Imagine deciding you finally want to “go solar.” Excitedly, you call a couple of local solar companies. These companies tell you about the various tax credits available and how you’ll save money over time. You might even make the money back in a couple of years. And all you have to do is write a check for, say, $30,000.

Wow, you might think. That’s a lot of money.

I speak from personal experience. My wife and I recently purchased a home. Of course every penny we’ve ever saved is tied up in the cost of buying a new home. While we could borrow more money to pay for the solar panels, it would push us to the absolute brink. If a catastrophe were to happen, like our roof breaking, we would be up a certain creek.

While it’s a difficult situation, at least it’s a better scenario than when we rented a house. Spending $30,000 for a house we didn’t own wasn’t going to happen. And the property owners had no incentive to install a solar panel: they didn’t pay the electric bill.

That’s part of the reason why I’m so excited about a bill currently moving through the Legislature. HB 856 and SB 1131 create a funding mechanism to pay for an on-bill financing program. On-bill programs are popular and fairly well-understood on the mainland. Put simply, they allow you to install a permanent “fixture,” like solar, on your house and pay back the cost over time on your electric bill. If you move away, the electric bill stays tied to the property’s electric meter. This means clean energy is suddenly affordable and potentially available to renters.

The main problem, however, is trying to find the money to pay for this program. Utilities aren’t banks, and they generally don’t want to be.

So where does the money come from to pay for this program?

Continued on page 4
I’ve been frustrated about something: why do some politicians seek to destroy the very things that make Hawai‘i a special place to live? I’m talking about places like wide-open rugged coastlines, sparkling white sand beaches, parks with streams running through them, kola gathering on grassy fields, and vast expanses of dark lava under bright blue skies.

It’s not like these politicians campaigned on a platform of paving over our wild and recreational areas. But after getting elected, they suddenly seem to believe that a public acre of land, “just sitting there,” is going to waste.

Let me be clear: I’m not opposed to all public/private interactions. A private vendor is much more likely to run a concession stand, for example, better than the state. But that’s a far cry from calling for $1 billion dollars of revenue to come from commercialization of our parks, schools, and conservation lands.

That’s why I’m so proud of the numerous grassroots volunteers who led the charge to protect our public lands. People have inundated their politicians’ email boxes, organized rallies at community meetings, and made their voices heard at administrative meetings. These volunteers have forcefully made the point that our public lands are beneficial to Hawai‘i’s economy and our well-being and are a critical part of our natural and cultural heritage.

I’m also proud of the Sierra Club’s leadership. From developing the GrandTheftAina.com website, getting the media engaged, and putting incredible pressure on key politicians, the Sierra Club has played a major part in questioning the purpose and intent of the Public Lands Development Corporation.

Six months ago, many Capitol insiders would have said that repealing the Public Lands Development Corporation was impossible. Laws simply don’t get repealed a couple of years after they were passed. As I write we’re just a few weeks away from what appears to be an inevitability—both the House and Senate will send a bill repealing the PLDC to the Governor for his signature, which he has signaled he’ll allow to become law. The Governor and numerous politicians want to move on from this disastrous public-relations nightmare. When people make their voices heard, politicians will follow.

I hope this is not the end of the lesson we share. We cannot let up. The calls for more development will come back. We need to continue to make the point that even though we are a highly populated island chain, we have a fundamental obligation to preserve our beautiful recreational and wild spaces while balancing the need for responsible and smart growth. An acre of undeveloped public land is not a waste; rather it is a precious resource.

I also hope that you—our valued members who support and use our public lands—will make a donation to the Sierra Club. March is the one time of the year that we make a direct appeal to all of our members to contribute. We need your support in order to continue protecting the places that make Hawai‘i a special place to live.

Happy Trails,
—Robert D. Harris

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Ma‘o hau hele

Hawai‘i’s Official State Flower

Hibiscus brackenridgei subsp. Molokai‘ana

Endemic: All Hawai‘i except Moloka‘i and O‘ahu

Description: A shrub (up to 10 feet) with maple-like leaves and bright yellow hibiscus flowers. This plant varies in appearance between islands but generally falls into three subspecies: H. brackenridgei subsp. brackenridgei of Maui, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i, and Hawaii‘i; H. brackenridgei subsp. mokuleianus of O‘ahu and Kaua‘i; and this one, H. brackenridgei subsp. molokaina of Moloka‘i and O‘ahu. The most visible difference between the three subspecies is in the leaves and stems. Subspecies mokuleianus has leaves with more serrated margins and pink veins; there are also tiny spines on the branches. Meanwhile, subspecies brackenridgei has leaves with more rounded margins and yellow veins and lacks the tiny spines on the branches. This particular subspecies came from Makua Valley on O‘ahu, where it was only recently discovered. It possesses characteristics of both subspecies, making it very appealing. Its leaves resemble those of the subspecies brackenridgei but with pink veins like subspecies mokuleianus. Although it is from O‘ahu, it lacks the branch thorns of subspecies mokuleianus, which is a good thing because those little pricks can hurt.

Distribution: This is an endemic species found only in Hawai‘i; it is also an endangered species with very few populations left in the wild. They are usually found in the dry to mesic forests of all the main islands except Ni‘ihau. (It was once reportedly collected from Kaho‘olawe, but it no longer exists there.)

