



MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

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2017



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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

‘Ōhi‘a, Beloved Native Hawaiian Tree Under Threat

By Corie Yanger, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death Educational/Outreach Specialist, University of Hawai‘i

Having spent years as a biological field technician in Hawai‘i, I have a trove of images of our native ‘ōhi‘a tree that I keep close: glistening, stunted, mist-shrouded ‘ōhi‘a lining the rim of a high-elevation volcanic lake on Haleakalā; ‘ōhi‘a shade trees of dry woodland sheltering native shrubs and herbs gathered at their bases; and ‘ōhi‘a behemoths dripping with mosses and ferns, towering in quiet wisdom over a sea of native tree ferns. The fact that these trees are severely threatened and may someday soon be lost from Hawai‘i’s forests makes me sick to my stomach.

‘Ōhi‘a (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) forests occupy almost 1 million acres across the State of Hawai‘i. Although Hawai‘i Island contains more than half of those forests, ‘ōhi‘a can be found on each of the larger Hawaiian Islands. ‘Ōhi‘a have significant biological, recreational, and cultural value. These trees are among the first plants to colonize fresh lava substrate. They provide shelter and food for numerous other native animals—such as Hawaiian honeycreepers, native snails, and insects—and native plants in Hawaiian wet forests. They also protect the watersheds that replenish our island aquifers, providing fresh drinking and irrigation water. ‘Ōhi‘a forests are beloved for their beauty, drawing millions of residents and visitors each year to trails and parks throughout the State. These trees are prominent in Hawaiian culture, serving as the sacred embodiment of important gods, and are embedded in Hawaiian stories, chants and songs.

In the last several years, a disease called Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD) has killed hundreds of thousands of ‘ōhi‘a trees on Hawai‘i Island. We have observed that ROD causes leaves of entire trees to turn from green, to yellow, then brown over a few days to several weeks, which is how the disease, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, got its name.

Researchers recently discovered that the disease symptoms we see are actually caused by two different species of fungus in the genus *Ceratocystis*. The species are genetically unique from any other fungal species ever found associated with ‘ōhi‘a, and will soon receive their own new species names. Most sampled dead trees have been infected with one species or the other, but a few trees have contained both strains. The fungi cannot be seen on the outside of a plant, but grow within the sapwood and eventually stop water flow. In wood samples taken from infected trees, the fungus appears as blackish streaking or spotted stains. Infected wood often also has a fruit-like smell.



A recent aerial survey by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources estimated nearly 50,000 acres on Hawai‘i Island are affected by ROD, and the disease continues to spread. Hundreds of ‘ōhi‘a wood samples have been processed to-date and Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death has not been confirmed on any of the other islands. On Hawai‘i Island, a new case of ROD extended the known distribution of the disease to what many call a gem of ‘ōhi‘a forest in Laupāhoehoe, north of Hilo.

A large partnership of non-governmental and governmental organizations has been working to manage, study, and educate others about Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death.



Healthy ‘ōhi‘a



After Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death

A summit was held at the State Capitol on November 30, 2016 to present the latest updates on research, management and outreach, and to present a strategic response plan for addressing ROD over the next few years. A symposium will be held in 2017 on Hawai'i Island to share detailed updates and discussion time with the public.

As researchers and land managers work to understand Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and to find solutions, they need help from you!

- Assist by raising awareness about ROD in your own community, reporting suspected cases of ROD, and following our five simple recommendations to prevent spreading ROD.
- If you suspect an 'ōhi'a tree has ROD on Hawai'i Island, please contact UH Extension Forester J.B. Friday with a description and photos at jbfriday@hawaii.edu.
- If you suspect ROD on any of the other Hawaiian Islands, please immediately contact your local Invasive Species Committee and include a description and photos (captured with gps point if possible):
 - Kaua'i - kisc@hawaii.edu,
 - O'ahu - oisc@hawaii.edu,
 - Moloka'i - lbuchanan@tnc.org, and
 - Maui - miscpr@hawaii.edu








Because Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death could decimate Hawai'i's watersheds, it threatens the fundamental security of our drinking water. We need to act now while we have a chance of preventing the worse of the ROD epidemic. Please join the Sierra Club of Hawai'i in urging Governor Ige to declare a state of emergency, which will release crucial public funding for the treatment and containment of ROD.

Call Governor Ige at 808.586.0034 and tell him: Save the 'Ōhi'a, Save Hawai'i. Declare a State of Emergency against Rapid Ohia Death.

Photos by J.B. Friday

What you can do to prevent the spread of ROD:

-  1. Don't move 'ōhi'a wood or 'ōhi'a parts. If you don't know where the 'ōhi'a material is from, don't move it.
-  2. Don't transport 'ōhi'a inter-island. Follow the Hawai'i State Department of Agriculture quarantine rule and help to keep ROD from reaching the other islands.
-  3. Clean tools used for cutting 'ōhi'a (especially infected ones) with 70% rubbing alcohol, a proven cleaning measure.
-  4. Clean gear, including shoes and clothes, before and after entering forests. Brush all soil off of shoes then spray with 70% rubbing alcohol. Wash clothes with hot water and soap.
-  5. Wash your vehicle with soap and a pressure washer to clean all soil off of the tires and vehicle undercarriage if you've been driving off-road and have picked up mud.

For more information visit rapidohiadeath.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/RapidOhiaDeath/

Withdraw from First Hawaiian Bank to Stand with Standing Rock

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i's O'ahu Group joined dozens of other organizations and individuals in withdrawing their funds from First Hawaiian Bank as a show of solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that is preventing the Dakota Access Pipeline from crossing the Missouri River. First Hawaiian Bank is owned by BNP Paribas, which is invested in the Dakota Access Pipeline through Energy Transfer Partners. As of mid-December, more than 13 individuals and organizations have withdrawn a total of \$650,705 from FHB citing BNP Paribas' DAPL investment.

"The O'ahu Group made a unanimous decision to transfer our funds from First Hawaiian Bank to a fossil fuel free, non-profit credit union to not only stand in solidarity with the water protectors in North Dakota, but to hold ourselves accountable for the environmental injustices happening in our own islands. Whether on O'ahu or abroad, we refuse to be participants of environmentally destructive and socially unjust investments. Upon closing our account, we presented a letter to First Hawaiian Bank urging them to divest from the DAPL immediately and commit to divesting from all fossil-fuel infrastructure projects in the future." says Jodi Malinoski, O'ahu Group Coordinator.

If completed, the pipeline would risk the drinking water resources for over 18 million people, and the sacred tribal lands of the Standing Rock Sioux.

President Obama announced on December 4 that the easement would not be granted over the federal land needed to complete the DAPL. Obama ordered more extensive environmental assessments to be completed. While this is a welcome reprieve from the unrelenting pressure to advance the pipeline at all costs, this decision



is only a delay, not an end to the project. This decision came on the same day that hundreds of U.S. veterans traveled to Standing Rock in support of the water protectors. Excessive police brutality against those opposed to the pipeline has been well documented.



Navy's new proposal still not enough

By Marti Townsend, Director

The U.S. Navy submitted a revised workplan to address leaks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility on November 5, 2016. The revised plan came after the Environmental Protection Agency and Hawai'i Department of Health rejected the Navy's plans for Red Hill for lack of detail, transparency, and collaboration necessary to ensure O'ahu's sole-source aquifer is not contaminated.

The Navy's new proposal commits to seven tasks all related to improved testing, modeling, and investigation. While data collection and evaluation definitely needs to be improved, the Navy's proposal lacks the urgent action needed to ensure our groundwater is not further contaminated. In fact, the Navy's proposal assumes future contamination of the groundwater under Red Hill. They said, "The overall goal of this process is to build consensus with the Regulatory Agencies and other stakeholders that sufficient information will be obtained to reasonably and defensibly evaluate the impact of past and potential future releases to drinking water resources, and to make decisions regarding additional actions needed for monitoring, risk management, and remediation."

The best way to manage the immense risk this antique fuel storage facility poses to our drinking water is to relocate the fuel to a modern facility and retire the old storage tanks. The estimated 200,000 gallons of fuel that have leaked from this facility over the last 73 years need to be located and cleaned up.

You can make your voice heard on this issue. Email the Environmental Protection Agency at redhill@epa.gov.

Next Steps After NextEra

By Jeff Kim, O'ahu Group ExCom Member

There are only two things we need to do to create a 100% renewable energy Hawai'i: 1) stop using fossil fuels and 2) start using more renewable energy.

