

# MĀLAMA I KA HONUĀ

*A Quarterly Journal of the* SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII



OCTOBER-DECEMBER  
2018



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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII  
MĀLAMA I KA HONUĀ. Cherish the Earth.

# 50 LOOKS GOOD ON US

It is with the fullest of hearts, that we send a HUGE mahalo to everyone that came together to help the Hawai'i Chapter celebrate its 50th year in Hawai'i nei. We first celebrated on September 8 and it certainly was an evening not to forget in the breathtaking setting of Moli'i Gardens at the base of the Ko'olau Mountains, surrounded by our longest serving members, biggest supporters, and life-long admirers of the Club.

In between grabbing plates of ono food, bidding on outstanding silent auction items, and reminiscing about old times, guests heard inspiring speeches from special guests Michael Brune, Sierra Club National Executive Director and Kelly King, co-founder of Pacific Biodiesel as well as Colin Yost, Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee Chair and Marti Townsend, Hawai'i Chapter Director. Local lawmakers, including Governor Ige, attended the event to present various proclamations and certificates honoring the Chapter's commitment to protecting Hawai'i's environment.

A special thank you to Under my Umbrella for the incredible work and support planning this event, all of the volunteers and staff that helped during the planning process, the lei makers, the day of volunteers, all of the wonderful companies, organizations, and individuals that donated items to our robust silent auction, Reese Liggett and Suzan Harada for donating and making the beautiful native plant centerpieces, Jonathan Scheuer for donating the ti for the lei, Jen Homcy for donating the gorgeous awards, Hannes Seidel from CarbonBuddy and Arsalan Barmand from Carbon Lighthouse for helping us to offset the event's carbon emissions, and Tristan Cummins from Sustainable Coastlines for helping us reduce the event's waste.

We continued the celebration in-town on October 5 at Cafe Julia. The theme of the night was "continuing the adventure" and we had a delightful evening reminiscing about the best of times with long-time members and outings leaders, staff and volunteers, and supporters of the Club who have helped grow our organization into what it is today. A big mahalo to Annette Kaohelaulii, Debra Shiraishi Pratt, Will Giese, and the many volunteers and staff that came together to make the evening a success. Thank you to those that donated to the silent auction, Sean Marrs for the amazing photos, and Alan Akaka for the wonderful music.

## MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS:

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Ken Kupchak

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Kona Brewing Company

Under My Umbrella

For more photos, 50th merchandise, online silent auction, and more visit [sierraclubhawaii.org/50thanniversary](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/50thanniversary)



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDEES:



**Jonathan Scheuer**  
2018 Randy Ching  
Volunteer of the Year



**Ernest Lau**  
Community Hero



**Chuck Burrows**  
Youth Environmental  
Educator

**Jamie Tanino**  
Keiki o ka 'Āina  
(not pictured)



**Sherine Boomla**  
**Mel Yoshioka**  
**Gwen Sinclair**  
**Ed Mersino**  
Outings Leaders of the  
Century



**SIERRA CLUB  
OF HAWAI'I  
ONLINE STORE**

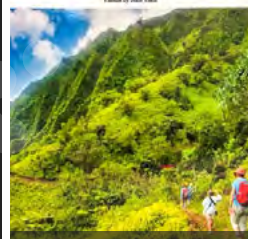
Don't miss out on what's left of our 50th anniversary limited edition commemorative merchandise!

**VISIT [BIT.LY/SCH-STORE18](http://BIT.LY/SCH-STORE18)**



TSHIRTS

**Malama i ka Honua**  
*Fifty years of the Sierra Club in Hawaii*



COFFEE TABLE BOOKS



PATCHES



PAREOS



SIERRA CUPS

# The Legacy Land Act's Legacy

by **Kirsten Fujitani, Chapter Communications Manager**

One of the grandest Sierra Club accomplishments and outstanding examples of coalition building would have to be the Legacy Lands Act. Passed in 2005, the Legacy Land Act uses a tax on the sale of real property to create a dedicated funding source for land conservation and affordable housing rentals throughout the islands.

The Legacy Land Conservation Commission, established through the act, helps to distribute the funds generated through the conveyance tax to nonprofits and agencies for purchasing land and conservation easements through a competitive grant process. Notable awardees of this grant include North Shore Community Land Trust & Trust for Public Land for protecting Turtle Bay from hotel expansion, National Tropical Botanical Gardens at Kahanu, and Livable Hawaii Kai Hui for the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands preservation.

We also continue to see the benefits of the Legacy Land Act today in increasing funding for Hawai'i's Natural Area Reserve System, which manages the islands' most pristine ecosystems from the rugged tops of watersheds to marine and coastal environments, lava flows and everything in between—often times ecosystems that Hawai'i's most endangered species call their home.

Cheers to the hard work of all the dedicated volunteers and staff that pulled together to ensure that the open spaces and unique ecosystems of Hawai'i remain protected in perpetuity.

## PLDC: So long and thanks for all the friends

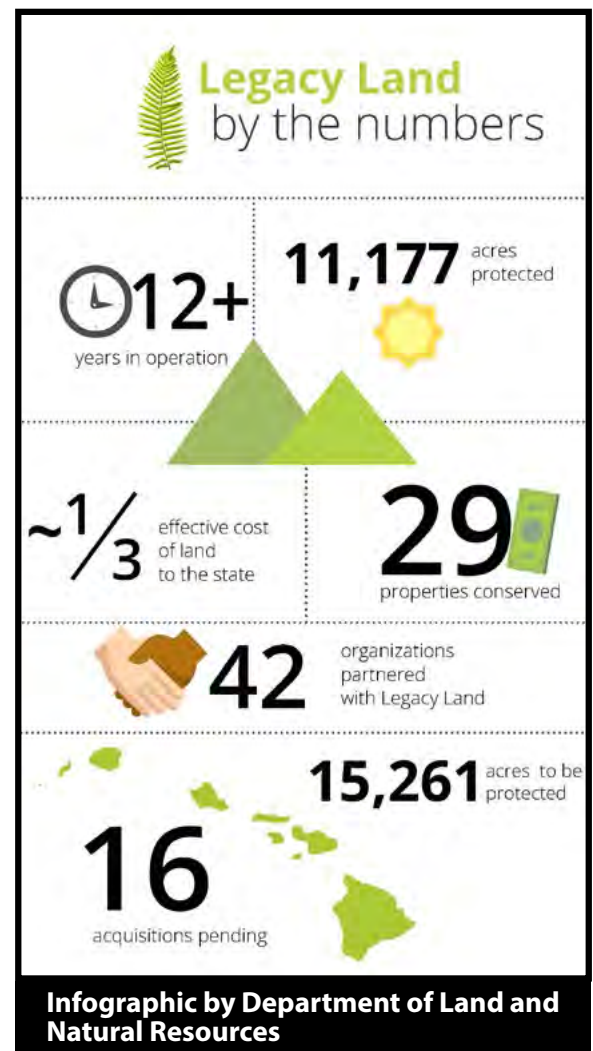
by **Marti Townsend, Chapter Director**

It was the summer of 2011. With little fanfare, Governor Abercrombie signed into law the Public Lands Development Corporation. This law exempted certain public-private partnerships from a whole host of environmental, labor, and good governance laws designed to protect the public's interests. It passed with only a few no votes and absolutely no testimony from the public or public advocacy groups.

Most people probably would have resigned themselves to accepting the fate of this awful bill becoming law, but not the Sierra Club and a scrappy team of committed advocates for good government, workers' rights, and the environment. We banded together and dedicated ourselves to repealing the PLDC.

Together, we launched the "Grand Theft 'Āina" campaign to dog the PLDC at every turn and expose the risks this program posed to the public's interest in transparency, labor laws, building codes, and basic good planning. A coalition website and savvy media campaign helped to raise public awareness and engagement on the issue. We helped to make the PLDC a bell-weather issue in the 2012 election cycle, where some of our strongest environmental lawmakers were elected.

And we won! In 2013, by a nearly unanimous vote in the opposite direction, both houses passed and Governor Abercrombie signed (with much fanfare) the "Repeal PLDC" bill. It took two years of concerted effort, but it also built alliances between a diverse group of public interest advocates and lawmakers that endures to this day. This is the power of grassroots advocacy. So long, PLDC, and thanks for all the friends!



# Blasts from the Past

Highlights from the last 12 years that are still pertinent to our work decades later:

Legacy Lands Fund enacted [2005]



Sierra Club and partners sue City & County of Honolulu over violations of the Clean Water Act. [2005]



1980s plan to develop 300 acres in Wailea is revived at 670 acres [2006]

Global warming solutions act passes [2007]



Sierra Club and partners host Blue Line Project [2008]



Solar roof standards become law [2008]



Nate's Adventures feature starts in the Mālama [2008]

O'ahu Group submits EIS comments regarding rail project [2009]



Hawai'i passes the most aggressive renewable portfolio standard in the world [2009]

TMT permit approved by BLNR, Moku Loa Group testifies in opposition [2011]



Hawai'i Department of Health approves Hu Honua's air quality permits [2011]



Fights against development on prime agricultural lands at Ho'opili and Koa Ridge heat up [2012]

Sierra Club leads successful campaign to repeal the Public Lands Development Corporation [2013]



Dairy proposed at Māhā'ulepū, Kaua'i [2014]



Red Hill fuel tanks leak 27,000 gallons [2014]

Sierra Club members join movement to divest UH [2015]



Hawai'i Chapter leads charge to get NextEra takeover of HECO rejected [2016]

Sierra Club of Hawai'i grows to biggest staff yet [2016]



Honolulu Office of Climate Change established [2017]

Hawai'i Chapter moves into current office [2017]



Hawai'i commits to becoming carbon neutral by 2045 [2018]



# Victory Hikes: Hike with us through our accomplishments

Our outings leaders and volunteers have had a wonderful time sharing some of Sierra Club's biggest victories and triumphs with everyone through the past year. Don't miss out on the last victory hikes of the year! See each Group's outings schedule on pages 8-18 for more details on each victory hike.

## O'AHU GROUP

### Saturday, December 1 - Kuli'ou'ou Service Project

The Sierra Club has installed and maintained hundreds of steps over the years on the state's Kuli'ou'ou Trail, one of O'ahu's most popular hikes today.

## KAUA'I GROUP

### Sunday, October 21 - Donkey Beach (Kuna Bay) Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk

Learn how the Planning Commission was legally challenged to assure increased building setbacks along the ridge at Donkey Beach to preserve the views on and along the coastline.

## MAUI GROUP

### Saturday, December 15 - Old Mākena-'Ulupalakua Road Hike

Experience this famous historic road that has been closed since 1985. The Maui Group's legal challenge will result in the future reopening of the road as a public trail.

## MOKU LOA GROUP

### Saturday, December 22 - Pohue Bay

This area has been under threat of major development several times, the most recent in 2011. Due to sensitive cultural and natural resources the Moku Loa Group submitted detailed comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Development was halted and the property is for sale.

A huge mahalo to our past and present outings leaders for their hard work over the years and for jumping in to help celebrate some of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's biggest accomplishments. Find photos and reflections on this year's victory hikes at [sierraclubhawaii.org/50thAnniversary](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/50thAnniversary).

# Letter from the Chair: Nature's Inspiration of the Next Generation – and its Ominous Warning

*by Colin Yost, Chapter Executive Committee Chair*

Growing up on O'ahu, my 13-year old son, Alika, and 16-year old daughter, Kiani, often hike Hawai'i's spectacular ridges and craters. Until this summer, however, we hadn't found a good opportunity for a multi-day, wilderness backpacking adventure. What we ultimately discovered was, unsurprisingly, led by the Sierra Club: a six-night trek in the Sierra Nevada mountains with ten other teenagers and two experienced guides!

At the end of July, my wife Moana and I delivered Alika and Kiani to the Emigrant Wilderness trailhead in the Stanislaus and into the care of David, a veteran hike leader and former search and rescue officer, and his able assistant Amy. It was amazing to watch Alika, who weighs 95 pounds, immediately hike to the front of the group shouldering a 30+ lbs pack! The only serious concern on our minds was the tinge of smoke in the air. The Ferguson fire near Yosemite continued to burn out of control, and hike leader David let everyone know he had altered the route to lead them further away from the smoke.

My wife and I spent the next six days exploring and enjoying lower elevation parts of Northern California, or what we could see of it through the haze. Even after driving hundreds of miles, we never entirely escaped the smoke. Along with the Ferguson fire, the Carr fire raged further north near Redding, taking eight lives and devastating communities. Thankfully, we didn't hear any reports of new fire activity near the backpacking route and we were comforted that David had a satellite phone for emergencies.

When our children safely emerged from the mountains six days later, we learned that their experience was everything we expected from such a glorious part of the planet. Along with gaining a better understanding of the essential values of self-reliance, courage, cooperation, and adaptability, they were also awed and inspired by the endless fields of wildflowers, majestic peaks, clear alpine lakes, old-growth forests, and breathtaking night skies that are only visible at 9,000+ feet elevation, far away from light pollution.

For the most part, they avoided smoke on their trek, but as we drove out of the mountains on Highway 108, a new fire close to the road grew quickly into a life-threatening blaze. Police vehicles with lights flashing sped by us in the other direction, and we learned that evacuations had been ordered. The next day, we read with shock that the historic cabins at Dardenelle, where we stayed as a family the night before the hike started, had burned to the ground along with the general store and restaurant.

The entire experience was a manifest reminder of the grandeur of the natural world and its fragility. How much longer will the world we love today exist for us to explore and enjoy? That depends entirely on how well we protect it.



## Ramp Down Hawai'i's Last Coal Plant

*by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director*

The last coal-fired power plant in the Hawaiian Islands coughs up 330 tons of toxic gas every year on the westside of O'ahu. Although state law requires the AES facility to ramp down its greenhouse gas emissions by 16% next year, AES is seeking special treatment from the Department of Health and Public Utilities Commission to allow them to continue their polluting ways.

The Sierra Club filed to intervene in both decisions. We are calling on state officials to stand up for the long-term interests of the public over the profit goals of the fossil fuel industry. Public health can be better protected and energy costs reduced for consumers by ensuring electricity producers do everything possible to immediately move to cleaner, cheaper, locally sourced renewable energy options.

The PUC announced it will postpone its decision about the implications of AES's request on ratepayers and the electrical grid until after the DOH makes its decision on the public health implications. We expect a contested case hearing on the request before the DOH to be held in December 2018.

We know the utility has better options—for ratepayers and public health—than propping up this dinosaur of a fossil fuel facility. Join us in ensuring clean energy for all today by signing up at [sierraclubhawaii.org](http://sierraclubhawaii.org).

# Constitutional Convention

by David Kimo Frankel

The possibility of a state constitutional convention can be seen as an opportunity or a threat. You will have to vote in November as to whether you want one or not – a question voters need to answer once a decade.

Our state constitution includes unique provisions that protect our natural resources. These provisions are not found in the U.S. constitution and are absent from most state constitutions. Our constitution gives natural resources (including our streams and natural beauty) legal protection. It also effectively prevents anyone from proposing the construction of a nuclear power plant in Hawai'i. It prohibits special legislation regarding public land that benefits a special interest. It gives you the right to sue to enforce the state's environmental laws.

The state constitution has prevented large landowners from diverting unlimited amounts of water from our streams. It required the state to ensure that the military is cleaning up after its training exercises. It protected limu beds on Moloka'i, a spring on Kaua'i, kalo lo'i on Maui, and anchialine ponds in Kona.

A constitutional convention could jeopardize any and all the provisions that protect our natural resources.

On the other hand, a constitutional convention is an opportunity to add new safeguards to the state's governing document. It could enhance protection of public lands. It could limit the rights of corporations, which should only be guaranteed to human beings. It could restrict the ability of the state to provide funds to corporate interests. It could limit developer influence on boards and commissions. It could prevent developers from threatening lawsuits when their unreasonable expectations as to state spending are not met.

The glass is either half full, or half empty.

## ExCom Votes No on ConCon

by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

Moments before this edition of the newsletter was printed, the Chapter Executive Committee met and weighed the very points raised in the article above. They came to the consensus that opposing a constitutional convention is the more prudent course of action. In addition to the risks outline by Mr. Frankel above, they also noted the risk of outside corporate funding negatively influencing the convention process and the ultimate public vote. They noted that the recent court victories by the Sierra Club and others that serve to improve the public's access to the courts and solidify the obligations of agencies to act on the public's behalf (not the corporations) would be prime targets that well-funded corporate interests would want to override in a constitutional convention.

Trust that if a constitutional convention is approved by the voters on November 6th, the Sierra Club will fully engage in defending the rights of the public and our natural resources.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## 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.

**Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.**

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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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# O'ahu Group Report & Outings



The O'ahu Group Executive Committee, staff, and volunteers have kept busy again this quarter.

Group Coordinator Jodi Malinoski has engaged the O'ahu Group as a member of the Ka Iwi Coalition ([kaiwicoast.org](http://kaiwicoast.org)). The industrious coalition held, after four trail-clearing workdays, two days of public access hikes to the Ka Iwi mauka lands with 30 volunteers and over 250 participating hikers. A similarly outward bound cohort of new outlings leaders has nearly completed their training, so be sure to look for them at future outings like June's Victory Hike to Wiliwilinui Ridge. Speaking of leadership, the Honolulu Climate Change Commission finalized their Sea Level Rise Guidance and Climate Change Brief and Mayor Caldwell issued a directive for city agencies to use the documents in their programming and planning. Many of us attended the Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency's Resilience Strategy Update meeting and we are now participating in their follow up working groups to further define O'ahu's Resilience Plan.

To further shape O'ahu's planning, the O'ahu Group submitted several pages of proposed revisions to update the city's Land Use Ordinance, wherein we focused on sea level rise, clean energy infrastructure, and agricultural land use. Development of agricultural lands is again an issue with the Ko'olauloa Sustainable Communities Plan, which we testified in support of passing in its original form (sans amendments to develop on ag lands in "North Lā'ie").

There has been some councilmember flip-flopping on the amount of development in the Ko'olauloa SCP. Additionally, a reactive bill to remove a bag fee that was part of the hard-fought plastic bag ban has floated to the surface at the City Council. Zero Waste O'ahu, a coalition of the O'ahu Group, Surfrider Foundation, Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation, and Kanu Hawai'i, formed to incorporate more source reduction and zero-waste goals into O'ahu's planning and policy and held a Zero Waste Summit in July. Undoubtedly, summit participants aren't content to let the environment be left holding the bag, no matter what the council decides.

Needless to say, while we don't have the same swamp to drain, the morass could use a little sunshine. Enter one of the bigger tasks of the past quarter: candidate endorsements. Our Political Committee, led by Steve Montgomery, waded through the endorsement process and helped us back a slew of fine candidates, many of whom are likely on their way to office come the general election. Didn't get your fill of voting? The O'ahu Group Executive Committee elections are upon

us and you've got a great group of candidates to choose from, including some new faces from the growing ranks of volunteers participating in our various doings and monthly meetings. Didn't get fulfilled by voting? Come join us at any monthly meeting and get involved!

Aloha,

Hunter Heavilin, O'ahu Group Chair



Trail building for Ka Iwi Explorations

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

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

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

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





## **Saturday, October 13**

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

Tantalus, easy/2 miles, ridge/crater

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis 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; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa

## **Saturday, October 20**

*'Ōpa'e'ula Hike (F)*

Hale'iwa, moderate/3 miles, 250 ft elevation gain

Contingent on getting access permission. This is a great little hike above Hale'iwa. We will hike from a scenic ridge down to 'Ōpa'e'ula Stream. After following along an irrigation ditch, the trail comes to the catchment dam and later a pool where we can cool off. Besides the views from the ridge, there are thimbleberries, lilikoi, and strawberry guavas. Along the way, we'll see a number of native plants and trees. Reservations required. Limited to 20 participants. Meet at the corner of Cane Haul Road and the North Shore Marketplace; it is by the only traffic light in Hale'iwa town. Leader: Ed Mersino, mersino@hawaii.edu

## **Sunday, October 21**

*Snorkeling (E/F)*

All participants must be able to swim. Location to be announced. Get to know your fish, coral, and limu neighbors. Bring your swim things, 2 liters of water, reef walkers, sunscreen, snack, towel, and a change of clothes. Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

## **Saturday, October 27**

*Pālehua 'Elepaio Enclosure "Akupu" Service Project (S)*

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations. 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 do not 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; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, November 10**

*Photography Hike: Wahiawā Botanical Garden (E)*

Wahiawā, easy/1 mile

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Stan for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Tropical botanical garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Leaders: Stan Oka, 429-9814; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Sunday, November 18**

*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 is limited, so make your reservations early. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Pack a camera, lunch and/or snacks, and water. Not for those uneasy about heights. Due to safety concerns, only adults will be accepted. Native plants, native happy face spiders, scenic panoramas, and native tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Sunday, November 18**

*Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)*

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

## **Sunday, November 18**

*Makiki-Tantalus Trails (F)*

Makiki, moderate/3 miles

Meander around a network of trails with views of Mānoa and Honolulu. Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

# O'ahu Group Outings

## **Sunday, November 25**

### *Gwen's Birthday Hike*

Kapālama or Kealia, moderate/7 miles, ridge  
Depending on the weather, location will either be Kapālama Trail or Kealia Trail. Complete information about location will be sent prior to hike. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528 or gsinclai@gmail.com

## **Saturday, December 1**

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

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. Space is limited due to parking, and also as we will be working along an existing trail that is not used very much to also develop it as a fire break. Pack a lunch and/or snack and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruning shears, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for beautiful scenic panoramas from the ridge overlooking Nānākuli Valley. 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; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, December 1**

### *Victory Hike: Kuli'ou'ou Service Project (S)*

Kuli'ou'ou, moderate/5 miles, 2000 ft elevation gain/loss  
The Sierra Club O'ahu Group has installed hundreds of steps over the years on the state's Kuli'ou'ou Trail. On this outing we will climb up to the steps and repair some of the steps that have deteriorated over the years.

Bring a willingness to do a bit of work, talk with the dozens of hikers that use the trail every day, and enjoy the great outdoors. Reservations required. Leader: Ed Mersino, mersino@hawaii.edu

## **Sunday, December 2**

### *Makapu'u Lighthouse Hike (F)*

Makapu'u, easy/1.5 miles

Bring your family for a walk on the old Coast Guard road up to the lookout and enjoy spectacular views. Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

## **Saturday, December 8**

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

Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com by December 7. We will be working with the 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

## **Saturday, December 15**

### *Late Hike: Wa'ahila Ridge (partial)*

Mānoa-Pālolo, moderate/3 miles, ridge

What better way to spend an afternoon than on this ridge trail with its views of Mānoa Valley and the Ko'olau Mountains. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

## 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](http://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.



# Kaua'i Group Report

At the conclusion of the Commission of Water Resource Management hearing held on Kaua'i on August 21, we knew that mauka to makai stream flow would be restored in the Waikoko and Wai'ale'ale (North Fork Wailua) streams. However, exactly how much will remain in the streams and how much will be allowed to be diverted by Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative is still undecided.

The intent of the hearing was to set the minimum flow that should remain in these two streams. Located in the Wailua watershed, which is predominantly owned by the State (69% Conservation District and 28% Agricultural District), the streams emanate from the windward flank of Mount Wai'ale'ale.

