



# Mālama I Ka Honua

## Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAII CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2009



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## Bold Energy Initiatives

*Legislature Moves Forward on Energy Reform; Other Bills Stymied*

by Robert D. Harris

Going into the 2009 legislative session -- given the economic downturn and budget shortfall -- it was easy to have low expectations. That's why it's a pleasant surprise and a credit to Sierra Club support that a number of important environmental initiatives were recently passed and are on the way for the Governor's review.

The Food and Energy Security bill deserves particular attention. HB 1271 places a small fee (\$1) on all oil imported into the State and earmarks those funds towards the development of clean, renewable energy and revitalizing our domestic agricultural industry. Much like a so-called "sin tax," this measure is a smart tax-shifting policy designed to foster greater energy independence by tapping into the source of our problem to fund our preferred future. The small impact on residents -- estimated at a couple of pennies per gallon of gas purchased -- will produce benefits far in excess of the fee increase. This money will be used as matching funds to obtain federal stimulus money for the development of renewable energy sources. And it will fund the Climate Change Task Force, which will develop smart planning strategies to ensure Hawai'i is

prepared for climate change and related impacts.

Raising taxes is not a popular move and the legislature deserves credit for its efforts. Keeping this money here in Hawai'i will hopefully ensure our oil and food security for the future. Few disagree about the need to avoid future market volatility and the potential to create new jobs. Even more, hopefully, agree about the need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and limit carbon dioxide emissions.

Another significant bill -- which might have flown under the public radar -- is a comprehensive reform of Hawaii's energy laws. HB 1464 provides for several key reforms, such as requiring our public utilities to produce 25% of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020

*Continued on page 4*



The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, is Hawai'i's largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization



FROM THE  
DIRECTOR'S DESK

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

- John Muir (1912)

As you can see from the quote above and the adjoining article, encouraging exploration of the outdoors is a core mission of the Sierra Club. Many of us became "environmentalists" because we enjoyed a Sierra Club outing. Getting an individual to see the beauty and amazement of the outdoors is a step towards convincing that person that the outdoors are worth preserving.

That's why I would like to challenge you to invite a friend on a Sierra Club outing this summer. Invite someone you'd like to get to know better: a parent; a child; a neighbor; or even a coworker. It's an opportunity to make a new friend or strengthen an old friendship. Who knows? Maybe you'll develop a new Sierra Club leader.

Or -- if you're feeling adventurous -- how about signing up to lead an outing? You will join a great group of Sierra Club volunteers and have an opportunity to see parts of Hawai'i that few enjoy. See the group outings pages (12 -20) for more information.

Hope to see you on the trail,

Robert D. Harris



by Bob Keane

This year's High School Hikers (HSH) Ecology Camp was held during spring break at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) and it was a smashing success! It all began with a "Welcome Aboard" by Major David Hudock, Officer in Charge of the Environmental Department. After that, we headed out to our campsite to set up our tents at Hale Koa Beach located on the shores of Kāne'ohe Bay.

After setting up camp, students were transported to Anderson Hall for dinner and then proceeded to the Environmental Department training classroom for an official welcome by Dr. Diane Drigot, MCBH senior natural resources management specialist and her staff. This was followed by other presentations describing the cultural and natural history of Mōkapu Peninsula and the significance of the planned service projects. Robert Harris also gave an official Sierra Club welcome message. A star party was to be presented by the Hawai'i Amateur Astronomical Society but it was a

cloudy night. Fortunately, a late night snack around the campfire turned out to be a crowd pleaser.

Saturday morning was spent on various service projects coordinated by Dr. Drigot that included the rehabilitation of bird nesting sites, the removal of alien invasive plants from wetlands located on the base, and maintenance of streamside native plant sites that have been established as part of MCBH's Watershed Restoration Program. The afternoon afforded students the opportunity to select a workshop or field study that would further enhance their understanding of this unique environment and the importance of preserving this natural and cultural resource.

The workshops included a geology tour of the Ulupa'u Crater with a discussion of the evidence of the rise and fall of sea levels in that area. A second tour took students up to the top of the crater to observe the massive booby colony that has made this firing range their home. A third tour took students on a walk through the Mōkapu Watershed project and

*Continued on page 3*



# *School Hiker's Ecology Camp a Smashing Success*



culminated with a lauhala weaving demonstration by native Hawaiian practitioners of this ancient art. The final tour was led by the base archeologists who showed students the significant archeological and cultural site at Mōkapu.

That evening, Ati Jeffers-Fabro, Wetland Coordinator with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Forestry and Wildlife Division, discussed the history of the area and the projects that the Natural Area Reserve System is working on to restore wetland and coastal areas on O'ahu. Ati also showed the degradation of many of the wetland areas surrounding Mōkapu and the work that still needs to be done to save the endangered native water birds that may go extinct if something



is not done to restore their natural habitat.

Sunday was spent at Kawainui Marsh working with Dr. Charles Burrows and his staff of volunteers. The students learned about the restoration of this culturally significant site by Dr. Burrows, who gave a guided tour of the work area so students would understand the importance of the work projects. The students were split into two groups. One group weeded invasive plants out of a newly planted native Hawaiian section while the second group removed alien species of trees and carried logs to a site where they will be used to make a path to provide access to a new section of the marsh.



The evening was a time for students to mingle and socialize with a fun competition of Wii video games. Following the competition, the students headed back to base camp for a campfire, late snack, and a time for sharing their experiences at camp.

Monday morning arrived and camp was almost over. The time provided an opportunity for a more formal evaluation of the camp as well as a time for staff to reinforce the importance of maintaining a healthy ecosystem on our coastal areas. Ecology Camp was a big success this year, thanks to all the students, club advisers, kōkua, and resource people. A special mahalo to Dr. Diane Drigot for her coordination efforts between HSH and MCBH.



**Bold Energy Initiatives***Continued from page 1*

and 40% by 2030. Specifically, this bill addresses:

- Corrects a significant flaw in our old renewable energy portfolio standards that allowed energy savings (such as the switch from incandescent lighting to CFLs) to satisfy Hawaii's renewable energy goals. While worthwhile, energy efficiency is not the same as developing new renewable energy sources.
- Clarifies and increases the responsibilities of the Renewable Energy Facilitator.
- Requires an agency to receive at least thirty days written notice before an automatic approval provision governing

the development of renewable energy facilities can be triggered.

- Creates a brand new energy-efficiency portfolio standard that requires utilities to maximize efficiency programs so as to achieve four thousand three hundred gigawatt hours of electricity savings by 2030.
- Requires retrofitting of older public buildings to be more energy efficient.
- Mandates disclosure of electrical costs (most recent three month period) before selling a residence.
- Clarifies the tax credit for solar, wind, and photovoltaic installations.

One disappointment this year is the legislature's failure to pass a ban on the development of all new fossil fuel plants.

With over 90% of our energy supply coming from fossil fuels, it seems obvious we need to draw a line about constructing new plants that could be around for another forty or fifty years.

The Sierra Club remains committed to limiting the construction of new fossil fuel plants. At the very least, we need to ensure our renewable energy portfolio standards (setting how much of our energy will be produced by renewable sources over the next twenty years) should be enforced by a concurrent ban on fossil fuel plants. In other words, if a utility is not in compliance with the renewable portfolio standards then they should not be permitted to construct a new fossil fuel plant.

## Other Noteworthy Measures

### Green Vehicles Encouraged



**SB 1202** - This measure solves a "chicken or the egg" problem with regard to the adoption of electric vehicles. Potential customers -- rightly or wrongly -- can be concerned about the possibility of running out of power and being stuck on the road without access to a recharging station. This measure alleviates this concern by requiring large parking facilities to provide dedicated parking spaces (complete with electric charging units) for electric vehicles. As more electric vehicles are sold, the required percentage of "green spaces" increases.

### Global Warming Task Force



**SB 266** - This measure begins the long-term discussion necessary to formulate smart planning steps that can alleviate and minimize the consequences of climate change. For example, why should we approve the construction of new multimillion dollar buildings in areas that we will know will be inundated by sea level rise in the foreseeable future? Further, native forests and marine systems will need additional protections if they're going to survive the impacts of climate change.

