



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAI'I CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2012

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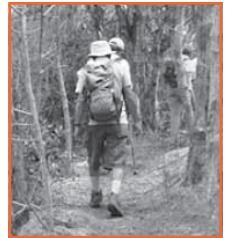
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News, issues, and hikes on your island.

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Bills to Watch Halfway Through the 2012 Legislative Session

by Robert D. Harris

The Sierra Club is vigorously testifying on legislation that you care about. At the midway point, here are some of the measures that we're supporting or opposing, and a brief explanation for our position. For more bills and fuller explanations, please go to the super-duper-awesome CapitolWatchHawaii.org website. Sign up there to receive our "Insider" email newsletter and stay current on what's happening at the Legislature.

MEASURES THE SIERRA CLUB SUPPORTS

HB 2703 - Establishing Food Sustainability Goals. This measure prioritizes food production among the state priorities, establishes target goals for food production within Hawai'i, and requires the Department of Agriculture to

track and report on specific metrics over time. A similar concept helped pump prime Hawai'i's clean-energy industry. This measure advances long-term economic growth. DOA estimates it could generate \$1 billion in new sales, stimulate \$300 million in new household earnings, create more than 14,000 new jobs with living wages, and pump \$39 million in new tax revenues into our state coffers.

HB 2820 - Advancing Hawaiian Fishponds (loko i'a). The measure advances an environmentally sensitive method and culturally desirable method of raising food for human consumption. By giving preference to these projects when leasing state land, we can encourage the preservation and restoration of Hawaiian fishponds.

SB 2277 - Relating to Endangered Species. This measure continues the safe harbor agreement, habitat conservation plans, and incidental-take license

programs. It does not continue the citizen suit language, which was included as a result of discussions with impacted businesses, environmentalists, and agency staff. Suggested Amendment: Return to the original language of SB 2277, which had wide-ranging agreement from the community.

SB 2305 - Deletes the "One-Gallon Per Person Per Day" Exception to the Prohibition of the Removal of Sand. Sand belongs on beaches. This measure would allow for the inadvertent taking of sand from the shoreline, but prevent intentional removal of sand in such a way that it makes enforcement difficult. It also reduces the cumulative impact of a number of people removing sand over a period of time.

SB 2402 - Relating to Light Pollution. This measure requires shielding of State outdoor light fixtures. Light pollution detrimentally impacts

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The Sierra Club is Hawai'i's largest and most successful grassroots environmental advocacy organization





FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

My Last Gallon of Gas

The fact that oil is beginning to get more expensive more quickly will contribute to the realization of how dysfunctional our current pattern is. Take the tar sands of western Canada. For every barrel of oil they extract there, they have to use enough natural gas to heat a family's home for four days. And they have to tear up four tons of landscape, all for one barrel of oil.

It is truly nuts. But you know, junkies find veins in their toes. It seems reasonable, to them, because they've lost sight of the rest of their lives.

— Al Gore

I hope I've purchased my last gallon of gas. Last week, I purchased an electric vehicle.

This was not an easy decision. New cars are not cheap. Although a federal tax credit helps bring the price down to a fairly reasonable range, it's still a considerable investment for someone who takes the bus and rides his bicycle as much as possible—particularly (I'm not complaining) on a nonprofit salary.

There was also the question of whether I needed a new car. My Mini Cooper, while getting older, was still serviceable. Shouldn't a good environmentalist drive his or her vehicle until it drops? But I was motivated by a mounting frustration with the dirtiness of the oil and gas industry. The oil companies are corrupting our political system, destroying our environment, and setting the clean energy future of the United States back by decades.

Our desperate thirst for oil twists policy decisions in astonishing ways. For example, one of our chief sources of oil is Saudi Arabia, which doesn't allow women to drive, vote, or walk in the streets without an escort. Its citizens lack real voting rights, its newspapers lack independence, and human rights reformists are often thrown in jail. And yet, under an agreement dating back to 1945, the United States provides military protection to the Saudi Arabia monarchy in exchange for guaranteed access to Saudi oil.

More recently, President Obama made the courageous call to put off the Keystone pipeline. In reaction, a large group of members of Congress attempted to force the pipeline by overriding the President's decision. Why? Of 118 representatives who voted for this bill, 116 listed oil and gas companies among their top 10 campaign contributors. All in all, the oil and gas industry has given nearly \$12 million in direct contributions to members of Congress over the last two years. Twelve million dollars spent to fund legislative efforts that I bitterly oppose. And my driving habits were indirectly funding this lobbying.

So, while I admit it is incredibly fun to have a sporty new car to drive, I feel like the decision to purchase an electric vehicle was a "put my checkbook where my mouth is" kind of moment. I couldn't in good conscience continue to fund the oil industry even on the infrequent occasions when I need to drive.

I don't mean to imply that purchasing an EV is any more noteworthy than, say, installing a photovoltaic system, as thousands of people do each year in Hawai'i. But I do believe greater adoption of clean vehicles—including electric vehicles—is a component of the clean-energy future for Hawai'i that we all want to see.

Have questions about EVs? Contact me at robert.harris@sierraclub.org

Happy Trails... Robert D. Harris



Mālama I Ka Honua

Editor: Phyllis Frus

phyllisfrus@sierraclubhawaii.com

Layout & Design: Geoffrey T. Moore

Editorial Board: Scott Glenn,
Janice Marsters, Geoffrey T. Moore,
Deborah Ward

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Bills to Watch 2012

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wildlife. On Kaua'i, for example, seabird fallout due to poor light fixtures is a major threat contributing to the decline of the endangered Newell's Shearwater, a seabird whose population has decreased by approximately 75% in recent years. Poor light fixtures also increase the consumption of fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

SB 2511 - Throwaway Bag Fee to Fund Watershed Protection. A major environmental initiative, this bill creates an offset fee for most throwaway bags (whether paper or plastic) and incentivizes retail stores to encourage the use of less-harmful bags. Using the revenue generated to fund watershed protection is a smart example of using an environmental problem—millions of wasted bags—to create an environmental solution. (For more, see pp. 10-11)

SB 2512 - Funding Food and Energy Security. This measure currently extends the task force overseeing the barrel tax (and renames it the Hawai'i Food and Energy Security Council). The Sierra Club prefers the SD1 version of this measure, which also provides the funding necessary to ensure planning and implementation of Hawai'i's ambitious energy and food goals.

SB 2787 - Electricity Reliability. This measure authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to oversee the reliability of the electrical grid, rather than relying simply upon the utilities. All generators of electricity seeking to provide power to the grid should be governed by objective and fairly applied standards, rather than arbitrary standards created by a potential competitor.

SB 2824 - Removing the Diet Supplement Drink Exception to the Bottle Law. Despite its success with redeeming over four billion beverage containers, the bottle law can be improved. Some drinks are utilizing a loophole—a "dietary supplement" exemption—in order to avoid complying with our beverage container (HI-5) law. There is no logical basis to exempt these beverages from our incredibly successful recycling program and to allow certain distributors to have an advantage in the marketplace.

MEASURES THE SIERRA CLUB OPPOSES IN CURRENT FORM

HB 2145 - State Intent to Complete 10 Projects. This measure indicates it

shall be the state policy to complete ten specific development projects, such as the condominium tower project at 690 Pohukaiana Street, the Honolulu rail system, and a culinary institute on the slope of Diamond Head. While it is appropriate to set broad goals, like establishing enough renewable energy production to meet the goals of the Hawai'i Clean Energy initiative, it is unconstitutional and bad governance policy to pick specific winning and losing development projects without considering the potential impacts of the project, reviewing the specific proposals, and giving an opportunity for community input.

HB 2154 - Exempt airports from SMA to comply with FAA regulations. This measure is overboard and unnecessary. The special management area law already has an exemption for emergency projects needed for public health or safety. As written, this measure exempts DOT from permitting for "structures and improvements relating to airports as necessary to comply with" FAA regulations. It could be used to justify any structure based on broad FAA language encouraging optimal airport operations. At the very least, it should have been amended (as suggested by the Sierra Club) to require official notice from the FAA of a failure to meet a specific regulation.

HB 2250 - Emergency Environmental Workforce. This bill robs Peter to pay Paul. It takes funding from a chronically underfunded agency, DLNR, to pay for the emergency hiring of employees to do watershed restoration work. Our objection is solely focused on the source of funding. Destroying programs intended to protect natural resources—including the resulting loss of staff and matching federal funds—means there would be no net benefit from this bill. If this bill were to advance, it should identify a new source of funding and provide resources to ensure that newly hired employees have the tools and supervision needed for a meaningful outcome.

HB 2324 - No Regulation for Broadband Development on State Property. This measure exempts broadband facilities from all "county permitting requirements and state permitting and approval requirements" on "state buildings, and the property on which state buildings are located." While we appreciate the Committee on Finance's attempt to limit the reach of this bill, it would still have considerable impact. The bill fails to define

"broadband facilities," which arguably might include large towers, undersea cable landings, and business offices. It eliminates consideration of historical or cultural protections, community input, or the potential impacts of a commercial operation on fragile ecosystems. Removing any approval requirements could mean that private businesses are able to operate commercial operations in our public parks or boat harbors.

Hypothetically, this measure could result in a WiFi tower at the top of Iolani Palace or a Clearwire sales office at Koke'e State Park without any public discourse, public auction, or income received. Crazy—admittedly—but so is this measure.

