



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAII CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2010

Special Color Appeal Edition

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Making Clean Energy Accessible

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Photo Contest!

Got a terrific Hawai'i photo -- like a native plant, hiking shot, or a renewable energy system -- that you'd like to share? Enter to win a video camera! **Page 10**



Planting Native!



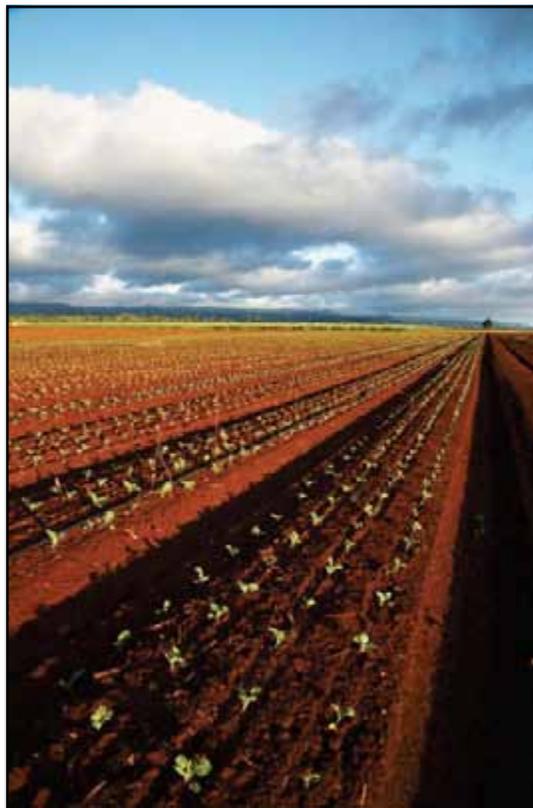
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Produce or Pavement?

Preserving Prime Farmland so Future Generations Can Enjoy a Sustainable Hawai'i

by Anthony Aalto & Robert Harris

Some of the best and most productive farmland left on O`ahu will soon be history if we give David Murdock, owner of Castle & Cooke, permission to build 5,000 houses on Koa Ridge. Together with projects already approved in Central O`ahu -Waiawa by Gentry and Royal Kunia- it's a



repeat of a failed 20th century policy: *urban sprawl*.

Ours would hardly be the first civilization to destroy its best farmland en route to ecological suicide, not even the first American one. The Mayans built stone cities, pyramids and reservoirs long before a human set foot on Hawai'i. Then their rains failed... for 200 years.

In Hawai'i we've reached a historic marker. We've seen the future. The last oil spike underlined our dangerous dependence on imported food and energy. Oil prices are rising again. Droughts presage changing rain patterns. Now we know: all new

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The Sierra Club is the most successful grassroots environmental advocacy organization in Hawai'i





PRODUCE OR PAVEMENT?

O'ahu faces a simple, yet profound question. Does it want to protect shrinking farmland for future generations or continue an urban sprawl based economy until agriculture is dead? *(Photos are from the proposed development area)*



Produce or Pavement?*Continued from page 1*

development must promote sustainability and self-sufficiency.

Yet, as Murdock's experts admit, Koa Ridge represents 5% of O`ahu's remaining prime irrigable farmland. This land has been successfully and profitably growing food for decades. If we pave it over, it will be lost forever.

In the last 20 years we've wantonly developed nearly 3,300 acres of prime farmland. As each parcel disappeared, the price of the remaining land went up, making life ever more difficult for farmers.

So what we decide to do with Koa Ridge, this huge piece of our aina, will be a loud signal of how we want O`ahu to evolve - our vision of the future of our cities and countryside. Do we mean it when we say 'let the country be country?' Do we mean it when we speechify about self-sufficiency? Because this massive project threatens our long-term goal to feed ourselves and sustain future generations.

From the Governor on down everyone agrees we should become less reliant on cars, more reliant on locally grown food and energy. We voted to build a mass transit system to take cars off the road and focus growth around a dense urban core. As private investors, homeowners, and as a community we're pouring billions into biofuel power plants, undersea electric cables, photovoltaics, wind farms, electric car charging stations, algae-to-energy research and a slew of other projects to promote a sustainable future.

Meanwhile Oahu's agriculture revolution is just beginning. It takes time to recover from the death of

plantation monoculture yet already the acreage devoted to vegetables increased 475% between 1990 and 2004. Led by top restaurants, hotels and Wholefoods, by educational campaigns to encourage keiki to eat more veggies, and by oil driven food price inflation, the demand for locally grown produce is set to explode. We'll soon need every acre of farmland available.

In the face of this progress and those realities, Koa Ridge is a monstrous throwback. It's a good old fashioned gas-guzzling, freeway-clogging, water-slurping, stream-polluting, farmland-destroying urban sprawl that will eat up the last green corridor between Pearl City and Mililani.

This proposed new bedroom community is nowhere near the urban core of Honolulu or the second city. It's nowhere near the train. Its 15,000 occupants will flood onto H2 and H1, turning what is already the nation's second worst commute into an even worse nightmare of gridlock - boosting oil consumption and CO2 pollution, cutting productivity and robbing families of precious time together.

Our State Land Use Commission is not obliged to accept the petition by Murdock -one of the 200 richest people

on the planet- to reclassify prime farmland so he can build 5,000 houses and vast commercial properties. Article XI of the constitution enjoins the state to "conserve and protect agricultural lands (and) increase self-sufficiency." Our statutes instruct the Land Use Commission to "assure the availability of agricultural suitable lands with adequate water to accommodate present and future needs."

With its rampant disregard for those concerns this rotten Koa Ridge idea has passed its sell-by date. Please join the Sierra Club in asking the Land Use Commission to deny Murdock's petition to create more urban sprawl by emailing luc@dbedt.hawaii.gov



Making Clean Energy Accessible

Promoting a financing system that will make it easy for homeowners and businesses to go green



Over a 150 people eagerly gathering



Senators Kalani English and Mike Gabbard participating in the forum



Interested participants engage in a breakout session on how to implement a PACE program

By Robert D. Harris

“A coup.” That’s how one participant described the Sierra Club’s recent forum focusing on “Property Assessed Clean Energy” (PACE) measure. Over 150 people from around the State gathered to hear from Cisco DeVries, pioneer of the PACE concept, and others discuss what Harvard Business Review has described as “one of the breakthrough ideas of 2010.”

So what was the hullabaloo about? Let’s start with a simple question: why don’t more people install renewable energy systems like photovoltaic (PV) panels or solar water heaters? While most people want to go green and save money on their electric bill, a significant number

simply don’t have the upfront capital to pay for these systems.

As Cisco DeVries described in a recent article, he thought -- as an environmentalist -- he should walk the walk and install a PV system. But when the bids came in, he says “I couldn’t pull the trigger for all the same reasons that people everywhere aren’t pulling the trigger.” “Which is, ‘Oh my lord, that’s a big check.’” (*See Miller-McCune: Francisco DeVries invents a financing mechanism that makes rooftop solar affordable in Berkeley and other cities, 6/23/09*).

While in theory people could use lines of credit and home financing, this process can be difficult and (in this economy) unavailable. Further the average person moves homes every seven years, which makes it awkward

to tie up personal credit over a long-term period.

In thinking about this problem, DeVries was struck by the sheer amount people currently pay on their monthly electric bill. Could this money be channeled into retrofitting their homes with solar? “The money was there,” he says. “At its root, there is a financing market failure for renewables and energy efficiency in people’s homes.” *Id.*

The Breakthrough Idea. While working as chief of staff at City of Berkeley, DeVries came upon a means to solve the financing dilemma. DeVries was assisting a neighborhood that had collectively decided to put its utility poles and power lines underground. To pay for the project, the city created an underground utility

Photos by Flickr user ChrisRudge and Sierra Club member Gary Gill

district, a type of land-secured financing district that is a standard element of municipal bond finance.

Put simply, the utility district would sell bonds to cover the upfront costs of the putting the power lines underground. Homeowners in the project would then pay back the money through a tax assessment levied on their property — essentially an installment plan that would spread the repayment over 20 years, much like a recurring utility bill. The bonds would be made secure through a tax lien put on each participating property.

So how would this work in the clean energy context? Let's say a homeowner wanted to do a couple of energy efficiency projects -- like installing roof insulation and putting on window tinting -- and install a photovoltaic system. The homeowner would find his or her own contractors and apply for the PACE program. If the homeowner qualified for PACE (meeting eligibility criteria such as demonstrating the utility bill savings would meet or exceed the cost of the project over time), then the city or state government would float a bond to pay for the homeowner's cost. The homeowner would repay the costs through an assessment on the property's tax bill over a specified period of time. The financing would be secured with a lien on the property.

In other words, as a homeowner or business owner you can get a loan for the retrofit, and pay it back as an addition to your property tax. If you sell your property, the assessment (i.e. the loan payments) transfers over to the new owner. Not a bad deal.

Want to find out more about this concept? Check out the Sierra Club website (www.sierraclubhawaii.com) and the PaceNow website (www.pacenow.org). We'll keep you up to date with efforts to bring this idea to Hawai'i.

Special thanks to Sierra Club volunteers Brian Bell, Randy Ching, Jeff Mikulina, and Gary Gill for helping pull this event together. And mahalo to the Blue Planet Foundation and the Ulupono Initiative for their co-sponsorship of this forum.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

You might be asking: "*Why is the cover of this Malama in color?*"

The Hawai'i Chapter was fortunate enough to receive a challenge grant from Earth Friends, a public foundation committed to using its resources to support the work of more than 100 conservation and wildlife protection groups. They're concerned about the amount of conservation giving generally and want to spread a message encouraging people to support local conservation groups (like the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club. You can see the message we created with Earth Friends on page 27.