### Air Pollution Reduction



**SB 1260** - This smart bill closed a loophole for large polluters and eliminated a perverse incentive to pollute more -- not less -- in order to avoid air pollution fees. Under the old system, any large air polluter (like HECO) was exempt from paying pollution fees. This eliminated any natural incentive to reduce the emitted pollution.

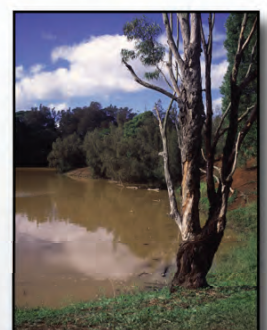
Governor Lingle has already allowed this measure to be enacted into law without her signature.

### Conservation Funding



**HB 1741** - Originally this measure reduced significant portions of the conveyance tax given to the Legacy Lands Fund and the Natural Area Reserve Fund. As a result of some smart leadership, this bill was amended to increase the conveyance tax on the sale of properties over \$2,000,000 and on the purchase of a second (or more) house. By focusing on the so-called "gentlemen's estate" purchases, these changes ensured that our Natural Area Reserve and Legacy Land Funds will receive the same or more funding. This measure has already become law.

### Lowered Water Standards



**SB 1008** - Blindly adopts federal water quality standards -- the lowest standards permitted under the federal Clean Water Act -- rather than taking the time to allow public input and develop scientific-based standards. This measure sends a poor message of permitting more pollution in our streams and oceans, rather than valuing the pristine quality of our environment and the importance of protecting the public health.



## Three Legislators Who Made a Difference

We normally “grade” the legislators at the end of the biennium (two year term). But it seemed worthwhile to recognize three legislators in particular who made a difference instead of waiting until next year. In recognizing these legislators, we’re plainly missing other leaders who supported positive environmental measures. We promise to catch up with these individuals in the Sierra Club scorecard next year.

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### HALL OF SHAME?

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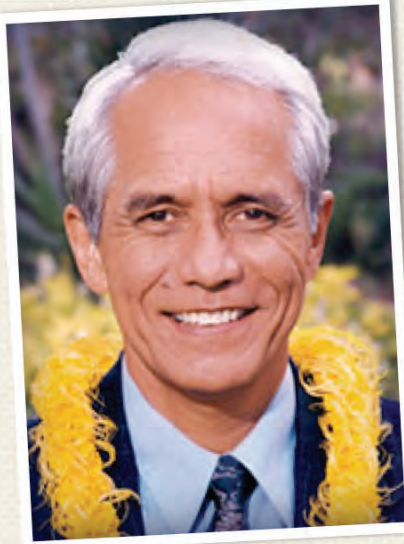
Some actions deserve attention for the wrong reasons.

#### **Shoreline Setback**

Both the Senate and House approved bills that would have taken steps to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise by, for example, requiring an analysis of the historical rate of erosion at each beach. The House Conference Committee (Reps. Ito & Karamatsu, Co-Chairs) however, changed the language of the House bill to **completely eliminate all shoreline setbacks**. Auwe! Fortunately -- or unfortunately -- this move completely eliminated any chance of these measures moving forward and becoming law.

#### **Beverage Container Recycling**

The Senate approved a common-sense measure that would have required large “big box” stores to operate on-site recycling of all beverage containers. This would have “closed the loop” on recycling and made it easier for consumers to recycle when they shop, where they shop. Unfortunately the House Conference Committee (Reps. Morita & Coffman, Co-Chairs) refused to consider this language.



### SENATOR GABBARD

SENATOR GABBARD TOOK THE LEAD ON SPONSORING AND USHERING THROUGH A SERIES OF POSITIVE ENERGY BILLS. HE ALSO DESERVES RECOGNITION FOR DEFERRING A BILL THAT WOULD HAVE UNDERMINED PROTECTIONS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.



### SENATOR HEE

SENATOR HEE TOOK THE LEAD ON ATTEMPTING TO SUBSTANTIALLY UPDATE HAWAII'S SHORELINE SETBACK LAWS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THIS INITIATIVE WOULD REQUIRED THE COMMON SENSE APPROACH OF FACTORING IN THE ANNUAL RATE OF EROSION WHEN DECIDING WHERE TO BUILD A NEW STRUCTURE ALONG THE COASTLINE.



### REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE

FRESHMAN REPRESENTATIVE LEE DEMONSTRATED COURAGE BY OBJECTING TO BILLS THAT WOULD (1) LOWER HAWAII'S WATER QUALITY STANDARD WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS AND (2) COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THE SHORELINE SETBACK LAW IN WAIKIKI.



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Solar energy systems have become more affordable over the years due to lowered production costs and tax incentives. Interested in learning more? The Sierra Club Hawaii website ([www.hi.sierraclub.org](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org)) has a new feature called "Green Your Home," which provides a wealth of information on how and why to make your home "green." A Solar Savings Calculator is provided that allows you to estimate the costs and savings associated with a potential photovoltaic ("PV") installation. For example, a Honolulu resident that has an average monthly HECO electric bill of \$150 (748 kWh/mo.) the post-incentive start-up cost would be about \$10,560. The system would reduce the monthly electric bill by \$75 (50%) and the consumer would break even after 9.8 years. More importantly, over this period you would prevent 13,500 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere per year.

Installing a solar water or PV system in your home will not only save you money in the long run but will also increase the value of your home. For every \$1 saved in energy costs per year the value of your home increases by \$10-\$20. That translates into a \$9,000-\$18,000 increase in the value of the home previously mentioned in the PV installation example and about \$4,000-\$8000 for the average Hawaii home after a solar thermal system installation. It's also important to remember that the price of imported energy sources (mainly fossil fuels) will increase over the years. The 25-year Rate of Increase (ROI) is estimated to be 354.93%. If you invest in a solar system today, you will definitely reap the benefits in the future.



Photo courtesy of the Nature Conservancy

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense"

- John Muir

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
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Because of the support of our March Appeal donors, the Hawai'i Chapter is able to continue an impressive track record of thousands of hours of volunteer hours leading hikes and service projects, passing important legislation like the mandatory solar roofs bill, and the development of new environmental leaders.

In a word, **“Mahalo!”**

Want to help? Contact the Sierra Club at 538-6616



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## HAWAII TESTING GROUND FOR OPEN OCEAN AQUACULTURE

By Rob Parsons, Conservation Chair, Maui Group

Hawaii is rapidly gaining popularity with high tech and commercial ventures seeking to raise seafood in open ocean aquaculture fish pen operations, even as state hatchery restocking programs are facing cuts. Hawaii's cultural history includes elaborate historic coastal fishponds, skillfully created with stacked rocks that withstood tides and waves, and found nowhere else in the Pacific islands. Modern aquaculture has graduated from onshore tanks that recirculate seawater, to open ocean fish pens, capable of holding hundreds of thousands of fish.

But, while a promising alternative to vastly depleted fish stocks in our oceans, these operations present an array of real and potential environmental impacts (including disease, parasites, pollution, predators, and more) and economic challenges. Two existing businesses are in the process of modification and expansion, hoping to return profits to their investors. Cates International, raising *moi* off Ewa Beach for the past eight years, was bought by Steve Case's Grove Farm two years ago, and now operates as Hukilau Foods. They recently issued a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) seeking approvals to double their ocean lease size from 28 to 61 acres, and quadruple their annual production from 1.2 to 5 million pounds.

Kona Blue Water Farms recently received a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from their revised supplemental DEA for new pens, and flexibility to raise new species in addition to their trademarked "Kona Kampachi," locally known as *kahala*, or amberjack.

Two new businesses are also looking to test the waters, both looking to locate off the Big Island's Kohala Coast. Hawaii Oceanic Technologies, Inc. (HOTI) is proposing to raise ahi in submerged, untethered cages that would maintain their positions within a 247-acre ocean lease site by means of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion technology, similar to that used by some offshore oil rigs. Their goal is to raise 6,000-12,000 tons yearly in twelve Oceansphere cages, nearly three miles from shore. Target markets are Japan and the Mainland, with a small portion of the product to remain in Hawaii. Sierra Club-Maui Group posed a number of questions in official comments to HOTI's Draft EIS, including the source and content of imported fish food, management plans for sharks, marine mammals, and endangered species, overall sustainability, and lack of public outreach for such an enormous project (proposed production 20 times greater than Kona Blue).

