



MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

Cherish The Earth

JOURNAL OF THE HAWAII CHAPTER

SIERRA CLUB

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Saving Hawaii's Coast

Maha'ulepu gains allies

Maha'ulepu is the last piece of nearly pristine south shore whose undeveloped value far exceeds the value of any development.

The Sierra Club's key commitment of a part-time organizer, member devotion, and a grant toward products for public education, coupled with the energy and commitment of **Beryl Blaich** many others has propelled the effort to preserve undeveloped coastal area of Maha'ulepu over the past seven months. A lot has happened.

This report briefly summarizes our tasks and accomplishments. The most rewarding aspect of this campaign has been experiencing boundless and astute public support. A sampling of statements telling Governor Cayetano why Maha'ulepu is special is woven through this article in order to convey the passion and clarity that makes preserving Maha'ulepu the right thing to do.

An Inventory of the Resources

It is one of the few places on Kaua'i where you can go to a beach and not have hotels and condos blocking the views of the mountains. It is a wild place. As a biologist, rock formations and the fossilized plants found in the rock are providing important historical information about Hawaii's lowland flora - an area that has virtually disappeared with modern development projects.

I am of Native Hawaiian ancestry and there are petroglyphs, heiau, and cave burials that I do not want disturbed. I also like to pick limu, fish and swim there.

Preservation begins with knowing what you have. For Maha'ulepu, that meant doing a very basic inventory of the natural and cultural resources. This inventory is both a planning and educational tool. Many people, including a geologist, ethno-historians, biologists as well as writers, editors, photographers, a cartographer and designer, contributed to the thirty-page book of resources.

Understanding the types and locations of significant resources began to suggest the boundaries of the area that we

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Former Mayor JoAnn Yukimura, David Boynton, Kaua'i Council Chairman Ron Kouchi, Don Okuno, and Beryl Blaich present Governor Cayetano a signed painting of Maha'ulepu by Glen Schot

Keeping Kealakekua Wild!

Over the last few months, the Sierra Club's campaign to keep Kealakekua wild has enjoyed sweet success. Arizona developer **David Kimo Frankel** oper Lyle Anderson's plans to build a golf course, a hotel and 125 luxury houses in a gated community next to Kealakekua Bay at Keopuka faced unprecedented community resistance.

Sierra Club conservation coordinator Jack Kelly was able to get two thousand people to object to the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Never has a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a project on the Big Island faced so many comments. Jack and his team of volunteers explained the issue to people at shopping centers, canoe races, and concerts. Residents and tourists alike responded by filling in postcards and sending lengthy letters to the permitting agencies.

In the meantime, dozens of volunteers wrote letters to the editor, generated media attention, and distributed hundreds of

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The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, is Hawaii's largest grassroots environmental advocacy organization
INSIDE: Conservation Notes • New Park User Fee Policy • Hikes & Trips

Deadline for next *Mālama* March 1, 2001

SIERRA CLUB HAWAII CHAPTER

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA

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SAVE A TREE

The Mālama is now online in PDF format (<http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/Malama/malama.html>). If you would prefer to read it online instead of receiving it in the mail, send a note to mikulina@lava.net.

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

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MOVING THE MIDDLE

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



When the Sierra Club announced its lawsuit asking the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to examine the environmental impacts of increasing visitor arrivals, the media had a field day. The knee-jerk reaction from most was how wrong and extreme the lawsuit was. Even some traditional allies kept their distance.

But then something happened. First, the legislature rejected attempts to free the Tourism Authority from the lawsuit. Then the State's own Environmental Council sent a letter to the Tourism Authority recommending that they perform an environmental review. Shortly after, the *Honolulu Advertiser* asked, "Why not assess impact of tourism mar-

keting" on their editorial page. And now, nationwide media has given the merits of the lawsuit favorable coverage. Nothing about the lawsuit changed—only its perception.

It's a typical evolution in environmental advocacy. A campaign or action might have a rough time gaining acceptance early on—especially if the issue causes discomfort or challenges convention. But as time passes and critical thinking prevails, the mainstream grows comfortable with its support.

Take global warming for instance. Five years ago, global warming was still being "debated." Today, you'd be challenged to find a scientist—one who isn't funded by the coal or oil industries—

who doesn't believe that humans are having a discernable impact on the Earth's climate. In the past, a similar evolution occurred with the banning of DDT, removing lead from gasoline, and phasing out ozone-destroying CFCs.

Our call for a critical examination of tourism, like many other Sierra Club campaigns, echoes extremely mainstream sentiments. According to a Hawaii Tourism Authority survey, 77% of Hawaii residents believe the state's economy is too dependent on tourism, and 72% want no more hotel construction. What's more, a Sierra Club survey of 1,000 visitors on Maui revealed that 91% of respondents think preservation of natural areas was the most important factor in their decision to return to the islands.

Seeking to understand the limits to tourism growth and protecting Hawaii's special coastal areas just make good sense to most people—sooner or later.

Waialae Iki Defaulting Public Access

Hikers at the public access for Wiliwilinui Trail have discovered that the gated community called Waialae Iki V says they will tow vehicles from a dedicated public parking area near the trailhead. This clear violation of the land court easement has been brought to the attention of city officials through Councilmember Steve Holmes. Correction of the Waialae Iki V intention has not been resolved yet, but the Club intends to see that parking is permitted just as declared in the easement document.

Reese Liggett

At issue is the third parking area, available for parking by the public whenever this popular trail attracts a big public turnout. This third of three parking areas is located on the thirty-foot-wide portion of Okoa Street (the area just below a circular paving area about ¼ mile below the trailhead). This additional parking was specifically sought by Sierra Club activists who have seen other public access arrangements choked off by what has become known as "the-small-parking-lot-trick." Using this trick, gated entities like housing developments and resorts render the public access absurd by making only token parking available. When the place gets a reputation for denying access after the small parking area is full, the public stops coming out of frustration. Or at best, only a token public use of the public access is afforded.

This problem comes to hiker attention right in the hiker instructions presented to each vehicle by the sentry at the gate to the top of Waialae Iki, on Laukahi Street enroute to the trailhead. The instructions are very explicit in threatening to tow vehicles that park outside the two small, upper parking areas that are very near to the trailhead access point. Thanks go to vigilant hikers who brought this to the attention of the Sierra Club's Oahu outings leaders.

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CONSERVATION

Tourism Assessment Lawsuit Update

The Sierra Club's lawsuit asking for an environmental assessment of increasing visitor arrivals had its day in the State Supreme Court on October 3rd. The hour-long oral arguments gave the Justices a chance to interrogate both sides on the particulars of the suit—but clearly grilled the State's counsel on the many contradictions their briefs contained. For instance, the attorney for the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) claimed that projecting any increase in visitor arrivals due to their \$114 million marketing contract is nothing more than "speculation," while arguing that halting the expenditure would hurt the economy. We wait for the justices to rule.

In the meantime, encouraging developments reveal growing support for analyzing the impacts of tourism growth. In September, the Environmental Council—a body appointed by the Governor—wrote a letter to the HTA recommending a programmatic environmental impact statement. On October 9th, the Honolulu Advertiser ran a very supportive editorial entitled, "Why not assess impact of tourism marketing?" Shortly thereafter, in a guest editorial in the same paper, Seji Naya, DBEDT director, wrote: "as we near the 7 million visitor mark, it may be appropriate to begin looking at the carrying capacity of Hawai'i for tourism. We should have a better understanding of how tourism impacts both the natural and cultural environment..." What's more, balanced stories have appeared recently in National Geographic Traveler, Environmental News Network, and other national media. *For the latest, see the tourism assessment website at www.hi.sierraclub.org/hta/assess.htm.*

Monsanto's Plan to Test Genetically Altered Soy Scrapped

Monsanto Corporation had plans to begin testing a genetically altered variety of soy that would manufacture its own pesticide, Bacillus thuringiensis, or BT toxin. After the Chapter raised a number of serious concerns in a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency, Monsanto withdrew their Hawai'i application. The Chapter's letter argued that testing of genetically-altered BT soy should be done in a laboratory under controlled conditions, not in open fields where it could cause unknown disturbance to Hawaii's fragile ecosystems. Soybeans are bee-insect pollinated, and bees may visit the test BT soy plants. There was a risk that the BT soy pollen would be toxic to honey bees and possibly other insects visiting the flowers, including Hawaii's native bees. If pollinator species, such as bees, are harmed, it could have disastrous consequences to Hawaii's farmers and food supply. The Chapter also asked that the permit be denied until such issues as liability, oversight, impact to humans, labeling of GE products, and increased insect resistance are resolved.

This is certainly not the end of testing genetically engineered foods in Hawai'i; Monsanto is currently seeking another permit from the EPA—this one for BT corn. In accordance with the precautionary principle, the Sierra Club calls for a moratorium on the planting of all genetically engineered crops and the release of all genetically engineered organisms into the environment.

Endangered Plants to Receive Greater Protection

As a result of a successful lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club, the Fish and Wildlife Service has begun designating the proposed critical habitat for 245 endangered plant species. So far, critical habitats have been proposed for 76 plant species on Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, 50 plants on Maui and Kaho'olawe, 32 plants on Moloka'i, and 18 plants on Lana'i. Proposed designations for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, the Big Island and O'ahu are expected before the court's April 30th, 2002 final deadline.

Designating critical habitat is important for a number of reasons. Among other benefits, critical habitat will:

1. prohibit federal agency actions that adversely modify habitat identified as essential to the recovery of listed plants;
2. promote funding for large-scale, ecosystem-level management programs;
3. put in place a uniform and comprehensive habitat protection plan so that conflicts with potentially harmful federal and non-federal projects can be avoided;
4. identify areas where federally-required consultations regarding impacts to endangered species should be triggered, thereby ensuring that consultations are conducted;
5. educate the public, as well as state and local governments, about areas essential to the survival and recovery of Hawaii's imperiled plants; and
6. protect plants and animals that rely on similar habitat, thereby promoting native ecosystem conservation.

The Chapter will be following the process to ensure appropriate habitats are identified and all species are reasonably covered.

A Desalination Plant for O'ahu?

With new development and water uses taxing O'ahu's current groundwater supply, the Board of Water Supply is considering construction of a desalination plant to enable use of brackish well water. The O'ahu Group raised concerns on the environmental assessment of the project in November. This wasteful and expensive proposal is being offered before all other options are being fully implemented—such as conservation, using reclaimed wastewater for industrial uses, and recycling water.

NOTES

Jeff Mikulina

The Group is also concerned that availing more freshwater will only enable more development and urbanization of O‘ahu. Increasing development and population only exacerbates existing environmental problems. Increasing population results in additional non-point source pollution, air pollution, solid waste, sewage, energy use, traffic, and open space and habitat loss. While some may believe that desalinated water will be used to *offset* use of groundwater resources, thereby extending the length of time before the aquifer sustainable yields are reached, there is nothing preventing desalinated water from providing for *new* water demands coming online. Water is a contributing attribute in understanding the carrying capacity of O‘ahu. By increasing availability of freshwater, carrying capacity may be exceeded in other environmental attributes.

According to the Draft Environmental Assessment, the cost of desalinated water will be in the “upper range” for development of new water sources. When compared with existing water sources (groundwater), the cost per gallon is much greater. This cost will be spread across all Board of Water Supply ratepayers, yet the water will be used to support new development. Why should existing water users have to foot the bill for new development? Is it fair that low-income residents in Waianae will have to pay more for their water because more water users want to come online?

The amount of energy needed to produce desalinated water through the microfiltration and reverse osmosis system will be substantial. The turbines, compressors, pumps, auxiliaries, and other equipment will all be powered mostly by imported oil. The Chapter hopes this idea quietly disappears and the real issues are addressed: water conservation and new development.

Carbon Dioxide Disposal Proposed

The US Department of Energy is proposing to test injecting carbon dioxide into the ocean off of Keahole on the Big Island. The experiment is part of a larger attempt to use the oceans for sequestering excess carbon dioxide that is in the atmosphere from human consumption of fossil fuel. The Hawai‘i Chapter submitted comments on the draft environmental assessment, focusing less on the impacts to the marine environment from the two-week project (although they exist) and more on the fundamental idea behind the experiment and its implications.

The Chapter’s main concern is the use of the ocean as a dumping ground when other methods to sequester carbon, such as planting trees and plants, are more natural and proven. Such terrestrial sequestration not only absorbs carbon dioxide but it also helps reduce erosion, provides for recreation, regenerates groundwater aquifers, and offers many other services. With ocean sequestration, however, there are many unknowns. Our oceans—especially our nearshore waters—are highly complex biological and chemical systems. A recent study published in the journal *Science* discussed how increases in carbonic acid in the water from carbon dioxide might rob coral of substances it needs to grow. The secondary and indirect effects of lowered pH levels are also unknown. Finally, the energy likely required to inject liquefied carbon dioxide into the ocean at levels that would make a meaningful dent in our atmospheric carbon levels makes this idea flawed from the start. The Chapter will be keeping a watchful eye on this project as it develops.

Maha'ulepu Coastal Lands Organizer Beryl Blaich has been doing an outstanding job spearheading community organization and public awareness for the protection of Maha'ulepu on Kaua'i's southeast shore. Sierra Club members Annette Cassidy, Cindy Chamberlin, David Chang, Rob Culbertson, Judy Dalton, Marge Freeman, and Cristal Weber, along with Beryl and others in the community, have been especially involved participating in several months of weekly Malama Maha'ulepu meetings. Many others have devoted considerable time and talent to various aspects of our endeavor. All are making Maha'ulepu a high profile public issue in a remarkably non-contentious way. A national training team of the Sierra Club is offering a workshop in January to Sierra Club volunteers involved in preservation of this magnificent Ahupua'a.

Wailua Golf Course Seawall Some issues never seem to die. The Administration is still pushing the unnecessary seawall, arguing that an Environmental Assessment should be ready just in case of a future emergency (e.g., hurricane) where they feel a seawall needs to be built to protect the golf course. The administration sees the golf course as a priority and is willing to sacrifice the beach in order to "save" the golf course, which in fact needs no saving. Ironically, if the revetment seawall were built it would slice several feet from holes 1 and 2, making it a lose/lose proposition for both the golf course and the beach. The Kaua'i Group asked the League of Women Voters to include a question on the seawall to all County Council candidates so the voters would know where they stand when the time comes to vote on the Department of Public Works' revetment seawall proposal. The Council recently had a hearing on the seawall but no action has been taken yet.

Hanama'ulu Power Plant At a Department of Health meeting regarding the permit for the proposed diesel-fired power plant it was brought up that there was no environmental impact statement performed for the specific site proposed in Hanama'ulu. There is also a request for a year-long study to assess wind impact on emissions. Hanama'ulu currently has the highest asthma rate on Kaua'i, and Kaua'i has the highest rate in the islands. Reportedly 30,000 deaths a year occur in the

Kapalawai The Kaua'i Group raised questions about the Robinson's planned resort at Kapalawai before the Planning Commission, County Council, and the Land Use Commission. At a County Council hearing when it was proposed that the West side needs the jobs, Judy Dalton pointed out that Waimea Plantation Cottages is planning to double in size, and just down the road in the Poipu area, A&B is putting in 900 units. Beryl Blaich urged the Planning Department to consider removing 80 of the ap-

proximate 250 units from their location in presently zoned open land that is susceptible to stream flooding.

Kealia and Donkey Beach Harry Guiremand and Judy Dalton have been documenting with photos beach vegetation destroyed by developers. De-vegetating and contouring the land is against their subdivision permit. Not only ironwood trees, but also native vegetation has been cut back from the once undeveloped and scenic beach.

General Plan Update The County Council, after finishing the final round of public hearings and offering a last minute flurry of amendments, finally passed the General Plan. Numerous Group members offered testimony attempting to counteract further weakening of the Plan by the Planning Commission. Final discussion focused on lowering the projected average daily visitor numbers back to the CAC recommendation of 24,000 - 28,000, which was successful (down from the 28,000 - 32,000 the Planning Commission had asked for) and keeping various development projects off the

Land Use Maps in order to ensure public input and due process, which was not successful. Despite CAC rejection of an urban development on agricultural land in Kilauea, the development was put back on the Land Use Maps, and a Princeville Mauka development, which will clearly lead to urban sprawl was retained, both in spite of strong community opposition. The County is now to move on to amending the County Zoning Ordinance in order to implement the General Plan. Group members anticipate being very active in the amendment process.

Election Group members primarily devoted their efforts to reelecting Gary Hooser to the County Council. We are very pleased at the island wide support for Councilman Hooser, making him one of the top vote getters.

Miconia Over 90 plants have been removed from the Wailua homesteads area. The State Agriculture Department has fallen down on its job to monitor and eradicate new outbreaks. Bob Nishek and Rob Culbertson have lead service projects to eradicate the newfound miconia and spread awareness of the problem. Bob has also been leading a native plant restoration project on Sleeping Giant, and working with the state on endangered species protection in Kalalau.

Membership On-going efforts to increase membership, particularly on outings, have resulted in topping the 300 mark, a good increase over the past year. Your membership is greatly appreciated especially when presenting the Sierra Club's plea for preserving the environment before the Planning Commission, County Council and other governmental agencies. Mahalo!

Monte Hull

&

Judy Dalton

Welcome New Members

Thank you for joining us at the two membership drive events the first weekend in November. Saturday we hosted an awareness afternoon at Borders (Hilo) with a table directly inside of the main entrance. Sarah and Jan Moon, along with Roberta Brashear, talked story with a continuous flow of interesting people. On Sunday, Sarah, Roberta and David Frankel drove over to the Old Kona Airport soccer field to join in the Keep Kealakekua Wild! rally. Entertainment was provided by master kihoalu guitarist George Kahumaku, falsetto virtuoso Dennis Pavao and the Hawaiian Rap group "Sudden Rush." Community organizer Jack Kelly did an excellent job bringing the many groups together. Plenty Mahalo to the new members signing up that day and also to the many who showed their support.

**Roberta
Brashear**

Is there a dedicated garage sale lover who would like to coordinate the FALL 2001 Sierra Club Garage Sale? There is an opening for an organizer for the diverse members who help with this event in many ways. Also, a calendar coordinator is needed for Winter 2001. This is our major fundraiser; many Sierra Club members purchase them for Christmas gifts so selling them is no problem. Volunteers may call Roberta Brashear at 966-7002 to leave a message regarding which activity captures their interest.

HCC Volunteers Help Clear Trails

Ten Hawai'i Community College students signed up this fall to do service learning projects involving Moku Loa Group. Students participated on three separate days clearing the Old Government trail from Kaloli to Haena (Shipman Beach) with Roberta Brashear, Environmental Science lecturer at HCC. In addition, eight ambitious students dug out kahili ginger roots and pulled impatiens on a service trip in the Kalopa Native Forest State Park. The energy and enthusiasm has been overwhelming. It's great to know that a small number of individuals can make such a significant impact in preserving our trails.

Hawai'i Community College Service learning students for Fall 2000: Kaloli/Old Government Trail participants were: Kevin Sako, Jan Anderson, Bonnie Bator, Brad Gali, Mary Villar, Joe Douth, John DePonte, Joshua Block, Joshua Bowman, Antonio Lagronio, Anthony Olayon, Stacie Range, Jon Olson (resource person), Edith Worsencroft and Roberta Brashear. Kalopa Native State Forest participants were: Kellen Tolentino, Joshua Block, Joshua Bowman, Laverne Keaulani-Lui and son, Cornelia Domingo, Danelle Rodrigues, Roberta Brashear, Edith Worsencroft and Sue Bostick. A generous Mahalo to everyone who worked so hard for our environment!!

Planning Ahead for 2001

Is there a dedicated garage sale lover who would like to coordinate the FALL 2001 Sierra Club Garage Sale? There is an opening for an organizer for the diverse members who help with this event in many ways. Also, a calendar coordinator is needed for Winter 2001. This is our major fundraiser; many Sierra Club members purchase them for Christmas gifts so selling them is no problem. Volunteers may call Roberta Brashear at 966-7002 to leave a message regarding which activity captures their interest.

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Volunteer Spotlight

Judy Dalton

Judy Dalton knows what it takes to be a successful environmental activist on a small island: dedication, lots of energy, and a keen sense of diplomacy. Volunteering almost full-time, Judy has been helping save Kauai's coast by giving tours of of Maha`ulepu, fighting a beach-destroying seawall, and calling on elected officials to stop inappropriate development. Hawai'i wouldn't be the same without her!

Interested in volunteering with the Club? Call 538-6616

Elections

Endorsee JoAnne Johnson of Lahaina pulled the biggest upset of the November election, edging four-term incumbent Dennis (the Menace) Nakamura by a slim 125 votes. Also reelected were Wayne Nishiki, Dain Kane, Charmaine Tavares, and Alan Arakawa, leading to cautious optimism of a new Maui County Council of independent thinkers. Joining them will be Mike Molina, who beat incumbent John Wayne Enriques, most often linked to the 5-4 vote to initially approve the much-maligned.....

Spreckelsville Mauka

Sent back to the Council's Planning Committee over a legal technicality, Maui's poster child for sprawl will again be loudly debated in the weeks to come. Another big effort to raise awareness through flyers, 3/4 page Maui News ads, and pau hana "sprawl crawl" sign-waving is directing people to attend the Nov. 16th meeting. The Wailuku/Kahului Community Plan revision (which currently contains Spreckelsville) is now deferred until the new council takes office in 2001.

Rob Parsons

Maui News Editorial Misses Mark

Nearly three weeks after receiving their press release on the national sprawl report designating Makawao and Spreckelsville as Hawaii's selections, the Maui News ran the story as their page one headline. The following day, a scathing editorial appeared, "Sierra Club Taking Wrong Approach". Filled with innuendo and inaccuracies, it provided ample opportunity for Maui Group members and leaders to offer written rebuttal.

Wailea 670

The Maui Planning Commission, usually lightning quick with their rubber stamp, granted a rare deferral of a plan for a 670-acre gated community and golf course at Wailea. The developers envision 1400 housing units, marketed as second and third homes, along with what would be South Maui's seventh golf course. Testifiers hammered concerns of fresh water resources and traffic, also questioning gated communities in general.

Palauea Mauka

Maui developer and UH regent Everett Dowling would donate 20 acres of 44 to the UH for research on the exceptional cultural sites present here. On the remaining 24 acres, an exclusive gated community. The LUC declaratory ruling regarding luxury homes in the State Ag District at Keopuka pointed out the illegality of preliminary approval at Palauea Mauka. However, unless the Planning Commission is swayed by their legal counsel at a Nov. 14th meeting, or, unless appealed, this project will move ahead.

Po'olenalena

The Maui Group may be joining Maui Tomorrow in seeking a declaratory ruling for numerous violations incurred during construction of a huge private residence adjacent to county park and access to Pa'ipu Beach. This legal action is widely believed to have statewide ramifications, and is being led by attorney John Rapacz.

Dolphinarium / Maui Nui Park

Several Maui Group members testified before the Planning Commission in September regarding this proposal to build out 45 acres at the gateway to North Kihei. The Dolphin Institute wishes to move from Kewalo Basin to a much larger "research" (not just for entertainment) facility for their Atlantic bottlenose dolphins with the cute Hawaiian names. Assisted by a slick presentation and the clout of the Weinberg Trust, the project was unanimously approved. A sign-waving protest produced lots of positive responses from passers-by two weeks ago. Efforts are being made to lobby council members, with hopes of drafting an ordinance prohibiting captive sea mammals from being kept on Maui. Meanwhile, preparations are being made to bring Koko, the talking gorilla, to West Maui. This doesn't seem to sit well with some native Hawaiians, frustrated that Koko would receive 75 acres while they await any land at all.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Not to be confused with the Disneyland-style park mentioned above, this is a native plant nursery, within Keopuolani Park in Kahului. Originally begun by Hawaiian plant guru Rene Sylva, funding is in danger of being lost due to a union-led effort. It seems that 1 and 1/2 jobs could be lost to privatization. A letter of support for continued funding was drafted and sent to the Council.

Closing of Paia Sugar Mill

The temptation for converting thousands of acres of prime ag land to other usages will be strong for HC&S, subsidiary of A&B, which owns 69,000 acres on Maui alone. Strong lobbying efforts will need to be made regarding sustainable agriculture, water allocation, and the number one buzzword of the recent political campaign, "smart growth."

Home Depot

On the edge of a 170 acre expansion of light-industrial/commercial area by A&B at Kahului, Home Depot has broken ground for a 13 acre store site. To be sure, this portends the continuance of the construction boom, fueled by a frenzied real estate market.

Honolulu Transportation Plan Approved

In an 8-1 vote on November 29th, the Honolulu City Council passed a resolution giving the “go-ahead” for the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) alternative for Primary Urban Corridor. The plan consists of a “hub and spoke” expanded bus system and a tram-like system in the downtown area. The O`ahu Group supported the BRT as a balanced approach to providing a workable transit system without building an expensive light rail system. By providing more efficient and speedier transit options, we can help make that shift away from autos. What this plan does is get automobiles out of the way so that buses can run on time. It will also save energy—if the projections hold, the BRT plan will save 40 thousand barrels of oil per year. One quarter of Honolulu residents don’t have access to a car, making expanded public transit even more important.

While sharply criticized by many, the proposed transit-only lanes are the best way to provide for efficient, at-grade transit. The goal of the transportation plan should be to move commuters out of their single-passenger cars and onto transit. If the city provides for cars, we’ll have more cars. If the city provides for rapid transit, we’ll see more riders. A key component of smart growth initiatives around the country is smart transportation: transportation that gives people options, transportation that isn’t dedicated to automobiles. When we envision livable communities, we think of walkable and pedestrian-friendly areas, not more highways and wider streets. The O`ahu Group supported this transit plan as a step in this direction.

Details are being finalized on transit stops, exact route, and propulsion system. The O`ahu Group will continue to work with the City on the best plan to move people around the city in an efficient and least-polluting manner

Barber’s Point Harbor Expansion

Over twenty years ago when the Barber’s Point Deep Draft Harbor was being designed, the Environmental Center at the University of Hawai’i asked if the proposed 38-foot depth would be deep enough. They asked if the harbor shouldn’t be dredged to 45 feet as was being planned for Honolulu Harbor. The Department of Transportation dismissed their query and built the 38-foot deep harbor. Now, the Harbor’s division is asking to deepen the harbor to—you guessed it—45 feet. The \$25 million project will most likely utilize dynamite and other destructive techniques that will worsen water quality and harm marine life such as turtles in the area.

Considering that the importation of coal and petroleum products is currently the primary use of the harbor, the harbor expansion is nothing more than a \$25 million subsidy for fossil fuels. The O`ahu Group submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and will be pursuing the boondoggle as it seeks permits.

Group Chair Elected to State House

Upon being recently elected to the State Legislature, I came across a sad realization: my resignation from the O`ahu Group executive committee. As a part of the Executive Committee for both the O`ahu Group and the Chapter for the past four years, and specifically as the Chairperson for O`ahu Group for the past two, I have met and worked with an incredible and dedicated group of people whom I am fortunate to now call friends and colleagues. Whether working on conservation issues, testifying at public hearings, or educating the community at volunteer booths, the experience and education I have gained is invaluable. I have been honored to have been given such an opportunity, and thank everyone in Sierra Club who helped to make my experience so rich.

Blake Oshiro

However, our work is not over. Although my role has changed, we must continue our efforts to preserve our natural environment, to ensure that this place, “Our Hawai’i” is passed on to future generations.

I welcome your thoughts or concerns, so please feel free to contact me in my new capacity. Mahalo.

Congratulations, Blake!

The O`ahu Group Executive Committee Ballot is on Pages 21-22. Please vote.

O`ahu Group Silent Auction A Huge Success

The O`ahu Group’s Annual Gathering and Silent Auction, held November 10th at the Bishop Museum, was an enjoyable evening for all—and the Group will have added funds for its campaigns. The silent auction grossed over \$4000 thanks to generous local merchants and friends who contributed very nice items and services. Thanks to all who came together to make it a fun event! Mahalo to our donors:

Andy’s Sandwiches -n- Smoothies	Honolulu Club	The Nature Conservancy
Aquaria Salon	Hui Ku Maoli Ola	Olive Tree Café
Patricia Bailey, LMT	Innovative Specialities	Pagoda Restaurant
Arlene Buchholtz	Island Triathlon and Bike	Environment Hawai’i
Big Gino’s Pizza	John Burns	Patagonia
Big Island Steak House	Just Add Water	Pices Pacifica
Bill Braden, Artist	Teri Kato, LMT	Red Wing Shoes
Interisland Solar Supply	Klopfenstein’s Lighting Inc.	Rich Crandall
Doug Lamerson	Kokua Market	Starbucks
Down to Earth Foods	LITEBOX Telescopes	Steve Holmes
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund	Maile Sakamoto	Steve Montgomery
Ecoculture Assc Prof. Organizer	Makawai Stream Restoration Alliance	Jennifer Telford, LMT
Fun Enterprises	Makiki Shell	The Fresh Garden Deli
Go Bananas	Marge Ziegler	The Gym
Cheryl Haar, LMT	Massage Therapy for Women	The Nature Conservancy
Hawai’i Nature Center	Nancie Caraway	The Steady Wrench
Ho’ano Botanicals	Native Books and Beautiful Things	WEBfish Pacific, Lynn Wilson
Honolulu Academy of Arts	Native Plant Source	World Life Preservation

Maha`ulepu

...continued from page 1

intend to preserve. Malama Maha`ulepu has identified a larger preservation area than has been talked about in the past. The rationale for conservation of the entire ahupua`a plus a portion of the coastal lands of Pa`a (2,900 acres) comes from the agricultural resources, history and unstudied Native Hawaiian sites found within the valley and from the need to buffer vulnerable endangered species in the coastal area. This preservation vision also builds upon the legacy of Kipu Kai, the adjacent undeveloped ahupua`a, which was deeded to the State for the future by landowner Jack Waterhouse.

A Sierra Club Special Projects grant supported the resource inventory and two other educational projects. Judy Dalton spearheaded the publication of an eight page color brochure.

A persuasive short video showing the spectacular beauty of Maha`ulepu has been completed. This video has been produced largely by the generous donation of creativity, skill and time of Carrie and Shawn Riley of Videolynx on Kaua`i. The voices of many residents, speaking from the heart about Maha`ulepu, and an original music score by Kaua`i's Robbie Kaholokua comprise the narration.

Creating the record of public support

It is one of the last remaining shorelines that allow us to experience the Hawai`i of old and is critical to the watershed's protection.

My husband's family has fished and camped on this shoreline for hundreds of years. I have played on it for thirty years and would like my children and their children to experience a pristine and hotel-free area. It is our Yellowstone Park. Save it!

Malama Maha`ulepu connects the energy and 30-year history of two previous Koloa area groups that fought development at Maha`ulepu. With the Sierra Club's proactive "Malama Kahakai" campaign, Malama Maha`ulepu has developed its mission, and organizational basics including principles, membership and decision making frameworks, while running a campaign of public education and gathering community support.

Because people too numerous to list willingly wear many hats and take on myriad different tasks, we have been able to:

- Collect over 3500 names on petitions and 700 post cards at community events and in businesses;
- Establish a database of volunteers and supporters;
- Generate letters to the newspaper;
- Educate and seek support from decision makers;
- Create a website (www.geocities.com/malamamahaulepu);
- Reach out for the support and partnership of other island and statewide organizations;
- Work toward founding a permanent and independent tax-exempt organization ready to participate in the management of a future preserve.

Highpoints: Decision makers are listening

Support for preservation of Maha`ulepu is being taken seriously and gaining credibility among County and State elected

officials. For instance, at the public hearing in Koloa on Kauai's General Plan Update, the County Councilmen heard speaker after speaker support the GP text which urges community collaboration toward a "coastal park."

On October 26th, Malama Maha`ulepu met with Governor Cayetano. At the visit in the cabinet room, the Governor saw a David Boynton slide show, received 600 postcards asking for his support and stacks of petitions—then he was presented with a signed print of a painting of Maha`ulepu by Glen Schot.

Members of the delegation briefed the Governor, leaving him with a packet of information. Don Okuno spoke feelingly of learning and continuing traditional subsistence hunting and fishing from kupuna at Maha`ulepu. Kaua`i County Council Chairman Ron Kouchi noted the strong determination of residents not to see more development in this area. He told residents that accepting development in other nearby areas in the hope that Maha`ulepu would remain as it is. Former Mayor JoAnn Yukimura suggested preservation possibilities. Governor Cayetano said that he was impressed with the resources and directed members of the administration to look into the matter.

In an interview on November 22, Mayor Maryanne Kusaka said that the shoreline area of Maha`ulepu should remain "wild and unspoiled, as it is." She discussed the importance of beautiful places to the identity of Kaua`i and to a healthy economy.

The Garden Island endorsed our initiative in an editorial on November 19th. "Preserving Maha`ulepu should be a priority. Whether publicly or privately or a combination of both, Cayetano and others should take the necessary steps to retain Maha`ulepu's rare combination of beauty and history for generations to come."

Being there

Maha`ulepu is one of the only places that local people can go without hotel hassle.

It is one of the last natural coastal environments my family is able to enjoy and cherish as their Kaua`i.

No facts or photos of Maha`ulepu are nearly as persuasive as the place itself. Being there converts people and continually renews the commitment of supporters.

In welcome breaks from weekly steering committee meetings, manning booths at community events, research, phone calls and emails, members of Malama went to Maha`ulepu. They mapped preservation boundaries. Some members participated in the seal watch program, guarding the baby monk seal. Others toured the area with members of the press and conservation organizations and with decision makers such as Representative Patsy Mink.

Perhaps the most satisfying accomplishment of our group has been that good old, hands-on activity: beach clean-up. About 30 volunteers tackled removing the refuse from the small bay past Pa`o`o Point. Wind driven marine debris - heavy hauser robes to fine fragmented plastics - had accumulated here for years. People bagged, wheel barrowed, dragged and then trucked an estimate 3/4 ton of refuse on "Get the Drift and Bag It Day" which was spearheaded by Kaua`i group treasurer Linda Hovland.

Continued on following page

The latest: a change of ownership for Maha'ulepu

It is the first place my father took me camping, swimming, and diving. I am determined to do the same for my kids someday.

This year the future ownership of Maha'ulepu has been in the air. The landowner, Grove Farm Company, Inc. had received at least three buy-out offers in the last nine months.

The mission of Malama Maha'ulepu is not changed by who owns the company. But our hopes for preservation are buoyed by the sale on December 1st to Steve Case. Mr. Case is a highly successful entrepreneur, born and raised in Hawai'i, whose grandfather was a manager of Grove Farm for 40 years.

Though it seems that the new owner has no plans for development at Maha'ulepu now or in the near future, there is still urgency about this cause. Right now, energy and know-how are mobilized and available. Community hopes are high. There is an eagerness and a readiness to work together on finding a creative and fair way to preserve and steward Maha'ulepu.

Plus, the need for this place is as great as ever.

For two decades, Kauai's economy has roller-coasted with the hurricane-induced lows lasting longer than the tourism and real estate stimulated highs. Right now is an especially hard time because AMFAC, another 150 year-old sugar plantation company, just quit sugar and laid off about 400 workers. Its 17,000 acres are up for sale.

Kauai is in a period of stressful transition. Families bravely face much change. In a letter to the Garden Island, resident Suzanne Kashiwaeda expressed the importance of Maha'ulepu to people here now as in times past:

"Modern day living requires wilderness areas like Maha'ulepu. Where else can we go to find solace from the desperation of families faced with mortgages, medical bills and impending layoffs but the timeless comfort of Mt Ha'upu?"

Where else can we go to renew our spirits, affirm our faith and strengthen our souls so that we can continue to support and offer the hand of aloha to children and families who face the overwhelming challenges of modern-day living, but the awesome sanctuary that is Maha'ulepu?"

Kealakekua

...continued from page 1

beautiful bumper stickers and T-shirts.

Three hundred people then jammed the Land Use Commission's hearing on the Sierra Club's petition that the development on agricultural land was actually an urban project. Witnesses described how the project's resort-like character would not fit in the agricultural district. They also demonstrated how Lyle Anderson's adjacent development at Hokulia (just north of Keopuka) fouled the class AA pristine waters with silt, smothering corals. After grilling the various sides, the Land Use Commission unanimously adopted a declaratory order ratifying the Sierra Club's petition. It ruled that the million dollar houses along a cliff were not part of any true agricultural enterprise. It concluded that the developer could not avoid Land Use Commission review if he wanted the project to move forward.

Emboldened with success and angered by the devastating runoff from the neighboring project, Jack and several other Keep Kealakekua Wild! activists filed suit to stop any more work on the Hokulia project. State circuit judge Ronald Ibara found that the Hokulia development had violated its permits by allowing massive amounts of soil to wash off its property and into the pristine waters offshore. In fact, a Board of Land and Natural Resources report raised "serious concerns about potential damage to the Big Island's coral reef resources, from sediment runoff" into the ocean from the Hokulia project. "At 30 feet, sticky mud covered much of the bottom, often more than an inch deep, to as deep as 3 inches. . . . Some fish were observed in the area, but fewer than is typical for this general location. In deeper water (to 50 feet), sediment remained heavy. Corals there appeared to be much more severely impacted than in shallow waters. Mud covered portions of many corals, especially colonies of lobe coral, *Porites lobata*. When the sediment was "fanned" off these corals, the underlying polyps were bleached white, appearing dead. A number of other corals, including finger coral, *Porites compressa*, had similar patches of dead tissue. . . ." The destruction of these incredible resources has inspired more people to get involved.

Jack then organized a Keep Kealakekua Wild! rally and concert, which was simultaneously broadcast over the radio. The rally raised several thousand dollars for the cause.

Our efforts continue. We have asked the Governor to put the Keopuka parcel into the conservation district. Putting the land in the conservation district would enhance regulatory protection of the land.

What you can do:

1. Visit the www.keep-kealakekua-wild.org website for current updates.
2. Send a contribution to the Sierra Club Foundation, Moku Loa Account, P.O. Box 1185 Volcano, HI 96785.



O`AHU GROUP OUTINGS

JANUARY - MARCH 2001

Saturday, January 6

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project 3mi/Moderate/Ridge/Mokuleia If you love native plants and want to help them thrive in a gorgeous location, here's your chance. We'll be building trails, helping control invasive plants, and outplanting native plants on this service project. Second meeting place is at Waiialua High School at 8:45 a.m. Leader: Ed Mersino 455-8193

Miconia Removal Service Project 2mi/Strenuous/Ridge&Valley/Upper Manoa or Kalihi Uka 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. Information: Kapua Kawelo 656-7641 (w) or Joan Yoshioka 677-1674

Sunday, January 7

Kealia 7mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Dillingham We'll zigzag up the ridge overlooking Dillingham Airfield and the North Shore until we reach a lookout over Makua Valley. Leaders: Gwen Sinclair 734-3214; Adam Liss 732-5660

Sunday, January 14

Sierra Seminar: Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve 6mi/Moderate/Coast/Mokuleia Reservations required. We will learn about native coastal plants and animals on this interpre-

tive hike. Bring binoculars. Leader training credit. Leaders: Sue Garner 988-0481; Arlene Buchholz

Family Hike: Maunawili from Waimanalo 5mi/Moderate/Countour/Maunawili Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the corner of Kumuhau and Waikupanaha (A3 on Bryan's map p. 23). Pleasant ascent to a high point on the Maunawili Trail. Hiking boots or tie-on sports shoes, no sandals or slippers. Bring back or lumbar pack, water, lunch, rain gear. Call for possible car pool if you need a ride or can give one. Leaders: Reese Liggett & Suzan Harada 732-4489

Saturday, January 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. Enjoy 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). Leader: Bob Moore 942-2734

Sunday, January 21

Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project 1-2mi/Easy/Coast/Mokuleia Kaena Point needs your help to remove invasive plants that endanger this rare and beautiful native coastal ecosystem. Sunscreen, hats and even raingear are all recommended. It is likely that we will see spinner dolphins and possibly albatross or an endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Camp Erdman. Leader: Annette Kaohelaulii 235-5431

Puu o Hulu 5mi/Moderate/Ridge/Lualualei Not for those uneasy about heights. Take two steep, short climbs to a pillbox. Be prepared for hot sun with extra water and sun protection. Bring a swimsuit for a dip in the ocean afterward. Leaders: Randy Ching 944-9471; Ed Mersino 455-8193

Sunday, January 28

Ihiibilauakea Crater 3mi/Moderate/Ridge/Koko Head See Hanauma Bay from a new angle, maybe whales, and rare coastal plants. Leaders: Sue Garner 988-0481; Betsy Weatherford 526-3986

Saturday, February 3

Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project See January 21 for details. Leader: Sue Garner 988-0481

Sunday, February 4

Hapapa a Kanehoa 9mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Kunia Reservations required. 7:00 a.m. meeting time. Not for those uneasy about heights. Enjoy stunning views and native forest - and maybe tree snails! Leader: Randy Ching 381-2891

ALL SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Sierra Club Outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified outings leaders. Our Outings are group activities and all participants are expected to follow leaders' instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members and visitors on most of our outings; however certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is only permitted at breaks and then only if the smell of smoke cannot be detected by other hikers. Outing leaders may prohibit smoking if, in their judgement, a fire hazard exists. Bring with: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, rain gear/jacket and day-pack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (heeled footwear are best--no loafers), or tabs are required. No bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed on O'ahu outings. Sign in on the roster and pay the donation. When signing in participants will be required to acknowledge their understanding that Sierra Club carries no participant insurance and that participants assume all risks for any car pooling as well as the outing being undertaken.

O`AHU GROUP OUTINGS INFORMATION

Unless otherwise stated in the Outing description, participants meet at 8:00 a.m. at the back porch of the Church of the Crossroads, 2510 Bingham Street. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot. Participants in windward outings which are designated with an asterisk may also meet at 8:15 am at the First Hawaiian Bank parking area in the windward City Shopping Center. (Intersection of Likelike and Kamehameha Highway in Kaneohe). Requested donation for participants age 14 and under and Sierra Club members with a membership card is \$1; donation for all others is \$3. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

O'ahu Outings

Saturday, February 10

Sierra Seminar: Campbell Wildlife Refuge 2 mi/Easy/Kahuku Reservations Required. Join us for this interpretive trip to see native Hawaiian and migratory birds. Leaders: Annette Kaohelauii 235-5431; Sylvianne Yee

Miconia Removal Service Project See January 6 for details.

Sunday, February 11

Palehua-Palikea 4mi/Easy/Ridge/Makakilo Reservations required. Not for those uneasy about heights. Native plants are the attraction in this Nature Conservancy preserve. Leaders: Atomman Kimm 234-7204; Gwen Sinclair

Saturday, February 17

Kawaewae Heiau Service Project See January 20 for details. Leader TBA.

Sunday, February 18

Old Pali Road Late Hike 4mi/Moderate/Contour/Nuuuanu Pali Meet at 12:00 at the First Hawaiian Bank parking lot in the Windward City Shopping Center. Interesting waterfall hike between the Likelike and Pali Highways. Leaders: Sherine Boomla 739-3936; Maile Sakamoto 946-5712

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project See January 6 for details. Leader: Ed Mersino 455-8193

Sunday, February 25

Wilivilinui-Mauumae Ridge 6mi/Very Strenuous/Ridge/Koolau Summit Not for those uneasy about edgy places, as the ridge portion will feature steep drop-aways on both sides. This seldom-hiked combination should reward us with spectacular hiking and vegetation. Car shuttle required. Leaders: Reese Liggett 732-4489; Mel Yoshioka 587-0879 (work)

Saturday, March 3

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project See January 6 for details. Leader: Bob Moore 942-2734

Sunday, March 4

Kalena 7mi/Strenuous/Summit/Kolekole 7:00 a.m. meeting time. Not for those uneasy about heights. It's a steep climb, but well worth it for one-of-a-kind views. Leaders: Arlene Buchholz 988-9806; Lin Black 247-8845

Saturday, March 10

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 8:00am 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. Leaders: Doreen Swan 739-0029; Joanna Yin 734-5323

Miconia Removal Service Project See January 6 for details.

Sunday, March 11

Family Hike: Kaena Point from Waianae 5mi/Easy/Shoreline/Waianae Perhaps we'll see some native wildlife on this hike. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the end of the improved highway. Bring back or lumbar pack, water, lunch, rain gear. Call for possible car pool if you need a ride or can give one. Leaders: Reese Liggett & Suzan Harada 732-4489

Wednesday, March 14

Quarterly Sierra Club meeting. Wildlife Biologist, Rob Shallenberger from the US Fish and Wildlife Service will give a slide presentation and discuss the natural history of Palmyra Atoll and the possibility of Palmyra Atoll becoming a new Pacific wildlife refuge. Meet at Paki Hale on the Diamondhead side of Kapiolani park at 7:00pm. Free. Refreshments. Call 538-6616 for information.

Saturday, March 17

Kawaewae Heiau Service Project See January 20 for details. Leader: Ed Mersino 455-8193

Sunday, March 18

Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project See January 21 for details. Leader: Sherine Boomla 739-3936

Sunday, March 25

Sierra Seminar – Waianae Kai 5mi/Moderate/Ridge/Waianae Reservations required. Take a walk on the wild side to see native plants and tree snails. Leader training credit. Leaders: Randy Ching 381-2891; David Lassner

Sunday, April 1

Waimano Ridge & Valley (partial) 6mi/Moderate/Contour/Pearl City Hike down into the valley, then back up onto the Waimano Ridge Trail, where we'll see an old ditch and climb around some narrow spots. Leaders: Ed Mersino 455-8193; Gwen Sinclair 734-3214

Saturday, April 7

Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project See January 21 for details. Leader: Annette Kaohelauii 235-5431

Sunday, April 8

Manoa Cliff Trail 7mi/Moderate/Contour/Tantalus Great urban hike! Enjoy views of Manoa Valley and some nice native plants in a shady forest. Leaders: Cindy & Jim Waddington 947-2732

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. Each participant should carry a minimum of a quart of water, lunch, sunscreen, 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, January 20 — Byron Ledge (E) (F) D = 5-1/2 miles, E = +/- 1000 ft. We will start at the Devastation Trail parking lot, follow the trail which was once a road and then take in the spectacular view of Kilauea Iki, Kilauea Caldera and Mauna Loa. We will then make a steep descent, dropping into Kilauea Caldera, follow the Halemaumau Trail and then make a steep ascent to the Visitor Center. Participants need to bring: 2 qts of water, lunch, sunscreen, hat, rain wear, sturdy boots or shoes. Leader is Gloria Amaral, 959-5190 (leave message).

Friday-Sunday, January 26-28 — Makalawena Beach Campout (E) (F) D = 1-2 miles; E = sea level Rustic camping with NO facilities (bring own water and porta-potty), secluded and peaceful on a stunning white sand beach north of Kailua-Kona. Good swimming and snorkeling, anchialine ponds with many native birds, short day hikes to special historic sites. Group size is limited and reservations are required. Participants must sign a permit in advance of the outing. 4x4 transportation required for 45 minutes over a very rough road. Contact leaders Jan or Sarah Moon at 935-3475.

Sunday, January 28 - Cox's Landing/Cave of Refuge (E) Contact leader Phil Barnes at 965-9695 for info.

Saturday, February 3 - Miloli'i to Kapua (C) (E) D = 8 miles, E = sea level This hike will start at the fishing village of Miloli'i in South Kona. Our goal is Kapua, where the largest preserved holua slide in Hawai'i is found. Join Moku Loa Group as we hike to this very special feature. Along the way we will stop at the beautiful bays of Honomalino and Okoe. The trip is over ancient trail and four wheel drive road. Swimming will be at your own risk, no life guard will be provided. Participants need to bring the following: sturdy boots or shoes (no sandals), hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, lunch, 2-3 quarts of water, and dark glasses. Contact leader, Gloria Amaral @ 959-5180 (leave message) or email at koaia@hgea.org for meeting time and place. Assistant leader, Scott Mandel.

Saturday, February 10 — Green Sands Beach (E) D = 4 miles, E = 0 This strand of olivine crystals near South Point is reached along a dusty road. Be prepared for sun and wind. Bring a quart of water, lunch, sunscreen and sun hat. Swimming may be possible if the ocean is not too rough, but it can have a very dangerous current. No life

guard will be on duty. Contact leader Phil Barnes at 965-9695 for more information.

Saturday, February 17 - Monday February 19 — Keauhou Backpack D = 14 miles, E = 2700' Spend this three-day weekend at an isolated back country beach in Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. We will start and end at Chain of Craters Road. The trail includes terrain such as lava, an old kipuka and grasslands. This hike is strenuous and can be very hot and humid so hikers must be experienced backpackers able to handle these conditions for the 7-mile and 2700' ascent/descent. There will be an optional day hike to Halape on the second day with an opportunity to cool off in Halape's picturesque lagoon or the brackish pool. Participants will need to bring the following: backpack with waist belt (external or internal), tent with rain fly, eating utensils, 3 quarts of water, flashlight, sturdy boots and mole skin, swim suit, rain gear, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, breakfasts and lunches. Dinner/cook stoves will be central commissary. Group size is limited. Leader approval and sign-up required. Contact leader, Diane Ware @ 967-8642 by February 10.

Saturday, February 24 — Kalopa Service Trip (S) D = 0, E = 2250' This is an ongoing project. We are trying to eliminate invasive alien plants which have taken hold in the native forest. Wear sturdy shoes; bring rain gear, mosquito repellent, water, lunch, gloves and hand tools suitable for uprooting plants with stubborn roots. Meet in Hilo, 8:30 a.m., at the parking lot across from the Bayfront Shell station, or at Kalopa at 9:30 am. Contact Edith Worsencroft @ 963-6317, or co-leader Sue Bostick @ 959-1727.

Saturday, March 3 — Kamehame Bay (E) D = 6 miles, E = sea level Hike along the Ala Kahakai to an isolated beach along the Ka'u coastline. Along the way we will see native plants, water holes, archaeological sites and petroglyphs. This is a varied trail—we will hike on a wonderfully preserved section of stepping stone trail, on a dirt road and also cross country over pahoehoe. Be prepared for sometimes rugged trail conditions and also the high heat and humidity that is often experience on this trail. Participants need to bring 2-3 quarts of water, lunch, sunscreen, hat, dark glasses and rugged boots or shoes. Call leader, Gloria Amaral at 959-5180 (leave a message) to sign up, and for any additional information. Assistant leader, RoxAnne Lawson; leader in training, Shaina Lawson.

Saturday, March 10 — Shipman Beach (Haena) (E) (F) D = 6, E = Sea level Hike on a historic trail in Puna, an inland carriage road from Paradise Park to Shipman Beach (Haena). See Nene and interesting backshore ecosystems. Bring lunch, water; wear sturdy shoes and swim suits. Swimming possible, but ocean could be rough; no lifeguards available. Rocks could be slippery. Meet in Hilo at parking lot across from the Shell Station on Kamehameha. RoxAnne Lawson, 966-4859 for more info.