We thought this color edition would also be a terrific opportunity to highlight our annual March Appeal. Okay, okay, so you're probably reading this a touch bit after March (but this newsletter went to printing and was mailed to you in March!).

The Hawai'i Chapter makes a broad appeal to its members only one time a year. And the results of this one time appeal are critical to the Sierra Club's long-term survival in Hawai'i. In 2009, donations from members much like yourself made up approximately thirty percent of the Chapter's total budget. It's only because of interested and concerned members that the Club is able to stay one of the more accomplished and successful environmental organizations in Hawai'i.

Things look tough going forward. The down economy has severely impacted the National Sierra Club, which has in turn passed on the reduced funding to local chapters. The message we're hearing is local chapters will have to become increasingly self-sufficient going forward (I recognize this sentence is a touch bit ironic for an environmental organization). We need to find funding outside of the dues.

So I have to ask this question: is the Sierra Club important to you? Do you appreciate having an organization that actively teaches youth about Hawai'i's unique culture and environmental resources? Is it important to you that someone is promoting environmental measures like PACE (see page 4) or solar water heaters on new homes? Do you care about protection of endangered species or clean water? If so, I urge you to give to the Hawai'i Chapter today. Use the form on the back of this newsletter or visit www.sierraclubhawaii.com today. Every little bit counts.

Hope to see you on the trail,
Robert

Protecting Pu`u Wa`awa`a

“Keep close to Nature’s heart...and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”

— John Muir

The Hawai‘i Service Trip Program (HSTP) conducted a service trip with 12 adventurous volunteers to Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a on the island of Hawai‘i from January 2-9, 2010. The work was conducted in coordination with DLNR Staff at Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a, and was HSTP’s fourth trip to the preserve. Thanks to DLNR for allowing us to spend time in this lovely place.

By Janice Marsters

Dry and mesic forests in the area of Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a were once considered the most diverse forests in all the Hawaiian Islands. Although the native forest communities have been greatly degraded during the past 100 years, a unique assemblage of natural

communities and species are still found within the ahupua‘a. Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a represents one of the best places to restore and protect many floral and faunal species that are found only here or in other dry and dry-mesic forest areas of Hawai‘i. Several of these species are rare or restricted in distribution.

According to the DLNR management plan for the ahupua‘a, the most severe threats within Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a are fire, invasion by non-native flora and ungulate grazing. These threats cumulatively exert tremendous pressure on native flora and fauna, many of which are extremely sensitive to changes in their environment. The work



HSTP works in cooperation with State, Federal and private environmental agencies to plan and conduct service trips to maintain and preserve our ecological heritage. Trips are typically one to two weeks in length and often are conducted in the back country areas of the state of Hawaii.

conducted by the HSTP volunteer groups – fencing, invasive species control, and outplanting – strongly promotes landscape level watershed protection. Our service trips have focused on several “priority areas” identified in the management plan.

A comfortable house (water, generator for electricity, and hot showers!) near a reservoir at the bottom of the preserve was our home for the week. We enjoyed fabulous clear skies, and a number of participants braved the cool January temps to sleep outside on the lanai under the stars.

Our first workday consisted of clearing an area near our house of fountain grass and lantana. DLNR has been outplanting native species in this area habituated by nēnē. We were lucky to see several nēnē pairs in the area. The second day was spent at a

former protea farm north of the Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a cone, repairing a fence that would allow native species to be planted inside the enclosure and

Of course, HSTP trips are not all work, and we enjoyed good food, evening card games, spectacular night skies, and lots of laughter and new friendships. On our day off, we witnessed the big surf at Hapuna Beach, and spent the afternoon enjoying beautiful Kīholo Bay (part of the Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a ahupua‘a. It was especially rewarding to have so many young adults on this trip, which bodes well for the future of HSTP and conservation efforts in Hawai‘i.



Still smiling after several days of work!

clearing fountain grass from the fence perimeter. A third day was spent at the “Sanctuary Enclosure” at about 4,000 feet elevation, removing weeds and invasive grasses from around the base of native and endangered plants. Our final work day was spent back at the protea farm to complete our assignment.

HSTP trips accomplish valuable work and provide participants with a fun experience and an opportunity to visit Hawai‘i’s wild places that may not usually be accessible. Please take a look at www.sierraclubhawaii.com/hstp if you’re interested in learning more or would like to be added to our email trip notice list.



Home away from home!



Weeding endangered plants at the sanctuary.



Nate's Adventures

by Nate Yuen

RAINY SEASON AT KA`ENA POINT

I hiked to Ka`ena Point to see the native plants and animals that live on the western-most tip of O`ahu during the rainy season.

The winter months are the best time to visit Ka`ena Point when migratory whales and albatrosses arrive on the largest stretch of undeveloped coastline on the island.



Kaena Point is usually hot and dry – except in the winter months — when most of the rain Ka`ena receives for the year falls. Low spots in the dirt roads gouged by 4WD vehicles fill with water and the roads are turned into a muddy morass. In order to avoid the mud, I usually do the 3-mile hike along the edge of coast, which is also far more scenic and interesting to see.



While rain pelted much of O`ahu, only a light drizzle fell at Mokuleia when I pushed off for Ka`ena Point. As I made my way along the coast, I was thrilled when the clouds parted, the sun emerged, and a magnificent rainbow appeared before my eyes!



The yellow-orange flowers of ilima (*Sida fallax*) and the blue-purple flowers of pa`u-o-hi`iaka (*Jacquemontia ovalifolia*) thrive during the rainy season. They carpet the landscape and have delicate flowers that last for only a single day.



Several quaint little coves, some sandy and others rocky, are carved into the coastline. I stopped at each one to admire the magnificent shades of blue in the water as I made my way down the coast to Ka`ena Point.

When I reached the Natural Area Reserve, I stopped at the large limestone rock — Leina aka uhane — where according to Hawaiian tradition, the souls of the dead leap into the next world. Many low-lying shrubs of ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*), an endangered plant, sprawl over the ground around the culturally significant site.



Ohai (*Sesbania tomentosa*) has made a huge comeback at Ka`ena Point. Reduced to little more than a dozen plants prior to the creation of the Natural Area Reserve, recreational vehicles that once plowed over the sand dunes are no longer able to reach the very tip of the point. Now that the dunes are protected at Kaena Point, these endangered plants have made a dramatic comeback.



While examining the native plants in the reserve, a curious moli or laysan albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*) flew overhead to see what I was doing. These large seabirds can have wingspans nearly 6 feet across and are powerful fliers.

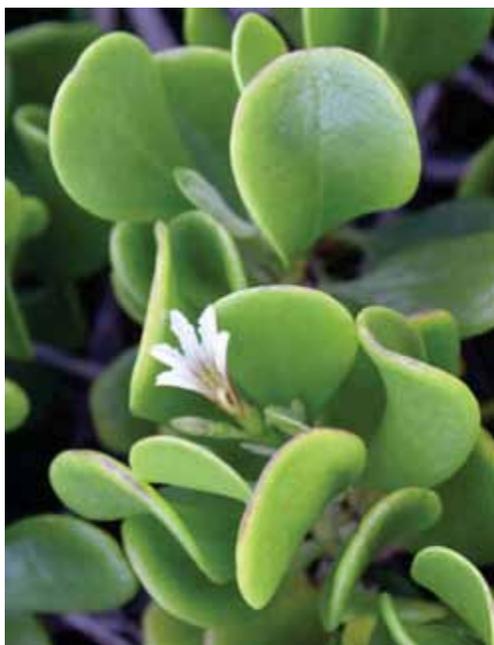
Moli live in the North Pacific and spend almost their entire lives in the air — eating and sleeping completely on the wing. As I photographed the moli in flight above I

serendipitously caught a humpback whale in mid-spout just offshore.



While they can spend their entire lives in the air, Moli must breed, nest and raise their young on land. Moli live for 40-60 years and form life-long pair bonds. Each year they return to the same location, where they reunite with their mates for the breeding season. Moli arrive at Ka`ena Point around November and stay until May.

While making my way along the coastline, I stumbled upon a rare dwarf naupaka which is quite different from the common beach naupaka found along the coasts of Hawaii and many of the tropic and sub-tropic regions of the world.



This dwarf naupaka (*Scaevola coriacea*) is endemic to Hawaii and is believed to have evolved from mountain naupaka — which in turn evolved from the common beach naupaka. It is smaller than the common beach naupaka and crawls over the ground as a low-lying shrub.



Another fascinating sight was hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum*) which thrives in the sand dunes at Ka`ena Point. The leaves of hinahina form a geometric rosette pattern which are covered in hairs that give the plant a silvery sheen. The hairs are an adaptation that allow the plant to conserve moisture and tolerate the salt spray.



One of the interesting things to see at Ka`ena Point are Hawaiian monk seals (*Monachus schauinslandi*) which often sun bathe on the coral rock beach at the very tip of the point. Known as ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua (the dog that runs in the surf), these creatures are critically endangered with only about 100 seals left in the main Hawaiian Islands.

These animals can weigh up to 600 pounds and are awkward on land, But they are great

swimmers in their element — the water. I was thrilled to see a monk seal swimming in a large tide pool. I normally just see them sun bathing motionless like giant slugs so it was great to see them active and moving about.



The seal swam under the surface of the water and would occasionally stick its head out of the water and make a loud bellowing sound that grew in intensity and volume each time.



There was so much to see that I lingered for hours photographing the wildlife and plants at Kaena Point. I was especially pleased to get this close-up of the monk seal as it came up to breathe. What a cute seal!

Time flew by quickly and soon it was time to leave. As I made my way back out the Natural Area Reserve the way I had come, I reflected on the fascinating plants and animals I saw that live at Ka`ena Point during the winter months. What a great place to visit!

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 Hawaii'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 where you can see his art and read about his adventures.

PHOTO CONTEST!



