taught us how to stay calm in stressful situations, be prepared for and adapt to the unexpected, and look out for each other during difficult times. In each of our own ways, we are resilient, thoughtful warriors for justice and the planet. We have made it through a lot already and we will make it through this, as well.

Here is a little bit about what the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i is doing to adapt to the current situation. With guidance from Sierra Club National, we are adjusting the way we operate for the time being. This mainly includes:

- **Our offices will be closed** and all staff will be working from home until further notice. You can still reach us by email and phone.
- **All planned events and in-person meetings will be suspended for at least the next month.** We are working on moving some of our scheduled events to virtual gatherings, to offer socialization and activism outlets during this time.
- **Outings are cancelled through at least April 12.** We have included the outings schedule as is in this current issue, in the hopes that we might be able to convene normal outings in the next quarter. That said, after April 12, please contact outings leaders prior to each outing to confirm whether or not the outings is proceeding.

You can stay up to date with the Sierra Club’s organizational response online at bit.ly/sc-covid-19.

We are keeping up the good fight and continuing in our work. We are focusing on people first—ensuring our communities are safe and working together with other local organizations to make sure our friends, families and neighbors have the resources they need to make it through this trying time. We are also using this time to beef up our campaign research, think through our strategies and be prepared to come out of this time stronger as an organization and community.

Don’t forget that Mama Earth is always here for you. Outdoor activities like gardening, hiking or walking your neighborhood with your family or close friends and going to the beach—in groups of less than 5 while maintaining social distancing—can help alleviate stress and anxiety and practice mindfulness.

In solidarity,

The Mālama ‘Āina Case

By Uncle Ku Ching, Cultural Practitioner and Mālama ‘Āina Case Plaintiff

How Hawai‘i’s “Public Lands” Became Public

Today’s “public lands” first belonged to the Hawaiian Kingdom in the 1800s. In 1846, King Kamehameha III brought on the Māhele, which divided Hawai‘i’s lands three ways. One third of the land was set aside for the monarch—later known as Crown Lands and managed by a board of commissioners—while another third was given to the ali‘i and konohiki and the last third designated for public use.

After the overthrow of Queen Lili‘oukalani by American businessmen in 1893, Hawai‘i’s lands were again divided up and handed off. The Republic sold Crown Lands to sugar barons, and then ceded “unclaimed” lands and lands for public use to the United States as part of the improper annexation of Hawai‘i as a U.S. territory in 1898. In 1959, the newly formed state government agreed to take on fiduciary responsibilities for managing these lands for the beneficiaries—Native Hawaiians and the general public. Since then, however, the government has been lax in caring for these lands, ignoring its duties as trustee, and even converting some lands into uses that conflict with the needs and interests of the beneficiaries.

Reverence of Pōhakuloa

Among the lands ceded to the government was Pōhakuloa, a large area situated in the saddle between Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa and Hualālai on Hawai‘i Island. From a Hawaiian cultural and historical perspective, the Pōhakuloa saddle area was very important to ‘Umi A Liloa, the paramount Hawai‘i Island chief of the 1500s, who built Ahu A ‘Umi, where, among other things, he assembled and trained his warriors for victorious assaults on the Kona District. He also built other heiau in the area—on Mauna Loa, at the original Hale Pōhaku on Mauna Kea, and at Pu‘u Ke‘eke‘e, which is situated on the present day Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA).

The Pōhakuloa saddle area was like a Hawaiian “Grand Central Station”—it connected east and west Hawai‘i Island, and was the entrance to Mauna Kea for the fine basalt raw material for adze makers and the habitats for the birds favored by feather collectors. Even in this modern day, ‘akē‘akē, ‘ōpe‘ape‘a, and nēnē



Photo: Honolulu Star-Advertiser

(some of which mingle among the military in training at PTA) are among the remarkable, rare and endangered residents of the area.

Militarization of Pōhakuloa

In 1964, the State of Hawai‘i, for military training purposes, signed a 65-year lease allowing the Army to use nearly 23,000 acres of land at Pōhakuloa for the total price of \$1. The lease required the Army to “make every reasonable effort to...remove or deactivate all live or blank ammunition upon completion of a training exercise or prior to entry by the said public, whichever is sooner” and to “remove or bury all trash, garbage or other waste materials.”

In April 2014, plaintiffs Aunty Maxine Kahaleliu and I, represented by attorneys David Kimo Frankel and Summer Sylva of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, sued the Hawai‘i State Department of Land and Natural Resources for its failure to monitor the Army’s compliance with terms of the lease. In our complaint, we alleged that the State—as trustee of the ceded lands—breached its trust duty “to protect and maintain the public trust lands” in the PTA because it failed to verify the United States Army’s compliance with the lease.

Mālama ‘Āina

In the First Circuit Court before Judge Gary Chang in 2015, we presented evidence that military debris was scattered across the Pōhakuloa landscape, and alleged that the State was not in compliance with the fiduciary responsibilities and obligations that it had accepted as trustee for the ceded lands. In his order, Judge Chang referred specifically to the term “mālama ‘āina” as the standard by which the state is to treat the ceded lands of Pōhakuloa Training Area—and presumably all of the ceded lands. The State later appealed the ruling and the case went to the Hawai‘i Supreme Court.

On December 18, 2019, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court ruled that “the State breached its constitutional trust duties by failing to monitor or inspect the trust lands” at PTA. The Court held that the State has an “obligation to protect and preserve” all natural resources, and importantly that the “State’s duties with respect to the leased PTA land are derived in part from the properties’ status as “ceded land”—which are lands that were held by the civil government or the monarchy of the Hawaiian Kingdom at the time of the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy.”

The bottom line, as Attorney David Kimo Frankel has stated: “While the principle rests on firm precedent, this is the first time a court has used this term [mālama ‘āina] to describe the state’s duties.”

As plaintiffs and appellees in this case, Aunty Maxine Kahaleliu and I, are proud that we have had an active role in establishing the important principle and term “mālama ‘āina” in the legal lexicon of the State. Hopefully, the principle and standards of mālama ‘āina will henceforth apply to all ceded lands, including Mauna Kea, forever!

Hawai‘i Supreme Court Opinion - <http://bit.ly/hicourt-819>
Circuit Court Judgment - <http://bit.ly/cb-pohakuloa>

Mauna Kea: A Peak Experience

by Nelson Ho, Hawai‘i Island Group Member

My passion for Mauna Kea began as a hiking and backpacking enthusiast. Outings leader Lorin Gill introduced me to Mauna Kea in the early 1970’s. My first visit to the summit was when he took a group of Club members on a dusty unpaved road to the base of Pu‘u Haukea and an old UH construction and staging area. On that trip Lorin also led us on the traditional Hawaiian access trail to Lake Waiau—he had a reverence for this high place that he imparted to us. We all knew we were in a special, sacred landscape that should be forever protected.

Much of Mauna Kea is protected by Hawai‘i’s progressive land use laws and conservation district designations—meaning that these public & private lands should not be developed and scenic, cultural and biological significance should be protected. Yet while under the control of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawai‘i, those laws have been weakened and land protections lost, leading to the degradation of these sacred lands. In its last Mauna Kea ruling the state Supreme Court said, since there is already significant, substantial, and adverse impacts to the environmental and cultural resources at the summit because of 50 years of astronomical development, a little more won’t matter.

As international support for the Thirty Meter Telescope waivers, the fate of the Protectors calling for obedience to the laws of nature and the protections of the conservation district hangs in the balance. It is time for us now to help right the wrongs that got us to this situation.

One thing is clear, in a time of global climate disruption, species genocide and ecosystem collapse, there should be no separation of environmental justice and social justice. In 2020, we should be questioning the outdated conceptions of land use, preservation and culture that were established in the 1960s. On Mauna Kea and other work we do, we, as contemporary residents and managers of the land and members of the Sierra Club, should approach our work and drive to protect Hawai‘i’s ecosystems with empathy, patience and self awareness. We should honor the history, culture and values of Hawai‘i and find the common ground on which we can connect.



Public Water for Private Profit

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

For more than a century, Alexander and Baldwin has diverted millions of gallons of water from East Maui streams, which flow through public lands, daily—regardless of the devastating impact these diversions have had on cultural practices, community life, stream ecology, recreational uses and natural beauty.

In May 2001, Nā Moku Aupuni o Ko’olau Hui, an organization comprised of Native Hawaiian kalo farmers and cultural practitioners, filed petitions with the Water Commission to set instream flow standards for more than two dozen streams in East Maui. It took the Water Commission more than 17 years to do so. A&B’s vice president, Meredith Ching, served on the Commission for years while the Commission did virtually nothing.

In October 2003, Judge Hifo issued an order that “before authorizing the diversion” of water from East Maui streams, the State would have to investigate how much water in the streams is necessary for stream life. Nevertheless, the Water Commission’s sister agency, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, annually authorized the diversion of millions of gallons of water daily from dozens of East Maui streams without ever obtaining basic information regarding the health of diverted streams.

The Sierra Club sued over the Board’s decisions in 2018 and 2019 to authorize the diversions for yet another year. A trial is scheduled to take place the week of May 11 but may be delayed due to COVID-19 precautions.

Our claims are simple to understand.

First, the Board has allowed A&B to take as much water from 13 streams as it wants. The Board failed to protect native aquatic fish, recreational uses and cultural uses on any of these 13 streams. According to the Water Commission, the minimum viable flow necessary to provide suitable habitat conditions for

recruitment, growth and reproduction of native stream animals is 64% of median base flow. Yet, the EMI Ditch System leaves far less than 64% of the median base flow in streams. Instead, it captures all of the stream’s base flow as well as an unknown percentage of total flow. The ditch system completely dewateres the 13 streams 60% of the time. According to a study prepared for A&B, diversion of these 13 streams reduces habitat units on those streams from 588,000 square meters to 88,386 square meters – a reduction of 85%.

