



MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I

APRIL - JUNE 2018



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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

Hakalau: A Place of Volunteer Magic

by Randy Ching, Hawai'i Chapter ExCom member

During my time with the Club, I've been to Hakalau over 30 times—it's a beautiful place. Hakalau is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge about halfway up Mauna Kea on Hawai'i Island. The refuge serves to preserve and protect native forest ecosystems, primarily native birds.

I first started going to Hakalau in 1990 as part of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's Nā Kōkua Program, a service trip program that would travel to neighbor islands on 3-day weekends to do various service projects. At Hakalau, the first two days of each trip were usually spent planting seedlings—on average, we would plant 3,000-4,000 seedlings, mostly koa, between all of us. The third day was usually spent bird watching. Depending on the day we could see 'iwi, 'apapane, 'amakihi, akiapola'au, 'elepaio, 'ākepa, pueo, and other honeycreepers.

Jack Jeffrey, the biologist for Hakalau, was the person who started the volunteer program to help plant trees for the native birds. Jack took the most amazing pictures of native birds, his photos can be seen in many native bird books and framed artwork around the state. It was a pleasure to bird watch with him

on our service trips. He then hired Baron Horiuchi, a horticulturalist, to grow the native plants that volunteers would plant. Interestingly, Baron is the only certified horticulturalist employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Baron took over the volunteer program when Jack retired.

Some of the most magical days of my life have been spent at Hakalau, personally I have probably planted over 10,000 trees. When I first started, I could not see a single koa tree from the volunteer cabin. Today, after thousands of volunteers planting native trees, the koa forest is within 10 feet of the volunteer cabin and native birds can be seen close up from the lanai. Absolutely amazing.

The Sierra Club has played a major role in making Hakalau one of the jewels of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I highly recommend going on a service trip there—you will experience a Hawai'i not seen anywhere else in our state.



Photo by Roy Kikuta



Blasts from the Past

Honolulu Group membership meeting features presentation by HART [1980]



Highlights from second decade that are still pertinent to our work decades later:

Hawai'i Chapter membership reaches 2,000 [1985]



Nainoa Thompson and Will Kyselka speak on navigation and their 1980 trip to Tahiti [1981]

Sierra Club and Trail and Mountain Club forms a Trail Access Task Force to address trail access loss [1986]

Sierra Club helps commemorate Ho'omaluhia State Park's grand opening [1981]



Kauai Group seeks to expand the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge [1987]

Hawai'i League of Conservation Voters forms [1982]



Sierra Club lobbies to help establish the Na Ala Hele Program [1988]



Moku Loa Group's concerns rise about Kahauale'a Geothermal Project [1982]



Hawai'i Chapter office moves into the Arcade Building [1989]



Sierra Club brings attention to Hawai'i's declining trails [1983]



Chapter publishes a new policies including Geothermal, Stewardship, Energy and more [1990]

The *Mālama i ka Honua* becomes bi-monthly [1985]



Honolulu Group adopts Kaupō Beach Park [1992]



What it Means to Live in Hawai'i

by Gary Gill, O'ahu Group Adviser

There is a “special ambiance” to the coastal drive from Hanauma Bay to Makapu'u. As a new member of the Honolulu City Council in 1987, I read those words of public testimony while preparing for a committee meeting. The council would soon consider granting a Special Management Area Permit to allow construction of luxury housing along the highway fronting the popular bodysurfing site at Sandy Beach.

For decades, conservation-minded citizens had been organizing, agitating and winning the battle to push back against major development schemes that would have urbanized the last wild coastline on the south shore of O'ahu. A huge resort and marina had been turned back, but luxury homes and golf courses were still in the works.

Like most local kids growing up on O'ahu, I had a special place in my heart for Halona Beach—known today as Sandy's. While we watched Waikiki get buried in 30 stories of concrete and Hanauma Bay get overrun with tourists, a trip down the dramatic, curvy drive along the Kaiwi Coast to Sandy's defined our youthful existence. The wind-swept wilds were a respite from urban congestion. Getting dropped over the falls in the surf—and surviving—was a rite of passage.

At the council committee meeting, I pushed to turn down the development permit for the new houses at Sandy Beach. The matter was deferred in committee. Even the most sympathetic of my council colleagues advised me that it was too late. The zoning for the development was in place, a trade-off secured for stopping the proposed hotel on the coast. The permit we were considering, they said, could only adjust but not stop the project. But the call to “Save Sandy Beach” had gone out and the response became the largest, most complicated and controversial land-use development struggle of a generation.

Community members organized, petitioned, testified and lobbied to turn down the development permit but in the end, the Honolulu City Council voted 5 to 4 to allow the project to move ahead. Not ready to

give up, the Save Sandy Beach Coalition geared-up an unprecedented campaign to demand a voter initiative to place a rezoning measure on the ballot for city voters to decide the question. Citizens collected voter signatures at the beach, in front of supermarkets, on the sidewalks, and at schools. And in a few months more than enough signatures—over 40,000—had been collected to put the question of Saving Sandy Beach directly to the voters.

On Election Day, despite a massive, construction industry-funded publicity campaign to vote no, the overwhelming majority of O'ahu voters approved the measure that directed the city government to stop development at Sandy Beach. Months of tireless campaigning bore fruit: the people had won.

But the story does not end there. Hawai'i's Supreme Court soon ruled that the initiative was not legal, that the people did not have the right under state law to decide on land-use matters directly. The outrage over this cancellation of the clear will of the people was red-hot. So powerful was the public determination to Save Sandy Beach that the City Council soon did what it should have done many months before and re-zoned the property to end the threat of development there.

In the years that followed, public money was invested to purchase the remaining Kaiwi Coastline properties and we can now, finally, be confident that the last wild coastal area on the south shore of O'ahu will remain open space.

My son was not even born when the Sandy Beach Initiative dominated island politics. He is now shivering in a college dorm room on the mainland, oppressed by gray, winter skies and dusted in freezing sleet and snow. But he has developed a coping mechanism to survive the cold. He wraps up in his blanket, closes his eyes, and meditates on that split-second of bliss, surrounded in warm, blue-green water, as the wave tubes over his frame, bodysurfing at Sandy's.

Thanks to the countless hours of activism and the collective creativity of citizens—including many Sierra Club members—my son, and maybe his children and their children, will know that the beauty of our shoreline defines what it means to live in Hawai'i.



Victory Hikes: We've got a lot to celebrate!

Last quarter, our outings leaders and volunteers had a great time sharing with everyone some of Sierra Club of Hawai'i's greatest accomplishments through Victory Hikes statewide. We visited Kahuku Point, Maunawili Demonstration Trail, and Pālehua on O'ahu, Wailua and Nukoli'i Beaches on Kaua'i, Wailea 670 on Maui, and Makalaweana on Hawai'i Island.

Each Victory Hike celebrates the club's past, present, and future efforts in building, protecting, preserving, and/or improving a particular area. We encourage you to attend one or more of these outings and bring along friends to join in the celebration and learn about the club's efforts and successes. See each Group's outings schedule on pages 11-23 for more details on each Victory Hike!

O'AHU GROUP

Sunday, June 3 - Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail

The O'ahu Group Outings Committee in 1995-1998 advocated to establish the public access rules for the Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail to the State's Conservation District through the Waialae Iki V gated community. Proceedings took place at the 'Āina Haina Neighborhood Board, State Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Honolulu City Council—culminating in the March 4, 1998 Bureau of Conveyances Document No. 98-028929 issued by the City and signed by Mayor Jeremy Harris. Group members have, in the ensuing 20 years, continued to protect the public access for this popular East O'ahu trail from frequent infringement by private entity.

In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Ka'ena Point and more!

KAUAI GROUP

Saturday, April 28 - Māhā'ulepū Sunset to Full Moon Walk

The Kaua'i Group chose the majestic coastal area of Māhā'ulepū as one of the Sierra Club's top 7 remaining wild and scenic shorelines for Hawai'i Chapter's "Keep it Wild" campaign back in 2000. Realizing the exceptional natural and cultural resources of Māhā'ulepū, the Chapter created a conservation coordinator position for an organization to be called Malama Māhā'ulepū. In 1981 the Natural Landmark's Survey of the Hawaiian Islands concluded that "the lands of Māhā'ulepū are among the most interesting in the state both geologically and biologically". In its pursuit of preserving this environmental and cultural gem, Malama Māhā'ulepū geologically received an award from the EPA.

In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Donkey Beach, Okolehao Trail and more!

MAUI GROUP

Sunday, May 27 - Wailua Iki

Maui will be celebrating progress in unblocking the flow of water in East Maui streams with a hike in the Wailua Iki area. Taro farmers and other residents of East Maui have been fighting for generations to have the life-giving natural flow restored in 27 streams after more than 100 years of diversion by A&B.

Saturday, June 30 - Hāmākua

We are also offering the public the chance to explore the coastal land of Hāmākua with resource guides. Near the world class surf competition site Peahi, this culturally rich site was saved from development through a County purchase in 2016.

In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Olowalu, Mākena and more!

MOKU LOA GROUP

Sunday, April 22 - Hike Through O'oma on Ala Kahakai Trail

Join us for a hot, coastal hike on the Ala Kahakai to see first hand what the group and community's efforts over 25 years succeeded in preserving from another luxury development. Three times landowners petitioned the Land Use Commission to reclassify this makai property from conservation to urban and lost due to overwhelming testimony from the community and groups like the Sierra Club and Surfrider. The county now owns the land through Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) funds from property taxes. PONC is now a charter amendment spearheaded by Debbie Hecht, a long-time Sierra Club member.

In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Pu'u Maka'ala NARS, Puhu'e Bay and more!

To see photos and hear more about our first quarter victory hikes, visit our 50th Anniversary page at sierraclubhawaii.org/50thAnniversary



CELEBRATE WITH US!

2018 marks the Sierra Club's 50th year of service here in Hawai'i nei. There are two chances—town and country—to celebrate with us:

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SIERRA CLUB IN HAWAI'I

Saturday, September 8
Moli'i Gardens, Kualoa Ranch
5:30-8:30pm

'Āina based chefs, special guest Michael Brune - Sierra Club Executive Director, silent auction, live music, and more

Tickets available at
sierraclubhi50.eventbrite.com

SAVE THE DATE!