Another venture, Indigo Seafoods, LLC hopes to raise *moi* and other species in ten cages a half-mile off of Black Point, just north of Kawaihae Harbor. Representatives are meeting with area residents and organizations, and haven't yet released environmental studies or applications.

After going through the Chapter 343 environmental review process, aquaculture operations must also obtain ocean lease and Conservation District Use Permits from the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Ongoing monitoring is a must, as broad impacts of these large ventures are, as yet, undetermined.

Meanwhile, the Department of Land and Natural Resources announced they are cutting programs for artificial reefs and restocking native fish species, including *moi*, *opakapaka*, and *uhua*. Cutting these programs will pare the Division of Aquatic Resources budget by \$500,000, but also means the state will forfeit three times that amount in matching federal funds.

### A Hot Green Tip!

**"Consider purchasing fresh fish instead of canned fish. You will reduce the amount of resources wasted in the canning process and might even save money. For every ten pounds of canned fish produced, twenty gallons of water and more than half a pound of edible fish are wasted. Given that a six-ounce can of fish generally contains only about four ounces of meat, the price for canned fish (\$4 to \$8 per pound) is actually comparable to that of some fresh fish varieties. If each of the eighty-eight million U.S. households that buy canned tuna replaced just one six-ounce can with a six-ounce purchase of fresh fish, the water and fish saved could fill a seventy-foot high aquarium spanning two soccer fields with more than twelve thousand one-hundred pound yellowfin tuna."**

- Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen,  
*The Green Book* (Three Rivers Press New York, 2007)



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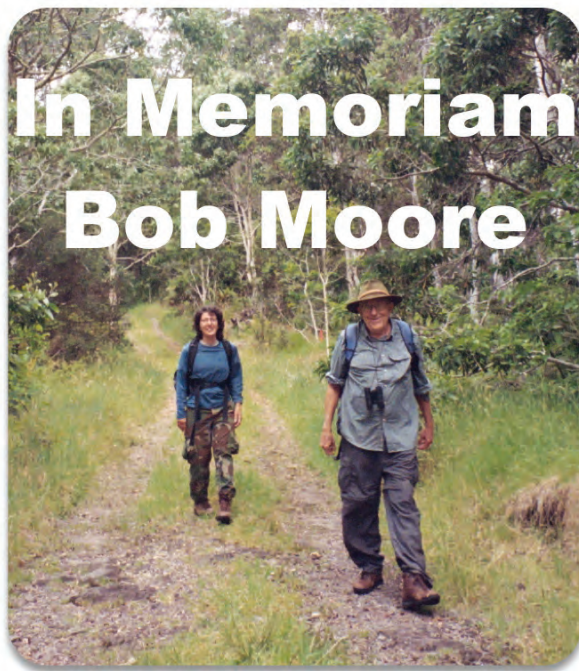
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On March 14, the Sierra Club lost one of its most dedicated leaders when Bob Moore passed away after a bout with cancer. Bob had been the coordinator of Na Kokua, the Oahu Group's service trip program, as well as the steady, reliable person who took care of securing the necessary permits for access to certain hikes on private land. Bob led hikes and service trips across the state, and was a familiar face to many of the hikers who joined our trips. He will be missed.

Bob was an avid hiker, and in addition to Sierra Club, he also hiked with Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club and Solemates. Outside of Hawaii, Bob also joined international Sierra Club hikes in Italy, England and Wales.

Bob was born in January of 1939 in Coffeyville, Kansas and came to Hawaii to attend UH. He was a planner for the City and County of Honolulu, and was a great help for people trying to negotiate the



bureaucratic mazes of the planning department. He retired a few years ago, so he could devote even more time to hiking, and his other interests.

One of Bob's favorite places was the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge on the Big Island, and he led many Sierra Club service trips there. In April, some of the Sierra Club outing leaders took part of Bob's ashes to the Pua `Akala section of the Refuge and spread them around a large `ohi`a tree, where he will have a "front

row seat" to watch `i`iwi,

`amakihi, `akepa, oma`o, `apapane and `akiapola`au.

Bob was a favorite of the Refuge staff, so horticulturalist Baron Horiuchi, selected a beautiful `ohi`a mamo (yellow) to

be planted in Bob's memory near the Hakalau cabin where we stay. Do plan to visit the tree if you go on a service trip to the Refuge!



Bob was the loving dad to his daughter, Alanna. She and her partner Jan, hosted a celebration of Bob's life on March 22 at Gordon Biersch Brewery at Aloha Tower, where his many friends and hiking buddies could share Bob's favorite beverage and their favorite memories about Bob.

Bob was a real asset to the Club, and we all greatly appreciated and benefitted from his efforts. We will miss you Bob, but the stories will live on!

Donations to Bob's memory can be made to Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, P O Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803. Just indicate to the memory of Robert A Moore. Mahalo.



*Ohia mamo planted for Bob Moore. In this photo from right: Arlene Buchholz, Randy Ching, Annette Kaohelauii and Maile Sakamoto*

# O`ahu Group Report

by Jim Hayes

First off, I'm not a journalist or good author, so bear with me on this, my first attempt at writing this column. I'm just a scientist that has been elected the chairperson of the O`ahu Group Executive Committee. The O`ahu group has some other new faces in addition to me. For the first time in some years Randy Ching is not the chairperson of the Executive Committee; however, he continues his invaluable assistance as treasurer and imparts his valuable club knowledge regularly. Having only been elected to the committee a year ago I'm busy learning my way around and benefit from Randy's knowledge. Elizabeth Dunne is the vice chairperson. Two new faces joined the committee after the recent election – Steve Montgomery and Carey Morishige. We welcome them and thank all those that participated in the election.

We are always looking for others with an interest in participating in the club at a higher level. If you are, please get in touch with the executive committee.

## Sierra Club O`ahu Group Events

One of the things we are excited about is a new effort by the O`ahu Group to sponsor some educational/discussions sessions on environmental topics. Our first effort will occur on June 19 at the Mānoa Valley Elder Care meeting room from 6 to 8 PM. We look forward to seeing you there and hope this is the start of something good. Our goal is to make this the first of a regular series of events that provide opportunities for club members and others to get together, learn, and have some engaging discourse on subjects of environmental interest. One objective is to raise the environmental IQ of all that join us. Another, of course, is to get people involved in environmental issues so that they can help influence the decisions

being made on our island that affect the environment and quality of life.

We hope that you join us, encourage others to join us, and provide any ideas you may have to improve this effort.

## Koa Ridge

Koa Ridge and other developments are still in the works around O`ahu. Our past leader, Jeff Mikulina, cut his teeth working to make Castle and Cooke comply with required disclosures that include impact assessments and mitigation measures before proceeding with Koa Ridge. Either that or he was trying to prevent them from building it at all. Eight years later, Castle and Cooke has a Final EIS for their Koa Ridge development before the State Land Use Commission. We have been reviewing that document and continue Jeff's work to either make this development a better development or no development.

Concerns the O`ahu Group continues to have related to the Koa Ridge development, and other similar proposed developments, include:

- Loss of prime farmland
- Energy use, savings, generation, and greenhouse gas emissions
- Surface water quality
- Groundwater use and sustainability

## Curbside Recycling

We had another scare on curbside recycling. Some on the city council proposed to cut funds from this program, preventing the rollout of the final phase of curbside recycling. It would have delayed the rollout to the remaining roughly 25% of the island, primarily the Leeward side of the island. Sierra Club responded to this threat quickly – contacted city council members, held a press conference, and generally screamed and hollered. That seems to have paid off. The council put the funds back into the budget and it now



*Jim Hayes (on left side of Mayor Hannemann) with other Detect-a-Leak week sponsors.*



# O`ahu Group Report

looks like curbside recycling will go island-wide before the end of the year.

We encourage all of you to watch this issue and, should the council backslide again, take action to keep it on track. Our advice is that phone calls to your council member have the greatest impact, on this and other issues.

