The Hawai‘i Legislature goes back to work on January 19, in what looks to be a challenging atmosphere for the environment. The state financial situation remains weak after several years of historic budget shortfalls. As a result, many departments and programs that serve the environment are underfunded and understaffed. There is also growing pressure from developers to eliminate environmental regulations in the name of “workforce development.”

Remember the ol’ saying when the going gets tough, the tough get going? Below are three concepts we believe can be passed—with your support—this year.

### Moving Hawai‘i Beyond Coal

Ever read a report recommending you limit the amount of seafood and fish you eat because of their toxic mercury content? Although it affects everyone, pregnant women and children are at greatest risk from mercury exposure from seafood and fish. Exposure to mercury can contribute to severe birth defects, including learning disabilities, delayed onset of walking and talking, and cerebral palsy. Every year 300,000 infants are born at risk for developmental defects because of their mother’s exposure to toxic mercury pollution.

Many people are astonished to find out that Hawai‘i contributes to this problem by burning coal on O‘ahu and Maui. The AES Hawai‘i coal plant, in particular, produces approximately 11 percent of the energy used on O‘ahu and burns approximately 650,000 tons of coal each year. It also spills mercury, acid gases, and arsenic into our local air and water.

Dirty coal should have no part to play in Hawai‘i’s sustainable and clean energy future.

We can ensure that coal gets “retired” from our energy supply by passing legislation that prevents the construction of any new coal plants and requires current plants to be retired once their current contracts end. If you support this
The beginning of a new year is an opportunity to pause, reflect, and imagine where we want to be in the future.

So let’s reflect. Thanks to your help and support, the Sierra Club achieved a great deal in 2011. Nationally, we helped stop the dirty Keystone pipeline, put 10 percent of the nation’s coal plants on the path towards early retirement, and protected thousands of miles of public lands and forests.

The Sierra Club’s success led to momentum-building support, like a contribution of $50 million from the Bloomberg Foundation, that will support and ramp up our ongoing efforts to move the United States beyond coal.

Here in Hawai’i the Sierra Club stopped efforts to eliminate environmental regulations as a means to increase urban sprawl, protected hundreds of acres of important agricultural land by stopping the proposed Koʻolau Ridge development plan, and pushed forward with the creation of a program to finance clean energy at the residential and commercial level.

We also created a new endowment program in honor of Lorin T. Gill and in support of the ideals he espoused, which will support the development of new environmental leaders through our hiking and service activities.

Our accomplishments are notable and impressive, particularly for a local chapter that exists on a relatively tiny budget and limited staffing.

And yet our accomplishments don’t begin to address all of the immense challenges Hawai’i faces in the near future, problems like the catastrophic impacts of climate change, an economy built entirely on an overreliance on fossil fuels, and a rampant development industry that’s focused on a build-everywhere mentality.

How do we build a better and more sustainable future for Hawai’i? We believe that the more local leaders we have, the more powerful the Sierra Club and the environmental movement becomes.

That’s why your Hawai’i Chapter has placed such efforts on building our Capitol Watch program as a means to train and empower future leaders to advance sustainable policy. That’s why we’ve put in place a volunteer engagement: our outings programs, such as our Hawai’i Service Trip and High School Hikers programs.

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

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Members may elect to receive only an electronic subscription of the Mālama I Ka Honua at sierraclubhawaii.com/malama.

Advertisement Rates:

- Full page ($350)
- Half page ($250)
- 1/4 page ($110)
- 1/8 page ($60)
- Bus. Cards ($50)

These rates are subject to change. The Mālama accepts political advertisements only from candidates endorsed by the Hawai’i Chapter.
Chapter Conservation Committee Members Needed

Chapter Conservation chairs Debbie Ward and Lucienne de Naie are soliciting members to form a statewide conservation committee that would take up some of the following:

- Issues that cross island boundaries, such as DLNR mammal hunting rules, and more
- Envision and propose legislative action that will affect more than one island, such as invasive species and GMO labeling
- Take the initiative on statewide policy issues, such as land use, agriculture/open space, energy
- Training, as needed, on environmental law, strategies, and resources
- Others as suggested

We propose to set up an informal working group, with members identified by island, interests, and expertise. Members would prioritize issues and identify working group members, involve Capitol Watch members/champions, and interact with Hawai’i’s Chapter Executive Committee members. We propose to meet by conference call for specific issues and are considering meeting quarterly before Executive Committee meetings (some members may be on both committees) and to report to that committee with action items quarterly. If you, or people you know, are interested, please contact Debbie Ward at dward@hawaii.edu.

Become a Sierra Club Outings Leader

The Hawai’i Chapter is seeking new Outings Leaders interested in creating new outings themes on all islands. If you are interested in becoming a leader and connecting people to the outdoors and ocean environment, please email Volunteer Coordinator Jennifer Honcy at jenhoncy@sierraclubhawaii.com.

Congratulations to Mark Glick

Mark was the Chair of Sierra Club Hawai’i when he was tapped to become the administrator of the State Energy Office in October. We all wish him well as he works toward the goal of our state’s achieving 70 percent clean energy by 2030.

Living the Greentech Revolution in Hawai’i

For Compassa, a national Sierra Club blog about clean energy found at http://sierraclub.org, Brian Foley interviewed Hawai’i State Rep. Mark Takai about his family’s conversion to photovoltaic energy to power first their house and then an electric car. Here are the highlights of that interview.

Rep. Mark Takai, who represents Aiea and Pearl City, attributes his interest in solar energy to his tour with Hawai’i’s Army National Guard in Kuwait in 2009, where he found himself wondering about the connection between our country fighting wars in the Middle East and Hawai’i spending $7 billion a year importing foreign oil. When he returned, he and his wife, Sami, took the first step away from reliance on fossil fuel by installing 12 solar panels on the roof of their home. In five months they saw their electric bill drop from $170 to the minimum charge of $18.

