

Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAI'I CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

July - September 2010

Planting Native!

Guest columnist Rick Barbosa writes about the distribution, care, and cultural use of the native Iliau. Learn how to grow this special plant in your yard or patio!

Page 2

Capitol Watch!

Learn about significant bills that passed or failed in the legislature this year. Find out these new laws help protect Hawai'i's special environment!

Pages 4-5

Nate's Adventures

Join Nate Yuen as he escapes the heat by hiking the Kuolani-Waianu Trail and enjoys cool streams flowing into Kaneohe Bay in windward O'ahu.

Page 6

Hands Across the Sand

See Hawai'i photos of this event. **Page 8**



Moving Beyond Oil

Join the call for a national plan to move the United States beyond oil in the next twenty years.

Page 9

Preserving Prime Farmland

State Senator Clayton Hee calls for preservation of productive and profitable farmland in order to have a more self-sufficient Hawai'i.

Page 10



Barrel Fee Passes!

Using the Source of Our Problems to Fund a Preferred Future

by Robert D. Harris

Few expected many significant environmental bills to pass the State Legislature this year. It was a perfect storm of events to ensure a lack of green political courage: a record deficit; a controversial civil unions bill; and one of the more significant election years coming up in a few months.

Well, fortunately, our expectations were exceeded.

With the adoption of the "food and energy security fund," more often called the barrel fee, Hawai'i has become one of the first states -- and quite possibly the first -- to tax one of its largest fossil fuel sources in order to fund clean energy development. Akin to a "carbon tax," this law makes a commitment to fund clean energy, instead of merely continuing years of talk about the need to transition away from oil.

The Need for Clean Energy

Continued on page 4







Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

Iliau Kaua'i Greensword Wilkesia gymnoxiphium

Endemic: Kaua'i only.



Description: Erect, normally unbranched rosette shrubs 3-10 ft. tall with long, narrow, green leaves and slightly fragrant, cream colored flowers arranged in heads of 40-350 on a stalk that protrudes above the whole plant. Towards the evening, this plant (not the flowers) is known to give off a slight, but pleasant scent, closely

resembling that of a white

ginger flower. Undeniably, one of the most intriguingly exotic looking plants native to Hawai'i. It should be said that this plant is related to the silverswords (read the info. below) and just like those plants, these plants take at least 7 years to flower and once they do..... they die. But, the bloom is definitely worth the wait and the eventual outcome.

Distribution: This rare plant is endemic to the drymesic forests of Waimea Canyon on the island of Kaua'i and nowhere else in the world. Another, even more rare species called W. hobdyi is also found on Kaua'i but it has a smaller stature, slightly broader leaves and less flowering heads than this species

Landscape Uses and Care: This plant does best in full sun and dry soil, watering only 2-3 times a week for the first month and then only when needed after that. One of the biggest mistakes people do is over-water and this plant does not like to be continuously wet. It also keeps well in a pot and can be kept in a sunny location on your lanai if you choose. Very few bugs, if any, are known to bother this plant, rarely aphids or spider mites may bother it but they can be shot off with a hose.

Additional Info: Iliau is closely related to the Silver swords of Maui and Hawai'i and is therefore a member of the "Silver sword Alliance" in which three different genera (Argyroxiphium, Dubautia and Wilkesia) comprising some 28 species were derived from a single common ancestor. This is an example of an evolutionary term called 'Adaptive Radiation' in which a single pioneer species rapidly evolves in to many different species that occupy various types of habitats. Our native Honeycreeper birds (Drepanidae) are also fine examples of this Hawaiian evolutionary trend.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Approximately eight months ago, I received a call from Aveda's (the beauty products and service company) national office. I was informed the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club had been

selected as Aveda's local "Earth Month" partner here in our state. Let me admit, I was a touch bit skeptical. Big Aveda helping our little state club? And what do they want in return? The Sierra Club generally avoids endorsing companies so as to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

More details came out. Aveda has an annual Clean Water campaign, where the company's salons raise money for local organizations that support clean water programs. With the Sierra Club's rich history with the Blue Water Campaign,

advocating for better treatment of wastewater, and reducing water pollution, we were a natural fit.



As a part of the campaign, various

Aveda salons would conduct auctions, offer free services in lieu of donations to the Sierra Club, and help pass out our newsletter. The only "return" expectation was a request that we talk about the Sierra Club to some of the employees at the various salons. Well, frankly, we would have put on a presentation regardless of the campaign. This sounded promising. Our Chapter Excom briefly discussed it and enthusiastically said "okay" to the idea.

I'm pleased to announce our partnership with Aveda during earth month was a tremendous success. The presentations were a delight -- the Salon employees asked thoughtful questions and seemed passionate about many of our conservation efforts -- and the individual Aveda employees and salon owners were enthusiastic about helping the environment. One individual in particular, Pooka Johston, spent her entire weekend at the Kokua Festival booth helping pass out information about the Sierra Club and getting people to bid on silent auction packages for the Club.

As a result of local Aveda salons generosity, the Hawai'i Chapter received several thousand dollars targeted towards clean water programs. **Salons that deserve particular recognition are the** *Hoʻāla Salon* **at the Ala Moana Shopping Center and the** *Black Cat Hair Salon* **in Kailua**. Please stop in these salons and say "thanks for supporting the Sierra Club!"

Hope to see you on the trail soon, Robert



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

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Barrel Fee Passes!

Continued from page 1

The need for clean energy development can be crouched purely in economic security. Hawai`i is precariously reliant on dirty fossil fuels to power our economy. Some 50 million barrels of oil are imported annually, nearly 80% of which originate from foreign sources. In addition, over 805,000 tons of coal are imported into our state. These sources provide power for over 92% of Hawaii's electricity generation.

Any natural disaster or political/ economic event could result in an interruption of oil delivery and result in a shut-down of Hawai'i's economy. Moreover, projections demonstrate that Hawai'i is going to have an increasingly difficult time affording oil as this finite resource is depleted on a worldwide basis. Experts have opined Hawai'i must be free from oil in the next several decades or face economic ruin.

All of this economic analysis doesn't take into account climate change. Hawai'i fossil fuel consumption is contributing over 23 million tons of climate changing greenhouse gas into our atmosphere annually. While small in comparison to the worldwide production, it's clear Hawai'i has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership throughout the Pacific by aggressively moving towards clean, renewable energy.

Benefits of the Barrel Fee

While most would agree that we need to aggressively increase our clean energy use in Hawai'i and decrease our reliance on imported fossil fuels, we cannot do it without funding for research, development, and policy

implementation. For example, governmental assistance has been critical to the success of the solar industry in Hawai'i. Moving forward, the larger renewable energy industry will likely need similar assistance to get off the ground as well as knowledgeable leadership to ensure that hurdles, such as an outdated electrical grid, don't prevent future growth.

Funding from the barrel fee will provide the needed funds for energy efficiency projects and development of renewable energy critical for Hawai'i's long-term future.

Future "Fixes"

Any measure can be improved. As this bill moved through the legislature, it was amended to put a significant portion of the \$1.00 fee towards the general budget. This isn't quite as bad as it sounds -- by ensuring the budget is funded, other environmental and agricultural programs aren't cut -- but it doesn't necessarily square with the express intent of the food and energy security fee. Numerous legislators, such as Rep. Cynthia Thielen, promised to come back next year and push to ensure the funds are put to their intended purpose.

Others criticized this legislation for "only" taxing oil instead of all fossil fuels. The Sierra Club approached this with a "half of loaf is better then no loaf" mentality, but plainly, this is something that can be addressed next year. Coal could be taxed, for instance, on an equivalent carbon basis as oil.