## Detect-a-Leak Week

Detect-a-Leak week started June 7, so it has passed by now. Sierra Club remains a partner for this event. If you have been watching our website you know about this already. We encourage all of you to take the time to check for leaks in plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems, and other equipment. It's easy. Just turn off all water faucets and other water-using fixtures, then check your water meter to see if the dial is moving; if it is, bingo – you got a leak. A leak that causes your water meter to turn is a big one and should be fixed immediately. Also look for smaller leaks by visually inspecting faucets, pipes, and other fixtures. You can use dye tablets to check for leaks in toilets; use dye tablets available at the Board of Water Supply, City Mill, or Satellite City Halls. For more information contact the Board of Water Supply.

Although we obviously do not agree with everything Mayor Hannemann does; however, he does support Detect-a-Leak week and may have helped keep curbside recycling funds in the budget.

## Outings

Sierra Club O`ahu Group has a number of skilled and dedicated trip leaders. Every weekend something is going on. There are also some great service projects coming up so keep an eye on the website for information on those.

## O`ahu Group Service Projects

**Would you like to get your hands dirty helping Hawaii's environment by removing invasive plant species and protecting and restoring native ecosystems? Sierra Club Oahu Group Service Projects provide an excellent opportunity for environmental volunteers to experience unique places that are often closed to the public.**

September 5 -7, 2009 -- Saturday to Monday -- (Labor Day Weekend)  
Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Big Island

Leader: Arlene Buchholz, 3038 Paty Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822,  
[abvetlab@yahoo.com](mailto:abvetlab@yahoo.com), 988-9806

HAKALAU NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, HAWAII --

The U.S Fish and Wildlife service is creating makai-mauka corridors of native vegetation across open pasture lands for native forest birds to use in their migrations up and down the slopes of Mauna Kea. The service projects often involve planting native species such a koa or working in the greenhouse. Accommodations are at a well-equipped cabin at the 6, 200- foot elevation with electricity, running water, flush toilet, a hot shower, kitchen, and bunk beds with mattresses. Participants will need to bring their own sleeping bags. At this high elevation, cold wet weather is possible, so warm clothing, good footwear and raingear are necessary. Raingear can be borrowed from the Refuge. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-ohia forest to observe native forest birds, some of which are on the endangered species list.

**COST OF TRIP:** The fee for the trip is \$ 85.00. The fee will cover the cost of ground transportation on the Big Island, meals, lodging and a portion of the leaders' expenses. **Participants are responsible for their own airfares.** They will be informed by the leader what flight times to purchase.

**TO APPLY FOR A SERVICE**

**PROJECT:** Send a \$ 25.00 (per person) deposit check, payable to "Sierra Club, Oahu Group Outings" to the leader listed. Be sure to include your address, phone number and e-mail. It is important that the participants have a positive and cooperative attitude and willingness for teamwork. All trip participants are subject to approval by the leaders based upon the participant's experience, physical condition and attitude. Participants will share in the preparation of meals and clean up. Participants will live and work together in facilities that are probably more cramped or rustic than they are used to. We will work on the preserve for two days and have one free day for hiking or other recreational activity. Deposits will be returned to any participants not accepted.



*A group of happy hikers enjoying a service project at Hakalau Forest*

# O`ahu Group Outings

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.

Participants in Windward outings which are designated with an asterisk (\*) may also meet at 8:15 am at the First Hawaiian Bank parking area in the Windward City Shopping Center. (Intersection of Likelike and Kamehameha Highway in Kane`ohe).

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. No bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed. Sign in on the roster and pay the fee. 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 interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that 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.

## Saturday, July 11

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup Service Project

Meet at 8:00 am at the Harbor Master's Office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls

**Want to be an Outings Leader? Contact Stan Oka at 429-9814 or Deborah Blair at 955-4168.**



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

O`ahu Invasive Species Committee Service Project

Remove *Medinilla* along Judd Trail.

What to bring: Take along more water than you think you will need--at least 2 quarts. Please bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, rain jacket, long pants, long sleeves, and sturdy walking shoes. In order to join the work trip, please RSVP by Thursday, July 9 to [oiscc@hawaii.edu](mailto:oiscc@hawaii.edu) or 286-4616.

## Sunday, July 12

Hawaii Loa Ridge Sierra Seminar  
3mi/Moderate/Ridge/East Oahu  
Reservations required. Learn about a surprising array of native plants on this lovely trail. Stan Oka 429-9814, Arlene Buchholz

## Sunday, July 19

Beginner hike: Manoa Cliff Trail (partial)  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. These educational hikes are for those who have never hiked, have not hiked in a long time, or would like to learn the basics of hiking. Leader: Randy Ching 942-0145, Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

## Saturday, July 25

Outings Leader Training – Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Want to become a certified Sierra Club outings leader? Experienced outings leaders, assistant leaders, and new trainees are all welcome. Reservations required. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528

## Sunday, July 26

Opaepala  
3-4 mile/ moderate/ North Shore  
Learn about Haleiwa's sugar cane past on this hike, which starts by dropping down a ridge to Opaepala Stream. After following along an irrigation ditch up the



# O`ahu Group Outings

forested valley, the trail ends at a cool pool. Ed Mersino 223-5765

## Sunday, August 2

Makiki/Nuuanu to Jackass Ginger  
6 mi/Moderate/ Ridge & Valley/Tantalus  
Hike from Makiki to Nuuanu via the  
Kanealole, Makiki Valley, Nahuina,  
Kalawahine, Pauoa Flats, Nuuanu and  
Judd trails and learn about native snails.  
We end up at a beautiful swimming hole.  
Car shuttle required. Stan Oka 429-9814,  
Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

## Saturday, August 8

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project  
1 mi/Moderate/Coast/Kaneohe  
Reservations required by August 6.  
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: Arlene Buchholz  
988-9806

## Sunday, August 9

Kahana Valley  
5 mi/Moderate/ Contour/Kaawa  
The trail crosses a dam and stream and  
passes through a bamboo forest on the  
way to a refreshing swimming hole. Ed  
Mersino 223-5765

## Sunday, August 16

Kamanaiki Ridge  
5mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kalihi  
Not for those uneasy about heights. We'll  
ascend a steep ridge that divides Kalihi  
Valley and learn to identify some native  
plants while enjoying nice views. Stan  
Oka 429-9814

Beginner hike: Puu Ualakaa  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9  
a.m. These educational hikes are for  
those who have never hiked, have not  
hiked in a long time, or would like to  
learn the basics of hiking. Leader: Randy  
Ching 942-0145, Sherine Boomla  
527-8034

## Friday to Sunday, August 21-23

**\*\* Leaders and Assistant Leaders only \*\***  
Service project at Haleakala, Maui. We  
will stay at Kapalaoa Cabin in the Crater.  
Hoping this will be a new service project  
opened to everyone in 2010. Stay tuned!  
Leader: Deborah Blair 955-4168

## Sunday, August 23

Kawainui  
5 mi/Moderate/ Valley/Haleiwa  
A great hike through a valley with lush  
vegetation and a dozen stream crossings.  
Learn about the diversion of water for  
agriculture. Swim at a superb swimming  
hole. David Lassner 734-2452

## Sunday, August 30

Bicycle Outing: Kailua  
20 mi/Moderate/Windward  
Reservations required. We'll learn about  
bicycling issues while we see the sights.  
Gwen Sinclair 753-0528

## Sunday, September 13

Kaau Crater  
6 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Valley/Palolo  
Learn the characteristics of a tuff crater as  
we hike past waterfalls and native  
forest. David Lassner 734-2452

Beginner hike: Kalawahine Trail  
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9  
a.m. These educational hikes are for  
those who have never hiked, have not  
hiked in a long time, or would like to  
learn the basics of hiking. Leader: Randy  
Ching 942-0145

## Saturday, September 19

Get the Drift and Bag It Service Project  
1 mi/Easy/Shoreline/ Kahuku  
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Campbell National  
Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku. Join us at a  
lovely beach for the Ocean Conservancy's  
International Coastal Cleanup, an annual  
data collection on beach debris. Annette  
Kaohelaulii 235-5431, Maile Sakamoto  
946-5712

## Sunday, September 27

Sandy Beach Cleanup Service Project  
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 toes shoes only.  
Deborah Blair 955-4168

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# Kaua`i Group Report

By Judy Dalton

**Shoreline Issues:** In this time of sea level rise, diminishing beaches and beach loss across the state, the Kaua'i Planning Commission is busy giving away beaches. It recommended changing Kauai's precedent-setting Shoreline Setback Ordinance to eliminate the requirement of a certified shoreline for SMA minor permits, which include fences, walls, and planting beaches. Earthjustice provided testimony strongly opposing the amendment because it conflicted with our Coastal Zone Management laws (HRS § 205A-42) which requires the State to determine the shoreline. The Commission forwarded the bill to the County Council where we hope they give it a better legal vetting and retire it to its rightful place into a waste basket. Three years of county-funded erosion studies by Dr. Chip Fletcher (<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/asp/coasts/kauai/>) have been completed, yet there is no word when the county will implement use of the data.

**Koke'e Advisory Council Public Meetings:** DLNR is strongly advocating for public lands to be revenue producing. Income from the Koke'e lease rents, the museum, restaurant and cabins brings in more revenue than other state parks but that money goes into a general fund. Other concerns include: several years of public input have not been incorporated into the Master Plan; plans for an oversized and improperly located entry station; plans for a new "lodge complex" at Kanaloahuluhulu Meadow and commercialization. Since DLNR's proposed Recreational Renaissance was not passed by the Legislature, some state parks may close due to insufficient funds according to the agency. We believe it's unlikely that Koke'e would be included among the closures as a net revenue

generator. NOTE: Public testimony at the Advisory Council meetings is critical to avoid a State end-run around the public's desires.

**Hanakapiai Trail Improvements:** A grant-in-aid project for trail improvements for the first 2 miles of NaPali was recently funded by the state legislature. Kaua'i Group Sierra Club executive committee



*A seawall built on property adjacent to this house at Aliomanu Beach is cited as a likely cause for the severe erosion of 100+ feet of land seaward that led to its gradual and eventual collapse that necessitated owners demolishing it in April.*

members Caren Diamond and Gabriela Taylor are serving on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for trail improvements for Kaua'i Planning & Action Alliance's Kalalau Trail Restoration and Reconstruction. In addition to assuring safety for hikers they're advocating for retaining the wilderness qualities of the trail. Find out more about this project at <http://www.kauainetwork.org/park-improvements.asp>

**Coconuts Resort Projects:** One of two proposed resorts along Kauai's "Coconut Coast", Coconut Plantation Resort (sited in an historic coconut grove) went bankrupt and into foreclosure. However, legal proceedings will continue for neighboring Coconut Beach Development

Resort vs. 1000 Friends and Nani Rogers. The trial is set for late July and will be reported on in the next Malama.

**Sandbags in Conservation District:** The county gave temporary emergency permits for the installation of sandbags across five lots in 1996 in Haena's Conservation District when 3 houses were at risk of falling into the sea. Never removed, the state is inappropriately deferring to the county to decide the fate of the temporary sandbags. Two more houses are planned, and still the state has not prioritized removal of the revetment before development. We question why the temporary sandbag revetment has been allowed to remain long after the emergency has passed diminishing Haena Beach.

**Coco Palms Resort:** The Kaua'i Group supports efforts of Friends of Coco Palms, which is working with the Kauai Public Land Trust, to raise funds for a feasibility study to acquire this historically significant site from the developer. The state legislature approved the Kaua'i Public Land Trusts \$234,000 Grant-In-Aid to hold community meetings and develop a business and fundraising plan to acquire the site and determine cost estimates for demolition, construction and long-term management once the property is purchased. For more information visit [www.FriendsOfCocoPalms.org](http://www.FriendsOfCocoPalms.org)

**Algae to Biodiesel Pre-briefing:** Hawaii BioEnergy Partners (a division of General Atomics) presented to environmental group reps about their proposed algae to jet fuel project next to the electric plant in Kapaia which will be funded by DARPA. County permitting is underway for the R&D project which hopes to produce fuel at \$2/barrel in 18 months. A Hawaiian species of algae that rapidly grows in brackish water will be used on Kaua'i.



# Kaua`i Group Outings

Join us on one of these outings to explore, enjoy and care for our island. Note the level of hiking proficiency. Hikes are round-trip mileage unless noted otherwise. Participants must sign a liability waiver. Requested hike donation for Sierra Club members & participants under 18: \$1 For others: \$5. We welcome children accompanied by an adult at leader's discretion. **Outing Classifications:**(C) Conservation/Interpretative (E) Education (F) Family Fun (S) Service. See more at: <http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/>

**Sun. July 5** - Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight walk. South Shore/Moderate/4 miles. (C/E/F) Coastal hike starts at Shipwreck Beach & ends with a full moon glistening on the ocean along the magnificent shores of Maha'ulepu. Car shuttle for one way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Sat. July 11** - Anini Beach Stroll and Return Clean Up/North Shore/Easy/3 miles.(F/S) Walk along the gorgeous beach and coming back, clean up litter. Possible swim afterwards. Karen Tilley 821-8008

**Sun. July 12** Ho'opi'i Falls/ East Side/3 miles/moderate.(E/F) You'll be in for a delightful surprise discovering this forest trail along a river featuring two beautiful waterfalls. Vivian Hager 652-3234

**Sat. July 18** - Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge Crater Hill Work/ Hike/ North Shore/ Moderate/ 4 miles.(C/S) Spend a couple hours tending to native plants on Crater Hill, then hike the rim of caldera to spectacular views of Makapili Rock & on to Mokolea Point. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Sat. July 25** - Jewel of Koke'e, Strenuous/7 miles. (C/F) 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. July 26** - Bike Ride/Koke`e/Moderately strenuous/ 14 Miles (aka Wilderness Bike Ride) (C/F) Bring your bike up to Koke`e and ride the fairly level contour road west of the highway in a lovely forest area. Allan Rachap 742-1001

**Sat. Aug 1** - Hanalei Tunnel/East Side/ Strenuous/6.5miles/ An adventure from

Wailua area through a mile-long tunnel to the upper reaches of Hanalei River.(C/F) The trail is sometimes muddy, being close to Wai`ale`ale, but the experience is worth the slipping and sliding. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Sat. Aug 1-** Kealia Beach Clean Up.(S) Freeing beaches of litter is about more than just making a beach attractive. It also protects the wildlife, the reef, and ocean. Will you please help? Vivian Hager 652-3234

**Sun. Aug 2** - Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk/East Shore/Easy/4 Miles (C/E/F). Start in late afternoon from Kuna Bay (Donkey Beach) to Fuji Beach enjoying the sunset and full moon rising over the ocean. We'll shuttle cars for a one-way walk. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Sat. Aug. 8** - Pihea Trail to Kawaikoi stream/ Kokee/ Strenuous/ 7.5 miles (C/E/F) From Pihea lookout, we hike down thru Alakai swamp to picturesque Kawaikoi stream, with panoramic views of Kalalau valley and rare endemic plants and birds in Alakai. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Sun. Aug. 9** - Jewel of Koke'e, Strenuous/7 miles. Spectacular hike through the forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout.(C/E/F) Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Wed. Aug 12** - Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project/East Side/ strenuous/4 miles.(C/S) Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a moon light walk. Sierra Club members only. Please call Bob Nishek 332-5158 at least day before.

**Sat. Aug. 15** - Moloa'a Hike and Clean Up East-North shore /Moderately easy/2 miles. (C/S) We'll climb up the hill of an ancient trail, watch for dolphins and sea turtles, walk the breathtaking cove and then clean up the floatsam. Karen Tilley 821-8008

**Sun. Aug. 16** - Maha'ulepu/South Shore/ Moderate/3 Miles Spectacular walk with stunning views every step of the way! (C/E/F)

Unique coastline with fascinating rock formations, and pristine beaches. Allan Rachap 742-1001

**Sat. Aug. 22** - North fork Wailua River /East Side/ Very Strenuous /4 mi. mostly through river and some trail. (C) Wet, muddy and wonderful. Tabi footwear and hiking stick needed. Great pool and waterfall. Advanced hikers only please. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Sun. Aug 23** - Makaleha Springs/East Side/ Strenuous/ 2.5 Miles.(C/F) This delightful hike up the Makaleha Stream Valley begins with a winding trail through a bamboo forest and continues in a long, in stream, rock hop to the springs. Boreas Vam Nouhuys 639-3009

**Sat. Aug. 29** - Alexander Dam/Kalaheo/ Moderately strenuous/ 5 mile loop.(C/E/F) Old Army Road passes remnants of World War II, Cook pine forests, allspice groves, and McBride Reservoir. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Wed. Sept 2** - Waimea Canyon Road Clean Up/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. Please call Bob Nishek at 332-5158 at least a day before.

