



# Mālama I Ka Honua

## Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAI'I CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2013

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## GRAND THEFT 'AINA: The Fight to Repeal the PLDC

Unless you've been under a rock, you've probably heard about the controversy over the Public Lands Development Corporation (PLDC). The Sierra Club and many other community organizations and concerned individuals have been in a very public dispute with Senator Dela Cruz and Governor Abercrombie over the value, purpose, and intent of the PLDC. The community organizations have called for a repeal of the PLDC; Abercrombie/Dela Cruz have pushed to allow the PLDC to proceed.

So what is the PLDC? It is a state entity tasked with developing our public beaches, parks, and open spaces as a means to generate revenue for Hawai'i. While development in moderation can be a good thing, this law assumes our natural resources

exist primarily to create a profit. Many folks simply don't agree with that idea.

One of the primary criticisms of the PLDC is the fact that it is exempt from most land use laws. This includes laws intended to protect agricultural and conservation land from unreasonable development, laws intended to ensure long-term planning, and laws intended to protect public health and safety. The PLDC is also exempt from the procurement code, which is intended to shine the light of transparency on governmental contracts. Most folks simply can't understand why a governmental agency needs such sweeping powers and, based on past experience, have a justified fear about bad consequences.

The Sierra Club is proud to be a part of the grassroots swell opposing

the PLDC. With the help of other community allies, we launched the website [GrandTheftAina.com](http://GrandTheftAina.com). This website tracks legislators' opinions on the PLDC, and gives the public the ability to take action by contacting their legislators. We hope this website becomes a reliable base for information about the PLDC, particularly in the coming months as the legislature considers repealing the law.

The Sierra Club also advocated on behalf of several political candidates who made their opposition to the PLDC a central part of their 2012 campaign. By sending out district-wide mailers, we deliberately made this an election issue. We wanted other legislators to understand the depth of concern and public angst about this law.

*Continued on page 3*



Hawai'i's largest and most successful  
grassroots environmental advocacy organization





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### Staying on Track

Germans are proud of a policy called "Energiewende," which calls for the end to all fossil fuels and nuclear power and embraces solar and wind power. Aggressive goals require Germany to achieve 80% renewable energy targets by 2050. Many Germans believe they can achieve 100% adoption of clean energy. Years of public support and a focus on local clean energy

projects—like solar on rooftops—has ensured that all major political parties strongly support *Energiewende*.

Here, in Hawai'i, we've made strides towards our own energy change. We've adopted some of the most aggressive renewable energy goals in the United States. Solar has become the new green economy, responsible for over 20% of the state's construction jobs.

But we're in the midst of making a few stumbles. You may have seen in the headlines that Hawai'i Gas (the Gas Company) recently requested permission to start importing liquid natural gas (LNG) into Hawai'i. Experiences in other locations demonstrates that bringing LNG into a market reduces the growth of clean energy. We can't move to a clean energy future if we're merely replacing one liquid fossil fuel with another.

Moreover, the case for LNG—reducing electric rates—is based on the false assumption that LNG prices will stay low. Historically, the LNG market is quite volatile. Further, LNG is also particularly cheap in the continental United States right now. Developing an export facility, however, would likely mean that tankers could sail past Hawai'i and go to much more expensive markets, such as Japan. Factoring in the cost of building new infrastructure, we could wind up with a situation where the cost of LNG is comparable to today's oil prices.

In another stumble, Governor Abercrombie just unilaterally reduced Hawai'i's renewable energy tax credit. While we support reasonable changes to our tax policy, Governor Abercrombie acted without consideration of the damage that could be caused to thousands of solar workers and to families who want to "go green." No one wants to see layoffs, or families in need avoiding clean energy because it is outside of their financial means. We need to work collaboratively to ensure solutions that work.

The Sierra Club is committed to keeping Hawai'i on track. We opposed Hawai'i Gas's LNG proposal and are in the process of filing suit to stop the governor's tax changes. We can and will use every means in our power to ensure that smart policies move forward.

But litigation alone is not enough. Germany's example shows the power of public support. We need you to continue to push our leaders towards a clean energy future. We cannot simply repeat mistakes of the past. Please call or talk to your legislator about moving Hawai'i's clean energy goals forward.

Happy Trails (and *Energiewende!*),

—Robert D. Harris



## Mālama I Ka Honua

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- Full page (\$350)
- Half page (\$250)
- 1/4 page (\$110)
- 1/8 page (\$60)
- Bus. Cards (\$50)

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## PLDC

*Continued from page 1*

We're proud that newcomers such as Representative Nicole Lowen and Senator Laura Thielen won their races, showing that their campaign platform in opposition to the PLDC resonated with the electorate.

We anticipate the PLDC will be a central issue this upcoming legislative session. There will be calls to repeal and/or substantively amend the law. In an effort to help provide some clarity, we're offering a Frequently Asked Questions section to help people understand what the PLDC does or doesn't do. We encourage you to familiarize yourself and stay in touch with us through the [GrandTheftAina.com](http://GrandTheftAina.com) website. And, most importantly, please take the time to contact your legislators and ask them to repeal the PLDC! (Contact info can be found at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov).)

### FAQs about the PLDC

#### Why was the PLDC created?

The stated purpose of the PLDC is to generate revenue for the DLNR so that it can manage its lands and facilities. In essence the PLDC is **intended to be the development arm of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.**

#### Who is in charge of the PLDC?

PLDC comprises a five-member board of directors—BLNR Chairperson; Director of Finance; Director of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; an appointee of the House Speaker; and an appointee of the Senate President. Currently these persons include:

- BLNR chairperson or designee—William Ail
- Director of Finance—Kalbert Young
- Director of DBEDT or designee—Mary Alice Evans
- House Speaker designee—Robert Bunda
- Senate President designee—Duane Kurisu

As three of the five appointees

are designated by the governor, the governor plainly exerts a high degree of control over this body.

#### How would the PLDC generate revenue for the DLNR?

The PLDC is tasked with implementing public land optimization projects to create revenue-generating centers or take advantage of opportunities to exploit local, national, and international markets. The PLDC can also sell, assign, or lease any property in its possession.

#### So what's the big deal?

Hawai'i residents and groups are concerned about the PLDC's ability to evade important land use and environmental laws designed to protect Hawai'i's unique cultural and natural resources. We're concerned about the potential loss of public lands. We're concerned about public safety and health with the exemption from building code standards. We're concerned about the loss of transparency with the loss of the procurement code. We're concerned about the loss of long-term planning that helps ensure we keep certain areas open for recreational and conservation purposes.

#### Does the PLDC increase meaningful public participation?

No, the public's ability to meaningfully participate has been substantially reduced. **The community development plan and the land use commission have been eliminated from the development process.** These laws were intended to ensure long-term planning and allowed for meaningful input, including, at times, the ability to put on evidence in front of a quasi-judicial body. This type of involved process cannot be replaced by a mere public hearing where a citizen is limited to three minutes of testimony.

#### I've heard people talk about the PLDC's administrative rules. What are those?

Generally, administrative

rules would guide the PLDC in administering its programs, services, and resources. Clear administrative rules would better guide the PLDC than vague rules. To date, the PLDC has refused to consider any recommendations that would take plainly "bad" projects off the table or create objective criteria for evaluating potential development projects. This creates an environment ripe for favoritism, double standards, and other less savory things—all outside of the public eye.

#### Shouldn't we just trust the people assigned to run the PLDC?

To adequately protect our cultural and natural resources, we must take steps to protect against any misbehavior, now or in the future. Plainly agencies can be taken over by special interests; otherwise, regulations would not be necessary.

#### Even without clear administrative rules, doesn't the environmental review law (Chapter 343) adequately protect our cultural and natural resources from the PLDC?

No. Chapter 343 is a wonderful law, but it is intended merely to provide information about the possible risks of a potential project. This information is supposed to allow decision makers to make better decisions. By itself, however, Chapter 343 does not dictate whether or not a project can move forward. Here, a PLDC project could still move forward even if it would cause substantial adverse harm to the environment.