Second, even when there is enough water flowing in a stream, diversion structures can harm native aquatic species, facilitate mosquito breeding, mar natural beauty, or jeopardize the safety of recreational users of public land. The Board has not taken any action to systematically assess the impact of, or require the removal of, any of the diversion structures on public land.

Third, the Board has allowed A&B to take water from East Maui streams to flush toilets and make concrete. Such uses are not “reasonable and beneficial” uses of water taken from streams.

The Board has failed to require A&B to measure the amount of water it removes from each stream. It has refused to make A&B prove how the water will be used and why it is needed. It has neglected to require A&B to take any action to control the spread of invasive species on the public land that the Board authorizes A&B to use. A trustee of natural resources must do better.



Protecting Our Coastal Public Lands from Climate Change

by Dave Raney, Sierra Club O’ahu Group Member

Climate change poses a range of threats to our coastal public lands, while also presenting opportunities for us to fashion a more just and sustainable future.

Our beaches are among the most important public lands, both culturally and economically. We have lost many miles of beaches over the years due to coastal development, inadequate setbacks, and permit loopholes which have allowed hardening of our shorelines by seawalls, revetments, and other structures. Fortunately, state and county agencies have recently adopted policies discouraging coastal hardening.

There are three basic types of adaptation measures that can be taken to protect coastal properties. The first is armoring - seawalls, revetments and other barriers. These inevitably lead to narrowing or loss of beaches and beach access as the sea level rises. The second is adaptation, which includes elevating houses and other structures to accommodate sea level rise. The third is planned or managed retreat, which involves removing or relocating structures inland to allow the shoreline to migrate inland as the sea level rises.

This is the most effective approach in the long run as sea levels will continue to rise in the future. Fortunately, sea level rise is gradual and such relocations can be phased in over time.

In some coastal areas, like Hau’ula on O’ahu, impacts from sea level rise are already occurring in the form of storm surges and king tide flooding along some sections of coastal highways. Sea level rise projections have identified several such sections of coastal highways that must be relocated inland to avoid flooding within a few decades. It should be possible to create or expand parks or other public lands in the areas between the coastline and the relocated highway—while also conducting such relocations in a manner that promotes climate justice and equity. We also must assure the protection, and possible restoration, of cultural sites within coastal areas.

Ultimately, these adaptation measures must be accomplished at very local levels with grassroots participation. The Sierra Club of Hawai’i is well-positioned to support such efforts.

Progress at Wāwamalu?

by Reese Liggett, Sierra Club Life Member

If you’ve been following this matter in the last two issues about Wāwamalu Beach, the situation is that an unsigned City Park in east O’ahu on the Kaiwi Coast between Sandy Beach Park and the state’s Kaiwi Scenic shoreline, commonly known as “Alan Davis”, exists in complete depredation. Wāwamalu Beach, with its native-vegetated sand dunes with a white sand beach, home to monk seals and green sea turtles, and large



There is no signage to warn this visitor and he had to call for a tow at Wāwamalu Beach.

parking areas on its east and west ends bordered by rocks at the water’s edge—is regularly damaged by off road ing vehicles. Since

the last issue, there have been a slew of developments:

- A Honolulu Star-Advertiser Kōkua Line column on Feb. 23 by Christine Donnelly fully described the desecration at Wāwamalu.
- Councilmember Tommy Waters relayed at Hawai’i Kai Neighborhood Board on Feb. 25 that the mayor called to offer a boulder supply to keep the vehicles in their lots and along the highway in order to protect the natural features.
- The telephone company has indicated the

possibility of providing spent telephone poles that might serve as barriers to vehicles.

- City Parks and Recreation, the responsible agency for Wāwamalu Beach, has requested help designing signs that explain the natural features, their relation to wildlife and need for vehicles to keep off.
- 911 calls for parking in zone beyond the four “no parking beyond” signs drew no citations. Twice the responding officers refused to take action. One officer did ask some to move.
- At mid-day on March 8, a 911 call regarding eight big-wheel vehicles driving on the beach resulted in two citations.
- Kailua’s State Representative, Chris Lee, introduced a bill that would have the state take over Wāwamalu and add it to the adjacent, gorgeous Kaiwi Scenic Shoreline—which is a terrific example of government stewardship for natural features on the coastline.
- Rep. Lee’s bill passed the House, crossed over to the Senate and passed the Water and Land Committee with amendments on March 13.
- A major test will be whether there will be money in the state’s COVID 19-depressed budget to support the state’s adoption of Wāwamalu Beach along this Maunaloa-Makapu’u State Scenic Byway.

Stay tuned!

O'ahu Group Outings



OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at bit.ly/SCH-outdoors.

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

Classification of outings: (E) Educational/Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service

Saturday, April 4

UH Mānoa Native Hawaiian Plant Garden Service Project
Help maintain the hidden gem at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa Campus from 8am-noon. There are approximately 80 species of Native Hawaiian plants, most of which are endangered. Activities include weeding, spreading mulch and planting new seedlings. Call Susan for reservations. Leaders: Susan Tom 753-0351; Clyde Kobashigawa; Curtis Kawamoto; Randy Ching

Saturday, April 11

MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS at least one week before outing to secure access to base. We will be working with the Environmental Division to help clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Dan Anderson, 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com

Sunday, April 12

Mālama Tree Crew: Pālehua Service Project (S)
Meet at Makakilo Community Park (92-1140 Makakilo Drive) at 8am. We will weed and water trees planted at Camp Pālehua, Akupu Enclosure. Bring water, snacks/lunch, rain gear and sunscreen. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com or 942-0145

Saturday, April 18

Mālama Tree Crew: Ala Mahamoe (S)
Meet at 1812 Ala Mahamoe St. in Moanalua. Bring a liter of water, gloves, sunscreen, raingear, snack. We'll be working with the Ko'olau Mountain Watershed Partnership. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com or 942-0145

Sunday, April 19

Pūpūkea-Paumalu Forest Reserve
Pūpūkea, moderate/8.5 miles, contour
This loop hike through the Pūpūkea-Paumalu Forest

Reserve will take us through a former cattle ranch to pillboxes with views of the North Shore. Meeting time 9am at Three Tables parking lot. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, gsinclair@gmail.com or 753-0528

Wednesday, April 22

50th Earth Day Sierra Club Table at MCBH
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Visit the Sierra Club information table and show your support from 2-5 pm. Kids welcome at this event sponsored by Marine Corps Base Hawai'i. MCBH will have a petting zoo, face-painting, free food (popcorn, shave ice, hotdogs), live music, games, and raffles. Help save our troubled Mother Earth!

Saturday, April 25

Maunawili Demonstration Trail (E/F)
Windward, strenuous/10 miles, ridge/valley
Maunawili Trail varied terrain with wet gulches to open forest canopy. Maunawili Demonstration Trail, a state-maintained trail that traverses the breadth of upper Maunawili Valley. Long single track contouring the Ko'olau Mountains. Spectacular views of the mountains, ocean, and lush tropical valleys. Meeting time 7am at the Waimanalo trailhead. Leader: Dan Anderson, 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com

Saturday, April 25

Kawainui Marsh/Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine (E/F)
Kailua, easy/2 miles
Children over 10 years of age are welcome! Come learn about the marsh and future prospects being discussed and take a lovely short hike to view the largest wetlands in the Hawaiian Islands. Meeting time 9am at Windward City Shopping Center. Reservations required. Contact the leader to reserve a spot. Leader: Colleen Soares, csoares48@gmail.com

Sunday, May 03

Pālehua 'Elepaio Enclosure "Akupu" Service (S)
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space is limited as we will be working in a sensitive area where the endangered native 'elepaio is nesting and there are some native plants already growing which we don't want to disturb or damage. We will probably hear and see some native 'elepaio as we work in the area, so bring a camera as well. Pack a lunch and/or snack and definitely mosquito repellent. Bring gloves and hand tools for weeding alien plants in the enclosure. Meeting time 8:30am. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa 227-9925; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, May 9

Mānoa Cliff Service Project (S)

OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.

We will hike to the site via the Judd, Nu'uauu, and Pauoa Flats Trails. Roughly 3 miles each way and up to 1300 feet elevation gain. The trails ascend the eastern slopes of Nu'uauu Valley towards Pu'u 'Ōhi'a (Tantalus). From the restoration area, there are beautiful views and a variety of native plants. We will work on native plant restoration and clearing invasives, followed by lunch in the restoration area. Be prepared for possible muddy conditions and light rain. Bring a hat, sunscreen, 2L water, and garden gloves if you have them. Sign up no later than May 1, email Chai. Leader: Chai Blair-Stahn, chai.blairstahn@gmail.com

Saturday, May 16

Ka'iwa Ridge Photography Hike (E/F)
Kailua, moderate/2 miles, ridge
Panoramic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ohe. Great landscape/seascape photo opportunities for sweeping views of the Ko'olau mountain range and ocean views of Kailua and Waimānalo Bays. Bring sun protection, water, snacks, good hiking boots, hiking stick is recommended (but not required). We will be going at a slow pace in order to allow participants to take lots of photographs. Contact John at least 1 week prior to the date of hike. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

Saturday, May 23

Late Hike: Pu'u Pia
Mānoa, moderate/2 miles, +500 feet
This short hike in the back of Mānoa valley takes us to the top of a short hill (pu'u) with a surprisingly good view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

Monday to Friday, May 25-29

Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge Service Project (S)
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this refuge. They have created makai-mauka corridors of native vegetation across open pastures which native forest birds can use in their migrations up and down the slopes of Mauna Kea. The service projects usually involve planting native species or working in the greenhouse. Accommodations are at a well-equipped cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with electricity, running water, a flush toilet, a hot shower, kitchen, and bunk beds with mattresses. Participants will need to bring their own sleeping bags. At this high elevation, cold wet weather is always possible, so warm clothing and footwear and good quality rain gear are necessary. Rain gear can be borrowed from the refuge. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-ōhi'a forest to observe native forest birds, some of which are on the endangered species list. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com

