

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

Cherish The Earth

Journal of the Hawai'i Chapter Sierra Club

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Bottle Bill Victory

Landmark legislation passes to reduce litter, garbage

Get ready to watch bottle and can litter disappear from Hawaii's landscape. Our environment—and the Hawai'i Chapter—enjoyed monumental success this year with the passage of the *Jeff Mikulina* bottle bill, a measure that promises to vastly reduce litter, shrink our landfills, and spur the recycling industry statewide. The Governor is expected to sign the 5-cent deposit bill in late June. But don't start hoarding your old empties just yet; in order to give the beverage industry time to re-label their products, implementation of the redemption system was delayed until January 1, 2005.

What makes this victory all the more exciting is that David triumphed over Goliath through powerful grassroots activism. Nationwide, no 5-cent bottle bill has been passed for twenty years. Attempts to pass a bottle bill in Hawai'i were first introduced in 1972. The beverage industry—led by the Pepsi Bottling Group—joined with grocery stores, distributors, hotel associations and restaurateurs to fight the bottle bill. This formidable group hired the most experienced lobbyists in Honolulu and launched an advertising campaign to confuse consumers about the costs and impacts of the bottle bill. But in the end, the public's desire for cleaner beaches and more recycling prevailed.

The bottle bill wouldn't have become reality without the unwavering support of the Governor, all four counties, and the bill's strongest advocate and sponsor, Representative Hermina Morita. The battle for the bottle bill was won with the potent combination of hard facts, a diverse coalition, good media, and old-fashioned grassroots activism. With these, nearly any campaign is unbeatable.

HARD FACTS

Although Hawaii has had to wait three decades before enjoying the benefits of the bottle bill, the delay afforded state lawmakers data from the states that have established



Rep. Hermina Morita, the bottle bill's sponsor and leading advocate, speaking at the bottle bill rally at the capitol

bottle bills. That data shows that bottle bills work—and consumers overwhelmingly favor them.

In the ten states with bottle bills, from Oregon and Vermont in 1971 to California in 1986 (and New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, Maine, Iowa, Michigan, and Connecticut in between), more beverage containers are recycled than the other 40 states combined. They recycle between 80 – 85% of bottles and cans, while Hawai'i only recycles around 20% of its beverage containers. What's more, the ten states with bottle bills have documented beverage container litter reduction of 70% to 80%, and those states recycle more beverage containers than the other

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The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, is Hawaii's largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization
INSIDE: Bottle Bill supporters • Issue survey for members • Hikes and service trips

Deadline for
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Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

MĀLAMA I KA HONU

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UPDATED WEBSITE

Check out the Hawai'i Chapter's updated website at www.hi.sierraclub.org

The Mālama is now online in PDF format (<http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/Malama/malama.html>).

All members and interested environmentalists are invited to contribute items to Mālama. Articles should be sent via e-mail to: hawaii.chapter@lava.net.

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I was fortunate enough to spend Memorial Day weekend on Kalaupapa with 11 other Sierra Club volunteers, doing service work and touring this spectacular and poignant peninsula. One of our tasks was to remove some invasive plants to allow the native species more room to thrive. The particular plant we were targeting, golden crown, was rather easy to pull from the ground, so we finished clearing a large section in no time. But we soon learned it was a Pyrrhic victory—the seeds from the plant's flowers were scattered all over the ground. We tried everything to pick up the seeds: raking, scooping, shoveling, picking by hand, and even using a gas-powered vacuum. But the whole task felt futile—there were just too many of them.

If you've ever wondered about the power of grassroots, it's a pretty good metaphor. This year at the legislature, the Sierra Club harnessed that power to achieve some monumental success. Our internet activism to bring testimony and hundreds of letters in support of the bottle bill to legislators yielded incredible results. The day after the only hearing this session

Grassroots

A Letter from the Director



where the public could testify the *Honolulu Advertiser* headline read: "Bottle bill backers heard." Towards the end of the session, one senator complained that his email inbox was too jammed with pro-bottle bill messages to get anything else read. If our goal was to let lawmakers know that overwhelming public support exists for the issue, this was an unqualified success.

Our most powerful tool is grassroots activism. Elected officials hear from those who are organized to mobilize the diversity of voices necessary to push an issue to the forefront. As Sierra Club leaders, we'll do our best to give you vehicles to communicate our position to lawmakers and government officials. Help us by responding to the survey on page 22.

Next time you think that your voice is too small to make a difference, think about the seeds. With enough, we can be sure that our ideas will eventually find fertile ground.

A Note from the Chairwoman

Hawaii Chapter has had a successful 2002 thus far. Chapter Director Jeff Mikulina has been vigilant at the legislature and was instrumental in establishing the "bottle bill hawaii" website and activist email which helped to persuade the 21st Legislature to pass this landmark recycling measure. People found it was easy to become an activist simply by addressing a personal email to you own state representatives and senators. In addition to the bottle bill, other environment bills passed including setting aside monies from the hotel room tax for State park maintenance. Another positive bill was passed that would continue the successful environmental workforce program where displaced hotel workers became workers for the environment. Many were employed as field workers in the statewide program of alien species eradication—especially dengue mosquito eradication on Maui and Miconia eradication on the Big Island.

More Great News: Hawaii Chapter has just received funding for another year to continue our Map, Monitor, Guard Water Sentinel program allowing Roger Dilts to continue his fine work on the Kona side of the Big Island. In addition, The Hawaii Chapter will receive partial funding for a coastal organizer position on Maui and another part time activist position on Kauai. These will posted and advertised in the very near future.

The Moku Loa Group on the Big Island held their belated 25th Birthday Gala—turnout was amazing. There was a mix of state and county legislators, members, community folks, and great volunteers. The group honored our previous and current Group chairs and special presentations were made to Jerry Rothstein and Cathy Lowder—the first and second group chairs respectively. In addition, Nelson Ho and Debbie Ward were also recognized and honored for 20 years of Conservation excellence to our group and the Hawaii Chapter. Jan Moon and Virginia Doty were given certificates for 25 years of service to the Club. Monies raised from this event will allow the Moku Loa Group to continue there conservation work and provide everyone with enjoyable and educational outings on the Big Island. A BIG MAHALO to the fundraising committee, Juliet Mondal and Phil Barnes and all the other key volunteers.



*Roberta
Brashear*

We have a lot to be thankful for. Walking my dog on the private roads of Puna at 6 am, I reflect on what a truly special place this is and why we all work so hard to protect and preserve it.

C o n s e r v a t i o n

Green Bills Pass

Jeff Mikulina

The bottle bill wasn't the only green legislation that passed during the 2002 Session. Measures to divert a percentage of the transient accommodations tax—or hotel tax—for state parks and trails, appropriate \$500,000 to continue the successful environmental workforce, and reform the Hawai'i Tourism Authority were also approved.

Passage of SB 2350, funding of state parks and trails through an appropriation from the tourism special fund, was the result of years of effort by the Sierra Club and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to make the connection between the tourism industry and protection of Hawaii's natural resources. The bill directs the first \$1,000,000 above \$62,292,000 in the tourism special fund to parks and trails annually. The tourism special fund will now collect 32.6% of the transient accommodations tax (7.25% on the nightly hotel room bill).

For years the Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter has been highlighting the incongruity between the annual budgets of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (\$61 million) for tourism promotion and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (~\$27 million). Hawaii's state parks are the portals that allow visitors to experience the state's natural beauty. The Hawai'i Chapter believes that it makes sense to use a portion of the hotel tax to fund their maintenance.

The Hawai'i Chapter had authored and lobbied for a number of measures to direct a percentage of the tourism special fund for coastal land acquisition and other natural resource protection. Only the parks and trails funding passed, raising the state parks budget of \$5 million about 20%. The Chapter will continue to push for a commitment to protect Hawaii's wild coastlines with tourism tax dollars. After all, experiencing Hawaii's breathtaking coastlines is the most frequently cited reason for visiting our state in numerous surveys.

The Chapter was disappointed with the failure of some green bills to make substantial ground. Bills to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from powerplants (HB 2513) and to monitor wastewater discharges from Hawaii's growing cruise industry (HB 2208, SB 2589) both failed to pass early in the session. The organization will continue to push for these measures in upcoming sessions. The Chapter was also disappointed with the appointments of Alexander & Baldwin executive Meredith Ching to the State Water Commission and former Big Island Mayor Steve Yamashiro to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

But in balance, it was a positive session for Hawaii's environment. With the passage of the bottle bill and parks and trails funding through the tourism fund, the Twenty-first Legislature will be remembered for making a commitment to protect what makes Hawai'i special.

CO2 dumping off Kaua'i

Judy Dalton

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held public hearings on Kaua'i on May 22 to discuss a proposal by Pacific International High Technology Research (PICHTR) to pump carbon dioxide (CO2) into the ocean off Nawiliwili Harbor. The ocean experiment would involve dumping approximately 20 metric tons of liquid CO2 into the ocean about 4 miles off shore over a 2 week period to pave the way for future large scale CO2 dumping in the ocean.

Testimony against the proposed project came from both the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club and the National Sierra Club national with our 750,000 members, since the proposed test site is located in waters within federal and international jurisdiction. The Sierra Club sees human-induced global warming as a threat to the global population and environment yet dumping carbon dioxide into the bottom of the ocean is not the solution. The carbon dioxide eventually resurfaces and is released back into the atmosphere passing the problem on to future generations. A thorough and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement should be required for a sequestration experiment posing potential risks to the ocean waters, marine life and coral reef.

The Hawaii Chapter commented in testimony, "The US Department of Energy (USDOE) says that the carbon dioxide experiment is necessary to determine if large-scale ocean sequestration of carbon dioxide is a possible solution to climate change. The Sierra Club is skeptical that the USDOE is simply looking for a panacea to avoid making cuts in carbon dioxide emissions from energy sources...For the sake of our nearshore environment, and the sake of sane energy policy, we are asking the EPA to deny this permit."

The Sierra Club hopes that the EPA sends the proposal—not carbon dioxide—to the bottom of the ocean.

Sierra Club Offers Framework for Responsible Summit Management

By Nelson Ho

"The University of Hawaii's management of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve is inadequate to ensure the protection of the natural resources within the reserve...The University's focus on pursuing its own interests had led to conditions and practices that have countered or weakened these processes." -- Marion Higa, Legislative Auditor Audit of the Management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve (February 1998, p.15)

The summit of Mauna Kea is not just any Hawai'i landscape. First, it is a Conservation District so designated to ensure careful management because of its vulnerable ecosystems. Among its rare, and in some cases, threatened species are spiders, bugs, other arthropods, several rare lichens and a habitat for the endangered u'au (Dark Rumped Petrel). It is also

Notes

former Hawaiian Crown land ceded to Hawai'i after statehood, which by law must be managed in ways that benefit Native Hawaiians. The summit cones, collectively called Kukahau'ula, are such an important cultural landscape that the Historical Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has petitioned for their federal protection as a National Historic Place. And everyone knows that the summit is a beloved place visible throughout the Big Island that resonates with the hearts and minds of all islanders.