Next they bought a Nissan Leaf, adding 10 panels to power the car. Switching to an electric vehicle was rather dramatic, particularly because their previous car averaged only 20 mpg. As Takai says, “Driving by our local gas stations has been quite liberating.” He isn’t troubled by the “range anxiety” that afflicts some EV drivers, because his commute averages 50 miles per day, whereas he can store 80 miles in the Leaf—if he remembers to plug it in at night. Takai estimates that they save $180 in electricity and $540 in gasoline a month, so that the PV system pays for itself in about two years.

The whole family has gotten into the energy revolution. They have changed light bulbs to CFLs, installed windows that admit cooling tradewinds, and bought a new refrigerator using the rebate program. With the kids’ help, the family recycles all glass, plastics, and aluminum containers—and the kitchen waste, which goes to an earthworm bin. They even raise vegetables and golden perch in a hydroponics garden. In terms of greentech, Hawai’i is a leader, says Takai. We might say the same about him.

Be a FORCE for Good with the Sierra Club!

Space is limited, but we’re holding your seat for two exciting events:

- Paina O Ka Aina - Join the Sierra Club for a delightful dinner with local food and live entertainment at the spectacular Downtown Restaurant. Cost $60
- Forces for Good Symposium - Help envision Hawai’i’s green future! Headlined by Bill McKibben, this comprehensive program includes panels focused on clean energy, food self-sufficiency, and watershed preservation. Cost $25 (includes the Saturday lunch).

Register online now for both events and receive a discounted rate of $75!

www.sierraclubhawaii.com/force

Saturday, January 7, 2012
Noon - 5:30 p.m.
Forces for Good Symposium
State Capitol
6:00 pm - 8:30 p.m.
Paina O Ka Aina, Downtown Restaurant

Join today and receive a free Weekender Bag!
Nate’s Adventures

by Nate Yuen

This past summer I hiked the native forest trail in Kalopalū State Park on the Hāmākua Coast of Hawai‘i Island. Whenever I drive the coast, I like to visit the native forest to see what might be in bloom.

Kalopalū State Park has a nice grassy lawn with large ‘ōhi‘a trees (Metrosideros polymorpha), some of them 80 to 100 feet tall. (1) The native forest at Kalopalū is an “island” surrounded by forests of introduced trees, agricultural land, and a grassy park with picnic tables, pavilions, and cabins. One of my favorite things to do is to hike the short .7 mile native forest trail which loops through some of the last remaining intact kopiko forests. (2)

Kopiko trees (Psychotria sp.) are endemic to Hawai‘i and grow to impressive size at Kalopalū—up to 35 feet high. On O‘ahu, I rarely see kopiko grow taller than 8 feet and they merely dot the landscape. Kalopalū is the only place I know where kopiko is the dominant tree. (3)

Kopiko have bright green leaves that literally glow in the canopy when illuminated by the sun. (4) Indigenous kupukupu and palapalai ferns thrive in the understory beneath the forest of native trees. Palapalai ferns (Microlepia strigosa) grow to impressive size at Kalopalū and are among the largest palapalai fronds I have ever seen. (5)

One of my favorite things to examine up close are the underside of hapu‘u fern fronds (Cibotium glacum) with the sunlight shining through—what a magnificent sight! (6) While making my way around the loop and back to the park, I saw several ‘ōhi‘a trees (Metrosideros polymorpha) in bloom with red, yellow, and orange lehua flowers.

Native hibiscus trees have been planted in the park. I enjoyed seeing many koki‘o ke‘oke‘o trees (Hibiscus Arnottianus)—some almost 20 feet high—with dozens of white flowers 4-6 inches across with long red stamenal columns and yellow-orange pollen. (7) Even more charming were the 3-inch flowers of koki‘o ‘ula‘ula (Hibiscus Clayi), whose petals sometimes curl backwards. The trees are endangered in the wild and can only be found in scattered valleys on Kaua‘i. (8)

Ma‘o hau hele is the official state flower of Hawai‘i and was once found in dry forests and shrub lands of all the major islands. But the tree has become so rare—it is now on the federal list of endangered species—that I have never seen them in the wild, only in botanical gardens and parks such as Kalopalū where they have been planted. (9)

As I drove back to Hilo, I reflected on my good fortune at seeing the distinctive forest of kopiko trees, beautiful ferns in the understory, and rare hibiscus in the park. What a great place to visit!

Nathan Yuen is an artist/photographer/naturalist whose body of work is a confluence of hiking, conservation, and fine art photography. Each weekend you can find him hiking, backpacking or kayaking to out-of-the-way locations to photograph Hawai‘i’s native plants and animals, many of which are rare or endangered. His goal is to showcase these biological treasures to give you a reason to protect them for future generations. Nathan has a website at HawaiianForest.com where you can see his art and read about his adventures.
Critics of the law say it bypasses too many of the desirable checks on development, such as approvals from the Land Use Commission, consistency with county plans and zoning, and subdivision conditions. But when one looks carefully at Act 55, it is difficult not to notice a crippling contradiction that makes it unlikely the PLDC can inch forward with any development – at least on lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources – unless substantial changes are passed by the Legislature.

The DLNR controls the vast majority of state lands that could be available to developers. Yet Section 4(b) of Act 55 – plugged into the act at the last minute, when the bill was in conference committee—seems to preclude the PLDC from doing anything on such lands that might require using the land itself as security for financing. About all the Land Board can do is transfer “development rights” to the PLDC and its co-developers; whether they are comfortable moving forward on that basis alone, or whether they would even be able to do so, is an open question. Section 16(b) does say that the DLNR can lease suitable lands to the PLDC, but 4(b), which applies “notwithstanding” any other provisions in the act, would seem to trump 16(b). Confusing the matter further still is an exception to the 4(b) prohibitions, for actions “as expressly provided in this chapter.”