CONTINUING THE ADVENTURE: AN EVENING TO TALK STORY WITH THE SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Friday, October 5
Cafe Julia, YWCA Laniakea
5:30-8:30pm

Fabulous food and drinks, experience-based silent auction, special guests, and more

More information on our 50th Anniversary at sierraclubhawaii.org/50thAnniversary

BILLS THAT SURVIVED CROSSOVER

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **SB2334** - Requires considerations of sea level rise and climate change hazards in state and county plans
- **SB3068** - Implements recommendations from the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report
- **HB2182** - Renames and makes permanent the Carbon Farming Task Force
- **HB1986** - Establishes a carbon credit program to fund the State's water infrastructure and mitigate threats to water security due to climate change
- **SB1088** - Funds the certification of a carbon forestry project on Haleakalā
- **SB2977** - Assesses the effect of tourism on climate change
- **SB2965** - Requires nature-based solutions in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts
- **HB2470** - Requires state and county rules pertaining to environmental protection, air & water quality standards be at least as stringent as baseline federal standards

FRESHWATER PROTECTION

- **HB 2930** - Requires secondary containment of field constructed underground storage tanks within 10 years
- **HB 1987** - Requires the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a 5-year study on streamflows
- **HB 2592** - Establishes a working group to assess the viability of using tax increment financing on the county level to incentivize water-related infrastructure projects

AGRICULTURE & LAND USE

- **SB3095** - Bans chlorpyrifos and establishes pesticide buffer zones around ten schools
- **SB2561/HB2101** - Establishes funds for operational expenses and staffing costs of conservation districts
- **SB2572** - Appropriates funds to conduct import substitution projects to encourage Hawai'i farmers to grow food that stays local
- **SB2524** - Requires agricultural lands that are subdivided and leased for agricultural uses to comply with county subdivision standards

DLNR FUNDING

- **SB2399** - Restructures Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to improve coordination of the State's biosecurity plans
- **SB2331** - Improves funding for the Na Ala Hele program
- **HB2595** - Appropriates funds to DLNR for watershed protection
- **SB3038** - Redistributes transient accommodations tax revenue by allocating more funds to the special land and development fund

ENERGY

- **HB1801** - Establishes renewable portfolio standards for gas utility companies that mirrors those set for electric companies
- **HB2110** - Establishes a microgrid services tariff to encourage the development of energy resilient microgrids
- **HB2460** - Establishes a Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority microgrid demonstration project
- **SB2939** - Establishes mechanisms that directly tie electric utility revenues to its performance metrics
- **SB2910/HB2249** - Creates funds for any state agency or department to finance energy efficiency measures
- **SB2100** - Replaces the current renewable energy technology systems tax credit with tax credits for solar or wind energy systems and energy storage systems

WASTE & RECYCLING

- **SB498** - Prohibits the sale of styrofoam containers and serving of prepared foods using polystyrene foam containers statewide
- **HB2107** - Establishes a program to eliminate plastic waste impacting native species and the environment
- **HB1800** - Establishes a motor vehicle tire recycling program
- **SB3099** - Sets benchmarks to reach an 85% recycling redemption rate by 2023
- **HB2025** - Authorizes grants to establish a composting grant pilot project in public schools

bill status at this session's halfway point

WATER POLLUTION & HUMAN HEALTH



- **SB2571** - Bans the sale, offer of sale, or distribution statewide of sunscreen products that contain oxybenzone or octinoxate
- **SB2567** - Requires cesspools in priority areas to be upgraded within 180 days of the sale of the property
- **SB2717** - Establishes funds to assist lessees on Hawaiian Home Lands with cesspool upgrades
- **HB2626** - Requires the state to hire a third-party consultant to study issues related to cesspool upgrades

BILLS THAT DIED AT CROSSOVER

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **SB2442** - Requires seller disclosure of real estate sales lying in sea level rise exposure areas
- **HB2468** - Establishes a Beach Preservation Special Fund and a 3-year North Shore O'ahu Pilot Program
- **SB3063** - Conducts an economic analysis of North Shore beaches
- **HB1991** - Imposes a \$10 tax on every ton of carbon dioxide emitted from the use of fossil fuels

ENERGY

- **HB2109** - Narrows the available criteria for granting a solar hot water heater variance
- **HB1836** - Prohibits utilities from engaging in the large-scale import of liquified natural gas
- **HB1839** - Requires gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas

FRESHWATER PROTECTION

- **HB1708** - Requires the Department of Health to study the protection of state waters

WASTE & RECYCLING

- **SB2120** - Requires that state building codes incorporate the International Green Construction Code and set targets for the recycling, reuse, donation, or resale of non-hazardous construction waste
- **HB2625/SB2964** - Establishes a Marine Debris Working Group to clean up marine and shoreline marine debris
- **SB2285** - Bans distribution, sale, and provision of plastic straws
- **SB2127** - Bans state agencies from purchasing beverages in plastic bottles

AGRICULTURE & LAND USE

- **SB2575** - Funding for UH West O'ahu to expand programs to improve food security and self-sufficiency
- **HB2721** - Establishes public disclosure and notification requirements for the use of restricted-use pesticides
- **HB2722/SB2469** - Bans neonicotinoid and glyphosate pesticide use
- **HB1756/SB2456** - Bans the use of chlorpyrifos

WATER POLLUTION & HUMAN HEALTH

- **SB2117** - Establishes the cesspool compliance grant assistance program
- **HB2723, HB2264, SB2409** - Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone and octinoxate

DLNR FUNDING

- **SB 2446** - Requires a percentage of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's budget be transferred to DLNR

There is one month left in the 2018 legislative session—plenty of time to still get involved. If you would like to help improve protections in your community and stand up for the environment, join us for our Capitol Watch program at hawaiicapitolwatch.org.

How the Sierra Club of Hawai'i Endorses Candidates

by Jonathan Likeke Scheuer, Chapter Political Committee Chair

Many of you know that the Sierra Club endorses candidates for public office. You may even look on candidate's flyers for an endorsement logo or at the Malama during election seasons to see who has been endorsed. You may also recall our endorsements can be controversial, for example in 2016 the National Club endorsed Hillary Clinton and the Hawai'i Chapter endorsed Kirk Caldwell.

You may not, however, know how the endorsement process works. Here's a very brief introduction to three aspects of the endorsement process. If you want a more full understanding (and have a lot of time!), you can look at the Sierra Club Political Team Compliance Guidelines, available to members on Clubhouse.

Endorsement differs for federal, state, and local races.

All decisions about endorsements and other political action for candidates must be approved by a vote of two separate Club entities. For federal races (US Senate and House), the two entities are the National Political Team and the Chapter Executive Committee. For state legislative and county races, the Group Executive Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee vote. For statewide office (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustees), the two entities are the Chapter Political Committee and the Chapter Executive Committee.

Incumbency matters to the Club.

The Sierra Club in its endorsement process highly values incumbency. In specific situations this upsets supporters of individual candidates. For instance, the Club will endorse an incumbent with a good environmental record against a challenger who is stronger on the environment. This happens even when the challenger is known to the Club as a strong volunteer or even a former staff member!

Why do we value incumbency? Because we try to send strong signal to elected officials that if they work for our issues, we will support them. If we abandon our incumbent friends and support their opponents, legislators will be less likely to support our positions when we need them.

Viability matters.

The Club also considers the viability of a candidate when making endorsement decisions. What is viability? In short, does the candidate have a realistic chance of winning? Ways to measure or evaluate viability can vary, including assessing how much money has been raised, past voting patterns in the race, and the strength of opposing candidates. Like incumbency,

considering viability means that we sometimes will not endorse people who clearly share our values but have a very low likelihood of winning, and this can anger some people.

Why do we value viability? Because when we endorse a candidate, we want it to mean something – to the candidate, their opponents, and voters. If the Club consistently endorses candidates who do not win, an endorsement from the Club loses its power, and could even become an indicator of a likelihood of losing.

The all-volunteer Political Committee for this election season is listed in the Mālama and our website at sierraclubhawaii.org/PoliticalAction. Please reach out and ask us questions or share your concerns. Also consider helping out - indeed after endorsements are decided, the real work of campaigning for our champions still needs to be done. You can reach us at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

2018 Hawai'i Chapter Political Committee

Chair: Jonathan Scheuer

Vice Chair: Lucienne DeNaie

Compliance officer: Kylie Wager

Kaua'i Voting Member: Judy Dalton

O'ahu Voting Member: Steve Montgomery

Maui Voting Member: Rob Weltman

Moku Loa Voting Member: Cory Harden

At-Large Members: Gary Gill, Wayne Tanaka

More info at
sierraclubhawaii.org/PoliticalAction

2018 Sierra Club National Board of Director Elections

All current Sierra Club members are invited to vote in the 2018 Sierra Club National Board of Director elections. The ballot includes nine candidates for the five open seats on the Board of Directors for the 2018-2021 term.

Active members should receive a ballot in the mail or by email.

Members can also vote online at <https://www.esc-vote.com/sierra2018/>.

Ballots must be received by April 25, 2018 at 12pm EDT.

For questions, contact sierraclub@electionservicescorp.com or 1-866-720-4357

The Board of Directors, composed of 15 elected volunteers, is the governing body of the Sierra Club. The Board has the responsibility and authority to oversee all staff and volunteer activities of the Club, to establish the Club's conservation priorities and internal policies, and to adopt and implement the annual budget. The Board of Directors elects the Club's officers, including the President and Executive Committee, and selects the Club's Executive Director. Directors typically also serve on at least one of the Board's advisory committees.



Photo by Nate Yuen



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1 % of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Join today and receive a **FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!**



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to:
 Sierra Club, PO Box 421041
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

O'ahu Group Report



Since the last election, we have a new roundup of fresh-faced and familiar officers. As the incoming O'ahu Group Chair, I must first express my greatest gratitude and respect for the outgoing Chair Anthony Aalto. His years of dedication and inimitable verve have steered the Group towards concise action and greater impact. Fortunately, he'll still be participating as an ExCom member and continue to impart his knowledge, experience, and wit to the rest of us. Leilei Shih is reprising her role as Vice Chair while continuing to focus on solid waste issues. Rob Kinslow is our shiny new Secretary and will be tackling energy issues. Sai Weiss continues as Treasurer and point man for affordable housing and infrastructure. Doug Fetterly is our Conservation Chair and marine affairs maestro. Steve Montgomery remains our Political Chair and expert eye on all things biological.

Our Group Coordinator Jodi has been hard at work, in the past few months she's assisted the Chapter in ongoing efforts to protect O'ahu's groundwater from the Red Hill Fuel Tanks, while lobbying at Honolulu Hale to curb pesticide use, develop commercial composting systems, maintain recycling programs, and appoint diverse experts to serve on Honolulu's new Climate Change Commission. Ever on watch, she oversaw our submittal of comments on the Draft EIS for the Dillingham Ranch Agricultural Subdivision. All of this while pursuing funding for our new "Conserving O'ahu: Twenty Initiatives by 2020" campaign to protect our island's iconic natural areas and engage the next generation of Sierra Club conservation leaders.

Randy Ching training a few new outings leaders



We had our second annual roundtable meeting with the Mayor and leadership of various departments that touched upon all of the issues above and many others. We'll be following up with the Office of Climate Change Sustainability and Resiliency, which continues to grow and has kept us abreast of their fine work, and other departments on myriad issues. Many other good things are afoot! Jodi was on the scene to celebrate the arrival of Hawai'i's first zero-emission electric bus. HART has put out an RFI for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and strategies, undoubtedly in part due to Anthony's steadfast work to focus HART on sustainability.

Building communities with responsibilities in a busy world where our rights as individuals are the more dominant narrative isn't easy, and we all have a role to play. Did we cover an issue you are passionate about, did we miss one? Your membership is a fine and fantastic first step, but if you'd like to get more involved or want to share what good you've been up to send me a note at chair@sierracluboahu.org. As salutation and celebration of John Muir's 180th birthday this year, I'll borrow his words in parting: The mountains are calling and I must go!

by Hunter Heavilin, O'ahu Group Chair



Honolulu's new electric bus has hit the roads on several pilot routes!