#### Why didn't the environmental/cultural community oppose the PLDC at the legislature?

Last session, numerous other bills aimed at gutting environmental and cultural protections were strongly opposed and defeated by our community, but the PLDC bill was pushed through at the last second with little to no sincere democratic process and even less public input. Director of the state Office of

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## FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

I hope you all had happy holidays and I wish you the very best New Year. Congratulations to our newly elected Senator Mazie Hirono and Congresswomen Tulsi Gabbard and Colleen Hanabusa. As always, many, many thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who made phone calls and sent cards and all those who helped get these environmental candidates elected. Special thanks to Suzanne Graham and Sierra Club National for their support. In addition, I would like to personally thank Debbie Ward for over 25 years of service to Moku Loa Group and the Hawai'i Chapter. Although she will be taking a break from our Chapter Executive Committee, we wish her and Fred Stone the very best and look forward to her participation again in the future.

Many of us have family and friends on the East Coast; it's New Jersey for me. They are still picking up the pieces from Superstorm Sandy. We should be so thankful for having some of the best weather on the planet, marred by the occasional hurricane or tsunami. In keeping with the Sierra Club Mission to "Explore, Enjoy and Protect" I urge you to do the following:



Tulsi Gabbard with Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers at a rally in Hilo in August

Explore the amazingly beautiful pristine habitats accessible to us. Get out and explore a new part of your island or a neighbor island this winter. Enjoy: Join us on an outing and really enjoy the habitat we're working so hard to conserve. Finally, we must Protect what we have. To show your support, make an end of the year or beginning of the year donation to the Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter to continue the great work we do. See you on the trail!

Aloha, Roberta

## High School Hikers Camp Out on Halloween

Moanalua, Pearl City, and Kapolei High Schools joined the Sierra Club's High School Hikers for a spooky weekend of fun this Halloween. Over 45 students camped out at Kea'iwa Heiau State Park. They hiked the 4.8-mile Aiea Loop Trail, carved pumpkins, had a costume contest, told ghost stories near a campfire, and followed a haunted night trail while blindfolded. (The trail was decorated by Moanalua High School.) Students were also able to connect with other schools about future plans for hiking clubs. They are excited for the High School Hikers Ecology Camp in February!



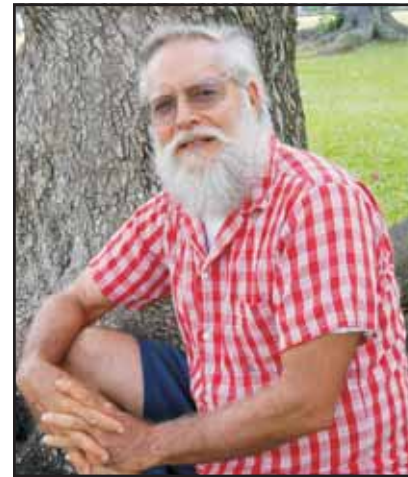
## Sierra Club Volunteer Publishes Novel

*Breach of Justice*, by Douglas Fetterly, features an African American female journalist who exposes a D.C. food and drug oligarchy, including FDA shortcomings and government complicity. Suitors, a flamboyant FDA scientist, and a retired journalist come to her aid.

Douglas Fetterly is an avid backpacker and surfer, with strong ties to the marine environment. He recently took second place in a Harvard-judged national short story contest. *Breach of Justice* is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

## Volunteer in the Spotlight

**Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter**  
**Steven Lee Montgomery**  
*Co-Chair, Political Committee & O'ahu Group Representative to the Executive Committee*



Steve Montgomery has been active in conservation issues in Hawai'i since the 1970s as a student in entomology at UH. As a biologist he has discovered about 30 previously unknown insects and plants; a dozen now bear his name. Among his better known finds: "killer" caterpillars and happy face spiders, and the wekiu bug, which survives at the top of Mauna Kea thanks to an antifreeze compound in its blood. His work has been featured in *National Geographic* and *Hana Hou*. He has used his encyclopedic knowledge of Hawaiian forest life to lead Plant and Discovery hikes for High School Hikers, and he is chair of the Chapter Hawai'i Wildlife Committee.

Steve is currently co-chair of the Chapter Political Committee, which was responsible for the detailed process yielding dozens of candidate endorsements by the Chapter this year. The process included devising and sending out detailed questionnaires to the candidates,

reviewing the responses, and debating motions until two-thirds of the committee concurred. The Sierra Club for the first time endorsed two candidates in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs races.

Steve recently sat down with *Mālama* for an interview.

**What are the origins of your activism?**

I became a political activist probably because my first initiative was so successful. As undergraduates at UH-Manoa in 1969, we learned that the state was going to transport Asian axis deer to the Big Island to replicate continental hunting, which ecologists knew would be devastating to the island's native plants and birds. A dozen students circulated a petition to persuade Governor John Burns to disclose the varied effects of the deer before proceeding, by requiring his DLNR game biologists to prepare a proper EIS (a Hawai'i law mandating EIS was passed in 1970). One was done, showing that the students were right, and after passage of a bill that led to hearings on exotic importations and native forest loss, the governor stopped the relocation of the deer from Lanai to public lands.

Then, during the Vietnam War, we learned about a U.S. Army grant for UH to study Agent Orange, a herbicide that was used to defoliate or clear tropical rain forests, and it was being tested on Kaua'i. The professor suggested I help evaluate it and join a monitoring study. I wrote a class paper about it, which the instructor admired, so he began pointing us baby boomers into rewarding projects. That is when I realized you could apply science locally to build some useful policy changes.

**What motivates your work on the Chapter Political Committee?**

Elections are about building our future. My first volunteering

in a campaign was in 1970. We lost, but Senator Nadao Yoshinaga prodded us to find novel ways to make our home isles better. I hope to build on his positive record to help us Oceania folks do more restoration. His 90 years of cajoling and humble pride and service to the people of Hawai'i remain a model for pragmatic progress. The Club has a deep, wide membership, and many volunteers refined the elections outreach. It feels great to be part of a big, self-improving, committed team. Candidates genuinely appreciate our input. Our goal is to move Hawai'i's Congressional delegation to number 1 on the National Environmental Scorecard that is done after every Congress by the League of Conservation Voters. The highest House Delegation in 2010 was Maine with a score of 100 percent; Hawai'i had a score of 92 percent.

**What in your view was the most effective tool for learning about the candidates' stances on issues affecting the environment?**

There were two: the HI Scorecard for incumbents, and questionnaires sent to all candidates so that we could review their record of actual votes and current responses.

**Why did you think it important for the Sierra Club to endorse candidates standing for election to OHA?**

Several Hawaiians asked the club to sort through the many options. All OHA elections now are statewide, and many people do not know the candidates, so having endorsements is helpful to voters. To the extent Sierra Club endorses based on environmental, not cultural, criteria, we believed we could help get good people who care about the environment elected to the OHA Board.



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# Sierra Club Hawai'i Historical Timeline

## This Issue's Timeline

1968 1980 1990 2000 2013

As the Chapter enters our 45th year we are turning our attention to some of the many good works volunteers have accomplished through the decades. During the year 2013 we will put together a historical reference for these achievements. On these pages is the beginning, showing our activities in the first dozen years. For the next installments we welcome your input; please send any photos or stories to *Mālama* editor Phyllis Frus, [phyllisfrus@sierraclubhawaii.com](mailto:phyllisfrus@sierraclubhawaii.com). *Special thanks to Alana Bryant for compiling the timeline.*

## Timeline 1968-1980

### 1968

- Sierra Club establishes a Hawai'i chapter. Robert Wenkam, a land-use commissioner who has been active in designating conservation lands, becomes the first Chapter chair.

### 1969

- The Sierra Club supports the enlargement and creation of parks such as those at Magic Island, Kahana Valley, and Kualoa Point on O'ahu, but opposes the commercial development that appears to have been made a condition of their expansion. The Club also opposes development of Kipahulu Valley, Seven Pools, and Haleakala Crater Area on Maui, and the Koke'e region on Kaua'i.
- University of Hawai'i Sierra Club Group is created.

### 1970

- Sierra Club opposes the Supersonic Transport (SST).
- Lorin Gill founds High School Hikers to acquaint high school kids with O'ahu's forests and mountains, and to teach them leadership skills and stewardship.