For the past two years, we've fought to keep NextEra Energy from acquiring Hawaiian Electric and potentially setting back the clock on Hawai'i's progress because of their focus on liquefied natural gas (LNG). This past summer, the fruits of our labor materialized as we saw not only the termination of the merger but also the withdrawal of Hawaiian Electric's proposal to bring LNG to Hawai'i.

With anxieties over seeing Hawai'i become even more dependent on fossil fuels now relieved, we can free ourselves to focus on taking direct steps toward achieving energy independence.

Changing the Incentives for our Utility

"A 100% renewable energy target can be achieved using established technologies at a reasonable cost," says Matthias Fripp of University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization in a study he completed over a year ago. So if technology isn't a barrier, what's stopping us from aggressively moving forward with implementing renewables? The answer is clear: our utility still has no incentive to stop using fossil fuels. For that matter, our utility has no incentive for serving the interests of rate-payers period.

At present, Hawaiian Electric is only compensated on how much capital investment it undertakes. As a result, they are naturally motivated to increase their profits by spending money on infrastructure, regardless of what it is. Instead, however, the utility should be compensated on lowering costs. In order to address this issue, we need to move the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to establish performance incentive mechanisms that directly tie electric utility revenues to the utility's achievement on performance metrics.

Looking at the bigger picture, we need to move toward public ownership of our utility. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) offers a vision for what public ownership can do for Hawai'i. In 2010, it was the only large scale utility in California to meet their statewide goal of supplying at least 20% of its power from renewables. Also, SMUD continually offers its ratepayers some of the lowest electricity rates in the state—on average, SMUD's residential rates are at least 25% lower than neighboring utility giant, PG&E.

100% Clean Transportation by 2045

Over 50% of Hawai'i's carbon emissions come

from the transportation sector. Without a clean transportation goal, our renewable energy target for the electricity sector will only solve half of the problem at best. Fortunately, Blue Planet Foundation announced this past September that they are pushing for 100% clean transportation in Hawai'i by 2045 and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i will certainly be working with them on that effort.

Last Steps for Getting Off of Fossil Fuels

"We would be thrilled if LNG stayed [in Hawai'i] for a long time." These are the words of Blake Blackwell of Excelerate Energy, a company focused on facilitating LNG projects. Regardless of what LNG proponents may say they think about our 100% renewable energy goal, it's ultimately in their best interests to sell LNG to Hawai'i as long as they can. As mentioned before, we have all the technology necessary to create a 100% renewable energy Hawai'i right now. What does that mean? It means that we don't need a "bridge" fuel to get us there especially when we're talking about a fossil fuel which is generally created by destroying communities.

Second, we need to continue pushing for fossil fuel divestment efforts. We need to continue our efforts to move the state's Employee Retirement System to divest. We also need to move the rest of the University of Hawai'i System to divest and begin work on moving Kamehameha Schools and other institutions with large fossil fuel investments to do the same. Just as divestment played an essential role in ending apartheid in South Africa, so too will it be critical for solving the climate crisis.



Third, we need to continue working toward retiring not only our state's last remaining coal plant but also retiring old fossil fuel generators overall. Since at least 1989, we've been on track toward meeting these goals by retiring over 2,200 megawatts of fossil fuel generating capacity. With the average age of these plants being at least 50 years old, however, we need to continue this effort for both environmental and economic reasons. Parts for fossil fuel generators are rapidly diminishing in value. The sooner we sell them off, the less money we lose and the faster we hit our renewable energy targets.

Nate's Adventures: Cyanea Crispa

By Nathan Yuen

One of the rare flowers found only on O'ahu is *Cyanea crispa* or Hāhā. Known as the "Crimpled Rollandia", the plant grows up to 5 feet high with large broad leaves that form a crown at the top of the plant several feet in diameter.

The plant was first discovered by famous botanist Charles Gaudichaud Beaupré in 1826 during his first voyage to the Hawaiian Islands. When the plant was first described, it was given the scientific name *Rollandia crispa*. *Rollandia* and *Cyanea* were once separate genera under the Hawaiian Lobeliads but genetic studies showed that *Rollandia* and *Cyanea* form a monophyletic group, so all of the species formerly classified under *Rollandia* were renamed *Cyanea*. The specific Hawaiian name for this plant is unknown. Hāhā is the generic Hawaiian name for *Cyanea*.

When the plant is in bloom its flowers are a sight to behold. The plant produces multiple flower stalks at the base of its leaves, each producing anywhere from 3 to 8 flowers. The petals and corolla of the flower are fuzzy — covered with fine white hairs. The tubular flowers are about 3-4 inches long and are pink-purple in color streaked with white. When the flowers first open, the male part of the flower — the stamen, emerge at the tip of the flower. Only after the pollen is distributed does the female part of the flower — the stigma, emerge.

The Hawaiian Lobeliads are viewed by botanists as the pinnacle of adaptive radiation in plants. Scientists believe that a lobelia-like species arrived about 13 million years ago — when Gardner Pinnacles and French Frigate Shoals, now small rocky islands in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands, were high mountainous islands long before the main islands existed. Over eons of time, as the Northwest Hawaiian Islands eroded away to atolls and each of the main Hawaiian Islands emerged from the depths of the ocean, the plants were spread by birds and evolved into many forms. These forms are closely related to each other and are geographically localized, many of them endemic to a single island or adjacent islands. Thus, *Cyanea* is the largest and most diverse genus in the Hawaiian Lobeliad group.



When I looked closely at the flowers I saw a tiny *Eudonia* caterpillar with an interesting texture and pattern on its body.

This plant is rare and endangered. When the species was first placed on the federal list of endangered species in 1994 only 10 plants were known in the wild. More plants were subsequently found when the last 5 year review was performed in 2009, 110 individuals were known from 12 populations.

Because *Cyanea crispa* is vulnerable to extinction, the plant is cared for by the Plant Extinction Prevention Program. Seeds have been collected in the wild and the plant is being propagated at the Lyon Arboretum and the National Tropical Botanical Garden. I hope their efforts are successful to bring this plant back from the brink of extinction.



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.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

WOMEN'S ACT ON CLIMATE JUSTICE
10 Days • 3 Events
80+ Participants



Maui Group victory!
160 acres protected from development after 3 years of negotiations

Holy bleaching
Great Barrier Reef suffers worst coral die-off ever recorded



Shrinking lake
As of October 2016, the Great Salt Lake has lost 40% of its water



Where's winter?
November's global temperatures were equivalent to average August temperatures



Trump Trump
We can still inspire change to protect our environment no matter the president

Wonders of the deep
30 new species discovered in subterranean caves in Croatia



DNB pulls funds from DAPL

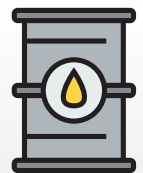
Norway's largest bank & one of the major DAPL funders, is first to divest from the pipeline



DAPL halted
President Obama denies the easement for land needed to finish the pipeline



#Divest
\$5 trillion in assets divested from fossil fuels around the globe



End of an Era
HC&S harvests its last sugar cane on Maui on December 12

We want water
BLNR votes to cap A&B's water extraction from East Maui streams to half of their previous levels



O'ahu Group Report

FIGHTING BACK

The election of Donald Trump, with his pledge to gut environmental protections, places a special burden on Hawai'i. As a progressive state, we have a duty to create models of successful environmental action – not just by fighting against the fossil fuels that threaten the planet or the development projects that threaten the 'āina, but by showing that clean energy and conservation policies create thousands of good jobs and secure economic rewards that benefit our entire community.

The O'ahu Group leadership is pledged to lead the way. Below we list some of the issues we'll be tackling in coming months. We recognize that it's a difficult time for our movement. People are angry and bereft, casting around for ways to fight back. We believe it's essential to do two things. First: give people a productive way to channel their anger by finding causes into which they can pour their energies and develop their capacities as activists. Second: ensure those causes unite progressive organizations within and beyond the environmental movement.

In other words, we need to give people a simple, understandable goal that transcends the specific mission of each piece of the progressive movement.

MINIMUM WAGE

Some will say the minimum wage is not the Sierra Club's kuleana – our job is to care for the environment. But that mission is not deracinated – we don't protect the environment in abstract, we do so because we understand that the environment is humanity's home. Other progressive organizations have pledged to work with the Sierra Club in this local "Fight for 15". We believe that in joining others in the fight for social justice, we better ensure a clean, healthy environment for everyone to enjoy and explore.