The long list of prohibited actions means anything, the only DLNR lands that would seem to be subject to transfer to PLDC control are the small boat harbors. The law sets forth a specific timetable for their transfer.

Other public lands managed by other public agencies – for example, the Department of Education, the Hawai‘i Community Development Authority (Kaka‘ako), the University of Hawai‘i – may also be developed by the PLDC in partnership with private entities, if the state agencies are willing. These lands, unlike those managed by the DLNR, are not covered by the same strict prohibitions on encumbrance. They are, however, subject to general restrictions on the purposes to which the land may be put.

The deputy attorney general advising the PLDC, Linda Chow, also seems to have been confused, at least early on, about the corporation’s powers. At its second meeting, Chow advised the board that the law would have to be amended before it could begin to work the way Dela Cruz envisioned. An apparent conflict with 4(b) (the state law governing leases on public lands) was one of the reasons she gave.

But a few weeks later, Chow wrote the senator, advising him that there was nothing in the law that would prevent lands from being transferred from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the PLDC. In her letter, Chow did not address the restrictions listed in Section 4(b). Chow also responded to a series of questions from Makana Paris of the Iron Workers Stabilization Fund concerning exemptions allowed by Act 55, which had been forwarded to her by Dela Cruz. Here are a few of Paris’s questions, with Chow’s responses:

- In relation to special improvement district assessments, can the PLDC disregard all state statutes? Paris wrote to Chow: “Yes, but I am asking this question to perhaps find a more workable solution.”
- Is the PLDC bound by land use laws, including Chapter 25 (regarding the Land Use Commission) and county zoning ordinances? Is it not, according to Chow.
- Do PLDC projects have to comply with national construction standards or receive county building permits? No, Chow said, although it may choose to do so.
- Can the PLDC move forward with a project even if the county does not grant permits for it? Yes, said Chow.
- Does the exemption from so many restrictions “unduly allow public safety to be put into jeopardy?”

“No,” Chow wrote. “Although Act 55 exempts PLDC projects from many laws and construction standards, the PLDC may choose to follow the laws and construction standards… [There is no reason to believe that the PLDC will permit projects to be developed in an unsafe fashion.] Before all else, the PLDC is supposed to develop a Public Lands Optimization Plan, identifying those lands ripe for development. However, the Legislature provided no funds for this. Instead, the appropriation of roughly $140,000 is barely enough to hire an executive director. (In November, the PLDC approved hiring Lloyd Haraguchi to fill this position.)

Opponents Seek to Sink National Ocean Policy

by Dave Raney and Doug Fetterly

On July 19, 2010 President Obama issued an Executive Order establishing the National Ocean Policy (NOP). This brought joy and relief to Sierra Club activists and other advocates who had helped shape the provisions of the NOP and had garnered nationwide support for its adoption. It also culminated years of nonpartisan efforts to promote ocean stewardship and conservation. Opponents have been met with bipartisan support in Congress. Instead, partisan opponents have sought to torpedo the Ocean Policy by attaching amendments to appropriations bills prohibiting agencies from spending funds to implement it. Two such amendments, one by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and the other by Representative Bill Flores (R-Texas), have been blocked, but similar amendments have been added in the Senate, and will need our support. Read on to learn why the NOP deserves our support, and how you can help.

Mālama I Ka Honua, “Cherish the Earth,” has been a guiding principle of the Hawai’i Chapter since its inception. The opening title of the National Ocean Policy, “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes,” conveys a similar principle, and the NOP includes the following goal: “To achieve an America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understandable and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.” The responsibility for present generations to ensure the well-being of future generations is consistent with traditional Hawaiian values and is especially relevant now. The health of the ocean and the fate of marine and human life depend on the actions we take now, especially actions to curb greenhouse gas emissions that have already resulted in increases in sea temperatures and ocean acidification. The Sierra Club recognizes this imperative, and has made reduction of greenhouse gas emissions one of its highest priorities, as has the Hawai’i Chapter through its promotion of clean energy alternatives.

There are other parallels between the fundamental principles of the NOP and traditional Hawaiian concepts of malama i ka honua. The NOP calls for ecosystem-based management as an overall guiding principle, and recognizes the need to consider that what happens on the land affects the ocean. These principles are consistent with the Hawaiian ahupua’a system, which recognizes the need for wise management of activities from the ridges to the reefs and which preceded the NOP by many centuries. They are also consistent with the approach taken in the Hawai’i Ocean Resources Management Plan adopted in 2006.

The National Ocean Policy is broad and inclusive in its approach, but it is not a single state or federal policy. However, it establishes regional ocean planning bodies, as recommended by nonpartisan groups including the Pew Oceans Commission, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, and the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative. It also calls for implementation of ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning to take advantage of the capabilities of geographic information systems and the ability of the general public to access information, especially visual information such as maps, via the Internet. The need for regional planning is especially important for ecosystem-based management, as ecosystems do not follow political boundaries. For example, the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale traverses coastal waters of several states from Maine to Florida. Sharing coastal and marine information on a regional basis can increase the likelihood presence of right whales in different seasons and locations. This information can guide decisions regarding siting, construction, and operation of offshore wind energy projects proposed for coastal waters in New England and Mid-Atlantic states so as to avoid or minimize impacts on whales.

The NOP’s nine ocean-planning regions will each have a regional planning body. The Pacific Islands planning region comprises Hawai’i, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Guam. Unlike the mainland ocean planning region on the edge of contiguous states, the Pacific Islands region consists of distinct subregions separated from each other. While Pacific Islands do not share common borders, they share common problems, including the need to cope with rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and other impacts from climate change. The regional planning body for the Pacific region has yet to formalize, but the Pacific Islands entities have a long history of working together through their coastal zone management programs and as participants in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative. Efforts to form a regional planning body are underway, aided by a grant from NOAA.

