



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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May-September, 2005 Newsletter



MAUI GROUP NEWS, CHAIR'S REPORT

Arctic Vote Could Open Exploitation of Public Lands from Hawaii to Maine! ACT!

On March 16, 2005 Hawaii Senators Akaka and Inouye cast the deciding votes in pushing the oil industrialization of America's Premier Wildlife Sanctuary closer to reality. By a vote of 51 to 49 (7 Republicans, 41 Democrats and 1 Independent) the US Senate voted for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and The Bush Administration's Energy Plan for America. In the Honolulu Advertiser I read this Cree Indian Prophecy:

*Only after the last tree has been cut down,
Only after the last river has been poisoned,
Only after the last fish has been caught,
Only then will you find that Money cannot be eaten.*

What can be done now? Please contact your friends. Ask them to join the Sierra Club as a new member (we have 35 new members so far this year). Please renew your existing membership. Next, write or call Senators Akaka and Inouye. Respectfully tell them they represent Hawaii. **NOT THE ALASKA SENATORS.** Remind them that Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Jimmy Carter intended the Arctic Refuge (the last remaining 5% of the American Arctic) to remain a wildlife sanctuary. A majority of our nation feels the same, from Hawaii to Maine. If important social justice issues were decided by states rights, civil rights in Mississippi and Alabama would still be non-existent and the universities there segregated! Congressional hurdles still remain before drilling can be allowed in the Arctic refuge. Call or fax our Senators today: Sen Dan Akaka (808) 522-8970 (ph)/808 545-4683 (fax) and Sen Dan Inouye (808) 541-2542 (ph)/808 541-2549 (fax). Our Senators need to hear from Hawaii! Tell your friends to call too.

Don't miss John Muir's Birthday Party Thursday, April 21, 7:30 pm. MCC Student Union Lounge. Co-sponsored by Hawaii Institute for Human Rights. Guest Speaker: Kapua Sproat, attorney with EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund. Theme: The Future of Water: Reclaiming the Public Trust. Plus, the provocative short film on the threat of water privatization: Thirst. Free cake and ice cream. More info: 572-8331 or www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui. FREE!

Conservation Groups Call for Hawaii DLNR to Better Protect Public Resources. In March, Hawaii Sierra Club, OHA and four other conservation groups asked for a performance audit of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The groups' concerns: lack of protection for lands held in public trust; mismanagement of Hawaii's natural resources; resignations of key DLNR Department heads and staff turnover due to low morale and lack of adequate funds. The groups gave DLNR head Peter Young 60 days to meet a list of proposed DLNR reforms. The DLNR performance audit bill was sent forward by the House.

Annual MG plant sale at Ha'iku Flower Festival was a big success in spite of the persistent rain. Mahalos to Bob & Ann Babson, Lucienne de Naie, Kelly Watson, Tropical Orchid Farm, Rich Lucas, and Neola Caveny for plant donations that brought in over \$500. A generous donation from Vic's Plumbing was also much appreciated.

Sierra Club Maui Group Executive Committee Elections take place in October. Board members serve a 2 year term beginning January, 2006. To volunteer to serve or nominate another member, contact Marta at 878-6743.

MG ANNUAL MEETING (Feb 26) took a 100-year view of Maui's environment. Thanks to speakers Dr. Steven Montgomery, Hugh Starr and Jonathan Hultquist for a very informative discussion. Congrats to award winners: Hannah Bernard, Geoff Moore and Nobu Suda and thanks to Brian Sweeney for sound equipment, the Waterman, Anthony's Coffee of Pa'ia and Maui Tamales of Pukalani for food donations and volunteers Kallie Keith, Stacia Bobikevich, Emily --, Kathy McDuff, Rich Lucas & Theresa Wooldridge, as well as Rep Brian Schatz who all pitched in to help. Unfortunately, the MG newsletter was late in getting out and many members were unaware of the meeting date and theme. New coordinator, Bob Babson is working to speed up the newsletter delivery process.

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Recycle your cell phone. Keep toxic electronics out of the landfill! The Sierra Club will take your old cell phone, pager, PDA (or chargers for all of the above). Call 572-8331 or drop them off at SC booth, April 23 Earthday, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

Common Sense Conservation 2005: Some Good Bills Still Alive in the Legislature. Check out www.hi.sierraclub.org/legislative for more info. Send letters to the Editor supporting these issues and Bills. Better yet, call your Legislative Representatives and ask for their continued support of these legislative initiatives.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

Contact legislators or track legislation, go to www.capitol.hawaii.gov

For updates and alerts on good and bad bills email:
mikulina@lava.net or sign up at www.hi.sierraclub.org

Malama Kahakai: Legacy Beach Campaign: State legislature leadership is supporting a "Legacy Lands" bill for purchase of coastal lands and caring for the state's most significant lands (Natural Area Reserves – NARS). ACTION: Call/email/fax your Maui legislators to express your support for funding for preserving natural coastlines and NARS.

