PROTECT
WHAT
YOU
LOVE
Justice or Barbarism
by Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director
Republished from Michael Brune’s blog on sierraclub.org

Every time I write about social justice, I hear from a few folks: What does this have to do with the Sierra Club? Aren’t we straying from our environmental mission when we oppose the border wall or show up for immigrant rights? But the struggles to protect the environment and our communities can’t be separated. Remember the rallying cry of the first People’s Climate March? “To change everything, it takes everyone.” When we treat concerns about racial, immigrant, or gender justice as afterthoughts in our quest to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet, we lose a lot of people. But when we acknowledge that these issues are deeply connected, we can build a bigger, more powerful movement.

When it comes to climate change, the connections between social justice and environmental issues are obvious. Confronting the climate crisis demands that we change our society in profound and far-reaching ways. We must keep sacrificing people and places to create prosperity for the few. Instead, we need to build a new economy that prioritizes people over profit.

Change is coming, whether we like it or not. What is up to us is whether our response to the climate crisis changes society for the better or for the worse.

Next November the US will face a turning point. Will we double down on the climate denial and bigotry coming out of the White House? Or will we choose a just transition to a green economy that prioritizes people and health above corporate profits?

We’re at a similar turning point with the climate crisis. Our choice is between climate justice and what Naomi Klein and others have called “climate barbarism.” Will the nations most responsible for the climate crisis close their borders and turn away climate refugees searching for safety? Or will we build a more humane and fairer society and weather the storm together?

We’ve already seen climate barbarism gain acceptance in the political margins. Rightwing ideologues on YouTube and Twitter are using the climate crisis to fan the flames of xenophobia, nationalism, and white supremacy, with horrific results. They have inspired mass murderers in El Paso, Texas, and Christchurch, New Zealand. But that’s only the most extreme and visible version of this ideology.

This kind of thinking has found its way into the political mainstream as well. In the late 1990s, anti-immigration activists attempted to take over the Sierra Club’s board. They wanted to “protect” the environment from people immigrating to the US.

Twenty years later, climate refugees are being demonized by a similar mix of xenophobia and phony environmentalism. Instead of cracking down on the corporations causing climate change, the Trump administration is targeting those forced to leave their homes by violence and climate-driven drought.

Indefensible barbarism has become federal policy.

Today the Sierra Club’s goal isn’t just to end climate change but to achieve climate justice. We support immigrant communities and a path to citizenship for all. We’ve launched litigation with the ACLU to stop Trump’s border wall, standing up for border communities and immigrant rights. We’ve organized for the DREAM Act. And we’re working to change corporate trade policies that contribute to forced migration and environmental injustice.

So when bigots invoke “concern for the environment” as a reason to exclude immigrants from our communities — we push back. Because if we don’t push back against their dangerous and hateful ideology, it will only grow.

As more people awaken to the reality of the climate crisis and what it means for their own lives, our challenge will be to offer them hope and a way to create positive change. If we don’t, many will fall into despair and inaction. Or worse, turn to hate and xenophobia.

We can’t build a wall to keep out climate change. But we can work toward a world where everyone, in every community, can feel safe — with access to family-sustaining jobs, affordable health care, clean air and water, and a stable climate.

To Protect the Planet, Be Proactive
by Colin Yost, Chapter Executive Committee Chair

We normally think of the act of protecting something as inherently defensive. A threat arises to something we love, and we race to its defense to protect it from harm. In these times of Climate Emergency, however, we must look far into the future as possible and think about how to protect the world of our grandchildren with decisive, far-reaching actions.

As I’ve written before in this space, planting trees is one of the most protective and hopeful long-term things we can do. A massive increase in carbon sequestration is needed worldwide, and locally, trees are the best defense we can do. A massive increase in carbon sequestration is needed worldwide, and locally, trees are the best defense against unbearable heat and humidity. So naturally, I needed worldwide, and locally, trees are the best defense we can do. A massive increase in carbon sequestration is needed worldwide, and locally, trees are the best defense we can do. A massive increase in carbon sequestration is needed worldwide, and locally, trees are the best defense we can do.

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In a historic move for the security of our climate future, the City & County of Honolulu is suing Big Oil for deceiving people about the known dangers of climate change and the resulting damages to Oahu’s roads, sewers, and other public infrastructure. Maui County is expected to take action next month. These two counties are joining dozens of other counties, municipalities, and states across the United States that are holding Big Oil accountable for deception around climate change.

Following the passionate testimony of many residents and hundreds of written comments submitted in support, the City Council unanimously approved filing the lawsuit against the fossil fuel companies that lied to us. This litigation, which will be filed soon, will help Oahu’s taxpayers who face tens of billions of dollars in lost infrastructure, land, and adaptation costs. The fossil fuel industry is responsible for the majority of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions and knew in the 1960s that their products would cause the climate crisis we are seeing today—they should be made to pay their fair share to fix it.

Just as we saw in the tobacco litigation of the 1990’s these lawsuits are also important in preventing passage of federal laws that would protect these corporations from climate liability.

Stay up-to-date with us at sierrachubbawaii.org/climate.
Do you want to help solve the climate crisis? One way is to help keep recently planted trees alive so they can sequester CO2 for many years to come. The Mālama Tree Crew invites you to join us in this endeavor.

The Mālama Tree Crew volunteers to weed, mulch and water trees so they will thrive and sequester carbon. We also help landowners with reforestation and watershed projects—and we can definitely use your help!

Currently, the Mālama Tree Crew is focusing on 4 sites: Akupu Enclosure and Malama Learning Center planting site at Pālehua, Ala Mahamoe and Hāwea Heiau. Here is a summary of each site:

**Akupu Enclosure**—restoration of 6 acres for 'elepaio habitat. We have planted 35 native trees and are working to ensure their survival. Lonomea, lama and koa are the main species.

**Mālama Learning Center planting site**—native trees, shrubs and ground cover. Volunteers have planted hundreds of native plants in this former dry land forest area. The Mālama Tree Crew does maintenance once or twice a month, with an emphasis on keeping the fast-growing grass from burying the plants. Since the area is hot and sunny, we also water the plants on every trip. As a bonus, the views of O‘ahu's south shore from this site are incredible.

