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We learned in 2017 that carbon barons knew with scientific certainty in the 1970’s that climate change would destroy the planet if we did not stop burning coal, oil, and gas by 2100. Researchers and investigative journalists discovered a trove of internal memos from fossil fuel trade associations and industry front groups that document the ways the industry deceived and misled the public (and policymakers) about climate change. They ran deceptive ads equating climate advocates with chicken little, funded climate denialism educational materials in public schools, and supported climate denying candidates for public office.

While denying climate change to the rest of the world—putting profits over people—the carbon barons were busy:

- **Improving their equipment to protect it from climate change impacts.** One oil company raised its oil rig platforms to account for sea level rise while funding climate denialism to the public.
- **Making billions** from customers who have little option other than burning fossil fuels,
- **Raking in billions of dollars in state and federal tax breaks and subsidies.** In 2016, the fossil fuel industry took in more than $26 billion in taxpayer money.

Because fossil fuel executives fought so hard against sound climate policies, local climate policies were stalled, the Kyoto Protocol was not adopted by the U.S., and the Paris Climate Accord was signed. Climate change became a crisis while the industry most responsible profited.

Outrageous! They knew. They lied. They profited. Now we are suffering. This is not right.

Thanks to the doubt and delay the carbon barons fueled, Hawai‘i is now confronting a much tougher transition to climate justice. Sea level rise alone will cost Hawai‘i taxpayers $15 billion in public roadway relocations and $19 billion in private structures and land lost to the waves. This conservative estimate does not take into consideration the added expenses to all of us for more intense hurricanes and storm events. We also need to upgrade and relocate sewer systems, strengthen public disaster shelters, and prevent local food shortages—situations all made worse by the climate crisis.

That is why we think Hawai‘i should do as Rhode Island and more than a dozen U.S. cities have done: sue fossil fuel companies for deceptive practices and public nuisance. These corporations are a serious threat to life as we know it on this planet, and have spent billions of dollars to make it harder for us to kick our dependency on fossil fuels.

By suing the fossil fuel industry, Hawai‘i can access some of the industry’s immense wealth to offset the billions of dollars that local people would otherwise have to pay to protect ourselves from the disruption to our climate. It is time to hold fossil fuel companies responsible for the cost of climate change.

We owe it to future generations to hold them accountable for this wrong doing. Just like we did with Big Tobacco in the 1990’s and just like we are doing right now with Big Pharma over the opioid crisis.

Join our mission for climate justice and stay up to date at sierraclubhawaii.org/climate.
Clean Energy and Air for West O‘ahu
by Lauren Watanabe, O‘ahu Group Manager

Hawai‘i has only one coal-fired power plant remaining in service, on the Wai‘anae Coast of O‘ahu. The 180-megawatt AES Hawai‘i power plant at Campbell Industrial Park is currently the largest single generator on the Hawaiian Electric (HECO) system. In 2018, HECO reported a peak demand on O‘ahu. AES is also the largest single source of pollutants on O‘ahu. Not only is burning coal releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, it is also leading to as many as 13,000 premature deaths every year and more than $100 billion in annual health costs. Coal burning is not the energy we want.

Locally, the Wai‘anae Coast gets the brunt of it all. In addition to AES at its doorstep, it has the PVT landfill—the only industrial landfill in Hawai‘i—in Nānākuli. The PVT Landfill takes in the coal ash from AES’s power plant and other materials that were burned in AES’s plant. Coal ash has a mix of toxic chemicals, acids, lead, and heavy metals, exposure to which increases the risk of cancer. Nearby residents and businesses complain that AES is not doing enough to contain the coal ash, as it begins to breathe in the material.

This concentration of waste and power plants is creating a public health crisis for workers and residents. The PVT Landfill is as close as 750 feet to residential areas and schools. Many residents suffer from respiratory illnesses and migraines, and U.S Census data demonstrates that the life expectancy along the Wai‘anae Coast is ten years less than the state average.

By law, AES is required to reduce its emissions by 16% by 2020. Instead of making changes to reduce pollution and transition our communities into thriving economies that provide dignified jobs, ecological resilience, and democratic governance.

Endangered Species Under Another Attack
by Tanya Dreizin, Chapter Office Manager

Species around the world are in crisis. Development, deforestation, and climate change are a daily threat to flora and fauna, with an estimated 28,000 (and growing) species threatened with extinction. A UN panel of biodiversity recently released a report, warning that over one million plants and animals are at risk of extinction. This report recommends that nations should accelerate efforts to save wildlife and focus on preserving ecosystems around the world. While some nations are indeed moving forward, others are moving in reverse. As of August 2019, the Trump Administration has again put profit over the planet, announcing rollbacks which weaken the Endangered Species Act. This has been called “the biggest attack on how the Endangered Species Act works”. The 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) was signed into law to protect and recover species in peril, along with the ecosystems in which they depend. More than 99% of animals, plants, and species identified as threatened or endangered were saved from extinction, including Hawai‘i’s humpback whales, the bald eagle, grey wolves, and the American alligator.

These rollbacks are not surprising, considering Trump’s other environmental and energy policies that have allowed for more mining, drilling, and oil exploration — all of which are industries that contribute significantly to climate change. Under Trump, the new rules of the ESA will make it more difficult to get species listed as threatened or endangered, and for the first time in history, will “allow regulators to calculate economic costs when deciding whether a species warrants protection — for instance, estimating lost revenue from logging operations prohibited in habitat set aside for threatened species.”

Here in Hawai‘i, where we are considered the endangered species capital of the world, there is growing concern over how our threatened plants and animals will be affected in the future, particularly from the effects of climate change. While the threats posed by climate change are severe, we do have an opportunity to make a difference, and to roll back on environmental efforts in order to make it easier for corporations to exploit natural resources and destroy habitats, there may be short term economic gain, but we must also consider the long term cost of what it means for species who once are, will never return.
Thanks to the thousands of people who made their voices heard, Maui County will now work to further treat and reuse the 3 to 5 million gallons daily of R1 sewage waters of the United States indirectly via groundwater. Corporations that use injection wells or other groundwater conduits to dispose of wastewater—like fracking and mining companies—may now adopt the loophole proposed by Maui County’s lawyers. In service to those polluting industries, Mayor Victorino’s Administration tried nearly every Trumpian trick in the book to prevent the County Council from settling this case. Thankfully, reason and good judgement prevailed. On September 20, the Maui County Council voted 5 to 4 to approve resolution 19-225, which directs the Maui Corporation Counsel to settle the Lahaina injection well lawsuit and withdraw the County’s appeal from the U.S Supreme Court.

A dedicated group of ocean allies worked hard over several decades to achieve this win. The Sierra Club, Maui Group, Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter, Hawaii’s Wildlife Fund, and West Maui Preservation Association, with representation from Earthjustice and Lance Collins, worked to analyze and understand the threats to the reef at Kahekili Beach Park, educate the public and agency officials about the problem posed by these injection wells, and contest the County Council’s plans to adopt the loophole proposed by Maui County’s lawyers. In service to those polluting industries, Mayor Victorino’s Administration tried nearly every Trumpian trick in the book to prevent the County Council from settling this case. Thankfully, reason and good judgement prevailed. On September 20, the Maui County Council voted 5 to 4 to approve resolution 19-225, which directs the Maui Corporation Counsel to settle the Lahaina injection well lawsuit and withdraw the County’s appeal from the U.S Supreme Court.

Before the full Council, concerned residents and experts again delivered two days of testimony in support of a settlement and again the Victorino Administration used Trump-style scare tactics, confusion, and empty promises to stymie the resolution. On the day of the Global Climate Strike, September 20, before another overflowing gallery, the Council affirmed the resolution and the gallery cheered.

We commend the Council majority for moving towards real solutions for Maui and thank the Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee Chair Molina and the Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee Chair Molina and the Ethics, and Transparency Committee Chair Molina and the Ethics, and Transparency Committee Chair Molina and the Council Chair Kaahumanu for an appealing again all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In August, the allies organized a town hall event at the Maui Ocean Center discussing issues related to the Maui County community. Over 1,000 people attended the expert panel discussion on the ins and outs of this case and the need to protect the reef at Kahekili beach. This inspired more than 16,000 people to sign an online petition in support of settling the case and upholding the Clean Water Act. Hundreds also called and emailed council members.