SEE PAGE 17 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at bit.ly/SCH-outdoors.

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

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

Sunday, April 1

Wiliwili Ridge

Wai'alaie Iki, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Great views at the summit. Sierra Club has done some maintenance on this trail over the last two years. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Sunday, April 8

Photography Hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (E/F)

Hawai'i Kai, easy/2 miles, crater floor

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Stan for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Various plants and flowers from around the world. Plumerias and hibiscus should be in bloom this time of year. Good for macro photography! Leaders: Stan Oka, 429-9814; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, April 14

MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)

Reservations Required. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com by April 13. We will be working with Environmental Division helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered water birds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Saturday, April 14

Photography Hike: Lyon Arboretum (E/F)

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Meeting time is 9am. \$5 suggested

donation to Lyon Arboretum. Learn about native and tropical plants. Bring rain gear and insect repellent. Leaders: Curtis Kawamoto, curtis96815@gmail.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Stan Oka, 429-9814

Sunday, April 15

Hawai'i Loa Ridge

Hawai'i Loa, strenuous/7 miles, ridge

Meet at the church at 7am. The parking lot fills up fast so we need to get to trailhead early. One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Many native plants. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail from 2013-2015. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Saturday, April 21

Pālehua 'Elepaio Enclosure "Akupu" Service (S)

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations. Space is limited as we will be working in a sensitive area where the endangered native 'elepaio is nesting and there are some native plants already growing which we don't want to disturb or damage. We will probably hear and see some native 'elepaio as we work in the area, so bring a camera as well. Pack a lunch and/or snack and definitely mosquito repellent. Bring gloves and hand tools for weeding alien plants in the enclosure. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

Sunday, April 22

Kuli'ou'ou Ridge

Kuli'ou'ou, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Spectacular views of the windward side at summit. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail from 2010-2012 and in 2017. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Sunday, April 22

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

We will clean up along the highway and coastal areas until 10am. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. No one under 18 will be allowed to clean on the highway and will spend their time cleaning the beach and park area. Closed-toe shoes only. No slippers or sandals of any sort. Meet at 8am at the Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of the beach park (the bathroom closer to Makapu'u.) Call Tred 394-2898 for information. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, April 29

Pūpūkea-Paumalu

Pūpūkea, moderate/8.5 miles, contour

This loop hike through the Pūpūkea-Paumalu Forest reserve will take us through a former cattle ranch to pillboxes with views of the North Shore. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, gsinclair@gmail.com, 753-0528

Saturday, May 5

Service Project at UH Mānoa Native Plant Garden (S)

Help maintain the hidden gem at Shidler College of Business. There are approximately 80 species of Native Hawaiian plants, most of which are endangered. Majority of the time will be spent planting new seedlings. We may also be weeding and spreading mulch. Meet at 7:30am. Call Susan for reservations and meeting location. Leader: Susan Tom, 753-0351

Sunday, May 6

Wiliwilinui Ridge

Wai'ālae Iki, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Great views at the summit. Sierra Club has done some maintenance on this trail over the last two years. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Saturday, May 12

Judd-Nu'uanu-Pauoa Flats-Pu'u Ōhi'a (E)

Nu'uanu, moderate/5 miles, ridge/contour

Reservations required as car shuttle will be necessary. Contact John for reservations. We will be going up-hill nearly the entire hike. We begin at Nu'uanu stream and climb up the Nu'uanu trail with beautiful views of Nu'uanu valley from different vantage points and then we exit viewing Diamond Head. Some native plants along the way. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, May 12

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)

Meet at 8am at the Harbor Master's office, which is located behind the Ilikai Hotel in front of the boat launch area. Park in the street stalls or public lot 'ewa of Hilton Lagoon. We will use nets to clear the harbor of marine debris. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles (no slippers or sandals allowed) and bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. Bags and gloves will be provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please contact the leader for a waiver. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Sunday, May 13

Kuli'ou'ou Ridge

Kuli'ou'ou, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Spectacular views of the windward side at summit. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail from 2010-2012 and in 2017. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Sunday, May 20

Photography Hike: Pālehua-Palikea (E)

Makakilo, moderate/2 miles, ridge

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations. Space limited, so make your reservations early. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Pack a camera, lunch and/or snacks, and water. Not for those uneasy about heights. Due to safety concerns, only adults will be accepted. Native plants, native happy face spiders, scenic panoramas, and native tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925

Saturday, May 26 to Monday, May 28

Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge Service Project (S)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages this refuge. They have created makai-mauka corridors of native vegetation across open pastures that native forest birds can use in their migrations up and down the slopes of Mauna Kea. The service projects usually involve planting native species or working in the greenhouse. Accommodations are at a well-equipped cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with electricity, running water, a 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 always possible, so warm clothing and footwear and good quality rain gear are necessary. Rain gear can be borrowed from the refuge. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-ōhi'a forest to observe native forest birds, some of which are on the endangered species list. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925

Sunday, May 27

Hawai'i Loa Ridge

Hawai'i Loa, strenuous/7 miles, ridge

Meet at the church at 7am. The parking lot fills up fast so we need to get to trailhead early. One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Many native plants. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail 2013-2015. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, June 3

Victory Hike: Wiliwili Ridge (E) (see page 4)

Wai'ala'e Iki, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Great views at the summit. Group members have continued to protect this public access from infringement by Wai'ala'e Iki Five for this popular East O'ahu trail. Reservations required. Leaders: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com; Reese Liggett

Saturday, June 9

MCBH Kāne'ōhe Bay Service Project (S)

Reservations Required. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com by June 8. We will be working with Environmental Division helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered water birds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

Saturday, June 9

Pālehua Service Project-Trail Clearing (S)

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations and meeting location. Meeting time is 8:30am. Space is limited due to parking, and also as we will be working along an existing trail that is not used very much to develop it as a fire break. Pack a lunch and/or snack and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruning shears, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for beautiful scenic panoramas from the ridge overlooking Nānākuli Valley. You may also hear and see some native birds, so bring a camera too. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Sunday, June 10

Kuli'ou'ou Ridge

Kuli'ou'ou, moderate/6 miles, ridge

One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Spectacular views of the windward side at the summit. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail from 2010 to 2012 and in 2017. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Saturday, June 23

Sierra Seminar: 'Aiea Ridge Partial (E/F)

'Aiea, moderate/5 miles, ridge

Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. Wet ridge trail, off the 'Aiea Loop Trail with many native plants and beautiful scenery. Leaders: Clyde

Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

Sunday, June 24

Hawai'i Loa Ridge

Hawai'i Loa, strenuous/7 miles, ridge

Meet at the church at 7am. The parking lot fills up fast so we need to get to trailhead early. One of the most popular hikes on O'ahu. Many native plants. Sierra Club did extensive work on this trail from 2013-2015. Leader: Randy Ching, makikirandy@yahoo.com, 942-0145

Friday, July 6 to Sunday, July 8

Haleakalā National Park, Maui (S)

Our accommodation for the weekend is at Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakalā Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago. This service trip is for hikers in good physical condition and for those who don't mind "roughing it". We have a 7-mile hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail the first day and will exit via the Halemau'u trail. Participants will have to deal with the elevation. The cabin was built in the 1930's by CCC workers and is rustic. There are no washroom or shower facilities, but there is an outhouse. We do have a 2-burner gas stove top and a wood burning stove to cook and keep warm. The reward is spending the weekend in a beautiful national park. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com



Hikers on Haleakalā National Park Service Trip, July 2017
Photo by Clyde Kobashigawa

Kaua'i Group Report



Waipouli Shoreline Appeal Settled

After grueling legal negotiations with Coconut Beach Resort developer SPD II Makaiwa Resort Development LLC, the Kaua'i Group secured a lateral coastal public access area by agreeing to withdraw its shoreline appeal which was based on photo evidence of ocean debris fields reaching 20 to 60 feet mauka of the developer's shoreline survey.

The developer of this 20-acre coastal property slated for a 343 unit timeshare resort, has agreed to maintain "an open area that runs laterally between 80-100 feet mauka from the certified shoreline... which will be continuously open at all times and dates for public access, passive recreation, non-commercial activities, and cultural practices." A unilateral agreement for this public access area is recorded with the Bureau of Conveyances. The public access area "shall run with the Property" and no buildings can be constructed within it. This means the developer is required to have Sierra Club's agreement, should they for any reason, seek a shoreline setback variance within the public access area.

However, there were some concessions. The makai portion of the proposed pool area (jacuzzi, pool bar, etc.) is located only 20 feet from the high wash of the waves shown in the September 2016 photo below. Also, sand may be used as a landscape feature near the pool entry on the mauka side of the county's multi-use path, despite being hazardous for cyclists.



Ocean debris at Coconut Beach Resort, SPD II Makaiwa Development, LLC

In addition, dust fences will be constructed only 5 feet mauka of certified shoreline during grading operations. If high water reaches the fence and blocks lateral access, it is unclear what recourse there will be.

The next photo shows an ocean debris line in the foreground, at the precise location where the county path will be aligned. The settlement included the

developer asking the county to increase the shoreline setback for the path to more than 40 feet. But, the Planning Director Michael Dahilig refused to comply: "we do not concur that a redesign as requested is in the best interest of the County's needs."



Debris line at Coconut Beach Resort (facing north)

The settlement does not limit in any way Sierra Club's ability to challenge the developer's non-compliance with any other legal requirements. We offer our sincere thanks to members who made financial donations to defray legal expenses; to Kaua'i Group co-chair Rayne Regush, and to our legal counsel Lance D. Collins and Bianca Isaki.

Coastal Hazards and Resorts Impact the Bike Path Alignment

The county's proposed multi-use path along the 1.1 mile stretch of Waipouli Beach is located in a tsunami inundation area affected by storm waves, flooding and erosion. There are also existing coastal resorts from which the county must acquire right-of-ways, either in fee simple or through permanent easements.

Makai of the Beachboy Kaua'i Coast Resort, the existing sidewalk will be widened on the seaward-side even though severe erosion is a problem (see below).



Erosion at Kaua'i Coast Resort at the Beachboy

Kaua'i Group Report

At the Marriott Courtyard Waipouli, the county's final alignment for the 12-foot wide path involves widening the existing beachwalk on the makai side only. Yet, the photo below shows ocean debris in close proximity to that walkway.



Ocean debris at Marriott Courtyard Kaua'i at Coconut Beach

Further north, at the undeveloped Coconut Plantation Resort, a king tide event occurred in July 2017 where the high wash of the waves extended 20 feet mauka of the certified shoreline, almost reaching the location of the county's proposed path (see photo below).



Debris line 20 feet mauka of Coconut Plantation's certified shoreline

In response, with support from the Kaua'i Group, the Wailua-Kapa'a Neighborhood Association sought and was granted a contested case hearing by the County Planning Commission regarding path permits SMA(U)-2018-3 and SSV-2018-1. A new condition was imposed by the decision and order, but

it remains to be seen whether it will be successful. The condition states: "the [County of Kaua'i] shall attempt to move the path alignment on the undeveloped Coconut Plantation property further away from the shoreline assuming it does not require significant additional funding or time."

