



# Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

JAN - MAR  
2016

## Trans-Pacific Partnership



"A Dirty Deal" Report Is Published

PAGE 2

## Nate's Adventures



A Meal in the Life of Our Own Carnivorous Caterpillar

PAGES 6-7

## U.S. Navy Fuel Tank Storage



A Fact-Finding Effort in the Wake of a Big Leak

PAGE 8

## Every Kid in a Park Celebration



Held at Campbell Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku, Hawaii

PAGE 9

## Deep Appreciation to Randy Ching



His Generosity Helps SC Fight the Biggest Issue of Our Time

BACK COVER

## Ige's Efforts at Striking a Balance

by David Kimo Frankel, Chapter Chair

A year ago, David Ige was elected governor. I supported him—even though I realized that the environment was not his primary focus. Disgusted by the Abercrombie administration, I was ready for leadership from a grown up. So how's Governor Ige doing? In short, it is a mixed bag.

He got off to a rough start. Never has a governor taken so long to fill key positions in the administration. He did not fill his cabinet until long after the legislature convened. He only recently nominated the director of the office of environmental quality control. The environmental council is paralyzed with vacancies. And Ige still has not named a director of the Office of Planning.

**BLNR:** It is hard to forget Governor Ige's nomination of developer lobbyist Carleton Ching to

head the Board of Land and Natural Resources—and his dogged insistence that Ching was the right choice. After his nomination went down in flames—thanks to your emails and phone calls—the governor changed course 180 degrees with his appointment of Suzanne Case. Case brings experience, environmental commitment and intelligence to this important position.

It is too early to judge whether Case will bring about sorely-needed change and leadership to the Na Ala Hele Program (to protect our trails rather than give them away), the division of aquatic resources, and our state historic preservation division. And she will be hamstrung by a broken civil service system, inadequate funding and poor legal advice. She is, however, supported by a board that



*The environmental council is paralyzed with vacancies. And Ige still has not named a director of the Office of Planning.*

Continued on page 3



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# “A Dirty Deal” Report Published

By The Sierra Club Responsible  
Trade Campaign Team

The United States recently struck an expansive free trade agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. Eventually, every Pacific Rim nation may be included.

After extensive research, the Sierra Club published “A Dirty Deal” in December 2015. The report details the Club’s concerns, including:

- **Extreme Secrecy.** The TPP negotiations took place in extreme secrecy. And public input has been drowned out by dominant corporate input; more than 600 corporate advisors have actively worked to shape the agreement while the public is being kept in the dark.
- **Threat to Forests, Wildlife, and Fish.** The TPP environment chapter could have been an opportunity to improve environmental protections in other countries and reduce trade in illegal timber and exotic wildlife. Unfortunately, the environmental chapter does the exact opposite with language too weak to be enforceable. If ratified the TPP will make it harder to enforce environmental protections in participating countries.
- **Unfettered Rights to Corporations.** The TPP will include provisions that give corporations the right to sue a government for unlimited cash compensation—in private and non-transparent tribunals—over nearly any law or policy that a corporation alleges will reduce its profits. Using similar rules in other free trade agreements, corporations such as Exxon-Mobil and Dow Chemical have launched over 600 cases against more than 100 governments. Dozens of cases attack



*In June, Sierra Club of Hawai‘i members helped organize a protest at a meeting of TPP officials on Maui. More than 400 people helped blow conch shells to call attention to the secret, hewa meetings, breaking the world record for the most conch shells blown at one time.*

common-sense environmental laws and regulations, such as regulations to protect communities and the environment from harmful chemicals or mining practices. Harmful investment rules included in other trade pacts have led to attacks on climate and environmental policies.

- **Increase in Dirty Fracking.** The TPP will allow for significantly increased exports of liquefied natural gas without the careful study or adequate protections necessary to safeguard the American public. This would mean an increase of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the dirty and violent process that dislodges gas deposits from shale rock formations. It would also likely cause an increase in natural gas and electricity prices, impacting consumers, manufacturers, workers, and increasing the use of dirty coal power.

You can learn about the Club’s work on the TPP and get a copy of “A Dirty Deal” by visiting [sierraclub.org/trade/trans-pacific-partnership](http://sierraclub.org/trade/trans-pacific-partnership).



MĀLAMA I KA HONUUA  
Cherish the Earth

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The *Mālama I Ka Honua* is published quarterly by the Hawai‘i Chapter of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803. A small portion of the annual Sierra Club dues goes toward a one-year subscription.

Contribution of news, opinion, art, and photography may be sent electronically to:  
[hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
or by post c/o the Hawai‘i Chapter, P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803.

Submissions must be received by the first of the month prior to the date of publication.

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is far more balanced than it has ever been. In the past, we have been lucky to have one member of the board who understands natural resource issues.

Case gets credit for completing the complicated Turtle Bay acquisition initiated by Abercrombie.

One troubling sign: William 'Ailā Jr. put the kibosh on the military's efforts to renew its leases for military training activities at Pōhakuloa and Mākua. The army has caused extensive damage to natural and cultural resources on these public trust ceded lands. After replacing 'Ailā, Suzanne Case re-initiated negotiations with the military—despite a plethora of evidence that the military has not been complying with the conditions of the leases.

**LUC:** Governor Ige has transformed the state Land Use Commission—long filled with members closely affiliated with developers and the construction industry—into the most balanced it has ever been. The transformed LUC actually found that the environmental impact statement for development at Olowalu on Maui was inadequate.

**CWRM:** On the other hand, the commission for water resource management is stacked with members who do not believe the state should play a significant role in protecting our water resources. Governor Ige replaced environmental law professor Denise Antolini with former plantation manager Bill Balfour on the commission for water resource management. Balfour's record—and comments by the new health director, Virginia Pressler—suggest that the water commission may not take steps to protect the threatened Keauhou aquifer on the Big Island.

**DOH:** Governor Ige fired Gary Gill without announcing who would replace him—temporarily leaving the environmental management program without any real leadership. The new deputy director of environmental health, Keith Kawaoka, signed off on a plan that delays the clean up of the leaking Red Hill

fuel tanks that are polluting our aquifer.

**OEQC:** The governor's October nomination of former Sierra Club Chapter Chair Scott Glenn to lead the Office of Environmental Quality Control gave us all something to cheer about. While we will miss Scott's professionalism, dedication and calmness, we know that he will bring these qualities to OEQC. On the other hand, his appointment does not represent a significant philosophical shift since he replaces environmental champion Jessica

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*Although the environment is not the Ige administration's primary focus, many—but clearly not all—of his appointments show promise and professionalism.*

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Wooley. And OEQC plays only a very small role in shaping and implementing state environmental policy.

**AG:** With the creation of the Environmental Court, the attorney general has been given a golden opportunity to reorganize an office that has repeatedly lost in the appellate courts in environmental cases. Unfortunately, new Attorney General Doug Chin has made no effort to make any changes despite repeated stinging defeats based on bad legal advice that his attorneys have been giving to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and other state agencies.

**OP:** The governor still has not appointed a director for the Office of Planning. OP takes positions as to developers' requests to urbanize agricultural and conservation district lands and runs the state's coastal zone

management program. Under Governor Waihe'e, this office enhanced protection of conservation district lands and unique natural resources. With each passing administration, the Office of Planning's visibility and vision have diminished. OP has not systematically reviewed which lands should be more appropriately designated as conservation in decades. When running for office, Ige emphasized the importance of planning. It is curious then that he has not yet selected his own director.

**PUC:** While keeping his hands off of most other environmental issues, Governor Ige championed a goal of a 100% renewable electricity; opposed HECO's plan to import liquid natural gas; and has vigorously objected to the NextEra takeover. It is unclear whether his appointment of Randy Iwase as Public Utilities Commission chair will help advance the governor's—and our—goals. Iwase was no friend of the environment when he chaired the state Senate Committee on Land and Water years ago. He blocked efforts to dedicate funding to land conservation; the legacy lands fund passed the legislature only after he retired. He opposed open decision making. And he sponsored legislation to weaken protection of natural resources. Will Iwase show new colors at the PUC? The PUC's extensive examination of the NextEra takeover proposal and his emphasis on transparency in that case offers some hope. But the PUC's order abruptly terminating the net-metering program stymies progress in ensuring clean distributed energy generation.

Although the environment is not the Ige administration's primary focus, many—but clearly not all—of his appointments show promise and professionalism. It will be interesting to see what accomplishments he will tout after three more years. ■

# Perpetual Renewal of Revocable Permits

By Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

In December, the Board of Land and Natural Resources unanimously agreed to renew all revocable permits currently on the books without determining whether permit fees were market-based, completing any environmental assessment, or evaluating the impact on traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians.

The only basis offered for renewing the current permits is whether the permit fees have been paid in full. This is unacceptable. The Land Board has a well-established legal obligation to evaluate the use of public lands that extends far beyond remittances. The Sierra Club offered testimony on all of the revocable permits with particular focus on four water permits to Alexander and Baldwin.