Landscape Uses and Care: This plant does well in full sun to partial shade and needs very little water to thrive, although daily watering is okay. It is a fast grower and will flower twice a year. Each flowering period lasts up to two months with blooms occurring daily on a flowering stalk that rises up above the rest of the plant. Unlike most hibiscus, this plant doesn’t perform well as a hedge. Instead it looks best as a specimen plant. Rose beetles may attack the leaves of ma‘o hau hele at night and leave them looking like Swiss cheese. To prevent this, plant it near a light source at night. It seems that plants which are normally affected by rose beetles aren’t affected as much when they are either planted near landscape lighting or under a bright streetlamp or porch light. Leave the lights on from dusk until at least 8 or 9 at night and that should keep those nasty munchers away. Occasionally, whiteflies may be found under the leaves; any store-bought pesticide should remedy that problem.

Additional Information: Ma‘o hau hele literally means the “traveling green hau.” It probably got this name because after the plant gets to be about 3-5 years old it will become top heavy and either lean over or fall over and sprout new roots where the leaning branches touch the ground. Sometimes the old portion of the plant will die and the newly sprouted roots from the leaning branches will make the same plant thrive in a new spot a few feet over from its original location. Over time if the plant continues to flop over and sprout new roots it can move quite some distance. A friend, the late Lorin Gill, recalled a particular ma‘o hau hele growing over 20 feet in about 15 years! In 1988 the State of Hawai‘i changed the state flower from the native red hibiscus (Hibiscus kokio) to this one. It should be made clear that this is the only species of yellow hibiscus that can be called our state flower.

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Mālama I Ka Honua

When People Lead, Politicians Follow

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Mālama I Ka Honua

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From the Chapter Chair

By Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers

Aloha and Mahalo to our members for your support. The 2013 legislative session is underway and Hawai‘i faces many environmental challenges. We are hopeful that our endorsed legislators will pass strong environmental legislation and vote the right way: to protect our environment. Our Chapter director and Capitol Watch team have been working diligently to keep the membership up to date regarding important Senate and House bills coming up. One of the most important issues, the repeal of the PLDC, is still alive. This issue has generated a tremendous amount of support from citizens of Hawai‘i who attended public hearings and prepared testimony; and it has received support from many legislators as well. Let’s hope that other controversial legislation regarding the solar tax credits will be reversed. My home was recently retrofit with a 4 KW solar system to take advantage of the solar tax credits and rebates of 2012, as well as to reduce my carbon footprint. I encourage others to take advantage of the opportunity for clean energy, but the process is far more complicated and time consuming than I had expected. After several months of meetings with design engineers, waiting for permits, delivery of solar panels, rooftop layout design, actual panel installation, numerous inspections by company engineers and county electrical inspectors as well as HELCO inspectors, a HELCO crew finally came and changed the electrical meter to a net metering system. I soon found myself checking the numbers daily, as Puna was experiencing some unusually sunny weather. The meter actually reversed itself past zero to –99982. It has been raining for the past 13 days as I write, so my system was reading 26 this morning. By 3 p.m. today, it had recovered to 10 KW. I look forward to viewing the next electric bill, which will not be several hundred dollars, but perhaps a minimum fee. I mention this solar tax savings because Governor Abercrombie and others have threatened to have the solar tax significantly reduced or eliminated entirely. I have saved 682.01 pounds of CO2 in one month, a significant amount when you talk about pollution by fossil fuels in our environment. If everyone did their own small part, we would not need to find alternative fuels such as LNG or promote geothermal expansion, especially in areas where it would be environmentally detrimental. The decisions our legislators make today will significantly affect our clean energy future in Hawai‘i. Please get involved, subscribe to Capitol Watch, contact your legislators, and encourage them to make the best environmental decisions for their constituents.

Note: The Hawai‘i Chapter Executive Committee will be meeting on Hawai‘i Island on August 2-4, 2013. If you would like to meet members of the Executive Committee and attend the meeting, or just talk on an outing, please contact me for more information at brashear@hawaii.edu. Aloha, Roberta

Green Energy for All

Continued from page 1

Decades ago, utilities in California created the model by gaining access to extremely cheap bonds to purchase large power plants. Hawai‘i’s proposal is visionary in that it would allow residents to take advantage of cheaper, renewable energy, without Hawai‘i off fossil fuels, and put more money into the pocket of Hawai‘i’s residents. Best of all, there would be minimal cost to tax- or ratepayers. This program will pay for itself. Like this idea? Please write to your legislators and tell them you support HB 856 and SB 1131. You can find your legislators’ contact info at capitol.hawaii.gov.

Hawai‘i Island

Hawai‘i Island

Debbie Ward

Moku Loa Group

Environmental Activist for 30 Years

have gone on to study Hawai‘i’s conservation issues. With a laugh, Debbie said, “Maybe I’m most proud of the things I didn’t happen!” She helped preserve important o‘pu‘u habitat and East Hawai‘i’s best surf break by working to prevent a power plant from diverting the waters of Honolii Stream. When a logger wanted to harvest a major swath of koa trees from Kawaiki to Hakahau, Debbie’s efforts helped put a halt to the plans. She has worked for a decade to protect the natural resources on Mauna Kea, and most recently to acquire public access at Kahuku. When asked what motivates her to keep fighting for the environment despite setbacks and disappointments, Debbie said, “It’s so critical to Hawai‘i to protect Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and habitats. It can be difficult and challenging, but success can be extremely gratifying.”

O’ahu

Diana Sellner

Teen Volunteer on the Throwaway Bag Campaign

One of the most active volunteers during the Sierra Club’s 2012 campaign for a law putting a fee on all single-use bags at store checkpoints was a tenth-grader at Kalani High School. Diana Sellner, a Girl Scout for nine years, needed a sustainable community service project for her Gold Award (equivalent to the Boy Scout Eagle). So, she contacted the Sierra Club for help on her plan to educate the public about the harm done to the islands by plastic bags. She said, “I thought I would just make a few posters and flyers, maybe talk at an elementary school, or hold a workshop; never did I think I would be working with the legislators to get a bill passed.” She told Mälama why she got involved.

