



# MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

*A Quarterly Journal of the* SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I

JANUARY-MARCH  
2018



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

# The Sweet Voice of the Palila

By Jackson Bauer

It's 11 o'clock and the fog is rolling in. What was a hot, dry dusty morning has quickly transformed into a chilly, damp lunch break. This is the start of the daily Nāulu clouds that will stretch from here, the southwestern slope of Mauna Kea at 7,000-ft elevation over South Kohala and the balmy resorts along the coast throughout the day. But I was warned. The sweet call of the palila was heard all morning. He and his female companion, were singing their distinct song all morning, flitting between māmane trees within a 50-yard radius. To Hawaiians, the palila's song was often a sign of incoming fog and rain.

In 1882, a mele ("He Inoa Pi'i Mauna no Kaleleonalani") was composed to celebrate Queen Emma's journey to Mauna Kea's summit the year prior. On the way up from Waimea along what would become the old Saddle Road, her party stopped in the area known as Waiki'i, now a treeless pasture and ranch (and luxury subdivision). The fog and rain were coming in hard, and at this elevation, the dampness can lead to hypothermia, so her guides quickly built a shelter made of māmane boughs. My favorite verse from the mele describes how she enjoyed the beautiful songs of the palila while she sheltered in her make-shift hale:

*"...E aha ana lā Emalani?  
E walea a nanea a'e ana  
i ka leo hone o ka Palila,  
'oia manu noho kuahiwi...."*

*"...What is it that Emalani is doing?  
Relaxing and enjoying  
the sweet voice of the Palila,  
those birds that dwell upon the mountain...."*

I know exactly how she felt. I was fortunate to work for a project dedicated to restoring the forest home of this critically endangered bird. As Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator for the Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project from 2009-2016, our small crew of seven staff visited every part of the mountain, engaging with the forest in every way: planting trees, counting trees, removing invasive plants, removing predatory cats, rats, and mongoose, studying the habitat, building protective fences, and counting the birds. Mālama 'āina to the fullest.



In particular, the annual Mauna Kea Forest Birds Surveys, held in the freezing morning temperatures in early February, were always a highlight. It was on these daily transects that we crossed the entire sub-alpine forests of Mauna Kea within a week (or two, as

## Palila v. Hawai'i

Palila once inhabited the slopes of Mauna Kea, Mauna Loa, and likely Hualālai. The palila depends on the māmane-naio forest on Mauna Kea for its survival. It feeds mostly on immature māmane seeds, flowers and leaves along with other invertebrates and naio berries.

Destruction and degradation of the māmane-naio forest by introduced sheep, goats, and cattle jeopardize the continued survival of the palila. Additional threats include predation by non-native mammals, wildfires, drought, and weed invasions. The palila was listed as endangered in 1967 and critical habitat was designated in 1977. The critical habitat roughly follows the boundaries of the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice) filed suit in the 1970s against the Department of Land and Natural Resources for violating the Endangered Species Act. In 1979, the district court found that the state violated the Endangered Species Act and ordered it to initiate steps towards the removal of feral sheep and goat from the island within two years. There were two additional federal court orders to follow in 1987 and 1999 and invasive species eradication and native reforestation is still occurring to this day.

This case is most well known as the first time in US legal history that a non-human became a plaintiff in a federal court and was granted standing.

happened the year we got snowed on!). Waking up at 4:30am to drive and hike across hoarfrost to the top of our transects at 10,000-ft. to start our survey by sunrise was tough, for sure, but all worth it as you are greeted by the sun's orange beams alighting each pu'u across the saddle from east to west.

All the while, you first hear the 'amakihi excitedly awaking and flitting about. In the distance you hear the cackle of the Erkel's frankolin as their feathers warm up. And last, as if to almost yawn as they sip their latté, the palila call out, hidden within the shade of the māmane and naio trees. Within an hour, the palila venture out and seek māmane pods. The dried brown pods with the colorful orange "tic-tac" seeds are too hard to crunch, so they seek the "Goldilocks" immature green pods that are not too young and small, but not too old and hard. They pluck their pod and flit over to the nearest naio branch unzipping it while clasping tight with their feet. They then snack on the green "peas" within, just as we'd enjoy soybeans. Palila have co-evolved with māmane to become immune to the highly toxic seeds that would otherwise kill other birds within minutes. And as a result, they evolved to be completely dependent on māmane for food.

As we continued downslope surveying, the māmane and naio begin to give way to shrubby 'a'ali'i and encroaching fountain grass. It sinks in as you look across the Saddle towards Hualālai. 175 years ago, this view would have been a continuous forest with palila inhabiting around Mauna Kea, Hualālai, and the western slope of Mauna Loa. Where we see palila today is less than 5% of what it was then.

A big part of MKFRP's mission was reforestation and to hopefully expand that 5% a little. I often led volunteer groups to help in this effort and as a reward for their generosity, I would lead a birding hike in a little 'iliahi grove that today is home to the Palila Forest Discovery Trail. It was in the cool shade of this (unfortunately) rare canopy, listening to the sweet voice of the palila that I would close my eyes and imagine what Queen Emma experienced over 136 years ago.

And what the palila's future may look like.



©Jack Jeffrey Photography

## Blasts from the Past

Highlights from our first 12 years that are still pertinent to our work decades later:



Hawai'i Chapter is founded, Rob Wenkam is first chair [1968]

First Mālama I Ka Honua is published [1969]



University of Hawai'i Sierra Club Group is formed [1969]



**300** members of the Hawai'i Chapter [1969]

Save our Surf meeting with John Kelly [1970]



High School Hikers Program is formed [1970]

Annual member dinner is \$4.75/person and is said to be the "high point of my social life" [1971]



First full outings schedule in the Mālama [1971]

First Chapter office at Bishop Museum [1972]



Senator Inouye proposes establishment of interisland ferry system [1973]

Environmental Coalition forms: Sierra Club, Citizens for Hawai'i, Conservation Council, Hawai'i Audubon Society, and Life of the Land [1974]



Polynesian Voyaging Society proposes to build, train the crew, and sail a voyaging canoe to Tahiti [1974]

Moku Loa Group is formed [1974]



Chapter's first children's hike [1976]

Office temporarily moves to Life of the Land office on Pi'ikoi [1976]



Maui Group is formed [1976]

Office moves to Church of the Crossroads [1977]



Palila sues Hawai'i [1977]

**1,000** members of the Hawai'i Chapter [1979]

Maui Group and allies file suit to protect Makena from resort development



O'ahu and Kaua'i Group are formed [1979]

# Koa Ridge - The Past, Present, and Future

In November 2017, Castle & Cooke Hawai'i broke ground on Koa Ridge after over 15 years of opposition from the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Save O'ahu Farmland Alliance, and many other opponents. This development is being built on prime farmland that has an abundance of clean freshwater and fertile soils.

## Past:

Sierra Club's battle against Koa Ridge began back in 2002, as one of three official intervenors in the proceedings before the State Land Use Commission. The Club, then and now, is most concerned about building beyond the urban growth boundary, the loss of prime agricultural lands to development, increased traffic gridlock and commute times, and the loss of groundwater recharge from rainfall into the underlying aquifer.

## Present:

While the development is already underway, the Club continues to work to ensure that the development is as sustainable as possible and that O'ahu's remaining active agricultural lands are not converted into more suburban housing. This means working to implement clean energy policies that reduce rates and carbon emissions, advance multi-modal transportation options to meet the needs of our kupuna, keiki, and every commuter in-between, and champion local, diversified agriculture, especially for small-lot farmers like those that may live in this new development.

## Future:

Hawai'i imports more than 80% of the food it consumes. Now, more than ever, Hawai'i should work to protect its remaining agricultural lands, especially in the light of climate change and increasingly strong and frequent storms. To withstand this uncertain shift in climate, Hawai'i must double down on its efforts now to produce more of its own food. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i looks forward to supporting efforts to improve our land use ordinances to encourage more local food farming in Honolulu.

"This is about our survival," said Randy Ching. "Preserving Hawai'i's remaining farmlands, especially on O'ahu, is essential to a more resilient and sustainable Hawai'i." The fight against Koa Ridge has been an uphill battle for many years but the Sierra Club is not giving up anytime soon, especially when it comes to local food production. To join us in this effort, subscribe to our O'ahu Group email list at [sierracluboahu.org](http://sierracluboahu.org).



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# Victory Hikes: Hike with us through 50 years!

One way we will be commemorating our half-century in Hawai'i nei is by scheduling Victory Hikes throughout the state, at least one per quarter by each group. Each Victory Hike will celebrate 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 9-19 for more details on each Victory Hike!

