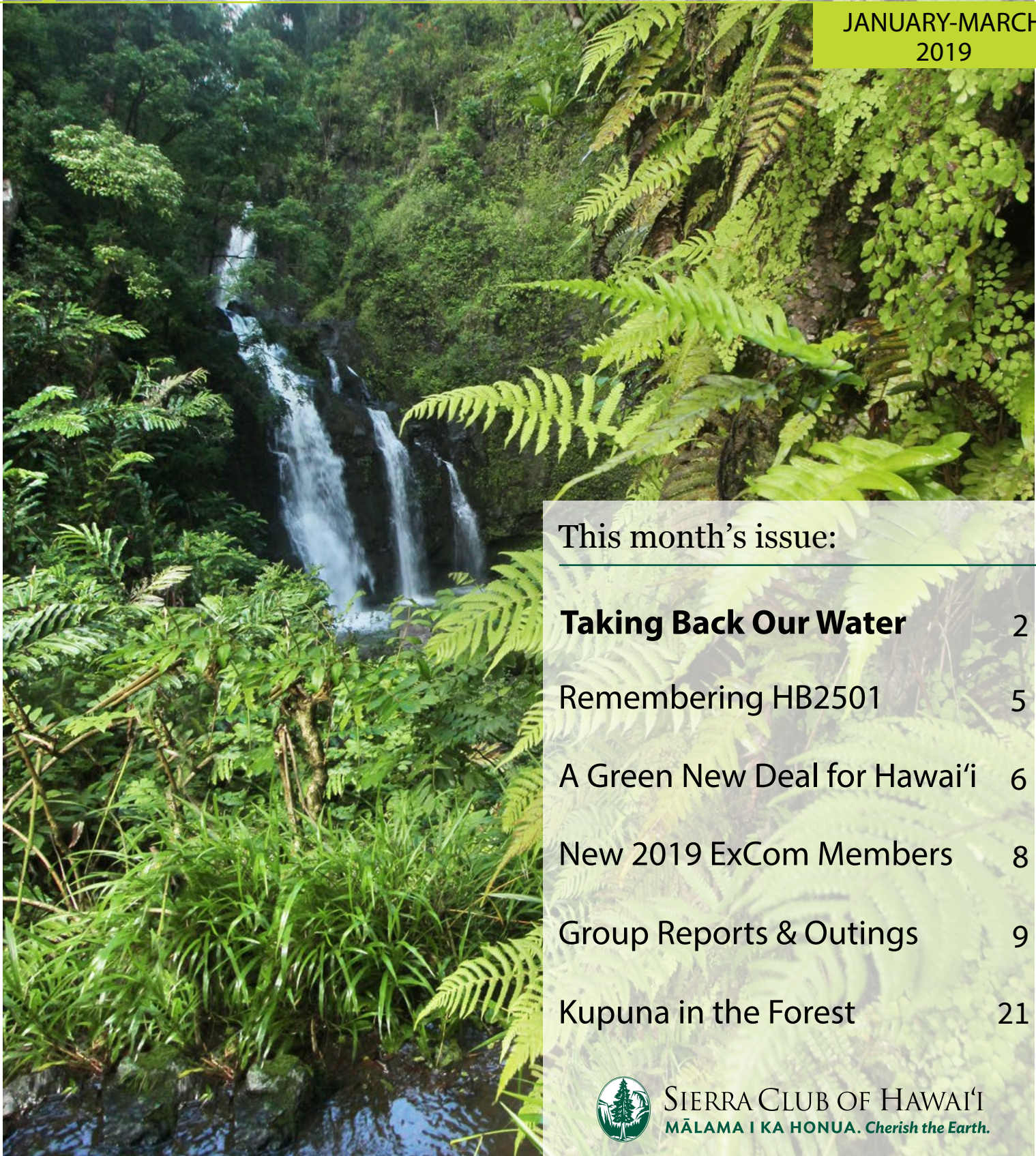




# MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

*A Quarterly Journal of the* SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

JANUARY-MARCH  
2019



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



# Taking Back Our Water: How Hawai'i's 30-Year-Old Water Code (Still) Holds the Key to Restoring the Public Trust in Water

by Wayne Tanaka, Chapter Political Committee Member

It seems that every day, our islands' future appears more and more dire.

Rainfall has decreased 15% over the past 20 years. Climate change models show that the cloud band embracing our mountain slopes – filling our aquifers and streams through rain and fog drip – will continue to shrink.

Rising seas threaten our basal freshwater lenses. And the continued push for development, particularly of high-end properties and “gentleman’s farms” where landscaping and swimming pools are the dominant crops, demonstrates how those with money and power continue to vie for the private, profit-driven use of our limited water resources.

In these times, the need to restore and uphold the traditional Hawaiian understanding of water as a sacred, public trust – to be reserved and managed for the public’s benefit, and not monopolized for private, corporate gain – seems greater now than ever before.

Fortunately, the means to achieve this may be found in laws already on the books, which after 30 years have yet to be fully implemented: the State Water Code.

## Birth of the Code: Reaffirming the Public Trust in Water

In 1987, the legislature fulfilled a decade-old constitutional mandate reaffirming the public trust in water, by passing a set of laws seeking to “protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai'i's water for the benefit of its people.”

This new Water Code was a Big Deal. Where a plantation oligarchy had for generations exercised de facto control over a major proportion of our water supply, diverting streams and draining aquifers throughout the islands for industrial sugar cultivation, the new Code suddenly provided, in written law, mechanisms to conserve, protect, and ensure that our public trust water – all water – is first and foremost used for the public good, including through the protection of watersheds, streams, and coastal resources as well as water-related Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

## Water Wars: The Plantations Fight Back

Predictably, the Code has since faced stiff resistance, with plantations and their successors-in-interest fighting tooth-and-nail against the enforcement of its provisions.

Almost immediately, diverters sidestepped the

Code’s mandate by convincing policymakers to set minimum instream flow standards “necessary to protect the public’s interest” to status quo, which allowed all of the current diversions to continue draining our islands’ streams dry.

With limited resources and staffing provided to the Water Commission, these instream flow standards sat dormant and unchanged for years. Farmers’ efforts to finally update the “interim” instream flow standards and restore stream

flow in Waiāhole were then fought vigorously by diverters, as were later efforts by farming communities and cultural practitioners in Central and East Maui.

Likewise, small farmers and cultural practitioners asserting their priority rights to water in the very few “water management areas” designated via the Code faced years of resistance and largely unfounded legal challenges by well-heeled diverters and large-scale corporate water consumers.

Old news articles further hint at the apparent, deeper political intrigue against the Code: the deputy attorney general who was allegedly fired for speaking to the native rights protected under the Code; the suspension and eventual resignation of a Division of Aquatic Resources administrator after his public report on East Maui’s stream habitat needs.

These decades of corporate and political hinderance demonstrate the danger the Code has posed to those with power and influence, and the lengths they have gone through to prevent its public trust mechanisms from being fully implemented.



Healoha Carmichael, sits in a bone dry stream bed of Honomanu Stream near her home in East Maui. Honomanu is one of the streams that has been restored through the Water Code.

## Harnessing the Power of the Code

Despite the decades of pushback, and in light of today’s unprecedented era of climate change, it is now our responsibility to not only protect the Code, but to find ways to further harness the untapped potential of its public trust vision.

The time is ripe. New Water Commission staff have recently taken the initiative to update interim instream flow standards in West Maui, the first time the state has done so without legal intervention. Government agencies such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands have stepped in to sponsor comprehensive hydrologic studies, as well as water law trainings for communities as well as government officials. And the tireless, decades-long efforts by farmers, environmentalists, cultural practitioners and others to apply and uphold the Water Code have resulted in a solid foundation of Supreme Court precedent, leaving little

wiggle room for corporate attorneys working to perpetuate their clients’ generations-long stranglehold on our streams and aquifers. With these promising developments, public vigilance, engagement and advocacy remain the critical pieces needed to wield the Code as the public trust game-changer it was always meant to be. Appropriate Water Commission nominations, sufficient funding by the legislature and the hiring of dedicated, well-informed Commission staff are all key to finally and meaningfully implementing the Code’s most powerful public trust mechanisms. By stepping up, together, we can generate the political will to make these things happen, and take back the waters that belong to us all.

To learn how you can help be a water advocate, sign up for Sierra Club action alerts at [sierraclubhawaii.org](http://sierraclubhawaii.org). To learn more about the Water Code and water law in Hawai'i, visit [bit.ly/oha-wai](http://bit.ly/oha-wai)



## E Ola I Ka Wai. Water Is Life.

Hawaiian place names often reflected an intimate familiarity with the unique resources and natural characteristics of the region, community or site they were attached to, and were often further informed by stories, historical events and spiritual qualities that reinforced the deep connection between people and the lands that fed them, the lands that they loved.

*Waikiki. Wai'alaie. Waimānalo. Waiāhole. Waipahū. Waipi'o. Waimalu. Wai'anae.*

If you live in Hawai'i, there is a fairly good chance that your home is named after the waters, or former waters, of your place.

*Wailuā. Waimea. Waipouli. Wai'oli. Wailuku. Waiehu. Waikapū. Waiohōnu.*

And in any case, it shouldn't take much effort to find a place nearby, whether an ahupua'a, an 'ili or even a specific site or natural feature, in which water, wai, is a central part of its traditional name.