A Good Bill That Should Have Paced

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) (HB 2643). Some folks can't afford the upfront cost of installing clean energy in their house. The PACE concept would have allowed a governmental body to issue bonds to fund small clean energy projects. The financing would have been repaid over a set number of years through an assessment on the property tax bill of only those property owners who choose to participate in the program. There is little or no up-front cost to the property

Described by the Harvard Business Review as one of "10 Breakthrough Ideas for 2010, this measure could have lead to a radical explosion of the solar industry, created new jobs, and put more money into the pockets of Hawai'i residents.

This bill passed through both the House and Senate. It should have gone to a conference committee to resolve any differences in language . . . but because of some last-minute lobbying, the Speaker of the House decided not to appoint any members to the conference committee. Accordingly the bill died without any further discussion or vote.

Significant Legislation Passed this Year

Shark Finning (SB 2169, Act 184)

PASSED. This new law flatly prohibits the possession, sale, and distribution of shark fins. Shark finning is the process of catching sharks, cutting off the fins, and then dumping the shark into the ocean to later die. Tens of millions of sharks are killed this way each year. As a result of this barbaric procedure, several species of sharks are close to being placed on the endangered species list.

Although Hawai'i already had a tough law banning shark finning in Hawaiian waters, this law was not well-enforced. We're not aware of any arrests despite tons of shark fins moving through our state on an annual basis.

Act 184 is unquestionably the most aggressive law in the United States. It is being cited as a model for the United States and other countries to follow. And, yes, this bill means an end to shark fin soup in Hawai'i. If someone complains about this, please remind them the shark fin itself has no nutritional value -- it's just cartilage.

Coastal Access (HB 1808, Act 160)

PASSED. This new law requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to maintain lateral beach access by prohibiting landowners' human-induced vegetation from interfering with pedestrian access makai of the shoreline. It authorizes the Department to issue notices to any landowner that fail to keep the beach free of introduced vegetation and to issue penalties to landowners that fail to remedy the situation.

Sierra Club member Caren Diamond deserves special recognition in her key role of helping advocate to get this bill passed.

Public Utilities Commission Funding (SB 2809, Act 130)

PASSED. If we're going to accomplish our clean energy future, we need to have a vital and effective public utility commission. In fact, the dockets currently underway by the PUC - like feed-in tariffs for clean energy and energy decoupling -- are expected to help reinvigorate our economy.

The PUC is supposed to be funded through an annual fee of one-half of one per cent of the gross income of the public utility's previous year's business. A majority of these funds, however, are diverted to the state general fund.

Fixes to the Right to Solar Law (SB 2817)

WILL PASS. Although not acted upon at the time of this article, this bill is not on the Governor's proposed veto list. Accordingly the Governor must either sign it or allow it to pass without her signature.

This bill would tweak a problem we've had with Hawai'i's Right to Solar law. The original law allows owners of any single-family residential dwelling or townhouse to install a solar water heater. Unfortunately, some apartment/condominium associations have added hurdles to this process, such as requiring an encumbrance on the title of the property, that have made it difficult for residents to install a solar device. This soon-to-be-law clarifies and strengthens the original law by eliminating some of the needless hurdles to allowing folks to install solar and save a few bucks on their electric bill.

Improved Bottle Law (HB 2239)

ON GOVERNOR'S VETO LIST. If the Governor does veto this bill, we're cautiously optimistic the legislature will vote to override her.

This bill would extend the deposit beverage container program to include dietary supplements. This includes countless energy drinks, such as "Monster," "Red Bull," and the like that have grown increasingly popular over the past couple of years. Although some of these drinks may currently be labeled as "HI 5," they are currently exempt from the program.



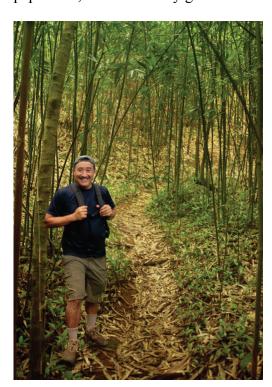
Nate's Adventures

by Nate Yuen

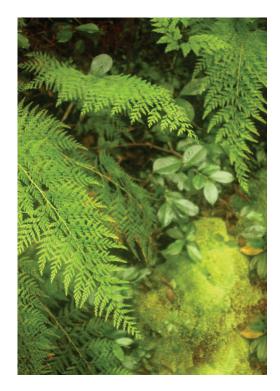
The Waters of Kuolani-Waianu

I hiked the Kuolani-Waianu Trail to escape the heat and splash in the cool refreshing streams that flow into Kaneohe Bay on the Koolauloa coast of windward Oahu.

The Kuolani-Waianu trail is a 5-mile contour trail that loops in the very back of Waiahole Valley. The trail takes its name from a small peak on ridge between Waiahole and Kaalaea — Kuolani — and a valley known for its crystal clear spring-fed stream — Waianu. After making my way on foot in the back of the valley I descended into a forest of introduced bamboo, paperbark, and strawberry guava trees.



While the cool damp bamboo forest was a pleasure to hike through, bamboo is an invasive species that sends out runners, crowds out other plants, and forms a virtual monoculture. It would be interesting to know what kind of forest was here before the bamboo took over.



Further down the trail, the vegetation gives ways to strawberry guava — an even more invasive plant which was taken over many native forests in Hawaii. Beneath the strawberry guava, I saw patches of indigenous pala'a ferns (*Sphenomeris chinensis*) growing on clumps of soft green moss.

Beyond the strawberry guava are indigenous uluhe ferns (Dicranopertis linearis) which dominate the ridge. I was pleased to see a cute little bird's nest on the ground along side mounds of uluhe.



When I reached the stream, the sweet fragrance of white ginger fill the air and I could not resist making my way up the stream to splash in the water. You can tell that ground water is source of a stream because of its cold temperature. Trapped underground for decades, ground water is considerably colder than run-off water.

Special Hiking Exhibit!

Nathan Yuen is putting together an exhibit "100 Years of Hiking with the Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club" from June 1 to August 31, 2010 at the University of Hawaii Manoa Hamilton Library. The exhibit celebrates hiking in Hawai'i and the founding of the club in 1910 using historic and present-day photos. Among the historic photos is a Sierra Club photo taken at Thurston Lava Tube in 1928. The exhibit also includes vintage hiking, backpacking, and camping equipment and video clips taken on selected hikes. Library hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM Monday to Friday, and 12 noon to 6 PM on Sunday.



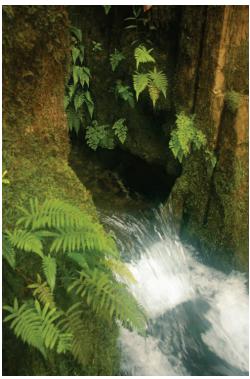
Non-native hoio ferns, also known as warabi or paco, thrive the banks of the stream along with ginger and other alien plants.



The growing shoots of hoio ferns are edible — they have a nutty flavor that make a delicious addition to any salad. I could not resist breaking-off and eating a number shoots as I climbed out of the stream and made my way up the the trail.



The trail leads to a waterfall about 40 feet high which is fed by a man-made tunnel that taps the ground water in dike compartments deep within the mountains. Based on a ruling by the Hawaii supreme Court in 1993, a portion of the ground water taken by the Waiahole Ditch System and transported to leeward of Oahu since 1916 must be returned to Waiahole Stream to maintain a minimal level of stream flow.