### 1972

- The Chapter gets its first office space at the Bishop Museum.
- The UH Group's bikeway committee successfully lobbies for a bike lane on University Avenue.

### 1973

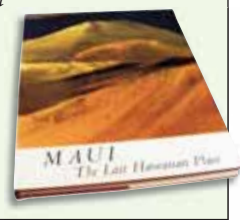
- The Chapter helps defeat a proposed apartment development at Salt Lake and further development of Waipio Valley on the Big Island. Rather than being developed, 5.5 acres is given to the Bishop Museum for ethnobotanical studies and historical research.
- Dave Raney testifies in opposition to the proposed Interstate Route H-3 based on the need to protect Hawai'i's scenic and historic areas, forest, and open space; to conserve energy and reduce demand; to decrease dependency on imported fossil fuel; to create a pattern of urban areas which minimizes the need for movement and discourages urban sprawl; and to encourage the establishment of appropriate mass transit systems.

### 1974

- Sierra Club and four other local environmental groups form the Environmental Coalition to obtain

### Robert Wenkam (1920-2000),

co-founder and first chairman of the Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter, came to O'ahu as a civil engineer for the Army (his photographs of the Pearl Harbor attack were published in *Life*). After the war he was an architectural designer for the Dept. of Parks and Recreation (animal shelters at the zoo and the fountain on Kalakaua Avenue at Kapiolani Park are his work). His greatest legacy came after Governor Burns appointed him to the newly created State Land Use Commission in the 1960s. Noticing the widespread development of housing in eastern Honolulu Bob was determined to preserve not only the view plain of the city but access to the forests and ridges of the Ko'olau volcano. He used his role as land use commissioner to ensure that almost all the ridges in south O'ahu were designated Conservation zones, which protects them from exploitation. As an advocate for expanding the National Parks in Hawai'i, he wrote and photographed the sumptuous coffee table books *Maui and the Wild Kipahulu and Kaua'i and the Park Country of Hawai'i*, and many other books.



a full-time paid staff to coordinate their legislative programs for the 1974 session.

- August newsletter includes the "Citizen's Guide to the State of Hawai'i Land Use Boundary Review," created to prepare citizens for a forthcoming series of boundary review workshops and public hearings.
- In making the boundary review of Hawai'i Island its highest-priority conservation issue, the Chapter opposed major redistricting along coastal areas, recommended identifying idle lands zoned urban to absorb urban growth without further urban redistricting, supported expanded watershed protection, supported scrutiny of the proposals of the Dept. of Agriculture to maintain agricultural viability, and urged that any conversion of agricultural lands to urban occur with the least overall social costs and produce housing at prices within the grasp of the resident population.

### 1975

- Volunteers who worked on the Shoreline Protection Bill, which was supported by the Sierra Club and more than 90 community groups but was watered down in the legislature, form a new watchdog group, the Shoreline Protection Alliance, to coordinate citizen efforts throughout the state to monitor developments within the shoreline area. The Chapter requests that it be included in the public participation aspects of the State's coastal zone management program.
- The Chapter strongly opposes the proposed development of the Waiahole-Waikane valleys on O'ahu as counter to emerging state and county land-use policies, and supports the objectives of the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association, formed to expand agriculture and preserve the integrity of the community. That battle is won in 1977 when the

state buys the land. In 1998, the state finally gives 93 leases to the Association; the Waiahole Agricultural Park encompasses 590 acres with a final subdivision plan of 143 agricultural and residential lots.

- The Moku Loa Group on the Big Island is formed.

### 1976

- Lorin Gill receives a Special Achievement Award from the National Sierra Club; his noted achievements are founding both High School Hikers and the Hawai'i Service Trip program.
- Hawai'i Chapter receives from national Sierra Club "watchdog" status over the regions of the Pacific Basin controlled by the U.S., allowing it to function as a Pacific Regional Conservation Committee.
- Hawai'i is first in the nation to include an energy-conservation guideline in its State Budget and Finance document, which mandates a 5% reduction in energy consumption during the 1976-1977 biennium. The ultimate goal is to establish a condition of zero waste by eliminating any unnecessary energy consumption.
- The Chapter has an all-time high of 811 members, standing at 39th out of 50 in chapter membership numbers.
- The Maui Group is formed.
- The Palila saga begins: the Hawai'i Chapter and Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund ask the state to remove all sheep and goats from the Mauna Kea māmane-naio forest, which is critical habitat of the endangered bird, within one year.

### 1977

- The Liberian-registered *Hawaiian Patriot* spills 715,000 barrels of oil 370 miles due west of Honolulu, the worst oil spill in history at the time.

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### Lorin T. Gill (1928-2010),

naturalist, social worker, and environmentalist, was a founder of the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club and instrumental in its growth. As an author and mentor, Lorin worked to create a comprehensive environmental education culture in Hawai'i. He supported the Makiki Environmental Center (now the Hawai'i Nature Center), trained teachers on environmental issues with the Moanalua Gardens Foundation Environmental Education Program, and developed the Sierra Club's rigorous hike leader training criteria and programs.

The High School Hiker and Hawai'i Service Trip programs he began and nurtured have yielded some of Hawai'i's strongest environmental advocates and experts. To honor his memory and continue the work he started, the Chapter established the Lorin T. Gill Endowment Fund, which will be used to expand its environmental education and leadership development programs.

## Timeline

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### 1978

- The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Audubon Society, and Dr. Alan Ziegler are co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit over the DNLNR's practice of maintaining populations of feral goats and sheep within the critical habitat for the endangered Palila.

### 1979

- The lawsuit against the DLNR on behalf of the Palila (*Palila v. Hawai'i*) is successful.
- The Honolulu Group (later the O'ahu Group) and the Kaua'i Group are formed.
- National Sierra Club approves the Maui Group's first lawsuit. Joining People to Save Makena and several long-time landowners, the plaintiffs request a new Special Management Area Permit public hearing regarding a proposed major hotel in the rural coastal zone of Makena. The Maui Prince Hotel was eventually built, but the Group's challenges to further development of Makena Beach resulted in increased protection of important cultural sites and natural resources. The Maui Group and its allies are now fighting the development of 130 acres of rare native dryland forest just north of Makena Resort (known as Wailea 670 /Honua'ula) proposed for a golf course and luxury homes. For updates, read the Maui Group Report in each issue of the *Mālama*.

### 1980

- The Sierra Club awards its Special Achievement Award to David Raney to recognize his work in the Hawai'i Chapter for effective environmental lobbying, natural access, and strong State Coastal Zone legislation. ■

Photo Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey



## The Palila Bird

The basis for the more than thirty-year fight to protect the Palila is the claim that the federal government, by giving the state funds to help promote its sheep and goat maintenance program on the Big Island, was violating its own rules under the Endangered Species Act. The decision in favor of the bird in *Palila v. Hawai'i* was significant because (1) the court recognized that an endangered species had standing, that is, could sue as plaintiff, setting an important precedent; (2) such species could sue for protection to their habitat, with the decision putting the species' right to a hospitable environment

above the accommodation of hunters; (3) Palila was the first critically endangered species to pull back from the brink of distinction. Its numbers are still declining, however, and Sierra Club and its allies returned to court in 1987, 1989, and 2009 to force the state to comply by removing feral animals from the birds' habitat. It's clear that without the litigation, there would be no Palila today, but continued vigilance is required to preserve the species.

## BE A FORCE FOR GOOD!

### Come to our third annual Forces for Good Symposium January 12, 2013

focusing on current policy issues such as  
Why is Hawai'i cutting the solar tax credit? What's going on with the PLDC? How are we moving forward with food self-sufficiency efforts?

For more information, go to  
<http://www.sierraclubhawaii.com/forgood.php>



## Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

### Hao

*Rauvolfia sandwicensis*

Endemic: All Hawai'i except Kaho'olawe

**Description:** These plants are one of a few native plants related to *Plumeria*, which is not native. They are gorgeous trees that can reach heights up to 30 feet but generally are in the 5-15-foot range with great-looking elliptical leaves that form whorls of up to seven leaves per node. Each leaf has smooth margins, is bright green with a yellow mid-rib, and is about five inches in length. The tiny white flowers emerge on clusters just like *Plumeria* and have a fragrance very similar to it; surprisingly they are very easy to smell considering how small they are. Once pollinated, the flowers will form small fruit about of an inch across which eventually turn dark purple/black when ripe. The outer bark is a very light tan, as is the inner wood, which is very hard. Hence the name "hao," which is also the Hawaiian word for iron or any iron tool. Like the *Plumeria*, hao also bleeds a milky sap when either leaves or stems are broken.