*Waikolu. Kawaikapu. Waiohuli. Waialua. Manawai. Wai'ōhinu. Waiākea. Waipi'o. Wailau. Waikōloa. Kawaihae.*

Literally translated, these names could be as poetic as they were descriptive:

*Two waters. Three waters. Spouting water. Bursting water. Red water. Dark water. Water of wrath. Water of destruction. Water of the fat mullet. Water of the mature āhole fish. Water of the milkfish. Sweet water. Bitter water. The sacred water. The water of Kāne.*

That so many places, beloved by those that lived on and off of these lands, were described in terms of their waters is not likely a coincidence. The traditional Hawaiian understanding of water as a sacred and life-giving resource permeates legends and chants, informed the earliest laws or kōnāwai of Hawaiian society and enabled the growth of a human population nearly commensurate with that of Hawai'i today, which both sustained itself and ensured levels of widespread natural abundance not seen since the earliest days of Western contact. The salience of wai and its qualities in the naming of lands is likely a further reflection of this foundational traditional understanding.

While many traditional place names have been lost to time, those that survive today – by which we may still call our own homes, whether Native Hawaiian or other kama'āina – and that carry the descriptions of wai remind us of this ancient but ever more relevant understanding.



# Restore the Sacred Waters of Kaua'i

by Kip and Sharon Goodwin, Kaua'i Group Members

For fourteen years, the Board of Land and Natural Resources has allowed Kaua'i's electric utility, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative, to avoid its lease obligation for use of public trust water used to operate two 100-year old hydroelectric plants. Instead, the Land Board has granted Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) a series of one-year revocable permits. KIUC diverts nearly all of the water from Wai'ale'ale and Waikoko streams to feed its Waiahi hydroplants, which supply at most 1.5% of KIUC's electricity output.

On December 14, 2018 the Land Board proceeded to grant KIUC yet another one-year permit. While the Board's decision temporarily restores 30% of the stream and requires some consultation with affected residents, advocates for the stream argued that this amount is not sufficient to address historic injustices.

Since 2006, the Land Board has pressured KIUC to secure a long term lease by 2020. Their current one year permit expires at the end of this year, and the law allowing continuance of one year permits, HRS 171-58(c), expires in June 2019.

KIUC has made little, if any, progress in securing a lease. That process requires an Environmental Impact Study that would reveal, first, that they are diverting far more water than is needed to operate the two hydroelectric plants—which runs afoul of the public trust doctrine's "only take what you need" principle. Second, KIUC would have to conduct a study of alternative locations for a hydro facility and alternative renewable energy sources that could replace the two aging Waiahi plants. Finally, KIUC would have to acknowledge that the water they are diverting is being "consumed". That means it does not go back to the stream of origin. To return the water to its origin, KIUC would have to pump it five miles back up the mountain.

Each time the Land Board renews a permit to divert water out of the Wailua watershed, our constitutionally protected rights as residents and environmentalists are violated. The public trust doctrine enshrined in the State Constitution secures our right to protect and enjoy, to see, hear, and experience the Wailua watershed in its natural state. The same goes for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and taro farmers, whose rights are trampled upon each time the permit is extended.

Waikoko and Wai'ale'ale are two of six streams that are diverted and available to the hydro plants. The other four streams are on Grove Farm's property. But the Blue Hole streams, Wai'ale'ale and Waikoko are in the Conservation District's "Resource Protection" zone on state land and are accessible to the public. The accumulated production of the six streams is estimated at 30 million gallons a day. That was more than enough for Lihu'e Sugar Company to operate the two hydroelectric plants plus irrigate thousands of acres of sugarcane, so KIUC's claim to need two thirds of Blue Hole water is unsubstantiated.



# Remembering House Bill 2501 As We Enter the 2019 Legislative Session

By Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

In the late 1800s, Alexander and Baldwin constructed a system of diversions and grates that redirected over 160 million gallons of water every day from several East Maui Streams to lands in Central Maui. The stream water was used to cultivate sugarcane that Alexander and Baldwin (A&B) sold for massive corporate profit, at the expense of decimating the native stream ecosystems and cultural practices in East Maui, such as traditional kalo farming.

A&B was supposed to apply for a long-term lease to continue diverting water from East Maui decades ago—a process that triggers oversight mechanisms like the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Instead, A&B has been applying for short term "hold-over" permits, which are renewed annually and have almost no mandatory oversight or environmental review. For decades, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved these hold-over permits for Alexander and Baldwin, even though they were illegal.

In 2016, A&B succeeded in passing House Bill 2501 (HB2501, now Act 126), changing Hawai'i's law to legalize the hold-over permits that enabled the company's continual taking of public water from East Maui Streams. The Legislature passed HB2501, despite the fact that A&B's sugar plantation on Maui already had plans to shut down and the company did not have plans for their fallow agricultural lands. HB2501 allowed this corporation to divert millions of gallons of freshwater every day, circumventing the established process for requesting access to public water, and rewarding A&B for manipulating the permitting system for years. However, HB2501 did include one restriction: starting with the passage of the law, A&B is only allowed to request a hold-over permit for up to three years, after that, they must request a longer-term lease.

2019 marks the third and final year that major water diverters like KIUC and A&B can apply for hold-over permits from the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We anticipate a new bill to further extend this misuse of "hold-over" permits to be introduced during the 2019 legislative session. It has been three years since the last sugar plantation closed in Hawai'i. There is no justification to continue plantation style diversions any longer. Until an Environmental Impact Statement is completed and the stream diversions are proven to be in the public interest, the Sierra Club remains committed to opposing all efforts to extend the hold-over permits for any private corporation.

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## With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1 % of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
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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# Letter from the Chair: A Green New Deal for Hawai'i

By Colin Yost, Chapter ExCom Chair

In his first inaugural address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised swift action to address the "dark realities of the moment" brought on by the Great Depression, and he pledged to "wage a war against the emergency [as though] we were in fact invaded by a foreign foe." FDR then promptly delivered by implementing a series of bold, "New Deal" initiatives that transformed and dramatically improved American society.

Our generation's emergency is climate change and FDR's invasion analogy rings just as true today as it did in 1933. Enemy forces are not landing on our beaches (although Hurricane Lane caused great harm), but science reveals the inexorable advance of devastating climate impacts. The only way to meet this challenge is to apply the same urgency and effort required to defend against an invading army. Could the answer be what newly elected New York Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez and others are calling a "Green New Deal?"

On the federal level, proponents of a Green New Deal focus on the practical steps and programs necessary to convert the U.S. to a carbon-neutral economy by around 2030, including generating 100% of national power from renewable sources; building a national, energy-efficient "smart" grid; upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety; decarbonizing manufacturing, agricultural and other industries; decarbonizing, repairing and improving transportation and other infrastructure; funding massive investment in the drawdown and capture of greenhouse gases; and making "green" technology, industry, expertise, products and services a major export of the United States, with the aim of becoming the undisputed international leader in helping other countries transition to carbon-neutral economies and bringing about a global Green New Deal. [source: [ocasio2018.com/green-new-deal](https://ocasio2018.com/green-new-deal)]

These are all important, huge, and challenging things! There is perhaps too much reliance on technological fixes, and many twists and turns await in the implementation of such a plan. Achieving the Green New Deal's dual purpose of eliminating poverty in America won't be easy either. But it's cause for celebration that we're finally talking about solutions on a scale that will make a difference.

For Hawai'i, a Green New Deal means accelerating our 100% renewable energy and carbon neutral mandates, swiftly implementing new initiatives to stimulate green economic growth and genuinely diversifying our economy while raising our standard of living. As a state, we have a disappointingly mixed track record of encouraging green industry and activities. For example, state tax credits for solar led to the rapid expansion of the local PV industry, but the abrupt elimination of Net-

Energy Metering effectively threw PV companies off a cliff that only a few were able to survive. We've also been woefully slow to build enough electric vehicle charging infrastructure to keep up with current demand, let alone enough to incentivize consumers to switch to EVs faster. The coming state legislative session is a critical time for us to come together and collaborate on new legislation that defines and implements a Green New Deal to improve our state and inspire other governments around the world to follow our example.

In our time, we may have more to fear than fear itself, but for the sake of our children and all life on this planet we must nevertheless persist and prevail. Let's get to work!

## A Profit from the Harm Means an Obligation to Pay for the Remedy

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

It is now public knowledge that fossil fuel companies knew as early as 1977 that global warming was a real thing, that it is caused by humans burning fossil fuel, and that if not curtailed early it would have severe and irreversible negative consequences for the health of the planet and everything that lives on it.

Not only did fossil fuel companies know their business harmed the planet, they actively worked against solutions to the problem. Fossil fuel companies spent millions to counter climate science, undermine international agreements, and lobby against reasonable climate-saving policies. Thanks to these companies, the situation is now far worse than it otherwise might have been.

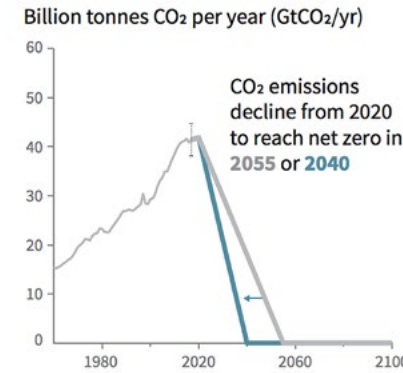
The President of the Union of Concerned Scientists, Kenneth Kimmel, told the Guardian that, "if the fossil-fuel companies had been upfront about this and had been part of the solution instead of the problem, we would have made a lot of progress [today] instead of doubling our greenhouse gas emissions." That's right, we doubled our greenhouse gas emissions at the exact moment we should have halved them because the fossil fuel industry interfered in science-based public policy making.

Now that we know the fossil fuel industry actively worked to exacerbate the problem of climate change while profiting from it, it seems reasonable that they pay for the harm we are now all suffering. All of the mitigation and adaptation we must now do to prepare for rapidly rising seas, all of the habitat lost, oceans acidified, and seasons altered, all of the damage caused by weather events made more extreme by climate change... all of it should be paid for from the profits of fossil fuel companies. This seems the reasonable consequence of keeping us all hooked to the dirtiest sources of energy solely for the profit of a few companies.

# Ending Carbon Emissions and Poverty in Hawai'i

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

The 2018 U.N. climate report minced no words: We have less than 12 years between now and when carbon emissions need to be cut in half in order to keep global temperature shifts below a 1.5 degree increase



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change charts the necessary pathways to limit warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius

from pre-industrial levels. This is a major undertaking. In Hawai'i, despite significant legislative action to advance goals and policies to save our climate, our carbon emissions are still increasing. We are among the leaders in carbon emissions per capita with no sign of slowing down. The impediments to ending our contribution to climate change are not scientific, but instead are political. Scientists whose entire careers have been focused on research and analysis are now full-time lobbyists, jumping in to the political fray where their time is now most beneficial.

There is general consensus among scientific and economic circles that we must make dramatic changes in policy to accelerate the reduction of carbon to zero, and we invest in efforts that capture significant amounts of carbon from the air itself.

## Carbon Capture

There several emerging technologies around pulling carbon molecules directly from the air that are worthy of our attention in the coming year. Innovators are researching opportunities to capture carbon by retrofitting existing devices and vehicles. Someday soon it could be possible to use captured carbon as a bridge fuel in cars and powerplants.

The most time-tested and reliable method of capturing carbon from the air is something we all know and love: trees. Hawai'i needs to plant at least 1 million trees by 2030 to stave off the worst of the "heat island effect" and meet its carbon neutrality goals. Government agencies, non-profits, and companies are embracing the challenge with exciting new approaches to bold tree planting projects. For its part, the State of Hawai'i is preparing to enter the California carbon sequestration market as one way to fund massive tree-planting efforts throughout the islands.

## Carbon Pricing

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just suggested that a \$500/ton price on carbon would be necessary to cut the world's emissions in half by 2030. Detractors cite the potential regressive nature

The Hawai'i Chapter is currently exploring which carbon pricing options are most feasible for Hawai'i. For Sierra Club National's guidance on Carbon Pricing visit [bit.ly/SC-cp18](https://bit.ly/SC-cp18)

of this tax as a reason not to support it. However, if revenues from the tax are invested in public clean energy infrastructure, and paid out as dividends directly to taxpayers, then plan is no longer regressive, but is significantly progressive. Multiple studies show that households in the bottom 60% of income will be financially better off than they would be without this plan being implemented.

In Canada, several provinces adopted a carbon tax and dividend model that will return money to most residents. Depending on where one lives, the average Canadian household can expect to receive for \$150-\$1,000 more than what they spent in fees collected on carbon. This program starts in January. In Scandinavia, residents have been operating on a carbon pricing scheme since 1991. Finland's carbon price is currently set at \$160 per ton of carbon emitted. It is interesting to note that Finland's emissions per person are less than a third of ours here in Hawai'i. We will certainly be watching to see what we can learn and adapt from their program to benefit residents of Hawai'i.

## FEDERAL CARBON TAX REBATES

A look at the average cost impact of the federal carbon tax system compared to the average household rebate:

	Ontario	N.B.	Manitoba	Saskatchewan
2019	\$244 \$300	\$202 \$248	\$232 \$336	\$403 \$598
2020	\$357 \$439	\$296 \$365	\$342 \$495	\$588 \$883
2021	\$463 \$571	\$386 \$476	\$447 \$649	\$768 \$1161
2022	\$564 \$697	\$470 \$583	\$547 \$797	\$946 \$1419

SOURCE: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's carbon fee and dividend plan leaves the average citizen—regardless of location—better off financially than without the plan.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i passed a resolution this summer asking for a carbon pricing plan that returns funds directly to residents. According to some of our ally organizations, when they asked candidates for public office about this plan, the majority of legislators who responded were in agreement with it, including Governor Ige.

Because Hawai'i's economy is so dependent on tourism, and by extension carbon-heavy travel, we need to be extremely thoughtful about the mechanisms we use to bring carbon emissions to an end in the Hawaiian Islands. It is possible that future national or international carbon regulation could stifle carbon-intensive air travel with no benefit to the Hawaiian Islands, and may even cause significant harm to our economy. This reason alone to act sooner than later to safely transition our economy away from carbon in a way that more fairly shares the bounty of our resources with everyone.



## Welcome the Newly Elected 2019 Executive Committee Members!

### Hawai'i Chapter

Heather Kimball  
Colin Yost  
Nate Yuen

### O'ahu Group

Anthony Aalto  
Hannah Hubanks  
Steve Montgomery

### Maui Group

Clare Apana  
Miranda Camp  
Lucienne de Naie  
Daniel Grantham  
Janet Six

### Kaua'i Group

Kip Goodwin  
Carl Imparato  
Jade Moss  
Rayne Regush

### Moku Loa Group

Ruth Aloua  
Rob Culbertson  
Bob Ernst  
Koran Munafa

Big mahalo to everyone that voted in our second online election. Congratulations again to our new leadership!

## WE'RE MOVING DATABASES!

The Hawai'i Chapter is being integrated into Sierra Club National's database system. This means many great things—increased access to online organizing resources, technical support, streamlined reporting, and more.

Staff and volunteers are working hard to make this transition as streamlined as possible and we thank you for your patience during this time. If you notice any changes in your subscription preferences, online or by mail, please let us know at [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 538-6616.



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# O'ahu Group Outings

## SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at [bit.ly/SCH-outdoors](http://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

### Sunday, January 6

*Photography Hike: 'Ōhi'a Ridge Hike (E)*

Koko Head, moderate/3 miles, ridge

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations and information. We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into a crater to view rare and endangered native plants. Leader: John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa, [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com); Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

### Sunday, January 13

*Kahuku Shoreline to Turtle Bay*

Kahuku, moderate/5 miles, beach

Reservations required. We will meet and start at the Kahuku Golf Course at 8:30am 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. The hike continues on to the beach for a look at some historic salt pans. We will swim and lunch on the beach before continuing on to Turtle Bay. Bring plenty of water, a hat, and sunscreen. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com), 753-0528

### Saturday, January 19

*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. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com); John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

### Sunday, January 27

*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 8 am 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 3

*Photography hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E)*

Kailua, moderate/2 miles, ridge

Reservations required. Contact John for reservations. The pace of photography hikes are extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ohe. Car shuttle required. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com); Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

### Saturday, February 9

*MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)*

Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS one week before outing to secure access to base. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or [danderhi@gmail.com](mailto:danderhi@gmail.com). We will be working with Environmental Division 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. Leader: Deborah Blair, 392-0481

### Sunday, February 10

*Photography Hike: Pu'u 'Ōhi'a /Tantalus Crater (E)*

Tantalus, easy/2 miles, ridge/crater

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Wet rainforest environment with many native plants. Low light conditions. Bring mosquito repellent and raingear. Leaders: Curtis Kawamoto, [curtis96815@gmail.com](mailto:curtis96815@gmail.com); Clyde Kobashigawa

### Sunday, February 24

*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

## GLANCE BACK THROUGH 2018



Governor Ige presents the Hawai'i Chapter with a proclamation in honor of our 50th anniversary.



Long time members reminisce about their favorite memories with the Club at our in town celebration.



Maui residents rally outside of A&B office in Kahului to show their support for the Hukilike Coalition's 15% for the Future.



Kaua'i Group hikers enjoying the unique coast along Māhā'ulepū.



Hikers participate on the first ever "Ka Iwi Coast Explorations" following a 40 year effort to preserve East O'ahu's Ka Iwi coastline.



Members and supporters celebrate our 50th year at Moli'i Fishpond with local food and good company.

Mahalo nui again to everyone that came together to make our 50th year of service in Hawai'i such a memorable occasion. This, and every year, are made successful by people like you volunteering your time and service to the planet. In 2018, we held two fabulous anniversary celebrations, continued our outstanding outings throughout the islands, advocated for the sharing of water and land across sectors, hiked to new places, and made a lot of new friends. See you all again in 2019!





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. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

## Saturday, March 9

### Late Hike: Pu'u Pia

Mānoa, moderate/2 miles, 500 ft elevation gain This short hike in the back of Mānoa Valley takes us to the top of a short hill (pu'u) and a surprisingly good view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

## Saturday, March 16

### Pālehua Service Project - Trail Clearing (S)

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John Shimogawa for reservations. Space is limited due to parking. Pack a lunch and /or snacks and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruning shears, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! You may also hear and see some native birds, so bring a camera too. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

## Sunday, March 17

### Mākuia Rim via Peacock Flats

Mokulē'ia, strenuous/11 miles, contour, ±2,350 feet Reservations required. Long walk up a road to a trail that leads through Pahole Natural Area Reserve to a fabulous view of Mākuia Valley. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528, gsinclai@gmail.com



O'ahu Group service trip participants at Kahaualea, Hawai'i Island in January 2018. Photo by Clyde Kobashigawa

## 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 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, raingear/jacket, and daypack. 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 content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources 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.

## Humpback Whales are in Trouble

by Nina Monasevitch

Our oceans are in peril. Multiple whale species, including Hawai'i's humpback whales, are experiencing serious challenges and population declines. These majestic mammals are apex species and contribute crucially to the health of the entire ocean ecosystem.

### Recent History

The Hawaiian Islands are mating and birthing grounds for the North Pacific humpback whale. Humpback whales were hunted to near extinction until the 1960's and listed as endangered in 1973. At that time, scientists proposed that when the whales reached 60% of their pre-whaling populations they would be considered recovered. In 1991, the recovery team realized that those numbers were unattainable so they developed an interim goal to double the population size over the next 20 years.

Between 2004-06 an international study known as SPLASH - the Structures of Population, Levels of Abundance, and Status of Humpback Whales was conducted. The conclusion drawn from that report was that North Pacific humpback whale numbers were growing by 6% per year. The Hawai'i population was estimated to be 10,000, a small fraction of pre-whaling numbers.

Unfortunately in 2013, the Hawai'i Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to delineate a Distinct Population Segment of humpbacks in the North Pacific in order to de-list the Hawai'i distinct population under the Endangered Species Act.

In September 2016, NMFS reclassified humpback whales, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), into 14 Distinct Population Segments (DPS) worldwide, designated by breeding areas. Upon reclassifying, NMFS determined that the Hawai'i Distinct Population Segment, along with nine other DPSs, no longer warranted listing under the ESA. Prior to this, all humpback whales, worldwide, were listed as endangered. Regrettably, the delisting was based on the ten-year-old SPLASH research.

### Perilous Counts

Recent whale counts in Hawai'i have decreased by more than 50% over the last 3 years. For example, the Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF) count in 2018 recorded 529 total whales and 62 total calves. In 2011, the PWF count recorded 1612 total whales and 191 total calves. In addition, acoustic studies document a 50% decrease in acoustic energy over the past three years. The Hawaiian

Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary ocean count sightings have decreased approximately 50% over the past few years as well.

In Alaska, since 2013, the science also documents a significant decline in abundance. Observation and photo documentation show whales in poor body condition, emaciated (24%), abnormal skin conditions, and an 80% decrease in calves. Poor body condition is most likely attributed to lack of food but may also indicate illness, disease, or stress.

The Alaska Whale Foundation reported only one mother-calf pair sighted in 2016, and only two mother-calf pairs were seen in 2017. Alarmingly, there were no juvenile sightings in 2017—a first since recordings began in 1989. (Humpback Whale Monitoring in Glacier Bay and Adjacent Waters 2017 Annual Progress Report).

### Unabated threats

The two biggest threats to whales are net entanglement and vessel strikes. Net entanglement kills 300,000 cetaceans annually. This includes lost or discarded fishing gear and active fishing gear. In Hawai'i, the previous season had the highest confirmed entangled whales ever recorded. Other serious threats are prey depletion due to overfishing, ecosystem/habitat degradation due to runoff, chemical pollution, swallowed pollution from garbage (mainly plastic), ocean acidification, climate change, acoustic disturbance (increasing dramatically from engine noise due to more shipping, recreation, and fishing vessels worldwide), ongoing Navy sonar, seismic gas and oil surveys, illegal whaling, bio-toxins, harassment from whale watching/tourism activities, and radiation from Fukushima.

Multiple academic institutions including the University of Hawai'i Mānoa Marine Mammal Research Program and the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Research team, and others are continuing to study multiple factors that are impacting the whales. This includes climate change, human activities, important habitats, prey availability, and individual body condition.

As this article is going to print, a meeting of 30 researchers is planned in Hawai'i for late November to share research, fill in knowledge gaps, and better understand the reasons for the decline of humpback whales. Their conclusions will be critical in determining the action plans of all sectors involved with protecting the whales. (continued on page 12)



Lyman/ Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA permit # 14682)



# Kaua'i Group Report & Outings

The importance of whales cannot be understated. In addition to Hawai'i's tourism economy they are critical to the health of the oceans. And, they help mitigate climate change—whale excrement proliferates plankton, the foundation of the food chain, which also removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it at the bottom of the oceans.

The population of the North Pacific humpback whales is trending down significantly. They are showing signs of poor health and there are fewer calves. Action needs to be taken right away—time is of the essence to save these magnificent mammals.

To start, Kaua'i Group advocates the relisting of the North Pacific humpback population to the Endangered Species List, the designation of critical habitat, and for State and Federal agencies to establish vessel speed limits in Hawai'i during whale season.

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

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](http://bit.ly/SCH-Kauai-Hikes) for updates to the schedule. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1, all others: \$5.

### Tuesday, January 1

*Keālia Beach to Kuna Bay (Donkey Beach) (C/E/F)*

Easy/3 miles

Start off the year on the right foot by taking a Sierra Club hike! We'll begin our walk mid-afternoon enjoying great views of the rocky coastline and have our first dinner of the year at a picnic table overlooking the ocean. Co-Leaders: Judy Dalton and Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Thursday, January 3

*Māhā'ulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)*

Po'ipū area, moderate/4 miles

Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along a magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

### Saturday, January 12

*Kukui Trail (C/E/F)*

Waimea Canyon State Park, strenuous/5 miles

We will hike from the rim of Waimea Canyon down to its base and admire the majesty of this canyon along the way. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Thursday, January 17

*Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls (E/F)*

Waimea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles

Unparalleled views of Waimea Canyon from the other side. Visit the top of the 800-foot Waipo'o Falls and dip your toes into a cool stream before it flows down the waterfall. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

### Sunday, January 20

*Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)*

South shore, moderate/3 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

### Sunday, January 20

*Total Lunar Eclipse Wailua to Nukoli'i Beach Walk (C/E/F)*

Easy/1.5 miles

Watch the moon as it turns completely red on our walk along this long stretch of pristine beach. We'll meet at Lydgate Beach Park and enjoy a picnic dinner before starting off on our sunset to full moon walk. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

### Saturday, January 26

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

Strenuous/7 miles

Spectacular hike through forests of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, and 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, January 27

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

East shore, moderate/5.5 miles

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

### Thursday, January 31

*Kuilau Ridge Trail (C/F)*

East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles

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: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

### Saturday, February 9

*Wai Koa Loop Trail (C/E/F)*

North shore, easy/3.5 miles

We'll pass through the Kīlauea Forest and then the largest mahogany plantation in North America. Then, the trail opens up and we'll enjoy impressive views of the

# Kaua'i Group Outings



Ken Fasig leads the way down Waimea Canyon via the Kukui Trail. Photo by Lee Gately

Namahana Mountains, which means "the twin branches" in Hawaiian. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Saturday, February 16

*Kā'aweiki Ridge (C/E/F)*

Koke'e State Park, moderately difficult/7 miles

A wonderful hike along a dirt road that begins up in Koke'e and terminates on a ridge above the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

### Monday, February 18

*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 to shuttle our cars to Donkey Beach. We will start our walk from there and end back at the library as we watch the moon rise over the ocean. Learn how the Planning Commission was legally challenged to assure increased building setbacks along the ridge to preserve the views on and along the coastline. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

### Saturday, February 23

*Nu'alolo Trail (C/E/F)*

Koke'e State Park, moderately strenuous/7.5 miles

A rewarding hike reaching a spectacular view at the Lolo Vista overlooking the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Sunday, February 24

*Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)*

South shore, moderate/3 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

### Thursday, February 28

*Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls (E/F)*

Waimea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles

Unparalleled views of Waimea Canyon from the other side. Visit the top of the 800-foot Waipo'o Falls and dip your toes into a cool stream before it flows down the waterfall. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

### Saturday, March 9

*Nounou Mountain (Sleeping Giant) (C/E/F)*

East Shore, moderate/5 miles

Offers spectacular panoramic views of the East Side of Kauai. We will explore the mountain on several trails. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Saturday, March 16

*A Day of Koke'e Trails (C/E/F)*

Koke'e State Park, moderate/5 miles

Starting at Koke'e Lodge we hike to Berry Flat Trail and continue to the northern section of the Ditch Trail. Finally, we loop back to the Waininiua Trail and back to the lodge for a variety of views. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

### Sunday, March 17

*Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)*

South shore, moderate/3 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

### Saturday, March 23

*Kapa'a to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)*

East shore, moderate/6.5 miles

The first part of this outing is easy on the bike/walk path up until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Lovely views along wild coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

### Thursday, March 28

*Nounou Trail West from Lokelani Road (E/F)*

Wailua, strenuous/3 miles

Climb to the top of (Nounou) Sleeping Giant. Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834



Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve overlooking Gillin's Beach. Photo by Lee Gately





Mahalo to astronomer Harriet Witt, Tim Wolfe of Akamai Video, Rob Weltman, Kim Toomey, Daniel Grantham, and Miranda Camp for a well-produced November 9th autumn stargazing event under the broad skies of Wailea 670. Special mahalos to Maui Tropical Plantation for providing space for the Maui Group holiday party and treasure hunt. A new program manager for Maui Group will be hired soon, thanks to our many generous donors. We look forward to another year of standing for Maui's lands, waters, and people.

## Lahaina Wastewater Facility Clean Water Act Legal Action

US Supreme Court justices will hold a conference on November 30 to discuss whether to grant or deny Maui County's petition to hear the Lahaina wastewater case. Earthjustice attorneys, on behalf of Sierra Club and allies, filed a petition in late October opposing the County's request to reverse the decision of the 9th Circuit Court that requires Maui County to secure a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and reduce impacts to ocean water quality from the plant.

## West Maui Stream Restoration

Two more West Maui streams, Kahoma and Kanahā, have officially had stream flow partially restored thanks to a recent State Water Commission decision.

## Wailea 670/"Honua'ula" Development

A revised Historic Resources Preservation Plan for Wailea 670 is under review by the Maui Group before it is submitted to State Historic Division. It must be approved by the State Historic Division before the matter is heard for a final review by Maui Planning Commission. The 1150-unit project still has a number of significant conditions of zoning to complete before it can receive its final permits to begin any onsite construction.

## Sand Mining

Local cultural group, Mālama Kakanilua, recently met with Maui Lani landowners to seek mediation of their court challenge over alleged unmonitored sand mining activities in a culturally sensitive sand dune area proposed for housing development. The two sides reached a tentative settlement agreement. More details in January.

## Mākena Development

Maui Group representatives and allies recently toured a proposed 100-acre native plant preserve area on Mākena Resort land that would be protected as part of the 2017 legal settlement agreement. New archaeological reports are also expected soon to cover the significant amount of archaeological sites above Mākena Landing that were overlooked by the project's 2015 archaeological studies. Maui Group and allies have the right to review,

comment on, and suggest revisions to the archaeological reports as part of a 2017 legal settlement agreement.

## Kihei Wetlands

A proposed housing project near Welakahao Street in Kihei appears to be sited on lands long recognized as wetlands. The Maui Group will work with local community groups to advocate for protection of the wetlands.



Mahalo to everyone that came out to support Maui Group's holiday party. Photo by Ann Wallace



Thank you Maui Tropical Plantation for providing a beautiful setting for the party. Photo by Rob Weltman



Maui Group supporters looking for prizes during the treasure hunt. Photo by Rob Weltman

## SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please register for all hikes with the leader listed in the description. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. Hiking boots are recommended for longer hikes. A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club 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](mailto:sierraclubmauigroup@gmail.com) if you are interested. Check [bit.ly/SCH-Maui-Outdoors](http://bit.ly/SCH-Maui-Outdoors) for updates to the schedule.

## Friday, January 4

Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 2-3 miles

Archaeological tour of ancient Hawaiian kauhale (village) with archaeologist Jeanne Schaaf. Stunning sunset views. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Monday, January 7

Kihei Coral Reef Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Explore the amazing world beneath the sea and help clean abandoned fishing gear and trash from our fragile coral reefs. We'll meet at 8am at the Keolahou Church (green church) parking lot. Bring snorkel gear and scissors or diving knives if you have them. Also snorkel gloves come in handy. Must be a good swimmer. We will have floats to carry the trash we pick up. Limit 10. Leader: Miranda Camp, [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com)

## Saturday, January 19

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

Mā'alaea, 2 miles

Explore ancient Mā'alaea village. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet 9am at mauka end of Maui Ocean Center parking lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Saturday, January 26

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Ha'ikū, 4 miles

Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hamakua 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, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Sunday, January 27

Kanaio Stupa (C/E)

2 miles

Some steep grades. Hike up the south slope 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](mailto:robw@worldspot.com); please provide cell phone number

## Saturday, February 2

Whale Day in Mā'alaea

Help set up the Sierra Club booth at the Maui Harbor Shops in Mā'alaea or take a shift to talk to visitors at the booth. The hours of the event are 8am-12pm. Leader: Rob Weltman, [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com); please provide cell phone number

## Sunday, February 3

Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 2-3 miles

Tour of ancient Hawaiian kauhale (village) with archaeologist. Stunning sunset views. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147, with guidance by archaeologist Jeanne Schaaf.

## Friday, February 15

Mākena Landing Historical Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 3 miles

Learn from kama'āina about the fascinating history of Mākena Landing and visit Hawaiian sites that still remain thanks to the Sierra Club and local citizens. Some uneven terrain. Closed shoes recommended. Bring water, snack, and cameras. Meet at 8:30am in the public parking lot across from Keawala'i (Mākena) church. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Sunday, February 17

Stand Up Paddle Adventure (E)

Come explore the ocean on a stand up paddle board in Kihei. Meet at 8am at the Mana Kai Resort on the grassy area near the paddle boards and kayaks. You will need to rent a board from the Surf Shack there or bring your own. We may see manta rays and/or humpback whales from our boards. This is not a stand up paddle lesson, so please have some prior experience and an ability to swim. And please be on time. Limit 8. Leader: Miranda Camp, [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com)



## Saturday, February 23

*Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)*

Ha'ikū, 4 miles

Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 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, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Sunday, February 24

*Sierra Club Annual Meeting*

Food, fellowship, short inspirational talks and Environmental Heroes Awards. FREE. 11am-3pm at Kaunoa Senior Center. Main dish will be provided, please bring side dishes for a great picnic lunch. For email reminder about our annual meeting, go to mausierraclub.org and click on "Join Our Email List" in left column of our home page. Event volunteers wanted. Contact: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com

## Sunday, March 3

*Launiupoko Heiau and Valley (C/E)*

4 miles

Lots of trails, Hawaiian heiau, and sites hidden along the way as we hike up this iconic valley. Bring hat, sunscreen, water, lunch, or snack. Meet 9am at mauka end of Maui Ocean Center parking lot to carpool or at 9:30am at trailhead off of Wailau Place. Limit 20. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

## Saturday, March 9

*Pa'uvela lighthouse and Tide Pools (C/E)*

4 miles

Moderate, with some steep muddy sections. 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; please provide cell phone number

## Monday, March 11

*Kīhei Historical Hike (C/E)*

3 miles

Urban ramble with some hiking through fields. Discover Kīhei's Hawaiian history in Waiohuli ahupua'a. Meet at 8:30am in Kīhei pool parking lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Sunday, March 17

*'Ulupalakua to Kaupō Car Tour (C/E)*

30 miles

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 Kēōkea Park in upper Kula. Bring lunch and water. Limit 20. Special donation: \$5 members \$10 non-members. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Friday March 22

*Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)*

South Maui, 2-3 miles

Springtime tour of rare native plants. Visit ancient Hawaiian sites in Wailea 670 preserve. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register: laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Sunday, March 24

*Lahaina Pali Trail (C/E)*

West Maui, 5 miles

Strenuous with steep uphill. 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 at the gas station end. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com; please provide cell phone number

## Saturday, March 30

*Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)*

Ha'ikū, 4 miles

Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 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, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147



Photo by Rob Weltman



## Mauna Kea Update by Debbie Ward

Moku Loa members were shocked to learn of the highly political ruling issued just days before the TMT board was scheduled to meet. On October 30, 2018, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued a decision supporting the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope atop Mauna Kea. The court affirmed 4-1 the state Board of Land and Natural Resources' decision to issue a construction permit for the \$1.43 billion project. Justice Pollock wrote a concurrent brief regarding the public trust doctrine issues the decision raised. In a move considered highly unusual, the court issued its opinion without a concurrent dissent.

On November 9, 2018, Hawai'i Supreme Court Judge Wilson released his dissenting decision regarding the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope atop Mauna Kea. He argues conservation land and its cultural and natural resources do not lose its protection under the Hawai'i "State" Constitution and the laws of the State of Hawai'i because it has already had substantial adverse effects caused by previous development. In the case of Mauna Kea, the previous building of telescopes on the summits have had adverse effects to the Mauna Kea summits. Justice Wilson states: "The substantial adverse impacts to cultural resources presently existing in the Astronomy Precinct of Mauna Kea combined with the impacts from TMT—a proposed land use that eclipses all other telescopes in magnitude—would constitute an impact on existing cultural resources that is substantial and adverse. Accordingly, the Conservation District Use Application for TMT must be denied."

A Motion for Reconsideration was filed by attorney Richard Naiwi Wurdeman for the Mauna Kea Petitioners – Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Kealoha Pisciotta, Clarence Kauakahi Ching, Flores-Case 'Ohana, Deborah J. Ward, Paul K. Neves, and KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance. An amicus brief in support of the motion was filed by D. Kapua'ala Sproat and Isaac Moriwake of Earthjustice, Justice Robert Klein and Kurt Klein of Klein Law Group LLC, Melody MacKenzie, and Colette Machado and Dan Ahuna of Kua'aina Ulu 'Auamo. The court amended the concurrent and dissenting opinions, reconsidered and amended the decision on some of the issues raised, but left the permit in place. Still, TMT will need more funding, plus an extension on the UH Mauna Kea lease—which expires in 15 years. If built, it would be finished just in time to be decommissioned, but they wouldn't have the funds to do so for 50 years.

## Visions of Kahuku by Lisa Mason

On November 24th our club hiked the Pu'u o Lokuana Trail in the Kahuku Unit of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The loop trail is 2 miles roundtrip and takes about 1 hour to complete at a leisurely pace. This area in Ka'u experienced one of Mauna Loa's most violent eruptions in 1868. Lethal landslides and tsunamis were

generated by powerful earthquakes. Fast moving lava traveled 10 miles in only 3 hours to the coastline covering many of the vibrant fishing and farming communities of the area. However, the business of ranching inevitably continued in Kahuku.

In 2003, this unit of Kahuku Ranch became National parklands. During our hike, we walked through several kīpuka of native forest emerging from the 1868 flow and crossed into rolling hills of Kikuyu grass. The pinnacle of Kahuku is Pu'u o Lokuana. This pu'u is an iron-rich cinder cone hill that provided us sweeping views of the historic Ka'u field system, emerging forests of 'ōhi'a and koa trees, the old Kamaoa wind farm, and Mauna Loa. We also joined the park ranger talk on the "Realms and Divisions of Kahuku" and learned the story of two great ali'i, Ka'u chief Keōua and his cousin Kamehameha, who battled for control of Hawai'i Island.

Christian Liberty Academy's High School Hikers participated this year in the National Keep America Beautiful Recycle-Bowl, a one-month long recycling challenge on our school campus to promote recycling education and zero waste. From October 15-November 15, our club collected 1,775 pounds of recyclables at our school (not bad for a small campus) including HI-5, mixed paper, cardboard, and plastics. The County of Hawai'i recently announced they would no longer be accepting #5 (polypropylene) plastics starting December 1, 2018. Currently, #1 (PETE) and #2 (HDPE) plastics can still be recycled. What many people don't realize is that not all plastics are the same and that trying to "recycle" the wrong plastics, and other non-recyclable items do more harm than good. We are proud of our community and hope to continue educating our school about the importance of reducing our waste.

Future High School Hiking outings include Makalawena Beach, Crater Rim Trail, Pololū Valley, and Keawaiki to 'Anaeho'omalū Bay. Happy hiking!



Photo by Lisa Mason



Photo by Lisa Mason



# Moku Loa Group Report

## Hawai'i's Coral Reefs and Fish Still in Trouble *by Rob Culbertson*

With all the hope and promise for positive change in Hawai'i, I have to report sadly, that the reefs upon which the host culture once thrived and our modern inhabitants now experience as the "Ocean State", are dying before our very eyes. Only very few experienced eyes are going underwater these days and taking notice—and that's a problem in and of itself.



Volunteers observe the marine environment at Lapakahi MLCSD.

The Moku Loa Group has begun a series of outings to investigate and become better witnesses to the conditions and reports of wildlife trafficking on the reefs. The Moku Loa Group is looking to partner with experienced water people in shoreline communities already working at becoming reef keepers. The first outing took us to Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District and State Historic Park in North Kohala. There, volunteers made anecdotal observations in the water on a day with good visibility and

little to no chop. Although this remote and culturally sensitive place is considered to have a high level of official protection and is considered pristine by some, the amount of coral cover and the numbers and variety of fish seemed hauntingly lackluster to our group as we latter compared impressions. Perhaps the reports of poachers violating the stated protections were true.

Despite institution and industry self congratulations for repelling the latest chemical insult to our fragile marine environment (new sunscreen rules - yeah!), the more intractable problem of state sanctioned marine life trafficking remains hidden beneath the waves. For decades, a movement to end this wasteful and destructive trade has been frustrated by powerful interests (read \$\$\$) and institutional inertia (read state government). It actually traces back to 1953, before Hawai'i became a state. The idea to begin selling off our reef fish to aquarium collectors may have been a vestige of the old plantation mentality or merely the instinctive capitalist impulse to economically develop a resource that may have seemed virtually limitless at the time. In any event, the pattern was set and the players made fast like 'opihī in a tide pool. Fast forward through the social

and ecological evolutions of the late 20th century and the eventual realization that even the most plentiful species could be driven to scarcity if that's what the markets fancied. Take the golden tang as example: this reef fish once defined an entire region of the Big Island as the Gold Coast because in great masses, its bright gold colors so visibly flecked the ocean's surf that it became a romantic sobriquet, yet today its populations are quite low.

Notwithstanding dueling studies purporting to calculate a rationale for continued taking, parsing out shifting numbers and assumptions about the vitality of targeted species, myriad creatures form a complex web of ecological relationships that only together in the mystery of unity serve the well being of all; from plankton and larvae to apex predators, from algae to herbivorous grazers, all are necessary, all are hitched together as the sagacious John Muir proclaimed a hundred years ago.

And here's a fact that should be shocking to all—in 2014, more live Hawaiian reef fish were cartoned away in just the limited area between Keahole Bay and Puako Bay than ALL of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, an area 300 times larger!

Now the Moku Loa Group is calling attention once again to the plight of our reefs and demanding an end to reef wildlife trafficking in Hawai'i. The real tragedy of the commons may be that not enough water people walk the halls of power and understand personally the vital importance of keeping our marine family together. How do we change that? And indeed, what will it take to get you back in the water and see it with your own eyes before it's gone?

**ACTION UPDATE:** As of November 16, 2018 a new anti-poaching tip line, independent of the DLNR hotline, has been set up with an easy to remember number: 808-NO POACH.



Reef fish are an important part of Hawai'i's marine ecosystem.

# Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

## Moku Loa Group Annual Meeting *by Debbie Ward*

An aquarium trade educational event, with our annual meeting, will take place at the Moku Loa Group Discovery Center in Hilo on January 12 from 3-6:30 pm. The event will feature talks by local coral reef experts about the aquarium trade and how you can help to preserve our coastal ecosystem. Everyone is welcome to a reef fish art gallery and refreshments, then Rene Umberger of For the Fishes, Paul Cox, a marine photographer and activist, and Kealoha Pisciotto of Kaipalaoa will speak. We have invited our local representatives to join us as well. We will honor and thank our Moku Loa Group hike leaders, ExCom members, and conservation committee who have worked on so many Sierra Club activities this year!

As Chair of the group during this tumultuous year, I would like to acknowledge the work of our hike leaders, conservation and political committees, science fair judges, and ExCom members for all the time and commitment they have given to our thriving Group. Our efforts to serve our island home include public outreach, education, financial support, testimony, and activism to explore, enjoy and protect our native ecosystems, encourage energy self-sufficiency, reduce and manage climate change. We bid a fond aloha to Mary Marvin Porter, Nadine Kehaulani Robertson, Blake Watson, and Gary Harrold who will be leaving our Excom and we welcome our newly elected members. We continue to invite new members to join us!

**JOIN US AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING**  
**January 12, 3-6:30pm**  
**at Moku Loa Group in Hilo**

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

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/SCMLG-outings](http://bit.ly/SCMLG-outings)

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

### Saturday, January 19

*Escape Road to Pu'u Huluhulu (E/F)*  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/7.5 miles  
We will do this as a car shuttle from the Devastation Trail parking lot to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. We will start out hiking in the beautiful rainforest, traverse a pahoehoe

lava field and then climb Pu'u Huluhulu where we can eat lunch. Leaders: Linda Larish, 967-6337 and Diane Ware, 967-8642

### Saturday, January 26

*Walk to Halema'uma'u Overlook from Crater Rim Drive (E)*  
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, easy/2.5 miles  
Join us for a walk in the park on a paved road closed to vehicle traffic. We will see Keanakāko'i crater on the left and the newly enlarged Halema'uma'u crater on the right. Also visible in the distance is the place where Crater Rim Drive fell into the crater. We will start at the Devastation Trail parking lot. ROD protocol is provided. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

### Saturday, February 2

*Kaūmana Trail (E)*  
Hilo District, moderate/3 miles  
The trail follows an 1855 lava flow from Mauna Loa through an area with several kipuka, which are areas of old-growth forest spared between newer lava flows. These islands of old-growth forest provide a unique habitat for endemic birds and plants. Hunting is allowed in this area, so you may want to wear some bright clothing for the hike. Uneven lava may make walking more difficult for some. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante, call 964-5017 to register.

### Sunday, February 17

*Kaloli to Hā'ena (Shipman Beach) (E/F)*  
Puna District, easy/6 miles, sea level  
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 might spot whales offshore, watch the nēnē at Shipman Estate and swim by the turtles. Bring water, rain poncho, swimsuit, and lunch. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

### Saturday, March 2

*Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (E/C)*  
Hāmākua District, moderate/4 miles, shoreline  
Scenic vistas, sea birds, and some historic sites depending on which part of the trail we go on atop Hāmākua cliffs. Come join us on this hike along the ocean. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

### Saturday, March 23

*Honomalino Bay Hike and Snorkel (E/C)*  
South Kona District, easy/2 miles  
After a short hike to Honomalino Bay from Miloli'i we will explore the bay by land and sea. Our mission to monitor the reef conditions such as type and number of fish and coral conditions. We may also see dolphins and whales. Besides normal hiking gear please bring snorkel gear if you desire. No lifeguards. Leaders: Diane Ware, 967-8642 and Rob Culbertson, 805-316-1380



# Journey Through Haleakalā

by Renee Yano, High School Hiker, photos by Jamie Tanino

During this past Haleakalā backpacking trip in the summer of 2018, I learned many things about the exquisite and expansive land that the crater has provided us. This experience changed the way that I view life and expanded my knowledge and experience, to the point that I never knew could it go to.

Before I could even go on the backpacking trip, we all had to go through a series of classes and training to get ready for the strenuous trip. In all of the classes before the trip, we learned many skills to help make our lives easier during the backpacking trip, including but not limited to, understanding the weather and climate, the gear that we needed to have for the journey, the food we needed, and basic first aid. In between our classes, we had a couple of “backpacking” trips to Aiea Loop Trail that helped us simulate what it would be like when we went hiking with our gear. As a requirement, we also had to go to the Ecology Camp to learn about basic camping skills. This is when multiple schools around O’ahu gather for an annual camping event.



Jamie Tanino

Haleakalā, being one of the most unique environments that the world can offer, was a location that I had to go to. Wildlife in this crater is so diverse and amazing; knowing how a living being can thrive in the environment is inspirational. For example, the nēnē, also called the Hawaiian Goose, can be seen in heights up to 10,000 feet. Although they are mostly land dominant geese, they are able to fly in a lot of places in the Haleakalā Crater. Unlike most geese in North America, their breeding season lasts from August to April and they lay their eggs between November and January, which is unusually long. Along with the geese, native endemic plants are abundant there. My favorite cabin of the three was the Palikū cabin. Palikū cabin is around 6,000 feet in elevation but is still able to grow numerous amounts of plants around it. Plants like a’ali’i, pūkiawe, ‘ākala, and pilo are able to thrive there. One plant in particular, the ‘ākala, is a Hawaiian raspberry that is endemic to Hawai’i. The fruit that bears on this shrub is very sour and can be

used as a laxative if eaten too much. A lot of these endemic plants were used to supply food for the surrounding animals living in the crater.

The main reason for this Haleakalā backpacking trip was to volunteer for the National Park Service to rid the crater of the numerous weeds that are suffocating the native plants. The weeds that we needed to focus on for this trip were the *Heterotheca grandiflora*, bull thistle, fireweed, and *Plantago lanceolata*. We collected as much as we could, even going off-trail to get the stragglers. This led to the collection of more than 3,200 weeds. Even though a large amount of weeds were uprooted, and the flowers and seeds burned, there are still a lot of weeds to be taken care of. Although it is not possible to uproot every weed in the crater, I think it is possible to get enough uprooted as to control the population.

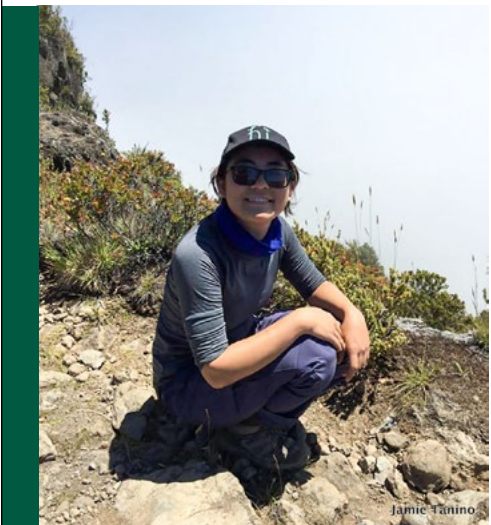
My own personal journey was pretty tough because of the situation that I was in. Both my knees are pretty weak and can easily get achy. Because of this, I had to distribute a lot of my weight to the other backpackers. I feel that I was a burden and dragged everyone down due to this. I wish that I could have done more to help everyone and that I found a lot more weeds than I did. Something exciting that I went through in this backpacking trip is that this was the first time for me to experience weather and temperature below sixty degrees. This was also a first time for me hiking to an elevation that was higher than 1,000 feet. Even though I felt pretty negative about the numerous situations, I had a lot of fun exploring and learning a lot of things from the adults about the environment in Haleakalā. I also wish to be able to go to the Haleakalā backpacking trip next year and I hope to carry more things than I did this year.

Overall, this backpacking trip was definitely life changing in that it gave me a new perspective on a lot of things and I will remember this for years to come.

Overall, this backpacking trip was definitely life changing in that it gave me a new perspective on a lot of things and I will remember this for years to come.



Jamie Tanino



Jamie Tanino

# Nate’s Adventures: Kupuna in the Forest

by Nate Yuen, Chapter Conservation Chair

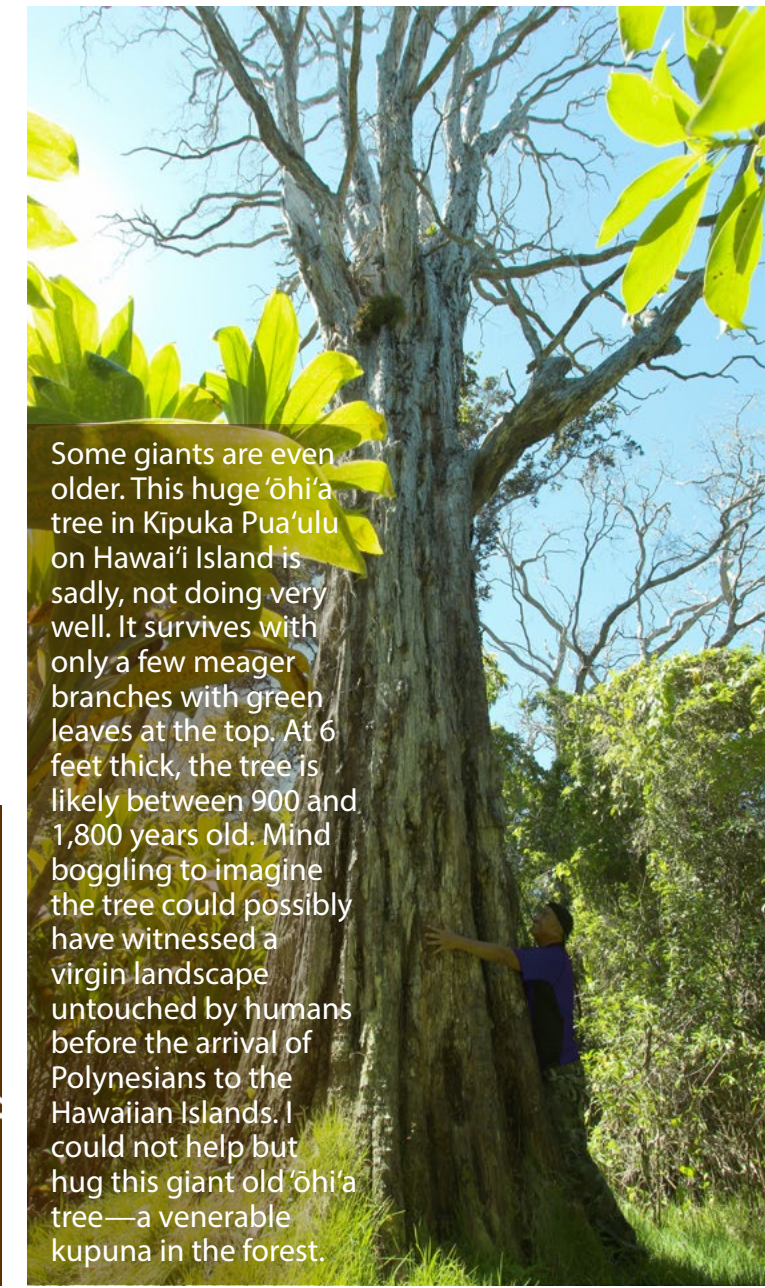
I love to hike in native forests to see big old ‘ōhi’a trees worn by time. It is eye-opening to see how the elements can etch so much majesty and character into the twisted trunks and limbs of these big old trees.



This ‘ōhi’a tree on Tantalus has multiple trunks—the thickest being 2 feet in diameter. With an estimated growth rate of 1 to 2 mm in diameter per year, the tree is likely between 305 and 610 years old. The tree is covered with limu – moss and aerial roots or ma’alewa – giving it a grizzled and wizened appearance.



Any tree that is several hundred years old has lived through earthquakes, hurricanes, and other disasters—both natural and manmade. Some of the most intriguing trees are the ones that were toppled, survived the fall, and twisted themselves back upright, like this 3-foot thick toppled tree on Tantalus that is likely between 450 and 900 years old. The tree is old enough to pre-date Western contact and the arrival of Captain Cook in 1778. Now extinct honeycreepers like the nukupu’u probably fed on the nectar of its flowers.



Some giants are even older. This huge ‘ōhi’a tree in Kīpuka Pua’ulu on Hawai’i Island is sadly, not doing very well. It survives with only a few meager branches with green leaves at the top. At 6 feet thick, the tree is likely between 900 and 1,800 years old. Mind boggling to imagine the tree could possibly have witnessed a virgin landscape untouched by humans before the arrival of Polynesians to the Hawaiian Islands. I could not help but hug this giant old ‘ōhi’a tree—a venerable kupuna in the forest.

**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](http://hawaiianforest.com).



## Hukilike No Maui: Together for Maui

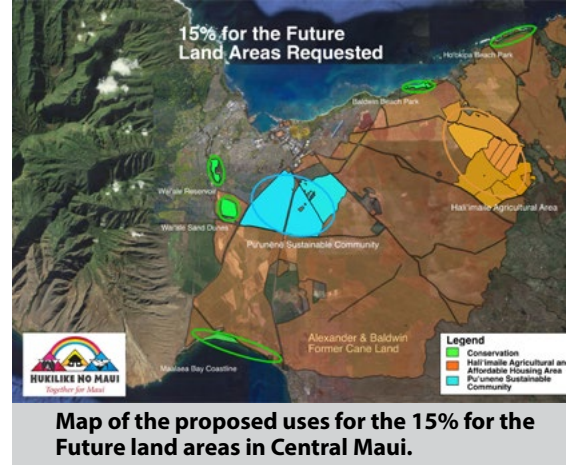
By Rob Weltman, Maui Group Chair

In a powerful coalition, Maui activists for environmental protection are joining with advocates for affordable housing and farmers working to expand regenerative agriculture to collaborate on a vision for the future of Maui's former sugar cane lands. Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) announced in January 2016 that it would be ending all sugar production on 36,000 acres in December of that year.



Hukilike no Maui coalition members meet with Governor Ige to discuss their proposed plan.

Sierra Club is working with FACE Maui, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and many others in the Hukilike No Maui coalition to push for diversified agriculture, affordable housing in sustainable communities, and protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources on the now fallow land. The coalition has met with County and State politicians, including Governor Ige, for support towards those goals. In April 2018, it presented a petition with over 1,000 signatures to the A&B shareholder meeting asking for 15% of the former cane land to be set aside as a first step, allowing for farming in the fertile Hali'imaile area and a sustainable community near Kahului. See [togetherformai.org](http://togetherformai.org) for the full list of sponsors of the petition and to add your support.



Map of the proposed uses for the 15% for the Future land areas in Central Maui.

## Hu Honua: Orange Juice?

by Cory Harden, Moku Loa Group ExCom

It was just vitamin C—citric acid. Like in orange juice, Hu Honua representative Dennis Poma said, smiling. He was addressing a crowd of hundreds at a Department of Health meeting in November. At issue were permits for Hu Honua to discharge stormwater and inject 21.6 million gallons of spent cooling water—per day—into the ground only a hundred feet from ocean cliffs.

Hu Honua is a power plant under construction in Pepe'ekeo that will burn trees as “renewable” energy, but would emit greenhouse gases, impact forests, and risk polluting the nearby ocean. Poma was explaining a suspicious liquid discharge recently reported by residents. He claimed it was an inadvertent spill.

So...orange juice? Two activists, Hank Fergestrom, a native Hawaiian resident, and Koohan Paik-Mander, of Mālama Hāmākua, held up bottles of liquid said to be from the discharge. The liquid was black.

And the Hawai'i Tribune-Herald interviewed a witness who came to the meeting:

Dave Clark, a laborer from Waimea who is working at the job site, said he witnessed a “black river of water” going over the cliff into the ocean Friday afternoon, when Hu Honua officials said there was an “inadvertent spill.” ...

But Clark said the discharge smelled, was dark and lasted for several hours that morning until he turned it off himself. He showed samples taken of the water in two plastic bottles, which were black and contained an odor.

Clark said he was threatened by a manager at the site who told him he was going to “watch every move you make.”

Standing with some of his fellow union members outside 'Imiloa, Clark said they felt they had to speak out about it.

“We couldn't stand the smell,” he said. “We was 10 feet away having lunch, 10 feet from that stream, from that running water.” ...

[Warren] Lee [Hu Honua president]... previously said less than 7,000 gallons were discharged and about 3,500 gallons made it through the outfall.

*A raucous affair, Hawai'i Tribune-Herald, November 15, 2018*



Dave Clark holds bottles of water containing liquid he witnessed flowing over the cliffside. Photo by Tom Callis, Tribune-Herald

Sierra Club, Pepe'ekeo Community Association Shoreline Fishing Committee, and Hilo resident Claudia Rohr have filed contested case hearings against Hu Honua, and Life of the Land has filed a related lawsuit.

## Red Hill: Where Are We and Where Are We Going

by Kirsten Fujitani, Chapter Strategic Communications Manager

The U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hawai'i Department of Health are almost four years into their administrative agreement made after the 2014 leak from a tank at Red Hill. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on studies and modeling on which the Navy will base their decisions, however much of that work has been deemed unsatisfactory by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and O'ahu's water remains threatened by these fragile, antiquated tanks. Nevertheless, 2018 was a big year in our fight to protect O'ahu's water from fuel contamination:

- The Sierra Club won in a lawsuit against the Hawai'i Department of Health. In February, the First Circuit Court ruled that the Department of Health improperly exempted the antiquated Red Hill fuel tanks from the upgrade requirements expected of all other underground storage tanks.
- Thanks to our lawsuit, the Department of Health then hastily updated their underground storage tank regulations including the regulations regarding field constructed tanks like Red Hill. A dozen concerned residents testified at the public hearing for these new tank regulations.
- The Navy hosted an open house style public meeting in March to provide updates on the tanks at Red Hill. Community members express that no substantial new information was learned from the Navy's presentations.
- The Navy's work was chastised several times in letters from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health because it did not submit satisfactory work mandated by its agreement with the agencies.
- The Navy reported on the top Tank Upgrade Alternative options and released its preliminary choice for the least costly, least protective option of status quo.
- The Navy conducted testing to determine the state of the tanks' steel liners. Preliminary results revealed that 5 out of 10 samples tested showed corrosion much more than the Navy anticipated.
- The Senate Red Hill Task Force held its annual meeting in November. The Navy provided an update on their progress within their administrative agreement and provided answers to questions from legislators and other decision makers, especially regarding the corrosion testing.
- The Honolulu City Council Committee Public Works, Infrastructure, and Sustainability heard a resolution urging the Hawai'i Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency to reject single walled tank upgrades at Red Hill. The resolution passed out of the committee, was scheduled to be heard in front of the full council, but was cancelled the day before the council meeting.

### What's next in 2019?

**Regulations:** Mandated by the newly adopted underground storage tank rules, the Navy must apply for a permit by the summer of 2019 to continue to operate the fuel storage tanks at Red Hill. All tank operators, from small gas station owners up to large scale fuel farms like Red Hill, must have a permit to operate.

**Upgrade Alternatives:** The Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a public hearing regarding the Navy's official proposal of tank upgrade alternative, likely in the spring or early summer. The Navy has shared preliminarily that they will choose option 1A or to maintain the current tank system, leaving what exists of the original 1/4-inch steel liner and recoating only the bottom of the tanks with epoxy and continuing to monitor for leaks. In their own report, the Navy states “this alternative is nearly identical to the efforts conducted to inspect and repair the Red Hill tanks over the last 13 years.”

**Corrosion Testing Results:** The Navy will also be releasing the full results of their corrosion testing in early 2019. The Navy removed cuttings from a single tank to verify their assumptions about how the tanks have aged over the last 75 years. The Navy predicted that there would be minimal corrosion and that the steel walls would have thinned from the original 0.25-inches to between 0.187-inches and 0.135-inches. However, of the ten samples taken, 5 samples reveal extensive corrosion, one sample being only 0.079-of-an-inch thick, that is less than a third of the width of the original quarter-inch steel lining.

This next year is crucial in demanding the protection of O'ahu's primary drinking water resource. The Navy's proposal to not make any structural upgrades to the tanks at Red Hill is unacceptable. The tanks are over 75 years old and were not built to last forever. Similar facilities across the nation have been retired. Over 400,000 people depend on this water—they and the generations to come deserve to know their drinking water is safe from fuel contamination. Learn more about this issue and how to take a stand for O'ahu's water at [sierraclubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security). E ola i ka wai. Water is life.





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

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Cover photo by Nate Yuen

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA “Cherish the Earth” | A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII | JANUARY-MARCH 2019

**Send a Warm  
Welcome to our  
“New” Staff**

## Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

Okay, Jodi isn’t new to the organization but she has started in a new position with the Hawai’i Chapter!

The Sierra Club of Hawai’i is blessed to have Jodi Malinoski now serving as our statewide Policy Advocate. In 2019, Jodi

and Marti will work together to lead the Club’s lobbying at the State Capitol. Jodi has gained tremendous experience working with Gary Gill, advocating for the environment with the Honolulu City Council and the Mayor’s office. For the last two years, she served as the coordinator for the O’ahu Group. “Jodi is a remarkably capable advocate. She is a quick learner and strategic thinker. She represents the Sierra Club tirelessly with articulate poise and confidence. Policy makers will listen to what she has to say and respect her voice for the environment,” said Gary Gill. Prior to that, she supported the Surfrider Foundation in their advocacy in against plastics.

Jodi steps into this crucial role at a very important pivot point in climate policy making. Reports from both national and international agencies

warn that the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen without immediate action to stop emitting carbon and to start sequestering carbon in sustainable ways. With the Sierra Club’s help, Hawai’i’s lawmakers will be grappling this session with many proposals to expedite our commitments to clean energy and carbon neutrality.



## Tanya Dreizin, Office Manager

You might recognize Tanya, she interned with us this past spring. She’s back and kicking butt as our new office manager! Tanya has 3 years of experience as an office manager, having worked for a local start-up company in Santa Barbara, California, learning new skills and helping in any capacity needed, and she is excited to bring those skills to the Sierra Club! Tanya is currently a graduate student at Hawai’i Pacific University, studying Global Leadership and Sustainable Development with a focus in sustainable tourism. She grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and has lived in Santa Barbara, California, and Seoul, South Korea, before moving to Hawai’i. Tanya was inspired to get involved with environmental causes because she loves hiking, rock climbing, and traveling, and wants to advocate for and protect the lands where we live and play.