When I was in seventh grade I was on the Girl Scout Forever Green pilot committee. I remember watching a presentation by Styrophobia and the presenter saying that plastic bags can be labeled as biodegradable but they actually are not; they break up into tiny pieces and just appear gone. I remember thinking this is terrible and needs to change. We see plastic bags flying all over town and hear the horror stories that they kill seabirds and marine life. I thought, “If everyone just brought their own bag this could all be avoided.”

When I got in touch with the Sierra Club chapter director, Robert Harris told me about a Senate bill that would put a $0.10 fee on paper and plastic bags and the money would go to support the protection of the watershed. When I did some research, I realized that paper bags are almost as bad as plastic (they use 20 times more energy and water in production) and that watershed protection is something we need for Hawai‘i’s future generations. These factors made me work hard for the bill. When it failed, I just became more determined. I have been rallying my friends and using email and Facebook to spread the word about this year’s bill (HB 357). The most effective tool when it comes to legislators is numbers. If you would like to help all contacting the legislators on a particular issue, please reach out to pay attention.

Volunteers in the Spotlight

Environmental Activist for 30 Years

Hawai‘i Chapter

Debbie Ward

Moku Loa Group

Any threat to Hawai‘i’s environment should heed the small sign next to Debbie Ward’s front door that reads, “Beware the Gardener.” Debbie, an organic farmer and dynamic Sierra Club member, has been deeply involved in advocating for Hawai‘i’s environment since the early eighties. While working at Foster Garden in her twenties, Debbie co-led hikes (and hugged native trees) throughout Hawai‘i with Lorin Gill. Debbie names Gill, Lola Mench, Bill and Mae Mull, Cathy Lowder, Annette Kaohelaulii, Kimo Frankel, and Mae Mull, Cathy Lowder, Annette Kaohelaulii, Kimo Frankel, and Nelson Ho as inspiring mentors who influenced her environmental activism. Not long after moving to Hawai‘i Island, Debbie began to serve on the MLG Executive Committee. Encouraging others to step up for conservation issues is a main priority for Debbie. That’s why she is proud of helping to establish awards for Science Fair participants with outstanding projects related to Hawai‘i’s environment. She notes that many recipients of the awards—which are now in their twentieth year—
As the Chapter enters our 45th year we are turning our attention to some of the many good works volunteers have accomplished through the decades. During the year 2013 we are putting together a historical reference for these achievements. On these pages is part 2, showing our activities from 1981 to 1992. For the next installments we welcome your input; please send any photos or stories to Mālama editor Phyllis Frus, phyllisfrus@sierraclubhawaii.com. Special thanks to Alana Bryant for compiling the timeline.

Timeline 1981-1992

1981
• Honolulu Group ceases once-a-month recycling at Church of the Crossroads, where volunteers collected aluminum cans, bottles, and newspaper, when Hawai‘i Recycling Services and Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company begin taking aluminum cans and newspapers.
• In August representatives of all groups attend the Feral Pig in Hawaii‘i Conference in Hawai‘i.
• Members of the Sierra Club including Phyllis Frus were among the first to protest the clearcutting of koa forest on the Big Island.

1982
• The Sierra Club calls for critical habitat designation for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to protect the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

1983
• The city rezones Queen‘s Beach in response to a ten-year effort by the community to stop major hotel development on the coast between Sandy Beach and Makapu‘u. After a local court fight, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court affirms the rezoning in 1991.
• The Kauʻaiʻa Geothermal Project becomes one of the primary concerns of the Moku Loa Group. Cited are geothermal’s potential environmental and health hazards, and its development costs, which would lead to higher electric bills and increased taxes.
• Honolulu Group begins a tradition of three-day service trips to Neighbor Islands to remove alien species from parks and reserves.

1984
• The Hawai‘i Service Trip Program plans seven trips to Moloka‘i, the Big Island, Maui, and Kaua‘i to eradicate Clidemia and other exotic plants. Because college-age students are the primary volunteers for the week-long trips, they are timed to coincide with the University of Hawai‘i’s spring break, summer, and Christmas break.
• A judge in Hilo hears a lawsuit brought by Sierra Club and the Puna Geothermal Committee asking that industrial activity not be allowed in Conservation District land in Kaaulaʻa, adjacent to Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park. The suit calls for an adequate EIS to be filed by the developers. The Campbell Estate wants to develop the 250 MW project without DLNR restrictions regarding non-toxic gas abatement, socioeconomic impact studies, additional geologic tests, or any restrictions on where the company can drill within the Conservation District.

1985
• The Sierra Club Hawai‘i Chapter submits testimony in opposition to the H-3, which has been successfully stalled for more than 13 years. Ed Stevens has been coordinating Sierra Club activity in the Legislature on this issue.
• Opposition to Interstate Highway H-3 continues throughout the 1980s. Sierra Club members fight the freeway for its impact on the environment (significantly, the only way to finally complete the road is to make it exempt from all federal environmental laws) and support the many Native Hawaiians who view it as a travesty that threatens to destroy dozens of cultural sites and compromise those that are saved.
• Chapter membership reaches 2,000 in October.

1986
• The Sierra Club’s palila lawsuit is taken back to the U.S. Supreme Court because molothus sheep continue to be maintained for hunting on Mauna Kea, eight years after the original ruling.