KAUA`I GROUP OUTINGS

Saturday, January 6

Haena Beach Full Moon Walk North Shore/ Easy / 2.5 miles Catch the moonlight sparkling on the waves and surf as you stroll along the sandy beaches of Haena. Leader: Kathy Valier 826-7302

Monday, January 8

Wailua Beach to Nukoli'i Beach Full Moon beach walk East shore/ Easy/ 2 miles. Enjoy the full moon on the long stretch of beach from Lydgate Beach Park to Nukoli'i. Leader: Felicia Felix 823-9866

Saturday, January 13

Okolehau Service Trip North Side /Strenuous/ 5 miles Help maintain our beautiful adopted trail that follows the crest of a ridge running up Hihimanu Mountain. The windward side of the ridge has great views of Hanalei Valley, the Leeward, Hanalei Bay and Waioli. Kathy Valier 826-7302

Saturday, January 20

Miconia Project East Side/Strenuous/4 miles The miconia project involves the systematic removal of the invasive weed, Miconia, from plotted transects in Wailua. The Miconia is located in very rugged terrain and the population is believed to be very small. Most of the work consists of exploration. Helpers should have back country experience and good footwear. Bob Nishek 742-2395

Kuilau Trail Ridge Trail East Side/ Moderate/ 4.5 miles Starting near the Keahou Arboretum near Kapaa, the Kuilau Ridge Trail offers great rewards without lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird-songs reward the hiker along the trail. Felicia Felix 823-9866

Saturday, January 27

Hanalei River Kayak Trip and Cleanup North Shore/ Moderate/ 2 miles. Join us on a kayak trip along our American Heritage River. We will keep its banks looking clean and beautiful while we glide along its gentle flow. Kayak Kauai will provide kayaks or bring own. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, January 28

Kauaikinana Ditch Trail - Kumuela loop West Side, Kokee/ Moderate/ 4 mile loop Extraordinary view of Poomau Canyon. See birds, silver oak, eucalyptus groves, possible sighting of goats. Leader: Les Ventura 332-8216

Sunday, February 4

Poomau - Mohihi road loop West Side, Kokee/ Moderate Family Hike/ 4 mile loop See Poomau/Mohihi canyon. Walk along Kekaha Plantation's abandoned irrigation system. See giant Koa, Lehua trees, and birds. 4X4 trucks appreciated to pool into the area. Les Ventura 332-8216

Tuesday, February 6

Sleeping Giant Conservation Work and Exploratory Hike East Side/ Moderate/3 miles The conservation work consists of gradual removal of invasive Strawberry Guava away from native plants. The hike will also be a search for native plants. Leader: Bob Nishek 822-9238.

Sunday, February 11

Alexander Dam loop hike South Side/ Moderate-Strenuous/ 4 mile loop See areas occupied by the U.S Army during WW II and Alexander Dam, one of the man-made won-

ders of Kaua'i hidden in the mountains. Hike past macadamia nut groves destroyed by Hurricane Ewa and through Norfolk Pine groves to the reservoir that feeds the Kaua'i Coffee power house turbine. Les Ventura 332-8216

Saturday, February 17

Miconia Project See January 20.

Sunday, February 25

Waininiua - Berry Flats Loop West Side, Kokee/ Good Family Hike/ 5 mile loop See forest restoration, giant Redwoods, Sugi groves, Mokihana, Methyl plum trees, Maile, and native birds. Leader: Les Ventura 332-8216

Sunday, March 4

Makaleha Stream East Side/ Strenuous/ 4 miles This hike up the Makaleha stream valley begins in a winding trail through a bamboo forest. The trail drops down to the valley floor and consists of a long, in stream, rock hop, to the Falls of Makaleha. Most of this hike is in the stream or along the stream sides. Leader: Ron Farrar 823-8716

Wednesday, March 7

Maha'ulepu Full Moon Walk South Shore/Easy-Moderate/ 4 miles Delight in the wonders of this magnificent coastline by the light of the moon. Start out with the late afternoon sun and return under the stars. Leader: Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, March 11

Alakai Board Walk West Side, Kokee/ Strenuous / 7 mile round trip See the recovery of the Alakai Swamp Trail area since the construction of the board walk. See native Koa, introduced Koa, Maile, Mokihana, ferns, birds, and a variety of native fauna only seen on this trail. 4X4 cars and trucks appreciated to pool into the area. Leader: Les Ventura 332-8216

Tuesday, March 20

Spring Equinox Celebration Nukoli'i Beach Walk, Beach Cleanup and Bonfire East Side/ Easy/ 3 miles Enjoy late afternoon beach walk while cleaning up the beach. You'll be well rewarded at the end with a cookout and bonfire under the stars. We especially welcome new members for this event. Leader: Judy Dalton 246-9067

Sunday, March 25

Waipoo Canyon - Blackpipe - Halemanu loop West Side, Kokee/ Very Strenuous/ 6 mile loop See waterfalls, canyon from various angles, forest restoration, and Kekaha Plantation ditch irrigation system running under ground and over ravines. Leader: Les Ventura 332-8216

Wednesday, March 27

Kealia Beach Walk to Anabola Beach East Side/ Moderate/ 3.5 miles Views and more views along this wild and wonderful coastline. While walking along the beach we will see several Hawaiian medicinal plants. Leader: Felicia Felix. Contact Bob Nishek for this hike. 822-9238

Saturday, March 31

Kawaikoi Stream Trail Kokee/ Easy/ 2 miles Enjoy one of the loveliest nature walks on Kaua'i. This beauty is a fairytale of ferns and lush beyond description. Judy Dalton 246-9067

Park User Fees: What's your opinion?

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter has not yet taken a formal position on the issue of charging user fees to access state parks. Are user fees a welcome approach to funding our natural resource management? Or is putting a price tag on access to wilderness wrong? The Executive Committee of the Hawai'i Chapter is seeking input from the membership. Please tell us what you think the Hawai'i Chapter's position on user fees should be by commenting on the below arguments. Send your comments to hawaii@sierraclub.org or: PO Box 2577, Honolulu 96803.

Mabalos to our user fee committee: Beryl Blaich, Scott Crawford, Monte Hull, and David Frankel.

An Argument for Park User Fees

In an ideal world, park users would never pay fees for the pleasures of being in nature. Of course, in an ideal world, our tax dollars would adequately support park maintenance and fund land acquisition too. Parks would never be overcrowded, run down, under supervised and lacking working restrooms, safe trails or interpretation of cultural sites. However, things on Earth, and specifically the State parks of Hawai'i, are not ideal. So here are five reasons to accept and even embrace user fees:

1. Money. Fees are seriously needed. Statewide, roughly \$85 million is needed to bring State Parks into working order, and another \$48 million is needed for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.
2. There is no free lunch. Everything thing which people use requires routine upkeep, and house-keeping chores increase with the amount of use. The first rule of conservation is good maintenance. Neglect does not delay the bill, nor does waiting for better allocation of our tax dollars.
3. Every day that park upkeep is deferred, we allow degradation of the environment. That's an irresponsible stance and calls into question our advocacy for nature. It is true that Sierra Club members are among the dedicated people who donate countless volunteer hours to park maintenance and improvements. We do our part and "walk the talk." But can we do all that is needed? Can the present level of parks staff? No. When we keep resisting the fiscal facts, environmentalists appear to be

wishful whiners, as opposed to realistic problem solvers.

4. Fees are not commercialization, commodification or the corporate takeover of wilderness. User fees are not like the visitor accommodation tax. They won't be utilized to market our parklands or boost their use. Fees aren't being levied to measure of the "success" of one park over another.
5. Parks need the surveillance of professional managers, even when they are not heavily utilized. Places do have carrying capacities. The infinite expansion of user numbers is also irresponsible. But closing parks or restricting numbers won't necessarily protect over-used natural areas.

Of course, there are better and worst fee programs. A good one should do the following:

- offer discounts for residents, free entry for kids and youth and seniors,
- free entry for Native Hawaiian cultural and religious practitioners,
- charge more for visitors and more still for commercial users,
- direct funds to restore parks where problems are greatest,
- allow only a small percentage of fees collected to go to administrative costs,
- be clear and public about its annual goals including what is to be fixed or supported, where and how much will it cost.

But having taken this step, resource management should not rely solely on user fees to support park maintenance. Fees will be a small and perhaps impermanent part in a big menu of measures: bond issues, conservation incentives, income taxes, including check-offs for the environment, and a portion of the visitor accommodation tax will all contribute to our responsible stewardship and enjoyment of Hawai'i's natural places.

An Argument Against Park User Fees

The Sierra Club has sat by and watched the establishment of user fees at our National Parks, Hanauma Bay and Diamond Head Crater. Now, Hawaii Tourism Authority officials are informally proposing to significantly expand user fees in areas frequented by tourists in order to pay for their maintenance.

Continued on following page

It is laudable that the Hawaii Tourism Authority recognizes that our parks and natural areas are under funded, and that tourists who use them should pay for them. But user fees are the wrong approach for funding environmental programs.

From an administrative standpoint, user fees are very inefficient. A significant portion of user fees generated goes to paying the staff who collect the fees. At a time when the public is clamoring to decrease the size of government, why should government add staff and pay to build new tollbooths when there is a much cheaper way of collecting the revenue? It would be much easier to increase the hotel room tax or simply use a portion of the hotel room tax to pay for the upkeep of these natural areas.

The trend towards user fees highlights another problem. User fees ensure that the most popular parks receive the most money for maintenance while the less popular ones receive less. Not only does such a scheme result in a vicious downward spiral for less popular parks, it skews budgeting decisions over natural resources.

The Sierra Club should oppose all user fees at state and county natural areas, parks, trails and beaches for more than simply bureaucratic reasons, however.

Historically, natural areas have been free to the public. That is the basis of the historic ruling by the Hawai'i Supreme Court that all beaches in Hawai'i are publicly owned. In many other states, you have to pay to go to the beach. User fees are a radical departure from the traditional concept of free access to our mountains and beaches. Access to natural areas encourages the public to enjoy the wonders of nature. Only by experiencing nature can residents and visitors appreciate the value of them — and therefore understand the need to protect them.

Furthermore, everyone benefits from our natural areas—not just users. For example, the tourism industry depends on the beauty of our natural areas to attract visitors. We all benefit from the rainwater recharge of our aquifers. Since our natural areas benefit the whole community, it should be the whole community that supports them—not just a segment of the community.

Overuse of natural areas, like Hanauma Bay, can irreparably damage them. Overuse must be controlled in sensitive areas. But user fees are the wrong way to control over use. User fees disproportionately affect the poor. That is simply not fair.

Finally, we are witnessing the commodification of nature. Prices are being put on formerly free areas—as if there is no difference between charging someone for a roll of toilet paper and going to the beach. At its essence, nature is the antithesis of the marketplace. Escaping to nature from the hustle and bustle of modern commercial life should not be barred by a tollgate.

One Sierra Club Conference in Albuquerque

Roberta Brashear (Moku Loa Group), Lucienne deNaie (Maui EPEC), and Cathy Lowder (National Staff) represented the Hawai'i Chapter at the One Sierra Club Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico held last August. There were 300 participants at this conference, the largest Sierra Club meeting ever.

The Goal of the conference was to devise a plan to resolve some of the conflicts which have arisen between the multilevels of the Organization, i.e. National, Staff, Chapter, and Group. Many of Sierra Club's policies were not consistent at all levels. Surveys were sent out to 10,000 members and over 3000 surveys were returned. A second survey was sent to 2000 leaders and as information was collated, there appeared to be three areas where consensus could not be reached. The One Club Task Force decided to hold this conference and invited a broad base of staff and volunteers to consider these issues. Groups were formed to consider three scenarios: 1) National Campaigns and local leaders, - where the chapter was in conflict with the Group project which was part of a National Campaign; 2) Individuals, Groups and Chapters, - where an ambitious activist takes on an issue which is not a Chapter priority in the area; and 3) Group and Chapters, which involved how to fund groups. These are major topics of concern that goes back to the Question: Who speaks for the Club? Facilitators compiled all of the comments and further discussion narrowed these down. A resolution will be forwarded by the Board of Directors.

