



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

JOURNAL OF THE SIERRA CLUB, HAWAI'I CHAPTER

A Quarterly Newsletter

January - March 2012

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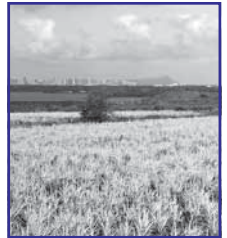
Get Out and Hike Hawai'i!



Great chapter outings including a new yoga & hike.

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Get the latest news on what's happening on your island.

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Sierra Club Advances Green Policies

by Robert Harris

The Hawai'i Legislature goes back to work on January 19, in what looks to be a challenging atmosphere for the environment. The state financial situation remains weak after several years of historic budget shortfalls. As a result, many departments and programs that serve the environment are underfunded and understaffed. There is also growing pressure from developers to eliminate environmental regulations in the name of "workforce development."

Remember the ol' saying when the going gets tough, the tough get going? Below are three concepts we believe can be passed—with your support—this year.

Moving Hawai'i Beyond Coal

Ever read a report recommending you limit the amount of seafood and fish you eat because of their toxic mercury content? Although it affects everyone, pregnant women and children are at greatest risk from mercury exposure from seafood and fish. Exposure to mercury can contribute to severe birth defects, including learning disabilities, delayed onset of walking and talking, and cerebral palsy. Every year 300,000 infants are born at risk for developmental defects because of their mother's exposure to toxic mercury pollution.

Many people are astonished to find out that Hawai'i contributes

to this problem by burning coal on O'ahu and Maui. The AES Hawai'i coal plant, in particular, produces approximately 11 percent of the energy used on O'ahu and burns approximately 650,000 tons of coal each year. It also spills mercury, acid gases, and arsenic into our local air and water.

Dirty coal should have no part to play in Hawai'i's sustainable and clean energy future.

We can ensure that coal gets "retired" from our energy supply by passing legislation that prevents the construction of any new coal plants and requires current plants to be retired once their current contracts end. If you support this

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





FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and imagine where we want to be in the future.

So let's reflect. Thanks to your help and support, the Sierra Club achieved a great deal in 2011. Nationally, we helped stop the dirty Keystone pipeline, put 10 percent of the nation's coal plants on the path towards early

retirement, and protected thousands of miles of public lands and forests. The Sierra Club's success led to momentum-building support, like a contribution of \$50 million from the Bloomberg foundation, that will support and ramp up our ongoing efforts to move the United States beyond coal.

Here in Hawai'i the Sierra Club stopped efforts to eliminate environmental regulations as a means to increase urban sprawl, protected hundreds of acres of important agricultural land by stopping the proposed Koa Ridge development plan, and pushed forward with the creation of a program to finance clean energy at the residential and commercial level. We also created a new endowment program in honor of Lorin T. Gill and in support of the ideals he espoused, which will support the development of new environmental leaders through our hiking and service activities.

Our accomplishments are notable and impressive, particularly for a local chapter that exists on a relatively tiny budget and limited staffing.

And yet our accomplishments don't begin to address all of the immense challenges Hawai'i faces in the near future, problems like the catastrophic impacts of climate change, an economy built entirely on an overreliance on fossil fuels, and a rampant development industry that's focused on a build-everywhere mentality.

How do we build a better and more sustainable future for Hawai'i?

We believe that the more local leaders we have, the more powerful the Sierra Club and the environmental movement becomes.

That's why your Hawai'i Chapter has placed such efforts on building our Capitol Watch program as a means to train and empower future leaders to advance sustainable policy. That's why we've put money into hiring a volunteer coordinator to expand the Club's traditional basis of volunteer engagement: our outings programs, such as our Hawai'i Service Trip and High School Hikers programs.

But ultimately these efforts need your support. If you believe in a true grassroots organization that brings about real change, I hope you'll join us. Consider making an end of the year donation (www.sierraclubhawaii.org/donate). Attend our Forces for Good Symposium on January 7 (www.sierraclubhawaii.org/forgood). Volunteer with us and encourage others to do so as well.

Ultimately, this is your Club. Together we can ensure that our list of 2012 accomplishments includes laying some of the important building blocks of a cleaner and brighter future for Hawai'i.

Hope to see you on the trail... - Robert D. Harris



Mālama I Ka Honua

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Sierra Club Green Policies

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concept, consider sending an email to your legislator asking her/him to prioritize this concept this year.

Local Food Production for Local Consumption

Hawai'i currently imports approximately 92 percent of its food. This overreliance on imported foods has a significant and detrimental environmental impact on Hawai'i: from the rampant urban sprawl built on agricultural land and high greenhouse gas emissions to assorted health problems related to a diet based on processed foods.

We can do better. Hawai'i used to grow a much larger percentage of its own food. Even though we now have more residents and less agricultural land available to us, most experts agree that we can learn from our past and incorporate new modern sustainability concepts to ensure a much higher level of local food production for residents.

To go anywhere, however, we must have a vision of where we want to go. That's why we support legislation that prioritizes local food production and establishes specific targets for local consumption: say, 20 percent of local food consumed must be locally grown by 2020, 30 percent by 2030, and 40 percent by 2040. Directing the state to meet these goals would require local land use planning, creating appropriate tax incentives, and reducing urban sprawl on an increasingly scarce resource: good farmland. Careful planning and a specific direction have long been absent from state planning, which still focuses on plantation export crops like sugarcane and pineapple.

Goals don't occur on their own. That's why the proposed legislation includes a moratorium on new land development on agricultural land larger than 50 acres unless the self-sufficiency goals are met.

Relying on the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture estimates, this concept could generate a billion dollars in new sales for our businesses, 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.

This concept could be a tremendous job creator over time, with the added benefit of protecting open space and improving the health of our community and environment.

Ending the Scourge of Paper and Plastic Bags

In recent years, plastic bags have been banned in a number of U.S. cities and counties, including Maui and Kauai. These bags are made from petroleum, take centuries to break down in the landfill, and cause harm to Hawai'i's fragile marine life.

Paper bags are no better. While the material (trees) used to make them is renewable, it takes over four times more energy to manufacture a paper bag than a plastic one. Most paper bags are buried in landfills too deeply (no oxygen) to decompose. Bulkier than plastic bags, they end up consuming more landfill space.

Single-use paper and plastic bags can easily be replaced by inexpensive, reusable bags. That's why the Sierra Club has supported a small fee on most single-use bags used in Hawai'i. This proposal is a win-win solution. Businesses spend between 1 and 10 cents for each paper or plastic bag, which are then distributed for free. A nominal fee on single-use bags not only benefits the environment, but

This much mercury can contaminate a 20-acre lake

U.S. coal-fired power plants produce 48 tons of it each year



<http://sc.org/ThisMuch>

businesses and consumers as well. Reduction in overhead expenses helps the profits of big and small businesses, some of which they may pass on to their customers. Since pollution knows no boundaries, the more bags we eliminate on the front end, the better our whole state will be for swimming, fishing, hiking, and enjoyment of our parks and waterways.

Last year, this bill made it to the last conference committee, where it remains; it could be passed this year if action is taken. If you support this bill, please consider contacting Senators Gabbard, Fukunaga, Ige, Baker, English, and Kouchi and Representatives Coffman, McKelvey, M. Oshiro, Chong, Hashem, Tokioka, and Thielen and asking them to pass Senate Bill 1363.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- (1) Look at the extensive resources available at our Capitol Watch website (link available at www.sierraclubhawaii.org). Sign up for a weekly alert called the "Insider" (click "Capitol Watch" on the email sign-up form).
- (2) Contact your legislator on any of these proposals and ask him/her to support these bills (and contact the Sierra Club for more information).



FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Aloha to you all. In this season of thanksgiving, let us give thanks for friends, family and especially be thankful for living in one of the most beautiful places on this planet. The Sierra Club is there to help protect these special places. I speak for the Hawai'i Chapter in thanking Mark Glick, former chapter chair, for his continued service to the Sierra Club and wish him much success in his new position as head of the State Energy Office. The Hawai'i Chapter is stronger today because of Mark's expertise and his contributions, particularly on energy issues.

A Big Mahalo to Carl Pope, former Executive Director and Chairman of the National Sierra Club, who recently announced he was stepping down after 38 years of service to the Club. I am fortunate to have known Carl as a friend. He is a compassionate leader and always knows the right thing to say. He is assertive, articulate, and eloquent, a truly brilliant individual. Alliances are the key to environmental progress, and Carl Pope dialogued and "built bridges" with many key players in Washington and abroad during his tenure. Mahalo Carl Pope for your amazing insight and encouragement. You have inspired so many of us to continue to fight for clean energy, water, and air and to stop Congress from rescinding the many clean initiatives of the 1970s. I encourage all members to participate in your Club. Join us on Facebook, become a monthly pledge donor or an outings participant or leader. We can use your expertise, so make 2012 the year you become more personally involved. Take a hike, attend the Forces for Good Symposium, be part of the Capitol Watch, contact your legislators, and lastly do not forget to vote in 2012. Environmental change begins at home. Get involved. Explore the special places of our islands and help protect them for future generations.

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter Conservation Committee Members Needed

Chapter Conservation chairs Debbie Ward and Lucienne de Naie are soliciting members to form a statewide conservation committee that would take up some of the following:

- Issues that cross island boundaries, such as DLNR mammal hunting rules, and more
- Envision and propose legislative action that will affect more than one island, such as invasive species and GMO labeling
- Take the initiative on statewide policy issues, such as land use, agriculture/open space, energy
- Training, as needed, on environmental law, strategies, and resources
- Others as suggested

We propose to set up an informal working group, with members identified by island, interests, and expertise. Members would prioritize issues and identify working group members, involve Capitol Watch members/champions, and interact with Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee members. We propose to meet by conference call for specific issues and are considering meeting quarterly before Executive Committee meetings (some members may be on both committees) and to report to that committee with action items quarterly. If you, or people you know, are interested, please contact Debbie Ward at dward@hawaii.edu.

The Conservation co-chairs recently provided a letter of support to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture supporting the planned release of a biocontrol agent to reduce the reproductive efficiency of the strawberry guava, which is invading the native forests on all islands and imperiling the watersheds.

Become a Sierra Club Outings Leader

The Hawai'i Chapter is seeking new Outings Leaders interested in creating new outings themes on all islands. If you are interested in becoming a leader and connecting people to the outdoors and ocean environment, please email Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Homcy at jenhomcy@sierraclubhawaii.com.



Congratulations to Mark Glick

Mark was the Chair of Sierra Club Hawai'i when he was tapped to become the administrator of the State Energy Office in October. We all wish him well as he works toward the goal of our state's achieving 70 percent clean energy by 2030.

Living the Greentech Revolution in Hawai'i

For Compass, a national Sierra Club blog about clean energy found at <http://sierraclub.org>, Brian Foley interviewed Hawai'i State Rep. K. Mark Takai about his family's conversion to photovoltaic energy to power first their house and then an electric car. Here are the highlights of that interview.



Rep. Mark Takai, who represents Aiea and Pearl City, attributes his interest in solar energy to his tour with the Hawai'i Army National Guard in Kuwait in 2009, where he found himself wondering about the connection between our country fighting wars in the Middle East and Hawai'i spending \$7 billion a year importing foreign oil. When he returned, he and his wife,

Sami, took the first step away from reliance on fossil fuel by installing 12 solar panels on the roof of their home. In five months they saw their electric bill drop from \$170 to the minimum monthly charge of \$18.

Next they bought a Nissan Leaf, adding 10 panels to power the car. Switching to an electric vehicle was rather dramatic, particularly because their previous car averaged only 20 mpg. As Takai says, "Driving by our local gas stations has been quite liberating." He isn't troubled by the "range anxiety" that afflicts some EV drivers, because his commute averages 50 miles per day, whereas he can store 80 miles in the Leaf--if he remembers to plug it in at night. Takai estimates that they save \$180 in electricity and \$240 in gasoline a month, so that the PV system pays for itself in about two years.

The whole family has gotten into the energy revolution. They have changed light bulbs to CFLs, installed windows that admit cooling tradewinds, and bought a new refrigerator using the rebate program.

With the kids' help, the family recycles all glass, plastics, and aluminum containers—and the kitchen waste, which goes to an earthworm bin. They even raise vegetables and golden perch in a hydroponics garden. In terms of greentech, Hawai'i is a leader, says Takai. We might say the same about him.

Be a FORCE for Good with the Sierra Club!

Space is limited, but we're holding your seat for two exciting events:

- Paina O Ka Aina - Join the Sierra Club for a delightful dinner with local food and live entertainment at the spectacular Downtown Restaurant. **Cost \$60**
- Forces for Good Symposium - Help envision Hawai'i's green future! Headlined by Bill McKibben, this comprehensive program includes panels focused on clean energy, food self-sufficiency, and watershed preservation. **Cost \$25 (includes t-shirt)!**



Saturday, January 7, 2012
Noon - 5:30 p.m.
Forces for Good Symposium
State Capitol

6:00 pm - 8:30 p.m.
Paina O Ka Aina,
Downtown Restaurant

Register online now for both events and receive a discounted rate of \$75!

www.sierraclubhawaii.com/forgood



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- John Muir

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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

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Nate's Adventures



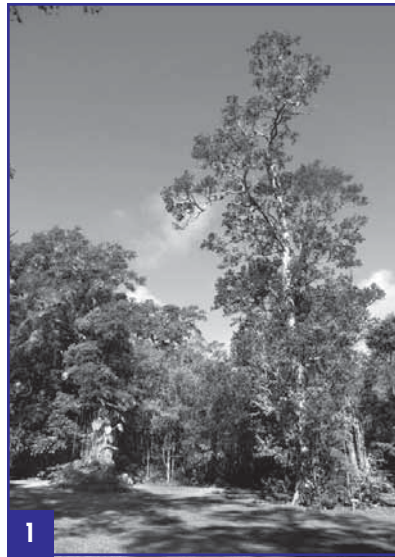
by Nate Yuen



This past summer I hiked the native forest trail in Kalōpā State Park on the Hāmākua Coast of Hawai'i Island. Whenever I drive the coast, I like to visit the native forest to see what might be in bloom.

Kalōpā State Park has a nice grassy lawn with large 'ōhi'a trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*), some of them 80 to 100 feet tall. (1)

The native forest at Kalōpā is an "island" surrounded by forests of introduced trees, agricultural land, and a grassy park with picnic tables, pavilions, and cabins. One of my favorite things to do is to hike the short .7 mile native



forest trail which loops through some of the last remaining intact kopiko forests. (2)

Kopiko trees (*Psychotria sp.*) are endemic to Hawai'i and grow to impressive size at



Kalōpā—up to 35 feet high. On O'ahu, I rarely see kopiko grow taller than 8 feet and they merely dot the landscape. Kalōpā is the only place I know where kopiko is the dominant tree. (3)



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.



Kopiko have bright green leaves that literally glow in the canopy when illuminated by the sun. (4)

Indigenous kupukupu and palapalai ferns thrive in the understory beneath the forest of native trees. Palapalai ferns (*Microlepia strigosa*) grow to impressive size at Kalōpā and are among the largest palapalai fronds I have ever seen. (5)

One of my favorite things to examine up close are the



underside of hapu'u fern fronds (*Cibotium glauca*) with the sunlight shining through—what a magnificent sight! (6)

While making my way around the loop and back to the park, I saw several 'ōhi'a trees (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) in bloom with red, yellow, and orange lehua flowers.

Native hibiscus trees have been planted in the park. I enjoyed seeing many koki'o ke'oke'o trees (*Hibiscus arnottianus*)—some almost 20 feet high—with dozens of white flowers 4-6 inches across with long red staminal columns and yellow-orange pollen. (7)

Even more charming were the 3-inch flowers of koki'o 'ula'ula (*Hibiscus clayi*), whose petals sometimes curl backwards. The trees are endangered in the wild and can only be found in scattered valleys on Kaua'i. (8)

Ma'o hau hele is the official state flower of Hawai'i and was once found in dry forests and shrub lands of all the major



islands. But the tree has become so rare—it is now on the federal list of endangered species—that I have never seen them in the wild, only in botanical gardens and parks such as Kalōpā where they have been planted. (9)

As I drove back to Hilo, I reflected on my good fortune at seeing the distinctive forest of kopiko trees, beautiful ferns in the understory, and rare hibiscus in the park. What a great place to visit!



Law Setting Up PLDC May Require Fixing, Though Deputy Attorney General Denies It

One of the more controversial bills of the 2011 legislative session, Act 55 (Senate Bill 1555) established a new agency, the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC), authorizing it to develop public lands in order to generate revenue. Concerns arose because the corporation is exempt from complying with state land use law and county zoning and subdivision standards and it creates an agency with the express purpose of developing public land. **Patricia Tummons of Environment Hawai'i delves into the provisions of the act.**

Ever since Governor Abercrombie signed legislation establishing the Public Land Development Corporation, confusion has grown over what the law does and does not allow.

Part of that arises from the difference between the way the act's sponsors and the bill's critics interpret its provisions. According to Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, its co-sponsor along with Sen. Malama Solomon, the PLDC will allow projects using state land to zoom through the long and arduous permitting process. The idea is that the state will pony up land and assure expedited approvals, the private developers will contribute money, and everyone (especially the cash-strapped Department of Land and Natural Resources) will benefit from improved public parks and facilities as well as from having public lands now underutilized used more productively.

Critics of the law say it bypasses too many of the desirable checks on development, such as approvals from the Land Use Commission, consistency with county plans and zoning, and subdivision conditions.

But when one looks carefully at Act 55, it is difficult not to notice a crippling contradiction that makes it unlikely the PLDC can inch forward with any development – at least on lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources – unless substantial changes are passed by the Legislature.

The DLNR controls the vast majority of state lands that could be available to developers. Yet Section 4(b) of Act 55 – plugged into the act at the last minute, when the bill was in conference committee—seems to preclude the PLDC from doing anything on such lands that might require using the land itself as security for financing. About all the Land Board can do is transfer “development rights” to the PLDC and its co-developers; whether they are comfortable moving forward on that basis alone, or whether they would even be able to do so, is an open question. Section 16(b) does say that the DLNR can lease suitable lands to the PLDC, but 4(b), which applies “notwithstanding” any other provisions in the act, would seem to trump 16(b). Confusing the matter further still is an exception to the 4(b) prohibitions, for actions “as expressly provided in this chapter.” If the long list of prohibited actions means anything, the only DLNR lands that would seem to be subject to transfer to PLDC control are the small boat harbors. The law sets forth a specific timetable for their transfer.

Other public lands managed by other public agencies – for example, the Department of Education, the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (Kaka'ako), the University of Hawai'i – may also be developed by the PLDC in partnership with private entities, if the state agencies are willing. These lands, unlike

those managed by the DLNR, are not covered by the same strict prohibitions on encumbrance. They are, however, subject to general restrictions on the purposes to which the land may be put.

The deputy attorney general advising the PLDC, Linda Chow, also seems to have been confused, at least early on, about the corporation's powers. At its second meeting, Chow advised the board that the law would have to be amended before it could begin to work the way Dela Cruz envisioned. An apparent conflict with Chapter 171 (the state law governing leases on public lands) was one of the reasons she gave. But a few weeks later, Chow wrote the senator, advising him that there was nothing in the law that would prevent lands from being transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the PLDC. In her letter, Chow did not address the restrictions listed in Section 4(b).

Chow also responded to a series of questions from Makana Paris of the Iron Workers Stabilization Fund concerning exemptions allowed by Act 55, which had been forwarded to her by Dela Cruz. Here are a few of Paris's questions, with Chow's responses:

- In relation to special improvement district assessments, can the PLDC disregard all state statutes? Paris asked. Chow's answer: Yes.
- Is the PLDC bound by land use laws, including Chapter 205 (regarding the Land Use Commission) and county zoning ordinances? It is not, according to Chow.
- Do PLDC projects have to comply with national construction standards or receive county building permits? No, Chow said, although it may choose to do so.
- Can the PLDC move forward with a project even if the county does not grant permits for it? Yes, said Chow.
- Does the exemption from so many requirements “unduly allow public safety to be put into jeopardy?”

“No,” Chow wrote. “Although Act 55 exempts PLDC projects from many laws and construction standards, the PLDC may choose to follow the laws and construction standards... [T]here is no reason to believe that the PLDC will permit projects to be developed in an

unsafe fashion.”

Before all else, the PLDC is supposed to develop a Public Lands Optimization Plan, identifying those lands ripe for development. However, the Legislature provided no funds for this. Instead, the appropriation of roughly \$140,000 is

barely enough to hire an executive director. (In November, the PLDC approved hiring Lloyd Haraguchi to fill this position.)

For a longer discussion of Act 55, see the August 2011 edition of *Environment Hawai'i* at www.environment-hawaii.org.



Planting Native

by Rick Barboza

Koki'o

Hibiscus koki'o sub sp. st. johnianus
“Hibiscus St. John's” or “St. John's Hibiscus”

Endemic: Kaua'i only

Description: Okay, if you can find a more beautiful hibiscus species than this one I gotta see it to believe it. I don't know what it is about this flower that draws me to it, but it is truly a spectacular event to witness. And don't think that I'm exaggerating when I say “event” because once you see it you count down the days before the next flower bud blooms. Trust me, other people who own this plant tell me the same thing. In fact someone just told me that they saw this flower blooming in the store from a distance and had to walk across the garden department just to see it up close. This bright orange flower drew her in, as she was spellbound by its beauty. This is a gorgeous shrub that is generally 4-10 feet tall. It has dark glossy green leaves with some varieties having reddish petioles that connect the leaves to the stem. But of course the most distinguishing feature of this plant is its amazing flowers. I feel they are the most striking of hibiscus by far. The bright orange to orange-red flowers are so vivid that they look almost fluorescent.

Distribution: In the wild this rare endemic subspecies of *Hibiscus koki'o* (typically a red hibiscus) is found only in the coastal valleys of Northwestern Kaua'i, nowhere else in the world. I've seen these plants growing in the wild and

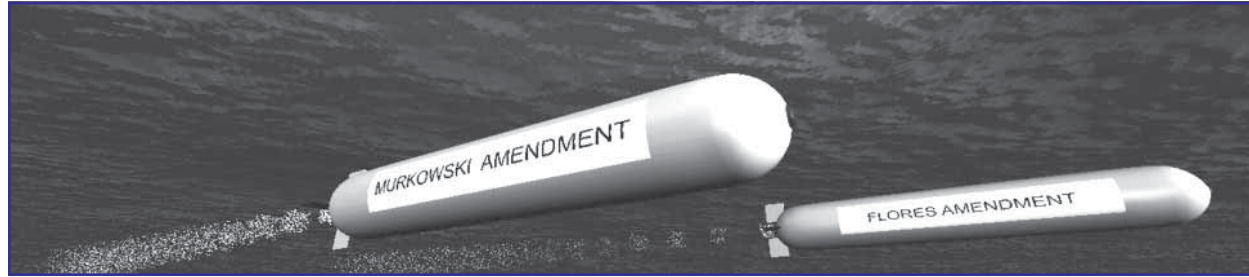
they stand out so much against any backdrop they almost look fake, as if they don't belong, but of course they do.

Landscape Use: Whether used as a hedge or specimen plant, the St. John's Hibiscus makes a wonderful addition to any garden. It responds very well to pruning and requires little water once established in the ground. Like all hibiscus, keep an eye out for the usual pests like aphids, whitefly, and mealy bugs, but don't let them discourage you from getting one. You'll be sorry if you don't get to experience the flowers for yourself.

Additional Information: The *Hibiscus st. johnianus* is a highly variable plant. Flower colors range from dark orange-red to bright orange-yellow, and there is even a pure yellow variety, which is extremely rare. Outside of our state flower, the endangered ma'ohauhele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*), this is the only other pure yellow native hibiscus. Although hau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) is also considered to be a yellow-flowered native hibiscus, its flowers are not pure yellow, as it has a large maroon center and the whole flower tends to turn pink-orange as the day goes on. The two above stay true to their yellow color until they fall off the plant.



Opponents Seek to Sink National Ocean Policy



by Dave Raney and Doug Fetterly

On July 19, 2010 President Obama issued an Executive Order establishing the National Ocean Policy (NOP). This brought joy and relief to Sierra Club activists and other advocates who had helped shape the provisions of the NOP and had garnered nationwide support for its adoption. It also culminated years of nonpartisan efforts to promote ocean stewardship and regional planning and should have been met with bipartisan support in Congress. Instead, partisan opponents have sought to torpedo the Ocean Policy by attaching amendments to appropriations bills prohibiting agencies from spending funds to implement it. Two such amendments, one by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and the other by Representative Bill Flores (R-Texas), have been blocked, but similar legislative maneuvers can be expected in the future. Fortunately we have some ocean champions in Congress, including the Hawai'i Congressional delegation, but they will need our support. Read on to learn why the NOP deserves such support.

Mālama I Ka Honua, "Cherish the Earth," has been a guiding principle of the Hawai'i Chapter since its inception. The opening title of the National Ocean Policy, "Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes," conveys a similar principle, and the NOP includes the following goal: "To achieve an America whose

stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations." The responsibility for present generations to ensure the well-being of future generations is consistent with traditional Hawaiian values and is especially relevant now. The health of the ocean and the fate of marine and human life depend on the actions we take now, especially actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions that have already resulted in increases in sea temperatures and ocean acidification. The Sierra Club recognizes this imperative, and has made reduction of greenhouse gas emissions one of its highest priorities, as has the Hawai'i Chapter through its promotion of clean energy alternatives.

There are other parallels between the fundamental principles of the NOP and traditional Hawaiian concepts of mālama i ka honua. The NOP calls for ecosystem-based management as an overall guiding principle and recognizes the need to consider that what happens on the land affects the ocean. These principles are consistent with the Hawaiian ahupua'a system, which recognizes the need for wise management of activities from the ridges to the reefs and which preceded the NOP by many centuries. They are also consistent with the approach taken

in the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan adopted in 2006.

The National Ocean Policy is broader in scope than a single state, however. It establishes regional ocean planning bodies, as recommended by nonpartisan groups including the Pew Oceans Commission, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. It also calls for implementation of ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning to take advantage of the capabilities of geographic information systems and the ability of the general public to access information, especially visual information such as maps, via the Internet. The need for regional planning is especially important for ecosystem-based management, as ecosystems do not follow political boundaries. For example, the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale traverses coastal waters of several states from Maine to Florida. Sharing coastal and marine information on a regional basis can indicate the likely presence of right whales in different seasons and locations. This information can guide decisions regarding siting, construction, and operation of offshore wind energy projects proposed for coastal waters in New England and Mid-Atlantic states so as to avoid or minimize impacts on whales.

The NOP's nine ocean-planning regions will each have a regional planning body. The Pacific Islands planning region comprises Hawai'i, the Commonwealth of the Northern

Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam. Unlike the mainland ocean planning regions consisting of contiguous states, the Pacific Islands region consists of distinct subregions separated from each other. While Pacific entities do not share common borders, they share common problems, including the need to cope with rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and other impacts from climate change. The regional planning body for the Pacific region has yet to be formed, but the Pacific Islands entities have a long history of working together through their coastal zone management programs and as participants in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative. Efforts to form a regional planning body are underway, aided by a grant from NOAA.

Nine Strategic Action Plans, one for each national objective, have been developed to guide implementation of the national policy. The final versions of the plans are expected to be released for public comment by early 2012. Among the action plans, three are particularly relevant for Hawai'i: Ecosystem-Based Management, Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification, and Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land.

The National Ocean Policy is the logical conclusion of years of effort to improve ocean management in its broadest sense. We must defend it from efforts in Congress aimed at preventing

its implementation. The Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, "Doc" Hastings, a Republican from Washington state, has been particularly hostile to the NOP, holding "oversight" hearings under a title that reveals his preconceived conclusions: "The President's New National Ocean Policy - A Plan for Further Restrictions on Ocean, Coastal and Inland Activities." On his website, Hastings erroneously claims that the NOP mandates ocean zoning. In fact, the NOP promotes ocean planning, not zoning. While the slate of witnesses for the hearings was stacked with NOP opponents, the policy was also defended by other witnesses and some legislators, including the ranking minority member, Rep. Edward Markey from Massachusetts, Rep. Sam Farr from California, and our own Rep. Colleen Hanabusa. Another key, largely partisan assertion against the NOP is that it expands the bureaucracy when, in fact, the policy is designed to provide a cohesiveness between federal, regional, state, territorial, tribal, and local levels, thereby streamlining and improving the effectiveness of ocean and Great Lakes management.

The Sierra Club's Marine Action Team has received an Activist Network grant to promote implementation of both the national policy on oceans and coastal and marine spatial planning, and in coming months members will be conducting education and outreach efforts in each of the nine planning

regions, including the Pacific Islands region. On November 21, we met with Jesse Souki, Director of the Hawai'i Office of State Planning, and Leo Asuncion, Planning Program Manager for the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, to express Sierra Club support for the NOP and seek opportunities for working with the State of Hawai'i and its agency partners to implement the NOP in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands planning region. We learned that the State of Hawai'i supports the NOP and is seeking to expand the state's CMSP capabilities to include, among other things, mappings of the various uses being made of our coastal waters. As is true in most regions, the State of Hawai'i already has many elements of the NOP in place, including the Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), CZM program, and the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy. Additional resources from grants and other forms of assistance from federal partners would help accelerate progress on existing and planned programs. Plans are underway to seek public input for revising the ORMP, including revisions related to NOP and CMSP goals and objectives, beginning in early 2012. We expressed support for those plans and were assured that Sierra Club would be invited to participate in the revision processes. Sierra Club will also seek to work with other NGO partners to promote NOP education and outreach efforts through workshops or other means.

To learn more about the NOP and CMSP, visit the National Ocean Council website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>

and the Council's blog site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/whats-new>

To learn more about Sierra Club's activities in support of the National Ocean Policy, visit the Ocean Policy website on the Sierra Club's Activist Network: http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/National_Ocean_Policy

Better yet, join the Marine Action Team: http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marine_Action_Team

Dave Raney is Team Leader for the Marine Action Team. He and Doug Fetterly are the Marine Action Team contacts for the Pacific Region.

O'ahu Group Report

In the last three months the O'ahu Group has focused on three issues:

Ho'opili

The Land Use Commission has so far held two sets of hearings to consider billionaire Donald Horton's proposal to plant 11,750 homes on 1554 acres of Grade A & B farmland in Hono'uli'uli. The land is among the most productive in the world and is currently used to grow some 30 percent of all the fresh produce grown in Hawai'i.

Assisted by attorneys Elizabeth Dunne, Tatyana Cerullo, and Jamila Jarmon the O'ahu Group assembled a strong panel of expert witnesses and submitted compelling written testimony to the Commission. It is our contention that the land is irreplaceable, especially if we are to achieve the goal recently articulated by the Abercrombie Administration of doubling local food production. We also believe the impact of more than 20,000 new cars on H1 cannot be mitigated. Beyond these two huge impacts there are many other secondary issues that we will be raising.

Horton's high-priced team of lawyers and consultants presented a surprisingly unimpressive case. They did not even bother to address

the issue of traffic. If it weren't for the Governor's decision to break his word to us and support Ho'opili, it's hard to see how the Commission could approve the proposal.

We'll get a chance to present our case in the new year, and we really want you to come and back us. We've been working with Save O'ahu Farmland Alliance to publicize the negative impacts of Horton's scheme and to encourage people to attend the Land Use Commission hearings to testify in opposition. We're also planning a major rally and free concert on February 18 to give the public an opportunity to take to the streets and say "Enough Is Enough."

Koa Ridge

We've decided to intervene at the Land Use Commission against the proposal by billionaire David Murdock to plant a 5,000-home suburb on 768 acres of Grade A & B farmland makai of Mililani. This scheme is even more outrageous than Donald Horton's since it is nowhere near the proposed rail line and thus would have unmitigatable impacts on traffic on H2 and H1.

We've secured the services of an attorney to help in the initial stages of the case and we need to raise thousands of dollars to help pay

ongoing legal expenses.

Next Land Use Commission hearings: Jan. 5 at 9:30 a.m. and Jan. 19 & 20 at 9:00—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.

Transportation and Urban Development

The Group has begun a discussion to revise our transportation policy to reflect our hopes and concerns about the proposed rail system and to reinforce our determination to see all major new development return to the traditional urban core as a way to halt suburban sprawl and to reinvigorate the city. As part of this discussion we'll consider the proposal by the Governor to raise building height limits in Kaka'ako to 650 feet. We'll also consider the potential development impacts in Kaka'ako Makai of the proposed transfer of 25 acres of waterfront property to OHA.

Anthony Aalto

Secretary, O'ahu Group



Ho'opili looking towards Diamond Head - the next suburb?

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.

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

Saturday, January 7

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. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate; contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, January 8

Nu'uanu-Judd to Mānoa Falls (F)
6 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Contour/Mānoa
If it's raining, all the better to see Mānoa Falls at its peak! Reservations and car shuttle required. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, sinklair808@earthlink.net; Mel Yoshioka

Sunday, January 8

Palehua/Palikea Trail Service Project (S)
Reservations required three weeks prior. Not for those uneasy about height. We'll build an alternate trailhead to allow entrance to this valuable resource. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Randy Ching, John Shimogawa, Stan

Oka, Marie Laberge, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Saturday, January 14

Kaena Point Service Project (S)
Reservations required. We'll meet with DLNR personnel at Mokuleia and drive to the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, where we'll remove invasive plants. Ed Mersino mersino@hawaii.edu, 223-5765

Sunday, January 15

Ihiihilauakea Crater Hike (F)
3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Koko Head
We may spot some humpback whales as we make our way into a crater to view rare native plants. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa, Marie LaBerge, asst. Jason Thompson

Saturday, January 21

Ancient Sites of O'ahu (E/F)
Reservations required, space limited. We'll drive from Hawai'i Kai to Kailua, stopping at various heiau and other points of interest along the way. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Marie LaBerge

Continued on page 10

Become a Sierra Club Outings Leader!

The Hawai'i Chapter is seeking new Outings Leaders interested in creating new outings themes on all islands. If you are interested in becoming a leader and connecting people to the outdoors and ocean environment, please email Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Homcy at: jenhomcy@sierraclubhawaii.com.

NEW Outings for 2012 HIKE AND YOGA



Photo © Crystal Thornburg-Homcy

The O'ahu Group announces new "Hike and Yoga" outings for the 2012 first-quarter schedule. Come out for our monthly Hike and Yoga with our newest outings leader, Joanna Alexander, and leaders-in-training Mariza Silva and Nicole Lowen. Start off your week with light yoga stretching and a relaxing and meditative hike on the trail of Mau'umae (Lanipo), Wa'ahila Ridge, or Pu'u U'alaka'a, all with beautiful views, native plants, and impressive forests. Then, finish the hike with a cool down and light yoga stretching session. Pack a healthy lunch and come nourish your mind, body, and soul and start your week off right! The yoga portion of the outings is designed for anyone. If you have never tried yoga before or you are an expert yogi, this should prove to be a fulfilling and enriching experience. Look for these and other NEW outings in the coming year on all islands.

O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, January 22

Beginner hike: Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden (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, January 22

Photography Hike: Queen Kapiolani Gardens (E/F)

.25 mi / Easy / Kapahulu / Extremely slow pace
Reservations required. Many native plants. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa, Marie LaBerge, asst. Jason Thompson

Sunday, January 29

Mānoa Cliff Native Forest Restoration Project (S)

3 mi / Moderate / Contour / Tantalus
Restore an incredibly diverse native forest only a few miles from town. At the work site we'll help remove invasive ginger, palm grass, and other weeds. Bring tools if you have them and work gloves. Jim and Cindy Waddington 947-2732

Sunday, January 29

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (E)

0.5 mi / Easy / Coast / Kahuku
Reservations required. The James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge represents a wonderful opportunity to see black necked stilts, moorhens, coots, and the Hawaiian duck, as well as migratory birds that spend winters on this refuge. Limit of 25 participants. Colleen Soares csoares48@gmail.com, 748-9215.

Saturday, February 4

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. Ed Mersino 223-5765

Mānoa Falls Trail Improvement Project Service Opportunity

Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, in a collaboration of the Outings Programs and the Hawai'i Service Trip Program, will be supporting DLNR's Na Ala Hele Trails and Access Program in their Mānoa Falls Trail (MFT) Improvement Project. The MFT is one of Hawai'i's most utilized trails and has suffered from overuse and water damage. The work will involve a variety of trail building and repair activities suitable for all skill levels. Please come and join old and new friends on this fun and rewarding project! We will start in February and meet twice per month for the remainder of 2012, typically working from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: Jen Homcy (375-7460 or jenhomcy@sierraclubhawaii.com) or janicem@lava.net (371-8504)

Schedule for the first 3 months:

Sat., February 4 · Sun., February 26
Sun., March 4 · Sat., March 17
Sat., April 14 · Sun., April 22

Saturday, February 4

Queen Kapiolani Gardens Service Project (S)

Join the City's Division of Urban Forestry and the Sierra Club in maintaining a native Hawaiian garden. Meet at the garden (bordered by Monsarrat/Paki/Leahi Avenues) at 8 a.m. Tools provided. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa, John Shimogawa, Marie Laberge, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Sunday, February 5

Kalauao Valley Hike (F)

5.5 mi / Strenuous / Valley, ridge / Aiea
A pleasant walk along an easy loop

trail is counterbalanced by a difficult descent to an idyllic valley with a gurgling stream. We then hike upstream to a gushing waterfall. After a cooling plunge we endure a steep ascent to Aiea Loop Trail. Rich Bailey 723-2213

Saturday, February 11

Kaena Point Service Project (S)

Reservations required. We'll meet with DLNR personnel at Mokuleia and drive to the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, where we'll remove invasive plants. Colleen Soares 748-9215, csoares48@gmail.com

Saturday, February 11

MCBH Kaneohe Bay Service Project (S)

Reservations required. Call Annette Kaohelaulii at 235-5431 by February 9. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered water birds. MCBH is a secured military facility; we provide your name to the base in advance, and send you a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, February 12

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 to 10:30. Call Tred (394-2898) for information. Bags, gloves provided. Closed-toe shoes only. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate; contact Deborah Blair 955-4168 for the waiver.

Sunday, February 12

Yoga and hike: Wa'ahila Ridge (F)

4.8 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Mānoa
We'll start with 15 minutes of yoga warm-up and end with 15 minutes of yoga stretches. Bring a mat or towel. Beginners welcome. Joanna

O'ahu Group Outings

Alexander 223-6993 joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, Gwen Sinclair, Mariza Silva, asst. Nicole Lowen

Saturday - Monday, February 18 - 20

Hakalau USFWS Refuge Service Trip, Big Island (S)

The service projects usually involve planting native species such as koa or working in the greenhouse. Accommodations are at a well-equipped cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with electricity, running water, a flush toilet, a hot shower, kitchen, and bunk beds with mattresses. Deborah Blair 955-4168, deborahblair1@mac.com; Marie Laberge

Sunday, February 19

Beginner hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (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, February 19

Kaiwa Ridge (F)

2 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Kailua
Scenic views from Makapuu to Kaneohe. Car shuttle required. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa, Stan Oka, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Saturday, February 25

Mau'umae Short and Sweet late hike (F)

3 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Kaimuki
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 1 p.m. This 3-hour hike has a great cardio workout on the hills behind Wilhelmina Rise. Hikers are invited to a 4 - 6 p.m. snack hour hosted by Reese Liggett and Suzan Harada. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508, Joanna Alexander

Sunday, February 26

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. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, February 26

Photography hike: Palehua-Palikea (E/F)

4 mi / Easy / Ridge / Makakilo / Extremely slow pace
Reservations required three weeks prior. Not for those uneasy about heights. Native plants, scenic panoramas, and tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Stan Oka, John Shimogawa, Marie Laberge, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Sunday, February 26

Pupukea Summit (F)

9 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Pupukea
Follow a trail built by the Army and Civilian Conservation Corps to the Koolau summit. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 sinklair808@earthlink.net

Sunday, March 4

Mānoa Falls Trail Project

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. Mel Yoshioka 224-3765

Sunday, March 11

Yoga and hike: Pu'u U'alaka'a (F)

2 mi / Easy / Ridge / Tantalus
We'll start with 15 minutes of yoga warmup and end with 15 minutes of yoga stretches. Bring a mat or towel. Beginners welcome. Joanna Alexander 223-6993 joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, Jim Waddington, Mariza Silva, asst. Nicole Lowen

Sunday, March 11

Pu'u Ma'eli'eli (F)

3 mi / Moderate / Ridge / Kahaluu

Reservations required. Uphill hike to pillbox overlooking beautiful Kaneohe Bay. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa, Stan Oka, Marie Laberge, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Saturday, March 17

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. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508, Gwen Sinclair

Sunday, March 18

Old Pali Road late hike (F)

4 mi / Moderate / Contour / Nu'uanu Pali
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 12:30 p.m. Journey from ancient times at the Pali Lookout to a modern trail that leads to a cascade between the Likelike and Pali Highways. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508, Joanna Alexander

Saturday - Monday, March 24 - 26

Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project

Leaders and trainees only.

Sunday, March 25

Photography hike: Leeward Community College Native Plant Garden (E/F)

Reservations required. Extremely slow pace. LCC's native plant gardens contain dry land, coastal, mesic forest and Polynesian plants. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa, Stan Oka, 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

Kaua'i Group Report

Environmentalist of the Year Award presented at Kaua'i Group Annual Picnic

Sierra Club members came out to enjoy a sunny mid-October afternoon at Hanama'ulu Beach Park for the 9th annual picnic and to recognize a dedicated environmental champion. Rayne Regush was presented the Environmentalist of the Year Award for her leadership role in conservation efforts to preserve Kaua'i's rural character, coastal areas, cultural resources, mauka-makai public access, and agricultural lands.

On any given day, Rayne is devoting time to careful research and analysis that will go into a letter or testimony on behalf of the Sierra Club to the County Council, Planning Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and other government agencies to protect the environment and preserve our rural way of life. Her scrutiny of numerous permit applications and rule changes, and her participation at public hearings on-island and before the State Legislature on O'ahu, has forged her reputation as a Kaua'i environmental advocate.

Rayne spoke at the gathering, noting that although Hawai'i has good environmental laws, constant public oversight is required to ensure that these laws are not abused. "Without public participation, laws can be sidestepped, land use applications can be approved with misinformation, and legislative bodies can be swayed by economic need; all these scenarios diminish our environmental protections," she said.

She encouraged others to stay involved as stewards of Kaua'i. Nature asks nothing of us, yet how often do we take action on her behalf, she asked, and she quoted Martin Luther King Jr.'s words:

"Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter." Rayne has served on the Kaua'i Group's Executive Committee since 2004 and has been the Kaua'i Group representative on the Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee since 2008.



Environmentalist of the Year, Rayne Regush
(Photo courtesy of Judy Dalton)

Rate-of-Growth Ordinance Approved by Council

Executive Committee member Carl Imperato also spoke at the picnic, providing details about a recent milestone attained when Kaua'i's County Council unanimously approved Bill 2410. The bill's passage concludes almost four years of grassroots advocacy that began when the Kaua'i Group and other community members introduced a Charter Amendment because new tourist accommodations were being approved at a rate four-to-six times as great as was envisioned in the Kaua'i General Plan's growth scenario.

After voters passed the Charter Amendment by a two-thirds margin in 2008, implementation required that the County Council create a mechanism to limit the increase in the number of new transient

accommodation units on Kaua'i to no more than 1.5% per year on a multi-year average basis. Bill 2410 created that mechanism.

While some believe that Bill 2410 bends too far to accommodate the development community's assertions regarding vested rights, overall, the outcome is a sound and workable compromise. Although it relies upon a long-term (20-year) approach, it complies with the mandate to achieve no more than 1.5% annual growth over that period, and in doing so, it should also minimize potential legal challenges to the Charter Amendment from developers.

The Council's approval of this annual rate-of-growth bill is a major milestone, as it finally puts teeth into Kaua'i's General Plan. But there is more work ahead. It is essential that residents become involved with the upcoming General Plan revision process to ensure that Kaua'i's pace of growth will reflect what residents desire, and not weaken these hard-earned protections.

Would you like to be more involved with the Kaua'i Group Sierra Club?

Here are some ways to participate and make a difference:

- Take a hike, clean a beach, help with native plant restoration - see our Outings page.
- Become an outings leader. It's a great way to meet people, keep fit, and get outdoors - email Judy Dalton at dalton@aloha.net.
- Attend an executive committee meeting - email Rayne at RayneRegush@aol.com about upcoming meeting dates.

Judy Dalton

Executive Committee member,
Kaua'i Group

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

Sunday, January 8

Ha'ena sunset moonlight beach walk
North Shore/Easy/2 miles.

A chance to enjoy some stunning scenery and watch the sunset along Na Pali, then wend our way back by moonlight. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Saturday, January 14

Okolehau North Shore/Strenuous/4 miles (C/E) Trail climbs 1,200 ft. on a ridge behind Hanalei with beautiful sweeping views of Hanalei Bay and North Shore. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sunday, January 15

Maha'ulepu South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Also visit the fantastic sinkhole/cave archeological site. Chance to see whales. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, January 21

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. Bob Greene and Ken Fasig 346-1229

Wednesday January 25

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup (S)
Afternoon cleanup of Sierra Club's adopted highway (2 miles) requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Bob Greene 245-9280

Saturday, January 28

Volunteers needed for National Marine Sanctuary Humpback Whale Ocean Count. Also on Feb 25, and March 31. Free training required of volunteers on Kaua'i. Check NOAA website for details: <http://hawaii-humpback-whale.noaa.gov/involved/ocvolunteer.html>

Saturday, February 4

Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Whale Watch Walk. South Shore/ Moderate/3 Miles (C/E/F)
Start out in the afternoon from Shipwreck Beach to Maha'ulepu to enjoy the sunset and an almost full moon over the glistening ocean. Spectacular coastal walk with great whale watching. One-way hike; car shuttle required. Bob Greene 245-9280

Monday, February 6

National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk & Service Project. South Side/ Moderate/2 miles (C/E/S)
Work 2 hours and learn about propagation of native plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Call Samara at 651-0479. Bob Nishek 346-0476

Sunday, February 12

Maha'ulepu South Shore/moderate/ 4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Also visit the fantastic sinkhole/cave archeological site. Chance to see whales. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, February 18

Kaua'ikinana Ditch Trail - Kumuela Loop
Koke'e/Moderate/4-mile loop (C/F) Extraordinary view of Po'omau Canyon & spectacular waterfalls. Bob Greene 245-9280

Sunday, February 26

Kalalau trail to Space Rock North Shore/Strenuous/6 miles (C/E) Famous trail follows NaPali coast. We walk to high point on the trail with panoramic ocean views; we may see whales. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Saturday, March 3

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, March 4

Anini Beach Walk and Cleanup Easy/North Shore/1 mile (S/C/F) Walk along the beautiful, tranquil shores of Anini Beach and clean up on the way back. Possible swim at end. Karen Tilley 821-8008

Monday March 5

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

Saturday, March 10

Moalepe-Kuilau-Moalepe Trails
East side/Moderate/4.25 miles (E/F) An opportunity to walk both trails with pleasant mountain views. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Saturday, March 17

Sierra Club and Surfrider Beach Cleanup, South Nukoli'i Beach
Easy 1/4 mile (S/C). Do something green for St. Patrick's Day. Drive into Kaua'i Beach Resort on makai side of highway north of Hana'maui. Go through their tree tunnel; at end turn right onto a road leading to the beach. Look for Sierra Club & Surfrider signs. Gloves, bags, snacks and cold water provided. Starts at 9 a.m. Jeff Vesce 755-5587

Sunday, March 18

Maha'ulepu
South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Also visit the fantastic sinkhole/cave archeological site. Chance to see whales this time of year. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Wednesday March 21

Donkey Beach (Kuna Bay) to Anahola Beach Coastal Walk
East Shore/moderately strenuous/5 miles (E/F) Walk along a wild coastline, yet untouched by any development. Bob Greene 245-9280

Saturday, March 24

Berry Flat Trail, Koke'e
Easy-moderate/3.5 miles (C/F) Lush forested hike through sugi pine and redwood groves. Denny Jackson and Erica Watson 647-0727

Maui Group Report

For the complete Maui Group Newsletter, go to www.mausierraclub.org and click on "Newsletters." For the latest on hikes and activities, click on "Hikes and Activities."

Start your cuttings now for the 2012 plant sale to take place in March. Food plants are especially welcome. To pledge plant donations, contact Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net.

CHAIR REPORT

The Sierra Club Maui Group comments on major EA/EIS documents, resulting in new information that improves the studies. I have long believed that the EA/EIS process improves a project and serves the people. Rather than fear it we should use it as a tool that incorporates science, stakeholders' views, and historical experience into policy meant to protect, enhance, and preserve the quality of life of all concerned. The MG also addresses ongoing concerns about policy and planning with regards to county, state, and federal agencies, which rely on the Sierra Club for their expertise and on the ground knowledge of terrain, landscapes, and changes in ocean and shoreline habitats. Documents and projects that the Sierra Club advised on in 2011 include the Maalaea Mauka subdivision, Wailea 670, Olowalu Village subdivision, Auwahi Wind Farm, Waiale subdivision, and Kaheawa Wind farm.

We also track the federal and state Habitat Conservation Plans and submit comments that result in additional protections for native wildlife and participate in working groups advising on Maui County policy such as the County Impact Fee Task Force. The Sierra Club Maui Group tracks ongoing issues

and often provides the long-term sustaining energy for positive outcomes. Issues that continue in the Group's long-term focus are the North Shore Park and developments, the East Maui Well settlement, and the Maui Island Plan update and wastewater injection wells.

In 2011 the Sierra Club decided to participate with Earthjustice in asking that the injection wells on Maui West side be phased out and new treatment systems put in place. After years of reports, research, and scientific papers Maui County was asked to begin addressing the problems of injecting sewage treatment effluent into the West Maui aquifer, which many maintain percolates through the reefs and into the near shore waters. Scientific papers such as the Meghan Dailer and Robin Knox report in the Journal of Marine Pollution (2010) pointed to the effluent injected into the ground water from the Lahaina sewage treatment plant as problematical in possibly negatively impacting the health of near shore waters. In July the EPA, the Hawai'i Department of Health and University of Hawai'i began tracer studies to see how these dyes migrated from the injection wells into the reef systems.

The Sierra Club Maui Group remains vigilant in advocating for the protection, preservation and restoration of our island home. It has been a good year with victories for the environment. The Sierra Club's ongoing efforts are an important reason why we have a wonderful home with great beaches and natural places to share with future generations. Thank you to all who cherish the Earth and continue the work to protect it.

Lance Holter
Chair, Maui Group

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES: October-December 2011

North Shore Heritage Park & Ho'okipa Expansion: Sierra Club supports Trees Please replanting project to replace shade trees lost to erosion at Baldwin Beach. Maui Island Plan maps show a large North Shore park. Council will not discuss maps until January 2012

East Maui Streams: Water Commission head Bill Tam has issued a call for reforestation of watershed lands statewide. The matter of funding the efforts is yet to be discussed.

Maui Water Availability Rule Under Attack: Passed in 2007, Title 14 provides an accountability process regarding reliable water source. Former rules relied on unsupported claims by developers. Council member Victorino is proposing to let the rule expire in two years and weaken the existing language by exempting private water source agreements from review and giving unprecedented powers to the county water director. It is not clear how this will provide Maui with a more reliable water supply.

Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration: No word yet from the Hawai'i Supreme Court on the request by Earthjustice on behalf of Hui o Na Wai Eha and Maui Tomorrow Foundation appealing 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: Maui Council voted 6-1 to allow use of Hamakuapoko wells in spite of cautionary warning from a public

Maui Group Report

health specialist. The wells pump from Paia aquifer, contaminated with DBCP, EDB, TCP, atrazine, and others at levels exceeding state standards.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): The Board of Land and Natural Resources held an August hearing on Kilakila o Haleakala's appeal of BLNR acceptance of the project's Conservation Use Permit. The 14-story project promises good high-tech jobs, but has not found a way to address concerns of many noted hawaiian cultural practitioners who feel more industrial-scale installations on a sacred site is disrespectful. For updates go to <http://www.kilakilahaleakala.org>

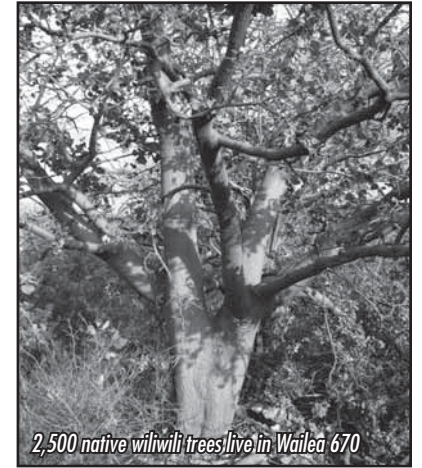
Regulation of Aquarium Fish: Efforts continue to pass statewide regulations to stop the senseless plunder of our native fish. For updates go to savehawaiianreefs.org

Wastewater Injection Wells: Testing of effluent plumes is being conducted by UH. Various organizations, including Sierra Club, are waiting for results before proceeding with a suit regarding Clean Water Act violations at the Lahaina Wastewater Treatment

Plant. The goal is cleaner discharge and more reuse.

A&B's Waiale Development: The final EIS was accepted by the state Land Use Commission (LUC) on Nov 4, with barely a question or comment. MG testified that the study was missing essential information regarding water source, sewage treatment, monitoring for hazardous waste, protection of traditional burials in sand dune areas, noise levels, and more. The 2,500-3,000 units on 545 acres next return to the LUC to complete a boundary amendment from Ag to Urban in February.

Wailea 670: Citizen efforts continue to secure protection for the nearly 2,500 native wiliwili trees, rare and beautiful awikiwiki plants, scores of cultural sites, and other flora and fauna on a 200-acre lava flow that is part of the Palaua ahupua'a included in the proposed project. Native ecosystem or golf course is the choice at hand. For updates, photos, and petition go to www.SaveMakena.org
Makena Resort Rezoning: A "stakeholders" meeting is expected to be called by resort owners by



2,500 native wiliwili trees live in Wailea 670

the end of the year to showcase development plans for Makena lands. Will new owners ask the county council to modify unilateral conditions of rezoning citing expense of requirements to provide infrastructure, marine monitoring and park planning? Stay tuned.

Paeahi Viewsheds: MG worked with Council member Bob Carroll's office and County Planning to question why a 3,000-square-foot "barn" being built along Hana Highway, east of Haiku, was being allowed to block a longtime coastal view.

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

For all Sierra Club Outings: Sierra Club outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified Outings Leaders. Our outings are group activities, and all participants are expected to follow leaders' instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members and visitors on most of our outings; however certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is only permitted at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing Leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgement, a re hazard exists.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear/ jacket and day-pack. **Boots, shoes with traction grooves (heeled footwear are best; 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 interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. e 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

by **Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers**
Moku Loa Group Chair

At the end of 2011, I wish to thank the Moku Loa Group conservation team for their continued perseverance in addressing and fighting so many conservation issues this past year. Deborah Ward, Cory Harden, and Diane Ware prepare meticulously hundreds of hours of testimony for the club on issues ranging from depleted uranium to Mauna Kea to protection of the Ka'u coastline and endangered species protection. They cannot do it alone, so please come to the conservation committee meetings on the last Wednesday of the month at Kea'au Community Center. Special thanks go to Janice Crawl for her editorial skills, Jon Olson for work on energy issues, and Malie Larish for maintaining our financial records.

The Moku Loa Group Outing leaders training was held on November 20, and our leaders have compiled a diverse set of outings. Our MLG Annual Meeting was held on December 9 at Wailoa State Park.

Conservation Reports

Moku Loa Group Conservation Committee

By *Debbie Ward*

Moku Loa Group members are actively contributing testimony for numerous current controversial project proposals, including Aina Koa Pono biofuels, the Kaloko Makai development above the Kaloko Honokohau NP, Hawai'i Volcanoes NP's management plan, Hu Honua biofuels, and Papaikou beach access.

The issue of Mauna Kea management brought Sierra Club and other petitioners to the Intermediate Court of Appeals in November. Marti Townsend of

Kahea represented the petitioners, and UH attorney Lisa Munger claimed that the comprehensive management plan "does nothing." The arguments are online at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/oral_arguments/archive/oaica30397.html

Debbie Ward is a petitioner in the BLNR contested case hearing regarding the proposal to build one of the world's largest telescopes on the undisturbed northern plateau of Mauna Kea. The testimony phase has ended, and the Hearing Officer will make a recommendation to the BLNR early next year.

The Conservation Committee meets every fourth Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for potluck and 6 p.m. for meeting at the Kea'au Community Center.

Update on Pohakuloa

By *Cory Harden*

Regarding the Army's modernization plan for Pohakuloa, we commend them on several counts: Acknowledging the U.S. takeover of the Kingdom of Hawai'i; including a thoughtful description of the spiritual and cultural significance of Pohakuloa; mentioning old military sites, and holding an open house and public hearing. However, we have many concerns:

- Why was Pohakuloa the only place considered for this training?
- Why does the EIS say there's no danger from depleted uranium (DU)? Only a few fragments of DU spotting rounds were found at Pohakuloa, but there may be 2,000. Where are they?
- Why did DU air monitoring, as planned last year, have air filters with pores that were ten times too large?
- Why is it too dangerous to hunt for DU in the impact area—but safe to send bulldozers to crush lava for a one- by two-mile battle course?
- Is the training once done at

Makua coming to Pohakuloa? Makua training brought fires that consumed thousands of acres in the past thirteen years. At Pohakuloa, the weeklong fire last year (not caused by the military) showed what could happen in a tinderbox area with no County water.

- Pohakuloa is a significant cultural area with almost 500 reported archeological sites. But archeological studies and historical consultation aren't complete, so the public can't review them.

Update on Kahuku Village

By *Cory Harden*

From testimony on the \$1 billion-plus Kahuku Village proposed by a Delaware company for the Pohue Bay area in Ka'u, with an anticipated 9,000 daily visitors:

We commend Nani Kahuku 'Aina for supporting efforts to protect turtles, and for responding to public input by dropping plans for a Mauka Village and airport; planning to leave 90% of the land undeveloped; planning trails, sidewalks, pedestrian and bike paths; and planning energy conservation. But serious concerns remain:

- Lava flows could race through this volcanic high-hazard area in two hours—but evacuation would take four to five hours. An extended eruption could cut off the highway for months.
- Protection plans for the wealth of natural and cultural resources appear inadequate. County and State offices, hampered by understaffing, would have difficulty overseeing impact mitigation.
- The wildlife survey covered only a small part of the property.
- Marine life in the area (which may be the most important turtle nesting area in the state) includes threatened and endangered turtles, endangered Hawaiian monk seals, and two rare shrimp. Surveyors warned that

Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

the anchialine ponds "support and affect" all wildlife in the area.

- The archaeological survey appears inadequate for the significance, acreage, and number of sites, which offer a window into the past for one of the earliest places in Hawai'i settled by Polynesian voyagers and little disturbed by modern times.
- Economic benefits are uncertain. Taxpayers would be affected by increased property taxes; building of roads, utilities, and sewers; and perhaps subsidized home insurance in this high lava hazard area. Occupancy rates for existing hotels on Hawai'i Island are not encouraging.

Our recommendation:

We strongly support entrusting these lands, possibly through a land exchange, to a public and/or non-profit entity with the background and resources to ensure they are protected.

What can you do?

Watch for Kahuku Village at upcoming meetings of the State Land Board and County Planning Commission.

Moku Loa Group Outings

Updated Outings information and future hikes can be found on our Group website at <http://hawaii.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/>

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

Saturday, December 31

Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Dayhike (E) (C)

D = 3 miles, E = 200' +/- 100'

Walk along mowed trails atop the Hamakua Cliffs; not for those afraid of heights. We will enjoy dramatic

vistas and seabirds, and explore historic sites. Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, January 7

Makalawena Beach Day Hike (E) (C)

D = 3 miles, E = sea level +/- 500'

Explore in the area around one of the finest white sand beaches in Hawai'i. Bring water and lunch. Sarah Moon 935-3475, Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, January 21

Kilauea Iki (F) (E) (C)

D = 5 miles, E = 4000 +/- 480'

A pleasant family hike on one of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park's most popular trails. The trail starts at Thurston Lava Tube, drops down into Kilauea Crater and crosses the crater floor. Observe steam vents and the large cinder cone formed by the 1959 eruption. Climb up to Byron's Ledge and along the forested edge of the crater. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday, February 4

Escape Road to Pu'u Huluhulu, Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (F)

D = 5.5 miles, E = 3800'-500'

We will do this trail as a car shuttle from Hahuku (also called Thurston Lava Tube) to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. This pleasant family hike is almost all downhill. We start out in the forest, traverse a pahoehoe lava field, climb Pu'u Huluhulu (where we eat lunch with a view of Pu'u O'o) and then return to our cars. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Rose Acevedo 315-7622

Saturday-Monday, February 18-20

Hawai'i Volcanoes NP Coastal Backpack

(E) (C) D = 17 miles E = 2700' down to sea level

An opportunity to spend two nights and three days backpacking and exploring this beautiful coastal section of the park. We will hike

down the Keahou Trail, spend one night at Keahou, then hike to Apua Point for the next night before ending at Chain of Craters Road. Swimming, snorkeling, and tide pooling along the way. Participants should arrange carpooling among themselves for start/end of the hike. Previous backpacking experience, sturdy boots, and leader approval required. Diane Ware 967-8642, Linda Larish 966-6337

Saturday, February 25

Footprints trailhead to Hilina Pali Road (E)

8.8 miles at 3,000 ft. Traveling the Mauna Iki Trail in HVNP, we will cross the Kau desert, encountering interesting features along the way, such as footprints left in mud ash at the time of the 1890s eruption and the twin pit craters. This in a one-way hike requiring a car shuttle. No shade; bring two liters of water and wear sturdy boots. Cheryl Hoover 985-9601 (Mackenzie@hawaiiantel.net), Diane Ware 967-8642.

Saturday, March 3

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

Saturday, March 24

Napau Trail to Naulu Trail (E) (C)

D = 8 miles, E = 3000'-1200'

Goes along the Napau Trail to Naulu Trail past Makaopuhi crater, through forest area and open lava. Bring water, lunch, and light raingear; can be very windy. Rich Vogler 328-8387, Linda Larish 966-6337

Thursday, April 6

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

Chapter Directory



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

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Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter

January - March 2012

Congratulations to our Newly Elected Sierra Club Leaders!

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