HB 2325 - Broadband Automatic Approval. Similar to the measure above, this bill would require the approval or disapproval of all broadband-related permits within 45 days. It would eliminate consultation with neighborhood boards and significantly increase the possibility that bad projects are automatically approved because, say, a city council or board could not meet in time to consider the project or was not able to get a quorum at a meeting. As drafted, this measure is probably an unconstitutional violation of the right to a clean environment.

SB 2341 - Tourism on Agricultural Property. This measure would encourage high-revenue-producing vacation rentals as an authorized use on ag land, which in turn would raise the price of ag land for true agricultural activities. Lessees, for example, may have to pay more as new and more expensive "highest and best uses" (the normal phrase used to determine lease rents) are established on ag land. Farmers may have to stop producing food and switch to vacation rentals simply to stay in business. The resulting loss of productive agricultural land will have a cascading impact on the price of the remaining parcels. Our current system already allows for vacation rentals, either by obtaining a special use permit (say, for example, an agricultural "work and sleep" operation) or by rezoning the property into the rural district.

HB 2417 - Solar Tax Credit Reduction. While revisions to the solar tax credit may be reasonable—and discussions are ongoing—the current measure would catastrophically affect the renewable energy business. Last year, 15% of construction jobs in the state came from the solar industry. During a

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FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Aloha everyone, and congratulations to the newly elected Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee members. At our first meeting in January 2012, the committee voted to have monthly conference calls and fewer in-person meetings, as part of an effort to both demonstrate our fiduciary responsibility and decrease our carbon footprint. Chapter meetings held quarterly require some members to fly interisland four times each year. The Hawai'i Chapter's effectiveness and responsiveness should increase by having more frequent communication, particularly during the legislative session. In addition, chapter members will be able to address and discuss critical environmental issues in a timely manner.

I applaud the efforts of the Capitol Watch Team, who have been keeping us up to date on all the "happenings" at the Hawai'i State legislature. I encourage everyone to sign up for the Capitol Watch updates and get involved in the political process. Many potentially good bills that would help the environment and some that would cause harm have been introduced this session. Our team is there to keep you well informed by email and website. They alert you to bills that need your support or your opposition. They have streamlined the process so that you can provide testimony easily, call on legislators to hold a hearing, and urge them to vote for or withhold support for a given bill.

Lastly, I made a New Year's resolution to get outdoors and start hiking again. I'm sure others have made a similar commitment, and the follow-through is easy: simply scan the outings for your island and take a hike! I have led two great hikes already this year in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park; interestingly enough, most of the participants were winter visitors, so-called snowbirds. So I send this invitation to our local residents: rediscover your Hawai'i by joining us on an outing. If you love hikes and service projects and can lead others, let your group outings chair know you are interested in training to be a leader; we are always looking for new ones. It is a way to get involved. Explore the special places of our islands and help protect them for future generations. Mahalo.

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MAHALO



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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

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Hiking Safely

by Ed Mersino

Every week we read about hikers being rescued from our mountains and valleys. Sometimes it is no fault of the hikers; accidents happen. Often however, these costly and dangerous rescues are a result of hikers not being prepared. Hiking safely begins by careful planning.

The number one rule of hiking safely is to always let someone who is not going with you know where you are going and when you will be back. Be sure to let your friend know you returned safely.

Rule number two is to always hike with a partner—and two or more are better. If one person is hurt, one can go for help and the other stay with the injured hiker. Never go alone. If you don't have friends who hike or who are knowledgeable about the trails, go with an established group like Sierra Club or Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club.

Know where you are going, and go with someone who knows the trail. Carry route-finding tools such as topographical maps, a compass, and GPS units; and learn how to use them before you set out. Carrying a guide to your island is also a good idea. If you are unfamiliar with the area, stay on established trails and pay attention to details of the area and the trail as you hike. If you go

off the trail, mark your path so you can retrace your route if you get lost.

Start early and allow time for returning well before dark. Night falls quickly in Hawai'i after sunset. If you are caught on the trail after dark, find a comfortable dry place out of the wind and wait until sunrise. Hiking in the dark without a light may cost you your life.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Sturdy shoes or hiking boots are important for protecting your feet. Slippers are appropriate only on the beach. Weather can change quickly, so be prepared with a poncho or other rain gear as well as sun protection like a wide-brim hat.

Carry plenty of water, food, a flashlight (for emergencies), and a first-aid kit consisting of an antiseptic for cuts and scrapes, aspirin, insect repellent, your own medication, sunscreen, lip balm (especially in the higher elevations), bandages, and moleskin or tape for blisters.

Keep your hands free by carrying your water, lunch, first-aid kit, and other things in a pack on your back. If you use a walking stick, use fresh, green wood, not dead, weak branches that break when you rely on them most.

Be constantly alert while you are walking. Watch for hidden holes,

cracks, cliffs, loose rocks, and slippery terrain that may be hidden by brush and high grass. Watch out for wet trails, loose or crumbly soil, rocks, and areas with strong gusty winds.

When crossing streams be careful to avoid wet or mossy rocks. Cross where there are no high drop-offs or waterfalls. Walk in the water if necessary. If the water in the stream is high due to a flash flood, wait until it drops before trying to cross.

Don't swim in streams if you have open sores or cuts. Make sure that there are no hidden rocks or shallow spots before diving into pools. Pools often receive new rocks and sediment, so check every time you visit even familiar ones. Don't eat strange plants or drink untreated stream water.

In higher elevations, be prepared for colder conditions and rapid weather changes: chilling rain, fog and lots of wind. If hiking above 6,000 feet allow plenty of time; ascend gradually to minimize mountain sickness, which causes headache, nausea, shortness of breath, and pounding heart. Wear adequate warm clothing and head protection, and rest often. Take aspirin and deep breaths whenever necessary.

Carry out all rubbish, litter, and trash. Take only pictures, leave only footprints. Enjoy the great outdoors!

Nate's Adventures



by Nate Yuen



1

I went to Kawainui and Hamakua Marshes in Kailua on O'ahu to see the largest remaining wetlands in the Hawaiian Islands. The wetlands were designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 2005 for their biological, historical, and cultural significance. When I learned that the Army Corps of Engineers would create a series of interconnected ponds and mud flats, I had to see and document the existing state of restoration.

The native dryland forest restoration work at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine is impressive. Charles "Doc" Burrows and teams of volunteers and supporters from community groups have worked together with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to create a network of trails from Kapa'a Quarry Road to the top of an outcrop of boulders with a panoramic view of Kawainui Marsh, Olomana, and the surrounding area. The site is dedicated to Hauwahine, the Hawaiian Mo'ō goddess and guardian of Kawainui marsh.



2

Many native dryland plants—some of them endangered like this fragrant endemic na'u or native gardenia (*Gardenia brighamii*)—have been outplanted. (2)

Invasive plants like haole koa and fountain grass were removed from entire slopes and the slopes replanted with an array of native



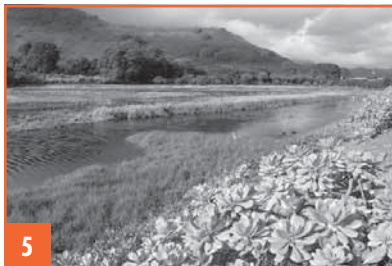
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dryland plants like this 'ilima kuahiwi (*Sida fallax*). (3)

The trails lead to the base of the boulders where invasive cattails and other plants have been removed to create an open area of water. Much of the restoration effort involves opening up the clogged waterway of plants and peat (decomposing vegetation) to



4



5



6

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. Nathan has a website at HawaiianForest.com where you can see his art and read about his adventures.



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create open areas of standing water as habitat for native waterbirds. (4)

Invasive vegetation and debris have also been removed from Hamakua Marsh to keep the water open. Native plants like naupaka and 'aki'aki have been replanted along the margins of the stream. Native birds are drawn to this area and the sound of waterbirds fills the air. (5)

One of the largest of the native waterbirds is the 'auku'u or black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli*). The subspecies in Hawai'i is found all over the world and is indigenous to the Hawaiian Islands. Unlike the other subspecies which are



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active mostly at night, the subspecies in Hawai'i is active during the day. (6)

Perhaps the rarest of the endemic waterbirds on O'ahu is the koloa maoli duck (*Anas wyvilliana*), which is closely related to introduced mallard ducks. In 2003, the koloa duck population was estimated to be 2,500 with 80% of them on Kaua'i. The vast majority of the koloa ducks on O'ahu have mated with mallard ducks and are hybrids—pure koloa ducks are extremely rare and endangered. (7)

Another endangered waterbird is the ae'o or Hawaiian stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), which is endemic to Hawai'i. In 2003, the ae'o population in Hawai'i was estimated at 1,500 birds. (8)

One of the more unusual endemic waterbirds is the 'alae ke'o ke'o or Hawaiian coot (*Fulica alai*), which is black in color with a prominent white frontal shield and beak. 'Alae ke'o ke'o have big feet. They have odd-looking flaps that extend on either side of their toes, which increase the surface area of their feet just as webbing does on the feet of ducks. (9)

The most endangered of the endemic waterbirds is 'alae'ula or Hawaiian moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus sandwicensis*) which is mostly black in color with a prominent red frontal shield and beak that is yellow at the tip. Unlike the feet of coots,



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the red and yellow feet of moorhen do not have toe flaps. Hawaiian moorhen are endangered and rare—between 1993 and 2003, their average annual number hovered at just under 300 individuals. (10)

I was thrilled to see 'alae'ula chicks following in the wake of their parents. They were so ugly they were cute. It was very appropriate for me to see the chicks of the most endangered waterbird, whose very future hangs in the balance. Let's hope that the new ponds and mud flats will provide new habitat for these very little birdies and that their numbers will rebound. The future holds much promise. (11)



10



11

March Fund Appeal: Investing in Hawai'i's Future with Your Support of the Sierra Club

Yes, it's that time of year again! We have to admit that we really dislike asking our Chapter community for money. It's much easier to ask people to support us by volunteering, and we count on so many of you to serve as outings leaders, to testify on critical issues, or to take leadership roles with the Club.

