



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAI'I CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

April - June 2013

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A GAME CHANGER: Green Energy for All

Imagine deciding you finally want to “go solar.” Excitedly, you call a couple of local solar companies. These companies tell you about the various tax credits available and how you'll save money over time. You might even make the money back in a couple of years. And all you have to do is write a check for, say, \$30,000.

Wow, you might think. That's a lot of money.

I speak from personal experience. My wife and I recently purchased a home. Of course every penny we've ever saved is tied up in the cost of buying a new home. While we could borrow more money to pay for the solar panels, it would push us to the absolute brink. If a catastrophe were to happen, like our roof breaking, we would be up a certain creek.



While it's a difficult situation, at least it's a better scenario than when we rented a house. Spending \$30,000 for a house we didn't own wasn't going to happen. And the property owners had no incentive to install a solar panel: they didn't pay the electric bill.

That's part of the reason why I'm so excited about a bill currently

moving through the Legislature. HB 856 and SB 1131 create a funding mechanism to pay for an on-bill financing program. On-bill programs are popular and fairly well-understood on the mainland. Put simply, they allow you to install a permanent “fixture,” like solar, on your house and pay back the cost over time on your electric bill. If you move away, the electric bill stays tied to the property's electric meter. This means clean energy is suddenly affordable and potentially available to renters.

The main problem, however, is trying to find the money to fund an on-bill program. Utilities aren't banks, and they generally don't want to be.

So where does the money come from to pay for this program?

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Hawai'i's largest and most successful
grassroots environmental advocacy organization





FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

When People Lead, Politicians Follow

I've been frustrated about something: why do some politicians seek to destroy the very things that make Hawai'i a special place to live? I'm talking about places like wide-open rugged coastlines, sparkling white sand beaches, parks with streams running through them, kolea gathering on grassy fields, and vast expanses of dark lava under bright blue skies.

It's not like these politicians campaigned on a platform of paving over our wild and recreational areas. But after getting elected, they suddenly seem to believe that a public acre of land, "just sitting there," is going to waste.

Let me be clear: I'm not opposed to all public/private interactions. A private vendor is much more likely to run a concession stand, for example, better than the state. But that's a far cry from calling for \$11 billion dollars of revenue to come from commercialization of our parks, schools, and conservation lands.

That's why I'm so proud of the numerous grassroots volunteers who led the charge to protect our public lands. People have inundated their politicians' email boxes, organized rallies at community meetings, and made their voices heard at administrative meetings. These volunteers have forcefully made the point that our public lands are beneficial to Hawai'i's economy and our well-being and are a critical part of our natural and cultural heritage.

I'm also proud of the Sierra Club's leadership. From developing the **GrandTheftAina.com** website, getting the media engaged, and putting incredible pressure on key politicians, the Sierra Club has played a major part in questioning the purpose and intent of the Public Lands Development Corporation.

Six months ago, many Capitol insiders would have said that repealing the Public Lands Development Corporation was impossible. Laws simply don't get repealed a couple of years after they were passed. As I write we're just a few weeks away from what appears to be an inevitability—both the House and Senate will send a bill repealing the PLDC to the Governor for his signature, which he has signaled he'll allow to become law. The Governor and numerous politicians want to move on from this disastrous public-relations nightmare. When people make their voices heard, politicians will follow.

I hope this is not the end of citizen engagement. We cannot let up. The calls for more development will come back. We need to continue to make the point that even though we are a highly populated island chain, we have a fundamental obligation to preserve our beautiful recreational and wild spaces while balancing the need for reasonable and smart growth. An acre of undeveloped public land is not a waste; rather it is a precious resource.

I also hope that *you*—our valued members who support and use our public lands—will make a donation to the Sierra Club. March is the one time of the year that we make a direct appeal to all of our members to contribute. We need your support in order to continue protecting the places that make Hawai'i a special place to live.

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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Planting Native

by Rick Barboza



Ma'ō hau hele

Hawai'i's Official State Flower

Hibiscus brackenridgei subsp. *Moloka'iana*

Endemic: All Hawai'i except Moloka'i and O'ahu

Description: A shrub (up to 10 feet) with maple-like leaves and bright yellow hibiscus flowers. This plant varies in appearance between islands but generally falls into three subspecies: *H. brackenridgei* subsp. *brackenridgei* of Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Hawai'i; *H. brackenridgei* subsp. *mokuleianus* of O'ahu and Kaua'i; and this one, *H. brackenridgei* subsp. *molokaiana* of Moloka'i and O'ahu. The most visible difference between the three subspecies is in the leaves and stems. Subspecies *mokuleianus* has leaves with more serrated margins and pink veins; there are also tiny spines on the branches. Meanwhile, subspecies *brackenridgei* has leaves with more rounded margins and yellow veins and lacks the tiny spines on the branches. This particular subspecies came from Makua Valley on O'ahu, where it was only recently discovered. It possesses characteristics of both subspecies, making it very appealing. Its leaves resemble those of the subspecies *brackenridgei* but with pink veins like subspecies *mokuleianus*. Although it is from O'ahu, it lacks the branch thorns of subsp. *mokuleianus*, which is a good thing because those little pricks can hurt.

Distribution: This is an endemic species found only in Hawai'i; it is also an endangered species with very few populations left in the wild. They are usually found in the dry to mesic forests of all the main islands except Ni'ihau. (It was once reportedly collected from Kaho'olawe, but it no longer exists there.)

Landscape Uses and Care: This plant does well in full sun to partial shade and needs very little water to thrive, although daily watering is okay. It is a fast grower and will flower twice a year. Each flowering

period lasts up to two months with blooms occurring daily on a flowering stalk that rises up above the rest of the plant. Unlike most hibiscuses, this plant doesn't perform well as a hedge. Instead it looks best as a specimen plant. Rose beetles may attack the leaves of ma'ō hau hele at night and leave them looking like Swiss cheese. To prevent this, plant it near a light source at night. It seems that plants which are normally affected by rose beetles aren't affected as much when they are either planted near landscape lighting or under a bright streetlamp or porch light. Leave the lights on from dusk until at least 8 or 9 at night and that should keep those nasty munchers away. Occasionally, whiteflies may be found under the leaves; any store-bought pesticide should remedy that problem.

Additional Information: Ma'ō hau hele literally means the "traveling green hau." It probably got this name because after the plant gets to be about 3-5 years old it will become top heavy and either lean over or fall over and sprout new roots where the leaning branches touch the ground. Sometimes the old portion of the plant will die and the newly sprouted roots from the leaning branches will make the same plant thrive in a new spot a few feet over from its original location. Over time if the plant continues to flop over and sprout new roots it can move quite some distance. A friend, the late Lorin Gill, recalled a particular ma'ō hau hele traveling over 20 feet in about 15 years! In 1988 the State of Hawai'i changed the state flower from the native red hibiscus (*Hibiscus kokio*) to this one. It should be made clear that this is the only species of yellow hibiscus that can be called our state flower.

Green Energy for All

Continued from page 1

Decades ago, utilities in California created the model by gaining access to extremely cheap bonds to purchase large power plants. Hawai'i's proposal is visionary in that it would allow residents to take advantage of the same purchasing power that these electric utilities currently use, but distribute it among individual customers. As residents pay back the money on their electric bill, the bonds are paid off. There are no additional costs to the residents of Hawai'i, but we all get the advantage of building a clean energy future.

This measure could establish a

national precedent and be a major "game-changer" in advancing clean energy. Creating a pay-as-you-save program combined with very low cost capital would allow tens of thousands of renters and lower income residents to take advantage of cheaper renewable energy, wean Hawai'i off fossil fuels, and put more money into the pocket of Hawai'i residents. Best of all, there would be minimal cost to tax- or ratepayers. This program will pay for itself.

Like this idea? Please write to your legislators and tell them you support HB 856 and SB 1131. You can find your legislators' contact info at capitol.hawaii.gov.



FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers



Aloha and Mahalo to our members for your support. The 2013 legislative session is underway and Hawai'i faces many environmental challenges. We are hopeful that our endorsed legislators will pass strong environmental legislation and vote the right way: to protect our environment. Our Chapter director and Capitol

Watch team have been working diligently to keep the membership up to date regarding important Senate and House bills coming up. One of the most important issues, the repeal of the PLDC, is still alive. This issue has generated a tremendous amount of support from citizens of Hawai'i who attended public hearings and prepared testimony, and it has received support from many legislators as well. Let's hope that other controversial legislation regarding the solar tax credits will be reversed.