**Distribution:** This is an uncommon tree most likely found in mesic forests but occasionally lower

dry forests on all of the larger islands except Kaho'olawe, although it may have well occurred there in the past.



**Landscape Use and Care:** Hao look great anywhere. If more were available I'm sure you would see it more often. It's sad that more people are familiar with its non-native cousin the *Plumeria*. You could plant it as a specimen plant or use it to fill blank spaces. Hao thrive in full sun to light shade and require minimal watering once established. You can pretty much plant it anywhere you would normally plant a *Plumeria*. Few pests bother it because most don't like their milky sap. Personally I think this plant is awesome; I love the way it looks as well as the beauty it adds to the landscape.

**Additional Information:** Like the non-native *Plumeria* hao is in the family Apocynacea. The other native plants in this family include maile (*Alyxia oliviformis*), which is still fairly common; holei (*Ochrosia spp.*), which is very rare; and kaulu (*Pteralyxia spp.*) which is very, very rare.

## PLDC

Continued from page 3

Environmental Quality Control and former State Senator Gary Hooser explained that "the public had only one opportunity to testify on... Act 55,... and... less than two hours public notice" was provided. Some legislators have even admitted to not having read the bill despite voting for it and have been unable to answer basic questions about the PLDC since its inception.

*Are environmental/cultural communities the only people opposing the PLDC?*

No, a growing number of people in Hawai'i have deep reservations

about the PLDC, and even legislators who previously championed it are coming out publicly for its repeal. At the local level, most of the county councils have passed resolutions calling on the state legislature to repeal the PLDC. A majority of state legislative candidates in the 2012 General Election opposed the PLDC as well.

*Can the PLDC evade important land use and environmental laws?*

Provided that public land planning activities are coordinated with the county planning departments and the county land use plans, policies, and ordinances, the Public Land Development

Corporation's projects are "exempt from all statutes, ordinances, charter provisions, and rules of any government agency relating to special improvement district assessments or requirements; land use, zoning, and construction standards for subdivisions, development, and improvement of land; and the construction, improvement, and sale of homes thereon. . ." Haw. Rev. Stat. § 171C-19 This is likely to include county planning and zoning ordinances; Chapter 205, HRS, Land Use Commission; Chapter 183C, Conservation District; subdivision rules and regulations; county building permits; coastal zone management; and many more land use and environmental laws. ■

# Nate's Adventures



by Nate Yuen



## Red-footed Boobies at Makapu'u

*When the birds come ashore at Makapu'u they often land in the milo, hau, and beach heliotrope trees along the shoreline and within Sea Life Park.*

I love to hike to Makapu'u along the Ko'olaupoko Coast of windward O'ahu to look for Red-footed Booby birds. The rocky outcrop at Makapu'u Head provides sweeping views of Makapu'u Bay, Waimanalo, and the offshore islets of Mānana and Kāohikaipu. Shades of blue, aqua, and green meld into each other as deep ocean transitions to sandy beach.

Mānana (Rabbit Island) and Kāohikaipu (Turtle Island) sit less than a mile off the coast. They are State Seabird Sanctuaries for thousands of native seabirds—shearwaters, terns, noddies, petrels, boobies, and tropicbirds.

Makapu'u Head provides a high vantage point to see Red-footed Booby birds, 'Ā in Hawaiian (*Sula sula*), flying between the islets and the shoreline in the early hours of the morning.

Red-footed boobies have long pointy wings with black tips. Several plumage variations exist, ranging from all brown to all white and combinations of brown and white, but the subspecies in Hawai'i—*Sula sula rubripes*—is almost entirely white with black wing tips.

Boobies are strong fliers—they flap their wings to gain air speed and glide for long distances exploiting the air currents.

When the birds come ashore at Makapu'u they often land in the milo, hau, and beach heliotrope trees along the shoreline and within Sea Life Park.

Red-footed Booby birds are named for their bright red to orange feet, which are webbed and clawed. The birds have a pale blue bill with a pink base and facial skin that transitions from pink to blue.

Unlike other boobies that nest on the ground, Red-footed Boobies roost and build nests in shrubs or trees.

The birds are indigenous to Hawai'i and other tropical islands in the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans. They breed throughout the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and at a few sites in the main Hawaiian Islands at Kilauea Point on Kaua'i, Ulupa'u Head at Mokapu on O'ahu, and on several islets off O'ahu and Kaua'i.

One of the more amusing displays is a courtship ritual where they lift their heads up, turn their wings upwards, and make clicking sounds.

Egg laying peaks in February through April and most offspring fledge by September, but nesting can occur throughout the year. They build nests in trees and shrubs, and incubate their eggs by covering them with their large webbed feet.



*Red-footed Booby birds are named for their bright red to orange feet which are webbed and clawed.*



*The birds have a pale blue bill with a pink base and facial skin that transitions from pink to blue.*

The birds are fairly long-lived with an average life span of 20 years. They retain their mates for several breeding seasons and breed in colonies up to ten thousand pairs strong.

The population of Red-footed Booby birds in Hawai'i is estimated at between 7,000 and 10,500 breeding pairs.

The birds stay closer to land than other Hawaiian seabirds,

typically returning to their roosts at night. They hunt for prey by plunge diving 12–24 feet into the ocean.

Their diet is mainly flying fish and squid, but they eat mackerel scads, saury, and anchovies.

Red-footed Boobies are amusing to watch. I can watch for hours as they jostle each other in the trees, scratch and groom themselves, and vocalize as they interact with each other. Since

nesting season is over I will have to return next season to look for booby chicks. Can't wait for next year!

To see a video, more photos, and the complete article on Red-footed Boobies at Makapu'u go to Nate's website at [hawaiianforest.com](http://hawaiianforest.com) and look under the August 2012 blog entries.



*One of the more amusing displays is a courtship ritual where they lift their heads up, turn their wings upwards, and make clicking sounds.*



*Red-footed boobies retain their mates for several breeding seasons and breed in colonies up to ten thousand pairs strong.*

**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. Nathan has a website at [HawaiianForest.com](http://HawaiianForest.com) where you can see his art and read about his adventures.

# O'ahu Group Report

## Elections

The Executive Committee was actively engaged in the November election at every level: federal, state, and local. We phone-banked, sign-waved, canvassed, and got-out-the-vote for a number of club-endorsed candidates including Mazie Hirono, Tulsi Gabbard, Clayton Hee, Laura Thielen, Jessica Wooley, and Keiko Bonk, among others.

Our activists included not just committee members—though the extra effort by Randy Ching, Steve Montgomery, and Leilei Shih deserves special mention—but also volunteers such as Reese Liggett, who is as generous with his time as with his pocketbook; and of course our Director, Robert Harris, who works as tirelessly during the campaign season as he does while the legislature is in session.

I'm sure the overall impact of the Club's efforts will be noted elsewhere in this edition, but several of us have been informed by people involved in the political debate that our willingness to commit time and money helped turn the result in key races, and that this has been duly noted by those in a position to make decisions about the environment. Thank you to all those who helped!

## Public Lands Development Corporation

We testified at the latest PLDC hearings. The Executive Committee adopted repeal of the PLDC as one of our new priorities, and we have resolved to try to persuade the Honolulu City Council to join the Big Island and Kaua'i county councils in voting to petition the Legislature to repeal Act 55. We have already started to lobby council members on this issue.

## Koa Ridge

We are now in the curious position of filing two simultaneous but separate appeals of Land Use Commission decisions to green-light the monster sprawl Koa Ridge development, which would pave over the second most productive food-farm on the island with 5,000 suburban tract homes and half a million square feet of commercial space, while adding 5,000 to 10,000 more cars to H2 and H1.