1987
• Several Sierra Club members found a single-purpose organization, State Park at Makena (SPAM), in order to stop development at Big Beach on Maui. In 1988 the Mālama reports that the state has acquired some of the land that eventually becomes the 165-acre Makena State Park.
• The efforts of Sierra Club members and other environmentalists to get access to trails statewide pay off when Na Ala Hele, the Hawai‘i Trail and Access Program, begins. The state’s official organization governs access to the public trail system and is responsible for maintaining the trails. Before legislation establishing the agency was passed, trails were managed by the forestry department. Public access was being lost and historic trails were threatened by development. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i worked with other groups to urge the DLNR to come up with a plan to open the trails.
• After an intense grassroots campaign involving hundreds of volunteers from the Sierra Club and other environmental groups, O‘ahu citizens vote overwhelmingly to rezone land near Sandy Beach Park to save it from development as a luxury residential subdivision.
• The Sierra Club opposes a proposed 5-mile aerial tramway up the west side of Hānalākalōa. The proposal includes three terminal buildings, a diesel power plant, a restaurant and gift shop, and a 400-car, 15-bus parking lot.

1988
• On Saturday, members and others consider a lawsuit to force the state and the U.S. Government to comply with law that governs historic preservation, with regard to construction of the H-3 on native Hawaiian historic sites.
• The Chapter publishes policy statements regarding geothermal energy and underwater transmission cables. The Chapter supports a moratorium on the development of the geothermal resource until it is proven to be environmentally sound, safe, renewable, and cost-effective. The Chapter also opposes the transmission cable, which is planned to transmit the energy generated from the geothermal plant.
• The Chapter proceeds with three lawsuits: one asking that an EIS be completed before further geothermal development. Another lawsuit claims over 8,000 violations of the Federal Clean Water Act at the Sand Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, based on the plant’s own records over a five-year period. Hawai‘i Chapter also fights a proposed waiver permit, which would allow the plant to be further developed.

1989
• The Chapter opposes a proposed 5-mile aerial tramway up the west side of Hānalākalōa. The proposal includes three terminal buildings, a diesel power plant, a restaurant and gift shop, and a 400-car, 15-bus parking lot.
• On the plant’s own records over a five-year period. Hawai‘i Chapter also opposes a proposed 5-mile aerial tramway up the west side of Hānalākalōa. The proposal includes three terminal buildings, a diesel power plant, a restaurant and gift shop, and a 400-car, 15-bus parking lot.

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• On the plant’s own records over a five-year period. Hawai‘i Chapter also opposes a proposed 5-mile aerial tramway up the west side of Hānalākalōa. The proposal includes three terminal buildings, a diesel power plant, a restaurant and gift shop, and a 400-car, 15-bus parking lot.
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1991
• O‘ahu Group Service Trip Programs: The O‘ahu Group was one of the first organizations in Hawai‘i to conduct volunteer service projects dedicated to protecting and preserving our unique natural resources. The O‘ahu Service Trip Program had its roots in a 1971 trip to rebuild the Kalalau Trail on Kaua‘i. Early trips used college-age volunteers during school breaks to rebuild trails on all the islands. Most adult Sierra Club members were interested in doing volunteer work for a shorter time and with peers rather than college students. In 1983 David Lassner and Annette Kachelau devised three-day holiday weekend service projects for adults to initiate the war on Hawai‘i’s invasive species. That year the then Honolulu Group conducted holiday weekend service trips to the Nature Conservancy’s Kāna‘kū Preserve on Moloka‘i. Daylong service trips for Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) commenced in 1987 with the building of a boardwalk through the montane bog at Mt. Ka‘ala on O‘ahu to remove invasive blackberry from the Natural Area Reserve. Over the years, the group has conducted service trips for federal government agencies to Kalaupapa National Historical Park on Moloka‘i and Kiluaea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Kaua‘i. See page 12 for a description of two 3-day service trips planned for summer 2013.

Continued on page 8
Nine Measures to Keep an Eye On

The Sierra Club tracks and advocates for a number of bills. Going into the second half of the session, here are nine measures you might want to follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>This Bill…</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GMO Labeling (HB 174 HD2)</td>
<td>The public is entitled to be made informed decisions about what products they purchase and eat. Genetically modifying organisms—the practice of splicing DNA from bacteria, viruses, and other organisms into plants to lend them certain traits, like resistance to chemical weedkillers—could pose a risk to our common environment. An informed public is able to make informed decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solar Tax Credits (HB 497 HD3 and SB 623 SD2)</td>
<td>As a result of (1) solar system cost reductions, (2) increases in the cost of utility power, and (3) administrative challenges, it has for some time been appropriate to make measures to reform the state’s solar tax credit. Every year the credit faces opposition from many corners and the Club has worked with others to craft positive reform measures and fend off attempts to ruin Hawai‘i’s solar market. These two bills are both fiscally responsible and environmentally progressive in keeping solar viable in Hawai‘i.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Energy Financing (HB 856 HD 2 and SB 1131 SD2)</td>
<td>This measure creates a structure for a clean energy financing program, which would help many Hawai‘i residents reduce their electric bill through clean energy and energy efficiency investments.</td>
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Naughty or Nice?

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<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Publicly Funded Elections (HB 1481 HD2)</td>
<td>By establishing a public funding process for elections, this measure will help remove pressure on elected officials to raise funds and relieve individuals and corporations from having to make donations. It will also increase citizen faith in the democratic process and deliberative decision making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart Grid (SB 1040)</td>
<td>The bill is a smart policy signal for the Public Utilities Commission to build a modern grid infrastructure that can complement renewable energy production by making better use of fluctuating power sources and advance energy efficiency through the use of smart meters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Access (SB 1162 SD1 and HB 17 HD1)</td>
<td>Some property owners have deliberately grown beach vegetation to the point where lateral access along the beach can no longer occur. By ensuring that the public continues to have access to and use of our beaches, the measure helps to protect Hawai‘i’s proud public access tradition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limiting County Powers (SB 727)</td>
<td>This measure limits the counties’ powers to enact ordinances related to health and life and to regulate property and security if the ordinance conflicts with the perceived intent of state or federal law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Process for CZM projects (SB 1027)</td>
<td>Major coastal projects (over $500,000) normally must obtain county approval. Under this bill, the State would be exempt from such review. The State would:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicly Funded Elections</td>
<td>Have no obligation to hold a public hearing or meet with Neighbor Island residents;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart Grid</td>
<td>Be able to “consider” public comments, but have no consequences for ignoring them;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Access</td>
<td>Have no enforcement capacity, no administrative process for violations, no clear ability to levy fines under Chapter 205A;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limiting County Powers</td>
<td>Be allowed to ignore the county-established setback laws;</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Process for CZM projects</td>
<td>Have the authority to make decisions without an environmental review having been completed; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicly Funded Elections</td>
<td>Eliminate the counties from substantive review of major projects that affect their own infrastructure and long-range plans.</td>
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See our cover article.
The Poamoho Fence

by Nate Yuen

I hiked sections of the planned Poamoho Fence, which will protect the leeward headwaters of the Poamoho watershed in the northern Ko‘olau Mountains of O‘ahu.

Kahuanui fences are two such projects being built in the northern Ko‘olau Mountains, where rainfall is highest on the island. The Poamoho Fence will eventually enclose some 1,500 acres of native ʻōhi‘a forest that is home to 34 rare and endangered native plants and animals. It will prevent pigs from digging up the land and spreading fast-growing invasive plants such as strawberry guava and ginger. When pigs run rampant in the watershed they dig up the vegetation and rototill the earth. When heavy rains fall, nothing holds the soil back from washing into the streams. Muddy torrents sweep down the mountains, wreaking native stream ecosystems. That’s not all: entire root systems can be killed from the silt and freshwater that washes down from denuded mountain slopes.

Native ʻōhi‘a forests are effective at protecting mountain slopes from erosion during heavy rains. Mosses, ferns, and other plants that grow on trees and cover the landscape soak up the rain and slowly release that moisture. Additionally, when low-lying clouds pass through, water droplets condense and accumulate on the vegetation, drip slowly to the ground, and follow the roots of trees into the soil deep into the earth to recharge the aquifer. Native forests use more water than ʻōhi‘a trees do. Because strawberry guava uses 27–53% more water than ʻōhi‘a’s trees do.

The fence will start about halfway up on the Poamoho Trail where native ʻōhi‘a and koa trees thrive. ʻŌhi‘a trees (Metrosideros polymorpha) are the dominant native tree in the Poamoho watershed and are important to the survival of native snails, insects, and birds, some of which are rare or endangered. When we searched the ʻōhi‘a foliage we found several beautiful kähuli, or O‘ahu tree snails (Achatinella souerbyana) between 1/2- and 3/4-inch long sleeping on the underside of leaves. Kähuli were once plentiful, but are rare today due to a shell-collecting craze that nearly wiped them out. Rats and carnivorous snails have reduced their numbers even further.

Many of the dozen koli‘i plants (Trematolobelia macrostachys) we saw at the summit had spikes of flower buds poised to bloom. We spent some time looking for rare plants off trail. We saw Huperzia nutans, a rare club moss endemic to Hawai‘i, which is on the endangered species list. The Poamoho Fence will protect critical habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals found nowhere else in the world and bolster O‘ahu’s water supply for future generations. It is truly an important project for a sustainable future.

To learn more about the proposed Poamoho Fence go to hawaiiforest.com/the-poamoho-fence.

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.
We are also meeting to find a way to preserve these farms. We’ve discussed the issue with the mayor—before and after his election—with George Ata, the new Director of the Department of Planning & Permitting, and with several council members.

We have to pay our attorneys and we want to launch an advertising campaign to encourage Oahuans to lobby their council members to stop these developments. For those efforts we need thousands of dollars. We have successfully delayed the Ko‘ai Ridge monster for more than a decade and the Ho‘o‘i monster for three years. With your help we will keep it at.

Please donate! Go to sierracubhawaii.com/donate.php or call 538-6636; make sure to say it’s for the O‘ahu Farm and Food Campaign.

We’re also leading a series of sponsored hikes over Earth Day week. Please join this hike. It’s a beautiful trail. Get fit. Pledge money for a good cause. All in one! To find out more turn to page 14.

S I E R R A C L U B

O‘ahu Group Report

We are appealing the LUC’s decision. We recently lost at the first appeal level, but we’re taking it all the way to the Supreme Court. Our argument is that the LUC has violated the constitutional mandate that “The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable land.”

We need your help. The O‘ahu Group is still busy fighting two huge monster sprawl projects that would add more than 2,300 acres of commercial space on the most two productive farms in the state—Holo‘opili near Kapolei and Ko‘a Ridge near Mililani. Last year the Land Use Commission ignored overwhelming evidence that these developments would be disastrous and voted to reclassify both farms as urban. These developments would be disastrous and voted to reclassify both farms as urban. These monster sprawl projects would add more than 2,300 acres of commercial space on the most two productive farms in the state—Holo‘opili near Kapolei and Ko‘a Ridge near Mililani.

We’re also lobbying the state to upgrade infrastructure, particularly sewers, in urban areas to permit denser development and reduce demand for suburban homes. At current rates of growth experts predict another 22 square miles of farmland and open land will be consumed by suburban sprawl in less than 40 years. We need to keep the future in mind.

Last year we introduced a bill to the State Legislature to get the state to upgrade infrastructure, particularly sewers, in urban areas to permit denser development and reduce demand for suburban homes. At current rates of growth experts predict another 22 square miles of farmland and open land will be consumed by suburban sprawl in less than 40 years. We need to keep the future in mind.