Prior to the ruling, the diverted ground water caused Waiahole Stream to dwindle harming the livelihood of kalo (taro) farmers and the wildlife that depends on constant year-round stream flow. Only since 1997 (just 12 years ago), has the water flow been restored to Waiahole Stream. With the water flow restored, the native hihiwai or freshwater opihi (Neritina granosa) has been reintroduced back into the stream.



Continuing on, I contoured in and out of a number of gullies to complete the Kuolani-Waianu loop and admired the many maiden's hair ferns that thrive along the trail and stream.

Hard-fought legal battles waged by the residents of Waiahole Valley, Sierra Club, and Earth Justice lead to a new chapter in water rights management in Hawaii. With the restoration of the stream, I look forward to the day when the native plants and animals that once thrived at Kuolani-Waianu make a come back.

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.

Hands Across the Sand



On Saturday, June 26, tens of thousands of people joined hands on beaches and in parks and cities across the country and around the world to recognize the tragedy of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf and call an end to offshore drilling.

Hands Across the Sands events took place in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, as well as in 83 cities in 33 countries outside the U.S. 12 events occurred in Hawai'i alone.

Thank you to all of the terrific participants, organizations, and volunteers that made the Hawai'i events so successful.

Moving Beyond Oil

This Guest Column ran in the Honolulu Star Advertiser on June 28, 2010. It was written by Sierra Club Director Robert Harris and Representative Chris Lee.

Not many folks remember that one of the United States's largest oil tanker spills occurred off the shore of Honolulu. On February 24, 19977, the oil tanker "Hawaiian Patriot" exploded and caused heavy black smoke to erupt, thousands of feet up, and more than 715,000 barrels of crude oil spilled into the Pacific. Fortunately for us, most of this oil did not wash up on Oahu.

We're now watching an even more severe crisis -- perhaps the worst environmental disaster in Hawaii's history -- in the gulf spill. All over the country, Americans are watching in horror as families mourn the 11 workers killed, as the oil continues to spew, as birds wash up on beaches and fishermen stand idle on the shore.

For most of us, there's very little we can do now to stop the spread of the Gulf oil spill. But we can learn from the tragedy, and make sure it doesn't happen again.

Already, President Obama has called for sweeping reforms to the agency charged with managing oil drilling, and has halted new plans to drill in the Arctic and Virginia. These are critical steps, and the President deserves our respect for having the courage to take them.

But this event is bigger even than that. The significance of this disaster—the largest environmental catastrophe in American history—requires a response of the same scale.

This is our wake up call. This is our chance to take bold action to begin to wean ourselves from oil. We need to call on the Obama administration to deliver a bold plan that will truly ensure that the disaster in the Gulf Coast never happens again—a plan to move our nation beyond oil over the next two decades.

For years, the oil industry has raked in the highest profits in the world, while battling safety regulations and lobbying for loopholes and subsidies that our leaders have been all too willing to grant.

Worse, the oil companies have fought fiercely against the clean energy policies that threaten their stranglehold on our economy. They have stood in the way of the clean energy future that could be ours.

What we need now is visionary leadership. In 1961, President Kennedy announced he would put a man on the moon by the end of the century. It was a lofty goal. At that time, no one was sure just how it could be done. But Kennedy had enough confidence in American innovation that he was willing to put his neck out and set that goal. And as a result, less than a decade

later, Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

The stakes are much higher now than they were then. We are dealing with a faltering economy, and an oil addiction that simply cannot be sustained.

Our dependence on oil has created all kinds of misery—from the Exxon Valdez spill twenty years ago, to air pollution and asthma, to climate change, to foreign wars, to the disaster we're watching in the Gulf today.

We have a choice. We can turn our eyes away from the images of oiled birds, dead turtles, closed beaches, out-of-work shrimpers, and continue with business as usual. We can continue to drill farther and deeper in a desperate bid for more oil. We can seek out dirtier and more dangerous forms of oil like Canada's tar sands.

We can look back 100 years from now when all the world's oil is gone, and know that we sucked out every last drop of oil—destroying oceans, forests, mountains, and human lives in the process.

Or we can wake up.

Please consider adding your voice the choir of those who are calling for bold action in the face of this disaster. Find out more at www.beyondoil.org or www.sierraclubhawaii.com.

PRESERVING PRIME FARMLAND

Agricultural land in Hawai'i is a finite and irreplaceable resource.

Recently Senator Clayton Hee submitted testimony urging the State Land Use Commission to fulfill its constitutional obligation to protect prime farmland land. We'd like to share his testimony with you.



Testimony submitted by Senator Clayton Hee on May 20, 2010 in regards to the proposed Castle and Cooke Homes

Hawaii, Inc. reclassification (Oahu) pending before the State Land Use Commission.

Distinguished members of the Land Use Commission, I thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to the petition before you this morning to reclassify prime agricultural land to urban. I am Clayton Hee and appear before you as a member of the Hawaii State Senate and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs.

As most of you are well aware, legislators have been concerned about the diminishing acreage of profitable prime agricultural land that has been taken out of production by zoning changes approved by this commission. The Senate Committee I chair and indeed the entire Senate has approved legislation protecting Agriculture and lands designated prime ag.

For example, during the past five years the legislature enacted legislation designating Important Ag Lands in Hawaii and in each of the last two years the Senate has passed legislative proposals requiring lease extensions to farmers on prime ag lands, as well as requiring a super majority of the members of the LUC when redesignating prime ag lands to urban. While the legislation awaits the consideration by the House of Representatives the action taken by the Senate in and of itself is a strong mandate with regard to the preservation of prime ag lands.

I am certain each of you is aware of the policy expressed in Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution of the State which mandates the protection and preservation of agricultural lands, so in the interest of time I will not repeat what you have been advised and that to which you testified before the Senate Committee during you confirmation hearings. Each of you who appeared before the Senate committee acknowledged the importance of the Hawaii State Constitution's mandate on the protection of agricultural lands.

I find it troubling that there is an apparent "school of thought" by some that it is "fair enough" to require the petitioner to find and allocate "replacement acreage" as a condition for the land use change from ag to urban. Respectfully, it is not. Requiring additional acreage as a condition of rezoning diminishes productive ag land, which is lost forever to concrete and rooftops. As testified by the DOA on January 14, 2010, 3,300 acres of A and B lands have been lost only in the last 20 years. In the last two years your commission has conducted public hearing to rezone an additional 1500 acres in Kapolei and 500 acres at Koa Ridge – all of which comprise prime ag lands. If you approve the diminishment of these lands, you will have nearly doubled in two years what has been done in the last 20 years – all at a time when nearly 90 percent of food is imported to Hawaii, and the state policy has been to be less reliant on cars and more reliant on sustainability, including locally grown food and biofuels.

I recognize that some of you may be of the mindset that each petition is considered on a "case by case" basis and on its own merit. However, no one on this commission can ignore the intimate relationship of the

numerous petitions heard in their totality when measuring the "far reaching and overarching" impact to agriculture and sustainability for the future generations going forward.

By any index it is impossible to ignore the cumulative impact of approving this project given the data available. For example, according to the 2008 state data book there were 286,450 homes and 436,970 cars, nearly 80% of which are located on this island. It needs not be said that these numbers have only proliferated since 2008.

Published reports have indicated that 33,000 units have already been approved and given the appropriate zoning. Approximately 17,000 units are being considered by this commission all on the leeward side of Oahu; 12,000 at Hoopili and 5000 at Koa Ridge and Waiawa. Using the 2008 data book numbers, the quantity of homes would increase to 337,450 and the amount of cars to 510,235. Respectfully, the duty to evaluate and take into account the mitigation of the consequences of your decision cannot be done in isolation of each project without the aggregate repercussion of that decision.