My home was recently retrofitted with a 4 KW solar system to take advantage of the solar tax credits and rebates of 2012, as well as to reduce my carbon footprint. I encourage others to take advantage of the opportunity for clean energy, but the process is far more complicated and time consuming than I had expected. After several months of meetings with design engineers, waiting for

permits, delivery of solar panels, rooftop layout design, actual panel installation, numerous inspections by company engineers and county electrical inspectors as well as HELCO inspectors, a HELCO crew finally came and changed the electrical meter to a net metering system.

I soon found myself checking the numbers daily, as Puna was experiencing some unusually sunny weather. The meter actually reversed itself past zero to -99982. It has been raining for the past 13 days as I write, so my system was reading 26 this morning. By 3 p.m. today, it had recovered to 10 KW. I look forward to viewing the next electric bill, which will not be several hundred dollars, but perhaps a minimum fee. I mention this solar tax savings because Governor Abercrombie and others have threatened to have the solar tax significantly reduced or eliminated entirely. I have saved 682.01 pounds of CO2 in one month, a significant amount when you talk about pollution by fossil fuels in our environment. If everyone did their own small part, we would not need to find alternative fuels such as LNG or promote geothermal expansion, especially in areas where it would be environmentally detrimental.

The decisions our legislators make today will significantly affect our clean energy future in Hawai'i. Please get involved, subscribe to Capitol Watch, contact your legislators, and encourage them to make the best environmental decisions for their constituents.

Note: The Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee will be meeting on Hawai'i Island on August 2-4, 2013. If you would like to meet members of the Executive Committee and attend the meeting, or join us on an outing, please contact me for more information at brashear@hawaii.edu.

Aloha, Roberta

Volunteers in the Spotlight

Hawai'i Island
Debbie Ward
Moku Loa Group
Environmental Activist for 30 Years



Any threat to Hawai'i's environment should heed the small sign next to Debbie Ward's front door that reads, "Beware the Gardener." Debbie, an organic farmer and dynamic Sierra Club member, has been deeply involved in advocating for Hawai'i's environment since the early eighties. While working at Foster Garden in her twenties, Debbie co-lead hikes (and hugged native trees) throughout Hawai'i with Lorin Gill. Debbie names Gill, Lola Mench, Bill and Mae Mull, Cathy Lowder, Annette Kaohelauii, Kimo Frankel, and Nelson Ho as inspiring mentors who influenced her environmental activism.

Not long after moving to Hawai'i Island, Debbie began to serve on the MLG Executive Committee. Encouraging others to step up for conservation issues is a main priority for Debbie. That's why she is proud of helping to establish awards for Science Fair participants with outstanding projects related to Hawai'i's environment. She notes that many recipients of the awards—which are now in their twenty-sixth year—

have gone on to study Hawai'i's conservation issues.

With a laugh, Debbie said, "Maybe I'm most proud of the things that didn't happen!" She helped preserve important o'opu habitat and East Hawai'i's best surf break by working to prevent a power plant from diverting the waters of Honoli'i Stream. When a logger wanted to harvest a major swath of koa trees from Kaiwiki to Hakalau, Debbie's efforts helped put a halt to the plans. She has worked for a decade to protect the natural resources on Mauna Kea, and most recently to acquire public access at Kahuku. When asked what motivates her to keep fighting for the environment despite setbacks and disappointments, Debbie said, "It's so critical to Hawai'i to protect Hawai'i's ecosystems and habitats. It can be difficult and challenging, but success can be extremely gratifying."

O'ahu
Diana Sellner
Teen Volunteer on the Throwaway Bag Campaign



One of the most active volunteers during the Sierra Club's 2012 campaign for a law putting a fee on all single-use bags at store checkouts was a tenth-

grader at Kalani High School. Diana Sellner, a Girl Scout for nine years, needed a sustainable community service project for her Gold Award (equivalent to the Boy Scouts Eagle), so she contacted the Sierra Club for help on her plan to educate the public about the harm done to the islands by plastic bags. She said, "I thought I would just make a few posters and flyers, maybe talk at an elementary school, or hold a workshop; never did I think I would be working with the legislature to get a bill passed." She told Mālama why she got involved:

When I was in seventh grade I was on the Girl Scout Forever Green pilot committee. I remember watching a presentation by Styrophobia and the presenter saying that plastic bags can be labeled as biodegradable but they actually are not; they break up into tiny pieces and just appear gone. I remember thinking this is terrible and needs to change. We see plastic bags flying all over town and hear the horror stories that they kill seabirds and marine life. I thought, "If everyone just brought their own bag this could all be avoided."

When I got in touch with the Sierra Club a year ago, Robert Harris told me about a Senate bill that would put a \$0.10 fee on paper and plastic bags and the money would go to support protection of the watershed. When I did some research, I realized that paper bags are almost as bad as plastic (they use 20 times more energy and water in production) and that watershed protection is something we need for Hawai'i's future generations. These factors made me work hard for the bill. When it failed, I just became more determined. I have been rallying my friends and using email and Facebook to spread the word about this year's bill (HB 357). The most effective tool when it comes to legislators is numbers. If you have a lot of people all contacting the legislators on a particular issue, they start to pay attention.

Sierra Club Hawai'i Historical Timeline

This Issue's Timeline

1968 1980 1990 2000 2013

As the Chapter enters our 45th year we are turning our attention to some of the many good works volunteers have accomplished through the decades. During the year 2013 we are putting together a historical reference for these achievements. On these pages is part 2, showing our activities from 1981 to 1992. For the next installments we welcome your input; please send any photos or stories to *Mālama* editor Phyllis Frus, phyllisfrus@sierraclubhawaii.com. *Special thanks to Alana Bryant for compiling the timeline.*

Timeline 1981-1992

1981

- Honolulu Group ceases once-a-month recycling at Church of the Crossroads, where volunteers collected aluminum cans, bottles, and newspaper, when Hawai'i Recycling Services and Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company begin taking aluminum cans and newspapers.
- In August representatives of all groups attend the Feral Pig in Hawai'i Conference in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.
- Members of the Sierra Club including Wayne Gagne protest clearcutting of koa forest on the Big Island

1982

- The Sierra Club calls for critical habitat designation for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to protect the Hawaiian Monk Seal.



Photo by Alaina Fukui

- Sierra Club members on O'ahu are part of an advisory committee working with the Department of Planning and Economic Development to draft a resource management plan for Kawainui Marsh, the largest wetlands in the islands. Faced with the possibility of a subdivision impinging on the wetlands, the Honolulu Group joins a coalition to "Mālama (cherish) Kawainui."

1983

- The city rezones Queen's Beach in response to a ten-year effort by the community to stop major hotel development on the coast between Sandy Beach and Makapu'u. After a long court fight, the Hawai'i Supreme Court affirms the rezoning in 1991.
- The Kahauale'a Geothermal Project becomes one of the primary concerns of the Moku Loa Group. Cited are geothermal's potential environmental and health hazards, and its development costs, which would lead to higher electric bills and increased taxes.
- Honolulu Group begins a tradition of three-day service trips to Neighbor Islands to remove alien species from parks and reserves.

1984

- The Hawai'i Service Trip Program plans seven trips to Moloka'i, the

Big Island, Maui, and Kaua'i to eradicate Clidemia and other exotic plants. Because college-age students are the primary volunteers for the week-long trips, they are timed to coincide with the University of Hawai'i's spring break, summer, and Christmas break.

- A judge in Hilo hears a lawsuit brought by Sierra Club and the Puna Geothermal Committee asking that industrial activity not be allowed in Conservation District land in Kahauale'a, adjacent to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. The suit calls for an adequate EIS to be filed by the developers. The Campbell Estate wants to develop the 250 MW project without DLNR restrictions regarding noise and toxic gas abatement, socioeconomic impact studies, additional geologic tests, or any restrictions on where the company can drill within the Conservation District.

1985

- The Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter submits testimony in opposition to the H-3, which has been successfully stalled for more than 13 years. Ed Stevens has been coordinating Sierra Club activity in the Legislature on this issue.
- Opposition to Interstate Highway H-3 continues throughout the 1980s. Sierra Club members fight

the freeway for its impact on the environment (significantly, the only way to finally complete the road is to make it exempt from all federal environmental laws) and support the many Native Hawaiians who view it as a travesty that threatens to destroy dozens of cultural sites and compromise those that are saved.

- Chapter membership reaches 2,000 in October.

1986

- The Sierra Club's palila lawsuit is taken back to the U.S. District Court because mouflon sheep continue to be maintained for hunting on Mauna Kea, eight years after the original ruling.

1987

- Several Sierra Club members found a single-purpose organization, State Park at Makena (SPAM), in order to stop development at Big Beach on Maui. In 1988 the *Mālama* reports that the state has acquired some of the land that eventually becomes the 165-acre Makena State Park.

1988

- The efforts of Sierra Club members and other environmentalists to get access to trails statewide pay off when Na Ala Hele, the Hawai'i Trail and Access Program, begins. The state's official organization governs access to the public trail system and is responsible for maintaining the trails. Before legislation establishing the agency was passed, trails were managed by the forestry department. Public access was being lost and historic trails were threatened by development. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i worked with other groups to urge the DNLR to come up with a plan to open the trails.
- After an intense grassroots campaign involving hundreds of volunteers from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, O'ahu

citizens vote overwhelmingly to rezone land near Sandy Beach Park to save it from development as a luxury residential subdivision. Responding to community pressure, the state legislature unanimously passes a resolution asking the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop a park plan for the Ka Iwi coast.

1989

- The Chapter opposes a proposed 5-mile aerial tramway up the west side of Haleakala. The proposal includes three terminal buildings, a diesel power plant, a restaurant and gift shop, and a 400-car, 15-bus parking lot.

1990

- Sierra Club members and others consider a lawsuit to force the state and the U.S. Government to comply with law that governs historic preservation, with regard to construction of the H-3 on native Hawaiian historic sites.
- The Chapter publishes policy statements regarding geothermal energy and undersea transmission cables. The Chapter supports a moratorium on the development of the geothermal resource until it is proven to be environmentally sound, safe, renewable, and cost-effective. The Chapter also opposes the transmission cable, which is planned to transmit the energy generated from the geothermal plant.
- The Chapter proceeds with three lawsuits: one asking that an EIS be completed before further geothermal development. Another lawsuit claims over 8,000 violations of the Federal Clean Water Act at the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, based on the plant's own records over a five-year period. Hawai'i Chapter also fights a proposed waiver permit, which would allow the plant to be further

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O'ahu Group Service Trip Programs

O'ahu Group was one of the first organizations in Hawai'i to conduct volunteer service projects dedicated to protecting and preserving our unique natural resources. The Hawai'i Service Trip Program had its roots in a 1971 trip to rebuild the Kalalau Trail on Kaua'i. Early trips used college-age volunteers during school breaks to rebuild trails on all the islands. Most adult Sierra Club members were interested in doing volunteer work, but for a shorter time and with peers rather than college students. In 1983 David Lassner and Annette Kaohelaulii devised three-day holiday weekend service projects for adults to initiate the war on Hawai'i's invasive species. That year the then Honolulu Group conducted holiday weekend service trips to the Nature Conservancy's Kamakou Preserve on Moloka'i. Daylong service trips for Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) commenced in 1987 with the building of a boardwalk through the montane bog at Mt. Ka'ala on O'ahu to remove invasive blackberry from the Natural Area Reserve. Over the years, the group has conducted service trips for federal government agencies to Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Moloka'i and Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua'i. See page 12 for a description of two 3-day service trips planned for summer 2013.

Timeline

Continued from page 7

downgraded. A third suit involves ongoing violations at the Honouliuli Wastewater Treatment Plant, where millions of gallons of partially treated effluent are released into the ocean.



for exceptional contributions in the field of chapter organization or management. She is honored for over 20 years

of outings and organizational leadership. Also recognized is Suzanne Marinelli, who is named one of the Club's 100 Environmental Heroes. She is honored for her work in fighting SDI testing on Kaua'i. • A landmark settlement between environmentalists and the city on violations of the federal Clean Water Act at the Sand Island Sewage Treatment Plant is approved.

1992

- David Frankel becomes director of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i.
- The Sierra Club turns 100.

1991

- Kaua'i Group wins a victory in the Sierra Club's effort to eliminate Kaua'i's participation in the Federal Government's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), which would have involved missile launchings, and would have created a 600-square mile hazard zone—larger than the island of Kaua'i.
- Annette Kaohelauli'i receives the Sierra Club's Susan E. Miller award, which honors individuals

- The Moku Loa Conservation Committee considers a policy designed to protect the remaining koa forests. The policy discourages members from purchasing non-commercially grown koa, urges a moratorium on the purchase of koa furniture and paneling for federal, state, and county office buildings, and urgently calls for stronger control programs for invasive species.
- The Honolulu Group opposes a proposed rail mass transit plan on the grounds that it would not be cost-effective or energy efficient, and that it detracts from conservation.
- The state decides to realign the H-3 freeway at a cost of \$10 million to avoid two sites sacred to native Hawaiians in Halawa Valley.
- Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is established ■

Nine Measures to Keep an Eye On

The Sierra Club tracks and advocates for a number of bills. Going into the second half of the session, here are nine measures you might want to follow.

Naughty or Nice?	Measure	This Bill...
✓	GMO Labeling (HB 174 HD2) This measure requires labeling of all imported genetically engineered fresh produce sold in Hawai'i.	The public is entitled to be able to make informed decisions about what products they purchase and eat. Genetically modifying organisms—the practice of splicing DNA from bacteria, viruses, and other organisms into plants to lend them certain traits, like resistance to chemical weedkillers—could pose a risk to our common environment. An informed public is able to make informed decisions.
✓	Solar Tax Credits (HB 497 HD3 and SB 623 SD2) These measures would advance the State's clean energy efforts by setting up a long-term plan for our solar and wind energy tax credit to slowly wind down over time.	As a result of (1) solar system cost reductions, (2) increases in the cost of utility power, and (3) administrative challenges, it has for some time been appropriate to take measures to reform the state's solar tax credit. Every year the credit faces opposition from many corners and the Club has worked with others to craft positive reform measures and fend off attempts to ruin Hawai'i as a solar market. These two bills are both fiscally responsible and environmentally progressive in keeping solar viable in Hawai'i.
✓	Green Energy Financing (HB 856 HD 2 and SB 1131 SD2) This measure creates a structure for a clean energy financing program, which would help many Hawai'i residents reduce their electric bill through clean energy and energy efficiency investments.	See our cover article.

Naughty or Nice?	Measure	This Bill...
✓	Publicly Funded Elections (HB 1481 HD2) This measure would create a publicly funded election process.	By establishing a public funding process for elections, this measure will help remove pressure on elected officials to raise funds and relieve individuals and corporations from having to make donations. It will also increase citizen faith in the democratic process and deliberative decision making.
✓	Smart Grid (SB 1040) The bill is a smart policy signal for the Public Utilities Commission to build a modern grid infrastructure that can complement renewable energy production by making better use of fluctuating power sources and advance energy efficiency through the use of smart meters.	The success of our aggressive clean energy goals will only be accomplished with significant improvements to our existing grid.
✓	Beach Access (SB 1162 SD1 and HB 17 HD1) Requires ongoing maintenance by adjoining properties in order to ensure continued access to our public beaches.	Some property owners have deliberately grown beach vegetation to the point where lateral access along the beach can no longer occur. By ensuring that the public continues to have access to and use of our beaches, the measure helps to protect Hawai'i's proud public access tradition.
✗	Limiting County Powers (SB 727) This measure limits the counties' powers to enact ordinances related to health and life and to regulate property and security if the ordinance conflicts with the perceived intent of state or federal law.	This measure will likely have significant unintended consequences. Counties usually have the full scope of police powers necessary to protect public health, safety, and general welfare. Changing the language in this statute will likely be perceived as an intent to reduce the counties' police powers and call into question the legality of many criminal, environmental, and other ordinances already in existence. Moreover, this measure ignores the concept of local governmental input on local issues.
✗	State Process for CZM projects (SB 1027) This measure would put the state in charge of authorizing its own Coastal Zone Management permits without the substantive safeguards built into the existing law.	Major coastal projects (over \$500,000) normally must obtain county approval. Under this bill, the State would be exempt from such review. The State would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have no obligation to hold a public hearing or meet with Neighbor Island residents; • Be able to "consider" public comments, but have no consequences for ignoring them; • Have no enforcement capacity, no administrative process for violations, no clear ability to levy fines under Chapter 205A; • Be allowed to ignore the county-established setback laws; • Have the authority to make decisions without an environmental review having been completed; and • Eliminate the counties from substantive review of major projects that affect their own infrastructure and long-range plans.
✗	Segmenting Historic Review of Projects (SB 1171) Allows the segmentation of projects so as to allow limited, phased review by the State Historic Preservation Division.	This measure would allow development projects to be approved without first considering their impacts on historic sites. It adds to the level of cost and frustration when iwi (bones) are discovered after a project has started, thus requiring expensive project adjustments. It would mean more burial relocations, instead of being able to adjust the project so as to leave iwi in place.

Nate's Adventures



The Poamoho Fence

by Nate Yuen

I hiked sections of the planned Poamoho Fence, which will protect the leeward headwaters of the Poamoho watershed in the northern Ko'olau Mountains of O'ahu.



The Poamoho Fence will prevent pigs from digging up the land and spreading fast-growing invasive plants such as strawberry guava and ginger.

To counter a disturbing drying trend in the Hawaiian Islands, the state is increasing the ability of watersheds to attract and retain moisture. In 2012 the governor announced the state's plan to double the acreage of protected watersheds in 10 years.

The Poamoho and

Kaluanui fences are two such projects being built in the northern Ko'olau Mountains, where rainfall is highest on the island.

The Poamoho Fence will eventually enclose some 1,500 acres of native ōhi'a forest that is home to 34 rare and endangered native plants and animals. It will prevent pigs from digging up the land and spreading fast-growing invasive plants such as strawberry guava and ginger.

When pigs run rampant in the watershed they dig up the vegetation and rototill the earth. When heavy rains fall, nothing holds the soil back from washing into the streams. Muddy torrents sweep down the mountains,



Muddy run-off washes into the ocean and kills coral reefs in East Maui.



wrecking native stream ecosystems. That's not all: entire reef systems can be killed from the silt and freshwater that washes down from denuded mountain slopes.

Native ōhi'a forests are effective at protecting mountain slopes from erosion during heavy rains. Mosses, ferns, and other plants that grow on trees and cover the landscape soak up the rain and slowly release that moisture. Additionally, when low-lying clouds pass through, water droplets condense and accumulate on the vegetation, drip slowly to the ground, and follow the roots of trees into the soil deep into the earth to recharge the aquifer. Native forests use less water and capture more moisture from passing clouds, and can increase



The fence will start about halfway up on the Poamoho Trail where native ōhi'a (Metrosideros polymorpha) and koa trees thrive.



Ōhi'a trees are the dominant native tree in the Poamoho watershed and are important to the survival of native snails, insects, and birds, some of which are rare or endangered.

groundwater supplies by 10-50%.

In order to inspect the proposed fence line we hiked the Poamoho Trail, which is dominated by native forests interspersed with patches of strawberry guava—perhaps the worst invasive plant in Hawai'i because of its close association with pigs, and bad from a watershed management perspective because strawberry guava uses 27–53% more water than ōhi'a trees do.

The fence will start about halfway up on the Poamoho Trail where native ōhi'a and koa trees thrive. Ōhi'a trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) are the dominant native tree in the Poamoho watershed and are important to the survival of native snails, insects, and birds, some of which are rare or endangered.

When we searched the ōhi'a foliage we found several beautiful kähuli, or O'ahu tree snails (*Achatinella sowerbyana*) between 1/2- and 3/4-inch long sleeping on the underside of leaves. Kähuli were once plentiful, but are rare today due to a shell-collecting craze that nearly wiped them out. Rats and carnivorous snails have reduced their numbers even further.

Many of the dozen koli'i plants (*Trematolobelia macrostachys*) we saw at the summit had spikes of flower buds poised to bloom.

Off trail we saw *Huperzia nutans*, a rare club moss endemic to Hawai'i, which is on the endangered species list.

The Poamoho Fence will protect critical habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals found nowhere else in the world and bolster O'ahu's water supply for future generations. It is truly an important project for a sustainable future.

To learn more about the proposed Poamoho Fence go to hawaiianforest.com/the-poamoho-fence



Many of the dozen koli'i plants (*Trematolobelia macrostachys*) we saw at the summit had spikes of flower buds poised to bloom.



We spent some time looking for rare plants off trail. We saw *Huperzia nutans*, a rare club moss endemic to Hawai'i, which is on the federal list of endangered species.



Lunch at the summit of the Poamoho Trail.

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.

O'ahu Group Report

Save Our Farms!

We need your help. The O'ahu Group is still busy fighting two huge developments that would put 17,000 homes and a million square feet of commercial space on the two most productive food farms in the state—Ho'opili near Kapolei and Koa Ridge near Mililani.

Last year the Land Use Commission ignored overwhelming evidence that these developments would be disastrous and voted to reclassify both farms as urban. These monster sprawl projects would add at least 10,000 cars to our freeways, reducing them to an "F" rated level of service according to the state's own transportation engineers. The projects would also pave more than 2,300 acres of the 3,500 acres of land on O'ahu currently suitable for growing food.

Unconstitutional

We are appealing the LUC's decision. We recently lost at the first appeal level, but we're taking it all the way to the Supreme Court. Our argument is that the LUC has violated the constitutional mandate that "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

We are also meeting with members of the City Council and the Caldwell administration to find a way to preserve these farms. We've discussed the issue with the mayor—before and after his election—with George Atta, the new Director of the Department of Planning & Permitting, and with several council members.

We have to pay our attorneys and we want to launch an advertising campaign to encourage O'ahuans to lobby their council members to stop these developments. For those efforts we need thousands of dollars. We have successfully delayed the Koa Ridge monster for more than a decade and the Ho'opili monster for three years. With your help we will keep at it.

Please donate! Go to sierraclubhawaii.com/donate.php or call 538-6616; make sure to say it's for the O'ahu Group Farmland Campaign.

We're also leading a series of sponsored hikes over Earth Day week. Please join this effort. Hike a beautiful trail. Get fit. Pledge money for a good cause. All in one! To find out more turn to page 14.

In Other News

We've been lobbying the city and state to upgrade infrastructure, particularly sewers, in urban areas to permit denser development and reduce demand for suburban homes. At current rates of growth experts

predict another 22 square miles of farm and open land will be consumed by suburban sprawl in less than 40 years. We helped introduce a bill to have the state back \$500 million of sewer bonds for the city. The effort started late and may not pass this year, but we've laid the groundwork. If necessary, we'll try again next year.

We joined the PLDC repeal effort and sponsored a resolution at the City Council similar to the resolutions on the Neighbor Islands. It was withdrawn when the legislature voted to repeal the PLDC, but the effort helped strengthen contacts with city officials—a neglected area in recent years. As part of that ongoing engagement, we are also pressing the city to expand curbside recycling and to restore the white-bin recycling service that was curtailed at many schools. As a result of efforts by our Executive Committee member Matt LoPresti, curbside recycling has already been expanded to one section in 'Ewa.

On April 6-7 the Executive Committee will hold a retreat to consider our priorities and strategy for the next year. We welcome your suggestions and comments. They can be sent to abaalto@gmail.com.

A hui hou.

Anthony Aalto
Chair, O'ahu Group

Saturday to Monday, May 25-27
Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, Big Island (S)
Leader: Stan Oka,
Phone: 429-9814



Located on the windward slope of Mauna Kea, the 32,733-acre Hakalau Forest NWR supports a diversity of native birds and plants. Our work consists of nursery work and planting understory plants with ample time for birding.

Thursday to Saturday, July 4-6
Haleakalā National Park, Maui (S)
Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa,
Phone: 262-6092



Our accommodation for the weekend is at Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakalā Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago.

Please Join Us on the Outer Islands!

O'ahu Group Outings

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8:00 a.m. at the back porch of the Church of the Crossroads, 2510 Bingham Street, Honolulu. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot.

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

Saturday, April 6

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 Iliikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot 'ewa of Hilton Lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring a hat, sunscreen, and water. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, April 7

Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E/F)
5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Pūpūkea
Reservations required. Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of central O'ahu. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Ronette Morales

Saturday, April 13

MCBH Kane'ohē Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or danderhi@gmail.com by April 11. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Sherine Boomla

Sunday, April 14

Beginner Hike: Mānana Partial (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack, and raingear. Sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent recommended. Joanna Alexander 223-6993, joalex.gypsy@gmail.com

Saturday, April 20

Kulana'ahane (F) Pledge hike—see p. 14
10 mi/Strenuous/Valley/Moanalua
Stroll through Kamananui Valley for 2.5 miles and then follow the stream up to the saddle for breathtaking views. The hike is relatively flat for the first 4.75 miles, though with numerous stream crossings. The last quarter mile is very steep. We'll stop often. Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, April 21

Photography Hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E/F)
Pledge hike—see p. 14
2 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kailua
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kane'ohē. Car shuttle required. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-9062, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Susan Tom

Sunday, April 21

Makiki-Tantalus (F) Pledge hike—see p. 14
6 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Valley/Makiki
Half-day hike. Start and end at the Hawai'i Nature Center. We'll hike the Kanealole, Makiki Valley, Nahuina, and Pu'u 'Ōhi'a trails. Steep climb to Pu'u 'Ōhi'a. Sherine Boomla 739-3936, bsherine@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 27

Lāie Trail (F) Pledge hike—see p. 14
6 mi/Strenuous/Ridge (11,400' elevation gain/loss)/Lā'ie
A favorite trail leads 2 miles up an old jeep road to the forest reserve above Lā'ie and great views. The trail

contours for a mile along the ridge and a side trail drops to a pool and waterfall, perfect for a cool swim and lunch. HRI requires each hiker to have a permit card (the trail is on HRI land). Stop by the HRI office in the Lā'ie Shopping Center (near Foodland) to get a permit. The leader will also have the permit application available, but you must contact the leader 3 weeks before the hike. The permits are good for a year (ask to include both Lā'ie and Koloa). Ed Mersino 223-5765, mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, April 28

Ha'ikū Stairs via Keahi a Kahoe (F) Pledge hike—see p. 14
12 mi/Extremely strenuous/Valley, Ridge/Moanalua
Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Church of the Crossroads. *Not for those afraid of heights.* We walk 3 miles into Kamananui Valley and take Middle Ridge up to the Ko'olau summit. We hike up to Keahi'a Kahoe (2,800') and then muddy ourselves to the top of Ha'ikū Stairs. Lunch with spectacular views. Bring extra water. Randy Ching 942-0145

Saturday, May 4

Waimano-Mānana Connector Trail (E/F)
5 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Valley
Hike a new trail that connects the Waimano Ridge trail with the Mānana Trail. Highlights: hau forests, tunnels (bring a flashlight), waterfalls, and pools. Ed Mersino 223-5765, mersino@hawaii.edu

Saturday, May 4

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 262-6092, John

O'ahu Group Outings

Shimogawa 227-9925, Marie Laberge 545-1252; asst. Susan Tom

Sunday, May 5

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 and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, May 5

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project (S)

Reservations required. Space is limited. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Waiialua High School. Pahole NAR protects some of

the last remnants of lowland native forest. We'll spend the day weeding and/or outplanting in this very special place. Bring work gloves and hand tools if you have them. Jim Waddington 947-2732; asst. Benny Martinez

Sunday, May 5

Kapi'olani Community College Cactus and Succulent Garden Tour (E/F)
Reservations required. Space limited. An hour-long tour guided by Sam Camp. Meet at 9 a.m. at the gardens. Joanna Alexander
joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, 223-6993

Saturday, May 11

Wahiawā Hills Float (F)

5 mi/Moderate/Valley, Stream
Float down the Kaukonahua Stream about 1 mile downstream. With its numerous pools, Kaukonahua Stream is a natural water park. We'll walk through or around the shallow parts,

then float to cool off. Bring a durable, inflatable floatation device like an air mattress or inner tube, tabis or some footwear to walk through the shallows, and a waterproof bag to carry your lunch, clothes, and gear. Expect some mud on the trail. Ed Mersino 223-5765, mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, May 12

Judd-Nu'uuanu-Pauoa Flats-Pu'u 'Ōhi'a (F)
5 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Contour/
Nu'uuanu

Reservations required as car shuttle will be necessary. We'll be going uphill nearly the entire hike. We begin at Nu'uuanu Stream and climb up the Nu'uuanu Trail with beautiful views of Nu'uuanu Valley and we exit viewing Diamond Head. Some native plants along the way. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Ronette Morales



O'ahu Group Hikes for Earth Week 2013

In celebration of Earth Week, outings leaders of the O'ahu Group will be leading six spectacular hikes and asking hikers to find sponsors to support them and our service work by pledging \$1 for each mile hiked. There are varying difficulties and lengths to choose from, and you may participate in as many as you like. Sponsorship forms are available at hi.sierraclub.org/oahu. Prizes will be awarded to the top fundraising hikers.

Saturday, April 20: Native Plants: Ka'ena Point (moderate, 5 mi.) Hike leader: Rick Barboza 295-7777

Saturday, April 20: Kulana'ahane: Moanalua (difficult, 10 mi.) Hike leader: Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, April 21: Photography Hike, Ka'iwa Ridge (moderate, 2 mi.) Hike leader: John Shimogawa 227-9925

Sunday, April 21: Family Hike: 4 beautiful trails in the Makiki-Tantalus area (moderate, 6 mi.) Hike leader: Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Saturday, April 27: Forest Reserve and Waterfall Hike: Lā'ie Trail (difficult, 6 mi.) Hike leader: Ed Mersino 223-5765

Sunday, April 28: Challenge Hike, Ha'ikū Stairs (difficult, 11 mi.) Hike leader: Randy Ching 942-0145

For more details, see hi.sierraclub.org/oahu
Note: Participation in some hikes requires advance registration. Please contact the leader.



O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, May 19

Mariners Ridge to Kuli'ou'ou (F)

7 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Hawai'i Kai
Car shuttle required. Not for those afraid of heights. We'll hike up Mariners Ridge, cross the Ko'olau summit to Kuli'ou'ou, and take the Sierra Club-improved state trail down to our cars. Awe-inspiring views along the Ko'olau summit. Randy Ching 942-0145, Richard Bailey

Sunday, May 19

Likeke Loop (F)

6 mi/Moderate/Contour/Kāne'ohe
Traditional contour hike below steep Ko'olau cliffs between Likelike and Pali Highways. Great views of Kāne'ohe and Kailua Bay. We loop back taking time to tour Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden. Dan Anderson 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com

Saturday, May 25

Paepae o He'eia Community Work Day (S)

Reservations required by May 22. Join us on a work day from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at this fishpond in Kāne'ohe, where we may cut mangrove or pull other invasive species. Please bring covered shoes or tabis, sun protection, hat, water, a towel, and change of clothes. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 or g Sinclair@gmail.com, Sherine Boomla

Saturday, June 1 (National Trails Day)

Maunawili Contour Trail (F/E)

10 mi/Moderate/Contour/Maunawili
Reservations required. Car shuttle. Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the completion of the trail by Sierra Club volunteers. This outing is a fundraiser for the O'ahu Group: \$20 per person. Special commemorative T-shirt for those registering by May 18 (please give Dan your tee-shirt size). Dan Anderson 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com, Gwen Sinclair, Jim Waddington; asst. Benny Martinez

Saturday, June 8
MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or

Sunday, June 2

Ha'ikū Stairs via Keahi a Kahoe (F)

12 mi/Extremely strenuous/Valley, Ridge/Moanalua
Not for those afraid of heights. We walk 3 miles into Kamananui Valley and take Middle Ridge up to the Ko'olau summit. We hike up to Keahi a Kahoe (2,800') and then muddy ourselves to the top of Ha'ikū Stairs. Lunch with spectacular views. Bring extra water. Randy Ching 942-0145

Sunday, June 2

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. Plumeria and hibiscus should be in bloom this time of year. Good for macro photography! Marie Laberge 545-1252, Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Thursday, June 6

Pau Hana at Foster (F)

Meet at front gate to Foster Botanical Garden, Vineyard Blvd. at Nu'uuanu Stream, at 4:30 to walk the gardens before the 5:30 concert. Bring picnic, pupus, non-alcoholic beverages, and folding chair. Garden open for these events at no charge. Date subject to change depending on interest in musical theme (concerts held each Thursday evening June-Aug.). Schedule of musicians available late April at honolulu.gov/parks/hbg/fbg.htm. Submit your interest via email to Joanna Alexander, joalex.gypsy@gmail.com or if no email 223-6993.

Saturday, June 8

MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or

danderhi@gmail.com by June 6. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Sherine Boomla

Sunday, June 9

Waimānalo Bicycle Ride (F)

20 mi/Moderate/Rolling hills/
Waimānalo
Reservations required. Explore the back roads of Waimānalo and environs. Helmet required. All types of bicycles welcome. Joanna Alexander joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, 223-6993, Colleen Soares

Sunday, June 16

Kokokahi (F)

5 mi/Moderate/Strenuous/Ridge/
Kāne'ohe
Beautiful panoramic views of Kailua's Kawainui Marsh, Kāne'ohe, and the Ko'olau Mountains ahead. This ridge hike begins at the Friendship Garden and ends at the Veterans Cemetery in Kāne'ohe. Carpooling and shuttle required; limited parking at beginning and end of the hike. Pack a lunch and plenty of water. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Susan Tom, Ronette Morales

Sunday, June 23

Kuli'ou'ou (F)

5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Kuli'ou'ou
This hike begins with numerous switchbacks and a gentle grade up to a shelter followed by a steep ascent and topped off with great views of Waimānalo from the Ko'olau summit. This popular trail has been markedly improved by the addition of 150 steps put in by Sierra Club volunteers in 2010. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

Kaua'i Group Report



Wailua Beach looked like this seven years ago. The shoreline has since moved landward and high waves would now be within 12 feet of the bike path in sections.

with traffic barrier. It is critical to the stability of Kuhio Highway to leave the beach intact and undisturbed. Building a hardened structure on the beach puts the highway at risk when inevitable erosion from sea level rise occurs, creating the need to fortify it with a seawall. If that occurs, Wailua Beach would face the same fate as

one-fourth of the beaches on O'ahu—permanent loss.

County Builds Concrete Path on Wailua Beach

After years of requesting county, state, and federal decision-makers to protect Wailua Beach from a concrete bike/pedestrian path being built along its narrowing upper shores, Kaua'i County began path construction in January. Concrete on beaches is environmentally destructive, and building a concrete path on Wailua Beach, known throughout Hawai'i as one of the most culturally, historically and spiritually significant beaches, fails to respect Native Hawaiian values.

The county may be building the path with an invalid permit. One condition of the county's permit mandates, "Any reduction of the setback from the shoreline to the makai edge of the bike/pedestrian path...shall require approval by the Planning Commission." A new certified shoreline study would have revealed the substantial reduction of setback from the ocean. Since a Planning Commission public hearing was not held as required by law, the validity of the permit is questionable.

There can be no rational justification to build a path on the beach when there was an option to utilize Kuhio Highway's existing makai lane and paved shoulder

fuzzy watercolor renderings, the luxury project's visual impacts on Hanalei's parks and beaches.

Public sentiment was nearly unanimous in opposing Omidyar's proposed desecration of Hanalei's fragile beauty, yet Omidyar remains unmoved and continues to rebuff appeals to meet with community representatives. Instead, his staff persists in trying to create the perceptions that Omidyar's luxury resort is inevitable; that Omidyar's 30-year old permits—some of which have in fact long expired—somehow constitute a "done deal" and that resistance is futile; and most implausibly, that Omidyar's O'ahu development company, rather than the concerned residents of the north shore, has Hanalei's interests at heart.

It has become increasingly clear that instead of agreeing to participate in a collaborative effort to create a development alternative that would protect the Hanalei ridge view plane, Omidyar prefers a long winner-take-all war in which Hanalei is his desired trophy. The Kaua'i Group therefore continues to work with the rest of the community to protect Hanalei's waters, parks, beaches, and view planes from Omidyar's threat.

For more information, including an online petition to protect the Hanalei Ridge from this project, go to savehanaleiriverridge.com.



Prior to dismantlement, an ahu (altar) commemorated Mahunapu'uone Heiau, a culturally sacred site at Wailua Beach.

Update: Billionaire's Threat to Hanalei

The October 2012 *Mālama* reported on O'ahu billionaire Pierre Omidyar's controversial plan to transform Hanalei by lining the ridge above the Hanalei River with dozens of vacation rental mansions. They would dominate and deface the hillside and view plane of Hanalei. By any measure—square footage, number of bedrooms, visual impacts, length of the ridge covered, etc.—the development is unprecedented in scale, ranging from three to six times anything ever built there in the past.

In November, Omidyar's real estate development company made its first public presentation to the north shore community. More than 400 people packed the Hanalei School cafeteria. They reflected the demographics of Kaua'i's north shore communities: old and young, kanaka maoli, kama'aina, and malihini. Although they came to learn about the project's impacts on Hanalei, Omidyar's representatives devoted less than three minutes of its 40-minute presentation to that topic; and the development company continued to disguise, with deceptive

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. Donations for others: \$5. Check out our website: hi.sierraclub.org/Kauai/index.html Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.

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

Sunday, April 14

Maha'ulepu/South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F)
Enjoy the majestic, rugged ancient sand-dune area of Maha'ulepu. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, April 20

Earth Weekend Beach Cleanup
Maha'ulepu Beach Cleanup. Sierra Club, Mālama Maha'ulepu, and Surfrider team up to remove beach litter. Join us to protect seabirds, marine life, and the reefs. Follow Poipu Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to T-intersection, turn right. Look for banners at parking area. Bring sunscreen, hat, and water. Bags, gloves, & refreshments provided. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, April 21

Earth Weekend Hike
Alakai Swamp Trail Koke'e/West side/Very strenuous/ 7 miles (C/E).
A chance to see native rain forest and bogs with views—hopefully—of the North Shore from 4,000 feet. See a variety of native plants and birds. 4-wheel drive needed to carpool to trail head. Jane Schmitt 826-6105.

Wednesday, April 24

Earth Week Cleanup - 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 346-0476

Saturday, April 27

Makaha Ridge Koke'e
Easy-Moderate/2.5 miles.
A pleasant walk through pine forest with

ocean and valley views. Bob Greene 245-9280

Saturday, May 4

Nawiliwili Lighthouse Coastal Walk
Moderate 3 miles (C/E/F)
Hike from Kalapaki Beach to Nawiliwili Lighthouse, then along the coast to Hanama'ulu Bay with shuttle to return, mostly flat and easy walking. Enjoy spectacular views along the rugged coast. Ken Fasig 346-1229

Sunday, May 5

Jungle Hike ('Ili'li'ula)
East side /Strenuous/7.5 miles.
An all-day hike that starts with a fairly easy stroll along the North Wailua ditch system trail to the upcountry weir on the 'Ili'li'ula Stream. Tabis are highly recommended for the next portion of the hike, which consists of rock-hopping up the 'Ili'li'ula Stream. 4-wheel drive necessary. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sunday, May 12

Hanakapi'ai Falls
North Shore/Strenuous/8 miles.
Hike begins at Ke'e Beach following the Kalalau Trail for 2 miles to Hanakapi'ai Beach, then continuing inland 2 more miles to the falls. The scenery is beautiful and the falls are spectacular. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Saturday, May 18

Honopu/Koke'e/Strenuous/ 5 miles (C/E)
Ridge hike in Koke'e with panoramic views all down Na Pali coast. Stunning views down to Honopu valley. Bob Greene 245-9280.

Sunday, May 19

Maha'ulepu / South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F)
Enjoy the majestic, rugged ancient sand-dune area of Maha'ulepu. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Wednesday, May 22

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. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Sunday, May 26

Okolehau Trail /North Shore/Strenuous/4 miles (C/E)
An afternoon hike climbs 1,200' along a

ridge behind Hanalei Valley for beautiful, sweeping views of the North Shore. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

Saturday, June 1

Jewel of Koke'e/Strenuous/7 miles (C/E)
Spectacular hike through forest of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sunday, June 9

Maha'ulepu / South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F)
Enjoy the majestic, rugged ancient sand-dune area of Maha'ulepu. Visit the sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, June 15

Mohihi — Waialae Trail/Koke'e/Difficult/ 8 miles (C/F)
This trail crosses Mohihi Stream and follows Kohua Ridge into the Alakai Wilderness Preserve, then continues through native forest to the Koaie Stream. Bob Greene 245-9280.

Friday, June 21

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

Saturday, June 22

Maha'ulepu sunset to full moon walk/South Shore/Moderate/3.5 miles (C/E/F)
Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck Beach walking along the coast to Maha'ulepu to enjoy the sunset and a full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk! We'll shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, June 23

North Shore Bike Ride/ Moderate/ 18 miles (C/F)
Ride the scenic north shore from Hanalei to Ke'e with spectacular coastal views the whole way. Must bring or rent a bike and helmet. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Saturday, June 29

Kuilau Ridge Trail /East side/moderate/3.5 miles (C/F)
Beautiful forested hike with sweeping mountain and valley views. Great reward for moderate effort. Erica Watson/Denny Jackson 647-0727

Maui Group Report & Outings

Here on Maui we've been working on some great projects. We have exceptional volunteers who are dedicated to preserving and protecting our home. Even in the midst of ongoing legal efforts we have been planning fun activities for the whole community.

