Chapter Political Team Rises to Big Money Challenges

The political efforts of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i once again achieved success. In a nail-biter of a primary, Senator Brian Schatz beat his opponent by just 1,782 votes, and he publicly credited the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i for helping him win.

After Mark Takai pulled out a narrow victory in the general election to claim a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, he too publicly thanked the Club for helping tip the balance his way.

At the state level, our endorsed Governor—Lieutenant Governor candidates David Ige and Shan Tsutsui won by double digits after initially being down in the polls. Mahalo to our members who rallied to help push these candidates over the top.

To see Ige’s remarks on accepting the endorsement and stating his environmental goals, watch the short video “Sierra Club Endorses David Ige for Governor” davidge.org/media/video/#prettyPhoto/11/

In the state legislature, the majority of our candidates won. Senator Malama Solomon, who attempted to block the repeal of the unpopular Public Lands Development Corporation (PLDC) legislation, was not reelected. The Club supported her opponent. In the State Senate our endorsement of Gil Riviere and Sierra Club efforts to turn out the vote helped provide the winning margin; he defeated Richard Fale by just 455 votes. Fale has a woeful record on environmental issues.

In the State House we were able to secure the reelection of Chris Lee, the stalwart chair of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee. In the Ewa Beach district, the vice

Can super PAC money decide Hawai‘i’s future? This election was a test, and the heartening news is that Club members and other voters are becoming more aware of the negative impact of corporate money.

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**FROM THE CHAPTER CHAIR**  
*By Scott Glenn*

Aloha and Happy New Year!  
2015 is a year of change for the Hawai‘i Chapter. Internally and externally, new opportunities and challenges are before us.  
This past year we said mahalo and aloha to our beloved and brilliant Director Robert Harris and our inspiring and energetic campaign coordinator Caitlin Pomerantz. Robert’s leadership has resulted in milestone victories for the Club and we look forward to supporting him in his future endeavors fighting for Hawai‘i’s renewable energy future. We also say mahalo and aloha to Dr. Matt LoPresti, formerly of the O‘ahu Group Executive Committee and now elected State Representative of House District 41 Ewa Beach.

Internally, we welcome new members to our Chapter and Group Executive Committees. We also will have our new director in place in early 2015. The Chapter has been pursuing a rigorous process to ensure we find a director who can meet the varied needs of the Club and lead us toward our next phase of growth.

Over the course of this year, we have learned that we are at our most effective when we have professional staff such as our director, but we’ve also learned two more things: One director is not enough to achieve our mission. The other is how resilient and resourceful our volunteer leadership is as we banded together to meet the varied challenges of running the Club and campaigning for our candidates during a tough election year.

Because of this experience, the Chapter Executive Committee is committed to not only hiring a superlative director, but also to expanding our professional staff to further assist our volunteers with protecting Hawai‘i’s environment and taking on global weirding. Please look forward to more on the hiring process and our future staff direction in the next Mālama once our director is on board.

Externally, we welcome Governor David Ige and all the elected leaders. Governor Ige’s promise of forthrightness and transparency are welcome as we look to work with him and hold him to that promise. We also look forward to working with the state legislature, mayors, city and county councils, and agency directors and staff to make sure we measure twice and cut once when it comes to irrevocably allocating Hawai‘i’s limited natural and financial resources.

Some examples of these efforts will be on ensuring we continue on our march toward greater use of renewable energy resources like solar and we avoid dead-end detours like LNG. Probably the greatest challenge on this front is the proposed sale of Hawaiian Electric Industries to NextEra. Environmental impacts must always be considered in deciding what is best for the ratepayer and the State of Hawai‘i. We also urge the University of Hawai‘i and other large investing entities to divest themselves of fossil fuel investments. Ultimately, what’s really at issue is stopping climate change, promoting energy independence, and making Hawai‘i a more affordable place to live by getting Hawai‘i off imported fossil fuels and relying more on its indigenous, bountiful energy.

Mahalo for all you do for Hawai‘i’s environment and the Club. It’s a pleasure working with you.

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**National Happenings**

The Annual Meeting of the Council of Club Leaders and National Sierra Club Board of Directors was held in San Francisco on Nov 20-22, 2014. The Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the board each year. The Council delegates are selected by each of the 65 Sierra Club chapters. The delegates deliberated and passed nine resolutions on November 20, which were presented to the Board of Directors on November 21 for their consideration and action. Roberta Brashears-Kaulfers represented Hawai‘i Chapter.

The Hawai‘i Chapter put forward resolution 5, a request that National Sierra Club fund a delegation to attend the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s World Conservation Congress (WCC), to be held in Hawai‘i in September 2016. Besides resolutions recommending administrative and organizational changes, the board also passed policy resolutions supporting a ban on fracking and a better clean energy policy, and one urging participants in the UN Climate Summit to commit to binding policies concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The annual Sierra Club awards banquet was held on November 21. Dr. Steven Montgomery received a Special Achievement Award for successfully lobbying to bring the IUCN World Conservation Congress to Hawai‘i in 2016.
The Role of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i PAC in the 2014 Elections

The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Political Action Committee is not a formal arm of the Sierra Club. It is separately financed, conducts its business separately from the state Chapter committees, and takes no direction from the Chapter. These strictures are all in place to ensure that we do not violate campaign finance laws or endanger the Club’s favorable tax status as a “social welfare organization.”

All that being said, the PAC takes upon itself the task of advancing the general goals of the Sierra Club through its participation in the electoral process. So as a collegial gesture, here’s a brief summary of the PAC’s activities this election cycle. We raised about $25,000. A mailer sent to every voting household in a legislative district costs between $3,500 and $5,500 to print and mail, so we decided to target six races.

These efforts produced three significant victories. In the House, Chris Lee won reelection to represent his Waimanalo district, overcoming a strong, well-financed campaign by his Republican opponent. Chris is Chair of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee and a true champion on issues that are Sierra Club priorities. In another House race, Matt LoPresti, Vice Chair of the O‘ahu Group, defeated the incumbent Rida Cabanilla and will now represent Ewa Beach in the House. Both Matt and Rida credit the PAC for having a major impact.

In the state Senate the PAC’s efforts on behalf of Gil Rivierrae well have provided the winning margin—he defeated Richard Fale by just 455 votes. Fale has a woeful record on environmental issues and a poor reputation among House members, which the PAC was happy to point out in our campaign materials.

The PAC was less successful in backing a newcomer, Terez Amato, in a primary campaign against the powerful chair of the Senate Consumer Protection Committee, Roz Baker. Baker has fought Sierra Club efforts to promote rooftop solar as part of the shift to a clean energy economy. She beat Amato by just 486 votes—we hope she will take note of the narrow margin and be a better friend to the environment going forward.

We also narrowly failed to secure the last 183 votes needed to push Kent Fonoimoana over the top in the General Election for the Ko‘olau Loa district, where his opponent supports the massive Envision La‘ie project.

The PAC’s biggest failure was our inability to help former Director Robert Harris win the Democratic primary for Jessica Wooley’s old seat in Kaneohe. Robert faced opposition from the developers and a well-funded candidate whose family has deep roots in the community and strong union backing.

Nevertheless, overall we believe our efforts further enhanced the Club’s reputation in the corridors of power as a force to be reckoned with.

— Anthony Aalto
Chair of the PAC

chair of the Sierra Club O‘ahu Group, Matt LoPresti, beat the incumbent Rida Cabanilla, thanks to Club support. Almost all our other endorsees for the legislature won.

At the county level, candidates we endorsed faced a million-dollar campaign by Forward Progress, a super PAC financed by unnamed developer/construction funders. Forward Progress appears to be run and funded by the same entities that supported the now discredited Pacific Resources Partnership (PRP) campaign in the 2012 elections.

Forward Progress poured money into defeating County Council members Elle Cochran on Maui, Margaret Wille on the Big Island, and other environmentally friendly candidates. Cochran and Wille have fought to control sprawl across our agricultural lands, to preserve ocean access, and to regulate pesticides. With Club support, they both won, despite an onslaught of deceptive mailers from Forward Progress PAC. Many of our other council endorsees also won after hard-fought races.

All these candidates were able to count on the support of you, our members. You donated money, wrote postcards, canvassed, waved, and made phone calls. This hard work ensures that our voices will be heard when the important decisions are made.

Can super PAC money decide Hawai‘i’s future? This election was a test, and the heartening news is that Club members and other voters are becoming more aware of the negative impact of corporate money. It is vital that we work together to make the people’s voice increasingly influential in future elections.

— Karen Chun, Steven Montgomery, Albert Perez
For the Hawai‘i Chapter Political Committee
As we noted briefly in the last issue, our beloved Director, Robert Harris, has moved on to become Director of Public Policy for Sunrun, one of the largest rooftop solar companies in the nation. In his new job he will be playing a crucial role in hastening Hawai‘i’s move to a clean energy economy. We have the potential to supply almost all our energy needs with non-carbon fuels. Doing so would create a major new driver of our economy, generating thousands of high-skill, high-wage jobs in both the blue-collar and white-collar sectors. It would make us a model to the rest of the country and indeed to the world. Urged on by Robert and the Sierra Club, our political leaders are increasingly articulating the desire to embrace that future. But the scope of Robert’s influence will reach beyond Hawai‘i, especially to California, where he is overseeing Sunrun’s efforts to influence the regulatory structure in the Golden State. In the long run this gives him a chance to have a real impact on the global warming crisis.

So Robert won’t be straying far from his Sierra Club ‘ohana, but his work now will be more focused and better financed—and who can argue with that?

Unlike that other Anthony, I come to praise Robert, not to bury him (of course). Those who know him know that one of Robert’s defining traits is his modesty, so he won’t appreciate a eulogy. But we can’t let him go without saying something about what his six years of service has meant for the Club. Last year Star-Advertiser columnist Richard Borecca approvingly quoted political mover and shaker John Radcliffe as saying, “At this moment in history, the Sierra Club is the most powerful lobby in Hawai‘i.” That perception is the product of long and hard work led by Robert. He raised funds, recruited volunteers, made allies, and built a coalition that in 2012 enabled us to help secure victories for progressive candidates in all five races that we targeted, which in turn led to new and desperately needed environmentally friendly leadership in the state House of Representatives. He also helped the club lead the effort to elect Tulsi Gabbard to Congress. These victories made us a force to be reckoned with.

Robert’s reputation amongst lawmakers for intelligence, hard work, discipline, and tact ensure that the club’s positions are always treated with enormous respect when we lobby the Legislature. His skills as an attorney helped turn the tide on Turtle Bay, where he wrote the Supreme Court brief that forced the resort to do a supplemental EIS, which in turn opened the way to the recent conservation plan; he provided the legal ammunition to Kioni Dudley that helped defeat D.R. Horton’s first effort to urbanize Ho‘opili; and he wrote the briefs for the legal efforts in the state Supreme Court that stymied Castle & Cooke’s monster suburb at Koa Ridge for several years. Robert oversaw the creation of the Lorin Gill endowment. He won the

Robert with his wife, Dr. Reina Harris, and daughter Aurora.
A Letter from Robert

I never planned on writing this letter. For six wonderful years, I’ve been a part of an amazing family of Sierra Club volunteers and employees. During my time as the Director of the Sierra Club, we’ve won a lot of conservation victories, I’ve worked with some spectacular volunteers, and I’ve been part of a great organization with an exceptional board of leaders.

The Director of the Sierra Club was my dream job. The Sierra Club embodies the ideals that I hold dear. I love the Sierra Club’s rigid belief in volunteer leadership. We focus on empowering people to be involved in the issues that they care about the most. We teach people about the amazing outdoors—the special beauty of Hawai‘i—and give them the opportunity and skills to be more involved.

I admire the Sierra Club’s ruthless focus on pragmatism. We don’t get involved in issues unless we’re geared up to win. And we tend to focus on ways to win. The Club’s ability to navigate media messaging, organizing, and politics is perfect. We can mix up the inside game (lobbying, bill introduction, and meetings with politicians) with the outside game (organizing, messaging, and getting people involved) better than any other organization. The sheer amount the Sierra Club gets accomplished is stunning if you consider its relatively small budget and small number of employees.

But as you probably have gathered, I am no longer going to be your Director. At some point the dream has to end. I believe it is time someone else take a turn at the greatest job in Hawai‘i and to help steer the Sierra Club into the future.

It’s been an honor to serve. I am so thankful for the opportunity to work with the deeply committed and amazing volunteer leaders of the Sierra Club. I have learned, grown, laughed, and cried with many of you. I know you will continue to lead the Sierra Club to victory.

Thank you.
—Robert D. Harris
Volunteer in the Spotlight

Anthony Aalto
Chair, Sierra Club of Hawai‘i PAC
Chair, O‘ahu Group

Anthony Aalto is chair of the Sierra Club O‘ahu Group and chair of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Political Action Committee. He helped found and was the first chair of Capitol Watch, was a founder of Save O‘ahu Farmlands, has led the club’s Ho‘opili and Koa Ridge campaigns, and chaired the club’s Tulsi Gabbard for Congress independent political action committee in 2012, which raised tens of thousands of dollars.

Why did you become an environmentalist?
I grew up on the O‘ahu of the Mediterranean. My Spanish stepfather and his ten siblings owned an almond farm on Mallorca, an island paradise whose tourist boom started the exact same year as Hawai‘i’s with roughly the same number of visitors. But where O‘ahu had 35 million visitor days in 2013, Mallorca had more than 70 million. I saw the destruction this influx of tourists and new residents caused. I watched beaches, farms, and mountain vistas I loved paved over. It was gut-wrenching. I remember wanting to physically hurt the guys driving the bulldozers. It was the start of a lifetime commitment. Today my biggest fear is global warming—what kind of planet am I leaving my son? I feel compelled to act.

What brought you to Hawai‘i?
My wife is Japanese-American, but born and raised in Chicago at a time when, as she puts it, it wasn’t hip to be Asian. She came to Hawai‘i on a business trip in 1981 and it was the first time she felt truly at home in America. She was determined to move here. So when we decided to elope—if that doesn’t sound too Victorian—she cleverly suggested we get married in Hana. We were the first couple married in the Buddhist temple there since World War II and we spent our honeymoon exploring Moloka‘i and upcountry Maui. Who wouldn’t be enchanted? I fell in love with Hawai‘i—it just became a question of finding a way to move here.

How did you become involved with the Sierra Club?
Robert Harris recruited me. I told him I was interested in volunteering, so he asked me to do one little thing: show up to testify at the Land Use Commission against the Koa Ridge project. Once he had his hooks into me, he never let go! He asked me to help him set up Capitol Watch, then to join the O‘ahu Group Executive Committee, then chair the PAC. One thing led to another.

What are your top priorities now?
Climate change, climate change, climate change. Hawai‘i should be a model to the nation of a successful transition to a 100 percent clean energy economy. This transition will create a new pillar of our economy and thousands of high-paying jobs. It’s not pie-in-the-sky. It’s truly achievable. I want Sierra Club to campaign for it. I want to make a film about it. And I want to zero-out my own carbon footprint.

I make documentaries. Last year I made a film that chronicled how the Sierra Club came to the decision to support the HART rail project. Currently I’m filming two documentaries: one on the battle over the future of Kaka‘ako, the other about the homeless crisis.

So what do you do now?
I was a journalist. I spent 25 years as a correspondent for organizations like the BBC and the Guardian. I started by covering the wars in Latin America in the 1980s—Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia. Then I moved to New York, based at the United Nations but covering news events around the world: Suharto’s fall in Indonesia, the Kobe earthquake in Japan, the U.S. occupation of Haiti, independence in East Timor, the sex-slave trade in West Africa. So I was able to persuade a newspaper in Europe to post me to Honolulu as their Pacific Rim correspondent. Then when the Internet decimated large swaths of newspaper journalism I found myself unemployed.

How did you do it?
I grew up on the O‘ahu of the Mediterranean. I saw the destruction this influx of tourists and new residents caused. I watched beaches, farms, and mountain vistas I loved paved over. It was gut-wrenching. It was the start of a lifetime commitment.
Geothermal Energy Update

In 1983, the Kahauale'a Geothermal Project, planned to harness energy generated by volcanic activity on the Big Island, became a primary concern of the Moku Loa Group. Aware of plans for exploration of geothermal capabilities on Maui and a proposed cable to carry the power to Oahu, the Chapter became involved in making sure any geothermal projects in the islands were safe for the environment as well as the people living near them.

Although geothermal as an energy source has many advantages—it is consistent, cheap, and plentiful, and it emits very little carbon—it does have environmental costs, which ought to be acknowledged and mitigated as much as is possible. Geothermal steam can contain hydrogen sulfide and toxic elements such as boron, lead, and arsenic, which are health hazards. Emissions may degrade air quality, pollute surface waters and groundwater, and damage living organisms. Other concerns are waste disposal and noise abatement. Certain cultural and economic factors also aroused opposition in Hawai’i, such as displacement of residents and the commercialization of a sacred cultural symbol—Pele, volcano goddess revered by Native Hawaiians.

Geothermal projects are located in geologically active areas; this means they are near sites of natural beauty and frequently of cultural or archaeological significance. Though geothermal plants claim a small geographic footprint, there is no getting around their industrial character. These concerns prompted the Sierra Club to join a 1984 lawsuit asking that the proposed plant not be located in Conservation District land adjacent to Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, and that a comprehensive EIS be done by the developers.

Puna Geothermal Ventures (PGV) eventually won the right to build the plant, which began operation in 1993. The price paid was widespread distrust of the company and the frustration of local residents, who felt that commercial interests had toppled their concerns. Some of these concerns are reflected in a 1990 statement from the Sierra Club, which, while acknowledging that geothermal energy was a potential energy resource, advocated a moratorium on production until an integrated energy resource plan, grounded in economic and environmental analysis, could be developed.

While Hawai’i has integrated geothermal energy into its energy portfolio, opinions about it remain divided. Several incidents of toxic gas releases and perceptions of negligent conduct by HELCO and PGV have increasingly strained community relationships. The most recent incident occurred in August 2014: a release of geothermal gases while near-hurricane conditions and blocked roads from downed trees kept residents in their homes. PGV’s monitors for hazardous gases failed without backup power, so the suspected release was not documented. Those who suffered from what they believed to be the noxious gases released wondered why the plant wasn’t shut down in advance of the hurricane, or why the monitors are not required to have backup power. To its credit, PGV

**While Hawai’i has integrated geothermal energy into its energy portfolio, opinions about it remain divided.**

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At the national level, the Sierra Club has long been a champion for cleaner renewable energy sources and the clean air that comes with them. On September 21, 2014, in New York City, 400,000 climate activists hit the streets for the People’s Climate March. This was four times more people than anticipated, and they formed the largest climate march in history. They marched to show our elected leaders, and indeed the world, the gravity of the climate crisis as well as the intensity of people’s passion for meaningful solutions.

On that day, Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, said, “The People’s Climate March has given tens of thousands of passionate and dedicated allies an opportunity to let the world’s leaders know that we support setting the highest possible goals to address climate pollution, and that the United States must fully embrace and lead a worldwide effort to accelerate the 21st century’s complete transformation to a prosperous clean energy economy.”

With our own passion for protecting our ‘aina and in knowing the sensitivity of our islands when it comes to climate change, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i sent a band of climate activists with our dedicated local allies out on the same day in Honolulu. Nearly 400 strong we marched through Waikiki and ended in Kapiolani Park to listen to rallying remarks by environmental leaders. By the end of that day, a dormant Divest UH campaign was revitalized.

The campaign aims to remove fossil fuel investments from UH’s investment portfolio, following the 13 colleges across the U.S. that have already done so and the Rockefeller Foundation itself. Divestment stigmatizes fossil fuel companies, eventually weakening their political power and making it possible to pass carbon-restrictive legislation. If even the Rockefellers have divested, what’s stopping our state university system, in the most energy-dependent state in the union? Nothing should.

Our institutions of higher learning should lead by example, and UH students seem to get that. The website DivestUH.org has been created for this effort. Anyone associated with UH or the community that surrounds it can sign the petition. The UH Board of Regents has agreed to discuss the issue at its next meeting, on January 22, 2015, where the regents will hear testimony. The next meeting that has Divest UH on the agenda is the Committee on Budget and Finance, which meets January 4 at 2 p.m. in the ITS building.

—Elliot Van Wie

Sierra Club board members Susanna Reyes and Lane Boldman with Hawai‘i Council delegate Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers as they marched with the Sierra Club delegation in the People’s Climate March in New York City.

“If you are an alum, student, staff or faculty member, or a member of the larger UH community and you care about how climate change will affect our ‘aina, visit DivestUH.org, sign the petition, and spread the word!”

—Michael Brune, Executive Director of the Sierra Club
In September, President Obama signed a proclamation that created the largest network of marine reserves in the world. The proclamation expands the existing protections of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM), established by George W. Bush in 2009, to six times its current size, from almost 87,000 square miles to more than 490,000 square miles.

The PRIMNM consists of five uninhabited islands or atoll complexes: Wake, Jarvis, Howland and Baker Islands, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atoll. Situated about 800 miles southwest of the main Hawaiian Islands, the PRIMNM are recognized as some of the richest areas on Earth for sea life, and one of the most pristine tropical marine ecosystems on the planet, home to millions of seabirds, deep sea coral reefs (some 5,000 years old), endangered marine mammals, and more than 130 newly protected seamounts, known as hot spots of biodiversity.

Sheila Sarhangi, organizer for the PRIMNM expansion efforts, and a Sierra Club of Hawai‘i executive committee member, says, “The success of the monument expansion is a credit to the diverse group of stakeholders who passionately advocated for greater protections for our precious ocean,” which includes Native Hawaiian practitioners, elected leaders, scientists, non-profits, businesses, and ocean advocates in Hawai‘i, the Pacific, and across the United States. The Sierra Club Hawai‘i chapter submitted testimony in support, and Dave Raney, Co-Chair of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team, created local and national Sierra Club action alerts and testified at an August Town Hall meeting in Honolulu with Doug Fetterly, also a member of the Sierra Club Marine Action Team.

President Obama expanded the monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906, which has been used by 16 presidents to protect such treasures as the Grand Canyon and Washington’s Mount Olympus.

In September, supporters of the expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument met with officials in Washington, D.C. to advocate for the new protections. From left to right: Seth Horstmeyer, Pew Charitable Trusts; Robert Richmond, Kewalo Marine Lab, University of Hawai‘i; Sheila Sarhangi, Organizer for PRIMNM expansion and Sierra Club Hawai‘i executive committee member; Guy Hanohano Naehu, Moloka‘i fishpond operator; Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, Hanalei Watershed Hui; Matt Rand, Pew Charitable Trusts.

Oah‘u Gated
Community Complies a Little, but Not Enough

A recent column by June Watanabe in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser highlighted the Waialae Iki V Community Association’s reluctance to grant access to hikers going to the Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail. Hikers were not only required to surrender their driver’s licenses to the gate guard for inspection and recording, but were also limited to fewer hours of operation than the sunrise-to-sunset of the Public Access Easement Document. When this noncompliance was exposed, the homeowners association responded by modifying the rules. While the gate guard will continue to ask for identification, provision will now be optional, but most trail users won’t know this. Trail users are encouraged to report any demands to see driver’s licenses or refusal of public access to city and state officials. Trail users can request their own copy of the Grant of Public Access Easement Document from the author or seek it from the state Bureau of Conveyances.

—Reese Liggett
rliggett@hawaiiantel.net

Geothermal
Continued from page 7

shutdown before the second hurricane in response to the outcry after the first.

A year earlier, residents became aware of a systemic problem. The accidental release of hydrogen sulfide at the Puna plant in March 2013 exposed a huge gap between levels of the gas recorded by PGV monitors and levels (100 times higher) captured by emergency response teams deployed by the County Civil Defense. Incidents like these are galvanizing opposition to possible expansion of geothermal energy production to West Hawai‘i unless there are more safeguards, impartial monitoring of air emission, testing of water to detect heavy metals and proprietary chemicals used in injection wells, and better oversight by regulatory agencies.

The Chapter Executive Committee’s 2012 policy on geothermal takes a “favorable but cautious position” on developing geothermal resources, acknowledges new technology that promises safer extraction and energy generation, and keeps the 1990 document’s insistence on the adoption of appropriate environmental and social safeguards, and on a comprehensive plan made in collaboration with local stakeholders.

— Contributions from Kathrin Auzinger-Hotzel, Nelson Ho, and Cory Harden
For nearly six months I had been almost obsessed with koa bugs (Coleotichus blackburniae). Despite searching on many trails on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island, I did not find a single koa bug. Imagine my excitement when Aaron Miyamoto—nature lover and photographer extraordinaire who raises all kind of insects and critters—told me that he caught koa bug nymphs and raised them to adults. I was even more thrilled when he invited me to his home to photograph them.

The koa bug is closely related to the green stink bug—named for the malodorous chemical the bugs spray as a defense when threatened. As the chemical defense emitted by koa bugs is much reduced, koa bugs have been dubbed the “stinkless” stink bug. Koa bugs still have the chemical but at reduced potency; it would be more accurate to call them the “less-stink” stink bug.

Koa bugs are also called jewel bugs for the iridescence on their exoskeleton or carapace. Adults are almost three-quarters of an inch long, which makes them the largest endemic bug in the Hawaiian Islands.

Their green eggs are only two millimeters across, and are laid in a tight cluster, often in neat little rows. Newly hatched koa bug nymphs are tiny—just a few millimeters in length. The nymphs shed their exoskeletons multiple times before they emerge as adults. Each new nymph stage is called an instar. By the time the nymphs reach the fifth instar, they have a fancy red and black pattern on their abdomen and a blue color on their legs.

Adult koa bugs suck the juices from developing koa seed pods. The host plant for nymphs is supposedly ‘a‘alii (Dodonaea viscosa) or native koa (Acacia koa), but koa bugs seem to prefer formosan koa (Acacia confusa). Perhaps this is because formosan koa produces seeds pods nearly year-round, unlike koa trees, which produce them only seasonally.
According to the Hawai‘i Biological Survey, the population of koa bugs has been significantly reduced due to a parasitic fly that was released to control the green stink bug, an agricultural pest. Koa bugs are still around on all the Hawaiian Islands, but in very low numbers. Aaron has been releasing koa bugs into the wild to increase their numbers. Here’s hoping that the spread of formosan koa and Aaron’s releases will result in a comeback.

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Many thanks to Aaron for allowing me to photograph his koa bugs and for spearheading the effort to bring them back. Big Mahalo to Aaron!

Aaron Miyamoto has a Facebook page dedicated to koa bugs—Friends of Koa Bugs. Check it out to see his latest crop.

To see more of Nate’s photos of koa bugs, go to hawaiianforest.com/wp/koa-bugs-in-the-hawaiian-islands/

If you look closely you can see tiny pits or indentations on the surface of the bug, where the iridescence lies.

The eggs become translucent as they develop and allow you to see the eyes of the tiny nymphs as they prepare to hatch.

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.
Election Victory!
The O‘ahu Group is celebrating the election of Matt LoPresti to the state House of Representatives. Matt has been a valuable member of our Executive Committee for the past three years and currently serves as vice chair.

Club rules now require Matt to resign his seat on our committee, but we don’t begrudge his loss as he takes up his new position as vice chair of the House Transportation Committee. In that role he will be able to focus his passion on promoting the environmental perspective on transportation: pushing the state to embrace Complete Streets, ensuring that the Leeward Bikeway finally gets built, promoting transit-oriented development as a way to preserve farmlands, and helping encourage the state’s Department of Transportation to move away from its decades-old obsessive focus on the automobile.

New Blood
In Matt’s place we welcome Elliot Van Wie, a committed activist and a rising star in local environmental circles who has been elected to our committee. Elliot was most recently the prime mover behind the BYK Project, which has given us Honolulu’s first cycle track, the 2-mile corridor along King Street from Alapai to Isenberg. Cycle tracks are bike paths that are physically separated from automobiles; the O‘ahu Group has long supported them as a way to make cycling safer and more popular. Elliot worked tirelessly to persuade the city to get behind the plan. Over the next few years we hope to see the King Street track become just the first leg in a comprehensive network around the city.

Ho‘opili
The O‘ahu Group is gearing up to do battle with the City Council over the Ho‘opili suburban sprawl project, which would put 12,500 homes on top of the most productive food farm in the entire state. The development company, D.R. Horton, has moved ahead with its application to the Planning Commission for zoning approval, despite the fact that its Traffic Impact Analysis Report has not been accepted by the city’s Department of Transportation Services and the Navy has not granted permission for Ho‘opili storm water to cross its lands. These are two conditions the Land Use Commission imposed in granting the application to reclassify the ag lands as urban.

Ige Administration

By the time this newsletter gets to you the Supreme Court may have heard our appeals of the Ho‘opili and Koa Ridge decisions. We will be pushing the Ige administration to back our appeals and make good on the numerous campaign promises to protect productive ag land and boost our food self-sufficiency.

We will also be pressing the Ige administration to live up to campaign promises to advance the Clean Energy Initiative; to have the Public Utilities Commission take a more proactive stance in boosting distributed energy, rooftop solar, and a smart grid; and to use the transition to clean energy as a way to build a new pillar of our economy with thousands of well-paying new jobs and a reservoir of technical expertise that would allow us to become a model to the nation.

Divestment Campaign
Our effort to wean ourselves from carbon fuels includes fighting to persuade the University of Hawai‘i to divest its portfolio of any investment in the oil, coal, and gas industries that have had such a huge role in bolstering climate change denial. Because the largest campus in the UH system is in Manoa, we believe the O‘ahu Group has an important role to play in helping organize this campaign.

Fundraising
Finally, the O‘ahu Group has taken the lead in trying to find ways to boost fundraising for the Club. We believe the Chapter should have a full-time staff of four. In addition to the director, we would like to see a policy director/lobbying coordinator and a campaign director/volunteer coordinator. In order to pay for those two additional staff, we believe we also need a full-time fundraiser. We think a fundraiser could organize a couple of major sponsored events each year—like the Komen Race for the Cure or the Hawai‘i Bicycling League’s Century Ride. We have formed a small committee and hope to present an initial report and recommendations to the Chapter in January.

Hau‘oli Makahiki Hou.

Anthony Aalto
Chair, O‘ahu Group
Beginning in January 2014, reservations are required for outings. Register online at sierraclubhawaii.com/get-outdoors

Unless otherwise stated in the outing description, participants meet at 8:00 a.m. at the back porch of the Church of the Crossroads, 2510 Bingham Street, Honolulu. Do not leave your car in the church parking lot.

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

**Sunday, January 4**

_Mariners Ridge (F)_

3.6 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Hawai‘i Kai

Kamehameha Schools has limited legal access to HTMC and Sierra Club. One of the shortest routes to the Ko‘olau Summit, Mariners Ridge has great views and several native plants. We’ll have the trail all to ourselves! Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

**Saturday, January 10**

_Alā Wai Harbor Cleanup (S)_

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Harbor Master’s office, between the 3rd and 4th row of boats behind the Ilikai Hotel. Park in street stalls or public lot ‘ewa of Hilton Lagoon. We will use nets and scoops to clear the harbor of marine debris. Wear sturdy shoes with gripping soles (no sandals or slippers allowed) and bring a hat, sunscreen and water. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. Please contact the leader for the waiver. Deborah Blair 955-4168

**Saturday, January 10**

_Kaunala (F)_

6 mi/Moderate/Contour/Pūpūkea

(+/-500 ft)

Native plants are the highlight on this trail, with lovely views of the Wai‘anae mountains. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 gsinclai@gmail.com, Jean Fujikawa

**Sunday, January 11**

_Hawai‘iloa Ridge Trail Work (S)_

The hike to the toolbox takes about 45 minutes. Lots of native plants on the trail. We will install a few steps within 200 yards of the toolbox. Tools provided. We should be done around noon. Back to the cars around 1 p.m. Our first work day on Hawai‘i’ola Ridge since 1998! Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

**Saturday, January 17**

_Makapu‘u Coastal Hike (F)_

4 mi/Moderate/Coastal/Makapu‘u (+/- 600 ft)

The Makapu‘u trail begins at the foot of Makapu‘u Point and traverses the rocky coast. Several large tidal pools are inviting places to swim and have lunch. We will pass a couple of blowholes not seen from the road, then make the precipitous, steep climb up to the point and great views of the windward coast. We hope we will be lucky and spot some whales in the Moloka‘i channel. Be sure to bring sunscreen and plenty of water. This trail involves a lot of rock hopping in addition to the climb, which makes it a little more difficult than most trails of its length and elevation gain. Ed Mersino 455-8193 mersino@hawaii.edu, assist. David Houle

**Sunday, January 25**

_Photography Hike: Queen Kapi‘olani Gardens (E/F)_

.25 mi/Easy/Kapahulu

Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Many native plants from around the State of Hawai‘i. Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, John Shimogawa, Susan Tom

**Sunday, February 1**

_Mariners Ridge_ 3.6 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Hawai‘i Kai

Kamehameha Schools has limited legal access to HTMC and Sierra Club. One of the shortest routes to the Ko‘olau Summit, Mariners Ridge has great views and several native plants. We’ll have the trail all to ourselves! Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

**Sunday, February 8**

_Puu Ma‘eli‘eli (F)_

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahalu‘u

O‘ahu Group Outings

native plants. John Shimogawa 227-9925, Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, Susan Tom

**Sunday, January 25**

_Photography Hike: Queen Kapi‘olani Gardens (E/F)_

.25 mi/Easy/Kapahulu

Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Many native plants from around the State of Hawai‘i. Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, John Shimogawa, Susan Tom

**Sunday, February 8**

_Ka‘ena Point Natural Area Reserve Service Project (S)_

Reservations required. We will travel to Mokulē‘ia where we will meet with DLNR personnel and drive to Ka‘ena Point Natural Area Reserve. We will remove invasive plants that are growing in the area, and perhaps do some outplanting. We will learn about native coastal plants and animals, and see albatross and possibly endangered monk seals. Call for exact meeting point. We will *not* be meeting at Church of the Crossroads. Jim Waddington 947-2732

**Sunday, February 8**

_Puu Ma‘eli‘eli (F)_

3 mi/Moderate/Ridge/Kahalu‘u
Reservations required. Contact Susan for reservations. Uphill hike to pillbox overlooking beautiful Kāne'ohe Bay. Susan Tom 753-0351, Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, John Shimogawa, assist. Curtis Kawamoto

**Sunday, February 8**

**Sandy Beach Cleanup (S)**
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of beach park. (Bathroom closer to Makapu'u.) We will clean up along highway and coastal areas until 10:30 a.m. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by their legal guardian. No one under 18 will be allowed to clean on the highway and will spend their time cleaning the beach and park area. Closed-toe shoes only. No slippers or sandals of any sort. Call Tred 394-2898 for information. Deborah Blair 955-4168

**Saturday, February 11**

**Nu'uanu-Pu'u 'Öhia (F)**
5 mi/Moderate/Contour/Tantalus (+1,500 ft)
Reservations and car shuttle required. We'll enjoy beautiful views of Nu'uanu and Honolulu from the Makiki-Tantalus trail system. Gwen Sinclair 735-0528 gsinclai@gmail.com

**Sunday, February 22**

**Keālia Trail and Access Road (F)**
6 mi/Moderate/North Shore (+1700 ft)
This hike is 5.5 to 6 miles round-trip and approximately 4-5 hours long. The first mile is up switchbacks and the remainder on dirt firebreak road with a 1700 ft elevation gain. Great views of the North Shore and Mākua Valley. Meet at trailhead parking lot at Dillingham Air Field. Dan Anderson 690-0479 danderhi@gmail.com

**Sunday, March 7**

**Photography hike: Lyon Arboretum (E/F)**
Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 9 a.m. $5 suggested donation to Lyon Arboretum. Learn about native and tropical plants. Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, John Shimogawa, Susan Tom, assist. Curtis Kawamoto

**Sunday, March 08**

**Mariners Ridge to Kuli'ou'ou (F)**
5 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Hawai'i Kai
Not for those afraid of heights! Shuttle hike. We'll park cars on both ends. The views along the Ko'olau Summit Trail will take your breath away! We will hike along the Ko'olau Summit Trail for over a mile. You won't forget this hike! Randy Ching 942-0145 makikirandy@yahoo.com

**Sunday, March 15**

**Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve Service (S)**
Reservations required by March 13. Information will be sent to you after you register. We meet in Mokulē'ia with DLNR personnel and drive to Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve. We will remove invasive plants, and...
plant natives, and learn about native coastal plants and animals. We will see albatross adults and fledglings, possibly monk seals, and whales. Colleen Soares csoares48@gmail.com 748-9215

**Saturday, March 21**
**Wahiawā Hills Float (F)**
6 mi/Moderate/Wahiawā (+/– 1300 ft)
This trail is a large loop that crosses Kaukonahua Stream, follows Poamoho Ridge, and drops back down across the stream. From there we will have a cool, fun float and hike back down the stream near where we first crossed it. Known for its numerous pools, Kaukonahua Stream is a natural water park. We will have to walk through or around the many shallow parts. Bring a durable, inflatable floatation device like an air mattress or inner tube plus a spare (in case of punctures), tabis or some footwear to walk through the shallows, and a waterproof bag to carry your lunch, clothes and gear. Not recommended for children under 12 years old. Ed Mersino 455-8193 mersino@hawaii.edu, assist.

**Sunday, March 22**
**Photography hike: Leeward Community College Native Plant Garden (E/F)**
Reservations required. Contact Clyde for reservations. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Started in the early 1990s, Leeward Community College’s native plant gardens contain plants representing dryland, coastal, mesic forest and Polynesian gardens. Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net, John Shimogawa 227-9925, Susan Tom

**Sunday, March 22**
**Hawai‘i‘loa Ridge Trailwork (S)**
2 mi/Strenuous/Ridge/Hawai‘i Loa
We will reroute the trail near the summit. Long uphill slog from the toolbox with our tools. Great cardio workout. Wonderful views at the summit. Randy Ching makikirandy@yahoo.com 942-0145

**Sunday, March 29**
**Likeke from Ho‘omaluhia (F)**
7 mi/Moderate/Ko‘olau
Meet at 9 a.m. at Ho‘omaluhia Botanical Gardens Pa Launa parking lot, which is one lot past the visitor’s center on the left. We start from the park, ascending about 200 feet toward the Ko‘olau. Loop hike through varying forest conditions with native and introduced plants, and views of Kāne‘ohe Bay. Lunch at Likeke waterfall. Gwen Sinclair 753-0528 gsinclai@gmail.com

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**Two 3-Day Neighbor Island Service Trips**

**Friday to Sunday, July 3-5**
**Haleakalā National Park, Maui (S)**
Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net
Our accommodation for the weekend is at Kapalaoa Cabin situated in the center of Haleakalā Crater. The work will be eradicating California telegraph plant and plantago. This trip is for hikers in good physical condition and for those who don’t mind “roughing it.” We have a 7-mile hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail and will exit via the Halemau‘u Trail. Participants will have to deal with the elevation. The cabin was built in the 1930s by CCC workers and is rustic. There are no washroom or shower facilities, but there is an outhouse. We do have a 2-burner gas stovetop and a wood-burning stove to cook and keep warm. The reward is spending the weekend in a beautiful national park.

**Saturday to Monday, May 23-25**
**Kahaualea Natural Area Reserve System (NARS) Service Project—Big Island (S)**
Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa clydekobashigawa@clearwire.net
We will be working with NARS clearing mainly kāhili ginger. We will access the enclosure via Volcanoes National Park where it is an easy 1/2 mile hike from Thurston Lava Tube to the worksite. This is a relatively new site that is dominated by the alien kāhili ginger; it is a great way to see how it evolves into a truly native Hawaiian reserve. There are native birds above in the native ‘ōhia lehua trees. Our accommodation will be at a house in Hilo at the NARS base yard.
**This trip requires a Friday evening departure, May 22.**
Mahaʻulepu Update: Conflicting Water Testing Results and an EIS

As Kauaʻi residents await the results of another round of state Department of Health (DOH) water testing of Waiopili Stream in Mahaʻulepu, Hawaiʻi Dairy Farms (HDF)—eBay billionaire Pierre Omidyar’s proposed industrial-scale dairy operation of up to 2,000 cows at Mahaʻulepu—announced it will voluntarily prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Testing done over the past six months by Surfrider and the DOH has shown that Waiopili Stream is currently Kauaʻi’s most polluted waterway. After continued lobbying, the DOH and HDF each collected additional samples from the same water sources and sent them to separate labs to test for fecal-indicating bacteria. The bacteria counts for the two samples were nowhere close to each other: DOH found counts that were similar to the significant levels found in July, while HDF’s results were “alarmingly lower.” This significant discrepancy is worrisome given HDF’s track record of dubious scientific claims and its dismissal of community concerns. Because of the discrepancy, DOH, HDF, and landowner Grove Farm agreed to another round of sampling. DOH will report on those findings.

Bowing to public pressure and pending litigation, HDF also announced that it will prepare an EIS prior to commencing operations. However, HDF made this announcement shortly after it received its building permits from the County of Kauaʻi without any environmental assessment.

While the Kauaʻi Group views the EIS as a victory in its well-founded opposition to the current dairy proposal, it must now work to ensure that the EIS provides an honest and complete assessment of the project’s impacts and that meaningful mitigation measures are mandated to ensure that the project will not negatively impact Mahaʻulepu’s land, waters, and neighboring communities.

County Council Passes Resolution to Protect Hanalei Bay

Since 2012, luxury “super-yachts” have begun to use Hanalei Bay as a playground. The visual impacts of ships that are as long as 30-story buildings are indisputable. But in addition, some are floating transient vacation rentals; and some have heliports with helicopters that fly directly over Hanalei town, disrespecting both the County’s ban on north shore helicopter landings and the “fly neighborly” agreement that protects residential areas from helicopter overflights. To make matters worse, the state’s Department of Land and Natural Resources allows the super-yachts’ large launches to operate in the Hanalei Pier swimming zone and to load/unload at the pier, even though the state’s rules prohibit both activities.

DLNR’s message to the community has been to “get over it, because more super-yachts are on the way.” In response, the County Council this November unanimously approved Councilmember Jay Furfaro’s resolution urging the state to protect the quiet, recreational character of Hanalei Bay by prohibiting most vessels longer than 75 feet from entering the bay and by enforcing the swimming zone around the pier. Hopefully this strong message will reinforce the community’s efforts to obtain stronger rules and enforcement to protect Hanalei Bay from this new threat.

County Council Weakens Shoreline Setback Ordinance

Unfortunately, this November, Kauaʻi’s County Council also voted to weaken the County’s Shoreline Setback Ordinance. The original intention for revising the ordinance was to simplify its implementation. But after Councilmember Yukimura brought five representatives of land developers onto the bill’s working group, things took a turn for the worse: special-interest language was added for development on large parcels on rocky bluffs above the shore, cutting the setback requirements for such development from the current 100 feet to just 60 feet. These reduced requirements will create severe visual impacts along Kauaʻi’s coastline and negative impacts on native seabirds.

One of the biggest potential beneficiaries of this special provision is billionaire Pierre Omidyar’s project to line the ridge above the Hanalei River with resort structures. This is no surprise, as at least one of the development representatives brought onto the working group was Omidyar’s representative.

Sierra Club, other community advocates, and Councilmembers Chock, Hooser, and Bynum tried to remove the preferential treatment language but were unsuccessful. So, while the final version of the bill did increase the setback requirement for many shoreline parcels, it retained the harmful rocky bluff development provision, and Sierra Club therefore urged the bill’s defeat. But it was approved 4-3, by Councilmembers Yukimura, Rapozo, Kagawa, and Furfaro.
Join us on one of these outings to explore Kaua‘i. Please note the level of hiking proficiency and round-trip mileage for each hike. Pack rain gear, sufficient water, lunch, hat. Wear shoes with a good grip; no sandals or flip-flops. Participants must sign a liability waiver. Requested donation for hikes: $1 from Sierra Club members and participants under 18, $5 for non-members. You can sign up to become a member on the outing. Children are welcome on hikes at the discretion of hike leader; under 18 allowed only with an adult.

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

**How about becoming a Sierra Club Outings Leader? Yes, you!**
Kaua‘i has more hiking trails than any other island, and showing people all the delightful places to explore is both a fun and rewarding experience. We need new outings leaders, so please contact us! Call Judy Dalton at 246-9067.

**Friday, January 2**
**Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk. East Shore/ Moderate (C/E/F)** Start off the new year with a walk along the spectacular coastline from Kuna Bay (popularly known as Donkey Beach) to Kapa‘a for a 4.5-mile one-way hike with car shuttle. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Monday, January 5**
**Nonou (Sleeping Giant) Conservation Service Project (C/S) East Side/strenuous/4 miles.** Tend to endangered native plants in their habitat and enjoy a full moon walk. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Sunday, January 11**
**Maha‘ulepu and Makauwahi Cave. South Shore/moderate/3 miles (C/E/F) Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108**

**Sunday, January 18**
**Polihale Beach & Queen’s Pond. West side/ Moderate/ 3.5 miles (C/E/F)** Have you wanted to take in the wild and expansive views from Queen’s Pond up to the southern end of NaPali? It’s breathtaking! We’ll walk along the shoreline, which offers a firm walking surface. Enjoy a picnic on the beach with a possibility of a dip at Queen’s Pond. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Saturday, January 24**
**Moloa‘a Beach Cleanup. Northeast Shore/ easy (S)** Help protect marine life, seabirds, the reef, and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Look for organizations’ signs. Bring hat and water. Gloves, bags, and snacks provided. 9 am to noon. Judy Dalton 246-9067

**Sunday, February 1**
**Maha‘ulepu Sunset to Moonlight Walk. South Shore/ Moderate/3.5 miles (C/E/F)** Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck Beach walking along the coast to Maha‘ulepu. Enjoy the setting sun and a full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk. We’ll shuttle cars for a one-way hike. Greg Peters 413-522-3734

**Monday, February 2**
**National Tropical Botanical Gardens Full Moon Walk. South Side/Moderate/2 miles (C/E/F)** Hike and learn about plants in lovely gardens. Sierra Club members only. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Sunday, February 15**
**Maha‘ulepu and Makauwahi Cave. South Shore/moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class sinkhole cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108**

**Saturday, February 28**
**Maha‘ulepu Beach Cleanup. South Shore/ easy (S) Sierra Club, Mālama Maha‘ulepu, and Surfrider team up to keep this magnificent beach free of ocean debris and litter. Follow Po‘ipu Road past the Grand Hyatt where it becomes a dirt road. Drive to T-intersection and turn right. Continue to parking area and look for banners. Please bring hat and water. Bags, gloves & snacks provided. 9 am to noon. Greg Peters 413-522-3734**

**Monday, March 2**
**Waimea Canyon Road Cleanup. Easy/2 miles (S)** Afternoon cleanup of Sierra Club’s adopted highway requires a little over an hour. Please help keep the gateway to Waimea Canyon litter-free. Bob Nishek 346-0476

**Saturday, March 7**
**Jewel of Koke‘e. Strenuous 7 miles (C/E/F)** Spectacular hike through forests of Koke‘e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon Trail, Po‘omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo‘o Falls for a view of Waimea Canyon to the ocean. Ken Fasig 346-1229

**Sunday, March 15**
**Maha‘ulepu and Makauwahi Cave. South Shore/moderate/ 3 miles (C/E/F) Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class sinkhole/cave archeological site. Allan Rachap 212-3108**

**Saturday, March 21**
**Kuilau Ridge Trail/ East side/moderate/4.5 miles (C/E) Enjoy sweeping panoramic views of Mountains Kawaikini and Waialeale and the Makaleha mountains. Erica Watson and Denny Jackson 647-0727**

**Saturday, March 28**
**Hanama‘ulu Beach Cleanup. East Shore (S) Help protect marine life, the reef and ocean from litter and fishing net entanglement. Sierra Club and Surfrider team up for this effort. Look for banners at beach. 9 am to noon. Bags, gloves, and refreshments provided. Judy Dalton 246-9067**
CHAIR’S REPORT

Maui Group members are saddened by the passing of one of our past volunteers and former Maui Group executive committee member Dorothy Grace “Dot” Buck. Dot, an artist and social worker, committed a great deal of her time to making Maui a better place by testifying at hearings and attending rallies and sign-waving events with the Maui Group and other community organizations. Her son, David Johnston, is carrying on her work.

Congratulations to those who helped enact the temporary GMO moratorium into law. The road to protecting our natural resources and communities’ health is challenging, but not impossible. This shows the strength of working together. While the initiative passed and is now law, there is still more work to be done.

Sierra Club will be hosting our annual meeting and awards ceremony Sunday, February 8, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. This free event will feature the theme “Maui Rising” and takes the form of a dialogue about the great issues affecting Maui’s future. Come down for a catered lunch (you are welcome to bring a salad or dessert), listen to inspiring speakers, and applaud our environmental heroes. This is a great opportunity to meet supporters of the environment and others passionate about nature and our islands.

Chris Taylor
Chair, Maui Group

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Lipoa Point/Honolua Bay: Preservation finalized. State pays $20 mil for 244 acres including land at Honolua Bay. Department of Land and Natural Resources with the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust worked together to acquire the parcel and protect it from development.

‘Iao and Waikapu Stream Flows Restored: On October 13, First natural mauka-makai flows in ‘Iao stream in 150 years, although some stream sections are bypassed by release plan. Citizen groups continue to press for full restoration standards to be met and for dry stretches of streams to be restored.

Baldwin Beach Expansion: MG “Expand the Park” campaign a big success. County Council approves purchase of a new site of County Service Center and A&B donates 36 acres of land between Baldwin Beach Park and Pa’a Bay Park. MG continues to advocate for a regional park of around 150 acres.

Wailea 670/ Palauea: Proposed development on 670 acres needs to protect rare plant habitat and thousands of cultural sites. Native plant/Cultural preserve is at 152 acres and growing, thanks to the SC settlement negotiations.

Renewable Energy Future: MECO’s energy plan widely criticized for not making more space for renewable energy on the grid and relying on liquefied natural gas from fracking. MG offered extensive comments.

Olowalu: was featured as a focus of the national Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Maui in late August. Delegates were given tours of the amazing reefs and asked to help support efforts to protect the last intact reef system in West Maui, since surrounding lands are proposed for a new “town” with 1,500 + housing units and commercial centers.

Lahaina Wastewater Treatment Plant Clean Water Act Violations: Maui County continues to resist effort to turn a problem—high-nutrient recycled injection-well water feeding algae blooms and impacting water quality in the ocean—into a solution: a new source of recycled wastewater to replace drinking-quality water to irrigate landscapes in Ka’anapali. The Federal judge has indicated there is a CWA violation. The historic case goes to trial in March 2015.

OUTINGS

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

A donation of $5 ($3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14.

Sunday, January 11
Pilale Bay and Stream Hike (Ha’iku Area)
D=3 mi R/T. Moderate. Some uphill, some stream crossings. Explore the bay and streams that surround the ancient Hawaiian village of Halehaku. Water/mud-friendly footwear a must. Meet 9:30 a.m. Haiku Community Center. Limited parking at site. Limit 15. Register with leader: Robin West rwest808@yahoo.com or 277-7267

Saturday, January 24
“Mālama Kipuka” Hawaiian Islands Land Trust Benefit Lu’au (Lahaina)
Great music and food from four award-winning Lahaina restaurants all to help preserve our most cherished lands. 5-8:30 p.m. Old Lahaina Lu’au, in Lahaina. Tickets $150 at hilt.org or call 244-LAND

Sunday, January 25
Palau’ea-Makena Shoreline Hike (C/E)
D=3 mi R/T. Moderate. Narrow, rugged “fisherman’s trail,” in sections. Help keep public access open, enjoy beautiful views. Good balance a must. Meet
9:00 a.m. in public parking lot for Polo Beach. Limit 15. Register with leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Friday, January 30
Ma'alaea Village & Petroglyph Hike (C/E)
D=4 mi R/T. Moderate. Some steep uphill. Explore petroglyphs (native Hawaiian picture symbols chiseled into rock) and other ancient ruins in the Ma'alaea area. Long pants and sturdy footwear. Meet 9:00 a.m. Maui Ocean Center parking lot across from Carls Jr. Limit 18. Register with leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Saturday, February 7
'Ohi'a Loop Trail and Olivine Pools, Kahakuloa Area (C/E)
D = 5 mi R/T. Moderate. 'Ohi'a Loop Trail with native plants, (endangered 'Ohi'a), native seabirds, whales and turtles. Swim in the Olivine pools and visit the Nakalele Blowhole. Bring swimsuit, camera and lunch. Meet 8:30 a.m. Waihe'e School parking lot to carpool. Limit 18. Register with leader: Miranda Camp mauimiranda@hotmail.com or 463-9690

Sunday, February 8
Maui Group Annual Meeting (C/E/F) at Kaunoa Center (Spreckelsville)
Food, fellowship, short inspirational talks and Environmental Heroes Awards. Free. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kaunoa Senior Center. Main dish provided. Please bring side dishes for a great picnic lunch. Theme: "Maui Rising," a dialogue about the great issues affecting Maui's future. For email reminder about our annual meeting, go to mauisierraclub.org and click on “Join Our Email List” in left column of our home page. Event volunteers wanted: contact Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net

Tuesday, February 10
Kihei History Night: Kama'ole: Part II at Kihei Library (C/E/F)
Part II of a free informational slide show and talk story about south Maui's Ahupua'a of Kamaole, famed for beaches, fishing, and, later, ranching. 6 to 7:30 p.m. (Sponsored by Maui Tomorrow Foundation)

Saturday, February 14
World Whale Day Celebration: (Kihei) Maui Group info booth (C/E)
Pacific Whale Foundation's Community Celebration with music. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Kalama Park on South Kihei Road (by the big whale statue). Visit Sierra Club information booth in "Eco-Alley." Volunteers wanted: laluz@maui.net. Free admission. (Not a Sierra Club activity)

Monday, February 16
Kamapole Ahupua'a Tour (Kihei) (C/E)
D=3 mi R/T. Moderate. Neighborhood, gulch, and coastal walks at several tour stops. Explore the hidden history of the "Land of Kama'ole": ancient fishing shrines, house sites, and more. Meet 9:00 a.m. across from Kamali'i school in Kihei. Limit 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register: laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Sunday, February 22
Lahaina Pali Whale Viewing Hike/ dual direction (C/E)
D=5 mi. Strenuous. We will split up into two groups, one hiking from Ukumehame to Ma'alaea and the other one in the other direction, exchanging car keys midway. Rugged trail gains almost 2,500 feet, passing Kaheawa wind turbines. Bring good boots, lots of water and walking sticks. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Maui Ocean Center parking by the gas station. Limit 18. Contact Leader: Rob Weltman robw@worldspot.com

Saturday, March 7
Olowalu Shoreline Historical Hike (C/E)
D=2.5 mi R/T. Moderate. No formal trail in parts. Explore the public beach reserve to Olowalu landing and beyond. Rich in history and cultural sites. Footwear for beach and tidal areas recommended. Bring swimwear, water and lunch. Meet 9 am at 14 mi. marker on Honoapiilani Hwy. Limit 20. Register with Hike Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Sunday, March 22
Nu'u Historical Hike (C/E)
D=5 mi. R/T. Strenuous. Lava trails and varied terrain. Explore Nu'u Bay shoreline as well as Hawaiian heiau and sites nearby. Meet 8 a.m. at Pukalani Terrace center by Ace. Limit 20. Register with Hike Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Friday, March 27
Kahikinui coastal hike (C/E)
D= 6 mi R/T. Strenuous. Hike rough road to ocean in Kahikinui to visit ancient Hawaiian village sites with botanist Bob Hobdy. Sturdy footwear and lots of water a must. Meet 8 a.m. at Keokea park. Limit 12. Register with Hike Leader: Lucienne de Naie laluz@maui.net or 214-0147

Sunday, March 29
Pauwel Point Tide Pools
D=2 mi. R/T Moderate. Hike to coast from Hana Hwy to tide pools (short climb required.) Wear sturdy shoes or tabis for rocky areas. Bring swimwear for pools. Meet 9 a.m. Ha'iiku Community Center parking lot. Limit 18. Register with leader: Miranda Camp mauimiranda@hotmail.com or 463-9690

Save the Date: Saturday, April 25
Annual Plant Sale Fundraiser at Haiku Flower Fest.
Plants and volunteers needed. Contact Chris Taylor mauichris@gmail.com
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.

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is $1. Donation for others: $5. For most hikes, bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii/outings.html

Saturday, January 3
Green Lake Family Outing (F)
D = 1 mile, E = sea level
Visit the famous Green Lake in makai Puna. This is a lake in an old cinder cone by the sea. Bring lots of water and your lunch. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, January 17
Pepe'ekeo Cliffs Hike (C, E)
D = 3 miles, E = sea level
Walk along mowed trails atop the Hamakua Cliffs. We will watch seabirds that nest in the cliffs and may even spot whales. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Sunday, January 18
Restoration of Keau'ohana Rainforest (S, E, C)
D = 0.5 miles, E = 600'
Join the nonprofit group Mālama O Puna in its efforts to restore the largest and most intact lowland native forest remaining in the state. You will learn about a unique forest habitat with numerous native plant species including the endangered Ha'iwale that is only found in the Puna District. Bring mosquito repellant, work gloves, rain gear, good boots, and a willingness to work. Leader: Linda Larish 966-6337

Saturday, January 24
Pohue Bay Day Hike (E)
D = 5 miles, E = sea level +/-700'
Hike down the ancient mauka-makai trail to historic Pohue Bay. This hike is strenuous due to lack of shade and hot and dry conditions. We will come to a beautiful coconut-tree-lined white sand beach where swimming is possible if it's not too rough. Leaders: Linda Larish 966-6337 and Jim Buck 315-7914

Sunday, February 15
Pu‘uhonua O Hōnaunau to Ho‘okena Dayhike (E, F)
D = 4 miles, E = sea level
This is a coastal Ala Kahakai hike over mostly lava and passing cultural sites (Ki‘ilae Village) and the old trading village of Ho‘okenu. We will have a car shuttle so we can start at the Refuge (entrance fee or pass required) and end at the old trading village of Ho‘okenu for lunch, whale watching, and an optional swim in the bay. Leaders: Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Saturday, February 21
Anaeho‘omalu Bay (C, E, F)
D = 3 miles, E = sea level
This can be a hot and dry hike to Anaeho‘omalu Bay. But the rewards are great; snorkeling, petroglyphs, and anchialine ponds. So bring your hat, swim and snorkel gear, lots of water and lunch, and be prepared to enjoy a great day. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, March 7
Lokoaka Trails Service Day (C, S)
D = 0.5 miles, E = sea level
Help clear trails along the Hilo shoreline to pristine lagoons, plant native plants, and clear noxious weeds. Be sure to wear sturdy boots or shoes and protective clothing. Bring your swimsuit for a refreshing dip after all your hard work. Leader: Sarah Moon 935-3475
Saturday–Sunday, March 7–8
Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge Service (C,E,S)
D = 2 miles, E = 5,500’ +/- 500’
We will help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with one of their conservation projects and spend the night in the volunteer cabin. After working we will have the opportunity to bird watch and botanize. Be prepared for wet, cold weather. Bring boots, rain gear, sun protection, warm clothes, gloves, binoculars, sleeping bag and daypack. Reservations are required and the group size is limited. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante 964-5017

Saturday, March 14
Whittington Beach Park to Punalu’u Beach Park (E)
D = 5 miles, E = sea level
This is a rugged, exposed coastline hike that follows an ancient Hawaiian trail in some places. We pass cultural sites, fresh water springs, and Kawa Beach. We will have lunch at Kawa Beach where we can swim in the ocean or in a fresh water spring. Leaders: Kana Covington 966-8431 and Linda Larish 966-6337.

Saturday, March 21
Humu’ula Trail in the Hilo Forest Reserve Ookala
D = 5-6 miles E = 2,142’ +/- 1,500’
Rediscover this historic trail as we enjoy native plants on this moderately steep hike. It’s possible to hike all the way up to Keanakolu, but we’ll stop after 2 or 3 hours for lunch and return the same way. We recommend that you wear boots, a hat, and long pants and bring one quart of water, snacks, and lunch. Leaders: Rob Culbertson 345-8905 and Jim Buck 315-7914

Saturday, March 28
The Great Crack Day Hike (E)
D = 11 miles, E = 3,000’ +/- 800’
This is a very long, but rewarding hike. Our goal is the Great Crack—one of the wonders of the Big Island. Starting on Highway 11 near mile marker 47, we will explore along a combination of 4-wheel drive roads and pahoehoe lava fields until we reach the Great Crack. Leaders: Diane Ware 967-8642 and Rich Vogler 328-8387

Moku Loa Group Outings

SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS POLICY

For all Sierra Club Outings: Sierra Club outings are conducted according to Club policy and under the direction of certified Outings Leaders. Our outings are group activities, and all participants are expected to follow leaders’ instructions and to remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members, and visitors on most of our outings; however, certain outings may be restricted to members. Firearms, pets (unless specifically allowed), and audio devices with or without headsets are prohibited. Smoking is 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.

Bring with you: a liter of water (2 liters for strenuous hikes), lunch, sunscreen, insect repellent, raingear/jacket, and daypack. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers), or tabis are required. Unless otherwise noted, no bare feet or sandals of any type will be allowed.

You will also need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or call 415-977-5630.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. The 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.
Chapter Directory

O‘AUH GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
www.hi.sierraclub.org/oahu
P.O. Box 2577 • Honolulu, HI 96803 • (808) 537-9019

Chair & Secretary ........................................ Anthony Aalto <SierraClubOahuGroup@gmail.com>
Secretary ............................................. Eliot Van Wie <evannie2@gmail.com>
Treasurer & Outings Chair ..................... Randy Ching <poharurany@yahoo.com>
Chapter Delegate ......................... Steven Montgomery <manning001@hawaii.rr.com>
Political ........................................... Albert Perez <mokolea63@yahoo.com>
Nominating & Conservation .............. Lelei Shih <joyshih@hawaii.edu>
North Shore Chair ......................... Blake McElheny <blokmelhenny@gmail.com>
Windward Side Chair ....................... Lisa Grandinetti <lisagrand003@hawaii.rr.com>

KA‘U‘I GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
www.hi.sierraclub.org/kauai
Box 3412 • Lihu‘e, Hawai‘i 96766

Outings, Beach Protection, Public Access .... Judy Dalton <judydalton123@gmail.com> • 246-9067
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Conservation .................................. Gregory Peters <gregorypeters@vermontlaw.edu>
Conservation ................................... Juan Wilson <juanwilson@mac.com>
Conservation, Membership ................. Marge Freeman <freemansmargy@gmail.com>
Conservation, Helicopter Noise ............ Carl Imparato <carl.imparato@uno.com>
Conservation, Land Use ...................... Rayne Regush <rayne-regush@rool.com>
Conservation, Environmental Justice ..... Kip Goodwin <kip.goodwin@hawaii.net>

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui
P.O. Box 791180 • Pā‘ia, HI 96779 • (260) 426-5535

Chair .................................................. Chris Taylor <385-3495 <chair@mauisierraclub.org>
Vice Chair ............................................ Sarah Tekula <spectekula@gmail.com>
Secretary & Political Chair ............... Karen Chun <karen@karenchun.com>
Treasurer ............................................. Dina Mezheritsky <dmmezhi@emc.com>
Energy Chair & Director ................. Daniel Grantham <572-4571 <donna@hawaii.net>
Conservation Chair & Director .......... Lucienne de Naie <lulu@maui.net>
Director .............................................. Dottie Binder <kuleidot@hawaii.com>
Director .............................................. Lily Stagg <lillystagg@gmail.com>
Director .............................................. Dr. Janet Six <six@hawaii.edu>
Director ............................................ Clare Apana <kouwahine@yahoo.com>
Outings Chair .................................... Miranda Camp <maumiranda@hotmail.com>

MOKU LOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
www.hi.sierraclub.org/Hawaii
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Vice Chair & Fundraising ................. Nadine K. Robertson <robertn504@aol.com>
Treasurer ............................................... Deborah Ward <dward@hawaii.edu>
Conservation ................................. Mary Marvin Porter <islandesides@yahoo.com>
Conservation, Political .................. Cory Harden <333cory@gmail.com>
Conservation ...................................... Janice Palma-Glennie <jpalma@earthlink.net>
Energy ............................................... Jon Olson <jan31@earthlink.net>
Outings ............................................. Sarah Moon <935-3475 <moon16@hawaii.rr.com>
Outings .............................................. Diane Ware <967-8642 <valkangoteawow@yahoo.com>
Membership ..................................... Marty Mimmack <admio@hawaii.edu>
Newsletter ........................................ Linda Lorish <maunakena@gmail.com>
Don’t Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!

Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America’s largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

Name _____________________________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________
City _______________________________________ State __________ Zip _____________________
Phone _____________________________________________________________________________
Email ______________________________________________________________________________

☐ YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

Gift Recipient ________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________ State ___ Zip ________

☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX
Cardholder Name _______________________________________
Card Number _______________________ Exp. Date ____ / _____
Signature ______________________________________________

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

Membership Categories

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Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include $ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and $ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org
Congratulations to our Newly Elected Sierra Club Leaders!

Hawai‘i Chapter Executive Committee Members: 
Roberta Brashear-Kaufers, David Kimo Frankel, Steve Holmes

O‘ahu Group: 
Anthony Aalto, Randy Ching, Blake McElheny, Steve Montgomery, Elliot Van Wie

Kaua‘i Group: 
Kip Goodwin, Carl Imparato, Greg Peters, Rayne Regush

Maui Group: 
Lucienne de Naie, Rich Lucas, Lily Stagg, Chris Taylor

Moku Loa Group: 
Jim Buck, Nelson Ho, Steve Holmes, Debbie Ward