Former Governor George Ariyoshi in a published document commented on the Land Use Commission earlier this year, saying "The decisions of the Land Use Commission to urbanize go a long way toward explaining why the number of construction workers in Hawaii has doubled in the past decade and why the general public is increasingly disturbed by the congestion that results from overly rapid development." As a former member of Local 368, the

Construction Laborers Union, I know intimately how well these jobs pay, compared to the salaries of other avocations. As a longtime member of the legislature I am cognizant of the contributions of the construction industry locally. That said, the pervasive relationship of the lure of jobs as justification of more urban sprawl while knowing that the workers are unlikely to afford the occupation of the units built contributes to an inexhaustible conundrum not unlike a dog chasing its tail.

Let me put it another way: I have a wonderful son who graduated from one of the best high schools locally, Punahou. In June of last year I stood as a proud father at his graduation from one of the best universities in America, Princeton University. In June of next year he will receive his MA in Public Policy from UCLA and the following June will receive an MBA also from UCLA. Armed with those achievements from opportunities most are not privileged to enjoy, he will not be able to qualify to own a home in these proposed projects. That said, exactly who are these socalled "affordable" homes for and at what cost to the greater Hawaii society?

Finally, I believe there is an incorrect perception that as the owners of the land, Castle and Cooke or DR Horton has a "right" to develop the land. They do not. They have an obligation to be good stewards of the land, as were the people of the first nation of these islands. Like other proposed projects, landowners have used the LUC as a means to increase the value of the land, in some cases to market the land to others. Turtle Bay immediately

comes to mind. No one owes landowners concessions or privileges to enhance their portfolio, in fact, it is the opposite – the landowner as a steward has the obligation to its community to ensure that the people benefit as good neighbors. I submit to you that if this were truly the case and efforts to mollify petitioners by a so-called requirement to find "a suitable alternative on an acre for acre basis" were eliminated and further, that the social consequences were openly and sincerely considered, that this commission would dutifully deny the petitioners request to extinguish forever productive and profitable prime agricultural land.

Troubling Facts

- Since 1991, approximately 3,297 acres of A or B land on O'ahu have been reclassified
- Hawai'i currently imports 85-90% of its
 food
- Hawai'i is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and economic events that could disrupt shipping and supply of food.
- The College of Tropical Agricultural and Human Resources determined Hawai'i needs 12,000 acres of prime farmland more that what we currently have available to be selfsufficient

But..

Between 1990 and 2004 there was a 475% increase in the land acreage planted to vegetable crops on 0'ahu

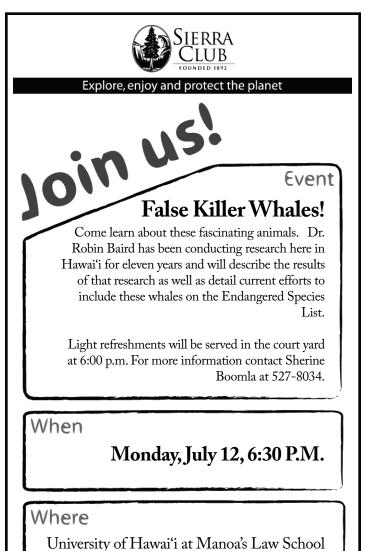
Mālama I Ka Honua

Monk Seal Habitats

By Lance Holter

Around March 19, 2010 a Monk seal (tagged a year ago on Kauai as R4DF with V02 bleach markings) hauled up on Baldwin Beach. Please see the picture to the right. It had been seen the day before at Kapalua and swam thru the night in 20 foot seas to arrive at Baldwin east of baby beach. First seen on Maui in December of 2009 at La Perouse Bay, this young female has been visiting shorelines on Maui ever since. Monk seals have been seen on the North Shore of Maui for some time and considering that it's estimated only 1,200 of these marine mammals remain in the Hawaiian Archipelago, we have a special visitor and this makes the North Shore beaches of Maui critical habitat for the survival of the species.

I went to the web site of www.NOAA.gov and began reading more about the Monk seals on the National Marine Fisheries page. I learned that never has the population been so low as it is now. I also learned on that same page that conservation groups (Hawaiian Monk Seal Critical Habitat Petition, July 2008) had petitioned the Federal Government to name key beaches and sandy areas in the main Hawaiian Islands as critical habitat for the seal. These areas are essential to the recovery of the mammal the petition stated. It is anticipated that the population will drop below 1,000 in the next five years from 2008.



(Oʻahu), Classroom 4, Room 134

Reasons for the sharp population decline in the North West Hawaiian Islands are attributed to starvation, predation of seal pups by sharks, male aggression, fishing net entanglement and habitat destruction caused by global warming and sea level rise. As a result, more and more monk seal adults are making their way down to the main Hawaiian Islands in search of food and protection from sharks and to escape competition for food from jacks and sharks. It seems that jacks (Ulua) have adapted and are learning to follow seals as they head out in search of food and are actually stealing their catch.

I spoke with a scientist about seal recovery and I was told we need more funding to rear the seal pups in their existing NWHI habitats in rearing pens to allow the pups to grow up big enough to survive the sharks and male aggression. Money is there for research but not for rearing programs and recovery. It would be a similar situation as when the Fish and Wildlife service captured the last remaining North American Condor (around 20 at the time) and began a rearing and egg hatching program to bring the population back. It was successful and the Condor was brought back from the brink of extinction.

According to the NOAA Fisheries Service announcement May, 2010 regarding the establishment of Critical Habitat Designations, once the areas have been designated and published their will be a public comment period with public hearings held around the Islands. The final draft of the Critical Habitat study is out for peer review and should be made public at any moment. Please come to the hearings and provide your Manao to NOAA and support protection of Maui's unique sandy beaches and the worlds most endangered seal. In the meantime go to the www.USA.Gov website and use the keywords Hawaiian Monk Seal in your search and enjoy the research and key information.



Hawaiian Monk Seal resting at Baldwin Beach, Paia, Maui

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

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 repellant, 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.

Saturday, July 3

Poamoho Service Trip (S/C) 3 mi/Strenuous/Contour/Wahiawa 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. Reservations required. Call the leader by June 28

Leader: Emma Yuen 366-4788

Sunday, July 4 Nuuanu Loop

7 mi/Strenuous/Ridge, valley/Nuuanu Enjoy trekking through the Mauka Trail system on a hike that the club has never done before. We start at the Kalawahine trailhead, stop at the Nuuanu Reservoir overlook, wander through Pauoa Woods and end up back where we started. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 Randy Ching 942-0145

Saturday, July 10

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 the 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

Saturday, July 10

Oahu Invasive Species Committee Service Trip Join OISC to help remove invasive species from the Koolau's. Meet at Church of the Crossroads on Coyne St at 8:00 am. Make sure to bring plenty water, lunch, sun/rain protection, and wear long sleeves and pants and proper footwear. To join please call 808-286-4616 or e-mail oisc@hawaii.edu by Thursday, July 8, 2010.

Sunday, July 11

Wahiawa Hills Loop (F) 6 mi/Moderate/Valley/Ridge/Wahiawa Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the west (Koolau Mt) end of California Ave. in Wahiawa. This is an up and down trail that loops through the hills above Wahiawa. We will take a different route than the past because of changes in the trail. We will stop by some great pools in the stream for a swim and lunch. Ed Mersino 223-5765, Bob Butchart 235-0582

Monday, July 12, 6:30 P.M.

Conservation of False Killer Whales University of Hawaii's Law School, Classroom 4, Room 134

For the last 11 years Robin Baird has been doing research with false killer whales in Hawaii (among other species) and is trying to raise awareness of various conservation issues with the populations in Hawaii. They are currently being considered for an ESA listing by NMFS, and NMFS has formed a take reduction team (in response to a lawsuit from Earthjustice) to try to reduce bycatch in fisheries.

Light refreshments will be served in the court yard at 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Sherine Boomla 527-8034.

Saturday, July 17

Waahila Ridge 4mi/Moderate/Ridge/Honolulu What better way to spend a day than on this lovely trail, with its views of Manoa Valley and the Koolau mountains. Colleen Soares 748-9215

Sunday, July 18

Photography Hike: Kamehame Ridge (E/F) 2 mi/Easy/Ridge/Hawaii Kai Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Beautiful scenery of Hawaii Kai and Waimanalo from top of the Koolau Range. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Saturday, July 24 - Full Moon!

Full Moon Hike to Makapuu Lookout 1mi/Easy/Ridge/Makapuu Whats a blue moon? Find out as you watch the moon rise from Makapuu Lookout. Meet at 6:00 p.m. at the trailhead. Bring a flashlight and snacks to share. Colleen Soares 748-9215

Sunday, July 25

Beginner hike: Manoa Cliff Trail (partial) (F) 2mi/Easy/Ridge/Honolulu 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, August 1

Waimano Valley Extended Loop (E/F) 6mi/Strenuous/Valley/Ridge/Waimalu Push far beyond the boundaries of the State's Waimano Valley Trail and go further up the valley than ever before.

Don't worry we'll eventually intersect with the well hiked Waimano Ridge Trail, but only after lots of sweat, mud and mosquitoes!

Leader: Richard Bailey 723-2213

Saturday, August 7-8

Special Leaders Fun Training Camp – Stuck in the Woods. Jim Yuen. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Saturday, August 14

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project 2mi/Moderate/Coast/Kaneohe Reservations Required. For reservations call Annette Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by August 12. Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay has an award-winning environmental program. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawaii's endangered water birds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance, and we will send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168 Bruce P Koebele 695-5009

Sunday, August 15

Kapalama Loop 6mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Alewa Hts. This up and down ridge trail, recently opened to Sierra Club, leads to great views of Leeward Oahu. Along the trail there are a number of native plants and opportunities to spot native birds. Leader: Colleen Soares 748-9215

Sunday, August 15

Beginner hike: Puu Ualakaa

O`ahu Group Outings

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, a 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. Leader: Randy Ching 942-0145

August 20-22

Admissions Day 3-Day service project to Haleakala, Maui. Please contact Clyde Kobashigawa at 262-6092

for info on this trip.

Saturday August 21

Hauula-Papali 7mi/Moderate/Contour/Hauula Connect with other single hiking enthusiasts. This unusual hike takes us on a double loop through the forest. Leader: Arlene Buchholz 988-9806 Assistant Leader: Robert Harris 220-4306

Sunday, August 22

Hawaiiloa Ridge 5mi/Strenuous/Ridge/East Oahu Meander through impressive native forest as you climb 1,500 feet to the Koolau summit. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 Colleen Soares 748-9215

Saturday, August 28

Work'n-Learn with Ka`ala Farm in Nanakuli

Help erect a hogwire fence around the Nanakuli Valley Cultural & Botanical Preserve with Ka`ala Farm. After the work, we'll tour the Preserve and plant a few native plants. Meet us at Lyman Ranch (at the very end of Nanakuli Avenue) at 8:30 AM. Please direct questions to Bruce Koebele at 695-5009 or

bpkoebele@gmail.com.

Sunday, August 29

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

Sunday, August 29

Photography Hike: Wahiawa Botanical Garden

1 mi/Easy/Tropical Environment/Wahiawa Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Tropical Botanical Garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

September 4-6

Labor Day 3-Day service project to Pu'u Maka'ala, Big Island Please contact Stan Oka at 429-9814 for info. on this trip.

Saturday, September 4

Kuliouou Stair Building 5 mi./Moderate/Ridge/East Oahu Help us continue the work that we have done on this great trail. We will install more stairs in the highly eroded areas on the trail. The materials and tools are stashed at 1500' elevation, so we only have to carry them up a short ways to the work site. Reservations required. Ed Mersino 223-5765

Sunday, September 5

Tour of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. Sunday, September 5, 2010, 1:00 p.m. Educational. Learn how the Tsunami Warning Center monitors and predicts seismic and volcanic activities that could cause deadly tsunamis in Hawaii and other coast lines. Reservations required because of limited space. Contact Sherine Boomla at 527-8034 to reserve your spot and to get directions.

Saturday, September 11

6 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Niu Valley Mid-Valley Ridge Hike (E/F) Sierra Seminar for Sierra Club Leaders and Leaders in Training ONLY Trail with MANY native plants and possibly see native birds. Beautiful scenery. Reservations required. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Randy Ching 942-0145, Stan Oka 429-9814

Sunday, September 12

Kaau Crater

6 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Valley/Palolo. Hike up a ridge and partway around the ewa side rim of a little known tuff crater, traversing a dense native

forest to reach the Koolau Summit. Not for those uneasy about heights. Leader: Richard Bailey 723-2213, Co leader: Mariza Silva 753-7424

Sunday, September 12

Photography Hike: Waimea Valley (E/F) 2 mi/Easy/Valley/Waimea Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Nominal entrance fee required. Botanical Garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Saturday, September 18

Get the Drift and Bag It 1mi/Moderate/Shoreline/Kahuku Volunteers from Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation will join forces on this Saturday to make this work day a fun activity. Make reservations and get directions by calling the coordinators. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku. Join us at a remote beach for this nationwide effort to clean coastal lands of beach debris such as nets, floats, and fishing line that are harmful to marine life. Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431 and Deborah Blair 955-4168.

Sunday, September 19

Onikiniki

6mi/Moderate/Ridge/Waimalu Beautiful ridge hike in the Pearl City area, with a large concentration of sandalwood trees. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528

Sunday, September 19

Beginner hike: Kalawahine Trail 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, a 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. Leader: Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, September 26

Waahila Ridge 4mi/Moderate/Ridge/Honolulu What better way to spend a day than on this lovely trail, with its views of Manoa Valley and the Koolau mountains. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Mālama I Ka Honua

Kaua'i Group Report

By Judy Dalton

Kaua'i Group Sierra Club's 8th Annual Potluck Picnic at Anini Beach Park.

Please come to our potluck picnic on Sunday, August 29. Meet other Sierra Club members, play games, swim and enjoy the peaceful beach.

Environmental achievement awards will be presented by Gary Hooser, Mina Morita, and Robert Harris at 11:30am followed by a lunch at 12 noon. Your favorite Earth-friendly vegetarian potluck items are especially welcomed. We'll supply the beverages. Look for our banner at the last beach pavilion.

Preserving Public Access at

Larsen's Beach. The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) at their May 13 meeting, denied the appeal by Native Hawaiians and environmental/community organizations of the Conservation District Use permit for Paradise Ranch, a lessee of Waioli Corporation, allowing a 635-acre beef cattle operation to extend into 18 acres of coastal conservation land at Larsen's Beach, Lepe'uli. Cattle fencing would cut off safe access to and along the traditional (Ala loa) trail used for subsistence fishing, gathering and Hawaiian cultural practices for many generations. The trail is an important segment connecting to other ahupua'a along this northeastern coastline.

Senator Gary Hooser testified at the hearing, stating that the meeting would've been more appropriately

held on Kaua'i. Months earlier he'd offered to pay for BLNR members airfare out of his legislative funds so the meeting could be held on Kaua'i. Councilperson Lani Kawahara told the Board she was concerned about blocking the traditional trail since the county right-of-way was unsafe and inaccessible.

Although the appeal was denied, the BLNR strongly encouraged DLNR to review Paradise Ranch's Conservation District Use Permit application for any material misstatements which could result in the permit being revoked. Attorneys David Frankel of Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and Colin Yost, representing environmental/community groups on Kaua'i have shown that the applicant misrepresented prior use of subject property, the location of "existing fence line", and the shoreline location. The applicant also failed to adequately evaluate the importance of the ecological integrity of the area which may be the only beach in the main Hawaiian Islands to be a breeding habitat for both endangered Hawaiian monk seals and threatened green sea turtles

Frankel stated in an interview that a landowner cannot legally close off access to a trail or road formed prior to 1892. The liability issue raised by the county and Waioli is a "red herring. The state provides protection to landowners who give land for recreational purposes." [Hawaii Revised Statue 520-1.] He said that Waioli could give the traditional trail

to the state, which already has accepted other sections of this trail.

To avoid litigation, DLNR could fulfill its public trust and regulatory obligations by revoking the permit and Waioli Corp could gain community respect and aloha by keeping its 18 coastal acres free from cattle operations.

Protecting the Beach at Wailua.

The County is moving ahead with its plans to construct a multi-use path on the beach at Wailua, after announcing it would be moving it "off the beach". The 10 foot wide, 18 inch deep concrete path would straddle the highway and the unpaved makai shoulder, extending 5 feet makai of the lava rock wall. Since the highway was built on the crest of a sand dune, that would clearly put the bike path on beach sand.

We remain committed to protecting beaches, keeping them intact in their natural state. While our first choice is the mauka route listed in the EA. we've suggested a viable alternative to the administration: Instead of half of the path being on the highway, place the full 10 feet on it to keep the other 5 feet off the beach. That still fits in the safety barrier and 4 traffic lanes by slightly reducing the lane widths within Federal Highway guidelines. Ultimately, it may be the Native Hawaiians who will succeed in protecting the beach as one of the most historically and culturally significant places in the Hawaiian Islands.

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. July 10 - Beach Clean up at Baby Beach in Kapa'a. Easy/1 mile (S/F) Please help keep our beaches free of litter to protect marine life, the reef, and ocean. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Sat. July 17 - Kuilau Ridge Trail /East Side/moderate 3.5 mile. (C/F) Beautiful valley and mountain views. Great reward for moderate effort. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson (808) 647-0727

Thurs. July 22 - 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. Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

Fri. July 23 - Kealia to Donkey Beach Sunset to Moonlight stroll. East Shore/3 miles/moderate. Start off in the late afternoon to take in awesome views along the coastline and return to Kealia Beach to enjoy an almost full moon around a camp fire. Vivian Hager 652-3234.

Sat. July 24 Maha'ulepu Sunset to Full Moon walk. South Shore/Moderate 3.5 miles. (C/E/F) Incredibly beautiful coastal hike starting at Shipwreck Beach ending with a full moon glistening on the ocean off the spectacular shores of Maha'ulepu. We'll shuttle cars for a leisurely one way hike. Judy Dalton and Bill Snyder 652-1718.

Sat. July 31 Limahuli Garden Work/ Hike/ North shore/ strenuous/ 3 miles (C/E) A rare opportunity to hike to the back of the Limahuli valley and see the falls there, after working in the restoration area, tending to native plants. These areas are not open to public & participation will be limited. Jane Schmitt 826-6105 **Sat. Aug 7** Ho'opi'i Falls/ East Side (C/F) 3 miles/ moderate. Lovely river and forest trail with the opportunity to view two waterfalls. Leia Melead 822-2087

Fri. Aug. 13 - Donkey Beach to Anahola Afternoon Hike./Eastside/Moderate 4.5 miles (E) Incredible views on this stunning, wild and wonderful coastal hike featuring unique rock formations, cliffs and beaches. We'll shuttle cars for a spectacular one -way hike. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sat., Aug. 14 - Hanakapi'ai Falls/ North shore/ strenuous/ 8 miles (E) hike the world famous Kalalau trail along NaPali coast to Hanakapi'ai beach & back through the valley to the falls for a refreshing dip in the pool. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sun. Aug. 15 - 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

Thurs. Aug 19 - 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. Aug 21 - Berry Flats Loop, Koke'e/moderate/3.5 miles (C/F) Beautiful forested loop trail through sugi and redwood groves. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson. 647-0727

Sun. Aug 22 - Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight walk. South Shore/Moderate 3.5 miles. (C/E/F) Enjoy an awesome coastal hike starting at Shipwreck Beach ending with an almost full moon glistening on the ocean off the spectacular shores of Maha'ulepu. We'll shuttle cars for a leisurely one way hike. Bill Snyder 652-1718.

Sun. Aug 29 - Sierra Club's 8th Annual Potluck Picnic. Sierra Club members, their families, and friends are invited to lovely Anini Beach for a potluck lunch. Earth-friendly

vegetarian dishes are especially appreciated. Swim, play badminton and croquette. Sierra Club awards for outstanding environmental achievements presented at 11:30am. Picnic at noon. We've reserved Pavilion 3, right on the beach, the last pavilion down Anini Road. Look for our Sierra Club banner. See the Kaua'i Group Report for more info or call Judy Dalton at 246-9067.

Sun. Sept 5 - Makale'ha Springs/East side/ Very strenuous/ 2.5 miles. (E) On this short but rugged hike up Maka`leha stream, see springs emerging from the top of a dense ponded layer of lava. The perennial springs are home to many Hawaiian ethno botanical plants. Tabis are required footwear. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Sun. Sept. 12 - Maha'ulepu/South Shore/ Moderate/3 Miles. (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views each step of the way! This magnificent coastline is unique with its fascinating craggy rock formations, and spectacular beach. Allan Rachap 742-1001

Sun. Sept 19 - Wailua to Nukoli'i Beach Sunset to Moonlight picnic and walk. Socialize and Exercise. East Shore/Easy 2.5 miles. (C/E/F) We'll have a picnic dinner at Lydgate Beach Park & walk on miles of undeveloped coastline. We'll take advantage of the warm ocean temperatures this time of year by taking a dip at Lydgate Beach. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Fri. Sept. 24 - Anini Beach Clean Up and Walk/ Easy/ 3 miles. (S/F) Late afternoon beach clean up and stroll along this gentle, lovely beach. Freeing beaches of litter is about more than making a beach attractive. It also protects the wildlife, the reef, and ocean. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Sun. Sept. 26 - Sierra Club and Surfrider Foundation team up for a Beach Clean Up at Nukoli'i Beach. Easy/1.5 miles. (S/F) Enjoy this long stretch of natural, undeveloped beach while picking up washed-ashore litter. Help keep Nukoli'i pristine and protect marine life. Judy Dalton 246-9067

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."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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, 2011. To nominate yourself or nominate another person, please contact Marta Sweeney at 878-6743.

MAUI GROUP UPDATES, SUMMER 2010

Are you interested in serving on the Maui Group Executive Committee or on one of our event or issue committees? Please contact Lucienne 214-0147 or laluz@maui.net. Candidates for "Excom" will be reviewed by the nominating committee and have their names and statement placed on the September ballot. All members are welcome to be considered. Committee members are appointed. It's your talents and energy that help the Sierra Club continue to be an effective voice for our island home.