Continuing north, it's important to note that the coastal path in Kapa'a next to Pono Kai Resort is now only 10 feet away from recurrent erosion (see photo below).



Erosion next to county path at Pono Kai Resort, Kapa'a

A concluding note: the Final Environmental Assessment for the proposed Nawiliwili-Ahukini Path was released February 2018. Within this 1,000+ page document, we could find no reference to "sea level rise" or "climate change". Perhaps, this is because the Draft EA was published ten years ago!

The "new normal" of sea level rise and shoreline retreat indicates a compelling need for the largest possible buffer between the path and the natural shoreline. Site inspections for a certified shoreline are anticipated. Members can stay informed or participate by visiting the links below, to help ensure that the built environment does not crowd our coastal environment.

a) The Environmental Notice, published by OEQC twice a month:

http://oeqc2.doh.hawaii.gov/The_Environmental_Notice/

b) State DAGS (proposed shorelines and site inspections):

<http://ags.hawaii.gov/survey/shoreline/>

Photos courtesy of Rayne Regush, Kauai Group co-chair

Kaua'i Group Outings

SEE PAGE 17 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on one of these great outings to discover the natural treasures of our island. Mileage is total miles. Outings focus on: (C) Conservation/Interpretative, (E) Educational, (F) Family/Fun, and/or (S) Service. Check bit.ly/SCH-kauai for updates to the schedule. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. For all others: \$5. Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.

Wednesday, April 11

Moalepe Trail to Kuilau Ridge picnic area (C/F)

Kapa'a, moderate/5 miles

A beautiful hike through farmland and forest with glorious views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Saturday, April 14

Halemanu, Back Pipe, Canyon, and Kamuela Trails

Strenuous/5 miles

Together these trails make a loop to see Waipo'o Falls with great views of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Tuesday, April 17

Awa'awapuhi and Nu'alolo Trails with the newly reopened cliff trail connector all-day hike (C/F)

Koke'e, very strenuous/10 miles

Sweeping views of the ocean from the top of ridges reward your efforts on the Nualolo and Cliff Trails. The long, steep hike up Awa'awapuhi Trail at the end will test your legs. We'll shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Leader: Bob Nishek, 808-346-0476

Saturday, April 21

Kuilau Trail (C/F)

East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles

A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai'ale'ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch. Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Monday, April 23

Nounou (Sleeping Giant) East Trail (E/F)

Wailua area, strenuous/5 miles round trip

Hike 900 feet of elevation to the top of Sleeping Giant.

Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Saturday, April 28

Victory Hike: Māhā'ulepu Sunset to Full Moon Walk (C/E/F) (see page 4)

South shore, moderate/4 miles

This spectacular coastal hike starts at Shipwreck Beach in the afternoon and ends with the full moon glistening on the ocean along the shores of Māhā'ulepu. We'll shuttle cars to make this a leisurely one-way hike. Māhā'ulepū is a legacy of Kaua'i Group, please join us in celebrating its protection. Leader: Bill Snyder, 808-652-1718

Wednesday, May 2

Kalaupuhi Trail (C/E/F)

Koke'e, west side, moderate/4 miles

A Koke'e forest trail that begins near the Koke'e lookout. Enjoy an enchanting hike to the old redwood groves of Kaua'i. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Saturday, May 5

Jewel of Koke'e (C/E/F)

Strenuous/7 miles

Spectacular hike through forests 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. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Friday, May 11

Māhā'ulepū Coastal Hike to Kamala Point (C/E/F)

Po'ipū area, moderate/4 miles round-trip

Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Tuesday, May 15

Alaka'i Swamp Boardwalk (C/E/F)

Koke'e, west side, very strenuous/7 miles

The Alaka'i is a primeval habitat made accessible by boardwalks. The Alaka'i, one of the world's wettest spots, is not a swamp but a mountain rain forest rising 4,500 feet above the Pacific. A variety of native plants and birds can be seen only on this trail. Leader: Bob Nishek, 808-346-0476

Sunday, May 20

Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)

South shore, moderate/3 miles

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108



Kaua'i Group Outings

Thursday, May 24

Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls (E/F)

Waimea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles=
Unparalleled views of the canyon from the other side.
Visit two waterfalls and dip your toes into a cool pool.
Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373- 4834

Sunday, May 27

Donkey Beach (Kuna Bay) Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk (C/E/F)

East shore, moderate/4.5 miles
We start off in the late afternoon from Kuna Bay (Donkey Beach) walking along the spectacular coastline ending at Kapa'a Library watching the full moon rise over the ocean and a sky full of stars. We'll shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, June 2

Māhā'ulepū Coastal Hike to Kamala Point (C/E/F)

Po'ipū area, moderate/4 miles
Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Saturday, June 9

Kuilau Trail (C/F)

East side, easy to moderate/3.5miles
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view

of lush valleys and Mount Wai'ale'ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch. Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Saturday, June 16

Nu'alolo Trail (C/F)

Koke'e State Park, strenuous/ 7.5 miles
A rewarding hike reaching a spectacular view at the Lolo Vista above the Napali Coast. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Sunday, June 24

Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)

South shore, moderate/3 miles
Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

Thursday, June 28

Nounou (Sleeping Giant) Trail West from Lokelani Road (E/F)

Wailua, strenuous/3 miles
Hike to the top of Sleeping Giant. Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

The 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 the Sierra Club members, non-members, and visitors on most of our outings; however, certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is permitted only at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing Leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgment, a fire hazard exists.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, raingear/jacket, and daypack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers) or tabis are required. Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

You will also need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing please see content.sierraclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources or call 415-977-5630.

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

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

Maui Group Report & Outings



Look for our most recent updates and calls to action at [Facebook.com/SierraClubMaui](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMaui) and [MauiSierraClub.org/latest-news](https://www.MauiSierraClub.org/latest-news)

Watershed Planning

The Maui Group wrote a letter urging the State Department of Health to review and adopt the Draft Southwest Maui Watershed Plan. The plan offers ecological solutions for the major drainage problems faced by South Maui.

Wailea 670/ Palauea

Thirty attorney volunteers from 20 states recently helped clean trails in the native plant cultural preserve area of Wailea 670. Additional community groups want to get involved. The property developers, HP LLC, are asking the Maui County Council to amend the project's conditions of zoning to allow 250 workforce units to be possibly built on site rather than at a Kihei location where they are currently mandated. Maui Group agreed not to oppose this change as part of the settlement, in part because it will help any future development on the site have a range of prices and be more of a "neighborhood" as was described in the Kihei-Mākena Community Plan.

Energy Issues - Anaergia

The Maui Group submitted comments on the Draft EIS for Anaergia's MANA waste digester power plant project in Kahului. Anaergia has worked hard to bill this project as eco-conscious and economically viable, but when you delve into the details it is clear this project has not been properly vetted.

Sand Mining Moratorium

The 6-month moratorium was finally passed by the Maui County Council in January 2018. This short-term victory was vital to temporarily protect the Pu'uone sand dunes and the burials there. Community members are currently working on new legislation that would permanently change county laws regarding the permitting of "resource extraction" (aka sand mining) so that mining with impunity cannot happen again.

Campaign to Ban Chemical Sunscreens

No update since the Maui County Council passed first reading of a bill to prohibit the sale and use of oxybenzone- and octinoxate-based sunscreens in December 2017. Before the 2nd and final vote, the council said it would hold a meeting on the science and legality of the bill. Look out for ways you can help support the bill at [Facebook.com/SierraClubMaui](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMaui)

Waikapū Town Development

The Maui Group and allies supported a 1,400 unit mixed-use development in Waikapū committed to providing affordable housing, restoring streams, and providing land to local organic farms. The state Land Use Commission approved a boundary amendment and the project goes before the Maui County Council next.

Mākena Development

Under terms of the historic settlement agreement finalized in July 2017, Maui Group volunteers have worked with allies to identify numerous undocumented archaeological features on the 47-acres above Mākena Landing. The settlement provides for updated archaeological review for the project to incorporate additional preservation areas into the master plan.

Hololani Resort Shore Protection

The Maui Group submitted a comments letter on the Federal Consistency Review for Hololani Resort Condominiums Shore Protection Project in support of local group Nā Papa'i Waewae 'Ula'ula's grave concerns about the project's likely negative impact on the shoreline environment and related cultural practices.

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 17 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please register for all hikes with the leader listed in the description. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. Hiking boots are recommended for longer hikes. A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14 except where otherwise indicated.

Hike description key: (C) conservation focus, such as discussing how to conserve this land for future generations to enjoy; (E) educational, such as visiting and learning about archeological sites and naming the plants and flowers; (S) service outing (no donation requested), (D) round trip hike distance.

We always welcome more hike leaders! Contact sierraclubmauigroup@gmail.com if you are interested.

Check bit.ly/SCH-Maui-Outdoors for updates to the schedule.

If hike description states EMI waiver is required: East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows access to their trails as long as each hiker has a waiver - an

Maui Group Outings

EMI waiver is an absolute requirement for EMI hikes. One waiver covers all EMI hikes for this quarter. Call in your waiver request at 579-9515 well in advance to make an appointment to sign it. Then go to EMI's Pā'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. It is open Monday 11 am-3 pm and Friday 8am-1pm. Waivers cannot be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up the waiver 5 days in advance whenever possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.

Sunday, April 8

Palaeua Mauka (Wailea 670) Native Plant Hike (C/E)
South Maui, 2 miles
Moderate, with some sections in rough lava flows. Help document native dryland forest flowering plants. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Long pants recommended/sturdy closed shoes a must. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, April 13

Waihe'e Ridge (C)
Waihe'e, 5 miles
Hike a 1200ft elevation gain in Waihe'e. Great workout, somewhat strenuous, can be very muddy. Native plants, beautiful views! Bring rain jacket, lunch, water, hat, sunscreen. Meet at Waihe'e Golf course parking outer lot at 8:30am. Limit 15. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Saturday, April 14

Sierra Club Plant Sale at Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a
9am-4pm. If you'd like to donate plants—especially food producing plants, non-invasive popular ornamentals, and native plants—or would like to volunteer, please contact Rob Weltman, plantsale@mauisierraclub.org or 354-0490

Sunday, April 15

Pauwela Lighthouse and Tide Pools (C/E)
Ha'ikū, 3-4 miles
Moderate, with some steep muddy sections. Dramatic coastal views and tidepools. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Bring lunch, water, and footwear good for slippery rocks. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490

Saturday, April 28

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Ha'ikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hāmākua

lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves/hand tools/water/hat/lunch/sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, May 4

'Āhihi Kīna'u to Anchialine Pools (C/E)
Mākena, moderate/3 miles
Rare access to this protected area across the lava field, led by Jeff Bagshaw, Volunteer Coordinator of the DLNR for 'Āhihi Kīna'u. Jeff has a wealth of knowledge about the plant and animal life of this sensitive region. Meet 8am at the Kanahena ("Dumps") parking lot. Bring water, sun protection (reef-safe), and footwear with toe protection and strong soles. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490

Friday, May 4

Nā Hoku - Star Watch at Waikapū Tropical Plantation Slopes (C/E)
Come spend an evening with astronomer Harriet Witt and learn about the lore of our Hawaiian night sky. Bring a beach chair, blanket, and flashlight. Meet at 7pm at the entrance to the parking lot, look for the sign-in table with Sierra Club signs. Light pupus will be served. Special Event: \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Register with Adriane at contact@mauisierraclub.org or 419-5143. Email or text message is best.