But the truth is, we need a successful March Appeal campaign—our once-a-year broad appeal—in order to continue all that we do on behalf of Hawai'i's environment. Membership dues provide just a fraction of our annual budget.

I'm sure you know we operate on a shoestring, with only one full-time staff member. But we're growing and improving our programs to meet the growing challenges facing Hawai'i. Thanks to a generous capacity-building grant from the Hawai'i Community Foundation, we've hired a part-time volunteer coordinator. She's working on some exciting projects, like our statewide "Get Dirty" service projects for Earth Month and a project to rebuild the Mānoa Falls Trail (20 new volunteers each workday!). With your help, we can further develop the systems to engage and retain new volunteers and ensure that the Sierra Club can meet the challenges of tomorrow.

We've been fortunate in the past few years to gradually increase our March Appeal income. You can help by giving a one-time donation or, even better, joining our monthly

donor program, which helps provide funding security as we plan our programs. Our goal for this year's campaign is \$30,000. What can you give to help advance our common environmental agenda? In consideration of the Club's valuable work, I have committed to give \$1 per day to the March Appeal, and I invite you to join me.

We have a lot planned for 2012—from advocating for clean energy, food stability, and Hawai'i's environment at the State Legislature to bringing new volunteers to outings and service projects—and we need your help. Please join me today in making a donation to support the Club's work in Hawai'i.

Thanks for all your support!

Janice Marsters

Chair, Hawai'i Chapter Fundraising Committee

Wanna Get Dirty?

April is **EARTH MONTH**, and at the **SIERRA CLUB HAWAII CHAPTER**, it's "GET DIRTY" Month!

- Meet new people
- Get in shape
- Be one with nature
- Give back to your community
- Make the world a better place

If these are your goals for celebrating the Earth, join a service project on your island. Here's a list of work days planned for the next 3 months; check each Group's website for details.

O'AHU

Saturday, April 14

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Saturday, April 14

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project

Saturday, April 21

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup

Sunday, April 22 Earth Day

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Sunday, May 6

Sandy Beach Cleanup

Saturday, May 12

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Sunday, May 27

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Saturday, June 9

Kaneohe Bay MCBH service project

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Sunday, June 24

Mānoa Falls Trail project

Note: Mānoa Falls Trail can accept only 20 volunteers per work day, due to the busy nature of the trail. Please RSVP to hold your spot: RestoreManoa@gmail.com. Include your email/phone and the date(s) you wish to participate.



KAUAI

Monday, April 2

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup

Sunday, April 22 Earth Day

Beach Cleanup at Kealia Beach

Monday, April 23

Nonou (Sleeping Giant)

Conservation Service Project

Monday, April 30

National Tropical Botanical Gardens

Moonlight Walk & Service Project

Saturday, May 5

Maha'u lepu Beach Cleanup

Saturday, June 30 Hanalei Beach

Cleanup and Walk

MOKU LOA GROUP (Big Island)

Saturday-Monday, March 24 -26

Manuka Service Trip

Friday, April 20

Earth Day Celebration at Hawai'i

Community College—Manono

Campus

Saturday, April 28

Laupahoehoe Natural Area Reserve

Service Trip



Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

'Ala'a

Pouteria sandwicensis

Endemic

All Hawai'i except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe

Description: Arguably one of the most beautiful of native plants, 'ala'a can grow to be dense shrubs or tall trees up to 60 feet. Their foliage is what is most attractive with new leaves densely covered in reflective reddish-brown hairs; older leaves turn dark green but still maintain the brown hairs on the underside. The flowers are small, but once pollinated they develop into yellow fruit that is either small, about an inch in diameter, or larger, over 2 inches in diameter, depending on the island.

Distribution: Found in the lowland dry forests to mesic forests on all islands except Ni'ihau and Kaho'olawe.

Cultural Uses: The extremely hard wood of 'ala'a is used in house construction and to make 'o'o and spears. The sticky sap is also used to

catch birds in the same fashion as papala kepaup is used.

Landscape Uses and Care: As beautiful as these plants are they grow very slow. But if you're patient you'll be rewarded with a landscaping treasure. This plant can handle the driest of dry conditions and once established requires little water to survive. Watch out for scale since these pests love to suck on slow-growing plants.

Additional Info: This plant also goes by the names aulu, 'ela'a, and kaulu; however, there are completely different species of plants that Hawaiians also called aulu (*Sapindus oahuense*) and kaulu (*Pteralixia spp.*).



Bills to Watch 2012

Continued from page 3

down economy, why hinder one of the few economic bright spots? Moreover, each installation of a solar water heater, photovoltaic, or wind system slows the billions of dollars that are funneled out of our island economy on an annual basis.

HB 2690 - Geothermal Development Exempted from EA/EIS Requirements. This measure streamlines the geothermal development process—not necessarily a bad goal—but exempts all exploration drilling from environmental review. This would drill a hole through the cultural and environmental protections designed over the past 40 years to prevent harm to the environment from careless development. This measure would allow developers to dig

thousands of feet through our aquifers, without consideration of the quality of the drinking water, the potential for contamination, or the impacts of a blowout in the surrounding area. While some risk may be acceptable in some areas, it is unclear why any consideration of environmental risks should be eliminated, particularly considering how tragic the negative consequences could be. It should be observed how controversial geothermal development has been in the past, in large part because companies like HECO attempted to promote development in pristine Hawaiian rain forests without listening to community input. This bill repeats the mistakes of the past.

SB 3010 - Exempting Bridge Construction Projects from All Environmental Regulations. This

measure waives numerous state environmental regulations (clean water, clean air, wildlife protection, historic properties, etc.) for bridge development projects. Such an act violates the state constitution and likely puts many of our federally funded programs, like the Coastal Zone Management or Clean Water programs, at risk of losing critically needed federal funds. The exemption of any project from environmental review should be based on the project's potential impact, not on scheduling needs. Perhaps most galling about this measure is the fact that DOT officials privately indicate that the bill would have little or no impact on expediting projects. We see this measure as holding up a number of projects in bureaucratic delay and litigation, rather than fulfilling the intent of the bill. ■

Don't Forget Your Bag!

The following article on the throwaway bag bill being considered by the Legislature is adapted from a post that appeared on Scrapbook, a national Sierra Club blog, on Feb. 13. See below for an update on actions taken by the coalition spearheaded by the Hawai'i chapter to promote the current version, SB 2511. And see the Q&A on the next page, which dispels some myths about the bag bill.



The 50th state might become the very first state in the country to bag the bag if an idea the legislature is currently weighing becomes law. As part of an effort to drum up support for the bill last week the Sierra Club's Hawai'i Chapter joined a coalition outside the capitol building



and covered the lawn with plastic bags, giving state legislators a visual sense of our country's massive bag problem.

"A plastic bag is almost like the modern-day tumbleweed," says Robert Harris, Chapter Director. "Being a marine state, we have to be more vigilant about eliminating them before they get into the ecosystem."

The bill being considered would target all bags—paper and plastic—and tack on a fee of ten cents that would go toward restoring and protecting watersheds and rainforest areas that get trampled by invasive animals: goats, sheep, deer, pigs. Supporters believe a statewide bag fee could raise about \$20 million a year.

Don't like the idea of a fee? No problem. Bring your own bag.

"Bags are the low-hanging fruit in terms of our waste stream," Harris said.

One would assume the business community would oppose any sort of added fees. But retailers signed on because this law targets plastic and paper. For retailers, plastic costs 1 cent per bag while paper costs 10 cents, Harris explained. Because of this, plastic-only fees and bans cost businesses a big chunk of change. By targeting both types of bag material, bag expenses drop immensely for businesses.

"And paper is not necessarily better for the environment when you consider all the resources put into making them," Harris says. "It makes sense environmentally to go after both."



On February 10, supporters sent 400 plastic bags sprawling across the capital lawn, representing the average number of bags used per person per year.

"Obviously our hope is that people stop using bags. This would be a gentle nudge to remind people to bring their own bags. If people get it and bring their bags, less money would be raised for these environmental projects, which would mean this idea is working," Harris said.

On March 2 volunteers from Sierra Club Hawai'i and other groups made plastic bag leis—some quite beautiful and all striking—and presented them to Legislators at the annual Art at the Capitol event. The leis included messages urging legislators to pass the widely supported single-use bag bill. Similar legislation across the U.S. at the county and city level has contributed to watershed restoration as well as removing litter from the waste stream, as Leilei Joy Shih pointed out on Capitol Watch, Sierra Club's legislative blog. For example, a law passed by Washington, DC, in 2009, which set a 5-cent fee on plastic bags, reduced throwaway bag consumption by 80 percent in one year and fees collected had a positive impact on local waterways.

Questions and Answers about the Bag Bill

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Do you like the idea of a more sustainable future for Hawai'i? Please take a minute to write to your legislators by emailing sens@capitol.hawaii.gov and reps@capitol.hawaii.gov and express your support for the bag bill today!

Q: Who supports the bag bill?