For all these reasons, the summit of Mauna Kea has always deserved the absolute best management possible. Instead, as the 1998 Legislative Audit so clearly showed, it has had little real protection. No one any longer defends the past management practices of either the University or the DLNR. Now, with substantial reform underway including creation of the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) and its advisory bodies, the question of how to manage properly is in the forefront. These are our recommendations:

- * OMKM, the Institute for Astronomy and DLNR must really commit to responsible stewardship, even if this means tempering the ambitions of the U.S. and international astronomy communities.

- * IfA and the Mauna Kea observatories must join OMKM in recognizing that no matter how noble their astronomy goals may be, their industrial-type development of the summit is culturally inappropriate and environmentally damaging.

- * OMKM must recognize in its regulatory policies that the major environmental and cultural damage is being caused by observatory construction and operation and commercial tours, not the activities of the general public.

- * OMKM must therefore institute a serious resource monitoring program with tough enforcement measures built in to protect flora, fauna, cultural landscapes, archeological sites and for ensuring that the observatories and commercial tour operators follow the state lease, master plans and the rules and regulations of OMKM and other agencies.

- * OMKM must establish baseline scientific information on the geology, biology and cultural aspects of Mauna Kea, including longitudinal studies on the native plants and animals of the summit region.

- * Current and future observatories must help pay for all this necessary management by contributing annual sublease impact fees, adding to what Hawai'i's taxpayers are already being assessed.

- * OMKM must fully utilize the authority granted to it by the UH Board of Regents and mandated to it by the public's outcry by asserting strong leadership in regulating the observatories and all commercial

SHAPE THE SIERRA CLUB!

The Nominating Committee is looking for members who would like to be on the Chapter or Group Executive Committees. The Executive Committee decides which lawsuits to file, which candidates to endorse, how to spend money, and which positions to adopt. We are looking for members who can attend four quarterly meetings, read lots of e-mail, and devote their energies to accomplishing the Sierra Club's goals. *If you are interested, please write a brief description of yourself and why you want to get involved. E-mail it to hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org or mail it to P.O. Box 2577 Honolulu, HI 96803.*

We are also looking for volunteers for the group and chapter political committees. These committees review candidates records and their responses to Sierra Club surveys. They then make endorsement recommendations to the chapter executive committee. *If you are interested, please write a brief description of yourself and why you want to get involved. E-mail it to greenhi@interpac.net or mail it to P.O. Box 2577 Honolulu, HI 96803*

cial activities on the mountain.

- * OMKM and DLNR must continue to listen to the public, keep their deliberations open, and actively solicit citizen comment and participation as these management strategies and structures evolve.

All of these actions are necessary and would signal to the public that the University, the State, and the observatories are sincere in their desire to protect the beloved mountain. These actions would also truly equip OMKM with the tools it needs to carry out that essential mission.

The University of Hawaii Office of Neurology and Aging Research wants you!

HIV positive and HIV negative individuals needed to study memory and thinking ability associated with HIV infection and aging.

Register now. Call 737-3012

Monetary compensation provided to participants.

...continued from the front page

Bottle Bill

40 states combined.

For Hawai'i, the need for the bottle bill is clear. Some 800 million beverage containers are used in statewide annually. On average, 75,000 beverage containers are thrown in the trash every hour in Hawai'i. On O'ahu, it is estimated that a bottle bill could divert between 4-7% of the total waste stream by volume. Considering that landfills on each of the main islands are near or over capacity, this is a welcome reduction in solid waste.

Perhaps the most convincing information from the states with bottle bills is public opinion. Beverage container deposits enjoy widespread support by consumers in states with years of experience of the recycling measures. In fact, A December 2000 survey of Iowa residents by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources found that 92.5% of respondents support their 25 year-old bottle bill. An attempt to repeal the Massachusetts law in 1982 was defeated by a 93% to 7% in a referendum vote. No state bottle bill has ever been repealed. In Hawai'i, a survey of 501 households commissioned by the Department of Health found that 70% of residents would support the beverage container deposit system—even if it meant paying a little more at the register. To most residents, receiving five cents for recycling makes sense. They recognize that the financial incentive to return the bottles will go a long way in making Hawai'i's environment more attractive.

A DIVERSE COALITION

From Governor Benjamin Cayetano to union-contractor Bruce Coppa to student Christopher Sadoyama at Fern Elementary School, the bottle bill has support that is as widespread as it is deep.

When the Hawai'i Chapter held a rally at the State Capitol in April to demonstrate public support for the bottle bill, some unlikely allies appeared. One individual walked around with a large sign that read "First Unitarian Church Believes in Redemption." It wasn't until the bottom of the sign was visible that the analogy was clear: "Yes to the Bottle Bill."

Besides support from some religious organizations, numerous environmental groups, student groups, recyclers, and community organizations, the bottle bill enjoys support from the Governor, all four county administrations, and Congressman Neil Abercrombie. Outside of elected government, the private sector offered their support. The Estate of James Campbell gave testimony in support of the measure, and Bruce Coppa, Director of the Pacific Resource Partnership, wrote to conference committee members in April: "By offering a 5-cent 'reward,' containers will likely be quickly picked up and redeemed-or they won't become litter in the first place. Residents and visitors alike would be relieved to watch bottle and can litter disappear from beaches and roads."

The League of Women Voters of Honolulu, the Hawai'i

Bicycle League, Surfrider Foundation of O'ahu and others pledged their support for the bottle bill. So too, did some national manufacturers. Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, an outdoor gear and clothing manufacturer based in Ventura, California demonstrated his support for the Hawai'i bottle bill in testimony to the Finance Committee in March. Patagonia manufactures over 40 products with post-consumer recycled fleece made from recycled soda bottles. The company says they have diverted 40 million 2-liter plastic soda bottles from landfills between 1993 and 1999 with their products. The diversity of voices backing the bottle bill helped to convince state lawmakers that the bill was more than a stand-alone environmental issue, but it was a quality of life issue that people genuinely supported.

GOOD MEDIA

Conveying the positive benefits of the bottle bill to citizens was essential to ensure their participation in the process—and to remind lawmakers that the issue is popular and one that they cannot simply ignore. The Hawai'i Chapter engaged the media through events, press conferences, and news releases. We looked for anything, really, with an interesting hook that the media might pick up on. For example, in the waning days of the session, we sent a release about a study from Massachusetts' researchers that examined the reduction of glass lacerations in children in Boston after the state bottle bill was passed. The study found that a 60% decrease in glass cuts in urban children was largely a product of the bottle bill. Considering the number of barefoot keiki running around the islands, this was interesting—and compelling—news.

The Hawai'i Chapter also collaborated on events to draw the media's interest. In late January, after a "reverse vending machine" was installed in the Capitol's basement, the Chapter joined with Rep. Morita's office to demonstrate the empty container recycling device. But the Chapter added a twist—for each of the first 2,000 bottles and cans that were deposited into the machine the Sierra Club gave away 5 cents, the same amount that would be returned under the bottle bill. The activity was picked up by three local TV stations, one Honolulu daily, and went out on the AP wire nationally. For \$50, the Hawai'i Chapter brought a real-world demonstration of the bottle bill in action to a large constituency.

The April rally at the State Capitol was also a successful media draw. Besides food, speakers, and a 30-foot inflatable bottle, the Chapter held a contest where participants guessed the amount of time it took the Hawai'i to throw out a pile of bottles and cans. The pile—5,000 total—was almost as impressive as the answer: just over four minutes. But what really made the bottle bill rally a success were the students. Students from Maryknoll High School, Hawaii Pacific University, University of Hawai'i, and Chaminade were present, waving signs and encouraging passing cars to honk. The more that the media saw that people were involved with the issue, the more airtime the bottle bill received.

Bottle Bill

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

The most important—and the most successful—component of the bottle bill campaign was the citizen involvement. The phone calls, emails, faxes, petitions, postcards, letters, and testimony from everyday folks were overwhelming, and lawmakers noticed. In fact, Rep. Morita said: “Passage of the bottle bill would not have been possible without the grassroots coordination by the Hawaii Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Club and volunteers did an incredible job in keeping the issue at the forefront of this legislative session and the support was tremendous. The bottle bill was truly a collaborative effort by legislators, the State and County solid waste managers and grassroots citizenry. We all had an important role to play and we did what needed to be done in combating the negative advertising and putting our best arguments forward to promote recycling and litter solutions.”

In late March, the Hawai'i Chapter set up a webpage dedicated to passing the bottle bill, www.bottlebillhawaii.org. The site contains photos, facts, history, flowcharts of the bill's implementation, and, most importantly, a form that visitors could fill out to express their support to key legislators. Visitors were free to edit the sample letter contained in the form, put in their personal information, send it. The results were amazing.

When the Finance Committee held the only public hearing on the bottle bill this session, over 250 groups and individuals submitted testimony—the most during the entire session. During April, over 300 individual letters were emailed to legislators supporting the measure. Throughout the critical days of the session, daily traffic to the bottle bill website was in the hundreds. Since early April, over 10,000 visits have been logged at the website.

The grassroots action was picked up by the media. After **the Finance Committee hearing, the Honolulu Advertiser** had a front page article with the headline, “Bottle bill backers heard.” The article talked about the packed room of bottle bill supporters and the stack of testimony submitted to the Committee. The *Honolulu Weekly* reported on the same hearing, saying “Support for the bill is deep: Committee staffers report that no other issue this session has generated as many fax and e-mail testimonies to that committee.”

The ongoing emails and letters to legislators' offices lofted the issue into the forefront. The fact that so many residents would take action to support Hawaii's environment swayed enough lawmakers to make the difference, despite the heavy pressure from the beverage industry and their lobbyists.

The result? In the late evening on Tuesday, April 30th, the Senate voted to pass the bottle bill with 19 ayes, 6 nays and the House, 34 ayes and 17 nays.

For a list of those legislators who voted in support of the bottle bill, see the page 23.

...continued from the back page

Critical Habitat

Individual threatened and endangered species, critical habitat helps to achieve one of the central goals of the ESA: the preservation of the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend for their continued survival and recovery. In this way, critical habitat helps ensure that other native species that rely on the same habitat do not become threatened with extinction.

Critical habitat provides significant economic benefits by contributing to an ecosystem's ability to recharge groundwater, protect water quality, prevent erosion, promote ecotourism and many other valuable services. A recent economic study sponsored by the University of Hawaii's Secretariat of Conservation Biology estimated the value of such “ecosystem services” provided by the forests of the Ko'olau Mountains on O'ahu alone at \$7 billion to over \$14 billion.

Since around 1990, the government has had to be prodded by lawsuits and court orders to designate critical habitat, such as the court orders mandating the current process to designate critical habitat for 255 Hawaiian plant species. Proposals to designate critical habitat have come under withering fire from critics who are in general either greedy or ill informed as to the actual effect of such designations.

Critical habitat designation has little impact on private landowners since it is directed solely at federal agency action. Even without critical habitat designation, federal and state laws currently prohibit private landowners from cutting, collecting, uprooting, destroying, or injuring individual plants of any endangered or threatened plant species on their land, without a permit from the state Board of Land and Natural Resources. Critical habitat designation affects an activity on private land only if the participation, funding or approval of a federal agency is needed to carry out the activity. In those cases, the private landowner can carry out the proposed activity as long as it would not adversely modify or destroy the critical habitat of species.

Critical habitat designation affects only federal lands and projects that are paid for or authorized by federal agencies. Such activities are common in Hawai'i and include military live-fire training at Makua Military Reservation (O'ahu), Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (O'ahu) and the Pohakuloa Training Area (Big Island); federal funding of road improvements, such as the proposed realignment of the Saddle Road on the Big Island; and federal infrastructure projects for urban development. Designating critical habitat would require federal agencies to ensure that these activities would not have an adverse impact on the areas on which listed plant species depend for their continued survival and recovery.

**For more information on critical habitat issues in Hawai'i, see the website developed by Earthjustice:
www.protectparadise.org**

Moku Loa Group Report

Chairperson's Report by Phil Barnes

I am sure that you were all pleased to hear that the bottle bill has finally been passed. The club has been working for this piece of legislation for many years. Many of you called, faxed, or e-mailed in your support for this bill and it helped to sway the vote. Thanks to all who helped.

Many club members, myself included, testified in favor of requiring the Keck personnel to file a complete EIS in order to be able to proceed with expansion of the Keck telescope on Mauna Kea. From the large crowds testifying in support of the EIS, hopefully our voices will be heard by the decision makers.

It appears that our voices were not heard in terms of the HELCO hearings for increasing the hours of operation and sources of fuel that will be used at the Kea'au power plant. With all the new schools that have been built near this old plant, you would think that HELCO would want to expand the cleaning of their emissions. But this will not be the case as another old power plant has been grandfathered in for expanded use.

A large number of members in Kona and Hilo testified in favor of enhanced protections for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands at the hearings held recently by NOAA, the federal agency in charge of the new Marine Sanctuary in this region. The final draft will not be complete for over a year, so we will stay in the loop.

Garage Sale by Diane Fournier

We will be holding our annual garage sale on Saturday, August 10. The sale will again be held at Susan Hick's house in Hawaiian Paradise Park. Her address is 15-201 26th Avenue, off Maku'u Drive. This event can only be a success with your donations of goods and shopping at the sale.

We will need help sorting and pricing the goods, as well as working the sale on Saturday. Make sure that all items, especially clothing, are clean before drop-off. Contact Diane at 965-9695 if you can help out, or have items to donate. Thanks for your help.

Genetic Engineering Forum by Eden Peart

On April 27, Moku Loa Group hosted a forum on genetic engineering in agriculture with presentations by Dr. Ania Wiczorek (UH Manoa CTAHR GMO extension agent) and Dr. Kimberly Clark (agricultural economist, educator and director of "Just Add Water," a Community Supported Agriculture business on Oahu).

Genetic engineering and GMOs (genetically modified organisms) involves taking a gene from one species and splicing it into another species to transfer a desired trait. This could never occur in nature where the transfer of ge-

netic traits is limited by the natural barriers that exist between species. In this way, genetic engineering is completely new and nothing like traditional animal and plant breeding techniques. For example, with genetic engineering, human genes can be inserted into pigs, fish genes into strawberries, and spermicidal bacteria into corn plants. (These are all actual examples.)

Furthermore, for the natural boundaries between species to be broken down, it is necessary to use a "vector" to carry the gene being inserted into its target. This vector most often happens to be a virus! (One known quality of viruses is that they are likely to mutate.)

Dr. Wiczorek's presentation, a government/industry perspective, contrasts sharply with the official Sierra Club policy on biotechnology, also with the National Family Farm Coalition's Declaration on Genetic Engineering, and with the view of over 456 scientists from over fifty countries as revealed in "An Open Letter to World Governments on Genetic Engineering," available for review at the web site for the Institute of Science in Society: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/list.php#letter>.

Hawai'i, its irreplaceable and unique ecosystems notwithstanding, is the location for over 3,200 genetic engineering field test sites, their subject and location undisclosed (considered "confidential business information"); they are exempt from EIS requirements!

A coalition of concerned citizens, environmentalists, farmers and health educators, including Native Hawaiians, has recently been formed on the Big Island: Hawai'i Genetic Engineering Action Network. On Saturday, June 8, the group will participate in solidarity with groups across Canada and the United States in a "Supermarket Campaign" targeting SAFEWAY, demanding that they follow other supermarket chains (Trader Joe's and Whole Foods) in removing genetically engineered ingredients from their house brands. This is a peaceful, educational leaflet event, which SAFEWAY is expecting. It will take place 11 am - 2 pm at the Hilo and Kona stores.

More educational forums, film nights, legislation and citizen actions are planned throughout Hawai'i. If you want to get involved or learn more, contact MLG's GE coordinator, Eden Peart (929-9739), or e-mail gefreeshawii@yahoo.com.

In memory of Keith Burchett

Moku Loa Group mourns the loss of Keith Burchett, our former Group Chair, who passed away earlier this year. Keith was best known for his strong personality and activism. He was instrumental in starting an environmental film festival here on the Big Island. Keith was a passionate educator and teacher in Honoka'a who loved film, history and the environment!

Maui Group Report

Pi'ilani Highway Interim Improvements

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) was unfazed by official comments filed by Maui Group (MG) regarding their Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) on Pi'ilani Highway Interim Improvements (re-striping to 4 lanes). Despite 21 separate omissions, inaccuracies and misrepresentations listed by MG, a Final EA was issued with a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI). This paves the way for a year-long construction project on one of Maui's busiest arterials, with the end result being a loss of bike-lanes, safety margins, left-turn options and a reduced speed limit. One of the most absurd responses regarded the need for relocating 19 light poles at the Ka Ono Ulu intersection, as they are less than a foot from the current drainage gutter (which would be paved over to create a new 2-foot shoulder/bike lane). DOT claimed the poles would not require moving since MECO says they are breakaway poles! Construction could begin this summer.

South Maui Growth

Residents and visitors traversing the 5.8 mile stretch of Pi'ilani Highway from Mokulele to Kilohana encounter no less than 5 major projects under construction. These are among the 1800 housing units already approved for Kihei urban infill. MG efforts to raise awareness to rezoning efforts by Makena Resort and Wailea 670 have cited these increasing strains to our island's sagging infrastructure. Makena and Wailea 670 are contributors to the funding for Pi'ilani Highway Interim Improvement design studies to the tune of \$600,000. Though conflict of interest was raised, it was asserted that this funding would not guarantee project approval. According to reliable sources, the Makena rezoning is likely to reappear this summer, while Wailea 670, sensing that they are second in the waiting line, is unlikely to appear on Council agendas until 2003. The "Molina decision" by the Board of Ethics, regarding Council member Michael Molina's ability to vote on Makena rezoning due to a family property holding in the immediate area, is likely to be reheard in June or July.

Kahului Big Box Sprawl

MG voiced their discontent at County Council on May 30th, when the final reading of the Wailuku-Kahului Community Plan revision was reviewed. A dozen testifiers expressed concerns at the late re-insertion of an A&B Properties proposal to re-designate 177 acres on the Kahului outskirts from prime ag lands to light-industrial. Despite valiant efforts by Wayne Nishiki and Jo Anne Johnson, responding to more than 80 e-mail requests to reconsider, the Council voted 6-2 for re-designation.

Testifiers spoke of a golden opportunity to create a scenic corridor for the DOT-proposed airport reliever road, rather than the cluttered commercial gauntlet of big-box stores and fast food outlets at Dairy Road. A Maui News editorial called the Council's decision "myopic," and "ignoring Maui's future needs in favor of immediate economic development."

Rob Parsons

Palaeua, South Maui Runoff

Maui Group members have met with State and Federal officials concerning construction site runoff into the ocean at South Maui sites. No charges have currently been filed, though photographic documentation of Maui's 2002 wet winter has caused a stir with enforcing agencies. Under scrutiny are the Betsill project in North Kihei and the Palaeua Mauka project just South of the Fairmont Kea Lani resort. Ocean runoff has also been documented muddying the waters at Makena Landing.

Maui No Ka Oi Magazine

The current issue of Maui No Ka Oi magazine includes an excellent summation of 2001 deliberations on "Smart Growth." Among those quoted are Sierra Club National awardee Mary Evanson, MG Conservation Chair Rob Parsons and Hannah Bernard, spokesperson for Hawai'i Wildlife Foundation and naturalist at the Maui Ocean Center.

East Maui Wells For South Maui Growth?

MG Chair, Daniel Grantham, testified at a recent public meeting on the East Maui Water Development Plan. The County's Plan proposes 8 wells along the Kauhikoa Ditch in Ha'iku and a 36" pipeline to transport 10-15 mgd of water to Central and South Maui. A number of MG members attended and expressed their concerns: falling rainfall averages in East Maui, lack of solid data on minimum stream flows, effects of well pumping on streams, exploitation of East Maui water for South Maui over development and lack of sufficient funding for ongoing watershed restoration and management. The County is under court order (after a 1993 challenge by East Maui citizens) to produce a more accurate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the East Maui well project. A revised EIS on the plan is expected out in June. MG members are invited to learn more about East Maui watersheds during upcoming summer Water Hikes.

Become A Candidate For The Mg Excomm

The Sierra Club is a strong and effective organization because it has dedicated volunteers and staff at both local grassroots and national levels. If you are a Maui Group member and want to run, let us know at 579-9802.

Koa Ridge Decision on June 21

The State Land Use Commission will be deciding the fate of 1,250 acres of agricultural land in Central O'ahu on June 21st. Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii has requested that the land be reclassified to urban use for the construction of 7,500 houses and a medical complex at Koa Ridge between Mililani and Waipio. The Sierra Club, as a party to the case, is asking the Commission to deny the reclassification, saying that additional urban land is not needed in Central O'ahu and additional urbanization will adversely impact groundwater and prime agricultural lands. The Sierra Club is not opposed to the development of the medical facility. Jeff Mikulina, representing the Sierra Club, has presented a series of arguments, called expert witnesses, and cross examined the developer's witnesses in hearings over the past year.