MAKING FRIENDS & BUILDING ALLIANCES

This is a time to build alliances and forge friendships. The most successful campaign movements are built on social relationships. The O'ahu Group just held an immensely successful annual meeting at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden that we intend to make a new tradition. This is just one of a variety of social events throughout the year that are designed to engage you, our members - to encourage you to get to know and work with each other, with your elected leaders and to become active in our campaigns.

OUR CAMPAIGNS

No More Smelly Buses! The first campaign we are organizing is to persuade the City to adopt a policy to replace every diesel bus—when it reaches the end of its useful life—with an electric bus. The technology is proven, the buses are available, and the move is an essential one in meeting our 2045 goal of 100% clean energy. Mayor Caldwell has already pledged to us that he will work to replace the city's entire vehicle fleet with EVs, a pilot project of electric buses would be a logical first step. We are working on our proposal and will soon send the details on this campaign and an appeal for volunteers.

New Office of Climate Change. The Mayor has asked us for our input on how to structure the work of the new Office of Climate Change—which we campaigned for. We will work on that, as well as our other ongoing efforts: to halt the spread of gentlemen farms, promote food-farming on O'ahu, create more protected bike paths in the city and close the loophole in the plastic bag ban.

Protecting the Country. Mayor Caldwell pledged before the election that he will work with us to block the Dillingham Ranch millionaires' subdivision on agriculture land. He also said he no longer supports Envision Lā'ie—the proposal to build a new suburban town on Gunstock Ranch—and that he wants to protect farmlands in Mālaekahana. We know that he still supports efforts to bring affordable housing to country communities like Lā'ie, Kahuku and Hale'iwa - we will work to ensure that any new housing remains within the traditional urban cores of those towns.

Divestment. Finally we intend to revive the effort to persuade the state Employee Retirement System to divest itself of its investments in fossil fuels. The pension contributions for employees of all four counties are invested in the ERS. The counties don't have representation on the ERS Board. We will work to change that and we expect the counties to work with us in return to persuade the ERS to sell these highly risky investments.

As you can see, it's a heavy agenda and we hope we can count on you, our supporters, to join us as we work for these goals. Here's wishing you all a happy, fighting 2017!



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, January 7

Kealia Trail (F)

Kealia, moderate/7 miles, 1700 feet elevation gain
First mile is up switchbacks and the remainder of the hike is dirt firebreak road. Great views of North Shore.
Leader: Dan Anderson, danderhi@gmail.com, 690-0479

Sunday, January 8

'Thi'ihilauakea Crater Photography Hike (F)

Koko Head, moderate/3 miles
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Contact John for reservations. We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into a crater to view rare native plants. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, January 14

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)

Help Clear the Ala Wai Harbor of marine debris before it makes its way into the ocean. We will use nets to remove the garbage. Meet at 8am at the boat harbor master's office which is located in front of the boat launch area in the large parking lot behind the Ilikai Hotel. We will meet at the side of the building which faces the Ilikai. Wear closed toed shoes only, no slippers or sandals of any kind are allowed. Cloth gloves will be provided. Please bring water and sunscreen. Anyone under 18 years old who wishes to participate must have a waiver signed by their parent. Please contact leader for waiver. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Sunday, January 15

Mānoa Cliff Hike and Service Project (S)

Tantalus, moderate/3 miles, contour
Reservations required. The Mānoa Cliff Trail contours the cliffs above Mānoa. There are wonderful views and many native plants. We will learn about the project, and

help clear an area rich in native plants, stop at noon for lunch and poetry, and return to the cars between 1:30 and 2:00 p.m. Bring garden gloves if you have them.
Leader: Colleen Soares, csoares48@gmail.com

Sunday, January 22

Mid-morning hike: Kuli'ou'ou Valley

Kuli'ou'ou, easy/2 miles, 300 feet

A short, level, quiet hike. We may see 'elepaio but are more likely to hear shama thrushes. If it has rained, we'll have a nice stream and maybe a bit of a waterfall at the lunch/snack spot. Meet at 10am. Leader: Charlotte Manly, cmanly@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, January 28

Makapu'u Point (F)

Makapu'u, moderate/4 miles, +/- 600 feet elevation
Makapu'u Point Trail begins at the Makapu'u Point parking lot, and traverses around the mountain on the rocky coast. Several large tidal pools are inviting places to swim and have lunch. We will pass a couple of blowholes not seen from the road make the precipitous climb up to the lighthouse road to great views of the windward coast. Hopefully we will be lucky and spot some whales in the Moloka'i channel. From the lookout we will climb a bit more and hike down the mauka side of the peak. This trail involves a lot of rock hopping, and some climbing, hiking along some steep drop offs and a steep climb back up to the lighthouse road. If the ocean conditions prevent us from hiking along the coast, we will hike up to the road and the overlook. Be sure to bring sunscreen and plenty of water in addition to lunch. Leader: Ed Mersino, mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, January 29

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

We will clean up along highway and coastal areas until 10am. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. No one under 18 will be allowed to clean on the highway and will spend their time cleaning the beach and park area. Closed-toe shoes only. No slippers or sandals of any sort. Meet at 8am at the Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of the beach park (the bathroom closer to Makapu'u.) Call Tred 394-2898 for information. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Sunday, February 5

Mid-morning hike: Kamananui Bridges

Moanalua, easy/2-3 miles

The highlight of this hike is the bridges for the old

O'ahu Group Outings

carriage road. We will also see one or maybe two old house sites. Bring your camera. Wet boots are possible, depending on recent rainfall. Meet at 10am. Leader: Charlotte Manly, cmanly@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, February 11

MCBH Kāne'ōhe Bay Service Project (S)

Reservations Required. Contact Dan Anderson by Feb 10. We will be working with Environmental helping 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. Leaders: Dan Anderson, 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com; Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Sunday, February 12

Photography hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E/F)

Kailua, moderate/2 miles

Reservations required. Contact John for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ōhe. Car shuttle required. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, February 18

Kahuku Point Hike (F)

North Shore, moderate/5 miles, beach

We will start at the Kahuku Golf Course and hike north along the coast. We pass by the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, and learn about the area. With a little luck we will see some of the numerous birds that live there. We will swim and lunch on the beach before continuing on to Turtle Bay. Bring plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen and lunch. Leader: Ed Mersino, mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, February 26

Mākua Rim via Peacock Flats

Mokule'ia, moderate/11miles, contour

Long walk up a road to a trail through the Pahole Natural Area Reserve to a fabulous view of Mākua Valley. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, gsinclair@gmail.com, 753-0528

Saturday, March 4

Wiliwilinui Ridge Hike

Waialae Iki, strenuous/5 miles, ridge

This hike begins as a nice stroll followed by a very steep climb to the Ko'olau Summit where we will enjoy great views. Reservations required. Leader: Jean Fujikawa,

jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

Saturday, March 11

Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E/F)

Pūpūkea, moderate/5 miles, contour

Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of central O'ahu. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; John Shimogawa, 227-9925

Sunday, March 12

Mid-morning hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden

Koko Crater, easy/2 miles

We will wander through a lesser-known collection of dryland plants including cacti, palms and some native Hawaiian plants, ending with lunch at a large and varied grove of plumeria which may be in bloom. Meet at 10am. Leader: Charlotte Manly, cmanly@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, March 18

Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project (S)

Reservations required. We meet at 8:30am in Mokule'ia with DLNR personnel and drive to the entrance of Ka'ena. We will remove invasive plants in the area and do out-planting. We will also learn about native coastal plants and animals and see albatross adults and fledglings. We will see albatross and may see humpback whales and monk seals. Leader: Colleen Soares, csoares48@gmail.com

Service Project

Saturday, August 19 - Monday, August 21

Haleakalā National Park, Maui (S)

Our accommodation for the weekend is Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakalā Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago. This trip is for hikers in good physical condition and for those who don't mind "roughing it." We have a 7-mile hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail and we will exit via the Halemau'u trail. Participants will also have to deal with the elevation. The cabin was build in the 1930's by CCC workers and is very rustic. There is no washroom or shower facilities. There is an outhouse and people will have to live with "Horse Baths". We do have a 2-burner gas stove top and a wood burning stove to keep warm. The reward for this service project, if you're up to the challenge, is spending the weekend in a very beautiful and fascinating national park. Leader: Dan Anderson, danderhi@gmail.com, 690-0479



Kaua'i Group Report

Hanakāpi'ai Stream Bridge, Draft Environmental Assessment

The Group submitted comments opposing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the bridge project. The proposed bridge would increase usage of the Kalalau Trail, yet the Draft Environmental Assessment stated that the bridge would not be growth-inducing. However, the bridge would enable more crossings at Hanakāpi'ai Stream, leading to higher use of Hanakāpi'ai Beach and the Hanakāpi'ai Falls Trail, increasing visitor exposure to hazards. The Draft EA is inadequate as it only considers "hard" infrastructure, the bridge, and does not address "soft" alternatives, such as ranger-enforced closing of the Hanakāpi'ai Stream crossing during actual and anticipated hazardous conditions. Therefore, the Group believes that neither the project as-proposed nor the FONSI should be approved.