**Ala Mahamoe**—located near Tripler Hospital. A thousand trees were planted in November of 2018. The Mālama Tree Crew is helping the remaining trees (about half of the original planting) stay alive. The current effort involves removing the grass from a section where a‘ali‘i is the dominant plant. The grass grows very fast so there is a constant need for maintenance. We are working with the Ko‘olau Mountain Watershed Partnership.

**Hāwea Heiau**—a partnership with the Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui in Maunalua. The Hāwea Heiau is a community-based project where volunteers have been working monthly for several years. Boy Scouts have recently planted trees in this hot, dry area and the Mālama Tree Crew is watering them.

Coming soon is a planting of 100 trees near the Hawai‘i Kai Golf Course driving range and the Mālama Tree Crew will be helping Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui with the maintenance of those trees.

Trees for the Future
by Randy Ching, Service Trip Program Coordinator

I recently went with the Sierra Club on a 2-day service project to help restore the native dry forest at Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a on Hawai‘i Island, which once harbored an incredible diversity of plant and animal species.

Randy Ching, the Hawaii Chapter’s Service Trip Coordinator, organized the event with Mark Hanson — the “Sandalwood Man”, and Liana Macdonald-Kainoa, Nāpu‘u Conservation Manager with DOFAW.

Our objectives were to do: (1) tree mālama by clearing fast-growing grass to give newly planted trees a chance to grow, and (2) plant native trees.

We cut and rolled back kikuyu grass to make space for many baby trees we planted on the slopes of Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a.

We need help planting and caring for trees – there are lots of upcoming tree events, be sure to check bit.ly/SCH-TREES to find an event or service project near you!
You think the Trump White House is leaky, have you seen the fuel tanks buried at Red Hill on O‘ahu? A recent report prepared by a consultant to the U.S. Navy concluded that there is a 27.6% probability that the Navy’s Red Hill Fuel Tanks will leak 30,000 gallons of fuel every year. That means in a 10-year period, at least 90,000 gallons of fuel could leak from these massive, antiquated fuel tanks. And the Navy thinks it is reasonable to operate these tanks in place for another 25 years. So that would be $180,000,000 of fuel possible lost in our environment.

What makes this so outrageous is these enormous rust buckets are located mere 100 feet above the Southern O‘ahu Basal Aquifer, a.k.a O‘ahu’s principal source of drinking water.

Is it time to shut these tanks down and relocate this fuel? You bet it is! Hundreds of people have attended dozens of hearings and meetings over the last five years to satisfy the minimum requirements of state law.

To help the Health Department better protect O‘ahu’s future drinking water supply, the Sierra Club sued the Department to prevent it from automatically approving the Navy’s permit request to operate the tanks in place. We won. Now, we are in the midst of a contested case hearing on that permit application, along with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply. We will have more to report in the coming months on the progress of that case. In the meantime, O‘ahu water drinkers unite! We must convince Governor David Ige to not approve the regulations extending the operation of the Red Hill fuel tanks. Find out more about the Red Hill tank issue and sign our petition at bit.ly/SC-REDHILL.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at bit.ly/SC-OUTDOORS.

Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8am at the back porch of the Church of the Crossroads, 2510 Bingham Street, Honolulu. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot.

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

Sunday, January 5
Photography Hike: ‘Th’ihiloa‘ukea Crater Hike (E/F)
Koko Head, moderate/3 miles, ridge
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into the crater to view rare native plants. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, January 18
James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (E/F)
Kahuku, easy/1 mile
This is an easy, interpretive walk to see and photograph native habitat and hawaii’s native birds and migratory birds that spend the winter here. There is a limit of 25 attendees. Reservations required to csaro4sq8@gmail.com. Leaders: Colleen Soares, csaro4sq@gmail.com; John Shimogawa

Saturday, January 25
Pālehua E‘elopea Enclosure “Akupu” Service (S)
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space is limited as we will be working in a sensitive area where the endangered native ‘elepaio is nesting and there are some native plants already growing which we don’t want to disturb or damage. We will probably hear and see some native ‘elepaio as we work in the area, so bring a camera as well. Pack a lunch and/or snack and definitely mosquito repellent. Bring gloves and hand tools for weedling alien plants in the enclosure. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, January 25
Whale Count with Humpback Whale Sanctuary
Meet at 7:30am at the back porch of Church of the Crossroads. Participate in counting Hawaiian Humpback whales with the National Marine Sanctuary. Learn about whale behavior and how they spend the winter. Swimming. Location to be determined. Leader: Sherine Boомila, boомila@hawaii.edu

Sunday, January 26
Hike Maunawili Trail
Maunawili, easy/4 miles, contour
This hike is for all ages, families and beginners. Turns around at huge iron wood trees where we will pause with view for snacks before returning to the trailhead. Meet at 8pm at the Pali Scenic turnout at hairpin turn while descending Pali Highway toward Kailua. Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS at least one week before outing to secure access to base. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or danderhi@gmail.com. We will be working with the Environmental Division helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai‘i’s endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We’ll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Dan Anderson 489-1695, danderhi@gmail.com

Sunday, February 9
Photography Hike: Likeke Loop (F/E)
Kāne‘ohe, moderate/7 miles, contour
Traditional contour hike below steep Kō‘olau cliffs between Likelike and Pali Highways. Great views of Kāne‘ohe and Kailua Bay. We loop back taking time to tour Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden. Leader: Dan Anderson, 489-1695, danderhi@gmail.com

Sunday, February 23
Photography Hike: Pālehau-Palikea (E)
Maakīlo, moderate/2 miles, ridge
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space limited, so make your reservations early. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. You will need a camera, lunch and/or snacks, and water. Not for those uneasy about heights. Due to safety concerns, only adults will be accepted. Native plants, native happy face spiders, scenic panoramas, and native tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom
O‘ahu Group Outings

Learn about whales and other marine life. Training provided. No swimming. Location to be determined.
Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

Saturday, March 7
Late Hike: Pu‘u Pila
Mānoa, moderate/2 miles, 500 ft elevation gain
This short hike in the back of Mānoa Valley takes us to the top of a short hill (pu‘u) with a surprisingly good view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