Friday, May 11

Palaeua-Keauhou Mauka (Wailea 670) Archaeological Hike (C/E)
South Maui, 2.5 miles
Moderate, with some sections in rough lava flows. Explore the southern end of the Wailea 670 Preserve along the ahupua'a boundary to document boundary markers. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Long pants recommended/sturdy closed shoes a must Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, May 13

Kōkua Day at Fleming Arboretum, Pu'u Mahoe (C/E/S)
Help maintain the Fleming Arboretum at 2600 feet in Ulupalakua, sanctuary to many endangered native dry land forest plants. Awesome views of La Perouse (Keone'o'io) coast and Kaho'olawe. Bring a light jacket, lunch, and gloves. Meet 9am Ulupalakua Ranch Store. Estimate 3 hours of work. Refreshments available. A BYO lunch will be at the Fleming cabin with a great view of South Maui. Limit 20. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490

Maui Group Outings

Saturday, May 19

Pu'uone Central Maui Sand Dunes Historic Walk - Hosted by Mālama Kakanilua (C/E)

Learn about the history of the beautiful Pu'uone Central Maui sand dunes from Mālama Kakanilua, a group of local descendants who are fighting to protect this ancient traditional burial ground. Meet at 9am at Wailuku Heights Park at 655 S. Alu Rd, Wailuku. Estimate 3 hours of easy walking mostly in the sun, so bring a hat, sunglasses, plenty of water, and a snack. Special event: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. All proceeds will benefit Mālama Kakanilua's campaign to protect the sand dunes. Leader: Adriane Raff Corwin, contact@mauisierraclub.org or 419-5143. Email or text message is best.

Saturday, May 26

Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Ha'ikū, 4 miles

Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hāmākua lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves/hand tools/water/hat/lunch/sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Sunday, May 27

Victory Hike: Wailua Iki (C/E) (see page 4)

East Maui, 5 miles

Moderate hike through beautiful forest on winding muddy, jeep road. Pools, waterfalls, and lush plant life with an option to swim in freshwater. See water flowing again in the streams after many years of local struggle to end diversion. Hawaii Invasive Plant Specialist Chuck Chimera will guide us in recognizing native and invasive plants we see. Bring appropriate footwear, sunscreen, lunch and water. Meet 8am at Ha'ikū Community Center. EMI waiver required (see above). Special event: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Limit: 15. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Friday, June 1

Waikapū Stream Trail Work/Hike and Swim (S/C/E)
Central Maui, 3 miles

Help clear away overgrowth from trail along south (Tropical Plantation) side of Waikapū stream then enjoy a short hike and swim. Water-friendly footwear required. Bring loppers, small saws, cane knives, gloves, water, lunch/snack. Meet 9am Maui Tropical Plantation parking lot south end. Limit 18. Contact Hike Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147. Assistant leader Robin West.

Sunday, June 10

Makawao Forest Reserve - Kahakapao Loop (E)

Upcountry, 7 miles

Moderate to strenuous hike in big tree forest on undulating trail, estimated time at least 3 hours. Meet in the parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church on Makawao Ave at 9am. Limit 18. Leader: Kalei Johnson, kalei1908@gmail.com or 344-0006; leave your phone number.

Friday, June 15

Lower Waikamoi to the Waterfall (C/E)

East Maui, 3 miles

Very rugged stream hike from Waikamoi Ridge trail on Hāna Hwy upstream to pool/waterfall. It seems further than 3 miles. Must have great balance and be able to walk through the stream on wet slippery rocks to our destination. Native plants, scenery. Bring lunch, water, hat and water hiking footwear. Meet 8am Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 12. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Saturday, June 16

Palaeua Mauka (Wailea 670) Hike (C/E)

South Maui, 2-3 miles

Explore the northern boundary of the Wailea 670 preserve with magnificent stone wall systems and ancient dwelling sites. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Long pants recommended/sturdy closed shoes a must Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, June 24

Uaoa Bay (C/E)

Ha'ikū, moderate/2 miles

A steep descent/ascent at the bay using fixed ropes and a short walk on large stones on the beach. Beautiful coastal views on this recently reopened trail. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Bring lunch, water and footwear good for slippery rocks. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490

Saturday, June 30

Hāmākua Victory Hike (C/E) (see page 4)

Ha'ikū, 3 miles

Explore the stunning coastline, hidden streams and archaeological sites that are preserved in the Hāmākua lands saved from development in 2016. Special guided tour with resource guides. Special event: \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Meet 9am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147



Moku Loa Group Report

Mauna Kea Update by Debbie Ward

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has just accepted the opening briefs on behalf of petitioners who are appealing the approval of a permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT). On March 15, the Court will hear oral arguments regarding the TMT sublease, contested by Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation on behalf of Professor E. Kalani Flores. Meanwhile, the University has released an Environmental Assessment describing the reconfiguration of the Mauna Kea Visitor Center parking lot, including the removal of numerous mamane trees, which are in palila critical habitat. If that isn't enough, the University has announced a preparation notice for an Environmental Impact Statement regarding an extension of the general lease, which doesn't expire until 2033. The proposed options include an exclusive lease of the state road to the summit, making it a controlled access. In the legislature, SB 3090 would create a management authority independent of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University, with all the paid board members appointed by the governor. The bill would make access to the summit fee-supported. Despite opposition by over 700 people and only 4 in support, the bill was passed by the Senate committees. Some in opposition have even likened it to a Public Land Development Corporation for a sacred space.

Big Sierra Club Clean Water Act Victory by Steve Holmes

A recent 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling has statewide ramifications. Wastewater disposal into sumps or injection wells where groundwater then conveys pollutants into coastal waters must have a federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for discharge. Under current State Department of Health practices, those point source discharges have either been unregulated or were under the Underground Injection Control Program which is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act rather than the Clean Water Act.

Honokohau Harbor in Kona discharges wastewater into groundwater right next to the coast and the waters are federally listed as impaired. The same is true with the county wastewater treatment plant at Kealakehe next door which has dumped up to 1.8 million gallons a day of effluent into a hole in the ground for 25 years with no NPDES permit to do so. U.S. Geological Survey testing has shown a direct hydrologic connection to the ocean.

Failure to have a federal permit is a violation with fines of \$100,000 per day. With this federal court ruling, Sierra Club has already started pushing the EPA to issue notices of violation. This will push efforts in water recycling and hopefully end the sewage pollution of our coastal waters.

Earthjustice represented Sierra Club and several Maui community groups in the successful lawsuit and won in an unanimous decision. A big mahalo goes out to David Henkin, the attorney at Earthjustice who led the fight.

Looking for interested Outing Leaders by Diane Ware

The Moku Loa Group welcomes members to become new hike leaders. To qualify, one must be a member, complete the Sierra Club Outing Leader training online, have updated First Aid/CPR certifications, and provisionally lead a hike with another leader. Please call Diane Ware at 967-8642 to get training details so you can lead your own hikes in areas special to you or for a target group such as families, college students, or birders.

In Memoriam by Cory Harden

We fondly remember Edith Worsencroft, our long-time member who passed away recently. She served as Moku Loa Group newsletter editor for years. (As current editor, I marvel at her longevity!) Edith was also an adventurous hiker and a dedicated volunteer, helping to eradicate invasive species in state parks and Volcano National Park. When her children were in high school she often took them and their friends hiking, usually ending with a swim in the ocean or a river. She kept a garden, despite multiple chicken invasions, and did recycling for neighbors. She also contributed to the community as a teaching assistant, even working in my daughter's special education preschool. Day by day, Edith showed many people how to make the world a better place. Edith was wife to the late Don Worsencroft. A Science Fair award now bears Don's name.

**Mark your calendar for Moku
Loa Group's FUN-raiser!**

**Saturday, May 19, 2-5pm,
Mokupāpapa in Hilo**

Stay tuned for details!

Moku Loa Group Report

Science Fair by Roberta Brashear and Cory Harden

Sierra Club granted six awards at the Hawai'i Island Science Fair this year. The awardees include:

Gabriel Low of Waiakea High School, with “Hyperspectral imagery as a possible method of early detection for rapid ‘ōhi‘a death”, earned the Ms. Mae Mull Award for Senior Research in the field of environmental science relating to Hawai'i.

Mae Mull of Volcano volunteered many hours with the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society to activate communities to protect their environment. She was instrumental in preserving the last remaining home of the palila—the forest of koa, mamane, and naio which rings the slopes of Mauna Kea.

At Waieka Intermediate School, Tobias Johnson studied “Does temperature affect the global energy belt?” and Taarini Godbole studied “The effects of beneficial nematodes on tephritid fruit flies”. They shared the Dr. Wayne Gagne Award for Junior Research in the field of environmental science relating to Hawai'i.

Dr. Wayne Gagne was an entomologist who specialized in Hawaiian insects and was a Sierra Club volunteer. He loved to help young people investigate the mysteries of Hawaiian evolution, and was instrumental in developing the 'Ōhi'a Project while on staff with the Bishop Museum.

Rachel Tao of Waiakea Intermediate School, with “The mechanisms of a traditional Hawaiian herb, Cyaneasolanacea”, won the Dr. Ruth Lani Stemmermann Award for Junior Research in the field of environmental science relating to Hawai'i.

Dr. Lani Stemmermann was a plant ecologist who specialized in Hawaiian botany. She loved to help young people investigate the mysteries of Hawaiian evolution and was an inspiring teacher at the Hawai'i Community College. She volunteered many hours to preserve Hawai'i's vulnerable ecosystems and was instrumental in protecting rare and threatened ecosystems at Pohakuloa.

Xaviar Tablit from Pahoa High and Intermediate School, with “Analyzing bright stars using kepler smear data” earned the Dr. Don Worsencroft Award for research in the field of physical science relating to Hawai'i.

Dr. Don Worsencroft was a Hawai'i Community College instructor of physics and math. Don enjoyed the natural world and was dedicated to teaching the mysteries of physical science and astronomy to his students.

Kenya K. Wilcox of Hilo Intermediate School studied “Pele's pH” and won the Moku Loa Group Award for research in the field of earth science relating to Hawai'i.

Reprieve by Cory Harden

Anaeho'omalū, a special place on the coast of West Hawai'i, is spared—for now. A developer planned several rentals in one- and two-story buildings, a restaurant, a fitness center, and scores of parking spaces—a scaled-down version of an earlier plan, responding to community concerns. But when the community was still concerned, the developer withdrew the plans.

