



# Mālama I Ka Honua

## Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAII CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2012

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## SIERRA CLUB APPLAUDS DEATH OF THE DIRTY DOZEN

*The 2012 Legislative Session Closes with Few of the "Dirty Dozen" Bills Passing*

by Robert D. Harris

The Hawai'i state legislature ended on a moderately positive note, with the Senate refusing to pass many of the dozen bills that would have eliminated or significantly reduced several key environmental regulations for state projects. Along the lines of the attacks that occurred in far more conservative states, environmental protections were placed squarely in the crosshairs from a certain block of representatives in the House. These representatives attempted to force a false choice between "jobs" and the "environment."

A number of particularly troubling bills—such as SB 2927 (SD1) and SB 755 (HD2)—would have eliminated the public's right to participate in

(testify, comment on, question) certain development projects. Many worried that this was the start of a slippery slope—if public participation was unnecessary for government projects, then why should we have these regulations for private developers?

The arguments in favor of eliminating the environmental regulations were odd. It seemed like the proponents of these bills weren't looking for logical reasons to pass the bills, but rather for excuses to justify their actions. At first the proponents said the bills were "minor tweaks," then they became "necessary for job creation," then they went back to being "minor tweaks," and so on.

One theory is that the Abercrombie administration wanted

to remove public oversight so it could more rapidly build projects the governor supported, and the House leadership was carrying water for the administration. This theory is somewhat buttressed by the fact that some agency officials were instructed to stay silent on the bills as they came up for hearing. Ordinarily, for example, the DLNR would take a position on proposed bills that reduced oversight on projects near the shoreline. This year, the department had little to say.

The proposed elimination of decades-old checks and balances drew opposition from a diverse group of environmental and public interest groups. Special recognition for their

*Continued on page 3*



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grassroots environmental advocacy organization





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Whew, there are a lot of updates for this edition. First, as you read your *Mālama* you may notice some terrific improvements. Thanks to the efforts of our designer, Geoff Moore, the *Mālama* is now printing on Maui in full color at approximately the same price as before. Starting with our next edition, our fine team of volunteers will unveil an entirely new layout design that will take advantage

of the color printing. Among other things, this gives us the capacity to run better photographs (significantly improving Nate Yuen's regular column!).

Second, the *Mālama* now includes a regular spotlight on two of our volunteers. This edition, we're highlighting one volunteer from the Kaua'i Group and one volunteer from Capitol Watch. I'm particularly proud of this feature; please take a look. It is a great way to know what's happening with the Club, and to give some hard-working volunteers the recognition they deserve.

Third, this edition includes the Club's political endorsements. The leaders of the Sierra Club took a great deal of time to choose the candidates to endorse. They interviewed candidates, compiled surveys, and reviewed records. I hope you will support the candidates the Sierra Club endorsed—that's a terrific way to ensure that champions for the environment get elected and remain committed to environmental issues. If you would like more information, feel free to see some of the candidate surveys and links to the candidates' websites by going to [SierraClubHawaii.com/vote](http://SierraClubHawaii.com/vote).

Finally, please allow me to close with a plea for help. As you can see from the cover article, certain legislators were particularly aggressive in trying to curb laws that protect the environment. I hope you will support the Sierra Club Political Action Committee's efforts to publicize the voting records of certain less-desirable candidates. We need to send a strong message that voters will not stand for efforts to kill our solar tax credit, remove environmental review protections, or get rid of basic health standards that protect our water, our air, and our 'āina.

We would greatly appreciate your support for our political action committee. We're targeting a total of \$10,000. This is a fairly ambitious target for us and we need your support. Checks can be made out to Sierra Club PAC and mailed to PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803.

*Please join us in pushing for a better Hawai'i.*

– Robert D. Harris



Sarah Hodgdon, the Sierra Club's National Conservation Director, visited Hawai'i in May to meet with key volunteers and leaders in the community. On her day off, she joined us on a short hike to Jackass Ginger Pool (Sarah is second from the right). You can read Sarah's report of her visit, which included sitting in on a meeting with the Honolulu mayor before he signed the plastic bag ban, on the Treehugger blog: [treehugger.com/environmental-policy/how-hawaii-plastic-bag-ban-came-about.html](http://treehugger.com/environmental-policy/how-hawaii-plastic-bag-ban-came-about.html)



## Mālama I Ka Honua

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These rates are subject to change. The *Mālama* accepts political advertisements only from candidates endorsed by the Hawai'i Chapter.

## "Dirty Dozen" Bills

*Continued from page 1*

efforts to defeat these bills goes out to Donna Wong of Hawai'i's Thousand Friends (who coined the label "the dirty dozen"), Michelle Matson, Scott Glenn, Nicole Lowen, Representatives Riviere, Thielen, C. Lee, and Saiki, and Senators Ihara, Gabbard, Kim, and Tsutsui, among many others. In addition, the public really stepped up; the number of people who submitted emails and testimony on these bills was impressive.

The Senate seemed to grasp that we can have both a strong economy and reasonable regulations that protect the environment. Senate leaders, particularly Senate President Shan Tsutsui and Senator Ihara, deserve credit for protecting regulations that assure citizen input and ensure that impacts of a project are considered before construction starts.

Unfortunately, at least two worrisome bills did pass. SB 3010 exempts the Department of Transportation from virtually all environmental regulations for the construction and rebuilding of eleven bridges around the state. If the governor signs it, the Department of Transportation will be exempt from basic regulations such as preventing the dumping of sewage water into the ocean or the killing of endangered species. Even assuming someone agreed with the underlying principle, it is perplexing that this bill was not more narrowly crafted.

Another bill that passed, HB 2398, amends and assigns land, such as Aloha Stadium Lands, to the highly controversial Public Lands Development Corporation. Critics were particularly upset that these amendments were introduced into the bill by Senator Dela Cruz without public input. HB 2398 originally addressed the Honokohau harbor. Only after the bill moved into its last committee—and after all public testimony was received—was it amended to address the public lands corporation. Groups such as the Sierra Club and the Office of Hawaiian

Affairs sharply criticized the behind-the-scenes shenanigans.

The sharp controversy over the "dirty dozen" bills ensured that some other important environmental measures were caught up in the rhetoric. One measure, HB 2703, was a mom-and-apple-pie bill that drew widespread support because it proposed food self-sufficiency standards for the state to achieve by 2020. Hundreds testified in support and this measure seemed set to fly through the legislature. But, perhaps in an attempt to disturb environmentalists, House Chair Cliff Tsuji proposed a conference draft that inserted numerous "poison pills" into the bill, such as having the bill dismantle the state water code and requiring a set amount of development around the state. These unrelated introductions doomed an otherwise popular initiative, which the Sierra Club strongly supported.

Another bill, SB 2511, a popular one proposing a fee on throwaway bags, was killed by House leadership. A diverse group of retailers, Girl Scouts, and elementary students supported this measure for its obvious environmental benefits and potential to fund watershed protections. Not all was bleak in this regard, however, as the City and County of Honolulu passed a ban on plastic bags. (See article on page 7.)

A few positive measures did pass. SB 2787 requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt reliability standards for renewable energy projects that apply to connect to the grid. This measure will ensure that renewable energy projects—like rooftop solar—can continue to advance in Hawai'i without arbitrary hurdles by the utility.

HB 2656, which requires crematoriums with obsolete burners to qualify for a clean air permit, was passed as a result of community members protesting air pollution in their neighborhood. (See article on page 7.)

While we would prefer to celebrate positive measures that advance Hawai'i's sustainable future, we have to breathe a sigh of relief that some of this year's more egregious bills were killed. ■



It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
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## FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Aloha, everyone. I am happy to report that the Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee monthly conference calls have been working quite well. I believe it has made the board more effective by providing opportunities for increased communication, particularly during the legislative session. Committee members were able to address and discuss their environmental concerns more frequently and resolve important issues in a timely manner.

I applaud the efforts of the Capitol Watch team and team leader Anthony Aalto, who persevered through the 2012 Hawai'i State legislature. Although not all their efforts were successful, they kept us well informed. In addition, they made the Sierra Club presence known and pressured our elected officials to be accountable for their decisions. Perhaps next year we will pass some of the key bills that didn't make it through the process this time.