The Sierra Club believes that Castle & Cooke's plan for Koa Ridge is the epitome of urban sprawl. With plans for over 13,000 new housing units already on the books for Central O'ahu, it is time to put the brakes on continued urbanization of the best agricultural lands in the state.

Expert witnesses earlier in the year testified to the surplus of urban land in Central O'ahu, the negative impact of increased water use on the existing City & County wells, and the impacts of the loss of more than 800 acres of agricultural land that is considered 'prime.' The City's water expert testified that wells drilled on the Koa Ridge property may intercept water that would otherwise flow to the City's wells downslope, causing them to decrease in quality and quantity. When Castle & Cooke President Harry Saunders testified at the November 2001 Commission hearing he stated that new development in Central O'ahu will add eight minutes to the peak travel times to and from Honolulu for Mililani commuters if all the planned transportation improvements are completed. New development would therefore add 80 minutes per week, or 70 hours per year for the average Mililani or North Shore commuter.

The Sierra Club hopes that the Commission votes to keep the country, country, and not commit more prime ag land to unnecessary urban sprawl.

Bus Rapid Transit

Nikki Love

The Oahu Group continues its support of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), a major public transportation project being proposed by the City and County of Honolulu. The group has been involved in the BRT project since the preliminary planning began over three years ago, and witnessed the City balance the competing needs of developing an efficient, practical, and workable transit system for Honolulu while minimizing taxpayer burden.

Like BRT in other cities, Honolulu's BRT system will

give buses dedicated lanes, signal priority, special bus stops, and other features to help riders travel quickly across the island and through congested streets. Faster, more convenient transit will provide better options for mobility, faster commuting for workers, and reduced dependency on the private automobile.

Most importantly, BRT will benefit the environment through reduced fuel demand. It is estimated that BRT will save about 39,000 barrels of oil each year over the continued status quo by providing an alternative to the private automobile. A high capacity in-town bus rapid transit system powered by an electric or hybrid motor would be cleaner, with less air pollution and noise.

Throughout April, May, and June, Director Jeff Mikulina and Ex Comm member Robert Harris submitted testimony to the City Council expressing support for BRT as part of Bill 20 (to fund BRT in the CIP budget) and Bill 34 (to include a transit corridor on the Public Facilities Map). The City is expected to move forward soon with the first phase, which runs from Iwilei to Waikiki via Kakaako Makai.

Trees Spared at Fernhurst *Howard Wiig*

The Oahu Group was alerted that the Fernhurst property on the corner of Punahou and Wilder streets would be demolishing the existing structure and erecting a highrise. There was widespread concern that the contractor, the Hawaii Housing Development Corporation (HHDC) might destroy or "stump" most of the trees, as it had done at another site. Working in tandem with the Outdoor Circle, Malama O Manoa and the Makiki Neighborhood Board, the Oahu Group submitted a letter to the HHDC urging them to spare the trees, and received a written reply that that they would be preserved.

Waiawa Wants Waiahole Water, Why?

The Oahu Group submitted testimony to the Water Commission asking for denial of Kamehameha School's petition to divert 4.2 million gallons of fresh water daily from the Waiahole Ditch to Kamehameha's planned development at Waiawa. The testimony stated that Kamehameha's request violated the Court's ruling that Waiahole Ditch waters were not to be used for "exclusive use for private commercial gain." The testimony noted that Kamehameha proposed using the water for dust control and irrigating a golf course, while Waiahole Ditch water is the only Windward water source available to support stream life, agriculture and to feed the Kane'ohu Bay estuary and fishery. The O'ahu Group pointed out that reclaimed water could be used to irrigate golf courses, but Kamehameha had failed to consider this option.

Ocean Bay Plantation at Hanama'ulu

This project, proposed 5 miles north of the Lihue Airport on 465 acres extending along the coastline, is requesting an 18-hole golf course, a commercial center, 420 housing units, including visitor accommodations, and a beach club. The Kaua'i General Plan does not provide for development in this area which is designated as Resource and Agriculture. What's more, no compelling reasons exist to change the Kaua'i General Plan that was recently approved which involved broad public input during a long deliberated process.

The proposed project does not comply with the Kaua'i General Plan in Preserving Kauai's Rural Character, which objectives include preserving open space between towns to prevent sprawl. The Agricultural Lands Policy affirms: "Lands included within the Agriculture designation shall be predominantly used or held in reserve to be used in the future for agricultural activities. The primary intent of the Agriculture is to conserve land and water resources in order to promote and preserve open agricultural lands as a key element of Kauai's rural character and lifestyle." The Environmental Assessment indicated that the soil in the development area is designated the highest: A Prime.

Water supply dictates the amount of sustainable growth. The General Plan acknowledges that fact by stating, "Water supply in Lihue is constrained by a lack of new groundwater sources. For geological reasons, the Lihue area is not favorable for development of water wells, which typically have been low yielding."

The Kaua'i Group will be asking for compliance with the Kaua'i General Plan during the long permitting process. The Plan must be adhered to so this project and future projects will not result in the loss of open space, prime agricultural land, and scenic undeveloped coastal areas.

Public Access to Coastal and Inland Recreational Areas

The Kaua'i County Administration's decision to close an established easement for public access to one of the island's coastal recreational areas, namely Queen's Bath, was determined to be improper. Right of access is mandated by Hawaii State Statute Chapter 115 which states that the absence of public access to Hawaii's shorelines and inland recreational areas constitutes an infringement upon the fundamental right of free movement in public space. The chapter guarantees the right of public access to the sea, shorelines, and inland recreational areas, and transit along the shorelines.

Temporary closures of up to 61 days are permitted in the public interest when safety is an issue. These must be achieved by specific criteria subject to approval of the County Council and not by administrative decree.

HRS Chapter 115 contains a provision for private action to force beach access under Case Notes. Inspired by this provision and action taken last year on the Big Island involving one of is legislators to re-open a closed coastal access, a small group of Sierra Club members and others in the community hiked down to Queen's Bath on May 30th, reclaiming the public's constitutional right of access. We thank Ray Chuan for discovering this means of taking back our coastal and inland recreational areas in event of possible future access closures on Kaua'i.

Lihue Heliport Expansion Plan

The Kaua'i Group responded to The Department of Transportation's Environmental Assessment to build 4 new, additional helicopter take off/landing pads at Lihue Airport which could increase the number of helicopter flights by an additional 24 fly-overs a day. We declared that Kauai's carrying capacity for helicopters has already been exceeded. More helicopters would add to noise intrusion disrupting the moments of tranquility we presently experience between flights. More helicopters would adversely affect the wilderness experience that residents and visitors enjoy.

Chapter Executive Meeting on Kauai and Gubernatorial Candidate Interviews

Each summer the Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club Executive Committee meets on one of the four islands where there is a Sierra Club Group. This year Kaua'i will be hosting the meeting on August 16, 17 & 18th. We need places for our hard working volunteer Executive Committee members to stay for the nights of the 16h & 17th. CAN YOU HELP US? If you live on the east shore and could provide sleeping arrangements for a member or two we'd greatly appreciate it. We're also looking for a few people with cars or vans who may want to accompany us on a day of outings we will be offering these dedicated volunteers from Maui, the Big Island, and Oahu. Those providing assistance will be invited to meet the gubernatorial candidates when the Sierra Club interviews them that weekend. Please call Judy Dalton at 246-9067 or email dalton@aloha.net if you can help. MAHALO!!

Join the Kauai Group Exec Committee

We're looking for people to serve on the Kaua'i Group Executive Committee. Meetings are held once a month in the Lihue-Kapaa area and time required of board members is typically 8 hours a month. The term is for two years. If you'd like your name on the ballot for the next election, please contact Ellen Schwartz at <ellenschwartz@onemain.com> or call the Kaua'i Group telephone number 651-0682 and leave a message.

Judy Dalton

O`ahu Group Outings

July - September 2002

Saturday, June 22

Oahu Outings Leaders Event – Hawaii Plantation Village Limited to outings leaders and trainees only. Reservations required + fee. Join us for a private tour of this outdoor museum that showcases the lifestyles and experience of Hawaii's plantation workers. Furnished homes and other community structures display and interpret the history of Hawaii's multi-ethnic heritage. Come experience the warm and welcoming atmosphere that was part of Hawaii in the early 1900s. Betsy Weatherford: 526-3986 to reserve your spot.

Sunday, June 23

Pupukea Summit 8mi/Moderate/Ridge/Pupukea You will be rewarded with great views and cool breezes after a long uphill climb. Betsy Weatherford 526-3986, Bob Moore 942-2734

Saturday, July 6

Kaala Natural Area Reserve Service Project 2mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kaala Reservations required. Help protect this O`ahu's highest point with its uncommon native plants by removing nonnative species and planting

natives in an area damaged by feral pigs. Long sleeved shirt and long pants required. Work area requires a steep climb over uneven terrain. Bring gloves and tools (sickles, pruners, hand saws, etc.). Be prepared for rain, cold, and great views. Leader: Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

Sunday, July 7

Mt. Olympus 6 mi/Strenuous/Ridge & Summit We will follow the Waahila ridge line through rain forest to the Koolau crest at Mt. Olympus. Weather permitting, there are great views of Maunawili, Kailua, and points beyond. Leaders: Gwen Sinclair 734-3214; Ed Mersino 455-8193

Saturday, July 13

Miconia Removal – Manoa 2mi/Strenuous/Ridge& Valley/Manoa Help remove evil miconia. Bring insect repellent & rain gear. Work area is off trail and brushy; long pants/shirt & clear lens eye protection needed. Bring a machete IF you are handy with one. Jordan Jokiel 739-6710

Ala Wai Boat Harbor Cleanup

Help make the harbor a point of pride and encourage the return of sealife to the area. We will work from the docks, using scoopers and nets to gather up flotsam and jetsam. Meet at 8 am at the Harbor Master's Office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot ewa of Hilton lagoon. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles and bring a hat, thick rubber gloves, sunscreen, and water. Sharon Moran 277-2549

Sunday, July 14

***Hauula-Papali 7mi/Moderate/Contour/Hauula** Get out of town on this double loop trail with views, deep gulches, and interesting plants. Leaders: Joanna Yin 734-5323; Lin Black 247-8845

Saturday, July 20

***Kawaewae Heiau Service Project** Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the First Hawaiian Bank parking lot in Windward City Shopping Center in Kaneohe. This 1/2 day project involves the removal of vegetation to help in the restoration of this sacred site. Great views of Kaneohe Bay and the Koolau Range. Bring plenty of water, a snack, rain gear, insect repellent, gloves, and tools (sickles, pruners, hand saws, gas weed trimmer). Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Sunday, July 21

Wailupe Gulch Family Hike 3mi/Easy/Valley/Aina Haina Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the mauka end of Hao St. in Aina Haina. Mostly woods with

All Sierra Club Outings

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O`ahu Group Outings Information

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O'ahu Outings

gradual ascent to a lookout. Kids over 4 only unless you have a child carrier. Reese Liggett, Suzan Harada 732-4489

Luaalaea Late Hike

3mi/Moderate/Valley/Manoa Meet at the intersection of Manoa Road and Waakaua Street at 1:00 p.m. Avoid the tourists on this waterfall hike in the back of Manoa Valley. Plan on ducking under ferns and tree branches and getting your feet wet at stream crossings. Leaders: Maile Sakamoto 946-5712; Randy Ching 381-2891

Saturday, August 3

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project

3mi/Moderate/Ridge/Mokuleia Reservations Required. Get a feeling of accomplishment and learn about rare native plants in a gorgeous location. We'll be building trails, helping control invasive plants, and outplanting native plants on this project. Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431

Sunday, August 4

Laie 12mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Laie 7:00 a.m. meeting time. It's a long trek through strawberry guava to reach the crowning destination, with a possible side trip to a swimming hole on the way back. Ed Mersino 455-8193, Mel Yoshioka 587-0879 (w), assistant: Pat Onogi

Haleiwa Family Hike

2mi/Moderate/Valley/Opaepa Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the parking lot adjacent to Queen Liliuokalani Church on Emerson Rd., across from Matsumoto's. Two stream crossings, mostly woods with ups & downs to swimming hole. Kids must be 4 and up unless you have a child carrier. Leaders: Reese Liggett & Suzan Harada 732-4489

Saturday, August 10

Miconia Removal

See July 13 for details. Leader: Hoala Fraiolla 239-9877

Sunday, August 11

*Ulupaina Late Hike

4mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahaluu Meet at 1pm at the First Hawaiian Bank parking area in the Windward City Shopping Center. This hike offers spectacular views of the Windward coast and wetlands. Leaders: Gwen Sinclair 734-3214, Randy Ching 381-2891

Saturday, August 17

*Kawaewae Heiau Service Project

See July 20 for details. Leader: Bob Moore 942-2734

Sunday, August 18

Kaau Crater

6 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Valley/Palolo Hike up a ridge and around the rim of a stunning tuff crater. Waterfalls and native forest are also included on this hike. Plan on getting muddy and/or wet. Frances & Hurston Roberts 254-3626

Sunday, August 25

Waimalu Ditch

6mi/Moderate/Valley/Waimalu Bring a swimsuit on this hike. You'll get your boots wet on the many stream crossings. Leaders: Betsy Weatherford 526-3986, Arlene Buchholz 988-9806

Sunday, September 1

Hawaii Loa Family Hike

3.5mi/Moderate/Ridge/Hawaii Loa Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Kawaikui Beach Park (about 5400 block of Kalaniana'ole Hwy.). Mostly woods with gradual ascent. Kids must be 4 and up unless you have a child carrier. Leaders: Reese Liggett & Suzan Harada 732-4489

Saturday, September 7

Kaala Natural Area Reserve Service Project

See July 6 for details. Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431

Sunday, September 8

Poamoho 12mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Helemano 7:00 a.m. meeting time. This is a beautiful trail to the Koolau Ridge, offering incredible views along the way, and we haven't been able to hike it for a couple of years. The length of this hike depends on how passable the road is - as short as 6 miles if the road is okay. 4WD vehicles helpful. Leaders: Lin Black 247-8845, Hurston Roberts 254-3626

Saturday, September 14

Miconia Removal

See July 13 for details. Kapua Kawelo 656-7641 (w)

Sunday, September 15

Kawainui 5mi/Moderate/Valley/Haleiwa A great hike through a valley with lush vegetation and many stream crossings. Lunch and a swim at a superb swimming hole. Leaders: Ed Mersino 455-8193, Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Saturday, September 21

Get the Drift and Bag It

1mi/Moderate/Shoreline/Kahuku Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Campbell National Wildlife Refuge in Kahuku. Join us at a lovely beach for this nationwide effort to clean coastal lands of beach debris such as nets, floats, and fishing line that are harmful to marine life. Leaders: Maile Sakamoto 946-5712, Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Service Project Descriptions

Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages this refuge, is creating makai-mauka corridors of native vegetation which native forest birds can use in their migrations up and down the slopes of Mauna Kea. The service projects usually involve the removal of alien plant species such as banana poka and planting native species such as koa. Accommodations are at a small but well equipped cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with electricity, running water, a flush toilet, a hot shower, kitchen, and five bunk beds with mattresses. Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags. At this high elevation, cold inclement weather is always a possibility, so proper warm clothing and footwear and good quality raingear are mandatory. Raingear can be borrowed from the Refuge. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-ohia forest to observe native forest birds, some of which are on the endangered species list.

Kalaupapa Nat'l Historical Park, Molokai

This service project is limited to Sierra Club members who have been on at least one other Sierra Club three-day service project. This trip allows participants to visit the Hansen's Disease settlement on the north shore of Molokai. The Kalaupapa National Historical Park was established in 1980 to preserve and interpret the natural and historic aspects of the area and to maintain the community for the residents. We will help restore habitat and eradicate alien plants. Accommodations include a facility with electricity, hot showers, flush toilets and kitchen. Free time activities may include going to the beach and visiting the old settlement of Kalawao and St. Philomena Church which was built by Father Damien.

Kamakou Preserve, Molokai

The Nature Conservancy's Kamakou Preserve is located in the mountains of East Molokai. The work usually involves the removal of alien plant species encroaching into the preserve or a beach clean-up. Accommodations are at a wooden barracks-style building with electricity, kitchen, hot showers, flush toilets, and metal frame beds. The barracks are at an elevation of 2,200 feet and the work projects may be at a higher elevation, so warm clothes and raingear are needed. Free time activities may include a hike through a pristine rain forest at Pepeopae Bog or a visit to the sand dune ecosystem at Moomomi Beach.

Kanepuu Preserve, Lanai

The Nature Conservancy's Kanepuu Preserve is at about 1,800 feet near the Garden of the Gods. Work will involve habitat restoration of a native mesic (lowland) forest and alien plant species eradication. Accommodations will be at a camping facility with pit toilets, warm solar showers and a camp kitchen. There are five large tents for the participants

to use or you can bring your own. Weather conditions can be cool and rainy and participants will need to bring sleeping bags, warm clothing and raingear. Free time activities may include visiting Hulupoe Bay (a playground for dolphins) or exploring.

Kokee Res. Conservation Program, Kauai

This newly offered service project is located within the Kokee State Park. The work will probably involve the eradication of invasive alien plants threatening the rare native ecosystem. The facilities are at the historic 1935 CCC camp buildings with electricity, bunk beds, indoor toilets and hot showers. Since the site is at 3,500 to 4,000 feet in elevation, warm clothes and good raingear are essential. Free time activities may include hiking on one of the many great trails in the park.

Manuka Natural Area Reserve, Hawaii

Manuka contains one of the few relatively undisturbed ancient native lowland forests in Hawaii. The work may include clearing alien weeds from a 150-acre kipuka on the slopes of Mauna Loa. We will stay in a three-bedroom cabin at 1,600 feet elevation at Kiolakaa with hot showers, flush toilet and a gas range, but no electricity. There is bed space for five and plenty of tent space on the lawn. Free time activities may include bird watching and hiking. Instead of the Manuka Natural Area Reserve, we may be asked to work in the Pu'u Maka'ala and Kahauale'a Natural Area Reserves near Hilo, with accommodations in Hilo. These are also very beautiful and interesting preserves.

Oahu Group Service Projects provide an excellent opportunity for environmental volunteers to experience unique places that are often closed to the public. To apply for any Oahu Group Service Project, mail a \$25 per person deposit check, payable to the leader listed first in the schedule, to his/her address listed below. **Reservations cannot be made by phone or e-mail.** Trip fees will range from about \$175.00 to \$200.00 and will cover the cost of round trip airfare, ground transportation, meals and a portion of the leaders' expenses. It is important to make your service project deposit early, as many trips fill quickly. On a service project, we normally work for the preserve for two days and have one day free for hiking or other recreational activities. The participants will share in the preparation of meals and clean up. Participants will live together in facilities that are probably more cramped and rustic than they are used to. Therefore, it is important that the participants have a cooperative and positive attitude and willingness for teamwork.

2002 Oahu Service Project Schedule

(Please see page 14 for trip and program descriptions)

All trip participants are subject to approval by the leaders based upon the participant's experience, disposition, and physical condition. Deposits will be returned to any participants who are not accepted. On popular service projects, the leaders will have the option to give preference to current Sierra Club members and Oahu residents.

Contact the leaders for more information.

STATEHOOD DAY WEEKEND

August 16 to 18, 2002 (Friday to Sunday)

? Kamakou Preserve, Molokai – Leader: Randy Ching, 1560 Kanunu Street #818, Honolulu, HI 96814; 381-2891; crandy@maryknollhs.org
Rick Palmer

? Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Molokai – Leader: Annette Kaohelaulii, 45-403 Koa Kahiko Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744; phone: 235-5431; email: annettesadventures@juno.com; Co leader: Maile Sakamoto; phone: 946-5712; email: mailesan@yahoo.com

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

August 31 to Sept 2, 2002 (Saturday to Monday)

? **Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii** — Leaders: Ed Mersino, 2510 Komo Mai Drive, Pearl City 96782; 455-8193; mersino@hawaii.edu
Randy Ching; 381-2891; crandy@maryknollhs.org

? **Kokee Resource Conservation Program, Kauai** – Leader: Mel Yoshioka, 94-260 Kaholo Street, Mililani, HI 96789; work phone: 587-0879; email: kh6tb@hawaii.rr.com; Co leader: TBA

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND

November 9 to 11, 2002 (Saturday to Monday)

? **Kanepuu Preserve, Lanai** — Leaders: Betsy Gagne, 47-682 Hui Kelu Street #8, Kaneohe, HI 96744; 239-4280; Hurston Roberts 254-3626

· **Manuka Natural Area Reserve, Hawaii** — Leader: Bob Moore, 1634 Makiki Street, Apt. 906, Honolulu, HI 96822; phone: 942-273; email: akepa@earthlink.net; Betsy Weatherford; 526-3986; email: pinao@att.com

Kaua`i Group Outings

Join us on one of these great outings to explore our beautiful island. Please note level of hiking proficiency ranging. Round trip mileage. Participants must sign waiver of liability. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is \$1. Donation for others is \$5.

Fri-Sun, June 21-23

Lonomea Weekend Camping Trip/Waimea Canyon/West Side/Strenuous/14 Miles Spectacular scenery, cascading waterfalls and numerous pools for swimming in a peaceful, beautiful, and isolated part of the canyon. Two night camping trip. Permits are free. Leader: Ron Peyton 337-9248

Sunday, June 23

Kealia Full Moon Coastal Walk/East Shore/Easy/3 Miles Leisurely evening stroll starting in the late afternoon from Kealia to Donkey Beach and returning by early evening. Lovely views all along this wild and wonderful coast. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, June 30

Kuilau Ridge Trail/East Side/Moderate/4.5 Miles Starting near Keahou Arboretum, the Kuilau Ridge Trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and bird-songs along this trail. Leader: Allan Rachap 742-1001

Sunday, July 7

Kawaikoi Stream Trail/ Kokee/Moderate/4 Miles A delightful fairyland of ferns and moss along a mountain stream. One of the loveliest hikes on the island! Bring a friend with a 4-wheel drive. Leader: Judy Dalton 246-9067

Saturday, July 13

Sleeping Giant/East Side/3 miles/moderate You drive by it all the time, but have you ever hiked up to the top? Incredible, sweeping views! Good family outing. Co-leaders: Judy Dalton & Judy Weinacht 822-2576

Sunday, July 14

Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup/West Side/Easy/ 2 miles Casual morning cleanup of our adopted highway usually requires about an hour and a half. Can we count on you to help keep our highway clean? Leader: Ron Peyton, 337-9248

Sunday, July 21

Maha'ulepu/South Shore/ Moderate/3 Miles Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views each step of the way along this magnificent coastline with fascinating rock formations. Not to be missed! Leader: Allan Rachap, 742-1001

Saturday, July 27

Makaleha Springs/East Side/Strenuous/ 2 Miles This delightful hike up the Makaleha Stream Valley begins with a trail through a bamboo forest and continues in an in-stream, rock hop to the springs. Leader: Ron Farrar 823-8716

Sunday, July 28

Honopu Ridge/Kokee/Strenuous/5 Miles Ridge hike ending with stunning views of Honopu Valley and Na Pali Coast. Native forest along the way. Leader: Kathy Valier 826-7302

Thursday, July 31

Sleeping Giant Conservation/East Side/Strenuous/ 4 miles Sleeping Giant has two species of endangered plants which we've been monitoring in their native habitat. Bob Nishek, 332-5158

Sunday, August 4

Hanalei River Hike North Shore/Moderate with River Crossings/ 4 Miles Hike up the Hanalei River through a bamboo grove. Beautiful views of the mountains and a chance to dip in the river. Leader: Kathy Valier 826-7302

Saturday, August 10

Hanalei River Kayak Trip and River Clean-up/North Shore Help us keep the banks of this lovely river clean in kayaks provided gratis by Kayak Kaua'i. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, August 11

Power Line /East Side/Strenuous/8 miles Breath-taking views of many valleys and ridges, and Kapakanui and Kapakaiki Falls. Co-Leaders: Judy Weinacht and Ron Farrar 823-8716

Wednesday, August 21

National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk South Side/Moderate/ 2 miles Hike and learn about propagation of native plants in a lush, tropical setting. SC members only. Leader: Bob Nishek 332-5158

Saturday, August 24

Nukoli'i Beach Clean Up, Beach Walk & Bon Fire East Shore/Easy/2 miles Love our beaches? Help keep them clean! Late afternoon beach clean-up and sunset beach. Enjoy blazing bonfire at night. Leader: Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, September 1

Waipo'o Falls/Kokee/Moderately Strenuous/2.5 Miles View and more views on this spectacular Waimea Canyon rim hike. Come join us! Leader: Allan Rachap 742-1001

Sunday, September 8

Pihea - Kawaikoi Stream Trail Kokee/Moderately Strenuous/6.5 Miles Stunning views of Kalalau Valley, unique native plants, and a beautiful stream-side stroll. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Wednesday, September 18

Sleeping Giant Conservation/East Side/Strenuous/4 miles On this hike we will monitor and give care two species of endangered plants in their native habitat. Leader: Bob Nishek 332-5158

Friday, September 20

Maha'ulepu Full Moon Walk South Shore/Moderate/ 4 miles Incredible views every step of the way! Coastal hike starts at Shipwreck Beach and ends with full moon glistening on the ocean at Maha'ulepu. One-way hike with car shuttle. Leader: Judy Dalton, 246-9067

Sierra Club supports these programs: Invasive Plant Eradication at Kokee on the first Saturday of every month. Miconia Eradication in Wailua area to remove this invasive weed. Contact: Katie Cassel 335-0924

HIKER ALERT: WOMEN ADVISED NOT TO HIKE OR CAMP ALONE ON KAUA'I.

Moku Loa Group Outings

Outings are conducted in accordance with Sierra Club outing policies. Participants need to recognize the authority of the leader and plan to remain with the group for the entire outing. Sierra Club carries no participant accident insurance. In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call (415) 977-5630. In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, participants should make car-pooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for car-pooling and assumes no liability for them. Recommended donation for non-members is \$3.00. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant should carry a minimum of a quart of water, lunch, sun screen, rain gear and wear sturdy shoes with traction. Additional items will be listed with the outing description.

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

Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30 - Napau Crater Backpack (E) D = 12 E = 3200-1200 ft.

East Rift zone between Mauna Ulu and Napau Craters. Camp at Napau Crater with stunning view of Pu'u O'o. Backtrack past the historic *pulu* factory to Makaopuhi Crater. Leader approval required. Contact Ken or Juliet Mondal (982-8724).

Sunday, July 7 - Pu'u O'o Trail Day Hike (Saddle Road) (E) (F) D = 4 E = 5700' +/- 100'

Easy paced interpretive nature walk on a well-marked fairly level old trail. Begins off Saddle Road at 5700 ft. elevation and crosses through pristine native forest *kipukas* surrounded by old lava flows. Bring warm clothes, 1 quart of water, sun screen, hat, rain gear, lunch; and wear sturdy shoes. Optional gear may include camera, binoculars and sketching materials. Sarah Moon, 935-3475 for info.

Friday-Sunday, July 12-14 - Kihapai'uka (S) D=0

We will be repotting, replanting, out-planting cultural plants in Kilai extension by Honaunau. Contact Toni Thomson (982-9287) for directions to site and to sign up. Assistant leader, Cheryl Shine.

Saturday, July 27 - Mauna Kea Summit Field Trip D = 2 E = 13,800 ft.

Sierra Club Mauna Kea expert Nelson Ho will share information on the geology, natural history, flora and fauna, historical/cultural uses and issues concerning the multiple use and protection of Mauna Kea. Individuals with respiratory problems and those under 15 should not participate. Outing fee of \$35 for all participants—excess funds to continue the protection of Mauna Kea. Fee deadline is July 15. For reservations, call Nelson Ho (933-2650); leave name, phone number, and if you have a 4x4.

Sunday, July 28 - Whittington to Punalu'u (E)(F) D = 5

Leisurely coastal hike; lunch stop at Kawa Beach with natural spring and wading possibilities. Expect hot weather. Bring 2 liters of water, hat, sun screen, lunch and bathing suit if you plan to take a dip or swim at Punalu'u. Diane Ware, for time and shuttle info (967-8642).

Saturday, August 10 - Garage Sale - Maku'u - Paradise Park

Sunday, August 11 - Escape Road to Pu'u Huluhulu (F) D = 5.5 E = 3800 - 500 ft.

We will do this trail as a car shuttle from Hahuku (Thurston Lava Tube) to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. This pleasant family hike is almost all down hill. We start out in the forest, go across a *pahoehoe* lava field, then climb up Pu'u Huluhulu. Cheryl Shine (935-9601).

Saturday, August 24 - Manuka Natural Area Reserve (E)(F) D = 6 E = 1800 +/- 600 ft.

Our *mauka* walk from the State Wayside Park will include interpretation of the plants and other features of the area. Meet at Manuka State Park (mile post 88 on Highway 11) at 9:30 am. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, rain gear and sturdy shoes. Roberta Brashear (966-7002) or Cheryl Shine (985-9601) for info.

Sat-Mon, Aug 31-Sept 2 - Mauna Kea Mountain Bike and/or Hike (F)(E) D = 23 E = 7000'

Mountain bike and/or short day hikes with bird watching possibilities from Keanakolu cabin near Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge. Spend two nights at the rustic state cabin exploring the area. Mountain bike from Saddle Road or drive in with 4x4 vehicles. Central commissary fee. Diane Ware, for reservation and details (967-8642).

Saturday, September 7 - Kaloli Service Trip (S) D = 2 E = sea level

Hike and clear brush and debris on this historic trail in Puna, the Old Gov't Trail, from Paradise Park part way to the Shipman Beach (Ha'ena) area. Bring water, lunch and hand tools for clearing brush. Meet at 8:30 am at the end of Kaloli in Paradise Park and turn left at the bottom on Old Gov't Road. Roberta Brashear (966-7002).

Sunday, September 8 - Kealakekua "Lands of Keopuka" (E)(C)

This is the site of a recent environmental victory where the "Keep Kealakekua Wild" group and "Protect Keopuka Ohana." This area is rich in history, archaeological sites and native plants, as well as having pristine coastal waters. We will be hiking this area—there will be options for short hikes or long hikes. Reservations required; donation of \$20.00. Phil Barnes (965-9695) for info.

Sat-Sun, September 14-15 - Hakalau Fish & Wildlife Service (S) D=3 E=5500 +/- 500 ft.

The group will help the USFWS. Opportunities to bird watch and botanize. Wet and chilly weather. Bring boots, rain gear, sun protection, warm clothes, binoculars, sleeping bag and day pack. Reservations req'd. Group size is limited. Fee for food. Phil Barnes (965-9695) or Gloria Amaral (959-5180).

Sunday, September 22 - Lokoaka Park Service Trip (S) D=0.5 E=Sea level

Join in the trail building project in Lokoaka Park along the Hilo shoreline. Participants will plant native plants and clear noxious plants. Tools, gloves and insect repellent will be provided. Sarah Moon (935-3475).

Maui Group Outings

Please be prepared for outings. Bring food, water, and as conditions require-sturdy footwear, mosquito repellent. A donation of \$5 (\$2 for Sierra Club members) is requested of all hikers over age 14. It's time for the summer water hikes. Hikes are popular. Please register early. Pre-registration and an EMI WAIVER is absolutely required for specific hikes (listed below). Call in your waiver request well in advance of going to EMI's Paia office. Ask for Jackie at 579-9516. PICK UP PERMITS 5 DAYS IN ADVANCE.

Saturday July 6

Makawao 4th of July Parade, 9am. Don't miss the Sierra Club "VOTE FOR MAUI'S FUTURE" float complete with a bevy of beauty queens.

Friday July 12

Olowalu Beach Special Fundraiser. Summer Star-gazing w/ Harriett Witt-Miller. Meet 7pm in parking lot Lahaina-side of Olowalu store on Honoapilani Hwy (Rte 30). Bring low chairs & flashlight. Donation \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Lucienne de Naie. Info call 579-9802.

Saturday July 20

"We Love Big Beach" Clean Up. Help care for Maui's crown jewel of a beach. Updates on Park's master planning process. Co-sponsored by Maui Coastal Land Trust and Community Work Day. Meet 8:30am at Makena-Pu'u Ola'i State Beach 2nd paved parking lot. All supplies provided. Trucks appreciated. Terry Reim.

Sunday July 21

Snorkel Trip to Honolua Bay. Summer is a great time to view Honolua Bay's beautiful coral reefs & turtles. Bring snorkel gear, sunscreen, lunch & water. Meet 9am Kahekili Beach Park (Airport Beach) Ka'anapali. Koana Smith 669-9602.

Sunday July 28

Lower Waikamoi Water hike. (EMI waiver required) Trail from Waikamoi State Park on Hana Hwy, continues along and through stream to waterfall and pool. Many stream crossings. Water footwear required. Meet 8:30am Haiku Community Center. Lucienne de Naie, Neola Caveny. Limit 18. Register: 572-8331.

Saturday August 3

Wahinepe'e Water Hike. Strenuous, uphill hike in East Maui watershed-falls, and pools. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED. Both 4- and 9-mile versions offered. Meet 8:30am Haiku Community Center. Tina Dart and Kitty Lengeek. Limit 15 on each. Register 572-4122.

Saturday August 17

Haleakala Service Trip: Help maintain this beautiful National Park. Trail and alien plant species eradication. Tools provided. Bring gloves, lunch, sunscreen, close-toed shoes, long pants, raingear (if needed). Tina Dart, 572-4122. Limit.

Saturday August 31

Annual Sierra Club Benefit Picnic. 11am-3pm. Lush private tropical gardens in Haiku. Look for turnoff signs on Hana Hwy. Live music. Family Fun. Treasure hunt. Awards ceremony. Homemade food. Enviro updates. All proceeds help fund Sierra Club programs and work in the year ahead. Donation \$5 adults. Kids under 16 free. Please volunteer! Call 572-8331.

Sat-Sun September 7-8

Kipahulu Service Trip. Overnight camp/service trip. Trail work and taro, l'oi maintenance. Bring camping gear, rain gear, long pants and close-toed shoes for trail work., tabs for Loi work. Cold shower available. Bring biodegradable soap. Bunkhouse kitchen available for cooking. Meals on your own. Limit 15. Koana Smith, 669-9602.

Saturday September 14

Wailua Ike Water Hike. 6.5 mile hike with beautiful views of Ke'anae Valley. Pools, waterfalls and lush plant life. Bring sturdy shoes, sunscreen, lunch and water. Meet 8:30 am Haiku Community Center. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED. Limit: 20. Register Tina Dart 572-4122.

Saturday September 21

Primary Election. Only you can shape Maui's future. Please vote. For information on candidates endorsed by Sierra Club Maui and a review of other ballot issues, please see: www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui.

Sunday September 22

Waihe'e Beach (near golf course) "Get the Drift & Bag It. Annual beach litter survey and clean up. Clean-up partners: Sierra Club Maui, Maui Coastal Land Trust and Community Work Day. Meet 8:30am Waihe'e School parking lot, Kahekili Hwy, Waihe'e (to carpool to beach). Supplies provided. Terry Reim: 573-4147.

Sunday September 29

Hanawi Stream Hike. (Nahiku Area) Pools, waterfalls, native stream life. Numerous stream crossings. Good water footwear a must. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED. Meet 8:30am Haiku Community Center. Leader Lucienne de Naie, Neola Caveny. Limit: 12. 572-8331.

The Miconia Diaries: *Saturday, May 11, 2002*

Participating in a Sierra Club outing, a group of us visited the upper Manoa Valley today to hunt for miconia. The result: death to about a thousand of the purple-leafed buggahs, ranging from quarter-inch seedlings to a mature 30-footer. Earlier this week, Mike Leech and his Oahu Invasive Species Eradication (OISE) team checked out the area and discovered a cache of miconia, and Mike and a couple of his workers, Ryan and Lytie, were with us today to lead us to the “mother lode.”

Hawai'i Trail and Mountain Club members and dedicated super miconia hunters Charlotte Yamane and Tom Yoza were the first to arrive at the Church of the Crossroads rendezvous point. In addition to the OISE trio, other folks who showed up were Jason (Sunada), Kapua, Joby, Mashuri, Betsy, Ray, Matt, and Earl.

We accessed the search area via the yard at the end of Kumulani Place (located at the mauka-most left side residential area of Manoa Valley), thanks to the permission and cooperation of the resident who lives there. Without this access, getting to the miconia would be problematic since nearest entries into the forest areas are property-locked.

During reconnaissance hikes this week, Mike and his team had marked with blue ribbons a trail that we used today. Their route had us, among other things, balance atop a fallen Cook pine tree, duck under a huge fallen pine, follow a narrow, rocky streambed, and contour along a muddy cross country “trail” in a makai direction.

After doing the latter, we stopped to regroup, with Tom and Charlotte heading off to search a first gulch with Joby, Kapua, Ryan, and Earl, and the rest of us continuing a muddy contour to search another gulch more makai. Ten minutes of contouring brought us to our search area, and Mike had us spread out to our search formation and then proceed. I occupied the leftmost position of our team with Jason to my right and the others spread in ten-foot intervals (in theory) to his right.

In ten to fifteen minutes of searching, we began to find miconia of all sizes. In very quick order, I yanked out more miconia than I'd found in all the ten or so hunts I've done to date. And the miconia was everywhere—along the steep slopes of the gulch and in the basin at the gulch's center. And the miconia was in all sizes, the largest being close to thirty feet and smallest more tiny than a penny.

By lunch, I must have pulled and bagged close to a hundred plants, mostly small ones, enough to fill two gallon-sized ziplock bags. The others on my team—Mike, Lytie, Betsy, Matt, Jason, and Ray—each yanked a hundred, too. But we didn't get them all, so there'll be a return to this area for future hunts.

For lunch, Jason and I made our way to the headwall of our search gulch, stopping at the base of a high cascade, easily over a hundred feet. A small trickle of water spilled down the cascade's face, which for lack of any other name I'll call Kumulani Falls, and into a tiny plunge pool.

After Jason made the 20-foot climb to the mini plunge pool and snapped a pic of the falls with his condensation-fogged digital cam, we dined at the cascade's base, chatting about, in no particular order and for no particular reason, upcoming hikes, neck massages, jealousy, and gossip.

After our midday meal and chat, Jason and I hiked down the slippery streambed to where the others on our team were lunching. He and I then worked with Mike to fell several large miconias, the smallest being fifteen feet. Mike applied herbicide immediately to the exposed stump of the plant, a tactic that all but assured that it will grow no more. After downing each large plant, we had to trim off and bag any panicles (flower clusters) we found. According to Mike, each kernel of a panicle contains over a hundred seeds, and a panicle might have as many as a hundred kernels and a large tree might have eight to ten panicles. $100 \times 100 \times 10 = 100,000 =$ a heck of lot of seeds from a large miconia.

Mike said that he saw signs that these larger trees had already dumped multiple panicles/kernels/seeds onto the forest floor or had these consumed by birds. The former equates to thousands of seeds, many which will sprout at some point in the gulch. The latter is even more of a concern because birds can spread the seeds, through their excrement, over a wide range, including remote mountain locations far away.

Around 1:30, rain began to fall. The u'a wasn't heavy or lasting, but it did give us reason to pack up, head out, and call it a day. On the way out, Jason, Matt, and I did a bit of an exploratory exit that involved some contortions and ducking and pushing through vegetation. Along the way, Matt, who moved to O'ahu just recently, asked me about my favorite hiking location on Oahu. I answered by telling him I really enjoyed doing what we were doing at the moment, namely exploring off-trail areas for a good purpose, in this case, looking for miconia.

We all made it back to Kumulani Place around 2:00, muddy and weary, but in one piece and with the satisfaction we'd yanked a lot of miconia. To be sure, the battle isn't over in Manoa. Hopefully there'll continue to be dedicated folks who'll keep up the fight. I urge folks who have the time and energy to come out and help, if not next month then the month after that or after that or... Just help if you can.

Dayle Turner

Malama Kahakai paddles forward

The Malama Kahakai – “Keep It Wild!” campaign will transition into two community-based programs on Maui and Kaua’i in the next year. These programs will organize public support for preserving the Kapuka’ulua coast on the North Shore of Maui and Maha’ulepu on the Southeast coast of Kaua’i. This transitional period provides an excellent time to summarize the past year’s campaign progress.

In June 2001, Governor Cayetano made the final decision to purchase the Ka Iwi coastline, which was the final piece required to secure a stretch of open space along Oahu’s South Shore from Hanauma Bay to Mokapu’u point. The Governor’s decision was the culmination of over a decade’s worth of intense effort by local community members to preserve this coastline. The Ka Iwi purchase was an important moment for the Malama Kahakai – “Keep It Wild!” campaign. The campaign built on the momentum of the purchase to promote coastal protection more broadly throughout the state. Each island has its own Ka Iwi (or several) that local residents would like to preserve for future generations. This widespread support and demand for public coastal lands begs for more concerted effort to protect coastal land. The Ka Iwi purchase provided an opportunity for the public to reflect on this fact and the response was very favorable.

Throughout 2002, the Third Circuit Court continued to rule on legal matters regarding the Hokulia project near Kealakekua Bay. Hokulia is the now infamous development that polluted pristine Class AA waters on two occasions with soil runoff after rainstorms. The developer has also drawn the ire of Native Hawaiians by building over a historical trail and improperly dealing with burials on their property. The developer has been under litigation for these actions and the Third Circuit Court judge, Judge Ibarra, made several important rulings that are significant for Kealakekua Bay but also more broadly for coastal lands across the state.

In April 2002, Judge Ibarra ruled that the Hokulia project was in violation of state land-use laws because the luxury subdivision is an urban land use in an agricultural district. He also ruled that the county had acted improperly when they permitted development at Hokulia without requiring the developer to first receive approvals from the State Land Use Commission. This ruling has important implications for all of Hawaii’s coastal lands because substantial portions of each island’s remaining undeveloped coastal lands are in agricultural districts. Furthermore, developers have, in many cases, circumvented state land use laws by proposing “agricultural subdivisions” that counties then approve with limited public input or scrutiny. The “agricultural subdivision” provision is a land use loophole that has resulted in some of Hawaii’s more dubious and contested coastal developments. Kealia Kai on Kaua’i and Lihilani at Sunset Beach on O’ahu are two prime examples. One of the three main goals of the Malama

Kahakai – “Keep It Wild!” campaign is to amend land use laws to remove this loophole that encourages urban sprawl on coastal lands. This court ruling provides a strong impetus for County Councils to improve their land use permitting and better protect undeveloped coastal lands.

In June 2001, Governor Cayetano visited Maha’ulepu and announced his interest in acquiring the spectacular coastal site to include in his “String of Pearls.” The “String of Pearls” is a set of protected coastal areas throughout the state, which the Governor added to during his term with acquisitions at Ka Iwi and Lumahai Beach on Kaua’i. The Governor toured Maha’ulepu with representatives from Grove Farm Company, but unfortunately no representatives from Malama Maha’ulepu were invited on the tour. After the tour, the Governor had preliminary discussions with Grove Farm management about acquisition of the property, however, there was little consensus on a fair value. Unfortunately, the events of September 11th pushed this issue down the Governor’s priority list and he has not actively pursued acquisition at Maha’ulepu since last summer. At the very least, the Governor’s tour and statements on Maha’ulepu helped bring greater statewide attention to the remarkable site. His actions have set the stage for a future Governor to take initiative and leave a legacy for Hawaii.

In March 2002, the Sierra Club hosted a large public event at the Hawaii State Capitol to celebrate Hawaii’s wild coasts. The featured guests for the event were the marine life artist Wyland and art students from Assets School. Wyland and the kids delighted the crowd by creating a marine life mural that will be on display at the State Capitol in a few weeks. Representative Hermina Morita and Brian Schatz also participated in the event and shared their thoughts on the importance of protecting Hawaii’s wild coastlines. The final part of the event was the unveiling of a new piece of artwork, “Orca Evening,” that Wyland donated to the Sierra Club. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the piece will support the Malama Kahakai – “Keep It Wild!” campaign. The event was a great success. The students from Assets had an art lesson they will never forget. The public and elected officials at the State Capitol saw and heard about the opportunities that we have to protect Hawaii’s coasts for future generations. Finally, the Chapter will get to display the mural in a prominent public location at the State Capitol and further educate the public on our campaign.

In addition to these major events, the campaign made several outreach efforts. Chapter staff spoke to dozens of groups throughout the state about the campaign. These audiences included many “non-traditional” allies such as Rotary Clubs and unions. While the audiences were not always warm and embracing, the good news is that nearly everyone agreed that protecting Hawaii’s remaining wild coasts was an impor-

continued on page 21

Water Sentinel Program: Protecting Hawaii's Coastal Waters

The Hawai'i Chapter's Water Sentinel project has been renewed for another year! This is good news; we can continue the efforts of past months to assess the current state of Hawaii's coastal resources and develop working relationships with various state and federal agencies. I look forward to telling you about what I'm finding out through the various agencies about our coastal resources and letting you know what must be done to help protect or restore them.

Our Hawaiian water resources, and particularly our coastal resources, are in great peril from anthropogenic factors, that is, factors produced by human activity. These factors are threatening all of us who live here because government officials fail to recognize, measure, or plan for them. This is particularly alarming because the Coastal Zone Management Act was passed to accomplish exactly these objectives. In a state whose economy IS its coastal resources, how can we allow current practices of development that sometimes destroys our resources?

At the recently held "Hawaii Water Quality Conference 2002", every major island presented a similar picture: human activities and development in watersheds or near the coast had subsequently led to a degradation of the coastal resource. Furthermore, while few had any real measure of the damage or pollution, no enforcement action was ever mentioned! Let me make this point very clear. From my present point of view, the problem is not currently within the Department of Health (DOH), the state agency responsible for measuring and maintaining water quality. However, the problem may be that the caring people within this and associated agencies lack sufficient funding to document, publicize and subsequently prosecute when damage occurs. Even if the funds were available for the DOH, county grading codes are inadequate to protect watersheds and coastal resources since they do not presently incorporate and enforce "Best Management Practices" or BMP's. The problem extends statewide and results from the passing on of responsibilities to the counties without first establishing minimal statewide standards, providing any financial reward or funding to the counties for enforcing BMP's, or passing meaningful legislation in this regard.

I believe that one place to start is to document the present status of our coastal resources and the inadequacies of our laws and officials to protect them. This step is the first of many that will help us begin the process of preserving what we have and recovering some of what has been damaged. Therefore, the solution is not dilution of the pollution into our coastal waters, as many believe, it is you!

What do I mean by this? It is up to all of us to begin to document the status of our water resources. This can be done by writing down what we see happening around us on a regular basis (new homes, construction, road improvements, etc.)

in a notebook used only for this purpose. Take videos or pictures of areas you enjoy visiting, and the water nearby. Let's hope it doesn't happen but if tragedy strikes this area there will be a photographic record before the damage. Make sure you write down the dates and times you take pictures and always remember that more information is better! Furthermore, you might even use an aquarium thermometer to measure the water temperature. Another entry into your notebook can be if the water is clear, green, full of "bugs" (plankton, small critters, etc.), full of sediment (sand, red dirt, etc.), or smells "funny." This can be done by looking at a water sample in a clear plastic jar used only for this. Other options are to get involved in a watershed management group, a volunteer monitoring program such as the Water Sentinels or your Soil and Water Conservation District Boards.

If you would like more information about watershed groups in your area, coral reef or water quality monitoring groups on your island, or the Water Sentinel program in Hawaii and nationwide, send me an email: rdilts@kona.net or write me, Roger Dilts, at PO Box 416, Kealahou, HI 96750.

Protecting the Coast *from page 20*

tant issue. Over 1,000 people filled out postcards and petitions pledging their support for Hawaii's wild coasts.

Overall, these were several very positive events. The rapid pace of development on Hawaii's coasts still continues however. The state still has no comprehensive program to preserve this part of its incredible natural heritage, our wild coastlines, so the Malama Kahakai campaign still has much left to accomplish in the future. The Chapter will continue to build on existing support for protecting Hawaii's coasts by focusing on Maui and Kaua'i.

Next year, the Hawai'i Chapter will hire two part-time staff to organize support for a heritage park on Maui's North Shore and design a world wide web-based campaign to complement the ongoing efforts to preserve Maha'ulepu. The campaign on Maui will generate community support to create a heritage park in the Spreckelsville/Pai'a area. The community plan already designates a portion of this coastline as "open" so the next step is to move forward with planning and acquisition of the park. The web campaign on Kaua'i will use the immense potential of the internet to further organize the broad-based support for Maha'ulepu. This technology should prove very valuable in organizing the more "distant" support that exists for preserving Maha'ulepu among Hawai'i folks living on the mainland and visitors that frequent Kaua'i. With these campaigns in place on Maui and Kaua'i, the Chapter will strengthen our grassroots organizing capacity on the neighbor islands and lead community efforts to preserve these wild coastlines.

Member Survey: We want your input

Please help us in our strategic planning process by telling us what environmental issues you think the Hawai'i Chapter should focus on. We are also looking for input about ways we can make membership more valuable to you. If you'd like to take this survey online instead of by mail, please visit www.bottlebillhawaii.org/chaptersurvey/

Mahalo for participating!

Please mail to: Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

Name or membership #:

Island:

Approximate years as member:

Please rank the environmental issues you feel are most important for the Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter to be working on (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc).

_____ Beach erosion

_____ Clean water

_____ Coastal land protection

_____ Urban sprawl

_____ Funding for environmental programs

_____ Recycling and waste issues

_____ Renewable energy

_____ Public access and trails

_____ Endangered species and habitat

_____ Restoring natural streamflow

What other issues would you like to see the Hawai'i Chapter address?

Is the *Malama* newsletter useful to you? How could we do to make the *Malama* of greater value to you?

What prevents you from becoming a more active member with the Sierra Club?

Are you interested in being on our action alert for biweekly environmental alerts? If so, please write your email address:

What could the Sierra Club do to facilitate your involvement in the priority issues you identified above?

Are you interested in a leadership role with the Chapter or Group?

Other comments (about the Chapter, the *Malama* newsletter, environmental issues, etc):

MAHALO BOTTLE BILL SUPPORTERS! (CAVEAT: THIS LIST NOWHERE NEAR COMPLETE)

Governor Benjamin Cayetano – Congressman Neil Abercrombie – Gary Gill – Gretchen Ammerman – Suzanne Jones – Steve Chang – Genevieve Salmonson – Rep. Ben Cabreros – Rep. Bertha Leong – Rep. Blake Oshiro – Rep. Brian Schatz – Rep. Bud Stonebraker – Rep. Calvin Say – Rep. Chris Halford – Rep. Cynthia Thielen – Rep. David Pendleton – Rep. Dennis Arakaki – Rep. Dwight Takamine – Rep. Ed Case – Rep. Eric Hamakawa – Rep. Ezra Kanoho – Rep. Felipe Abinsay – Rep. Helene Hale – Rep. Hermina Morita – Rep. Jerry Chang – Rep. Jim Rath – Rep. Ken Hiraki – Rep. Ken Ito – Rep. Kika Bukoski – Rep. Marcus Oshiro – Rep. Marilyn Lee – Rep. Mark Takai – Rep. Michael Magaoay – Rep. Mindy Jaffe – Rep. Nathan Suzuki – Rep. Nestor Garcia – Rep. Nobu Yonamine – Rep. Paul Whalen – Rep. Ron Davis – Rep. Roy Takumi – Rep. Scott Saiki – Rep. Sylvia Luke – Rep. Terry Yoshinaga – Rep. Willie Espero – Sen. Avery Chumbley – Sen. Bob Hogue – Sen. Bob Nakata – Sen. Brian Taniguchi – Sen. Carol Fukunaga – Sen. 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Critical stage for Habitat Designations

The designation of critical habitat for over 250 of Hawaii's endangered plants is reaching its final stages—but not without the wanton hysteria that sometimes accompanies actions to protect Hawaii's environment. Critical habitat is designated for areas that must be managed to allow an imperiled species to recover to a level where it is safe from the danger of extinction. The designa-

tion by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was mandated by federal court after a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club and others.

The proposed habitat designations for approximately 900,000 acres of land in Hawai'i have set off a firestorm of unwarranted criticism from large landowners, hunters and others. Congresswomen Patsy Mink—typically a green politician—has gone so far as introducing federal legislation to effectively prevent the proposed designations. But their criticisms of critical habitat being a federal land grab, greatly impinging on private property rights and hunting areas and hurting the economy just don't jibe with the facts of the matter.

In determining the critical habitat for a species, the Service is required to use the best scientific data available. In addition, before designating any particular area as critical habitat, the Service must consider the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, associated with this designation. If the costs associated with designating an area as critical habitat outweigh the benefits, the Service may exclude that area from critical habitat, unless excluding the area would result in the extinction of the species in question. This requirement to consider the economic costs of designation is the safety valve that ensures that economic interests—of individual landowners as well as corporations and government entities—are protected, balanced against the needs of the species whose habitat is being protected.

In addition to promoting the recovery of indi-

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