Why the worries? The natural beauty of the place merits preservation as a public trust, according to the County General Plan. The development area has over a dozen historic and cultural sites with hundreds of features, some significant: a trail network, habitation complexes, petroglyphs, and more.

The area hosts four endangered species, one threatened species, two anchialine ponds, and one ephemeral pond. The County Planning Department Background Report raised doubts about whether “avoidance and conservation measures can be reasonably implemented” and “whether the interaction between people and [sea] turtles can be effectively managed.”

Community voices were raised and heard—but money could be made here, so before long, those voices may be needed again.



Moku Loa Group Outings

SEE PAGE 17 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donation for others: \$5. For most hikes, bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to bit.ly/SCMLG-outings

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

Sunday, April 15

Restoration of Keau'ohana Rainforest (S/E/C)

Puna district, easy/1 mile

Join the Keau'ohana Forest Reserve team in its efforts to restore the largest and most intact lowland native forest remaining in the state. Besides pulling invasive weeds, you will learn about a unique forest habitat with numerous native plant species including the endangered ha'iwale that is only found in the Puna district. You will also help transplant some endemic plants into their new home and after working take a hike on one of the trails around the reserve. Bring mosquito repellent, work gloves, good boots, and a bright outlook. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

Sunday, April 22

Victory Hike: Loop from Kohanaiki through 'O'oma and Back (S/E) (see page 4)

West side, easy/3 miles

Join us for a hot, coastal hike to see first hand what the group and community effort over years has succeeded in preserving from another luxury development. We will pick up trash along the way as service. Bring lots of water and sun protection. All are welcome. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642 for reservations

Saturday, May 5

Loop Around Kilauea Iki (E/F)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/6 miles

Join us on a pleasant hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. We will begin and end this hike at the Kilauea Visitor Center. In between, we will hike along Waldon's Ledge to Devastation Trail. Then we will hike up the Crater Rim Trail to Escape Road. From Escape Road we will emerge at Thurston Lava Tube and then continue along Kilauea Iki's rim to Waldron's ledge again. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

Saturday May 19

Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (E/C)

Hāmākua shoreline, moderate/4 miles

Scenic vistas, sea birds, and some historic sites depending on which part of the trail we go on atop the Hāmākua cliffs. Not for those afraid of heights. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

Saturday, May 26

Circle Waikea Pond Hike (E/F)

South Hilo District, easy/2 miles

An easy, fairly level walk around Waikea Pond. Enjoy great views of the pond, migratory and native birds, and learn the early history of the area. Wear covered toe shoes and bring a quart of water. Leaders: Sarah Moon, 935-3475 and Linda Larish, 966-6337

Saturday, June 23

Stewardship at the Summit (S/C)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, easy/0.5 miles

Help Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park control ginger in the park. We will work within one mile from the Kilauea Visitor Center. We should be pau by 2 pm. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

Saturday, June 30

Kalōpā Nature Trail and Old Jeep Road and Gulch Trail (E/F)

Hāmākua Coast, easy/4 miles

First, we will start by visiting the kolea, kopiko, and ferns following a trail through Kalōpā State Park's native forest. After a short break, we will continue on the old jeep road to the highest elevation in the park passing through groves of 70 year old eucalyptus, silk oak, and paperbark trees. After lunch at the top, we will descend back to the cabins along the Hanaipoē and Kalōpā gulches. Leader: Linda Larish, 967-6337



Photo by Scott Fleming

Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Report

by Dave Raney, Marine Action Team Volunteer

In the final days of 2017, the Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (aka Climate Commission), released their Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report (climateadaptation.hawaii.gov), as required under Act 83 passed in 2014. The 304-page report includes specific recommendations for climate adaptation strategies to address potential sea level rise impacts. Key recommendations include mandating sellers and buyers of coastal property to disclose that the property is within sea level rise exposure areas and piloting managed retreat programs—where government agencies work together to plan for and implement the resettlement of residents and infrastructure in sea level rise vulnerability areas.



North Shore O'ahu properties on the edge. Photo credit: Dolan Eversole

The report also contains sample maps of sea level rise exposure areas for each island, showing risks for individual land parcels under scenarios of .0.5, 1.1, 2.0, and 3.2 foot increases in sea level rise. The maps can be viewed online using the Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Viewer (bit.ly/UH-slr18). These sea level exposure maps will allow state, county, and private entities to assess risk and make adaptation efforts with more precision than previously possible.

The Sierra Club and its allies support priority policies that implement mandatory seller disclosure, managed retreat programs, and mandatory setbacks—buffer zones along coastal areas to ensure vulnerable beaches have room to retreat as sea levels rise. In addition, the Club hopes to see policies that require the state and counties to incorporate predictions of sea level rise and other climate change hazards into applicable plans and mapping; implement the recommendations of the Climate Commission Report; and require the state to adopt and maintain rules requiring all environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to include consideration of sea level rise.

Hawai'i is already seeing the impacts of rising seas—beaches are disappearing, roads are flooding, and beachside homes are crumbling into the ocean. Action must be taken now to protect our shores and residents as impacts worsen. The Sierra Club will continue to pursue all avenues for promoting sea level rise adaptation strategies, including those available through the counties and the Climate Commission.

Sustainable Tourism in Hawai'i

by Kimiko LaHaela Walter, Chapter Conservation Coordinator

There is no question that our economy here in Hawai'i relies heavily on tourism. For decades, the Hawaiian Islands have been a top destination for visitors. And it is no wonder. From mauka to makai, Hawai'i's natural resources are bountiful (albeit fragile), awe inspiring, and unforgettable. The islands are blessed with unparalleled biological diversity, unique geomorphology, nearly every climatic biome on Earth, and a deeply rich cultural history. Throw in moderate tropical weather and an ample dose of aloha spirit and you have an exotic locale that requires minimal persuasion to draw hoards of visitors year after year.

After years of record-breaking visitor numbers, the strain on our ageing infrastructure, natural resources, and way of life has become apparent. Local residents are displaced from housing to make room for vacation rentals. Bumper to bumper traffic jams—long the norm on O'ahu—have become commonplace on neighboring islands as well. Facilities at parks are overused and poorly maintained. Coral reefs reside beneath swarms of snorkelers leaving sheens of sunscreen on ocean surfaces. Trails are overburdened with foot traffic... the list goes on.

We are poised to have 10 million visitors per year to Hawai'i. Visitor numbers of this magnitude, along with the growing list of anthropogenic burdens, will result in the further displacement of local people, loss of cultural heritage, and often irrevocable harm to the environment. We must not let widespread social inequity and ecological degradation continue in the name of economic "prosperity" and unsustainable development. It is high time we rethink our vision for tourism for Hawai'i.

Luckily, solutions exist to address these issues. We can redirect funds from tourism marketing and put them toward the protection of the very natural resources visitors come here to enjoy. We can implement mandatory carbon offset fees to fund carbon sequestration projects that directly battle climate change and restore our watersheds. We can invest in transit-oriented development, walkable, bikeable streets and clean and accessible public transportation; which is both good for the environment and reduces traffic issues. We can follow the lead of New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland and implement restrictions on the purchase of property by foreigners, thereby freeing up housing for local people.

Locals and visitors alike deserve a quality experience in Hawai'i. Now is the time to take action and ensure we have thriving natural and cultural resources available for this generation and those to come.

Carbon Offsets in Hawai'i - A Win Win Win for Locals, Businesses, and the Environment

by **Michael Johannes Seidel**, *Sierra Club member and founder of CarbonBuddy*

A carbon offset is a payment that funds projects that reduce carbon emissions or withdraw, or sequester, carbon from the atmosphere. Projects could include improving energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, and carbon sequestration projects like native ecosystem restoration, reforestation, or farming. In regards to mitigating climate change, the location of the project is largely irrelevant—we all share one atmosphere, the consequences of emissions, emissions reduction, and sequestration are global.

In Hawai'i, natural resource managers are plagued with limited budgets coupled with the many environmental challenges that need solutions in the face of climate change. Additional revenue streams must be created in order to continue the important work of protecting our finite natural resources, one of the most important aspects of our tourism-based economy. Should it take hold, a carbon offset program is one mechanism to provide this much needed funding and Hawai'i's participation in carbon markets will connect the dots between our islands' booming tourism industry and the protection of the very natural resources that visitors come to enjoy.

The millions of visitors to the islands come with a hefty toll on the environment. Hawai'i is the most remote travel destination on the planet, therefore visitors carry an enormous carbon footprint that consists mostly of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, the state and counties took a leading position in the fight against climate change by signing on to the Paris Climate Accord—committing Hawai'i to addressing this issue with a determination that will benefit both locals and visitors, for years to come. But how can we speed up transforming our dependence on fossil fuels in a way that benefits as many local people and businesses as possible, while addressing climate change? That's where carbon offsets can come in to play. With the development of local carbon offset options, we can create a win-win-win for Hawai'i's residents, local economy, and environment.

By working closely with the tourism industry, local offset projects can offer guests a "climate-safe" experience that contributes to Hawai'i's goals for carbon neutrality and supports carbon sequestration by transforming fallow land into thriving native ecosystems. Choosing Hawai'i as a travel destination could not only reduce greenhouse emissions through voluntary carbon offset markets, but also contribute to an approach that could slow or even stop climate change by taking carbon out of the atmosphere and sequestering it in trees.

Finally, offsetting emissions via local projects would ensure that proceeds from offsets benefit the local economy while promoting Hawai'i's transition towards 100% renewable energy by 2045. For example, if Hawai'i produces 18,000,000 tons of CO₂ per year (of which 50% were to be offset at a price of \$20/ton), a total of \$180 million could be generated annually to restore local ecosystems and effectively transition to a green economy.

Vote by Mail to Save the Day

by **Marti Townsend**, *Chapter Director*

Our democracy is built on the idea that every citizen can participate in the electoral process and each ballot counts equally. It should be the easiest thing for people to do.

Yet, we know that serious barriers exist to people voting. The reality of modern life in Hawai'i means most people work multiple jobs. The mounting demands of work and family make it increasingly hard for those struggling in Hawai'i to make time to vote. And we know when it comes down to it, people will choose their spiritual and mental rejuvenation at the beach or on a trail than stand in a long line waiting to cast a paper ballot.

Vote by mail is growing in popularity. In 2016, more than half of all voters mailed their ballots in early. Doing so saved these voters precious time and allowed them to thoughtfully consider all of their choices.

It also saved the state a bunch of money. Vote by mail systems are projected to save the state elections office \$750,000 every election cycle in reduced administrative expenses.

The Sierra Club supports vote by mail because it means our members and supporters can stay engaged with the political system without giving up any time outdoors doing what they love in Hawai'i's unique natural environment.

We know that the same big-money fossil fuel corporations polluting our air, water, and climate are also polluting our democracy, flooding our political and judicial systems with corporate money. They are also taking aim at our right to vote by trying to make it harder for regular people to participate in electoral politics. We can't let them do this. That is why we support all efforts to make it easier for people to vote.

Voting by mail is the most convenient way for voters to elect their leaders. It saves time for voters, saves money for election agencies, and better engages constituents in the electoral process. It is a win-win-win for Hawai'i.