Saturday, March 14
Pālehua Service Project - Trail Clearing (S)
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. Space is limited due to parking, and also as we will be working along an existing trail that is not used very much to develop it as a fire break. Pack a lunch and/or snack and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruners, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for beautiful scenic panoramas from the ridge overlooking Nānākuli Valley. You may also hear and see some native birds, so bring a camera too. Leaders: Cindy Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

Sunday, March 15
Mākīki-Tantalus Hike
Mākīki, moderate/3-5 miles
Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

Wednesday, March 25 to Saturday, March 28
Koa‘aulea’s Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Service Project – Hawai‘i Island (S)
We will be working with NARS clearing mainly kahili ginger. We will access the area via Volcanoes National Park where it is an easy 1/4 mile hike from Thurston Lava tube area to the work site. This a relatively new NARS site that is dominated with alien kahili ginger and a great way to see how it evolves into a truly native Hawaiian Natural Area Reserve. There are native birds above in the native ‘ōhi‘a lehua forest trees. Our accommodation will be at a house in Hilo at the NARS base yard. This trip requires a Wednesday evening departure to the Big Isle. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, March 28
Whale Count with Humpback Whale Sanctuary
Whale count with the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Meet at 7:30am at the back porch of Church of the Crossroads. Participate in counting Hawaiian Humpback whales with the National Marine Sanctuary. Learn about whales and other marine life. Training provided. No swimming. Location to be determined.
Leader: Sherine Boomla, boomla@hawaii.edu

Kaua‘i Group Report

Clear Cutting Coastal Trees Along the County Bike Path

Coastal ironwoods served as an important windbreak protecting agriculture when Kaua‘i’s east side was covered in sugarcane.
But since 2001 when the county approved the Keālia Kai agricultural subdivision and condominium development, its landowners have inappropriately found opportunities to cut down these mature, healthy coastal trees.
Keālia Kai is a gated community of 29 luxury residences “farm dwellings” on 300-acres of agriculturally zoned beachfront property. In early November the Keālia Kai lot 10 landowner, in collaboration with the County Department of Parks and Recreation, wrongly clear-cut a broad swath of forested coastline.
The denuded landscape is park land owned by the county. It is adjacent to the county’s multi-use coastal path, Ke Ala Hele Makalae. The xéxué is designated a Special Management Area and State Conservation District. Both the County Planning Department and the State Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands have jurisdiction, but no permits were sought.
The clear cut area is located south of Kumukumu Stream and extends north to the historic Pineapple Dump, which a concrete pier used in the 1900’s to discard pineapple waste into the ocean.

Accordingly, the landowner’s request was to top trees and cut overgrown grass. County Parks and Recreation staff gave approval without seeking guidance from the agencies that oversee coastal land use. Furthermore, there was no county staff onsite to monitor the work to ensure things are done properly.

Whether this clearcutting of oceanfront trees was intended to enhance views for the luxury home under construction mauka of this area, or to deter an encampment for the homeless, the outcome is fraught with negative impacts.
First there is the loss of shade valued by path users and fishers. The devastation also results in the loss of wildlife habitat, loss of topsoil from runoff and coastal erosion.
Compounding the problem was the possibility of pollutants at Kumukumu Stream and the slow response to investigate whether poison was used to kill the tree stumps, or if the heavy equipment excavators were leaking fluids.
Instead of imposing a stop-work order, the county let the same contractor proceed with debris removal. Leaders on the project wanted the same contractor to proceed with debris removal. Leaders of the project wanted the same contractor to proceed with debris removal. The use of the same contractor. Leaders on the project wanted the same contractor to proceed with debris removal. Leaders of the project wanted the same contractor to proceed with debris removal. But since 2001 when the county approved the Keālia Kai agricultural subdivision and condominium development, its landowners have inappropriately found opportunities to cut down these mature, healthy coastal trees.
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The clear cut area is located south of Kumukumu Stream and extends north to the historic Pineapple Dump, which a concrete pier used in the 1900’s to discard pineapple waste into the ocean.

Appropriately, the landowner’s request was to top trees and cut overgrown grass. County Parks and Recreation staff gave approval without seeking guidance from the agencies that oversee coastal land use. Furthermore, there was no county staff onsite to monitor the work to ensure things are done properly.

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Compounding the problem was the possibility of pollutants at Kumukumu Stream and the slow response to investigate whether poison was used to kill the tree stumps, or if the heavy equipment excavators were leaking fluids.
Instead of imposing a stop-work order, the county let the same contractor proceed with debris removal. Leaders on the project wanted the same contractor to proceed with debris removal. The use of the same contractor.
In addition to county and state regulations not being followed, the landowner also disregarded the Kealia Kai Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) regarding landscaping and grubbing. And, according to the CC&Rs, the county has the right to “exercise any remedy at law or in equity compel compliance, or cure the default, breach or violation” and the right to “exercise any remedy at law or in equity compel compliance, or cure the default, breach or violation” and the right to “exercise any remedy at law or in equity compel compliance, or cure the default, breach or violation” and the right to “exercise any remedy at law or in equity compel compliance, or cure the default, breach or violation” and the right to “exercise any remedy at law or in equity compel compliance, or cure the default, breach or violation”. A qualified landscaper must survey the site and make recommendations regarding the use of irrigation, fertilizer and herbicides in establishing new growth, as well as upkeep and maintenance of the area once established.

Remediation Plan
The Kaua‘i Group has asked to participate in the development of a restoration plan for this clear cut area. Felled trees greater than 6 inches in diameter should be replaced with an equivalent number of trees. Remediation should include a coastal landscape plan that incorporates an ecosystem-based approach with native plants and trees that provide shade.

Prior to re-vegetation, a qualified landscaper must survey the site and make recommendations regarding the use of irrigation, fertilizer and herbicides in establishing new growth, as well as upkeep and maintenance of the area once established.

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on one of these great outings to discover the natural treasures of our island. Mileage is total miles. Outings focus on (C) Conservation/interpretative, (E) Educational, (F) Family/fun, and/or (S) Service. Check bit.ly/SCH-Kauai-Hikes for hike schedule updates. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is $1. For all others $5.