The Board heard hours of testimony outlining the extensive litigation involving these permits by Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, as well as the significant impact these historic diversions have on the natural resources of the streams.

Sierra Club members have directly experienced the extreme negative impact of these diversions. Their information has been a basis of on-going litigation before the Water Commission for these diversions. Lucienne de Naie, a member of the Sierra Club's Maui Group, testified to the Water Commission that:

I have observed conditions in these streams below the EMI diversions to be very dry and unnatural during all but heavy rain events, while nearby EMI diversion ditches are carrying the stream water away. The ditches themselves have deteriorated over the nearly two decades I have walked these trails and they appear to be leaking and wasting water. I have observed ditch walls cracked by tree roots, ditches and intakes blocked by fallen trees and branches and ditches filled with

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*The only basis offered for renewing the current permits is whether the permit fees have been paid in full. This is unacceptable.*

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debris. Because the EMI ditches capture virtually all of the upstream flows, lack of water in many reaches of the streams limits recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of the streams and pools, limits nature study opportunities, and could lead to unhealthy conditions for those who seek to enjoy recreational use of the waters. (emphasis added).

The 2008 Water Commission staff report for the interim in-stream flow standards for East Maui streams acknowledged the damage to public trust resources experienced by Sierra Club members. The report went further to note that insufficient stream flows risk public health. It said:

“Public testimony indicates that the decrease in the ability to gather impacts nutrition. Stagnant water in the streams results in increased mosquitoes, which may lead to increased risk in dengue fever or other mosquito-borne illnesses. Stagnant water may also increase the risk of skin disease from the water.” (emphasis added).

As a result of the systematic, long-term dewatering of multiple tributaries in East Maui, the native species are dying, constitutionally protected recreational uses related to the streams are undermined, and the public's health is compromised. Despite well-documented public concern for the health of the streams in East Maui,

the Land Division has continued to renew these month-to-month revocable permits as a matter of practice. This practice must be stopped.

To properly evaluate a request to renew a revocable permit, the Board needs to know, among other things:

- What effect do the currently permitted uses have on the traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians?
- Have conditions changed on the property, in the overall environment, or in the activities on surrounding properties to make a revocable permit inappropriate?

Some of the revocable permits were originally issued in the 1970s, many are dated in the 1990s. An activity that may have been appropriate in 1990 may no longer be appropriate because climate change has significantly altered the environment or urbanization has significantly changed surrounding land uses. The Board needs to evaluate these conditions before renewing a revocable permit.

- What is the current fair market value of the subject property?

State law requires the Board to collect fair market value for the use of state lands. This process to perpetually renew revocable permits does not provide an adequate opportunity to assess the fair market value of these lands.

- What is the location, current condition, and surrounding uses of the property?



Just because the oft nominal fee charged to permit holders has been paid does not mean that the property is being used to its highest and best use. The Board should know whether any complaints or other concerns have been raised about the use of these state lands.

- **Are there any entities interested in competing for the revocable permits**

The Board needs to know if anyone else is interested in the state lands before it summarily renews a revocable permit. This type of competition helps to ensure that state lands used for private profit are actually earning the most possible.

The issue of perpetually renewed revocable permits is not new. The Board grappled with this issue in the mid-1990s and directed to then-Division of Land Management to convert some revocable permits to longer term leases because revocable permits are by definition short-term. Indeed, the short term nature of revocable permits is one reason given for less stringent scrutiny of potential environmental consequences.

#### **At the End of the Day**

On the four water permits to Alexander and Baldwin, the Board decided to punt the decision on these permits. They did not renew them, but they did not cancel them either. Instead the Board voted to “hold-over” these four permits, which is a bureaucratic form of purgatory for all of the stream resources and the traditional Hawaiian practices that rely on them.

For the remainder of the permits, the Board summarily agreed to renew them all. Two Board members raised concerns about the practice of perpetual annual renewals for revocable permits and requested that the Land Division staff investigate the revocable permits more, describe what each permit is for, and evaluate whether a lease or other instrument is a better fit for the activities on state land. They requested that the staff bring their findings to the Board in June 2016. So be on the look-out for those on the Board agenda.

# Ho‘opili(kia) Update

*By Anthony Aalto, O‘ahu Group Chair*

The state Supreme Court put a nasty lump of coal in our Christmas stocking. The Justices rejected our appeal of the Land Use Commission’s decision to reclassify 1,525 acres of Hono‘uli‘uli farmland into the urban boundary. The ruling brings to an end our 15-year battle to halt construction of a new suburban town to be called Ho‘opili: 11,750 homes, five schools, and hundreds of thousands of square feet of commercial space on some of the most productive farmland in the world.

We recognize the urgent need to build more middle class and affordable housing and we even support some of the denser construction that the developer, D.R. Horton, intends to build. But the development doesn’t belong on our best farmland—it belongs in the heart of Kapolei, parts of which look like a ghost town. We believe it’s essential that the state meet its constitutional duty to preserve our best ag land in order to boost our pitiful level of food self-sufficiency.

So the heart of our argument before the Supreme Court was that the LUC ignored that constitutional mandate to protect productive agricultural lands from

*We believe it’s essential that the state meet its constitutional duty to preserve our best ag land in order to boost our pitiful level of food self-sufficiency.*

urbanization—a mandate further enshrined in the “Important Agricultural Lands” section of Hawai‘i’s land use law. Both the majority opinion and Justice Pollack’s dissent noted that the City and County of Honolulu have failed to comply with the legal requirement to identify “Important Agricultural Lands.” To Justice Pollack that was a fatal flaw; the rest of the court didn’t see it that way.

As our Director, Marti Townsend, points out, “It is clear from both court opinions that the City has long dropped the ball on protecting O‘ahu’s productive agricultural lands. Implementing this part of the law is a key step towards providing developers the certainty they seek for their investments, as well as the genuine protection of food-producing lands that the public expects. This ruling just ensures that the current protections for agricultural lands remain dormant thanks to government inaction.”

The Supreme Court decision was the second half of a double whammy. Exactly eight weeks earlier the LUC rejected a motion calling on the Commission to overturn its Ho‘opili decision on the grounds that D.R. Horton’s traffic impact analysis woefully underestimated the traffic impacts of the development in part by using deliberately inaccurate numbers—and that the analysis was improperly accepted by the City. The motion was built on voluminous research conducted by our ally Kioni Dudley, Chair of the Save O‘ahu Farmlands Alliance. The Sierra Club’s attorney Eric Seitz and his associate Sarah Rose Devine argued the motion on our behalf.

The one consolation in this bitter loss has been the opportunity to befriend and work with Eric, Kioni and Sarah.

We’re now working with fellow farmland advocates to determine what needs to change in public policy to ensure our local governments take all necessary steps to protect what is left of our productive agricultural lands. We count on your support in that fight.

# Nate's Adventures

*Hawaiian Carnivorous Caterpillar — Eupithecia*



*An Eupithecia orichloris is a native to Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Lāna'i, and Hawai'i. At least six of Hawai'i's described Eupithecia species are carnivorous with only two feeding predominantly on plant material.*



*By Nate Yuen  
Special to the  
Sierra Club*

One of the amazing denizens in the Hawaiian forest is the carnivorous caterpillar *Eupithecia*. *Eupithecia* is a large genus of moths with over a thousand described species worldwide whose caterpillars feed on plant material. But when the moths found their way to the Hawaiian Islands eons

ago, their caterpillars underwent a most curious transformation.

The Sierra Club's own Steve Montgomery is credited with discovering the first carnivorous caterpillar known to science. In 1972, he captured a caterpillar and placed it in a vial with a fly. When he returned home and checked his containers the fly had mysteriously disappeared. He followed his intuition, put in another fly, and kept them under surveillance. To his surprise: the fly got eaten.

Steve speculates that the extreme isolation of the Hawaiian Islands and the lack of insect predators early in

the moth's evolution on our volcanic islands fostered an environment favorable to morphological and behavior adaptations, producing carnivorous caterpillars.

This caterpillar is an inch worm—also known as a looper—that has evolved to anchor its hind legs to surfaces, allowing its front legs to grasp and hold onto prey. The caterpillar remains motionless like a twig on a branch and waits for insects to come within striking distance.

While camping at Peacock Flats with Steve Montgomery, we were spellbound as we watched a spectacle

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*The Sierra Club's own Steve Montgomery is credited with discovering the first carnivorous caterpillar known to science. In 1972, he captured a caterpillar and placed it in a vial with a fly. When he returned home and checked his containers the fly had mysteriously disappeared.*

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worthy of the Roman Colosseum unfold before our eyes. A termite walked over a twig and brushed against a hair on the caterpillar which triggered a lightning fast strike! WHAM! The termite was in its grasp! For the next 20 minutes we watched the gruesome sight as the caterpillar ate the eye of the termite and proceeded to chow down and devour its meal.

*To see more of Nate's photos of the Hawaiian Carnivorous Caterpillar go to [hawaiianforest.com/wp/hawaiian-carnivorous-caterpillar-eupithecia/](http://hawaiianforest.com/wp/hawaiian-carnivorous-caterpillar-eupithecia/)*

## **Update on Hawaiian Monk Seal Pup (Dec 29, 2015)**

I have awful news to report. Ola Loa, the Hawaiian monk seal pup featured in the last newsletter, died from complications after surgery to remove a large hook from her throat. This is the baby seal born in February 2015 to Honeygirl at Turtle Bay. She did not make it past her first year of life. Derelict fishing gear poses the single greatest threat to Hawaiian Monk seals.



*A termite walked over a twig and brushed against a hair on the caterpillar which triggered a lightning fast strike!*



**WHAM!**



*For the next 20 minutes we watched the gruesome sight as the caterpillar ate the eye of the termite and proceeded to chow down and devour its meal.*



# Fact-finding Effort on the U.S. Navy Fuel Storage Tanks

By Marti Townsend,  
Chapter Director

Sierra Club staff and volunteers are on a fact-finding mission to learn more about the release of 27,000 gallons of jet fuel from a naval storage facility in Pu'u Kapu, now known as Red Hill. As part of this effort, we have toured the Navy's storage facility where the leak occurred and the neighboring Board of Water Supply (BWS) pump station at Halawa, met with elected and appointed officials responsible for our water security, and scoured countless documents.

## Background

From 1940-1943 the U.S. Navy constructed 20 fuel storage tanks inside a basalt mountain ridge in Halawa Valley. The tanks are each 250 feet tall and 100 feet wide, constructed of concrete and lined with steel. The tanks are approximately 100 feet above a major groundwater aquifer for the island of O'ahu. Tests and reports confirm that the groundwater underneath all of the tanks contains jet fuel or constituent elements of jet fuel, suggesting that all of the tanks have leaked at some point. The total amount of jet fuel released into the environment over the last 70 years is unknown. Since 2006, the U.S. Navy has spent over \$245 million maintaining this fuel storage facility. Despite the major financial investment, at least 27,000 gallons of jet fuel leaked from tank #5 in January 2014 after it had undergone maintenance work.

In 2014, the state legislature formed a taskforce of federal, state, and county entities to investigate and

make recommendations to address this latest leak from the Navy's fuel storage facility. This task force released a report that discussed the history of the tanks, contamination of the groundwater underneath the tanks and changes for improving the Navy storage facility in Pu'u Kapu.

Since then an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) was signed on September 28, 2015 between the U.S. Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. EPA, and Hawai'i Department that includes a statement of work allowing 22-27 years to test, evaluate and implement changes at the Navy facility. At the same time, U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard, 18 state legislators, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and the State Commission of Water Resources Management expressed serious concerns about the adequacy of the AOC and the future safety of O'ahu's groundwater supplies.

After reviewing the document, Representative Gabbard described it as "woefully inadequate."

"It's critical that the Navy reconsider alternative fuel storage options in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region that would decrease [the] overall risk to our groundwater, and provide

potential cost-savings in the long run. If relocation is not feasible, then, at a minimum, the Navy should immediately take action to eliminate the constant threat of fuel contamination to O'ahu's drink-ing water resources," she said.

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*"It's critical that the Navy reconsider alternative fuel storage options in Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region that would decrease [the] overall risk to our groundwater, and provide potential cost-savings in the long run."*

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## Updates

### Next Steps in the Process

The first stage of the work outlined in the AOC calls for two years of testing and modeling to inform future decision making about this storage facility. Research goals include

*Continued on page 10*



Fuel storage tanks under Red Hill from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply



# Celebrating “Every Kid in a Park” at the Campbell Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku, Hawai‘i

By Jackie Ostfield and  
Virginia Cramer, Sierra Club



Jack Johnson serenades 200 fourth graders.

On November 12, 2015, Sierra Club, as a member of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids (OAK), joined musician Jack Johnson and his wife Kim, the Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation, Obama administration officials and more than 200 fourth graders to launch “Every Kid in a Park” in Hawai‘i. The students received passes to America’s public lands and waters through the Every Kid in a Park initiative, which seeks to connect young people with the great outdoors by granting free entry to public lands, waters and shores for all fourth-graders and their families. During the event, the Johnsons announced a commitment via their Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation to fund \$100,000 worth of field trip grants, with the goal of reaching all 17,000 fourth-grade students in the state of Hawai‘i to ensure that they have the opportunity to use their pass to visit their public lands. OAK provided healthy lunches for the children at the event.

The children enjoyed a morning of learning outdoors at six stations throughout the Refuge. The stations included a beach clean-up that highlighted the harm plastic causes to endangered albatross and a re-enactment of sea turtles hatching from the sand, starring the fourth graders as baby turtles.

“Every child should be able to share

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*“Every child should be able to share in the unparalleled natural and cultural beauty of Hawai‘i. The Every Kid in a Park program will allow all of Hawai‘i’s fourth graders to explore, enjoy and develop an appreciation for our public lands and waters.”*

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in the unparalleled natural and cultural beauty of Hawai‘i,” said Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Director, Marti Townsend who attended today’s event. “The Every Kid in a Park program will allow all of Hawai‘i’s fourth graders to explore, enjoy and develop an appreciation for our public lands and waters.”

“Every Kid in a Park Hawai‘i will play an important role in supporting the national Let’s Move! Outside initiative, where we are collectively working to engage more youth through outdoor service projects, recreation and environmental education programs to inspire and foster a new generation of nature lovers and stewards for life,” said President and CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu, Michael Broderick. “We all know that interaction with nature is also a powerful way to promote health, healing and well-being and can provide our youth the opportunities to discover and realize the potential every child has in him or herself to have a promising future.”

“At REI we believe a life outdoors is a life well lived, and we commend the Administration for their efforts to instill the value of the outdoors in the next generation,” said REI Community Affairs Program Manager, Taldi Walter.

“We are fortunate in Hawai‘i to have nice warm weather year-round making

all of our parks accessible throughout the year,” said President and CEO of Kama‘aina Kids Hawai‘i and American Camp Association National Board Member Raymond Sanborn. “This is a great opportunity to allow our fourth-graders access to our national parks as well as our state and county parks that are already free. Anytime a child can experience the outdoor environment is always a plus.”

OAK is a national strategic partnership of organizations from diverse sectors with a common interest in connecting children, youth and families with the outdoors. OAK brings



Jamie Tanino and Bob Keane of our High School Hikers program pose with Senator Brian Schatz.

together more than eighty businesses and organizations including the American Heart Association, Children & Nature Network, Izaak Walton League of America, National Recreation and Park Association, National Wildlife Federation, The North Face, Public Lands Service Coalition (a program of The Corps Network), REI, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and the YMCA of the USA to address the growing divide between children, youth and the natural world. For more information: [outdoorsallianceforkids.org](http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org)

## Fuel Storage Tanks

*Continued from page 8*

understanding the flow of water in this aquifer, identifying new techniques to clean up contamination already released into the environment, and developing new technology to prevent (not just detect) future releases.

The Honolulu BWS and U.S. Navy are independently installing additional monitoring wells around the fuel storage tanks to better assess potential contamination in the groundwater.

### Elevated Levels of Hydrocarbons

A Navy lab report from April 2015 shows elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons as diesel (TPH-d) from two samples at a monitoring well located adjacent to the fuel storage tanks and immediately up gradient to the Navy's drinking water well. TPH-d is a constituent element of jet fuel. Additional testing is needed to determine what these elevated readings mean.

### Other Tanks Worthy of Concern

The state task force's investigation revealed over 20 other military fuel storage facilities state-wide that are near to water resources and/or show signs of past releases. Additional investigation is needed to assess the risk these storage tanks pose to our natural resources, and the options for remediating the contamination and retiring the tanks.

Commercially operated fuel storage tanks are also being cited for violations, including leaks, false maintenance reports, and improper design. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is currently assessing fines for violations at a Sand Island facility that almost contaminated Ke'ehi Lagoon with 42,000 gallons of jet fuel in January 2015.

### Solutions

In the long term, the best way to prevent fuel leaks is obviously to not store fuel. Until we are completely free of fossil fuels, however, we must do all that we can to prevent the release of fuel into the environment.

To prevent leaks, all fuel storage tanks must comply with *all* state and federal regulations. No exceptions,

no exemptions. This means double-lined tanks, systems to prevent leaks (not merely detect them better), and greater public transparency over storage facilities. If older storage facilities cannot meet all current requirements, then they need to be retired.

We are evaluating our options for upholding the public trust interest in our water resources. If you are interested in learning more about this issue, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply has established a document repository on their website: [boardofwatersupply.com](http://boardofwatersupply.com). ■



*State elected officials on a tour of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's Halawa Shaft. Photo by Marti Townsend.*



## Lorin T. Gill Honored

In October, Roosevelt High School celebrated its 85th Anniversary by honoring its graduate, Lorin T. Gill (Class of 1946), for his work as an environmentalist. Lorin helped to found the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1968 and established our immensely successful High School Hikers program. Pictured here, Lorin's niece, Andie, accepts the award on behalf of the Gill family.

*Photo by Marti Townsend*

# Faith and Science Unite Against Climate Change

*By Travis Idol, President of Hawai'i Interfaith and Light*

On November 21, 2015, 60 people joined in a teach-in at the Church of the Crossroads. The event opened with an oli (Hawaiian chant) by Dr. Charles Pe'ape'a Makawalu Burrows, which traditionally is done when visitors arrive at a special place and ask permission to enter, then are received with aloha. This was followed by an opening pule from Kahu Dr./Rev. Jim Fung, interim minister of Church of the Crossroads. I moderated the event.

The first session included scientific presentations about major impacts of climate change on Hawai'i and similar Pacific Island environments. Dr. Michael Mottle, professor of geochemistry in the department of Oceanography at the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa (UH-Mānoa), discussed predicted changes in air and ocean temperatures and the impacts this will have on terrestrial climates and marine life. He also emphasized the impact of ocean acidification on shell-forming organisms and ocean chemistry.

Dr. Steven Businger, meteorologist at UH-Mānoa, discussed similar causes of global warming but emphasized the impacts of warming on storm intensity and frequency, especially Pacific cyclones. A record number of cyclones (hurricanes) hit the central Pacific this year (15), including three category 4 storms occurring at the same time.

Finally, Dr. Gail Grabowsky, chair of the Environmental Studies program at Chaminade University, spoke of the impacts of rising sea temperatures on coral health, especially bleaching events. All three speakers urged participants to promote renewable energy, drive electric cars, and advocate for a carbon tax or cap and trade system to lower greenhouse gas emissions and fairly price the cost of these pollutants on

environmental and human well-being.

During the break, two "polar bears" joined the speakers for a brief photo op and to promote the Senate bill to designate the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area, making it off-limits to oil and gas drilling. Dr. Burrows read a statement from Hawai'i Senator Brian Schatz affirming his co-sponsorship of the bill and support for a renewable energy future.

After the break, a panel of religious and cultural leaders discussed the roots of their particular tradition's approach to the environment and our responsibility as people of faith and culture to respond to the causes and consequences of climate change. Dr. Burrows represented Native Hawaiian cultural traditions. Dr. Grabowsky spoke on behalf of the Roman Catholic faith, especially the message of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si*. Rabbi Peter Shaktman represented the Jewish faith. Imam Ismail Elshikh represented the Muslim faith. A few of the common themes included relating to the natural world as part of our extended family (kinship) and fellow created beings; the responsibility we have been given to care for Creation; prohibitions against waste or needless destruction; and the motivation to do the right thing because it is right, holy, or pono (righteous), rather than focusing on the consequences of our actions.

Dr. Burrows then invited Mark Stride, a local farmer and activist from the local food sovereignty movement, to speak about the importance of this issue for Hawai'i. Mr. Stride spoke with passion about the importance of connecting with the land, of growing food for local consumption, and how making these connections can provide a deep sense of meaning and purpose to one's life, including his own and those of many young people he works with. For him, growing food is about taking care of



*During the break, two "polar bears" joined the speakers for a brief photo op and to promote the Senate bill to designate the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge as a wilderness area, making it off-limits to oil and gas drilling.*

the ones we love, a motivation that was shared by all of our speakers at the event.

Afterwards, I invited the participants to visit the action tables in the room to learn about ways they could support effective action on climate change. David Mulinix of 350.org Hawai'i reminded everyone of the climate change march and rally on November 29. Others shared their thoughts about themes for future events, including discussions of the foundation and structure of a truly green and just economic system.

The event was video recorded by 'Olelo community television. Refreshments were provided and generously donated by the Burrows family and farmers Mark Hamamoto of Mohala Farms and Mark Stride of the Aloha Aina Health Center. Sponsors of the event include: Hawai'i Interfaith Power and Light, Church of the Crossroads, First Unitarian Church of Honolulu, The Sierra Club—Our Wild America, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Blue Planet Foundation, Idle No More Hawai'i, De Occupy Honolulu, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and Alaska Wilderness League.





## O'ahu Group Report

### Thanks to Randy Ching

Given how long it takes to design, print and distribute this newsletter, you won't be reading these words until some time after they are penned. But I am writing this report on Thanksgiving day and I feel compelled to start with a word of thanks to our friend and mentor, Randy Ching.

The most immediate reason is that Randy has just donated the funds to hire an additional full-time member of staff for the Club, the second such position he has funded this year. With three pros at the helm, the Club will be able to increase our impact with more one-on-one lobbying of elected and appointed officials and by recruiting and mobilizing a network of activists. This extraordinary generosity follows on the heels of a donation of \$100,000 that Randy made to help preserve the Ka Iwi mauka lands from development earlier this year.

Checkbook activism is easy for the rich—but, first, Randy is not a millionaire and, second, he backs his cash with something much more precious: his time and mana'o. Randy is probably the longest-serving officer in the Hawai'i chapter. He has held almost every office available on the Executive Committees of both the state Chapter and the O'ahu Group, where he still serves as Treasurer. He has led outings and service projects all across the state for two decades. He has single-handedly cut and maintained hiking trails for the enjoyment of all and he continues to work for the club every day. Mahalo Randy.

### Divestment

We have started to meet with leaders of the public-sector unions and to work with members of [350.org](http://350.org) to ensure the broadest possible support for our effort to require the state Employee

Retirement System to divest its \$14.4 billion portfolio of any stocks in the 200 biggest fossil fuel companies. By the time you read this we hope to have met with the mayors of all four counties to gain their support in this effort. We would welcome the support of folks in the other groups. We will be appealing to you soon to join us in lobbying and testifying at the Legislature.

### Fake Farms

As a result of our lobbying effort, which secured the support of Mayor Caldwell, the Department of Planning & Permitting has decided to hire a consultant to prepare proposals for curbing the spread of fake, or so-called "gentlemen" farms. That consultant is John Whalen, the new Chair of the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. John is a former Director of Land Utilization for the City and his ideas on this subject appear aligned with ours, so this is great news. The Director of DPP, George Atta, is also looking at ways to accommodate growth in the country that do not contribute to suburban sprawl and he has offered us the opportunity to contribute to his review.

### HART

We testified to the HART board of directors about our concerns regarding the way the rail system will be powered. We believe it is essential that the project be powered by renewable energy and we have offered to join a new sustainability committee to ensure that HART meets that goal.

### World Conservation Congress

Two O'ahu Group members are leading efforts to ensure that the Club has a significant presence at the World Conservation Congress next year. The

Congress has agreed to a proposal from O'ahu Group Vice Chair Leilei Shih to host a "Knowledge Café" on the theme "Exploration and Enjoyment of Wild Places Promotes Habitat Conservation." Steve Montgomery is leading a national Sierra Club effort to ensure that President Obama comes to Honolulu to deliver the keynote address to the Congress.

Steve is also leading the Sierra Club effort to have the World Conservation Congress adopt a resolution urging President Obama to designate the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve as a National Monument. Such designation would ensure that ANWR could never be drilled for oil. This is an issue that the O'ahu Group has championed ever since former senators Inouye and Akaka decided to support oil drilling in the ANWR. Their support was a result of the long-standing close relationship between the Alaska and Hawai'i Congressional delegations. We felt this action by our Senators gave us a heightened responsibility to push back and over the years we have worked with the Gwich'in people of Alaska and Canada in that effort.

### Complete Streets

We have been lobbying the Honolulu City Council to try to ensure that it does not adopt rules that would make it more difficult to build the ambitious proposed network of protected bicycle paths around the city. Despite that effort the Council passed the first reading of Bill 84—introduced by Council Member Carol Fukunaga—that would do exactly that. We have also been working to counteract opposition to the King Street cycle track from motorists who don't support the concept of Complete Streets which aim to make our roadways safer and more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists.



## North Shore Federal Recognition

We continue to work with the North Shore Community Land Trust to try to persuade the Obama administration to designate the North Shore under one of the many federal programs that recognize and help preserve outstanding scenic areas. We hope to persuade the President to use the occasion of the World Conservation Congress to announce such a designation for the North Shore.

## Ho'opili and Koa Ridge

As many of you will have heard, the Supreme Court has denied our appeal to overturn the Land Use Commission's decision to reclassify our most productive farmlands in Hono'uli'uli into the urban boundary—ensuring that the vast new suburban subdivision known as Ho'opili will be built. You can read our report on page 5.

A hui hou,

**Anthony Aalto**  
*Chair, O'ahu Group*

## OUTINGS

SEE PAGE 14 FOR GENERAL  
OUTINGS INFORMATION

Registration is required for most outings. You can view the most current outings schedule, including hikes added after the *Mālama* publication date, at [sierraclubhawaii.org/get-outdoors](http://sierraclubhawaii.org/get-outdoors)

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, January 2

*Olomana Hope (E)*  
5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Olomana  
We will hike up the backside of Olomana and see some of the new bike trails that have been created by the O'ahu Mountain Bike Ohana. After a bit of a climb we will reach the Olomana ridgeline below Pu'u Ahiki (Olomana's third peak). We'll hike along the ridge and have some steep ups and downs. Eventually we return to Waimanalo along the old government road. Total distance is about 5 miles. Elevation gain/loss about 1,000 feet. We meet at the end of Mahiku Place in Waimanalo at 8:30 a.m. Reservations required. Ed Mersino [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu).

### Saturday, January 9

*Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup (S)*  
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Harbor Master's office between the third and fourth row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot 'ewa of Hilton lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring hat, sunscreen, and water. We will use nets and scoops to clear the harbor of floating debris. All participants must wear close-toed shoes. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian to participate. Please contact leader for the waiver. Because of limited nets, please also reserve your spot to help with this cleanup with the leader. Deborah Blair 955-4168.

### Sunday, January 10

*Mānoa Cliff (E/F)*  
4 mi/Moderate/Contour/Tantalus  
This trail contours the cliffs above Mānoa Valley and has beautiful views

as well as a variety of native plants. It is an opportunity to hone your plant identification skills. There are o'hia, koa, kokio'keo'keo, mamaki, haha, and olona. The Mānoa Cliff Native Forest Restoration Project volunteers have worked for years to bring back many native plants. Colleen Soares [csoares48@gmail.com](mailto:csoares48@gmail.com).

### Saturday, January 23

*Queen Kapi'olani Gardens Service Project (S)*  
Join the City's Division of Urban Forestry and the Sierra Club in maintaining a native Hawaiian garden. Meet at Queen Kapi'olani Garden (bordered by Monsarrat/Paki/ Leahi Avenues) at 8:00 a.m. Tools will be provided but you are welcome to bring your favorite trimming or pruning tools! Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com), John Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom; asst. Curtis Kawamoto.

### Sunday, January 24

*Waimano Ridge (F)*  
15 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Waimano  
Reservations required. A very long graded route to the Ko'olau Mountains! We'll see historic irrigation ditches, dark abandoned tunnels and a wide variety of native plants. Virgin valley views await and then look down upon Kāne'ohe Bay from the summit. Trailhead meet up time is 7:00 a.m. Dan Anderson [danderhi@gmail.com](mailto:danderhi@gmail.com) 690-0479.

### Sunday, January 31

*Photography Hike: Queen Kapiolani Gardens and Honolulu Zoo (E/F)*  
1.25mi/Easy/Kapahulu  
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Stan for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Botanical Garden with native



## O'ahu Group Outings

plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Many native plants from around the State of Hawai'i and animals from around the world at Honolulu Zoo. Bring a lunch for a day of fun. Nominal entrance fee required for Honolulu Zoo. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com), John Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom; asst. Curtis Kawamoto.

### Saturday, February 6

*Kahuku Point (E/F)*

5 mi/Moderate/Coastal/Kahuku Reservations required. We will start at Kahuku Golf Course and hike up to Kahuku Point. We will hike out past the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, and learn about the area. With a little luck see some of the native birds that call the area home. The hike continues on to the beach for a look at some ancient Hawaiian salt pans and archaeological sites. We will end up at the Kulima Resort where we will shuttle back to the golf course. Bring plenty of water, sun screen and hat. Meet at the

Kahuku Golf Course at 9:00 a.m. Ed Mersino [mersino@hawaii.edu](mailto:mersino@hawaii.edu).

### Saturday, February 6

*"La Hana" Community Workday:*

*Hālawā (S)*

Support our local farming community and learn more about the pressing issues of the day related to saving our farmlands and addressing climate change. Workdays include manual labor to remove weeds, clear ditches, and plant trees, kalo, and/or ma'ā. 8:00 am to noon with lunch and discussion to follow. Bring water bottles, hat, gloves, sunscreen, and covered shoes. Contact Joshua at [joshua.noga@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.noga@sierraclub.org) or 538-6616 to RSVP and get directions.

### Sunday, February 7

*Photography hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E/F)*

2 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kailua Reservations required. Contact John for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ōhe. Car shuttle required. John Shimogawa 227-9925,

Clyde Kobashigawa [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com), Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto.

### Saturday, February 13

*MCBH Kāne'ōhe Bay Service Project (S)* Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or [danderhi@gmail.com](mailto:danderhi@gmail.com) by February 12. We will be working with Environmental Services helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We will send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168.

### Saturday, February 20

*Makiki-Tantalus Trail (E/F)*

2.2 mi /Easy/Contour/Tantalus Reservations required. Explore our Makiki-Tantalus trails. We will hike along the Makiki-Tantalus trails starting and ending at the Hawai'i Nature Center. Sherine Boomla [boomla@hawaii.edu](mailto:boomla@hawaii.edu).

## SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

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

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, raingear/jacket, and daypack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers), or 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](http://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.



# O'ahu Group Outings

## Sunday, February 21

### *Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)*

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. The bathroom that is closer to Makapu'u. We will cleanup along highway and coastal areas until 10:30 a.m. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. No one under 18 will be allowed to clean on the highway and will spend their time cleaning the beach and park area. Closed-toe shoes only. No slippers or sandals of any sort. Call Tred 394-2898 for information. Deborah Blair 955-4168.

## Saturday, February 28

### *"La Hana" Community Workday:*

#### *Punalu'u (S)*

Support our local farming community and learn more about the pressing issues of the day related to saving our farmlands and addressing climate change. Workdays include manual labor to remove weeds, clear ditches, and plant trees, kalo, and/or ma'ifa. 8:00 am to noon with lunch and discussion to follow. Bring water bottles, hat, gloves, sunscreen, and covered shoes. Contact Joshua at [joshua.noga@sierraclub.org](mailto:joshua.noga@sierraclub.org) or 538-6616 to RSVP and get directions.

## Saturday, March 5

### *Pu'u 'Ualaka'a (F)*

2.5 mi/ Easy/Contour/Tantalus  
Reservations required. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Park at the first paved parking lot. Take a short hike into the forest on the 'Ualaka'a and Makiki Valley trails. Jean Fujikawa. [fujikawa@gmail.com](mailto:fujikawa@gmail.com).

## Saturday, March 12

### *Sierra Seminar: Kaunala West (E/F)*

5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Pupukea

Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with beautiful views of central O'ahu. Clyde Kobashigawa [clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com), John Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto.

## Sunday, March 13

### *Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Trip (S)*

Reservations required and space is limited. Meeting time and place will be provided to registered participants. We will travel to Mokule'ia where we will meet with Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) personnel and drive to Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve. We will remove invasive plants, and do out-planting. Possible albatross, humpback whale, and monk seal viewing. Colleen Soares [csoares48@gmail.com](mailto:csoares48@gmail.com).

## Saturday, March 19

### *Makiki Valley (F)*

3.5 mi/ Moderate/Contour/Tantalus  
Reservations required. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Park at the first paved parking lot. Enjoy a loop hike through a lovely forest down to Hawai'i Nature Center through Makiki Valley and nice views of Honolulu. Jean Fujikawa. [jean.fujikawa@gmail.com](mailto:jean.fujikawa@gmail.com)

## Saturday, March 26

### *Snorkeling at Black Point/*

#### *Diamond Head (E/F)*

Reservations required. All participants must be able to swim. Get to know your fish, coral, and limu neighbors at Black Point/Diamond Head. Bring your swim things, 2 liters of water, reef walkers, sun screen, snack, towel, and change of clothes. Sherine Boomla [boomla@hawaii.edu](mailto:boomla@hawaii.edu).



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
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Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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



*Crowds and lack of parking at Ha'ena State Park*

## Ha'ena State Park Master Plan On Hold

Since 2010, the State Parks division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources has been working with the community, through a Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC), to develop a master plan for the future of Ha'ena State Park.

The park is recognized to be overcrowded: visitors spill out onto environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, and illegal parking congests the park and adjacent areas. In 2011, visitor counts exceeded 2,000 people/day; since then, tourism has reached new peaks; and the park will have to deal with the impacts of the 30%-40% increase in Kaua'i tourist accommodation units that are already approved but not yet built. Additional park visitors would further increase traffic and parking issues, create more dune erosion, impact near-shore water quality and the reef, and create additional conflicts with subsistence fishermen and cultural practitioners. So it has been clear to everyone on the MPAC that significant actions need to be taken to protect the park's historic, cultural, and natural resources.

The recommendations in the proposed Master Plan therefore focused on limiting the number of daily visitors and on shifting the park's emphasis from recreation to its cultural heritage. The number of visitors would be limited to 900 per day through controlled entry to the park. The cultural significance of the park would be emphasized by involving the families who have traditionally lived in Ha'ena in the restoration and revival of cultural practices, and through restoration of the park's agricultural, dune, and cultural complexes. The Master Plan also proposes an elevated boardwalk pathway makai of the highway, as rockfall hazard studies have indicated that there are serious risks near the base of Makana.

At the August public meeting on the Draft EIS for the Master Plan, it became clear that while the MPAC did have broad representation, there was insufficient communication with the rest of the community regarding the Master Plan process and recommendations. Significant questions were raised regarding the proposed infrastructure improvements, and on how to ensure park access for local residents.

To its credit, State Parks has put the process "on hold" to allow the community to form a new Community Advisory Committee, whose mission will be to protect the park's natural and cultural resources, advise the DLNR in developing and implementing the Master Plan, and engage with the larger community. The Committee envisions that Ha'ena State Park will be a place that is managed by the community, honors Hawaiian values, and controls the number of visitors so that the land is in balance and local families will once again be able to visit and enjoy the park.

## Delay in Draft EIS for Industrial Dairy

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed dairy in Maha'ulepu Valley, slated for release this year, has been delayed to early 2016.

Hawai'i Dairy Farms, operator of the proposed operation, was recently required to produce documents as part of ongoing litigation in federal court. These documents show that HDF was anticipating completion of the DEIS by November 2015, after receiving an initial 180-day extension on County permits. Citing a number of factors, the expected completion of the DEIS was pushed beyond the 180 days and HDF now needs another permit extension. The most recent request anticipated that completion and acceptance of the DEIS would take place by the second quarter of 2016.

Kaua'i Group is working to ensure a thorough review of the Draft EIS through the work of our own members and the direct support of local groups committed to determining its adequacy regarding potential effects on the watershed and surrounding communities.



## Kaua'i Group Outings

### SEE PAGE 14 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on one of these great outings to explore and enjoy Kaua'i. Mileage is total miles. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donations for others: \$5. *Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua'i.* Also available on the web: [www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/outings/index.html](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/outings/index.html)

#### **Saturday, January 9**

*Russian Fort Beach Walk. Easy 4 miles round trip. (CEF)* We start at the Russian Fort in Waimea and walk along the beach to Makaweli. Delightful and scenic. Ken Fasig 346-1229.

#### **Saturday, January 16**

*'Okolehao Trail. North Shore/ Moderate/ 4 miles/ (C/E)* A steep climb through pine forest in the Hanalei river valley rewards us with panoramic views of the North Shore. Hike a trail that Sierra Club adopted and took several years to clear. Jane Schmitt 826-6105.

#### **Monday, January 18**

*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, January 23**

*Moloa'a Beach Cleanup. North East Shore/easy (S)* Help protect marine life, sea birds, the reef and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Look for organizations' signs. Bring hat and water. Gloves, bags, and snacks provided. 9 AM to noon. Judy Dalton 482-1129.

#### **Sunday, January 24**

*Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk. South Shore/ Moderate/3.5 miles. (C/E/F)* Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwrecks Beach walking along the coast to Maha'ulepu. Enjoy the setting sun and a full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk. We will shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Greg Peters (413) 522-3734.

#### **Sunday, February 7**

*Tour de Po'ipu Bike Ride (F) Two Easy/ Moderate rides to choose lengths 8 or 13 miles. Fantastic South Shore views. Bring your own bike. Helmets required. Allan Rachap 212-3108.*

#### **Monday, February 15**

*Kawai'ele Waterbird Sanctuary. West Side/Easy. (C/E/F)* Sunset to dusk visit to the sanctuary, home to all four of Hawai'i's endemic waterbirds: the Hawaiian stilt, moorhen and coot, and Koloa duck. Nene, the Hawaiian bat and Black Crowned Night Heron also frequent the sanctuary. We'll also point out the many native species of plants at the sanctuary. Bob Nishek 346-0476.

#### **Saturday, February 27**

*Maha'ulepu Beach Cleanup. South Shore/Easy (S)* Sierra Club, Mālama Maha'ulepu, and Surfrider team up to keep this magnificent beach free of ocean debris and litter. Follow Po'ipu Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to T-intersection and turn right. Continue to parking area and look for banners. Please bring hat and water. Bags, gloves, and snacks provided. 9 AM to noon. Greg Peters 413-522-3734.

#### **Saturday, March 5**

*Po'omau Canyon Ditch Trail. (C/F)* Strenuous 4 miles. Rarely used rail with

fantastic views of Po'omau Canyon. Bob Greene 245-9280 or 346-1229.

#### **Sunday, March 6**

*Maha'ulepu and Makauwahi Cave. South Shore/moderate/4 miles. (C/E/F)* Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world class archaeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108.

#### **Saturday, March 12**

*Limahuli Preserve Hike & Work/ N. Shore/ 2 miles/ Moderate (C/ E/ F)* A rare opportunity to hike into the Limahuli preserve (off limits to the public) in the mid-valley of the Garden & tend to rare & endangered native plants. Jane Schmitt 826-6105.

#### **Saturday, March 19**

*Jewel of Koke'e. Strenuous 7 miles. C/E/F)* Spectacular hike through forests of Koke'e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po'omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo'o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Ken Fasig 346-1229.

#### **Monday, March 21**

*National Tropical Botanical Gardens Sunset Walk. South Side/Moderate/2 miles. (C/E/F)* Hike and learn about plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476.

#### **Saturday, March 26**

*Hanama'ulu Beach Cleanup. East Shore. (S)* Help protect marine life, the reef and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Turn makai in Hana'maulu on road by the 7-11 store. Look for sign further down the hill on the right going to Hanama'ulu Beach. Look for banners at beach. 9AM to noon. Bring water. Bags, gloves, and refreshments provided. Judy Dalton 482-1129.





# Maui Group Report

## Chair's Report

We bid aloha and mahalo to Maui Group Chair Chris Taylor and wish him luck in his new endeavors. Maui Group has been busy weighing in on many important issues. Many volunteers showed up to advocate for the reefs and wildlife of Olowalu—the site of a proposed 1,500-plus-unit development. Maui Group and allies reached a confirmed settlement with Maui County on the penalty phase of our clean water lawsuit concerning Lahaina Wastewater Plant injection wells. We helped rally scores of people to advocate for preservation of 267 acres of Hamakua Coastal lands in the new County budget. We appreciate your support for our work as you make your year-end donations.

Check our website to donate and also our offering of exciting hikes where you can get involved: [mauisierraclub.org/hikes-service-programs/](http://mauisierraclub.org/hikes-service-programs/)

Mahalo for caring about Maui's land and waters!

Sarah Tekula

*Acting Maui Group Chair*

## CONSERVATION UPDATES

### Olowalu Development

Huge victory! The Land Use Commission (LUC) rejected the EIS for this project. Over 100 testifiers packed the LUC meeting, most asking the Commission to reject the Final EIS for urbanization of over 400 acres in Olowalu. Maui Group's comments focused on lack of factual data to support conclusions the project would not impact the area.

### Lipoa Point/Honolua Bay

Save Honolua secured Funding for a management plan for 244-acres of Honolua Bay. State approval still needed.

### Na Wai Eha Stream Flows

All four streams now flow. MG recently advocated for a park/ protective buffer along Waikapu stream as part of the proposed Wai'ale South 950 unit development north of Honoapiilani Hwy.

### Wailea 670/ Palau'ea

Final review of the settlement agreement details continues with all concerned parties, after an agreement in principle was reached in September. Goal: better project plan including a large native plants/cultural sites preserve area with trails and a 13-acre buffer with neighboring Maui Meadows.

### HC&S Pu'unene Plant Coal Burning

Sierra Club wants a seat at the table as future energy production at Pu'unene mill is finalized. Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved a HC&S-MECO power purchase agreement allowing thousands of tons of coal to be burned at Pu'unene. The Maui Group is appealing the PUC decision to exclude us from the process.

### East Maui Stream Restoration

Sierra Club testimony from the March 2015 water commission contested case hearing is featured in the recently released Findings of Fact for this historic case. Plaintiffs ask for complete restoration of a number of east Maui streams and increased flows to others, to support native stream life. Commission decision expected in 2016.

### Lahaina Wastewater Plant

The Maui County Court has accepted the settlement between Lahaina Wastewater Plant and the MG and its allies for the penalty phase of the case. Maui County appealed the federal judge's decision that the Lahaina injection wells

violate the Clean Water Act. If the County appeal fails, \$2.5 million in penalties will be applied to infrastructure needed for more reuse of effluent on land.

### Water Availability Bill

Currently a verified water source required for most large subdivisions (100% affordable subdivisions and family subdivisions are exempt) to ensure responsible management over public water resources. Council being asked to repeal the bill or exempt virtually all subdivisions, leaving affordable and luxury subdivisions to compete for the same, often limited, water supply. Maui Group supports the current law.

### Hamakualoa Coastal Open Space

The fate of 267 acres along the scenic, historic Hamakua coast may be in Mayor Arakawa's hands. Can he negotiate an acceptable purchase price from A&B Inc.? Citizen groups continue to advocate for action and are working with state reps as well as the County.

### Wai'ale South Development

Wai'ale, largest proposed housing development in the Maui Island Plan (535 acres), is being broken into two parts. Wai'ale South will pack 950 residents and a commercial center into 123 acres. Maui Group is concerned that plans have changed since 2012 LUC project review: Park space has shrunk from 24 to 14 acres. Archaeological review is incomplete in a sensitive burial area. Almost half (44%) of the 2,550 housing units proposed for the entire 535-acre project, are now going to fit into around a quarter of the overall space. A promised new middle school, community center, and roadway improvements are put off until later. The project seeks rezoning from the Council.



# Maui Group Outings

**SEE PAGE 14 FOR GENERAL  
OUTINGS INFORMATION**

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

A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14.

Please register for all hikes with the leader. Check [mauisierraclub.org/hikes-service-programs/](http://mauisierraclub.org/hikes-service-programs/) for updates to the schedule or on Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/SierraClubMauiHikes](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SierraClubMauiHikes).

**Sunday, January 10**

*Halemau'u to Holua cabin, Haleakala National Park (C/E) D = 8 miles RT, moderately strenuous d/t distance, elevation, climb back out. Meet 8 am at Pukalani Terrace center near Ace Hardware to carpool. Bring hat, raingear, sunscreen, water and lunch/snacks. Limit 15. Leader: Robin West [rwest808@yahoo.com](mailto:rwest808@yahoo.com) or call 277-7267.*

**Saturday, January 16**

*Wailuku River to Waiehu River (C/E) D= 3 miles RT. Moderate, some rocky, uneven, shoreline. Peaceful, scenic, historic coastline rarely seen. Celebrate restored flows in legendary streams. Limit 18. Meet 9am Sack'n'Save center by McDonalds. Leader: Lucienne de Naie [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or 214-0147.*

**Saturday, January 23**

*Kuiaha Bay (C/E) D=4 mi RT. Moderate, some uphill. Historically rich, dazzling hidden gem along Ha'iku coastline. Valley has had restoration work to traditional ag by Waikikena Foundation. Limit 18. Meet 9am Ha'iku Community Center. Leader: Rob Weltman [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com).*

**Friday, January 29**

*Ma'alaea Petroglyph Hike (C/E) D=4 mi*

*RT. Moderate. Some steep uphill. Explore petroglyphs (native Hawaiian picture symbols chiseled into rock) and other ancient ruins in the Ma'alaea area. Long pants and sturdy footwear. Meet 9:00 a.m. Maui Ocean Center parking lot across from Carls Jr. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie: [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or call 214-0147.*

**Saturday, February 6**

*Makawao Forest Reserve D = 6 mile RT. Left side of road, 3 mile climb up trails and jeep road, moderately strenuous and muddy. Meet 8:30 am at parking lot across St. Joseph's Church (Makawao Ave.) Limit 18. Leader: Robin West [rwest808@yahoo.com](mailto:rwest808@yahoo.com) or call 277-7267.*

**Saturday, February 20**

*Pu'u Mahoe kokua trip (C/E) Help maintain the Fleming Arboretum at 2,600 feet in Ulupalakua, sanctuary to many endangered native dry land forest plants. Awesome views of the La Perouse (Keone'ō'io) coast and Kahoolawe. Bring a light jacket, lunch, and gloves. Meet at Keokea Park at 9:00 am to carpool to the Arboretum. Estimate 3 hours of work. Refreshments will be available. A BYO Lunch will be at the Fleming cabin with a great view of South Maui. Limit 20. Leader: Rob Weltman [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com).*

**Sunday, February 28**

*Olowalu petroglyphs and stream hike (C/E/S) D= 3 miles RT. View Olowalu's famous petroglyphs and a delightful hike along the ancient Olowalu stream trail. Meet 8:30 am Wailuku end of the Olowalu Store and bring along a lunch, water and shoes suitable for stream crossings. (Limit 15 participants. Leader: Miranda Camp [mauimiranda@hotmail.com](mailto:mauimiranda@hotmail.com)*

**Sunday, March 6**

*Kanaio Beach (C/E) D=6 miles RT. Kings Highway from La Perouse Bay to south of*

*major lava flow and great snorkel place. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. Bring bathing suit and snorkel gear if you want to snorkel. Meet at Kihei Community Center at 8:30 am. Leader: Rob Weltman [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com)*

**Saturday, March 12**

*Palauea Mauka (Wailea 670) (C/E) D=5 miles RT. Strenuous, uphill, some a'a lava areas. Springtime excursion into this unique native dryland forest. Rare and unusual plants, ancient archaeological sites, trails and more. Bring: water, hat, sturdy closed footwear, walking sticks. Meet 8:30 am mauka end of Kaukahi Street in Wailea. Leader: Lucienne de Naie [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net) or call 214-0147*

**Sunday, March 20**

*Lahaina Pali sunset hike (C/E) D= 5 miles. Sunset hike, hopefully with whale sightings. Strenuous. We will split up into two groups - one hiking from Ukumehame to Ma'alaea and the other one in the other direction, exchanging car keys mid-way. Rugged trail gains almost 2,500 feet, passing Kaheawa Wind turbines. Bring flashlight, good boots, lots of water and walking sticks. Meet 4:30 p, at Maui Ocean Center parking by the gas station. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman [robw@worldspot.com](mailto:robw@worldspot.com)*

**Sunday, March 27**

*Peahi archeological hike (C/E) D=4 mi RT. Gulch trail on private land. Some climbing and muddy paths. Step back in time to precontact Hawai'i in an area under study by UH archaeology students. Meet 9:00 am at Ha'iku Community Center to carpool to site. Bring water, lunch/snack, hat, Limit 20. Leader: Archaeologist Dr. Janet Six 344-0566*



# Moku Loa Group Report

## Victory for Clean Water in Kona

By Steve Holmes

For 20 years, the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kona has been dumping wastewater into a hole in the ground where it was carried into the Honokohau Small Boat Harbor and out into nearshore coastal waters that went from pristine to federally listed as impaired.

Sierra Club got involved a little over a year ago and started a campaign to end the dumping. Hawai'i County has now budgeted \$104 million to make substantial repairs and to fund a further upgrade to R-1 reuse to allow for recycling as originally envisioned.

We are still a couple of years away from ending the illegal dumping, but with the help of champions like Councilmember Karen Eoff and Managing Director Wally Lau, the funding has been secured and the project has become a priority.

After 20 years of neglect, the aerated lagoons are being restored to full functioning and capacity. The R-1 phase will take a little longer as the environmental review is expected to begin soon and design and construction will follow, but the money is there to reach our goal.

## Victory for Mauna Kea!

By Debbie Ward

The Supreme Court ruled in December that the permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) was not properly issued. During the August 27 oral arguments regarding the Conservation District Use Permit for the Thirty Meter Telescope, justices rebuked DLNR for approving construction prior to holding a contested case hearing, and they questioned the board's reasoning that the additional "incremental" damage could be mitigated, given that

the FEIS found that "past construction of these observatories has had cumulative impacts that are substantial, significant and adverse." The TMT cannot be built now, unless the project proponents seek a new conservation district use permit from the Board of Land and Natural Resources

## Hawai'i County Goes Green with Biodiesel

By Steve Holmes

Using recycled vegetable oil and grease trap waste, Pacific Biodiesel has partnered with Hawai'i County to use a 20% blend for its fleet vehicles including the Hele-On buses. With a new refinery in Keaau, Pacific Biodiesel will help create local jobs.

Biodiesel reduces fleet maintenance costs through increased lubricity and improves air emissions as well. The City and County of Honolulu completed a similar conversion over ten years ago with great success.

Recycling keeps these wastes out of landfills and sewer lines where they cause environmental problems. Pacific Biodiesel picks up the waste at restaurants, saving the businesses money and preventing illegal dumping into streams or vacant land.

## Annual Meeting at Wailoa State Park

By Nelson Ho

The Annual Moku Loa Group Winter Party and Member's Meeting was held at 6PM on Friday December 4th at Wailoa State Park Pavilion. We enjoyed potluck food and good conversation with friends. We also hosted a silent auction to raise funds for the Moku Loa Group. Thank you to all the volunteers to helped make this event successful, especially Debbie Ward for

spearheading the decorations. It was a great event.

## High School Hikers on Horizon

By Diane Ware and Lisa Mason

Moku Loa Group welcomes our new outings leader, Lisa Mason. Lisa is a teacher at Christian Liberty Academy in Kea'au. Her goal is to form a Sierra Club High School Hikers group on the Big Island and she is close to completing the requirements to accomplish this goal. The student-led Environmental Club that Lisa founded at her school has already joined several Group outings including a coastal hike along Ka'aohe Bay, a crater rim hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, a sandalwood planting, and a stunning hike through the kipuka at Pu'u O'o. Additionally, Lisa's students were generously hosted by Jon Olson, who led a fun Sailing 101 class at Bayfront. Student members Roza Robinson & Maycie Kirkpatrick said: "It's nice getting out of the house and listening to the sounds of nature. Hiking makes me appreciate native Hawaiian plants and I want to protect the ecosystems they live in."



Jon Olson leading Sailing 101 class at Bayfront for High School Hikers





# Moku Loa Group Outings

**SEE PAGE 14 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.

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donation for others: \$5. For most hikes, bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to [hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html](http://hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html)

**Saturday, January 9**

*Punalu'u to Kamehame Shoreline Hike (E)*

D = 6 miles, E = sea level

Exposed coastline hike to Kamehame Hill. Shoreline off trail will pass some cultural sites. Hike starts and ends at Punalu'u (Black Sand) Beach. Hike will include a stop for lunch and swimming. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

**Saturday, January 16**

*Napau Crater Overlook (E)*

D = 10 miles, E = +/- 1,000'

This is a rugged day hike for those who are fit. We will meet near the Visitor's Center in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and then car pool down the Chain of Craters Road. The hike begins at Kealakomo on the Chain of Craters Road and climbs up the Naulu Trail to the Napau Trail. We will hike on the Napau Trail until we reach the Napau Crater and campground. Bring 2 liters of water, raingear and lunch. Leaders Linda Larish 966-6337 and Kana Covington 966-8431

**Sunday, January 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. Leaders Sunny and Michael LaPlante



964-5017

**Saturday, Feb 13**

*Volcanoes NP Kipukapuauulu to Visitor Center Hike (E, F)*

D = 6 miles, E = 4,000'

Hike in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park starting at Kipukapuauulu (Bird Park), passing through Tree Molds to the Kilauea Caldera, then proceeding through the Steam Banks and onto the Sulphur Banks trail to the Visitor Center. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387



**Saturday, February 20**

*Kulani Peak Trail Day Hike (E)*

D = 8 miles, E = 3900', +/- 1,000'

Join us and see the "walking Ohia" trees and the gigantic Hapu'u ferns in lush 'Ola'a forest. This trail is usually muddy and it could rain. Bring raingear, 1 liter of water and lunch. Leader Linda Larish 966-6337.

**Saturday, February 27**

*Kalapana Day Hike(E, F, C)*

D = 4 miles, E = sea level

We will hike out to the new beach at Kaimu, then explore the shoreline south over rough new lava, stopping for lunch at a remote beach. Bring lunch, 2 quarts of water, hiking boots and rain gear. Leaders Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

**Saturday, March 19**

*Kaloli to Haena (Shipman Beach)(E)*

D = 6 miles, E = sea level

Hike on a historic trail in Puna, which used to be an inland carriage road from Paradise Park to the beach at Haena. Observe nene, whales and interesting backshore ecosystems. The rocks could be slippery due to high waves. Bring sunscreen, a hat, sturdy boots, a swim suit and lunch. Leaders Linda Larish 966-6337 and Kana Covington 966-8431

**Saturday, March 26**

*Kaalualu to Waikapuna Shoreline Hike (E)*

D = 8 miles, E = sea level

Exposed coastline hike to Waikapuna Bay. Shoreline off trail will pass some cultural sites and fishponds. Hike starts and ends at Kaalualu Bay. Four-wheel drive vehicle required. Hike will include a stop for lunch and swimming. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387



# 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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# Hawai‘i Inconsistent in Its Promotion of Solar Energy

*By Colin Yost, Chapter Executive Committee Member*

For many years, Hawai‘i led the nation in per capita solar installations and in strong public policy supporting the continued growth of solar power generation. In June 2015, our state reaffirmed its long-term commitment to renewable energy when Governor Ige signed a law directing Hawai‘i utilities to generate 100% of their electricity sales from renewable energy resources by 2045.

Unfortunately, the Hawai‘i Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) took a major step backward on October 12 when it issued an order abruptly terminating the successful Net Energy Metering (“NEM”) program for solar installations. In NEM’s place, the PUC created two new programs: “grid supply” and “self-supply,” both of which are less beneficial to consumers and more complicated to implement.

Under the NEM program, solar customers received full retail credit (currently around 26 cents/kWh) for energy exported to the grid, and credits for generated power were reconciled on an annual basis to adjust for seasonal variation of electricity generation. By contrast, “grid supply” allows credits of just 15.07 cents on Oahu for power and reconciles the credits monthly, which incentivizes the installation of smaller solar systems that meet less than 100 percent of a home’s energy needs. The PUC also imposed an “interim” 25-megawatt cap on the grid supply systems. This means that once about 4,500 homes are approved under this program, it will disappear unless the PUC raises the cap.

With its self-supply program, the PUC seeks to promote development of residential solar systems that incorporate battery storage and serve only the home beneath the panels and not the larger electric grid. On the positive side, utility approval of self-supply systems is streamlined, and no

limit exists on the number of systems installed. However, the batteries needed to make this approach feasible are not yet affordable to the average household, and it’s unclear how long it will take the battery market to mature.

The motivation for the PUC’s sudden policy shift appears to be twofold: (1) a concern that the antiquated electric grid is not stable enough to accept significant amounts of additional exported power from geographically distributed, independent solar systems and (2) a policy preference for industrial scale, allegedly cheaper solar projects that are controlled and managed by the utility.

Although grid stability is an issue, there is no evidence of an imminent

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disruption related to solar power generation. Thanks to increasingly sophisticated solar system technology, the utility now routinely approves installation of systems in areas it once claimed were “oversaturated.” There are also a number of ways to eliminate grid saturation concerns—most obviously by creating a new Time of Use (TOU)

rate structure that encourages solar customers to store power during the day and export it in the evening hours when the grid needs it most. So far, the PUC has only considered a TOU rate for users, and not for exporters.

The second motivation of preferring larger scale solar to small residential projects is misguided. The PUC still has never performed a cost-benefit analysis to understand how small-scale, distributed solar improves grid functionality, but some of the advantages are self-evident. Generating power closer to the end-user is inherently more efficient (electricity is lost when it travels long distances through wires), and when more power is needed in the daytime (such as during the summer heat wave), distributed solar substantially reduces the stress of that additional load on the grid. There are also important values of customer choice and competition to consider. History proves that more centralized, monopolistic control of energy generation as well as distribution does not lead to lower prices for consumers.

Hawai‘i still generates around 80% of its electricity from fossil fuels, so we have a long way to go to get to 100% renewable. San Diego recently set a 100% renewable goal for 2035, ten years earlier than Hawai‘i, and the ever-increasing threat of climate change justifies doing everything we can to accelerate our clean energy transformation. Policymakers in California recently acknowledged this by reaffirming and extending the Net Energy Metering program and also preparing to implement a progressive TOU rate in 2018. Concerned citizens of Hawaii should encourage our PUC, governor, and legislature to support the interconnection of small, independently owned solar systems. Our rooftops are the low-hanging fruit as we push toward 100% renewable, and we cannot afford to squander this valuable resource.



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## INSIDE:

Perpetual Renewal of  
Revocable Permits

Ho'opili(kia) Update

Nate's Adventures

Hawai'i Inconsistent in Its  
Promotion of Solar Energy

Chapter Reports & Outings

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

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA "Cherish the Earth" A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

JANUARY - MARCH 2016

# With Deep Appreciation to Randy Ching

*By Marti Townsend, Chapter Director*

The Hawai'i Chapter is forever grateful to the wonderfully humble, ever-passionate, and fiercely loyal Randy Ching. This year Randy made a series of donations to the Chapter totalling over \$500,000. This is one of the largest donations we have ever received and it will enable us to effectively tackle the most pressing issue of our time: climate change.

Randy made this donation only after dedicating his adult life to the Sierra Club. He started as an Outings Leader over 20 years ago while he was teaching math to high school students. In that time, he has served in nearly every leadership role in the Chapter. He has helped lead hikes, testify, fundraise, leaflet, and march to protect Hawai'i's unique environment. He said he does all of this because "Sierra Club is the only organization on the planet that can successfully defeat climate change in every community. Because, you know, it is going to take all of us to stop this."

Randy made these donations in memory of his mother, Pearlle, and hopes that his actions inspire others to do all they can to help stop climate change.

Thank you, Randy, for your immense dedication to protecting life as we know it. You are truly an inspiration.