Nate's Adventures: Koli'i in the Ko'olau



One of spectacular flowers found in the Northern Ko'olau Mountains of O'ahu is koli'i — *Trematolobelia macrostachys* — which often grows as an epiphyte on other plants in the native landscape.

According to Joseph Rock, who wrote the monograph on the Hawaiian lobeliad group in 1919, the Hawaiian name koli'i applies to *Trematolobelia kauaiensis* which is not actually this plant. But in modern times the name has been extended to other *Trematolobelia* species as well.

One of the unusual things about this koli'i is how widespread it is. *Trematolobelia macrostachys* is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and is known on O'ahu, Molokai, Maui, Lanai and Hawai'i but has subsequently become extinct on Lanai. It is notable that Wikipedia says that *Trematolobelia macrostachys* is no longer found on Hawaii Island but Melora Purrell from the Kohala Watershed Partnership reports that it is still found on Kohala Mountain. The vast majority of plants in the Hawaiian lobeliad group are endemic to a single island — with just a few found on adjacent islands. *Koli'i* are not endangered and is the most numerous of the Hawaiian Lobeliads. Its future is relatively secure unlike many other Hawaiian lobeliads.

Trematolobelia macrostachys is amazing for the sheer number of flowers it produces when it blooms, usually around November to January. The plant produces multiple sprays of pink flowers on candelabra-like stalks. This koli'i often has 4-5 flower stalks but large plants can have 16 or more sprays of flowers at a time. The flowers have irregularly shaped petals that often curl backwards and a staminal column that tilts forward.



Nathan Yuen is an artist/photographer/naturalist whose body of work is a confluence of hiking, conservation, and fine art photography. Each weekend you can find him hiking, backpacking, or kayaking to out-of-the-way locations to photograph Hawai'i's native plants and animals, many of which are rare or endangered. His goal is to showcase these biological treasures to give you a reason to protect them for future generations. You can view his art and read about his adventures at hawaiianforest.com.

Mature Miconia Tree Found in Mānoa Valley

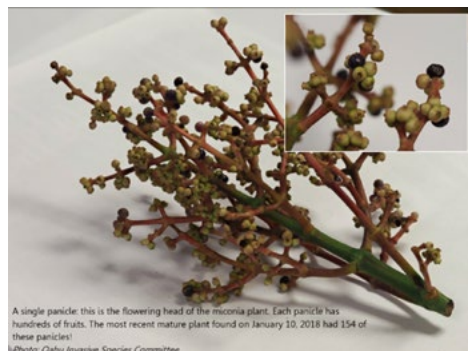
by Erin Bishop, OISC Outreach Specialist

Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) is one of the most destructive invaders of Hawai'i. Native to tropical America, it was first introduced to O'ahu in the early 1960's by plant enthusiasts for its bold purple and green leaves. *Miconia* has since been planted on all the islands except for Moloka'i and Lāna'i and is being managed by local invasive species committees on Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island. Although, the infestation on Hawai'i Island has grown too big for eradication.

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) has been systematically controlling *miconia* since 2001. OISC's goal is to eradicate this species. However, this is a long term goal since the seeds can germinate after remaining dormant in the soil for 20 years. In the meantime, OISC strives to prevent dispersal to new areas by preventing trees from setting seed. Field crews survey a 1600 meter radius around all known plants on the ground and with aerial helicopter surveys. Crews survey these areas every three years to find plants before they mature and set seeds. The density of mature trees per acre has dropped 96% since OISC began control work in 2001.

On January 9th, OISC crews found a large, mature *miconia* tree on a steep slope in the back of Mānoa Valley. The mature *miconia* tree was approximately 40 feet tall, and from below, it blended in very well with the canopy of dense bamboo. It took the crew four hours to fell the tree, remove the fruits, and treat the cut stumps and branches to prevent them from growing.

The tree was fruiting at the time, and had 154 panicles, which the crew removed and transported in sealed bags to be burned at H-Power. Each of these panicles have hundreds of individual fruits on them, and each individual fruit contains anywhere from 50-200 tiny seeds! The removal of this tree stopped any additional seeds from being eaten by birds and rats, falling into the soil to be tracked by people and animals. OISC will return to this spot every two to three years to remove any seedlings that continue to grow before they mature.



A single panicle: this is the flowering head of the *miconia* plant. Each panicle has hundreds of fruits. The most recent mature plant found on January 10, 2018 had 154 of these panicles!
Photo: Oahu Invasive Species Committee



OISC crew member Kepano Carvalho felling the 40' *miconia* tree.
Photo: Oahu Invasive Species Committee

Miconia easily invades intact and undisturbed forests forming single-species stands that shade out all other vegetation. *Miconia* can grow to heights of 50 feet and its root systems spread outward, rather than deep in the soil, promoting erosion wherever it occurs. After just four years, *miconia* plants can begin fruiting, producing upwards of 9 million seeds in a single year. Impacts from *miconia* infestations include erosion, loss of native habitat and reduction of biodiversity, reduction of water capture and quality, and increased sedimentation of near-shore reefs. *Miconia* control is necessary to protect O'ahu's watersheds and the services they provide all residents.

Miconia is recognizable by its leaves that are green on top and purple underneath. The leaves also have three distinct white veins running the length of the leaf. If anyone sees *miconia* on O'ahu, please DO NOT PULL the plant. Instead, take a photo and report its location to OISC. They will remove the plant, take a GPS point, and note the size class. All this information is essential to accurately manage data and support effective *miconia* management strategies. And remember, always enter and leave the forests with clean shoes...this will stop invasive species in your tracks!

Where to send reports: Photos can be sent to oisc@hawaii.edu or report it with the 643pest smartphone app.



When the flowers first open, the male part of the flower, the stamens (white brushes), come out first. Only after the pollen is spent does the female part of the flower, the stigma (green pursed lips), emerge. The flowers are pollinated by native birds and insects but in more recent times bees and other introduced creatures pollinate them too.



Honolulu Launches Electric Bus Pilot Project

by Jodi Malinoski, O'ahu Group Coordinator

It's official—the first zero emission battery electric bus in Hawai'i has arrived! This Proterra bus was unveiled in January and is currently being tested on 23 city routes as a pilot project for Honolulu's TheBus system.



This pilot project will be used to determine the feasibility and applicability of eventually replacing the city's over 500 diesel and hybrid buses for electric bus counterparts.

Electric buses offer several environmental, economic, and social benefits that we hope will be revealed through this pilot project:

- **Environmental** - Transportation is one of the most significant contributors to climate change, accounting for 27% of global carbon dioxide emissions. Each electric bus is able to eliminate 1,690 tons of carbon dioxide over its 12 year lifespan, equivalent to taking 27 cars off the road. These buses also eliminate 10 tons of nitrogen oxides and 350 pounds of diesel particulate matter.
- **Economic** - Although electric buses initially cost \$150-250,000 more than diesel buses, the savings in fuel, operating, and maintenance costs will result in long-term savings. Additional savings could result from charging the buses during off-peak time of use rates, when electricity costs are lower.
- **Social** - Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants that in some cases can cause and or worsen diseases such as asthma and cancer, disproportionately harming low-income neighborhoods. Electric buses are cleaner, quieter, and provide benefits of clean air to riders and the community as a whole.

In December 2017, the 4 county mayors signed commitments to transition all ground transportation to 100 percent clean energy by 2045. Introducing zero emission battery electric buses to the Honolulu city fleet will help achieve these ambitious clean ground transportation goals and serve as a model to the nation.

Thank you to our Honolulu county leadership for taking this important step towards 100 percent clean ground transportation. The O'ahu Group will continue to advocate for electric buses on behalf of our members and supporters and will keep you updated on our efforts.

Reduce, Reuse, Incinerate

by Marissa Kunsch, Spring Sustainability Graduate Intern

In July 2017, China announced its ban on importing 24 scrap materials. Included in this ban are the City and County of Honolulu's major recycling programs, HI-5, and the Deposit Beverage Fee. Hawai'i's HI-5 and Deposit Beverage Fee have increased consumer and business bottle return rates by 115% over a 20 year span, but are ultimately threatened by China's decision to ban these recyclable exports to material recovery facilities. In the battle to reduce, reuse, and recycle, what now?

Shortly after the ban, the City generated an audit to further analyze and propose recommendations to the local recycling system. According to the audit, the City is spending too much time, effort, and money on exporting recyclable waste. The pickup, transport, and shipping methods are not cost effective, in comparison to the cost benefits for incineration at the waste-to-energy facility, H-POWER. The audit highlights the monetary and labor resources we could essentially save, as well as the opportunity for increased "renewable" energy production, but does not touch on the environmental and societal impacts of toxic plastic incineration. The Department of Health regulates toxic emissions but still harmful dioxins and particulate matter incinerator emissions, including known carcinogens and common air pollutants, are impacting local air quality. The true cost benefits should be analyzed between the advertised 10%, versus the actual 5% of renewable energy generated by H-POWER, as well as the toxic environmental and carcinogenic societal impacts.

So, what will Hawai'i do next? The audit states H-POWER as the cost effective answer but others see an opportunity for the City to be creative, innovative, and think cost effectively in terms of



establishing a zero waste strategy. With the numerous unanswered questions from incinerating recyclables at H-POWER, source reduction is our answer. We support policies that keep recycling strong and thriving throughout the islands—through increasing redemption rates and establishing funds to identify local reuse and recycling alternatives. Establishing zero waste policies, and improving the collection and sorting system of our recyclables, are options that need to be further explored not only by the City but also statewide.

Another One For the Books

by *Adriane Raff Corwin, Maui Group Coordinator*

Sierra Club Maui Group's Annual Meeting on February 25, 2018 was our best yet, with almost 200 people in attendance at the Pā'ia Community Center.

We started with a presentation on our work over the past year which included efforts to protect Mākena and phase out chemical sunscreens and extended a big mahalo to other community groups and individuals that led or partnered with us.



Award winners pictured: Roxanna Smith, Tom Reed, Scott Fisher, Kelly King, Robin Knox

We then gave out our annual Community Awards: Roxanna Smith and Tom Reed both received the Mālama i ka 'Āina Award; Robin Knox received the Mālama Kahakai Award; Kelly King and Scott Fisher both received the 'Onipa'a Award; and the Wailea 670 Trail Crew received the Volunteer of the Year Award. The Wailea 670 Trail Crew includes: Buck Joiner, Barbara Kaneshige, Liz Ebner, Amy Fazzari, Peter Drinkovich, Duane Sparkman, Ashford DeLima, Colleen Curren, Nan & Steve Jackson, Jeanne Schaaf, Amanda Hess, Alexa Deike, Gammy Arenasa, Nio Kindla, and Lucienne De Naie.

About sixteen people running for office, representing races from Maui County Council to Lieutenant Governor, attended to speak with attendees during lunch.

Our featured presenters, Tara Owens of UH Sea Grant and Matthew Gonser of Honolulu's Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency gave presentations on the impacts of sea-level rise and how the Office of Climate Change is working to make Hawai'i more resilient.

Alive-streamed recording of the event is available now on Facebook: [facebook.com/SierraClubMaui](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubMaui) (scroll down to find the Annual Meeting videos). Maui residents: check for screenings on Akakū in the coming months.