Pa'ia ByPass: Maui County is pushing forward on plans for a mini-bypass (open 3 hours a day) to take Ha'iku bound traffic off Hana Hwy just outside of Pa'ia and dump it back on Baldwin Ave above the new post office. State plans include controversial partial 3rd lane on Hana Hwy, connecting to mini-bypass. Citizens comments favored a permanent bypass with protected open space corridors (and not in 8 years!). Many favor use of the existing Kala Rd. as the 3-hr/day temporary bypass. County Planning Commission has final approval on the project (May meeting). ACTION: show up or send testimony.

North Shore Park: County Council approved the efforts of County legal staff to settle the court dispute over 3 improperly permitted residences along the old Lime Kiln site (Kapuka'ulua, renamed "Montana Beach" by the owners) just north of Baldwin Beach Park. The settlement is far from complete, but basically proposes to buy 2 of 3 beach lots and provide guaranteed public access in front of the third. The beach cove is one of the most erosion-prone in Maui County. As a popular fishing spot it is seen as an important part of any future North Shore Park.

Pali to Puamana Park-Way: The first 100 acres (Ukumehama area) of a proposed eight mile long coastal park along the West Maui shoreline from the Pali tunnel to Lahaina town has been purchased by the County. Proposed: funding for an additional 30 acres in Olowalu.

Keone'o'io/Ahihi-Kinau: Keone'o'io/Ahihi-Kinau task force members are working on a management plan. There are two rangers now on duty and an information table has opened. These simple management steps have greatly reduced the amount of abuse of natural resources, but fish poaching in the marine protected area is still an ongoing concern. Plans for National Seashore designation will continue, even under the current Republican Congress and White House. Funding for the ranger and educational programs will expire at the end of 2007, unless the Hawaii Tourism Authority decides to renew its grant to cover the costs.

Makena Resort Rezoning Proposal: Seibu's rezoning request for 150 acres of its Makena lands has been put on temporary hold while the large railway corporation, rocked by scandals in Japan, appears prepared to sell off all their Hawaii resort properties. New owners are likely to continue the push for urbanization of these archaeologically and biologically rich lands.

Water Issues: The State Water Commission meets in Maui on April 22. Topics include a petition to increase stream flows in Na Wai 'Eha (Waikapu, Wailuku, Waiehu & Wahie'e streams). Maui County Council is considering an appropriation in its 2006 budget to help fund needed stream studies in Na Wai 'Eha. Once studies scientifically determine the level of flow needed, restoration of waters can follow. ACTION: Support for this important study can be sent by email to: bf.committee@co.maui.hi.us or faxed to Committee Chair Dain Kane fax: 270-7686.

A USGS report on the effect of current water levels on native stream life in East Maui streams is due out in November, 2005. The report (based on a 3 year study) will help set revised stream flow standards in 27 East Maui streams that were the subject of a successful legal battle.

The Southwest Maui Watershed Partnership is working with USGS and the UH Sea Grant program to help improve water quality in the watersheds above Kihei. USGS is testing wells to determine if pollutants have entered the water table and Sea Grant staff person Megan Toaspern: toaspern@hawaii.edu, is training volunteers to monitor water quality.

GMO Regulation: GMO activists are working to persuade UH researchers to reconsider efforts to genetically modify taro plants. Legislation to help regulate GMO farming in Hawaii was not successful this session, but will be reintroduced. ACTION: Contact GMO Free Maui to get involved: Eloise Engman, GMOfreemaui@hawaii.rr.com.

Proposed SuperFerry Subject of Recent Legal Action: Several months of meetings with Superferry head John Garibaldi were unsuccessful in reaching any agreement for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Superferry's operational plans (like where cars will load and unload), continue to remain "confidential information." MG, Maui Tomorrow, and the Kahului Harbor Coalition filed suit on March 21 to require the state to conduct a full EIS on the project. Many other groups, Kaua'i County and Maui's Mayor and County Council have called for an EIS review as well, but are not party to the lawsuit. State DOT and Superferry backers claim there was no time to do an EIS and still make the project work, although they acknowledge the ferry project has been in the planning stages for 2 years or more. The State Senate recently voted against spending \$40 million on harbor improvements needed by the ferry project.