U.S. Marine Corps' Osprey Aviation Training - Proposed Environmental Assessment

The Group submitted testimony opposing the Marine Corps' proposal to establish a training regimen for CH-23 and H-1 helicopters and the MV-22 Osprey on Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. The proposal calls for a landing pad on Mākaha Ridge, a pad large enough for 4 aircraft "within the terrain following "TERF" route" and up to 4 new Confined Area Landing Zones on Ni'ihau's pristine north end.

Osprey military training in West Kaua'i is not appropriate. The MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor military aircraft is as long as a 5-story building is tall. Its poor safety record is well documented. Any crash in a difficult to access canyon or in nearshore waters would be enormously difficult and expensive to clean up. The propeller wash from low-flying Ospreys is known to break off large branches of trees and create enormous dust clouds, which would be devastating to the sensitive ecology, dry red dirt, and forest environment of West Kaua'i. Noise, vibration, dust, and turbulence could impact the nearby Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery

Project and the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project.



Federal regulations for aircraft noise levels apply to airfields but not to training areas where "noise creep" into civilian areas is inevitable. Aircraft training would interfere with hiking experiences on the western ridges of Koke'e State Park and catamaran cruises from Hanapēpe and Kekaha to the Na Pali coast. Polihale, the sandy beach and the first ridge of the Na Pali coast between the Pacific Missile Range Facility and Mākaha Ridge, would be affected the most. The cultural and spiritual importance of Polihale, endangered species, and rural lifestyle would be threatened.

General Plan Draft Fails to Manage Tourism Growth

The recently released draft of Kaua'i's 2016-2035 General Plan is far from ideal. In the 2008 election, residents voted by a two-to-one margin to slow the expansion of tourism but the county has encouraged unlimited tourism growth. State data shows that Kaua'i's average daily tourist population has increased by 25% between 2010 and 2015. Tourists now increase Kaua'i's resident population by 40% or more during peak periods, and Kaua'i's resident-to-tourist ratio is now identical to Maui's. This increase in tourism has resulted in traffic congestion, overcrowding at beaches and parks, and impacts to Kaua'i's character and residents' quality of life. Yet, the draft General Plan's policy is to accommodate whatever growth the market demands. The draft plan predicts that the tourism growth rate for the next 20 years will somehow be less than one-tenth the growth rate that Kaua'i has experienced over the past 5 years. This is an extremely conservative estimate when compared to actual growth that has already occurred.

County policy should consider managing the tourist population from exceeding its current level. Unfortunately, managing growth by limiting the number of tourist accommodations is not an option as more than 3,000 tourist units have already been approved but not yet built. The County could slow the increase through other policies such as: increasing taxes on rental vehicles, property taxes on resorts, and the Transient Accommodation Tax; strictly enforcing against illegal transient vacation rentals and B&Bs; not approving new or expanded tourism attractions on any public lands and on private lands outside the Visitor Destination Areas; and eliminating subsidies and funding for tourism promotion and activities.

The General Plan also needs a timetable for implementing these solutions, and a requirement for semi-annual progress reports to the County Council.

Kaua'i Group Outings

SEE PAGE 15 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on one of these great outings to discover the natural treasures of our island. Mileage listed is total miles. Outings focus on: (C) Conservation/Interpretative, (E) Educational, (F) Family/Fun, and/or (S) Service. Check bit.ly/SCH-kauai for updates to the schedule. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. For all others, \$5. *Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.*

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.

Tuesday, January 10

Keālia to Anahola Coastal Walk (E/F)

East Shore, moderate/4 Miles

Miles of great views along this stretch of coastline. We're sure to see humpback whales this time of year. The first part of this hike is on the bike/walk path up until Donkey Beach and is rated easy. The rest is unpaved and rated moderate. We'll shuttle our cars for a one way hike. Leader: Bob Nishek, 346-0476

Saturday, January 28

Moloa'a Beach Clean Up (S)

North/East Shore, easy

Help protect marine life, sea birds, the reef, and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. The Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Look for organizations' signs. Bring hat and water. Gloves, bags, and snacks provided. 9am to noon. Leader: Judy Dalton, 482-1129

Sunday, February 5

Māhā'ulepu and Makauwahi Cave (C/E/F)

South Shore, moderate/4 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 212-3108

Tuesday, February 7

National Tropical Botanical Gardens Sunset to Walk (C/E/F)

South side, moderate/2 miles.

Hike and learn about plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Leader: Bob Nishek, 346-0476



Enjoy an adventurous hike from Kealia to Anahola Beach on January 10

Saturday, February 25

Māhā'ulepu Beach Clean Up (S)

South Shore, easy

The Sierra Club, Mālama Māhā'ulepu, and Surfrider team up to keep this magnificent beach free of ocean debris and litter. Follow Po'ipū Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to t-intersection and turn right. Continue to parking area and look for banners. Please bring hat and water. Bags, gloves, and snacks provided. 9am to noon. Leader: Judy Dalton, 482-1129

Saturday, March 4

Kuilau Trail (C/F)

East side, easy to moderate

Meet at 9am at arboretum parking lot at the top of Kuamo'o Road. Bring lunch, snack, water, and hat. Hike to bridge and picnic tables to have our lunch. Great views! Leader: Vivian Hager, 652-3234

Tuesday, March 7

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup (S)

Easy/2 miles

Afternoon clean-up of the Sierra Club's adopted highway requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Leader: Bob Nishek 346-0476

Saturday, March 11

Jewel of Koke'e (C/E/F)

Strenuous/7 miles

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

Sunday, March 19

Māhā'ulepu and Makauwahi Cave (C/E/F)

South Shore, moderate/4 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 212-3108

Saturday, March 25

Hanamā'ulu Beach Clean Up (S)

East Shore

Help protect marine life, the reef, and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. The Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Turn makai in Hanā'maulu on road by the 7-11 store. Look for sign further down the hill on the right going to Hanamā'ulu Beach. Look for banners at beach. 9am to noon. Bring water. Bags, gloves, and refreshments provided. Leader: Judy Dalton 482-1129



Maui Group Report

GROUP REPORT

This quarter, Sierra Club Maui Group held our 40th anniversary celebration; participated in the November 15th Global Day of Solidarity with Standing Rock; testified at the County and State level on multiple environmental issues, including in support of a polystyrene ban on Maui; and held a very well-attended benefit star watch in Wailea 670/Palau'ea on November 25th. Sierra Club Maui wants to thank the amazing astronomer Harriet Witt, Tim Wolfe of Akamai Productions Sound System, and Honua'ula Partners, for making our star watch such a success. We'd also like to thank everyone who has donated to the Maui Group for 2016 - your contributions make a world of difference for our environment and help expand the work we do. We're looking forward to a very eventful 2017. Make sure to join us at our Annual Meeting on February 25th!

CONSERVATION REPORT

Central Maui HC&S Lands

A&B has claimed over 32,000 acres of former sugar cane lands will continue to be used for agricultural purposes, but some of the same lands appear to be on the market for development. During this transition, The Maui Group is committed to keeping "Maui Nō Ka 'Oī" and following the County's Maui Island Plan. Join us as we advocate for using good agricultural lands to grow food and useful crops; protecting sensitive wetlands, streams, dunes and coastal lands; and supporting local housing projects near infrastructure and services. We'll be unveiling our new campaign at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 25th.

Kanahā Park Conservation Lands

A new master plan for Kanahā Park appeared to replace critical native plant habitat with new parking lots. The Maui Group was part of an informational panel convened by Maui County Council to offer comments and improvements on the master plan. We continue to track the proposed plan.