Have you ever thought about being an Outings leader? If so, please contact JudyDalton123@gmail.com or call 482-1129 to find out how much fun you could be having while giving people the opportunity to explore the island, enjoy its beauty, and inspire them to protect it.

Friday, January 10
Donkey Beach (Kaua‘i Bay) Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/4.5 miles
We’ll return along the late afternoon meeting at Kapa’a Library and shuttle our cars to start our walk along the coastal path from Donkey Beach ending back at the library as we watch an almost full moon rise over the ocean. Learn how the Planning Commission was legally challenged to assure increased building setbacks along the ridge at Donkey Beach to preserve the views on and along the coastline.
See the area that was cleared of a large swath of tall, healthy trees in November without a permit.
Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, January 11
Māhāʻulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
Poʻipū area, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change on a rocky trail. Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Sunday, January 12
Kealia to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/5 miles, +/- 250 feet
We will thoroughly explore the coast and enjoy the lovely views of the East shore between Kealia and Anahola. The first part of this outing is easy on the bike/walk path up until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, January 25
Descent into Waimea Canyon: The Kukui Trail (C/E/F)
Intermediate/5 miles, +/-2900 feet
We will hike from the rim of Waimea Canyon down to its base and admire the majesty of this canyon along the way.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Sunday, January 26
Kulua Ridge Trail (C/E/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles, +/-280 feet
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch.
Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Thursday, February 6
Māhāʻulepū Sunset to Moonlight Walk (C/E/F)
South shore, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck Beach walking along the coast to Māhāʻulepū. Enjoy the setting sun and a nearly full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk. We’ll shuttle cars for an easy trip back to the trailhead.
Leader: Bill Snyder, 808-652-1718

Sunday, February 9
Wai Koa Loop Trail (C/E/F)
North shore, easy/4.5 miles, +/-200 feet
We’ll start off through the Kīlauea Forest and then the largest mahogany plantation in the area. The trail opens up and we’ll enjoy impressive views of Mount Namahana, which means “the twin branches”, and hike near lovely farms and ranches.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, February 15
Jewel of Koke‘e (C/E/F)
Strenuous/7 miles
Spectacular hike through forests of Koke‘e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, and Pōomau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo‘o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean.
Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Saturday, February 22
Kulua Ridge Trail (C/E/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3.5 miles, +/-280 feet
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Glorious views and ever-present bird songs reward you along this trail. Hike to bridge and picnic tables for lunch.
Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

Sunday, February 23
Nounou Mountain: Ascent from the East (C/E/F)
East side, intermediate/ 3.2 miles, +/-1000 feet
Nounou Mountain, which is more popularly called “Sleeping Giant”, offers spectacular panoramic views of the east side of Kaua‘i. We will explore the east side and summit.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, March 7
Waimea Canyon Rim Vistas Hike (C/E/F)
West side, intermediate/4.5 miles, +/-1100 feet
Explore lovely panoramic views of the Waimea Canyon and ocean as we follow the Canyon Trail to Waipo‘o Falls and then continue beyond the waterfall on a fun adventure getting to a spectacular vista point that is infrequently visited.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Sunday, March 8
Wailua Beach to Nukoli‘i Beach Sunset to Full Moon Walk (C/E/F)
East shore, easy/2 miles
Enjoy the full moon glistening on the ocean as we walk along the wide sandy beach. Learn about the Sierra Club’s role in stopping construction of a 3.5-mile long beach destroying seawall along the pristine coastline between Wailua and Nukoli‘i Beaches back in 1996. We’ll have a picnic dinner before we start off on our delightful coastal walk. Leader: Judy Dalton, 482-1129

Saturday, March 14
Nawiliwili Lighthouse Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
Moderate/3 miles
Hike from Kalapaki Beach to Nawiliwili Lighthouse, then along the coast to Hanamā‘ulu Bay with shuttle to return. Enjoy views along the rugged coast. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Saturday, March 21
Nā Pali Coast Trail to Hanākāpī‘ai Beach (C/E/F)
North shore, intermediate/4 miles, +/-1200 feet
Hike begins at Ke‘e Beach and follows the Kalalau Trail with its stunning coastal views for 2 miles to Hanākāpī‘ai Beach. After a relaxing, soothing lunch at the beach, we will return along the same route. The scenery and views are truly spectacular on this personal favorite hike.
Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594
Maui Group Report

Maui Group Outings

E Ola I Ka Wai

The battle over the East Maui streams continues. After dragging their feet for over 20 years, the East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI, owned by Alexander & Baldwin and Maui Parks) published its Final Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to justify their request for a 30 year (!) lease of the East Maui watershed lands in late September. The Sierra Club and other leaders of the Kula Watershed Coalition made a public comment on the 2,700 page document, but the reaction was swift and decisive. Despite its bulk, the DEIS did not address fundamental questions such as how much water EMI has been taking; whether the company has any idea how much was left to nourish stream life that depend on them—the vegetation and downstream residents. Many of those who commented suggested that the DEIS was in such poor shape that it should be rejected without further ado. The Sierra Club and many others will be watching for EMI’s responses to the comments, which are required by law, and demand that the company show its cards before any long term lease is approved.

The Board of Land and Natural Resources is also responsible for the current state of affairs. Sierra Club has said for years that BLNR is breaching responsibility as stewards of public lands and waters. How can they grant renewed “revocable permits” to EMI/A&B year after year without knowing how much water is being taken from each stream, how much is being diverted to support new development, and how the water diversions are for the native flora and fauna, what EMI/A&B are doing to stop the spread of invasive species, etc.? Read more on page 4.

Fight Climate Change, Plant Trees!

The Sierra Club is ramping up a campaign for a statewide tree planting day in late 2020, with strong support from other environmental, community and conservation organizations. Why plant trees? A better question might be “why not?” Trees bind and improve the soil, reducing the risks of runoff into the ocean and flooding; provide shade and cooler temperatures; improve air and water quality. Although the paths are well worn, covered shoes are recommended, as the area is uneven and sometimes muddy. Bring water, hiking stick, and a camera. Meet at 3pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Kanaio Stupa

Maui, Kānāio and Ho‘oponopono O Mākena representatives met with archaeologists and Mākena Resort staff in October to review new studies and other updates. A master plan and EIS that was required in a 2017 settlement agreement for all 1,800 acres is expected by summer 2020. The addendum surveys found dozens of new archaeology sites even though the land had been disturbed by some bulldozing. Many artifacts were found and evidence that a large village had existed in over 25 acres between Old Mākena Road and Mākena Alani. Additional studies are planned on the Mākena Landing site and because of recent findings, the south parcel layout also be redesigned and additional areas in the northern 22 acres were set aside for “no grading”. The site plan was changed from 5 condos and 15 large lots to 20 large lots and no condo buildings! This area will now be part of a cultural preserve. It is noted that without legal intervention, this history would have been buried, lost, and forgotten.

Much more remains to be discovered on the 47 acres above Mākena Landing and the hundreds of acres of surrounding the Mākena Resort lands. The Sierra Club will be at the table making sure the many settlement promises for affordable housing, large preserves, beach access, restoring access to historic trails, and protection for cultural sites are kept.

Preservation of the Hāna Coast

The Sierra Club along with Ke Ao Haliʻi gave presentations and testimony in November to the Economic Development & Budget Committee, asking for open space funds to purchase the Mokaei Parcel near Hāna. It is an opportunity to protect and preserve the Hana coast for future generations to come. The meeting was broadcast on akaku.org.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Please register for all hikes with the leader listed in the description; provide your email and a cell phone number. Bring water, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. Hiking boots are recommended for longer hikes. A donation of $5 ($3 for Sierra Club members) is required of hikers over age 14 except where otherwise indicated.

Hike description key: (C) conservation focus, such as discussing how to conserve this land for future generations to enjoy; (E) educational, such as visiting and learning about archeological sites and naming the plants and flowers; (S) service outing (no donation requested).

We always welcome more hike leaders! Contact sierracluhabmaugroup@gmail.com if you are interested.

Check bit.ly/SC-Maui-Outdoors for updates to the schedule.

If the hike description states an EMI waiver is required: East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows access to their lands as long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI waiver is absolutely required for EMI hikes. Call in your waiver request at 579-9516 well in advance to make an appointment to sign it. Then go to EMI’s Pa‘ia office at 457 Baldwin Avenue to sign the waiver. It is open Monday-Friday 7am-3pm. Waivers cannot be faxed or mailed, please be considerate of EMI staff time and pick up the waiver 5 days in advance if possible. The waiver must be brought on the hike and shown to the hike leader.

Kapalua Coastal Trail Hike (C/E)

South Maui 2.5-3 miles

Help find and clean archaeological sites and trails hidden above Wailea with archaeologist Dr. Jeanne Scott. No experience is necessary. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and a camera. Meet at 3pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Plumeria to Tiki Hike (C/E)

North Maui 2 miles

Hike on sugarcane farm road to waterfalls and ancient Hawaiian enclosures. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and a camera. Meet at 3pm at Stairs parking lot. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com; please provide cell phone number.

Wailea’E Ocean Center parking lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sundays January 12

Kapalua Resort Coastal Trail Hike (C/E)

West side, 4 miles

Mostly level hike on spectacular Kapalua Resort Coastal Trail. Meet at 8:30am at the Maui Ocean Center parking lot in Ma‘alaea (the end near the gas station) to carpool. If you live on the west side, meet 9:30am at D.T. Fleming Beach Park (the south parking lot) which is where the trail starts. Bring water, lunch, sun protection, camera, and optionally a swimsuit. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com; please provide cell phone number.

Friday, January 17

Maalaea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E/S)

Ma‘alaea, 2-3 miles

Explore ancient Ma‘alaea village, exposed by recent fires, and one of Maui’s best collections of petroglyphs. Rugged terrain. Short distances but uphill. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and a camera. Meet 9am at maalaea end of Maui Ocean Center parking lot. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Saturday, January 25

Hānaikāpī Mālāma Day (C/E/S)

Hā‘ikū, 3 miles

Community service outing to remove trash and enjoy magnificent coastal trails on 267 acres of oceanfront Hānaikāpī lands. Bring gloves, hand tools, water/hat, lunch, and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Hā‘ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, January 26

Kanaio Stupa (C/E)

Kane‘ohe, 5 miles

Some steep grades. Hike up the south slope of Haleakalā to beautiful shrine built in 1982 and view of south coast. Meet at 8am at Keōkea Park (upper Kula) to carpool. Bring water, hat, hiking stick, and a camera. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com; please provide cell phone number.

Sunday, February 2

Waile‘E Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge (C/E)

Waile‘E, 2 miles

This area was acquired by HILT to keep it from development. We will cover about two miles on level ground and we will probably take about three hours to do it. There is no shade, so bring sunscreen, hat, and plenty of water. Although the paths are well worn, covered shoes are helpful in dry season. This is an excellent introduction to the archaeological features, unspoiled views, and we may see whales, monk seals, turtles, Hawaiian birds, and native plants.
Cliff-Hanger: Honua Ola by Cory Harden

Please watch the news for upcoming hearings on two draft permits for Honua Ola, one regarding air pollution and one regarding deepening injection wells.

Honua Ola, previously known as Hu Honua, is the wood-burning power plant under construction in Pepe’ekeo, infamous for running wastewater into the ocean last year. The State Department of Health called it a "blatant disregard of...environmental laws" and levied a $25,000 fine.

Honua Ola has also drawn fire from residents over its greenhouse gas emissions from Honua Ola’s main activity—burning wood. This is based on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy that burning green trees is CO2 equivalent neutral—a policy rejected by EPA’s own Science Advisory Board.*

By some calculations, for the first 70 years, greenhouse gas emissions from burning and burning wood are just as harmful as burning coal. But according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have only 12 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Honua Ola says it will replant. It assumes new, small new trees will sequester as much carbon as the mature large trees it harvested—but this is unlikely. For about 3,000 acres, the landowner, Kamehameha Schools, does not even plan to replant.* Emissions from cutting, transporting, and chipping wood are not considered.