The LUC approved the development in June and we appealed in July, arguing that the decision was a violation of the constitutional obligation to protect agricultural lands. However, the LUC had previously approved the project in 2010. We successfully sued to overturn that decision, arguing that one of the commissioners was ineligible to vote. But recently the developer, Castle & Cooke, succeeded in overturning that appeal. We have now filed a writ of certiorari, which is essentially an appeal to the Supreme Court. We thank Robert Harris for his work on this and especially Lindy Carpenter for all her efforts in researching and writing the draft.

In case we lose these appeals we are also starting to plan our efforts to challenge zoning applications. We are trying to build a campaign fund and would welcome donations of any amount.

## Rail

We had intended to host a debate and question & answer session before the election, open to all our members, to discuss the environmental impacts associated with the HART project—both good and bad. However we had logistical problems organizing the event and it was postponed twice. Nevertheless, we still intend to hold

that debate in the very near future. In the meantime we will continue to press to make the project more sensitive to environmental concerns and we will encourage the city to adopt the kinds of policies that will make Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) possible as a mechanism for halting suburban sprawl.

## Priorities

Other than the issues listed above, and the need to remain vigilant about the Envision La'ie and Turtle Bay developments, we decided to adopt three policy priorities for next year: greening the water and wastewater codes, boosting food farming on O'ahu, and opala concerns. On this last item we will press the council to restore the large white recycling bins that disappeared from many parts of the island, and we will try to persuade the city to restrict sales of Styrofoam.

### Anthony Aalto

Chair and Secretary, O'ahu Group

**Consider donating  
to Hawai'i's  
most successful  
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environmental  
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 15 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

### Saturday, January 5

*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, January 6

*Beginner hike: Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden (F)*  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Laura Gray

### Sunday, January 13

*Sierra Seminar: Ka'ena Point (E/F)*  
Reservations required. We'll hike in from the North Shore side and see whales, Hawaiian monk seals, and albatross. Please bring plenty of water as this is a coastal hike with NO shade and it can be very hot. Hydration is a MUST. Deborah Blair 955-4168

### Saturday, January 19

*Mānoa 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. Jean Fujikawa

### Sunday, January 20

*'Ihi' ihilauakea Crater Hike (F)*  
3mi/Moderate/Ridge/Koko Head  
We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into a crater to view rare native plants. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Marie LaBerge 545-1252, asst. Susan Tom, Ronette Morales

### Sunday, January 20

*Bicycle Outing: Ewa & Kalaehoa (F)*  
15 mi/Moderate/Flat  
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Ewa Mahiko District Park on Renton Road. We'll see the old railway, sugar mill site, and a popular beach park as we ride through the old Barbers Point Naval Air Station. Helmets required; all types of bicycles welcome. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 or [g Sinclair@gmail.com](mailto:g Sinclair@gmail.com)

### Thursday, January 24

*Waihe'e Tunnel Tour (E)*  
For leaders only. Colleen Soares 748-9215

### Sunday, January 27

*Photography Hike: Queen Kapiolani Gardens (E/F)*  
.25 mi/Easy/Kapahulu  
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Many native plants from around the State of Hawai'i. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, asst. Susan Tom



### Saturday, February 2

*Queen Kapiolani Gardens Service Project (S)*  
Join the City's Division of Urban Forestry and the Sierra Club in maintaining a native Hawaiian garden. Meet at Queen Kapiolani Garden (bordered by Monsarrat/Paki/Leahi Avenues) at 8 a.m. Tools will be provided but you are welcome to bring your favorite trimming or pruning tools! Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Marie Laberge 545-1252, asst. Susan Tom

### Sunday, February 3

*Beginner hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (F)*  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. Randy Ching 942-0145

### Saturday, February 9

*MCBH Kaneohe Bay service project (S)*  
Reservations required. Call Annette Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by Feb. 7. Help clear a wetland 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. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Sherine Boomla

# O'ahu Group Outings

## Sunday, February 10

*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

## Sunday, February 17

*Aiea Ridge (F)*

12 mi/Very strenuous/Ridge/Aiea Meet at 7 a.m. at Church of the Crossroads or 7:30 a.m. at trailhead. RSVP. Very long graded route to the Ko'olau summit. Great views, lots of native plants. Dan Anderson 690-0479 or [danderhi@gmail.com](mailto:danderhi@gmail.com), Richard Bailey

## Sunday, February 17

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

4 mi/Easy/Ridge/Makakilo Reservations required 3 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, Stan Oka 429-9814, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Marie Laberge 545-1252, asst. Susan Tom, Ronette Morales

## Saturday, February 23

*Makiki-Tantalus Loop (F)*

8 mi/Moderate/Ridge/+1500 ft/Makiki Join us for a grand tour of this trail system, which offers awesome views, abundant native plants, and a good workout. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 or [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com)

## Sunday, February 24

*Mānoa Falls Trail Project (S)*

See January 19 for details. Reese Liggett

## NEW Service Trip to Haleakala National Park, Maui

Thursday to Saturday, July 4-6

Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa · Phone: 262-6092



Our accommodation for the weekend is Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakala 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 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 rustic. There are no washroom or shower facilities, but there is an outhouse. We do have a 2-burner gas stove top and a wood-burning stove to cook and keep warm. The reward is spending the weekend in a beautiful national park.



## Sunday, February 24

*Lanipo Short and Sweet Late Hike (F)*

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kaimuki Reservations required. Meet at 1 p.m. This short 3-hour hike has a great cardio workout on the hills behind Wilhelmina Rise. We will turn around after about a mile and a half in time to enjoy snack hour from 4:30 to 5:30 hosted by Reese Liggett and Suzan Harada. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

## Sunday, February 24

*Ka'ena Point service project (S)*

Reservations required as space is limited. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Camp Erdman. Our work is weed control/outplanting. Bring work gloves and hand tools if you have them. Jim Waddington 947-2732, asst. Benny Martinez

## Sunday, February 24

*Chinatown Urban Hike (F)*

Celebrate the new Lunar Year of the Snake. We'll cover about 1.5 miles on our 2-hour walk. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Sun Yat-Sen statue mauka of Hotel and River Streets. Reservations only - limited to 12. Street parking along King St, or garages: [www.chinatownhi.com/?q=node/59](http://www.chinatownhi.com/?q=node/59) Joanna Alexander 223-6993 or [joalex.gypsy@gmail.com](mailto:joalex.gypsy@gmail.com), Marie Laberge

## Sunday, March 3

*Beginner hike: Kuli'ou'ou Valley (F)*

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, raingear. Sunscreen, hat, insect repellent recommended. Randy Ching 942-0145

## Sunday, March 10

*Puu Ma'eli'eli (F)*

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahalu'u Reservations required. Uphill hike to pillbox overlooking beautiful Kaneohe Bay. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka 429-9814, Marie Laberge 545-1252, asst. Susan Tom, Ronette Morales

## Saturday, March 16

*Mānoa Falls Trail Project (S)*

See January 19 for details. Ed Mersino

## Sunday, March 17

*Ka'ena Point NAR service project (S)*

Reservations required as space is limited. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Camp Erdman. Weed control/outplanting. We'll learn about native coastal plants and animals. Possible whale, monk seal, and albatross viewing. Colleen Soares [csoares48@gmail.com](mailto:csoares48@gmail.com)

## Sunday, March 17

*Wiliwilinui (F)*

5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Waialae Iki The beginning is a nice stroll, but then expect a very steep climb to the Ko'olau Summit, where we will enjoy great views. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

## Sunday, March 17

*Bicycle Outing: Diamond Head & Kahala (F)*

12 mi/Moderate/flat with moderate hills Meet at 9 a.m. at Kapiolani Community College at the restroom on Diamond Head Road. We'll circumnavigate Diamond Head past a popular surf spot, then visit some lesser-known beaches on our ride through the upscale Kahala neighborhood. Helmets required; all types of bicycles welcome. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 or [gsinclair@gmail.com](mailto:gsinclair@gmail.com)

## Sunday, March 17

*Photography hike: Leeward Community College Native Plant Garden (E/F)*

Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Started in the early 1990s, LCC's native plant gardens contain plants representing dryland, coastal, mesic forest, and Polynesian gardens. Stan Oka 429-9814, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, asst. Susan Tom

## Saturday-Sunday, March 23-24

*Backpacking Seminar: Pupukeya Trail (E/F)*

2 mi/Easy/Ridge/Pupukeya Backpacking for beginners. Reservations required. Bring your own gear, food, and cook kit. Total

weight should be under 30 pounds. Laura Gray 941-794-5980

## Wednesday, March 27

*Waikiki Aquarium tour (E/F)*

Reservations required. Evening. Leaders have preference. \$12 per person. Private, behind-the-scenes tour of Waikiki Aquarium. Learn about your ocean neighbors and the great research and conservation work of the aquarium. Sherine Boomla 739-3936 or [bsherine@yahoo.com](mailto:bsherine@yahoo.com)

## Saturday, March 30

*Kahana Valley (F)*

6 mi/Moderate/Valley/Kahana This loop trail leads us up into the back of Kahana Valley. Our lunch will be at a refreshing pool with a set of rapids at one end. It's great for cooling off before we leave the valley. The return loop crosses the stream (plan on getting your feet wet) and passes down the opposite ridge. Along the way are some old Hawaiian burial sites, WWII bunkers, a dam and a gauging station. Lots of mosquitoes; long sleeves and long pants recommended. Ed Mersino 223-5765, [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu)

## 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 tabs are required.** Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

You will also need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see [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.