Most Club members support additional transportation choices being available for local residents, but see the need for a well-planned effort that can prove sustainable and affordable. Sierra Club activists have lobbied for many years to get better inspection of existing freight and auto shipments at Maui's harbors and airports. Legal settlements by other allies resulted in a state-of-the-art freight inspection facility planned for at Kahului Airport. It is our hope that current legal efforts will help create safe and sound transportation options.

West Maui Developments: Developments proposed for Pulelehua (1,200 units), Ka'annapali 2020 (3,000 plus units), Kapalua Mauka (690 units), and several dozen other new West side projects could result in 45,000 additional West Maui residents. Some projects have sought significant public input (Ka'anapali 2020) but many would ignore the 1996 community plan and convert agricultural lands to high end housing. Maui Group Conservation Committee will be reviewing the largest projects to offer a sustainable planning perspective. **ACTION: Watch newspapers for hearings dates and offer your views.**

Cruise Ships: The Mayor's Cruise Ship Task Force is finalizing a report on recommendations. Support grows to regulate and monitor the cruise ships avoiding ongoing air & water quality deterioration. The industry proposes to double the current volume of passengers. **ACTION: Track state legislation (Senate Bill 1002 and House Bill 422) to convert current "gentleman's agreement" (MOU) re: cruise ship discharge limits into a real law setting up permits and fines.** Call/email/fax to express your concerns that these bills are not amended to have no real force.

Stay Informed and make a difference! Go to www.co.maui.hi.us, and select "online services" and then select "accept" and then select "mail subscriptions." You can then select all the free agendas, weather, surf reports and other news you wish from the County. They will automatically email the info to you free and you can read the agendas and attend the meetings and testify and/or write or email your testimony. For some Board and Commission agendas, you must go to www.co.maui.hi.us/boards and then select the Board or Commission you want and then click "agendas." Be heard on the issues!! Your testimony can and does make a difference. Also, surf this incredible State of Hawaii web site: www.hawaii.gov/portal to learn all about State government, bill status, etc. Additionally, check out www.hawaiitrails.org for a great web site showing all the State of Hawaii trails with maps and details.

Recycle at Aloha Recycling, 75 Amala Place, Kahului, and benefit the Sierra Club Maui Group. Just tell them you are donating to the Sierra Club. Recycling hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Saturday. Aloha Recycling is a state redemption center for all beverage containers. They also take many other items. Visit their web site www.aloha-recycling.com for details of all items they take or call them at 877-0822.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The following letter from Robert Thompson, Kaktovik, Arctic Refuge, was received by our Chair, Lance Holter, who has asked that it be included in the newsletter to better inform our membership:

I wish to speak to the people of Hawaii about the vote of your Senators on opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, my home, to oil exploitation. Their stated reason is that the people of the area want it. Perhaps in 1995 this was so. There is growing opposition to oil exploitation due to many recent moves to open all areas, both on shore and offshore on the north slope of Alaska. It is very apparent that the Bush administration wants to open all of the north slope, both onshore and offshore, to oil. This is to the detriment of our culture. The village of Nuiqsut has been adversely affected by oil development. Their health and culture has been affected. Nuiqsut is within the Prudhoe Bay developed area.

Recently, 57 Kaktovik residents signed a petition opposing oil development in the 1002 areas of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. 98 people voted in the last election. The 57 petition signers may well be the majority. To the people of Hawaii who are concerned about the continued oil supply from Alaska, you need not worry, the National Petroleum Reserve is available. It is 23,500,000 acres. This is in addition to the existing Prudhoe oil field.

95% of Alaska's north slope is available for oil, separate from the Arctic Refuge. We wish to save 5% of our land for our future generations, and the future generations of all the people of the United States, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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Robert Thompson, Kaktovik resident, Kaktovik Arctic Adventures, 2094 Barter Avenue, Kaktovik, Alaska 99747-0035, (907) 640-6119 Phone, (907) 640-6429 Fax, bolothompson@hotmail.com E-mail.

Please send us your email address! We are trying to save money on postage. If you would like to receive future newsletters and other environmental information by email, please email your email address along with your name and mailing address with zip code to Bob Babson at babsonb001@hawaii.rr.com. Mahalo!