Instream flow standards are necessary to ensure a continuous flow of water at a level that will support four Public Trust uses:

- maintenance of waters in their natural state;
- domestic needs of the general public (drinking water);
- traditional and cultural Native Hawaiian practices (such as kalo farming) and appurtenant rights; and
- reservations of water to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

Over a century ago, an extensive ditch system was developed by the former Lihue Plantation. These diversions also serve two hydropower plants: Lower Waihai and Upper Waiahi, built in 1914 and 1931 respectively. Despite the demise of sugar and a reduced demand for agricultural water, these diversions continue to impact streamflow to this day.

Typically, the Water Commission would look at the whole watershed area in developing interim instream flow standards. But in this case, only 2 of 5 streams in the watershed are under review—which raises concerns, because the ditch system takes 100% of the base flow from Wai'ale'ale, Waikoko, 'Ili'ili'ula, Waiaka, and Waiahi streams.

This segmentation is likely due to Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's (KIUC) efforts since 2002, to

secure a 65-year water lease from the Board of Land and Natural Resources for the continued use of the diversion at Waikoko and Wai'ale'ale Streams, collectively referred to as the "Blue Hole Diversion".

KIUC claims they depend on all the diverted water from the 5 streams that join together and reach the hydropower plants miles later in the ditch system to generate 1.5 megawatts of hydropower (1% of the island's electricity). This constitutes "consumptive" stream use because the waters diverted are never returned to their stream of origin. It also triggers the HRS Chapter 343 requirement for KIUC to prepare an Environmental Assessment.

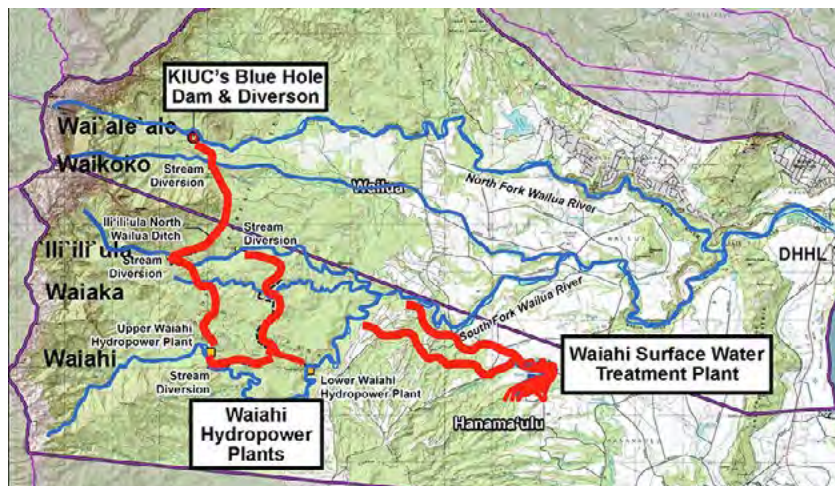
Although commercial uses such as agriculture, ranching, recreation-focused businesses and hydropower may be reasonable or beneficial, public trust uses still take priority. Additionally, these commercial water users have not provided the estimated amount of water needed for each of their operations to the water commission.

This lack of information hinders the commission's ability to appropriately manage water resources. There is also limited hydrological data and an insufficient number of gages to monitor stream flow due in part to deterioration of these old diversions. Additionally, Water Commission staff testified that there is a 15-20% loss of the waters diverted to the hydropower plants due to leakage. It also came to light

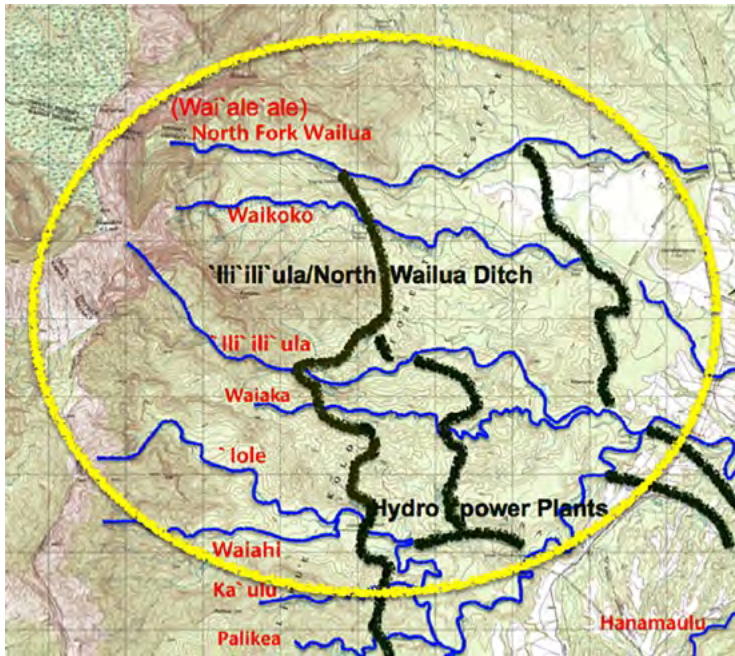
that the staff report did not consider the Department of Hawaiian Homeland's water reservation request for its 500-acre Wailua Regional Plan.

At the end of a long day of testimony, the commissioners shared their concerns and preferences regarding the staff's recommendation to restore 30% of median

stream flow. As they deliberated on a motion that would restore greater flow, KIUC stepped forth to request a contested case hearing. In turn, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and Earthjustice, representing community groups Ho'opulapula Na Wai o Puna and Kia'i Wai, also requested contested case hearings.



# Kaua'i Group Report & Outings



Now the matter will go to a formal hearing and possibly to the State Court. Additional evidence will be gathered to decide how much water should be diverted from these streams.

Visit CWRM's website to review the Instream Flow Standard Assessment Report (Wailua), public testimony and a video of the commission's site visit to the Blue Hole diversion at [dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrmsurfacewater/ifs/wailua\\_ifs](http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrmsurfacewater/ifs/wailua_ifs)

For additional information about our state water laws, go to the Hawai'i Constitution, our Water Code (HRS Chapter 174C), CWRM's administrative rules (HAR §§ 13-167 to 13-171), and relevant court decisions.

## 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 is \$5. Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.

### Have you ever thought about being an Outings Leader?

If so, please contact [JudyDalton123@gmail.com](mailto:JudyDalton123@gmail.com) or call 482-1129 to find out how much fun you could be having while giving people the opportunity to explore the island, enjoy its beauty, and inspire them to protect it.

### Sunday, October 7

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

### Tuesday, October 16

Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)  
South shore, strenuous/6 miles  
This hike starts and ends at Shipwreck Beach and is ideal for hikers who want a strenuous workout! Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views each step of the way! This magnificent coastline is unique with its fascinating craggy rock limestone formations. Leader: Bob Nishek, 808-346-0476, co-leader: Julio Magalhães

### Saturday, October 20

Halemanu, Back Pipe, Canyon, and Kamuela Trails making a loop to see Waipo'o Falls with great views of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. (C/E/F)  
Strenuous/5 miles. Leader: Ken Fasig 808-346-1229

### Sunday, October 21

Victory Hike: Donkey Beach (Kuna Bay) Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk (C/E/F)  
East shore, moderate/4.5 miles one way  
We start off in the late afternoon meeting at Kapa'a Library and shuttle our cars to start our walk along the coastal path from Donkey Beach ending back at the library as we watch an almost moon rise over the ocean. This is a "Victory Hike" to celebrate one of Kauai's victories over Sierra Club's past 50 years in Hawai'i. This is rescheduled from August, cancelled due to tropical storm. Leader: Judy Dalton 808-482-1129, Co-leader: Julio Magalhães

### Thursday, October 25

Moalepe and Kuilau Ridge Trails  
Kapa'a, strenuous distance with moderate trails/9 miles  
Scenic hike near Makaleha Mountain through hala trees, ti, wild orchids, and paperbark trees. Glorious views and ever-present bird-songs reward the hiker along this trail. Be ready for a few mud puddles and a long hike on these beautiful connected trails. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834



# Kaua'i Group Outings

## Saturday, November 3

### *Polihale Ridge (C/F)*

Koke'e State Park, moderately difficult/10 miles round trip. Please note, this is NOT Polihale Beach but a ridge hike that begins up in Koke'e and terminates on a ridge above the beach. Leader: Ken Fasig 808-346-1229

## Sunday, November 4

### *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, co-leader: Julio Magalhães

## Saturday, November 10

### *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. Leaders: Vivian Hager and Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

## Thursday, November 15

### *Māhā'ulepū (C/E/F)*

South shore, moderate/3 miles  
Hike the trails above rugged sandstone cliffs and experience one of Kaua'i's most beautiful locations, isolated from development, perfect for Hawaiian monk seals. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

## Thursday, November 29

### *Alaka'i Swamp Boardwalk (C/E/F)*

Koke'e State Park, very strenuous/8 miles  
The Alaka'i is a primeval habitat made accessible by boardwalks. The Alaka'i, one of the world's wettest spots, is not a swamp but a mountain rainforest rising 4,500 feet above the Pacific. A variety of native plants and birds can be seen only on this trail. Panoramic view of the North Shore is at trail's end. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

## Saturday, December 1

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

East shore, moderately strenuous/5 miles  
We will explore the mountain on several trails. Spectacular panoramic views of the East Side of Kauai. Leader: Julio Magalhães 650-906-2594

## Sunday, December 2

### *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, December 15

### *Waimea Canyon Hike (C/E/F)*

Koke'e, strenuous/8 miles  
We will explore lovely panoramic views of the Waimea Canyon and ocean beyond as well as the upper reaches of Waipo'o Falls on this loop hike including the Pu'u Hinahina Trail, Cliff Trail, Canyon Trail, Black Pipe Trail, Halemanu- Koke'e Trail, Kumuela Trail, and return on Canyon Trail. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

## Thursday, December 20

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

South shore, strenuous/6 miles  
This hike starts and ends at Shipwreck Beach and is ideal for hikers who want a strenuous workout, heading to Kamala Point and back. Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views each step of the way! This magnificent coastline is unique with its fascinating rock limestone formations. Leader: Lee Gately 661-373-4834

## Friday, December 21

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

Easy/1.5 miles (C/E/F)  
We'll meet at Lydgate Beach Park for a picnic dinner (not a potluck - bring own food) and then proceed on a lovely walk along a pristine beach with no development in sight for miles. Learn how this beach was saved from being destroyed by a 6-foot high, 3/5-mile long sea wall fronting Wailua Golf Course that the County had attempted to build back in 1996. Leader: Judy Dalton 808-482-1129



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

# Maui Group Report



## **Nā Hōkū Star Watch Benefit Success**

A big mahalo to Maui Tropical Plantation's Reid Kawabata and Mike Atherton, Astronomer Harriet Witt, Tim Wolfe of Akamai Video, Rob and Helena Weltman, Daniel Grantham, Miranda Camp, and the many Sierra Club members and friends who made the August 4 star watch benefit a big success. We bid a fond aloha 'oe to our Maui Group Coordinator Adriane Raff Corwin who has the chance of a lifetime to pursue her love of playwriting with a full graduate scholarship to Arizona State. A new Maui Group Coordinator will be hired in the fall.

## **Lahaina Wastewater Facility Clean Water Act Legal Action**

Maui County has asked the US Supreme Court to hear the case and 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**

Implementation of the State Water Commission's decision to restore substantial flows to three of four West Maui petition streams (Ukumehame, Olowalu and Kaua'ula) is proceeding but recent fires in the same area have destroyed domestic/ag water system delivery pipes for many of the kuleana farms that will benefit from the increased flows.