On April 6 the Executive Committee will hold a retreat to consider our priorities and strategy for the year. We welcome your suggestions and comments. They can be sent to ahaoli@gmail.com.

A hui hou.

Anthony Aalto
Chair, O‘ahu Group

Sunday, April 14

Beginner Hike: Manana Partial (F)
Meet at Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. Wear closed-toe shoes with good traction. Bring a liter of water, snack and raingear. Sunscreen, hat, and insect repellent recommended. JoAnna Alexander 223-6993, joanne.gspsv@gmail.com

April 12

Unconstitutional

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In Other News

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**SU dementia Club**

Sunday, May 5

Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathhouse at eastern side of beach park. Clean up along highway and coastal areas until 10:30. Call Tred (394-2898) for information. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Closed-toe shoes only. Deborah Blair 955-4168

Sunday, May 5

Pahole Natural Area Reserve Service Project (S)

Reservations required. Space is limited. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Waialua High School. Pahole NAR protects some of the last remnants of lowland native forest. We’ll spend the day weeding and/or outplanting in this very special place. Bring work gloves and hand tools if you have them. Jim Waddington 947-2722; asst. Benny Martinez.

Friday, May 10

Waialua Hills Float (F)

5 mi/Moderate/Valley, Stream Float down the Kaukonahua Stream about 1 mile downstream. With its numerous pools, Kaukonahua Stream is a natural water park. We’ll walk, swim through or around the shallow parts, then float to cool off. Bring a durable, inflatable floatation device like an air mattress or inner tube, tabs or some footwear to walk through the shallows, and a waterproof bag to carry your lunch, clothes, and gear. Expect some mud on the trail. Ed Mersino 223-5765, mersino@hawaii.edu

Sunday, May 12

Ka‘ena Point Paddling/Platu’Oli‘i (F)

5 mi/Moderate/Ridge, Contour /Nu‘uanu Reservations required as car shuttle will be necessary. We’ll be going uphill nearly the entire hike. We begin at Nu‘uanu Stream and climb up the Nu‘uanu Trail with beautiful views of Nu‘uanu Valley and we exit viewing Diamond Head. Some native plants along the way. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Ronette Morales

Sunday, May 19

Mariners Ridge to Kuli‘ou’ou (F)

7 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/’Hawai‘i Kai Car shuttle required. Not for those afraid of heights. We’ll hike up Mariners Ridge, cross the Ko‘olau summit to Kuli‘ou‘ou, and take the Sierra Club-improved state trail down to ocean. Ave-inspiring views along the Ko‘olau summit. Randy Ching 942-0145, Richard Bailey

Sunday, May 19

Liike Lopa Loop (F)

6 mi/Moderate/Contour/Kane‘ohe Traditional contour hike below steep Ko‘olau cliffs between Likeike and Pali Highways. Great views of Kane‘ohe and Kailua Bay. We loop back taking time to tour Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Garden. Dan Anderson 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com

Saturday, May 25

Paepae o He‘eia Community Work Day (S)

Reservations required by May 18. Meet at front gate to Foster Botanical Garden. Dan Anderson 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com by June 6. Help create habitat for Hawai‘i’s endangered plumeria and hibiscus should be in bloom this time of year. Good for macro photography! Marie Labeberge 545-1252, Stan Oka 429-9814, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, John Shimogawa 227-9925

Thursday, June 6

Pa‘u Hana at Foster (F)

Meet at front gate to Foster Botanical Garden.パイク通りに出発します。Foster Rd at Nu‘uanu Stream, at 4:30 to walk the gardens before the 5:30 concert. Bring picnic, pupus, non-alcoholic beverages, and folding chair. Garden open for these even at no charge. Date subject to change depending on interest in musical theme (concerts held each Thursday evening June-Aug.). Schedule of musicians available late April at honolulu.gov/parks/bhg/bfg.htm. Submit your interest via email to Joanna Alexander, joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, or if no email 223-6993.

Sunday, June 8

MCBH Kāne‘ohe Bay Service Project (S)

Reservations required. Contact Dan Anderson at 690-0479 or danderhi@gmail.com by June 6. Help create a wetland 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 send with you. Deborah Blair 955-4168, Sherine Boomla

Sunday, June 9

Waimānalo Beach Bike (F)

20 mi/Moderate/Rolling hills/ Waimānalo Reservations required. Explore the back roads of Waimānalo and environs. Helmet required. All types of bicycles welcome. Joanna Alexander joalex.gypsy@gmail.com, 223-6993, Colleen Soares

Sunday, June 16

Kōloha‘ī (F)


Sunday, June 23

Kuli‘ou‘ou (F)

5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Kuli‘ou‘ou This hike begins with gorgeous switchbacks and a gentle grade up to a shelter followed by a steep ascent and dropped off with great views of Waimānalo from the Ko‘olau summit. This popular trail has been markedly improved by the addition of 150 steps put in by Sierra Club volunteers in 2010. Jean Fujikawa 203-8508

**O‘ahu Group Outings for Earth Week 2013**

In celebration of Earth Week, outings leaders of the O‘ahu Group will be leading six spectacular hikes and asking hikers to find sponsors to help cover costs. Hikers will be wearing shirts we’ll be giving up hill near the entire hike. We begin at Nu‘uanu Stream and climb up the Nu‘uanu Trail with beautiful views of Nu‘uanu Valley and we exit viewing Diamond Head. Some native plants along the way. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa 262-6092, Stan Oka 429-9814; asst. Ronette Morales

Saturday, April 20

Native Plants: Ka‘ena Point

Meet at 8:30 a.m. from a work day from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at this fishpond in Kāne‘ohe, where we may cut mangrove or pull other invasive species. Please bring covered shoes or tabiis, sun protection, hat, water, a towel, and change of clothes. Gwen Sinclair 735-0528 or guinea1@gmail.com. Sherine Boomla

Saturday, April 27

Forest Reserve and Waterfall Hike: La‘ie Trail

10 mi/Moderate/Contour/Maunawili Reservations required. Car shuttle. Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the completion of the trail by Sierra Club volunteers. This outing is a fundraiser for the O‘ahu Group: $20 per person. Special commemorative T-shirt for those registering by May 18 (please give Dan your tee-shirt size). Dan Anderson at 690-0479, danderhi@gmail.com, or if no email 223-6993.

