This month’s issue:

**It’s All About the Birds & Bees**

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Sir David King: “What we do over the next 10 years will determine the future of humanity for the next 10,000 years.” No pressure there, none at all . . . .

The rich diversity of native forests in the Hawaiian Islands is sustained, in part, by the unique and brightly colored relationships between the birds and flowering plants that have evolved over their long shared history. These co-evolutionary bonds have been formed over millennia and can easily be seen in deftly decurved bills and elegant tubular flowers that are locked in an engineering “arms race” driven by the need for sustenance of nectar and the advantage of sexual reproduction through pollination. Hawai‘i’s passerine forest birds and flowering plants serve as a clear example of what time, isolation, and a diversity of habitats can produce. Their loss and decline is also a warning signal for the environment and a call to action. The iconic, flame-red ‘i‘iwi uses its long, bright orange bill to access nectar across a range of the magnificent lobelia family’s slender curved flowers. The ubiquitous scarlet ‘apāpane uses its long, bright orange bill to access nectar across a range of the magnificent lobelia family’s slender curved flowers. The ubiquitous scarlet ‘apāpane is also one of the foundational voices of Hawai‘i’s nectarivores, and also one of the most inspiring figures in popular culture. After so many years in the role, it’s hard to tell where Downey, Jr. begins and Stark ends, so some may actually listen to him.

Hawai‘i is inspiring others to set enforceable targets for renewable energy generation and net zero carbon emissions. The most recent success story is the United Kingdom, which will be the first major country to require net zero greenhouse gases by 2050. There is much more Hawai‘i can do to inspire other goals as we pivot to specifying and implementing the change needed to meet our targets.

As bees know, the work of pollination is never done, and we have much to do. But I doubt that a bee feels overwhelmed when it approaches a giant field of flowers; it simply knows its role and does what it can. There’s comfort for me in thinking about our huge challenge this way – just do everything possible to make it better, stay relentlessly positive, and remember the words of the United Kingdom’s former chief scientific advisor, Prof. Sir David King: “What we do over the next 10 years will determine the future of humanity for the next 10,000 years.” No pressure there, none at all . . . .

The plants of Hawai‘i have been losing their pollinators to introduced predators and avian disease that is transmitted by introduced mosquitoes and exacerbated by climate change. The birds meanwhile, lose the flexibility provided by a diversity of flowering plants when forests are degraded by invasive animals, weeds and introduced diseases like “Rapid Ō‘hi‘a Death.” While the threats loom, large conservation efforts are already underway. Continuing to support landscape-scale watershed protection and strategic habitat restoration is vital to both the diversity of the Hawaiian Islands and to the resilience of the human communities that inhabit them in the face of climate change. Innovative efforts to protect birds from mosquitoes may quickly restore some of the lost linkages between the plants and birds that rely on each other to thrive, and continued protection of both endangered birds and plants preserves the diversity that Hawai‘i is known for and on which it depends.
High up in the southern Wai‘anae Range on O‘ahu, a quiet transformation is taking place. A swath of shady forest, home to the endangered O‘ahu ‘elepaio bird, now enjoys protection from the devastating influence of rats and pigs. Native ferns are thriving. Invasive plants are yanked up, roots and all. Koa seedlings sprout up like a lawn where strawberry guava once shaded them to oblivion.

Sierra Club volunteers are making these good things happen.

Two hundred years ago, shortly after Hawai‘i’s king accepted a gift of cattle from an European sea captain, the Wai‘anae mountains lost almost all of its forest. Left to graze where they wanted, cows chewed and trampled the native flora nearly to extinction.

Almost one hundred years ago, the Territory of Hawai‘i set about to reforest the mountains and planted many thousands of trees throughout O‘ahu. Seeking fast-growing species that would help reduce erosion and provide an economic timber resource, early foresters focused on planting eucalyptus trees. So now, our Wai‘anae mountains look more like an Australian forest than anything one would call Hawaiian.

Yet somehow, a smattering of native trees and animals held on to their homeland. The mighty koa tree, largest in the native forest, can still be found, muscling its way to the top of the forest canopy. ‘Ōhi‘a, sandalwood, olopa and pōhue are still anchored in their dark soils along the steep valley walls.

And fluttering between the branches, ‘elepaio birds make a life on any tree they choose. As many as 15 breeding pairs have been counted and tagged in the area by conservation workers.

The greatest danger to the native ‘elepaio is predation by rats. The voracious rodents will devour the ‘elepaio eggs right out of the nest and kill the mother bird sitting on them if she fails to fly away in time.

Controlling rats in the area has been the kuleana of the Army Natural Resources Program for decades. The latest and best tool in the rat-control arsenal is a contraption designed and built in New Zealand called the A24.

Any unfortunate rodent seeking the bait inside the trap gets a compressed-air driven spike to the head and falls out to the ground below. The trap can keep doing its job for months at a time without needing to be tended or re-baited.

Feral pigs can destroy anything we try to plant in the forest. They dig up the earth, creating ponds that breed mosquitoes and spread avian malaria. A few years ago, under the guidance of the Wai‘anae Mountain Watershed Partnership, volunteers cleared a path, planted native plants and set a hog-wire fence to enclose about five acres of forest in the ‘elepaio habitat. With this barrier in place, Sierra Club volunteers are successfully planting native trees and shrubs inside the fence. Any pigs still foraging outside the fence are being aggressively trapped and removed.

The five-acre enclosure lies along the upper reaches of Pālehua Road, in the mauka watershed of Kali‘i Gulch at an area called Akupu. Your O‘ahu Group outings leaders have adopted the Akupu enclosure as a conservation service project. Every other month, volunteers drive up to pull out weeds and plant native trees. Slowly we are seeing native forest plants take root among the exotic eucalyptus. Olopa and pōhue are still anchored in their dark soils along the steep valley walls.

Sierra Club volunteers working in the Akupu enclosure. By Clyde Kobashigawa.

Volunteers who participate in the restoration work can cap off a morning of tree planting with a short hike to beautiful viewpoints and even stay the night in a nearby mountain cabin.

Making a better home for the native ‘elepaio will take decades of work. But after just a few short years, one can see the progress being made by Sierra Club volunteers. Come join in the efforts. Maybe an ‘elepaio will wing its way down from the tree tops to thank you for your good work.

Become a part of the legacy! Check out upcoming Mālama Tree Crew days on page 5 and Akupu service days on page 8.

There are many reforestation, carbon sequestration, and native plant restoration projects happening throughout the islands. A critical piece to all of these projects is that often overlooked is the maintenance of these plantings. While some projects have programs set up to ensure that new plantings are cared for, some do not, and that’s where our new Mālama Tree Crew comes in—led by Randy, our service trip coordinator.