## O'AHU GROUP

### Saturday, January 13 - Kahuku Point

This hike follows the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline on O'ahu. The Sierra Club was part of a coalition that fought expansion of the Turtle Bay resort and golf courses along this coastline.

### Saturday, January 20 - Maunawili Demonstration Trail

The Maunawili Demonstration Trail was built during the summers of 1991 to 1993. The Sierra Club built the first 9 miles of the trail, and Boy Scouts and Marines finished the last mile into Waimānalo. The club spent an additional summer in 1996 improving the first 2 miles. In 1997 and 1998, the O'ahu Group developed the Maunawili Falls Trail and a connector trail.

### Saturday, January 20, February 24, & March 10 - Pālehua Palikea

The O'ahu Group has made a long term commitment to work with the owners of the Gill 'Ewa Lands to restore the native dryland forest at Pālehua.

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

## KAUA'I GROUP

### Friday, March 30 - Wailua Beach To Nukoli'i Beach Sunset Full Moon Walk

Learn about Sierra Club's role in stopping construction of a seawall along the pristine coastline between Wailua and Nukoli'i Beaches. The county began construction of a 6 foot high, 3/5 mile revetment along the coastline fronting Wailua Golf Course to protect the golf course back in 1996 when we discovered that it didn't have a permit. Since seawalls destroy beaches, we reported the illegal construction to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers. It took 3 months for DLNR to issue a cease and desist order for the removal of the seawall which had caused the beach to severely erode. If we had not intervened, the beach from Nukoli'i to Wailua Beach would have been destroyed.

### In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Māhā'ulepū, Donkey Beach, Okolehao Trail and more!

## MAUI GROUP

### Saturday, February 3 - Wailea 670 Archeological Outing

Special archaeological tour with Dr. Janet Six. Visit prominent cultural complexes in the Wailea 670 preserve, including newly accessible sites. Sierra Club and allies fought hard and long to preserve the many archeological sites, historical paths, and unique natural features of this area from conversion into a large golf course and luxury housing. The final settlement in 2016 provides for more than 160 acres for a nature preserve, in perpetuity access for the public, preservation of most archeological sites, and drastically reduced housing density and height.

### In the coming quarters, stay tuned for Hamakualoa, Wailua Iki, Olowalu, Mākena and more!

## MOKU LOA GROUP

### Saturday, February 24 - Makalaweana

The Moku Loa Group fought a development at Makalaweana in the 80's. A zoning change was denied by the Land Use Commission saving a pristine beach, reef, and large wetlands.

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



Photo by Glen Bauer

Lorin Gill leading hike into Wailau, 1974

# Nate's Adventures: Blackline Hawaiian Damselfly

Photos and text by Nathan Yuen

A previously unknown population of Blackline Hawaiian Damselflies is the subject of concern with the proposed expansion of Hawaiian Memorial Park.

In June 2016, Liam Gray took me and several windward residents to see some endangered damselflies he discovered in Kāneʻohe. Liam lives in a neighborhood bordering Hawaiian Memorial Park where he found a previously unknown population of Blackline Hawaiian Damselflies — *Megalagrion nigrohamatum nigrolineatum*. I was immediately captivated by these colorful damselflies and was spell-bound photographing them.

I was surprised to see these damselflies in Kāneʻohe. I had previously only seen this species in native forests and streams above 2,000 feet elevation in the Koʻolau Mountains. I did not expect to see them at this low elevation in Kāneʻohe under alien trees – schefflera, albezia, strawberry guava, and other non-native vegetation. Damselflies are pinapinao in Hawaiian. There is an intriguing entry in the Pukui/



This female has large round eyes that are red on top and blue on the bottom. Females do not have a grabber at the tip of their abdomen.

Elbert Hawaiian dictionary for this damselfly — pinapinao ānuenuē — the rainbow-eye damselfly.

I contacted Hawaiian damselfly expert Dan Polhemus at US Fish & Wildlife and brought him to the site. Dan was also surprised to see these damselflies at this low elevation. He said that this species is endemic to Oʻahu and once inhabited the streams and wetlands throughout the island at all elevations. But they are rare today, with less than 1,000 estimated to remain. Loss of habitat has been the biggest reason for their decline. Today they are only found at high elevations in the Koʻolau Mountains except for this population in Kāneʻohe. For some inexplicable reason this population managed to survive at this site at low elevation.

This population lives on conservation land owned by Hawaiian Memorial Park which is guided under the City and County of Honolulu's Koʻolau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan. The plan guides all new public and private development with the Koʻolau Poko District in a manner that should be consistent with the Oʻahu General Plan. The Koʻolau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan was recently revised through Bill 57 (2016) and enacted into law in August 2017. Hawaiian Memorial park will be doing an environmental impact statement for their proposed cemetery expansion. The statement will be considered by the State Land Use Commission which is tasked with approving or disapproving the rezoning plan to permit cemetery expansion.

The discovery of this unknown population of low elevation Blackline Hawaiian Damselflies in Kāneʻohe is a remarkable and significant find. Rainbow damselflies are unique to the natural history and heritage of Oʻahu and need to be protected. The Sierra Club Oʻahu Group will be looking to see how it can protect these damselflies for future generations.



A rival male darts in to interrupt a pair of mating pinapinao ānuenuē.

There is considerable variation in their color, with several color morphs. This male has a thorax that is yellow-black.



**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](http://hawaiianforest.com).

# The Observant Hiker: Helping Stop Forest Invaders

By Erin Bishop, OISC Outreach Specialist

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) works islandwide to find and remove a variety of invasive plants and animals. OISC chooses invasive species that would cause significant damage if they were not controlled and selects species that we have an opportunity to eradicate with our existing resources. This is the most efficient and cost effective approach to protecting our watersheds from new invaders.

Reporting suspect pests and cleaning recreation gear goes a long way to stop the spread of invasive pests interisland and across O'ahu. Some of OISC's target plants are widely established on other islands, while other targets are restricted to specific locations on O'ahu. Outdoor recreation enthusiasts are most likely to see two of OISC's targets: miconia (*Miconia calvescens*) and devil weed (*Chromolaena odorata*). Invasive plants love disturbed, open ground to settle in—and thanks to hitchhiking seeds on humans and our gear—they are often found alongside trails.

On Hawai'i Island, you can see miconia throughout the Puna District and along the hillsides of the Pepe'ekeo Scenic Route north of Hilo. On O'ahu, known miconia areas are mainly found in the southern Ko'olau range. OISC surveys these areas by ground and air and will continue until the seed bank is exhausted. This will be a long eradication project, as miconia seeds can remain dormant in the soil for 20 years before sprouting. Those tiny seeds can be transported in the soil when picked up by shoes, bikes, paws, and hooves. While Hawai'i Island will likely never eradicate miconia, we still have a chance to stop it on O'ahu.

In Hawai'i, devil weed is known to exist only on O'ahu in four locations: Kahuku, Schofield Barracks, Kahana State Park and 'Aiea. OISC is working with the O'ahu Army Natural Resources Program to contain and eradicate all known locations of this toxic, agricultural pest. Devil weed seeds are easily spread by wind and the seeds' fine hairs allow them to cling to the clothing and fur of passersby.

We can all help prevent sharing invasive species between islands and stop the spread across O'ahu. Before travelling interisland and each time entering an area for recreation, make sure your gear is free of any soil, mud, plant parts, and insects. Early detection is also very important to stopping invasive species spread. If you suspect an invasive plant or animal, report it! It's better to be safe than sorry. The statewide reporting system of 643pest is available by phone at **643-PEST (7378)**, online at **643pest.org**, or download the **643pest app** for your smartphone. You can also find out more at **oahuisc.org**.

# Protecting Groundwater from Leaky Red Hill Fuel Tanks

By Marti Townsend, Director

Since massive fuel tanks were drilled into the mountain at Red Hill -- originally known as Kapūkākī -- U.S. Navy records show more than 200,000 gallons of petroleum products have been released into the environment.

As we wrote in our opinion piece for the Star Advertiser in December, "if our enemies poisoned our drinking water, we would all be up in arms. But when the U.S. Navy pollutes our groundwater, it expects us to accept it in the name of national security." We are not accepting this situation.

## What has happened lately?

Sierra Club's lawsuit on underground storage tanks like Red Hill advanced to the next stage. The Circuit Court denied the Health Department's motion to dismiss our claims against them for failure to uphold the state statute mandating upgraded storage tanks.

The Navy announced their matrix for deciding which tank-upgrade alternatives to employ. It's not awesome. Relocation is not on the list of options. On the list are an assumption tanks will leak in the future, and that clean up will continue to be an insurmountable challenge.