Thursday, June 6

Puu Hanu at Foster (F)

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**O‘ahu Group Outings**
Kaua‘i Group Outings

Kaua‘i Group Report

Sierra Club

Hawai‘i Chapter

After years of requesting county, state, and federal decision-makers to protect Waialua Beach from a concrete bike/pedestrian path being built along its narrowing upper shores, Kaua‘i County began path construction in January. Concrete on beaches is environmentally destructive, and moving landward and high waves would now be within 12 feet of the one-fourth of the beaches on O‘ahu—permanent loss.

Update: Billionaire’s Threat to Hanalei

The October 2012 Mālama reported on O‘ahu billionaire Pierre Omidyar’s controversial plan to transform Hanalei by lining the ridge above the Hanalei River with dozens of vacation rental mansions. They would dominate and deface the hillside and view plane of Hanalei. By any measure—square footage, number of bedrooms, visual impacts, length of the ridge covered, etc.—the development is unprecedented in scale, ranging from three to six times anything ever built there in the past.

In November, Omidyar’s real estate development company made its first public presentation to the North Shore community. More than 400 people packed the Hanalei School cafeteria. They reflected the demographics of Kaua‘i’s north shore communities: old and young, kanaka maoli, kama‘aina, and malihini. Although they came to learn about the project’s impacts on Hanalei, Omidyar’s representatives devoted less than three minutes of its 40-minute presentation to that topic; and the development company continued to disguise, with deceptive fuzzy watercolor renderings, the luxury project’s visual impacts on Hanalei’s parks and beaches.

Public support was nearly unanimous in opposing Omidyar’s proposed desecration of Hanalei’s fragile beauty, yet Omidyar remains unmoved and continues to rebuff appeals to meet with community representatives. Instead, his staff persists in trying to create the perceptions that Omidyar’s luxury resort is inevitable; that Omidyar’s 30-year old permits—some of which have in fact long expired—somehow constitute a “done deal” and that resistance is futile; and most implausibly, that Omidyar’s O‘ahu development company, rather than the concerned residents of the north shore, has Hanalei’s interests at heart.

It has become increasingly clear that instead of agreeing to participate in a collaborative effort to create a development alternative that would protect the Hanalei ridge view plane, Omidyar prefers a long winner-take-all in which Hanalei is his desired trophy. The Kaua‘i Group therefore continues to work with the rest of the community to protect Hanalei’s waters, parks, beaches, and view planes from Omidyar’s threat.

For more information, including an online petition to protect the Hanalei Ridge from this project, go to savehanaleiriverridge.com.

Kaua‘i Group Outings

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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. Donations to others $5. Check out our website: kauaigroupreport.org.Kaua‘i/index.html

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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See Page 19 for General Outings Information

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See Page 19 for General Outings Information
Maui Group Report & Outings

Here on Maui we’ve been working on some great projects. We have exceptional volunteers who are dedicated to preserving and protecting our environment even in the midst of ongoing legal efforts we have been planning fun activities for the whole community.

Our annual meeting this February was a success. We heard from our legislators and honored heroes. The Ópina’a award went to Clare Apana for her dedication to cultural advocacy and Michael Howden for his support for water rights and sustainable agriculture. This year Sierra Club Maui awarded Chris Hart posthumously with the Ike Imau award. Hart, who passed in November, dedicated himself to planning Maui’s parks, bikeways, and open spaces as well as guiding the original draft of the Maui Island Plan. The Mälama i ka ‘Aina award went to Mark Hyde for his leadership in advocating for proper planning and permitting for a proposed outlet mall in North Kihei. For his untiring and dedicated work at clearing invasives and replanting native species in the Kalaniana‘ole Beach area Mike Perry was given the Mälama Kahakai award.

We recently hosted another guided Star Watch with Harriet Witt. Check out our hike and event schedule to find more exciting adventures. mauisiusierraclub.org/?page_id=19

Speaking of exciting adventures, be sure to join us for the Haiku He‘o‘ula‘e’s flower festival April 20. We will be fundraising by selling native, landscape, and edible plants at our booth. If you have time, stop by to chat. Volunteer or contact me at chair@mauisiusierraclub.org to donate plants and start for the event.

Thanks to our collective efforts we’ve been able to convince our legislators that a repeal of the PLDC is in order. Throughout the islands Sierra Club, Local 5’s Aikea movement, and other organizations joined together for a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness about the PLDC and ask people to sign a petition for repeal. Our actions were successful in getting PLDC repeals passed in both the Senate and the House. While there are bills that look very similar to the PLDC being passed around, we have educated the community and our legislators about the dangers of bypassing environmental rules and planning and zoning guidelines and cutting the people out of the decisions-making process.