In order for these trees to live long, strong, carbon-sequestering lives they need to make it through their first few months after being planted. While most trees can make it on their own, additional maintenance can help increase the rate of survival and thus the future carbon intake of the trees. This past quarter, the Mālama Tree Crew watered, weeded and cleared at two sites on O‘ahu: Alaka‘i Mahamoe and Pālehua.

Almost native trees were planted in Alaka‘i Mahamoe in Moanalua by volunteers led by Professor Mora in partnership with The Outdoor Circle, Mālama Learning Center, Ko‘olau Mountain Watershed Partnership, and the Garden Club of Honolulu in November 2018. Once a month, the crew returns to the site to primarily clear grass around the trees and water. Excitingly, these trees are now strong enough to survive without us! The last Mālama Tree Crew day at this site was on June 15, marked by a pizza party and Sierra Club gifts for participants.

There is another native project called Mālama I Ka Honua, the Sierra Club’s service program from July through September. The program seeks to locate climbing neighbors who supported the public access hikes are completed again in trail clearing efforts. Big shoutout to the project partners, pop-up shop volunteers, and kōkua supporters for providing the public an opportunity to malama ‘aina in April and to hike in June.

Although the public access hikes are completed for 2019, we welcome you to participate in upcoming volunteer opportunities in the Kā Iwi mauka lands. Learn more and get involved at kawiicoast.org/volunteer.

The Ka Iwi Coalition — a collaboration between the Sierra Club, The Trust for Public Land, Livable Hawai‘i, Hui‘nui Kai Hui, Hui Nalu Canoe Club, DLNR Parks, and Kamehameha Schools, completed another successful “Ka Iwi Explorations” in June 2019. This annual event celebrates the successful community conservation of 182 acres of the Ka Iwi mauka lands by facilitating public access into the newly protected area. The Sierra Club coordinated hike leaders for the two-day event, which resulted in over 100 participants exploring the views, flora, and fauna of Ka Iwi Coast, while also learning about the land’s mo‘olelo, history, and cultural significance.

Mahalo to our volunteer hike leaders and the Hawai‘i Trail and Mountain Club for assisting once again in trail clearing efforts. Big shoutout to the project partners, pop-up shop volunteers, and kōkua supporters for providing the public an opportunity to malama ‘aina in April and to hike in June.

Join us in Pālehua to care for the 300+ trees that could use some extra love? Contact randy.ching@sierrclub.org to inquire about the Mālama Tree Crew’s services!

Mālama Tree Crew 2019

The Ka Iwi Exploration — a collaboration between the Sierra Club, The Trust for Public Land, Livable Hawai‘i, Hui‘nui Kai Hui, Hui Nalu Canoe Club, DLNR Parks, and Kamehameha Schools, completed another successful “Ka Iwi Explorations” in June 2019. This annual event celebrates the successful community conservation of 182 acres of the Ka Iwi mauka lands by facilitating public access into the newly protected area. The Sierra Club coordinated hike leaders for the two-day event, which resulted in over 100 participants exploring the views, flora, and fauna of Ka Iwi Coast, while also learning about the land’s mo‘olelo, history, and cultural significance.

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Research shows that neonicotinoid pesticides, often referred to as “neonicos,” are highly toxic to pollinators and are one of the leading causes of the current bee population collapse. For over 13 years, the Center for Food Safety has been working to get GMO crops and toxic neonicotinoid pesticides out of all the wildlife refuges. In 2014, following a series of successful Center for Food Safety (CFS) lawsuits, the Department of Interior finally prohibited GMOs and neonic pesticides in all national wildlife refuges. Unfortunately last year, under the Trump administration, the U.S. National Fish & Wildlife Services withdrew these important protections.

Chemically-related to nicotine, neonicos interfere with the nervous system of insects, causing tremors, paralysis, and eventual death even when administered at very low doses. Neonicos are 10,000 times more toxic to bees than any other pesticide.

This year on World Bee Day, new legislation was introduced in Congress to reinstate the prohibition on neonicos in wildlife refuges. This bill has been co-sponsored by 18 bipartisan members of the House and is endorsed by nearly 40 conservation groups. Visit https://cfs.center/NoNeonicsWR to learn more and take action to get these toxic pesticides out of wildlife refuges! If wildlife refuges aren’t safe for wildlife, then what is?

Good news is that another CFS lawsuit got 12 of these neonicos pulled off the market entirely. As part of a settlement in which CFS represented a coalition of conservation groups and beekeepers—including the Sierra Club—a Federal Court ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency’s registration of 12 neonic pesticides was illegal, and therefore must be pulled off the market. This case only covered 12 formations of this dangerous category of pesticides, but it also resulted in the EPA agreeing to evaluate the impact of all neonic pesticides on pollinators and other endangered species in the future.

On the local front, during this year’s legislative session, the Protect Our Keiki Coalition (Hawai‘i Alliance for Progressive Action, Hawai‘i Center for Food Safety, Hawai‘i Seed and Pesticide Action Network) successfully introduced and passed a resolution to protect our local pollinator species from exposure to neonicos. This resolution recognizes the importance of Hawai‘i’s endangered and endemic pollinator species and the threat posed to them by systemic pesticides. It urges the State to take measures to limit pollinator exposure to neonicos. The failure to pass a companion bill through the House, despite lobbying efforts from beekeepers and hundreds of advocates from around the state, indicates that there is still much room for education on this issue.

Hawai‘i boasts a variety of native pollinators, including honeycreeper birds, Hawaiian yellow-faced bees, and Kamehameha butterflies. Many of these iconic species are in peril—twenty species of honeycreepers are already extinct and seven Hawaiian yellow-faced bees are listed as endangered or threatened.

You too can help protect Hawai‘i’s yellow faced bees! Outside of participating in lawmaking, you can start in your own backyard by planting more native plants. Many native plant varieties flower throughout the year and provide a consistent source of pollen and nectar for our endangered pollinators. In 2007, the Department of Agriculture estimated that nearly seventy percent of the State’s food crops depend on pollination by bees and other pollinator species. You’ll not only help feed the pollinators but you’ll also be helping us to feed ourselves.

When we all work together, through our efforts in conservation, legislation, and litigation, we can make meaningful strides in the protection of all the world’s endangered species, their habitats, and very importantly, our food systems.

Pollinators, pesticides, and our food

Pollinators are critical to valuable crops and some flowering plants, including melons, watermelons, cucumbers, squash, lychees, mangoes, macadamia nuts, coffee beans, eggplants, avocados, guavas, herbs, and sunflowers.

The main pesticides linked to pollinator declines are a group of nicotine-based systemic insecticides called neonicotinoids. They are absorbed and transported through all parts of the plant tissue after application—rendering the entire plant toxic.

In 2016, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service added seven species of Hawaiian yellow-faced bees to the federal lists of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

Due to lack of regulation in Hawai‘i, there is no way of knowing the exact extent of neonicotinoid use. Toxic pesticides undoubtedly play a role in the demise of our pollinators, and they are one threat that we can address immediately to help these critical species.

Hawaiian Yellow-Faced Bees
by Nathan Yuen, Chapter Outings Chair

I was thrilled to stumble on Hawaiian yellow-faced bees—nalo meli maoli—on lehua flowers on Hawai‘i Island. The native bees are small, less than a quarter-inch long, and look like black-brown wasps with a yellow face.

Honey bees, which are much larger, are not native to the Hawaiian Islands—the first hives were brought to O‘ahu in 1857. The only bee to reach the islands on its own is the yellow-faced bee Hyleus. Over eons of time the original founders evolved into 63 known species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.

In the 1900s famous biologist R.C.L. Perkins, who wrote the monumental work Fauna Hawaiensis, called Hawaiian yellow-faced bees “almost the most ubiquitous of any Hawaiian insects.” Sadly, this is no longer the case. Recent surveys of yellow-faced bees by entomologist Karl Magnacca show that most Hawaiian yellow-faced bee species are in decline, many are extremely rare, and several are possibly extinct. Of the 63 species, seven have been listed as endangered.

Hawaiian yellow-faced bees are solitary and do not live in colonies like honeybees. They can be found in a variety of habitats including coasts, dry forests and shrublands, mesic and wet forests, and subalpine shrublands. All depend on an intact community of native plants and are mostly absent from habitats dominated by nonnative plant species. These bees require a habitat with a diversity of plants that flower throughout the year so that a consistent source of pollen and nectar is available. Many species nest in the ground, but some nest in hollow stems of plants; the availability of nest sites is another important habitat requirement for these insects.

Hawaiian yellow-faced bees are threatened by development, especially in coastal areas, as well as by fire, feral ungulates such as pigs, invasive ants, and the loss of native vegetation to invasive plant species. Because remnant populations of many species of Hawaiian yellow-faced bees are small and isolated, they are especially vulnerable to habitat loss, predation, stochastic events, and other changes to their habitat. Conservation of these important pollinators will require active management of natural areas where populations are known to exist.
**O’ahu Group Outings**

**PAGE 9 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION**

- **Saturday, July 13**
  - **Paiakea Elepaio Enclosure “Akau” Service (S)**
  - Reservations required at least one week prior. 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 snacks, 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, July 14**
  - **Family Snorkeling (F)**
  - Beach to be determined. We will snorkel and learn about Hawai’i’s coral reef ecosystems, fish, invertebrates, and algae. All participants must be able to swim. Bring your snorkel gear, swimsuit, towel, 2 liters of water, change of clothes, and snack. Leader: Sherine Booma, 254-5712, booma1@hawaii.edu

- **Sunday, July 28**
  - **Kapalaoa Cabin Hike**
  - Kāne’ohe Makaha, 7 miles, 1000 feet elevation gain
  - This is for hikers in good physical condition and limited to kids who are old enough to complete the hike, a parent must be with them. Kids welcome -- will teach them about hike leading. Leaders: Gwen Sinclair, 753-0528, gsinclai@gmail.com; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

- **Saturday, August 11**
  - **Makiki-Tantalus Hike**
  - Makiki, easy/4 miles, 220’ elevation gain
  - We will be hiking to three trails along the Makiki-Tantalus trail system. Partial shade. Some indigenous and native plants. Good views of the valleys and the coastline. Leader: Sherine Booma, 254-5712, booma1@hawaii.edu

- **Sunday, August 18**
  - **Kealia Trail**
  - Kealia, moderate/7 miles, 1700 feet elevation gain
  - The first mile is up switchbacks and the remainder of the hike is on a paved trail. Great views of North Shore and Mākua Valley. Leader: Dan Anderson, 489-1695, danderhi@gmail.com

- **Sunday, August 25**
  - **Photography Hike: Paiakea-Palikuëa (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 those uneasy about heights. Due to safety concerns, only adults will be accepted. Native plants, native happy face spiders, scenic panoramas, and native tree snails are the attraction in this preserve. Leaders: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto

- **Sunday, September 1**
  - **Makapu’u Lighthouse Trail**
  - Makapu’u, easy/2 miles
  - Hike the Makapu’u Lighthouse Trail. Paved trail with some potholes. Beautiful views of the coastline and cliffs. No shade. Bring 2 liters of water, sunscreem, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for California telegraph plant and plantago. This service trip is for hikers in good physical condition and limited to 5 hikers. We hike in via the Sliding Sands Trail the first day and will exit via the Halema’u trail. Participants will have to work at high altitude elevation. The cabin was built in the 1930’s by CCC workers and is rustic. There are no washrooms 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 a few days in a beautiful National Park trying to keep the native flora flourishing. Leader: Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com

- **Wednesday to Friday, September 18-20**
  - **Pālehua Service Project—Trail Clearing**
  - Reservations required at least one week prior. Contact John for reservations. Space is limited due to parking, and as well as we will be working along an existing trail that is not used very much to also develop it as a fire break. Pack a lunch and/or snack and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws, pruning shears, loppers, sprayer, repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for beautiful scenic panoramas from the ridge looking over Nānākuli Valley. You may also hear and see some native birds, so bring a camera too. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, clydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; Susan Tom

- **Sunday, September 29**
  - **Family Hike: Mānana Part Way (F)**
  - Pacific Palisades, easy/3.8 miles, 200’ elevation gain
  - This hike takes us to an open ridge for a snack break before return. Kids welcome -- will teach them about hike leading. If not old enough to complete the hike, a parent must be prepared to backpack them. Reservations required. Meet at 1pm. Leader: Reese Liggert, whlgeltt@twc.com

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The 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 remain with the group for the entire outing. We welcome all Sierra Club members, non-members, and guests. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent. Please be sure to bring water, snacks, a camera, and a good attitude, as well as a sense of adventure. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything not allowed. In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, sometimes participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not hold any liability for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar to the outings arranged by the leaders. Contact them for information about this travel.

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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.
Hammerquist and Friends of Māhāʻulepū made connections with an array of experts associated with the facets of an industrial dairy operation, from an industrial entomologist to a nationally-renowned economist Ph.D. that consulted with communities dealing with factory farms, who simply stated, “What a dairy is, first and foremost, it’s a waste machine. They produce more poop than anything else. That is their main product.” Armed with valid sources, research and the first plan from Ulupono Initiative, Friends of Māhāʻulepū determined six main concerns in April 2014, which remained their concerns to the end. Mass amounts of cow waste would spill into most of the concerns.

1. Waste and the public health risk - The cow manure would run off into Waioipi Stream, which drains into the ocean and is already the single-most contaminated stream on Kaua’i.

2. Water use - It takes 60 gallons of water to make one gallon of milk. Grove Farm promised Ulupono Initiative 30 million gallons of water per day from the Waïta Reservoir. Stay tuned for Friends of Māhāʻulepū’s next chapter on this subject.

3. Odor and flies - The prevailing trade winds would blow the odor into Koloa. Within six months, billions of flies would likely gather and fly within a 4-mile radius of the waste, creating a risk of infections from fly bites.

4. Soil type - Detailed studies have found that Māhāʻulepū is 80% clay-based soil susceptible to run-off with rainfall. It isn’t free-draining volcanic soil as it was claimed to be. “I knew that from playing out there as a kid. Whenever it rained out there, it’s famous for its puddles that sit there for days because it doesn’t percolate well,” Hammerquist said.

5. New Zealand model - New Zealand developed an Independent Commission for the Environment to track the impact of the dairy industry because they were finding the streams were so unsafe for human contact that one couldn’t even stand in them.

6. Toxins - The Department of Water has three drinking water wells that supply the south side of Kaua’i, within 600 feet of the location they would pump out the manure collected in effluent ponds. Nitrates could penetrate the aquifer. “Nitrates kill a well faster than any other chemical!” Hammerquist said. Hydrogen sulfide gas would have also been a by-product, which is odorless and fatal.

In March 2017, Friends of Māhāʻulepū joined the O’Kala community on Hawai’i Island to fight the impacts from Big Island Dairy. They were going through all of the health concerns, such as ecoli and staph infections, that she was reading about. “They were the poster child for what we didn’t want to happen,” said Hammerquist.

“The education I’ve gotten in the last 5 years is incredible,” said Hammerquist. For anyone on the receiving end of Friends of Māhāʻulepū’s newsletters, one could see how thorough Hammerquist is. One of the first questions that Hammerquist asks herself was, “Who in the state is going to approve the plan?”

“For your community, watch the news and read your papers. Find out what someone’s brain-child idea is going in and track it. Make sure it’s really a sound idea.” On, taking on an issue, she said, “Be well-versed as you can, the internet is wonderful, Google is wonderful.”

Hammerquist credits forming the 501(c)3, whose mission is to protect the environment of Māhāʻulepū and the island of Kaua’i, as an important step to their success. “If you can get the word out and share with the community, what the concerns are, there are a lot of good people in this world and they don’t have the time to help but they’d want to. So they donate money and that’s way of helping.”

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

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 hit.ly/SCH-Kauai-Hikes for updates to the schedule.

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is $1. For all others $5.

- **Saturday, July 6**
  - **Ninilolu Coastal Hike (C/E/F)**
  - Easy/3 miles
  - Walk along the coast through lagoons and back to Kalapaki Bay.
  - Leader: Vivian Hager, 808-652-3234

- **Saturday, July 13**
  - **Awa‘awapuhi Trail (C/E/F)**
  - West side, intermediate/6 miles, 3,000 ft elevation gain
  - Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline!
  - Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

- **Saturday, August 3**
  - **Māhāʻulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)**
  - Poipu area, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change
  - Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline!
  - Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

- **Wednesday, August 7**
  - **Māhāʻulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)**
  - Poipu area, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change
  - Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline!
  - Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834
**Kaua‘i Group Outings**

**Sunday, August 11**

Nāpali Coast Trail to Hanahā‘i Falls

North Shore, upper intermediate/8 miles, +1800 ft elevation change. Hike begins at Ke'e Beach and follows the Kalalau Trail with its stunning coastal views for 2 miles to Hanahā‘i Beach, then continues inland 2 more miles to the waterfall. The scenery and views are spectacular and the waterfall is lovely, this is a personal favorite. The irregular trail from the coast to the waterfall is quite a wild adventure with some water crossings. Since this hike can be slippery and muddy when wet, we will only go forward with the hike if the trail conditions are suitable. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

**Saturday, August 17**

Kō‘awēkili Ridge (C/E/F)

Koke’s State Park, moderately difficult/7 miles, elevation change of 1549 ft. A wonderful hike along a dirt road that begins up in Koke’s and terminates on a ridge above the Nāpali Coast. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

**Saturday, August 24**

Nounou Mountain - Kuamo'o & West Side Hike

East side, intermediate/5 miles, 1100 ft elevation gain. Nounou Mountain, which is also more popularly called “Sleeping Giant”, offers spectacular panoramic views of the east side of Kaua‘i. We will explore the mountain on several trails. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

**Saturday, August 31**

Māhā‘ulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)

Po‘ipū area, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change on a rocky trail. Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

**Saturday, September 7**

Waimea Canyon Rim Vistas & Exploration Hike

West side, intermediate/8 miles, 1800 ft elevation gain. Explore lovely panoramic views of the Waimea Canyon and ocean beyond as well as the upper reaches of Waipō Falls on this intermediate-level loop hike including the Pu‘u Hinahina Trail, Cliff Trail, Canyon Trail, Black Pipe Trail, Halemānu-Kōke‘e Trail, Kumuela Trail, and return on Canyon Trail. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

**Saturday, September 14**

Māhā‘ulepū Coastal Hike (C/E/F)

Po‘ipū area, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change on a rocky trail. Spectacular coastal walk with breathtaking views along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

**Welcome the New Maui Group Manager!**

Meet our new full-time Maui Group Manager Kecia Joy on page 22, and let her know you’re happy she’s here protecting Maui’s unique and threatened environment: contact@sierraclubmaui.org.

**Maui Group Report**

DLNR is reviewing Habitat Conservation Plan amendments for each of the wind farms while the Forestry and Wildlife Services has published a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Habitat Conservation Plans for all four and is inviting public comments. While strongly in favor of wind power to replace fossil fuel, the Maui Power Plants, the Sierra Club Maui Group feels more needs to be done in three areas: 1) Better tracking of bat casualties, 2) Adjustment of the wind speed cutoff level during the times of the casualties, and 3) Expanding the number of restored habitats to three non-contiguous regions for roosting and three for foraging to increase resiliency to fires and other catastrophes.

**Sand Mining**

The County’s order on Maui Lani Phase 6 upheld that the Architectural Impact Statement for the project was adequate, even though 200 additional burials have been found since it was done. However, he also ordered more investigation of the remnant property, including the use of Ground Penetrating Radar. No work can be done before that is complete.

**BLNR Case on Stewardship of Streams**

Every year for 18 years, BLNR has authorized A&B to divert millions of gallons of water daily from East Maui. It has done so despite the harm these diversions cause to native aquatic species, cultural practices, recreational uses and scenic beauty. Long ago, DLNR recognized that a number of streams and wet areas on Maui have been lost to mining, but has not been able to prevent A&B from diverting millions of gallons of water from East Maui to water its sugar cane fields. Although the Water Commission ordered restoration of ten streams, A&B can still take more than half the water from more than a dozen other streams despite the harm these diversions cause. We have sued to prevent more water from being diverted until BLNR obtains the information it needs to make a reasoned decision. An EIS should be completed and approved. We are also asking BLNR to make A&B clean up the garbage it has left in and around our streams and eradicate the invasive species that are taking over the public watershed.

**HB 1326 - Water Theft Bill Defeated**

Thanks to significant and sustained community efforts, HB 1326 which aimed to extend revocable water permits to A&B by circumventing a circuit court ruling, was defeated. HB 1326 would have allowed A&B to continue to take water from our streams without the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement for the project. Judge Cardoza at the Maui Environmental Court ruled that A&B has not met its burden of proof to challenge the Water Commission’s decision to grant A&B’s request to divert millions of gallons of water daily from East Maui to water its sugar cane fields.

**Sierra Club of Hawaii July-September 2019**

Mālama I Ka Honua
Sunday, July 21
Upper Waiohuli Trail (C/E)
Kula, 5 miles
This is a hike up in the Kula Forest, up towards Polipoli State Park. We will go a 5-mile route to a beautiful lunch spot. This is an intermediate hike at about 5,000 plus elevation. We can only get up there to the trail head with 4 wheel drive so we will carpool. Meet at Pukalani Ace at 8am. It is a long drive getting up there so this is a whole day event. Be prepared for variable weather with sunscreen; boots are suggested. Leader Kalei Johnson 344-0006, no text, or kalei1908@gmail.com

Saturday, July 27
Hānākīa Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Ha‘ikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hānākīa lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch, sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Friday, August 2
Na Hoku Star-Gazing Benefit in Palaʻau (Wailea 760) (E)
Waikamoi Preserve Trail and Boardwalk (C)
Maalaea, 3 miles
Uneven and sometimes slippery terrain. Hike into a true native Hawaiian forest preserved by The Nature Conservancy with a docent who will describe the flora and fauna. This trail is up in Hālekulā National Forest near Hālekulā State Park. Meet at 8am at Pukalani Ace Hardware parking lot to carpool. Bring lunch, water, and rain gear. Hiking boots are suggested. Limit 12. People who have been camping in the Kalaniena’uku area since February 2019 are not allowed due to ‘ōhi‘a disease risk. Must register by July 18. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Saturday, August 2
Wailea 670 Service Day (C/E/S)
Wailea, 4 miles
Hike for our favorite Hawaiian sites in Wailea 670 preserve. All tools provided. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick. Meet 7:30am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register with lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

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

Sunday, August 11
Kahakapoo Forest (C/E)
Makawao, 7 miles
Entire route loop is 7 miles, however we may only do a part of it. Shady all the way and gentle undulating terrain. Meet at St Joseph Street bus parking lot at 9:30am. Leader Kalei Johnson 344-0006, no text, or kalei1908@gmail.com

Sunday, August 18
Waiula Iki Stream Hike (C/E)
East Maui, 6 miles
Moderate hike above Hāna Highway through beautiful forest of windung, muddly, jeep road, waterfalls, and lush plant life. Bring appropriate footwear, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Meet 8am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. EMI waiver required (see pg 14). Limit: 15. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Friday, August 23
Pu‘u Pahu Reserve Reforestation (C/E/S)
Hālekulā Ranch
The weather on Haleakalā varies greatly so be prepared for any kind of weather—hot/cold, sunny/cloudy, windy, calm, wet/dry. We will provide work gloves, tools, plants, and drinking water at the truck (please bring refillable bottles). We will be cleaning and sanitizing all hiking shoes and tools with a 90% alcohol solution to help prevent the spread of the Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death fungus. You will need appropriate cloths/closed toe shoes, layered clothing - we suggest wearing LONG PANTS as we will be walking through shrubs and tall grass, raingear, lunch/snacks, sunscreen, hat and a pack to carry it all in. All gear should be clean of hitchhiking seeds. Meet in parking lot of Pukalani Long’s Drugs at 8:30am, return around 1:30pm. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Saturday, August 24
Kula Stream Hike (C/E)
East Maui, 4 miles
Hike through the historic trail to scenic pools and waterfalls along adventure trail. Bring appropriate footwear, sunscreen, lunch and water. Meet 8:30am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. EMI waiver required (see pg 14). Limit: 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Saturday, August 31
Hānākīa Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Ha‘ikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hānākīa lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Wednesday, September 11
Seed Collection in West Maui (C/E/S)
East Maui, 3 miles
Meet 9am at the Pu‘u Kukui Preserve baseyard to head out and collect native plant seeds, the first step in the reforestation process. Directions and instructions will be provided on accepted registration. Pu‘u Kukui Watershed Preserve is the largest private nature preserve in the state of Hawaii. Extending across more than 9,000 acres from ma uka to ma kai of Mahana Kaihāwi on the west side, it is home to some of the rarest endangered flora and fauna. Meet in parking lot of Pu‘u Kukui Preserve. Limit 9. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Saturday, September 28
Hānākīa Mālama Day (C/E/S)
Ha‘ikū, 4 miles
Monthly community service outing to remove trash and keep coastal trails open on 267 acres of Hānākīa lands purchased by Maui County. Bring gloves, hand tools, water, hat, lunch and sturdy shoes. Meet 9am at Ha‘ikū Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie, lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Thursday, September 5
Hāmākua Mālama Day (C/E)
East Maui, 6 miles
Moderate, uphill hike above Hāna Highway in lush East Maui watershed. East lunch and swim at a beautiful pool with waterfall. EMI waiver required (see pg 14). Bring lunch, water, and bathing suit. Meet at the Ha‘ikū Community Center at 8:30am. Limit 18. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Monday, September 9
Wai‘alea 670 Adventure (C/E)
South Maui, 2-3 miles
Help search for seven unlocated Hawaiian cultural sites documented in 2000-2005 and now said to be “missing.” Plenty of clues. Fun adventure. Rugged terrain. Closed shoes/boots, long pants, and good balance a must. Bring water and hiking stick. Meet 4pm at top of Kaukahi Road in Wailea. Limit 18. Leader: Lucienne de Naie with guidance by Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Register with lauzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147
When asked to test groundwater for contamination the United States illegally occupying Hawai‘i the Army downplaying risks from depleted uranium. It notes that the land is classified as “poor” by the Land Management Plan of the Pohakuloa Training Area that has never been used for this purpose. Maku Loa is entirely fresh water. As evidenced by seeps and springs, shallow groundwater does exist in the mountain’s flanks below the summit area. Analysis of spring water shows it to be recent and identical to rainfall that percolates downward to underlying groundwater. As noted in another article in this Mālama, the Waimea Aquifer is nearly recharged capacity, and the county expects to tap high levels on Mauna Kea in 2015. We were constantly told that the black oily patches under the construction equipment were “condensation”, but having been there myself, and having noticed the olive green fact, I attest to the fluid. I can attest to the fact that no “condensation” has a black oily film that causes a permanent stain under parts of specific equipment.

Nakahili "vision is pure fiction and that is has never been used for this purpose."

Makaloa Loa Group Report

G. M. Lahaina, CA High School Hikers

About one year had passed since the Kilauea eruption in Lelani on Hawai‘i Island in May 2018. Many of us had not been back to lower Puna since then, so we were excited to get back to explore the area. We drove, temporarily splitting Highway 137, meandering road eventually split into Highway 137, 0.6 miles across, over the lava field of Fissure 8. Still officially unnamed, the Pu‘u formations sit curved on the eastern tip of Hawai‘i Island. Our journey began the distance.

8. Still officially unnamed, the Pu‘u formations sit curved against the open skyline like ominous sleeping giants in the distance.

Mahalo Moku Loa Group for allowing us to represent Sierra Club of Hawai‘i in our community! Happy hiking and have a great summer.
Moku Loa Group Outings

SEE PAGE 9 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

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

Friday, June 7
Explore Pohoihi (E/F)
Puna District, moderate/5-4 miles
We will explore Pele’s 2018 lava flow at Pohoihi, see new beaches Pele made and hike up Mango Road for views of the area. Lunch will be on the beach. Sturdy boots are required for traversing rough lava, wear sun protection, bring water and swim gear is optional. Leader: Diane Ware, 967-8642

Friday, June 21
Pu‘u Maka‘ala NAR (E)
Ka‘u District, moderate/5-7 miles, 4,600ft
See the “walking ‘ōhi‘a” trees in ‘ōhi‘a forest. Wear good hiking shoes, bring a lunch, and at least 2 liters of water. We will meet at Cooper Center in Volcano Village and carpool to the trailhead. Leader: Linda Larish, 966-6357

Saturday, July 6
Mauna Kea Service Outing (S)
Saddle Road area, 7000ft approx., work from vehicles ‘Hana hou’ for the last time to plant sandalwood trees on Mauna Kea with Mark Hanson’s Hawai‘i Reforestation Program. (The program will be shifting areas after this.) We’ll be planting endemic ‘iliahi and other native seedlings in areas around 7000 feet. Closed toed shoes, sunscreen, and raingear are suggested for this rain or shine project. We should be done by about 2pm, so please bring lunch, snacks, and water. Bird watching in this pa‘ila critical habitat is an option afterward. Leader: Rob Culbertson (805)-316-1380

Friday, July 19
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Forest Restoration (S/C)
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, easy/1-2 miles, 3400ft +/- 600ft
We will be working with Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park most likely to help restore an area of forest burned by fire last year. Kea is being planted along with removal of invasive like banana polka. Hiking boots, long pants and ROD protocol required. Also bring lunch, plenty of water, sun and rain protection. Leader: Diane Ware, by July 10 at 967-8642

Saturday, July 20
Pu‘uhululu to Mauna Ulu Crater Loop (E/C)
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, moderate/5-6 miles, 3400ft +/- 600ft
Hike in Hawaii Volcanoes starting at the Mauna Ulu parking lot, walking to the Pu‘uhululu kipuka and beyond to circle the summit of the Mauna Ulu Crater. Explore native plants and geology of this region. Follow ROD protocol, bring boots, plenty of water, sun and rain protection, sunglasses, lunch and walking stick. Leader: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers at 966-7002

Friday, August 16
Pu‘ulau ‘Beach Park to Kawa‘a Beach (E)
Kau ‘District, easy/4 miles, sea level
This is a rugged, exposed coastline hike that follows the ala kahakai trail in some places. We pass cultural sites and freshwater springs to arrive at Kawa‘a Beach. We will have lunch at Kawa‘a Beach where we can swim if it’s not too rough. Be prepared to hike over a‘a lava. Leader: Linda Larish, text or call (808)-657-9640.

Saturday and Sunday, Aug 24-25
 Hakalau Service Trip (S)
 Hakalau Forest, moderate/4 miles, 6-7,000ft
The service projects usually involve planting native species such as koa or working in the greenhouse. Please practice ROD protocol. Accommodations are at a cabin at the 6,200-foot elevation with kitchen and bunk beds with mattresses. Participants will need to bring their own sleeping bags. At this high elevation, cold wet weather is always possible. The free time activity may include a hike in a koa-‘ōhi‘a forest to observe endangered native forest birds. Leaders: Sunny and Michael LaPlante, 964-5017

Saturday, August 31
Ko‘olaukoko Crater and Crater Rim Trail (E/F/C)
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, moderate/4-5 miles, 3900ft +/- 300ft
Hike in Hawaii Volcanoes starting at devastation trail parking lot, walking to the trailhead on Chain of Craters Road to discover the native forest and geology of tree molds on this crater trail. Stark contrasts of live ‘ōhi‘a and ash burned trees, native vegetation, and great views of Halemaumau and Mauna Loa. We will circle back to crater rim to view areas recently reopened. Follow ROD protocol; wear boots, bring plenty of water, sun and rain protection, sunglasses, lunch and walking stick. Leader: Roberta Brashear-Kaulfers at 966-7002

Friday, September 6
Snorkel Hōnaunau Bay (E/F)
South Kona District, easy/sea level
Part of our developing marine activity section, we want to investigate the marine life near the historic Pu‘uhonua o Hōnaunau (Place of Refuge) site. We especially want to invite the participation of any experienced water-persons with knowledge and memories of this special place.

Check website for more hiking dates in the future

Nate’s Adventures: Cultural Access to Mākua Valley by Nathan Yuen, Chapter Outings Chair

It was an eye-opening experience to hike in Mākua Valley for the first time. Based on a lawsuit settlement, the US Army allows the kanaka maoli-led nonprofit, Mālama Mākua, to access cultural sites in Mākua Valley twice a month.

Mākua Valley has been occupied by the US Army since World War II and has been used as a live fire training area for decades. There is unexploded ordnance in the valley and the area is off-limits to the public. The only way to hike in the valley is with Mālama Mākua and the Army contractors who accompany, oversee, and guide the group.

I was amazed to see the expanse of the beautiful valley and the many heiau, petroglyphs, and other features in the valley. Several hikes are scheduled in the next few months and I encourage you to come and experience the beauty and history of Mākua Valley.

Saturday, July 13
Saturday, August 3
Sunday, August 25
To attend, sign up at malamamakua.org. Each person must register in advance on the Monday-Wednesday prior to the hike and will be screened by the US Army prior to entry. Hikers will receive an email notification if they are allowed to enter. Hikers must bring a photo ID and sign a liability waiver on the day of the event. It’s a beautiful and spiritual place. If you haven’t been there, now is your chance!
Carrying the Water for Our Kūpuna
by Kai‘i Pratt-Aquino, Hawai‘i Chapter ExCom Member

E ʻoia 1 kai wa a Kāne, is an ʻōlelo noʻeau, which means let the waters of Kāne live, a value we held close to our hearts during the 2019 legislative session to end House Bill 1326, the “Corporate Water Theft Bill.” The measure would continue the unlawful practice of unrestricted water diversions in Hawai‘i, a practice that has destroyed communities for over 100 years.

With our help, we carried the lives of kupuna lost, kupuna who never saw their water restored to farm kalo or gather food, a sobering realization for those intimately involved. We are grateful and recognize the advocacy of those before us, and the responsibility we have to carry their work forward. It was not easy but we prevailed in honoring that work by closing the door on corporations, like Alexander and Baldwin, that desire to control our water resources for profit.

Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America’s water. We live on the water 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 quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

With your help we can clean up our water
Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America’s water. We live on the water 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 quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.

Deadline for nominations is August 15, 2019.

Our Executive Committee Needs You!

Now more than ever, Hawai‘i’s environment needs your support. Looking for a way to help? Join us at the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i and consider running for a seat on the Hawai‘i Chapter Board (ʻOahu, Kauai), Maui, or Moku Loa Group Executive Committee.

Visit bit.ly/SC-nom20 to review Executive Committee member responsibilities, for more information, and to submit your nomination.

Deadlines for nominations is August 15, 2019.

2019 Legislative Session Highlights
by Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

The Sierra Club testified on 75 bills and resolutions during the 2019 legislative session, focusing our efforts on clean energy initiatives, planning for sea level rise, reducing our waste, and a number of coalition bills with economic and social justice allies. Below are a few environmental highlights from the 2019 session:

Bad Bills Killed
The Water Theft Bill (HB 1326):
Our biggest accomplishment this session was working with a coalition of organizations and a grassroots movement to stop HB 1326, the water theft bill. This bill would have given Alexander and Baldwin a $62M bailout and allowed them to continue diverting public trust stream resources for another 7 years. Without this bill, A&B will no longer be able to divert water from East Maui under its four permits starting the end of this year. A&B must now complete their long-term lease application, which has been in process since 2001.

During this session, we met with the Governor to collaborate on a proactive path forward for small water users based on the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ existing legal authority. We will continue to work with the Administration to find a solution that respects our courts and laws, while still protecting our streams and the communities that rely on them.

Our advocacy on this issue resulted in 2,800+ emails sent to legislators, over 1,000 pieces of testimony in support and opposition, over 700 emails sent to the Governor, and 40 press hits. Thanks to these collective efforts, people power prevailed and the bill was killed (a few times).

Authorizing solar on A-rated agricultural lands (HB 593):
This bill would have allowed utility-scale solar to be built on Hawai‘i’s “A” rated agricultural lands, subject to certain requirements. While we support renewable energy, we opposed the bill due to concerns allowing large-scale solar to be built on our most fertile and productive A-rated ag lands. Utility-scale solar is already authorized on ag lands rated B, C, D, and E, and this bill favored a particular project on O‘ahu, in an area currently in intensive agricultural production.

Broadening the definition of renewable energy and reducing the solar tax credit (HB307):
This bill would have broadened the definition of renewable energy to include “self-replenishing non-fossil fuels”, allowing sources such as nuclear power to be considered renewable. The bill went through a re-referral and waiver to quickly pass through the House, and then was amended in the Senate to further narrow the definition of renewable energy and also slash Hawai‘i’s renewable energy tax credit by more than half. This bill was deferred in conference.

Good Bills Passed
Adopting appliance efficiency standards (HB 556):
This bill proposes that Hawai‘i adopt energy and water efficiency standards for certain household and commercial appliances. Projections of cumulative savings over the next 15 years estimate that adoption of these appliance efficiency standards could result in residents and businesses saving $337 million, 700,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions, and 34 billion gallons of water. Energy efficiency is an important component to reaching our ambitious clean energy and carbon-neutral goals. This is particularly important for low and moderate income households, who not only pay a larger portion of their income on utility bills, but will also struggle in the long-term as our planet faces the brunt of climate change.

Restructuring the State Energy Office and appropriating $150k for a carbon study (HB 852):
This bill not only restructures our State’s Energy Office to focus on clean energy solutions, but also appropriates $150,000 to complete a carbon tax study. The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission believes that putting a price on carbon is the most effective single action that will achieve Hawai‘i’s ambitious and necessary emissions reduction goals. However, no state has adopted a carbon tax and Hawai‘i’s carbon tax could disproportionately affect low income communities if not implemented correctly. We supported a study on a carbon tax to provide much needed policy guidance for how future carbon tax proposals can be both effective and equitable.

Other good bills that passed:
- **HB 2** - Appropriating $125k for watershed protection
- **HB 401** - Authorizing public agencies to implement vehicle fleet energy efficiency programs
- **HB 551** - Extending the work and funding for the center for renewable energy
- **HB 808** - Protection for all species of rays
- **HB 1548** - Appropriating $775k to combat Rapid ‘Ohi‘a Death
- **HB 1585** - Establishing a rebate program for installation of electric vehicle charging systems
- **SB 390** - Appropriating funds for food stamps to receive “double bucks” for local produce
- **SB 522** - Establishing a plastics reduction working group
Welcome Kecia Joy to the Maui Group

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Maui Group Manager, Kecia Joy! For over thirty years Kecia Joy has been a dedicated environmentalist, marine biologist, educator, and wellness practitioner with experience as team leader, director, and co-creator of innovative projects. She aspires to serve the planet with integrity through the journey of inner growth and a profound connection to the natural world. Kecia strives to be a catalyst for the change we yearn to see in the world and is passionate about the environment—especially water! As Director of Education at the Maui Ocean Center, Pacific Whale Foundation, and the Roundhouse Lab & Aquarium in California, she has created hundreds of educational programs, trainings, workshops, and leadership courses. She also enjoys teaching and lecturing internationally. As a guide and mentor for the next generation of activists, Kecia holds a vision for a thriving culture, traditions, and practices. It is Kecia’s “highest priority to help the planet with innovative and new sustainable technologies.”

Join Kecia in her Roll-Up-Sleeves attitude to protect our oceans and marine life. She was born and raised in the water and understands the need for Hawaiʻi to lead the way to a more sustainable future. Kecia has a deep respect and reverence for Hawaiian culture, traditions, and practices. It is Kecia’s “highest honor to collaborate with all in our collective mission to protect and preserve the environment while bridging traditional teachings with new sustainable technologies.” Kecia is a roll up your sleeves and get it done kind of person. As our new Maui Group Manager, you will find Kecia on the trails in our county council offices, leading activities and events, and much more.

With a vision of humanity in peaceful partnership with the land and sea, she aspires to co-create a blueprint for a sustainable Maui as a living example to the world of peace and aloha.

The Clean Water Act & Lahaina Wastewater
by Kecia Joy, Maui Group Manager

We are at a pivotal point in the 7-plus year battle over ocean pollution from the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility. In 2012, four environmental groups sued Maui County for its use of injection wells at the Lahaina facility; the effluent was reaching the ocean and negatively impacting the coral reefs, which should require an NPDES permit. In 2014, the U.S. District Court in Hawaiʻi ruled the County’s use of injection wells was a violation of the Clean Water Act. The court ruled that the County cannot get around the regulation of discharges into the ocean by dumping them into a hole near the ocean first. In 2018, the County appealed to the 9th Circuit Court and lost.

Earlier this year the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case after Circuit Courts around the country were split over whether or not the Clean Water Act applies to indirect discharges into navigable waters. The High Court could hear the case as early as October 2019.

There is still time for the County to withdraw from the case, opting for ocean protection rather than the right to pollute without a permit. The County’s Governance, Ethics and Transparency committee met on May 23 but was unable to reach a majority decision on settling the case so the item was filed for later consideration. The matter should be taken up again and resolved to put the litigation to rest so the focus can finally be on reducing pollutant flow to the ocean. Share your mana’o with the County Council and Governance, Ethics and Transparency committee at bit.ly/settle-lahaina.

When an Increase is a Decrease: Toxic Gas from the Last Coal Plant
by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

The time has come to ask the Department of Health for a public hearing in AES’s proposal to increase greenhouse gas emissions from its coal plant, instead of reducing its emissions by 16% as state law requires. Officials from the Environment Division of the Health Department are considering whether to allow AES to share emissions quotas with nearly a dozen other facilities throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Basically, AES argues it can increase its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half a percent because other power plants on Maui and Hawaiʻi Island have reduced their emissions well beyond the minimum required reduction. Let that sink in. AES is looking to pollute the air more in Ewa Beach because power plants in Kahului and Puna have reduced their emissions more than minimally required. AES is pushing for this because it does not want to do anything that might reduce its profits from this power plant. In its application, AES explains that it simply cannot muster the extra 50 bucks per ton of carbon it would take to install sootblowing improvements. And ramping down energy production enough to comply with the law is not even an option seriously considered in the application.

This is outrageous! AES’s profit margin on the last coal-fired power plant in the Hawaiian Islands is not worth the air quality of the Waiʻanae Coast. The residents of West Oʻahu deserve better. That is why we are asking the Health Department to hold a public hearing on AES’s permit application. We should never allow the air quality of our communities to be used as justification to worsen the air quality along the Waiʻanae Coast. Please join our call for a public hearing on the “AES Hawaii Covered Source Permit No. 0087-02-C.” Email the Clean Air Branch of the Health Department at: cab@doh.hawaii.gov or 808-586-4200.

Red Hill Provision

In early July, the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee passed a provision requiring the U.S. Navy to hold quarterly public community meetings to provide updates about the Red Hill facility. The provision was introduced by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and requires quarterly meetings for at least the next five years unless the facility ceases operations.

True transparency and public information has been a long-standing challenge at the Red Hill facility and we are grateful to Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for her efforts to make the information on this facility more accessible. We are now asking our Congressional delegation to support the relocation of these antiquated rusty, leaky fuel tanks.

Navy’s Permit Application

In July 2017, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i filed suit against the Department of Health for the unlawful exemption of the U.S. Navy’s Red Hill fuel tanks from local underground storage tank regulations. As a result of the lawsuit, regulations were implemented that require the Navy to obtain a permit to operate the tanks. The Navy submitted a permit application but the original application was rejected by the Department of Health. After addressing the inconsistencies, the Navy resubmitted their application in June and public comments were accepted. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s main concerns with the application include:

• Much of the application is redacted and some parts missing. A public hearing should be held on this application to provide more information to the public,
• The Navy’s own studies have shown corrosion of the tanks and releases from pipelines transporting the fuel from Red Hill to the bases, and
• The permit does not assess the risks of an earthquake to the facility and therefore our aquifer.

The permitting process provides an opportunity to impose additional requirements on the tanks and better regulate the day to day operation of the Red Hill facility. We are currently awaiting a response to our comments.

Petition for Rulemaking

The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i and its members recognize that this permit and the recently implemented regulations are not go far enough, therefore in May we also submitted a petition for new rules to the Department of Health. If granted, our proposed rule would require the eventual relocation of the Red Hill tanks. The rule would prohibit large-capacity underground storage tanks above our aquifer.

Cracking Down on Red Hill

AES COAL PLANT WANTS TO INCREASE EMISSIONS

West O’ahu deserves better! Call for a public hearing 808.586.4200 cab@doh.hawaii.gov

Navy’s Permit Application

In July 2017, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i filed suit against the Department of Health for the unlawful exemption of the U.S. Navy’s Red Hill fuel tanks from local underground storage tank regulations. As a result of the lawsuit, regulations were implemented that require the Navy to obtain a permit to operate the tanks. The Navy submitted a permit application but the original application was rejected by the Department of Health. After addressing the inconsistencies, the Navy resubmitted their application in June and public comments were accepted. The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i’s main concerns with the application include:

• Much of the application is redacted and some parts missing. A public hearing should be held on this application to provide more information to the public,
• The Navy’s own studies have shown corrosion of the tanks and releases from pipelines transporting the fuel from Red Hill to the bases, and
• The permit does not assess the risks of an earthquake to the facility and therefore our aquifer.

The permitting process provides an opportunity to impose additional requirements on the tanks and better regulate the day to day operation of the Red Hill facility. We are currently awaiting a response to our comments.

Petition for Rulemaking

The Sierra Club of Hawai‘i and its members recognize that this permit and the recently implemented regulations are not go far enough, therefore in May we also submitted a petition for new rules to the Department of Health. If granted, our proposed rule would require the eventual relocation of the Red Hill tanks. The rule would prohibit large-capacity underground storage tanks above our aquifer.

Red Hill Provision

In early July, the House Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee passed a provision requiring the U.S. Navy to hold quarterly public community meetings to provide updates about the Red Hill facility. The provision was introduced by Rep. Tulsi Gabbard in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act and requires quarterly meetings for at least the next five years unless the facility ceases operations.

True transparency and public information has been a long-standing challenge at the Red Hill facility and we are grateful to Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for her efforts to make the information on this facility more accessible. We are now asking our Congressional delegation to support the relocation of these antiquated rusty, leaky fuel tanks.
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