## **Wailea 670/"Honua'ula" Development**

Maui Group representatives and their attorney, Lance Collins, spent over 9 hours in July negotiating with Wailea 670 representatives and attorney over needed changes to the project's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and Historic Resources Preservation Plan (HRPP). As a result, the Wailea 670 project agreed to a number of changes in the HCP and agreed to submit a new updated HRPP document to State Historic Division. The negotiations helped strengthen protections for traditional cultural use of the lands and give better protection to historical sites located adjacent to planned development areas in the project. 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.

## **Kahului Sludge Processing Plant**

The Maui Group and Maui Tomorrow's challenge of the environmental impact statement for a sludge processing project in the coastal tsunami zone at

the Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility was heard on August 8 in the Environmental Court. The judge denied Anaergia's motion to dismiss the case and mentioned that he found the "issues raised in this case to be very interesting". The Maui Group and allies have asked for project contracts and other documents to be produced.

## **Sand Mining**

The Maui Group donated funds to help support legal efforts of local group, Mālama Kakanilua, holding developers accountable to follow court orders protecting natural sand dune formations and the traditional burials they often hold. In late August, an extension of Maui County's six month sand mining moratorium was passed by Maui County Council, although several mining/grading operations are exempt.

## **Mākena Development**

Mākena Resort is now changing phasing plans for its 47-acre development above Mākena Landing and is focusing on completing archaeological review for around 25 large "estate" lots. The lots proposed for multi-story condos will require more extensive archaeological work and may need to be reconfigured. The Maui Group and its allies have the right to review, comment on, and suggest revisions to the archaeological reports as part of a 2017 legal settlement agreement.

## **Kīhei Wetlands**

The Maui Group Conservation Committee continues to track proposed plans to develop in various Kīhei wetland areas and has reached out to experts to help clearly delineate wetland areas.

## **Mo'omuku Grading Violations**

The Maui Group testified to the Maui County Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee in support of better protection for historic sites and coastal resources in the Mo'omuku area, south of Mākena State Park and near the 'Ahihi-Kīna'u Natural Area Reserve. Citizen science revealed that large scale grading and grubbing was taking place in this area without adequate permit review.

## **Ua'oa Bay Trail Access**

The Maui Group has heard from concerned citizens about potential loss of public access to Ua'oa Bay due to disputes over the location of the trailhead. The Group has reached out to the property owners to seek solutions to the matter.

# Maui Group Outings

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.

If the hike description states an EMI waiver is required:

East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows access to their trails as long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI waiver is absolutely required for EMI hikes. Call in your waiver request at 579-9516 well in advance to make an appointment to sign it. Then go to EMI's Pā'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. It is open Monday 11am-3pm and Friday 8am-1pm. Waivers cannot be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up the waiver 5 days in advance whenever possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.

## Sunday, October 7

### *Waihe'e Ridge (C/E)*

Waihe'e, 4.5 miles

This is a moderate to strenuous hike as it is uphill all the way to the top, a 1500 ft elevation, 2.5 hours. This trail is very slippery if there has been any moisture at all so a hiking stick is important on this one. There are beautiful forest and spectacular views. Leader: Kalei Johnson, 344-0006 (no text) or [kalei1908@gmail.com](mailto:kalei1908@gmail.com)

## Friday, October 12

### *Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)*

South Maui, 2-3 miles

Enjoy, stunning mauka and makai views, rare native plants and ancient Hawaiian sites in the Wailea 670 preserve. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet at 4pm at top of Kaukahi Rd

in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register: [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Friday, October 19

### *Makamaka'ole (C/E)*

2 miles

Beautiful hike with many stream crossings and waterfall at the end. Bring water shoes, lunch, water, and swimsuit. Limit 12. Meet at Waiehu Golf Club parking lot 8:30am to carpool. Leader: Miranda Camp, [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com)

## Sunday, October 21

### *Kanahā Beach Ramble (C/E)*

Kanahā, 4 miles

A novice hike along the beach but mostly walking in the shade under trees. Wear boots as there is kiawe thorns aplenty. Bring a swimsuit if you want to swim at some really nice spots. Leader: Kalei Johnson, 344-0006 (no text) or [kalei1908@gmail.com](mailto:kalei1908@gmail.com)

## Saturday, October 27

### *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, and 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

## Friday, November 2

### *North Shore Coastal Historical Hike (C/E)*

Ho'okipa, 3 miles

Explore the scenic coastline from Mama's Fish House to Māliko Gulch and learn about its fascinating history. Bring a hat, water, and snacks/lunch. We'll leave cars at both ends. Meet 9am at Pā'ia Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com) or 214-0147

## Saturday, November 3

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

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

# Maui Group Outings

## Friday, November 9

### *Nā Hōkū - Starwatch Benefit (C/E)*

Star watch in South Maui on a hillside with amazing sky views. Come spend an evening with astronomer Harriet Witt and learn about the lore of our Hawaiian night sky. Bring a beach chair, blanket, and flashlight. Meet at 5:30pm. Light pupus will be served. Special event. Location will be provided with registration: \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Register with Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

## Sunday, November 11

### *Wailea 670 Historical Hike w/ Guest Archaeologist (C/E/S)*

South Maui, 2 miles

Help clean and stabilize Hawaiian archaeological sites in Wailea 670 preserve and enjoy the unique terrain. Rugged area. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Gloves and hand tools provided. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register: laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Sunday, November 18

### *Kapalua Resort Coastal Trail (C/E)*

West side, 3.5 miles

Mostly level. Hike spectacular Kapalua Resort Coastal Trail with optional swim/snorkel at Kapalua Bay. Meet 8:30am at the Maui Ocean Center parking lot in Mā'alaea (the end near the gas station) to carpool. If you live on the west side, meet 9:30am at D.T. Fleming Beach Park (the south parking lot) which is where the trail starts. Bring water, lunch, sun protection, camera, and optionally a swimsuit and snorkel gear. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

## Saturday, November 24

### *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, and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Sunday, December 9

### *Kanaio Beach (C/E)*

La Perouse, 6 miles

Kings Highway from La Perouse Bay to south of

major lava flow and snorkel place. Bring lunch, water, hat, and sunscreen. Bring bathing suit and snorkel gear (also water shoes for the rocky entry) if you want to snorkel. Meet at Kīhei Community Center at 8:30am. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

## Saturday, December 15

### *Victory Hike: Old Mākena-'Ulupalakua Road Hike (C/E)* Mākena, 4 miles, mostly downhill

Experience this famous historic road that has been closed for all use since 1985. Hike will begin on Kanaio-Kalama Road in Wailea 670, climb a slight grade, and continue downhill to the ocean on old Mākena-'Ulupalakua switchback road. We will leave cars at both ends. Bring hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch/snack. Estimated time: 3 hours. Meet 8am at public parking lot, across from Keawala'i Church. Limit 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

## Friday, December 21

### *Kīhei Coastal Trail and Beach Cleanup (C/E/S)*

Stroll along the Kīhei Coastal Trail between Kama'ole 3 Beach and Keawakapu Beach while collecting trash before it makes it into our ocean and harms wildlife. Afterwards you can join a fun snorkel to remove fishing gear from our reefs. We will see plenty of green sea turtles and other ocean life from land and sea. Meet Kama'ole 3 Beach Park parking lot south end at 8am. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

## Sunday, December 23

### *Mākena Shoreline Hike (C/E)*

Mākena, 3 miles

Moderate, pleasant walk on "fisherman's trail", road, sandy beaches, rocky beaches past tidepools to Keoneuli. Beautiful views. Hiking stick useful. Meet 9am in public parking lot for Polo Beach, near entrance. Almost entirely exposed, so bring sun protection. We'll stop to eat anything we have with us at Keoneuli. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

## Saturday, December 29

### *Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)*

Ha'ikū, 2 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, and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147





# Moku Loa Group Report

## **Mauna Kea Update** by Debbie Ward

The Hawai'i Supreme Court heard oral arguments in June regarding the University of Hawai'i/Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory (TIO) application for a Conservation District Use Permit, following a contested case hearing that spanned over 13 months with 44 days of testimony. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the lower court erred in granting a contested case hearing for the Thirty Meter Telescope sublease, finding that the case was administrative in nature and rules did not require such a hearing. The TIO corporation has recently announced plans to request National Science Foundation funding for operations and maintenance. This use of federal funds could trigger new federal review requirements.

The University has issued an Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for what was formerly called a lease extension for its lease for Mauna Kea. The new title is "Land Authorizations for Long-Term Continuation of Astronomy on Maunakea". On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Hawai'i Chapter and the Moku Loa Group requested formal consultation during the preparation phase of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. However, five months have passed and no consultation has been scheduled. The Sierra Club's concerns include the unmitigated cumulative impacts to cultural and natural resources, including visual impact of construction on sensitive cultural view planes from both the summit and the lowlands, the industrialization of conservation district land, the impact on cultural and historic sites, the impact on native floral and faunal habitat, and the failure of the State to collect the fair market value of lease rents from foreign and mainland entities that utilize public trust lands.

UH only has a dozen years remaining on its lease of over 11,000 acres of Mauna Kea's conservation district, but is proposing draconian new administrative rules to limit public use, including the installation of a gate to control access on the public road on which it has a non-exclusive easement. The proposed rules would also restrict visiting hours, personal equipment, and put restrictions on customary and traditional rights of Native Hawaiian practitioners. We hold that only DLNR has the right to create administrative rules for the conservation district, and the University should not be attempting to do so.

## **Remembering Fred Stone** by Debbie Ward

We note the passing, in May, of scientist and member Dr. Fred Stone. Fred was an evolutionary biologist, lifelong caver, developer of the Tropical Forest Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management program at Hawai'i Community College, and an inspiration to thousands of students—many of whom are working in environmental sciences today. Fred served as judge for over 25 years at the Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair and donated awards to the Moku Loa Group for promising students. Fred worked on the 1982 studies used in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mauna Kea Science Reserve, authored management recommendations, and provided expert witness testimony on projects affecting biodiversity including the contested case regarding industrial development in Mauna Kea's vulnerable biologic ecosystems. Fred will be greatly missed.



## **Water in the Charter** by Steve Holmes and Cory Harden

Why change the Department of Water Supply into a county department? It's now semi-autonomous. But as a county department, the Department of Water Supply would be more responsive to the Mayor and County Council, who in turn must answer to voters. Accountability would be increased and the public would have more opportunity for input on policy decisions.

To date, the Department of Water Supply has failed to establish sustainable water practices. It has no programs for watershed stewardship, drought mitigation, low-flow water fixtures, or water recycling. The focus is only on the new source side which is developer driven. This has led to repeated well failures, over pumping, and rising salinity levels that exceed Environmental Protection Agency safe drinking water standards and threaten public health. High salinity corrodes pipes and pumping equipment, and leads to other problems when saline water goes down the drain to the treatment plant.

Maui voters already saw the wisdom in making its water agency a county department via a charter amendment. Our Charter Commission will soon consider the same for Hawai'i County.

# Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

## **Hu Honua** by Marti Townsend

Hu Honua is the off-again, on-again biomass power plant proposed at the site of an old plantation powerplant along the Hāmākua Coast of Hawai'i Island. The controversial facility proposes to burn invasive eucalyptus trees to provide for 10% of Hawai'i Island's energy demand.

The Health Department is considering whether to issue two Clean Water Act permits for the project. Federal law requires these types of permits where an activity degrades water quality.

Many, including the Sierra Club, oppose the project because it is not a sustainable source of energy. The facility proposes releasing 22 million of gallons of tainted water into underground injection wells, where a hydrological connection with the nearby shown has been documented.

This area of Hāmākua known as Pepe'ekeo is home to several miles of public access trails that residents use for subsistence and recreational activities including hiking, fishing, and diving. The quality of these public trust resources could be seriously undermined by this project, in addition to the harmful emissions burning biomass contributes to climate change.

