Aloha,

2020 was unlike any other year. Still yet, through all of the adversity, our members, supporters, volunteers and staff stepped up to fight for what was right for their communities. If this past year taught us anything, it's that we are all truly connected and a lot closer than we think—we saw the ripples around the world from the pandemic, whether for better or worse.

The Sierra Club grew a lot from the challenges faced in 2020 and I have never been more proud of our organization. We’ve made fundamental shifts to the way that we work, bringing justice and equity to the center of our work on climate change, clean energy, water rights and natural resource protection.

As we emerge from these trying times, let’s carry our rooted connections to each other and our home into everything we do. We all share these islands, this earth. Progress and growth cannot come at the cost of our neighbors, our climate, or our resources. Thank you for being a part of this fundamental change for the better.

Sincerely,

Marti Townsend, Chapter Director
WHAT WE DO

Work to advance climate solutions, act for justice, get outdoors, and protect Hawai’i’s lands, water, air, and wildlife.

PEOPLE POWER

Virtual activism became the norm but that didn’t stop us from accomplishing great things, like banning the burning of coal and preventing further seawall construction. The inequalities of our energy system became more apparent than ever during the pandemic and we successfully secured four extensions of the utility shutoff moratorium to keep Hawai’i’s lights on while holding Hawaiian Electric accountable to its customers and clean energy goals.

DEFEND NATURE

It was a strong year in the courts, even with numerous delays and changes. Through our litigation we secured a reduction in the last coal plant’s greenhouse gas emissions, changed the rules and required the Navy to obtain a permit to operate the Red Hill facility, and successfully challenged the needless injection of treated sewage into Maui’s nearshore waters. We are also awaiting decisions in two of our biggest cases ever regarding the Red Hill tanks and East Maui’s streams.

GET OUTDOORS

The health and safety of our members and supporters are the most important, therefore outings and in-person events were suspended from March 2020-July 2021. But we also know that nature is healing and comforting for many, so during the stay at home orders, we successfully advocated to safely keep public and open spaces accessible, especially when the shutdown of trails, parks and beaches were implemented but movie theaters, gyms, and other indoor spaces were open.

2020 AT A GLANCE

ADVOCACY

2 legislative sessions during COVID-19
Coal burning + seawalls banned
947 emails sent to decision makers
49 major press hits

DEFEND NATURE

2 lawsuits + contested cases
AES contested case - WON!
Red Hill lawsuit - WON!
Lahaina injection wells - WON!
Red Hill contested case - pending
East Maui lawsuit - pending

GET OUTDOORS

549 trees planted
4,147 trees maintained
61 outings

OUTINGS
In 2021 we’re doubling down on our work to ensure Hawai‘i has a bright and carbon-neutral future. We’re working towards an equitable clean energy transition that brings community consent to the decision making processes for projects affecting them, keeping the pressure on the Navy to relocate the Red Hill tanks and protect O‘ahu’s drinking water from jet fuel, and building power across the islands to hold our government and corporations accountable.