On September 3, over 300 community members showed up at the Maui County Council for a pivotal total committee hearing on the resolution, most wearing blue and waving signs—demonstrating the wave of public support to settle this case and focus on working together locally to protect our water. Help us hold Mayor Victorino accountable by sending him a personal note at mayor@mauinow.hawaii.gov requesting the City Council to follow through on the council’s directive and withdrawal of the County’s appeal from the U.S Supreme Court.

Polluting industries see this as an opportunity to severely weaken the Clean Water Act by creating an exemption from the Act for discharges that reach waters of the United States indirectly via groundwater. Corporations that use injection wells or other groundwater conduits to dispose of wastewater—like fracking and mining companies—may now adopt the loophole proposed by Maui County’s lawyers. In service to those polluting industries, Mayor Victorino’s Administration tried nearly every Trumpian trick in the book to prevent the County Council from settling this case. Thankfully, reason and good judgement prevailed. On September 20, the Maui County Council voted 5 to 4 to approve resolution 19-225, which directs the Maui Corporation Counsel to settle the Lahaina injection well lawsuit and withdraw the County’s appeal from the U.S Supreme Court.

What’s Coming Up for East Maui Streams
by Marti Townsend, Chapter Director

The Sierra Club is working hard to restore streams throughout the Hawaiian Islands that have long been diverted for private profit without sufficient concern for the harm caused to stream ecosystems and the communities that rely on them.

The biggest fight of the 2018 legislative session was Alexander & Baldwin’s attempt to get another extension on the year-to-year permits they have been granted for decades on end to divert the streams of East Maui for their own corporate profit. We won that fight thanks to the champions in the senate and the stream huggers in the street. THANK YOU!

Of course, the fight did not stop there. Since the close of the 2018 Legislative Session, several things have happened. The United States Supreme Court has issued a decision in the case of Carmichael et al vs. Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), which concluded (improperly in our opinion) that an environmental impact statement (EIS) was not required for the issuance of month-to-months permits issued every year for public land access to take the public’s water out of streams to irrigate private lands. This means that for now at least, the BLNR can issue temporary permits without environmental impact statements for access to streams. That case is on appeal to the Hawaii’s Supreme Court. Be on the lookout for an opportunity to watch oral arguments in that case when it gets scheduled.

In addition, the Sierra Club filed its own lawsuit challenging BLNR’s approval of these temporary permits for yet another year. BLNR failed to (a) ask for basic information about the impact of the stream diversions; (b) provide any protection at all to 12 streams; (c) protect native aquatic life that is harmed by diversion structures; (d) impose any kind of deadline for stream restoration; (e) ensure that A&B was using the water in a reasonable and beneficial manner; (f) cap the amount of water that A&B can take out of east Maui; (f) require that A&B control the spread of invasive species on the public land that it uses; and (g) investigate whether A&B has cleaned up its trash.

Watch for updates on A&B’s diversion abandonment permits in the next month or so.

In October, A&B and Mahi Pono will once again ask BLNR for permission to divert East Maui streams for another year. A&B and Mahi Pono need some amount of water to cultivate the agricultural lands in central Maui. While we support food production in central Maui, we contend that it is absolutely fundamental that the water taken for that agriculture in no way undermines the stream ecosystems of East Maui.

Last but not least, we expect an environmental impact statement from A&B and Mahi Pono to be released for public comment any day now. It will take a lot of public oversight and citizen science to ensure that this document details all the harms of a 100 years of stream diversions, and outlines all the mitigations necessary to address historic harms and prevent future significant harms in the event stream diversions are justified.

Tune into our Facebook (@sierrachublahawaii) and sierrachublahawaii.org/ea-maui-streams for updates on litigation, permits, and public input opportunities.
As the dog days of summer begin their stay, the O‘ahu Group has been doing anything but sit. Our magnificent new staff Lauren Watanabe, O‘ahu Group Manager has been wrangling youth climate concerns into our next generation of climate activists. Top on their list is ensuring shutdown of the final coal plant in the state. She’s already helmed the submittal of myriad environmental impact statement comments from shoreline protection to wastewater treatment and public trail access.

Your Executive Committee and key volunteers have been collaborating to keep keen eyes on various development schemes from the Ala Wai Canal Project to the Ala Moana Park and Magic Island improvements and the Waimanalo Bay Beach Park Sports Complex. We’ve joined members across the island concerned with the protection of sand dunes from Wāwāmalu to Punalu‘u.

Never ones to rest on an opportunity to engage with the plans that shape O‘ahu’s future, the ExCom submitted comments on the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan as well as participating in Primary Urban Center Development Plan’s Growth and Change workshops and engagements on sea level rise.

At Honolulu Hale, we’ve been gaining ground forwarding Bill 25, which updates building codes for new construction to meet new state energy conservation codes regarding energy consumption. Primary bill opponents entrenched in the fossil fuel industry, continue to push against closing loopholes and implementing real reforms. Opponents to Bill 40, which phases out single use plastics and EPS foodware once and for all! The City and County of Honolulu has an opportunity to protect human safety and welfare and to improve the environmental quality for all life throughout our state. These products threaten our health and our future, time for them to go!

The good news is, Bill 40 addresses all of these issues by phasing out single use plastics and EPS foodware once and for all! The City and County of Honolulu has an opportunity to protect human safety and welfare and to improve the environmental quality for all life throughout our state. These products threaten our health and our future, time for them to go!

Bill 40 was heard by the City & County Public Safety and Welfare Committee on Aug. 29. Many supporters, advocates, and youth came out to testify and it passed—once and for all! The City and County of Honolulu has an opportunity to protect human safety and welfare and to improve the environmental quality for all life throughout our state. These products threaten our health and our future, time for them to go!

The first mile is up switchbacks, cresting turnaround near the Makakilo Community Park (92-1140 Makakilo Drive) at Makakilo, easy/4 miles. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 8am. Leaders: John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Clyde Kobashigawa, 227-9925; Susan Tom; Curtis Kawamoto

We will hike 2.5 miles on a flat dirt road and train roadbeds that overlook Nanakuli Valley. You may also hear and see ‘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

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Beach to be determined. We will snorkel and learn about Hawai‘i’s coral reef ecosystems, fish, invertebrates, and lots of water. Bring gloves, pruning saws and shears, loppers, mosquito repellent, and lots of enthusiasm! The area is known for beautiful scenic panoramas from the ridgeline overlooking Nanakuli 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; Curtis Kawamoto

Sandy Beach Cleanup

We will clean up along highway and coastal areas until 1pm. Bags and gloves provided. All participants under 18 must have a waiver signed by legal guardian. No one under 18 will be allowed to clean on the highway and will spend time cleaning the beach and park area. Closed-toe shoes only. No slippers or sandals of any sort. Meet at

**SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION**
O‘ahu Group Outings

at the Sandy Beach bathroom at eastern side of the beach park (the bathroom closer to Makapu‘u.) Call Tred at 394-2869 for information. Leader: Deborah Blair, 392-0481

Saturday, November 23 to Sunday, November 24
Service Trip: Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Tree Planting, Hawai‘i Island
We’ll spend one night, two days in the Forest Reserve planting native trees, weeding and maybe gathering seeds. The accommodations are primitive. Leader: Randy Ching, 942-0145, randy.ching@sierrahclib.org

Sunday, December 1
Ohuule Forest Conservancy Tree Planting (S)
Tree planting in Waipio Valley. Meet at the Church of the Crossroads at 7:45am or Waiahole Poi Factory at 8:15am. We will work in the Ohuule Forest Conservancy until 4pm. Bring 2 liters of water, lunch, gloves, sunscreen and insect repellent. Wear hiking boots, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, hat. Leader: Randy Ching, 942-0145, makikirandy@yahoo.com

Saturday, December 14
Kahuku Shoreline to Turtle Bay
Kahuku, moderate/5 miles, beach
Reservations required. We will meet at 8am at the helicopter tour area at Turtle Bay Resort to leave cars and proceed by helicopter to the beach. Bring plenty of water, a hat, and sunscreen. Leader: Colleen Soares, csoares48@gmail.com

Saturday, December 14
MCBH Kane‘ohe Bay Service Project (S)
Reservations required. Due to new MCBH regulations, all participants must register with DBIDS minimum one week before outing to secure access to base. Contact Dan Anderson at 490-8057 or danderhi@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

Saturday, December 29
Photography Hike: Pālehua-Palikea (E)
Malakilo, 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. To secure your spot, pack your 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, dydekobashigawa@hawaii.rr.com; John Shimogawa, 227-9925; Curtis Kawamoto; Susan Tom; Stan Oka

Deficient FEIS for Keālia Mauka Homesites Approved by Rayne Regush, Group Co-chair
In August, the State Land Use Commission accepted a Final Environmental Impact Statement for a proposed 235-lot residential subdivision on 53 acres of prime agricultural land, despite red flags. Now, Keālia Properties LLC is working to secure Commission approval to amend the Land Use District boundary from Residential to Suburban residential, unless community input can effectively challenge it.

Supporters of the project, whose single-minded goal is to increase housing, are igniting the disproportionate burden on the adjacent 38 Keālia Town Tract homes, a rural neighborhood built in the early 1920’s. These marginalized residents, some who are lifetime and multi-generational descendants of Keālia sugar plantation workers, will be assaulted by the crush of this high-density development.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) did not adequately respond to many significant concerns raised during the Draft review process. For example, negative impacts could be resolved if access to the subdivision did not rely solely on historic Keālia Road. For reasons unknown, the State Department of Transportation will not allow direct access to Kuhio Highway from an existing cane haul road, located opposite one of four entrances to 29-lot Keālia community.

Direct impacts to Keālia residents at Hopo‘e and K‘ao‘ao Roads from traffic congestion and pollution were not assessed in the FEIS. Also, with Keālia Road being the only access to the project, any accident or roadway blockage will impact public safety as police and first responders will be unable to reach the subdivision for other emergencies. The broader consequence of the proposed density is the regional impact from the increased traffic congestion through Kā‘apu‘a also known as Keālia Highway.

Project supporters fail to recognize that Keālia was not identified for urban expansion in any of the County General Plan narratives since the 1960’s. The FEIS blatantly disregarded guidance from County General Plan (GP) policy-setting guidelines and priority objectives:

- locating residential growth in and near job centers
- encouraging the development of Lahu‘e as Kaua‘i’s urban core
- supporting new housing units in Neighborhood General and Neighborhood Center (not Residential Community, such as Keālia)
- preserving rural character; expanding farm worker housing units
- managing development in a manner that respects the unique character of place

During the recent GP update process, Keālia was not discussed at public meetings as a “buildout area” and the the plan does include any textual guidance or specificity identifying Keālia for growth. However, meetings between the Keālia Mauka Properties representative, former Mayor and former Planning Director were ongoing during the GP update from 2016 to 2018. The lack of transparency and deliberate omission of the project from the GP is a breach of public trust, further evidenced by the County’s Departmental Determination DD-2016-70 (Boundary Interpretation for General Plan Designation).

This document (Appendix A in the FEIS) provides no citations from previous General Plans to corroborate the assertion that for close to 35 years Keālia was earmarked for residential development.

Justification for urban expansion relies solely on the highly interpretive General Plan Land Use Maps. The Keālia “Residential Community” area shown in yellow appears a slightly expanded margin beyond Keālia Town Tract, whereas the 73-acre project is three times larger in size. The yellow area also obliterates Kamole Road where there are 7 homes and erroneously encompasses the upscale Keālia Kai Ag-buildout lots #1-8 & 2-7.

The Kaua‘i Group strongly supports opportunities for new housing, but this location, the high-density, existing traffic congestion, and significant inconsistencies with the General Plan, make the Keālia Mauka Homesites project inappropriate. Read the FEIS at: bit.ly/luc-kealia

At press time, the public hearing for the state land use district boundary amendment has not been scheduled. This will be a critical opportunity for public input. You can sign up to receive emails for LUC public hearing notices at luc.hawaii.gov/agenda-request.
Push for an EIS: KIUC’s EA for the Blue Hole Diversion is Insufficient

After fourteen years of diverting public trust water without a required water lease from the State, Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative has come forward with an Environmental Assessment in its quest for a 65-year lease to use water from Wailea’s Blue Hole Diversion to power two 100-year old hydroelectric plants that deliver about 1% of the island’s electricity.

Historically, the former Lihue Plantation developed an extensive ditch system which diverted nearly 100% of Waiale’a and Wailoko Streams for sugarcane production and for the Upper and Lower Waiala hydropower plants.

Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative (BLNR) granted short term revocable permits to Kaua‘i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC). It goes without saying, diverting almost 100% of its stream flow for over a century has vastly altered the ecosystem of the Waialua watershed, and negatively impacted the cultural, farming and gathering practices of our host culture.

Along the way KIUC has faced stiff and credible opposition to its diversion practices and its questionable adherence to state and federal laws:

- Hawai‘i Revised Statute 171-58 requires KIUC to file a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), not a less thorough EA. There are significant spiritual, cultural, environmental and public trust impacts that can only be addressed with an EIS.
- In response to KIUC’s first effort to secure a 65-year lease in 2002, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) filed a contested case and rejected KIUC’s inadequate Cultural Impact Assessment in 2010 and 2017, OHA has still not accepted the CEA which is a lease requirement.

An EA is inadequate to address the federally protected critical habitat for Kaua‘i’s endemic snail species which would have been destroyed.

- The Blue Hole Diversion is located in the Lihue Forest Reserve and the publicly accessible State Conservation District. Consequently KIUC is bound by law to prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan with an Incidental Take Permit, and multiple State Conservation District Use Permits. Neither has been done.

When KIUC goes before the BLNR to make their case for a 65-year lease, the Sierra Club Kaua‘i Group will be there, advocating for an EIS and restoration of the long neglected mauka to makai stream flow to revitalize Kaua‘i’s Waialua watershed.

Correction, July 2019 Kaua‘i Group Report: Grove Farm promised Ulupono Initiative 30 million gallons of water per day from the Waitea Reservoir should be 3 million gallons.

UPCOMING OUTINGS:
SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Join us on these great outings to discover the natural treasures of our island. Mileage is total miles.
Outings focus on (C) Conservation/Interpretive, (E) Educational, (F) Family/Fun, and/or (S) Service.

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

Saturday, October 5
Po‘omau Canyon Vistas Hike (C/E/F)
Koke‘e State Park, 6 miles, +900 feet
We will explore vistas of Po‘omau Canyon, which feeds into the Waimea Canyon, from both sides as we hike this parallel loop hike. This hike includes a “hikers dream lunch spot” with views of gorgeous waterfalls, the colorfull walls of Po‘omau Canyon, and on occasion, even goats with a little bit of an adventure, get to this spot. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, October 12
Sunset to Full Moon: Waialua to Nukoli‘i Beach Walk (C/E/F)
East side, easy/1.5 miles
We’ll meet at Lydgate Beach Park for a picnic dinner and walk along a pristine beach. Learn how this beach was saved from being destroyed by a 6-foot high, 3/5-mile long sea wall fronting Waialua Golf Course that the County had started to build back in 1996. The beach began to erode and sections became impassable to walk along. It took 3 months of intensive effort to get the DLNR to issue a cease and desist order, forcing the County to remove the non-permitted sea wall. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, October 19
Waimea River Walk and Float (C/F)
Strenuous/11 miles one way, part of this floating, ~2250 ft, downhill.
Start at Kukui Trailhead and hike down into Waimea Canyon and along the old Waimea River jeep road. Bring floatable tubes to inflate and float down the river for over a mile, passing through a tunnel. End at outskirts of Waimea town and shuttle back to Kukui Trailhead. Leader: Ken Fasig, 808-346-1229

Sunday, October 20
Mo‘oalepo Trail to Kilaulu Ridge Picnic Area (C/E/F)
East shore, moderate/6 miles, ~800 feet elevation
A beautiful hike through farmland and forest, with glorious mountain views and ever-present birdsongs. This trail offers great rewards without a lot of effort. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, October 26
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
Po‘ipi‘i area, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, mild elevation change on a rocky trail
Spectacular coastal walk, viewing along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Saturday, November 2
Spectacular Monument & Kalalea Mountain Vista Hike (C/E/F)
East side, moderate/6 miles, ~800 feet elevation
A hike with many facets that include a monument to a sugarcane company owner, lovely views down into colorful coastal area near Kealia, a fine forest, and unique views and perspective on Kalalea Mountain, which is popularly called “King Kong” mountain and looms above Anahola. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Wednesday, November 6
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
Po‘ipi‘i area, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, mild elevation change on a rocky trail
Spectacular coastal walk, viewing along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Sunday, November 10
Māhā‘ulepo Sunset to Moonlight Walk (C/E/F)
South shore, moderate/4 miles, mild elevation change
Start out mid-afternoon from Shipwreck Beach walking along a beach, over a mile, and a stroll on a small full moon rise. Spectacular coastal walk. We’ll shuttle cars for an easy trip back to the trailhead. Bill Snyder, 808-652-1718

Saturday, November 16
Waialua to Sunset Sea Wall Looper (C/F)
North shore, easy/4.5 miles, ~200 feet elevation
We’ll pass through the Kīlauea Forest and then the largest mahogany plantation in North America. Then, the trail opens up and we’ll enjoy impressive views of Mount Namahana, which means “the twin branches” in Hawaiian, and hike near lovely farms and ranches. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, November 23
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike, well-dressed, Po‘ipi‘i area, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, mild elevation change on a rocky trail
Spectacular coastal walk, viewing along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Sunday, November 30
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
West Side, intermediate/8 miles, ~1800 feet elevation
Explore lovely panoramic views of the Waimea Canyon and as well as the upper reaches of Waipo‘o’s waterfall. Falls on this intermediate level loop hike including the Pu‘u Hinahina Trail, Cliff Trail, Canyon Trail, Black Pipe Trail, Halemanu-Koke‘e Trail, Kumuula Trail, and return on Canyon Trail. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, December 7
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
Po‘ipi‘i area, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, mild elevation change on a rocky trail
Spectacular coastal walk, viewing along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Tuesday, December 10
Sunset to Po‘ipū Beach: Wailua to Po‘ipū Beach Walk (C/E/F)
East side, easy/1.5 miles
We’ll meet at Lydgate Beach Park for a picnic dinner and walk along a pristine beach. Learn how this beach was saved from being destroyed by a 6-foot high, 3/5-mile long sea wall fronting Waialua Golf Course that the County had started to build back in 1996. The beach began to erode and sections became impassable to walk along. It took 3 months of intensive effort to get the DLNR to issue a cease and desist order, forcing the County to remove the non-permitted sea wall. Leader: Judy Dalton, 808-482-1129

Saturday, December 14
Napali Coast Trail to Hanakāpī‘ai Falls (C/E/F)
North shore, upper intermediate/8 miles, ~1800 feet elevation begins at Ke‘e Beach and follows the Kalalau Trail with its stunning coastal views for 2 miles to Hanakāpī‘ai Beach, then continues inland 2 more miles to the waterfall. After the hike we’ll enjoy the sunset and view the spectacular and the waterfall is lovely; this trail is a personal favorite. The irregular trail from the coast to the waterfall is quite a wild adventure with some water crossings. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, December 21
Jewel of Koke‘e (C/E/F)
Strenuous/7 miles
Spectacular hike through forests of Koke‘e, Black Pipe Trail, Diamond Head, and sections become impassable to walk along. We’ll pass through the Kīlauea Forest and then the largest mahogany plantation in North America until Donkey Beach. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Saturday, December 28
Keālia to Anahola Coastal Walk (C/E/F)
South shore, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, well-dressed
We will explore the coast and enjoy the lovely views afforded by the east shore between Keālia and Anahola. The first part of this outing is easy on the hike/walk path up until Donut Trail. The rest is unpaved and moderately rated. Leader: Julio Magalhães, 650-906-2594

Tuesday, December 31
Māhā‘ulepo Coastal Hike (C/E/F)
Po‘ipi‘i area, moderate/4 miles roundtrip, mild elevation change on a rocky trail
Spectacular coastal walk, viewing along this magnificent coastline! Leader: Lee Gately, 661-373-4834

Kaua‘i Group Outings
Kaua‘i Group Report & Outings

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SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
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13 • Mālama I Ka Honua
SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII
October-December 2019
More Hawaiian Hoary Bat “Take” Allowed at Auwahi Wind Farm

The Land Board approved an amended Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Sempra wind energy farm in Auwahi on August 23. The Sierra Club Maui Group had issued comments in the federal Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement covering four wind farms in Hawaii.

Sempra’s original HCP from 2012 allowed for 21 bats to be killed by the wind turbines during the 25 year life span of the facility, but 46 were estimated to have been killed by blades a total of 7 years after the seven years. The amended HCP allows for another 119 bat deaths beyond the original 21. The bats roost during the day but forage after sunset. It has been established that bats can detect and avoid the rotating blades if their speed is high enough. The HCP calls out different minimum wind speeds for operation during parts of the night and the year. Not running at all at night would reduce the deaths to zero, or close to it.

It is disappointing that the Land Board did not require the company to reduce the “take” by extending the cutoff additionally until there is a significant drop in bat deaths. Wind energy production is renewable and a valuable contributor to Maui’s electricity needs but optimal output has to be weighed against the consequences to endangered native species. The Hawaiian Hoary Bat is the only native Hawaiian land mammal.

BLNR Case and the East Maui Streams

The Sierra Club’s case against the BLNR, asking the board to provide stewardship for the State land water bodies, is that it is required to protect and continue. This includes preventing harm to native aquatic species and preserving the lands for cultural practices and recreational uses. Hawai’i’s native ‘o’opu fish and ‘opae shrimp depend on free flowing streams for survival.

The Water Commission ordered restoration of ten streams. Inspection by intrepid hikers has found that in many cases the flow has not been completely restored, or the flow has not been restored. Hawai‘i’s native ‘o’opu fish and ‘opae shrimp depend on free flowing streams for survival.

Global Climate Crisis

The Maui Group supported the Youth Climate Strike on May 24 and worked closely with youth groups and environmental organizations on the September 20 Global Climate Strike, with a rally and march starting at the university campus.

Anaergia EIS

As reported in the July-September issue of the Mālama, the Maui Environmental Court ruled that it extend the comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement for its proposal to build a power plant on the site of the Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility; that is the responsibility of the County. Anaergia is appealing the ruling.

Energy Forum

Maui Electric Company, Maui Tomorrow and the Sierra Club Maui Group organized a community forum on the future of renewable energy on Maui on June 26 with a standing room only crowd that had many questions for the panelists.

Renewable Energy RFP

The Sierra Club provided comments to the draft Request for Proposals for phase two of bids for energy production projects on Maui. In particular, we stressed the benefits of smaller, distributed solar farms with battery storage over large centralized ones. Smaller units can extend the cutoff additionally until there is a significant drop in bat deaths. Wind energy production is renewable and a valuable contributor to Maui’s electricity needs but optimal output has to be weighed against the consequences to endangered native species. The Hawaiian Hoary Bat is the only native Hawaiian land mammal.
Maui Group Outings

Sunday, November 24
Taia Valley Hike (E)
Wailuku, 3-4 miles
Take a stroll in ‘Iao Valley and then be prepared to cool off with a swim in the clear and refreshing waters of Iao Stream. There will be some uphill sections. Bring water, sunscreen and snacks. Meet at ‘Iao Valley State Park at 8am. Limit 12. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Saturday, November 30
Hāmōka Hōlomoa Day (C/E/S)
Keālia, 1 mile
Come see a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds and explore the Keauhou ahupua’a at south end of Wailea Road. Lots of trails, Hawaiian heiau and sites hidden along the way as we hike up this iconic valley. Bring hat, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Meet at 8am at mauka end of Hāmoku access road parking lot (across from gas station) to carpool or at 8:30am at trailhead off of Wailau Pl. Limit 20. Leader: Miranda Camp, mauimiranda@hotmail.com

Sunday, December 1
Wailoa Stream Hike (E)
Mākena, 4 miles
Moderate, pleasant walk on ‘fisherman’s trail,” road, sandy beaches, rocky beaches past tidepools to Keoneuili. Beautiful views. Hiking stick useful. Meet 9am in public parking lot for Polo Beach, near the entrance. Almost entirely exposed, so bring sun protection. We’ll stop to eat anything we have with us at Keoneuili. Limit 15. Leader: Rob Weltman, robw@worldspot.com

Sunday, December 15
Hāmākua Cruise (E/S)
Kīhei, 6 miles
Enjoy the Keauhou ahupua’a at south end of Wailea 670 cultural preserve and help search for hidden archaeological sites. Rugged terrain, closed shoes/boots, long pants and good balance a must. Bring water, hiking stick and camera. Meet 3pm at top of Kaukahi Rd in Kīhei. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne De Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

Sunday, December 22
Kealakekua Bay Hike (E)
Kailua, 4 miles
Experience this famous historic road that has been closed for all use since 1985. Hike will begin on Kealakekua-Mauna Loa Road in Wailea 670, climb a slight grade, and continue downhill to the ocean on old Mākena-Ulupalakua switchback road. (We will leave cars at both ends). Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and lunch/snack. Estimated time: 3.5 hours. Meet at 8am in public parking lot across from Keawala‘i church. Limit 20. Leader: Lucienne De Naie, laluzmaui@gmail.com or 214-0147

As the days went on, the crowds opposing the construction began to number in the thousands, as many as 5,000 a day. A well-organized small city, bustling with volunteers, medics, legal observers, musicians, university faculty, kupuna, celebrities, and families has grown from the exercise first amendment rights that day—the number of kia‘i, protectors, expanded dramatically over the next few hours. The crowd was growing at such a pace that the Royal Order of Kamehameha designated the Pu‘uhonua Huluhulu parking area as a pu‘u honua to allow for a place of safety and peace.

Mauna Kea Update by Deborah Ward
At 3:15pm on the solstice in June, DLNR and Hawai’i County police removed two ahu near the summit and two significant Hale far from the construction area, purportedly for safety reasons. This dismissive action on a day when Hawaiian practitioners were engaged in traditional religious practice, enraged and saddened the Hawaiian community and many residents. In July, early one morning, TMT construction vehicles were to be staged on the northern plateau of Mauna Kea’s summit region. Many members and protectors assembled at the Saddle and Access Road junction to hold signs and exercise first amendment rights that day—the number of kia‘i, protectors, expanded dramatically over the next few hours. The crowd was growing at such a pace that the Royal Order of Kamehameha designated the Pu‘uhonua Huluhulu parking area as a pu‘u honua to allow for a place of safety and peace.

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Spraying Paradise by Blake Watson and Cory Harden
Imagine turning the chemical war zones on our county roadsides into places of botanical interest and beauty. This is the vision for a bill to ban the use of certain herbicides by county workers—a bill we hope to see before the Hawai‘i County Council soon. County bans have failed twice, in 2015 and 2016, despite public support due to flaws in the bill. Those flaws are addressed in the upcoming bill. The bill covers use of herbicides by the County only, since courts ruled in 2016 that only the State can regulate use by public and private businesses.

The bill gives the county four years to transition to eco-friendly products and methods. The bill also sets up an advisory commission of experts in alternative land management and botany. Ideally, commissioners will have backgrounds in organic landscape management, native plants, natural farming, permaculture, agroforestry, cultural concerns, or silviculture, and represent as many different districts of Hawai‘i Island as possible to help adapt methods to local conditions.

There are alternatives for weed control. Mulching, then replanting with native and/or pollinator friendly plantings can work. Avenger herbicide works—it’s a mixture of D-limonene, salt and vinegar. A hot water machine by Weedechnics is used at a Kaua‘i resort. Cost: $15-30,000 with shipping. Goats munched weeds on Maui, in portable fencing along a highway—watch at bit.ly/goat-19. Hawai‘i County might try goats first in drainage areas, where the County sprays the heaviest amount of herbicide. Goats could handle the difficult terrain and be out of the way of traffic.

UPCOMING OUTINGS:

SEE PAGE 10 FOR GENERAL OUTINGS INFORMATION

Requested donation for members and participants under 18 is $1. Donation for others: $5.

For most hikes bring 2 quarts of water, rain gear, sturdy hiking shoes, hiking stick, hat/visor, and lunch. For full descriptions and updates go to bit.ly/SCMLG-outings

Classification of outings: (E) Education/Interpretation, (C) Conservation, (F) Family/Fun, (S) Service (no donation required).

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 outing descriptions. This preventative protocol is the best defense at home before reaching the area but leaders will have needed items at meeting places. Please help us protect our precious forests.

Saturday, October 26
Snorkeling at Richardson (C/E)
Keaukaha area, east side, sea level
Part of our series devoted to appreciating the marine life found around the Kalōpā State Park’s Richardson Beach Park is well known and loved by residents and visitors alike; considered the go to place for easy access on the eastside. But is it the case that we are ‘loving’ this place too much? We especially want to invite participation by experienced water-persons with knowledge and memories of this special place. Together we will investigate and assess the richness of this marine park and its ecology. Bring standard outings needs such as water, sun protection and snacks as well as personal snorkel gear, fish ID cards and underwater camera. Leader: Rob Culbertson, 316-380 with assistance from Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 935-3475.

Tuesday, November 19
Pu‘u O’o Day Hike (E/C)
Moderate/4 miles, +/-200 ft
Scenic vistas, sea birds and some historic sites depending on which part of the trail we go on atop Hāmākua cliffs. Come join us on this hike along the ocean. Leaders: Michael and Sunny LaPlante, 964-5017

Sunday, December 8
Kalōpā Nature Trail, Old Jeep Road, Gulch Trail (E/F)
Hāmākua District, easy/4 miles
We will be visiting with The Nature Conservancy to restore the ancient fishing pond by clearing invasive vegetation and trees and possibly planting native species. This is a very rewarding experience with a large local ‘ohana participation. Be sure to bring lots of water and reef-safe sun protection. Service ends by 1pm with potluck lunch and an opportunity to enjoy the bay after. Please register early with leader, Diane Ware at 967-8642.

For more background on this important legal benchmark you can visit forthefishes.org or facebook.com/ForTheFishes. You can also contact the Hawai‘i Office of Environmental Quality Control at 586-4045 or oeeqchawaii@doh.hawaii.gov and ask to be directly contacted when the aquarium trade EIS is posted for public comment.

If this issue resonates with you and you wish to help out for the long haul you can:
1. Contact your respective state legislators and urge them to support a moratorium on aquarium fishing and trade.
2. Submit a Letter to the Editor to your local paper or other media outlet. Here’s a recent piece from the affinity group “Beyond Kona” as an example, beyondkona.com/sustainability-is-maui.
3. Spread the word about the new 808-NO-POACH reward tip line for people to report suspected aquarium trade poaching or trafficking. Visit forthefishes.org/reward for more info.

Mālama I Ka Honua
SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI‘I
October-December 2019

Hawai‘i Island Group Report & Outings

Hawai‘i Island Group Outings

Royal gramma (above) and yellow tang (right) are two of the most popularly collected aquarium trade species in Hawaii’s.
I recently had the pleasure of joining Mark Hanson on a Sierra Club service project to plant and care for sandalwood trees in the Ka’ohe Restoration Area on the western slopes of Mauna Kea at about 7,600 feet elevation.

‘Iliahi—sandalwood—was once abundant in the Hawaiian Islands. The trees were cut down by the millions for trade with China from 1790 to 1830. Much of Hawai’i’s ‘Iliahi forests were wiped-out and few large trees exist today. ‘Iliahi is a slow growing tree that is difficult to propagate and outplant in the field. The tree is hemiparasitic, meaning its roots like to intertwine with the roots of other trees—forming a symbiotic relationship with its host.

In the last 25 years, Mark figured out how to propagate sandalwood trees in the greenhouse and outplant them in the field. In the last five years, his team of volunteers with the Hawaiian Reforestation Program planted over 50,000 high-elevation native trees in multiple locations around Mauna Kea—most of them ‘Iliahi. So successful has he been growing ‘Iliahi that he has been dubbed the Sandalwood Man.

While I enjoyed volunteering with the Sandalwood Man, the experience was bittersweet. Sweet because I love ‘Iliahi trees and the views from Ka’ohe were spectacular. Bitter because I learned that Mark is terminating his reforestation efforts at Ka’ohe over concerns of how the State’s Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is managing the area.

Ka’ohe is critical habitat for the palila, an endangered native bird found only on Hawai’i Island. In 1977, the Sierra Legal Defense Fund sued DLNR for not protecting the last remaining habitat for the critically endangered bird. The birds rely on māmane trees for food which were being destroyed by feral sheep, goats, and pigs. In 1979, the court found DLNR in violation of the Endangered Species Act and ordered the native forest of māmane trees to be restored. The court order kickstarted a service project to plant and care for ‘Iliahi and other native trees at Pu’u Wā’awa’a. Join us November 23-24!

In the past 3 years, Mark outplanted 6,000 native trees on Department of Hawaiian Homes Land (DHHL) on Mauna Kea. 80% of those trees are alive today. Sadly, the success rate is much less at Ka’ohe. In the past 5 years, 3,000 trees were planted at Ka’ohe but only 100 trees are alive today—a success rate of 3.3%. With such dismal results, Mark has decided not to waste limited time and resources. He is ending reforestation efforts at Ka’ohe and moving to Pu’u Wa’awa’a where the trees have a much better chance of surviving.

To make matters worse, an invasive insect—a thrip—has invaded the Hawaiian Islands and is killing naio trees by the tens of thousands. Naio is also a food source for the palila and is a prime constituent of the native forests at Ka’ohe. Only 700 palila are estimated to remain today. With DLNR prioritizing the interests of hunters over the palila, the outlook for the birds is not good. Unless DLNR changes how it manages Mauna Kea, the palila bird inches ever closer to extinction.

Mahalo nui Mark for all of your hard work and perseverance. The forests thank you!

Nathan Yuen is an artist/photographer/naturalist whose body of work is a confluence of hiking, conservation, and fine art photography. Each weekend you can find him hiking, backpacking, or kayaking to out-of-the-way locations to photograph Hawai’i’s native plants and animals, many of which are rare or endangered. His goal is to showcase these biological treasures to give you a reason to protect them for future generations. You can view his art and read about his adventures at hawaiianforest.com.
Since 1977, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i has raised concerns about telescope construction on Mauna Kea, and since 1988 has called for a full moratorium on all construction at the summit. We renewed this call in 2010 when the University of Hawai‘i released its Comprehensive Management Plan for the lands it leases at the summit of Mauna Kea that failed to take any substantive actions to improve conditions on the summit. Today, in solidarity with the many organizations and individuals opposing the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) planned for the northern plateau of this mountain, we are once again calling for a halt to all construction in the Mauna Kea Conservation District.

As the elected leaders of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee, we agree that astronomy is a noble endeavor that can benefit humanity. We acknowledge that some of our members may support constructing the TMT on Mauna Kea. However, we find that in this situation, the benefits of this planned construction are outweighed by the harm that construction would cause to this Conservation District and to the people of Hawai‘i who value Mauna Kea for ecological, cultural, and religious importance.

We respect that for Hawaiians, there is only one Hawai‘i, one homeland, and only one Mauna Kea. There is no replacement, no alterantive, for this particular mountain. As Amnesty International highlights, proceeding with the TMT project on Mauna Kea without the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous Hawaiians is a human rights and long-term community resilience.

Consistent with its sacred status, Mauna Kea is designated in state law as a conservation district. The summit region of Mauna Kea is home to the largest, recorded archaeological and cultural sites in the Pacific, recognized as a state historic district and traditional cultural property, and a national natural landmark in recognition of its unique geologic features. This is a special place where nature should dominate, not human-made construction.

Unfortunately, there is a general consensus that 40 years of western astronomy on Mauna Kea has caused significant adverse impact to the natural and cultural resources of this mountain. The TMT Corporation has acknowledged that the mountain is sacred to some Hawaiians in a statement that Mercury spills, unlined cesspools, ancient view points obstructed, and a physically shorter summit are the direct result of mismanaged telescope construction on Mauna Kea.

Looking at this conflict from a land use perspective, it does not matter what is proposed for construction—a house, a hospital, a hotel—it does not comply with the criteria requiring that “natural beauty” be improved, then the project should not be built in a conservation district. Undermining the standards put in place to protect Mauna Kea undermines the strength of all of Hawai‘i's conservation areas.

If we are to succeed in creating a future where all of us thrive—from the wekoua bug to the polar bear, from the scientific community to the local people and every being in-between—then we must listen when our neighbor says “no” to an action that directly harms them.

As the elected leaders of the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i, we call on the Board of Directors of the TMT Corporation to recognize the injustice of this project from Mauna Kea and pursuing another location.

We also call on Governor David Ige, whom the Sierra Club has endorsed for election as Governor, to not use emergency declarations to aid the actions of private corporations. Gov. Ige should reserve state power to protect the best interests of the public.

For all of these reasons, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i stands in solidarity with the kia‘i mauna.

(1) Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Mauna Kea Policy, 2010
(2) Amnesty International Calls for TMT Moratorium, July 27, 2019 (The Hawai‘i Independent)
(3) Assessment of the Risks for Siting the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea, 2007 (The Keystone Center)
(4) Conservation District Use Application for Thirty Meter Telescope Contested Case, November 30, 2018 (Hawaii Supreme Court)
(5) Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Teltrebba (Land Use, Climate Change Adaptation and Indigenous Peoples, United Nations University)
Meet O‘ahu Group’s New Program Manager: Lauren Watanabe

Originally from East L.A., Lauren Watanabe is an artist and proud third generation working class Mexican-American. Her identity informs her passion for justice and she channels it into her work and art. After graduating from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, she was a community/political organizer with UNITE HERE, Local 5 and discovered her profound sense of purpose in connecting deeply rooted values to movement building. Throughout her time at Local 5, Lauren worked on several campaigns in alliance with diverse community leaders, students, and organizations, as well as created art based protests for actions and rallies.

During some time in L.A., Lauren spent time at a Chicana women’s theater collective, whose objective was to organize theater festivals that celebrated the unique voices of women and provided critical spaces to speak their truths. Since moving back to Hawai‘i in 2019, Lauren became a member of Hawai‘i Playbuilders – a local, community-based theatre company that shares real stories throughout the culturally rich and diverse communities of Hawai‘i. She is beyond thrilled to join the Sierra Club of Hawaii team in the fight for climate justice—to grow a broad-based movement that centers the unique voices of women and girls, and provides spaces for them to speak their truths. Since moving back to Hawai‘i in 2019, Lauren became a member of Hawai‘i Playbuilders – a local, community-based theatre company that shares real stories throughout the culturally rich and diverse communities of Hawai‘i. She is beyond thrilled to join the Sierra Club of Hawaii team in the fight for climate justice—to grow a broad-based movement that centers the unique voices of women and girls, and provides spaces for them to speak their truths.

Lauren is also a bike commuter that dreams of an eco-socialist future full of vegan foodies with “Fab 5” realness.

Kaiwi Coast Shoreline Devastated by Vehicles

by Reese Liggett, O‘ahu Group Member

In East Honolulu, as you drive the Kaiwi Coast from Hanauma Bay and Koko Head, just past Sandy Beach Park, is a lovely natural area of sand dunes, native vegetation, beach and shore rocks. Oh…and also a stripped, abandoned car, mound of trash, and 10-15 vehicles parked or marauding among the dunes—some of them there all day and night.

This land, known as Wāwāmalu on most maps, is zoned Preservation and once had two standard blue, Department of Parks and Recreation signs: the usual one for prohibited activities, and one that said “no driving on the beach”. The small beach in this zone, known for occasional resting monk seals, is fully tire-tracked. Beaches themselves, of course, are the jurisdiction of the State to the high wash of the waves. But the area around this beach is either owned by the city or leased by the city from the state.

Sierra Club members have brought this situation to the attention of the Hawai‘i Kai Neighborhood Board. The Hawai‘i Kai community is justifiably proud of the coastal scene as you round the bend from Hanauma Bay and Koko Head. It is truly stunning for its crashing waves and mostly unbuilt land. Members of the Hawai‘i Kai community led a most successful effort to preclude forever the development of the lands that reach up from the coast—lands Henry Kaiser planned for housing many future generations.

But…there are still some problems. The Department of Parks and Recreation signs: the usual one for prohibited activities, and one that said “no driving on the beach”. The small beach in this zone, known for occasional resting monk seals, is fully tire-tracked. Beaches themselves, of course, are the jurisdiction of the State to the high wash of the waves. But the area around this beach is either owned by the city or leased by the city from the state.

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Tire tracks on Wāwāmalu Beach, known monk seal habitat. Photo by Reese Liggett.

Progress Towards Relocating the Red Hill Tanks

By Jodi Malinoski, Chapter Policy Advocate

The Sierra Club continues to engage in efforts to protect O’ahu’s drinking water from the Navy’s underground fuel tanks at Red Hill, which are nearly 80 years old, have a history of leaking, and are corroding. The tanks store over 200 million gallons of fuel only 100 feet above an aquifer that supplies drinking water to residents and visitors from Hālawa to Hawai‘i Kai.

In May 2019, the Sierra Club formally requested that the state Department of Health amend Hawai‘i’s Administrative Rules relating to underground storage tanks. Our request to the Department, called a petition for rulemaking, asked the agency to use its legal authority to change its rules to require the relocation of the Navy’s Red Hill tanks. Specifically, we asked that the Department not allow field constructed underground storage tanks over 100,000 gallons—read: the tanks at Red Hill—to be operated marka of the underground injection control line—read: above drinking water resources—beginning January 1, 2028. This rule change, if adopted, would give the U.S. Navy 10 years to plan for and relocate its massive, aging fuel tanks at Red Hill—ensuring the protection of O’ahu’s drinking water from fuel contamination.

While we await an official response from the Department regarding our rulemaking petition, in September 2019 the Navy released its Tank Upgrade Alternatives Report. Not surprisingly, the Navy evaluated six tank upgrade options and chose the least expensive and least protective option, recommending to state and federal regulators that the Red Hill tanks undergo minimal upgrades. The Navy wants to keep the original 80 year old single-walled steel tank liner, citing this as the most “practicable” alternative, and points to efforts made to increase tank inspection and groundwater monitoring. To address future fuel leaks it proposes to evaluate the feasibility of installing a water treatment plant that would use carbon to filter toxic chemicals from O’ahu’s drinking water. In short, the Navy’s recommendation reaffirms that the current plan to upgrade the Red Hill tanks is insufficient and will continue to jeopardize the safety of our water.

The Sierra Club is calling on the Navy, the Health Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency to commit to the only solution that will ensure protection of O’ahu’s drinking water, which is relocating the Navy’s fuel away from our aquifer. We anticipate state and federal regulators will schedule public hearings on both the Navy’s report as well as our proposed rule change before the end of 2019. Join us and let’s show decisionmakers that people across Hawai‘i support relocating the Red Hill fuel tanks as the only long-term solution to protect O’ahu’s drinking water. Sign up for email updates at bit.ly/SCH-email, select “Red Hill”.

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can clean up our water

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

2020 Executive Committee Elections

Vote for your Sierra Club leadership!

Hawaiʻi Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Bios

Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.

Lucienne de Naie
Lucienne de Naie is a long time Club member who has served as Chair and Vice-chair of the Sierra Club Hawaiʻi Chapter Executive Committee. She is a researcher and writer whose passion is protection of native plants, streams, watersheds, and cultural sites.

Debbie Hecht
Debbie Hecht has lived on the Big Island since 2003. In that time she has worked for the Save our Lands Citizen Committee and served on the Hawaiʻi-Pacific Parks Association and the Sierra Club Hawaiʻi Island Group Executive Committee for several years. Living briefly in San Diego, she was elected chair of the Sierra Club San Diego Steering Committee in 2014, serving as chair for two years. An avid swimmer, snorkeler, hiker, gardener and tennis player, Debbie has many years of establishing nonprofits, facilitating, mediating, and conservation land planning in Tucson and Hawaiʻi.

Raquel Kamalu
Born and raised on the island of Oʻahu, Raquel grew up enjoying native plants, streams, watersheds, and cultural sites. She currently works as a sales engineer at Johnson Controls, with a goal of working on energy efficiency and sustainability projects. With the Sierra Club Raquel hopes to become more engaged with her community and protect Hawaiʻi’s wild places, as they are critical to her culture as a Native Hawaiian and she wants to ensure that future generations can continue to enjoy them.

Michael Nieling
Michael is a designer, educator, husband, father, and full-time cyclone of energy. He is the creative director and founder of Ocupop and co-founder of Kunoa Cattle Company. Michael has been helping to define the visual language of our digital experience for nearly 20 years and has directed Ocupop’s team in creating some of the most influential logos, campaigns, and user interfaces on the web and beyond. As a leader on the Executive Committee, he looks forward to lending those same talents and experiences to furthering the mission of the Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi.

Sheila Sarhangi
Sheila Sarhangi is a communications strategist who specializes in partnering with communities, nonprofits, foundations, and government agencies to achieve conservation goals. She has worked on a wide range of environmental issues across the Pacific, in Hawaiʻi, Palau, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Northern Mariana Islands and Indonesia, on issues ranging from endangered species protection to community-based fishing rules and public access. Currently, she is focused on protecting biodiversity-rich places to increase their resilience, and communicating solutions to curb the effects of climate change.

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www.sierraclub.org/igarden
Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.

Tenaiya Brookfield

Tenaiya Brookfield is an exceptional VP with over 20 years experience in business development. She gained international recognition in South East Asia for her work in the hospitality industry. Whilst winning awards for revenue growth she also enacted wide sweeping environmental and social changes across over 130 hotels and 14,000 employees. Returning to her native Hawaiʻi, she aims to assist in a sharper unification of environmental and economic goals for Hawaiʻi’s long-term prosperity.

Hunter Heaivilin

Hunter Heaivilin currently serves as Chair of the O‘ahu Group Executive Committee. He grew up in Hawai‘i and is pursuing his PhD in Geography at UH Mānoa, researching climate change impacts to agriculture in Hawai‘i. He works as an agricultural planner and spearheads O‘ahu Group’s efforts to preserve agricultural land and support local food.

Nate Hix

Nate Hix is currently the Director of Living Wage Hawai‘i and is a passionate environmental justice advocate. He is focused on establishing a carbon pricing program in Hawai‘i, as advocated for by the UN’s IPCC report to eventually eliminate our contribution to climate change. With the help of the Sierra Club and its members, Nate intends to leave the average resident better off financially as we transition to a carbon neutral economy.

Victor Gregor Limon

Victor makes maps. He is a graduate student and research assistant at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He has interned for the city’s Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency, where he mapped more than 500 infrastructure projects to evaluate for climate adaptation and equity.

His current research interests include urban climate modeling, remote sensing technologies, and coral reef bleaching events.

Dana R. Lyons

Dana R. Lyons practices real property, commercial, and environmental law in Hawai‘i, advocating for and advising clients on issues of sustainable and resilient business strategies. Mr. Lyons is a forest steward, as co-manager of a 20-acre forest preserve on the Big Island of Hawai‘i, dedicated to the preservation of native Ohia lehua rainforest. He enjoys spending time with ‘ohana, hiking, swimming, gardening, reading, writing, and practicing aloha ʻāina.

Lori Mallini

Lori Mallini is an environmental policy advocate with a passion for protecting the places she lives and loves. She is a graduate from Hawai‘i Pacific University with a Bachelor’s in Environmental Studies with a focus on environmental policy. Lori has volunteered with Sierra Club as a hike guide, Get Out the Vote efforts, and most recently as a policy advocate during the 2019 legislative session, where she championed bills relating to recycling and waste.

Soo Schake

Soo Schake currently works as an Organizing Assistant for Faith Action for Community Equity, an interface nonprofit advocacy organization committed to social justice. She is also a part-time student at UH West O‘ahu majoring in Public Administration and has been active in the YPDA’s Environmental Justice committee since last year. Soo is passionate about protecting Hawai‘i’s natural environment and ensuring that changes be made on the policy level to create a sustainable future for all.

Nina Monasevitch

Nina Monasevitch is an advocate for marine conservation. She has over a decade of research documenting the state of the ocean ecosystem. Nina serves on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and served as a Board member of the Hawai’i National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. She also served on the Kaua’i Group Excom in 1987. Nina co-founded a nonprofit organization advocating for whales. Nina is committed to continue being a voice for our ocean planet.

Seats will be filled by the top three candidates.

Jesse Brown-Clay

Jesse Brown-Clay was raised in Wailua, Kaua’i. A lifelong passion of mahā‘alelu’u, Nina led Jesse to obtain a BS degree in Ecology from the Evergreen State College in Washington. Jesse is a project manager for Zero Waste Kaua’i working on effective solutions for waste management issues. He also works on voter turnout issues amongst local youth and a budding agroforestry project in Wailua. Jesse’s goals are to help develop healthy resilient systems and communities on Kaua’i.

Judy Dalton

Judy Dalton has served on the Kaua’i Group Executive Committee for 24 years. Judy has been the Kaua’i Group Executive Committee Chair for 17 years. She facilitated the cease of construction of a 3/5-mile-long beach-destroying seawall fronting the Wailua Golf Course in 1996, initiated the formation of Mālama I Ka Honua in 1999, and succeeded in legally challenging the Planning Commission to increase coastal setbacks for the Kealia Kai subdivision at Kaua Bay (Donkey Beach).

David Dinner

David Dinner has served on the Kaua’i Group Executive Committee for 10 years. He also served as president of 1000 Friends of Kaua’i, co-chair of the People for the Preservation of Kaua’i, and co-chair of Citizens for Responsible Government. He is currently active in the Kaua’i Community Coalition which is devoted to community education, particularly their candidate forums and affordable housing events.

Voting instructions

Voting online is easy, here’s how:

- All current members will receive an email from Sierra Club of Hawai‘i around October 21 containing a link with your personalized ballot.
- Do not share this link as it corresponds to personal membership numbers.
- If you do not receive your emailed ballot link by October 25 contact us at hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org or 808-538-6616 ext 1.
- Once you open the email, write down your access key and password code, click the link and follow the prompts to complete your ballot.
- You will be prompted to vote in elections for the Chapter and your group.
- All candidate bios are also available online at sierraclubhawaii.org/excombio20.

Ballots must be completed by November 22

Mahalo nui for your support!
Maui Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.

Dr. Paul McCurdy
Dr. Paul is a Maui veterinarian working with pets, birds and fish. The South Florida native has a degree in Marine Biology and graduated from veterinary school in New Zealand after spending time studying coral reefs in the South Pacific. Paul is an avid diver, hiker, mountain biker and surfer who wants to help protect Maui’s environment. He was appointed to a vacancy on the Maui ExCom in 2018 and looks forward to continuing that service.

Charlene “Char” Schuenburg
Charlene was raised in Hawai’i, graduated from Maui’s St. Anthony High and California’s Santa Clara University. She has a background in media production and event and property management. She has volunteered for many years with organizations that help children, homeless families and the Kihei community. Char hopes to assist the Sierra Club’s efforts to protect the natural environment, landscapes and native wildlife.

Rob Weltman
Rob is a retired software engineer with a lifelong love for the outdoors and for preserving and securing an environment that will sustain the plants and animals of our shared earth and the people who walk it. He sees bringing people of all ages and backgrounds into nature to experience the outdoors first hand a key element of building broad support for the action required to safeguard our natural resources. Rob has been the chairperson of Maui Group since 2016.

Jeanie Stewart
Jeanie is a life member of the Sierra Club who served as the first chair of the Delaware Chapter in the 1990’s. She teaches at Kihei Charter School and has a passion for outdoor education, hiking and protecting our native plants and animals. Jeanie was appointed to a vacancy on the Maui ExCom in 2019 and looks forward to continuing that service.

Michelle Walton
Michelle is a dedicated hiker who enjoys getting out in nature, hiking and exploring different parts of the island. She wants to be part of the solution for Maui’s future, and would like to serve on the Sierra Club’s board to help the Club’s efforts to protect the natural environment, landscapes and native wildlife.

Hawai’i Island Group Executive Committee Candidate Bios

Seats will be filled by the top four candidates.

Rose Acevedo
Rose is a dedicated mother, partner, traveler, outdoor enthusiast and team member. A Volcano resident since 2011, she works as an elementary school teacher in the Kā’u district. With a Master’s degree in teaching from UH Hilo, Rose has been employed by the Hawai’i Department of Education since 2006 and is very active in the Hawai’i State Teachers Association. She was an outings leader from 2007-2011 and an ExCom member from 2008-2011 and looks forward to serving again.

Amanda Clausen
Amanda is a lifelong lover of the earth and sea, and has worked internationally as an environmental educator and wildlife biologist. She enjoys her work as a catalyst for human-to-ecosystem connection, and she’s a passionate student and teacher of cultural perception of environment. Amanda has worked for a number of nonprofits, schools, and communities globally to promote sustainable lifestyle and to advocate for our environment. She holds a bachelor’s degree in ecology from Western Washington University.

Emily Garland
Emily Garland, of Hilo, is a lifelong environmentalist. She is passionate about living simply and sustainably and helping others do the same. Emily, 36, grew up in Edmonds, Washington and has lived in an assortment of places, including Alaska, Oregon, California, Texas, New Zealand, England, Toronto and Cambodia, where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Emily graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and creative writing. Emily is a writer, editor, teacher and communications manager and has worked for several environmental nonprofits.

Emily Garland
Emily Garland, of Hilo, is a lifelong environmentalist. She is passionate about living simply and sustainably and helping others do the same. Emily, 36, grew up in Edmonds, Washington and has lived in an assortment of places, including Alaska, Oregon, California, Texas, New Zealand, England, Toronto and Cambodia, where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Emily graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and creative writing. Emily is a writer, editor, teacher and communications manager and has worked for several environmental nonprofits.

Dr. Marianne “Georgie” Fong, MS, ND
Dr. Marianne “Georgie” Fong became a vegan 20 years ago, horrified of the destruction animal agriculture has on our environment. To take action, she joined Earthjustice, believing the path was through the courtroom. She has kept the focus on animal suffering and international as an environmental educator and wildlife biologist. She enjoys her work as a catalyst for human-to-ecosystem connection, and she’s a passionate student and teacher of cultural perception of environment. Amanda has worked for a number of nonprofits, schools, and communities globally to promote sustainable lifestyle and to advocate for our environment. She holds a bachelor’s degree in ecology from Western Washington University.

Dr. Joe Kassel
Dr. Joe Kassel lives Honokōhau and has been a Naturopathic Physician and Licensed Acupuncturist since 1988. He has worked on the Kona Development Plan, groundwater, drafter for Peace Corps Volunteer. Emily graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and creative writing. Emily is a writer, editor, teacher and communications manager and has worked for several environmental nonprofits.

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Dr. Joe Kassel
Dr. Joe Kassel lives Honokōhau and has been a Naturopathic Physician and Licensed Acupuncturist since 1988. He has worked on the Kona Development Plan, groundwater preservation, Mauna Hualalai preservation, county GMO restrictions, and Pōhakuloa impacts and more.

Emily Garland
Emily Garland, of Hilo, is a lifelong environmentalist. She is passionate about living simply and sustainably and helping others do the same. Emily, 36, grew up in Edmonds, Washington and has lived in an assortment of places, including Alaska, Oregon, California, Texas, New Zealand, England, Toronto and Cambodia, where she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer. Emily graduated from Linfield College with a bachelor’s degree in mass communication and creative writing. Emily is a writer, editor, teacher and communications manager and has worked for several environmental nonprofits.

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2019 IN REVIEW

Debbie Ward, Hawaii Island Group ExCom Chair, and Kalia Avery

Sierra Club staff and volunteers lead high school students from Japan and Hawaii around State Capitol, teaching about sustainability

Kumu Brad Lum doing opening protocol at Mālama Mākua access day

High school hikers at the Waikoloa Dry Forest Reserve

Hawaii Island Group hike along newly formed beach at Pohoiki

Water protectors hui up before hearing on HB1326, the Water Theft Bill

Sierra Club, Earthjustice, & allies after court rules state must do more to uphold the solar water heater mandate

Annette Kaohelaulii presents Art Medeiros with the Ed Stevens Lifetime Achievement Award

Kaua‘i outings participants hiking through Waimea Valley

Marti Townsend & other Ka Iwi Exploration participants

Mahalo for a great year! Photos by Sierra Club volunteers and staff