Protecting Freshwater Resources

SCMG representatives have participated in the County Water Use and Development Plan process by advocating for responsible water use, protection of watersheds and aquifers, use of non-potable water for landscape irrigation, and a plan that Maui's people can understand.

Wailea 670/Palau'ea

Please come and enjoy our new preserve! Checkout The Maui Group's educational hikes in the current schedule.

Energy Decisions

Adequate energy storage is the key to Maui's transition to renewable energy. The Maui Group is an active participant in local energy discussions and forums, and our members are investigating possible new strategies.

East Maui Stream Restoration

HC&S, with diminished needs for irrigation water, has opened diversions on many East Maui streams, but the matter of HC&S's long-term state permits (licenses) is still unresolved. The Maui Group Coordinator and others testified for a reality-based approach at the December 2016 Board of Land and Natural Resources meeting, asking the Land Board members to vote against the renewal of long expired licenses if HC&S has no documented agricultural activities and need for the water.

County Wastewater Plants

New scientific studies indicate all three Maui County wastewater treatment plants have serious water quality impacts. The Maui Group and others are urging solutions for more wastewater to be used on land, rather than injected into the ocean.

Olowalu Seawalls

Common sense has prevailed. Hawai'i Department of Transportation abandoned seawall construction in Olowalu, agreeing instead to re-stripe Honoapiilani Highway and work more diligently with the community and landowners for a more permanent inland route for the road.

Hamakualoa Coastal Open Space

Enjoy our new coastal preserve at an upcoming Maui Group hike or service outing. The Maui Group and allies are committed to monthly "Malama Days" of this beautiful land.

Makena Landing Development

The Maui Group has received replies to its comments on the Makena Landing Development Environmental Assessment (EA) that fail to address many of the concerns that were raised. A final EA is expected to be submitted to the Maui Planning Commission in 2017. The Maui Group and others will ask for a full Environmental Impact Statement to address substantial impacts.

Maui Group Outings

SEE PAGE 15 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please register for all hikes with the leader.
Check bit.ly/SCH_maui-hikes for updates to the schedule.

Friday, January 13

Waihe'e Ridge (C)

5 miles, E= +1200'

Great workout with native plants, beautiful views! Bring rain jacket, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet 8:30 am at Waihe'e School parking lot. Limit 12. Leader: Miranda Camp mauimiranda@hotmail.com or 463-9690.

Friday, January 20

Wailea 670/Palau'ea Archaeologic Exploration (C/E)

2 miles

Explore and label archaeological sites that are part of 500 year old village. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 2pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Wailea. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Sunday, January 29

Kanaio Stupa (C/E)

2 miles with some steep grades

Hike across the slopes of Haleakalā to beautiful shrine built in 1982 and view of South coast. Meet 9am at Kēōkea Park (upper Kula) to carpool. Bring lunch, water and rain gear. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490.

Monday, January 30

Mā'alaea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E)

2 miles

Explore ancient Mā'alaea village. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 9am at mauka end of Maui Ocean Center pkg lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, February 4

Makawao Forest Reserve - Kahakapao Loop (E)

Moderate hike hike through 6 miles of big tree forest, shaded all the way and mostly level. Meet in the parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church on Makawao Ave at 9am. At a leisurely pace it's a 3 hour hike. Limit 18. Leader Kalei Johnson kalei1908@gmail.com or 344-0006; leave your phone number.

Friday, February 10

Mākena Landing Historical Hike (C/E)

2 miles

Explore one thousand years of history along this scenic coast line through the stories of kama'āina families and visits to historical sites. Bring water, hat, lunch/snacks. Meet 9 am at beach parking lot across Keawala'i church in Mākena. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, February 11

Wailea 670/Kalama-Kanaio trail and archaeological sites (C/E)

3 miles

This historic road offers lovely views over rolling terrain and crosses gulches with hidden shelters and other cultural sites. Bring water, hat, snacks. Meet 2pm at end of Hoala Road in Maui Meadows. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, February 18

Whale Day in Kīhei

Help set up the Sierra Club booth at Kalama Park in Kīhei or take a shift to talk to visitors to the booth. The hours of the event are 8am - 5pm. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490.

Sunday, February 19

Pa'uwela lighthouse and tide pools (C/E)

Moderate, with some steep muddy sections/3-4 miles
Dramatic coastal views and tidepools. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Bring lunch, water and footwear good for slippery rocks. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490.

Maui Group's Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 25

Check out our online calendar at
mauisierraclub.org/events/
for location and time information.

Friday, March 3

Waikamoi Preserve (C/E)

3.5 miles, uneven and sometimes slippery terrain. This is a true native Hawaiian forest in Haleakalā National Forest near Hosmer's Grove campground, preserved by The Nature Conservancy with one of their docents to describe the flora and fauna. Meet 8am at Pukalani Ace Hardware parking lot to carpool.



Maui Group Outings

Bring lunch, water and rain gear. Hiking boots suggested. Limit 15. People who have been on the Big Island any time since January 2016 not allowed due to 'ōhi'a disease risk. Leader: Adriane Raff-Corwin adriane.raff-corwin@sierraclub.org or 419-5143.

Saturday, March 11

Uhupalakua to Kaupo car tour

30 mile drive

Caravan by car and stop for short hikes. Amazing native plants; historical sites; views and commentary by noted botanist and historian Bob Hobdy. Meet 8:30am at Keokea Park in upper Kula. Bring lunch, water. Limit 20. Special donation \$5 members or \$10 non-members. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, March 18

Makawao Forest Reserve (C/E)

6 miles

Left side of road, 3 mile climb up trails and jeep road, moderately strenuous and muddy. Meet 8:30am at parking lot across St. Joseph's Church (Makawao Ave.) Limit 18. Leader: Robin West rwest808@yahoo.com or 277-7267.

Sunday, March 19

Hāmākua Mālama service outing (C/E/S)

4 miles

Help restore access to culturally rich Kuiaha Gulch and learn about ongoing efforts to care for the 267 acres of Hāmākua lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves/hand tools/water/hat/lunch/ sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Sunday, March 26

Lahaina Pali Trail (C/E)

Strenuous, with steep uphill/4 miles

Enjoy the views and whale watch. Hike from Lahaina end trailhead, up to windmills and back the same way. Sturdy boots, sunscreen, and hat are recommended. A hiking stick is useful. Bring lots of water. Meet 8am at Maui Ocean Center parking by the gas station. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490.

Friday, March 31

Wailea 670/Palau'ea native plant hike (C/E)

2 miles

Explore Maui's rarest native ecosystems - dryland forests at the 161 acre Wailea 670 preserve. Rugged terrain. closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 2pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Wailea. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

For all the Sierra Club Outings: 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 to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all the 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, rain gear/jacket, and day pack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers) or tabis are required. Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

You will also need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing please see bit.ly/SCHoutings_form or call 415-977-5630.

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.

Moku Loa Group Report



Mauna Kea Telescope Case Continues by *Debbie Ward*

The Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) applicant, proponents, and opponents continue to meet in a contested case hearing before Hearing Officer Riki M Amano, and the case is expected to continue through at least January, as 85 witnesses give testimony. Under discussion in the case are compliance with criteria in a conservation district, the public trust doctrine, and Ka Pa‘akai ruling observance. Each witness can be cross examined by the 23 petitioners, which has led to several weeks of extended hearings. Both the applicant and some petitioners have requested that the hearing officer recuse herself due to conflicts. Several petitioners have appealed due process issues to the Supreme Court through an expedited route mandated by the Legislature during the last session. The same planning company responsible for the TMT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been contracted by the University of Hawai‘i to draft an EIS for the extension of the general lease. Many petitioners have raised questions about compliance with requirements for consultation with Native Hawaiian practitioners, as required by federal guidelines. Mauna Kea holds significance for many people around the world; it is a historic district with hundreds of archaeological sites, it is a site of spiritual practice, and is designated a National Natural Landmark. Petitioners and applicant have agreed that the impact of industrial astronomy development has led to significant, adverse, and substantial cultural and natural impacts that have not been mitigated, despite management efforts.

EPA Meeting in Kona by *Steve Holmes*

Alexis Strauss, Deputy Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9, visited Kona to tour the Kealakehe Wastewater Plant and listen to concerns about water quality impacts to the Honokōhau Harbor and nearshore coastal waters caused by over 20 years of dumping. The Sierra Club requested that the EPA send a letter to Hawai‘i County advising them of the need for a federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This aligns with an amicus brief filed in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in a case involving sewage injection wells on Maui.