MAHALO NUI to Mana Foods and Flatbread Co. for lunch; Tim Wolfe of Akamai Productions; Mike Atherton for coffee; all our star volunteers who helped make the day go smoothly; and Vernon Kalanikau, Jacob & Stephanie Noury for making the beautiful lei!

Join the 15% for the Future Campaign!

Maui's future should be in the hands of Maui's residents to ensure small farms thrive, local families can afford decent housing, and our wahi pana are well protected. That is why the Sierra Club Maui Group helped form the Hukilike No Maui: Together for Maui Coalition, which brought affordable housing advocates, farmers, and conservationists together to push for the responsible use of the former sugar cane lands of Central Maui. We are petitioning land owner Alexander & Baldwin to make at least 15% of their land (about 5000 acres) available for Maui to plan its own future. Help us make a strong case to A&B and its shareholders that this is the way to invest back into Maui's community. We're asking all concerned residents of Maui and allies across the islands to sign this petition, which will be delivered in person to A&B's Corporate Board at their Annual Shareholder meeting in Honolulu on April 24, 2018.

To sign the petition, visit [TogetherForMaui.org](https://www.togetherformauai.org)

Petition to A&B:

Alexander and Baldwin prides itself on striving to be responsible stewards of our environment and make an active difference in our communities. As part of these efforts, we ask that A&B:

1. Donate or allow the sale, at or below the assessed 2017 Market Land Value, of at least 5,000 acres of land in Pu'unene and Hali'imaile areas identified on the map (see [togetherformauai.org](https://www.togetherformauai.org) for image) to public or private entity(ies) for the express purposes of agriculture to serve local needs and affordable housing for Maui residents with an AMI (Area Median Income) of 0-120%. Sale price should also take into account the current condition of the land and the costs that will be incurred to remediate it for future housing and agriculture.
2. Begin procedures immediately to put the conservation areas identified on the map into permanent conservation easement or make arrangements to donate them to appropriate community organizations. Some of these lands are identified as open-space or park in our community plans, while others hold significant cultural importance to Kanaka Maoli. Arrangements should be made so that lands of cultural importance, specifically the Waiale Sand Dunes which hold burial grounds, be cared for and managed by local cultural practitioners.

Let us seize the opportunity to work together to address the needs of Maui's people for food security, affordable housing, and natural preservation, and to respect Native Hawaiian culture.

The Triumphs and Trials at Red Hill

by Marti Townsend, Hawai'i Chapter Director

Success in Court - The Sierra Club of Hawai'i enjoyed a major win in court on the Red Hill fuel tanks in February. The First Circuit Court ruled that the Department of Health improperly exempted the antiquated Red Hill fuel tanks from the upgrade requirements expected of all other underground storage tanks. This means that the Red Hill tanks are currently illegal.

Navy Chastised for Substandard Work - The Navy recently received two letters from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health directing them to revise specific work products related to the tanks. First, the Navy's groundwater modeling does not meet expectations because it "over-simplified" underground geology and water flow, and "appear[s] to be drawing conclusions prematurely." Bottomline, the Navy's model is not protective enough of our water, so they have to do it over.

The fundamental problem with this kind of modeling is that it is premised on determining how much fuel can leak before the water is really contaminated. Our water should not be contaminated, period.

Second, the Navy must now revise its matrix for deciding which upgrade alternative to choose for the tanks in order to "demonstrate to EPA and DOH's satisfaction that groundwater and drinking water resources will be protected." The previous matrix failed to adequately evaluate leak detection, leak response, and pipeline integrity, among other things.

Of course, the most protective option is to retire the tanks and relocate the fuel to a place not immediately above our groundwater aquifer. Unfortunately, the Navy is seriously proposing an "alternative" location for the fuel storage facility that is directly mauka of the current facility with twice the number of tanks—still underground, still above our water.

What's next? - This summer there will be two opportunities to engage with decision-makers on the Red Hill tanks.

First, the Court has ordered the Health Department to adopt new draft regulations for underground storage tanks, including Red Hill, by July 15. This means there will be public hearings coming up soon. This is a great opportunity to advocate directly to the Health Department to significantly strengthen these regulations by requiring secondary containment sooner than 2035.

Second, in the fall the EPA will seek formal public comment on the Navy's plan to upgrade the Red Hill tanks. The EPA confirmed this will be a formal public comment period with opportunities for verbal and

written testimony on the Navy's tank upgrade choice. The Navy has given six upgrade alternatives — three options are single wall construction (which is not protective enough of our groundwater), and three are double-wall construction with some space between the tanks for monitoring for leaks (which are more protective of our groundwater). The best option presented so far is an actual tank inside the existing tank.

Watch your inboxes for more information on how to participate in both of these important decisions.

All Flash and No Substance

by Tanya Dreizin, Spring Sustainability Graduate Intern

On March 14th, the Navy held a community meeting to address the Red Hill underground storage tanks and answer any questions that the public may have. As a community member whose water supply would be affected by future leaks, I was curious to hear what the Navy had to say, what their current safeguards are, and any solutions they had in place.

The meeting layout was different than I had expected. Instead of a gathering space with an opportunity to address questions as a group, there were posters offering what seemed like only excuses, charts to show that our water is currently fine, and no solutions. It felt less like an informational meeting and more like a science fair, to let us know that everything appears to be currently under control.

Many of us aren't concerned about today but want to address future risks. As human error caused the latest fuel leak, who can say that it won't happen again? Although the mission of the military is to protect and serve the people abroad and at home, it felt like our concerns about water safety were unheard, unimportant, and disregarded. Instead of being proactive, I found many of our military leaders to be reactive, insisting that since there is no fuel currently found in the drinking water now, and there is nothing to worry about.

Well, I believe there is cause for concern. A brief Google search brings up the history of the military's fuel leaks into water sources on and surrounding bases throughout the United States, which have caused serious health implications for both active duty personnel and civilians. By offering "alternatives" that keep the tanks underground, focusing more on maintaining old tanks rather than using new technologies to upgrade or double wall tanks, it is clear that our concerns about water are not being taken into consideration. I would implore the Navy to listen and work with the community, and find a solution that will keep our water supply safe for us today, and for future generations.

2017 Volunteer of the Year: Cory Harden

The 2017 Randy Ching Award: Volunteer of the Year goes to Cory Harden! Cory Harden was born and raised in Hilo, and after living on the mainland for several years, she returned in the 1980's to work in human services and has been active in Sierra Club for nearly 20 years.

When asked how she decides what to tackle, Cory responded "I think of myself as a dog-catcher—I look at the agendas and try to figure out what could cause us trouble." As co-chair of the Moku Loa Group Conservation Committee, Cory has been attending county council meetings, providing testimony, responding to environmental reviews and proposed rules for an extraordinary gamut of issues facing our state. Geothermal air quality and noise issues, telescope development, helicopter overflights, koa timber harvest, fish farms, bioenergy development, depleted uranium and military pollution, beach access, environmental justice in Native Hawaiian communities, GMO, plastic bag and styrofoam bans, agritourism, axis deer introduction, 2% land fund and legacy lands protection are just a few of the testimonies she has provided on behalf of the Club.

Since 2010, Cory has served as chair of the Moku Loa Group Political Committee, developing and distributing surveys, setting up interviews, and managing the complex rules for endorsements. Cory manages the mail, sends out press releases and now edits the Mālama newsletter entries for the Group. Why does she work so hard? "I hope the Sierra Club will keep growing in its ability to make people aware of nature's wonders and the need to protect them."

Cory, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i is forever grateful for your incredible service. We thank you for everything you have done for Hawai'i and its people.



Photo by Scott Fleming



Photo by Scott Fleming

A TREASURER FOR TREE HUGGERS

Here's your chance to join the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the country as the **Volunteer Assistant Treasurer!**

- Gain valuable experience and training
- Work with "green" (\$) for a "green" organization
- Develop financial skills

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i's Chapter ExCom needs your part-time financial and bookkeeping skills on the chapter level.

Summary of Responsibilities:

- Help process financial transactions
- Help prepare financial statements, ExCom reports, and budgets
- Help ensure financial stability and solvency of chapter (sub-entities)
- Monitor, question, and evaluate club activities requiring expenditures
- Assist in administration of fundraising activities, as needed
- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend meetings with Treasurer as requested
- Contribute to a sense of camaraderie and teamwork
- Assume treasury duties, if necessary

Please contact Nara Takakawa, Chapter treasurer, if you have the interest and skills for the position at: hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

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A Place Worth Saving

By Colin Yost, Chapter Executive Committee Chair



Certain words just aren't in the vocabulary of the Sierra Club members I know – words like apathy, pessimism and despair. We are, by nature, vocal and positive advocates for our planet and everything that lives on it. Confronted with progressively dire climate projections and the willful malfeasance of our federal government, we instinctively redouble our efforts and call for more urgent action to prevent the worst from happening. In our view, there's no point arguing whether it's too late or whether the dramatic change required is politically, socially or technologically feasible. Surrender to fate is not an option.

That's why we work so hard to protect Hawai'i nei.

We believe it is still possible to save our beloved islands for future generations of people, animals and plants. We also believe Hawai'i is uniquely positioned to play a pivotal role in the national and global transition to a healthy climate future. Here are some of the reasons why:

Everyone loves us

Hawai'i is internationally known and loved as a tropical paradise. People of all nationalities, ideologies, and backgrounds have experienced the fantastic beauty and culture of the Aloha State. Many of those who haven't visited have heard glowing stories of warm waters teeming with colorful fish and coral, coconut trees swaying in the cool trade winds, lush rainforests, and inviting white, black, and green sand beaches. Every person who has ever heard of our home is a natural ally in our efforts.

Hawai'i is a natural laboratory for climate solutions

Our state is an ideal place to pilot and implement innovative renewable technologies because of our abundance of solar, wind, water, and geothermal resources. The opportunity exists to substantially accelerate our transition to 100% renewable energy and demonstrate new and better ways of distributing, storing, and managing electricity from non-fossil fuel sources. We can also lead the way in non-carbon based ground, air, and sea transportation. And our year-round growing season invites trials in regenerative agriculture and other land and ocean-based carbon offset methods.

The threat of permanent harm is imminent and real - so let's take action now!

The immediate and near-term effects of climate change endanger every aspect of life in Hawai'i. A direct hit from a category 4 or 5 hurricane would severely damage our economy, infrastructure, housing, and food production. In our lifetimes, all of us, and our visitors, could find our beaches and coastal tourist destinations submerged, marine life decimated, the climate unbearably overheated, and the diversity of our forest ecology severely reduced by drought.

No one wants the Hawai'i we know and cherish today to disappear. We ask that you come work with us on new educational, political, and practical initiatives to increase the urgency and effectiveness of our collective efforts to mitigate climate change and save Hawai'i nei. With your added help, we will succeed. To learn more, contact our Hawai'i office today at **808-538-6616** or hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org. Mahalo nui loa!

Cover photos by: Roy Kikuta, Clyde Kobashigawa, and Marie Laberge