A: The bill has widespread support from 33 organizations, including a diverse set of retailers, state and county agencies, environmental groups, and other organizations. See the complete list of organizations that testified in support at the end of this article

Q: Why does the fee include paper bags too?

A: Producing paper bags causes deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and water pollution. Manufacturing paper bags uses:

- Over 14 million trees annually in the US.
- 20 times as much water and 4 times as much energy as plastic bags.
- Toxic chemicals that pollute freshwater sources.
- Space in Hawai'i's landfills.

Q: Will we have no plastic bags left, like on the neighbor islands?

A: The bill gives consumers the choice to pay for both plastic and paper bags to transport items, line trash cans, dispose of pet waste, etc. It might even incentivize the development of local, compostable options.

Q: Won't the bill hurt consumers, especially low-income or elderly people?

A: Currently, when retailers provide unlimited free bags it increases the cost of business—and these costs are passed on to consumers. With a bag fee, customers will have the choice to pay, instead of it being a hidden cost to everyone. Additionally:

- Some of Hawai'i's largest supermarkets have pledged to pass out free reusable bags if this bill is passed, so customers can avoid the fee for free.
- The President of the Kokua Council, Hawai'i's second-largest senior citizen advocacy group, wrote in support of the fee, noting that the elderly can remember when there were no single-use plastic bags and could adjust particularly well to bringing reusable bags.

Q: Will retailers be hurt?

A: Many retailers have testified in support of the bag fees. A fee reduces the cost of doing business in Hawai'i by reducing the number of bags retailers need to provide. The bill allows a portion of the fees to be retained by the businesses.

Q: Will the bill undo the counties' plastic bag bans?

A: No, the bill explicitly does not pre-empt or affect a county ordinance prohibiting or restricting single-use checkout bags.

Q: Why do we need the bill if the neighbor island counties are banning plastic bags?

A: The bill benefits the environment by reducing both plastic and paper bag consumption. Retailers note that bans on plastic bags may cause consumers to simply switch to paper bags (instead of reusable bags). As mentioned above, paper bags damage the environment.

Q: Why do portions of the fee pay for protecting watershed forests?

A: Watershed forest protection reduces damages from consumption of throwaway checkout bags. These damages include deforestation, fossil fuel use, and marine debris pollution. Watershed protection also helps Hawai'i transition to a more sustainable future by ensuring clean water for generations to come.

Q: How much money will this generate?

A: Based on national averages, Hawai'i currently consumes approximately 500 million bags per year. If bag consumption is reduced by the following amounts, annual revenue (after the first year) will be:

- 50% reduction: \$22.5 million
- 75% reduction: \$11.25 million
- 90% reduction: \$4.5 million

Who Testified In Support of Reducing Throwaway Bags in Hawai'i?

Retailers:

Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Retail Merchants of Hawai'i
Hawai'i Restaurant Association
Tamura's Market
Safeway
Times Supermarket
Down to Earth

Businesses:

Castle & Cooke Resorts
Maui Land & Pineapple Company Inc.
Princeville Utilities Company
Pacific Reserve Partnership
Ben A. Dyre Family Limited Partnership
Landscape Industry Council of Hawai'i
Namahana Farms

Community Organizations:

The Nature Conservancy
League of Women Voters
Trust for Public Land
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hawai'i Endangered Bird Conservation Program
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
National Tropical Botanical Garden
Zero Waste Kaua'i
Kaua'i Watershed Alliance
Environmental Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership
Pearl City Highlands Elementary School Student Council
Citizens for Equal Rights
Sustainable UH

Government Agencies:

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Department of Health
City and County of Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Maui County Department of Water Supply

...and hundreds of individuals

O'ahu Group Report

The O'ahu Group has one immediate, urgent priority: fighting the Ho'opili and Koa Ridge developments that are currently before the Land Use Commission (LUC). Between them these massive projects would pave over more than 2,300 of the 4,500 acres currently used to grow food on O'ahu.

Billionaire Donald Horton's high-priced Ho'opili team has presented a surprisingly weak case. The lawyers and witnesses for the Sierra Club and the Save O'ahu Farmland Alliance, as well as the public testimony, have all been extremely powerful and have clearly made a strong impression on the Commissioners.

We believe that if Governor Abercrombie had not broken his promise to us to oppose Ho'opili and had he not reversed the Lingle administration's critique, this scheme would be in serious trouble.

Meanwhile we are concerned that the LUC may be giving the Koa Ridge case only cursory attention. They rushed through presentations from billionaire David Murdock's high-priced Castle & Cooke team, the state, and the city in unseemly haste in just two days at the start of February.

We have to raise funds to pay for our attorneys on both these cases and we welcome donations. We would also welcome more testimony from individuals, and we encourage our members to come to the LUC hearings.

We are also starting to focus on the upcoming Turtle Bay expansion and Envision La'ie scheme; we've already met with members of the City Council on the latter. We testified at the Council against the infamous Purple Spot industrial park in the heart of the Lualualei Valley, which was approved by six members of the Council who had received campaign contributions from the project's supporters and in the face of massive public opposition. We testified in

favor of adoption of a Green Building code. And we successfully helped oppose a proposal by DLNR to evict the management team of Malaekahana State Park and to partially close the park, which is currently used by 40,000 mainly local people every year.

Opinion polls show conclusively that public support for rail has dropped below 50%. The Pacific Resource Partnership—a lobbying alliance of contractors and the Carpenters' Union—is pressing us to campaign publicly on the issue. They claim that Sierra Club involvement could swing the debate. We are convinced that moving all major new housing projects into taller, denser developments in the traditional urban core is the only way to save farmland and minimize other environmental damage. We are also convinced that this sort of development requires an efficient mass transit system. The 2008 Executive Committee established policy to support the rail project in principle, but never followed up with

Ho'opili looking mauka.



a public campaign. Given that rail is likely to be the largest infrastructure project on O'ahu this century, we feel we should consult the membership at large before deciding whether or not to become actively engaged in this matter. So, please take the survey on rail and make known your view.

We had a meeting with Blake Oshiro, the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff, to request that the Governor strive for a less pro-development bias when he appoints two new nominees to the LUC. We also voiced concern at the anti-environment, anti-farming bias of the Governor's administration.

Above all, we feel that this crush of issues has pushed us into a defensive mode, where we are always racing to catch up with the latest crisis. We want to start to think strategically, to grow our ranks, to develop a corps of seasoned activists, to build our bank balances. Ideally we would like to have a full-time or part-time staff member and we are looking at ways to raise the funds. Stay tuned!

Attention O'ahu Group

The O'ahu Group is looking to refine its position on

RAIL

The project could determine the shape of Honolulu for decades to come.

Should we launch a public campaign to influence the debate? If so, how?

WE WANT YOUR INPUT.

To learn more and to voice your opinion, please take a survey at: www.sierraclubhawaii.com/rail

Next Land Use Commission hearings, tentative dates:

April 4 & 5 and April 19 & 20
May 3 & 4 and May 17 & 18

Please come!

Please donate to help our fight against the Ho'opili and Koa Ridge schemes at www.sierraclubhawaii.com/donate.php or call (808) 538-6616.

Anthony Aalto
Chair, O'ahu Group

O'ahu Group Outings



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

PLEASE JOIN US

Sierra Club O'ahu Group Spring 2012 Membership Meeting

Friday, April 20
Richardson Law School,
Classroom 5 · 5:30-7:30 p.m.

New and continuing members are welcome to learn about one of the most active environmental organizations in the state and nation. Get updates on the O'ahu Group's fights against Ho'opili and Koa Ridge developments. Network and mingle with people who care about Hawai'i like you!

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Sunday, April 1

Aiea Ridge (F)
12 mi/Very strenuous/Ridge/Aiea
Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 7 a.m. Hiking boots and extra water required, no tabs, recommended for hikers in good health. Excellent views of the Ko'olau summit and lots of native plants. Dave Iacobucci, 531-3129

Sunday, April 1

Photography hike: Lyon Arboretum (E/F)
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. \$5 suggested donation to Lyon Arboretum. Learn about native and tropical plants. Bring raingear and insect repellent. Stan Oka 429-9814,

Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa, Marie Laberge, asst. Susan Tom

Sunday, April 1

Beginner hike: Kuliouou Valley (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like an easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Friday to Sunday, April 6 - 8

Haleakala National Park, Maui (S)
Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092
Our accommodation is Kapalaoa Cabin, situated in the center of Haleakala Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago. This 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 and will exit via the Halemau'u trail. The cabin was built in the 1930s by CCC workers and is rustic. There are no washroom or shower facilities, but there is an outhouse. We do have a two-burner gas stovetop and a wood-burning stove to cook and keep warm. The reward is spending the weekend in a beautiful national park.