The Hawai'i congressional delegation added \$300 million to the federal defense appropriation bill to pay for modernization of the Red Hill facility. The U.S. Navy has spent \$200 million since 2006 on modernization efforts at Red Hill.

## What to expect next?

State legislators will propose a bill to impose stricter oversight on field constructed tanks like Red Hill. Sign up at **hawaii.capitolwatch.org** for alerts to submit testimony.

Navy officials indicated a public meeting will be held in February or March on their upgrade alternatives. Watch **sierraclubhawaii.org** for meeting details.

Given the close proximity of the Red Hill fuel tanks to our aquifer, the amount of petroleum that has already leaked, and the alarming amount of fuel still stored at Red Hill, the Navy should be working to relocate these tanks now. It is frustrating the Navy appears to be spending more time and money on public relations to defend a bad idea whose time has passed, than on investigating better ways to store their fuel. Efforts to defend U.S. national security should not pose an inherent threat to the safety of Hawai'i's public health and natural resources.

# O'ahu Group Report



The O'ahu Group has been focusing once again on the HART rail project. A posse from the Executive Committee, together with our Coordinator Jodi Malinoski and our consultant Gary Gill, met with the new HART CEO, Andy Robbins, who was accompanied by his own team which included Krishniah Murthy - the former acting CEO who is now serving as a part-time consultant.

The HART side made an extensive presentation on the measures they are adopting to boost sustainability. This was a departure from the Grabauskas years and a significant gesture which we welcome.

However, our top concern is to ensure that the rail system is powered by fossil-free energy sources from the day that it is inaugurated. We do not accept the idea that the electricity that powers the HART project will eventually be clean in 2045 when the state's 100% renewable fuel deadline kicks in.

We've had conversations with members of Mayor Caldwell's team to emphasize this concern, as well as with executives of major power companies to assess their interest in developing a micro grid for HART based on clean energy. They are extremely interested.

Together with representatives from three other environmental groups, a team from the O'ahu Group met with the leaders of both the Department of Environmental Services and the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency to discuss how to handle municipal solid waste and the pressures on the recycling program given the collapse in commodity prices for recyclable materials.

We made clear that we remain committed to reducing the amount of waste we generate on O'ahu—which is 50% more per person than the average American. We also re-stated our commitment to becoming a zero-landfill community and to maintaining the recycling program. We have agreed to work with the city to help find ways to accelerate the move towards those goals and as a result we have been asked to participate in the work of the 10-Year Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan advisory group.

We have created a new fundraising committee and devised a fundraising strategy to secure the \$80,000 we need to run our Group every year. We hope that a significant portion of the funds will be raised in conjunction with service work, such as restoring the dry land forests in Pālehua and helping carve new trails in the newly protected Ka Iwi coastline. You'll hear more about these very ambitious projects in the near future.

We continue to remain heavily engaged at the Honolulu City Council. This quarter, the O'ahu Group

assisted in the adoption of Resolution 17-237, which supports the transition of "TheBus" to an all electric, zero-emission bus fleet and Resolution 17-238, which urges the city to transition to an all electric vehicle motor pool and automotive fleet. This effort paid off on December 12th when the Mayor announced an ambitious goal to have all ground transportation on O'ahu powered by clean energy by 2045.

ExCom member Leilei Joy Shih led the charge in support of Resolution 17-284, to curtail the city's use of synthetic herbicides and utilize non-toxic alternatives. A new Land Use Ordinance was also passed, which makes short and long term bike parking (such as bike racks and covered stalls) mandatory for all new development in areas zoned apartment, apartment mixed use, business, and business mixed use.

Lastly, we provided testimony and support for O'ahu's styrofoam ban and the Ko'olauloa Sustainable Communities Plan, both of which have been temporarily deferred in their respective committees.

Our secretary Hunter Heavilin continues to work with the city to develop new rules to restrict the spread of fake farms, frequently called gentlemen farms. Watch out for news on this front in coming months.

ExCom member Jeff Kim has launched a new Sierra Club group at UH Mānoa which we hope will grow into an important new activist branch of our work.

We say thanks and goodbye to Elliot Van Wie, who gave us great service for several years and has moved on to other environmental endeavors. We wish him all the best. In his place we appointed Sai Weiss, who was already serving as treasurer. Sai has just released a video about the O'ahu Group's activities. Check it out at [bit.ly/SCOGvideo](https://bit.ly/SCOGvideo).

Randy Ching has worked hard to organize a program of Victory Outings next year. We say goodbye to him too - Randy gave up his seat on the Group ExCom to move on to the Chapter ExCom. Randy has been a pillar of our Group and we will miss him.

In Randy's place we welcome Doug Fetterly who was just elected through the annual membership ballot. Doug is Chair of the Sierra Club's National Marine Team and will help boost our work on the nearshore marine environment amongst other endeavors.

We enjoyed seeing many familiar and new faces at our 2017 membership meeting at Aloha Beer Company in Kaka'ako. Mahalo to those who joined us in celebration of our many accomplishments this year. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

A hui hou!





SEE PAGE 11 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at [bit.ly/SCH-outdoors](http://bit.ly/SCH-outdoors).

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

Outings Classifications: (E) Educational/Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service

### Sunday, January 7

*Photography Hike: 'Ihi'ihilauea Crater* (E)

Koko Head, moderate/3 miles, ridge

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into a crater to view rare native plants. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

### Friday, January 12 to Monday, January 15

*Kahaule'a Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Service Project Hawai'i Island* (S)

We will be working with NARS clearing mainly kahili ginger. We will access the area via Volcanoes National Park where it is an easy 1/2 mile hike from Thurston Lava tube to the work site. This a relatively new NARS site that is dominated with the alien kahili ginger and a great way to see how it evolves into a truly Native Hawaiian Natural Area Reserve. There are native birds above in the native 'ōhi'a lehua forest trees. Our accommodation will be at a house in Hilo at the NARS base yard. This trip requires a Friday evening departure. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com

### Saturday, January 13

*Victory Hike: Kahuku Point*

Kahuku, moderate/5 miles, coast

We will meet and start at the Kahuku Golf Course at 8:30 am and hike north along the coast. We pass by the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge and learn about the area. With a little luck, we will see some of the numerous birds that live there. The hike continues on to the beach for a look at some historic salt pans. We will swim and lunch on the beach before continuing on to Turtle Bay. Bring plenty of water, a hat, and sunscreen.

Reservations required. Leaders: Ed Mersino, 455-8193, mersino@hawaii.edu; Colleen Soares, 748-9215, csoares48@gmail.com

### Sunday, January 14

*Mākua Rim via Peacock Flats*

Mokulē'ia, moderate/11 miles, contour, ±2,350 feet

Long walk up a road to a trail that leads through Pahole Natural Area Reserve to a fabulous view of Mākua Valley. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528, gsinclai@gmail.com

### Sunday, January 14

*Sandy Beach Cleanup* (S)

We will clean up along highway and coastal areas until 10 am. 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 8 am at the Sandy Beach bathroom at the eastern side of the beach park (the bathroom closer to Makapu'u). Call Tred 394-2898 for information. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

### Saturday, January 20

*Victory Hike: Maunawili Demonstration Trail* (E/F)

Windward, strenuous/10 miles, ridge/valley

Maunawili Demonstration Trail is state-maintained and traverses the breadth of upper Maunawili Valley with spectacular views of the mountains, ocean, and lush tropical valleys. The trail is a long single track contouring the Ko'olau Mountains with varied terrain of wet gulches and open forest canopy. Meet 7 am at Waimānalo Trailhead. Reservations required. Leader: Dan Anderson, 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com

### Saturday, January 20

*Victory Hike: 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 do not 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. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa,

# O'ahu Group Outings

227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, January 27**

### *Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)*

Meet at 8 am 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 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, January 28**

### *Photography Hike: Queen Kapi'olani Gardens (E/F)*

Kapahulu, easy

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Stan for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Stroll through this botanical garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Leaders: Stan Oka, 429-9814; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Sunday, February 4**

### *Photography Hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E)*

Kailua, moderate/2 miles, ridge

Reservations required. Contact John for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ohe. Car shuttle required. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, February 10**

### *MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)*

Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com by February 9. We will be working with the Environmental Division helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We will send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Deborah Blair, 955-4168

## **Sunday, February 11**

### *Photography Hike: Pu'u 'Ōhi'a/Tantalus Crater (E)*

Tantalus, easy/2 miles, ridge/crater

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact

Clyde for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Low light conditions. Wet rainforest environment with many native plants. Pack a lunch/snack and water. Bring mosquito repellent and raingear. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, February 17**

### *Waimano Trail Restoration (S)*

Pearl City, moderate/5 miles, contour

Trail work on the Waimano Trail. We will hike about 4 miles on the Waimano Ridge Trail to where the trail has been made narrow by decades of dirt, rocks, and debris falling across the trail. Using pulaskis and other digging tools we will widen and level the trail tread in the worst areas. Lunch will be at one of the scenic spots on the ridge. We will meet at the trailhead at the end of Waimano Home Road in Pearl City at 8:30 am. Reservations required. Leader: Ed Mersino, mersino@hawaii.edu

## **Saturday, February 24**

### *Victory Hike: Photography Hike at Pālehua-Palikea 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. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, March 10**

### *Victory Hike: Pālehua Service Project-Trail Clearing*

Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. 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 Nanakuli 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; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

# O'ahu Group Outings

## **Saturday, March 17**

*Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E)*  
Pūpūkea, moderate/5 miles, contour  
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations. Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of central O'ahu. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

## **Saturday, March 17**

*Sierra Club/DLNR Ka'ena Point NAR Service Project*  
Sierra Club members only. We will meet at 8:30 am in Mokulē'ia with DLNR personnel and drive to the reserve. Albatross, possible monk seals and humpback whales. More information provided to registered participants. Reservations required by March 12. Leader: Colleen Soares, csoares48@gmail.com

## **Sunday, March 25**

*Kuaokala*  
Mākaha, moderate/7 miles, ridge, +/-1200'  
We will not see many other hikers on this trail above the Leeward coast as we ascend to a magnificent view of Mākua Valley. If you plan to drive your own vehicle to the trailhead, you must obtain a permit from DLNR at least a week in advance. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528 or gsinclair@gmail.com

## **Saturday, March 31**

*Pu'u Ma'eli'eli (F)*  
Kahalu'u, moderate/3 miles, ridge  
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Susan for reservations. Uphill hike to pillbox overlooking beautiful Kāne'ohe Bay. Leaders: Susan Tom, 753-0351; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

## **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 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

## 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](http://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.

# Kaua'i Group Report



## **Proposed Path Seeks Variance from Shoreline Setback Despite Coastal Hazards**

The proposed mile-long Lydgate Park-Kapa'a Bike/Pedestrian Path Phase C & D through Waipouli is in a tsunami inundation area affected by storm waves, flooding, and erosion. In July 2017, a king tide event caused the high wash of the waves to extend 20 feet beyond the 2016 state certified shoreline where Coconut Plantation Resort will be built. Sand and debris from ocean run-up can be hazardous to path users. Building too far seaward is also intrusive to beachgoers, fishers, and those who want to enjoy nature. With permanent loss of traditional coastal landscapes through development, the priority should be to establish the widest buffer possible between the shoreline and the coastal path. Instead, the county is seeking a Shoreline Setback Variance permit, to construct the path in the "no-build zone" (the shoreline setback area) instead of using the required 60-foot setback. There is ample area to locate the path 60-feet landward of the certified shoreline where the two undeveloped resorts, Coconut Plantation and Coconut Beach, plan to build. Voice your concerns at the January Planning Commission meeting to move the path mauka at least another 20 feet to safeguard our coastlines from the encroaching built environment.

## **KIUC's Revocable Water Lease – North Fork Wailua**

The Board of Land and Natural Resources has been dodging its leasing requirements by renewing Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative's (KIUC) month-to-month Revocable Permit S-7340 to use water from the Blue Hole Diversion for two hydroelectric plants. Under Hawai'i Revised Statutes 171-58, there are multiple environmental, cultural, and public trust requirements that need to be addressed in the Land Board's processing of this water lease application. The ditch system is in the protective and resource subzones of the conservation district, yet the Land Board and KIUC have not prepared a conservation district use permit as required. Nor has an environmental assessment, an environmental impact statement, or a jointly developed watershed management plan been prepared. Hydroelectric projects are not an identified public trust use of state waters, and the use is also considered consumptive because water is not returned to the stream from which it was drawn. KIUC's one-year holdover permit expired December 31, 2017 and was renewed by the BLNR in early December over fierce opposition from Kaua'i Group and other key community leaders.

## **Proposed Kealia Mauka Homesites**

Once covered in sugar cane, 53 acres of prime agricultural land within a 1,000-acre parcel, are proposed for a 235-lot residential subdivision by Kealia Properties LLC. An Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice (EISPN) was recently released but plans for the remaining 950 acres are unclear. It is the lot buyers who will implement home construction on the proposed 5,600 to 7,300 sq. ft. lots. The site is adjacent to the long-established Kealia mauka community of 38 homes. Potable water will be provided through a water service agreement with the private entity Kealia Water Company Holdings, LLC. The project will require a State Land Use District Boundary amendment to reclassify the land from Agricultural to Urban District; county permits to change zoning from agriculture to residential; and county subdivision permits. An EIS will be prepared for the State Land Use Commission. The deadline for EISPN public comments is December 26. Read more at: [bit.ly/EISPN-kealia-oeqc](http://bit.ly/EISPN-kealia-oeqc). Public input will also be needed on the forthcoming draft EIS.

## **Shoreline Setback Ordinance Redux**

The Kaua'i County Council approved a draft bill this October that may change the Shoreline Setback Ordinance last revised in 2014. One proposed amendment would eliminate the provision that allows structures and activities on lands abutting the shoreline to be exempted from the shoreline setback ordinance. Currently under the county's rules, a landowner can "set an approximate shoreline" rather than obtain a state certified shoreline. It also proposes that any exemption determination by the Planning Director must also be accepted by the Planning Commission, providing an opportunity for more transparency and public testimony. The ability for counties to waive shoreline setback requirements and consequently, the requirement for a state certified shoreline, may be in conflict with the State Coastal Zone Management Act. The draft bill is now before the Planning Commission.

## **Historic Coastal Trail Still in Limbo**

Recent discussion about "managed access" is exploring legal alternatives to secure the lateral coastal trail (Ala Loa) on Kaua'i's windward side through the ahupua'a of Papa'a, Ka'aka'aniu, Lepeuli, Waipake and Pila'a. The state's authority to claim ownership of ancient trails, enacted in the Highways Act of 1892 (codified as HRS §264-1) prescribes that all roads, trails, bridges and other forms of public access that can be verified to have existed before 1892, continue to be owned in fee

# Kaua'i Group Report & Outings

simple by the state. Yet in the past two decades, only one trail segment – State Historic site #50-30-04-1034 through Moloa'a (a site number that applies to trail segments through subsequent ahupua'a according to former SHPD Archaeology Branch Chief Theresa K. Donham) was recorded as a public right-of-way after strong advocacy by the Kaua'i Group and community members in 2007.

In 2017, a bill introduced by Rep. Kaniela Ing required the state to identify the path of the ancient Ala Loa trail on Kaua'i and recognize it as a public trail. However, DLNR Chair Suzanne Case incongruously gave testimony thwarting the bill, claiming that the department has not been able to confirm the location of this historic trail—which was precisely the intent of the bill. We invite Ms. Case to walk the trail with us. Like the Moloa'a segment, the trail traverses bluffs 40-100 feet above the shore, linking coastal settlements, providing a route to Ko'olau School (1889-1960), and access to marine resources (like limu kohu) throughout generations.

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 11 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](http://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.*

### Have you ever thought about being an Outings Leader?

If so, please contact [judydalton123@gmail.com](mailto:judydalton123@gmail.com) or call 808-482-1129 to find out how much fun you could be having while giving people the opportunity to explore the island, enjoy its beauty, and inspire them to protect it.

#### Wednesday, January 3

*Māhā'ulepū Coastal Hike from Shipwreck Beach to Makauwahi Cave or Kamala Point (C/E/F)*

Moderate/4-6 miles

Start off the New Year on the right foot. Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this

magnificent coastline! Good chance of seeing whales this time of year. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

#### Saturday, January 13

*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, 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, 652-3234

#### Monday, January 15

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

Moderately strenuous/3.2 miles

Hike 900 ft of elevation to the top of Sleeping Giant. Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

#### Saturday, January 20

*Nawiliwili Lighthouse Coastal Walk (C/E/F)*

Moderate/3 miles

Hike from Kalapakī Beach to Nawiliwili Lighthouse then along the coast to Hanamā'ulu Bay with shuttle to return. Enjoy views along the rugged coast. Leader: Ken Fasig, 346-1229



Ninini Point Lighthouse at Nawiliwili

#### Tuesday, January 23

*Alaka'i Swamp Boardwalk Hike (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

# Kaua'i Group Outings

spots, is not a swamp but a mountain rainforest rising 4,500 feet above the Pacific. A variety of native plants and birds can be seen only on this trail. Leader: Bob Nishek, 346-0476

## Monday January 29

*Māhā'ulepū Full Moon Walk (C)*

South shore, moderate/4 miles

Coastal hike starts at Shipwreck Beach in the afternoon and ends with the full moon glistening on the ocean along the shores of Māhā'ulepū. We'll shuttle cars to make this a leisurely one-way hike. Leader: Bill Snyder, 652-1718

## Tuesday, February 6

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

Strenuous/3 miles

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

## Saturday, February 10

*Awa'awapuhi and Nualolo Trails with the newly reopened cliff trail connector (C/F)*

Strenuous/5 miles

After being closed for repair, these trails are back in service. Leader: Ken Fasig, 346-1229

## Tuesday, February 13

*Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup (S)*

West Side, easy/2 miles

Help us keep Sierra Club's adopted highway free of litter. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon clean. Leader: Bob Nishek, 346-0476

## Saturday, February 24

*Glass Beach to Wahiawa Beach (C/E/F)*

Southwest shore, moderate

Experience nature's ability to recover from human impact as we hike along the rugged coast from Glass Beach to a secluded Wahiawa Beach. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

## Tuesday, February 27

*Māhā'ulepū Full Moon Walk (C)*

South shore, moderate/4 miles

Coastal hike starts at Shipwreck Beach in the afternoon and ends with the full moon glistening on the ocean along the shores of Māhā'ulepū. We'll shuttle cars to make this a leisurely one-way hike. Leader: Bill Snyder, 652-1718

## Saturday, March 3

*A Day of Koke'e Trails (C/F)*

Moderate/5 miles

Starting at Koke'e Lodge we hike to Berry Flat Trail and continue to the northern section of the Ditch Trail. Finally, we loop back to the Waininiua Trail and back to the lodge for a variety of views. Leader: Ken Fasig, 346-1229

## Sunday, March 11

*Koke'e Trails: Hale Manu Valley Cliff Trail/Waipō Falls (C/E/F)*

Strenuous/7 miles

Spectacular hike through forests of Koke'e, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

## Tuesday, March 13

*Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup (S)*

West side, easy/2 miles

Can you help us keep Sierra Club's adopted highway, the gateway to Waimea Canyon, free of litter? Leader: Bob Nishek, 346-0476

## Saturday, March 17

*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, 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, 652-3234

## Friday, March 30

*Victory Hike: Wailua Beach To Nukoli'i Beach Sunset to Full Moon Walk (C/E/F)*

East shore, easy/3 miles

Meet at Lydgate Beach Park for a picnic dinner. Enjoy the full moon glistening on the ocean as we walk along the wide sandy beach. Leader: Judy Dalton, 482-1129

## Saturday, March 31

*Kalaupuhi Trail (C/E/F)*

Koke'e/west side, moderate/4 miles

Kalaupuhi is 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



# Maui Group Report

## Central Maui HC&S Lands

Alexander and Baldwin told the State Land Board that they needed land leases that allow 80 million gallons a day (mgd) of stream water to be diverted from East Maui to their Central Maui lands. The Sierra Club suggested that 20 mgd was plenty. Dozens testified against the renewal of Alexander and Baldwin's revocable permits but the Land Board renewed the permits with the 80 mgd limit but ordered Alexander and Baldwin to clean up years of debris from the streams.

## Kihei Wetlands Development

The Maui Group and many allies asked the county council to not approve a proposed wellness center on one of Kihei's last wetlands. The council LUC has rejected the proposed zoning change.

## Wailea 670/Palauea

Volunteer trail crews worked hard ahead of December's historic Kalama Kanaio Road to Old Makena-Ulupalakua Road hike. These trails have not had regular public use for forty years. Interest in the hike was so great that another has been scheduled for January.



Buck Joiner and Duane Sparkman clearing a trail in the Wailea 670 area.

Photo by Lucienne de Naie

## Energy Issues

Maui wind farms are supplementing their Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and amending their Habitat Conservation Plans due to the high mortality levels of native bats and birds that are swept into wind turbine blades. The Maui Group joins those who are concerned and urge that realistic solutions be found and implemented.

## Kihei Mega Mall (Pi'ilani Promenade)

Pi'ilani Promenade made no effort to appeal the rejection of its EIS. A Maui Electric substation has begun work on one section of the 88-acre site and the Maui Group and allies have met with the utility to try to minimize any impacts of the project.

## Sand Mining

A sand mining moratorium bill is being heard by the Maui County Council and passed first reading, with the second coming in January. Citizens continue to hold signs in areas of Maui Lani where grading is ongoing with little to no monitoring for the presence of traditional burials. The Maui Group recently donated funds to the ongoing legal efforts to halt the destruction of Maui Lani burial dunes.

## Campaign to Ban Chemical Sunscreens

In December, Maui County Council passed the first reading of a bill to prohibit the sale and use of oxybenzone and octinoxate-based sunscreens. Before the second and final vote, the council will hold a meeting on the science and legality of the bill. We hope to see this bill passed in early 2018. Scores came to testify in support.

## East Maui Stream Restoration

No final decision of the State Water Commission has been issued yet for the amount of restored flows for East Maui Streams.

## Launiupoko Development

A District Boundary Amendment for a partially affordable housing project in the traffic bottleneck of Launiupoko was voted down by the Maui County Council. The council had concerns about viable water supplies, impacts of increased traffic, and sewage disposal.

## Waikapū Town Development

Over 1,000 units are planned around the existing Maui Tropical Plantation grounds. An 800-acre agricultural buffer is part of the project design. The Maui Group and allies support the project's commitment to restoring streams and providing land to local organic farms. After a long community consultation process, the State Land Use Commission is going to vote on a Boundary Amendment for Waikapū Town.

## Mākena Development

The Maui Group testified at a Special Management Area permit amendment hearing for the demolition of the former Maui Prince Hotel in Mākena. The former hotel grounds are now proposed for around 50 ultra-luxury units. We are concerned about continued public shoreline access and the protection of hidden cultural sites the construction may disturb.

# Maui Group Outings

SEE PAGE 11 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.

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 required), (D) round trip hike distance.

We always welcome more hike leaders! Contact [sierraclubmauigroup@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubmauigroup@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Check [mauisierraclub.org/hikes](http://mauisierraclub.org/hikes) for updates to the schedule.

## Friday, January 12

*Old Mākena Road to Mākena Landing (part II) (C/E)*  
4 miles

Popular demand has brought a second access to Maui's famous historic road that has been closed since 1985. Downhill on switchback road (we will leave cars at both ends). Bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch/snack. Estimated time: 3 hours. Meet 8 am at Mākena Landing parking lot. Limit 20. Leader: Adriane Raff-Corwin, [adriane.raff-corwin@sierraclub.org](mailto:adriane.raff-corwin@sierraclub.org) or 419-5143

## Sunday, January 14

*Kanaio Stupa (C/E)*  
2 miles

Some steep grades. Hike across the slopes of Haleakalā to a beautiful shrine built in 1982 and view of south coast. Meet at 9 am at Kēōkea Park (upper Kula) to carpool. Bring lunch, water, and rain gear. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com) or 354-0490

## Friday, January 19

*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 shielded flashlight. Meet at 6 pm in the main parking lot in front of the country store. Light pupus will be served. \$5 for members, \$10 non-members. Register at [contact@mauisierraclub.org](mailto:contact@mauisierraclub.org) or 419-5143. *Rain date is Friday, February 9.*

## Sunday, January 21

*Mā'alaea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E)*

Mā'alaea, 2 miles

Explore ancient Mā'alaea Village. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet at 9 am at mauka end of Maui Ocean Center parking lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

## Saturday, January 27

*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 at 9 am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

## Sunday, January 28

*Sprouts Outing! - Ages 6 and up*

Waihe'e Coastal Dunes, 2-3 miles

Bring your kids for a pleasant, flat walk in the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes Preserve to learn about the history of the area and some of the plants and animals that reside there. Parents must attend with their children. Meet at 10 am outside the entrance to the county's Waiehu Golf Course on Halewaiu Road. Bring water, snacks, hats, and sneakers. Limit 12 kids. \$5 per child. Leader: Adriane Raff Corwin, [adriane.raff-corwin@sierraclub.org](mailto:adriane.raff-corwin@sierraclub.org) or 419-5143

## Saturday, February 3

*Victory Hike: Wailea 670 Archeological Outing (C/E)*

South Maui, 2 miles

Special archaeological tour with Dr. Janet Six. Visit prominent cultural complexes in the Wailea 670 preserve, including newly accessible sites. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet 3 pm at top of Kaukahi St in Wailea. Limit 18. Special donation \$5 for members \$10 for non-members. Leaders: Lucienne de Naie and Janet Six. Register with [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

## Saturday, February 10

*Whale Day in Mā'alaea*

Help set up the Sierra Club booth at the Maui Harbor Shops in Mā'alaea or take a shift to talk to visitors at the booth. The hours of the event are 8 am-12pm. Leader: Rob Weltman, [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com) or 354-0490





# Maui Group Outings

## Friday, February 16

### *Haleakalā Supply Trail (E)*

Haleakalā, 5 miles

Moderate but high altitude. Beautiful views along trail. Begin Hosmer's Grove campground uphill 2.5 miles to crater rim for lunch and views. Prepare for wet/windy conditions. Meet 8:30 am at the back of Long's Drugs parking lot in Pukalani. Wear footwear for rocky conditions. Bring hat, jacket, lunch, plenty of water, and a park pass (if you have). Leader: Robin West, rwest808@yahoo.com or 277-7267

## Saturday, February 17

### *'Āhihi Bay Hike/Snorkel (C/E)*

La Perouse, 1 mile

Moderate shoreline hike on rocky trail to great snorkeling. Bring swim/snorkel gear, water, snack. Meet at 8 am at 'Āhihi Bay parking lot (AKA Dumps). Limit 12. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com or 868-6848. Prefers email.

## Saturday, February 24

### *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 at 9 am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

## Sunday, February 25

### *Sierra Club Maui Group Annual Meeting*

Food, fellowship, short inspirational talks and Environmental Heroes Awards. FREE event! 11 am to 3 pm at Kaunoa Senior Center. Please bring side dishes for a great picnic lunch, main dish provided. Visit [mauisierraclub.org/signup](http://mauisierraclub.org/signup) to sign up for an email reminder about the annual meeting. Event volunteers wanted, contact Lucienne de Naie at [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net)

## Friday, March 2

### *Makawao Forest Reserve (C/E)*

7 miles

Left side of road, 3 mile climb up trails and jeep road, moderately strenuous and muddy. Meet at 8:30 am at parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church (Makawao Ave). Limit 18. Leader: Robin West, rwest808@yahoo.com or 277-7267

## Friday, March 9

### *Holomua Road Past Old Maui High (C/E)*

Pāi'a, 6 miles

Slight uphill on this moderate hike. Meet at 9 am on the mauka side of the start of Holomua Road at Hana Highway just east of Mama's Fish House. Limit 15. Leader: Kalei Johnson, kalei1908@gmail.com or 344-0006 please leave your phone number.

## Sunday, March 11

### *'Ulupalakua to Kaupō Car Tour (C/E)*

30 miles

Caravan by car and stop for short hikes. Amazing native plants, historical sites, views, and commentary by noted botanist and historian Bob Hobdy. Meet at 8:30 am at Kēōkea Park in upper Kula. Bring lunch and water. Limit 20. Special donation \$5 for members \$10 for non-members. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

## Sunday, March 18

### *Lahaina Pali Trail (C/E)*

West Maui, 5 miles

Strenuous, with steep uphill. Enjoy the views and whale watch. Hike from Lahaina end trailhead, up to windmills, and back the same way. Sturdy boots, sunscreen, and hat are recommended. A hiking stick is useful. Bring lots of water. Meet at 8 am at Maui Ocean Center parking at the gas station end. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com or 354-0490

## Friday, March 23

### *Wailea 670 Stepping Stone Trail Mapping (C/E)*

South Maui, 2.5 miles

Visit and help map rare, ancient stepping stone trails (and search for new trail segments) in the Wailea 670 preserve. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet at 3 pm at top of Kaukahi St in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register at [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147

## Saturday, March 31

### *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 at 9 am at Ha'ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

# Moku Loa Group Report



## **Pollution or power?** By Cory Harden

Could methane from the soon-to-be-closed Hilo dump power garbage trucks hauling refuse from Hilo to Kona?

Methane capture helps slow global warming as methane lost into the air retains heat in the atmosphere at a rate 25 times that of carbon dioxide. Methane capture that is legally required, but not done, can incur stiff fines. Honolulu missed a deadline to install and operate a landfill gas collection system and was fined \$17 million. However, methane capture that is done wisely can bring in money. On O'ahu, the Gas Company is paying to upgrade digesters to do methane capture at Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Honolulu will see \$1.8 million in revenue annually.

Hawai'i County is currently capturing methane at the Pu'uanahulu landfill. But the county, the Department of Health, and two past consultants say capture won't work in Hilo. However, EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program lists Hilo as a candidate for methane recovery, and will provide support at no cost to explore options for beneficial gas use.

The Sierra Club, along with Rick Bennett, vice-chair of the County Environmental Management Commission, commenting on the environmental assessment for the Hilo landfill closure, are calling for a formal EPA evaluation.

The County Department of Environmental Management is open to ongoing monitoring to see if methane capture will work in the future. If funding for the landfill closure comes before County Council, the methane question can be raised. Stay tuned.

## **Mauna Kea Update** By Deborah J Ward

The contested cases regarding the vacated sublease and rescinded permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope are currently in the hands of the Hawai'i Supreme Court. The court is expected to rule on the decision to deny a contested case hearing for the sublease in coming months and may schedule the permit challenge by early 2018. Sixteen petitioners have filed appeals of the Land Board action to permit the beleaguered telescope. Meanwhile, the international consortium anxious to build has secured a permit in the Canary Islands and will announce a final decision in the spring. After legislative audits in 1998, 2005, 2014, and 2016 found continued deficiencies in UH management in the conservation district, OHA has joined the chorus to challenge the current management structure in court. Administrative rules proposed by UH have been put on hold, pending court decisions. An environmental

assessment is being developed for the decommissioning of the CalTech Submillimeter Observatory, the first to take place before the UH general lease is set to expire in 2033. Other telescopes, including UKIRT, Hoku Kea, and the VLBA are expected to file notices of intent to decommission in the future, according to documents submitted by UH. Members of the Moku Loa Group are attending meetings and following the cases closely.

## **Pump more? Or use less?** By Cory Harden

What happens when you suck on a long straw for a long time? Kona just found out: several deep-water wells failed recently and triggered months of water restrictions. The Hawai'i County Water Plan is being updated and below are some ideas we hope will be incorporated in the updated plan. Watch for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

- More wells could be drilled but how about more sustainable water practices, less water wasting, and lower energy costs from less pumping?
- The UH Palamanui campus and Kona Airport do water recycling but more is needed. Joint planning for water recycling by the Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Water Supply would help. Hawai'i County could even follow Maui's lead and set up a separate water reuse division.
- The County Water Plan could be required to incorporate sustainable water planning. The EPA could do a workshop on sustainable water reforms which include case studies and model ordinances. Rural development grants could help hire experts.
- Building codes could be changed to require low-flow water fixtures. The plumbing code could be changed to facilitate irrigation with greywater recycling.
- All county facilities could install low-flow devices. New subdivisions could be required to build water recycling into their plans. Rebates could encourage large water users to use water efficient technology.
- Sewer mining could be done: pipe into an existing sewer line, run the water through a package plant, then use it for irrigation. You save money by not pumping water to the main sewer plant.
- Dry wells could be replaced by rain gardens and constructed wetlands to allow greywater recycling.
- The county could do a drought plan. O'ahu has one.
- There's government funding—the DOA Rural Utility Service and the State Revolving Fund. The Safe Water Drinking Act could fund rebates to retrofit toilets and showerheads to use less water and leak

# Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

detection programs to reduce water line losses.

- There's also private funding. Kohala coast hotels contract out water recycling. O'ahu uses private/public partnerships.
- Recycled water can be sold. If it's stored in reservoirs or tanks, you get water pressure.
- Recycled water can store energy—by day, solar energy pumps it uphill. By night, it runs back downhill and generates electricity.

## Mahalo 2017 Moku Loa Group Chair, Heather Kimball

I would like to extend my warmest mahalo to the Moku Loa Group members for the opportunity to serve as chair of the Executive Committee for the last year. It has been an educational and rewarding experience, and I enjoyed getting to know so many of Hawai'i's Sierra Club members. While it has been an honor to serve, I will not be returning to the Moku Loa Group Executive Committee in 2018 in order to run for the State Senate in District 4. This will be a very challenging race but I am ready and willing to put in the work for our community and our environment.

At the beginning of this year we established a goal of increasing member participation. To this end we established a monthly email chat, hosted a very successful series on marine ecosystem health with Councilmember Eileen O'Hara and held talk-story sessions with Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter Director Marti Townsend and Representative Nicole Lowen in Kona. We still have a lot of work to do. The distribution of our membership across such a large area continues to be a challenge. However, with the continued efforts of the Moku Loa Group leadership and help from the Hawai'i Chapter, I am optimistic that we will continue to improve communication and engagement with members across Hawai'i Island.

Again, it has been an honor to serve as the chair for the Moku Loa Group for the last year, and I will continue to support Sierra Club activities on our island. Thank you to all the members of the Sierra Club on Hawai'i Island for the opportunity to represent you.

## UPCOMING OUTINGS:

**The Moku Loa Group Outings are now subject to "ROD Protocol" which asks participants of hikes in 'ōhi'a forest to wear clean clothes and scrub their boots, then spray with alcohol. We will publish notice of ROD prone areas in outing descriptions. This preventative procedure is best done at home before reaching the area but leaders will have needed items at meeting places. Please help us protect our precious forests.**

## SEE PAGE 11 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

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

### Saturday, January 13

*Kaloli to Hā'ena (Shipman Beach)* (E)

Puna District, easy/6 miles, sea level

Hike on a historic trail in Puna from Paradise Park to the beach at Hā'ena. The trail used to be an inland carriage road. At Hā'ena Beach, we will see Nēnē at the Shipman estate and swim with the turtles. Bring water, a rain poncho, a swimsuit and lunch. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337

### Saturday, January 20

*Kalapana Coastal Day Hike* (E/F/C)

4 miles, sea level

This hike begins in Kalapana. We will hike out to the beach at Kaimū, then explore the shoreline south over rough lava and places where the eruption changed the coastline. We will have lunch at a kīpuka and then return. Phone leaders Michael or Sunny LaPlante at 964-5017

### Saturday February 3

*Whittington Park Coastal Hike* (E)

3-4 miles, sea level

Rugged exposed coastline hike, not always an established trail but beautiful nonetheless. Sturdy shoes are a must along with water, hat and the usual requirements for a day hike. Phone leaders Sunny or Michael LaPlante at 964-5017

### Saturday, February 24

*Victory Hike: Makalaweana* (C/E)

Easy/4 miles, coastal

The group fought a development at Makalaweana in the 80's. A zoning change was denied by Land Use Commission saving a pristine beach, reef, and large wetlands. We will hike round trip from Kahakai State Park. Bring lots of water, swim gear, and lunch. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

### Saturday, March 24

*Pu'u O'o Day Hike off Saddle Road* (E)

5 miles, 5,700 ft +/- 100 ft

An easy-paced hike at high elevation that will go through some native forest kīpukas and return on the same route. Changeable weather means bring warm clothes and rain gear along. Phone leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante at 964-5017



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.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

# Welcome the newly elected 2018 Executive Committee Members!

## Hawai'i Chapter

Randy Ching  
Lucienne de Naie

Sheila Sarhangi  
Doorae Shin

## O'ahu Group

Hunter Heavilin  
Doug Fetterly  
Leilei Shih  
Sai Weiss

## Kaua'i Group

Judy Dalton  
David Dinner  
Juan Wilson

## Maui Group

Robert Aldrich  
Stacia Ash  
Chuck Chimera  
Rob Weltman

## Moku Loa Group

Emily Garland  
Cory Harden  
Blake Watson

Mahalo to everyone that voted and made our first fully-online election a success. We had more members vote this year than many of the last years. And congratulations again to our newly elected leaders!

# CAPITOLWATCH

CapitolWatch is dedicated to demystify how our government can have your voice heard on environmental issues.

We are looking for people who want to influence policy at the state level. We will teach you how to track bills and deliver effective testimony to decision makers. Best of all, you'll meet passionate people who share your values.

Interested? Email us at

[hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org)

# What to Look Out for in the 2018 Legislative Session

In addition to being ever-watchful for bills that threaten our public trust resources, this year at the legislature we are following a wide range of proposals related to our mission to help people explore, enjoy, and protect the Hawaiian Islands, including:

**Clean Energy:** We are doubling down on our efforts to encourage distributed renewable energy policies, this includes: imposing performance-based rate standards on Hawaiian Electric to bring their private-profit interests in line with the public's interest, authorizing private microgrids, and improvements to our 100% renewable energy goals.

We are also renewing our push for a coal-free Hawai'i by 2023 and supporting energy resiliency planning to ensure our electrical grids can rebound after the next hurricane.

**Food Security:** We will continue to support bills that encourage diversified agriculture, carbon farming, and better regulation of harmful pesticides.

**Freshwater:** Legislators will consider once again a bill for stricter regulation of field constructed fuel tanks like the ones at Red Hill.

Several bills to improve our aging infrastructure, such as water mains and sewers, will be introduced. Improving aging infrastructure is key to protecting our environment, as well as encouraging affordable housing in the urban core.

While the DLNR budget remains the primary source of funding for watershed protections, expect a few bills that fund protections in specific watersheds.

**Hawai'i EPA:** We support analyzing the opportunity to reorganize state agencies to centralize environmental

protection efforts into one agency. Currently several agencies have some level of responsibility for protecting our environment, including the Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Land and Natural Resources.

**Oceans:** Sunscreens - We will be supporting new bills to ban the sale of hazardous chemical sunscreens, including oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Fishing - There will be a new proposal to establish recreational fishing licenses.

**Recycling:** Expect bills to modify or even end our current recycling programs due to cost. Pressure is increasing to supply the private operator of Hawai'i's waste-to-energy incinerator with more and more burnable trash. While H-Power may reduce the amount of waste going the landfill, it is certainly not clean energy nor is it sustainable. The solution is more on-island recycling facilities so we do not ship our waste to other communities.

**Sea Level Rise:** Disclosure - Require sellers of shoreline properties to disclose the risk of sea level rise.

Setbacks - Encourage high-risk properties to preemptively set-back oceanfront structures before-the-fact, instead of building emergency seawalls.

**Taxes:** It is important to keep an eye on bills affecting taxes and fees. There are proposals to redirect funds collected via the barrel tax, raise the cap on the conveyance tax—which is used for the protection of important natural areas—and to capture new public income from Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

**Trails & Parks:** We will once again support bills to improve trail maintenance and hiker safety. State park funding has not kept pace with the crushing popularity of many public trails statewide.

**Waste:** Cesspools - The Department of Health is introducing a grant program to support families in converting their cesspools to more sustainable forms of waste management. This is crucial as cesspools in coastal areas pose a major risk to human health as well as the environment.

Single-use plastics & polystyrene - We will be supporting bills to better empower counties to regulate these waste streams, as well as regulate other large-scale consumers of these harmful products.

## WATCH 2018

improving the legislative process so you can stay on top of environmental issues that you care about.

The CapitolWatch blog is back! We heard a lot of feedback from previous sessions on how helpful the blog was in providing updates and guiding participation so we made a point to start early and relaunch the blog.

Check it out and subscribe at

[hawaiicapitolwatch.org](http://hawaiicapitolwatch.org)

# Plaintiffs Appeal Court Ruling That Gives Syngenta a Pass

By Loui Cabebe, member of Ke Kauhulu o Mānā, Hanapēpē, Kauaʻi

West Kauaʻi community members formed Ke Kauhulu o Mānā, an association based in Hanapēpē, Kauaʻi, to protect natural and cultural resources, cultural practices, and the environment that these practices depend on for all communities on Kauaʻi and for generations to come. In 2016, Ke Kauhulu, along with its member Punohu Kekaulua III, the Hawaiʻi Alliance for Progressive Action (H.A.P.A.), Surfrider Foundation, and Koholā Leo filed a lawsuit against the state Land Board for failing to review the environmental impacts of permitting Syngenta Hawaiʻi, Inc. to use West Kauaʻi conservation and agricultural lands. Last month, however, Kauaʻi's environmental court dismissed the case.

The court erred and we will appeal. Let me explain our reasons.

## Significant change in land use not considered in permitting

The state Land Board has a regular practice of repeatedly renewing month-to-month revocable permits for use of Hawaiʻi's public lands and water resources. Revocable permits can be issued with less oversight, so this is an easy way out from long-term leasing procedures such as public auctions and, often, fair market rental appraisals and preparation of environmental review documents. The Land Board has applied this truncated process to the parcel now occupied by Syngenta since 1983. Initially, the Kekaha Sugar Company used the parcel to grow seed cane, then Northrup King Co./Novartis Inc. was allowed to grow seed corn on part of that land. In 1997, Novartis changed its name to Syngenta Seeds, which is now notorious for deploying restricted use pesticides and developing GMO products in West Kauaʻi. This creeping change in land use was never subject to new environmental review or conservation district use permitting.



## Land Board ignores kuleana to protect public trust lands

When the Land Board, or any government entity, makes decisions concerning public lands, they are supposed to assess whether that decision will have significant environmental impacts and to also consider alternative decisions. They are supposed to affirmatively protect Hawaiʻi's public trust resources - its natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals, energy sources, and its historic and cultural resources. Further, the Land Board must uphold laws protecting conservation districts, which are lands containing important natural resources essential to the preservation of Hawaiʻi's fragile natural ecosystems and the sustainability of our water supply. The Land Board also has fiduciary duties to the corpus of public trust lands temporarily ceded to the U.S. until the reinstatement of the Kingdom of Hawaiʻi.

## Impacts on endangered birds, marine life, infants not considered

All of these requirements applied to the Land Board's decision to reissue a revocable permit, along with a new subdivision, for Syngenta's use of public trust lands. Instead of taking a hard look at the impacts that Syngenta's operations have had on these lands and its surrounding environment, the Land Board rubber stamped yet another year under a revocable permit. It did not consider impacts on native birds found near the parcel site, the presence of critical habitat for 'ohai, or cetaceans found in waters along the same coast as the parcel. Pesticide runoff can compound in these sensitive species and affect the fisheries upon which many cultural practices depend. Syngenta is known to use pesticides that also have an adverse impact on human health, especially that of children, infants, and neonates.

## Syngenta operations on Kauaʻi entail use of RUPs banned elsewhere

Today, Syngenta operations in West Kauaʻi cover approximately 3,000 acres of public lands. Its operations in West Kauaʻi entail use of restricted use pesticide chemicals, including the highly controversial organophosphate, chlorpyrifos, which are being used on Kauaʻi at one to three times more per acre than in corn growing operations on the U.S. mainland. Several states have filed suit against the EPA for failing to make

*continued on page 23*



Loui Cabebe

a safety finding before continuing to allow the use of chlorpyrifos. In 2016, the EPA filed a complaint against Syngenta Kaua'i alleging violations of numerous federal pesticide regulations meant to protect agricultural workers at a crop research farm in Kekaha. More recently, another law firm has been assembling a case based on links between pesticides sprayed on GMO plants and birth defects in Hawai'i and elsewhere.

### The Land Board violated spirit of the law

The Board of Land and Natural Resources ignored these clear signs of potentially significant environmental impacts and the court erred by giving them a pass on the thin basis that no new use, as of the preceding year, was proposed under the revocable permit. Hawai'i's constitution, statutes, and judicial mandates do not support such a technical evasion of clear duties to protect our environment and the communities who must live in it. The Land Board is not allowed to evade its duties by issuing de facto long term leases to agrochemical companies under the guise of them being temporary.

That is why we feel confident as we turn our attention from Kaua'i's environmental court and towards the state Intermediate Court of Appeals.

# Proposed Changes to Hawai'i's Environmental Impact Statement Regulations

*By Marti Townsend, director*

Revisions to the regulations implementing Hawai'i's EIS law are currently being considered. Here is a snapshot of the comments we submitted:

- **Batching Comments (HAR 11-200A-26A(d)).** Batching comments should not be allowed without strict and specific guidelines for what qualifies as similar comments. It is too easy for project proponents to improperly group comments for a single response as a method for obfuscating nuanced public concerns. Indeed, in the case of applicants, the financial incentive is to minimize the diversity of comments to the greatest extent possible. Strong regulations are the only tool to correct for that perverse incentive.
- **Guidance on mitigation measures.** The proposed revisions do not address the growing popularity of "pay to degrade" arrangements, where project proponents provide financial support for ancillary activities to "mitigate" the significant impact anticipated by a project proposal. These regulations should make clear that only mitigation measures that directly reduce the significant impact anticipated by the project should be considered, e.g. create new habitat to off-set habitat lost due to a project.
- **Affordable Housing Exemption (HAR 11-200A-15A(c)(11)).** We recognize that Hawai'i is suffering a housing crisis. More affordable housing must be built to ensure that everyone in Hawai'i has a decent place to live. This mandate, however, does not justify total circumvention of the laws designed to ensure a high quality of living for all of Hawai'i's people. Compliance with Chapter 343 is as much about protecting natural and cultural resources as it is about ensuring livable communities, good urban design, satisfaction of minimum infrastructure needs, and thoughtful traffic management. Affordable housing projects have the potential to significantly affect the quality of life for residents of the proposed project, as well as the surrounding community.

In February, the Environmental Council will advance their proposed changes to Governor Ige, asking to initiate the formal public comment procedure. To get directly involved in this process, follow the Office of Environmental Quality and Control online at [health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/](http://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/)

## High School Hikers Hawai'i Island

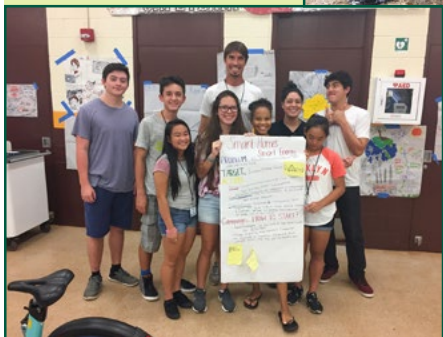


In November, High School Hikers attended the Blue Planet Foundation Student Energy Summit at Mililani High School

High School Hikers enjoying the great outdoors and native forests



CLA students learning how to be a part of the solution in moving Hawai'i towards its 2045 renewable energy goals





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## High School Hikers Hawai‘i Island Fall 2017 Wrap-Up

*By: Lisa Mason, HSHP Outings Leader*

This semester was full of a variety of unique activities and explorations for the Christian Liberty Academy Environmental Club/High School Hikers Hawai‘i Island Program. Our club opened this year with a movie outing on September 4th to see Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Sequel” at the Palace Theater in Hilo. We left the theater feeling overwhelmed—and a bit conflicted—but not without hope that maybe we could also be a part of the “sustainability revolution.” We decided that “sustainability” was truly to be the theme of our club this semester.

From October 16, 2017–November 12, 2017, the club spearheaded our school’s Keep America Beautiful Recycle Bowl recycling drive by managing, sorting, and weighing over 1,110 pounds of recyclable items. We were blown away by the amount of “trash” we saved from entering our landfill. Our club plans to keep up a strong effort to build up our school’s recycling program this year. Thank you Marsha Hee, from Recycle Hawai‘i, for your support and diligent leadership in helping our community recycle smarter!

Last month, on November 10th, seven club members flew to O‘ahu to attend the Blue Planet Foundation Student Energy Summit at Mililani High School. The major theme of the energy summit was to inspire students to become community advocates for renewable energy solutions. Students learned about Hawai‘i’s legislative process and some of the real challenges facing renewable energy policy reform in Hawai‘i and across our nation. Over 100 students from all over Hawai‘i collaborated in designing a variety of community energy campaigns on issues ranging from replacing gas cars with electric vehicles, to campus energy audits, and developing “smart-home” technologies that use artificial intelligence. We are taking steps to be a part of the solution in moving our state towards its 2045 renewable energy goals.

Additionally, the Environmental Club/High School Hikers Program is planning to participate with Blue Planet Foundation, and other Hawai‘i Island schools, on the Blue Line Challenge, an awareness campaign on the issue of future sea level rise. Keep your eyes open in spring 2018 for the “Blue Line” marking the 1-meter line of possible sea level rise across our city of Hilo. In addition to our recycling and energy initiatives, we did do some hiking and enjoyed the beauty of our island’s forests.

In September, several High School Hikers trekked the Mauna Ulu trail in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park and afterward made their way to the Pu‘u Loa petroglyphs field for a lesson on ancient coastal sustainability and cultural practices. During Thanksgiving weekend our club traveled to Kona to hike the Honua‘ula Forest Reserve’s Maka‘ula ‘O‘oma Tract. This forest is great to hear and see some native birds and to walk under the canopy of old ‘ōhi‘a and koa trees in the rainforests of Hualālai. You will also see native pilo, kāwa‘u, māmaki, and ‘ie‘ie amongst the hāpu‘u and clusters of invasive gingers and weedy grasses. Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death is of critical concern on Hawai‘i Island. We would like to remind everyone to practice clean hiking etiquette by brushing off weeds and seeds and spraying boots, gear, and the undercarriage and tires of cars with a 70% isopropyl alcohol spray to minimize opportunities for the spread of the disease across our island. Big mahalo to Moku Loa Group’s Diane Ware for joining the CLA environmental science class to Keauhou Bird Conservation Center and volunteering to help plant keiki māmaki trees and learn about endangered Native Hawaiian birds. Mahalo nui loa Sierra Club Moku Loa Group for your continued encouragement and support!

**See page 23 for photos.**

Cover photo by Jack Jeffrey