# Kaua'i Group Report



Building a concrete bike path on this narrow, eroding ledge of Wailua Beach would put the beach at risk of becoming irreversibly lost. Photo of Wailua Beach September 2012 by Judy Dalton.

## Wailua Beach at Risk

The multi-use/bike path is a nice addition to Kaua'i's recreational options. However, there are appropriate places for the path to be built and a beach is not one of them. The highway along Wailua Beach was built on a sand dune. That means everything makai of the highway is an integral part of Wailua Beach.

The county is ready to break ground in January to build a concrete bike path makai of the paved highway extending onto the upper portion of Wailua Beach. The 8-foot-wide, 18-inch-deep concrete path would run along the upper beach ledge, which is eroding from increasingly higher wave action. In some places the makai edge of the path would be as close as 12 feet from the escarpment created by the upper wash of the waves. That makes the project out of compliance with HRS §205A-43, which states that setbacks for construction along shorelines should not be less than 20 feet from the shoreline.

Coastal sand dunes are fragile; interfering with natural processes

through the use of beach-hardening devices such as a concrete path leads to even greater erosion. Storm events, under the influence of such interference, could hasten irreversible beach loss on an already unstable beach that has undergone significant erosion. How soon would it take for the concrete path to accelerate erosion of the embankment, creating a need to build a seawall to fortify it?

At the time of this writing, we continue our discussions with the County Council, the Department of Transportation, and other decision makers to prevent the path from being built in a final attempt to save Wailua Beach.

## Environmentalist of the Year

Bob Nishek was honored with Environmentalist of the Year award at the annual picnic and meeting in October. For 25 years, he has been delighting and educating Kaua'i Group outings participants with his extensive knowledge of plants. Bob regularly repairs and maintains trails and volunteered with Outings Leader Kathy Valier on a 5-year-long project restoring



Bob Nishek has led Sierra Club Outings for 25 years

Okolehao Trail on the North Shore. Check our Outings calendar to join him tending to a section of indigenous trees he planted at Sleeping Giant several years ago or for a hike through National Tropical Botanical Gardens, where he has worked since 1993.

## Pono Award

Juan Wilson received the Pono Award for his website Island Breath ([islandbreath.org](http://islandbreath.org)), which focuses on sustainability, the environment, no growth, demilitarization, and local culture. The website, which he and his wife Linda started in 2004, receives over 2,000 hits a day. Juan served a two-year term as a Kaua'i Group Executive Committee member and as an architect continues to be of great assistance in creating maps for our conservation efforts.



Juan Wilson receives Pono Award from Gary Hooser

# Kaua'i Group Outings

## See Page 15 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: [hi.sierraclub.org/Kauai/index.html](http://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

**Saturday, January 5**  
*Kealia to Anahola Coastal Walk/East Shore/ moderate/4.5 miles (C/E/F)*  
Miles of wild and wonderful coastline from Kealia to Anahola. We shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Sunday, January 13**  
*Maha'ulepu/South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F)*  
Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. See humpback whales this time of year. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Sunday, January 20**  
*North Shore Bike Ride/moderate/18 miles (C/S)*  
Ride the scenic north shore from Hanalei to Ke'e with spectacular coastal views the whole way. Must bring or rent a bike and helmet. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Wednesday, January 23**  
*Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup/easy/ 2 miles (S)*  
Afternoon clean up 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

**Saturday, January 26**  
*Maha'ulepu sunset to full moon walk/South Shore/ moderate/3.5 Miles (C/E/F)*  
Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck Beach to watch the sun set and a full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk. See humpback whales. We'll shuttle cars for a moderate one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Saturday, February 2**  
*Okolehao Ridge/North Shore/Strenuous/4 miles (C/E/F)*  
Trail climbs 1200' behind Hanalei Valley for beautiful, sweeping views of the North Shore. Kathy Valier 826-7302

**Saturday, February 9**  
*Nukoli'i Beach Cleanup. Easy 1/2 mile (S)*  
Help remove litter, which poses a threat to seabirds and marine life. To get to Nukoli'i Beach, 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 signs. Gloves, bags, and snacks will be provided. Starts at 9 a.m. Jeff Vesci 755-5587

**Saturday, February 16**  
*Anahola Beach Coastal Walk to Kealia with shuttle/East Shore/moderately strenuous/5 miles (E/F)*  
Walk along a wild and wonderful coastline, yet untouched by any development. Spot humpback whales. Bob Greene 245-9280

**Friday, February 22**  
*Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project (C/S)*  
East Side/strenuous/4 miles. Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a full moon walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Saturday, February 23**  
*Hanalei Full Moon Beach Walk/ North Shore/ easy/ 2 miles (F)*  
Stroll along famous Hanalei bay under the light of a full moon. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Sunday, February 24**  
*Maha'ulepu/South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F)*  
Enjoy the majestic, rugged ancient sand-dune area of Maha'ulepu, home to many coastal plants. See humpback whales offshore. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Saturday, March 2**  
*A Day on Koke'e Trails/moderate/5 miles (C/F)*  
Starting at Koke'e Lodge we hike to Berry Flat Trail and continue to the northern section of the Ditch Trail. Finally, we loop back to the Waininiua

Trail and back to the lodge for a variety of views. Ken Fasig 346-1229

**Saturday, March 9**  
*Ho'opi'i Falls/east side/3 miles/moderate (C/F)*  
Lovely forest trail along a river leading to two beautiful waterfalls. A real treat! Bob Greene 245-9280

**Sunday, March 17**  
*Maha'ulepu/South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F)*  
Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views along this majestic, rugged, ancient, sand-dune area. See humpback whales. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

**Saturday, March 23**  
*Kauaikinana Ditch Trail—Kumuella Loop. Koke'e/moderate/4-mile loop (C/F)*  
Extraordinary view of Po'omau Canyon & spectacular waterfalls. Bob Greene 245-9280

**Sunday, March 24**  
*Nualolo trail/ Koke'e/ west side/ strenuous/ 9 miles (C/E)*  
Native forest hike dropping 2,000 ft. elevation with spectacular views of Nualolo valley & Na Pali coast. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Monday, March 25**  
*National Tropical Botanical Gardens Moonlight Walk & Service Project. South Side/moderate/2 miles (C/E/S)*  
Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Saturday, March 30**  
*Jewel of Koke'e /strenuous/7 miles (C/E)*  
Spectacular hike through forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Bob Greene 245-9280

**Sunday, March 31**  
*Kalepa Ridge/east side/strenuous/8 miles round trip (C/E/F)*  
Enjoy sweeping coastal and valley views along the range from Hanama'ulu to Wailua River. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

# Maui Group Report

I hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved rest from your hard work advocating for our islands. After a year of disappointing legislative actions including the passage of the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC), which eliminated the public voice from the development of our public lands, and the travesty wrought by the Maui County Council on the public's carefully crafted Maui Island Plan, things are looking up for next year.

Thanks to your team spirit and hard work, almost all our Sierra Club-endorsed candidates won! There's a move afoot to repeal the PLDC. Be proud of your part in making this happen.

We're organizing a Maui "Council Watch" modeled after the Chapter's very effective Capitol Watch. We're recruiting Maui County volunteers to take on a small issue and report on the Council's doings in the same way. Contact [president@mauisierraclub.org](mailto:president@mauisierraclub.org) to get involved.

Don't miss our annual meeting, Saturday, February 2, 11 a.m. at Kaunoa Senior Center in Sprecklesville. Our theme is "Sierra Club Working for You." April 20 brings our most important fundraiser, the Haiku Ho'olaule'a plant sale. Don't forget to start your plants early, especially food plants and native plants. No invasive species!!

Be sure to go to [MauiSierraClub.org](http://MauiSierraClub.org) and sign up to get emails since we're also planning another one of Harriet Witt's popular star watches.

**Chris Taylor**  
Chair, Maui Group

Give us a call and let us know your thoughts. Sierra Club members are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Please email Karen Chun at [Karen@RedwoodGames.com](mailto:Karen@RedwoodGames.com) for meeting time and place.

## UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES October-December 2012

**North Shore Heritage Park & Ho'okipa Expansion:** North Shore parklands and all other proposed and existing parks, preserves, and open space were removed from urban growth maps by a General Plan Committee vote. Green spaces were given no legal status. Maui Group and others strongly urged the Council to "put the green back on the Maui maps." Final votes December 7, 21.

**Stream Restoration:** Water Commission hearings officer Dr. Miike hosted a Maui meeting in October regarding the Na Wai Eha stream flow case. Permit process for stream water users would be extended one year to October 2013. Intermediate Court of Appeals just ruled that East Maui taro growers should get a chance to contest a commission ruling that left most East Maui streams with no restoration.

**Hamakuapoko Wells:** An EIS will be prepared for use of wells. Cultural Impact studies are underway. Maui Group is a party to a consent degree regarding future wells in East Maui, and has concerns regarding the water quality in Hamakuapoko wells.

**Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST):** Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources approved ATST's Conservation District Use Permit for construction on Haleakala's summit. Native Hawaiian Legal Corp., representing Kilakila O Haleakala, could file an appeal. Updates: [kilakilahaleakala.org](http://kilakilahaleakala.org)

**Regulation of Aquarium Fish Trade:** Earth Justice has filed suit asking for an EIS on impacts of the aquarium trade industry in Hawaiian waters before rules are adopted to regulate the trade. Updates: [forthefishes.org](http://forthefishes.org)

**Maui Island Plan:** "All Growth, No Green" will show on MIP's "Directed Growth" Maps. Maui Group asked for two unneeded projects—400 acres in Olowalu and 400 additional acres in Makena—to be left off Growth Boundary maps. Updates: [maui-tomorrow.org](http://maui-tomorrow.org)

**Wastewater Injection Wells:** Earth Justice on behalf of MG and other allies wants Maui County to sign a consent decree admitting its liability to meet Clean Water Act standards and to seek a federal NPDES permit (stricter conditions on discharged water quality). EJ and County continue settlement conference discussions. Next step: More negotiations or court. Goal: cleaner discharge and more irrigation reuse of treated water.

**Wailea 670:** Maui Group and Maui Unite filed a challenge to the Wailea 670 EIS on October 5. The suit seeks to have full disclosure of impacts as well as full discussion of alternative project designs that could protect a 130-acre section of Maui's rarest native ecosystem as a native plant/cultural preservation site. *Please donate to Maui Group's Wailea 670 Legal Fund at [mauisierraclub.org](http://mauisierraclub.org)*

**Makena Resort:** Citizen groups including Sierra Club Maui continue to ask the Council to "Reverse the Vote" that added 390 acres of land to Makena's Growth Boundaries. Final votes December 7, 21.

**Kihei Mega Malls:** State Office of Planning agrees with Maui Tomorrow and citizen groups: mega malls are not the same project approved in 1995 by the state LUC. Maui County and mega mall landowners say they are. LUC will decide in January 2013. *Please donate to the legal expenses of fighting the mega malls at [maui-tomorrow.org](http://maui-tomorrow.org)*

## See Page 15 for General Outings Information

### Saturday, January 5

*Haleakala Supply Trail Hike*  
D=5 mi R/T. D=5 mi R/T. Moderate, but high altitude. Beautiful views along trail. Begin Hosmer's Grove campground uphill 2.5 miles to crater rim (lunch and views). Prepare for wet/windy conditions. Meet 8:30 a.m. Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center near Ace Hardware. Wear footwear for rocky conditions. Bring hat, jacket, lunch, plenty of water, and a park pass (if you have). Register: [kalei1908@gmail.com](mailto:kalei1908@gmail.com) or 808-344-0006

### Friday, January 11

*Ma'alaea Petroglyph Hike (C/E)*  
D=2-3 mi R/T. Some steep uphill. Explore one of Maui's largest collections of petroglyphs; learn about Ma'alaea's history. Meet 9:00 a.m. Maui Ocean Center parking lot (Wailuku end). Limit 18. Lucienne de Naie and archaeologist Dr. Janet Six. Register: [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

### Monday, January 21

*Makena Historical Hike & Swim (Puu Olai to Makena Landing) (C/E)*  
D=3 mi R/T. Moderate coastal walk with fascinating commentary on ancient fishponds, temples, springs, and trails. Meet at 9 a.m. at Makena State Beach first parking lot. Bring water, lunch/snack, hat, swimsuit, for optional swim. Limit 20. Dr. Janet Six and Lucienne de Naie Register: [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

### Saturday, January 26

*Buy Back the Beach 2013 (Benefit Event)*  
Benefit Lu'au and Gourmet Buffet for Hawai'i Islands Land Trust, 5 to 8 p.m. at Old Lahaina Lu'au with Makana. Tickets \$150, includes all food, two drinks. Contact [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org) (not a Sierra Club event)

### Saturday, February 2

*Maui Group Annual Meeting (C/E/Fun!)*  
*Kaunoa Center (Sprecklesville)*

# Maui Group Outings

Food, fellowship, guest speaker, and Environmental Heroes Awards. FREE. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Kaunoa Senior Center. Main dish provided; bring side dishes for picnic lunch. Theme: "Sierra Club Working for YOU," guest speaker Robert Harris, Hawai'i Chapter Director. Volunteers needed. Contact Janet Six [sixjanet@gmail.com](mailto:sixjanet@gmail.com)

### Sunday February 9

*Peahi Archaeological Tour (Haiku area) (C/E)*  
D=4 mi R/T. Rigorous hike—Manawai'ioa Gulch to Kapukalua Point. Pre- and post-contact archaeological features, including charcoal kilns (Haiku Ditch era—late 19th century). Post-tour picnic overlooking world-famous "Jaws" surf spot. Hiking shoes/boots required; long pants, sun hat, and a walking stick recommended. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Limit 20. Leader Archaeologist Dr. Janet Six. Asst. Lucienne de Naie. Register: [sixjanet@gmail.com](mailto:sixjanet@gmail.com) or 808-214-0147

### Saturday, February 16

*Pali Trail Hike*  
D=6 mi R/T. Moderate with steep sections. Elev. gain 1,500 feet. Hike to Pali above Ma'alaea. Ancient Hawaiian Lahaina—Wailuku route. Spectacular views: whales, ocean, mountains, and wind farm. Lunch at top, return same way. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and camera. Meet 9:00 a.m. at Pali trailhead, Lahaina side of tunnel (mile marker 10.8). Limit 18. Register: Mitch Skaggerberg 808-298-5237

### Saturday, February 16

*World Whale Day Celebration (Kihei), Maui Group Info booth (C/E)*  
Pacific Whale Foundation Community Celebration with music 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kalama Park/South Kihei Road (big whale statue). Enjoy SC booth in "Eco-Alley" or volunteer! Free (not a Sierra Club activity).

### Friday, February 22

*Olowalu Shoreline Hike (West Maui) (C/E)*  
D=3 mi R/T. Moderate. Coastal walk along public beach reserve, the part of Olowalu you always drive by! Meet 9:00 a.m. at parking lot on Wailuku side

of Olowalu Store. Bring water, lunch/snack, hat. Limit 20. Register: Lucienne de Naie, [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 808-214-0147.