I have kept my 2012 New Year's resolution to get outdoors and I am really enjoying hiking again. Check out the Hawai'i Chapter outings for your island and Take a Hike! Outing leaders are trying out some new programs. Do you know if a plant is native or introduced? Do you know your native plants? Come on out with us, and test

your knowledge. Get involved; explore the special places of our islands and help protect them for future generations.

Most of us have been experiencing the effects of the high cost of oil reflected in our HECO/HELCO bills, particularly over the past few months. Sierra Club is in the process of working on an agreement with Revolusun for solar panel installation and net metering. As a concerned citizen who lived completely off the grid 10 years ago, I have decided it is time again to "walk the walk" and "talk the talk," so I set up an appointment with Revolusun for a solar consultation. I am hopeful that this partnership between Sierra Club and Revolusun is approved. Once in place, I hope to take advantage of this opportunity, and I encourage other Sierra Club members to do so as well. Your participation in this solar partnership will provide funding to the Hawai'i Chapter as well as to our local groups.

Clean energy is something we are all striving for. Now is the time to stop relying on dirty fossil fuels and make a commitment toward our sustainable energy future.



Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers with Donna Buell, Treasurer of the Sierra Club Board of Directors, on the Big Island.

## GET DIRTY Campaign Continues

Over 200 volunteers turned out last quarter statewide to work on a variety of service projects in conjunction with with public and private land managers. Sierra Club's volunteer partnerships with these groups are essential in protecting natural resources and maintaining safe access for residents and visitors to enjoy. Please join us this quarter in service to our trails and coastlines. Check each group's website or Outings schedule later in this newsletter for details.

### O'AHU

- Saturday, July 7**  
Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup
- Saturday, July 14**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project
- Saturday, July 21**  
Niu Valley Service project

- Sunday, July 29**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project
- Saturday, August 11**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project
- Saturday, August 11**  
Kaneohe Bay MCBH service project
- Sunday, August 26**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project
- Labor Day Weekend Service Trips**  
**Saturday-Monday, September 1-3**  
*(see page 5 for details and information on how to sign up)*
- Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve, Big Island
- Haleakalā National Park, Maui
- Saturday, September 8**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project
- Sunday, September 9**  
Sandy Beach Cleanup



Mānoa Falls Trail volunteers

- Saturday, September 15**  
Get the Drift and Bag It  
1 mi/Easy/Coastal/Kahuku
- Sunday, September 23**  
Mānoa Falls Trail project

### KAUAI'

- Saturday, July 14**  
Nukoli'i Beach Cleanup
- Saturday, July 21**  
Limahuli Garden & Preserve Work/Hike
- Wednesday, August 8**  
Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup
- Saturday, September 22**  
Nukoli'i Beach Cleanup
- Thursday, September 27**  
Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project

### MOKU LOA Group (Big Island)

- August 11-12**  
Pu'u Wa'awa'a Service Trip
- Saturday September 29**  
Kalopa Service Trip
- Saturday November 17**  
Iole (New Moon) Service Trip

# SIERRA CLUB, O'AHU GROUP 3-Day Outer Island Service Projects

The cost of the Service Projects is \$85, which covers food, accommodation, and transportation on the neighbor island. Participants are responsible for their own airfares and will be informed which flight to purchase if they are accepted on the trip. We will work for two days and have one free day for hiking or other activity. If interested in a trip, please check the Sierra Club website for leader information. Or contact Deborah Blair at 955-4168 or email [deborahblair1@mac.com](mailto:deborahblair1@mac.com) for information on any of the trips. The trips can fill up early, so please contact the leaders early if interested in joining us. Also, the earlier the trips fill up, the cheaper the airfares.

### Kahaule'a Natural Area Reserve



BIG ISLAND

We will be working with NARS (Natural Area Reserve System) clearing a new 5-acre fenced enclosure at the Kahaule'a Natural Area Reserve. We will park by Thurston Lava Tube in Volcanoes National Park; from there it's an easy half-mile hike to our worksite.



The work for the weekend will be eradicating Kahili ginger and faya tree. This is a new and exciting enclosure that we are working on. When it's cleared we will be able to fill it with native and endemic plants.

Our accommodation will be at a well-equipped house in Hilo at the NARS base yard.

**Trip Date: September 1-3, 2012. This trip requires a Friday night departure.**

### Haleakalā National Park



MAUI

Our accommodation for the weekend is Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakalā Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago.

This trip is for hikers in good physical condition and for those who don't mind roughing it. We have a 7-mile hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail and we will exit via the Halemau'u trail.

Participants should be prepared to deal with the elevation. The cabin was



built in the 1930s by CCC workers and is very rustic. There is an outhouse, but no washroom or shower—people will have to live with "horse baths." We do have a 2-burner gas stove top, and a wood-burning stove to keep warm.

The reward for this service project, if you are up to the challenge, is spending the weekend in a very beautiful and fascinating national park.

**Trip Date: September 1-3, 2012**

### Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge



BIG ISLAND

Hakalau Forest NWR was established in 1985 to protect and manage endangered Hawaiian forest birds and their rain forest habitat. Located on the windward slope of Mauna Kea, the 32, 733-acre Hakalau forest unit supports a diversity of native birds and plants equaled by only one or two other areas in the State of Hawai'i.

Eight of the 14 native bird species occurring at Hakalau are endangered. Thirteen migratory bird species and 20 introduced species, including eight game birds, as well as the endangered 'ope'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat) also frequent the refuge. Twenty-nine rare plant species are known from the refuge and adjacent lands. Twelve are currently listed as endangered. Our work at Hakalau usually consists of nursery work and planting understory plants with ample time for birding.



work at Hakalau usually consists of nursery work and planting understory plants with ample time for birding.

**Trip Dates: May 25-27 and Oct. 12-14, 2013**

# Volunteers in the Spotlight

## Volunteer Spotlight: Kaua'i Kathy Valier, Kaua'i Group Outings Leader for over 25 years



Sierra Club outings leader Kathy Valier grew up hiking with her family on Oah'u and spending summers anchored in Hanalei Bay. The lure of the Garden Island brought her back to live in 1979. After attending graduate school at UH in 1985, she started going out on Sierra Club outings. She was inspired by former hike leader Jack Lundgren to begin leading hikes. Looking back over what she valued most in life, she says she saw leading outings as a way to share Hawai'i's



Photo by Jane Schmitt

Hikers can readily enjoy awesome views of Hanalei Bay and beyond from the top of Okolehao Trail thanks to Kathy Valier, who led the Kaua'i Group's trail restoration project.

beauty and her love for nature, which her parents had shared with her.

In the 1990s Kathy advocated for the Sierra Club to adopt Okolehao Trail, and with the consent of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service club members repaired and maintained the trail for several years. In addition to trail work, Kathy tries to get into the backcountry periodically with Kaua'i Resource Conservation program to help with alien plant control. The changes she has seen to the islands in her fifty-eight years has deepened her commitment to the preservation of Hawai'i's unique plants and animals. She has volunteered for Save Our Shearwaters and is the author of *Ferns of Hawai'i* (University of Hawai'i Press) and *On the Na Pali Coast* (Kolowalu Books).

## Volunteer Spotlight: Capitol Watch Leilei Joy Shih Opala (Waste) Captain



Leilei Joy Shih is the Capitol Watch captain focused on the Sierra Club's efforts to reduce the amount of waste Hawai'i produces. She has tracked the "ABCs" of waste bills,

which aim to reduce unnecessary waste from Automobile tires, Beverage containers, and CFLs. But her particular passion is trying to reduce the number of that ubiquitous item, the plastic bag. Thanks in part to her and the hundreds of volunteers who followed her Capitol Watch blog posts, we can celebrate the fact that Hawai'i recently became the first state to pass a ban on plastic bags in each county. (For more on this campaign, see page 7, "Making a Difference: Influencing the Legislative Process.")

Leilei was raised in the Bay Area of California. She credits her father with showing her early on that you can fix problems in the world; it takes hard work, but by putting your heart and mind to something you can make a difference. She has been scuba diving since she was 14, and has been intrigued with the underwater world ever since. She has a B.A. in Astrophysics from U.C. Berkeley and an M.A.S. in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Oceanography at the University of Hawai'i. Leilei is on the Executive Committee of Surfrider Foundation O'ahu and is Director of Communications for the Bamboo Bike Project.