The permit will not treat the plant as a “new source” of air pollution—though Honua Ola spent $300 million to reconfigure the original coal-burning plant to burn wood.

The injection well permit would allow the plant to be deepened from 400 to 500 feet. 21 million gallons of water a day will be pumped out of supply wells, run through a condenser, then pumped back into the ground via the injection wells. The water will eventually seep into the ocean, carrying small amounts of chemical additives.

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at a temperature warmer than normal for the ocean. This poses risks to coral, endangered sea turtles, and other ocean life. Residents also worry about wells so close to the cliff, since small cliffs pose an erosion problem.

There is also a plan afoot to take advantage of backhauls capacity on shipping containers to get zero-reusable, discarded items off island ASAP, with plastics a high priority. Although it is clearly a stop gap measure, preemptive removal of unwanted discard can be a way out for a system that prevents such materials from getting shipped here in the first place. Schemes that take advantage of these materials for energy or construction only lock us into
the wasteful practices we desperately need to abandon... this while stoking increased demand for virgin plastic, a commodity produced by one of the most carbon intensive industries on the planet.

Bottom line: Keep calm and stockpile!

Aquarium Fish Trade by Rob Culbertson

The court mandated Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding aquarium fishing permits was released last quarter for public comment. As expected, the study, written by the same company that gave us the Keystone Pipeline, sides with a select group of 14 commercial aquarium fish collectors on Hawai‘i Island that hope to retain their unregulated practice that has bedeviled the public and most native practitioners for decades. Currently, a court ordered moratorium has operations on pause in the West Hawai‘i Regional Fishery Management Area.

For years the take of fish along Hawai‘i Island’s “Gold Coast” from just a select few operators amounted to over 1.8 times more fish taken than all of the fish caught by food and recreational fishers combined. Yet this DEIS projects historic numbers in highly impacted coastal zones against a base number of the entire island—thus computing a negligible amount in the 1% range—therefore justifying their skewed finding of “no significant impact”. That is like computing the impact of a dirty smokestack in your neighborhood against the general air quality of the entire state!

Even worse, while the prior Environmental Assessment was rejected by DLNR for not properly conducting a cultural impact component, this DEIS took copious testimony from Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners but dismissed their testimony, saying that since the populations of reef animals are not substantially reduced than the operations cannot possibly have a significant cultural impact either.

If DLNR chooses to accept this DEIS it would directly conflict with the Department’s own asks urging recreational and subsistence food fishers to practice self restraint and voluntarily avoid taking many of these same herbivorous fish to maintain reef health in the face of climate change impacts. The Hawai‘i Island Group called for a rejection of the DEIS’s preferred alternative to put these operators back in business and continues to push for an end to this wasteful and destructive industry.

Mauna Kea Update by Debbie Ward

The Protectors of Mauna Kea, including members of the Sierra Club, continue to block the convoy of equipment intended to prepare for construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope. The State of Hawai‘i continues to block access to the summit, the Ice Age Natural Area Reserve, the Hakalau National Wildlife Reserve, DHHIL, lands, and hunting areas to all but astronomers and telescope technicians. Most religious and cultural practitioners are also excluded from these lands held in trust for the people of Hawai‘i. While some were heartened to hear that the government of Spain has cleared some of the required permits for construction of the TMT in the Canary Islands, we have learned that the government of Spain has pushed this plan in direct conflict with laws and policies that were put in place to protect vulnerable and invaluable ecological and cultural sites. Ben Magec Ecologistos en Acción en Canarias, part of the NGO federation of Ecologists in Action, has informed us that the TMT has proposed to build in a site that has a high presence of protected bird species, archaeological sites, and is in protected proximity to the Caldera de Taburiente National Park. The site is a protected natural area of the European Network Natura 2000 and has several other protected designations. Despite numerous meetings with TMT representatives since 2016, Ben Magec reports that TIO has been actively involved in the attempt to demolish the normative instruments of conservation of the place, which demonstrates their arrogance and lack of respect for the scientific, technical and political work that led to the current protection.” The group intends to continue to litigate in opposition to siting the TMT in the proposed location.

IMPORTANT: Hawai‘i Island Group Outings are subject to “ROD Protocol” which asks participants of hikes in ‘ōhi‘a forests to wear clean clothes, scrub their boots, then spray with alcohol. We will publish notice of ROD prone areas in outing descriptions. This preventative procedure is best done at home before reaching the area but leaders will have needed items at meeting places. Please help us protect our precious forests.

Monday, January 20
Pu‘u O‘o Trail Day Hike (E/C/F)
South Hilo District, moderate to strenuous/7 miles, 5400’ Pu‘u O‘o trail starts from Saddle Road between the 22 and 23 mile marker and meanders through high sage and vieille areas. We will hike the trail to where it intersects Powerline Road. Bring rain gear, hat, 2 quarts of water, snacks, lunch, binoculars and wear sturdy shoes. ROD protocol will be observed. Leaders: Linda Larish, 966-6337 or text 808-657-9640 and Diane Ware, 967-8642.

Saturday, January 25
Maunakea Trail (Twin Pits) (E/C)
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/7 miles, 5000’
This trail starts by Kulanaokuaiki Campground and goes out into the Ka‘u Desert to a set of pit craters where we will turn around and return the way we came. It’s a pretty hike with very little shade. Bring at least 2 quarts of water, sunscreen, lunch, hat and rain gear. ROD protocol observed. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017.

Saturday, February 8
Kilauea Iki (E/C/F)
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/4.5 miles, 9800’+
A forest and lava crater hike in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park starting at Kilauea Iki parking lot. We will be walking through a wooded area of native vegetation, with great views of Kilauea Iki crater. Then down to the crater floor, past steam vents to view the crater cone formed during the 1959 eruption. We will be making a loop on the recently reopened Byron’s Ledge trail. Follow ROD protocol; wear sturdy boots, bring plenty of water, sun and rain protection, sunglasses, and snacks. There will be an optional group lunch after the hike at Volcano House. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642.