Show off Your Lens

We're looking for great shots that show off Hawai'i's environment . . . like hiking shots, native plants, coastal images, renewable energy systems, etc. Please let us use YOUR lens to help advocate for Hawai'i's future.

The best photo is eligible to win a brand new Flip Ultra Video Camera!

Learn more and submit your photos by going to: www.sierraclubhawaii.com/photos What are you waiting for? Get out there and take some great photos today!

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Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

'Ulei

Osteomeles anthylidifolia

Indigenous: All of Hawai'i except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe.

Description: Amazing shrubs with dark, glossy, pinnate leaves and very fragrant white flower clusters. These are one of my most favorite smelling native flowers. The flowers develop into white fleshy, fruit that ripen purple and contain up to four seeds inside. Generally this is a low crawling plant usually under four feet tall but some specimens on Maui and Hawai'i are well over twenty feet!

Distribution: This indigenous plant is commonly found in a wide range of habitats from near the ocean on cliffs all the way up through the lowland dry forest and mesic forests on all of the main islands except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe.

Cultural Uses: The hard wood of the larger specimens were made into 'o'o, fishing spears, and the musical instrument 'ukeke. The branches were bent into fishnet hoops as well as fashioned into arrow shafts. The leaves,



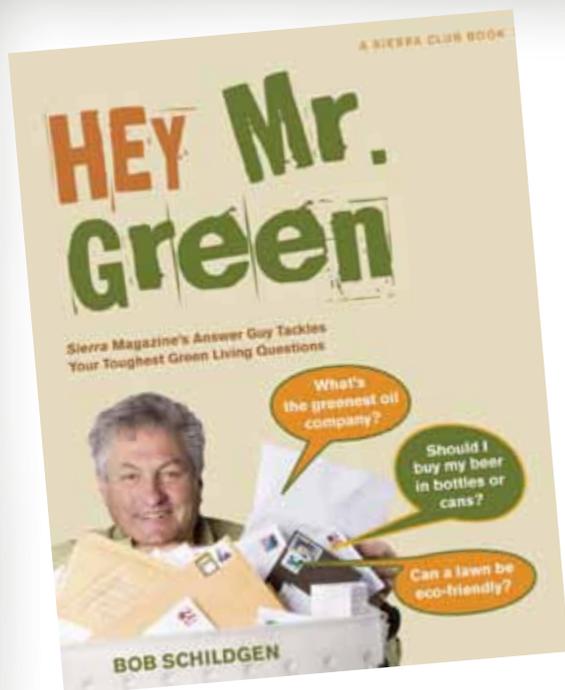
flowers and fruit were also woven into lei and sometimes the fruit was eaten. It's no blueberry or strawberry but it tastes pretty good when eaten on the trail and you've been hiking for six hours and have absolutely nothing else to eat.

Landscape Uses and Care: This a great addition to any garden from a specimen plant, to a low hedge or a mass planting on a slope, it all looks good. It can even be shaped into a perfectly round ball about five feet in diameter. Few pests bother this one and its shiny leaves and beautiful flower clusters are awesome features. Once its established in the ground you don't even have to worry about watering.

Extra Info: Other names for this plant include u'ulei or on Moloka'i its called eluehe. 'Ulei is one of four native plants in the Rose family along with 'ohelo papa our native strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*), and two species of 'akala (*Rubus hawaiiensis* and *R. macraei*) our native raspberries. Now those buggahs are ono, better to use the 'ulei fruit in lei instead.

Also its very important to pronounce 'ulei correctly emphasizing the 'i' at the end (oolayee) otherwise in Hawaiian it will sound like a particular part of the male anatomy. Trust me, I can't hold back the tears of laughter when people are describing their 'ulei plant but are lazy in the correct pronunciation saying things like "my 'ulei is so bushy", or my 'ulei looks so sick" or my favorite "people can smell my 'ulei from twenty feet away!" Actually my most favorite mispronunciation of 'ulei is when people come to purchase it from my nursery and upon seeing it remark "Wow Rick, you have the nicest 'ulei I've ever seen!"

Rick Barboza co-owns Hui Ku Maoli Ola, a native Hawaiian plant nursery, with Matt Schirman. Contact him at 295-7777
Rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com



Hey Mr. Green, I know the Sierra Club encourages replacing incandescent bulbs with efficient fluorescents, but the former are readily disposable in the trash, while the latter contain mercury. So what am I supposed to do with my dead fluorescent bulbs? —Stew in Princeton, New Jersey

How many environmentalists does it take to change an efficient lightbulb? While your local hazardous-waste authority is the best source for information, many hardware stores will take back your old bulbs—sometimes at no charge if you're buying replacements. Check www.earth911.org or call (800) CLEANUP to find a recycling location near you, or visit the EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling for info. It's worth the effort: Though fluorescents do contain mercury, a highly poisonous element that persists in the environment, burning coal to generate electricity

puts almost fifty tons of the nasty stuff into the air each year. Since fluorescents are four times more efficient than regular bulbs—and last at least five times longer—replacing all household incandescents (and recycling all dead fluorescents) could cut mercury and CO₂ emissions while saving the equivalent of at least 4 billion gallons of oil annually.

Hey Mr. Green, I am urging my employer to participate in a paper-recycling program. Can you tell me how many trees would be saved by recycling a thirty-gallon bin of paper? —Allan in Houston

As teenagers, my buddy Gordo and I and our trusty McCullough chainsaw whacked scads of innocent trees and shipped them to the mill in Dubuque. Toiling to answer this sort of question is a penance for such sins. Better to do it now than to stew in a vat of boiling pulp in the hereafter, taunted by environmental sermons blaring through raspy amplifiers. Anyway, a 30-gallon bin will generally hold around 80 pounds of computer paper, or up to 100 pounds if the paper is tightly packed. A typical tree used for pulp yields about 83 pounds of office paper, meaning your bin would essentially hold the equivalent of one tree. Since 10 to 25 percent of the mass gets lost in the paper-recycling process, you might not rescue a whole tree each time you fill a bin, but it's safe to say at least three-fourths of a tree could be saved per container. Now if you throw in a lot of crumpled paper that takes up extra space, you'll obviously fall short of that noble goal.

Of course, trees come in various sizes, and some species yield more pulp than others, so these are ballpark figures. Remember too that all paper is not created equal: virgin office paper requires twice as much pulp per pound as virgin newsprint. But any way you slice it, recycling paper saves a lot of trees, and we could save even more if we didn't trash over 45 percent of the 100.2 million tons of paper we produce each year.

No O`ahu Group Report this quarter. For more information on the O`ahu Group's activities, please contact Jim Hayes at hayesja@pbworld.com



Your favorite Kōlea is busy this time of year donning breeding plumage and putting on weight for a long journey to the summer breeding grounds near the Arctic Circle.

Learn more about where they go and what they do at a lecture on the windward side of Oahu.

Kōlea Research: Where Did the Kōlea Go?

by Dr. Wally Johnson

Monday, April 26, 2010 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Windward Community College 45-720 Kealahala Road Hale `Akoakoa, Room 105

The Sierra Club O`ahu Group, the Hawaii Audubon Society, and Windward Community College are hosting this lecture. There is plenty of parking in the lot next to Hale `Akoakoa.

Dr. Johnson's Kōlea research last spring consisted of attaching tiny data loggers (geolocators) to leg bands on Kōlea in Punchbowl Cemetery. Each logger records sunrise/sunset times daily from which researchers can calculate latitude and longitude of where the bird has been. Last fall the banded Kōlea were recaptured when they returned from the far north, geolocators were removed, data were downloaded to a computer and analyzed. This is the first geocator study on transpacific Kōlea migration and your opportunity to learn the results of the research.

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 only permitted at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing Leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgement, a fire hazard exists.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear/jacket and day-pack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (heeled footwear are best; 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 or call 415-977-5630.

In the interests 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.

O`ahu Group Outings

O`ahu Group Outings Information

See Page 13 for General Outings Information

Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8:00 am at the back porch of the Church of the Cross roads, 2510 Bingham Street, Honolulu. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot.

Sunday, April 4

Easter Breakfast hike and whale watching (F)
1 mi/Easy/Ridge/Makapuu
Bring breakfast to share. Meet at 7 a.m. at Makapuu Lighthouse parking lot. After breakfast, we will look for whales and seabirds. Arlene Buchholz 988-9806, Sherine Boomla 527-8034

Photography Hike: Hawaii Loa Ridge (partial) (E/F)

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/East Oahu
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. This lovely trail features a surprising array of native plants. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Jean Fujikawa

Saturday, April 10

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project (S)
1 mi/Moderate/Coast/Kaneohe
Reservations required by April 8. 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. Coordinator: Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431. Leader: Deborah Blair 955-4168

Oahu Invasive Species Committee Service Project (S)

What: OISC Miconia Survey
Trail rating: Off-trail work/ Very Strenuous
Do not be fooled. This is not your normal volunteer trip. The area to be surveyed will be off-trail and volunteers will encounter steep, unstable terrain with thick vegetation. This trip is only for those in good physical condition and a brief interview is required before new volunteers join.

Meet at the Church of the Crossroads parking lot. In order to join the work trip, RSVP by Thursday April 8 to oisc@hawaii.edu or 286-4616. All participants will be required to sign a waiver.

What to bring: Take along more water than you think you will need--at least 2 quarts. Please bring gloves, sunhat, sunscreen, rain jacket, long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy walking shoes. No slippers allowed. Pack a hearty lunch and snacks because we will be working hard!

Sunday, April 11

Sierra Seminar: Palehua-Palikea (E)
4 mi/Easy/Ridge/Makakilo
Reservations required and waiver forms need to be completed and received. Please contact hike leaders BEFORE April 4th. Not for those uneasy about heights. Native plants, scenic panoramas, and exquisite tree snails are the attraction on this hike. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Saturday April 17

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, Colleen Soares 748-9215

Poamoho Service Trip (S/C)

3 mi/Strenuous/Contour/Wahiawa
Reservations required by April 11. Email Emma.Yuen@hawaii.gov. Maximum 9 persons. Hike partway up the Poamoho contour trail through native koa/ohia forest to control invasive strawberry guava and manuka. Some off-trail hiking required, and participants (18 and up) will use herbicides and need to sign a DLNR waiver. Emma Yuen 366-4788

Sunday, April 18

Kapalama Loop (F)
5 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kapalama
Enjoy great views of Kalihi and Nuuanu valleys on this recently cleared trail. Shady, with cool trade winds, above the Kamehameha campus. Clyde Kobashigawa

262-6092, Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, Colleen Soares

Beginner hike: Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden (E/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. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Saturday, April 24

Help Recreate a Native Dry Forest with Ka`ala Farm (S/C)
The Ka`ala Kipuka is Ka`ala Farm's attempt to recreate a native dry forest easily accessible to people on O`ahu. Help remove alien plants and plant native trees with us. After the work, there will be a mini-tour of our Cultural Learning Center at Ka`ala during which you'll learn about the Center and Ka`ala Farm's other projects and programs. Please meet us at 8:30 AM in the Center's parking area. Call 696-4954 or email Bruce at bpkoebele@gmail.com for information. Directions can be found at our website: www.kaalafarm.com Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

Sunday, April 25

Sierra Seminar: Bowman (partial) (E)
6.5 mi/Moderate to Strenuous/Ridge/Kalihi
Mesic and wet rainforest native plants. The first 25 minutes of this hike is very strenuous, a steep 400-foot climb straight up to a jeep road. After another 20 minutes on the road, we enter a beautiful Hawaiian rainforest, featuring lama trees. Randy Ching 942-0145, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Sunday, May 2

Manana Halfway (F)
6 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Pacific Palisades
We'll cover the first half of this lovely ridge hike in the Ko`olau range. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, Bob Butchart, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Sunday, May 9

Mauna O Ahi (F)
6 mi/Very Strenuous/Valley, ridge/Kuli'ou'ou

O`ahu Group Outings

NOT FOR THOSE UNEASY ABOUT HEIGHTS. After an intense 1800' climb to the Koolau Summit we live life on the edge traversing the Ko'olau Summit Trail until we reach the state's Kuli'ou'ou Trail. From then on it's a walk in the park back down to the trailhead. Expect magnificent Waimanalo Bay views. Acrophobic sufferers beware. Richard Bailey 723-2213

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)
1 mi/Easy/Shoreline/East Oahu
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. Cleanup 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, Colleen Soares 748-9215

Sunday, May 16
Beginner hike: Judd Trail (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring at least one liter of water, a snack and raingear. Sunscreen, hat and insect repellent recommended. Beginner hikes are for those who have never hiked, have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Jean Fujikawa

Wiliwilinui (F)
5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Waialae Iki
The beginning of the hike starts off as a nice stroll but then expect a very steep climb to the Ko'olau Summit where we will enjoy great views. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, May 23
Maunawili Trail (partial) from Pali Lookout (F/E)
7 mi/Moderate/Contour/Maunawili
Scenic views of the Ko'olau mountains and Windward coast. Some native, indigenous plants. Enjoy a trail built by volunteers. Contour trail with some cliff drop-offs. Not for those very uneasy about heights. Lunch at scenic spot. Sherine Boomla 527-8034

Sunday, May 30
Photography Hike: Puu Maelieli (E/F)
3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahaluu
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Uphill hike to pillbox overlooking beautiful Kaneohe Bay. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Saturday, June 5
National Trails Day: Kalawahine/Puu Ohia (E/F)
5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Tantalus
Join the club or renew for a special rate of \$25. We will traverse 3 trails in the Mauka System and enjoy a beautiful newly fenced section, containing lobeliads and native hibiscus. The fence is only 8 months old and covers 6 acres of forest. Arlene Buchholz 988-9806, Colleen Soares 748-9215

Sunday, June 6
Kapalama Loop (F)
5 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kapalama
Enjoy great views of Kalihi and Nuuanu valleys on this recently cleared trail. Shady, with cool trade winds, above the Kamehameha campus. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092

Saturday, June 12
MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project (S)
1 mi/Moderate/Coast/Kaneohe
Reservations required by June 10. 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. Coordinator: Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431. Leader: Deborah Blair 955-4168

Oahu Invasive Species Committee Service Project (S)
1.2 mi/ Very Strenuous/ Ridge/ Palolo
Reservations required. We will be removing invasive Himalayan Blackberry from Palolo. To get to the work site volunteers must hike over a mile on Mauumae trail, which is an exposed, steep ridgeline. To find our target plants we will be surveying off-trail. Please RSVP to OISC at (808)-286-4616 or email oisc@hawaii.edu by Thursday, June 10.

Sunday, June 13

Beginner hike: Moleka Trail (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring at least one liter of water, a snack and raingear. Sunscreen, hat and insect repellent recommended. Beginner hikes are for those who have never hiked, have not hiked in a long time or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Sunday, June 20
Waimano Pool Late Hike (F)
3 mi/Moderate/Valley/Pacific Palisades
1:00 meeting time. Hike up a ridge, then descend steeply to a waterfall and swimming pool on Waimano Stream. The hike includes some steep parts and scrambles over logs and rocks. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

Photography Hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (E/F)
1.5 mi/Easy/Crater floor/Hawaii Kai
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Good for macro photography! Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Sunday, June 27
Kawainui Valley (F/E)
4 mi/Moderate/Valley/North Shore
Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of Kamehameha Hwy and the cane haul road just before North Shore Marketplace in Haleiwa. We will meet on the mauka side of the road by the only traffic light in Haleiwa town. After driving through the old sugar cane lands we will hike up Kawainui Stream. The trail involves crossing the stream a dozen times, but the reward is a great fresh water pool. After a refreshing swim and lunch we return via the same route. Ed Mersino 223-5765, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Sunday, June 27
Snorkeling at Black Point (F)
ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO SWIM. Explore the Diamond Head/Black Point reef and learn more about your fish, coral and algae neighbors. Bring swimsuit, towel, snorkel gear, sunscreen and water. Sherine Boomla 527-8034, Colleen Soares 748-9215

Kaua`i Group Report

By Rayne Regush, Carl Imperato & Judy Dalton

Help preserve public access along historic Lepeuli coastal trail

The Department of Land and Resources (DLNR) approved a State Conservation District Use Permit on February 16 for fencing that will block public access to and along a native Hawaiian traditional and customary coastal trail (alaloa) at Lepeuli (Larsen's Beach). The alaloa trail has served as a link between ahupua'a along the northeast coast of Kaua'i since time immemorial.

The "traditional use of this trail has never ceased" according to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA). Yet, the DLNR chairperson admits that the existing access to the beach, along the trail used by the public "will cease" as a result of this decision.

DLNR approved the permit application without sufficient analysis and refused to require a public hearing despite letters from Sierra Club citing numerous significant impacts, two letters from Senator Gary Hooser requesting a public hearing, and a request from OHA to consult with the community.

The permit, granted to Paradise Ranch LLC, a lessee of Waioli Corporation, will expand their current 600-acre beef cattle operation into the adjoining Conservation District comprising 18-acres of pristine coastline. The permit allows pasturage only 110 feet from the shore and on sloped, eroded terrain. Fencing will block traditional public access to and along the safe, lateral trail which has been a cultural resource for generations.

The permit application failed to

consider threats to marine resources of Ka'aka'aniu Reef and endangered and threatened species – Hawaiian monk seals and green sea turtles, and several native plant species. Furthermore, historic evidence of native Hawaiian habitation, kuleanas and loi were also omitted from the application.

Lawyers have been retained to assist a Native Hawaiian and a number of community groups who wished to appeal DLNR's poor decision. Sierra Club has played an essential role in this appeals process.

Within days of the appeal, Paradise Ranch was engaged in activities that were in non-compliance with their permit. These actions prompted the lawyers to request a cease and desist from DLNR. Soon after, guards blocked people from using the historic lateral trail.

Substantial funds must be raised for legal assistance. We need your help now. There are 2 ways to contribute. Go to www.hawaii.sierraclub.org/kauai/ to use PayPal; or for tax deductible donations, write a check to "Sierra Club Foundation" and mail to: Sierra Club Kaua'i Group, P.O. Box 3412, Lihue, HI 96766

County approves bike path on Wailua Beach

The Sierra Club worked closely with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and other groups for several months to persuade the County of Kauai to change its plans to locate a "multi-use transportation corridor" on top of the sands of Wailua Beach, one of the most historically and culturally significant places in the Hawaiian Islands.

In January, the County issued a misleading press release stating that "the proposed alignment for the Wailua Beach section will be shifted from the beach to the right-of-way on the makai side of Kuhio Highway." But in actual fact, the corridor (now proposed to be a 10 foot wide, 18 inch deep concrete path) would still be located on the beach.

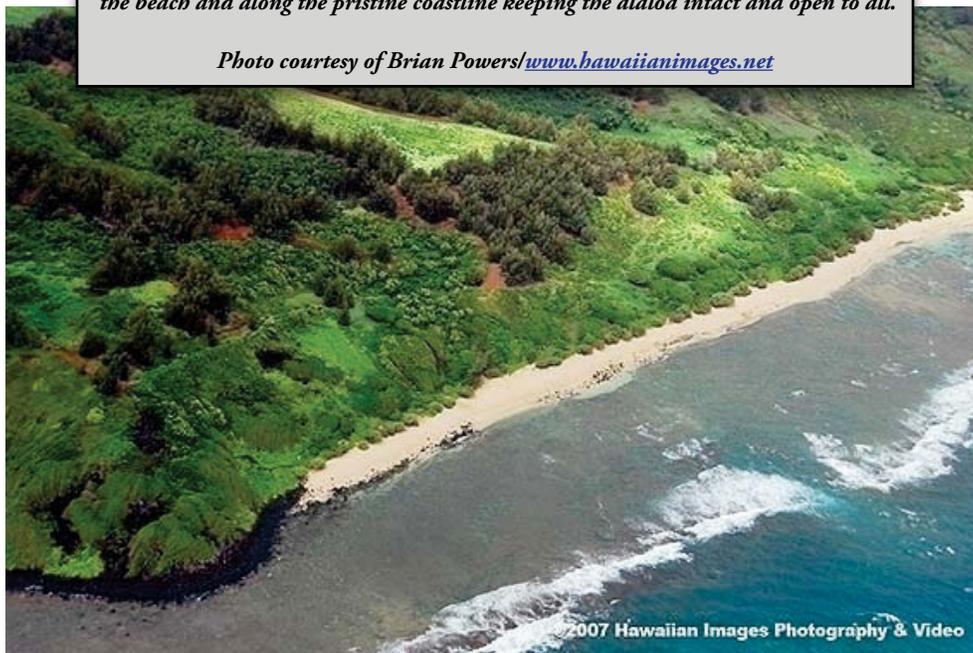
On March 2, the proposed alignment received approval from Federal Highways allowing the path to be built on top of Wailua's vegetated, tree-covered sand dunes, an integral part of the narrow beach. Coastal sand dune systems are fragile, dynamic resources, and interfering with natural processes through the use of beach hardening devices, such as the concrete path, can create changes in sand deposition patterns that over the long term lead to erosion of the beach.

Storm events, under the influence of such interference, could hasten irreversible beach loss.

Finally, the decision to place the path on the beach fell short in protecting Native Hawaiian rights and respecting traditional customary practices. A prominent cultural practitioner lamented, "It will potentially cause negative effects and impacts on historic properties and natural resources that Native Hawaiians have religious and cultural attachment to."

Safe access to secluded Lepeuli, also known as Larsen's Beach, is threatened. Seeking to preserve public access on the existing ancient trail (alaloa) leading to the beach and along the pristine coastline keeping the alaloa intact and open to all.

Photo courtesy of Brian Powers/www.hawaiianimages.net



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Kaua`i Group Outings

Join us on one of these great outings to explore, enjoy and care for our island. Please note levels of hiking proficiency. Mileage is round trip unless otherwise indicated. Requested donation for members and participants under 18: \$1. Donation for others: \$5. For more information check our website: www.hi.sierrclub.org/kauai

Sat. April 3. Honopu Trail/ Koke'e Strenuous/ 4 miles (C/E) Ridge hike in Koke'e with panoramic views all down NaPali coast with stunning views down to Honopu valley. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sun. April 4 -Jewel of Koke'e, Strenuous/7 miles. (C/E) Spectacular hike through the forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Sat. April 10. Hoopi'i Falls/ East Side (C/F) 3 miles/ moderate. Lovely river and forest trail with the opportunity to view two waterfalls. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson 647-0727.

Sun. April 11. Waipo'o Falls/Koke'e/ Moderately strenuous/ 4 miles (F) Spectacular canyon views not visible from roadside overlooks. Picnic at a ginger pool. Allan Rachap 742-1001

Fri. April 16. Moloa'a Beach, Alaloe Trail, and Beach Clean Up. (C/S) Eastside/ 2.5 miles/ Moderate./Explore lovely coastline. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sat. April 17. Ditch Trail/ Kauaikinana Ditch trail/Kumuela loop Koke'e/West side/ Moderate/4 mile loop. Extraordinary view of Po'omau Canyon & spectacular water falls. Bob Green 245-9280

Sun. April 18. Kuilau Trail. East Side/ Easy/ 3.5 miles (F). This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views & ever-present bird songs. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

Wed. April 21. Sierra Club Founder John Muir's birthday. Gem of Alakai. Koke'e. Strenuous/ 7.5 miles (C/E) From Pihea lookout, thru Alakai Swamp to Kawaikoi Stream. Panoramic views of Kalalau valley. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Thurs. April 22. Earth Day Waimea Canyon Road Clean Up (S) Help keep the gateway to

Waimea Canyon litter free on Sierra Club's adopted highway in 1.5 hours. Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

Sat. April 24. Earth Day weekend Beach Clean Up at Maha'ulepu. (C/E/F) Sierra Club, Malama Maha'ulepu, & Surfrider team up to clean this glorious beach. 9am - 11am. Drive past Hyatt Hotel onto unpaved road. When road comes to a T, turn right. Drive to parking area & look for our signs. We provide bags, gloves, & snacks. Need more info? Call Judy Dalton at 246-9067

Sun. April 25. Earth Day weekend Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight walk. South Shore/ Moderate 4 miles. (C/E/F) Start in afternoon from Shipwreck Beach and end with moon rising over the ocean at spectacular Maha'ulepu. Car shuttle for one way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Tues. April 27. 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

Sat. May 1. May Day at Poihale Beach. Westside/Easy 4 miles. (C/F) Walk along one of the longest & widest beaches in Hawai'i. Start from Queen's Pond for possible dip to towering cliffs at end. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sun. May 2. Ili'ili'ula /Strenuous/ East side/7.5 miles. (E/F) North Wailua ditch system trail to the upcountry weir on the Ili'ili'ula Stream. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sat. May 8. Hanakapi'ai Falls/ North Shore/ Strenuous 8 miles) (C/E) Hike the famed Kalalau trail past Hanakapi'ai beach and into the valley for a swim in the pool beneath the 200 ft. falls. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sun. May 9. 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. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Fri. May 14. Molalepe trail to Kuilau foot bridge. (E/F) Eastshore/Easy to Moderate/4 miles/ Late afternoon hike to see Makaleha Mountains & descend to jungle stream. Enjoy

bird songs and wild orchids. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sun. May 16. Maha'ulepu/South Shore/ Moderate/3 Miles. (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunniviews each step of the way! This magnificent coastline is unique with its fascinating craggy rock formations, and spectacular beach.. Allan Rachap 742-1001
Sat. May 22 - Alakai Swamp board walk/ Koke'e/West side/Very strenous/7 miles. Primeval mountain rain forest rising 4,500 feet above the Pacific. 4 wheel drives needed to carpool to trail head. Bob Greene. 245-9280

Sun. May 23. Okoloehao Trail/North Shore/ Strenuous/4 miles. (C) Enjoy an afternoon hike 1200 feet up this trail climbs along a ridge with beautiful, sweeping views of Hanalei Bay and the North Shore. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Mon. May 24. National Tropical Botanical Gardens volunteer service Native Plant propagation today & every Monday morning. Contact volunteer coordinator Jessica Clabo 651-0479

Wed. May 26. National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk. (S/C/E) South Side/Moderate/2 miles. Learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Sat. May 29 - Kapoko/Hanalei Tunnel/East Side/Strenuous/6.5miles/ An adventure from Wailua area through a mile-long tunnel to the upper reaches of Hanalei River. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sun. May 30 - Gem of Alakai Pihea Trail to Kawaikoi stream/ Kokee/ Strenuous/ 7.5 miles (C/E) .Pihea lookout, thru Alakai swamp to picturesque Kawaikoi stream, with panoramic views of Kalalau valley. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Sat. June 5 - National Trails Day. Kaua'i has more miles of hiking trails than any other island. We'll celebrate our trails with 2 of our favorite hikes & trail maintenance.

1. Maha'ulepu coastline:4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with breath-taking views each step of the way along this

Continued on page 22

Key: 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

Maui Group Report

For the complete Maui Group Newsletter, please go to www.mauisierraclub.org and click on "Newsletters" and for the latest on hikes and activities, please click on "Hikes and Activities."

GROUP ACTIVITIES

By Kathy McDuff

This has been a busy month for Maui Group Sierra Club. We have provided written and oral comments to County Council and the Planning Department on several conservation matters around the island. At our annual meeting in January we had a panel discussion on water sustainability on Maui and were pleased to grant our Malama ka 'aina award to Lei'ohu Ryder, our Onipa'ā award to Jonathan Starr and Dick Mayer and our Volunteer of the Decade award to Lucienne de Naie.

We had a booth at Pacific Whale Foundation's Whale Day in Kihei in February, where we were able to provide educational information to both island residents and tourists on issues affecting Maui County. Many petition signatures were collected on the proposed North Shore Heritage Park and Wailea 670 Project. In March we had a tent at the Ha'iku Flower Festival and Ho'olaulea for our annual plant sale fundraiser.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

North Shore Heritage Park & Hookipa

Expansion: Please support both these community treasures being included in the final version of the Maui Island Plan, currently under discussion by the Council's Planning Committee. Email a short note supporting preservation of the undeveloped shore line from Hana Hwy to the sea, from Wawau ("Baby Beach") to the Paia Youth and Cultural Center and the flood zone lands mauka of Hana Hwy and the expansion of Hookipa Park as pictured on the GPAC maps. Send comments to: pc.committee@mauicounty.us

East Maui Streams: State Water Commission staff proposed at the Commission's Dec 2009 meeting, to restore partial flows in only 1 of 19 East Maui streams under review. The State's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) released a report recommending partial flows be restored to 8 of the 19 streams, including Waikamoi, Puohakamoa, Honomanu and East and West Wailua Nui, which would provide up to 60% of original habitat for native stream species important to near shore fishery health and Hawaiian culture. The Water Commission voted to defer decision making until additional information on water use by HC&S and east Maui farmers was available. The next public hearings on citizen petitions to return water to the streams will likely be in April, 2010.

Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration: Final decision on whether to return up to 47% of stream flows to the four great Maui streams is expected by spring of 2010. A recent US Geological Service research report <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2008/5236/> predicted that restoring partial flows would result in 12 mgd of recharge to Iao aquifer, which serves 50% of Maui's population. The stream recharge was predicted to extend the healthy productivity of Iao aquifer over the next 30 years.

Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP): On April 30, the draft WUDP will go to the Council Water Resources Committee. Maui Group is party to a consent decree agreement that affects one of the proposed strategies for future water development: extremely expensive Haiku well fields that transport ground water to central and South Maui. MG has given testimony urging more use of reclaimed water; more investment in water efficiency; improved well spacing and stream restoration in the Iao aquifer and use of any future Haiku wells to serve local residents in the region. WUDP is posted at <http://co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?NID=213>

Hamakuapoko Wells: Will the Hamakua poko wells be used for agricultural water? Backup for upcountry's potable water system? Or not used at all? Will DBCP/TCP and EDP levels in the wells, not tested for 5 years be higher or lower than before? Will the charcoal filtration system used to remove the chemicals get clogged by nitrate concentrations in the same water. Will salt levels rise in the wells if they are regularly pumped? The Council needs to know the answer to these and other questions, before a decision is made to invest limited funds to put the wells into use for upcountry residents.

Sustainable Ag: Research is beginning to show potential health effects of Genetically Modified corn. An International Journal of Biological Sciences article concluded that "there was a clear negative impact on the function of these organs (the kidneys and liver) in rats consuming GM maize varieties for just 90 days." The article is posted at <http://www.biolsci.org/v05p0706.htm#headingA5>. Kapalua Organic Farms in west Maui recently announced an expansion with support from the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-focused social investment organization supporting a transition to sustainable agriculture.

Fish Farm Education: Fish farms on the Big Island have been given minimal scrutiny by state regulators causing citizen groups to demand that the long term impacts of the unproven and resource intensive technology be disclosed through public review.

Wastewater Injection Wells: MG continues to advocate for phase out of injection wells, and reuse of valuable reclaimed water. MG will participate in a broad based citizen task force convened by the DIRE (Don't Inject, Re-Direct) initiative, to supplement the work of Mayor Tavares' wastewater task force. Funding is needed to move forward on better water systems. Support a Clean Water Trust Fund. Go to http://action.foodandwaterwatch.org/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=404&track=FWWO

Superferry Update: A settlement was reached with HSF that will release court ordered funds for partial legal fees incurred during the HSF EIS challenge. Maui Group expresses its deep appreciation for the precedent setting legal work done by Isaac Hall during the many phases of the case. Various bills are in the state legislature regarding future ferry systems.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): a Memorandum of Understanding between National Science Foundation (NSF) and native Hawaiian practitioners. Once the MOU is signed, the NSF is expected to file for a state Conservation District permit to utilize public lands. Check www.kilakilahaleakala.org for updates on opportunities to offer comments; upcoming benefit concert and future legal challenges.

Honolua Bay Development: County Planners included Honolua/Lipoa as a Conservation/Park area in the latest version of Maui Island Plan maps sent to the County Council. The Council Planning committee will review MIP maps during 2010 for final adoption. Stay involved. Go to: www.savehonolua.org. To help Malama Honolua Bay contact Les Potts: lespotts@msn.com

Wailea 670: Sierra Club Maui continues to advocate for a 130-acre preserve in the southern portion of Wailea 670 to protect numerous cultural sites, extensive Wiliwili groves that have survived wasp attacks, the endangered Blackburn Sphinx moth and 24 species of native plants.

Makena Resort Rezoning: It was recently announced that a receiver has been appointed to oversee an auction of Makena Resort lands. It is expected that several bidders, including previous owner Everett Dowling, could bid on the lands at the April auction.

Makena State Park Master Plan: Oneloa Coalition, a stakeholders group formed as a result of Makena Resort rezoning conditions, launched a survey to allow park users to share their ideas and preferences about the park's Master Plan. The survey will be linked to the MG website.

Maui Group Outings

See Page 13 for General Outings Information

A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Pre-registration is required for some hikes. Call the hike leader number shown below. Also, please check our web site, www.mauierraclub.org, and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published.

The 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 Jackie at 579-9516 well in advance and make an appointment with her for when you can sign it. Then go to EMI's Pa'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. Please be considerate of Jackie's 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.

APRIL HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, April 3: "More Fish in the Sea" 9am to 2 pm. Displays, speakers, group planning and musical entertainment from some of Hawaii's best. FREE. Check out more details at <http://www.morefishhawaii.com>. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Other April Earth Month activities include citizen water monitoring days in south west and north shore Maui. See <http://southmauisustainability.wordpress.com/> for event times and details.

Saturday, April 10: Wailua Iki Water Hike: Six mile roundtrip moderate uphill hike above Hana Highway through beautiful forest on windy jeep road. Pools, waterfalls and lush plant life. Bring sturdy shoes, bathing suit, sunscreen, lunch and water. Meet 8:30 am at Haiku Community Center (Hana Highway at mm 11.6). EMI WAIVER REQUIRED - MUST BRING WAIVER ON HIKE - PLEASE SEE ABOVE. Limit: 18. Leader: Mitch Skaggerberg. Please call Mitch at 875-4970 to register. (C) (E) D = 6 miles.

Wednesday, April 21: John Muir's Birthday. He was born in Dunbar, Scotland in 1838. He was the founder of the Sierra Club. He became friends with President Theodore Roosevelt and helped create Yosemite National Park and the National Park System.

Date and Time TBA: Earthday at Akaku. Music. Speakers. Food. Displays. Will include John Muir birthday event: "Saving Maui's Legacy Lands." Inspirational images and updates on most treasured places that we are working to preserve or have recently been preserved. Free cake and Ice cream! Details at Sierra Club website: www.mauierraclub.org.

Thursday, April 22, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Saturday, April 24: Community Work Day: "Keep Hawaii Beautiful Cleanup." Please call CWD at 877-2524 to find the cleanup nearest to you or watch for the listing of all cleanup locations in the Maui News. Mahalo for helping keep Maui beautiful! This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25: 18th Annual East Maui Taro Festival in Hana. Come visit the Sierra Club booth. Concerts, musicals, plays, performing arts, cultural and Hawaiian food & beverage. A wonderful festival. For more information, please go to www.tarofestival.org. Please come and enjoy. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Monday April 26: Pilale Bay historical hike. Explore stunning east Maui site of ancient Hawaiian village where Kamehameha I landed to invade Maui. Short hike, one steep section. Bring picnic lunch. Possible ocean swim if weather is calm. Meet 10am at Haiku Community center to carpool. Limit 10. Leader: Local historic researcher, Lucienne de Naie. To register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (C) (E) D = 2 miles.

MAY HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, May 2: Hike from Haleakala National Park Kipahulu visitor Center (at sea level) up the Pipiwai Trail through beautiful grasslands and bamboo forest to 400' Waimoku Falls. At end of hike swim in pools near visitor center. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and bathing suit. Park entrance fee is \$10/car. Meet 8:00 am Haiku Community Center to carpool. Limit 12. Hike Leader: Mitch Skaggerberg. Please call Mitch at 875-4970 to register. (E) D = 6 miles.

Monday, May 10: Hamakuapoko coastline historical tour. From Mama's Fish house to Maliko Gulch. Learn about the rich history of this

region from ancient Hawaiian settlements and heiau sites to 19th century sugar plantations. Approx. 2 mile hike will follow shoreline when possible, with some roadside walking. Meet 9am at Maliko Gulch overlook (Paia side of Gulch). Leave vehicles at both ends of route. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. To register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (C) (E) D = 2 miles.

Thursday, May 27, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

JUNE HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, June 5: National Trails Day hike and trail clearing Old King's hwy in Huelo. 2 to 3 mile hike includes streams, historic church and remnants of Spreckels original 1870's ditch. Help maintain traditional access. Meet 9am @ Twin Falls parking area (Hana end). Limit 12. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. To register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (C) (E) D = 3 miles.

Sunday, June 13: Wahinepe'e hike. Spectacular hike in East Maui watershed above the Hana Highway through beautiful forest with waterfalls and pools. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED - MUST BRING WAIVER ON HIKE - PLEASE SEE ABOVE. Six miles round trip. Bring water, lunch, camera and hat. Meet 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center (Hana Highway @ mm 11.6). Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Limit 18. To register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (C) (E) D = 6 miles.

Thursday, June 24, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at our office upstairs in the Akaku Building, 333 Dairy Road, Suite 201E, Kahului. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Sunday, June 27: Kanaio Stupa Tibetan Monastery - Hike across the slopes of Haleakala to this beautiful shrine built in 1982. Meet 9:00 am across from Grandma's Coffee House in Keokea to carpool. Bring lunch and also bring rain gear just in case. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Limit 18. To register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (C) (E) D = 3 miles with some steep grades.

Key: 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

Moku Loa Group Report

CHAIR REPORT, by Nelson Ho

Aloha Moku Loa Group Members! As a returning Group Chair, I hope to meet and interact with more of the nearly 900 of us. Some of you are in the front lines protecting our local or global environment; many others support us with your hard earned money and amplify the Club's presence on important issues.

Growing and invigorating the Club is the Executive Committee's fervent wish. We have long held the need to grow the West Hawai'i Conservation Committee. We have two activist Co-Chairs there presently: Debbie Hecht and Janice Palma Glennie. Of course, Debbie is leading the charge on the 2% Public Land Fund restoration, and Janice is gearing up for the Ooma Land Use Commission meeting on March 3rd (10:00 am); continuation of hearing on March 4th (10:00 am - 2nd best) at Waikoloa Beach Marriott. And, there are many other issues to tackle. Give them a call when you can lend your energy and expertise.

Here are two books I am currently reading that will fuel your malama aina endeavors. Both are life enhancing experiences:

Island in a Far Sea: The Fate of Nature in Hawai'i, by John L. Culliney, has been revised (2006) and is highly readable. While it documents the tragic decline of biodiversity in our archipelago, it also holds out hope for current efforts to protect what is left. He accurately reveals the story of the monk seal and the ancient honu (green sea turtle). The devastation of the biota in the lowland and upland Hawaiian rainforests gets extensive chapters. My favorite chapter is entitled "Alpine Fire and Ice." It relates the controversy of land mismanagement by our University of Hawai'i and the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources.

I am also part way through Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. (2005) It is the sequel to his Pulitzer Prize winning *Guns, Germs and Steel*.

THINK GLOBALLY and ACT LOCALLY just about sums up my recommendations to you. Drop me a line by email or phone – listed at end of this Newsletter.

MOKU LOA REPORT, by Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Aloha and welcome to 2010. MLG has a new Chair – Nelson Ho – so I will be focusing more this year on increasing member participation in programs, outings and conservation issues.

Welcome to our newly elected Board members: Cory Harden, Nelson Ho, Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers and Debbie Hecht, and continuing Treasurer Haili Debus. Continuing Board members are Diane Ware, Rose Acevedo and Al Beeman.

Moku Loa Group presented eight awards at the Hawai'i Science and Engineering Fair on February 13. To find out about the awards and recipients check out the Science Fair article in this newsletter.

I currently serve as a Hawai'i Chapter at-large delegate and Vice-Chair of the Council of Club leaders at the National Sierra Club. If you would like to find out more about issues at the Chapter or National level, feel free to contact me (brashear@hawaii.edu). National issues can also be accessed at the website (www.sierraclub.org).

Up and coming events to look for:

National Board of Directors Elections in April 2010.

Hawai'i Community College EARTH DAY FAIR will be on Friday, April 16 at UH-Hilo campus center plaza and library lanai. This event is open to the public, but a \$3.00 parking fee will be charged the university. Volunteers are needed for the Sierra Club booth and general help. Contact Roberta if you can help out (966-7002). For more information check out the Earth Fair website: www.hawaii.hawaii.edu/eday.

The EARTH DAY FAIR in Kona will be on Saturday April 24. Volunteers are needed for the Sierra Club booth, so please contact Debbie Hecht (989-3222) or Paul Campbell (965-5460) for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARS ARE RECOGNIZED, by Deborah Ward

The Sierra Club's Moku Loa Group recently recognized eight outstanding students for

research on Hawai'i's environment at the Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair held Saturday, February 13, 2010 in Hilo.

In the Senior Research Division, Malio Kodis, of Waiakea High, received the Mae Mull Award for research projects entitled "Diversity of Foliar Fungal Endophytes in Wild and Cultivated *Metrosideros Polymorpha*." In the Junior Research Division, Jake Ebesugawa, of Waiakea Intermediate, was recognized with the Wayne Gagne Award, presented each year to the outstanding junior research project relating to the environment of Hawai'i. His project was entitled "How Fast Is Coral Dissolving?" In the Senior Research in Physical Science Division, Megan Kurohara and Hannah Rojeski, of Hilo High, received the Don Worsencroft Award for the project "Photosynthetic Algae." Dr. Worsencroft was a professor of physical science at Hawai'i Community College. In the Junior Display Division, Nathan Tripp, Korey Palmerton, Juslynne Fernandez, of Pahoa Intermediate, were recognized with the Ruth Lani Stemmerman Award for their display entitled "White Monarch Butterfly." Dr. Stemmerman was a plant ecologist at Hawai'i Community College who specialized in Hawaiian botany. Moku Loa Group also presented an additional award for Earth Science and Environmental Science relating to Hawai'i in honor of Bill Mull, who photographed the Happy Face Spiders and many other Hawaiian invertebrates. The recipient was Cody Hamane, of Hilo Intermediate, for a project entitled "Native versus Invasive: Survival of the Fittest." The students each received certificates and checks for \$25.00-\$50.00. Through these awards, the Sierra Club members hope to honor scientists active in protecting our native ecosystems, and to encourage students to pursue scientific research in topics related to the Hawaiian environment.

Mahalo to this year's MLG judges, including Chris Kobb, Phil Barnes, Deborah Ward, Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers and Al Beeman. Moku Loa Group welcomes contributions to its memorial fund to support the Science Fair and other educational programs for students. Tax deductible donations may be made to Sierra Club Foundation (MLG) and mailed to: Sierra Club, Moku Loa Group, PO Box 1137,

Continued on page 22

Moku Loa Outings

See Page 13 for information applicable to all outings

Donation for non-members is \$3.00. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

Saturday-Monday, March 20-22 – Waimanu Valley Backpack (E) D = 19

miles round trip; E = +/- 1200' This is an energetic backpack for individuals with backpacking experience and proper gear. We will start from the rim of Waipi'o Valley, descend into the valley, cross and ascend the far side, and continue on this trail until we drop down into Waimanu Valley 9 miles from our starting point. After a layover day in incomparable Waimanu Valley we will return via the same route. Previous backpacking experience, sturdy boots, leader approval required. Leaders: Diane Ware (967-8642) and Cheryl Hoover (985-9601).

Monday, March 22 – Patagonian Adventures Slide Show - Richardson Beach Park, Keaukaha, 6:30 pm.

Saturday, March 27 - Mauna Iki (Twin Pit Craters) (E) D = 9 miles, E = -500' We don't hike this trail across the Ka'u Desert very much. Often the access is closed because of *nene* nesting or fire danger. Start at Hilina Pali. Hike to Twin Pit Craters. Hike across *pahoehoe* fields to site of 1974 lava flow. Climb adjacent cone crater (optional). No shade. Bring 2-3 quarts of water, lunch, sunscreen, rain gear and wear sturdy boots. Leaders: Sunny and Michael La Plante (964-5017).

Saturday, April 10 – Green Lake Hike (E) D = 2 miles

A beautiful hike in Kapoho to a natural green lake and to the top of Green Mountain where you can see excellent views of the ocean and surrounding area. Hike is on a jeep trail and is approximately two miles. This hike is on private land; therefore a \$5 fee applies. Leaders: Rose Acevedo (756-5990), Rich Vogler (328-8387 and Sarah Moon (935-3475).

Friday, April 16 – Hilo Earth Day Fair –

ATTENTION ALL HIKERS

Have you ever considered being a hike leader? Meet a great group of experienced Big Island leaders. Find out what it takes to start leading your own hikes and learn about wonderful trails in your area. Please contact Rose Acevedo (756-5990) for scheduled time and location.

UH Hilo Campus Center Plaza and Library Lanai

Saturday, April 17 – Kilauea Caldera Day Hike (F) D = 6 miles, E = 4000' +/- 300'

This day hike will begin and end at the Volcano House. We will be hiking on the Halema'uma'u, Byron Ledge and Waldron Ledge trails. We will explore Kilauea Crater in this loop hike. Bring lunch, 2 quarts of water and good sun protection, as well as rain gear. Leaders: Diane Ware (967-8642), Linda Larish (966-6337).

Saturday, April 24 – Kona Earth Day Fair

Saturday, May 1 – Kalopa Old Jeep Road and Gulch Trail (E)(F)(C) D = 3 miles, E = 2000' +/- 500'

We will hike uphill along the old jeep road to the highest elevation in the park, then return via the gulch trail, passing

through groves of 70-year-old eucalyptus, silk oak, paper bark. These trees were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the early 1930s. This trail is located in a native forest, so native flora is also in evidence. Bring rain gear, mosquito repellent, water, picnic lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Leaders: Linda Larish (966-6337) and Diane Ware (967-8642).

Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16 – Outing Leaders Training – Location to be arranged.

Saturday-Sunday, June 5-6 - Manuka Natural Area Reserve Service Trip (S) D = 6 miles, E = 1800' +/- 600'

The Manuka Natural Area Reserve, a dryland forest in the Ka'u district, is in need of our labor, energy and support. We will do weed control in the

mauka Olopuia kipuka. We will destroy lantana in a predominately lama forest. DLNR has a cabin nearby with amenities to make our overnight stay comfortable and fun. Fee for central commissary. Reservations required. Leader, Diane Ware (967-8642)

Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20 – Hakalau National Fish and Wildlife Service Project (S)(E)(C) D = 3 miles, E = 5500' +/- 500'

The group will help the US Fish and Wildlife Service in one of their conservation projects. After working, we will be rewarded with an opportunity to bird watch and botanize. Travel by 4x4 from Saddle Road. Prepare for wet and chilly weather. Bring boots, rain gear, sun protection, warm clothes, gloves, binoculars, sleeping bag and daypack. Reservations required; group size is limited. Fee for central commissary.

Key: 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

Kauai Group Outings

Continued from page 17

- magnificent coastline! Car shuttle for one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067
- 2. Kalalau Trail Reconstruction/ North hore/ Moderate to Strenuous/ up to 4 miles/(C) Help with the reconstruction of this world-renowned trail. 2-week advanced sign-up required. Limited to 15 people. Kathy Valier 826-7302
- 3. Jewel of Koke'e, Strenuous/7 miles. (C/E) Spectacular hike through the forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Sun. June 13 Kalalau Ridge Trail/ Kokee/ Moderate/ 3 miles (C/E) Expansive, spectacular views down into Kalalau valley (not for those with vertigo). Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sat. June 19 - Hanalei River Kayak Trip and Clean up/ North Shore. (S) An opportunity to kayak and help keep our beautiful Hanalei River clean & beautiful. Kayak Kauai provides kayak gratis. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson 647-0727.

Fri. June 25 - Sunset to Full Moon walk. Wailua to Nukolii Beach. Socialize and Exercise. East Shore/Easy 3.5 miles. (C/E/F) Picnic dinner at Lydgate Beach Park. Walk on miles of undeveloped coastline. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sat. June 26 Gem of Alakai Pihea Trail to Kawaiwai stream/ Kokee/ Strenuous/ 7.5 miles (C/E) .Pihea lookout, thru Alakai swamp to picturesque Kawaiwai stream, with panoramic views of Kalalau valley. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

Sun. June 27 - Nonou (Sleeping Giant)/ East Side/6 miles/moderately strenuous. (F) Hike up one trail and down another to see it all. Fantastic views, and incredible vegetation. Allan Rachap 742-1001

Moku Loa Group Report

Continued from page 20

Hilo HI 96721. For more information contact Deborah Ward (966-7361).

MAUNA KEA UPDATE, by Nelson Ho

Sierra Club has long been a voice against the land mismanagement that is turning the summit of Mauna Kea into a private industrial preserve. Now Sierra Club's ability to defend the threatened Hawai'i environment is imperiled due to DLNR and UH tactics.

Mauna Kea still lacks environmental and cultural protections since the University promised to take care of those things in the 1983-85 Master Plan.

For the past two years the University has put forth their versions of a Comprehensive Management Plan for Mauna Kea called for in the DLNR regulations. The DLNR, strapped for resources and with strong political pressure from the University and Governor, has caved in and is rubber stamping this document.

It has been left to the environmental and cultural practitioner communities to speak up for the lawful process and the ability of the public to intervene in a meaningful way in these agency actions.

The danger to Mauna Kea has mounted as the latest tactic by the State has unfolded. Take away the public's and Sierra Club's voice and ability to participate in those important agency actions. Take away the right to have contested case hearings on important DLNR land decisions. Sierra Club is looking for funds to challenge this in court. Please assist by contacting Nelson Ho (nho.hoku@gmail.com) or Deborah Ward (dward@hawaii.edu), Co-Chairs of the Mauna Kea Issues Committee for the Hawai'i Chapter.



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.

**Add your voice to protect the planet.
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Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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A Path Near & Far: Thoughts from the Chapter Chair

by Mark Glick

Your Investment in Hawai'i's Future

2010 marks the fifth decade in which the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club has been protecting the environment. With our network of volunteers and members, we work on two broad fronts led by an extremely capable and energetic Executive Committee. First and foremost, we vigorously pursue a statewide environmental education agenda with our hikes and service projects. Many of you actively participate in our weekly local outings that are always free and open to the public. We also continue to make a priority out of introducing youth into nature through our many hiking and camping events.

The Sierra Club is also the only environmental nonprofit in Hawai'i that grades environmental decisions, lobbies on your behalf at the capital, and gets more pro-environment leaders elected. In fact, we're the only local environmental organization that interviews and endorses candidates for state and county offices and, in turn, is at the legislature to ensure good environmental decisions are made. Our recent legislative priorities included, in 2009, passage of some of the strongest renewable energy standards in the United States; passage of the Solar Roofs Bill in 2008 that makes Hawai'i the first state in the nation to require solar water heaters as a standard feature on all new homes; the Legacy Lands Act of 2005 that provides reliable funding to better manage the state's natural areas and to purchase pristine lands for long term protection; and the Bottle Bill, our landmark 2002 measure to increase participation in recycling for most beverage containers.

Our annual fundraising appeal in March is a critical part of our annual funding. Last year, the March Appeal provided approximately \$18,000 in donations. This year, because of cutbacks from National Sierra Club and from a desire to expand services to our members, our goal is to increase the income from our fundraising appeal to \$25,000.

As a proud Lifetime member, I would usually respond to the March or July appeal, but was not consistent in the timing or amount of the contribution. In the past, I also resisted the notion of a monthly credit card contribution preferring instead to make a single donation. But, in closely observing our annual budget and cash flow needs, I have come to appreciate our annual donors who contribute monthly. These donations allow our Executive Committee and State Director to more effectively plan and execute the Hawai'i Chapter's core programs and initiatives. Without a doubt, there is a contribution level that you can afford (say a dollar a day?) and still feel the full benefit of ownership in the Chapter environmental agenda. Taking all of this into consideration, I have finally joined the ranks of the monthly contributor. I would urge you to join me by going to www.sierraclubhawaii.com/donate or by mailing the form at the end of this newsletter.

We are a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization under the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service, which means that our effective work for new environmental policies, contributions are not tax deductible. However, every dollar of your contribution stays right here in Hawai'i and allows the Sierra Club to continue our impressive environmental education and advocacy agenda. So with the 2010 March and July Appeals at our doorstep, please join me in making a contribution today for a clean, safe, and healthy environment in Hawai'i for our families to enjoy for generations to come.

This Earth Day, JOIN Sierra Club

the world isn't waiting, why are you?

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

THE SIERRA CLUB'S SUPPORT OF THE SO-CALLED "BARREL TAX."

The Hawai'i Chapter strongly supported the concept of a "barrel tax," which we see as a smart tax-shifting policy designed to foster greater energy independence. It taps into the source of our problem -- dirty fossil fuels -- so as to fund our preferred future.

The "barrel tax" has the additional benefit of putting Hawai'i's money to work here on the islands instead of sending it off to the Middle East. One commentator even suggested this measure should be called the "retention fee" because the real "tax" is the billions of dollars we ship off island for oil.

That's why we were caught somewhat by surprise when one local environmental group emailed a number of folks in Hawai'i and asked they oppose the barrel tax. The reasons generally boiled down to two: it would raise taxes on lower-income folks and the barrel tax didn't go far enough because it didn't address coal or palm oil (somewhat contradictory objections).

The first objection is a little overblown. A one-dollar increase in a barrel of oil -- about two cents on each gallon of gas -- is relatively insignificant compared to normal market fluctuations. It's small enough that simple changes, like properly inflating car tires or deciding to carpool to work a few times a year could easily offset the fee. And the future benefits -- an economy weaned off of fossil fuel -- will provide lasting benefits to everyone.

As to the second objection, we believe Representative Mina Morita's recent blog entry successfully articulates why this position was misguided. With her permission, we've reprinted her article for you to judge yourself.

Questions? Feel free to contact us at hawaiichapter@sierraclub.org.

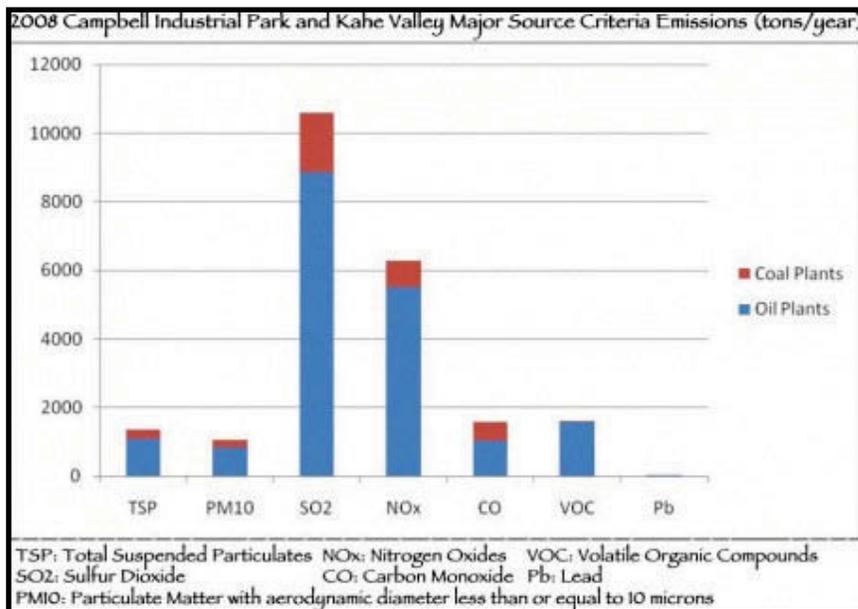
When 9/10 of a Loaf Is Better Than None

Written by Rep. Mina Morita on her blog at repmorita.wordpress.com (reprinted with permission)

When the renewable portfolio standard and net metering laws were first passed in 2001, what started out as separate bills were merged into one bill by another chair leaving me frustrated because the net meeting language was an okay first step, but the renewable portfolio standard was meaningless. I had the option of killing the bill, and both concepts, completely and walking away with nothing or taking half a loaf. Begrudgingly, I took half a loaf. After

higher levels of carbon dioxide emissions than the petroleum burning power plants, as the below graph depicts, the more significant problem is the oil as it is used to meet 86% of Hawaii energy needs versus coal at 7.9%. The use of bio-fuels is insignificant at the present time.

The failure to include a tax on bio-fuels and coal, the two biggest culprits in global warming have left people like Henry Curtis and Kat Brady of Life of the Land as opposing House Bill 2421. Kat has been quoted in the Honolulu Weekly saying "If you're going to do something about climate change, why would you not include the two biggest contributors to greenhouse gases?"



amending these laws over the past eight years, net metered households and businesses have increased significantly statewide and Hawaii has one of the most aggressive renewable portfolio standards in the nation long with an energy efficiency portfolio standard.

Last week at the Senate public hearings for House Bill 2421 (the barrel tax), well-intentioned people opposed the bill and recommended that the bill be killed because it does not tax coal or bio-fuels, specifically palm oil. While it may be true that the coal burning power plants have

Here's the answer. In Hawaii we are doing something to address Hawaii's biggest contributor to greenhouse gases, which is oil, funding a long-term strategy through the barrel tax. House Bill 2421 cannot solve the global issue of greenhouse gas emissions, but we can start in our backyard by implementing policies and actions we have full control over. It will take resources to put these policies to action. The barrel taxes addresses funding issues. So isn't 9/10 of a loaf better than none?

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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