Sunday, April 8

Bicycle outing in Kapolei/Barbers Point (F)
20 mi/Moderate
Reservations required. We will cycle around the mostly flat Kapolei and Barbers Point area, taking in the sights in the former Naval Air Station. All types of bicycles welcome; helmets mandatory. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 sinklair808@earthlink.net, Colleen Soares

Saturday, April 14

Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old

boardwalk, and rock work. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate. Ed Mersino 223-5765

Saturday, April 14

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Call Annette Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by April 12. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered water birds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance, and we will send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, April 15

Yoga and hike: Mau'umae Ridge (Lanipo) (F)
3.5 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kaimuki
We'll start with 15 minutes of yoga warmup and end with 15 minutes of yoga stretches and a cool down. Bring a mat or towel for yoga. Beginners welcome. Joanna Alexander 223-6993, Gwen Sinclair, Mariza Silva, asst. Nicole Lowen

Saturday, April 21

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)
Meet at 8 a.m. at the Harbor Master's Office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot ewa of Hilton lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring a hat, thick rubber gloves, sunscreen, and water. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, April 22

Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest

O'ahu Group Outings



trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate. Mel Yoshioka

Saturday April 28

Likeke from Ho'omaluhia (F)

7 mi/Moderate/Ko'olau

Meet at 9 am at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens Pa Launa parking lot, which is one lot past the visitor's center on the left. We start from the park, ascending about 200 feet toward the Ko'olau. Trek through varying forest conditions with native and introduced plants, and views of Kaneohe Bay. Lunch at Likeke waterfall. Colleen Soares csoares48@gmail.com, 748-9215

Sunday, April 29

Beginner hike: Manana (partial) (F)

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like an easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Sunday, May 6

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. Clean up along highway and coastal areas until 10:30. Call Tred (394-2898) for information. Bags, gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, May 6

Beginner hike: Judd Trail (F)

Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like an easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Saturday, May 12

Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)

Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate. Gwen Sinclair

Saturday, May 12

Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E/F)

5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Pupukea Native plants are the highlight on this

trail, with beautiful views of central O'ahu. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka, Clyde Kobashigawa, asst. Susan Tom

Sunday, May 13

Wailupe Valley Hike (F)

4 mi/Strenuous/Valley, Ridge/Wailupe A pleasant walk along an easy valley trail is turned on its head when we ascend two difficult ridges, one of which, Kului, is rarely hiked. Expect to see unusual views and explore barely used trails. Rich Bailey 723-2213

Saturday, May 19

Kahuku Beach Scavenger Hunt (F)

2 mi/Easy/Coastal/Kahuku

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Kahuku municipal golf course. Join us for fun, education, and environmental awareness as we pick up stuff on the beach. Prizes for the best scavengers! Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, sinkclair808@earthlink.net; Ed Mersino

Sunday, May 20

Photography hike: Waimea Valley (E/F)

2 mi/Easy/Valley/Waimea

Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Bring a lunch for a day of fun. Nominal entrance fee required. Botanical Garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa, Marie Laberge

Saturday - Monday, May 26-28

Manuka, Big Island (S)

We will be working with NARS for the long weekend at Manuka, the largest reserve in the state's system. Our accommodation will be at a ranger station a few miles from South Point. This trip requires a Friday evening departure. Leader to be announced. For info, contact Deborah Blair 955-4168 deborahblair1@mac.com

O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, May 27

Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate. Colleen Soares

Sunday, May 27

Judd-Nu'uuanu-Pauoa Flats-Pu'u Ohi'a (F)
5 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Contour/Nu'uuanu
Reservations required as car shuttle will be necessary. We will be going uphill nearly the entire hike. We begin at Nu'uuanu Stream, climb up the Nu'uuanu trail with beautiful views of Nu'uuanu Valley from different vantage points, and then exit viewing Diamond Head. Some native plants along the way. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa, Stan Oka

Saturday, June 2

Black Point snorkeling (F/E)
All participants must be able to swim. Get to know your fish, coral, and limu neighbors at Black Point/Diamond Head. Bring your swim things, 2 liters of water, reef walkers, sun screen, snack, towel, and change of clothes. Sherine Boomla 739-3936.

Saturday, June 2

Waimano National Trails Day Hike (F)
4 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Pearl City
Celebrate National Trails Day and explore irrigation tunnels on this short hike to a beautiful view. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 sinclair808@earthlink.net, Jean Fujikawa

Sunday, June 3

Wa'ahila Ridge via UH (F)
4mi/Moderate/Ridge/Mānoa

Go green on this hike—the trailhead is the usual meeting spot Church of the Crossroads at 2510 Bingham, but from there we'll hike, not drive, to the top of Wa'ahila Ridge, admiring spectacular views from Diamond Head to the airport. Crisscrossing a myriad of paths through UH, we top out under windy shady pine trees in the state park, but may go further afoot. Rich Bailey 723-2213, Dan Anderson

Saturday, June 9

Kaneohe Bay MCBH service project (S)
Reservations required. Call Annette Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by June 7. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered water birds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance, and we will send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Dan Anderson

Saturday, June 9

Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate. Gwen Sinclair

Saturday, June 16

Kokokahi (F)
5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Kaneohe
Reservations required. Beautiful panoramic views of Kailua's Kawainui Marsh on one side, Kaneohe on the other side, and the Ko'olau mountains ahead. This ridge hike begins at the Kawaewae Heiau in Kaneohe. Car pooling required due to limited parking. Pack a lunch and plenty of water as we will be eating

lunch overlooking Kapa'a Quarry. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa, Stan Oka, asst. Susan Tom

Saturday, June 16

Maunawili Contour (partial) (F)
6 mi/Moderate/Contour/Maunawili
We'll start from the hairpin curve on the Pali Highway and eat lunch in a shady spot under the ironwoods. Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Saturday, June 23

Pu'u Kaula (F)
3 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Kunia/
1900' elevation gain. This is a trail we haven't done in a while. It goes through a dry forest up, up, up to a peak in the Waianae Range that overlooks Nanakuli. Great views abound. Ed Mersino mersino@hawaii.edu 223-5765.

Sunday, June 24

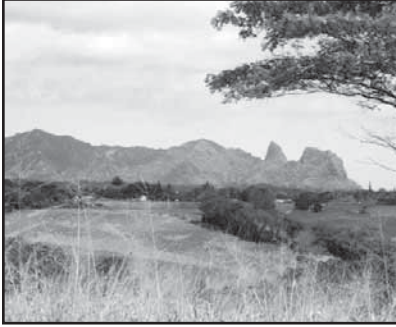
Mānoa Falls Trail project (S)
Help improve one of O'ahu's busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai'i. Tasks include trail graveling and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. We can accommodate only 20 people per work day. RSVP required. Send email to RestoreManoa@gmail.com and include your phone number and the dates you wish to participate.

Sunday, June 24

Photography hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (E/F)
2 mi/Easy/Crater floor/Hawai'i Kai
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Various plants and flowers from around the world. Plumerias and hibiscus should be in bloom this time of year. Good for macro photography. Marie Laberge 545-1252, Stan Oka, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa

Kaua'i Group Report

Kaua'i's Agricultural Lands: For Food or for Tourists?



The County of Kaua'i's Planning Commission has been evaluating some 70 permit applications to allow transient vacation rentals (TVRs) on parcels that are zoned agricultural. Through Ordinance 904 passed by the Kaua'i County Council in 2010, the Special Permit applications are limited to applicants who were already operating TVRs on agricultural land prior to March 2008.

The process to allow TVRs on ag land is essentially spot zoning – permitting resort use in areas zoned agriculture. These zoning decisions do not advance the health, safety, and welfare of the community. They merely provide for individual economic benefit and are not consistent with agricultural land-use objectives.

At the same time these TVR operators are applying to convert agricultural lands to resort properties on Kaua'i, pressure is mounting statewide to allow others to do the same. Senate and House bills have been introduced at the Hawai'i legislature to overturn the state's long-standing ban against using agricultural lands for tourism purposes.

Shifting tourism accommodations from resort districts to encroach into open agricultural areas will have both infrastructure impacts and negative

long-term effects on the ability of other agricultural activity to continue. High-revenue producing vacation rentals will raise the price of agricultural land. They are a competing use that takes valuable and finite farmland out of food production.

The stakes are high. Will Kaua'i (and Hawai'i) preserve the viability of Agricultural District lands to keep them available for food production? Or, will those lands be allowed to become visitor accommodations, ensuring that bona fide agricultural production will be economically less viable in the future? If you would like to become environmentally engaged on this issue, please email Judy Dalton at dalton@aloha.net.

Rayne Regush

Executive Committee member

Kaua'i Growth Management Controls Move Forward

Last November, Kaua'i County Ordinance 912 became law. The ordinance implements the 2008 County Charter amendment that requires County government to comply with the county's General Plan when approving new tourist accommodations. The Sierra Club strongly supported the Charter amendment, which passed by a nearly 2:1 margin, because the Club was concerned about the many impacts—on roads, resources, parks, beaches, and affordable housing and on Kaua'i's rural character, pace, and lifestyle—that would result from the expansion of Kaua'i's tourist industry at a rate four-to-six times larger than was envisioned in the General Plan.

Consistent with the General Plan, Ordinance 912 seeks to pace growth at a more manageable 1.5%

annual growth rate. But because so much development was approved before the Charter amendment was passed, a backlog currently exists, comprising 3,000-4,000 tourist units that have already been approved but have not yet been constructed. The ordinance therefore also contains mechanisms to limit the approval of new tourist development to no more than 0.5% annually if certain conditions are met while the backlog is being worked off.

In January, the Planning Department determined that those conditions were met, so in February the Planning Commission formally adopted 252 as the maximum number of new tourist accommodations that can be approved by the Planning Commission over the next five years. This is a far cry from the more than 4,500 units that were approved from 2000 through 2008. But lest anyone contend that the new limit would have a negative impact on jobs or the economy, it must be noted that the 3,000-4,000 units in the backlog can also be built whenever the developers who hold the permits for those units see fit to do so.

Three years ago, the people of Kaua'i voted for balanced, sustainable development; for responsible government; and for a meaningful, enforceable General Plan. Today we commend the Kaua'i County Council for having complied with the spirit of the 2008 Charter amendment by enacting Ordinance 912, and we commend Kaua'i's Planning Department and Planning Commission for faithfully implementing the ordinance.