Monday, February 17
Makaopuhi Crater Hike (E/C)
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, moderate to strenuous/8.5 miles, 3000’-1000’
Enjoy fantastic views of Mauna Ulu and Makaopuhi Crater on this hike. We will begin the hike at the Kealakomo Lookout on the Chain of Craters Road and then follow the Napau Trail to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. This will require a vehicle shuttle from the Mauna Ulu parking lot to Kealakomo Lookout. ROD protocol will be observed. Leaders: Linda Larish, 966-6337 or text 808-657-9640 and Diane Ware, 967-8642.

Tuesday, February 18
Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Day Hike (E/C/F)
Hāmākua District, easy/4 miles, shoreline +/- 200’
Scenic vistas, sea birds and some historic sites depending on which part of the trail we follow atop the Hāmākua cliffs. Come join us on this hike along the ocean. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017.

Friday, March 27
Kaloli to Hā‘ena (Shipman Beach) (E/C/F)
Puna District, moderate/5 miles, sea level
A hike on a historic trail in Puna from Paradise Park to the beach at Hā‘ena. The trail used to be an inland carriage road. At Hā‘ena Beach, we will see nēnē at the Shipman Estate and swim with the turtles. Bring water, rain poncho, swim suit and lunch. ROD protocol observed. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6337 or text 808-657-9640.

Saturday, March 28
Crater Rim Day Hike (E/C/F)
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, moderate/5 miles, 4000’-7/-400’
This will be a hike on a section of the Crater Rim Trail that goes by Keanaakoli Crater. Learn how Hawaiians used this area. There may be views of Halema‘uma‘u Crater along the way during what will be an easy slow paced hike in the National Park. Bring the usual items for a day hike. ROD protocol observed. Leaders:Sunny and Michael LaPlante, 964-5017.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Requesting donation for members and participants under 18 is $1. Donation for others: $5.

For most hikes bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat, visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to bit.ly/SCMLG-outsings

Classification of outings: (E) Education/Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service (no donation required).

School of yellow tang reef fish. Mauna Kea protectors in July 2019. Photo by Nate Yuen.
Focus on Climate Change and Group Priorities at the State Legislature

by Jodi Malinson, Chapter Policy Advocate

As we get ready for the 2020 legislative session, which opens on January 15th and ends on May 7th, we plan to focus and prioritize bills that will tackle the climate crisis. Hawai‘i is already experiencing very active hurricane seasons, beach and coastal erosion threatening homes and roads, rain bombs, and record-breaking temperatures. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i is dedicated to ensuring a just future for Hawai‘i in the face of a changing climate. We will work at the state level to help mitigate Hawai‘i’s carbon emissions and adapt to existing climate impacts.

Planning for Rising Seas:
Hawai‘i’s natural coastal habitats act as a buffer against the high wind and waves of powerful storms, protecting residents and infrastructure near the ocean while supporting unique ecosystems. Sea levels in Hawai‘i could rise more than 3.2 feet by 2100, resulting in an estimated $19 billion in loss of private land and structures and compromising 6,500 structures like hotels and businesses. As sea level rises, these buffers, habitats, and resources will erode and coastal infrastructure may no longer exist. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i is prioritizing bills that will:

• Require disclosure of properties in the “sea level rise exposure area” for real estate transactions. Disclosure of flood areas and tsunami zones are already required upon real estate sales.
• Amend Chapter 205A - Hawai‘i’s Coastal Zone Management Act to protect beaches and provide guidance to counties for shoreline permitting issues.
• Incorporate the latest sea level rise predictions and impacts in state and county planning and decision making processes.
• Implement recommendations from the 2017 Hawai‘i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report to improve Hawai‘i’s capacity to adapt to sea level rise.

Carbon Free Hawai‘i:
Hawai‘i is already leading the nation with our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2045 but we must do more to ensure the transition to clean energy is accelerated and equitable. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i is prioritizing bills that will:

• Fix the calculation of Hawai‘i’s renewable portfolio standards to accurately reflect clean energy in Hawai‘i, as the current formula overestimates the state’s progress to 100% clean energy by 2045.
• Include gas in the renewable portfolio standards and require the gas company to also reach Hawai‘i’s 100% clean energy mandate.
• Defend the 2008 law that required solar hot water heater systems for new homes.
• Require solar panels on new home construction, similar to a law already adopted in California.
• Make the state “coal free by 2025” by ensuring Hawai‘i’s last coal-fired power plant in Kapolei, O‘ahu, does not renew its contract after 2022.
• Support EV-ready new construction for certain homes and businesses. A percentage of new parking stalls would have the wiring required to install electric vehicle chargers in the future, helping to accelerate EV adoption and preventing costly retrofits for charging infrastructure.

Group Priorities:
A Honolulu-based State Capitol provides challenges to our neighbor island group members and volunteers, who need to travel to O‘ahu to directly interact with legislators and advocate on issues most important to their island. In 2020, we are also prioritizing issues that were important to the Sierra Club’s four county groups. As a result, we will be working on the following issues that the Group’s have identified:

• Shoreline setbacks (Kaua‘i Group) - Requiring greater setbacks for shoreline development to protect beaches and coastal resources.
• Soil Health (O‘ahu Group) - Creating and funding programs to support farming practices that will develop healthy soils on Hawai‘i’s farms and ranchlands, both good for agriculture and carbon sequestration efforts.
• Climate change (Maui Group) - No specific policies were identified, but the Chapter is already committing to prioritize climate bills.
• Aquarium fish trade (Hawai‘i Island Group) - Prohibit harvesting aquatic life for commercial aquarium purposes to protect reef ecosystems.
• Waste Management (Kaua‘i and Hawai‘i Island Groups) - Promoting source reduction and zero waste policies that aim to prevent waste rather than manage it after the fact.

Important 2020 Session Dates
January 15: Opening day
February 14: First lateral
March 5: First crossover
March 20: Second lateral
April 9: Second crossover
May 7: Sine die

Capitol Champions

The Sierra Club staff and volunteers testified on 80 bills and resolutions during the 2019 legislative session. There were hundreds of people who supported our work, but we’d like to recognize a few key volunteers who championed issues at the legislature: Lori Mallini, Dave Raney, and Kau‘i Pratt-Aquino.