The general feeling and consensus of the delegates present was the Club structure was in place, but there should be less information and more Communication between the layers of the club.

After all, we are ONE CLUB! ~Roberta Brashear

2001 OAHU SERVICE PROJECT SCHEDULE

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** \$25 (per person) deposit check, payable to the leader listed first in the schedule. **Reservations cannot be made by phone.** 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 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 all have a cooperative and positive attitude and willingness to work as a team. All trip participants are subject to approval by the volunteer leaders based upon experience, adaptability, temperament and physical condition. Deposits will be returned to any participants who are not accepted. On service projects that are especially popular, the leaders will have the option to give preference to current Sierra Club members and Oahu residents.

MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND

January 13 to 15, 2001

- **Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai** — Leaders: Annette Kaohelaulii, 45-403 Koa Kahiko Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744, e-mail: annettesadventures@juno.com; and Denby Fawcett

PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND

February 17 to 19, 2001

- **Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai** — Leader: Randy Ching, 1560 Kanunu Street, Apt. 818, Honolulu, HI 96814, phone: 944-9471
- **Nene o Molokai, Molokai** — Leaders: Betsy Weatherford, 307 Prospect Street, Unit 6, Honolulu, HI 96813, phone: 526-3986, e-mail: pinao@att.net; and Bob Moore, phone: 942-2734, e-mail: akepa@earthlink.net

PRINCE KUHIO DAY WEEKEND

March 24 to 26, 2001

- **Kanepuu Preserve, Lanai** — Leader: Joanna Yin, 4835 Matsonia Drive, Honolulu, HI 96816, phone: 734-5323, e-mail: yinj001@hawaii.rr.com; Other Leader: to be announced

EASTER WEEKEND

April 13 to 15, 2001

- **Kalaupapa National 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.* Leaders: Doreen Swan, 1615 St. Louis Drive, Honolulu, HI 96816, phone: 739-0029; and Maile Sakamoto, phone: 946-5712.

- **Puuwaawaa Wildlife Sanctuary, Hawaii** — Leaders: Judy Buffington and Vernon Knight, 500 University Avenue, Apt. 1130, Honolulu, HI 96826, phone: 955-2820.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

May 26 to 28, 2001

- **Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii** — Leaders: Bob Moore, 1634 Makiki Street, Apt. 906, Honolulu, HI 96822, phone: 942-2734, e-mail: akepa@earthlink.net; and Betsy Weatherford, phone: 526-3986.

KAMEHAMEHA DAY WEEKEND

June 9 to 11, 2001

- **Kamakou Preserve, Molokai** - Leader: Randy Ching, 1560 Kanunu Street, Apt. 818, Honolulu, HI 96814, phone: 944-9471; Other Leader TBA.
- **Manuka Natural Area Reserve, Hawaii** — Leader: Betsy Gagne, 47-682 Hui Kelu Street, Apt. 8, Kaneohe, HI 96744, phone: 239-4280.

ADMISSION DAY WEEKEND

August 17 to 19, 2001

- **Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii** — Leaders: Jim and Cindy Waddington, 1545 Nehoa Street, Apt. 301, Honolulu, HI 96822, phone: 947-2732.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

September 1 to 3, 2001

- **Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii** — Leaders: Arlene Buchholz, 3138 Paty Drive, Honolulu, HI 96822, e-mail: snovakz@juno.com; and Sharon Reilly, phone: 739-2438, e-mail: wildlife@pixi.com
- **Kokee Resource Conservation Program, Kauai** - Leader: Sherine Boomla, P. O. Box 37714, Honolulu, HI 96837, phone: 739-3936, e-mail: bshrine@yahoo.com ; Other Leader TBA

VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND

November 10 to 12, 2001

- **Kalaupapa National 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.* Leaders: Leader: Annette Kaohelaulii, 45-403 Koa Kahiko Street, Kaneohe, HI 96744, e-mail: annettesadventures@juno.com ; Other Leader: to be announced.
- **Manuka Natural Area Reserve, Hawaii** — Leaders: to be announced

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND

November 23 to 25, 2001

- **Nene o Molokai, Molokai** — Leaders: TBA

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 that native forest birds can use in their migration 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, usually koa. Accommodations are at a small, but well equipped, cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with electricity, running water, flush toilet, hot shower, kitchen, and five bunk beds with mattresses. Participants need to bring their own sleeping bags. Cold inclement weather is always a possibility, so proper warm clothing and footwear and good quality raingear are mandatory. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-ohia forest to observe native forest birds, some of which are endangered.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Molokai

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 maintain the community for the residents. We will help the Park to restore habitat and eradicate alien plants. Accommodations include a facility with electricity, hot showers, flush toilets and kitchen facilities. Free time activities may include going to the beach and visiting the old settlement of Kalauao and St. Philomena Church, which was built by Father Damien.

Restricted to Club members who have been on at least one other Sierra Club three-day service project.

Kamakou Preserve, Molokai

The Nature Conservancy's Kamakou Preserve is located in the mountains of East Molokai. The work usually involves a beach clean up and/or the removal of alien plant species encroaching into the preserve. Accommodations are in 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 visiting 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 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 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 beautiful Hulupoe Bay (a playground for dolphins) or exploring.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kauai

This refuge is at a beautiful, windswept setting at the northernmost tip of the island of Kauai. This service project usually involves the removal of alien plants and the planting of native coastal vegetation that seabirds use to build their nests in order to improve the habitat for their nesting and breeding. Seabirds, whales, Hawaiian

monk seals, turtles and dolphins are often seen from the worksites. Accommodations are on the lower level of the Visitor Center on the Refuge property. Amenities include electricity, kitchen, cots, modern restrooms and a hot shower. Free time activities may include hiking on the refuge or the Na Pali Coast or kayaking.

Kokee Resources 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, which have 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 many scenic trails.

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, 20 miles south of the Reserve. The cabin has hot showers and a gas range, but no electricity. There is bed space for five and plenty of tent space on the lawn. Free time activity may include bird watching, a visit to Ka Lae (South Point) or a hike along the wilderness coastline of the Reserve to a black and green sand beach.

Nene o Molokai, Molokai

The Nene o Molokai Foundation has acquired a wetland property for bird habitat. The work may include clearing weeds and brush in preparation for the planting of native Hawaiian species for a nene goose habitat. Accommodations are at a beach house with bathrooms, hot showers, kitchen, space for sleeping (either on beds or on the floor), and an ocean front lawn--perfect for camping. Free time may include guided tours of wetland bird habitats, visits to see diversified ag, sightseeing, hiking and visiting Kaunakakai.

Puuwaawaa Wildlife Sanctuary, Hawaii

Puuwaawaa consists of 3,800 acres of forested land between 4,000 and 6,500 feet on the northern flank of Hualalai volcano in North Kona. Volunteers may assist in fence building or alien vegetation control. Participants should be strong and fit in order to move fencing material over rough terrain. Accommodations include a cozy cabin for eight people and an outside grassy area for tents. A generator provides electricity and hot showers are available. Free time may include a hike through a koa forest or exploring lava tubes. Exceptionally rich flora and fauna offer the ideal opportunity to observe and photograph a variety of native plants and birds.

Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii

The Volcanoes National Park contains diverse ecosystems ranging from coastal to alpine terrain. The work will probably involve the eradication of invasive alien plants, which threaten the native ecosystem. Since the park is at a higher elevation, participants will need to bring warm clothing and raingear. Free-time activities include scenic hiking trails with interesting geological features and visits to Volcano House, Volcano Art Gallery and Jaggar Museum.

Maui Environmental Public Education Campaign

Maui's Environmental Public Education Campaign helped promote awareness of "smart growth" choices in the county and state in conjunction with a national Sierra Club report on the subject. Three TV stations and four newspapers featured stories on the "Smart Choices or Sprawling Growth" report and the featured Maui sites. An Akaku (Public access TV) show also featured the Club's views on smart growth planning.

Response was enthusiastic to an EPEC "Maui Planning Survey" at the Maui County fair booth. Thanks to the 30 volunteers who helped get over 500 surveys filled out over 4 days. Six survey questions covered local hot button issues: Carrying capacity studies, water, clean energy, affordable housing, alternative & public transportation, and open space funding.

The results provide some compelling evidence:

1. Carrying capacity study for Maui.
 - 72% support strongly
 - 2% do not support
 2. East Maui Wells.
 - 6% support strongly
 - 61% do not support
 - 20% undecided
 3. 20% clean energy by 2020.
 - 71% support strongly
 - 4% do not support
 4. Affordable Housing.
 - 46% much more needed
 - 30% some more needed
 - 14% no more needed
 5. Public/alt transportation.
 - 79% support strongly
 - 3% do not supportTransportation options:
 - 73% support more bus service
 - 41% support improved school bus service
 - 36% support train/trolley line along West & South Maui resort strip
 - 24% support electric trolley from Kahului harbor to Wailuku
 - 18% support Housing built within walking distance of shopping and schools
 6. Open space funding.
 - 83% support strongly
 - 3% do not support
- Survey demographics:
- property owners: 59%
 - renters 39%
 - voters: 83 %

Ma'alaea Update: ATM Marine Engineers, a prestigious East Coast marine engineering firm is very interested in coming in as consultants on Ma'alaea issue. ATM VP Karyn Erickson is submitting a preliminary proposal outlining several alternative harbor designs that improve Harbor safety and water quality but do not impact reefs, surf sites or marine habitat. If the plans garner widespread community support they will be presented to the State and Army Corps of Engineers during 2001. The EPEC "Malama Ma'alaea" campaign and the Protect Ma'alaea Coalition has been calling for a community based alternative plan for Ma'alaea for the past four years

MAHALO TO AT&T

Mahalo nui loa to AT&T Wireless Services for their donation of a copying machine to the Sierra Club EPEC office. AT&T Wireless has donated emergency cell phone service to the Maui Group outing's program and environmental education efforts for the past year. Although hike leaders have fortunately not needed the cell phone for life and death emergencies, it has proved very useful for coordinating hike pickup scheduling and it has been much appreciated.

Quarterly O`ahu Group Meeting

Wildlife Biologist Rob Shallenberger from the US Fish and Wildlife Service will give a slide presentation and discuss the natural history of Palmyra Atoll and the possibility of Palmyra Atoll becoming a new Pacific wildlife refuge. Meet at Paki Hale on the Diamondhead side of Kapiolani park at 7:00pm on Wednesday March 14th. Parking available in the parking lot by Paki Hale. Free. Refreshments. Call 538-6616 for information.

In an effort to save paper and postage, we are including the O`ahu Group Election in this issue of the Malama, the Chapter's newsletter. Candidate statements are on the following page. Mahalo.

Sierra Club, O`ahu Group Executive Committee Election Four (4) Positions to be Elected Those elected will take office in February 2001

In order for your ballot to be valid and to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, please do the following:

1. Two ballots are provided. Joint memberships should use both ballots. Single memberships must use only one ballot or both ballots will be invalidated.
2. Fold the ballot in thirds with your name, address and membership digit number located above your name. We verify memberships and then remove the address portion prior to opening ballots. Your vote remains strictly confidential.
3. Stamp and mail ballot (preferably in a separate envelope) to Sierra Club, O`ahu Group, P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96803. Ballots must be received by Friday, February 9, 2001.

BALLOT

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4)

- RANDY CHING
- SCOTT CRAWFORD
- MARILYN GATES
- KATHY HARTER
- TRAE MENARD

BALLOT

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4)

- RANDY CHING
- SCOTT CRAWFORD
- MARILYN GATES
- KATHY HARTER
- TRAE MENARD

Name _____

Address _____

Membership # _____

**Sierra Club, O`ahu Group
P.O. Box 2577
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96803**

Attention: Elections Committee

O`ahu Group Executive Committee Elections

Ballots must be received by Friday, February 9, 2001. P.O. Box 2577 Honolulu 96803

The Executive Committee establishes Group policies, coordinates activities, sets the Group budget, raises funds, recruits members, makes political endorsements and works on conservation issues. The nominating committee has nominated the following candidates for four (4) Ex-Comm positions.

Randy Ching • I have been on the O`ahu Group Executive Committee for two years, serving as an outings leader since 1993. I am now chairman of the O`ahu outings committee. I would like to continue serving and become more active in the areas of renewable energy and water conservation. These areas will be of critical importance over the next 20-30 years on O`ahu. As a teacher at Maryknoll High School, I understand the important role education plays in environmental advocacy.

Scott Crawford • I have served on the Hawai'i Chapter ExComm and now seek to work with the O`ahu Group. I believe the Sierra Club is the most effective and respected environmental group in Hawaii and I want to continue to contribute to that. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with the dynamic people who are involved. I have many years of experience with environmental issues in Hawaii, particularly on Maui, including working with Maui Tomorrow on energy, shoreline preservation, etc. I maintain Maui Tomorrow's web site and email list. I also work on Native Hawaiian issues and am able to bridge concerns in this regard.

Marilyn Gates • I have been active in Hawaii since 1987. Currently, I assist with Sierra Club tabling events and surveying the interests of new members. I hope to help membership get more active. Special interests include beach clean-ups and recycling.

Kathy Harter • Ever since Ronald Reagan said, "Once you've seen one redwood you've seen them all," I've been a fervent environmentalist. I began as writer-researcher on a new magazine "Environmental Quality" and coordinated the first Earth Day through the (next) governor's office in Sacramento. Now that Hawai'i is my home, I transferred my Sierra Club membership and also chair the communications committee of the Ala Wai Watershed Association. I've learned that one person can make a difference and a lot of people can make a lot of difference. The Sierra Club has proven that many times and it would be my privilege to continue my efforts on the Oahu Executive Committee.

Trae Menard • Trae Menard works as a field ecologist for the Hawaii Army National Guard's Natural Resource Management Program. His position requires an understanding of ecological restoration, endangered species recovery, and watershed management, as well as the legal framework of environmental policy. He holds a bachelor's degree in environmental science from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a master's degree in physical geography from the University of Hawaii. Trae supports community-based ecosystem management through consensus building and using volunteers for ecosystem restoration.

MAUI GROUP OUTINGS

PLEASE BE PREPARED FOR OUTINGS

Bring food and water, and—as conditions require—sturdy footwear, mosquito repellent, sun protection, and/or rain gear. A donation of \$3 (\$1 for Sierra Club members) is requested of all hikers over age 14, except for fund raiser and/or special educational hikes requested donations are slightly higher. Hikes are popular. Please register early through Voice Mail (573-4147).

Saturday, January 13 *Sierra Club Annual Meeting* Noon: Guest Speaker - Alan Murakami of Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation. Topic: Maui water resources - Who gets what according to state law... Implications of the Supreme Court's Waiahole water decision on Maui. Q&A to follow. Volunteer Awards. Potluck lunch (plates, beverages, utensils provided). Update on local issues. Public welcome. 11:30 am until 3:00 pm at Kaunoa Senior Center Call 579-9802 to volunteer for setup etc.

Sunday, January 14 *King's Highway (Hoapili Trail)* Strenuous full day, 11 mile round-trip hike over rough lava. Bring plenty of water. Meet at La Perouse Bay parking lot (end of the road) at 8:30 AM. Leader: Mary Ann Ciuffini. No registration necessary.

Sunday, January 21 *Skyline Trail Science City to Polipoli* (drop off at top and pick up in Polipoli). Moderate day hike (high elevation). Wear layers to stay warm. Volunteers needed who are willing to pick up at Polipoli. Meet at Hannibal Tavares Community Center parking lot in Pukalani at 8 AM. Leaders: Tina Dart and Brian Parker. Call 878-4122 to register. Limit: 10.

Sunday, January 28 *Nu'u Pond (Kaupo area)* Birdwatch Come and explore this interesting area. Bird specialist: Lance Tanino. Meet at Rice Park in Kula at 8:30 AM. Leaders: Lucienne de Naie and Kim Aloi. No Registration necessary.

Saturday, February 3 *Kamakou Hike, Moloka'i* Call Dayna Mosher at 1-553-4303 for details.

Sunday, February 11 *Ma'alaea Petroglyphs* Largest collection of Native Hawaiian petroglyphs on Maui. Long pants/closed shoes/rough terrain, short uphill hike. Meet at Buzz's Wharf parking lot at 9 AM. Leaders: Lucienne de Naie and Brian Parker.

Saturday, February 17 *Sierra Club Information Booth at Whale Day at Kalama Park in Kibei* Environment displays and updates. Petitions, bumper stickers and trendy temporary tattoos. Great music. Volunteer to help at 579-9802.

Sunday, February 25 *Waihe'e Ridge Hike* Spectacular views. Moderate-strenuous (steady uphill for 2 miles). Native plant specialist: Lance Tanino. Meet at Waihe'e School parking lot at 8:30 AM. Leader: Tina Dart. Call voice mail at 573-4147 to register.

Saturday, March 3 *Waibou Springs Trail Service Trip in conjunction with Na Ala Hele* Enjoy a peaceful 2-mile easy/moderate forest walk in Upper Olinda to a lovely fern grotto, and help us maintain this upcountry trail. Tools and gloves are provided. Meet in parking lot across from St. Joseph's Church in Makawao at 8:15 AM. Leaders: Kim Aloi and Koana Smith. No registration necessary.

Saturday, March 10 *Sierra Club Information Booth at Haiku Flower Festival* 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Environmental displays and updates. Petitions, bumper stickers and trendy temporary tattoos.

Sunday, March 11 *Kabekili Park Snorkel Outing* Bring snorkel gear, sunscreen and water. Meet in Kahekili Park parking lot in Kaanapali at 9 AM. Leader: Koana Smith. Register via voice mail at 669-9602.

Sunday, March 18 *Kanaio* 1 mile uphill hike through the secluded hills of Kanaio to the serene heights of the Tibetan Buddhist Retreat Center. Great views and fascinating commentary on local history by retreat caretaker. Meet at 9 am in front of winery in Ulupalakua to carpool to trailhead. Leader Lucienne de Naie. Call 572-8331 to register. Limit: 20.

Friday, March 23 *Maui Group Fundraiser: "The Earth-in-Space Walk"* with noted astronomer Harriet Witt-Miller Life is a journey-through-space. "The Earth-in-Space Walk" (300 feet) will help you discover your place in space. Dress warmly and bring a towel or mat and a small flashlight. Meet at Haycraft Park at the end of Hauole Street in Maalaea at 7 PM. Leaders: Tina Dart and Kim Aloi. No registration necessary. \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Larger donations are gratefully accepted.

Friday - Monday, March 30 - April 2 *Sierra Club Information Booth* at the Taro Festival in Hana Come support environmental action on Maui, sign petitions and get involved at our Sierra Club booth.





Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter
 P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
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**Mahalo for Helping
 Preserve Hawaii's
 Special Places**

Sierra Club Applauds Clinton's Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve

In early December, President Clinton announced strong, new protections for the remote and pristine coral reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The President's Executive Order 13178 establishes the 84 million-acre Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve—the largest protected area ever created in the United States. The NWHI is home to monk seals, endangered sea turtles, and other important species, and serves as a nursery for fish populations around the main Hawaiian Islands. The NWHI also contain 70% of the nation's coral reefs. Globally, coral reefs are rapidly degrading due to human activities.

Dave Raney of the Sierra Club Coral Reef Working Group and the Pacific region's non-governmental organization representative on the National Coral Reef Task Force played an instrumental role in working with other organizations, such as KAHEA ("the Hawaiian Environmental Alliance") to establish a unified position on the Executive Order. At public hearings held statewide on the order, a majority of testifiers supported the President's decision and called for strengthening protections.

The President's historical order will be remembered as a victory in the preservation of biodiversity worldwide, but work is not yet finished. Many details of NWHI reserve regarding enforcement, management, and boundaries have yet to be finalized. Further, the order only applies to federal waters, and some important coral reef areas, such as Kure Atoll and Pearl and Hermes Reef, lie almost entirely within state waters. At present these waters are virtually unprotected by State laws or regulations.

Members are encouraged to write to Governor Cayetano and (1) stress the support of local citizens for the creation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral



photo Jennie Yukimura

Congresswoman Patsy Mink (2nd from left) is joined by David Chang, Group Chair Judy Dalton, and David Boynton for a tour of Kauai's Maha'ulepu

Reef Ecosystem Reserve, and (2) urge the Governor to work closely with the federal agencies to provide strong, enforceable, protection of the coral reef ecosystem resources within State waters. The most important portions of the NWHI coral reef ecosystem are within the shallower waters found within the State boundaries, and these areas should receive the most stringent protection.

Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano
 Executive Chambers
 Hawaii State Capitol
 Honolulu, HI 96813