At the heart of the EPA and Department of Justice brief on Maui was the need for an NPDES permit that shows a direct hydrological connection to federally protected waters from the point of discharge. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has completed this type of study for Kealakehe. In addition, the

receiving waters are federally listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act. The EPA has an affirmative duty to establish pollution limits called Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) if the state Department of Health fails to do so, which is the case here. The Sierra Club has asked the EPA to step in and take an enforcement action to establish a consent decree with deadlines and penalty provisions to ensure compliance.

The Sierra Club also raised the issue of “seawater return trenches” that are being used by aquaculture businesses at Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai‘i Authority (NELHA). Similarly, testing has shown the coastal waters to be impaired under the Clean Water Act. Lab testing by NELHA has also indicated pollution. If you are interested, the trenches can be seen using Google Maps. Moku Loa Group has shared this information with Amy Miller of the EPA who handles enforcement at Region 9. Hopefully, Moku Loa Group will hear back soon and have good news to report for next quarter.

Keaukaha Hazards by *Cory Harden*

“We keep our mouth shut.” That’s how Terri Napeahi, a Keaukaha resident, described Native Hawaiians’ strategy when they are finally offered Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) property in Keaukaha because of possible hazards inhibiting living conditions in nearby areas.

In the nearby harbor, a 2004 barge fire almost caused a naphtha explosion that could have killed hundreds of people. On a daily basis, Keaukaha residents have petroleum, natural gas, naphtha, fertilizer, and other hazards stored near their homes. Other issues include the nearby airport bringing noise, air pollution, and a “crash zone” over occupied homes; a sewer plant raising questions about nearshore water quality; possible emissions from the electric power plant; and proximity to the Hilo dump, the Mass Transit baseyard, a racetrack, and a shooting range.

However there are ways to speak up, as dozens of people learned at a community meeting led by Napeahi. These means include calling for an assessment of cumulative impacts to Keaukaha from all hazards, by commenting on the Environmental Assessment for the East Hawai‘i Organics Facility. The public can also participate in the Local Emergency Planning Committee and attend public meetings required by a Risk Management Program for some hazardous situations. Other possible means of input include working with a graduate student that is currently mapping hazards in Keaukaha, and contacting inspectors that are required by law to evaluate mock spill cleanups.

Moku Loa Group Report

Pahala Water Bottling by Cory Harden

“All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people”, says the Hawai‘i State Constitution. But a bottling plant proposed in Pahala would extract a public natural resource, water, to be shipped out of Hawai‘i. Nationwide, extracting, processing, bottling, transporting, and refrigerating water burns 50 million barrels of oil a year. Additionally, most water bottles are not recycled and PET from bottles doesn’t biodegrade but breaks into tiny fragments. These tiny fragments absorb pollutants which can then contaminate the water and the food chain.

Bottled water has been banned in six cities, almost two dozen national parks, and over a dozen colleges and universities. The Sierra Club is raising concerns about the bottling plant, along with Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund, Ka ‘Ohana o Honu‘apo, Ku‘e Ka‘u, and Surfrider Foundation. Stay tuned for a possible community meeting.

Kahuku Makai Lands Acquired at Last! by Debbie Ward

Moku Loa Group members and many other community groups spent many years working to help Hawai‘i County acquire more than 4,000 acres of Kahuku makai lands near the southernmost area of the island with cooperative funding from federal, state, county, and private donors. Planning is now beginning with the partners for management and research of the area located along the high-clearance unpaved “Road to the Sea”, which includes a Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and the Kanohina flow from a Mauna Loa eruption. The County plans to work with stakeholders to care for the land, shoreline with Hawksbill turtle nesting sites, anchialine pools with endemic shrimp, unusual geologic features, water collection caves with unique biology, and cultural sites including stone paved trails. Moku Loa members look forward to taking part in the management planning process.

Big Island High School Hikers: Christian Liberty Academy Environmental Club by Lisa Mason, Outings Leader

Driving along the narrow 4WD road past Kūlani prison, I noticed the vibrant orange fruits of countless pilo trees passing by. As I paid closer attention I pointed out the glistening black clusters of the ‘ōlapa and the swaying canopy of the ‘ōhi‘a to my three students riding in the back. Jennifer Randall, our Natural Area Reserve guide for the day, began talking about the pathogen *Ceratocystis fimbriata* causing rapid ‘ōhi‘a death in the surrounding forest. We were heading towards Pu‘u Maka‘ala Natural Area Reserve, an 18,730 acre

conservation district of partially pristine native forest in South Hilo, home to some of the rarest plants and birds in Hawai‘i. “Do you know about the Hawaiian Crow, the ‘alalā?”, Jenn asked as she parked outside a yellow gate. We hopped out of the truck and began the short two-mile hike from “Maile Road” to the top of the pu‘u. Over the next few hours, our small group walked and listened to the birds and Jenn. We learned about the impending release of the ‘alalā at Pu‘u Maka‘ala, the presence of two new aviaries currently housing chicks, and future threats the ‘alalā must overcome for their survival. We left Pu‘u Maka‘ala completely wiped out, yet we were already talking about our next hike!

Big Island High School Hikers (BIHSH) has enjoyed 8 field outings and 3 community awareness events since August 2016. Some recent highlights include:

- helping remove 648 pounds of marine debris from Kamilo Point with Hawai‘i Wildlife Fund,
- snorkeling at Wai‘ōpae Marine Life Conservation District in Kapoho,
- hiking Kīlauea Iki at Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park,
- crafting at the annual BioBlitz Festival,
- hiking from Mahai‘ula to Makalawena Bay,
- and in 4 weeks collecting over 1,000 pounds of recyclables from our school for the Keep America Beautiful Recycle Bowl Competition.

BIHSH currently operates through the Environmental Club at Christian Liberty Academy and has 15 student and volunteer members. We would like to thank the Sierra Club Hawai‘i and Moku Loa Group for their continued support this fall. Special mahalo to Diane Ware and Jim Buck for helping us have a successful community fair day in Kea‘au and for promoting “zero waste” initiatives within our local community. Mahalo nui loa.

Moku Loa Group Outings Report by Diane Ware, Outings Chair

In 2016, our outings focus was on highlighting the National Park Service Centennial. In 2017, our focus will be on service for Hawai‘i Island endangered and critically endangered birds, like the palila and ‘Alalā, by offering service trips to restore Native Hawaiian habitat so critical to these birds’ survival. Five ‘Alalā are being released into Pu‘u Maka‘ala Natural Area Reserve in early December. There was a recent celebration in Hilo of their release back into the wild. Contact us to get involved and help restore Hawaiian forests on service days to Hakalau, Mauna Kea, or Natural Area Reserves.

Moku Loa Group Outings



SIERRA CLUB
OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

SEE PAGE 15 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Saturday, January 28

Kalapana Coastal Day Hike (E/F/C)

Shoreline, moderate/4 miles

This hike begins in Kalapana. We will hike out to the beach at Kaimū, then explore the shoreline south over rough lava and places where the eruption changed the coastline. We will have lunch at a kipuka and then return. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

Saturday, February 11

Pohue Bay Hike (E)

Contour, strenuous/5 miles, E = +/-700'

Hike down the ancient mauka-makai trail to historic Pohue Bay. This hike is strenuous due to lack of shade, hot and dry conditions. Swimming is possible at a coconut-tree-lined white sand beach, conditions permitting; however, no lifeguard is available. Leaders: Diane Ware, 967-8642 and Rich Vogler, 328-8387

Saturday, February 25

Kaloli to Hā'ena (Shipman Beach) (E)

Shoreline, moderate/6 miles

Hike on a historic trail in Puna from Paradise Park to the beach at Hā'ena. The trail used to be an inland carriage road. At Hā'ena Beach, we will see nene and whales and go for a swim. Bring water, a rain poncho, a swimsuit, and lunch. Leaders: Kana Covington, 936-6406 and Linda Larish, 966-6337

Saturday, March 11

Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (E/C)

Shoreline, moderate/4 miles, E = +/-200'

Scenic vistas, seabirds, and some historic sites depending on which part of the trail we go on atop Hāmākua cliffs. Not for those afraid of heights. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

Saturday, March 11

HVNP Kahuku Hike (E)

Contour, moderate/4 miles, E = +/-300'