### Friday, March 1

*Benefit Star Watch with Astronomer Harriet Witt in South Maui*  
Noted astronomer, educator, and author Harriet Witt shares lore of our Hawaiian night sky. Learn new and amazing things. Meet at 6 p.m. Bring comfortable folding chair, warm clothes, and shielded flashlights. Donation: \$5 for members, \$10 nonmembers. Register: Miranda Camp [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com) or 808-264-5640 to get directions to site.

### Friday, March 15

*Keone'o'io Bay-Hoapili Trail Adventure ("La Perouse" Bay, South Maui) (C/E)*  
D=12 mi R/T. Strenuous. Rugged lava. Hoapili Trail south to Maui's most remote and beautiful areas. Sturdy closed footwear, lunch, plenty of water a must! All day. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Kihei Community Center parking lot (by pool) to carpool. Limit 18. Register: Lucienne de Naie, [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 808-214-0147.

### Sunday, March 24

*Hanau'la Ridge restoration and native forest hike (McGregor Point area) (C/E)*  
D=3-4 mi R/T. Steep, muddy, overgrown trails. Restore native forests at wind farm site. Spectacular views, amazing native plant life, access to hiking trail above Ma'alaea. 4WD vehicle access only. Waiver required. Meet 8:30 a.m. Maui Ocean Center parking lot (Wailuku end). Carpool up in 4WD vehicles. Bring water, lunch, sturdy shoes, rain jacket. Limit 12. Register: Miranda Camp, [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com) or 264-5640. Asst. Mitch Skaggerberg

### Saturday, April 20

*Haiku Ho'olaule'a and Maui Group Plant Sale (Haiku)*  
Save the Date! Celebrate Earth Day 2013 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Haiku Community Center. Plant donations welcome, especially food plants. To donate: [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net).

# Moku Loa Group Report

Moku Loa Group members celebrated the year's achievements at the annual meeting December 7 at the Wailoa Park Pavilion. Executive Committee, chairs, and hike leaders were recognized for their dedicated service and achievements. We are always looking forward to having new and experienced members join the committees, become hike leaders, and run for the Executive Committee—we pride ourselves on the support and training provided to our volunteers! (I have resigned as chair for the time being, as I will be taking care of a family member on the mainland. I applaud the leadership of all the members who have stepped in to carry on.)

**Deborah Ward**  
Chair, Moku Loa Group

## Conservation Report

Community people and environmentalists are cheering a victory for shoreline access on Hawai'i Island! Papa'ikou Mills Beach, on the beautiful Hamakua coast, lies at the bottom of a trail running over private property. Sierra Club has commended the owners for improving the trail and opening it to the public most days. But we have also expressed deep concern, because the owners have had community residents arrested, fined, or barred from the trail for not following the owners' rules. The owners also lock the gate to the trail all night, and occasionally all day. For over two years, a diverse coalition including community people, the Global HOPE student group, the Surfrider Foundation, and Sierra Club have gathered signatures, organized meetings with the community and government leaders, and turned out in droves for hearings, calling for increased access. Testifiers have

ranged from old-timers recounting memories of plantation days, to lawyers citing mind-numbing deeds and statutes. After several very long meetings, County Council voted to support a pedestrian easement for access. And since Council used the tool of eminent domain, they also set a precedent. There will be more chapters in this story, but today's chapter is "three cheers"!

**PLDC:** Members provided testimony outlining the issues regarding the Public Lands Development Corporation, and were gratified that the Hawai'i County Council passed a resolution calling for repeal. At the state and Chapter level, the effort continues!

**Depleted Uranium:** A year after the hearings, the Hearing Officer issued his report on the contested case regarding the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea. The petitioners will file exceptions to point out legal errors in the hearing officer's recommendation to the BLNR. We trust that the BLNR will make the right decision in the end.

**Cory Harden**  
Conservation Co-chair

## Outings Report

After months of planning and obtaining permits, Moku Loa Group outings leaders were set up to camp, dinner was over, and we were enjoying the quiet hiss of the waves on the black sand beach and the almost full moon reflecting on the water. Then we were required to evacuate Kiholo State Park because of a tsunami warning. It was Saturday night, October 27.

I had been camping there the night of the Japanese Tsunami alert in March 2011, too. At that time, the Kiholo scene was wide open with

no permitting system, and I saw all kinds of inappropriate and ecology-destroying behavior: 4WD vehicles on the beach, fireworks, generators, boom boxes, cutting of trees, and extensive campsites (some semi-permanent). A friend and I were there for three nights, and after dinner on night two we were enjoying the scene when we got a cell phone call from my family in Hilo. There had been a huge earthquake in Japan and there was a tsunami alert; we had to evacuate immediately. Two fellows were walking down the beach alerting the 100 people camped out at Kiholo Beach, because there were no sirens then.

On October 27, 2012, the ranger who had checked our permits earlier came back at 8:30 p.m. and told us to evacuate. I said, "No! It can't be true!" My fellow hike leaders teased me about being a jinx. "What is it with you and Kiholo?" they said.

Campers are allowed to return to Kiholo after a three-month waiting period. I will apply and try again in February. To find out about Kiholo yourself, check out the Hui Aloha Kiholo website, the volunteer network active in maintenance and management, or check out the Hawai'i State DLNR for the permitting process. A great description of the bay, its history, and its natural resources can be found in *Beaches of the Big Island* by John R. K. Clark.

**Sarah Moon**  
Outings Co-Chair



# Moku Loa Group Outings

## See Page 15 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 [hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html](http://hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html)

### Saturday, December 29

*Scenic route to a crater lake, then up a hill for Puna views (E, F)*  
D = 6 miles, sea level to 600' Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017

### Saturday, January 12

*Short and scenic Hamakua hike with shorelines, streams, and a waterfall (E, F)*  
D = 2 miles, sea level to 300' Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017

### Saturday, January 26

*LOOP Two LOOP Hikes - Volcano NPS Bird (Kipukapuauulu) Loop and Volcano Arts Center Nature (Niaulani) Loop (E, F)*  
D = ~ 2 mile total, E = +/- 100' Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

### Saturday, February 2

*Ocean Parks stops, between Lehia Beach Park and James Kealoha Park (E, F)*  
D = 4 miles, sea level Leaders Sarah Moon 935-3475 and Rich Vogler 328-8387



Hikers playing "Do You Know Your Native Plants?" identifying Mountain Ohelo on Wailuku River trailhead.



Mauna Kea silverswords, outplanted by Sierra Club members, are flowering in the alpine deserts.

### Saturday, February 16

*Kealakekua Bay Hike (E)*  
D = 5 miles, E = +/- 1,200' Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

### Saturday, February 23

*Explore the lava flow area north of the new black sand beach at Kalapana (E)*  
D=6 miles plus, sea level Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017

### Saturday, March 9

*NPS Kaloko-Honokokau Shoreline Hike (E, F)*  
D = 4 miles, E = sea level Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

### Saturday, March 16

*Shipman Beach (Haena), Hike a coastal jungle historic trail to a remote beach (E)*  
D = 6 miles E = sea level Leaders Sarah Moon 935-3475 and Kana Covington 966-8431

### Saturday, March 23

*Volcano NPS Loop Hike - Byron Ledge out, along Devastation Trail and back via Kilauea Iki Rim (E)*  
D = 7 miles, E = +400/- 400' Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler



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# Chapter Directory



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

*"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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Because of your support of the Sierra Club, the Hawai'i Chapter is able to continue an impressive track record of leading hikes and service projects, passing important legislation like the mandatory solar water heater law, and developing new environmental leaders.

**In a word, "Mahalo!"**

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Protecting Hawai'i's Environment, Mauka to Makai!

Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

January - March 2013

# Congratulations to our Newly Elected Sierra Club Leaders!

## Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee members:

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## O'ahu Group:

Anthony Aalto, Randy Ching, Blake McElheny, Steven Montgomery

## Kaua'i Group:

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## Maui Group:

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## Moku Loa Group:

Nelson Ho, Nadine Keaulani Robertson, Deborah Ward

*Note: Election results are subject to approval by the Executive Committee.*