Mahalo to Marta Sweeney, Neola Caveny, Charlotte King and others who helped at our Maui Group displays at More Fish in the Sea, East Maui Taro fest and Mother Earth Festival.

Plans are currently underway for the Red White and Blue Candidates Picnic July 31. Volunteers very much needed to help set up tents and event grounds, solicit donations for the auction and be in charge of various activity areas. Sign up at the Sierra Club website.

If politics is your thing, volunteer for the MG political committee. Also sign up at the Sierra Club website.

Please enjoy our summer hikes and join in to advocate as important events and hearings come up. Our council will be reviewing and making final decisions on two important policy documents this summer: the Central Maui Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) and the Maui Island Plan (MIP). Both will shape how Maui grows over the next 25 years.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

Ma'alaea Harbor Expansion: Army Corps of Engineers goes back to the drawing board!

After 30 years of hearings and environmental review, the Army Corps has scrapped their former harbor expansion plan that involved destruction of 4 acres of reef. COE consultants are meeting with community groups and members to consider what they recommend to improve harbor safety and basic infrastructure such as restrooms, parking, ramps and mooring docks.

North Shore Heritage Park & Hookipa Expansion: The Council Land Use Committee will vote on maps in July or August that include expansions of Hookipa and Baldwin Beach parks in the 25 year County Plan update (MIP). For email alerts on hearing dates sign up at Maui Group webpage.

East Maui Streams: State Water Commission voted on May 25 to restore partial flows during the wet season and minimal flows during the dry season to East and West Wailua Iki, Waiohue and Hanawi streams, partial flows to Waikamoi during the wet season and partial flows year round to Makapipi stream. Although the commission's decision is historic, Native Hawaiian Legal Defense Corp, representing various east Maui residents, asked for a contested case because certain key information was still not being made available. Maui group supported a greater percentage of return and urged investment in the health of the watersheds.

Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration: US Geological Service recently presented the results of a 3-year study on the relationship of stream flows and native fish habitat and aquifer recharge for Iao, Waiehu, Waikapu and Waihee streams. The report predicted that restoring partial flows would result in 12 mgd of recharge to Iao aquifer, which serves 50% of Maui's population. Restoration would also substantially increase survival rates and habitat for native stream life, replenishing the food chain for near shore fisheries. The State Water Commission decision on stream flow restoration for Na Wai Eha is expected this summer. While HC&S and Wailuku Water Co have asked the commission to limit any restoration to a small amount, records show that WWCo categorizes over 20 mgd of the 60 mgd of water currently diverted as "unallocated and available".

Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP): The draft WUDP for Central Maui has good provisions supporting wise use and reuse of our water resources. The Council Water Resources Committee will schedule

discussions of the WUDP over June and July. Maui Group is working with other community groups to sponsor a public forum on the WUDP to help the average citizen understand what is proposed. WUDP is posted at http://co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?NID=213.

Hamakuapoko Wells: Use of the County's two Hamakuapoko Wells in Paia aquifer for cane irrigation in exchange for HC&S releasing additional stream water for the County's Upcountry system is being discussed. Any public use would require completely new tests for the various contaminants that have been found in the well water. State Water Commission staff recently stated that existing HC&S wells in the Paia aquifer are being pumped at or beyond the aquifer's sustainable yield. What does this mean for the future salt levels of the unused county wells if they are proposed for drinking water? 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: The county's "Got Choice? Buy Local" program is supporting local agricultural efforts and homegrown businesses. A school garden program has been launched with a Youth Garden Workshop on September 18, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm @UH Maui College Campus. Find out more about this and other ways to grow, exchange or learn about healthy, locally produced food at a new website: www.mauifoodweb.com.

Fish Farm Education: Fish farms on the Big Island have been given a loophole by state regulators. Citizen groups have launched a drive to demand that the long term impacts of the unproven and resource intensive technology be disclosed through public review.

Regulation of Aquarium Fish: Wonder why our reefs don't have the fish they used to? Commercial collectors have taken at least 119,000 colorful reef fish from Maui in the past decade, many of which die, and must be replaced, before they find their way to pet stores on the mainland. County Council Public Service committee will have its first hearing on "Aquatic Life Animal Control Bill" (Agenda Item PS-25) on June 2. Check out the bill: http://www.mauicounty.gov/archives/187/psproposedbill.pdf. Please email your support of regulation to ps.committee@mauicounty.us.

HAWAII CHAPTER

Maui Group Outings

See Page 13 for General Outings Information

The East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows us to hike across their beautiful land so long as each hiker signs a waiver. An EMI WAIVER IS ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED FOR EMI HIKES (LISTED BELOW) AND THE WAIVER MUST BE BROUGHT ON THE HIKE AND SHOWN TO THE HIKE LEADER. One waiver covers all EMI hikes for this quarter. Call in your waiver request to Jackie at 579-9516 well in advance (7 day minimum) 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 at least 7 days in advance.

We need more hike leaders. It is lots of fun. You pick the hikes. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 for more information.

Saturday, July 10: Hike up Kaupo trail to 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. If you have an SUV or jeep, please bring it because the last mile to the trailhead is dirt. Limit 12. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D=7 miles RT.

Saturday, July 17: Community Work Day cleanup: "Litter Bugs Me!" 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.

Thursday, July 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

<u>Karen@RedwoodGames.com</u> to confirm meeting time and place.

Sunday, July 25: 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). MUST BRING WAIVER ON HIKE. Limit 18. Hike leader: Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D=6 miles RT.

Saturday, July 31: Red, White and Blue Picnic at Kanaha Beach Park behind the Kahului Airport. Every two years before the primary election, the Sierra Club has a picnic and invites all the candidates to come and speak. You will be able to meet the candidates and ask them questions. It is a family event that features outrigger canoe races, ono grinds, awards, and information tents. A good time is had by all. Please plan on attending. Schedule of events: 8am: Canoe Race Registration, 9am: Canoe Races, 9am-noon: Festivities and booths and meet the candidates, and 1pm: Awards. For additional information, please go to our website at www.mauisierraclub.org.

Saturday, August 7: 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). MUST BRING WAIVER ON HIKE. Hike leader: Mitch Skaggerberg. Call Mitch at 875-4970 to register. (C) (E) D=6 miles RT.

Sunday, August 22: 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. If you have a SUV or jeep, please bring it because the Poli Poli road is dirt road. Limit 18. Hike leader:

Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D=6 miles RT.

Thursday, August 26, 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.

Saturday, September 11: Papa'aea Reservoir Trail. Moderate, uphill 5 mile hike above Hana Highway in lush East Maui watershed. Eat lunch and swim at a beautiful pool with waterfall. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED – PLEASE SEE ABOVE. Bring lunch, water and bathing suit. Meet at the Haiku Community Center at 8:30 am. Limit 18. Leader: Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D=5 miles RT.

Thursday, September 23, 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.

Saturday, September 25: Community Work Day cleanup: "Get the Drift and Bag It!" 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.

Sunday, September 26: 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 including walking on the original ancient Piilani trail built in the 15th century. Bring bathing suit, lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. 8 mile roundtrip all day hike. This hike goes further south than our regular La Perouse Bay hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D=8 miles RT.