O'ahu Group Outings

Saturday, June 6

Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E)
Pūpūkea, moderate/5 miles, contour
Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of north shore and central O'ahu. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; John Shimogawa, 227-9925

Saturday, June 13

MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS at least one week before outing to secure access to base. We will be working with the Environmental Division helping to clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Dan Anderson 489-1695, danderhi@gmail.com

Saturday, June 20

Photography hike: Pālehua-Palikea (E)
Makakilo, moderate/2 miles, ridge
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space limited, so make your reservations early. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Pack a camera, lunch and/or snacks, and water. Not for those uneasy about heights. Due to safety concerns, only adults will be accepted. Native plants, native happy face spiders, scenic panoramas, and native tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Meeting time 8:30am. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

Sunday, June 28

Mount Ka'ala Service (S)
Mount Ka'ala service under the leadership of DLNR natural area reserve specialist, Jenna Masters: ride in a state vehicle up the FAA Road to the top of Ka'ala--at 4025 feet, tallest point on O'ahu. Project will be invasive species removal from the incredible bog atop Ka'ala to encourage native vegetation growth. Conditions may be wet, muddy, thorny—come prepared—no complaining. We will cut and remove and apply herbicide on non-native plants including but not limited to blackberry, strawberry guava or sphagnum moss. Expect to see spectacular views. Side trips to see native snails and counter-guava efforts. Meet at 8:30am at Waialua and back about 4 or 4:30pm. Leader: Reese Liggett, 222-2088 or wliggett@twc.com



Erosion at Wailua Beach Threaten Both the Beach and Kuhio Highway by Judy Dalton

Recent high wave surges at Wailua Beach fronting Kuhio Highway opposite the old Coco Palms Resort property have eroded the beach significantly, creating steep escarpments and damaging mature trees and vegetation. The erosion is only inches from the bike path and within a few feet from the adjacent highway.

Due to ongoing coastal erosion, the highway is at extreme risk of being undercut by storm surges since it was built on a sand dune. It could erode to the point that the highway would become impassable severing all points north and south at this juncture. These recent episodes are alarming and compelling because of their close proximity to the highway. The erosion is well-beyond the seasonal narrowing of the beach.



Ocean eroding Wailua Beach within inches of the bike path and a few feet from Kuhio Highway, fronting the long-abandoned Coco Palms Resort. Photo by Judy Dalton.

With the inevitability of increased sea level rise, more frequent King Tides and coastal erosion, once the highway is impacted, transportation along this section may not be possible. To prevent that from occurring, a substantial amount of land needs to be preserved to relocate the highway more mauka. Just inland of the highway, opposite Wailua Beach, is the old Coco Palms Resort, abandoned after damage from Hurricane Iniki in 1982. Preserving this land for a transportation corridor is also essential to preserving the beach in its progression landward with sea level rise.



Site plan depicting possible relocation and elevation of Kuhio Highway to avoid constructing emergency seawalls, revetments or groins at Wailua Beach, and allow for unpredictable coastal changes. Courtesy of Juan Wilson, Architect-Planner.

Waiting until the highway is compromised by coastal erosion would not allow enough time to develop alternative routes. Currently, Kuhio Highway is the only roadway that traverses over Wailua River.

One over-arching concern is that the state may need to resort to a "quick fix" by constructing a sea wall along Wailua Beach. A sea wall would rapidly and significantly increase erosion at other nearby locations. Loss of our sandy beaches at Lydgate Beach Park and along Wailua Golf Course could occur and shoreline communities along the entire eastern coastline could be threatened. Sea walls are responsible for the irreversible loss of 25% of the beaches on Oahu and 20% on Maui.

Kuhio Highway along Kapa'a, Olohena, Waipouli could suffer a fate similar to what occurred when a sea wall was constructed along Aliomanu Road. It caused the beach in front of two neighboring homes to erode, causing homes to collapse. Aliomanu Road South is so severely eroded that in some sections all that remains of the road is one lane.

Other beaches in the state are also faced with finding solutions to protect Hawai'i's coastlines from sea level rise, while keeping transportation corridors open by realigning the highways. Kamehameha Highway on O'ahu is one example recently featured in a Civil Beat article: "Realignment of Kam Highway At Laniakea Could Be In The Works" (bit.ly/cb-0120).

In less than 80 years, more than 3 feet of sea level rise is predicted by climate scientists. Managed retreat is the best solution. It is time to relocate (and elevate) Kuhio Highway in Wailua to avoid the advancing ocean and retain essential transportation connectivity.

Kuhio Highway at Wailua Beach is on the verge of requiring emergency repairs similar to Kamehameha Highway on Oahu. Climate change-driven sea level rise and erosion damage prompted emergency repairs on Feb. 11 to address high surf impact near Swanzy Beach Park in Kaaawa. Photo: Dennis Oda, Star-Advertiser



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SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on one of these great outings to discover the natural treasures of our island. Mileage is total miles. Outings focus on (C) Conservation/Interpretative, (E) Educational, (F) Family/fun, and/or (S) Service. Check bit.ly/SCH-Kauai-Hikes for hike schedule updates. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. For all others \$5.

Have you ever thought about being an Outings leader?

If so, please contact judydalton123@gmail.com or call 482-1129 to find out how much fun you could be having while giving people the opportunity to explore the island, enjoy its beauty, and inspire them to protect it.

Saturday, April 4

Keālia to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)

East shore, moderate/5 miles, +250 feet

We will thoroughly explore the coast and enjoy the lovely views afforded by the East Shore between Keālia and Anahola. The first part of this outing is easy on the bike/walk path until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Tuesday, April 7

Wailua Beach to Nukoli'i Beach Sunset to Full Moon Walk

East shore, easy/2 miles

We'll meet at Lydgate Beach Park for a picnic dinner and walk along a pristine beach. Learn how this beach was saved from being destroyed by a 6-foot high, 3/5-mile long sea wall fronting Wailua Golf Course that the County had started to build back in 1996. The beach makai of the sea wall began to erode immediately commencing construction making it impassable. It took 3 months of intensive effort to get the DLNR to issue a cease and desist order, forcing the County to remove the non-permitted sea wall. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, April 18

Jewel of Kōke'e (C/E/F)

West side, strenuous/7 miles

Spectacular hike through forests of Kōke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Sunday, April 19

Wai Koa Loop Trail (C/E/F)

North shore, easy/4.5 miles, +200 feet

We'll pass through the Kilauea Forest and then the

largest mahogany plantation in North America. Then the trail opens up and we'll enjoy impressive views of Mount Namahana, which means "the twin branches", and hike near lovely farms and ranches. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, April 25

Kuilau Ridge Trail (C/E/F)

East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles, +/- 280 feet

A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping views of lush valleys and Mount Wai'ale'ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch. Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Saturday, May 2

Nu'alolo Trail (C/E/F)

Kōke'e State Park, upper intermediate/7 miles, +1850 feet

Spectacular views of the Nu'alolo Valley and cliffs as well as a great view of the Nāpali Coast from the west. Excellent reward for the effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, May 9

Kauhoa Ridge Road (C/E/F)

Kōke'e State Park, strenuous/10 miles

The Kohua Ridge separates the beautiful canyon lands of Po'omau and Koai'e. Hike along this Kōke'e jeep road that slopes fairly gently for easy walking. Explore this infrequently visited area of the park. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Thursday, May 14

Polihale Beach & Queen's Pond (C/F)

West side, moderate/5 miles

Have you ever wanted to take in the wild and expansive views at Polihale starting from Queen's Pond up to the southern end of Nāpali? It's breathtaking! We'll walk along the shoreline offering a firm walking surface. Possibility of a dip at Queen's Pond. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, May 16

Moalepe Trail to Kuilau Ridge Picnic Area (C/E/F)

East shore, moderate/6 miles, +800 feet

A beautiful hike through farmland and forest, with glorious mountain views of Mount Wai'ale'ale and the Makaleha Mountains and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, May 23

Māhā'ulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)

Po'ipū area, moderate/4 miles

Kaua'i Group Outings

Spectacular coastal walk on a rocky trail with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Saturday, May 30

Waimea Canyon Rim Vistas Hike (C/E/F)

West side, intermediate/4.5 miles, +1100 feet

Explore lovely panoramic views of the Waimea Canyon and ocean beyond as we follow the Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls and then continue beyond the waterfall on a fun adventure getting to a spectacular vista point that is infrequently visited. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Friday, June 5

Donkey Beach (Kuna Bay) Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk (C/E/F)

East shore, moderate/4.5 miles

We start off in the late afternoon meeting at Kapa'a Library and shuttle our cars to start our walk along the coastal path from Donkey Beach ending back at the library as we watch the full moon rise over the ocean. Learn how we legally challenged the Planning Commission to increase building setbacks along the ridge at Donkey Beach to preserve the views on and along the coastline. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, June 13

Nāpali Coast Trail to Hanakāpi'ai Falls (C/E/F)

North shore, upper intermediate/8 miles, +1800 feet

Hike begins at Ke'e Beach and follows the Kalalau Trail with its stunning coastal views for 2 miles to Hanakāpi'ai

Beach, then continues inland 2 more miles to the waterfall. The scenery and views are spectacular and the waterfall is lovely; this trail is a personal favorite. The irregular trail from the coast to the waterfall is quite a wild adventure with some water crossings. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, June 20

Kuilau Ridge Trail (C/E/F)

East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles, +/-280 feet

A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai'ale'ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch. Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Saturday, June 27

Māhā'ulepū Coastal Vistas & Exploration Hike (C/E/F)

South shore, lower intermediate/5.5 miles, +/-450 feet

Thoroughly explore the lovely panoramic views available along this coast from Ha'ula Beach down to Shipwreck Beach as we hike southwestward along the coast after a short inland portion of the hike that takes us to our starting point on the coast. A car bridge will close the loop on our hike. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.



Maui Group Report & Outings

Fossil Fuel Company Litigation

Mayor Victorino announced in late 2019 the intention of the County administration to sue the fossil fuel companies for deceiving the world about the consequences of using their products. But would the County Council approve funds to hire outside counsel to pursue the case? The Maui Group mobilized support and the Council decided unanimously to engage an outside firm to pursue the litigation.

Protect the East Maui Streams

The Sierra Club is suing the State Board of Land and Natural Resources for continuously renewing the revocable permits of Alexander & Baldwin for the water from public land in East Maui without executing their responsibility as stewards of the land. Water is a public trust resource in Hawai'i. No leases should be renewed without knowing how much water has been taken, how much remains in the streams, how much is being wasted. Has A&B fulfilled its obligation to maintain the public resource by preventing the expansion of invasive species and protecting the native plants and animals that are dependent on the streams? The Hawai'i Supreme Court will soon hear oral arguments in the related Carmichael case in which the Intermediate Court of Appeals previously issued an opinion that an environmental impact statement is not required for the issuance of revocable water permits and sent the case back to the lower court.

Annual Meeting

It has been a busy and action-packed year so we were happy to have an extra day, February 29, for the Maui Group annual meeting. The event brought together over one hundred members and friends to hear presentations by Council Member Shane Sinenci on the work of the County Climate Action and Resilience Committee, State Representative Tina Wildberger on bills she has been working on and by the Hawai'i Chapter Policy Advocate Jodi Malinoski on the state of major environmental bills in the legislature. It also was an occasion to recognize Maui environmental heroes Walle Landenberger, Kai Nishiki, Justin Kekiwi, Tina Roth, Autumn Rae Ness, Jim Koons, Bob Aldrich and Kim Toomey. Candidates for 2020 County and State political races attended the event to get to know Maui's environmentalist community. And of course, there was an abundance of donated and potluck food to chow down on!

Lā Ho'olu Pae Moku / ReTree Hawai'i

The campaign for a state-wide tree planting day on October 30, 2020 now has commitments from sites on five of the main Hawaiian Islands, with more to come. The current focus is to recruit many more sites in all districts of all islands where trees and other plants can be put in the ground. Earth Day - April 22 - will be the

start of a very large scale outreach campaign to inform about the climate crisis and the role that tree planting can play in mitigating it. Visit retree-hawaii.org to learn about the campaign and help it succeed.

The Old Haleakalā Trail

After two years of negotiations with DLNR and Haleakalā Ranch, the Maui Group is offering its first hike down a five mile segment of the Old Haleakalā Trail that Mark Twain, Jack London and many others rode to the summit. See the Maui Group outings section!

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please register for all hikes with the leader listed in the description; provide your email and cell phone number. Bring lunch, water, raingear, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. Hiking boots are recommended for longer hikes. A donation of \$5 (\$3 for members) is requested of hikers over age 14 except where otherwise indicated.

Hike description key: (C) conservation focus, such as discussing how to conserve this land for future generations to enjoy; (E) educational, such as visiting and learning about archeological sites and naming the plants and flowers; (S) service outing (no donation requested).

We always welcome more hike leaders! Contact sierraclubmauigroup@gmail.com if you are interested.

Check bit.ly/SCH-Maui-Outdoors for schedule updates.

If the hike description states an EMI waiver is required: East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows access to their trails as long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI waiver is required for EMI hikes. Call in your waiver request at 579-9516 well in advance to make an appointment to sign it. Then go to Mahi Pono's office, 8401 Pulehu Rd, Kahului to sign the waiver. It is open Mon-Fri 7am-3pm. Waivers cannot be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up the waiver 5 days in advance if possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.

Saturday, April 4

Wailea 670 Northern Gulches Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 4 miles

Adventure along blue rock gulches in Paeahu ahupua'a searching for known and undiscovered Hawaiian historic sites and native plants. Some rough terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 4pm at top of Kaukahi Street in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

The 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 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 permitted only at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgment, a fire hazard exists.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, raingear/jacket, and daypack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers) or tabs 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 bit.ly/sc-liabilitywaiver or email program.safety@sierraclub.org.

In the interest 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 participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

For specific islands, each group may have its own outing policy. Please look at each group's page or website for more specific information on where to meet or what to bring with you.

Maui Group Outings

OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.

Sunday, April 5

Īao Ramble (C/E)

Īao Valley, 3 miles

Meet at Kepaniwai Park at 9:30am. We will walk up the road to the Īao State Park and proceed down to a stream trail, about 3 miles. Nice swimming pool, rocks and roots on the trail, walking stick useful. Come prepared for possible wet/muddy trails and bring swim gear if you would like to get in the water. Limit 15. Leader: Kalei Johnson, kalei1908@gmail.com or 344-0006 and leave your phone number for registration

Friday, April 10

Makamaka'ole Stream (C/E)

Waihe'e, 2 miles

Beautiful hike with stream crossings and waterfall at the end. Bring water shoes, lunch, water, swimsuit. Limit 10. Meet at Waiehu Golf Club parking lot 8:30am to carpool. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Thursday, April 16

Ahupua'a Solutions: Educational Event (C/E)

South Maui

Free educational event. Ahupua'a Solutions: a town hall on traditional knowledge linking South Maui Wetlands Flooding and Ocean Water Quality. Speakers, displays and refreshments. 6-8pm at NOAA Sanctuary, Kihei, Maui. Co-sponsored by Sierra Club Maui Group, Maui Tomorrow, Kihei Community Association, Nā Kahawai o Kula Kai and others.

Saturday, April 18

Know Your Coastal Wetlands Day (C/E/S)

Lā'ie Wetlands, South Maui

A hands-on educational event and Mālama Day at Lā'ie Wetlands/Kulamoemalia Fishpond in Kihei, Maui. Meet 9am at Saint Theresa Church parking lot. Help remove invasive plants. Learn from cultural educators, biologists and policy makers what we can do to protect our wetlands and their valuable services. Free refreshments.

Sunday, April 19

Kahakapao Forest (C/E)

Makawao, 7 miles

Moderate to strenuous hike in big tree forest on undulating trail, estimated time at least 3 hours. There will be an option to do a shorter version of this hike. Meet in the parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church on Makawao Ave at 9:30am. Limit 18. Leader Kalei Johnson kalei1908@gmail.com or 344-0006; leave your phone number

Saturday, April 25

Sierra Club Plant Sale at Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a

9am-4pm. If you'd like to donate plants—especially food producing plants, non-invasive popular ornamentals, and native plants—or would like to volunteer, please

contact Rob Weltman at plantsale@mauisierraclub.org

Sunday, April 26

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Ha'ikū, 3 miles

Service outing adventure to re-open the trail to East Kuiaha stream on 267 acres of oceanfront Hāmākua lands. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, May 1

Nā Hoku-Star Watch at Waikapū Tropical Plantation Slopes Waikapū

Come spend an evening with astronomer Harriet Witt and learn about the lore of our Hawaiian night sky. Bring a beach chair, blanket, and shielded flashlight. Meet at 6pm in the main parking lot, in front of the country store. Light pupus will be served. \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Register with contact@mauisierraclub.org or 419-5143

Saturday, May 2

Kōkua Day at Fleming Arboretum, Pu'u Mahoe (C/E/S)

Kanaio

Help maintain the Fleming Arboretum at 2600 feet in Ulupalakua, a sanctuary to many endangered native dry land forest plants. Awesome views of La Perouse (Keone'ō'io) coast and Kaho'olawe. Bring a light jacket, lunch and gloves. Meet 9am at the Ulupalakua Ranch Store. Estimate 3 hours of work. Refreshments available. A BYO lunch will be at the Fleming cabin with a great view of South Maui. Limit 20. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Sunday, May 3

Wailea 670 Hike (C/E/S)

South Maui, 3 miles

Palaua Mālama Day: help care for Native Hawaiian sites, plants and historic trails. All tools provided. Rough terrain-closed shoes/boots and long pants a must. Hiking sticks recommended. Bring water. Meet 4:30pm top of Kaukahi Street in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, May 8

Ka'ehu Bay Coastal Historical Walk (C/E)

Paukalo/Wailuku, 3-4 miles

Ka'ehu Bay, once an expanse of wetlands and traditional fishponds between Wailuku River and Waiehu stream, is coming back to life since the 2014 restoration of significant stream flows in Nā Wai 'Ehā. A coastal hike, with some trail sections overgrown. Meet 9am at Sack and Save parking lot in Wailuku (by McDonalds) to carpool to trail. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.

Saturday, May 9

Annual Maui Charity Walk

Join Team Sierra Club Maui Group and help support our work for Maui's land, waters and people. Can you help us meet our goal of 100 volunteers? Event starts at 7am at War Memorial Special Events Field. To register to walk with Team Sierra Club Maui Group, send email to walk@mauisierraclub.org

Saturday, May 16

Waikapū Stream Trail Hike and Trail Clearing (C/E/S)

Waikapū, 3.5 miles

Help search for and maintain traditional trails along Waikapū Stream. Meet at 9am at Maui Tropical Plantation parking lot near entry driveway. Vehicles with good traction needed to access trail head. Bring loppers, gloves, snacks/lunch and footwear suitable for multiple stream crossings. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, May 17

Edible Outing at Waihe'e Ridge (C/E)

Waihe'e, 2 miles

Join Sunny Savage to learn how to forage and identify wild plants, "taking a liability (invasive species) and turning it into an asset (delicious food and medicine)". Meet at 9am at the upper parking lot for the Waihe'e Ridge Trail: turn mauka at Mendes Ranch (mile marker 6.9 on Kahekili Highway) and drive .9 miles. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Monday, May 25

Lower Waikamoi Stream Hike (C/E)

East Maui, 3 miles

Very rugged stream hike from Waikamoi Ridge trail on Hāna Highway upstream to pool/waterfall. It seems further than 3 miles. Must have great balance and be able to walk through the stream on wet slippery rocks. Native plants, scenery. Bring lunch, water, hat and water hiking footwear. Meet 8am Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 10. EMI waiver required (see above). Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Saturday, May 30

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Ha'ikū, 3 miles

Help clear coastal trails and archaeological sites on 267 acres of oceanfront Hāmākua lands. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Saturday, June 6

Waikamoi Preserve Trail and Boardwalk (C/E)

Haleakalā, 3.5 miles

Uneven and sometimes slippery terrain. Hike into a true

Maui Group Outings

Native Hawaiian forest in Haleakalā National Forest near Hosmer's Grove campground, preserved by The Nature Conservancy with a docent who will describe the flora and fauna. Unique opportunity to see Native Hawaiian forest birds. Meet 8am at Pukalani Ace Hardware parking lot to carpool. Bring lunch, water and rain gear. Hiking boots are suggested. Limit 12. People who have been on Hawai'i Island any time since December 2019 are not allowed due to 'ōhi'a disease risk. Must register by May 20. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Sunday, June 7

Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 3 miles

National Trails Day Special: exploring Keauhou, the southern part of the proposed 134 acre Wailea 670 Native Plant and Cultural preserve. Discover rare ahupua'a boundary markers, traditional stepping stone trails and Native Hawaiian habitation sites. Rough terrain-closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance, a must. Hiking sticks recommended. Bring water. Meet 4:30pm at top of Kaukahi Street in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, June 19

Old Haleakalā Trail (C/E)

Haleakalā, 5 miles

Walk the historic trail used by Mark Twain, Jack London and others to reach the Haleakalā summit. This is the segment of the trail between Olinda Road and Crater Road. Meet 8am at Waihou Spring at the top of Olinda Road to shuttle to the start on Crater Road and hike downhill. Bring water, sun protection and a snack. Leader: Rob Weltman. Register at bit.ly/scmg-20200619.

Sunday, June 21

Makapipi Trail (C/E)

East Maui, 4 miles

Visit beautiful streams, pools and waterfalls along this EMI trail. Hike will begin near 22 mile marker and go to Hanawī Stream along Ko'olau ditch trail. Involves crossing trestles. Bring water, raingear, lunch, water tolerant footwear. Meet 8am at Ha'ikū Community Center. EMI waiver required. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Saturday, June 27

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Ha'ikū, 3 miles

Community service outing to remove trash and enjoy magnificent coastal trails on 267 acres of oceanfront Hāmākua lands. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Hawai'i Island Group Report



Honua Ola (formerly Hu Honua) by Cory Harden

What happens when you run an industrial size water pipe right along a dropoff? The Hawai'i Department of Health is asking Honua Ola just that, after Hilo activist Claudia Rohr sent an aerial photo of a pipe at the plant. The Health Department wrote to Honua Ola, saying "We are concerned with the potential harm that a ruptured pipe could create", and asking for "information and evaluation of the situation".

Honua Ola is the wood-burning power plant under construction in Pepe'ekeo, infamous for running wastewater into the ocean last year. It has also drawn fire from residents over risks of air and water pollution, the stability of its cliffside site, traffic hazards from huge logging trucks and bothersome noise.

Honua Ola faces upcoming hearings on two draft permits, one regarding air pollution and one regarding deepening injection wells. It also faces a contested case by Life of the Land before the State Public Utilities Commission and two lawsuits by Rohr over the need for an Environmental Assessment.

Pāpā'ikou Shoreline Access by Cory Harden

Owners of an upscale seacliff property in Pāpā'ikou scored a win in court, countering years of citizen and county government efforts to ensure shoreline access.

Eight years ago, the Hawai'i County Council voted to use eminent domain to acquire a public access easement over a trail owned by Jim Waugh and Charlene Prickett. It's the only public access to a three-and-a-half mile stretch of shoreline. The couple made improvements to the trail, then prohibited coolers, strollers, and other items, and locked a trailhead gate at night and sometimes during the day. Local people who had freely accessed the beach for fishing and recreation all their lives were sometimes locked out. Some people were arrested for using the trail when it was closed—including Kalani Lyman, who is Native Hawaiian and a descendant of the Lyman missionaries.

Residents began a push for access. Six hearings drew hundreds of people supporting access. A petition garnered over 5,000 signatures. Activists held demonstrations on the roadside. Finally, after two years, in a dramatic vote before a packed gallery, the County Council voted to support eminent domain.

But then the County never finalized the action and Waugh and Prickett went to court. They said the location and terms of the easement were not properly described, the road involved lacked pedestrian safety features and a survey was done illegally.

The County countered all these claims and asserted its duty to support public access, uphold the public trust doctrine, and protect Native Hawaiian traditional rights and customs. Regardless, in February,

the court ruled in favor of Waugh and Prickett.

But it's not over—there are legal options. So the County, and concerned citizens, are considering their next moves.

Keep Recycling by Cory Harden

Yes! You can still recycle, even though the County stopped taking many items. First, of course, reduce! Take your own containers and buy in bulk at health food stores—grains, beans, nuts, granola, and even oils and soaps. Have zero waste potlucks—everyone brings their plate and utensils. Avoid plastic—even if it's recycled, new products keep shedding microplastics into the environment. For recyclables, check out the websites below. But double check what they are accepting—things can change fast.

- Cardboard, glass, HI-5 containers, tires, electronics, printer cartridges, green, food, and hazardous waste, motor oil, paint, appliances, cars, scrap metal, and more: hawaiizerowaste.org/recycle
- Office paper, cardboard, newspaper, plastic bottles, HI-5 containers: businessserviceshawaii.com/redemption-centers.html
- Plastic bags, innertubes, pop-top tabs: upcyclehi.com

Hawai'i Island Science Fair Winners by Debbie Ward

Congratulations to Kai Chun, Jai Letawski, Emily Wagner, Xavier Tablit, and Rylan Colbert for winning the Mae Mull, Dr. Wayne Gagne, Dr. Lani Stemmermann, Dr. Don Worsencroft and Moku Loa Group awards! Each winner was awarded \$50 and a membership to the Sierra Club. Mahalo to Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers and Rob Culbertson for judging the Hawai'i Island Science and Engineering Fair in February.

Mauna Kea Update by Debbie Ward

Winter snows and frigid buffeting winds make the Mauna Kea Access Road a challenging place to demonstrate civil assistance, meanwhile legal challenges abound in the courts. Attorney General Connors issued a subpoena to investigate the financial records of KAHEA, a nonprofit that advocates for the proper stewardship of our resources and for social responsibility by promoting cultural understanding and environmental justice. Many Sierra Club members are donors to this organization, and the donations are now being called into question for supposedly supporting "unlawful protest activity" at the Pu'uhoonua at Mauna Kea. There have not been any protest activities judged unlawful to date, and the AG's assertion that protectors were blocking the road is contradicted by the Governor's closure of the road prior to the opening of the pu'uhoonua.

The oppressive and intimidating fishing expedition was challenged in court and an appeal by anonymous donors has recently been filed at the Supreme Court. The legal ownership of the access road

Hawai'i Island Group Report & Outings

itself is also being challenged, as the Department of Hawaiian Homelands' land has never been transferred to the state. The Pu'uhoonua camp established at the base of the road is continuing with the active support of thousands, despite the repeated buffeting by wind and rain, as the tense standoff continues. While Governor Ige and Mayor Kim claim to be consulting with community members, those who oppose the expanded telescope development have not been involved in the discussions.

Land Fund Success by Debbie Ward

Sierra Club members who spent months testifying to protect the land fund designated to purchase open space have been recognized in an article published in Ke Ola magazine. By setting aside 2% of Hawai'i County's real property taxes each year, parcels of coastline, significant archaeological sites, and natural areas will remain in its natural state in perpetuity. Since voters first approved the measure in 2006, the 2% Land Fund has partnered with state and federal funding sources, nonprofit groups, and community members to save natural areas of significant cultural, historical, and environmental value from development. Thus far, the fund, officially titled the Public Access Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission Fund, has preserved 7,500 acres on Hawai'i Island. See the article at bit.ly/keola-2

Hawai'i Island Group's Annual Meeting

The Sierra Club Hawai'i Island Group has postponed our annual meeting due to the coronavirus pandemic. We will update our website and Facebook page when the Group sets a new date. Henry Curtis and Kat Brady of the non-profit Life of the Land will be recognized for their work on behalf of our island, much of it before the Public Utilities Commission, to promote indigenous values for a sustainable energy future. Henry will describe the risks and challenges of proposed renewable energy projects, climate change and our choices as we reduce our demand for fossil fuels. Members will provide updates on issues including aquarium fish collecting, 2% land fund voting, upcoming outings and service trips. There will be food, door prizes and conviviality. This will be a zero-waste event so members are asked to bring your own reusable plate/bowl, cup, utensils, napkin in a plastic bag so you can take them home and wash them.

Beyond Pesticides Comes to Hawai'i Island

by Blake Watson

Hawai'i County Parks and Recreation will partner with Beyond Pesticides on organic land management strategies at two park pilot projects.

Over the course of two days in late February 2020, at both Pāhoa District Park and Kuawa Park in Hilo,

over 80 workers and supervisors from Hawai'i County Parks and Rec met with the national organization Beyond Pesticides to learn, share and collaborate on organic land management strategies that would eliminate the need to use chemicals, herbicides, or fertilizers to make the parks look great. At the top of the list was increasing biomass and bio-fertility into the soil and using methods like a weed-killing steam machine that county workers and officials were able to test out to kill weeds across the street from the Hilo Civic Auditorium.

This training and discussion comes as part of an agreement between the County and Beyond Pesticides from a County Council resolution, which had its first reading on March 11th, to create a pilot project that would take two parks into the direction of organic land management with the guidance and support of Beyond Pesticides. If these are successful, there is an expectation that the County would expand the program. Councilmembers Rebecca Villegas and Matt Kaneali'i-Kleinfelder were co-hosts of both meetings and together held a public forum at the end of the trainings to discuss the project as well as how to make an effective complaint the Department of Agriculture when there is a violation of the State of Hawai'i pesticide law (HRS-149A). A fact sheet was created and is available by request to Autumn Ness at aness@beyondpesticides.org. It's unclear when another bill similar to Bill 101 will be resubmitted to the Council, however there is an expectation that an ordinance-directed policy to eliminate herbicides on County property is likely to happen sooner than later.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donation for others: \$5.

For most hikes bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to bit.ly/HIG-hike

Classification of outings: (E) Education/Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service (no donation).

Outings are subject to "ROD Protocol" which asks participants to wear clean clothes, scrub their boots, then spray with alcohol. We will publish notice of ROD prone areas in outing descriptions. This preventative procedure is best done at home before reaching the areabut leaders will have needed items at meeting places. Please help us protect our precious forests.

Hawai'i Island Group Outings

OUTINGS MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OUTINGS LEADER PRIOR TO OUTING OR SERVICE PROJECT/TRIP.

Tuesday, April 7

Leader Training

South Hilo, easy/sea level

All leaders and prospective leaders please join us for an update of the Sierra Club National and local Outings Leader Policies. We will also plan future outings and review recent outings. Leaders will meet at 2pm in mauka Pepe'ekeo with an optional makai tour of the Hu Honua neighborhood at 3:30pm. Call Diane Ware, for the meeting location and other details, 967-8642. Leaders please bring sign-up sheets.

Saturday, April 11

A Day on Hilo Bay! Marine Activity (E/C/F)

Hilo Bayfront, easy/sea level

Join fellow Club members for a picnic together, followed by a tour of the bay aboard a sailboat ably handled by a professional from the Hilo Sailing Club along with our own master mariner Jon Olson. We will only have safety gear for up to ten on board so please register as early as possible. It will be a leisurely day with a picnic lunch starting around noon and then waiting for the wind to rise. Then off we go, keeping a lookout for any whales that may still be meandering around our coastline and discussing ecological conditions of the bay. Bring your own lunch, water, reef friendly sun protection and binoculars if you have 'em. Leaders: Rob Culbertson, 649-0594 and Jon Olson

Tuesday, April 21

Ka'ohe Restoration Area Outplanting (S/C)

Mauna Kea, moderate/.5 miles, 5,800-7,000'

We will meet at the DOFAW baseyard in Hilo to turn in liability waivers, observe ROD protocol and catch a ride with DOFAW to the Ka'ohe Restoration Area. If you are coming from the west side, we'll meet at the Hunter Check Station. Outplanting native mamane, 'a'ali'i and other native species will involve some strenuous hole preparation and hauling of transplants. There will be a break for lunch and perhaps hiking to find the elusive palila. Wear good hiking shoes, bring lunch, water, sun and rain protection and work gloves. Call or text Linda Larish at 657-9640 to volunteer and for more information.

Friday-Sunday April 24-26

Pu'u Wa'awa'a Service Outing (S/C)

North Kona, easy/0.5 miles, 3000'

Friday being Arbor Day in Hawai'i and Earth Week in general—of course we should be planting and protecting the trees in one of our favorite and rare dryland forest reserves. We have two nights accommodation in the state owned Protea Cabin at Pu'u Wa'awa'a for those who want to camp out. Alternatively, local members may like

to come just for Saturday to help put in a day of service under the supervision of the State Volunteer Coordinator and crew chief Mark Hanson (aka the Sandalwood Man'). Hawai'i Group leader: Rob Culbertson, 649-0594; Chapter leader: Randy Ching, 942-0145

Sunday, May 3

Keanakāko'i Crater and Crater Rim Trail (E/F/C)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/4-5 miles, 3600' +/- 300'

Hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes starting at Devastation Trail parking lot, walking to the trailhead on Chain of Craters Road to discover the native forest and geology of tree molds on this crater trail. Stark contrasts of live 'ōhi'a and ash burned trees, native vegetation, and great views of Halema'uma'u and Mauna Loa. We will circle back to the crater rim to view areas recently reopened. Follow ROD protocol; wear boots, bring plenty of water, sun and rain protection, sunglasses, snack and walking stick if you use one. Leaders: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002 and Diane Ware 967-8642

Saturday, May 9

Kaimū-Kehena Beach Day Hike (F)

Puna District, moderate/ 4 miles, sea level +/- 150'

We will gather at Uncle Roberts in Kaimū and head east along the picturesque coastline; sometimes on rough new lava and sometimes on the road to Kehena Beach where we will leave a car to shuttle back to Kaimū. Bring plenty of water, lunch, sun protection and sturdy footwear. A swim is possible at the end of the hike. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

Saturday, May 16

Keauhou Trail to Lookout (E/F/C)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/5 miles

Hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes starting at Mau Loa 'o Mauna Ulu parking lot on Chain of Craters Road. Cross lava fields and wander through native 'ōhi'a forest and alien grasses to the lookout. Great views of the southern sea coast and Keauhou Bay. Follow ROD protocol; wear boots, bring plenty of water, sun and rain protection, snack and walking stick if you need it. Leaders: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002 and Diane Ware 967-8642

Sunday, May 24

Pu'u Maka'ala NAR (E/C)

Ka'ū District, moderate/5 -7 miles, 4600' +/- 600'

Join us and see the "walking 'ōhi'a trees" in 'Ola'a forest. Follow ROD protocol, wear good hiking shoes, bring water, lunch, sun and rain protection. We will meet at Cooper Center in Volcano Village and carpool to the trailhead. Leader: Linda Larish, call or text 657-9640

Friday, June 5

Full Moon Hike to Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs (E/F/C)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, easy/2-2.5 miles

Hawai'i Island Group Outings

Hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes starting at the Petroglyph's parking lot on Chain of Craters Road. We will walk across 550 year old lava fields and wander through lowland coastal plants and grasses to the boardwalk. Petroglyph Field has 23,000 markings and of course great views of the full moon rising over the ocean on the sea coast. Follow ROD protocol, wear boots, bring some water, rain protection, sunglasses, a snack, walking stick if you need it and your camera. Leaders: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers, 966-7002 and Diane Ware, 967-8642

Thursday, June 11

Escape Road to Pu'u Huluhulu (E/F)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/7.5 miles, 3225' +/- 300'

We'll do this by way of a car shuttle from the Devastation Trail parking lot to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. We will start out hiking in the beautiful 'ōhi'a/hāpu'u rainforest on a trail and later on Escape Road until we traverse a pahoe-hoe lava field and then finally climb Pu'u Huluhulu where we can eat lunch. Follow ROD protocol, bring water, lunch, sun and rain protection. Leader: Linda Larish, 657-9640 and Diane Ware, 967-8642

Saturday, June 13

Kilauea Iki (E/F/C)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/4-5 miles, 3800' +/- 480'

A pleasant family hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes starting at Kilauea Iki trail parking lot. We will be walking through a wooded area to discover the native vegetation, with great views of Kilauea Iki Crater. Then down to the crater floor, past steam vents to view the cinder cone formed during the 1959 eruption and return on the switchback trail, to the crater rim trail and back to the parking lot. Follow ROD protocol; wear sturdy boots, bring plenty of water, sun and rain protection, lunch and walking stick if you use one. Leaders: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers, 966-7002 and Diane Ware, 967-8642

Saturday, June 20

Kahalu'u Beach Park Snorkel and Swim (E/C/F)

South Kona, easy/sea level

Yeah! It's the first day of summer and we are going to meet the crowds in one of our most popular beach parks! As part of our marine ecosystem adventures and investigations, our goal—besides having fun—will be to interact with the dedicated volunteers based at the park who seek to educate visitors about our precious marine life in the bay. We can all learn from each other! Leaders: Rob Culbertson, 649-0594 and Diane Ware, 967-8642

Youth Organizing: Carving a New Path to Climate Resiliency

by Lauren Watanabe, O'ahu Group Program Manager

We all know the saying "youth are our future," but these days youth are fighting to make sure we all have one in light of the climate crisis. Now Covid-19 is yet another wake up call that our economic and political systems are vulnerable and unsustainable to crises. It is not unlike climate change. Kawika Pegram of Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition says, "Coronavirus is crumbling all our systems and is forcing us all to rethink them and build something different." Moving forward, O'ahu Group is focused on developing more youth leadership like Kawika. Where to start? Well, 2020 is a major opportunity, five seats are up for election at Honolulu City Council. And despite the current need for social distancing and isolation, tech savvy youth leaders are offering a creative solution by organizing through online platforms.

O'ahu Group has partnered with Hawai'i Youth Climate Strike and HawaiiKids Can to create a series of youth led initiatives to engage in public policy development with justice and equity at its core. The program is designed for youth to practice their leadership skills, build relationships with like-minded activists island wide, and work collaboratively on solutions.

We begin with Community Change Forums, a series of virtual discussions hosted by students for students. The goal of each is to capture concerns around resilience, sustainability, and equity specific to each district that is up for election. Following that will be Accountability Summits where candidates running will meet with youth panels in a "town hall" style venue. The final event is a climate debate with Mayoral candidates. Questions will come directly from the Community Change Forum discussions and live social media platforms. Youth are new voters eager for something to get excited about, the goal is to create a culture of participation and accountability on issues that matter to youth and community.

Sign up to stay up to date on the Community Change Forum near you at bit.ly/CCF-2020.



First Crossover Priority Bill Updates

by Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i is monitoring hundreds of environmental bills in the 2020 session, but we are focusing on a few key issues relating to replacing dirty energy with clean renewable sources, sea level rise, and protecting soil, freshwater resources, and lands. We have testified on 47 bills since the legislative session started. We are at first crossover, where House bills still alive move or "crossover" to the Senate and Senate bills move to the House. Here's a crossover update on our priority bills:

Priority bills (good + bad) that survived crossover



ENERGY

- **HB1864** - Fixes the calculation of Hawai'i's Renewable Portfolio Standards to more accurately reflect progress towards Hawai'i's clean energy goals.
- **HB1934** - Develops a plan to increase jobs aligned with the State's transition to a clean energy economy.
- **HB2657** - Ensure that Hawai'i's last coal-fired power plant closes in 2022 to make Hawai'i "Coal Free by 2023."
- **HB2699** - Establishes 100% clean transportation goals by 2045.
- **SB1289** - Requires solar panels to be installed on new home development projects.

- **Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports this bill**
- **Sierra Club of Hawai'i opposes this bill**
- **Sierra Club of Hawai'i submitted comments**

WATER



- **SB2828** - Amends the State Water Code to specify that fire safety is a beneficial use of water, potentially enabling the "waterbanking" of public trust resources.



SOILS

- **HB2167, SB2704** - Establishes a cover crop reimbursement pilot program in the Dept. of Agriculture to offset farmer costs of purchasing and planting cover crops, which improves soil health and decreases erosion and runoff.
- **SB2531** - Increases funding to the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources' State Tree Nursery to promote tree stocks that provide agricultural and soil health benefits.

SEA LEVEL RISE



- **HB1878, SB2670, SB2671** - Requires mandatory seller/purchaser disclosures in real estate transactions within sea level rise exposure areas to ensure transparency of the risks of sea level rise.
- **HB549, SB393, SB2060** - Amends Chapter 205A, Hawai'i's Coastal Zone Management Act to protect beaches and help prevent seawalls in beach areas.



LANDS

- **HB2542, SB2620, SB3104** - May weaken the authority of Land Use Commission in rezoning agricultural lands for "affordable" housing development.
- **HB2035, SB2812** - Requires the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources to transfer 93,000 acres of watershed forest "pasture lands" to the Dept. of Agriculture.



These bills did not make it to the other chamber. Most of them were heard in at least one committee. Similar bills may still be alive and it is possible that some of this bill language may be included into surviving bills during committee considerations—for better or worse.

Bad bills that died at crossover

WATER



- **HB2677** - Extending the issuance of revocable permits to divert stream water and allowing for direct negotiation of water leases.
- **HB2646** - Amends the State Water Code to specify that fire safety is a beneficial use of water, potentially enabling the "waterbanking" of public trust resources.



ADMINISTRATIVE

- **HB1821 and SB2810** - Severely restrict the public's access to declaratory court decisions.

Good bills that died at crossover



ENERGY

- **SB2366** - Ensures that Hawai'i's last coal-fired power plant closes in 2022 to make Hawai'i "Coal Free by 2023"

SEA LEVEL RISE



- **HB2194** - Updating Hawai'i's Coastal Zone Management Act to protect beaches and help prevent seawalls.

WATER



- **SB2774** - Protecting O'ahu's drinking water from the Navy's Red Hill fuel tanks.



OCEANS

- **HB2154** - Prohibit the harvesting of aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes to protect reef ecosystems.



SOILS

- **HB2160** - Increases funding to the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources' State Tree Nursery to promote tree stocks that provide agricultural and soil health benefits.

The 2020 Legislative Session is recessed until further notice due to COVID-19. Stay tuned to hawaiicapitolwatch.org for updates on capitol happenings.

Thank you again for all your hard through the beginning of session!



SIERRA CLUB
CAPITOLWATCH

A 15 Year Legacy of Aloha 'Āina

by Lea Hong, Trust for Public Lands Hawaiian Island's Division Director

2020 marks the 15th anniversary of the State Legacy Land Conservation Program, established by a coalition of conservation and affordable housing groups, including the Sierra Club. The program, financed by 10% or \$6.8 million (whichever is lower) of the real estate conveyance tax (a tax paid when land is sold), has conserved iconic and beloved 'āina throughout the islands, including Ka 'Iwi Coast Mauka and lands surrounding the Turtle Bay Resort on O'ahu, an expansion of Black Pot Beach Park in Hanalei, Kaua'i, Nu'u on Maui, the Kuamo'o Battlefield and Burial Grounds on Hawai'i Island and Kawaikapu on Moloka'i.

The program's commission, a group of nine appointed volunteer experts in areas such as Hawaiian culture and biology, thoroughly vets dozens of applications in an open and transparent process, consults with House and Senate leadership, and recommends projects for funding to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Many more worthy projects are recommended for funding than available funds—for FY21, the commission recommended 11 projects for funding, but under current spending authorizations, only two projects can be funded.

Meanwhile over \$20 million has built up in the Legacy Fund that the program is not authorized to spend because the amount deposited into the fund—\$6.8 million—is higher than the \$5.1 million the Legislature authorizes the program to spend in its annual budget bill. This year, over 60 conservation groups, including the Sierra Club, landowners, and businesses—even unlikely allies like the Land Use Research Foundation and Alexander & Baldwin—all agree on one thing: the spending ceiling in the FY21 supplemental budget (HB 2200) should be increased. By increasing the program's spending ceiling to \$10.2 million, as requested by the Governor, four more projects on Maui (Mokae in Hāna & Na Wai 'Eha), Moloka'i (Mapulehu), and Hawai'i Island (Manka'a) could be funded.

If you live in their districts AND are registered voters (do not contact them otherwise – this will just irritate staff), please let House Finance Chair Sylvia Luke and Senate Ways & Means Chair Donovan Dela Cruz know that you support the Legacy Program and urge them to increase the FY21 spending ceiling for LNR 101 (Land Conservation Fund) from \$5.1 million to \$10.2 million in the FY 21 supplemental budget HB2200.

Contact information:

- **Rep. Luke:** repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov, 586-6200
- **Sen. Dela Cruz:** sendelacruz@capitol.hawaii.gov, 586-6090

Advocating for Solidarity and Stronger Land Use Laws

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

Defending the Land Use Commission from developers seeking to weaken this critical land-protecting agency is nothing new for the Sierra Club. Every few years, developers attempt to abolish the agency or significantly reduce its ability to protect farmland from the pressure to develop it.

This year our efforts were joined by a large coalition of organizations seeking to strengthen a package of bills offered by House and Senate Leadership and the Governor to address affordability in Hawai'i. The Common Good Coalition brought together 34 organizations advocating for affordable housing, economic justice, universal early education, environmental protection, and good governance to encourage lawmakers to strengthen the "2020 Cost of Living Initiative" that was unveiled before the session started.

The four-bill package was said to offer solutions to help the 48% of Hawai'i families living paycheck to paycheck, specifically addressing needs for a higher minimum wage, affordable housing, early education, and land use policy.

While the coalition members appreciated lawmakers' efforts to address the increasingly out of reach cost of living for working families, we and 33 other organizations also have substantive concerns with the package as proposed. We issued a letter to Hawai'i's lawmakers calling for solutions to address the needs of Hawai'i's working families without incentivizing poorly planned development, risking precious agricultural lands, or undermining strong labor protections.

For our part, the Sierra Club is seeking to remove the broad exemptions from state laws designed to ensure properly planned development (HRS Chapter 343) and protect Hawaiian burials and historic resources (HRS Chapter 6E) that is part of the Schools Facilities bill (SB3103). We are also advocating to ensure truly affordable housing is built via the Affording Housing bill (SB3104) without weakening the Land Use Commission or undermining the public lands trust for Hawaiians and the public.

We support the proposal to spend \$275 million on public infrastructure because that helps to protect the environment and lowers costs for construction. We also support increasing the LUC's enforcement authority for all of their decisions and limiting exemptions from LUC oversight to those parcels that have not been recently subdivided, are adjacent to the existing urban district, and are not conservation or high quality farm lands. Lastly, we are advocating that public lands used for affordable housing be leased for 75 years and housing units be set aside specifically for Hawaiians out of respect for the original purpose of the public lands trust.



Mālama Mauna Ka'ala

by Nate Yuen, Chapter Outings Chair

It's always a pleasure to visit Mauna Ka'ala—the tallest mountain on O'ahu. The views from the 4,025 foot summit are a sight to behold, but what I really like to see are moss covered 'ōhi'a trees in the cloud forest. The cloud forest is home to many native species, many of which are rare or endangered. There is always something fascinating to see at the summit of Mauna Ka'ala.

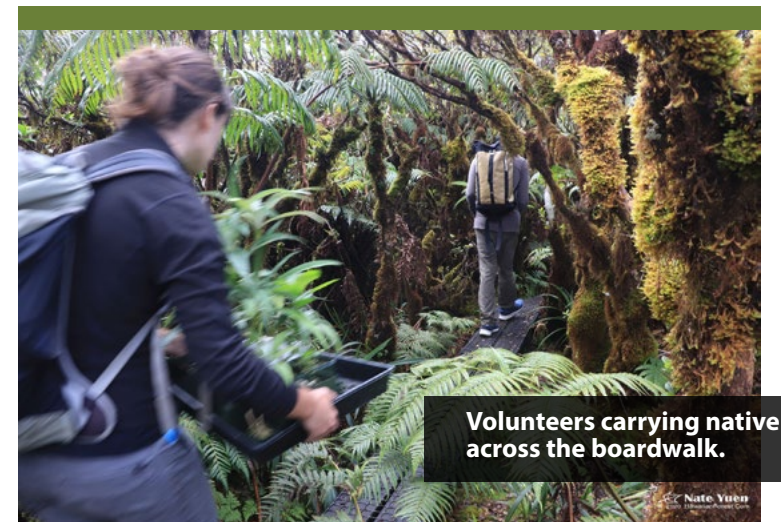
There are silent invaders that will destroy the native forest if left unchecked—strawberry guava, ginger, blackberry, etc. The management of the mauna involves the removal of invasive species and the outplanting of native plants.



Searching for invasive plants in the 'ōhi'a cloud forest.



Jenna Masters shows how to remove ginger from along a fence.



Volunteers carrying native plants across the boardwalk.



Jenna Masters shows how to tag plants to be outplanted.

Jenna Masters from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife leads the service projects. She knows Ka'ala well and tells the best stories as she drives the group up to the summit. Volunteer work days are several times a quarter. To help care for Mauna Ka'ala you must be on the email list. Go to dlnr.volunteer.com to be on the list.

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 Hawai'i'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. You can view his art and read about his adventures at hawaiianforest.com.

Service Weekend in Kōke'e

by Brooke Jones, Neighbor Island Service Trip Participant

Shaded by the leafy Kōke'e canopy, we work pruning shears and loppers close to the bases of tall green invasive kahili ginger, cutting through the firm wet stalks. The ginger fall, their dark green shade giving way to light. We are attentive to keep our cuts close to each stalk base and level, as Spencer Kashiwa, the lead conservation field technician for the Kōke'e Resource Conservation Program (KRCP), and Brittany, an intern, demonstrated for us; they'll return later to apply herbicide, ensuring the ginger we've cut doesn't regrow. When it's time to head out, Spencer adds up how many ginger we've each cut and tells us it amounts to over 1200 that could have produced almost 625,000 seeds. Yet we see countless invasive ginger in front of us, extending into the forest. As we drive back to the CCC Camp where we are staying, we notice the ginger growing alongside the road, pushing into and out of the green forest growth.

The next day, Katie Cassel, who founded KRCP in 1998, leads us in our work weeding beard grass to preserve the native iliau, or Kaua'i green sword. As Spencer had done, she takes time to show us what the weed we'll be pulling looks like, and points out native plants as we walk along the trail.

When we get to the site, which isn't far from the paved road, we see piles of drying grass previous volunteers had pulled. The grasses like to grow close to and spread out from the iliau and 'ōhi'a, and we are careful not to trample seedlings as we work into the brush from the trail. The day began cold and rainy, but now the sun shines through misty clouds, warming us and the earth we bend down towards as we pull up the bushy green and purple beard grass. The resistance and then release of the grass roots is satisfying. We again must end our work having pulled so many, yet seeing so many more. I wanted to stay here – pulling invasive grass among the truffula tree-like iliau, and in Kōke'e. To pull weeds, to cut weeds, to plant, to finish the work. To be close to the earth.

We spent three days in those mountains on Kaua'i, planting native seedlings and pulling and cutting invasive plants. We were guided by the passion and knowledge of Katie and Spencer, and KRCP interns Brittany, Morgan, and Tim. They took the time to teach us about the native plants living in Kōke'e we were striving to protect, and worked alongside us each day.

If you visit KRCP's website, you'll see that since it began, KRCP removed 13.1 million weeds from over 12,300 acres with the help of over 32,700 volunteers. We were ten volunteers for three days. Yet I remind myself that our Sierra Club 'ohana of ten that weekend and the ongoing work of KRCP is exactly how we eventually add up to 32 thousand and more.

See upcoming Neighbor Island Service Trips at sierraclubhawaii.org/service

My Mālama Tree Crew Experience

by Raquel Kamalu, Chapter Executive Committee Secretary & Mālama Tree Crew Member

As someone who spends the majority of her time indoors, sitting at a computer desk, I try my best to get outdoors during my free time, and find ways to give back. One of the fulfilling ways in which I've chosen to spend some of my weekends in recent months is with the Mālama Tree Crew, the Sierra Club's tree planting and maintenance program. For a few years, I wasn't as involved as I wanted to be in my community. However, with the gentle encouragement of my good friend Tanya who now works with the Sierra Club, I looked into volunteering my time up at Pālehua. I had seen event postings on Facebook many times but finally committed to waking up a little earlier one Saturday morning to make the drive up Makakilo. What really drew me to this opportunity was the chance to visit the planting area up at Pālehua, a place I had never seen in all my years growing up on O'ahu.

The experience was incredibly rewarding. With the guidance of project leader Randy Ching, I learned the names of so many native plants that I hadn't known before, and gained a better understanding of how important it is to protect and replant our missing forests. Equally rewarding from this experience was interacting with volunteers who were so passionate about the environment and giving back to the land, who in turn inspire me to do what I can to contribute. Participating in these tree plantings has become a way for me to reconnect to the outdoors and nature, something critical that I think is missing in many of our lives. Understanding why it is even necessary to do this work in the first place really helped me expand my understanding of how greatly humans have contributed to environmental degradation. If every person could take just one Saturday morning to go outside and find a way to give back to the land, or to their communities, it would be a great stepping stone to become more involved in the larger issues that also need our time and attention.



My first outing with Mālama Tree Crew at Pālehua on August 17, 2019



JOIN THE CREW!

**PĀLEHUA • ALA MAHAMOE
KA IWI • SANDY BEACH**

**MORE INFO AT
SIERRACLUBHAWAII.ORG/MTC**

In an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our communities safe, Chapter and Group events, outings, service trips and Mālama Tree Crew days have been suspended.

This was no easy decision as we know these events are important to you and are a crucial part of our work and community.

Please stay tuned to our website, sierraclubhawaii.org for updates on our organization's operations.

Lā Ho'oulu Pae Moku: ReTree Hawai'i

by Rob Weltman, Maui Group Chair

What needs to be done in Hawai'i to stop fanning the flames of climate change?

- Shut down the fossil fuel-powered electric plants and replace them with green, renewable sources
- Shift ground transportation from combustion engines to electric and other clean vehicle types; expand public transportation
- Produce more of the food and other daily supplies we need right here in Hawai'i, reduce imports by ship and plane
- Cap and manage tourism to reduce the number of flights to the islands
- Develop extensive agroforestry and other regenerative farming practices that sequester carbon while offsetting imports

Those are all things that require public policy changes or major investments. What can you as an individual, 'ohana, school class or small business do to help turn the tide on greenhouse gases?

Greta and George have a bold and common sense proposal - bit.ly/greta-george - plant trees!

Steps to sequester (bind) carbon are not a replacement for stopping the emission of greenhouse gases, but they are necessary to counteract the excess carbon already in the atmosphere and that which will be produced over the next few decades. There may be new technologies in the future to pull and bind carbon; trees and other plants are a proven technology provided by nature.

That is why the Maui Group together with many other organizations launched the state-wide tree planting campaign: Lā Ho'oulu Pae Moku/ReTree Hawaii. The goal is to get 100,000 plants in the ground on October 30 at 1,000 sites with 10,000 volunteers.

Visit the Web site retree-hawaii.org to learn about the campaign and to get involved. Check out a short overview video at bit.ly/retree-video.

We will need volunteers for planting at conservation sites, parks, schools, faith-based organizations, resorts... and even backyards. First up, we need to sign up more sites for planting on all the islands. Is there room for plants at your business, school or non-profit?

Lā Ho'oulu
Pae Moku



ReTree
Hawaii

October 30, 2020



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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MĀLAMA I KA HONUA "Cherish the Earth" | A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I | APRIL-JUNE 2020

RAY'S OF HOPE in these trying times



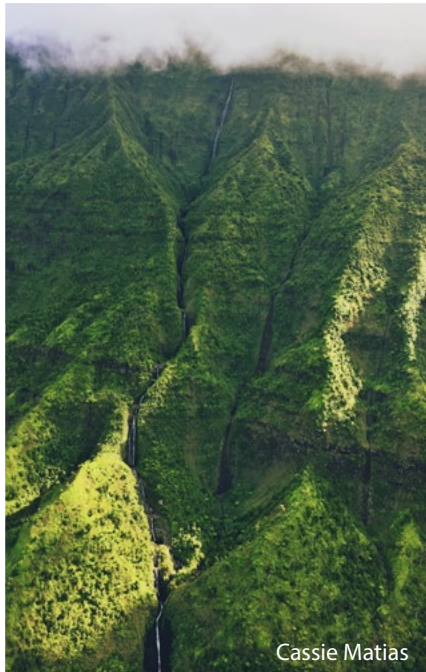
Justin Lam



Jack Jeffrey



Joshua Sukoff



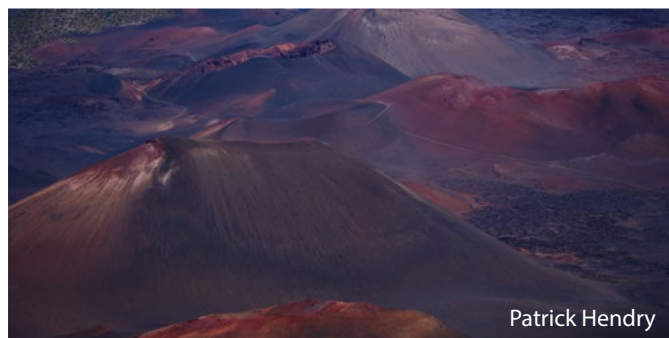
Cassie Matias



Nate Yuen



Nate Yuen



Patrick Hendry



Nate Yuen



Sebastian Coman