Our annual meeting this February was a success. We heard from our legislators and honored heroes of the environment. The 'Onipa'a award went to Clare Apana for her dedication to cultural advocacy and Michael Howden for his support for water rights and sustainable agriculture. This year Sierra Club Maui awarded Chris Hart posthumously with the Ike Imua award. Hart, who passed in November, dedicated himself to planning Maui's parks, bikeways, and open spaces as well as guiding the original draft of the Maui Island Plan. The Mālama i ka 'Aina award went

to Mark Hyde for his leadership in advocating for proper planning and permitting for a proposed outlet mall in North Kihei. For his untiring and dedicated work at clearing invasives and replanting native species in the Kanaha Beach area Mike Perry was given the Mālama Kahakai award.

We recently hosted another guided Star Watch with Harriet Witt. Check out our hike and event schedule to find more exciting adventures: mauisierraclub.org/?page_id=19

Speaking of exciting adventures, be sure to join us for the Haiku Ho'laule'a flower festival April 20. We will be fundraising by selling native, landscape, and edible plants at our booth. If you have time, stop by to chat. Volunteer or contact me at chair@mauisierraclub.org to donate plants and starts for the event.

Thanks to our collective voices we've been able to convince our legislators that a repeal of the PLDC is

in order. Throughout the islands Sierra Club, Local 5's Aikea movement, and other organizations joined together for a door-knocking campaign to raise awareness about the PLDC and ask people to sign a petition for repeal. Our actions were successful in getting PLDC repeals passed in both the Senate and the House. While there are bills that look very similar to the PLDC being passed around, we have educated the community and our legislators about the dangers of bypassing environmental rules and planning and zoning guidelines and cutting the people out of the decision-making process.

Keep up the good work, everybody. Join our email list and Facebook page, and check the website for more details: mauisierraclub.org

Chris Taylor
Chair, Maui Group

Limit 20. Leader: Archaeologist Dr. Janet Six. Assistant: Lucienne de Naie. Register: Janet Six sixjanet@gmail.com or 344-0566.



Peahi Archaeological Tour Part II

Saturday, April 20
Haiku Ho'olaulea and Maui Group Plant Sale (Haiku)

Celebrate Earth Day 2013, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Haiku Community Center. Plant donations welcome, especially food plants. To donate: Chris Taylor mauichris@gmail.com

Maui Group Outings



Haiku Ho'olaulea and Maui Group Plant Sale

Sunday, April 28
Kanaio Historical Hike and Visit to Tibetan Stupa (C/E)

D=2 mi R/T. Steep .7 mile-trail to stupa. Stops at other historical sites. Meet at 9 a.m. at Keokea Park in Kula. Bring water, lunch/snack, hat. Limit 20. Leader Lucienne de Naie. Register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Monday, May 13
Palauea Preserve Historical Hike (C/E)
D=1 mi R/T. Rugged lava terrain. Explore remains of ancient fishing village with optional swim and lunch at Palauea beach across the street. Meet at 9 a.m. at Polo Beach Parking lot. Bring water, hat, walking stick, lunch/snacks. Limit 20. Leader: Archaeologist Dr. Janet Six. Assistant:

Lucienne de Naie. Register: Janet Six sixjanet@gmail.com or 344-0566.

Friday, May 24

Pilale Bay/ Halehaku Village Hike (C/E)
D=3 mi R/T, some steep slopes. Peaceful, scenic, historically significant bay overlooked by Halehaku Heiau. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Haiku Community Center. Very limited parking at site. Bring picnic lunch/snack, walking sticks, and footwear suitable for muddy jungle trails and stream crossings. Ocean swim possible if weather cooperates. Limit: 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Saturday, June 1
National Trails Day Coastal Hike: Maliko Overlook to Pauwela Park (C/E)

D=4 mi R/T, varied terrain. Spectacular views. Explore a future public access coastal trail on private land in future ag subdivision. Meet at 9 a.m. at Haiku Community Center. Bring water, hat, camera, sturdy footwear. Limit: 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Saturday, June 15
Makapipi Trail Hike
D=4 mi. Varied terrain. Explore historic Ko'olau Ditch from Makapipi to Kopili'ula Stream. Scenic vistas, pools, waterfalls, and native plant life. During the hike we must cross several bridges with no handrails, so if heights bother you, we recommend not coming on this hike. EMI waiver required (see above); must bring waiver on hike. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Leader: Miranda Camp. Register: mauimiranda@hotmail.com or 264-5640



Kaheawa Wind Farm Native Planting Trip (previous outing)

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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

East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows us to hike across their beautiful land so long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI waiver is absolutely required for EMI hikes (listed below). One waiver covers all EMI hikes for this quarter. Call in your waiver request to Kawika or Mark at 579-9516 well in advance to make an appointment for when you can sign it. Then go to EMI's Pa'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. Waivers cannot be mailed, faxed, or emailed. Please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up waiver 5 days in advance whenever possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.

Friday, April 12
Kaupo Historical Tour (Ulupalakua to Nu'u) (C/E)
D=30 mi R/T. Caravan by car and stop for short hikes. Amazing native plants, historical sites. Views and commentary by noted botanist and historian Bob Hobdy. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Keokea Park in upper Kula. Bring lunch, water. Limit 20. Special donation \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Register: Lucienne de Naie: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Sunday, April 14
Peahi Archaeological Tour Part II (Haiku area) (C/E)
D=4 mi R/T. Rigorous hike along stream gulches and coastal trails. Hiking shoes/boots required, long pants, sun hat, walking stick recommended. Bring bug spray, sunscreen, water, and lunch. Meet at 9 a.m. Haiku Community Center.

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

Conservation and Service

To support the effort to increase mamane forest habitat for the endangered palila, we are offering a 3-day service trip with Mauna Kea Forest Project on April 26, 27, and 28. Our service may include planting, watering, and collecting mamane seeds at Pu'u Mali on the Waimea side of Mauna Kea. During our last service trip, we collected 33 pounds of green mamane seedpods to go to Keauhou Conservation Center, which breeds palila. This trip is open to participants from off island; we try to accommodate airport transportation. There is a small fee for central commissary meals. To reserve a space on this trip, contact leader Diane Ware at (808) 967-8642.

The Moku Loa Group has commented several times in the past year on opportunities to protect and conserve Hawai'i's ecosystems. We have supported U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposals to significantly enlarge the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge and the state's proposed management plans for Ka'u Forest Reserve and Kulani NARS. We have supported the fencing of high-quality upper forest areas (wao akua) based on scientific data and our personal experiences doing service in these fenced areas. We also support efforts to finish the fencing around Mauna Kea and exclude ungulates from the palila critical habitat. With less than 2,000 birds on the mountain, the future of the palila is still fragile.

Diane Ware
Outings Chair

Geothermal Update

Right now the action is at the state legislature. HB106 House Draft 2 and other bills seek to restore the geothermal subzone process and

community participation in decisions that may bring industrial pollution into residential areas. Events can happen fast.

Why should you be concerned about the current HELCO proposal to add 50 megawatts (MW) more of geothermal-produced electricity on island? Because it is happening in a regulatory climate that favors accelerating the pace towards renewable energy while reducing protections for residents and the environment.

Isn't that a good trade-off, you ask? It depends on whether there are impacts to residents and how much industrialization the environment can take.

Currently, development will focus around the existing facility in lower Puna, because that is where the proven resource is. The slopes of Hualalai are also targeted for exploration (and development, if an economic resource is found).

The county recently ran out of money to buy out residents who have been adversely impacted by geothermal pollution in lower Puna. The resolution to this monetary shortfall will likely color future development areas.

Also affecting future energy development will be the outcome of a geothermal health study conducted by Peter Adler. Will it be window dressing or substantive advancement? Stay tuned.

See punapono.com or subscribe to newsletter@punapono.com if you want timely updates from the people who are currently affected by geothermal energy. This group also has an educational booth at Lower Puna Maku'u Farmers' Market on Sundays.

Nelson Ho
Chair, Moku Loa Group

Environmental Scholars Recognized

The Sierra Club's Moku Loa Group celebrated its twenty-sixth anniversary of providing Science Fair awards to promising scholars of Hawai'i Island at the Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair. The following five students were recognized for outstanding research related to Hawai'i's environment:

- Hilda Friday from Hilo High School for her project entitled "Investigating How Pollution Affects Ocean Life"
- Craig Okahara-Olsen of Waiakea Intermediate School for a "Comparison of Arsenic Levels in Different Regions of Wailoa River"
- James Iaukea from Pahoa High and Intermediate School for "Can Bioplastics Revive the Sugar Industry in Hawai'i?"
- Mikiko Takato of Hilo High School for "Particle Segregation in Horizontally Swirling Granular Materials"
- Dylan Giardina from Hilo High School for "Sourcing Bacteria in Reeds Bay"

The students each received certificates and checks for \$50. Mahalo to Phil Barnes, Frans Sy, Tom Sy, and Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers for volunteering to judge the exhibits and select the winners. Tax-deductible donations to support the Science Fair may be made to Sierra Club Foundation (MLG) and mailed to the club c/o Moku Loa Group, P.O. Box 1137, Hilo, HI 96721.

Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers
Secretary

Moku Loa Group Outings

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

D = distance, the estimated round trip for the day
E = elevation in feet. + is gain, - is loss, +/- is up and down.
Classification of Hikes: (E) = Education/ Interpretation (C) Conservation (F) Family/ Fun (S) Service.

For most hikes, bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html

Saturday, April 13

Lokoaka Trails Service Day (C, E, F, S)
Help clear trails to pristine lagoons. Wear work clothes. Tools, gloves, and mosquito repellent provided. D = 2 miles, E = sea level. Leader Sarah Moon 935-3475

Friday, April 19

Earth Day Celebration at Hawai'i Community College, Manono Campus
To volunteer at the 25th annual Earth Day Fair, contact brashear@hawaii.edu, or call 966-7002.

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28

Pu'u Mali Mauna Kea Forest Service with DLNR (C, E, S)
Stay on Mauna Kea in tent cabins and help restore mamane/naio forest. Fee for central commissary. Leader Diane Ware 967-8642

Saturday, May 25

Ainapo Trail to Halawai Cabin Dayhike (E)
D = 6 miles, E = +/- 2,100'. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9

Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge Service (C, E, S)
Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, June 8

Wood Valley Road Hike (E, F)
D = 4 miles, E = +/- 200'. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, June 29

Kulani Trail Day Hike (E)
D = 8 miles, E = +/- 1,000'. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387.



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

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Chapter Directory



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

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chair..... Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers • brashear@hawaii.edu
 Vice Chair..... Lucienne de Naie • laluz@maui.net
 Treasurer..... Helen Chong • hc945@yahoo.com
 Secretaries..... Sheila Sarhangi • writetosheila@gmail.com & Lucienne de Naie • laluz@maui.net
 Hawai'i Service Trip Program..... Janice Marsters • janicem@lava.net
 High School Hikers..... Bob Keane • 623-3208 • keaner001@hawaii.rr.com
 Kua'i Group..... Rayne Regush • raynereregush@aol.com
 Maui Group..... Chris Taylor • mauichris@gmail.com
 Moku Loa Group..... Nadine Robertson • nrobert506@aol.com
 O'ahu Group..... Steven Montgomery • manninga001@hawaii.rr.com
 At-Large..... Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers • brashear@hawaii.edu
 At-Large..... Lucienne de Naie • laluz@maui.net
 At-Large..... Scott Glenn • scotchglenn@gmail.com
 At-Large..... Nicole Lowen • nlowen@gmail.com
 At-Large..... Jennifer Lucien • jen.lucien@gmail.com
 At-Large..... Malama Minn • malama55@yahoo.com
 At-Large..... Sheila Sarhangi • writetosheila@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

HIGH SCHOOL HIKERS PROGRAM

President..... Erron Yoshioka • miki_yosh@yahoo.com
 Vice-President..... John M. Cummings III • jcumings@honolulu.gov
 Secretary, Newsletter..... Pauline Kawamata • volunteer@hawaiinaturecenter.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..... Albert Perez • makaleha63@yahoo.com
 Member..... Matt LoPresti • matt_lopresti@yahoo.com
 Member..... Blake McElheny • blakemcelheny@yahoo.com
 Member..... Leilei Shih • joyshih@hawaii.edu

KAUA'I GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Outings, Beach Protection, Public Access..... Judy Dalton • judydalton123@gmail.com • 246-9067
 Conservation..... David Dinner • gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
 Conservation, Membership..... Marge Freeman • mfreeman5@hawaii.rr.com
 Conservation, Helicopter Noise..... Carl Imparato • carl.imparato@uno.com
 Conservation, Land Use..... Rayne Regush • raynereregush@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

Chair..... Chris Taylor • chris@mauiconsulting.com • 385-3495
 Secretary..... Karen Chun • karen@karenchun.com
 Treasurer..... Linda Puppolo • lmindede@gmail.com
 Director..... Nancy McPherson • nanimcp7684@gmail.com
 Energy Chair & Director..... Daniel Grantham • 572-4571 • dannyg@hawaiiantel.net
 Director..... John Bruce • jonthebru@gmail.com
 Director..... Dottie Binder • kuladot@hawaii.rr.com
 Director..... Michael Duberstein • ilivai34@hawaii.rr.com
 Director..... Lucienne de Naie • laluz@maui.net
 Director..... Janet Six • six@hawaii.edu
 Outings Chair..... Miranda Camp • mauimiranda@hotmail.com

MOKU LOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Chair..... Nelson Ho • 933-2650 • nho.hoku@gmail.com
 Vice Chair & Fundraising..... Nadine K. Robertson • nrobert506@aol.com
 Secretary & Fundraising..... Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers • 966-7002 • brashear@hawaii.edu
 Treasurer..... Malie Larish • malielarish@gmail.com
 Conservation..... Mary Marvin Porter • islandevesvideo@yahoo.com
 Conservation..... Cory Harden • mh@interpac.net
 Conservation..... Janice Palma-Glennie • palmtree7@earthlink.net
 Political..... Cory Harden • mh@interpac.net
 Energy..... Jon Olson • jon631@earthlink.net
 Outings..... Sarah Moon • 935-3475 • jmoon16@hawaii.rr.com
 Outings..... Diane Ware • 967-8642 • volcanogotaway@yahoo.com
 Membership..... Nadine K. Robertson • nrobert506@aol.com
 Newsletter..... Malie Larish • malielarish@gmail.com

Beware the Call of the Coqui



The coqui frog (left), an invasive species that has established populations on Hawai'i Island and should be reported if it is ever heard on O'ahu, and the greenhouse frog (right) that is already widespread on O'ahu and the other main islands. Photo credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture

by Lara Reynolds
Outreach Specialist, O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

Night falls on O'ahu, but the evening silence is broken by a sound that most residents have heard only on public service announcements or trips spent on the east side of the Big Island, "ko-KEE, ko-KEE," as loud as a fire alarm. You may ask yourself, "Is that what I think it is?" Yes, it very well could be the nighttime call of the male coqui frog, a species native to Puerto Rico that was accidentally introduced to the state on imported nursery plants in the late 1980s. O'ahu remains free of established populations of coqui frogs, but individuals continue to make their way here as hitchhikers in shipments from the Big Island, where this invasive species has infested many areas. In partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the state's lead agency in combating coqui frogs, the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) assisted in the capture of 23 coqui frogs in 2012. Although coqui frogs are beloved in their native land of Puerto Rico, they are out of place in Hawai'i where, without the many predators and competitors found in their homeland, their populations can explode. What starts out as a single coqui frog calling

outside your home at night could quickly turn into an earsplitting chorus of many if these fast-reproducing frogs are not reported immediately. One night spent in the vicinity of Hilo exemplifies how dense and disruptive their populations can become if they are not caught early and prevented from establishing. Coqui frogs threaten to deprive O'ahu residents of a good night's sleep and change the island's natural ecosystems by gobbling up large numbers of beneficial insects and altering important nutrient-cycling processes in the environment.

Despite interisland inspections by HDOA, coqui frogs continue to stow away on cargo from Hawai'i Island. Therefore, it is important that O'ahu residents remain vigilant and report coqui frogs to keep the island coqui-free for the long term. If a coqui frog is in your neighborhood, you are more likely to hear it rather than see it. Its loud nighttime call can be heard from dusk until dawn. If you have seen small frogs in your yard, you may be seeing the greenhouse frog, another accidentally introduced frog that is already widespread on O'ahu and is commonly mistaken for the coqui frog. Male greenhouse frogs differ from male coqui frogs in that their nighttime calls are softer and cricket-like, they are smaller in size (less than 1 inch long),

and they have claw-like toes (visit this website for a comparison of coqui and greenhouse frogs: ctahr.hawaii.edu/coqui/differences.asp). If you think you hear a coqui frog on O'ahu, please call the toll-free state Pest Hotline, 643-PEST (643-7378). For more information about invasive species issues and how you can get involved in helping to control incipient invasive species on O'ahu, visit OISC's website oahuisc.org.



The coqui frog, cute, but noisy.



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April - June 2013

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