**Sat. Sept 5** - Ditch Trail/ Kauaikinana Ditch trail/Kumuella loop Koke'e\ /West side/ Moderate/4 mile loop C/F)Extraordinary view of Po'omau Canyon and spectacular water falls. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Sun. Sept. 6** - Donkey Beach Walk and Clean Up East Side/4 miles/ easy (E/F/S) Experience Donkey Beach and adjacent coastline. We'll look for dolphins and pick up the floatsam. Karen Tilley 821-8008

**Sat. Sept. 12** - Okolehao/Northshore/ Strenuous /4 miles. (C/E/F) Trail climbs 1200 feet along crest of a ridge running up Hihimanu. Enjoy beautiful, sweeping views of Hanalei Bay and the North Shore. Hike a trail Sierra Club took several years clearing. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

**Sun. Sept. 13** - Nonou (Sleeping Giant)/East Side/6 miles/moderately strenuous. (C/F)

*Continued on page 20*

# Maui Group Report

## IMPORTANT NOTICES FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP

**Maui Newsletter.** Due to the recession, donations have declined. Therefore, to save money, we are no longer going to mail the Maui Sierra Club newsletter, but instead we are going to combine our Maui Group Newsletter with the Hawaii Chapter "Malama" Newsletter which is mailed to all members in Hawaii. If you'd prefer to receive an email copy, please go to the Chapter website [www.hi.sierraclub.org](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org) and look for "Email My Newsletter" in the left hand column and sign up to receive the Malama Newsletter by email in the future. This will save the Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter even more money which we can better use for protecting the environment. Mahalo!

**Electronic Newsletter.** We will still prepare the Maui Group newsletter as always, but it will be for emailing to members and non-members (everyone is welcome) who sign up for the Maui Group email alert system. So please go to our web page at [www.maui.sierraclub.org](http://www.maui.sierraclub.org) and click on "Join Our Email List." This will not

**Maui Elections.** The Sierra Club Maui Group Board of Directors election takes place in October. New board members will serve a two year term beginning January 1, 2010. To nominate yourself or nominate another person, please contact Bob Babson at 874-1166.

**Telephone Number.** To further save money, we have cancelled our old telephone number (579-9802) and have replaced it with 206 426-5535. The new number is free. When you call the 206 number, you will be asked to leave a message. This message is then recorded into an audio file and automatically instantly emailed to our webmaster who listens to it and forwards it to the member of the Board of Directors best able to answer your question. This person will then call you to discuss the matter. You may also call us directly if you wish (see the directory on page 23).

Sierra Club members are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Please email Karen Chun at [Karen@RedwoodGames.com](mailto:Karen@RedwoodGames.com) to learn where and when the next meeting is and to add an agenda item you want to discuss.

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

*By Kathy McDuff*

April is always a great month for Maui Group activities. On April 4 we had a booth at the first annual More Fish in the Sea event at Maui Community College. Sierra Club member Hannah Bernard, President of Hawaii Wildlife Fund, was the coordinator of the event, aimed at raising awareness to help bring back the health of shore waters around Maui. On April 18, we had a table at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens Earth Day celebration and plant sale, enjoying wonderful Hawaiian music and ono local food. On April 22 we celebrated John Muir's birthday with cake at the showing of *The Waterfront*, a film about water privatization. On April 24, we had a table at the East Maui Taro Festival in Maui, providing educational material and getting all our conservation and environmental petitions signed. On April 25 we participated in Community Work Day's cleanup and we had lots of hikes throughout the month, including at Sliding Sands trail in Haleakala National Park. We are currently working on many projects, including reviewing the Supplemental Draft EIS for the proposed ATST telescope on the sacred summit of Haleakala. We are providing written and oral comments on this proposed project.

## UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

*By Lucienne de Naie*

**North Shore Heritage Park:** Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. recently got State Land Use Commission approval to designate 27,000 acres of Maui land as "Important AG Land (IAL). Left off were hundreds of acres A&B owns along Hana Hwy, from Spreckelsville to Maliko Gulch. Some of these are lands envisioned for future expansion of Baldwin Beach Park and Hookipa Park. What happens next? The Maui Island Plan (MIP) update process will decide whether lands are set aside for parks and greenways. Maui Planning Commission discusses the Maui island Plan first and third Tuesday of each month until Oct 31. Public testimony is taken at every meeting. Written comments can be sent to: [generalplan2030@maui.co.hi.us](mailto:generalplan2030@maui.co.hi.us). See Maui Sierra Club website for more details.

**Pali to Puamana Parkway:** Another great concept to support in the MIP process. MIP policies support the 8 mile parkway makai of any realigned Honoapiilani Hwy route. The Planning Director's Urban Growth Boundary maps also leave open space for the future parks, but they need your support. Write to the MIP comment address above or attend the Planning Commission meeting in West Maui on August 4 1pm to 8pm Lahaina Civic Center.

**East Maui Streams:** Citizens asked for increased flows in 28 East Maui streams in a 2001 petition. A settlement was reached in Sept 2008 for 8 of those streams and more water is flowing and making increased kalo cultivation possible. A ruling on increased flows in the remaining 20 streams is expected by November. Sierra Club Maui member Neola Caveny and supporter Lori Grace of Shangri-la Farm Center in Huelo have given outstanding support to this effort to restore flows in East Maui streams. Mahalo to both of them.

**'Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration:** Maui Group submitted comments on the proposed Waiale water treatment plant located next to the Maui correctional center. The plant is a partnership between A&B and Maui County using Iao & Waihee stream waters. Of concern is the lack of analyses of the plant's operational costs, cost and availability of stream water, energy use and public safety. A decision to settle legal challenges filed by Hui o Na Wai Eha and Maui Tomorrow on the amount of water that should be returned to Na Wai Eha (Waikapu to Waihee) streams has been postponed to later in 2009.

**Sustainable Energy:** A number of new energy policies were recently passed by the legislature, with more before the Public Utilities Commission. More information: [www.hi.sierraclub.org](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org)

**Superferry Update:** Hawaii Supreme Court ruled that Act 2, which was passed to allow the Superferry to operate without environmental review being completed, was unconstitutional. The Superferry recently auctioned off its equipment and declared bankruptcy.

*Continued on page 17*



# Maui Group Outings

## Maui Group Report

Continued from page 16

**Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST):** An EIS has been issued for the telescope project. Haleakala was recently recognized internationally as one of Earth's sacred sites. Telescope issues include use of ceded lands, huge size and energy uses, effects of blasting a 70 ft deep foundation hole in Haleakala, long term community benefits, connection to military activities and lack of appropriate respect for an internationally recognized sacred site. For more info, go to [www.kilakilahaleakala.org](http://www.kilakilahaleakala.org).

**Honolua Bay Development:** Updated discussions between Maui County and Maui Land and Pine have not been publicly reported and ML&P has undergone several recent leadership changes. The goal is a permanent conservation easement on the lands of Lipoa Point, Honolua Bay and valley. ML&P is asking to add a 60 room hotel and TVR use to around 600 luxury units in the adjoining Kapalua Mauka development. For more updates, go to [www.savehonolua.org](http://www.savehonolua.org).

**Wailea 670:** Sierra Club Maui sent comments on both the Wailea 670 EIS preparation notice and Cultural Resource Plan consultation survey. Maui Group will continue to track the EIS process to press for preservation for the whole southern 200 acres of Wailea 670 due to the extraordinary amount of native plants still surviving there.

**Makena Resort Rezoning:** Makena Resort's Maluaka condo project is amending its SMA to reduce its footprint from 69 three to five thousand sq ft condo units to 15 luxury homes in 14 buildings. Other portions of the project may also be adjusted. Maui Group will offer comment to support the restoration of the traditional coastal fishing trail in the project area. For updates on future hearings and actions go to [www.savemakena.org](http://www.savemakena.org).

**Food Security:** Several community garden projects are underway in Haiku and other areas. Is your neighborhood forming a community garden? Post an update to the new action-oriented blog hosted by Sierra Club board member Rob Parsons. Check it out: [www.mauifoodsecurity.com](http://www.mauifoodsecurity.com).

Please be prepared for outings. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. Hiking boots are recommended and please trim your toenails. No kidding! 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.mauisierraclub.org](http://www.mauisierraclub.org), and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

The East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows us to hike across their 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. Then, please bring the waiver on the hike.

We need more hike leaders. It is lots of fun. To be a hike leader, you need to read a short book published by the Sierra Club on hiking, be certified in CPR and First Aid (each is a 2 hour class offered by Kaiser (phone 243-6484) each month for \$20 each), and be a member of the Sierra Club. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 for more information.

**Saturday, July 11:** Upper Waikamoi Trail/Makawao Forest hike. Six mile moderate round trip through koa and 'ohi'a forest to reservoir. Meet 8:30 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center near Bank of Hawaii to carpool to top of Olinda Road where the hike begins. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Sunday, July 26:** Hike up Kaupo trail into Haleakala National Park. Enjoy the magnificent natural beauty. The views of the ocean and mountains just get better and better and if we are lucky we will see the Big Island in the distance. Trail starts at 1,500' and we'll hike up to about 4,000' and then have lunch. This is a difficult trail and you should wear hiking boots that support your ankles. Seven miles round trip all day hike. Bring lunch, water, rain gear and sunscreen. Meet at 8:00 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center in front of Bank of Hawaii to carpool. Limit 12. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Sunday, August 9:** Drive out to Keanae and hike Piinaau Road up the beautiful Keanae Valley. The area is also known as the Koolau Gap because lava

from Haleakala used to flow down through this valley to the sea in ancient times. Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center to carpool. Bring bathing suit, lunch, water and sun screen. Limit 18. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Friday, August 14:** Come spend an evening with astronomer Harriet Witt. This is a tentative date. Please check our web site and click on Hikes and Events for more info. For additional details, call Lucienne de Naie at 214-0147.

**Saturday, August 15:** Hike Skyline Trail above Poli Poli. Meet at Pukalani Shopping Center near Bank of Hawaii at 8:30 am to carpool. We drive up to Poli Poli State Park and then hike up the Mamane Trail to Skyline Trail. We have lunch above the timber line with fabulous views. Approximately 6 miles roundtrip. Bring lunch, sun screen and water. Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Sunday, September 6:** Makapipi trail hike. Moderate 4 mile hike. Explore historic Ko'olau Ditch from Makapipi to Kopili'ula Stream. Scenic vistas, pools, waterfalls and native plant life. During the hike we must cross several bridges with no hand rails which is a little scary. So if heights bother you, we recommend not coming on this hike. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Meet at 8:00 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Saturday, September 12:** Hike from Haleakala National Park Kipahulu visitor Center (seven pools) 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 8:30 am at the Pukalani Shopping Center near the Bank of Hawaii to carpool via the scenic backside of Maui through Ulupalakua and Kaupo. Limit 12. Hike Call Mitch Skaggerberg at 875-4970 to register.

**Saturday, September 19:** From La Perouse Bay, hike south along the coast on the Kings Highway to Kanaio - one of the most remote and beautiful areas on Maui. Visit anchialine ponds (unusual shallow ponds with tiny red shrimp) and archeological sites along the way. We actually walk off the recent lava flow onto the ancient shoreline where we explore further south. Bring bathing suit, lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. 8 mile roundtrip all day hike. This hike goes about 2 miles further south than our regular La Perouse Bay hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

# Moku Loa Group Report

## CHAIR REPORT

BY ROBERTA BRASHEAR-KAULFERS

Aloha everyone and welcome to summer. The four months of rainy, chilly weather are over and the outing leaders have planned some great hikes and outings for the next several months. Come on out and explore our beautiful island with us.

### Changes to Moku Loa Group Newsletter.

In order to reduce costs as much as possible, there has been a major push by the National Sierra Club for Chapters and Groups to convert from paper newsletters to an online version. We hope to get individuals to check out the MLG website ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)) and click on Moku Loa Group to see the updates there. Our next paper edition will be the MLG election edition for November 2009.

We will be sending an e-mail reminder when the August newsletter will be available on line. If you would like to be notified, e-mail [brashear@hawaii.edu](mailto:brashear@hawaii.edu). We will be compiling an e-mail data base and coordinating it with the one available from National. We are trying to utilize our limited resources to get involved with more programs and issues. We hope you will understand and look forward to seeing you out on a hike or a service trip real soon.

The Moku Loa Group newsletter and the Chapter Malama newsletter currently have a lot of overlap. It appears as of now each group gets two pages in the Malama. If this could be increased to three pages, then there would be no need for each Group to mail out a newsletter which is very expensive for printing and postage, especially now with the postage increase.

**Earth Fair Mahalo.** Thank you to the sixty-seven exhibitors who participated in Hawai'i Community College 21<sup>st</sup> annual Earth Fair. The Moku Loa Group volunteers were Diane Ware, Edith Worsencroft, John Olson, Phil Barnes, Rose Acevedo, Al Beeman, Jimmy Roustio and Paul Scott. Thank you so much for your time.

## DEPLETED URANIUM MEETINGS PLANNED; FEDERAL ACTIONS QUESTIONED.

By Cory Harden

As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) plans meetings in Hawai'i on a depleted uranium (DU) license for the Army, DU studies at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) are being questioned, and the NRC and another agency involved in studies have come under fire.

"...What is proposed by the U.S. Army for future studies at PTA will fall far short of providing the best information possible at this time," said Dr. Mike Reimer, PhD., a Kona geologist, in a March letter to Army Colonel Howard Killian. "...The study design ... may present itself as a feel-good approach, but it is unfortunately misleading..." he adds. Reimer's background includes chairing the environmental radioactivity section for special meetings within the American Nuclear Society; doing radiation-site contamination evaluations in Eastern Europe; and serving as guest editor for the Journal of Radioanalytical and Nuclear Chemistry.

In a March e-mail, Dr. Lorrin Pang, a WHO consultant, said "Those in charge of the [DU] assessment ... do not adequately address the ... form of the material, the routes of exposure, distribution in the body of non-soluble vs. soluble compounds, target organs, nor the variations in half-life and clearance from the body ..." He added, "... their own referral agencies and advisors on the topic were those whose science was so flawed that they missed diagnosing the existence of Gulf War syndrome ... the survey testing ... will miss all large remnants of Spotter rounds ... The survey lacks controls ... to evaluate the specificity and sensitivity of the tests as well as control sites to compare to background radiation levels ... The sampling scheme ... is very subjective and hard to interpret ..." Dr. Pang is a former Army doctor and has been listed in America's Best Doctors. He is also Director of Maui Department of Health, but speaks on DU as a private citizen.

But an Army handout says, "DU present on Hawai'i's ranges does not pose an imminent or immediate threat to human health."

"To evaluate conflicting views, we

invited the Army to participate in a forum with Dr. Reimer and Dr. Pang," said Cory Harden of Sierra Club, Moku Loa Group, "but it appears it will be several months before the Army is prepared to back up its conclusions in a forum."

Elsewhere, actions of both NRC and another agency involved with the PTA studies – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSCR) – have been criticized.

The NRC's recent decisions to classify DU as Class A waste was called an "arbitrary and capricious mischaracterization" by the chair and a member of a Congressional Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, who added that "requirements for safe and secure disposal of depleted uranium are much greater than what is required for Class A waste."

The ATSCR was criticized for using "flawed methods to investigate depleted uranium exposures" in New York State and refusing "to acknowledge a link between a cancer cluster in Pennsylvania and environmental contamination despite persuasive evidence." The criticism came from witnesses testifying recently to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight.

Earlier, the Subcommittee said ATSR's "scientifically-flawed" report and "botched response resulted in tens of thousands of survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita remaining in travel trailers laden with high levels of formaldehyde," and there was "a concerted and continuing effort by the agency's leadership to both mask their own involvement ... and to push the blame ... down the line."

"We urge the public to watch for the MRC meeting dates," said Harden, "then show up and insist that recommendations from Dr. Reimer and Dr. Pang be written into the Army DU license."

Call for Candidates for Moku Loa Group ExCom 2010. The nominating committee is seeking candidates. If you are interested in running for the Moku Loa Group Executive Committee, please submit a short bio (less than 70 words) to [edith\\_wo@yahoo.com](mailto:edith_wo@yahoo.com) by October 1, 2009.



# Moku Loa Outings

Outings are conducted in accordance with Sierra Club outing policies. Participants need to recognize the authority of the leader and plan to remain with the group for the entire outing. Sierra Club carries no participant accident insurance. In order to participate in one of Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please call (415) 977-5630, or see <<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>>.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make car-pooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for car-pooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Car-pooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Each participant should carry a minimum of one quart of water, lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent and rain gear. Wear sturdy shoes with traction. Additional items will be listed with the outing description.

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

**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**

**Saturday, June 13** – Kilauea Iki (F)(E)(C) D = 5 miles, E = 4000 +/- 480'

A pleasant family hike on one of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's most popular trails. The trail starts at Thurston Lava Tube, drops down into Kilauea Crater and crosses the crater floor. Observe steam vents and the large cinder cone formed by the 1959 eruption. Then we climb up to Byron's Ledge and along the forested edge of the crater. Contact Leader Roberta Brasher-Kaulfers (966-7002).

**Sunday, June 21** - Whittington Park to Punalu'u Park (E) D = 5 miles, E = sea level Rugged, exposed coastline hike (mostly lava) passing cultural sites, fresh water springs and Kawa Beach. Expect hot, sunny weather and several low water crossings. Bring 2 quarts of water, water socks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat/visor, sunglasses and lunch. We will lunch at Kawa Beach with possibility of ocean swim or dip in brackish pool. Swimming at your own risk—rough water and strong currents.

Limited to ten participants and leader approval. Car shuttle. Contact Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990).

**Friday-Sunday, June 26-28** – Mahukona Campout (F) D = 0, E = sea level  
Car campout at Mahukona County Park along the coast in Kohala. Easy access, no 4-wheel drive needed. Opportunities for swimming, snorkeling and hiking along this rocky stretch of shoreline. Fee to cover cost of permit. Reservations required. Contact Leaders Diane Ware (967-8642).

**July** – Date to be arranged - Pohakuloa Training Area Service Trip (E)(C)(S) D = 3 miles, E = 6,000'  
Help restore one of the rarest ecosystems, the Hawaiian Mesic Forest, in an area usually not open to the public. See and learn about rare endemic plants. Participants will be screened for fitness. Date TBA for July. Contact Leader Sarah Moon (935-3475).

**Tuesday, July 7** - Mauna Iki Full Moon Hike (E) D 3, E = 3000' +/- 150'  
This hike within Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park takes us into the SW rift of the summit of Mauna Iki, which last erupted in 1919-20. Panoramic views sweep across major features in Ka'u. The trail crosses prehistoric pahoehoe flows where historic footprints are embedded in hardened ash; and we will discuss a couple of theories to explain and date them. We start our hike before dusk; then return while the full moon rises. Boots, water, food, flashlights, raingear, warm clothes are required. Contact Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Assistant Leaders Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers (966-7002), Marcie Ugcoc (721-1364).

**Saturday, July 11** – Date to be arranged - Ka'u Forest Reserve (C)(E)(S)  
Spend a Saturday in July working on removing invasive species with the Nature Conservancy in their Ka'u Reserve. May be strenuous. They supply tools and snacks. Bring water, lunch, hat, boots and sun screen. Phone Leader Diane Ware (967-8642).

**Saturday, July 11** – 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. Contact Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990).

**Saturday, July 25** - Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (E)(C) D = 3 miles, E = 200' +/- 100'  
Walk along mowed trails atop the Hamakua Cliffs; not for those afraid of heights. We will enjoy dramatic vistas and seabirds, and explore historic sites. Leaders Mike and Sunny LaPlante (964-5017).

**Saturday-Sunday, July 25-26** - Red Hill Cabin Backpack (E) D = 9 miles/day, E = 6500' +/- 3800'  
The trail starts at the end of the Mauna Loa Strip Road where participants will experience a strenuous climb up the slopes of Mauna Loa. You will enjoy the view at "the top of the world" from the cone at over 10,000'. Required gear includes frame backpack, sleeping bag, warm clothing, sturdy boots, hat, sunscreen and good health. May have to carry 35-40 lb. pack. Reservations are required and number is limited to ten. Cooperative dinner will be arranged in advance; other meals will be provided by individuals. Contact Leader Cheryl Hoover (985-9601).

**Saturday, August 8** - Kaloli to Haena (Shipman Beach) (E)(C) D = 6 miles, E = sea level  
Hike on a historic trail in Puna, an inland carriage road from Paradise Park to Haena. Observe nene and interesting backshore ecosystems. Rocks could be slippery due to high waves. Contact Leader Rich Vogler (328-8387).

**Saturday, August 15** – Pu'u Huluhulu and Beyond Day Hike (E) D = 2 miles, E = 3,000' +/- 150'  
One of the most rewarding panoramas on Kilauea Volcano is seen from the top of Pu'u Huluhulu, a 500-year old cone in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. We hike out to explore an ancient spatter rampart, a forest of lava trees and tree molds. The short climb up Pu'u Huluhulu gives us the chance to enjoy possible glows from the active event of Pu'u O'o. Bring water, lunch, raingear. Contact Leader Phil Barnes (965-9695); Assistant Leader Rich Vogler (328-8387).

*Continued on page 22*



**Kaua'i Outings**

*Continued from page 15*

Hike up one trail and down another to see it all. Fantastic views, and incredible vegetation. Allan Rachap 742-1001

**Sat. Sept 19** -Hanakapi'ai Falls North Shore/ Very strenuous/ 8 miles.(C/F) Hike begins at Ke'e Beach along Kalalau Trail with breathtaking views to Hanakapiai Beach & to spectacular falls. Boreas Van Nouhuys 639-3009

**Sun. Sept. 20** - Gem of Alakai Pihea Trail to Kawaikoi stream/ Kokee/ Strenuous/ 7.5 miles (C/E/F) From Pihea lookout, thru Alakai swamp to picturesque Kawaikoi stream, with panoramic views of Kalalau valley. Rare endemic plants and birds in Alakai. Neil Brosnahan 346-8460

**Sat. Sept 26** -Maha'ulepu Beach Clean Up. Sierra Club, Malama Maha'ulepu & Surfrider team up to keep this awesome beach beautiful. (S) Follow Po'ipu Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to T-intersection and turn right. Continue to parking area and look for banners. Please bring sunscreen, hat, and water. Bags, gloves & refreshments provided. Meet at 9am. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Moku Loa Outings**

*Continued from page 21*

**Saturday-Sunday, August 22-23** - Napau Crater Backpack (E)(C) D = 12 miles, E = 3200' - 1200' Explore the East Rift Zone between Mauna Ulu and Napau Craters, crossing recent lava flows, craters and kipukas of native forest. Camp at Napau Crater with stunning view of Pu'u O'o. Next day backtrack past the historic pulu factory to Makaopuhi Crater, then down the Na'ulu Trail to Ke Ala Komo (Pizza Hut). Leader approval for this moderate backpack requiring heavy packs due to no water at campsite [8-10 lbs. of water (4-6 liters)]. Car shuttle and central commissary fee. Contact Leader Cheryl Hoover (985-9601); Assistant Leader, Diane Ware (967-8642).

**Saturday, August 29** - Mauna Loa Strip Trail Day Hike (F)(C)(E) D = 4 miles, E = 6662' +/- 1000' This is a challenging, yet non-stressful, hike. We will go about two miles, have lunch and return. The trail starts at the end of the Mauna Loa Strip Road and

quickly climbs through alpine shrubs and bare lava, with chances to observe native birds and beautiful views if the weather is clear. Weather changeable; elevation may cause dizziness. Bring warm clothes, 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, lunch; and wear sturdy shoes. Recommended optional gear may include camera, binoculars and sketching materials. Contact Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Assistant Leader Sarah Moon (935-3475).

**August/September** - date to be arranged - Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park Service (E)(C)(S) Help a grove of wiliwili trees survive the gall wasp by collecting seeds and possibly removing wasps. Date will be arranged to coincide with seeding of the trees. We will stay overnight at Ka'aha shelter for - probably a Saturday in August or September. Phone Leader Diane Ware for details (967-8642).



photo by Marcia Searns

**GOING, GOING... GONE?**

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

**Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone. Join Sierra Club now.**

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**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org**



# 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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