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

Moku Loa Group Chair's Report, by Nelson Ho

I was recently working alongside Malama O Puna and Big Island Invasive Species Committee community volunteers clearing red mangrove trees from the

Puna Coastline. It was tricky work, balancing among the exposed tidal a'a rubble, drilling into tangled trunks with a cordless drill to apply a few drops of herbicide. It was sweaty and satisfying work because these growing thickets were spreading a mat of anaerobic muck which would kill edible seaweeds and smother coral colonies.

This is a classic invasive species story that began in 1902 on Oahu and Molokai, where this tree was introduced to stabilize massive

erosion caused by poor farming practices. The eradication project attracted some controversy because of the herbicide use at the coastline and the inability to remove dead trees. To learn more about the issue and volunteer call MOP at 965-2000.

Mauna Kea Update, by Nelson Ho

Recent actions of the University of Hawaii have proved troubling to management of the summit. The UH appointed Mauna Kea Management Board is supposed to represent the public's interest but has been acting like the classic fox guarding the hen house. Their decisions continue and increase

the bad land use practices that generated this 35 year history of bad policy and land use mismanagement.

To attract the University of California and CalTech Thirty Meter Telescope the University of Hawaii System will stand in

University of Hawaii System will stand in development control

Japan's Subaru Telescope during construction. Photo shows how extensive the excavation was into prime Wekiu bug habitat. All work was done without benefit of independent biological review and on site monitoring.

for the developer, defend defective logic in their EIS, AND PAY FOR THE COST OF DEFENDING THE TMT PROPOSAL WITH HAWAII TAXPAYER DOLLARS.

THE TMT WILL DO IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO MAUNA KEA.

If built, the TMT proposal will add to the significant, adverse and substantial impacts to the cultural and natural resources of Mauna Kea.

The TMT proposal would permanently alter an undeveloped portion of the northern plateau.

The TMT proposal would unleash a whole new era of summit development,

allowing even larger telescopes of 50 or 100 meters in size.

TMT approval will set up a paradigm whereby piece-meal cultural and natural resource protections happen only when development continues.

UC and Caltech hope to break the 1968 Science Reserve lease because they want assurances that TMT can operate beyond 2033. These alterations of the lease will set a dangerous precedent for the mountain.

TMT project, significantly erodes the value of environmental review by diminishing the criteria for

assessing the significance of adverse impacts and their potential for halting or fundamentally

altering a proposal.

TMT's attempt to substitute a "community benefits package" for payment of fair market lease rents (as required by law) significantly harms community efforts to address longstanding lease rent inequities in the use of conservation lands for observatories without just, proper and legal compensation.

Stray tuned, the UH Board of Regents are now poised to affirm these actions and begin the Conservation District Use Permit process.

HAWAII CHAPTER

Moku Loa Outings

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.

See Page 13 for information applicable to all outings

Friday, July 9 – Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Dayhike (Section 1) (E) (C) D = 3 miles, $E = 200^{\circ} + / -100^{\circ}$

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 Sunny and Michael LaPlante (964-5017).

Saturday, July 10 - Pepe`ekeo Cliffs Dayhike (Section 2)

(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, Sunny and Michael LaPlante (964-5017).

Saturday –Sunday, July 17-18 - Napau Crater Backpack (E)(C) D = 12 miles, $E = 3200^{\circ} - 1200^{\circ}$

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. Leader Diane Ware (967-8642); Co-Leader Cheryl Hoover (985-9601).

Saturday, July 24 - 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. Sometimes exploratory, as there is no continuous established trail. 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. Due to cultural and environmental sensitivity,

limited to ten participants and leader approval. Car shuttle. Leader Paul Campbell (965-5460); Co-Leader Kana Covington (966-8431).

Saturday, July 30 - 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. Leader, Sarah Moon (935-3475); Co-Leader Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers (966-7002).

Saturday-Monday, August 7-9 – Pololu Backpack (E)(C) D = 2 miles E = 1200' + /-600'

Easy downhill hike into a beautiful valley and campground (base camp). This hike will take a full day. On the second day we will do some optional exploratory hiking. Bring camping gear, meals and enough water for 3 days. Tabis may be needed for river crossing. Reservations required. Leader Cheryl Hoover (985-9601); Co-Leader Diane Ware (967-8642).

Saturday, August 14 - Wailuku River (14.5 mile marker) (E)(C)(F) D = 5 miles, E = 3900' + /-500'

This interpretive hike is along a jeep trail that starts out at 3900' and goes down to the Wailuku River. It was originally built to provide access to the gauging station and is much used by hunters. Trail is sometimes wet and dotted with small ponds which need to be passed through or around. This is a grand hike on a sunny day. Just about the time you feel hot and sweaty, there is a whole river to swim in. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring sun protection, bathing suit, towel, water and lunch. Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Co-Leader, Sarah Moon (935-3475).

Saturday, August 21 - 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. Leader Rose Acevedo (756-5990); Co-Leader Rich Vogler (328-8387).

Saturday, August 28 - Lokoaka Trail Service Trip (S) D = 0.5 miles, E = sea level

Clear trails to pristine lagoons, plant native plants and clear noxious plants. Tools, gloves, water and insect repellant provided. Wear sturdy boots or shoes and protective clothing; bring swimsuits for a cool swim after the project. Leaders Sarah and Jan Moon (935-3475).

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



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Standard Supporting Contributing	☐ \$39 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$150	☐ \$49 ☐ \$100	our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to <i>Sierra</i> magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.
Life Senior	\$1000 \$25	☐ \$175 ☐ \$1250 ☐ \$35	Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

22 • July - September 2010 Mālama I Ka Honua

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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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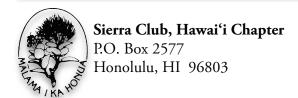
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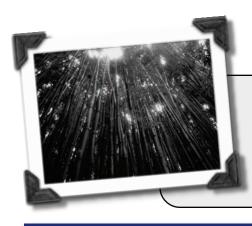
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Mālama I Ka Honua July - September 2010 ● 23

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PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNER!

Last Quarter, the Sierra Club held a photography contest. You can take a look at the terrific finalist photos and Herb Burgess's winning photograph at www.sierraclubhawaii.com.

And it's not too late to send in a photograph you'd like the Sierra Club to use to advocate for the environment! Show off your lens by sending in a photo!

Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

July - September 2010

We Need You!

To Be a Sierra Club Leader

What, me run for ExComm? (I don't even know what that means)

Yes, you. You could be a candidate. Or perhaps you know someone who would want to get more involved with the Sierra Club?

ExComms (Sierra Club lingo for Executive Committees) are the teams of people who make the local Sierra Club work. They make decisions, and perhaps even more importantly do the behind-the-scenes work to carry them out. The Hawai'i Chapter has an ExComm, and so does each of our island groups.

If the Sierra Club is the premiere grassroots, environmental group in

Hawai'i, it's because people like you make the decision to put in time and energy to make it that way.

Now is the time to start thinking about running for a Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter elected position. We're here to help you figure out how to do it. The Chapter Executive Committee is a role for people with a fair amount of prior experience. Group ExComms, especially for the smaller groups, require primarily the willingness to pitch in and do some work. Even if you don't win, by running you're expressing your willingness to get involved.

In the Sierra Club, questions of policy, resource allocation, priorities, or just

about anything else are handled by elected volunteer leaders. The Club—especially at the Chapter level—empowers everyday people to make decisions and take on core tasks in the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental group. So, if you want to get more involved, or think that the Club should tackle an issue we're not yet active on, then you can actually make that change through running for an office within the Club.

For more information on how to run, please contact Gary Gill at (808) 366-8950. And thank you for being a supporter of the Sierra Club.