Nine Strategic Action Plans, one for each national objective, have been developed to guide implementation of the national policy. The regional priorities, as part of the plans, are expected to be released for public comment by early 2012. Among the action plans, three are particularly relevant for Hawai’i: Ecosystem-Based Management, Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change, and Acidification, and Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land.

The National Ocean Policy is the logical conclusion of years of effort to improve ocean management in its broadest sense. We must defend it from efforts in Congress aimed at preventing its implementation. The Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Doc’ Hastings, a Republican from Washington state, has been particularly hostile to the NOP, holding “oversight” hearings under a title that reveals his preconceived conclusions: “The President’s New National Ocean Policy - A Plan for Further Restrictions on Ocean, Coastal and Inland Activities.” On his website, Hastings erroneously claims that the NOP mandates ocean zoning. In fact, the NOP promotes ocean planning, not zoning. While the slate of witnesses for the hearings was stacked with NOP opponents, the policy was also defended by other witnesses and some legislators, including the ranking minority member, Rep. Edward Markey from Massachusetts, Rep. Sam Farr from California, and our own Rep. Colleen Hanabusa. Another key, largely partisan assertion against the NOP is that it expands the bureaucracy when, in fact, the policy is designed to provide a cohesiveness between federal, regional, state, territorial, tribal, and local levels, thereby streamlining and improving the effectiveness of ocean and Great Lakes management.

The Sierra Club’s Marine Action Team has received an Activist Network grant to promote implementation of both the national policy on oceans and coastal and marine spatial planning, and in coming months members will be conducting education and outreach efforts in each of the nine planning regions, including the Pacific Islands region. On November 21, we met with Jesse Souki, Director of the Hawai’i Office of State Planning, and Leo Anscunz, Planning Program Manager for the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, to express Sierra Club support for the NOP and seek opportunities for working with the State of Hawai’i and its agency partners to implement the NOP in Hawai’i and the Pacific Islands planning region. We learned that the State of Hawai’i supports the NOP and is seeking to expand the state’s CMSP capabilities to include, among other things, mappings of the various uses being made of our coastal waters.

As is true in most regions, the State of Hawai’i already has many elements of the NOP in place, including the Hawai’i Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), CZM program, and the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy. Additional resources from grants and other forms of assistance from federal partners would help accelerate progress on existing and planned programs. Plans are underway to seek public input for revising the ORMP, including revisions related to NOP and CMSP goals. Drafting is expected to begin in early 2012. We expressed support for those plans and were assured that Sierra Club would be invited to participate in the revision process. Sierrra Club will also seek to work with other NGO partners to promote NOP education and outreach efforts through workshops or other means.

To learn more about the NOP and CMSP, visit the National Ocean Council website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans and the Council’s blog site: http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans/whats-new

To learn more about Sierra Club’s activities in support of the NOP, visit the Ocean Policy website on the Sierra Club’s Activist Network: http://connect.sierraclub.org/project/National_Ocean_Policy

Better yet, join the Marine Action Team: http://connect.sierraclub.org/Team/Marine_Action_Team

Dave Raney is Team Leader for the Marine Action Team. He and Doug Fetterly are the Marine Action Team contacts for the Pacific Region.
In the last three months the O'ahu Group has focused on three issues:

Ho'opili
The Land Use Commission has so far held two sets of hearings to consider billionaire Donald Horton's proposal to plant 11,750 homes on 1,554 acres of Grade A & B farmland in Hono‘uli‘ui. The land is among the most productive in the world and is currently used to grow some 30 percent of all the fresh produce grown in Hawai‘i.

Assisted by attorneys Elizabeth Dunne, Tatyana Ceraldi, and Jamila Jarmon the O’ahu Group assembled a strong panel of expert witnesses and submitted compelling written testimony to the Commission. It is our contention that the land is irreplaceable, especially if we really want you to come and back us. We’ve been working with Save O‘ahu Farmland Alliance to publicize the negative impacts of Horton’s scheme and to encourage people to attend the Land Use Commission hearings to testify in opposition. We’re also planning a major rally and free concert on February 18 to give the public an opportunity to take to the streets and say “Enough Is Enough.”

Koa Ridge
We’ve decided to intervene at the Land Use Commission against the proposal by billionaire David Murdock to plant a 5,000-home suburb on 768 acres of Grade A & B farmland makai of Millilani. This scheme is even more outrageous than Donald Horton’s since it is nowhere near the proposed rail line and thus would have unmitigatable impacts on traffic on H2 and H1. We’ve secured the services of an attorney to help in the initial stages of the case and we need to raise thousands of dollars to help pay ongoing legal expenses.

Transportation and Urban Development
The Group has begun a discussion to revise our transportation policy to reflect our hopes and concerns about the proposed rail system and to reinforce our determination to see all major new development return to the traditional urban core as a way to halt suburban sprawl and to reinvigorate the city. As part of this discussion we’ll consider the proposal by the Governor to raise building height limits in Kaka‘ako to 650 feet. We’ll also consider the potential development impacts in Kaka‘ako Makai of the proposed transfer of 25 acres of waterfront property to CHA.

Anthony Aalto
Secretary, O‘ahu Group

The O’ahu Group announces new “Hike and Yoga” outings for the 2012 first-quarter schedule. Come out for our monthly Hike and Yoga with our newest outings leader, Joanna Alexander, and leaders-in-training Mariza Silva and Nicole Lowen. Start off your week with light yoga stretching and a relaxing and meditative hike on the trail of Mau‘umae (Lanipo), Wa‘ahila Ridge, or Pu‘u U‘alaka‘a, and all with beautiful views, native plants, and impressive forests. Then, finish the hike with a cool down and light yoga stretching session. Pack a healthy lunch and come nourish your mind, body, and soul and start your week off right! The yoga portion of the outings is designed for anyone. If you have never tried yoga before or you are an expert yogi, this should prove to be a fulfilling and enriching experience. Look for these and other new outings in the coming year on all islands.
O‘ahu Group Outings

Sunday, January 22
Beginner hike: Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like an easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Saturday, January 29
Mānoa Cliff Native Forest Restoration Project (S)
3 mi/ Moderate/ Contour/ Tantalus
Restore an incredibly diverse native forest only a few miles from town. At the work site we’ll help remove invasive ginger, palm grass, and other weeds. Bring tools if you have them and work gloves. Jim and Cindy Waddington 947-2732

Sunday, February 5
Mānoa Valley Hill Project (S)
Help improve one of O‘ahu’s busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai‘i. Tasks include trail grooming and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. Ed Mersino 223-5765

Saturday, February 11
Kaena Point Service Project (S)
Reservations required. We’ll meet with DLNR personnel at Mokuleia and drive to the Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve, where we’ll remove invasive plants. Colleen Soares 749-9215, csoares4@gmail.com

Saturday, February 19
Kaua‘i Kaneele Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Call Annette Kobashigawa at 235-5431 by February 9. Help clear a wetland of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai‘i’s endangered water birds. MCBH is a secured military facility; we provide a waiver, which you must bring with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, February 26
Pu‘u U‘alaka‘a (F)
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. Clean up along highway and coastal areas to 10:30. Call Tred (394-2898) 4 mi/ Moderate/ Ridge/ Kailua
Scenic views from Makapuu to Pillbox overlooking beautiful Kanehoe Bay. Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Stana Oka, John Shimogawa, Marie Laberge, asst. Jason Thompson, Susan Tom

Saturday, March 17
Mānoa Falls Trail Project (S)
Help improve one of O‘ahu’s busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai‘i. Tasks include trail grooming and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, March 25
Photography hike: Lē‘ono Community College Native Plant Garden (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 12:30 p.m. Journey from ancient times at the Pill Lookout to a modern trail that leads to a cascade through the Likeleki and Pali Highways. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508, Joanna Alexander

Saturday, March 26
Mānoa Falls Trail Project (S)
Help improve one of O‘ahu’s busiest trails and make it a showcase for hiking in Hawai‘i. Tasks include trail grooming and widening, soil top dressing, removal of old boardwalk, and rock work. Mel Yoshikawa 224-3765

Sunday, March 11
Yoga and hike: Pu‘u U‘alaka‘a’s (F)
3 mi/ Moderate/ Ridge/ Kaimuki
We’ll start with 15 minutes of yoga warm up and end with 15 minutes of yoga stretches. Bring a mat or towel. Beginners welcome. Joanna Alexander 223-6993 joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, Jim Waddington, Mariza Silva, asst. Nicole Lowen

Sunday, April 1
Beginner hike: Kalu‘ou Valley (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. For those who have not hiked in a long time or would like an easy hike. Randy Ching 942-0145, asst. Roxanne Villanueva

Sierra Club
Mānoa Falls Trail Improvement Project Service Opportunity
Sierra Club, Hawai‘i’s Chapter, in a collaboration of the Outings Programs and the Hawai‘i Service Trip Program, will be supporting DLNR’s Aloha Hele Trails and Access Program in their Mānoa Falls Trail (MFT) Improvement Project. The MFT is one of Hawai‘i’s most utilized trails and has suffered from erosion and water damage. The work will involve a variety of trail building and repair activities suitable for all skill levels. Please come and join old and new friends on this fun and rewarding project! We will start in February and meet twice per month for the remainder of 2012, generally working from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MORE INFO: Jim Henry (375-7460 or jim@sierraclubhawaii.com)
ORS (371-6504 or pacific@sierra.net)

MORE INFO:
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Sierra Club members came out to enjoy a sunny mid-October afternoon at Hanama’ulu Beach Park for the 9th annual picnic and to recognize a dedicated environmental champion. Rayne Regush was presented the Environmentalist of the Year Award for her leadership role in conservation efforts to preserve Kaua‘i’s rural character, coastal areas, cultural resources, mauka-makai public access, and agricultural lands. On any given day, Rayne is devoting time to careful research and analysis that will go into a letter or testimony on behalf of the Sierra Club to the County Council, Planning Commission, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and other government agencies to protect the environment and preserve our rural way of life. Her squatting of numerous permit applications and rule changes, and her participation at public hearings on-island and before the State Legislature on O’ahu, has forged her reputation as a Kaua‘i’s environmental advocate.

Rayne spoke at the gathering, noting that although Hawai‘i has good environmental laws, constant public oversight is required to ensure that these laws are not abused. “Without public participation, laws can be sidestepped, land use applications can be approved with misinformation, and legislative bodies can be swayed by economic need; all these scenarios diminish our environmental protections,” she said.

She encouraged others to stay involved as stewards of Kaua‘i’s environment. “Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter.” Rayne has served on the Kaua‘i Group’s Executive Committee since 2004 and has been the Kaua‘i Group representative of the Hawai‘i Chapter Executive Committee since 2008.

While some believe that Bill 2410 bends too far to accommodate the development community’s assertions regarding vested rights, overall, the outcome is a sound and workable compromise. Although it relies upon a long-term (20-year) approach, it complies with the mandate to achieve no more than 1.5% annual growth over that period, and in doing so, it should also minimize potential legal challenges to the Charter Amendment from developers.

The Council’s approval of this annual rate-of-growth bill is a major milestone, as it finally puts teeth into Kaua‘i’s General Plan. But there is more work ahead. It is essential that residents become involved with the upcoming General Plan revision process to ensure that Kaua‘i’s pace of growth will reflect what residents desire, and not weaken these hard-earned protections.

Executive Committee member Carl Imparato also spoke at the picnic, providing details about a recent milestone attained when Kaua‘i’s County Council unanimously approved Bill 2410. The bill’s passage concludes almost four years of grassroots advocacy that began when the Kaua‘i Group and other community members introduced a Charter Amendment because new tourist accommodations were being approved at a rate four-to-six times as great as was envisioned in the Kaua‘i General Plan’s growth scenario.

After votes passed the Charter Amendment by a two-thirds margin in 2008, implementation required that the County Council create a mechanism to limit the increase in number of new transient accommodation units on Kaua‘i to no more than 1.5% per year on a multi-year average basis. Bill 2410 created that mechanism.

Here are some ways to participate and make a difference:

• Take a hike, clean a beach, help with native plant restoration - see our Outings page.

• Become an outings leader. It’s a great way to meet people, keep (316) fit, and get outdoors - email Judy Dalton at dalton@aloha.net.

• Attend an executive committee meeting - email Rayne at RayneRegush@uol.com about upcoming meeting dates.

Judy Dalton
Executive Committee member, Kaua‘i Group

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Volunteers needed for National Marine Sanctuary Humpback Whale Ocean Count. Also on Feb 25, and March 31. Free training required of volunteers on Kaua‘i. Check NOAA website for details:

http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/involved/evolunteer.html

Join us on one of these great outings to explore, enjoy and care for our island. Mileage is round trip unless otherwise indicated. Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is $5. Donation for others: $5. Check our website: www.hi.sierracclub.org/kauaia/index Note: Women are advised not to hike remote trails or camp alone on Kaua‘i.

Saturday, January 8
Hā‘ena sunset moonlight beach walk
North Shore / Easy / 2 miles
A chance to enjoy some stunning scenery and watch the sunset along Na Pali, then wander our way back by moonlight. Kathy Valler 826-7360.

Saturday, January 14
O‘ahulehua North Shore / Strenuous / 4 miles (C/E) Trail climbs 2,100 ft. on a ridge behind Hanalei, with beautiful sweeping views of Hanalei Bay and North Shore. Jane Schmitt 826-6105.

Sunday, January 15
Mahahulua South Shore / Moderate / 4 miles (C/E) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Also visit the fantastic sinkhole / cave archeological site. Chance to see whales. Allan Racah 212-3108.

Saturday, February 2
Mala‘ekahana Ditch Trail - Kumuela Loop South Shore / Moderate / 4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with cold water provided. Starts at 9 a.m. Erica Watson 647-0727.

Saturday, February 4

Sunday, February 5

Monday, February 6
Kalalau trail to Space Rock North Shore / Strenuous / 6 miles (C/E) Famous trail follows Nā Pali coast. We walk to high point on the trail with panoramic ocean views; we may see whales. Jane Schmitt 826-6105.

Saturday, March 3
Jewel of Kaua‘i South Shore / 7 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular hike through forest of Koke‘e, Black Pine Trail, Canyon Trail, Po‘omaua Canyon Lookout. Cross over Wa’ape‘ae Falls for view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Bob Greene 245-9280.

Sunday, March 4
Anini Beach Walk and Cleanup Easy / North Shore / 1 mile (C/E) Walk along the beautiful, tranquil shores of Anini Beach and clean up on the way back. Possible swim at end. Karen Tilley 821-8008.

Monday March 5
Nenou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project. East Side/strenuous / 4 miles (C/F) Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy an almost full moon walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishik 346-0479.

Saturday, March 10
Mala‘e Pokea-Mula‘ep Trails East side / Moderate / 4.25 miles (E/F) An opportunity to walk both trails with pleasant mountain views. Kathy Valier 826-7302.

Saturday, March 17
Sierra Club and Surfrider Beach Cleanup, South Nukoli‘i Beach
Easy 1/4 mile (S/C). Do something green for St. Patrick’s Day. Drive into Kaua‘i’s Beach Resort on makai side of highway north of Hana‘uau. Go through their tree turn and turn right onto a road leading to the beach. Look for Sierra Club & Surfrider signs. Gloves, bags, water provided. Starts at 9 a.m. Jeff Vesci 557-5807.

Sunday, March 18
Mala‘ehunes South Shore / moderate / 4 miles (C/E/F) Spectacular coastal walk with stunning views. Also visit the fantastic sinkhole / cave archeological site. Chance to see whales this time of year. Allan Racah 212-3108.

Wednesday March 21
Donkey Beach (Kaua‘i Bay) to Anahola Beach Cleanup, South Shore
Easy / moderate strenuous / 5 miles (E/F) Walk along a wild coastline, watch for whales, birdwatched by any development. Bob Greene 245-9280.

Saturday, March 24
Maui Group Report

For the complete Maui Group Newsletter, go to www.mauisierraclub.org. To subscribe, click on “Newsletters.” For the latest on hikes and activities, click on “Hikes and Activities.”

Start your cuttings now for the 2012 plant sale to take place in March. Food plants are especially welcome. To pledge plant donations, contact Lucienne de Naié, ld@maui.net.

Chair Report

The Sierra Club Maui Group comments on major EA/EIS documents, resulting in new information that improves the studies. I have long believed that the EA/EIS process improves a project and serves the people. Rather than fear it we should use it as a tool that incorporates science, stakeholders’ views, and historical experience into policy meant to protect, enhance, and preserve the quality of life of all concerned. The MG also addresses ongoing concerns about policy and planning with regards to county, state, and federal agencies, which rely on the Sierra Club for their expertise and on the ground knowledge of terrain, landscapes, and changes in ocean and shoreline habitats. Documents and projects that the Sierra Club advised on in 2011 include the Maalaea Mauka subdivision, Wailea 670, Olowalu 2011 include the Maalaea Mauka

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EA/EIS process improves a project improvements that increases the is to be discussed.

Maui Water Availability Rule Under Attack: Passed in 2007, Title 14 provides an accountability process regarding reliable water source. Former rules relied on unsupported claims by developers. Council member Victorino is proposing to let the rule expire in two years and weaken the existing language by exempting private water source agreements from review and having unprecedented powers to the county water director. It is not clear how this will provide Maui with a more reliable water supply.

Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration: No word yet from the Hawaii Supreme Court on the request by Earthjustice on behalf of Hui o Nalani to proceed with a suit regarding the proposed project. Native ecosystem protection for the nearly 2,500 native wiliwili trees live in Wailea 670

North Shore Heritage Park & Ho’okipa Expansion: Sierra Club supports Trenching project to replace shade trees lost to erosion at Baldwin Beach. Maui Island Plan maps a large North Shore park. Council will not discuss maps until January 2012

South Maui: Stream: Water Commission head Bill Tam has issued a call for reforestation of watershed lands statewide. The matter of funding the efforts is yet to be discussed.

Haleakalā Solar Telescope (ASTF): The Board of Land and Natural Resources held an August hearing on Kilakila o Haleakalā’s appeal of BLNR acceptance of the project’s Conservation Use Permit. The 14-story project promises good high-tech jobs, but has not found a way to address concerns regarding Hawaiian cultural practitioners who feel more industrial-scale installations on a sacred site is disrespectful. For updates go to http://www.kilakila Haleakalā.org

Regulation of Aquarium Fish: Efforts continue to pass statewide regulations to stop the senseless plunder of our native fish. For updates go to savehawaiianreefs.org

Wastewater Injection Wells: Testing of plumes is being conducted by UH. Various organizations, including Sierra Club, are awaiting results before proposing a关闭管理制度 regarding Clean Water Act violations at the Lahaina Wastewater Treatment Plant. The goal is cleaner discharge and more reuse.

A&B’s Waiale Development: The final EIS was accepted by the state Land Use Commission (LUC) on 4, with barely a question or comment. MG testified that the study was missing essential information regarding water source, sewage treatment, monitoring for hazardous waste, protection of traditional burials in sand dunes, noise levels, and more. The 2,500-3,000 units on 545 acres next return to the LUC to complete a boundary amendment from Ag to Urban in February.

Wailea 670: Citizen efforts continue to secure protection for the nearly 2,500native willow trees, rare and beautiful awakikwi plants, sources of cultural sites, and other flora and fauna on a 200-acre lava flow that is part of the Palaea ahupua’a included in the proposed project. Native ecosystem or golf course is the choice at hand. For updates, photos, and petition go to www.SaveMakena.org

Make your Resort Right: A “stakeholders” meeting is expected to be called by resort owners by the end of the year to showcase development plans for Makena lands. Will new owners ask the county council to modify unilateral conditions of rezoning citing expense of requirements to provide infrastructure, marine monitoring and park planning? Stay tuned.

Paeahi Viewsheds: MG worked with Council member Bob Carroll’s office and County Planning to question why a 3,000-square-foot “barn” being built along Hana Highway, east of Kealii, was being allowed to block a longtime coastal view.

Sierra Club Outings Policy

For all Sierra Club Outings:

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Sierra Club Outings Policy

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

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

by Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Moku Loa Group Chair

At the end of 2011, I wish to thank the Moku Loa Group conservation team for their continued perseverance and their involvement in addressing and fighting so many conservation issues this past year. Deborah Ward, Cory Harden, and Diane Ware prepare meticulously hundreds of hours of testimony for the club on issues ranging from depleted uranium to Mauna Kea to protection of the Kau coastline and endangered species protection. They cannot do it alone, so please come to the conservation committee meetings on the last Wednesday of the month at Kea‘au Community Center. Special thanks go to Janice Crowl for her editorial skills, Jon Olson for work on energy issues, and Malie Larish for maintaining our financial records.

The Moku Loa Group Outing leaders training was held on November 20, and our leaders have compiled a diverse set of outings. Our MLG Annual Meeting was held on December 9 at Wailoa State Park.

Conservation Reports

Moku Loa Group Conservation Committee

By Debby Ward

Moku Loa Group members are actively contributing testimony for numerous current controversial project proposals, including Aina Kea Fono biofuels, the Kaloko Makai development above the Kaloko Honokohau NP, Hawai‘i Volcanoes NP’s management plan, Hu Honua biofuels, and Papakou beach access. The issue of Mauna Kea management brought Sierra Club and other petitioners to the Intermediate Court of Appeals in November. Marti Townsend of Keahe represented the petitioners, and UH attorney Lina Munger claimed that the comprehensive management plan “does nothing.” The arguments are online at http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/oralArguments/archives/oaica30397.htm.

Debbie Ward is a petitioner in the BLNR contested case hearing regarding the proposal to build one of the world’s largest telescopes on the undisturbed northern plateau of Mauna Kea. The testimony phase has ended, and the Hearing Officer will make a recommendation to the BLNR early next year.

The Conservation Committee meets every fourth Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. for potluck and 6 p.m. for meeting at the Kea‘au Community Center.

Update on Pohakuloa

By Cory Harden

Regarding the Army’s modernization plan for Pohakuloa, we commend them on several counts: Acknowledging the U.S. takeover of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i; including a thoughtful description of the spiritual and cultural significance of Pohakuloa; mentioning old military sites, and holding an open house and public hearing. However, we have many concerns:

• Why was Pohakuloa the only place considered for this training?
• Why does the EIS say there’s no danger from depleted uranium (DU)? Only a few fragments of DU spotting rounds were found at Pohakuloa, but there may be 2,000. Where are they?
• Why did DU air monitoring, as planned last year, have air filters with pores that were ten times too large?
• Why is it too dangerous to hunt for DU in the impact area—but safe to send bulldozers to crush lava for a one-by-two-mile battle course?
• Is the training once done at Makua coming to Pohakuloa? Makua training brought fires that consumed thousands of acres in the past thirteen years. At Pohakuloa, the weeklong fire last year (not caused by the military) showed what could happen in a tinderbox area with no County water.
• Pohakuloa is a significant cultural area with almost 500 reported archeological sites. But archeological studies and historical plateau investigation aren’t complete, so the public can’t review them.

Update on Kauhuku Village

By Cory Harden

From testimony on the $1 billion-plus Kauhuku Village proposed by a Delaware company for the Pohue Bay area in Ka‘u, with an anticipated 9,000 daily visitors, we commend Nani Kauhuku ‘Aina for supporting efforts to protect turtles, and for responding to public input by dropping plans for a Kauhuku Village and airport: planning to leave 90% of the land undeveloped, planning trails, sidewalks, pedestrian and bike paths, and planning energy conservation. But serious concerns remain:

• Lava flows could race through this volcanic high-hazard area in two hours—but evacuation would take four to five hours. An extended eruption could cut off the highway for months.
• Protection plans for the wealth of natural and cultural resources appear inadequate. County, State and Office, hampered by understaffing, would have difficulty overseeing impact mitigation.
• The wildlife survey covered only a small part of the property.
• Marine life in the area (which may be the most important turtle nesting area in the state) includes threatened and endangered turtles, endangered Hawaiian monk seals, and two rare shrimp. Surveyors warned that the anchialine ponds “support and affect” all wildlife in the area.
• The archeological survey appears inadequate for assessing the acreage, and number of sites, which offer a window into the past for one of the earliest places in Hawai‘i settled by Polynesian voyagers and little disturbed by modern times.
• Economic benefits are uncertain. Taxpayers would be affected by increased property taxes; building of roads, utilities, and sewers; and perhaps subsidized home insurance in this high lava hazard area.

Occupancy rates for existing hotels on Hawai‘i Island are not encouraging.

Our recommendation:

We strongly support entrusting these lands, possibly through a land exchange, to a public and/or non-profit entity with the background and resources to ensure they are protected.

What can you do?

Watch for Kauhuku Village at upcoming meetings of the State Land Board and County Planning Commission.

Update on Kahuku Village

By Deborah Ward

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Moku Loa Group Outings

Updated Outings information and future hikes can be found on our Group website at http://hawaii.sierrclub.org/Hawaii/

Key:
D = distance
E = elevation in feet
+ = gain
- = loss
+/− = up and down

Saturday, December 31
Pepe‘ele‘ele Cliffs Dusk hike (E) (C) D = 3 miles, E = 200’/+100’
Walk along wooded trails atop the Hamakua Cliffs; not too far above of heights. We will enjoy dramatic vistas and seabirds, and explore historic sites. Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, January 7
Makahana Beach Day Hike (E) (C) D = 3 miles, E = sea level/+ 500’
Explore in the area around one of the finest white sand beaches in Hawai‘i. Bring water and lunch. Sarah Moon 935-3475, Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, January 21
Kilauea Bi (E) (C) D = 5 miles, E = 400’/+ 480’
A pleasant family hike on one of Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park’s most popular trails. The trail starts at Thurston Lava Tube, drops down into Kilauea Crater and crosses the crater floor. Observe steam vents and the large cinder cone formed by the 1959 eruption. Climb up to Byron’s Ledge and along the forested edge of the crater. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday, February 4
Escape Road to Pu‘u Huluhula, Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (F) D = 5.5 miles, E = 3800’/500’
We will do this trail as a car shuttle from Hahuku (also called Thurston Lava Tube) to the Mauna Ulu parking lot. This pleasant family hike is almost all downhill. We start out in the forest, traverse a pahoehoe lava field, climb Pu‘u Huluhula, (where we lunch with a view of Pu‘u O’o) and then return to our cars. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Rose Acevedo 315-7622

Saturday-Monday, February 18-20
Hawaii Volcanoes NP Coastal Backpack (E) (C) D = 17 miles, E = 2700’ down to sea level
An opportunity to spend two nights and three-days backpacking and exploring this beautiful coastal section of the park. We will hike down the Keahau Trail, spend one night at Keahau, then hike to Apua Point for the next day before ending at Chain of Craters Road. Swimming, snorkeling, and tide pooling along the way. Participants should be very confident in tide pooling among themselves for start/end of the hike. Previous backpacking experience, sturdy boots, and leader approval required. Diane Ware 967-9642, Linda Larish 966-6337

February, 25
Footprints trailhead to Hilton Pali Road (E) 8.8 miles at 3,000 feet. Traveling the Mauna Bi Trail in HVNP, we will cross the Kau desert, encountering interesting features along the way, such as footprints left in mud ash at the time of the 1890s eruption and the twin pit craters. This in one way hike requiring a car shuttle. No shade; bring two liters of water and wear sturdy boots. Cheryl Hoover 985-9601 (mackenzie@hawaiiantel.net), Diane Ware 967-8642

Saturday, March 3
Pu‘u Maka‘ala This hike will be in the NARS area near Kulani off Stainback Hwy. Hike begins March 3rd, 8:30 am. Contact Phil Barnes 965-9695 or Kana Covington 966-8431

Saturday, March 24
Napau Trail to Nauul Trail (E) (C) D = 8 miles, E = 3000’–1200’
We will do the Nauul Trail to Puu O’o. Goes along the Napau Trail to Nauul Trail past Maetua public, through forest area and open lava. Bring water, lunch, and light raingear; can be very windy. Rich Vogler 328-8387, Linda Larish 966-6337

Thursday, April 6
Full Moon Pu‘u Loa Petroglyphs (E) Sea level = 2 miles. An easy loop hike around historical petroglyphs. Call for specific details. Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers 966-7002, Debbi Uchida

Moku Loa Group Report & Outings
Congratulations to our Newly Elected Sierra Club Leaders!

Hawai‘i Chapter Executive Committee members:
Lucienne De Naie, Scott Glenn, Nicole Lowen, Sheila Sarhangi, Deborah Ward

O‘ahu Group: Jim Anthony, Amy Brinker, Matt LoPresti

Kaua‘i Group: Judy Dalton, David Dinner, Marge Freeman

Maui Group: Karen Chun, Daniel Grantham, Dr. Janet Six

Moku Loa Group: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers, Phil Barnes, Diane Ware, Jon Olson

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet