This month’s issue:

Taking Back Our Water 2
Remembering HB2501 5
A Green New Deal for Hawai’i 6
New 2019 ExCom Members 8
Group Reports & Outings 9
Kupuna in the Forest 21
Taking Back Our Water: How Hawai‘i’s 30-Year-Old Water Code (Still) Holds the Key to Restoring the Public Trust in Water
by Wayne Tanaka, Chapter Political Committee Member

It seems that every day, our islands’ future appears more and more dire. Rainfall has decreased 15% over the past 20 years. Climate change models show that the cloud band that nourishes our mountain slopes – filling our aquifers and streams through rain and fog drip – will continue to shrink. Rising seas threaten our basal freshwater lenses. And the continued push for development, particularly of high-end properties and “gentleman’s farms” where landscaping and swimming pools are the dominant crops, demonstrates how those with money and power continue to vie for the private, profit-driven use of our limited water resources.

In these times, the need to restore and uphold the traditional Hawaiian understanding of water as a sacred, public trust to be reserved and managed for the public’s benefit, and not monopolized for private, corporate gain – seems greater now than ever before.

Fortunately, the means to achieve this may be found in laws already on the books, which after 30 years now than ever before.

In 1987, the legislature fulfilled a decade-old mandate reaffirming the public trust in water. The Birth of the Code: Reaffirming the Public Trust in Water

In 1987, the legislature fulfilled a decade-old constitutional mandate reaffirming the public trust in water, by passing a set of laws seeking to “protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai‘i’s water for the benefit of its people.”

This new Water Code was a Big Deal. Where a plantation oligarchy had for generations exercised de facto control over a major proportion of our water supply, diverting streams and draining aquifers throughout the region, community or site they were attached to, and were often further informed by stories, historical events and spiritual qualities that reinforced the deep connection between people and the lands that fed them, the lands that they loved.

Hawaiian place names often reflected an intimate familiarity with the unique resources and natural characteristics of the region, community or site they were attached to, and often further informed by stories, historical events and spiritual qualities that reinforced the deep connection between people and the lands that fed them, the lands that they loved.

If you live in Hawai‘i, there is a fairly good chance that your home is named after the waters, or former waters, of your place.

If you live in Hawai‘i, there is a fairly good chance that your home is named after the waters, or former waters, of your place.

Harnessing the Power of the Code

Despite the decades of pushback, and in light of today’s unprecedented era of climate change, it is now our responsibility to not only protect the Code, but to find ways to further harness the untapped potential of its public trust vision.

The time is ripe. New Water Commission staff have recently taken the initiative to update interim instream flow standards in West Maui, the first time the state has done so without legal intervention. Government agencies such as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands have stepped in to sponsor comprehensive hydrologic studies, as well as water law trainings for communities as well as government officials. And the time is ripe for water advocates, environmentalists, cultural practitioners and others to apply and uphold the Water Code have resulted in a solid foundation of Supreme Court precedent, leaving little

To learn how you can help be a water advocate, sign up for Sierra Club action alerts at sierraclubhawaii.org.
To learn more about the Water Code and water law in Hawai‘i, visit bit.ly/oha-waipono.

To learn more about the Water Code and water law in Hawai‘i, visit bit.ly/oha-waipono.

E Ola I Ka Wai. Water Is Life.

E Ola I Ka Wai. Water Is Life.

Hawaiian place names often reflected an intimate familiarity with the unique resources and natural characteristics of the region, community or site they were attached to, and were often further informed by stories, historical events and spiritual qualities that reinforced the deep connection between people and the lands that fed them, the lands that they loved.

When many traditional place names have been lost to time, those that survive today – by which we may still call our own homes, whether Native Hawaiian or other kama‘aina – and that carry the descriptions of wai remind us of this ancient but ever more relevant understanding.


Literally translated, these names could be as poetic as they were descriptive:

For fourteen years, the Board of Land and Natural Resources has allowed Kaua‘i’s electric utility, Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) a series of one-year revocable permits, KIUC diverts nearly all of the water from Waialae’ale and Waikoko streams to feed its Waia‘hia hydroplants, which supply at most 1.5% of KIUC’s electricity output.

On December 14, 2018 the Land Board proceeded to grant KIUC yet another one-year permit. While the Board’s decision temporarily restores 30% of the stream and requires some consultation with affected residents, advocates for the stream argued that this amount is not sufficient to address historic injustices.

Since 2006, the Land Board has pressured KIUC to secure a long term lease by 2020. Their current one-year permit expires at the end of this year, and the law allowing continuance of one year permits, HRS 171-58(c), expires in June 2019.

KIUC has made little, if any, progress in securing a lease. That process requires an Environmental Impact Study that would reveal, first, that they are diverting far more water than is needed to operate the two hydroelectric plants—which runs afoul of the public trust doctrine’s “only take what you need” principle. Second, KIUC would have to conduct a study of alternative locations for a hydro facility and alternative renewable energy sources that could replace the two aging Waia‘hia plants. Finally, KIUC would have to acknowledge that the water they are diverting is being “consumed”. That means it does not go back to the stream of origin. To return the water to its origin, KIUC would have to pump it five miles back up the mountain.

Each time the Land Board renews a permit to divert water out of the Waialua watershed, our constitutionally protected rights as residents and environmentalists are violated. The public trust doctrine enshrined in the State Constitution secures our right to protect and enjoy,” to see, hear, and experience the Waialua watershed in its natural state. The same goes for Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners and taro farmers, whose rights are trampled.

In 2016, A&B succeeded in passing House Bill 2501 (HB2501, now Act 126), changing Hawai‘i’s law to legalize the hold-over permits that enabled the company’s continual taking of public water from East Maui Streams. The Legislature passed HB2501, despite the fact that A&B’s sugar plantation on Maui already had plans to shut down and the company did not have plans for their fallow agricultural lands. HB2501 allowed this corporation to divert millions of gallons of freshwater every day, circumventing the established process for requesting access to public water, and rewarding A&B for manipulating the permitting system for years. However, HB2501 did include one restriction: starting with the passage of the law, A&B is only allowed to request a hold-over permit for up to three years, after that, they must request a longer-term lease.

2019 marks the third and final year that major water diverters like KIUC and A&B can apply for hold-over permits from the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We anticipate a new bill to further extend this misuse of “hold-over” permits to be introduced during the 2019 legislative session. It has been three years since the last sugar plantation closed in Hawai‘i There is no justification to continue plantation style diversions and grates that redirected over 160 million gallons of water every day. By Kip and Sharon Goodwin, Kaua‘i Group Members

Remembering House Bill 2501 As We Enter the 2019 Legislative Session

By Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

In the late 1800s, Alexander and Baldwin constructed a system of diversions and grates that redirected over 150 million gallons of water every day from several East Maui Streams to lands in Wailea and Menehune. The stream water was used to cultivate sugarcane that Alexander and Baldwin (A&B) sold for massive corporate profit, at the expense of decimating the native stream ecosystems and cultural practices in East Maui, such as traditional kalo farming.

In an apparent attempt to use the same process to continue diverting water from East Maui decades ago—a process that triggers oversight mechanisms like the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Instead, A&B has been applying for short term “hold-over” permits, which are renewed annually and have almost no mandatory oversight or environmental review. For decades, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved these hold-over permits for Alexander and Baldwin, even though they were illegal.

With your help we can clean up our water

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

Remembering House Bill 2501: As We Enter the 2019 Legislative Session

By Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

In the late 1800s, Alexander and Baldwin constructed a system of diversions and grates that redirected over 150 million gallons of water every day from several East Maui Streams to lands in Wailea and Menehune. The stream water was used to cultivate sugarcane that Alexander and Baldwin (A&B) sold for massive corporate profit, at the expense of decimating the native stream ecosystems and cultural practices in East Maui, such as traditional kalo farming.

In an apparent attempt to use the same process to continue diverting water from East Maui decades ago—a process that triggers oversight mechanisms like the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement. Instead, A&B has been applying for short term “hold-over” permits, which are renewed annually and have almost no mandatory oversight or environmental review. For decades, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved these hold-over permits for Alexander and Baldwin, even though they were illegal.

In 2016, A&B succeeded in passing House Bill 2501 (HB2501, now Act 126), changing Hawai‘i’s law to legalize the hold-over permits that enabled the company’s continual taking of public water from East Maui Streams. The Legislature passed HB2501, despite the fact that A&B’s sugar plantation on Maui already had plans to shut down and the company did not have plans for their fallow agricultural lands. HB2501 allowed this corporation to divert millions of gallons of freshwater every day, circumventing the established process for requesting access to public water, and rewarding A&B for manipulating the permitting system for years. However, HB2501 did include one restriction: starting with the passage of the law, A&B is only allowed to request a hold-over permit for up to three years, after that, they must request a longer-term lease.

2019 marks the third and final year that major water diverters like KIUC and A&B can apply for hold-over permits from the Board of Land and Natural Resources. We anticipate a new bill to further extend this misuse of “hold-over” permits to be introduced during the 2019 legislative session. It has been three years since the last sugar plantation closed in Hawai‘i. There is no justification to continue plantation style diversions and grates that redirected over 160 million gallons of water every day. By Kip and Sharon Goodwin, Kaua‘i Group Members
In his first inaugural address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised swift action to address the “dark realities of the moment” brought on by the Great Depression, and he pledged to “wage a war against the enemies of human freedom” [though we were then fighting a war by design—foe.” FDR then promptly delivered by implementing a series of bold, “New Deal” initiatives that transformed and dramatically improved American society.

As the Green New Deal definition for state climate change and FDR’s invasion analogues just as true today as it did in 1933. Enemy forces are not landing on our beaches, but the problems of climate change are caused by our actions and the science reveals the inexcusable advance of devastating climate impacts. The only way to meet this challenge is to apply the same urgency and effort required to defeat the Nazis and Germany’s army. The Green New Deal to improve our state and inspire other governments around the world to follow our example.

In our time, we may have more to fear itself, for the sake of our children and all life on this planet we must nevertheless persist and prevail. Let’s get to work!

A Profit from the Harm
Means an Obligation to Pay
for the Remedy
by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

It is now public knowledge that fossil fuel companies knew as early as 1977 that global warming was a real thing, that it is caused by humans burning fossil fuel, and that if not curtailed early it would have severe and irreversible negative consequences for the health of the planet and everything that lives on it.

Not only did fossil fuel companies know their business harmed the planet, they actively worked against solutions to the problem. Fossil fuel companies spent millions to counter science-based climate change legislation. Ourselves against reasonable climate-saving policies. Thanks to these companies, the situation is now far worse than it might otherwise have been.

The President of the Union of Concerned Scientists, Kenneth Hoffman, has said that if fossil fuel companies had been upfront about this and had been part of the solution instead of the problem, we would have made a lot of progress today instead of doubling our greenhouse gas emissions. That’s right, doubling our greenhouse gas emissions at the exact moment we should have halved them because the fossil fuel industry interfered in science-based public policy making.

Now that we know the fossil fuel industry actively worked to exacerbate the problem of climate change while profiting from it, it seems reasonable that they pay for the harm we are now all suffering. All of the mitigation and adaptation we must now do to prepare for rapidly rising seas, all of the habitat lost, oceans acidified, and seasons altered, all of the damage caused by weather events made more extreme by damage caused by weather events made more extreme by climate change... all of it should be paid for by the profits of fossil fuel companies. This seems the reasonable consequence of keeping us all hooked to the dirtiest sources of energy solely for the profit of a few companies.

Ending Carbon Emissions and Poverty in Hawai’i
by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

The 2018 U.N. climate report minced no words: We have less than 12 years between now and when carbon emissions need to be cut in half in order to keep global temperature shifts below a 1.5 degree increase from pre-industrial levels. This is a major undertaking.

In Hawai’i, despite significant legislative action to advance goals and plans to save our climate, our carbon emissions are still increasing. We are among the leaders in carbon emissions per capita with no sign of stopping.

The impediments to ending our contribution to climate change are not scientific, but instead are political. Scientists whose entire careers have been focused on research and analysis are now full-time lobbyists, jutting in to the political fray where their time is now most needed.

There is general consensus among scientific and economic circles that we must make dramatic changes in policy to accelerate the reduction of carbon to zero, not just from efforts that capture significant amounts of carbon from the air itself.

Carbon Capture
There several emerging technologies around pulling carbon molecules directly from the air that are worth of our attention in the coming year. Innovators are researching opportunities to capture carbon by retrofitting existing devices and vehicles. Someday soon it will be possible to use captured carbon as a bridge fuel in cars and powerplants.

The most time-tested and reliable method of capturing carbon from the air is something we all know and love: trees. Hawai’i needs to plant at least 1 million trees by 2030 to stave off the worst of the “hot island effect” and meet its climate neutrality goals. Government agencies, non-profits, and companies are embracing the challenge, with the most recent one announcing just last week that it would build a carbon capture project.

For its part, the State of Hawai’i is preparing to enter the California carbon sequestration market as one way to fund massive tree-planting efforts throughout the islands.

Carbon Pricing
The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that a $500/ton price on carbon would be necessary to cut the world’s emissions in half by 2050. Detractors cite the potential regressive nature of this tax as a reason not to support it. However, if fossil fuel companies are not paying a price on carbon, the cost is borne by all of us—by the cost of our energy infrastructure, and paid out as dividends directly to taxpayers, then plan is no longer regressive, but is significantly progressive. Multiple studies show that Green New Deal carbon taxes would be invested public-ously financially better off than they would be without this plan being implemented.

In Canada, several provinces adopted a carbon tax and dividend plan that will return money to most residents. Depending on where one lives, the average Canadian household can expect to receive $150-$1,000 more than what they spent in 2018 for the price of carbon. This program starts in January, In Scandinavia, residents have been operating on a carbon pricing scheme since 1991. Finland’s carbon price is currently set at $160 per ton, which is the equivalent of a $50 dividend paid out to each person. Finland’s emissions per person are less than a third of ours here in Hawai’i. We will certainly be watching to see what we can learn and adapt from their program to benefit residents of Hawai’i.

The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i passed a resolution this summer asking for a carbon pricing plan that returns funds directly to residents. According to some of our ally organizations, when they asked candidates for Lieutenant Governor to support the plan, the majority of them said they supported it in principle, but were otherwise not going to endorse it. Our ally organizations, when they asked candidates for Governor to support the plan, the majority of them said they supported it in principle, but were otherwise not going to endorse it.

The Hawai‘i Chapter is currently exploring which carbon pricing options are most feasible for Hawai‘i. For more information, please visit bit.ly/SC-cp18
Welcome the Newly Elected 2019 Executive Committee Members!

Hawai'i Chapter
Heather Kimball
Colin Yost
Nate Yuen

Kaua'i Group
Kip Goodwin
Carl Imaparto
Jade Moss
Rayne Regush

Big mahalo to everyone that voted in our second online election. Congratulations again to our new leadership!

WE'RE MOVING DATABASES!

The Hawai'i Chapter is being integrated into Sierra Club National’s database system. This means many great things—increased access to online organizing resources, technical support, streamlined reporting, and more. Staff and volunteers are working hard to make this transition as streamlined as possible and we thank you for your patience during this time. If you notice any changes in your subscription preferences, online or by mail, please let us know at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org or 538-6161.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

View the latest hike listings and online registration options at bit.ly/SCH-outdoors.

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

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

Sunday, January 6
Photography hike: 'Hāhīlaukea Crater Hike (E) Koko Head, moderate/3 miles, ridge Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations and information. We may spot some humpback whales from above as we make our way into a crater to view rare and endangered native plants. Leader: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Sunday, January 13
Kāhuku Shoreline to Turtle Bay Kāhuku, moderate/5 miles, beach Reservations required. We will meet and start at the Kāhuku Golf Course at 8:30am and hike north along the coast. We pass by the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge and learn about the area. With a little luck, we will see some of the numerous birds that live there. The hike continues on to the beach for a look at some historic salt pans. We will swim and lunch on the beach before continuing on to Turtle Bay. Bring plenty of water, a hat and sunscreen. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, gsinclai@gmail.com, 753-0528

Saturday, January 19
Pālehua 'Ekape'a Enclosure “Akauy” Service (S) Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space is limited as we will be working in a sensitive area where the endangered native 'elepaio is nesting and there are some native plants already growing which we don’t want to disturb or damage. We will probably hear and see some native 'elepaio as we work in the area, so bring a camera as well. Pack a lunch and/or snack and definitely mosquito repellent. Bring gloves and hand tools for weeding alien plants in the enclosure. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

Sunday, February 3
Photography hike: Ka'ūwa Ridge (E) Kailua, moderate/2 miles, ridge Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. The pace of photography hikes are extremely slow. Scenic views from Makapu'u to Kāne'ohe. Car shuttle required. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Stan Oka, 429-9814; Curtis Kawamoto

Saturday, February 9
MCBH Kāne'ohe Bay Service Project (S) Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS one week before outing to secure access to base. Contact Dan Anderson at 489-1695 or dandergh@gmail.com. We will be working with Environmental Division helping clear wetlands of mangrove plants to create habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds. Because MCBH is a secured military facility, we must provide your name to the base in advance. We'll send you a waiver which you must bring with you. Leader: Deborah Blair, 392-0481

Sunday, February 10
Photography hike: Ka'iwa Ridge (E) Makakilo, moderate/2 miles, ridge Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Wet rainforest environment with many native plants. Low light conditions. Bring mosquito repellent and raingear. Leaders: Curtis Kawamoto, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Dan Anderson, 489-1695 or dandergh@gmail.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa

Sunday, February 24
Photography hike: Pua'Ohi'a /Tantalus Crater (E) Tantalus, easy/2 miles, ridge/crater Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Curtis for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Wet rainforest environment with many native plants. Low light conditions. Bring mosquito repellent and raingear. Leaders: Curtis Kawamoto, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Dan Anderson, 489-1695 or dandergh@gmail.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa

Sunday, March 24
Photography hike: Pālehua-Pali'ou (E) Makakilo, moderate/2 miles, ridge Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact Clyde for reservations with first and last name and phone number contact. Space limited, so make your reservations early. The pace of photography hikes is extremely slow. Pack a camera, lunch and/or snacks, and water. Not for kids.
O'ahu Group Outings

Sunday, March 17
Mākuʻa Run via Peacock Flats
Mokuleʻia, strenuous/11 miles, contour, 2,193 feet
Reservations required. Long walk up a road to a trail that leads through Pahole Natural Area Reserve to a fabulous view of Mākuʻa Valley. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 733-0258, gsinclair@gmail.com

Humpback Whales are in Trouble
by Nina Monaseivich

Our oceans are in peril. Multiple whale species, including North Pacific humpback whales, are experiencing serious challenges and population declines. These majestic mammals are apex species and contribute crucially to the health of the entire ocean ecosystem.

Recent History
The Hawaiian Islands are mating and birthing grounds for the North Pacific humpback whale. Humpback whales were hunted to near extinction until the 1960’s and listed as endangered in 1975. At that time, scientists proposed that when the whales reached 60% of their pre-whaling populations they would be considered recovered. In 1991, the recovery team realized that those numbers were unattainable so they developed an interim goal to double the population size over the next 20 years.

Humpback whale numbers were growing by 6% per year. The Hawai‘i population was estimated to be 16,000, a small fraction of pre-whaling numbers.

In 2004–06 an international study known as SPLASH - the Structures of Population, Levels of Abundance, and Status of Humpback Whales was conducted. The conclusion drawn from that report was that North Pacific humpback whale numbers were growing by 6% per year. The Hawai‘i population was estimated to be 16,000, a small fraction of pre-whaling numbers.

Unfortunately in 2013, the Hawai‘i Fishermen’s Alliance for Conservation and Tradition petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to delineate a Distinct Population Segment of humpbacks in the North Pacific in order to de-list the Hawai‘i distinct population under the Endangered Species Act.

In September 2016, NMFS reclassified humpback whales, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), into 14 Distinct Population Segments (DPS) worldwide, designated by breeding areas. Upon reclassifying, NMFS determined that the Hawai‘i Distinct Population Segment, along with nine other DPSs, no longer warranted listing under the ESA. Prior to this, all humpback whales, worldwide, were listed as endangered. Regrettably, the delisting was based on the ten-year-old SPLASH research.

Perilous Counts
Recent whale counts in Hawai‘i have decreased by more than 50% over the past 3 years. For example, the Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF) count in 2018 recorded 3127 total whales and 62 total calves. In 2011, the PWF counted 1612 total whales and 191 total calves. In addition, acoustic studies document a 50% decrease in acoustic energy over the past three years. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary ocean count sightings have decreased approximately 50% over the past few years as well.

In Alaska, since 2003, the science also documents a significant decline in abundance. Observation and photo documentation show whales in poor body condition, emaciated (24%), abnormal skin conditions, and an 80% decrease in calves. Poor body condition is most likely attributed to lack of food but may also indicate illness, disease, or stress.

The Alaska Whale Foundation reported only one mother-calf pair sighted in 2016, and only two mother-calf pairs were seen in 2017. Alarming, there were no juvenile sightings in 2017—a first since recordings began in 1986. (Humpback Whale Monitoring in Glacier Bay and Adjacent Waters 2017 Annual Progress Report).

Unabated threats
The two biggest threats to whales are net entanglement and vessel strikes. Net entanglement kills 300,000 cetaceans annually. This includes lost or discarded fishing gear and active fishing gear. In Hawai‘i, the previous season had the highest confirmed entangled whales ever recorded. Other serious threats are prey depletion due to overfishing, ecosystem/habitat degradation due to runoff, chemical pollution, swallowed pollution from garbage (mainly plastic), ocean acidification, climate change, acoustic disturbance (increasing dramatically from engine noise due to more shipping, recreation, and fishing vessels worldwide), ongoing Navy sonar, seismic gas and oil surveys, illegal whaling, bio-toxins, harassment from whale watching/tourism activities, and radiation from Fukushima.

Multiple academic institutions including the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa Marine Mammal Research Program and the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Research Program and others are continuing to study multiple factors that are impacting the whales. This includes climate change, human activities, important habitats, prey availability, and individual body condition.

As this article is going to print, a meeting of 30 researchers is planned in Hawai‘i for late November to share research, fill in knowledge gaps, and better understand the reasons for the decline of humpback whales. Their conclusions will be critical in determining the action plans of all sectors involved with protecting the whales.

Kaua‘i Group Report

Saturday, March 9
Late Hike: Pa’u Pia
Mānoa, moderate/2 miles, 500 ft elevation gain
This short hike in the back of Mānoa Valley takes us to the top of a short hill (pu‘u) and a surprisingly good view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

Reservations are highly recommended. Pack a lunch and/or snacks and lots of water.

Saturday, March 16
Pulehua Service Project - Trail Clearing (8)
Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John Shimogawa for reservations. Space is limited due to parking. Pack a lunch and/or snacks and lots of water.

Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruning shears, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! You may also hear and see some native birds, so bring a camera too.

Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, cydyekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom

Sunday, March 17
Kāneʻohe, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com
view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

Late Hike: Puʻu Pia
Mānoa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com
view of Mākua Valley. Leader: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528, gsinclai@gmail.com

This short hike in the back of Mānoa Valley takes us to the top of a short hill (pu‘u) and a surprisingly good view. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Jean Fujikawa, jean.fujikawa@gmail.com

For specific islands, each group may have its own outing policy. Please look at each group’s page or website for more information.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. 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 the group for the entire outing. We welcome all the 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 water dry bag. Boots, shoes with traction grooves (no loafers) or tabs 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 content.sierracclub.org/outings/local-outdoors/resources 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 participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

For specific islands, each group may have its own outing policy. Please look at each group’s page or website for more specific information on where to meet or what to bring with you.
Kaua‘i Group Report & Outings

The importance of whales cannot be understated. In addition to Hawai‘i’s tourism economy they are critical to the health of the oceans. And, they help mitigate climate change—whales eat vast quantities of plankton, the foundation of the food chain, which also removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it at the bottom of the oceans.

The population of the North Pacific humpback whales is trending down significantly. They are showing signs of poor health and there are fewer calves. Action needs to be taken right away—time is of the essence to save these magnificent mammals.

To start, Kaua‘i Group advocates the relisting of the North Pacific humpback to the Endangered Species List, the designation of critical habitat, and for State and Federal agencies to establish vessel speed limits for the North Pacific humpback population to the Endangered Species List, the designation of critical habitat, and for the North Pacific humpback population to the Endangered Species List, the designation of critical habitat.

Group Report & Outings

晋上日, 2月17日
Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls (E/F)
Waiamea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles
Unparalleled views of Waiamea Canyon from the other side. Visit the top of the 800-foot Waipo’o Falls and dip your toes into a cool stream before it flows down the waterfall. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-573-4834

晋上日, 2月12日
Moalaea Ridge (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, moderately difficult/7 miles
A wonderful hike along a dirt road that begins up in Koke‘e and terminates on a ridge above the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

晋上日, 2月11日
Waimea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles
Visit the rim of Waimea Canyon down to its base and admire the majesty of this canyon along the way. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

晋上日, 2月28日
Canyon Trail to Waipo'o Falls (E/F)
Waiamea Canyon, moderately strenuous/4 miles
Unparalleled views of Waiamea Canyon from the other side. Visit the top of the 800-foot Waipo’o Falls and dip your toes into a cool stream before it flows down the waterfall. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-573-4834

Saturday, March 9
Nounou Mountain (Sleeping Giant) (C/E/F)
East Shore, moderate/5 miles
Offers spectacular panoramic views of the East Side of Kauai. We will explore the mountain on several trails. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, March 16
A Day of Koke‘e Trails (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, moderate/5 miles
Starting at Koke‘e Lodge we hike to Berry Flat Trail and continue to the northern section of the Ditch Trail. Finally, we loop back to the Wainihiha Trail and back to the lodge for a variety of views. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Sunday, March 17
Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)
South Shore, moderate/3 miles
Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

Saturday, March 23
Kapa‘a to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
East Shore, moderate/6.5 miles
The first part of this outing is easy on the bike/walk path up until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Lovely views along wild coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Thursday, March 28
Nounou Trail West from Kolekole Road (E/F)
Waialua, strenuous/3 miles
Climb to the top of (Nounou) Sleeping Giant. Incredible sweeping views and lush vegetation. Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

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

Tuesday, January 1
Kealia Beach to Kaua Bay Beach (Donkey Beach) (C/E/F)
Easy/3 miles
Start off the year on the right foot by taking a Sierra Club hike! We’ll begin our walk mid-afternoon enjoying great views of the rocky coastline and have our first dinner of the year at a picnic table overlooking the ocean. Co-Leaders: Judy Dalton and Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Tuesday, January 8
Moalaea Ridge (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, moderately difficult/7 miles
A beautiful hike through farmland and forest with glorious views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Thursday, January 10
Kauai Trail (C/E/F)
Waiamea Canyon State Park, strenuous/5 miles
We will hike from the rim of Waiamea Canyon down to its base and admire the majesty of this canyon along the way. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Friday, January 11
Kuloa Ridge Trail (C/E/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3 miles
A gentle sturdy walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Judy Dalton, 661-373-4834

Saturday, January 12
Waimea Canyon State Park, strenuous/5 miles
We will hike from the rim of Waiamea Canyon down to its base and admire the majesty of this canyon along the way. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, January 19
Nu‘uolo Trail (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, moderately strenuous/7.5 miles
A rewarding hike reaching a spectacular view at the Lolo Vista overlooking the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, January 26
Jewel of Koke‘e (C/E/F)
Strenuous/7 miles
Spectacular hike through forests of Koke‘e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon trail, and Po‘omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo’o Falls for a view of Waiamea Canyon to the ocean. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Sunday, January 27
Moalaea Trail to Kauai Ridge Picnic Area (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/5.5 miles
A beautiful hike through farmland and forest with glorious views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Sunday, January 27
Kauai Ridge Trail (C/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3 miles
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Judy Dalton, 661-373-4834

Monday, February 18
Sunset to Full Moon Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/4.5 miles
We start off in the late afternoon meeting at Kapa‘a Library to shuttle our cars to Donkey Beach. We will start our walk from there and end back at the library as we watch the moon rise over the ocean. Learn how the Planning Commission was legally challenged to assure increased building setbacks along the ridge to preserve the views on and along the coastline. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, February 23
Nu‘uolo Trail (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, moderately strenuous/7.5 miles
A rewarding hike reaching a spectacular view at the Lolo Vista overlooking the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Sunday, February 24
Māhā'ulepū and Makauwahi Cave Reserve (C/E/F)
South shore, moderate/3 miles
Enjoy the majestic coastline. Visit the world-class archaeological site. Leader: Allan Rachap, 808-212-3108

Photo by Lee Gately

Kaua‘i Group Outings

Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along a foundation of the food chain, which also removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it at the bottom of the oceans.

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

Moalaea Trail to Kauai Ridge Picnic Area (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/5.5 miles
A beautiful hike through farmland and forest with glorious views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Kauai Ridge Trail (C/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3 miles
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Judy Dalton, 661-373-4834

Kapa‘a to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/6.5 miles
The first part of this outing is easy on the bike/walk path up until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Lovely views along wild coast. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Kaua‘i Group Outings

Spectacular hike through forests of Koke‘e, Black Pipe Trail, Canyon trail, and Po‘omau Canyon Lookout. Cross over Waipo’o Falls for a view of Waiamea Canyon to the ocean. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Moalaea Trail to Kauai Ridge Picnic Area (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/5.5 miles
A beautiful hike through farmland and forest with glorious views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Kauai Ridge Trail (C/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3 miles
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Judy Dalton, 661-373-4834

Kulaau Ridge Trail (C/F)
East side, easy to moderate/3 miles
A gentle steady walk on a wide path with sweeping view of lush valleys and Mount Wai‘ale‘ale and Makaleha Mountain Ranges. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Judy Dalton, 661-373-4834

Wai Ko Loop Trail (C/F)
North shore, easy/3.5 miles
We’ll take the Kilauea Forest and then the largest mahogany plantation in North America. Then, the trail opens up and we’ll enjoy impressive views of the
Maui Group Report

Maahalo to astronomer Harriet Witt, Tim Wolfe of Akamai Video, Rob Weltman, Kim Toomey, Daniel Grantham, and Miranda Camp for a well-produced November 9th autumn stargazing event under the broad skies of Wailea 670. Special mahalos to Maui Tropical Plantation for providing space for the Maui Group holiday party and treasure hunt. A new program manager for Maui Group will be hired soon, thanks to our many generous donors. We look forward to another year of standing for Maui’s lands, waters, and people.

Lahaina Wastewater Facility Clean Water Act Legal Action

US Supreme Court justices will hold a conference on November 30 to discuss whether to grant or deny Maui County’s petition to hear the Lahaina wastewater case. Earthjustice attorneys, on behalf of Sierra Club and allies, filed a petition in late October opposing the County’s request to reverse the decision of the 9th Circuit Court that requires Maui County to secure a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and reduce impacts to ocean water quality from the plant.

West Maui Stream Restoration

Two more West Maui streams, Kahoma and Kanahā, have officially had stream flow partially restored thanks to a recent State Water Commission decision.

Wailea 670/“Honua’ula” Development

A revised Historic Resources Preservation Plan for Wailea 670 is under review by the Maui Group before it is submitted to State Historic Division before the matter is heard by the Maui Planning Commission. The 1150-by-the-State-Historic-Division before the matter is heard. Submitter are expected soon to cover the significant archaeological reports as part of a 2017 legal settlement agreement.

Kīhei Wetlands

A proposed housing project near Welakahao Street in Kīhei appears to be sited on lands long recognized as wetlands. The Maui Group will work with local community groups to advocate for protection of the wetlands.

Sand Mining

Local cultural group, Mālāma Kakulinalua, recently met with Maui Lani landowners to seek mediation of mining activities in a culturally sensitive sand dune area. Earthjustice attorneys, on behalf of Sierra Club and allies, filed a petition in late October opposing the County’s request to reverse the decision of the 9th Circuit Court that requires Maui County to secure a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit and reduce impacts to ocean water quality from the plant.

Kīhei Coral Reef Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Explore the amazing world beneath the sea and help clean abandoned fishing gear and trash from our fragile coral reefs. We’ll meet at 8am at the Kehaloh Church (green church) parking lot. Bring snorkel gear and scissors or diving knives if you have them. Also snorkel gives come in handy. Must be a good swimmer. We will have floats to carry the trash we pick up. Limit 10. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

See Page 10 for general outings information

Kīhei fishing gear and trash from our fragile coral reefs. We’ll meet at 8am at the Kehaloh Church (green church) parking lot. Bring snorkel gear and scissors or diving knives if you have them. Also snorkel gives come in handy. Must be a good swimmer. We will have floats to carry the trash we pick up. Limit 10. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Saturday, January 26

Hālākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)

Hālākua Kapaupulehu Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E)

Explore ancient Mālāea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E). Mālāea, 2 miles

Mākena Landing Historical Hike (C/E)

Archaeological tour of ancient Hawaiian kauhale (village) with archaeologist Jeanne Schaaf. Stunning sunset views. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance become a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahí Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Mã'alaeaua Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E)

Explore ancient Mālāea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E). Mālāea, 2 miles

Mākena Landing Historical Hike (C/E)

Archaeological tour of ancient Hawaiian kauhale (village) with archaeologist Jeanne Schaaf. Stunning sunset views. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance become a must. Bring water, hiking stick, cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahí Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

See Maui Group Outings

Mã'alaeaua Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E)

Explore ancient Mālāea Cultural Sites and Petroglyphs (C/E). Mālāea, 2 miles

Share your thoughts with us.
Maui Group Outings

Saturday, February 23
Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Haʻikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hāmākua lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Haʻikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, March 22
Wailea 670 Hike (C/E)
South Maui, 2-3 miles
Springtime tour of rare native plants. Visit ancient Hawaiian sites in Wailea 670 preserve. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick, and cameras. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register: laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, March 24
Lahaina Pali Trail (C/E)
West Maui, 5 miles
Strenuous with steep uphill. Enjoy the views and whale watch. Hike from Lahaina end trailhead, up to windmills and back the same way. Sturdy boots, sunscreen, and hat are recommended. A hiking stick is useful. Bring lots of water. Meet 8am at Maui Ocean Center parking at the gas station end. Limit 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com; please provide cell phone number

Saturday, March 30
Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Haʻikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hāmākua lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Haʻikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, March 17
Ulupalakua to Kaupō Car Tour (C/E)
30 miles
Caravan by car and stop for short hikes. Amazing native plants, historical sites, views, and commentary by noted botanist and historian Bob Hobdy. Meet 8:30am at Kēōkea Park in upper Kula. Bring lunch and water. Limit 20. Special donation: $5 members $10 non-members. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Mauna Kea Update by Debbie Ward
Mauna Kea motos were shocked to learn of the highly political ruling issued just days before the TMT board was scheduled to meet. On October 30, 2018, the Hawaii Supreme Court issued a decision supporting the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope atop Mauna Kea. The court affirmed 4-1 the state Board of Land and Natural Resources’ decision to issue a construction permit for the $1.43 billion project. Justice Polk wrote a concurrent brief regarding the public trust doctrine issues the decision raised. In a move considered highly unusual, the court issued its opinion without a concurring opinion.

On November 9, 2018, Hawaii’s Supreme Court Judge Wilson released his dissenting decision regarding the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope atop Mauna Kea. The ruling allowed for continued access to land and its cultural and natural resources do not lose its protection under the Hawai’i “State” Constitution and the laws of the State of Hawai’i because it has already had substantial adverse effects caused by previous development. In the case of Mauna Kea, the previous building of telescopes on the summits have had adverse effects to the Mauna Kea summits. Justice Wilson states: “The substantial adverse impacts to cultural resources presently existing in the Astronomy Precinct of Mauna Kea combined with the impacts from TMT—a proposed land use that eclipses all other land uses in magnitude—would constitute an impact on existing cultural resources that is substantial and adverse. Accordingly, the Conservation District Use Application for TMT must be denied.”

A Motion for Reconsideration was filed by attorney Richard Naiwi Wurdenman for the Mauna Kea Petitioners – Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Kealoha Pisciotta, Clarence Kaneka – filed 1/15/19. Deadline 1/29/19. A concurrence and dissenting opinions, reconsidered and amended the decision on some of the issues raised, but left the permit in place. Still, TMT will need more funding, plus an extension on the UI Mauna Kea lease—which expires in 15 years. If built, it would be finished just in time to be decommissioned, but they wouldn’t have the funds to do so for 50 years.

Visions of Kahuku by Lisa Mason
On November 24th our club hiked the Puʻu o Lokuana Trail in the Kahuku Unit of Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park. The loop trail is 2 miles roundtrip, and takes about 1 hour to complete at a leisurely pace. This area in Kaʻu experienced one of Mauna Loa’s most violent eruptions in 1868. Lethal landslides and tsunami were generated by powerful earthquakes. Fast moving lava traveled 10 miles in only 3 hours to the coastline covering many of the vibrant fishing and farming communities of the area. However, the business of ranching inevitably continued in Kahuku.

In 2003, this unit of Kahuku ranch became National parklands. During our hike, we walked through several ‘ipuka of native forest emerging from the 1868 flow and crossed into rough hills of Kīkāʻu pali. The pinnacle of Kahuku is Puʻu o Lokuana. This puʻu is an iron-rich cinder cone hill that provided us sweeping views of the historic Kaʻu field system, emerging forests of ‘ōhiʻa and koa trees, the old Kamaoa wind farm, and Mauna Loa. We also joined the park ranger talk on the “Realms and Divisions of Kahuku” and learned the story of two great aliʻi, Kaʻu chief Kona and his cousin Kamemeha, who battled for control of Hawaiʻi Island.

Christian Liberty Academy’s High School Hikers participated this year in the National Keep America Beautiful Recycle-Bowl, a one-month long recycling challenge on our school campus to promote recycling education and zero waste. From October 15-November 15, students collected 1,775 pounds of recyclables at our school (not bad for a small campus) including HI-5, mixed paper, cardboard, and plastics. The County of Hawaiʻi recently announced they would no longer be accepting #5 (polypropylene) plastics starting December 1, 2018. Currently, #1 (PETE) and #2 (HPDE) plastics can still be recycled. What many people don’t realize is that not all plastics are the same and that trying to “recycle” the wrong plastics, and other non-recyclable items do more harm than good. We are proud of our community and hope to continue educating our school about the importance of reducing our waste.

Future High School Hiking outings include Makalawena Beach, Crater Rim Trail, Pololî Valley, and Kawaaiki to ‘Anaheʻomalu Bay. Happy hiking!
Hawaii's Coral Reefs and Fish Still in Trouble by Rob Culbertson

With all the hope and promise for positive change in Hawaii, I have to report sadly, that the reefs upon which the host culture once thrived and our modern inhabitants now experience as the "Ocean State", are dying before our very eyes. Only very few experienced eyes are going underwater these days and taking notice—and that's a problem in and of itself.

The Moku Loa Group has begun a series of outings to investigate, and become better witnesses to the conditions and reports of wildlife trafficking on the reefs. The Moku Loa Group is looking to partner with experienced water people in shoreline communities already working at becoming reef keepers. The first outing took us to Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District and State Historic Park in North Kohala. There, volunteers made anecdotal observations in the water on a day with good visibility and little to no chop. Although this remote and culturally sensitive place lacks permanent official protection and is considered pristine by some, the amount of coral cover and the numbers and variety of fish seemed hardly lacking. Our group as we latter compared impressions. Perhaps the reports of poachers violating the marine conditions and reports to the halls of power and understand personally the vital importance of keeping our marine family together. How we may drive to scarcity if that's what the markets calculate a rationale for continued taking, parsing out shifting numbers and assumptions about the vitality of targeted species, myriad creatures form a complex web of ecological relationships that only together in the mystery of unity serve the well being of all; from plankton and larvae to apex predators, from algae to herbivorous grazers, all are necessary, all are hitched together as the magnificent John Muir proclaimed a hundred years ago.

And here's a fact that should be shocking to all—in 2014, more live Hawaiian reef fish were cartoned away in just the limited area between Keahole Bay and Puako Bay than ALL of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, an area 300 times larger! Now the Moku Loa Group is calling attention once again to the plight of our reefs and demanding an end to reef wildlife trafficking in Hawaii. The real tragedy of the commons may be that not enough water people walk the halls of power and understand personally the vital importance of keeping our marine family together. How we do change that? And indeed, what will it take to get you back in the water and see it with your own eyes before it's gone?

ACTION UPDATE: As of November 16, 2018 a new anti-poaching line, independent of the DLNR hotline, has been set up with an easy to remember number: 808-NO POACH.

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Moku Loa Group Report

Moku Loa Group Annual Meeting by Debbie Ward

An aquarium trade educational event, with our annual meeting, will take place at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo on January 12 from 3-6:30 pm. The event will feature talks by local coral reef experts about the aquarium trade and how you can help to preserve our coastal ecosystem. Everyone is welcome to a reef fish art gallery and refreshments, then Rene Umberger of For the Fishes, Paul Cox, a marine photographer and activist, and Kealoha Pisciotto of Kaipala’a will speak. We have invited our local representatives to join us as well. We will honor and thank our Moku Loa Group hike leaders, ExCom members, and conservation committee who have worked on so many Sierra Club activities this year!

As Chair of the group during this tumultuous year, I would like to acknowledge the work of our hike leaders, conservation and political committees, science fair judges, and ExCom members for all the time and commitment they have given to our thriving Group. Our efforts to serve our island home include public outreach, education, financial support, testimony, and activism to explore, enjoy, and protect our native ecosystems, encourage energy self-sufficiency, reduce and manage climate change. We bid a fond aloha to Mary Marvin Porter, Nadine Kehaulani Robertson, Blake Watson, and Gary Harrold who will be leaving our ExCom and we wish the newly elected members. We continue to invite new members to join us!

Join us at our Annual Meeting January 12, 3-6:30 pm at Mokupāpapa in Hilo.

Moku Loa Group Report & Outings

Volunteers observe the marine environment at Lapakahi MLCD.

A new anti-poaching line, independent of the DLNR hotline, has been set up with an easy to remember number: 808-NO POACH.
The fruit that bears on this shrub is very sour and can be ‘ākala, is a Hawaiian raspberry that is endemic to Hawai‘i. Plants around it. Plants like a‘ali‘i, pūkiawe, ‘ākala, and nēnē, also called the Hawaiian Goose, can be seen in this crater. The main reason for this Haleakalā backpacking trip was to volunteer for the National Park Service to rid the crater of the numerous weeds that are suffocating the native plants. The weeds that we needed to focus on for this trip were the Heterotheca grandiflora, bull thistle, fireweed, and Plantago lanceolata. We collected as much as we could, even going off-trail to get the stragglers. This led to the collection of more than 3,200 weeds. Even though a large amount of weeds were uprooted, and the flowers and seeds burned, there are still a lot of weeds to be taken care of. Although it is not possible to uproot every weed in the crater, I think it is possible to get enough uprooted as to control the population.

Any tree that is several hundred years old has lived through earthquakes, hurricanes, and other disasters—both natural and manmade. Some of the most intriguing trees are the ones that were toppled, survived the fall, and twisted themselves back upright, like this 3-foot thick toppled tree on Tantalus that is likely between 450 and 900 years old. The tree is old enough to pre-date Western contact and the arrival of Captain Cook in 1778. Now extinct honeycreepers like the nukupu‘u probably fed on the nectar of its flowers.

Some plants are even older. This huge ‘ōhi‘a tree in Kipuka Pua‘ulu on Hawai‘i Island is sadly, not doing very well. It survives with only a few meager branches with green leaves at the top. At 6 feet thick, the tree is likely between 900 and 1,800 years old. Mind boggling to imagine the tree could possibly have witnessed a living landscape untouched by humans before the arrival of Polynesians to the Hawaiian Islands. I could not help but hug this giant old ‘ōhi‘a tree—a venerable kupuna in the forest.
**Hukilike No Maui: Together for Maui**

*By Rob Weltman, Maui Group Chair*

In a powerful coalition, Maui activists for environmental protection are joining with advocates for affordable housing and farmers working to expand regenerative agriculture to collaborate on a vision for Maui’s former sugar cane lands. Alexander & Baldwin (A&B) announced in January 2016 that it would be ending all sugar production on 36,000 acres in December of that year.

Sierra Club is working with FACE Māui, Hawai’i Farmers Union United, and many others in the Hukilike No Maui coalition to push for diversified agriculture, affordable housing in sustainable communities, and protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources on the now fallow land. The coalition has met with County and State politicians, including Governor Ige, for support towards those goals.

In April 2018, it presented a petition with over 1,000 signatures to the A&B shareholder meeting asking for 15% of the former cane land to be set aside as a first step, allowing for farming in the fertile Ha‘ilimale area and a sustainable community near Kahului. See [togetherformauai.org](http://togetherformauai.org) for the full list of sponsors of the petition and to add your support.

---

**Hu Honua: Orange Juice?**

*by Cory Harden, Moku Loa Group ExCom*

It was just vitamin C—citric acid. Like in orange juice, Hu Honua representative Dennis Poma said, smiling. He was addressing a crowd of hundreds at a Department of Health meeting in November. At issue were permits for Hu Honua to discharge stormwater and inject 21.6 million gallons of spent cooling water—per day—into the ground only a hundred feet from ocean cliffs.

Hu Honua is a power plant under construction in Pepe ‘ekeo that will burn trees as “renewable” energy, but would emit greenhouse gases, impact forests, and risk polluting the nearby ocean. Poma was explaining a suspicious liquid discharge recently reported by residents. He claimed it was an inadvertent spill.

So…orange juice? Two activists, Hank Fergestrom, a native Hawaiian resident, and Koohan Paik-Mander, of the Mālama Hāmākua, held up bottles of liquid said to be from the discharge. The liquid was black.

And the Hawai’i Tribune-Herald interviewed a witness who came to the meeting:

Dave Clark, a laborer from Waimea who is working at the job site, said he witnessed a “black river of water” going over the cliff into the ocean Friday afternoon, when Hu Honua officials said there was an “inadvertent spill.”

But Clark said the discharge smelled, was dark and lasted for several hours that morning until he turned it off himself. He showed samples taken of the water in two plastic bottles, which were black and contained an odor.

Clark said he was threatened by a manager at the site who told him he was going to “watch every move you make.”

Standing with some of his fellow union members outside ‘Imiloa, Clark said they felt they had to speak out about it.

“We couldn’t stand the smell,” he said. “We was 10 feet away having lunch, 10 feet from that stream, from that running water.”

[Warren] Lee [Hu Honua president],… previously said less than 7,000 gallons were discharged and about 3,500 gallons made it through the outfall.

A raucous affair, Hawai‘i Tribune-Herald, November 15, 2018

Sierra Club, Pepe‘ekeo Community Association Shoreline Fishing Committee, and Hilo resident Claudia Rohr have filed contested case hearings against Hu Honua, and Life of the Land has filed a related lawsuit.

---

**Red Hill: Where Are We and Where Are We Going**

*by Kirsten Fujitani, Chapter Strategic Communications Manager*

The U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, and Hawai’i Department of Health are almost four years into their administrative review to make the 137-acre fuel storage tank complex at Red Hill safe. Tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on studies and modeling on which the Navy's work has been deemed unsatisfactory by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and O’ahu’s water remains threatened by these fragile, antiquated tanks. Nevertheless, 2018 was a big year in our fight to protect O’ahu’s water from fuel contamination:

- The Sierra Club won in a lawsuit against the Hawai’i Department of Health. In February, the First Circuit Court ruled that the Department of Health improperly exempted the antiquated Red Hill fuel tanks from the upgrade requirements expected of all other underground storage tanks.
- Thanks to our lawsuit, the Department of Health then hastily updated their underground storage tank regulations including the regulations regarding field constructed tanks like Red Hill. A dozen concerned residents testified at the public hearing for these new tank regulations.
- The Navy hosted an open house style public meeting in March to provide updates on the tanks at Red Hill. Community members express that no substantial new information was learned from the Navy’s presentations.
- The Navy’s work was chastised several times in letters from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health because it did not submit satisfactory work mandated by its agreement with the agencies.
- The Navy reported on the top Tank Upgrade Alternative options and released its preliminary choice for the least costly, least protective option of status quo.
- The Navy conducted testing to determine the state of the tanks’ steel liners. Preliminary results revealed that 5 out of 10 samples tested showed corrosion much more than the Navy anticipated.
- The Senate Red Hill Task Force held its annual meeting in November. The Navy provided an update on their progress meeting their administrative agreement and provided answers to questions from legislators and other decision makers, especially regarding the corrosion testing.
- The Honolulu City Council Committee Public Works, Infrastructure, and Sustainability heard a resolution urging the Hawai’i Department of Health and Environmental Protection Agency to reject single walled tank upgrades at Red Hill. The resolution passed out of the committee, was scheduled to be heard in front of the full council, but was cancelled the day before the council meeting.

**What’s next in 2019?**

- **Regulations:** Mandated by the newly adopted underground storage tank rules, the Navy must apply for a permit by the end of 2019 to continue to operate the fuel storage tanks at Red Hill. Hu operating tank operators, from small gas station owners up to large scale fuel farms like Red Hill, must have a permit to operate.
- **Upgrade Alternatives:** The Environmental Protection Agency will be hosting a public hearing regarding the Navy’s official proposal of tank upgrade alternative, likely in the spring or early summer. The Navy has shared preliminarily that they will choose option 1A or to maintain the current tank system, leaving what exists of the original 1/4-inch steel liner and recoating only the bottom of the tanks with epoxy and continuing to monitor the leaks. In its own report, the Navy states “this alternative is nearly identical to the efforts conducted to inspect and repair the Red Hill tanks over the last 13 years.”
- **Corrosion Testing Results:** The Navy will also be releasing the full results of their corrosion testing in early 2019. The Navy removed cuttings from a single tank to verify their assumptions about how the tanks have aged over the last 75 years. The Navy predicted that there would be minimal corrosion and that the steel walls would have thinned from the original 0.25-inches to between 0.187-inches and 0.155-inches. However, of the ten samples taken, 5 samples reveal extensive corrosion, one sample being only 0.079-of-an-inch thick, that is less than a third of the width of the original quarter-inch steel lining.

This next year is crucial in demanding the protection of O’ahu’s primary drinking water resource. The Navy's proposal to not make any structural upgrades to the tanks at Red Hill is unacceptable. The tanks are over 75 years old and have been leaking for 400+ years. The two people depend on this water—they and the generations to come deserve to know their drinking water is safe from fuel contamination. Learn more about this issue and how to take a stand for O’ahu’s water at [sierrachubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security](http://sierrachubhawaii.org/red-hill-water-security). E ola i ka wai. Water is life.
Tanya Dreizin, Office Manager

You might recognize Tanya, she interned with us this past spring. She’s back and kicking butt as our new office manager! Tanya has 3 years of experience as an office manager, having worked for a local start-up company in Santa Barbara, California, learning new skills and helping in any capacity needed, and she is excited to bring those skills to the Sierra Club! Tanya is currently a graduate student at Hawai‘i Pacific University, studying Global Leadership and Sustainable Development with a focus in sustainable tourism. She grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and has lived in Santa Barbara, California, and Seoul, South Korea, before moving to Hawai‘i. Tanya was inspired to get involved with environmental causes because she loves hiking, rock climbing, and traveling, and wants to advocate for and protect the lands where we live and play.

Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

Okay, Jodi isn’t new to the organization but she has started in a new position with the Hawai‘i Chapter!

The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i is blessed to have Jodi Malinoski now serving as our statewide Policy Advocate. In 2019, Jodi and Marti will work together to lead the Club’s lobbying at the State Capitol. Jodi has gained tremendous experience working with Gary Gill, advocating for the environment with the Honolulu City Council and the Mayor’s office. For the last two years, she served as the coordinator for the O‘ahu Group.

“Jodi is a remarkably capable advocate. She is a quick learner and strategic thinker. She represents the Sierra Club tirelessly with articulate poise and confidence. Policy makers will listen to what she has to say and respect her voice for the environment,” said Gary Gill. Prior to that, she supported the Surfrider Foundation in their advocacy in against plastics.

Jodi steps into this crucial role at a very important pivot point in climate policy making. Reports from both national and international agencies warn that the impacts of climate change will continue to worsen without immediate action to stop emitting carbon and to start sequestering carbon in sustainable ways. With the Sierra Club’s help, Hawai‘i’s lawmakers will be grappling this session with many proposals to expedite our commitments to clean energy and carbon neutrality.