Lori Mallini
Lori started with the Sierra Club in 2018. Although she had never lobbied before, she quickly gravitated towards policy work and championed all the plastics and waste bills—meeting with legislators, testifying...even baking cookies for the legislators for a lobby day. Lori also recently opened “Protea Zero Waste Store” to continue advocacy against single-use plastics. Mahalo Lori for all that you do!

Kau‘i Pratt-Aquino
Our biggest victory last session was defeating the corporate water theft bill. Many community leaders and organizations assisted in this effort, but we want to recognize Kau‘i who helped the Chapter with community organizing and grassroots lobbying. From helping to lead rallies and lobby days, to her frequent texts and social media posts, Kau‘i volunteered countless hours. Mahalo Kau‘i for all that you do!

Dave Raney
Dave is a long-time Hawai‘i Chapter member and volunteer, who also serves as Co-Team Leader of Sierra Club National’s Climate Adaptation and Restoration Team and as a Senior Advisor for the National Marine Team. Dave has been a champion at the Chapter on climate adaptation issues relating to sea level rise—this past session he drafted, tracked, and testified on all sea level rise measures. Mahalo Dave for all that you do!

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Climate Policy on Hold  
by Lauren Watanabe, O‘ahu Group Manager & Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

What started as a “no brainer” for climate resilience has become a political stalemate. The Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency proposed Bill 25 earlier this year to update our building codes to improve energy efficiency, plumb new buildings for electric vehicle charging, and make it easier for new homes to comply with the solar water heater mandate. We know that homes over 5 years old, built to the 2006 code, instead of the contemporary 2019 version, use 33% more energy. We also know that Hawai‘i’s high-rate of EV adoption continues to increase, creating need for more EV charging stations. And we know that homes built with solar water heaters have much cheaper energy bills than those with gas water heaters. Bill 25 was designed to pull all of this together to save homeowners and renters on their day-to-day energy costs.

From the beginning of the bill drafting process, staff at the Resiliency Office met with the various stakeholders including the building industries, utilities, environmental organizations, unions, trade associations, and government agencies to formulate Bill 25. Yet after two public meetings and more than 40 individual meetings, the major obstacles remain the gas company and developers.

The gas company in particular is fighting hard after two public meetings and more than 40 individual meetings, the major obstacles remain the gas company and developers.

The gas company to evolve its source away from fossil fuels would be sourced from non-fossil fuel sources. Today, that number is a whopping 23%. Bill 25 needs to pass in its strongest form because it brings significant, cost-effective changes for homeowners and renters in the long run while moving Hawai‘i away from the “business as usual” practices that fueled the climate crisis to begin with. Stay tuned for updates on the next hearing.

Clean Energy Champion: Will Giese

Will joined the Hawai‘i Chapter in 2017 as a graduate student intern. He quickly became a crucial part of the team, working on several campaigns, including Red Hill and clean energy issues. Now the Executive Director of the Hawai‘i Solar Energy Association, Will has been instrumental in establishing new solar policies, like Bill 25. Mahalo Will for all that you do!

Welcome the Newly Elected 2020 Executive Committee Members

Hawai‘i Chapter

Lucienne de Naie
Raquel Kamalu

Hawai‘i Island Group

Rose Acevedo
Amanda Clausen
Emily Garlund
Dr. Joe Kassel

O‘ahu Group

Hunter Heaivilin
Victor Limon
Dana Lyons
Lori Mallini

Kaua‘i Group

Jesse Brown-Clay
Judy Dalton
David Dinner

We’re moving databases!

The Hawai‘i Chapter is being integrated into Sierra Club National’s database system. This means many great things—increased access to online organizing resources, technical support, streamlined reporting, and more.

Staff and volunteers are working hard to make this transition as streamlined as possible and we thank you for your patience during this time. If you notice any changes in your subscription preferences, online or by mail, please let us know at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org or 538-6616.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

Membership Categories

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We're on a Treasurer Hunt

The Hawai‘i Chapter and its Groups are seeking volunteer treasurers! This is a great opportunity to serve one of the largest, oldest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the islands:

- Gain valuable experience and training
- Develop financial skills
- Work with “green”($) for a “green” organization
- Help process financial transactions
- Help prepare financial statements, ExCom reports, and budgets
- Help ensure financial stability of the Chapter and/or Group
- Monitor and evaluate Club activities requiring expenditures
- Assist in administration of fundraising activities, as needed
- Understand and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- Attend ExCom meetings as requested
- Contribute to a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

Summary of Responsibilities:

Please contact us at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org if you have the interest and skills for the position. There are opportunities on most islands.

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see what we’re up to! Don’t forget to join your local Group for the most direct action opportunities in your area.

WE'RE ON A TREASURER HUNT!

With your help we can clean up our water

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America’s waters. We live on the water platform. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1% of the world’s water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

With your help we can clean up our water.

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2019 Volunteer of the Year: Jun Shin
by Kirsten Kagimoto, Chapter Strategic Communications Manager

Jun Shin is a super volunteer, with a super smile, dedicated to advocating for a bright and equitable future for Hawai‘i. He first came to the Sierra Club in early 2017 through our CapitolWatch program and quickly became a tried and true volunteer, always turning out and sharing impassioned testimony and insights. Even as a busy full-time student, he dedicates his free time to all of the Sierra Club’s campaigns and many other organizations, as well as serve as chair of the Young Progressives Demanding Action Environmental Justice Committee. In just 3 years, Jun has volunteered hundreds of hours to research, lobby, organize, and testify for Hawai‘i’s drinking water, climate justice future, waste reduction, streams, and more. We are so grateful to have bright, young, creative volunteers like Jun. Mahalo nui Jun for all that you do!

Jun’s future plans:

“While working with friends and partners in politics and policy, such as at the legislature or through elections, I want to keep learning from all of you on how to work, navigate, and operate in these spaces toward justice for people and the planet. I hope to become more effective—whether that’s through law school or another path, I want to continue to find ways to be a valuable partner, team member and ally in enacting change. Just as I am being mentored, I would also like to be a mentor and resource to people, especially to young people, as the core of why I do this work is to create a better world for the next generation and help them realize their power to change the world and the need/ways to get involved.”