Hike the newly opened realms and divisions of the Kahuku Trail. Will be ascending and descending Pu'u Kahuku and Pu'u o Lokuana grass-covered cinder cones. Experience the sense of place that evolves through the interrelationship of nature and culture. Leaders: Diane Ware, 967-8642 and Rich Vogler, 328-8387

Saturday, March 25

Pu'u O'o Trail Day Hike (E)

Contour, strenuous/7 miles, E = 5400'

Pu'u O'o trail starts from Saddle Road between the 22 and 23 mile marker and meanders through kipukas of native plants and birds surrounded by old lava flows. We will hike the trail to where it intersects Powerline Road and visit the Emisine lava tube. Bring rain gear, a hat, 1 quart of water, plenty of snacks and lunch, binoculars, headlamp, and wear sturdy shoes. Leaders: Linda Larish, 966-6337 and Kana Covington, 936-6406

Saturday, March 25 - Sunday, March 26

Hakalau Fish and Wildlife Refuge Service Trip (S/E/C)

Contour, strenuous/5 miles, E = 5500', +/- 1000'

This is a service project oriented trip that may have the opportunity to bird watch and botanize after working. Be prepared for wet and chilly weather by bringing boots, sun protection, rain gear, warm clothes, binoculars, sleeping bag, and daypack. Reservations required and there will be a fee for central commissary. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017



Big Island High School Hikers



Maui Group thanks you for a great 40th anniversary!



Some of the Environmental Champion award recipients

The Sierra Club Maui Group had a fantastic anniversary party on October 1st, with over 100 people in attendance! Everyone enjoyed delicious food donated by Mana Foods, Flatbread Company, Maui Coffee Roasters, and Down to Earth as musician Richard Dancil and DJ The DiF eXperience entertained.

The community came out to ensure our 2016 Environmental Champions award winners Susan Bradford, the late Alex Bode, Healoha Carmichael, Karen Chun, Lance Collins, Oliver Dukelow, Lezley Jacintho, Kathy Kaohu, and Tiare Lawrence were thoroughly recognized and cherished for their work to protect Maui's environment and people.

The Sierra Club Maui Group was surprised and honored when Maui County Councilperson Don Guzman presented the Sierra Club Maui's Executive Committee with a framed copy of a resolution from the County Council, "extend[ing] its congratulations to the Sierra Club Maui on the 40th anniversary of serving as a voice and advocate for Maui's cherished environment and precious resources." This recognition from the County Council served as icing on the cake at a celebration of 40 years of the Sierra Club Maui Group's important achievements in environmental conservation and cultural preservation. The Sierra Club Maui Group is gearing up to continue this important work for decades to come!

Moving Up to Building Power: Aloha to Joshua

By Marti Townsend, Director

It is with immense pride and a tinge of sadness that we announce Joshua Noga will be the new Senior Manager for the "Building Power" Program at the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety. In his 18 months with the Sierra Club, Joshua continued the Club's traditions in advocacy while initiating whole new programs.

Our Activists 101 summer camp was Joshua's idea for coaching up community advocates and build bridges between communities. He spearheaded "citizen lobby days" to help taro farmers engage legislators in the generations-long struggle to restore public streams diverted for the profit of private sugar plantations. He also helped concerned residents engage the U.S. Navy and Environmental Protection Agency on the retirement of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks.

Joshua's work was also a jumpstart to our La Hana workdays in support of local traditional farmers. Members gained hands-on experience in every stage of growing taro—from preparing fields, to planting and harvesting, while learning more about the issues the Club advocates for in Hawai'i. As part of this program, he hosted 23 international participants at the World Conservation Congress at traditional farms across O'ahu for 10 days.

As Joshua transitions to his new role at the Center for Food Safety, he is committed to volunteering with the Sierra Club to continue advancing our anti-racism and environmental justice work.

"I have truly enjoyed my time working with the Sierra Club of Hawai'i. I owe so much to Marti for being a wonderful leader allowing me the space to grow as a community organizer. One of my main goals has been to create a diverse environmental justice movement here in Hawai'i and as I transition to the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety I fully intend to follow through on that goal. There is no better time than now to empower our grassroots communities. At the intersections of the marginalized and the vulnerable lies the greatest capacity of people power—this is where we find the solution to help us in the challenges we face."



No Plastic, No Problem: Hawai'i Restaurants Commit to Reducing Plastic and Foam Pollution

By Jodi Malinoski, O'ahu Group Coordinator

Let's talk trash. Hawai'i loves foam food containers. Our beloved plate lunch has become a staple in the "Hawai'i diet", but it does come at a high cost to our environment and health. Expanded polystyrene foam clamshells are petroleum based, less than 1% recycled, and contain styrene, a known carcinogen. Similar to other single-use plastic products, foam containers never fully biodegrade and instead break down into microplastics that pollute our environment, are toxic to wildlife, and leach chemicals that bioaccumulate up the food chain and into our diets.

Mindful of these environmental and health concerns from plastic and foam consumption, there have been several attempts throughout the state to ban foam food containers, but no policy has been successfully passed. A recurring argument made by the plastic industry is that a foam ban would hurt small businesses and restaurants who would be forced to switch to more expensive, environmentally-friendly alternatives and these added costs would ultimately deter customers and be bad for business.

Therefore, in an effort to support foam bans and reduce the tremendous amount of single-use plastic waste we produce, the Surfrider Foundation in partnership with the Maui Huliau Foundation and the Rise Above Plastics Coalition (of which the Sierra Club of Hawai'i is a participating organization) launched the "Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawai'i" campaign in April 2016. This is a free, promotional campaign that rewards environmentally-conscious restaurants who are committed to reducing their single-use plastic waste. To qualify as an Ocean Friendly Restaurant, participants must agree to use only compostable or recyclable take-out containers, reusable tableware for on-site dining, no plastic bags, and follow proper recycling practices. There are also optional criteria that incorporates eliminating plastic straws, utilizing local food, sustainable seafood, and efficient water and energy practices.

Since its launch in April, almost 100 restaurants have committed to being "Ocean Friendly" and ditched expanded polystyrene foam and plastic food service products in favor of more sustainable alternatives. Restaurants are receiving support and promotion for becoming Ocean Friendly and are proving that local businesses can encourage a policy to ban foam in Hawai'i. To learn more about this program and support the growing list of Ocean Friendly Restaurants in Hawai'i, visit [@OceanFriendlyRestaurantsHI on Instagram](#), ["Ocean Friendly Restaurants Hawai'i" on Facebook](#), or oceanfriendlyrestaurantshawaii.org.



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OceanFriendlyRestaurantsHawaii.org



This is a Surfrider Foundation program in partnership with Maui Huliau Foundation, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation and the Rise Above Plastics Coalition



2016 O'ahu Group Annual Meeting

O'ahu Group thanks everyone who came out to their annual meeting at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens. Over 50 people, new friends and old, joined together over sustainable vegetarian food and learned about the Group's upcoming plans and campaigns for 2017.

JOIN CAPITOL WATCH!

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hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

The Fight Over East Maui's Streams has Reared its Head Once Again

By Lucienne de Naie, Maui Group

The tug of war over East Maui stream waters sends a clear message. The State and Counties need a post-plantation, 21st century water policy. This is the only way to provide what everyone wants: a reliable water supply that is fairly distributed and managed as a real public trust resource.

On December 9th, East Maui taro farmers, residents, and statewide supporters rallied inside and outside a Board of Land and Natural Resource (BLNR) hearing in Honolulu, to deliver just that message. The State's "business as usual" water policies were not working to provide reliable public water supplies and create a new agricultural future for all of Maui.

Over 40 people testified, asking the BLNR to not automatically rubber stamp Alexander & Baldwin's (A&B) request to "holdover" or renew annual revocable permits that have allowed over 60 billion gallons a year of stream water to be diverted from state lands for many decades. Testifiers wanted the Board to demand clear proof of how much stream water the former plantation would actually need in 2017, now that it had ceased sugar operations.

The O'ahu meeting location meant only a handful of East Maui residents were able to attend in person, but their story was compelling: generations struggling to have enough water to practice traditional farming and gathering and pass on their culture. Many East Maui testifiers simply asked that the water be fairly shared, while supporting sufficient water for upcountry residents, farmers, and ranchers relying on the East Maui streams. The Sierra Club Maui has also long supported these water needs. In 2015, the Maui Group advocated for expanded upcountry reservoir capacity to increase water security and for Maui County to repair the aged Waikamoi flume system that lost 40% of the stream water it transported to upcountry system users.

Maui Group also strongly supports continued agricultural use of the former HC&S sugar lands and employment opportunities for former HC&S workers. Like the other testifiers, the Sierra Club wanted the Board to make sure that there was actual farming planned for 2017, that sustainable farming practices would be used to promote water efficiency and the

needs of traditional farmers and gatherers would be fully met as we move forward into Maui's new agricultural future. The Maui Group has testified for years to improve efficiency in A&B's and upcountry water systems to allow for more water to be shared by plantation lands, rural residents, and farming communities across the island.

A&B has said that seventeen percent (5,100 acres) of its 30,000 acres of land currently served by East Maui stream water will be converted to cattle grazing and a County agricultural park in 2017. Future plans, based upon a map submitted to the State Water

Commission in October of this year, call for possible bio-energy crops, a dairy, seed crops, and large leased areas. The problem is, there currently is no timeline for those future uses and no hard data on how much water will be needed when. This made the BLNR decision tough.

After over 6 hours of public testimony, an Executive Session, and extensive board member discussions, the BLNR approved A&B's revocable permits, with conditions. The conditions capped extraction from East Maui streams at 80 million gallons a day (mgd), compared to A&B's current extraction at 160 mgd; supported a July 2016 Water Commission order mandating fully restored stream flow in 14 East Maui taro growing streams; added Honomanu Stream to the list of streams to be restored, and required removal of all unused diversion structures impeding the health of the native stream species.

The BLNR's ruling was a compromise. It provides the community with new tools to protect some streams and gives A&B a chance to prove it's new farming plans are real. The imposition of a cap shows that community concerns were heard.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i applauds Land Board members Sam Ohu Gon III and Keone Downing who recognized that there is inadequate information on streamflow and water use to make an informed decision, and therefore, voted against the permit renewal.

We will continue to stand with the East Maui community and the people of Maui to support water policies that are fair for all and follow our laws.





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

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Victory! 160 Acres Saved from

After more than three years of extensive negotiations, environmental and cultural groups, the Sierra Club and Maui Unite, have entered into a settlement agreement with developer Honua'ula Partners, LLC and the County of Maui. The settlement calls for the protection of over 160 acres of land containing ancient Hawaiian villages, boundary markers and site complexes, as well as rare and endangered plants and animals. The settlement also includes protection of portions of the historic Kanaio-Kalama road, specific access rights for cultural practitioners and the public, a reduction in the size of the originally proposed eighteen-hole golf course, a deer fence to protect endangered plants, and a conservation easement over the protected lands to be held by the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Another key feature of the agreement is a 116-foot wide buffer along the boundary with Maui Meadows, a one-acre public park located adjacent to the buffer, as well as height limits on certain structures in areas adjacent to the Maui Meadows buffer. Other parts of the agreement call for preserved areas to be turned over to a nonprofit group in the future.



The settlement agreement between the parties stems from a claim filed in 2012 that challenged the environmental impact statement that had been prepared by the developer and accepted by the county in conjunction with a proposed 1,400 unit development in Wailea on a 670-acre property near the south end of Pi'ilani Highway.

The project, which was initially referred to as "Wailea 670", was approved by the Maui County Council in 2008 for single family and multi-family units, a range of commercial and other mixed-uses, and a golf course. The County Council placed a number of conditions on the development, for the protection of culturally and environmentally sensitive areas – including a "native plant preservation area" of not less than 18 acres and not more than 130 acres.

Through their claim, the Sierra Club and Maui Unite contended among other things that the developer's environmental impact statement had failed to adequately address the extent of the cultural and archaeological sites and features located on the property. During the protracted settlement negotiations, the developer agreed to conduct



further archaeological work. The archaeologists have confirmed that hundreds of significant archaeological sites or features are located on the property, including ceremonial sites, stepping stone trails, living quarters and farming terraces. Most of these sites are now confirmed for perpetual protection.

Development on Maui

The Sierra Club and Mauit Unite also contended in their lawsuit that the EIS failed to address the impacts associated with the 250 affordable housing units that were required to be constructed off-site, at the proposed Kaonoulu Light Industrial Subdivision located on the mauka side of Pi'ilani Highway in North Kihei, which has been the subject of another land use claim. As a result of the settlement, the claimants have agreed that the developer may seek to obtain approval from the County Council to amend the original Wailea 670 project district ordinance to permit the affordable housing to be located either at the Kaonoulu site or at the Honua`ula site, or a combination of both sites.



Certain parts of the settlement agreement are contingent upon the developer obtaining additional approvals from the Maui Planning Commission and on the developer actually proceeding forward with the project as originally approved.

2017 Chapter Executive Committee

- Alana Bryant**
- Randy Ching** – *O'ahu Group*
- Judy Dalton** – *Kaua'i Group*
- Lucienne de Naie**
- Blake McElheny**
- Sheila Sarhangi**
- Nara Takakawa** – *Treasurer*
- Debbie Ward** – *Moku Loa Group*
- Rob Weltman** – *Maui Group*
- Kylie Wager**
- Colin Yost**
- Nate Yuen**

The Chapter is moving its elections online. Below is a bylaw amendment proposed by the Executive Committee to allow for electronic voting. Email us if you have any comments at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

4.1 Annual Election. An Annual Election shall be held in the fourth quarter of each year to choose ExCom members. This election and any special elections shall be conducted by ~~secret written ballot mailed to~~ electronically. ~~All~~ All Chapter members of record shall receive an email notice of their opportunity to vote at least four weeks before the closing date of the election, and shall be conducted in such a manner as to ensure facility of voting and tabulation, and secrecy of ballot. The chapter newsletter will inform members about the upcoming annual election and how to vote in it. The ballot shall allow each voter to vote for as many candidates as there are positions to be filled. A voter may not cumulate votes for any candidate.

The ExCom shall specify the calendar dates and deadlines for appointing the Nominating Committee (NomCom), production of eligible voter lists, receipt of names for consideration by the NomCom, receipt of ballot issue petitions, the NomCom report of names of nominees, receipt of candidate petitions, appointment of the Election Committee, ~~printing and mailing dates for ballots allowing at least four weeks for return of the ballots, receipt of returned ballots,~~ and the date, time and place for counting ballots.

4.4 Election Committee. An Election Committee of at least three Chapter members, at least one not an ExCom member, shall be appointed annually by the ExCom prior to the scheduled date of mailing of ballots. No candidates may serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall cause the ballots to be prepared ~~and mailed,~~ and shall count the returned ballots. Challenges of the conduct of candidates or their campaigns shall be referred to the Election Committee. Decisions of the Election Committee may be appealed to the ExCom.

4.5 ~~Mailing~~ Ballots. ~~Ballots shall be mailed to all~~ All Chapter members of record according to the voter list obtained prior to the election who have provided their email addresses to the chapter shall receive an email informing them of their opportunity to vote.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

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MĀLAMA I KA HONUA “Cherish the Earth” | A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII | JANUARY-MARCH 2017

Volunteer of the Year: Randy Ching

Randy Ching is one of the Sierra Club’s most devoted, generous, and lovable volunteers. He has been a member of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i since the 1980’s and has been an amazing champion for the O‘ahu Group as an active Outings Leader and member of the Executive Committee. Along with committing his time, Randy has been an invaluable financial supporter to the Sierra Club and other non-profit organizations, helping numerous groups fulfill their missions to promote good government and protect Hawai‘i’s environment and people.

This year, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i revamped an old tradition and hosted a party to celebrate incredible volunteers like Randy. The “Randy Ching Award” will commemorate the volunteer of the year—and of course Randy Ching is the first recipient!

We celebrated the Randy Ching Award with over 60 friends and fans, where Randy was adorned in lei and received an award plaque gifted by Jen Homey at Found Wood Working. State Representative Matt LoPresti organized an legislative commemoration, while fellow outings leader Stan Oka and Hawai‘i Chapter Treasurer Nara Takakawa presented the gift of a wiliwili tree planting and city park bench at Kokohead Botanical Garden.

Guests were able to share a favorite Randy story, with many speaking about his generous nature, enjoyment of food, dedication to protecting Hawai‘i and the planet, quirky snoring habits, and love for taking naps on the office couch.

Randy, on behalf of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, we thank you for everything. We are grateful to have you as a part of our ‘ohana are honored to create the Volunteer of the Year award in your name.