# Making a Difference

## Influencing the Legislative Process

### Two residents with the environment on their mind tell their stories

Although efforts to pass a statewide fee on paper and plastic bags were thwarted at the last second, the tremendous public support Leilei Joy Shih gathered on the issue as captain of the Capitol Watch opala (waste) program helped convince the last county holdout—the City and County of Honolulu—to pass a ban on plastic bags. This makes Hawai'i the first state to ban plastic bags statewide. Leilei tells *Malama* about the process, and longtime Nu'uaniu resident Ed Lee describes how he led efforts to stop pollution at crematoriums that had been allowed to ignore clean air laws.

**M:** What motivated you to work so hard on this issue?

**LS:** Plastic bags are used widely with little thought, but their impact is large. Not only are they made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource, and take energy to manufacture, they stick around, accumulating in the oceans, fouling the environment for far longer than plastics have been in existence. They are ingested by all kinds of marine animals and have caused the death of whales and sea turtles. Now microplastics have made their way up the marine food chain right onto our dinner plates.

As solvable problems go, plastic bags are low-hanging fruit, for we can make a big impact with small, easy changes. Plastic grocery bags came in only in the 1980s, so giving them up is not going to be a huge lifestyle change.

**M:** What worked to raise awareness about this issue?

**LS:** We really caught the public's attention when we put 400 bags on the

Capitol lawn, symbolizing the number of bags each of us uses every year. We also created an unprecedented alliance between environmental groups, retailers such as Safeway and Times, and governmental agencies such as the DLNR. We kept the news saturated with articles, editorial pieces, and letters to the editor.

The Capitol Watch blog kept hundreds of supporters in the know about hearings and deadlines for contacting their legislators. We showed the film *Bag It* at schools and to organizations, raising further awareness about the issue. I was able to speak at large events, such as the Sustainable Coastlines fundraiser at Fresh Café, and at former Obama advisor Van Jones's Rebuild the Dream event in Hawai'i.

Shortly before the bag bill passed the City Council, the governor's wife, Dr. Nancie Caraway, spoke at our press conference in strong support of doing away with plastic bags. The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i Conservation Council, and others were there, along with local newspapers and news channels. These actions were effective because it wasn't just one special interest group that wanted this for Hawai'i. People from all walks of life were on board, and hearing from them kept the issue bright on the radar.

**M:** Are there some champions that you think deserve acknowledgment?

**LS:** Many people championed the bill: Stuart Coleman of Surfrider Foundation helped mobilize much of the manpower. Rachel Harvey with Kanu kept the community informed. James McCay bravely donned the plastic bag monster suit on multiple occasions. Certain legislators gave us valuable advice, most notably Sen. Mike Gabbard. Council Member Tulsi Gabbard was a true champion for the bag ban. Sustainable Coastlines hopped on board with their enthusiasm. The media outlets were generous in ink and airtime.

It's impossible to list everyone who helped out, but we owe a lot to those who submitted testimony and testified at the hearings.

**M:** What would you do differently next time?

**LS:** I think we took all the right steps. Passing good environmental legislation tends to be difficult and multi-faceted. Although a certain pathway we pursued might not have worked, it enabled tributaries that did.

**M:** What will happen next year?

**LS:** We will be trying to reduce paper bag usage and encouraging people to switch to reusable bags. On other fronts, we'll be setting up CFL recycling programs to keep the mercury they contain out of the environment and trying to improve e-waste recycling.

## Bill to Control Air Pollution

By Ed Lee



The crematorium in our Nu'uaniu neighborhood regularly spews smoke and fumes, which are signs of incomplete combustion. Residents have long complained about the negative effects of the discharge of toxic and unhealthy particulate matter into the environment. From the Department of Health we learned that this crematorium, like several others in Hawai'i, was exempt from air quality requirements because it was built before clean air laws were established.

We decided to aim for legislation that would require crematoriums operating without air pollution control permits to apply for them. The

*Continued on page 23*

# Who gets a GREEN thumbs up?

**OF COURSE**, all candidates say they support Hawai‘i’s environment (like Mom and apple pie). But who’s going to turn words into action? The Sierra Club, Hawai‘i Chapter, and its four island groups, sorted through all the candidates and selected the best choices for protecting the ‘aina. The candidates endorsed by the Sierra Club will help to protect our beaches and open space, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and increase funding of environmental programs.

Electing good green leaders to office is half the battle in protecting the environment. One of the most important things you can do for the environment is to vote.

That’s why we’re making this easy for you. Take these pages with you to the polls or give them to a friend (after you’ve voted, of course).

U.S. Senate:  
**Mazie Hirono**

U.S. House District 1:  
**Colleen W. Hanabusa**

U.S. House District 2:  
**Tulsi Gabbard**



**For updates on endorsements and how you can assist your candidates, please check out:**

**[sierraclubhawaii.com/vote](http://sierraclubhawaii.com/vote)**

**Need to find out what district you’re in? Check out the Office of Elections website at:**

**[hawaii.gov/elections](http://hawaii.gov/elections)**

## STATE SENATE

District 1:	Gilbert Kahele
District 2:	Russell E. Ruderman
District 3:	Joshua Green
District 4:	Lorraine Rodero Inouye
District 5:	Shan Tsutsui
District 6:	Roz Baker
District 7:	Kalani J. English
District 10:	Les Ihara, Jr.
District 11:	Carol Fukunaga
District 12:	Brickwood M. Galuteria
District 13:	Suzanne N.J. Chun Oakland
District 14:	Donna Mercado Kim
District 16:	David Y. Ige
District 17:	Clarence Nishihara
District 20:	Mike Gabbard
District 21:	Maile S.L. Shimabukuro
District 23:	Clayton Hee
District 25:	Laura Thielen

## STATE HOUSE

District 1:	Mark M. Nakashima
District 3:	Brittany Smart
District 4:	Faye P. Hanohano
District 6:	Nicole Lowen
District 9:	Gilbert S. Coloma Keith-Agaran
District 10:	Angus L. McKelvey
District 11:	Kaniela Ing
District 12:	Ekolu Kalama
District 13:	Mele Carroll
District 17:	Gene Ward
District 20:	Keiko Bonk (G); Dwight Synan (D)
District 24:	Della Au Belatti
District 25:	Sylvia Luke
District 26:	Scott Saiki

## STATE HOUSE CONTINUED

District 27:	Corinne Wei Lan Ching
District 29:	Karl Rhoads
District 31:	Aaron Ling Johanson
District 33:	Mark K. Takai
District 34:	Greg Takayama
District 35:	Roy M. Takumi
District 36:	Marilyn B. Lee
District 40:	Joseph B. Rattner
District 41:	Matt LoPresti
District 45:	Lauren Kealohilani Cheape
District 47:	Gil Riviere
District 48:	Jessica Wooley
District 50:	Cynthia Thielen
District 51:	Chris Lee

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

*To be released later*

## COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

Mayor:	Harry Kim
District 2:	Steve (Keanahou) Wilhelm
District 4:	James Weatherford
District 5:	Zendo Kern
District 6:	Brenda Ford
District 8:	Karen Eoff
District 9:	Margaret Wille

## COUNTY OF MAUI

West Maui:	Elle Cochran
Lanai:	Riki Hokama
Kahului:	Don S. Guzman
Molokai:	Stacy Helm Crivello

## COUNTY OF KAUA‘I

*To be released later*

# Nate's Adventures



by Nate Yuen

I have been looking for White Fairy Terns or Manu-o-Kū in the parks and trees of downtown Honolulu. From January to July, the trees on the grounds of civic buildings, parks, and courtyards become nesting sites for manu-o-Kū, literally the bird of Kū. Kū is one of the four major gods in ancient Hawai'i; he is god of war, governance, and leadership.

The easiest place to see White Fairy Terns (*Gygis alba*) during nesting season is on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace, the Hawai'i State Capitol, Hawai'i State Library, Honolulu Hale, Kawaiahao Church, and other civic buildings, churches, and parks in the heart of historic Honolulu. They also are known to breed in Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, Nu'uuanu, and elsewhere on the south side of O'ahu, in places that are landscaped with large trees. (1)

The terns are pelagic seabirds that fly far out over the ocean, often for days at a time. During the breeding season, pairs can often be seen flying in tandem circling Honolulu and venturing up the valleys.

White Fairy Terns are indigenous to Hawai'i and the islands of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. In Hawai'i, the vast majority of the birds live in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. They were first noticed on O'ahu in 1924; their numbers and range have expanded ever since.

Remarkably, the only place the terns breed in the main Hawaiian Islands is on O'ahu—and not in the remote parts of the island but in the urban center of Honolulu. Because of the birds' affinity for the city, Honolulu has adopted Manu-o-Kū as its official bird.

The State of Hawai'i lists the White Fairy Tern as threatened. In 2005, the population was estimated at 15,000 breeding pairs in Hawai'i, with the largest populations occurring on Midway (7,500 pairs), Nihoa (5,000 pairs), Laysan (1,000 pairs). On O'ahu the population



1

was estimated at 250 breeding pairs.

The birds are named for their graceful appearance and flying ability. (2) Manu-o-Kū have a black ring of feathers around their bulging eyes, which makes their already huge eyes look enormous. They also have a sharp black beak that turns into blue at the base.

The terns have a life span of 16-18 years and begin looking for a mate after the third season. The birds form lasting pair bonds and mate for life.

Food offerings are part of the courtship and demonstrate the bird's parental ability and hunting prowess. (3) Surfers at Ala Moana sometimes see these terns hovering 10 feet over the water and diving into the water to catch prey.

Webbed feet enable the seabirds to dive and swim in the ocean while claws at the end of each toe enable the bird to grasp a tree branch.



2

Breeding season is generally in January through June with pairs laying a single egg at a time. The birds do not build a nest. Instead they lay a speckled egg in a knot on a tree, the crook of a branch, or other feature that secures the egg. Both parents incubate the egg for about 36 days in shifts lasting from 48 to 72 hours.

When baby chicks hatch they are mostly brown in color and covered with a fuzzy down. The parents take turns watching and hunting for the chick. (4)

When the chick becomes a week old,

providing food becomes full-time work and the chick is often left unattended. But its parents always return with a tasty meal—in this case a needlefish. Unlike other birds that regurgitate partially digested food, the terns feed their chicks fresh whole prey. (5)

The slender needlefish was longer than the chick itself and it was amusing to watch the chick struggle to swallow its meal. After several minutes of head-jerking and wing-flapping the chick finally succeeded.

Even after the chicks fledge the

parents continue to feed them until they can hunt and fend for themselves.

White Fairy Terns are beautiful birds that are fun to watch. The next time you're in Honolulu, take an urban hike to the heart of the civic center and look up. A fascinating drama plays out in the trees amidst the hustle and bustle of the city. What an amazing seabird!

To see a video and more photos of White Fairy Terns go to Nate's website at [www.hawaiianforest.com/white-fairy-terns-nesting-season-2](http://www.hawaiianforest.com/white-fairy-terns-nesting-season-2)



3



4



5

*Manu-o-Kū have a black ring of feathers around their bulging eyes, which makes their already huge eyes look enormous.*

# O'ahu Group Report

## Ho'opili and Koa Ridge

We've just lost two major battles in the struggle against suburban sprawl, but we remain committed to fighting and ultimately winning the war.

After months of hearings and hundreds of hours of campaigning by our volunteers, the Land Use Commission ruled in favor of both Castle & Cooke's Koa Ridge project and D.R. Horton's Ho'opili scheme. These two monster developments would pave more than 2,300 acres of the 3,500 acres of prime ag land with potable water sources—suitable for growing fruits and vegetables—currently available on O'ahu. This is clearly insane.

The O'ahu Group will meet soon to consider pursuing judicial appeals based on the clear evidence that the Commission failed its constitutional duty to protect prime agricultural land. We will also fight the sprawl schemes at the city zoning and permitting level.

The decisions were disappointing, but not unexpected. The Commission has a pro-development bias. Commissioners include a former director of the carpenter union's lobbying organization PRP, a realtor, a civil engineer, a contractor, and so on. Not one is a farmer. Not one is an environmentalist. This bias will be reinforced with Governor Abercrombie's recent appointment of a developer to join the commission.

We have ourselves to blame. The O'ahu Group contacted more than two dozen people to ask them to serve on the Commission. Only our longtime colleague Lucienne DeNaie was prepared to put her name forward and Lucienne's record as an environmental warrior may be too much for the governor to swallow. If you know of anyone suitable to fill the spot reserved for a Maui commissioner, please let us know.

The battle has not been in vain.

The previous hearings on Koa Ridge and Ho'opili in 2009 and 2010 were sparsely attended. Few expressed concern about disappearing farmland or our growing dependency on imported food. But during the course of these hearings we've built a network of committed activists and raised awareness to the point where these issues fill the media and are part of everyday political debate. The mayoral candidates now vie with each other to tout their proposals for agriculture. In the end we will prevail.

## Food Self-Sufficiency

At the same time as we fought the billionaires pushing their suburban sprawl schemes, we battled for a bill in the legislature to require the state to adopt a target of doubling our food production by 2020. It would have been hard for the LUC to vote to permit construction of 16,750 homes on the farmland where we currently produce about 40 percent of all the fruits and vegetables grown in the state if we had been committed by statute to doubling our food production in 8 years. It looked like the bill was going to pass until it was killed at the very last minute by a dirty political maneuver by Speaker Calvin Say and House Ag Committee Chair Clift Tsuji.

## Money

As we fought these political fights, we worked hard to raise the many thousands of dollars needed to pay our attorneys. We want to thank all those who have donated, but especially Judith Flanders—who made an extremely generous donation in memory of James D. Staub from his ohana—and Randy Ching. We need more money going forward, especially if we mount a constitutional appeal.

## Rail and the Mayoral Race

We have been debating whether to actively campaign on the rail issue. We conducted a poll of our members, which unfortunately proved inconclusive. We prepared a 17-page questionnaire that was completed by the three mayoral candidates and we interviewed them for about 90 minutes each. Watch for the announcement of our decision on these two important matters any day now.

## Opening on the Executive Committee

Amy Brinker has resigned from the Executive Committee. Amy works for the Hawai'i Food Policy Council, has been a captain on the Sierra Club's Capitol Watch, and does much work for the Sierra Club besides. She feels she should step aside to allow someone with more time to take the job. The Executive Committee will vote to choose a replacement at its next meeting. If you are interested in being considered, please email me at [abaalto@gmail.com](mailto:abaalto@gmail.com)

**Anthony Aalto**  
Chair and Secretary, O'ahu Group

**Consider donating  
to Hawaii's most  
successful grassroots  
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organization!**

**Donations can be sent to:  
[sierraclubhawaii.com/  
donate.php](http://sierraclubhawaii.com/donate.php)**

**or by calling  
(808) 538-6616**

# O'ahu Group Outings

## See Page 19 for General Outings Information

*Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8:00 a.m. 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) Education/ Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service

## Tuesday, July 3

*Lanikai Hills Full Moon Hike (F)*  
2 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Lanikai  
Meet at the Church of the Crossroads parking lot at 5:30 p.m. or in Lanikai at the mauka end of Ka'elepulu Dr. next to the closed gated community at 6:00. We will hike up the Lanikai Hills to the WWII bunkers to watch the Full Thunder Moon rise out of the ocean at 7:31. Bring your dinner and non-alcoholic beverage. Every participant must bring a good working flashlight for the walk back down the hill. Ed Mersino, [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu) or 455-8193; Sherine Boomla

## Saturday, July 7

*Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)*  
Meet at 8 a.m. at the Harbor Master's Office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot ewa of Hilton lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring a hat, thick rubber gloves, sunscreen, and water. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

## Sunday, July 8

*Kaluanui (Mariners Ridge) (F)*  
3 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Hawai'i Kai  
Enjoy hiking the shortest route to

the Ko'olau summit! As we gain 800' elevation, we'll be stopping to admire the views of Moloka'i and Maui as well as native plants along the way. Outstanding views from Waimanalo to Mokoli'i Island (Chinaman's Hat) await you at the summit. Jim and Cindy Waddington 947-2732

## Sunday, July 8

*Photography hike: Lili'uokalani Gardens (E/F)*  
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Named after Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Lili'uokalani Botanical Gardens is centrally located in lower Nu'uuanu valley. Nu'uuanu stream and Waikahalulu falls are favorite subjects of photographers, as are the many interesting native Hawaiian plants in a natural setting. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa

## Saturday, July 14

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*  
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com) and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate.

## Saturday, July 14

*Late hike: Likeke Cascade from Pali Lookout (F)*  
2 mi / Moderate / Valley / Nuuanu  
Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 1 p.m. Hikers on this rough but short hike will be rewarded by a beautiful cascade named in honor of renowned hiker and trail blazer Dick Davis. Sherine Boomla 739-3936

## Sunday, July 15

*Sierra Seminar: 'Aiea Ridge Partial (E/F)*  
5mi / Moderate / Ridge / 'Aiea west ridge trail, off the 'Aiea Loop Trail,

with many native plants and beautiful scenery. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa, Stan Oka, Marie Laberge, asst. Susan Tom

## Saturday, July 21

*Niu Valley Service Project (S)*  
2 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Niu Valley  
Protect the native Hawaiian ulei plants on the mid ridge of Niu Valley. Realignment of the trail along the east edge of the ridge through the ironwood trees will provide a more scenic and enjoyable trail while saving the ulei. Bring your favorite sawing, trimming, or pruning tools! Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa, Stan Oka, asst. Susan Tom

## Sunday, July 22

*Pearl Harbor Bike Path Bicycle Ride (F)*  
20 mi / Moderate / Flat / Pearl Harbor  
Reservations required. Join us on this fascinating stretch of a former railway line that extends from Aiea to Waipahu. Helmet required; all types of bicycles welcome. Gwen Sinclair [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com) or 753-0528; Colleen Soares

## Sunday, July 29

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*  
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com) and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate.

## Sunday, July 29

*Urban Hike (E)*  
1.5 miles / Easy / Downtown Honolulu  
Discover remarkable trees and inspiring architecture. We'll stroll around the Capitol District starting at 'Iolani Palace and ending at Kawaiaha'o Church. Bring a camera. Meet at 8:30 a.m. near the front stairs

# O'ahu Group Outings

of 'Iolani Palace. Marie Laberge  
545-1252, Deborah Blair

## Sunday, August 5

*Waimanalo Bicycle Ride*

20mi/Moderate/Rolling hills/  
Waimanalo Reservations required.  
Explore the back roads of Waimanalo  
and environs. Helmet required; all  
types of bicycles welcome. Gwen  
Sinclair [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com) or 753-0528;  
Colleen Soares

## Sunday, August 5

*Photography hike: Palehua-Palikeya (E/F)*

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

## Saturday, August 11

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*

Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest  
trails and make it a showcase for  
hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail  
graveling and widening, soil top  
dressing, removal of old boardwalk,  
and rock work. We can accommodate  
only 20 people per work day. RSVP  
required. Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com)  
and include your phone  
number and the dates you wish to  
participate. Leader: Ed Mersino

## Saturday, August 11

*Kaneohe Bay MCBH service project (S)*

Reservations required. Call Annette  
Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by August 9. Help  
clear a wetland of mangrove plants to  
create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered  
water birds. Because MCBH is a secured  
military facility, we must provide your  
name to the base in advance, and we will  
send you a waiver, which you must bring  
with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168

## Sunday, August 12

*Waimano Ridge (F)*

15 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Waimano A  
very long graded route to the Ko'olau  
Mountains. We'll give it our best  
shot to go all the way. Along the way  
we'll see historic irrigation ditches,  
dark abandoned tunnels, and a wide  
variety of native plants. Look down  
on Kane'ohe Bay from the summit.  
Church of the Crossroads meet-up  
time 7:30 a.m. Rich Bailey 723-2213  
and Dan Anderson

## Saturday, August 18

*Kawainui (F)*

5 mi/moderate/valley/Haleiwa  
After a long drive through several  
locked gates we will reach the deep  
Kawainui Valley. The trail is fairly  
level and follows an operational  
irrigation ditch system for a mile  
back into the valley. We continue up  
the valley, crisscrossing the stream  
a dozen times before reaching the  
largest freshwater pool on O'ahu.  
Bring your swimsuits! Ed Mersino,  
[mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu) 455-8193

## Sunday, August 19

*Pu'u Ma'eli'eli (F)*

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahaluu  
Reservations required. Uphill hike to  
pillbox overlooking beautiful Kaneohe  
Bay. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John  
Shimogawa, Stan Oka, Marie Laberge

## Saturday, August 25

*Wa'ahila Ridge late hike (F)*

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Honolulu  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 1  
p.m. Spend an afternoon on a lovely  
trail with views of Manoa Valley and  
the Ko'olau mountains. Jean Fujikawa  
203-8508, Joanna Alexander

## Sunday, August 26

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*

Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest  
trails and make it a showcase for hiking  
in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling

and widening, soil top dressing,  
removal of old boardwalk, and rock  
work. We can accommodate only 20  
people per work day. RSVP required.  
Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com)  
and include your phone number and  
the dates you wish to participate.

## LABOR DAY WEEKEND SERVICE TRIPS

### Saturday-Monday, September 1-3\*

*Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve, Big Island*

\*Requires a Friday night departure. See  
description on page 5. Leader: Deborah  
Blair, [deborahblair1@mac.com](mailto:deborahblair1@mac.com)  
or 955-4168

### Saturday-Monday, September 1-3

*Haleakala National Park, Maui*

See description on page 5. Leader:  
Dan Anderson, [danderhi@gmail.com](mailto:danderhi@gmail.com)  
or 690-0479

### Saturday, September 8

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*

Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest  
trails and make it a showcase for hiking  
in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling  
and widening, soil top dressing,  
removal of old boardwalk, and rock  
work. We can accommodate only 20  
people per work day. RSVP required.  
Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com)  
and include your phone number and  
the dates you wish to participate.

### Saturday, September 8

*Photography hike: Lyon Arboretum (E/F)*

Reservations required. The pace of  
photography hikes is extremely slow.  
Meet at the Church of the Crossroads  
at 9 a.m. \$5 suggested donation  
to Lyon Arboretum. Learn about  
native and tropical plants. Stan Oka  
429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John  
Shimogawa, asst. Susan Tom

### Sunday, September 9

*Beginner hike: Kalawahine Trail (F)*

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9

# O'ahu Group Outings

a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good  
traction. Bring a liter of water, snack,  
raingear. For those who have not  
hiked in a long time or would like an  
easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145

## Sunday, September 9

*Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)*

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

## Saturday, September 15

*Get the Drift and Bag It (S)*

1 mi/Easy/Coastal/Kahuku Join us  
for this annual data collection effort of  
the Ocean Conservancy. Count how  
many fish traps, plastic straws, bottles,  
etc., are washed up on the beach.  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at  
8:00 a.m. or at the work site at James  
Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

at 9:00. Bring sunscreen, a hat, water,  
and closed-toe shoes. Gwen Sinclair  
[gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com) or 753-0528

## Sunday, September 16

*Manoa Cliff Trail to Pauoa Flats Hike (E/F)*

3 mi/Easy/Contour/Tantalus Contour  
trail with many native plants and scenic  
views of Manoa Valley and looking  
into Nu'uuanu Valley. Be prepared with  
raingear. John Shimogawa 227-9925,  
Stan Oka, Clyde Kobashigawa

## Saturday, September 22

*Mau'umae Short and Sweet late hike (F)*

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kaimuki  
Reservations required. Space is  
limited. Meet at Church of the  
Crossroads at 1 p.m. This 3-hour  
round-trip hike has a great cardio  
workout on the hills behind  
Wilhelmina Rise. We will not make it  
to the summit, but will turn around in  
time to enjoy snack hour from 4-6 p.m.  
hosted by Reese Liggett and Suzan  
Harada. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508,  
Joanna Alexander

## Sunday, September 23

*Manoa Falls Trail project (S)*

Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest  
trails and make it a showcase for hiking  
in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling  
and widening, soil top dressing,  
removal of old boardwalk, and rock  
work. We can accommodate only 20  
people per work day. RSVP required.  
Send email to [restoremanoa@gmail.com](mailto:restoremanoa@gmail.com)  
and include your phone number and  
the dates you wish to participate.

## Sunday, September 23

*Sierra Seminar: Niu Valley Mid Ridge  
Partial Hike (E/F)*

5 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Niu Valley  
Reservations required. Scenic ridge  
trail with many native plants and  
maybe some native birds. Bring  
lots of water, lunch, and camera.  
Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John  
Shimogawa, Stan Oka

## Saturday, September 29

*Kahana Valley (F)*

6 mi/Moderate/Valley/Ka'a'awa  
Lovely loop hike along a stream. Bring  
a swimsuit for a dip in the swimming  
hole or a swim at Kahana Bay after the  
hike. Gwen Sinclair [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com)  
or 753-0528

## HIGH SCHOOL HIKERS

Pearl City High School Hikers'  
Moloka'i Adventure

By Chuck Stutz

The Pearl City High School  
Hikers Club ventured over to the  
"Friendly Isle" during spring break  
to carry on the "Advanced Ecology  
Camp" theme of the Sierra Club's  
High School Hikers Program. They  
had cleaned classrooms all of third  
quarter to help finance the trip and  
eagerly waited for the break. Because  
of the storms in early March the trip  
was nearly canceled, but the weather

*Continued on page 23*





# Kaua'i Group Report

## Coastal Impacts of Proposed Resort and County Bike Path at Waipouli Beach

This April, the Kaua'i Group participated in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review process for the Waipouli segment of the Lydgate Park-to-Kapa'a multi-use path, which could affect cultural and archeological sites. Our comments focused on the conservation of Waipouli's coastal resources, where environment and culture are inextricably connected.

About the same time, Coconut Beach Development LLC presented its annual status report to the Kaua'i Planning Commission regarding its proposed 350-unit beachfront resort on 20 acres of undeveloped Waipouli coastline. The Kaua'i Group submitted comments about the coastal impacts of this project as well.

As these two projects initiate development along pristine stretches of the Waipouli coast, great care needs to be taken. Despite regulatory safeguards and anticipated sea level rise, the protection of our public coastlines often falls short when competing with economic development.

In Hawai'i, land that is seaward of the high wash of the waves belongs to the public trust. State law therefore requires that, prior to development, the shoreline be surveyed and certified by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The certified shoreline delineation is then used to calculate the setback area for development.

The Kaua'i Group cautioned state and county agencies that Waipouli beach is receding (extending inland). We provided evidence that the high wash of the waves is substantially further mauka—in some places more than 15 feet—than it was five to seven years ago, when permit applications and certified shorelines for the proposed resort were originally

secured. In fact, the debris line from the high wash of the waves has reached the mauka edge of the footpath that weaves through the prominent stand of ironwood trees along that coastline.

Based on this evidence, it is clear that building setbacks must be recalculated. If not, development will be located too close to the receding coastline and the rising sea, which will likely result in seawalls and other beach-hardening devices to protect that development. But such "armoring" of beaches to protect private or public property has been proven to be a failed policy—although it might protect property, it also results in coastal erosion, beach loss, and diminished public access along the shoreline.

The Kaua'i Group is a strong supporter of public access to the island's mauka and makai natural resources. This is consistent with a key objective of Hawai'i's Coastal Zone Management Act, to "protect, preserve, and where desirable, restore or improve the quality of coastal scenic and open space resources."

To achieve this objective along the Waipouli coastline, development must be set back the appropriate distance from the certified shoreline, whose location must be determined at the time of grading and building permits. The Kaua'i Group also advocates that the undeveloped Waipouli coastline be left unchanged to the greatest degree possible to preserve natural beach processes, the existing stand of mature trees, view planes, and the recreational and subsistence activities that take place there. We provided a number of additional comments:

- The existing beach habitat provides a frequent resting place for



The ocean debris on the mauka side of the footpath is evidence of the high wash of the waves at Waipouli Beach.

endangered Hawaiian monk seals. Using appropriate building setbacks will safeguard them.

- Sea level rise coupled with historical shoreline retreat reinforces the need to site all structures and new landscaping well beyond the shoreline setback line, as calculated from a current certified shoreline survey.
- Public and private developments need to be set back to prudently avoid coastal hazards, even if the result would be a reduction in buildable area or the number of resort units, or siting the proposed multi-use path further mauka.
- The existing footpath through the stands of mature established trees has historic, scenic, and cultural value and should be preserved.

It's been said that the price of paradise is eternal vigilance. The continued viability of traditional activities, the scenic qualities of the coastal area, the health of shoreline processes, beach preservation, and habitat integrity are community assets that require such vigilance.

If you would like to become environmentally engaged on this issue, please email Judy Dalton at [dalton@aloha.net](mailto:dalton@aloha.net).

**Rayne Regush**  
Executive Committee Member

## See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Join us on one of these great outings to explore, enjoy, and care for our island. Mileage is round trip unless otherwise indicated. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donations for others: \$5. Check out our website: [www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/index.html](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/index.html)  
*Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.*

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

## Would you like to become a Sierra Club Outings Leader? Please give us a call at 482-1129.

**Sunday, July 8**  
*Maha'ulepu*  
South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Saturday, July 14**  
*Nukoli'i Beach Cleanup*  
Easy 1/4 mile (S) Help remove plastic and other litter that poses a threat to sea birds and marine life. Drive into Kaua'i Beach Resort located on the makai side of highway north of Hanamaulu and south of the Wailua Golf Course. Drive through the tree-lined entry and at the end turn right onto a road leading to the beach. Look for Sierra Club banner. Gloves, bags, and snacks will be provided. Starts at 9 a.m. Jeff Vesce 755-5587

**Saturday, July 21**  
*Limahuli Garden and Preserve Work/Hike*  
North Shore/4 miles/strenuous (C, E, S) A rare opportunity to tend to endangered, endemic native plants and to hike to the back of beautiful Limahuli Valley (off limits to the public) to see the waterfall. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

# Kaua'i Group Outings

**Saturday, August 4**  
*Kuilau Trail*  
East side/easy/3.5 miles (E/F) This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Views inland toward Waialeale and ever-present birdsongs reward you along this trail. Kathy Valier 826-7302

**Wednesday, August 8**  
*Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup*  
Easy/2 miles (S) Afternoon cleanup of Sierra Club's adopted highway requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

**Sunday, August 12**  
*Maha'ulepu*  
South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the fantastic sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Sunday, August 19**  
*Makaleha Falls*  
East side/strenuous/3 miles (C/E) Hike to a secluded waterfall. Lowland native plants. Views. Tabi required. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

**Saturday, August 25**  
*Powerline Trail*  
North Shore - east side/strenuous/9 miles (F) A chance to walk the entire Powerline Trail from Princeville to Wailua with beautiful stream valleys, mountain and waterfall views along the way by shuttling cars. Ken Fasig 346-1229

**Wednesday, August 29**  
*National Tropical Botanical Gardens Moonlight Walk*  
South side/moderate/2 miles (C/E) Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Sunday, September 2**  
*Maha'ulepu*  
South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the fantastic sinkhole/

cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Saturday, September 8**  
*Honopu*  
Koke'e/strenuous/5 miles (C/E) Forest trail gives way to spectacular views of Honopu Valley and on down the Na Pali coast. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Sunday September 16**  
*Okolehao*  
North Shore/strenuous/4 miles (C/E) An afternoon hike up a trail that climbs 1,200 feet along a ridge behind Hanalei. Enjoy beautiful, sweeping views of Hanalei Bay and the North Shore. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

**Saturday, September 22**  
*Nukoli'i Beach Cleanup*  
East Shore/1.5 miles (S) Freeing beaches of litter is about more than just making a beach attractive. It also protects the marine and other wildlife, the reef, and ocean. Will you please help? Turn makai off the highway just south of the Wailua Golf Course onto an unpaved road past the Moto Cross to the beach. Look for Sierra Club banner. Meet at 9 a.m. Mahalo for helping! Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Thursday, September 27**  
*Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project*  
East side/strenuous/4 miles (C/S) Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a full moon walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Saturday, September 29**  
*Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk*  
South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F) Start out in late afternoon from Shipwreck Beach to Maha'ulepu to enjoy the sunset and an almost full moon over the glistening ocean. Spectacular coastal walk. We'll shuttle cars to make this a leisurely one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

# Maui Group Report

## UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES April-June 2012

**Ma'alaea Harbor Plan: VICTORY!** The US Army Corps recently informed all stakeholders that they were canceling 30-year-old plans to blow up 4 acres of reef and expand Ma'alaea harbor with a new breakwater. Maui Group and a wide circle of allies had pointed out that the proposed design was ineffective, destructive, and costly, with little provable benefit to harbor users.

**North Shore Heritage Park and Ho'okipa Expansion:** The Council reviews North Shore growth maps in July 2012. Will parklands be in or out of new maps? Sign the park-support petition at [northshorepark.org](http://northshorepark.org)

**East Maui Streams:** Hawai'i Supreme Court rejected a lower court's decision that East Maui communities could not appeal a Water Commission decision granting limited flows to six of East Maui's heritage streams. Now the appeal will move forward.



East Maui stream "restoration" agreements result in small areas of stream dams being provided with a small constant flow of piped water, in hopes that native stream life can migrate and pursue their life cycle in the ocean. (Wailua Iki stream, Maui)

**Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration:** Hawai'i Supreme Court will hear oral arguments June 6 on the appeal, by Earthjustice / Hui o Na Wai Eha and Maui Tomorrow Foundation, of a water commission decision to restrict stream restoration in the 'Iao aquifer area to 12 mgd when more than twice that was recommended. A decision is expected by the end of summer.

**Hamakuapoko Wells:** A 2011 Maui Council vote allowed use of Hamakuapoko wells as backup. Two years and \$2 million are needed to get the H'poko wells working again. Studies describe the contaminated aquifer as "thin" and artificially recharged by East Maui irrigation water. Other concerns: moderate nitrate levels could rise.

**Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST):** Issue of a permit for the 14-story telescope is under appeal. For updates: [kilakilahaleakala.org](http://kilakilahaleakala.org)

**Regulation of Aquarium Fish:** Efforts continue to protect our native reef fish from exploitation. For updates: [forthefishes.org](http://forthefishes.org)

**MIP:** Which maps will Maui Council adopt for Maui's future growth boundaries? Upcountry and North Shore maps will be reviewed in June and July. Then West Maui and Hana. Track the progress at [maui-tomorrow.org](http://maui-tomorrow.org).

**Wastewater Injection Wells:** Suit was filed in May by a group of organizations, including Sierra Club, alleging Lahaina Wastewater Plant violated Clean Water Act. The goal is cleaner discharge and more reuse. Good news: the county's budget has funds for more lines to allow wastewater reuse in South Maui.

**A&B's Wai'ale Development:** On May 21, the Land Use Commission

(LUC) approved the proposed boundary amendment for 545-acre Wai'ale site (between Maui Lani and Waikapu) from ag to urban. The Maui Group's request for monitoring wells along the project's border with a former county landfill was not included, but a 300-foot buffer was established. County officials indicated that protected areas for any additional sand dunes/burial site "open space" would be more specifically determined during later zoning reviews.

**Wailea 670:** Developers propose 40 acres for a native plant preserve. Biologists support 130 acres! Maui Group advocated at the Council for the rare native dryland forest of Palauaea (Wailea 670) to be shown on the South Maui Directed Growth map. Sign on at [facebook.com/mauitomorrow.org](http://facebook.com/mauitomorrow.org)



Wailea 670: will rare native dryland forest habitat survive or be replaced by Maui's fifteenth golf course?

**Makena Resort Rezoning:** New resort owners are pushing for 390 more acres to be added to Makena's Urban Growth Boundary. Maui Group and the community pushed back.

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

*East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows us to hike across their beautiful land so long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI waiver is absolutely required for EMI hikes (listed below). One waiver covers all EMI hikes for this quarter. Call in your waiver request to Kawika or Mark at 579-9516 well in advance to make an appointment for when you can sign it. Then go to EMI's Pa'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. Waivers cannot be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up waiver 5 days in advance whenever possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.*

**Saturday, July 7**  
*Hanawai Stream Hike (Nahiku Area) (C/E)*  
D= 4 mi R/T. Very strenuous. Pools waterfalls, native stream life. Numerous stream crossings. Good water footwear a must. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Haiku Community center. EMI waiver required (see above). Limit 15. Contact Hike Leader Lucienne de Naie [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

**Saturday, July 28**  
*Waihe'e Ridge Hike (C)*  
D= 5 mi R/T to top. 1200 ft elevation gain.

# Maui Group Outings

This hike is a good workout with beautiful views! Can be rainy at top of ridge so bring rain jacket, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet 8:30 a.m. at left side of Whole Foods parking lot. Limit 12. Contact Hike Leader Miranda Camp to register at 264-5640

**Sunday, August 12**  
*Lower Waikamoi Stream (C/E)*  
D= 3 miles R/T. Short but rugged stream hike from Waikamoi Ridge trail on Hana Highway upstream to pool/waterfall. Native plants, scenery. Bring lunch, water, hat, and water hiking footwear. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Haiku Community Center. Limit 12. EMI waiver required (see above). Leader: Lucienne de Naie [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

**Friday, August 17**  
*Huelo Stream Adventure Hike (C/E)*  
D= 3-4 miles R/T. We'll hike on private land along historic trails. Views. Explore historic sites. Bring footwear suitable for stream crossings and some muddy conditions, lunch, snacks, water. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Haiku Community center. Limit 15. Contact Hike Leader Lucienne de Naie [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

**Saturday, August 25**  
*Halemau'u Switchbacks, Haleakala Crater (C)*  
D= 7.4 mi R/T. Hike switchback trail

down to the meadow, then hike back on the supply trail to Hosmers. We will leave cars at both ends. Bring hat, sunscreen, lunch, water, rain jacket, and good hiking boots. Limit 12. Meet 8 a.m. at Pukalani ACE park lot. Contact Hike Leader Kalei Johnson to register at 344-0006

**Saturday, September 8**  
*Polipoli State Park (C)*  
Approx. D = 6 miles R/T. Hike Skyline Trail above Polipoli, starting at Redwood Trailhead for a 6-mile loop on 4 trails. Meet at Pukalani ACE park lot at 8 a.m. We'll have lunch above the timberline with fabulous views. Bring lunch, sunscreen, and water. No limit. 4WD good, but any cars with good clearance can make it unless road conditions are not good. Leader will call ahead to make sure park is open. Contact Hike Leader Kalei Johnson to register at 344-0006

**Friday, September 21**  
*Makamaka'ole Stream Hike (C/E)*  
D= 2 miles R/T. Beautiful hike with many stream crossings and waterfall at the end. Bring water shoes, lunch, water, swimsuit. Limit 15. Meet at Waihee School 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Contact Hike Leader Mitch Skaggs to register: [mangomitch8@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:mangomitch8@hawaii.rr.com)

## SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

**For all Sierra Club Outings:** Sierra Club outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified Outings Leaders. Our outings are group activities, and all participants are expected to follow leaders' instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members, and visitors on most of our outings; however, certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is 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 [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms) 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 the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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

# Moku Loa Group Report

By **Deborah Ward**, *Chair*; **Diane Ware**, *Conservation*; **Sarah Moon**, *Outings*

Earth Day Fair, held at the Hawai'i Community College campus, was an opportunity to meet hundreds of students and teachers in East Hawai'i. Congratulations to newly tenured HCC faculty member Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers for chairing the entire event! Mahalo to Malie, Diane, Cory, Debbie, and Jimmy, who greeted the crowd, and to the four new members who signed up.

Moku Loa group's political committee, including Cory Harden, Phil Barnes, and Jon Olson, sent out surveys for county and state nominees, and conducted interviews of selected respondents during May, followed by endorsement recommendations.

## Conservation Issues

The group has provided support and responses on several issues for the Big Island. We are gratified to see these proposals come forward and hope that they succeed.

High on the slopes of Mauna Loa, Kulani (once known for its medium-security prison) is rich with abundant native plants, birds, and insects, and is threatened by invasive plants and ungulates. Our group had successfully lobbied for the inclusion of the Kulani area in the Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve. This NAR is rated as the highest quality forest by the State and has suffered little or no logging. We provided constructive comments to the draft environmental assessment, which proposes fencing more acreage and working with partners to restore and preserve forest. The Moku Loa Group has already participated in a 3-day service trip and a hike in Kulani and looks forward to assisting in an effort to preserve this significant area for native

bird, insect, and plant biodiversity.

Moku Loa Group supports the expansions to Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge proposed in the Hakalau Draft Land Protection Plan and Environmental Assessment. The areas proposed include Maulua, a Koa unit adjacent to the refuge, and McCandless lands in Kona adjacent to the Kona Forest Unit.

Waikaku'u, an old-growth rain forest on the southern slopes of Mauna Loa, provides critical watershed services to the village of Miloi'i and the springs that support Kona's ulua fishery. Our group provided testimony at the Hawai'i County Board of Appeals regarding a planned unit development that threatens the thousand-year-old 'ohi'a/kopiko forest.

Kahuku, a 3,000-acre parcel that was once part of the proposed Hawaiian Riviera resort, is prized by local residents and fishermen for the access to Manuka via Road to the Sea in south Kona. The group has supported the county purchase of the land utilizing funds from the Open Space (2%) fund and Legacy Lands funding, which were approved in May. An article highlighting Sierra Club's support is online under the title Ka'u News Briefs May 17, 2012.

Geothermal proposals by HELCO, state officials, and private developers to expand development on Hawai'i Island have aroused the concern of local residents and group members, regarding the proximity of the development to rural communities, the absence of H2S standards for vulnerable populations, and the lack of evacuation planning, noxious H2S venting, well blowout, numerous emergency declarations, and resident relocations. The group is reviewing Sierra Club's geothermal policy to reflect two decades of experience with renewable power generation.

## Outings

The Outings Committee, chaired by Sarah Moon, met in May to plan the hikes and service trips for the balance of the year. Volunteer Coordinator Jen Homcy encouraged the group to expand the outings to include family events, art in the park opportunities, yoga, and photography; to expand the membership; and build our leadership.

A recent hike along the Wailuku River to its source (headwaters) revealed that while native flora flourish on the banks and trail, gorse, a thorny invasive legume rampant on the mauka grazing lands, has followed the river down this course and now imperils the rivershed, according to the hike leader, Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers.

## Programs

Mahalo to Dave Raney, chair of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team, who spoke in Hilo and Kona about fish farming and its implications for the ocean ecosystems offshore. He emphasized the importance of community oversight, and ways that might be enhanced. He discussed community-based alternatives such as fishpond restoration and aquaponics to provide local food sources. The talk preceded the input members provided to update the Ocean Resources Management Plan hosted by the Office of State Planning. [www.westhawaii.com/sections/news/local-news/sierra-club-talks-aquaculture-fish-ponds.html](http://www.westhawaii.com/sections/news/local-news/sierra-club-talks-aquaculture-fish-ponds.html)

Tide's Rising! Thursday August 16, 6 p.m. at Mokupapapa Discovery Center in Hilo. Professor Maxine Burkett, Associate Professor at the Richardson School of Law at UH Mānoa, will discuss global warming and its effects on Hawai'i. Professor

# Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

Burkett is Director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy at the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program. Burkett has written extensively on the social justice ramifications of policies for reducing greenhouse gases. Contact: Debbie Ward, 966-7361.

## Call for Executive Committee Candidates

Members are invited to run for Moku Loa Executive Committee in the fall. We need your energy, expertise, and interest! Contact chair Debbie Ward for more information, 966-7361.



(Above & Right) Volunteers on the Moku Loa Group 3-day service trip to Manuka Natural Area Reserve went mauka to makai in this reserve and ahupua'a. Work ranged from removing lantana and trees that had fallen across the fence to picking up trash along the coast.

## MOKU LOA GROUP OUTINGS

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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

Family/Fun (S) Service. For full descriptions and updates go to [www.hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html)

### Saturday, July 7

*Lehia Park Lagoon Dayhike (F, E, C)*  
Easy 2-mile wilderness coastal hike. Sarah Moon 935-3475, Kana Covington 966-8431

### Saturday, August 5

*Red Road Bike and Swim/Soak (F) D = 15 miles with a few 40' hills.* Leader Diane Ware 967-8642.

### Saturday, August 25

*Na'ulu Trail to Napua Trail Dayhike (E)*  
D = 7 to 11 miles, E = +/- 800'  
Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387.

### Saturday, September 8

*City of Refuge Photography Hike (E, F)*  
D = 2 miles, E = sea level  
Leaders Sarah Moon 935-3475 and Rich Vogler 328-8387.

### Saturday, September 29

*Kalopa Service Trip (E, S)*  
Leader Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002.

### Saturday, October 6

*Kaumana Cave (E)*  
Leaders Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002 and Kana Covington 966-8431

### Saturday, October 13

*Pepeekeo Cliffs Dayhike (E, C)*  
D = 3 miles E = 200' +/- 100'  
Tradewinds, high cliffs, crashing waves and blue ocean. Michael & Sunny La Plante 964-5017

### Sunday, October 14

*Byron Ledge/Devastation Trail Dayhike (E, F) D = 4 miles, E = +400/- 400'*  
Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387.



# Chapter Directory



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

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## Making a Difference

*Continued from page 7*

result was House Bill 2656 Air Pollution Control, which passed on April 23. It requires applications by the end of 2013.

Because this was my first experience with trying to get a law changed I attended a Capitol Watch seminar on the legislative process. For decades, letters of complaints with photos and videos had been sent to the Department of Health Clean Air Branch (CAB). This time, I brought the issue to Senators Suzanne Chun and Mike Gabbard. After trying mediation Senator Chun decided to introduce a measure to amend the law. About this time the Department of Health appointed Gary Gill to lead the division of Environmental Health. Support from Gill opened the door into the legislative hearing process.

We were successful for a couple of reasons that don't always apply to other cases: this measure

did not require funding—we were correcting a flaw in regulating air pollution, the exemption granted to obsolete equipment; and we were not introducing a law that would affect the entire state; we were bringing a few environmental laggards up to present standards. But many of our strategies could be adopted by others advocating for environmental legislation.

- In order to show we had the support of the community affected, I collected 140 signatures on a petition calling for the permit requirements as a matter of public health and environmental justice, targeting residents who had been affected by the pollution.
- As I collected signatures, I solicited written comments to submit with the petition. All the ideas, comments, and questions I got from petitioners prepared me to give testimony at committee hearings.
- I submitted photos with my testimony, supplied a link to a YouTube video, and cited reliable Web

sources that substantiated the toxicity of the pollutants being emitted.

- I encouraged everyone who supported the bill to submit written testimony and directed them to the user-friendly State Capitol website.

If I had it to do all over again, I would begin by introducing the measure to the relevant committee chairs in both House and Senate, as they have authority to schedule a hearing. If the chairs were in agreement on the issues, I would talk to the committee members, scheduling discussions when the legislature is not in session. It might take a year to convince them to accept the measure, but I believe it makes success more likely.

In this case we succeeded because we had the support of community members and environmental groups, as well as the Department of Health. Many people, including the Sierra Club's Robert Harris, submitted testimony. The legislative committees need good reasons to support the measure, and we provided very good ones indeed. ■

## High School Hikers

*Continued from page 15*

cleared just in time for the 14 intrepid hikers to pack and get seat-belted in for the short roller coaster airplane ride to Moloka'i. We looked out our window for any signs of civilization, but only vast amounts of untouched land were to be seen. Soon, a tiny runway appeared and we landed with a bounce. We were greeted by Chris, our Moloka'i contact, who helped us with our equipment and bags. We drove only a short few miles to



our accommodations, a church hall opposite the ocean and a mile from the town of Kaunakakai. From there we ventured out over the four days to experience the people and the 'āina.

We met Penny, who shared with us through her slide show what it was like to be the only female on the first voyage of the Hōkūle'a. She also shared with us the vision of Moloka'i's future and helped us to feel comfortable at the hall where we stayed. We met Walter at his small office in town, where he asked us why we enjoyed walking the 'āina. He gave us suggestions on where to go to and explained how he and his friends helped save the island of Kaho'olawe from being destroyed. During our education and service project at the fishponds, we met Ikaika, Melvin, and Mark, who were dedicated to bringing sustainability back to the islands. We pulled tons of mangrove, sang "Take Me Back," drank coconut milk, and ate 'opihi. That evening we dined on

barbecued deer meat. We felt totally local! The next day, we were invited to the visitors' headquarters, a small two-room office, where we were greeted with Moloka'i T-shirts and shopping bags. Moloka'i is one of the islands that has a ban on plastic bags. We were invited to Hālawā Valley by Mahina Ho, who shared how he lives and works on the 'āina. We worked in his lo'i and then hiked up to a beautiful waterfall to swim in its cool waters.

Whether we were hiking along the pristine west end shoreline, visiting the macadamia farm, or entering the Kalaupapa peninsula, the people we met were always friendly and inviting. As high school hiker Tanya Ching put it, "I love the friendliness here, and the stars are beautiful." Triston Ocoma Neyra summed it up when he said, "The island taught us the true meaning of aloha 'āina (love the land) and showed us the many ways that we can take care of Hawai'i." ■



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Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

July - September 2012

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