Carl Imparato

Executive Committee member

Kaua'i Group Outings

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Join us on one of these great outings to explore, enjoy and care for our island. Mileage is round trip unless otherwise indicated. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donation for others: \$5. Check our website: www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/index.html
Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.

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

Monday, April 2

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup/ easy/ 2 miles (S) Afternoon cleanup of Sierra Club's adopted highway requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Bob Nishek at 346-0476.

Friday, April 6

Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk South Shore/ moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Start out in late afternoon from Shipwreck Beach to Maha'ulepu to enjoy the sunset and an almost full moon over the glistening ocean. Spectacular coastal walk. Car shuttle makes this a leisurely one-way hike. Bill Snyder 652-1718

Saturday, April 7

Kalalau to Space Rock North Shore/ strenuous/ 7 miles (C/E) Panoramic views of our famed NaPali coastline to the high point on the Kalalau trail. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Saturday, April 14

Alakai Swamp Koke'e/West side/ very strenuous/ 7 miles (C/E/F) Mountain rainforest (not a swamp) rising 4,500 feet above the ocean. See primeval habitat for a variety of native plants and birds made accessible by boardwalks Sierra Club helped create. 4-wheel drives needed to carpool to trailhead. Bob Greene 245-9280

Saturday, April 21

Earth Weekend hike: Honopu Trail Koke'e/ strenuous/ 5 miles (E/F) Hike through native forest onto a ridge with spectacular views of Honopu Beach and Valley and along Na Pali. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Sunday, April 22

Earth Day Beach Cleanup at Kealia Beach (C/S) Freeing beaches of litter is about

more than just making a beach attractive. It also protects marine and other wildlife, the reef, and ocean. Please help. Meet at Kealia Beach at 10:30am by lifeguard station. We'll supply gloves, bags, and refreshments. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Monday, April 23

Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project East side/ strenuous/ 4 miles (C/S) Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a full-moon walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Saturday, April 28

Powerline Trail North Shore-east side/ strenuous/ 9 miles (F) A chance to walk the entire Powerline Trail from Princeville to Wailua with beautiful stream valleys, mountain and waterfall views along the way by shuttling cars. Ken Fasig 346-1229

Sunday, April 29

Maha'ulepu South Shore/ moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the fantastic sinkhole/ cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Monday, April 30

National Tropical Botanical Gardens Moonlight Walk & Service Project South side/ moderate/ 2 miles (C/E/S) Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. We'll offer 2 hours of volunteer help in the gardens. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Saturday, May 5

Maha'ulepu Beach Cleanup South Shore (C/E/S/F) Sierra Club, Malama Mahaulepu, and Surfriider team up to keep this majestic beach looking pristine and beautiful. Follow Poipu Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to T-intersection and turn right. Continue to parking area and look for banners. Cleanup starts at 9 and goes to 11 or 12. Then relax and enjoy the newly cleaned beach. Bring hat and water. Bags, gloves, and refreshments provided. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Saturday, May 12

"Get Dirty" Campaign - Service Project (S) Check our Sierra Club website and call leader for project location and details. Jane Schmitt and Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, May 13

Kuilau Ridge Trail East side/ 3 miles (E/F) Glorious mountain and valley views and

ever-present bird songs along this trail. Great reward for moderate effort. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Sunday, May 20

Maha'ulepu South Shore/ moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the fantastic sinkhole/ cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, May 26

Kohua Ridge Trail Koke'e/ strenuous/ 5 miles (E/F) Dazzling views of Waimea Canyon from the other side that few people ever see; plus stunning views of Koaie and Po'omau Canyons. Bob Greene 245-9280

Saturday, June 2

Kalepa Ridge East side/ strenuous/ 8 miles (F) Enjoy sweeping coastal and valley views along the ridge which continues the Sleeping Giant range from Wailua River to Hanama'ulu. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sunday, June 3

Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk South Shore/ moderate/ 3 miles. (C/E/F) Start out in late afternoon from Shipwreck Beach to Maha'ulepu to enjoy the sunset and an almost full moon over the glistening ocean. Spectacular coastal walk. Car shuttle makes this a leisurely one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Saturday, June 16

Ho'opi'i Falls East Side/ 3 miles/ moderate (E/F) Lovely forest trail along a river leading to two beautiful waterfalls. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sunday, June 17

Maha'ulepu South Shore/ moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Visit the fantastic sinkhole/ cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, June 23

Pihea trail Koke'e/ strenuous/ 8 miles (C/E) Fabulous views into Kalalau valley and partway into Alakai swamp, ending at Kawaikoi stream. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Saturday, June 30

Hanalei Beach Cleanup and Walk (S) We'll clean up the beach on the walk out and stroll back enjoying its beauty. Meet by pier at Black Pot Beach at 10:30am. We'll supply bags, gloves and refreshments. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Maui Group Report

If you want to join us for hikes or events please take a look at our website www.mauisierraclub.org. For the complete Maui Group Newsletter, click on "Newsletters." For the latest on outings, click on "Hikes and Activities."

CHAIR REPORT

Aloha kakou.

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2012 year! We have a wonderful board, have already put on successful events, and are making progress on many conservation issues.

Our Chair, Lance Holter, stepped down following his appointment to the Governor's Advisory Council for Maui County. While we're very happy for him, we'll also miss his dynamic leadership presence. A big welcome to new board members Dr. Janet Six, John Bruce, and Dottie Binder who join our veteran members Lucienne De Naie, Daniel Grantham, Karen Chun. The group executive committee provides structure and a point of contact for the Maui Group. Take a look at our website www.mauisierraclub.org for committee bios. Sierra Club Maui Group is lucky to have these talented people serving on our executive committee.

We had 50 people or more at our Feb. 25 star watch led by Harriet Witt. Great weather, great location, and great food. Mahalo nui to the Duey ohana for their support; they provided cocoa, tea, water, cookies, and fruit snacks as well as ferrying latecomers in their quad.

Mahalo to all the Sierra Club volunteers who made our info booth at Whale Day a big success. Also a big thanks to Miranda Camp for coordinating the crew for a Wiliwili Warriors float in the Parade of Whales.

Our annual meeting featured a panel discussion on the future of Maui's North Shore with special emphasis on kick-starting the North

Shore park. The late Rep. Patsy Mink had proposed funding for a park study. Two candidates for Congress (Esther Kia'aina and Tulsi Gabbard) made the trip to Maui to attend this meeting; they promise continued support for our efforts. Along with other community groups, Maui Sierra Club is working to put the shoreline from Baby Beach Baldwin through Pa'ia into public hands and planning a park that will benefit our community for generations to come.

We're still in need of hike leaders. To become a hike leader, one simply needs a Red Cross class (which the Sierra Club will reimburse you for) and a little Sierra Club training. It is a great way to share your love of Maui County with like-minded people. Please email me at chair@MauiSierraClub.org if you are interested in learning more.

Our next big fundraiser is our annual plant sale at the Haiku Ho'olaulea on March 31. Location is the Haiku Community Center. We need volunteers to set up on Friday afternoon, sell and break down on Saturday. Email me if you can help.

It's having members like you that allows us to protect our precious resources and promote access to individuals to enjoy those resources. Thank you for your membership and help. Please let your friends and family know about upcoming hikes and events! Encourage them to join in on the fun and important work that we all, as the Sierra Club, are able to accomplish.

Chris Taylor
Vice Chair, Maui Group

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES January-March 2012

North Shore Heritage Park & Ho'okipa Expansion: "Trees Please," Baldwin Beach replanting

project kokua day is March 26th (Kuhio Day Holiday). Support a large North Shore park in Maui Island Plan (MIP) maps. Council review: June 2012. Sign park support petition at www.northshorepark.org

East Maui Streams: Historic settlements of stream flow restoration legal efforts (2010) have returned some flows to about a dozen streams. Watershed health concerns remain, since climate studies show decreasing rainfall patterns.



USGS employees look onto Honopou stream's restored flows.

Maui Water Availability Rule under attack: Council member Victorino has backed away from "expiring" the water availability rule, but several proposed amendments would weaken existing language, exempting private water source agreements and many 10-lot subdivisions from review. Hearings continue in March.

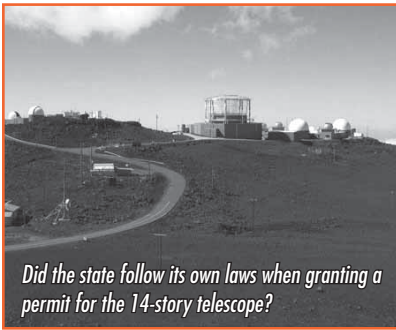
Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration: Still no ruling from the Hawai'i Supreme Court on Earthjustice/ Hui o Na Wai Eha and Maui Tomorrow Foundation appeal of a water commission decision to restrict stream restoration in the 'Iao aquifer area to 12 mgd when more than twice that was recommended.

Hamakuapoko Wells: 2011 Maui Council vote allowed use of Hamakuapoko wells as backup. Two years and \$2 million are needed to

Maui Group Report

get the H'poko wells working again. Studies describe the contaminated aquifer as "thin" and artificially recharged by East Maui irrigation water. Other concerns: moderate nitrate levels could rise.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): Did the state follow its own laws when granting a permit for the 14-story telescope? Native Hawaiian Legal Corp on behalf of Kilakila o Haleakala asked the court to decide. For updates: www.kilakilahaleakala.org



Did the state follow its own laws when granting a permit for the 14-story telescope?

Regulation of Aquarium Fish: Kauai and Hawai'i Island County Councils have both passed resolutions urging a statewide ban on aquarium fish collecting.

Picketing of PETCO has led to negotiations to end their sale of wild reef fish. For updates: www.forthefishes.org

MIP: Which maps will Maui Council adopt for Maui's future growth boundaries? Track the progress at maui-tomorrow.org

Wastewater Injection Wells: Testing of effluent plumes by UH is complete. Results show clearly that injectate is reaching nearshore waters in detectable levels. A group of organizations, including Sierra Club, will proceed with a Clean Water Act violations suit at the Lahaina WTP. The goal is cleaner discharge and more reuse.

A&B's Waiale Development: Land Use Commission (LUC) is reviewing proposed boundary amendment for 545-acre Waiale site (between Maui Lani and Waikapu) from AG to urban. MG asked that monitoring wells be required along the project's border with a former county landfill and supported MIP maps showing open space to protect undisturbed sand dunes/burial sites. The

2,500-units plus commercial on 545 acres= 34% affordable housing. Can there be more? LUC deliberations continue April 4.

Wailea 670: Sign the petition to have the rare native dryland forest of Palaua (Wailea 670) shown on the MIP map. Protect 2,500 native wiliwili trees, rare and beautiful plants, cultural sites, and other flora and fauna. Native ecosystem or golf course? We have a choice. www.facebook.com/mauitomorrow.org

Makena Resort Rezoning: County Council Planning Committee recently reviewed proposed areas to expand popular Maluaka Park. MG supports southward park expansion and preservation of a traditional coastal trail. Planning Committee will consider park dedication in the next few months during compliance review of Makena Resort's rezoning conditions. MG is tracking proposed Makena Resort condo developments, mauka of old Makena Rd (Makena landing area). Concerns: drainage, traffic, many significant cultural sites, and outdated environmental review (1974).

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

For all Sierra Club Outings: Sierra Club outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified Outings Leaders. Our outings are group activities, and all participants are expected to follow leaders' instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members, and visitors on most of our outings; however, certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is 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 tabs are required.** Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

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

In the 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 the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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

Moku Loa Group Report

CHAIR REPORT

By Debbie Ward, Chair

Moku Loa Group Executive Committee officers for 2012 include Debbie Ward, Chair; Robert-Brashear-Kaulfers, Vice-chair and group rep; and Malie Larish, Treasurer; Cory Harden and Mary Marvin Porter conservation co-chairs, with Janice Palma-Glennie in Kona; Phil Barnes and Jon Olson will co-chair the political committee, and Phil will also chair the program committee; Sarah Moon is chairing the outings, with Diane Ware as liaison to the ExCom. Mahalo to each one of our loyal leaders! Our outings are updated on our Moku Loa Group webpage www.hi.sierraclub.org/hawaii or visit our Moku Loa Group Facebook page for the latest details!

EVENTS

24th Annual Earth Day Fair, Friday, April 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hawai'i Community College—Manono Campus.

Event is free to the public and will feature 50 exhibitors, environmental videos, hula and other cultural dance performances, music by Ras Sparrow and Ibis-Dave Seawater band, native plant giveaways, face painting, trash fashion show. If you would like to volunteer, contact Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers, 966-7002.

Outing Leaders Training, Sat-Sun, May 5-6.

New leaders welcome! Contact Sarah Moon, 935-3475.

Fish Farming Talk, Wednesday, May 16, 6 p.m., UH Extension Office in Kainaliu, Kona

Dave Raney, leader of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team, will talk

about fish farming, its implications for the ocean ecosystems offshore, policies and alternatives being proposed to address these concerns. Contact Phil Barnes, 965-9695.

Fish Farming Talk, Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m., Mokupapapa Discovery Center, 308 Kamehameha Avenue, Hilo bayfront

Dave Raney, leader of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team, will talk about fish farming, its implications for the ocean ecosystems offshore, policies and alternatives being proposed to address these concerns. Contact Phil Barnes, 965-9695.

NEWS



Environmental Scholars Recognized

Moku Loa Group recently recognized five outstanding students at the Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair held in Hilo, celebrating the 25th anniversary of providing scholarship awards to promising scholars on Hawai'i Island. Through these awards, the Sierra Club members hope to encourage students to pursue scientific research in topics related to the Hawaiian environment. The students each received certificates, calendars, and checks for \$50.

Update on Mauna Kea

by Debbie Ward

The Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) recently handed down a decision regarding the

Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) approved by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) in 2009. Sierra Club and other petitioners were very ably represented by Marti Townsend. The court did not agree that approving a management plan triggers the right to a contested case hearing—on the logic that the UH needs additional approval and authority to take any action proposed in the management plan.

While the ICA case was pending, the UH and the TMT Corporation requested a permit from BLNR to construct the massive Thirty Meter Telescope. The BLNR's Hearing Officer (HO) is expected to provide a recommendation on the contested case hearing on the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) sometime this spring, and BLNR will decide whether to approve or modify the HO's decision.

Running Out of Pigs?

by Cory Harden

Why do hunters fear losing hunting areas to the proposed Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) at Kulani? 4,000 acres of the NAR will remain open to hunting—plus 60,000 acres of forest reserve nearby. Why do they fear running out of game? For European mouflon, hunters tend to kill males, leaving the females, who have babies. And feral pigs reproduce so fast that you can remove two out of five from a small enclosed area every year, and never run out of pigs. This is per a local wildlife biologist. It's well known that pigs, goats, and sheep wreak havoc on native ecosystems and watersheds. And remember that at a July 2010 hearing, eight out of ten people supported the NAR. The evidence points to far more risk of running out of native species than running out of pigs.

Moku Loa Group Outings

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Saturday, March 3

Pu'u Maka'ala This hike will be in the NARS area near Kulani off Stainback Hwy. Contact leaders for specific information. Phil Barnes 965-9695, Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday, March 24

Mauna Ulu to Napua (E/F) Hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Starts at Mauna Ulu on the Napua Trail and ends at Keakakomo on the Naulu Trail. Elevation will start at 3,000' and end at 2,000' and cover a distance of from 7 to 11 miles, depending upon group and weather. Bring two quarts of water, rain gear, and lunch. Linda Larish 966-6337, Rich Vogler 328-8387.



Saturday-Monday, March 24 -26

Manuka Service Trip (S/C/E) E = +/- 400' Three-day mauka/makai service project in Manuka Natural Area Reserve sponsored by the state. Spend 2 nights at Kiolaka'a cabin (68-mile marker near So. Point Rd.) Saturday down at Manuka Bay for a clean up/swim day; the other days we work on the cape ivy in the koa unit. Some weeding in native arboretum around the cabin, possible fountain-grass removal off Kaheawai traditional trail to the coast. Sturdy boots, gloves, sun protection, rain gear, 3 lunches (dinner and breakfasts will be central

commissary, possible fee), sleeping bag. Van pick-up at Hilo DLNR base yard or meet at cabin. Leader Diane Ware-967-8642

Thursday, April 5

Full Moon Pu'u Loa Petroglyphs (E) Sea level = 2 miles. An easy loop-hike around historical petroglyphs. Call for specific details. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Debbi Uchida

Saturday, April 14

Whittington Park to Punalu'u Park (E) D = 5 miles, E = sea level Rugged, exposed coastline hike (mostly lava) passing cultural sites, freshwater springs, and Kawa Beach. Sometimes exploratory, as there is no continuous established trail. Expect hot, sunny weather and several low-water crossings. Bring two quarts of water, water socks, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat/visor, sunglasses, and lunch. We will lunch at Kawa Beach with possibility of ocean swim or dip in brackish pool. Swimming at your own risk; rough water and strong currents. Due to cultural and environmental sensitivity, limited to ten participants and leader approval. Car shuttle. Phil Barnes 965-9695, Rich Vogler 328-8387

Friday, April 20

Earth Day Celebration at Hawai'i Community College—Manono Campus

Saturday, April 28

Laupahoehoe Natural Area Reserve Service Trip (E/C/S) Planting native and / or destroying aliens in a wet forest on the Eastern flank of Mauna Kea with oh'i'a and koa and some rare natives. Limited number of participants. Sunny LaPlante & Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, May 5

Historic Hilo Walk. Leaders Sarah Moon 935-3476 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, May 12

Wailuku River Dayhike (14.5 mile marker) (E/C/F) D = 5 miles, E = 3900' +/- 500' This interpretive hike is along a jeep trail that starts out at 3900' and goes down to the Wailuku River. It was originally built to provide access to the gauging station and is much used by hunters. Trail is sometimes wet and dotted with small ponds, which need to be passed through or around. This is a grand hike on a sunny day. Just about the time you feel hot and sweaty, there is a whole river to swim in. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, bring sun protection, bathing suit, towel, water, and lunch. Roberta Brasher-Kaulfers 966-7002 and Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday-Monday, May 26-28

Outings Leaders Campout (location TBA) Have you ever considered being a hike leader? Meet a great group of experienced Big Island leaders and find out what it takes to start leading your own hikes and learning about trails in your area. Contact Rose Acevedo 315-7622.

Saturday June 23

Kalopa Old Jeep Road and Gulch Trail (E/F/C) D = 3 miles, E = 2000' +/- 500' We will hike the interpretive loop trail, which is only 0.7 miles and includes native plants such as oh'i'a, kolea, and kopiko, after which you are welcome to join the gulch hike, which is about 2.3 miles. We will hike uphill along the old jeep road to the highest elevation in the park, then return via the gulch trail, passing through groves of 80-year-old eucalyptus, silk oak, paper bark; these trees were planted by the CCC in the early 1930s. Bring rain gear, mosquito repellent, water, picnic lunch; wear sturdy shoes. Sarah Moon 935-3475, Linda Larish 966-6337

Chapter Directory



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

MAIN OFFICE

Mail.....P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96813
Office Location.....Room 306, 1040 Richards Street, Honolulu, HI 96813
Telephone.....(808) 538-6616
Email.....hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org
Web.....www.sierraclubhawaii.com

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Director.....**Robert D. Harris** • robert.harris@sierraclub.org • (808) 538-6616
Volunteer Coordinator.....**Jennifer Homcy** • jenhomcy@sierraclubhawaii.com • (808) 538-6616

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair.....**Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers** • brashear@hawaii.edu
Vice Chair.....**Rick Barboza** • Rick.ck.barboza@gmail.com
Treasurer.....**Helen Chong** • hc945@yahoo.com
Secretary.....**Sheila Sarhangi** • writetosheila@gmail.com & **Janice Marsters** • janicem@lava.net
Hawai'i Service Trip Program.....**Janice Marsters** • janice@lava.net
High School Hikers.....**Bob Keane** • 623-3208 • keaner001@hawaii.rr.com
Kaua'i Group.....**Rayne Regush** • rayneregush@aol.com
Maui Group.....**Chris Taylor** • mauichris@gmail.com
Moku Loa Group.....**Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers** • 966-7002 • brashear@hawaii.edu
O'ahu Group.....**Steven Montgomery** • manninga001@hawaii.rr.com
At-Large.....**Lucienne DeNaie** • laluz@maui.net
At-Large.....**Sheila Sarhangi** • writetosheila@gmail.com
At-Large.....**Deborah Ward** • dward@hawaii.edu
At-Large.....**Scott Glenn** • scotchglenn@gmail.com
At-Large.....**Nicole Lowen** • nlowen@gmail.com

HAWAII SERVICE TRIP PROGRAM

Chair.....**Janice Marsters** • 988-3899 • janicem@lava.net
Leadership Development.....**John Cummings III** • 527-5490
Finance.....**Pauline Sato** • 621-2008
Secretary.....**Waimea Williams** • 239-5423
Project Evaluation.....**Amber O'Reilly**
Recruitment.....**Scott Rowland** • 259-5416
Treasurer.....**Jim Waddington** • 947-2732

HIGH SCHOOL HIKERS PROGRAM

President.....**Erron Yoshioka** • miki_yosh@yahoo.com
Vice-President.....**John M. Cummings III** • jcummins@honolulu.gov
Secretary, Newsletter.....**Pauline Kawamata** • volunteer@hawaiiaturecenter.org
Treasurer, Membership.....**Bob Keane** • 623-3208 • keaner001@hawaii.rr.com
Outings.....**Fred Nakaguma** • fnakaguma@hawaii.rr.com
Website.....**Jim Yuen** • jimyuen@hawaii.rr.com
Ecology Camp.....**Bob Keane, Jamie Tanino** • jamietanino@gmail.com

O'AHU GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.hi.sierraclub.org/oahu
P.O. Box 2577 • Honolulu, HI 96803 • (808) 537-9019

Chair & Secretary.....**Anthony Aalto** • abaalto@gmail.com
Vice Chair & Treasurer.....**Randy Ching** • oahurandy@yahoo.com
Chapter Delegate.....**Steven Montgomery** • manninga001@hawaii.rr.com
Outings.....**Randy Ching** • oahurandy@yahoo.com
Political.....**Matt LoPresti** • matt_lopresti@yahoo.com
Member.....**James Anthony** • driant@aol.com
Member.....**Amy Brinker** • amybrinker@mac.com
Member.....**Lindon Morris** • linny@linnymorris.com

KAUAI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai
Box 3412 • Lihū'e, Hawai'i 96766

Outings, Beach Protection, Public Access.....**Judy Dalton** • dalton@aloha.net • 246-9067
Conservation.....**David Dinner** • gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Conservation, Membership.....**Marge Freeman** • mrfreeman5@hawaii.rr.com
Conservation, Helicopter Noise.....**Carl Imparato** • carl.imparato@juno.com
Conservation, Land Use.....**Rayne Regush** • rayneregush@aol.com
Webmaster.....**Richard Stillman** • chop_skr@yahoo.com

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui
P.O. Box 791180 • Pā'ia, HI 96779 • (206) 426-5535

Vice Chair & Director.....**Chris Taylor** • mauichris@gmail.com
Secretary.....**Karen Chun** • karen@redwoodgames.com
Treasurer.....**Michael Duberstein** • ilwai34@hawaii.rr.com
Director.....**Nancy McPherson** • nanimcp7684@gmail.com
Energy Chair & Director.....**Daniel Grantham** • 572-4571 • dannygr@hawaiiantel.net
Director.....**John Bruce** • jonthebru@gmail.com
Director.....**Dr. Janet Six** • six@hawaii.edu

MOKU LOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii
P.O. Box 1137 • Hilo, HI 96721 • (808) 966-7361

Chair.....**Deborah Ward** • 966-7361 • dward@hawaii.edu
Vice Chair.....**Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers** • 966-7002 • brashear@hawaii.edu
Treasurer.....**Malie Larish** • malielarish@gmail.com
Conservation.....**Mary Marvin Porter** • islandeyesvideo@yahoo.com
Conservation.....**Cory Harden** • mh@interpac.net
Conservation.....**Janice Palma-Glennie** • palmtree7@earthlink.net
Newsletter.....**Janice Crowl** • gardenteach@yahoo.com
Political.....**Phil Barnes** • 965-9695 • greenhi3@yahoo.com
Energy.....**Jon Olson** • jon631@earthlink.net
Outings.....**Sarah Moon** • 935-3475
Outings.....**Diane Ware** • 967-8642 • volcanogotaway@yahoo.com
Fundraising.....**Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers** • 966-7002
Programs.....**Phil Barnes** • 965-9695 • greenhi3@yahoo.com

FORCES FOR GOOD SYMPOSIUM

The second annual **FORCES FOR GOOD SYMPOSIUM** on January 7 was a smashing success, with over 200 people participating, 25 speakers, and a celebratory dinner afterwards at the Downtown Restaurant. This event is quickly becoming one of the most important ways for people to collaborate in getting good, green legislation passed at the Legislature.

Special thanks to Reese Helman and Under my Umbrella for organizing the event, Mike Hinchy and Olelo for filming the event, Makana for performing, the Capitol Watch Captains for organizing the panels, the many contributing organizations that helped advertise the event, and the dozens of volunteers who helped pull this complex event together!



Above Left: Alani Aipo kicks off the Forces for Good Symposium with a blessing. Above Middle: Participants pack the breakout sessions. Above Right: Annette Kaohelaulii presents the new annual Geraldine Cline Award to Deborah Blair



Above Left: Volunteers greeting participants to the Symposium. Above Middle: Robert Harris presents the Volunteer of the Year award to Anthony Aalto. Above Right: Chapter Chair Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers with Anthony Aalto, volunteer of the Year for 2011.



Above Left: Capitol Watch Captains Joy Leilei Shih and Steven Mazur playfully hide behind the decorative Pohinahina. Above Middle: Makana performing before a packed audience at the Downtown Restaurant. Above Right: Speakers Claire Sullivan and Dexter Kishida address the Food Policy panel.



Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter
P.O. Box 2577
Honolulu, HI 96803

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Protecting Hawai'i's Environment, Mauka to Makai!

Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

January - March 2012

Sustain... a transitive verb. To keep in existence; maintain.

As a member of the Sierra Club, you've demonstrated your interest in sustainable living. Now please take the next step by helping the Hawai'i Chapter sustain our environmental work with a monthly gift!

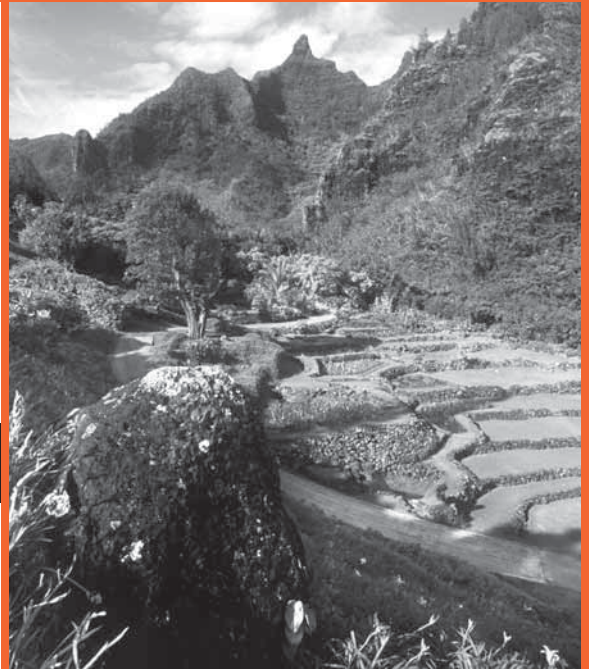
For just 33¢ a day, \$10 a month, you help us with the day-to-day support we need to protect Hawai'i's fragile environment.

For just 66¢ a day, \$20 a month, you help us engage fellow residents across the state, promoting our preferred future of clean energy and local food.

SIGN UP TODAY!

www.sierraclubhawaii.com/donate

Your support enables us to work towards fostering a long-term commitment to a sustainable Hawai'i.



Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet