



Mālama I Ka Honua

Cherish the Earth

A Quarterly Journal of the SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

JULY - SEPT
2015

Defending Mauna Kea



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BACK COVER

Introducing the New Chapter Director, Marti Townsend

by David Kimo Frankel



After an exhaustive and exhausting search, the Hawai'i Chapter Executive Committee voted unanimously and enthusiastically to hire Marti Townsend

as our new chapter director. She took up her new position on June 1.

Marti has extensive experience lobbying, community organizing, and running a nonprofit organization. In fact, Marti has more experience than Robert Harris, Jeff Mikulina, and I had when we were first hired. Combined. She has spent the last three years as

Marti has worked on a range of local issues: from land use to endangered species, from Mauna Kea to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

executive director of The Outdoor Circle. Prior to that, she served as program director for KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance for seven years. She has testified

extensively at the State Legislature, the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the State Land Use Commission. Marti has worked on a range of local issues: from land use to endangered species, from Mauna Kea to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

Although Marti would not attempt to take credit for her accomplishments, I think it is fair to say that if it were not for her, the State Legislature would not have created the new environmental court system. And Castle & Cooke lobbyist Carleton Ching would be running the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Marti Townsend is a graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i, Boston University, and Moanalua High School. She lives in Kaimuki with her husband and three children. She calls the director position her "dream job."



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

Defending Mauna Kea For Decades

by Nelson Ho

Mauna Kea has garnered significant media and celebrity attention over the past few months, but the Sierra Club has had its eyes focused on the summit for decades.

The controversy over telescope development atop Mauna Kea actually began with the first University of Hawai'i facility in the 1968. From the start, the Sierra Club and the broader environmental community were key critics of development on and around the summit.

It was Club member Mae Mull, a Volcano resident and energetic environmentalist, who brought her concerns to this author's attention, back in 1980. She was recruiting anyone who could make the arduous trip to the summit and speak for the Hawai'i Audubon Society or Sierra Club. Through numerous meetings, Mull made allies among the hunters concerned about access to hunting areas, which the Honolulu-based Institute for Astronomy attempted to limit.

Mull kept boxes of newspaper clippings and documents from the many DLNR hearings back then. She was very vocal about the urbanization of the summit as telescopes began sprouting up like weeds. Her opinion was shared by many islanders upset with the proliferation of domes. Even Hawai'i County Mayor Herbert Matayoshi called them "pimples" blemishing the beauty of the mountain.

During the late 1970s Mauna Kea's upper slopes were the testing ground for a series of moon vehicles. The field activities were reported in a 1979 issue of *Science* magazine. The article claimed that the volcano's harsh stone environment was as bare and lifeless as the surface of Mars. Three Hawai'i biologists scoffed at that superficial pronouncement and began their own field surveys to see what biology actually was on Mauna Kea.

Dr. Frank Howarth was an entomologist working at the Bishop Museum who specialized in cave

biology. Dr. Wayne Gagne was an entomologist and a key volunteer leader on the Sierra Club of Hawai'i's Chapter Executive Committee. Dr. Steve Montgomery was the third entomologist in this group and was also very active on the Executive Committee. Howarth, Gagne, and Montgomery were friends of Bill and Mae Mull. Together this volunteer team explored the alpine, aeolian (wind-driven) stone desert ecosystem. In 1979, they discovered a complex web of life, finding 15 species of native arthropods, including the endemic wēkiu bug, *nysius wekiuicola*, found nowhere else on the planet. The wēkiu bug is adapted to a habitat limited to the upper reaches of the Mauna Kea conservation district. This complex ecosystem, to this day, has not been studied, monitored nor protected from the industrial changes to the summit region.

Howarth and Dr. Fred Stone conducted an entomology study for the proposed Keck telescope area in 1982, and by the next year they were disturbed by the damage done to the summit habitat. They made recommendations for biological inventory, habitat mitigation, and monitoring. Wēkiu bug habitat is easily altered by vehicular traffic and construction activity, as tephra cinders preferred by the bug are easily crushed into dust-sized particles, which fill their living spaces. Prime habitat can be quickly degraded to compacted silt and mud by use of off-road vehicles. Wēkiu habitat may also be altered by dust blown up from road grading and other construction activities.

Concerns about the urbanization and industrialization of the summit prompted the University to prepare a master plan in 1983. The University has still not fulfilled some of the promises made in that plan two decades ago.

Club members Deborah J. Ward and the author accompanied Dr. Fred Stone on a visit to the summit. The Japanese

Subaru facility had seriously altered the top and inner cinder slopes of Pu'u Hau'ōki and was that day trenching, with heavy machinery, into the outer slopes of the cone (high-quality wēkiu bug habitat) for optical and electrical cables. The DLNR had no idea this industrial activity was going on, let alone in prime wēkiu habitat. Was this the kind of activity and lack of oversight that Gov. David Ige and UH President Dave Lassner apologized for on May 26, 2015?

In 1996, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i adopted a policy calling for "a moratorium on any further development in the Mauna Kea Science Reserve until... [certain] conditions, designed to re-establish a prudent balance between astronomy and the cultural, religious, biological, geological, and recreational attributes of the mountain, are met..." To date, most of the conditions have not been satisfactorily met.

The Sierra Club's concerns back then—and today—include the visual impact of construction on sensitive cultural view planes from both the summit and the lowlands, the industrialization of conservation district land, the impact on cultural resources and historic sites, the impact on wēkiu habitat, and the failure of the State to collect the fair market value of lease rents from foreign and mainland entities that use public trust lands.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i intervened in two contested case hearings: expansion of the Keck telescope facilities and the UH Comprehensive Management Plan. For decades, Sierra Club has worked side by side with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance to correct bad land-use management practices for this vulnerable land. It also challenged the acceptance of the latest management plan.

These photos show the destruction of habitat and unmonitored construction at the summit of Mauna Kea.



Photo by Melissa Schelling

By 1986 the excavation of the Keck facility was well underway. Major alteration of the summit ridge is seen, although all the cinder slopes were identified as prime wēkiu habitat. The Keck developers excavated nearly 40 feet of hilltop to make a big enough area for their two scopes. (Note the size of the earth-moving vehicles.) To this day, there are Hawaiian fishermen who resent that destruction, saying that distinctive outline was one of three markers they would line up, while far out at sea, to locate their best fishing areas.



Later on the Subaru construction began at nearby Pu'u Hau'ōki. Major excavation into the cinder slope is seen in the second photo, taken by Subaru and posted on their website.



This photo shows current scarring and roadway erosion of the summit ridge.



MĀLAMA I KA HONUĀ
Cherish the Earth

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Koa Ridge and Ho'opili: It Ain't Over Yet!

The Honolulu City Council gave final zoning approval last month to the developer DR Horton to build a brand new suburban town called Ho'opili. The City Council authorized 11,750 housing units to be built on 1,500 acres of the most productive food-growing farmland in the entire state, located in Hono'uli'uli, a few miles Diamond Head of Kapolei.

The O'ahu Group struggled mightily to stop the project. We raised some \$15,000—from kama'aina and kanaka maoli, not mainlanders. We used the money to mount a radio advertising campaign across the three largest radio networks on O'ahu and a social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter. We built a new website called **HoopiliTraffic.com** and used all these tools to encourage supporters to sign our MoveOn petition. We gathered some 4,200 signatures, and many signatories also phoned and sent in testimony to their council members. We also lobbied every member of the Zoning and Planning Committee in one-on-one meetings.

We offered proposals to “densify” the project and to ensure that the majority of the trips to, from, and within Ho'opili would be on foot, by bike, or on mass transit. We made clear that the Sierra Club is not trying to block new housing. On the contrary, we believe there is a critical lack of affordable housing and thousands of units need to be built—just not outside the urban core on our best farmland.

None of this worked. Several members of the council acknowledged that the planning for the west side of the island is outdated, that the low-rise suburban sprawl model has created nightmare traffic, and that, at best, the denser elements of the Ho'opili development ought to be used to create a true urban core for the so-called Second

City. But they said it was “too late” to make these changes. Not one council member voted to oppose the project.



Koa Ridge farm lands plotted for development.

We Are Appealing

So we are forced back to our last defense. On May 21 the State Supreme Court heard the oral arguments in our appeal of the Land Use Commission decision to reclassify the Koa Ridge farmlands as urban. On June 25 the Court will hear the same arguments over Ho'opili. At the May 21 hearing several members of the Court gave our case a sympathetic hearing; by their questions they seemed to indicate that they found the Sierra Club case compelling. But the bar is high. We hope for the best, but fear the worst.

“Gentlemen Farms”

In the meantime, there is another way in which we are losing precious farmland and seeing the country turned into de facto subdivisions: so-called “gentlemen farms.” This is a tactic whereby a developer buys a large swath of land and carves it into large lots—typically five acres—labels them “farms,” and sells them to wealthy buyers who build massive luxury homes that they call “farmhouses.” They are able to escape the normal residential subdivision process by exploiting the “farming” designation which they can fulfill by planting a mango tree and

putting a horse out to pasture in the yard. Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the Department of Planning and Permitting have agreed to work with us to try to find a way to change the rules and curb this abuse.

Divestment

The mayor has also agreed to discuss with us our proposal that the City press the state Employee Retirement System to divest its portfolio of any shares in the top 200 carbon fuel companies.

North Shore – National Seashore

We are also pressing the mayor to help our efforts to persuade the federal government to designate the North Shore and windward side as a National Seashore, which would lead to greater environmental protections.

Farewell and Aloha

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to our Executive Committee member Albert Perez. He has returned to Maui, but we celebrate the fact that he will be working there as the full-time Executive Director of Maui Tomorrow, a highly effective sister organization that Albert helped found nearly twenty years ago. In Albert's place the committee voted to offer his seat to Dr. Bianca Isaki. Bianca has long been active in the landscape of Hawai'i's environmental and Hawaiian rights protections through her work with KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance, the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, and the Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action. She works as an independent writer and researcher on Hawai'i water code, public process, public trust land, and other environmental law and policy issues.

Anthony Aalto
Chair, O'ahu Group



O'ahu Group Outings

**SEE PAGE 6 FOR GENERAL
OUTINGS INFORMATION**

Beginning in January 2014, reservations are required for outings. Register online at sierraclubhawaii.com/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, July 11, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)
Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com, Mel Yoshioka 224-3765 mhyosh@gmail.com

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Photography hike: Liliuokalani Garden (E/F)
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Named after Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Liliuokalani Botanical Gardens is centrally located in lower Nu'uau Valley. Nu'uau Stream and Waikalalulu Falls are favorite subjects among professional photographers and photo enthusiasts alike. The garden plantings consist of many interesting

native Hawaiian plants in a natural setting. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto curtis96815@gmail.com

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Mānoa Cliff (E/F)
4 mi/Moderate/Contour
This trail contours the cliffs above Mānoa Valley and has great views, and many native plants. It is an opportunity to hone your plant identification skills. There is ohia, koa, kokiokoeko, mamaki, haha, olona. The Mānoa Cliff Native Forest Restoration Project volunteers have worked hard every Sunday for years to bring back many natives. Colleen Soares csoares48@gmail.com

Sunday, July 19, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)
Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Ed Mersino 455-8193 mersino@hawaii.edu, Gwen Sinclair g Sinclair@hawaii.edu

Saturday, July 25, 2015

Kaipapau Valley - the Best Valley Hike on O'ahu (E)
8 mi/Strenuous/Valley
The trail does not involve any ridges or long climbs. But it will involve crisscrossing the stream a lot (30+ times) and eventually rock hopping in

the stream for about the last mile. The valley is very narrow with towering walls hundreds of feet in height. There are the dangers of flash floods and rock falls, but the reward is at the 90-foot waterfall. It will shower us as we swim in the cool pool at its base. Besides the usual things, hikers should bring mosquito repellent and an extra energy bar for this long hike. Meet at the corner of Kawaipuna Street and Kamehameha Highway in Hauula at 8:30 am Ed Mersino 455-8193 mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, August 02, 2015

Photography Hike: Kawainui Dike Road and Na Pohaku O Hauwahine (E/F)
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. This a a flat, 2-mile, easy walk with panoramas of Kawainui Marsh and Koolau vistas. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com, Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto curtis96815@gmail.com

Sunday, August 02, 2015

Kamananui (Moanalua Valley) Hike (F)
11mi/Strenuous/Valley & Ridge/
+/-1,500 feet. Reservations Required. We'll meander through this lovely valley looking at historic sites before crossing the stream many times on our way to a steep climb to the summit, where we'll enjoy a spectacular view of Kāne'ohe. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528, g Sinclair@gmail.com

Saturday, August 08, 2015

Aiea Loop Trail - partial (F)
2.5 mi/Easy/Contour
Reservations required to receive further information. We'll be hiking half of the regular Aiea loop trail hike. The trail is short, but a good workout as it is not



O'ahu Group Outings

flat. Mel Yoshioka
mhyosh@gmail.com, Jean Fujikawa

Saturday, August 08, 2015

MCBH Kāne'ōhe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations Required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or danderhi@gmail.com by August 7. We will be working with Environmental 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'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, August 09, 2015

Photography hike: Waimea Valley (E/F)
2 mi/Easy/Valley
Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Bring a lunch for a day of fun. Nominal entrance fee required. Botanical Garden with native plants, colorful flowers and foliage. Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com, John

Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto curtis96815@gmail.com

Sunday, August 09, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)
Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Ed Mersino 455-8193 mersino@hawaii.edu

Saturday, August 22, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)
Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other

trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com, Mel Yoshioka 224-3765 mhyosh@gmail.com

Sunday, August 23, 2015

Maunawili Trail (F)
9.45 mi/Contour/ +/- 500 ft
Varied terrain with wet gulches to open forest canopy. Maunawili Demonstration Trail, a state-maintained trail that traverses the breadth of upper Maunawili Valley. Long single track contouring the Koolau Mountains. Spectacular views of the mountains, ocean, and lush tropical valleys. Car shuttle, 7 am park at Waimanalo trail head, car pool to Pali Hwy hairpin turn trailhead to start hike back to cars. We will be hiking one-way contour trail, 500 elevation change. Dan Anderson 690-0479 danderhi@gmail.com

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

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

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, raingear/jacket, and daypack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers), or tabs are required. Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

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

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

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



O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

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

Sunday, September 06, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)

Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Mānoa Falls Restoration Project (S)

Join the O'ahu Group to continue our work on the wildly popular Mānoa Falls Trail. We will meet by the parking lot near the end of Mānoa Road for an orientation from the State Trails Division Staff. We may be building water diversions, steps and doing other trail improvements. Bring plenty of water, lunch and gloves. State Trails Division Staff will provide the tools and materials. Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Photography Hike: Koko Crater Botanical Garden (E/F)

2 mi/Easy/Crater floor

Reservations required. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. View various plants and flowers from around the world. Plumerias and

hibiscus should be in bloom this time of year. Good for macro photography! Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Stan Oka 429-9814, Susan Tom; assist. Curtis Kawamoto curtis96815@gmail.com

Two 3-Day Neighbor Island Service Trips



Thursday, August 20, to Sunday, August 23

Kahaulea Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Service Project, Big Island (S)

Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net

We will be working with NARS clearing mainly kahili ginger. We will access the enclosure via Volcanoes National Park where it is an easy 1/2-mile hike from Thurston Lava tube to the work site. This is a relatively new site that is dominated by the alien kahili ginger and a great way to see how it evolves into a truly native Hawaiian Reserve. There are native birds above in the native 'ōhia lehua forest trees. Our accommodation will be at a house in Hilo at the NARS base yard. ****This trip requires a Thursday evening departure.**

Saturday, September 12 to Monday, September 14

Haleakalā National Park, Maui (S)

Leader: Dan Anderson danderhi@gmail.com or 690-0479

Our accommodation for the weekend is Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakala Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago. This trip is for hikers in good physical condition and for those who don't mind "roughing it." We have a 7-mile hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail and we will exit via the Halemauau trail. Participants will also have to deal with the elevation. The cabin was built in the 1930s by CCC workers and is very rustic. There are no washroom or shower facilities, but there is an outhouse. We do have a 2-burner gas stovetop and a wood burning stove to keep warm. The reward for this service project, if you're up to the challenge, is spending the weekend in a beautiful and fascinating national park.



Kaua'i Group Report & Outings

County Council Approves Cuts to Open Space Funding

The Mayor is once again working to reduce the annual percentage of County property tax revenue that goes to the Public Access, Natural Resources and Open Space Preservation Fund (the "Fund") from 1.5% to "no less than .5%." This proposal came in the form of Bill 2585.

The Kaua'i Group of the Sierra Club urged the County Council to reject Bill 2585, which would cut the minimum funding level for the County's natural resources fund by 67%. The existing minimum funding level - equal to only 1.5% of the County's real property tax revenue - is already insufficient to meet the many needs that the community has expressed and could be wholly depleted with a single acquisition.

We understand that the County is facing a substantial (\$40 million) shortfall. If necessary, a temporary reduction of the fund contribution would have been more fiscally sound than the approved reduction, which will limit the capacity of the open space program indefinitely.

Kaua'i's citizens voted to make the preservation of important lands for their children and grandchildren a priority. These are lands that will be critical to the livability of Kaua'i for future generations. The passage of Bill 2585 undermines this voter mandate.

Kaua'i Group Contributes to Dairy Opposition Efforts

Kaua'i Group Executive Committee voted in April to make donations to two local organizations working to stop the proposed industrial dairy in Maha'ulepu Valley.

Support was provided to Friends of Maha'ulepu's legal efforts towards stopping the proposed dairy through

injunctive and prescriptive relief. The funds will be used for the payment of legal services and will be repaid to the Group if the lawsuit is settled. Our second donation was made to support Malama Maha'ulepu's efforts to gain expert review of the proposed dairy's Draft EIS and determine its adequacy regarding potential effects on the watershed.

These actions underscore our group's commitment to ensuring that any proposed action on highly sensitive lands, such as the Maha'ulepu ahupua'a, are thoroughly and objectively scrutinized by legal and resource experts.

Kaua'i County General Plan Update Begins

Kaua'i County has started community outreach for an update to the County general plan. Kaua'i Group members recently met with County planning department staff to discuss our vision for the island and issues to be addressed in the plan. The general plan is essentially the vision document for the whole island, and feeds into community plans, zoning, land use permits, etc. It affects where you live, work, and play.

Group members expressed the need for the County to focus on preserving what is unique about Kaua'i, its rural and undeveloped character. Our core duty must be to manage growth, not simply respond to it.

Members shared concerns over the plan's implementation schedule and emphasized the need for standards and practices to ensure transparency. Sections of the previous plan have yet to be implemented fifteen years later, and numerous modifications have been made to the document outside of the public process. Furthermore, sections of the previous plan were amended by

the County Council, in secret, after the public participation process had concluded. In order to create confidence in the community that this plan will have "teeth," the planning department must create a firm time frame and action plan for implementing the general plan.

We look forward to continued collaboration with County staff in the coming months in shaping the plan.

OUTINGS

SEE PAGE 6 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

How about becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader? Yes, you!

Please contact JudyDalton123@gmail.com or call 246-9067 to find out how much fun it is to lead people in exploring the island and inspiring them to protect it.

Saturday, July 11

Awa'awa'puhi Trail/ Koke'e/ 6.5 miles / strenuous C/F

Start at the top of a well-managed trail offering an abundance of plants and spectacular Na Pali coast views. The stiff uphill 1,200-foot trip back up will test your legs. Ken Fasig 346-1229

Saturday, July 25

Moloa'a Beach Clean Up/North East Shore/ easy (S)

Help protect marine life, seabirds, the reef and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Look for



Kaua'i Group Outings

organizations' signs. Bring hat and water. Gloves, bags, and snacks provided. 9 am to noon. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, July 26

Hanakapi'ai Falls/ North shore/ strenuous/ 8 miles (C/E)

Hike takes us along the northshore's very scenic Kalalau trail, to Hanakapi'ai beach and then back 2 more miles to the fabulous falls at the back of the valley. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Sunday, August 2

Nonou (Sleeping Giant) East Side/3 miles/ moderately strenuous (F)

Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Saturday, August 8

Kuilau Trail/ easy to moderate/east side (C/F)

Meet at 9 am at Arboretum parking lot at the top of Kuamo'o Road. Bring lunch snack, water, and hat. Hike to bridge and picnic tables to have our lunch. Great views! Vivian Hager 652-3234

Sunday, August 16

Maha'ulepu and Makauwahi Cave/ South Shore/moderate/4 miles (C/E/F)

Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world class archaeological cave site. Allan Rachap 212-3108

Saturday, August 22

Maha'ulepu Beach Cleanup/South Shore/ easy (S)

Sierra Club, Malama 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

Sunday, August 23

Alakai Swamp Trail/Pihea Loop. West side/ 8 miles/ strenuous (C/ E)

Alakai swamp, the world's highest bog, is home to a dazzling array native plants & our trek takes us to the precipice of Wainiha ridge where we may get a panoramic view of the North shore. Jane Schmitt 826-6105

Friday, August 28

Maha'ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk/ South Shore/ Moderate/3.5 miles (C/E/F)

Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck 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

Saturday, August 29

Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk/ East Shore/ Moderate (C/E/F)

Walk along the spectacular coastline from Kuna Bay (popularly known as Donkey Beach) ending in Kapa'a for a 4.5 miles one way with car shuttle. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, September 13

Ho'opi'i Falls/ East Side/3 miles/moderate (C/F)

You'll be in for a delightful surprise discovering this forest trail along a river featuring two beautiful waterfalls. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Monday, September 14

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup/Easy/2 miles (S)

Afternoon clean-up 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, September 19

Kealia Beach Cleanup in Participation of International Coastal Cleanup Day (S)

Meet at 9 am at lifeguard station. Bring

water and hat. Coffee, snack, gloves and bags provided. Vivian Hager 652-3234

Monday, September 21

National Tropical Botanical Gardens Sunset to 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, September 26

Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk East Shore/ Moderate 4.5 miles (C/E/F)

We start off in the late afternoon from Kuna Bay (Donkey Beach) walking along the coastline ending at Kapa'a Library watching the full moon rise over the ocean. We'll shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Saturday, September 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. 9 am to noon. Bring water. Bags, gloves, and refreshments provided. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Monday, September 28

Kawai'e Waterbird Sanctuary West Side/ Easy (C/E/F)

Sunset to dusk visit to the sanctuary, home to all four of Hawai'i's endemic: 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



Maui Group Report & Outings

Chair's Report

The Maui Group is grateful for community support from local farms and growers that made our 2015 plant sale the best ever. We extend a special mahalo to Barbara Kaneshige, Kekoa and Sharon Dettloff, Brown's Flower Farm, Colin Chun, Orchids of Olinda, Frank and Angela Rust, Tropical Orchid Farm, Neola Caveny, Michael Howden, Hale Akua Farms and Fragrant Orchids of Maui.

The County Council included funds in the open space budget to protect 267 acres of coastal land on Maui's northshore for cultural/educational access, family recreation and diversified agriculture. The Maui Group worked with a dozen community organizations, rallying hundreds to testify by email, petition and in person. Victory! Now citizens will urge the mayor to act and acquire the lands. Your voices made this historic action possible.

Check our website for amazing hikes, events, and service trips where you can get involved. I look forward to seeing you on the trail.

Chris Taylor
Maui Group Chair

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Lipoa Point/Honolua Bay

State legislators approved funding in the 2015-16 budget for a management plan for the 244 acres around legendary Honolua Bay.

Na Wai Eha Stream Flows

Wailuku River is running to the ocean this summer. Some dry spots still need water released and Waikapu Stream still has limited flows in some sections. A&B is also proposing new high pumpage drinking-water wells near the stream. The

Maui Group supports all efforts to restore life to these streams and watersheds.

East Maui Well Plan

The Maui Group and allies successfully defended a 2003 consent decree with Maui County. The decree requires the County to thoroughly research viable water sources to meet central/south Maui water demands before approving up to ten new Haiku wells. Attorney Isaac Hall did outstanding work on the case.

Wailea 670/Palauea

A south Maui native plants/cultural sites preserve area with trails of around 160 acres and a 13-acre buffer with neighboring Maui Meadows has been proposed by the Maui Group and allies. Settlement negotiations continue.

Recycling

Kihei residents have been heard and their curbside program will be continued for a slight fee increase.

East Maui Stream Restoration

In March, the Maui Group participated in weeks of witness testimony for the historic East Maui stream restoration contested case. We also donated to the legal fund. Recommendations by the hearing officer are expected in October. The Maui Group advocated for full restoration of streams that communities depend on, and greater year round flows for other biologically and culturally important streams.

Lahaina Wastewater Plant

A federal judge ruled twice (June 2014/ January 2015) that the County's Lahaina Plant injection wells violate the Clean Water Act. The County's efforts to avoid harsh penalties have been unsuccessful.

In August the court will set penalties for the violations. The Maui Group wants penalties applied to infrastructure needed for more reuse of effluent.

OUTINGS

SEE PAGE 6 FOR GENERAL
OUTINGS INFORMATION

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

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

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

Saturday, July 11

Kanaio Tibetan Monastery & Stupa (C/E)
D = 2 miles R/T with some steep grades. Hike across the slopes of Haleakala to beautiful shrine built in 1982. Meet 9 am Keokea Park (upper Kula) to carpool. Bring lunch, water and rain gear. Limit 18. Register with leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Sunday, July 12

Hike Leader Training (E)
Have fun and make a difference. 9 am to 3 pm. Includes fun after hike. Register: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Maui Group Outings

Saturday, July 25

Hamakua Coastline: Maliko Gulch to Watercress Farm (Kapuna) (C/E)
D= 4 mi R/T varied terrain. Spectacular views. Explore a public-access coastal trail on private land. Meet 9 am at Haiku Community Center. Bring water, hat, camera, sturdy footwear. Limit: 20. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Friday July 31

Makawao Forest Reserve Loop Trail (E/F)
D=7 miles R/T. First 3 mile gradual uphill, some mud. Shady trail meanders through woods to Waikamoi flume area. Meet 8:30 am at parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church (Makawao Ave.) Limit 18. Leader: Robin West rwest808@yahoo.com or call 277-7267.

Saturday, August 1

Ko'ie'ie Fishpond Service Outing (C/S)
Help restore this Kihei cultural landmark and learn about its fascinating history. Bring water, hat sunscreen. Meet 8 am NOAA Whale Sanctuary in Kihei. Register with Leader: Miranda Camp. Register: maumiranda@hotmail.com or 463-9690.

Sunday, Aug 16

Wahinepe'e Stream Hike (C/E)
D=8 mi R/T. Hike historic trail to overlook Honomanu stream and Valley. Pools. Waterfalls. Great scenery. Can be muddy. EMI waiver required (see above) Bring water, lunch. Meet 8 am Haiku Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Robin West rwest808@yahoo.com or call 277-7267

Sunday August 30

Hanawai Stream Hike (Nahiku Area) (C/E)
D= 4 mi R/T. Strenuous. Pools waterfalls, native stream life. Numerous stream crossings. Good water footwear a must. Meet 8:30 am at Haiku Community center. EMI waiver

required (see above). Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Friday, September 4

Huelo Stream Exploration (no EMI waiver) on private land (E/C)
D = 2.5 miles. Slopes and strenuous sections. Explore Huelo streams /pools on kuleana lands (with owner's permission). Bug repellent, water, lunch, swim gear. Meet 9am at top of Door of Faith Rd, Huelo. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, September 12

Makapipi Trail Hike (C/E)
D=4 mi. Varied terrain. Ditch trail: Makapipi to Kopili'ula Stream. Scenic vistas, pools, waterfalls. native plant life. Hike crosses several bridges with no handrails, not recommended for those sensitive to heights. EMI waiver required (see above). Meet at 8 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Sunday, September 13

Na Hoku (Traditional Hawaiian Astronomy) Benefit
Explore the timeless knowledge of the night sky with Papakilohoku Michael Kumuokauoha Lee. Location TBA. Meet by 7 pm. \$5 donation for members. \$15 for non-members. Limit 35. Register: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Sunday, Sept 27

Wailua Iki Stream Hike (E/C)
D=6 mi R/T. Moderate hike through beautiful forest on winding, muddy jeep road. Pools, waterfalls, and lush plant life. Bring appropriate footwear, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Meet 8 am at Haiku Community Center. **EMI waiver required (see above)**. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com



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Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
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Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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

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Moku Loa Group Report & Outings



Puna Geothermal Venture

Geothermal...Green Energy?

Touted by some as a “green” energy source, geothermal on Hawai‘i Island has had a checkered history. Recently, the Department of Health fined Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) \$23,700 for a hydrogen sulfide release during Tropical Storm Iselle. Puna Pono Alliance (PPA) found over 130 people were affected by the gas. Many could not evacuate during the raging storm, and some fell deeply asleep and could not be awakened for hours. PGV is appealing the fine, but PPA and Sierra Club consider the fine to be grossly inadequate. In the meantime, PPA has sued PGV for PGV’s defiance of a County ban on noisy night drilling. Ormat, PGV’s parent company, has been sued in Nevada. The suit says Ormat “engaged in a scheme to obtain federal grant money...for geothermal energy projects which did not qualify for payment, and have misused and abused the federal funds they have received...” Maybe that is what they mean by “green.”

Cory Harden
Conservation, Moku Loa Group

OUTINGS

SEE PAGE 6 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

Saturday, July 11

Humu‘ula Trail Botanical Hike (E, C)
D = 5, E = 1,000' +/- 2,000'
Rediscover this historic trail and the rich botanical wonders of the Hamakua coast. We will learn about the native plants along the first several hours of the makai section of the hike. Bring a lunch for a convenient turn around point. Leaders Rob Culbertson 345-8905 and Diane Ware 967-8642

Sunday, July 12

Onomea Bay Day Hike (E, C, F)
D = 2 miles, E = 200'
Explore a coastal tropical rainforest along a scenic shoreline with streams and waterfalls. Expect to get your feet wet crossing streams. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and a snack. Leaders Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Sunday, July 19

Mauna Loa Strip Road with leashed dogs (E, C, F)
D = 5 miles, E = 6662' +/- 1,000'
We will hike one way downhill on Mauna Loa Strip Rd, passing interesting

layers of native vegetation. Dogs are okay if leashed. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, July 25

Ha‘ena (Shipman Beach) Day Hike (E, C, F)
D = 6 miles, E = sea level
This coastal jungle hike on a historic carriage trail leads to a scenic beach. Backing the shore is a large pond and the estate where Herbert C. Shipman rescued the nene goose from extinction. Bring a quart of water, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, mosquito repellent, lunch and a swim suit for a dip. Leaders Sarah Moon 934-3475 and Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday, August 15

Pu‘u O‘o Trail Day Hike (Saddle Road) (E, C, F)
D = 4 miles, E = 5,700' +/- 100'
This is an easy-paced interpretive nature walk on a well-marked and fairly level trail that was used long ago to drive cattle across the island. It begins off Saddle Road and crosses through pristine native forest kipukas surrounded by old lava flows. We’ll go as far as the group decides, then have lunch and retrace our route. The weather may be changeable, so bring warm clothes, 1 quart of water, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, lunch, and sturdy shoes. Leaders Sarah Moon 935-3475 and Kana Covington 966-8431

Sunday, August 16

Pepe‘ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (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



Moku Loa Group Outings

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

August 21, 22, 23

Waimanu Valley Backpack

D = 19 miles round trip; E = sea level +/- 1,200'

This is an energetic backpack for individuals with backpacking experience and proper gear. We will start from the rim of Waipi'o Valley, descend into the valley, cross and ascend the far side, and continue on this trail until we drop down into Waimanu Valley 9 miles from our starting point. After a layover day in the incomparable Waimanu Valley we will return via the same route. Previous backpacking experience, sturdy boots, and leader approval required.

Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rob Culbertson 345-8905

Saturday, August 29

Restoration of Mauna Kea Service Trip (S,E,C)

D = 1-2 miles, E = 1,000', Moderate activity at high elevation

We will work with the "Sandalwood Man" to restore the dryland forest on the west side of Mauna Kea by planting sandalwood and other native plants. Bring gloves, rain gear, good boots and a willingness to work. Meet at the Kilohana hunter check-in station.

Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017 and Rob Culbertson 345-8905

Saturday, September 19

Loop Around Kilauea Iki (F)

D = 6.0 miles, E = 3,500', Moderate activity

Take a pleasant walk in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. We will begin and end this hike at the Kilauea Visitor's

Center. In between, we will hike along Waldron's Ledge to Devastation Trail, then up Crater Rim Trail to Escape Road. From there we will go along Kilauea Iki's rim to Waldron's Ledge again. Leader Linda Larish 966-6337

Sunday, September 27

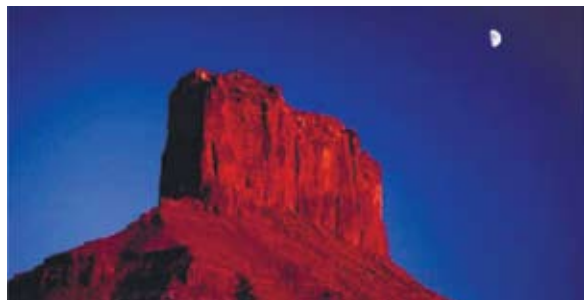
Restoration of Keau'ohana Rainforest (S,E,C)

D = 0.5 miles, E = 600', Moderate activity Join the nonprofit group Malama O Puna in its effort to restore the largest and most intact lowland wet forest remaining in the state. You will learn about a unique forest habitat with numerous native plant species. Bring mosquito repellent, work gloves, good boots and a willingness to work. Leader Linda Larish 966-6337



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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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Overview of the 2015 Legislative Session

by David Kimo Frankel

Because we did not have a director for a year, our presence at the Legislature this past legislative session was rather insignificant compared to previous years.

Our primary focus was strongly opposing the governor's nomination of Castle & Cooke lobbyist Carleton Ching to head the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Not only did we argue that it was not appropriate for a developer's lobbyist to occupy the chair of the board that oversees the state's land and natural resources; we also pointed out his lack of familiarity with many of the issues the department addresses. Thanks to an outpouring of public opposition and the organizing of virtually every environmental

organization in the state—and your emails—we were successful in derailing the nomination at the last minute.

Governor Ige changed course 180 degrees, picking Suzanne Case of the Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i to head Land and Natural Resources. Case is thoroughly familiar with the issues and has a demonstrated commitment to preserving Hawai'i's biodiversity.

Governor Ige's nominations to serve on the Land Use Commission as well as the Department of Land and Natural Resources restored greater balance to these bodies than they have ever had. His nomination to the Commission on Water Resource Management, however, was a disaster. He replaced environmental law professor Denise Antolini with former plantation manager William Balfour. We

opposed Balfour's nomination to the water commission because he has consistently supported the interests of large landowners and water diverters over the interests of free-flowing streams and natural resource protection. Our opposition fell largely on deaf ears, however, and the Senate confirmed his nomination.

Although we were not active in lobbying on many bills this session, several clean energy bills passed. One measure will expand the oil barrel tax to other fossil fuels—except coal (that battle will have to wait another day). Another bill calls for electricity to come entirely from renewable sources by 2045.

If you have thoughts on the issues we should pursue during the 2016 legislative session, share them with Marti Townsend, our new director.

KULOLO

By Stephen Holmes

KULOLO stands for “keep our utilities locally owned and locally operated.” The Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee has voted to support public ownership of our electric utility. Replacing one investor-owned utility with another monopoly will simply mean that profits will be shipped out of Hawai'i. Consumers deserve better than the current menu of addiction to fossil fuels, resistance to rooftop solar, and high rates that hurt our families and businesses. We see local control and ownership as a key element in getting to our goal of 100% renewable energy sooner rather than later. Check out the Kulolo.org website for information and updates.



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Sierra Club's Executive Committees Need You!

Are you interested in shaping the Sierra Club's policies? If you have the time for frequent meetings and lots of emailing, consider running for a spot on the Chapter's Executive Committee, or the executive committee of O'ahu Group, Kaua'i Group, Maui Group, or Moku Loa Group. Send an email to hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org and let us know in 80 words about your background or priorities. Please put “ExComm” in the subject heading of your email.



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Club Hawai'i Director,
Marti Townsend

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Environment,
Mauka to Makai!

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Ecology Camp 2015: *High School Hikers Program*



by *Jamie Tanino*

With the tools needed to restore our native forests, students of the High School Hikers Program worked alongside Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff while

participating in Ecology Camp held at Pahole Natural Area Reserve this past April. A total of 66 holes were dug and native plants such as maile, olopuua, and hō'awa were planted and given a fighting chance. Just up the gulch, students tackled a strawberry guava forest. With saws in hand they felled the strawberry guava trees one by one. Branches fell to the ground and were shortened into four-foot pieces for ease of stacking. Adults came by with herbicide to squirt on the stumps to prohibit regrowth.

Feeling accomplished, students headed back to camp based at the NIKE site. The aroma of Mexican food floated from the kitchen; soon dinner was being devoured by all. A presentation by David Anderson from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife started the night program, followed by

icebreaker games, a fire pit, s'mores, and stargazing.

The following day, students learned about the Hawaiian tree snail with a hike to the snail enclosure. Along the way, researchers working on seed dispersal by



way of birds gave an impromptu presentation. They caught a red-whiskered bulbul, Japanese white-eye, and red-billed leothrix in mist nets and showed them to the students. At the snail enclosure, two snails were in plain sight for everyone to appreciate. Ecology Camp drew to a close as we headed back to camp and packed up. A big mahalo to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for hosting us and to the club advisors and individuals for making this camp a huge success!

Now that it's over, planning has already started on Ecology Camp 2016. During President's Day weekend, students will camp at Palehua and help outplant two hundred endemic sandalwood into the area. It promises to be another great camp.

Jamie Tanino is president of High School Hikers