Keep up the good work, everybody. Join our email list and sql@mauisiusierraclub.org for more details: mauisiusierraclub.org

Maui Group Outings

Maui Group Outings Policy

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

S I E R R A C L U B O U T I N G S P O L I C Y

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

Conservation and Service

To support the effort to increase maname forest habitat for the endangered palila, we are offering a 3-day service trip with Mauna Kea Forest Project on April 26, 27, and 28. Our service may include planting, watering, and collecting maname seeds at Pu‘u Mali on the Waimea side of Mauna Kea. During our last service trip, we collected 33 pounds of green maname seedpods to go to Keauhou Conservation Center, which breeds palila. This trip is open to participants from off island; we try to accommodate airport transportation. There is a small fee for central commissary meals. To reserve a space on this trip, contact leader Diane Ware at (808) 967-8642.

The Moku Loa Group has commented several times in the past year on opportunities to protect and conserve Hawai‘i’s ecosystems. We have supported U.S. Fish and Wildlife proposals to significantly enlarge the Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge and the state’s proposed management plans for Ka‘u Forest Reserve and Kulani NARS. We have supported the fencing of high-quality upper forest areas (wao akua) based on scientific data and our personal experiences doing service in these fenced areas. We also support efforts to finish doing service in these fenced areas.

Geothermal Update

Right now the action is at the state legislature. HB106 House Draft Outings Chair Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

The Sierra Club’s Moku Loa Group celebrated its twenty-sixth anniversary of providing Science Fair awards to promising scholars of Hawai‘i Island at the Hawai‘i District Science and Engineering Fair. The following five students were recognized for outstanding research related to Hawai‘i’s environment:

- Hilda Friday from Hilo High School for her project entitled “Investigating How Pollution Affects Ocean Life.”
- Craig Okahara-Olsen of Waiakea Intermediate School for a “Comparison of Arsenic Levels in Different Regions of Waiola River.”
- James Laukea from Pahoa High and Intermediate School for “Can Bioplastics Revive the Sugar Industry in Hawai‘i?”
- Mikiko Takato of Hilo High School for “Particle Segregation in Horizontally Swirling Granular Materials.”
- Dylan Giardina from Hilo High School for “Sequestering Bacteria in Reeds Bay.”

The students each received certificates and checks for $50. Mahalo to Phil Barnes, Frans Sy, Tom Sy, and Roberta Brashhear-Kaulfers for volunteering to judge the exhibits and select the winners. Tax-deductible donations to support the Science Fair may be made to Sierra Club Foundation (MLG) and mailed to the club c/o Moku Loa Group, P.O. Box 1137, Hilo, HI 96721.

See Page 19 for General Outings Information

Environmental Scholars Recognized

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

For most hikes, bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html

Saturday, April 13
Lokoluа Trail Service Day (C, E, F, S)
Help clear trails to pristine lagoons. Wear work clothes. Tools, gloves, and mosquito repellent provided. D = 2 miles, E = sea level. Leader Sarah Moon 935-3475.

Friday, April 19
Earth Day Celebration at Hawai‘i Community College, Manono Campus
To volunteer at the 25th annual Earth Day Fair, contact brashear@hawaii.edu, or call 966-7002.

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28
Pu‘u Mali Mauna Kea Forest Service with DLNR (C, E, S)
Stay on Mauna Kea in tent cabins and help restore maname/naio forest. Fee for central commissary. Leader Diane Ware 967-8642.

Saturday, May 25
Alaupua Trail to Halawai Cabin Day hike (E)
D = 6 miles, E = +/- 2,100’. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9
Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge Service (C, E, S)
Leaders Michael and Sunny LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, June 29
Kulani Trail Day Hike (E)
D = 8 miles, E = +/- 1,000’. Leaders Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387.
Chapter Directory

"To explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth’s ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

**MAIN OFFICE**

P.O. Box 2377 • Honolulu, HI 96803 • (808) 537-9019

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![Image of the coqui frog and the greenhouse frog.](https://www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai/Oahuisc.org/Oahuisc.org/)

**WORCE BEWARE THE CALL OF THE COQUI**

Night falls on O’ahu, but the evening silence is broken by a sound that most residents have heard only on public service announcements or trips spent on the east side of the Big Island, “Ko‘olau,” as loud as a fire alarm. You may ask yourself, “Is that what I think it is?” Yes, very well it could be the night call of the male coqui frog, a species native to Puerto Rico that was accidentally introduced to the state on imported nursery plants in the late 1980s. O’ahu remains free of established populations of coqui frogs, but individuals continue to make their way here as hitchhikers in shipments from the Big Island, where this invasive species has infested many areas. In partnership with the Hawai’i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the state’s lead agency in combating coqui frogs, the O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) assisted in the capture of 23 coqui frogs in 2012.

Although coqui frogs are beloved in their native land of Puerto Rico, they are out of place in Hawai‘i’s home, without the many predators and competitors found in their homeland, their populations can explode. What starts out as a single coqui frog calling outside your home at night could quickly turn into an earsplitting chorus of many if these fast-reproducing frogs are not reported immediately. One night spent in the vicinity of Hilo exemplifies how dense and disruptive their populations can become if they are not caught early and prevented from establishing. Coqui frogs threaten to deprive O’ahu residents of a good night’s sleep and change the island’s natural ecosystems by gobbling up large numbers of beneficial insects and altering important nutrient-cycling processes in the environment.

Despite interisland inspections by HDOA, coqui frogs continue to show up on cargo from Hawai‘i Island. Therefore, it is important that O’ahu residents remain vigilant and report coqui frogs to keep the island coqui-free for the long term. If a coqui frog is in your neighborhood, you are more likely to hear it rather than see it. Its loud nighttime call can be heard from dusk until dawn. If you have seen small frogs in your yard, you may be seeing the greenhouse frog, another accidentally introduced frog that is already widespread on O’ahu and is commonly mistaken for the coqui frog. Male greenhouse frogs differ from male coqui frogs in that their nighttime calls are softer and cricket-like, they are smaller in size (less than 1 inch long).
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