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## 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, October 13**

#### *Punalu'u Beach Park to Kāwā Beach* (E)

Ka'u District, easy/6 miles, sea level

This is a rugged, exposed coastline hike that follows the Ala Kahakai trail in some places. We pass cultural sites and freshwater springs to arrive at Kāwā Beach. We will have lunch at Kāwā Beach where we can swim if it's not too rough. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

### **Saturday, November 3**

#### *Whittington Beach Coastal Hike* (E)

Ka'u District, easy/4-6 miles, sea level

Expect a rugged exposed coastline hike, not always on an established trail but always beautiful views. Sturdy shoes a must along with plenty of water, a hat, and the usual requirements for a day hike. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

### **Sunday, November 11**

#### *Kualana Bay to Green Sand Beach* (E)

Ka'u District, South Point, easy/5.5 miles, sea level

This is a special hike that will take us to a olivine green sand beach on the side of a cinder cone. Swimming here is a must, in the giant swells that come to shore. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

### **Sunday, November 25**

#### *Honokāne Nui Lookout from Pololū Valley* (E)

Kohala District, easy/3.2 miles, sea level

We will start this hike at the Pololū Valley lookout and take the 'Āwini Trail to the beach. Hiking across Pololu Valley will take us to the switch backs up the east side of the valley to Honokāne Nui Lookout. From here we have fantastic views of Honokāne Valley and Pololū Valley. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and wear sturdy hiking shoes. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

### **Saturday, December 22**

#### *Victory Hike: Pohue Bay* (E/C)

West side, contour, strenuous/5 miles

Hike down the ancient mauka-makai trail to historic Pohue Bay. This area has been under threat of major development several times, the most recent in 2011. This hike is strenuous due to exposed, hot and dry conditions. Swimming is possible at a coconut-tree-lined white sand beach, conditions permitting; however, no lifeguard is available. Group size is limited. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

### **Sunday, December 29**

#### *Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike* (E/C)

Hāmākua shoreline, moderate/4 miles

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

# A Year of Change

By Lisa Mason, Christian Liberty Academy High School Hikers Outings Leader

I can still hear the whitewater breaking across the reef. I can smell the saltiness of the shallow pools and taste the crisp 'ākulikuli picked from the shore. Through the reflecting light, I can make out the colorful outlines of corals and the busyness of life beneath the water. I can feel the refreshment of the ocean and the stares of nearby puihi and honu as I drift by. These memories are gifts from Wai'ōpae that I and my High School Hikers will not soon forget. Like most people, I can still feel the wonder of Kapoho, feelings now mixed with the reality of loss for many and the hope of rebuilding Puna in the wake of the Kīlauea eruption. Our club agrees, it is a privilege to see these places before they are gone.

It is true that in my walks with nature I have found more than what I was seeking. In some places, a new found adventure, in others, a sense of community and balance. As our Hawai'i Island neighborhoods, families, and schools face the aftermath of the devastating events from earlier this year, I am inspired by the resilience and aloha of our communities to unite, serve, and move forward. This past May, Christian Liberty Academy (CLA) Environmental Club High School Hikers (HSH) volunteered at Pu'uhonua o Puna, known as the "the Hub" in Pāhoa town and were humbled by the generosity and leadership of those around us. For a day we were part of the solution, helping to pass out supplies and food to those in need. Our thoughts and prayers continue for everyone impacted by the lava, rains, flooding, and fires here at home and across our islands.

CLA Environmental Club High School Hikers is beginning our fourth year as an official group! We want to share some noteworthy outings from last spring. In February our club went birdwatching and toured the massive reconstructed fishponds along the historic Kaloko-Honokōhau coastline in Kona. On April 14th, our team of 8 volunteers joined Hawai'i Wildlife Fund for a beach cleanup where we removed 862 pounds of marine debris from the shoreline. CLA also participated in the statewide Blue Line Project Day on April 21st, an event sponsored by Blue Planet Foundation, to raise awareness about the potential impacts of sea level rise in Hilo. As a close to our Earth Day festivities, we visited Hōkūle'a at Bayfront during her "Mahalo Hawai'i" visit. This summer, on August 11th, some members of CLA HSH went hiking at Kilohana to the top of Pu'u Ahumoa, known to some as Chicken Hill, on the western slope of Mauna Kea. We were lucky enough to spot a critically endangered palila bird in a nearby naio tree. Glad we remembered to bring the binoculars!

CLA Environmental Club HSH is excited to announce our new Junior High School Hikers group. This year our middle schoolers, grades 6-8, can participate in their own hiking and service club. Currently, our middle school program has 12 youth members. Our high school program is in the process of electing club officials, and we hope to be in full swing by mid-September. Our first hike is on September 15th to Hā'ena Bay in Kea'au. Although we are unable to visit Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park this season, we are hoping to make our way to Pu'uhonua O Hōnaunau next spring to learn more about our national parks.

HSH is also participating for our third year in the Keep America Beautiful Recycle Bowl from October 15 – November 15, 2018. Mahalo Marcia Hee, from Recycle Hawai'i, for again helping to sponsor this event for our local schools. We will be accepting community donations of rinsed and sorted recyclable plastics and HI-5 beverage containers at the Christian Liberty Academy upper-campus parking lot beginning on October 15th. Please contact Lisa Mason at [lmason@clahawaii.org](mailto:lmason@clahawaii.org) for more information. Mahalo Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter and Moku Loa Group for your continued support! Happy hiking!



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund Beach Cleanup



Blue Planet's Blue Line Project



Hōkūle'a at Bayfront

# A Trip Through Haleakalā Crater

by Sarah Yamamoto, High School Hiker, photos by Jamie Tanino

A trip through Haleakalā Crater is a once in a lifetime experience even if I have trekked through Haleakalā National Park twice. I am not proposing that a force of nature so omnipotent as Haleakalā crater is fickle. But my journey through the crater changed with the seasons, the people around me, and with the specific place I am in at the moment. This is perhaps why seasoned Haleakalā pilgrims like Ron Nagata with countless treks and my mother, with over 13 visits, are not as rare as one might think.



Heading out under the moon

The different regions in the crater allow visitors a view of a wide variety of images. My first visit to the crater was so overwhelming that I saw each scene as a series of amazing vistas that were unconnected to the next awesome view. Today, I marveled in the fact that in only four days, I walked through at least five different biomes. From the alpine desert in the Sliding Sands Trail, to the rainforest in Palikū, to the chaparral in the switchbacks. With the help of naturalist and *Achatinella* lover, Jamie Tanino, we were able to understand the fragility in the balance between living organisms in each biome. I could not help but feel reverence for the living and nonliving parts of each area inspired by the passionate words from Jamie. My courses in high school and my experiences in the High School Hikers Program fused and my understanding of nature's interdependence became concrete in Haleakalā. I realized that I was paying more attention to what is currently done to protect the unique plants and animals that have made Haleakalā their home.

Perhaps the evolution of my perspective was equally affected by my company in Haleakalā. My first adventure into the crater was with a group of high schoolers and advisors, Jamie and Kelson. We played games, talked, laughed at the antics of teenage jokers, and we made a lot of noise. This year, I was in the company of only one teen and several adult naturalists.

I particularly loved listening to the many adventures of the very adventurous cabin mates—their experiences were so interesting and diverse. It made me reflect on the many adventures around the world I have been on and hope to be on in the future. I saw that their travels were not only sightseeing but a learning experience that embodied their passions and their active participation. I know that this molded my experience when I traveled to Japan and Korea this summer as I took workshops in watercolor journaling and tea farming in Japan.

The change in my experience may also be affected by where I am in my own personal journey. I am a senior now and I have many things to decide. The long treks gave me valuable time for reflection. As I walked through the crater dwarfed by the many cinder cones, I felt my worries fall into perspective. Like the geologic features and the surviving flora and fauna, time can erode small errors. My fellow journeyers are all happy and their decisions and fate has guided them to where they should be, as will mine. With this new perspective I have discovered a bit of peace in my jumbled and worrisome existence. I see the passion these people have through all the things they do everyday; I know whatever life I choose will be fulfilling only if I do what I am passionate about.

A journey of any kind can be a life changing experience that changes what you are working on at the moment; the change is magnified if you are open and actually embrace the experience. I know that I will have many more adventures that I hope will help me grow. I am grateful for the opportunities I have been given with the Sierra Club and the best sign of gratitude that I can give is to take everything that I have learned in Haleakalā to heart, and not dismiss the experience as just a free trip

to Maui. Thank you all for your time and wisdom, I'll be sure to remember this trip for years to come.



Sarah Yamamoto



Getting ready to head into the crater

# Hundreds of Hikers Participate in 'Ka Iwi Explorations 2018'

by Elizabeth Reilly, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and Jodi Malinoski, O'ahu Group Coordinator

The Ka Iwi Coalition recently opened a portion of Ka Iwi mauka lands for public exploration for the first time following 40 years of efforts to preserve East O'ahu's contiguous Ka Iwi coastline. On August 5th and 6th, more than 250 supporters and leaders celebrated this historic community conservation success with inaugural hikes to launch 'Ka Iwi Explorations 2018'.

Organizations that partnered together to create this opportunity were: Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, The Trust for Public Land, Sierra Club O'ahu Group, Hui Nalu Canoe Club, and Kamehameha Schools.

Participants in this first-time experience got a chance to explore parcel one of the 182-acre property with a guided hike by Sierra Club O'ahu Group volunteers, who spoke about the native plants along the trail, while cultural experts from Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and The Trust for Public Land spoke about the natural resources and history of the area, and shared plans for the future. The end of the hikes displayed sweeping views of the Ka Iwi Coast and Koko Crater, demonstrating the vastness of the newly conserved area.

Prior to the public access hikes the Ka Iwi Coalition held weekly conference calls, held several excursions to scout the location of the new trail, and coordinated four trail-clearing days with the assistance of the Hawai'i Trail and Mountain Club, Ultimate Innovations Landscaping, and the Hawai'i Kai Golf Course. The O'ahu Group identified and trained twenty

volunteers to serve as "hike guides" for groups of 10-20 hikers who signed up for either a 2 mile easy hike or 3 mile moderate hike in the mauka lands.

In addition to leading hikes, the Coalition, with the assistance of Badcat Media, created a beautiful and informative Ka Iwi educational pop-up store at the Kalama Valley Shopping Center. The pop-up was open for two weeks and served as informational hub about the successful efforts made by countless volunteers, partners, and generous community members to preserve and protect the Ka Iwi Coast.

In the coming year, the Ka Iwi Coalition will continue to clear trails and seek public access opportunities as well as commence with an archaeological, cultural and historic survey, and a terrestrial flora and fauna survey. Mahalo to the Ka Iwi Coalition for allowing the O'ahu Group to take part in these exciting efforts.



One of the many hiking groups at the trailhead



View from the end of the 3 mile moderate hike



The Ka Iwi Education pop-up at the Kalama Valley Shopping Center

Ka Iwi Coalition partners exploring the mauka lands and scouting the new trail



Coalition partners at the first planning meeting for "Ka Iwi Explorations 2018"



For information regarding upcoming 2019 public access days and to learn more, go to [kaiwicoast.org](http://kaiwicoast.org). If you would like to volunteer with the Sierra Club O'ahu Group and assist with future trail-building efforts, please email [contact@sierracluboahu.org](mailto:contact@sierracluboahu.org).

# ‘Ōhi‘a is a People (Plant) Person

by Corie Yanger, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death Educational/Outreach Specialist

The first article in this ‘ōhi‘a series gave a well-rounded introduction to the biological importance and diversity of this pioneer and foundational tree of Hawai‘i (see July 2018 Mālama). Now, let’s dive into the human connection to ‘ōhi‘a.

It is shared that ‘ōhi‘a is culturally important because it is biologically important, that there is no true separation between ‘ōhi‘a in Hawaiian culture and ‘ōhi‘a in Hawaiian forests: they are one. That unity is illustrated in the expression of a biocultural perspective—it is a perspective that recognizes the deep interconnection between biological and cultural significance. For Hawai‘i, the biocultural importance of ‘ōhi‘a arose from a long period of people observing and interacting with the plant.

There was a time when ‘ōhi‘a was a ubiquitous component of Hawai‘i’s landscapes. It’s therefore no surprise that ‘ōhi‘a, a plant found from the coast to mountain slopes, from barren lava flows to old growth forests, made a profound impression on the people and culture of the Hawai‘i. It was entwined in various aspects of everyday life as tools, in structures, ceremony, and canoes, as well as in stories, sayings, songs, and dances. The relationship between people of the islands and ‘ōhi‘a has been as intimate as that between a grandchild and grandparent. These trees have been teachers and family members for many generations.

In addition to the prevalence of ‘ōhi‘a in stories and chants, we’ll share just a few other examples about the cultural importance of ‘ōhi‘a. ‘Ōhi‘a represents the physical form of multiple Hawaiian deities. These akua (in highly simplified terms) include Pele, goddess of fire and volcanoes, Kāne, god of water, Kū, god of war, and Laka, goddess of hula. The fact that ‘ōhi‘a serves as an embodiment of these significant and powerful deities demonstrates how highly the tree is regarded. Different representations of deities further reflect ‘ōhi‘a’s ecological diversity and encompass many different forms and functions of the tree.

The beautiful lehua blossoms of ‘ōhi‘a have their own symbolism as well. The dark red color of these flowers was a symbol of the blood shed by the first warrior to fall in battle—he was called “Lehua”. The multi-color lehua, especially the red, orange, and yellow colored blossoms are symbols of the fiery goddess, Pele.

In hula, ‘ōhi‘a is one of several sacred plants used to build a hula altar to honor Laka—a hula altar is not complete without an actual plant or piece of ‘ōhi‘a. The lehua and liko, new or young growth, have also been one of the principle plants chosen to adorn dancers, especially when hula and chants honor Pele.

Each of the examples is an important component of the story of ‘ōhi‘a and its relationship to people. The

elevated status of this tree and its spiritual significance still resound within circles of cultural practitioners and many others.

Unfortunately, human activity and development have caused the loss of most ‘ōhi‘a, especially at low elevation, and created a sizable barrier to learning about and knowing who ‘ōhi‘a are. Today, most residents and



visitors do not see ‘ōhi‘a, and if they know the plant they must search in the mountains for a glimpse of it—except on the island of Hawai‘i.

So, if you are someone who has never seen ‘ōhi‘a or does not know much about it, we encourage you to get out on the trails and look to spot ‘ōhi‘a—maybe even get crazy and narrow your search to certain species or varieties described in our first article! Find out if your local botanical garden has ‘ōhi‘a on the grounds and post your smart phone artsy shots and selfies on social media with #ohialove. Delve into books or online searches to learn more about the biocultural importance of this tree—what are the stories, how was it used, and what kinds of protocols did one have to observe to use it? Check out the ‘Ōhi‘a Legacy Initiative on O‘ahu ([ohialelegacy.org](http://ohialelegacy.org)) and learn about how you can help to bring ‘ōhi‘a back to the urban landscape. If you’re interested in workshops about ‘ōhi‘a seed collecting and storage, inquire with the Lyon Arboretum’s ‘Ōhi‘a Love Seedbanking Campaign ([ohialove.com](http://ohialove.com)). On Hawai‘i Island, look up Ulu Lehelehu (Million ‘Ōhi‘a Initiative - [akakaforests.org/our-initiatives/ulu-lehulehu-initiative](http://akakaforests.org/our-initiatives/ulu-lehulehu-initiative)) and find out what they’re doing to teach about ‘ōhi‘a in schools and how they’re going to move forward with a search for ‘ōhi‘a resistance to the fungal disease known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death ([rapidohiadeath.org](http://rapidohiadeath.org)).

‘Ōhi‘a has always been an important plant for those who live in or visit the Hawaiian Islands even if we don’t recognize its significance. Now that Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death poses a very real and serious threat to the survival of ‘ōhi‘a across the state, we have a sobering push to revisit and re-familiarize ourselves with the importance of this sacred tree. It’s time to identify what your own relationship is or could be with this exceptionally special ‘ōhi‘a person and cultivate that relationship.

# Nate's Adventures: Stream Flow in East Maui

by Nate Yuen, Chapter Conservation Chair

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee recently held its 2018 annual retreat in Huelo, Maui. We seized the opportunity to verify whether water flow has been restored to two streams in East Maui, as ordered by the Hawai'i State Commission on Water Resource Management.

Just 3 weeks earlier on June 20, the Water Commission ordered full restoration of stream flow to 10 streams and substantial restoration to 7 other East Maui streams. The nearly 20-year battle over East Maui water rights pitted Native Hawaiian taro farmers and environmentalists against one of Hawai'i's most powerful and influential land owners, Alexander & Baldwin (A&B).

Lucienne de Naie, a long time Sierra Club member and Huelo resident, took us to see two streams where full restoration was ordered. We hiked up several roads to reach a trail that took us to Hanehoi Stream. We were saddened to see the stream completely dry.



Water has been diverted from most streams in East Maui for over 100 years. The water was originally taken to irrigate sugarcane but with the end of the sugar industry, A&B is no longer using the water for agriculture and the Water Commission ordered flow to be restored to right this historic injustice and return water for the benefit of taro farmers and stream wildlife.

Sadly, the A&B diversions have not yet been removed and Hanehoi Stream is still bone dry. We hiked down the dry stream bed to assess the situation further downstream to where Hanehoi Stream meets Puolua Stream.

Only when we reached the confluence with Puolua Stream was there water in the stream. Full restoration of flow was ordered in both streams yet Hanehoi Stream still remains dry. Many thanks to Lucienne for taking us to check the water flow. The Sierra Club and allies will be vigilant to ensure stream diversions are removed to restore streamflow, as ordered by the Commission.



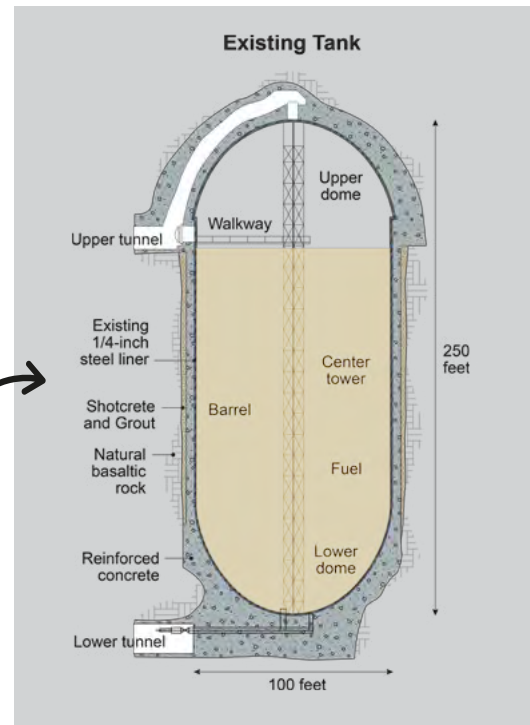
**Nathan Yuen** is an artist/photographer/naturalist whose body of work is a confluence of hiking, conservation, and fine art photography. Each weekend you can find him hiking, backpacking, or kayaking to out-of-the-way locations to photograph Hawai'i's native plants and animals, many of which are rare 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).

# Maintaining Status Quo with Thinning Tanks

The U.S. Navy has selected their preferred tank upgrade alternative for the tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility—the lowest cost and least protective option. Are we surprised? No. Dissatisfied? Absolutely.

Mandated by the administrative agreement that the Navy signed after the 2014 leak of 27,000 gallons of fuel, the Navy studied numerous tank upgrade alternatives to employ at Red Hill, narrowing it down to six, and ultimately choosing one to propose to the regulators—the Environmental Protection Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, and Hawai'i Department of Health.

Here you will find an overview of the available options, details of the Navy's proposal and the Sierra Club's preferred option:



## Existing Tank Structure

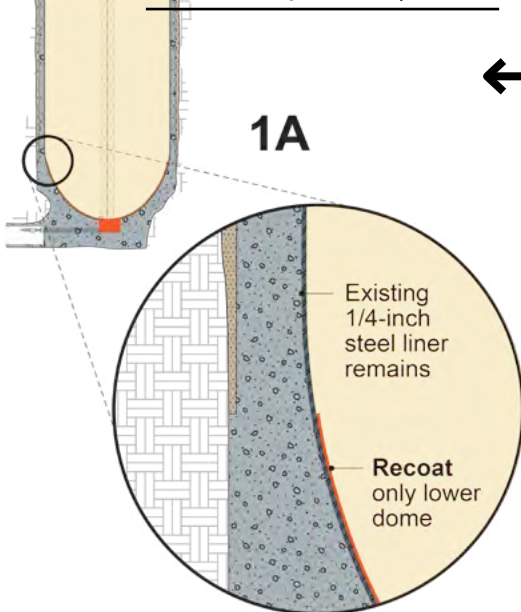
Built in 1943, the tanks were constructed underground by digging a series of tunnels in the ridge between Moanalua and Hālawā, known as Kapukakā or Red Hill. Each holding 12.5 million gallons of fuel, the tanks were built with 1/4-inch steel walls surrounded by reinforced concrete. There is no mechanism in place for visual inspection of the tanks, outside of emptying the tank of fuel and entering the tank.

## Navy's Proposal

The Navy's preferred choice is 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."

Choosing this option is unacceptable and does very little to ensure the protection of O'ahu's drinking water. On one hand, the Navy pushes the importance of this facility and its fuel for national security, but on the other, is not willing to put forward the money and urgency to maintain this facility.

Upgrade 18 tanks for  
**\$180-450 million**  
Completed by 2031



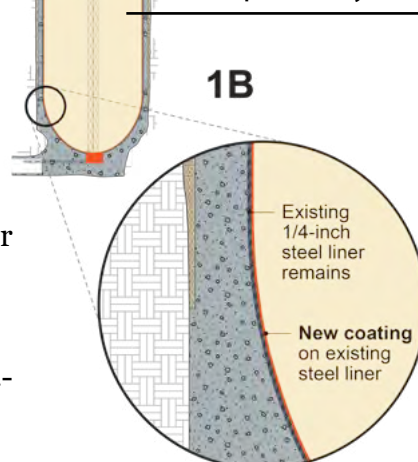
## Option 1B

Maintain existing steel liner and coat the liner within the entire tank.

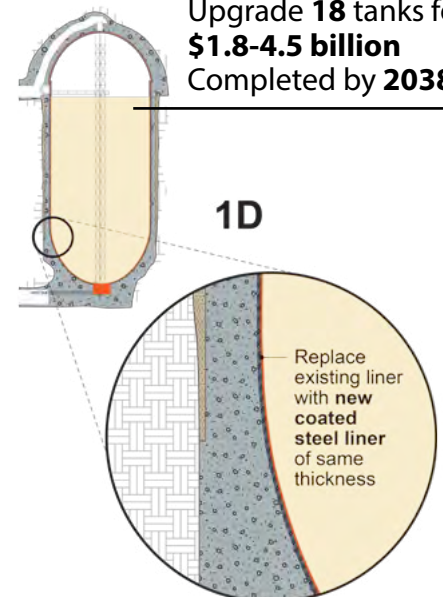
## Option 1D

Remove existing steel liner, install a new 1/4-inch steel liner with interior coating.

Upgrade 18 tanks for  
**\$450 million-  
\$1.8 billion**  
Completed by 2037



Upgrade 18 tanks for  
**\$1.8-4.5 billion**  
Completed by 2038





## Option 2A

Maintain existing steel liner, install a new 1/4-inch coated carbon steel liner with 3-inch composite filler in-between new and old liners.

## Option 2B

Maintain existing steel liner, install a new 1/4-inch coated *stainless* steel liner with 3-inch composite filler in-between new and old liners.

## Our Preferred Option

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply are advocating for option 3A, or tank within a tank, because it complies with state law.

This option is the only tank that provides secondary containment with interstitial space. The original steel tank liner would be coated with epoxy becoming the "secondary containment", while a new 1 1/2 inch steel tank is constructed within the existing tank as the "primary containment". In between the two tanks would be a 5-foot wide accessible space that allows for a human to visually inspect the entire outside of the tank holding fuel.

We believe this is the only option, outside of closing this facility and relocating the fuel, that provides enough protection of O'ahu's water supply to justify the continued operation of the Red Hill facility.

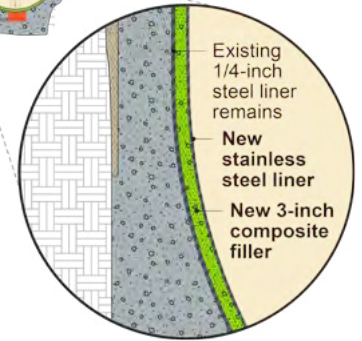
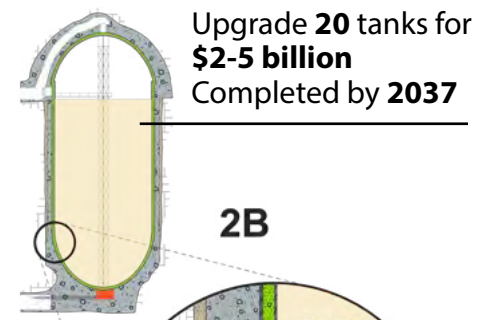
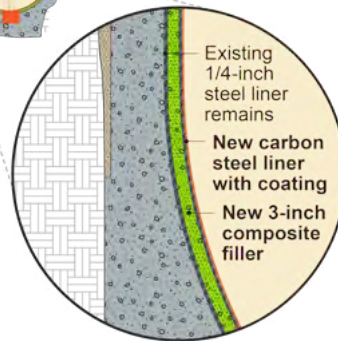
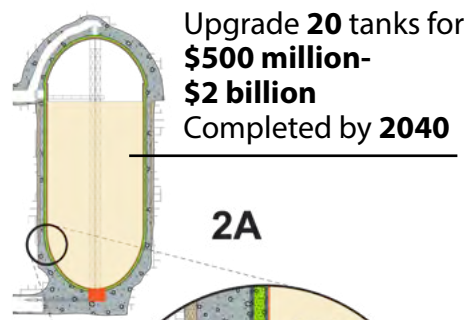
## Relocation

In addition to the six options, the Navy was also directed to investigate the relocation of this fuel supply. Their preferred alternative location is just upslope of the existing facility. Although the fuel would be stored in brand new tanks, we do not support this alternative location because the tanks will still be underground in the same general location directly above the same drinking water aquifer. The Sierra Club believes that if the fuel is to be relocated it should be moved above ground away from our primary drinking water resource.

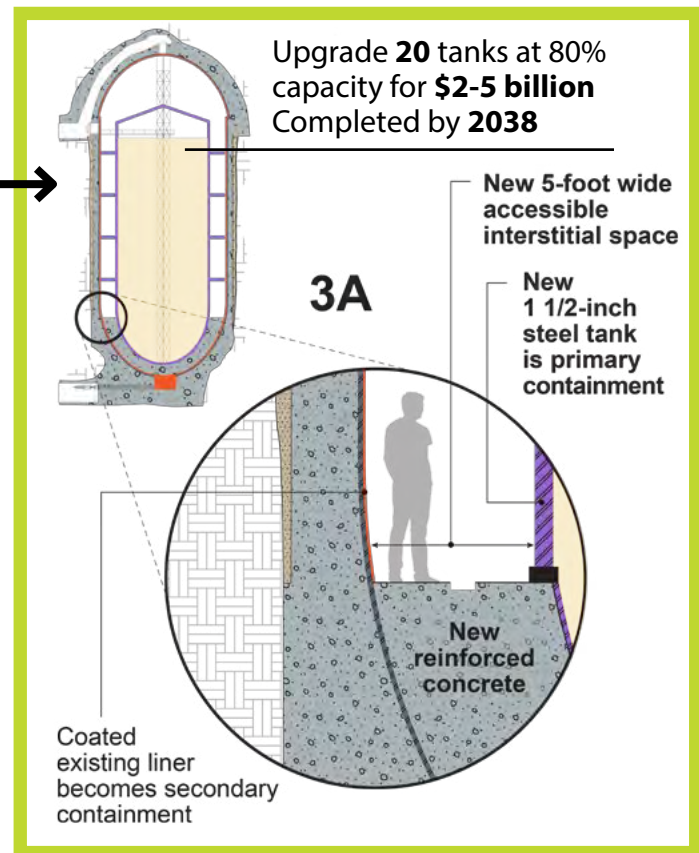
## Corrosion & Thinning: Its Worse than They Thought

The Navy recently conducted "destructive testing" of a tank to verify their assumptions on how the tanks at Red Hill are aging over time. The preliminary findings of the study were astonishing. The Navy predicted thinning from the original 0.25-inches would be between 0.187 and 0.135-inches. However, actual samples taken from the tank were as thin as 0.079 inches, less than a third of the width of the original quarter-inch steel lining. Half of the samples showed corrosion.

It is incomprehensible that the Navy would continue to advocate for the least protective upgrade while their own study shows that the tanks have likely corroded much more than assumed. There will be several meetings in the next couple of months seeking input and providing space for concerns and questions to be addressed, the first being on November 1. We encourage everyone to subscribe to our email list, sign our petition, and follow this issue and upcoming events at [sierraclubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security).



## Tank illustrations courtesy of Honolulu Board of Water Supply



# Vote Sierra Club of Hawai'i General Election Endorsements

**Vote like the environment depends on it—because it does.**

- **Early Walk-in Voting & Late Registration:** October 23 - November 3
- You can also register at your polling place on Election Day.
- **Election Day:** November 6

Find your district numbers, polling place, and more info at [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov)

## Hawai'i Island State House

**Chris Todd**, District 2  
**Joy SanBuenaventura**, District 4  
**Richard Creagan**, District 5  
**Nicole Lowen**, District 6

## County Council

**Maile (Medeiros) David**, District 6  
**Rebecca (Schute) Villegas**, District 7  
**Karen S. Eoff**, District 8

## Maui State House

**Angus McKelvey**, District 10  
**Tina Wildberger**, District 11

## Mayor

**Elle Cochran**

## County Council

**Kelly Takaya King**, South Maui  
**Alika Atay**, Wailuku, Waihe'e, Waikapū  
**Tamara Akiko Maile Paltin**, West Maui  
**Natalie "Tasha" Kama**, Kahului  
**Hannibal Starbuck**, Upcountry  
**Trinette Furtado**, Makakwao, Ha'ikū, Pā'ia  
**Shane Sinenci**, East Maui  
**Gabe Johnson**, Lāna'i  
**Keani Rawlins-Fernandez**, Moloka'i

**Governor**  
**David Ige**

**Lt. Governor**  
**Josh Green**

## Office of Hawaiian Affairs

**Carmen Hulu Lindsey**, Maui  
**Esther Kia'aina**, O'ahu  
**William 'Ailā, Jr.**, At-large

## Kaua'i

### County Council

**Mason Chock**, At-large  
**Adam Roversi**, At-large  
**Felicia Cowden**, At-large  
**Luke Evslin**, At-large

## O'ahu

### State House

**Dale Kobayashi**, District 23  
**Aaron Ling Johanson**, District 31  
**Linda Ichiyama Chong**, District 32  
**Gregg Takayama**, District 34  
**Marilyn Lee**, District 36  
**Chris Fidelibus**, District 41  
**Cedric Asuega Gates**, District 44  
**Lauren K. Matsumoto**, District 45  
**Amy Perruso**, District 46  
**Cynthia Thielen**, District 50  
**Chris Lee**, District 51

### State Senate

**Sharon Y. Moriwaki**, District 12  
**Breene Harimoto**, District 16  
**Matt S. LoPresti**, District 19  
**Gil Riviere**, District 23  
**Jarrett Keohokalole**, District 24

## City & County of Honolulu Council

**Tommy Waters**, District 4  
**Brandon Elefante**, District 8

*Paid for by Vote Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a grassroots political action committee, without the approval of any candidate.*

For more info on candidates, visit [VoteSierraClubHawaii.com](http://VoteSierraClubHawaii.com)

## Vote for your Sierra Club leadership!

### Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Bios

*Seats will be filled by the top three candidates.*

#### Heather Kimball

Heather Kimball is a scientist with a background in systems ecology and climate change mitigation and adaptation. She chaired Moku Loa Group in 2017 and was a candidate for State legislature. She is interested in serving on the Executive Committee to advocate for policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect the wild spaces of Hawai'i, build connection and resilience in our communities and promote environmental, social and economic justice.



#### Janice Palma-Glennie

Janice Palma-Glennie has been on the frontlines of several major Hawai'i land use battles spanning three decades. She served on the steering committee of the Kona Community Development Plan. She served on Moku Loa Group's Executive Committee and is a current ExCom member of Surfrider Foundation's Kona Kai Ea Chapter. She was active with the Kohanaiki 'Ohana and spearheaded the last two successful battles to protect coastal 'O'oma from development.



#### Kau'i Pratt-Aquino

Kau'i Pratt-Aquino is a Native rights and environmental advocate who has dedicated her life to improving the status of kanaka and the greater community through education, cultural stewardship and pono leadership. She believes the Sierra Club can play a critical role in strengthening the alliance between native and environmental advocates to effect positive change. As a mom and lawyer, she is committed to creating a better future for our keiki.



#### Colin Yost

As Chair of ExCom, Colin has enjoyed partnering with Marti, staff and ExCom to reach new heights in effective advocacy and environmental protection. The Climate Crisis is a grave threat, but the Sierra Club remains focused on protecting this planet for our keiki to explore, enjoy and protect! In his day job, Colin is the COO of RevoluSun and works hard to accelerate the clean energy transformation. Mahalo for your consideration.



#### Nate Yuen

Nate Yuen has served on the Chapter ExCom for the past 2 years as Conservation Chair. Nate is an amateur naturalist, hiker, and photographer specializing in the native plants and animals of Hawai'i. From 2013 to 2017, he served on the Natural Area Reserves System Commission, which oversees the State's most biologically sensitive lands. Nate is an advocate for endangered species, clean water, renewable energy, climate change, and building a sustainable future.



**Don't forget - 2019 Executive Committee ballots are electronic ONLY!**

**There will be no paper ballots mailed or in the newsletter.**

All candidate bios are also available online at [sierraclubhawaii.org/excombio19](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/excombio19)

If you have any questions or trouble with your ballot contact us at 808-538-6616 or [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org).

Elected candidates will be announced in the January 2019 Mālama i ka Honua.

## O'ahu Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

*Seats will be filled by the top three candidates.*

### **Anthony Aalto**

Anthony Aalto has been an active member of the Club for a dozen years. He helped lead the campaigns against the Ho'opili and Koa Ridge developments. He chaired the O'ahu Group from 2012 through 2017 and headed the Club's Political Action Committee for several years. Most recently he helped lead the Club's successful campaign to amend the city charter to create the Honolulu Office of Climate Change Sustainability & Resiliency.



### **Hannah Hubanks**

Hannah Hubanks is an environmental scientist and outdoor enthusiast on O'ahu, currently working with various interest groups to improve soil health as a natural resource in Hawai'i. She is skilled in science communication and outreach across disciplines and backgrounds, with a passion for increasing awareness of conservation efforts. Serving on the O'ahu Group's Executive Committee aligns with her goals to take action in advocating for and protecting nature in Hawai'i.



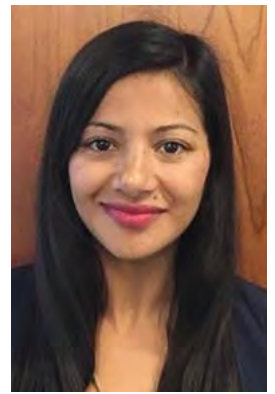
### **Rob Kinslow**

Rob has his eyes singularly focused on imagining, envisioning, empowering humans to understand their nature connections and each other through sowing seeds of sustainability. He has served on the Sierra Club ExCom for two years. While Rob has communicated, collaborated, and celebrated several environmental successes, not much has changed. Humans are still mired in the fossil-fuel era. He believes our biggest mistake as enviros is being reactive. Rob will continue to nudge Sierra Club towards a proactive approach.



### **Sheuli Molla**

Sheuli Molla is an environmental scientist who specializes in water resource planning and environmental management. Locally, Sheuli has worked in the environmental field for seven years. Sheuli participates in several environmental organizations, including Hawai'i Water Environment Association, where she serves on the Water Reuse planning committee, and Hawai'i Association of Environmental Professionals. Sheuli has enjoyed volunteering for Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i Ocean Time Series, and Habitat for Humanity.



### **Steve Montgomery**

Steve Montgomery is a beekeeper/biologist. Explored from South Point to Nihoa. Appointed to Land Use and Natural Areas Commissions. Worked on Arctic Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Bills and Ivory Ban. Built solidarity with Native Alaskan Villagers. Hosted World Conservation Congress. Advocated Biosecurity Plan. As eight monk seals died from cat-litter-disease (Toxoplasmosis), supported DLNR rules to compassionately trap unowned cats from harbors and parks. Improved political processes; mobilized Club for green candidates.



## Kaua'i Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

*Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.*

### **Marge Freeman**

Marge Freeman has served on the Kaua'i Group Executive Committee for 19 years and would like to continue serving as she feels the Sierra Club on Kaua'i has made valuable contributions to the island. She is an active supporter of Mālama Maha'ulepu and is a member of its board of directors. She was a co-plaintiff in the successful legal action against the Planning Commission to increase construction setbacks on the coastline at Kealia Kai.



## Kaua'i Group continued

### Kip Goodwin

Kip Goodwin is a founder of Kaua'i Alliance for Peace and Social Justice and a director of 80struth2youth, a statewide advocacy outreach for underserved Hawai'i youth. Recently he has represented Kaua'i group before the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Commission on Water Resource Management advocating for the waters of Wai'ale'ale to be restored to their natural streams and rivers, away from suburban development interests.



### Carl Imparato

Carl Imparato has served on the Kauai Group Executive Committee since 2006. He has focused his efforts and drafted Group testimony on over-development, shoreline access, park commercialization, protection of public spaces, noise, and the preservation of agricultural lands and rural character. Most recently, he led the Group's attempts to see that Kauai's General Plan protects residents and the environment from the impacts of over-tourism and unsustainable development. If re-elected, he would continue to address those issues.



### Jade Moss

Jade Moss is a 10-year resident of Hawai'i with eight years on Kaua'i. She is studying Hawaiian language and culture through her children's education at Hawaiian immersion school. She understands the immense kuleana of caring for the 'āina. She wants to join the Sierra Club in preserving open spaces, the marine environment, and cultural sites. Jade hopes that, one day, Hawai'i residents can utilize sustainability practices that Hawaiians had mastered. She has a Bachelor's degree in journalism from San Diego State University.



### Rayne Regush

A diligent advocate for protecting Kauai's environment, Rayne has served on the Group Ex Com since 2004 and as Group Representative for the Hawaii Chapter for 5 years. She is passionate about preserving historic trail access and serves on the State Na Ala Hele Kauai Advisory Council. Working to protect the island's rural character, cultural resources and shorelines, she recently spearheaded the legal appeal of Coconut Beach Resort's certified shoreline application which disregarded evidence of ocean debris close to the proposed resort footprint.



## Voting Instructions

### Voting online is easy, here's how:

- All current members will receive an email from Sierra Club of Hawai'i around October 19 containing a link with your personalized ballot.
- Do not share this link as it corresponds to personal membership numbers.
- *If you do not receive your emailed ballot link by October 19 contact us at [hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org) or 808-538-6616.*
- Once you open the email, write down your access key and password code, click the link and follow the prompts to complete your ballot.
- You will be prompted to vote in elections for the Chapter and your group.
- All candidate bios are also available online at [sierraclubhawaii.org/excombio19](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/excombio19)

**Ballots must be completed  
by Friday, November 16**

**Mahalo nui for your support!**

## Maui Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

*Seats will be filled by the top five candidates.*

### Clare Apana

Clare is a native of Wailuku, Maui, and is a cultural practitioner and teacher who is deeply involved with cultural preservation issues throughout Maui. Clare received the Sierra Club's Onipa'a Award in 2013 for her long dedication to research and advocacy to protect Maui's traditional cultural landscapes and burial areas. She has a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy and has a private practice in both Maui and Honolulu.



### Miranda Camp

Miranda is a life-long member of the Sierra Club, has served on the board for the Maui Group as co-chair, currently a volunteer hike leader, planted native forest with the Auwahi Project, volunteered with The Nature Conservancy to rid the preserves of invasive species and also volunteered as hike leader for the Waikamoi Native Forest hike in the Haleakalā National Park. She is currently a real estate agent, but with a background in Wildlife Biology, Maui's natural environment, cultural history and preservation of open spaces will always be of highest priority in her life. In her spare time she is either snorkeling or hiking to waterfalls.



### Lucienne de Naie

Lucienne de Naie is a long time Club member who has served as Chair and Vice-chair of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee. She is a researcher and writer whose passion is protection of native plants, streams, watersheds, and cultural sites.



### Daniel Grantham

Daniel has served on the Sierra Club Maui Group board for 18 years, in a number of positions, including Chair. His years videotaping community and government meetings for public access TV has given him familiarity with Maui issues. His science studies and electro-mechanical work background have fueled his interest in the practical and technical aspects of renewable energy and sustainability. Nature, he believes, illustrates the importance of decentralization to robust and resilient life support systems.



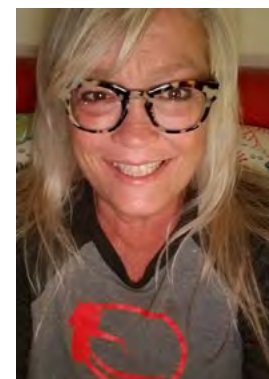
### Colleen O'Shea Wallace

Years ago, at the beginning of the "Keep the Country Country" movement, Colleen served on Windward O'ahu Neighborhood Boards. She's since worked as a public health advocate on Maui and statewide and has enjoyed working with virtually all of Maui's local, state and federal legislators. Colleen still carries a vision of restoring Maui and Hawai'i's natural environment, water and ocean resources to ensure the health and wellbeing of future generations; and will do what she can to further the mission of the Club as a board member.



### Janet Six

Dr. Janet Six is an archaeologist, specializing in archaeology of sugar plantations and water policies. She's worked on cultural/ecosystem restoration projects: Lo'iloa ('Iao Valley); the sacred site of Moku'ula (Lāhaina); Pālau'ea Cultural Preserve and documentary films: Ho'okele Wa'a and Nā Kupu Mana'ola. Janet served earlier on the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui steering committee and Sierra Club Maui Group Executive Committee. She chaired the Maui County Cultural Resource Commission.



## Moku Loa Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

*Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.*

### Ruth Aloua

Ruth Aloua is a Kanaka Maoli from the Kona District. Her grandmother's lineage binds her to the island of Hawai'i and her father's to Maui. She is a mahi'ai who farms with Malu 'Āina Center for Nonviolent Education and Action and a Kia'i Loko for Hui Kaloko-Honokōhau. She is an advocate for peaceful interactions with land, water, air and ocean.



### Rob Culbertson

Rob Culbertson is a life member of the Sierra Club and served the Kaua'i Group as its chair in the mid-90s. Now residing in the Hāmākua area of the Big Island, his interest in native plants and marine wildlife has become an avocation that fulfills his enthusiasm for conversation and service outings over the past few years with the Moku Loa Group. He hope to serve the Group's administrative functions with conservation perspectives and needs arising from this part of the very 'Big Island'.



### Bob Ernst

Bob is a proud vegetarian farmer/rancher in Mauna Huihui, operating Waiwai Nupanupa Ranch, a grass-fed cattle operation. He grows organic fruits and vegetables for his consumption, recently winning first prize at the Hilo County Fair for the largest Ruby Red Grapefruit. Bob's vision for Hawai'i is that it will be the best managed 'āina in the world and people will come to see well managed lands rather than thrill tourism. Bob is very active in elections to support candidates that will provide good government and follows up to make sure good government commitments are fulfilled.



### Gary Harrold

A product of the University of California/Santa Cruz, Gary is a proud environmental radical. He has supported World Trade Organization protests, the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary, the United Nations Association, zero population growth, reuse/recycling, the peace movement, and is a lifetime activist with the Sierra Club. Gary feels strongly that population pressures and rampant consumerism are ruining our seas, soils, and skies - not to mention our sanity. Corporate and military environmental irresponsibility must be examined. At seventy-three, Gary's car-free!



### Koran Munafo

I believe nature plays an important role in today's modern world of extremes. And I believe we should protect it. Currently, I hold a Master's Degree in Learning Design and Technology, and am a PhD candidate. In my work as an Adult Educator and Learning Experience Designer, I apply innovative designs solutions to address system challenges. It would be my pleasure to contribute my holistic systems design thinking to the important work of Moku Loa.



**Vote**

for your Sierra Club  
of Hawai'i leadership

Oct 19 - Nov 16  
[bit.ly/SCH-excom-19](http://bit.ly/SCH-excom-19)



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MĀLAMA I KA HONUA “Cherish the Earth” | *A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII* | OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2018

## Volunteer of the Year: Jonathan Scheuer

*by Colin Yost, Chapter Executive Committee Chair*

Hawai‘i is the land of aloha, except when political rivals clash in competitive primary campaigns for county, state and federal office. Because most viable candidates identify as Democrats, everyone knows our primary elections are often de facto general elections. And when candidates from the same party seek to differentiate themselves, the debate can quickly turn personal and emotional.

As Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s volunteer Political Committee Chair, Jonathan Scheuer’s job is to charge boldly into the political crossfire holding high our white (or perhaps green?) flag of neutral environmental advocacy and nonpartisanship. Jonathan excels in this challenging and time-consuming position, which becomes a second full-time job in the months before the votes are cast.

Managing Sierra Club’s rigorous process of endorsing strong environmental candidates requires extensive communication and coordination with Sierra Club members on all islands, vetting and interviewing numerous candidates and strictly adhering to Sierra Club’s national and local endorsement guidelines. The most recent primaries required Jonathan to juggle the above responsibilities while making bold and timely decisions in contentious races for Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Congress, state legislative, and county council positions. Jonathan’s leadership was particularly important to Sierra Club’s decision to endorse incumbent Governor David Ige when he was 20 points down in the polls and local pundits were writing his political obituary. Jonathan never doubted that such early judgment was premature, and he fully understood the potential dire consequences to the environment if Ige lost.

In the gubernatorial campaign and many others, the best environmental candidate prevailed – at least in part because the Sierra Club effectively leveraged its endorsements to the greatest possible effect. Thank you, Jonathan, for the heavy lifting, savvy counsel and tight-rope walking. We’re proud and glad to have you be our 2018 Randy Ching Volunteer of the Year!