MAUI GROUP OUTINGS, SERVICE TRIPS, AND PROGRAMS **MAY TO SEPTEMBER, 2005**

Please be prepared for outings. Bring food, water, and sturdy footwear. A voluntary donation of \$5 (\$2 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Limited hikes are popular. Please register early. Pre-registration is absolutely required for specific hikes. Call Sierra Club hike line at 573-4147. EMI WAIVER absolutely required for EMI water hikes (listed below). One waiver covers all EMI hikes in this newsletter. So apply early to get your waiver for all hikes. Call in your waiver request at least 7 days in advance of going to EMI'S Pa'ia office which is on Baldwin Avenue across the street from the old Pa'ia mill. Ask for Jackie at 579-9516. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF JACKIE'S TIME & PICK UP PERMITS 7 DAYS IN ADVANCE. Also, please check our web site, www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui/outings.html, for additional hikes and outings which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

MAY HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, May 1, McCoy Theater, MACC. The Movie: "Monumental: Life and Times of David Brower." Three showings: 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30. Benefit for Sierra Club Maui offered by Maui Film Festival. This stirring portrait of America's greatest environmentalist, who was the first Executive Director of the Sierra Club, founder of Friends of the Earth and Earth Island Institute, and protector and creator of some of our most treasured National Parks is focused on the spiritual connection between humans and the great outdoors, and the moral obligation to preserve what is left of the world's natural wonders. Also included is a last interview with David Brower before his death by Jay April. Tickets \$10 plus MACC fee.

Sunday, May 15: La Perouse Bay, Kings Highway to south of major lava flow and great snorkel place. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. Bring bathing suit and snorkel gear if you want to snorkel or if you wish you can hike on down the coastal trail another mile or two. Your choice. 10 mile all day hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center at 8:30 am. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, May 21: Papa'aea Reservoir Trail. Moderate uphill 4 mile hike in lush East Maui watershed. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Meet at the Haiku Community Center at 9:00am. Limit 18. Register @ 572-8331. Leader: Lucienne de Naie.

Saturday, May 28: Clean up at Makena Beach. Bring sturdy shoes and long pants. Park in the first paved parking lot. All supplies provided. Meet at 8:30 am. Leader: Lucienne de Naie 572-8331.

JUNE HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, June 4, *Malama ka Honua* - Maui Environmental Film Festival, Maui Community College parking lot (off of Wahinepio St.) Gates open around 5:00, film starts at dusk. Bring lawn chairs. Films: Go Further (Good fun with Woody Harrelson), Miconia Threatens Maui, Oil on Water, Coral Reefs at Risk, Protect Windward Waters (Wai'ahole taro farmers). Tickets \$5. Date subject to final approval check MG website under "Group Outings."

Sunday, June 5: Snorkel Trip to Honolua bay. Summer is a great time to view Honolua Bay's beautiful Coral reefs and turtles. Bring snorkel gear, towel, sunscreen, lunch, and water. Meet 8:30 am at D. T. Fleming Beach Park. Leader: Ann Fielding. Limit 15. Call 573-4147 to register.

Sunday, June 12: Haleakala National Park, hike in Sliding Sands trail and hike out Halemanuu Trail. Strenuous, high elevation 12 mile all day hike. Must be in good condition. Dress warm, rain gear, hiking boots, bring lunch & water. Meet 7:30 am Bank of Hawaii, Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 12. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, June 18 Kuiaha Bay shoreline clean up. Let's malama this beautiful and historic bay in Ha'iku. All supplies provided. Bring gloves. Meet 8:30 am Haiku Community Center parking lot. Everyone welcome. Cleanup ends at noon. Leader: Lucienne de Naie 573-8331.

Saturday, June 25: Blue Water Task Force Training. 9:00 am to 12 pm. The Whale Sanctuary, 726 South Kihei Road. HELP STOP MUDDY RUNOFF FROM POLLUTING OUR BEACHES. It's easy. It's fun!!

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Sunday, June 26: Wahinepe'e Water Hike: Strenuous uphill hike in East Maui watershed, falls, and pools. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Four miles. Meet @ 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. Leader: Ann Fielding. Limit 15. Call 573-4147 to register.

JULY HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, July 3: Wailuku Meander. Take a leisurely walking tour of historical Wailuku town, from Bailey House to Happy Valley. Meet at 9 am at the parking lot of the County Building on High Street. Leader: Neola Caveny. Call 573-1451 to register.

Sunday, July 10: Wailua Iki Water Hike: 6.5 mile hike with beautiful views of Ke'anae Valley. Pools, waterfalls and lush plant life. Bring sturdy shoes, sunscreen, lunch and water. Meet 8:30 am @ Haiku Community Center. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Limit: 18. Leader: Tina Dart. Call 573-4147 to register.

Sunday, July 17: Explore Maui's North Shore. Swim in the Olivine pools, hike the new Ohai Trail at Papanalaoa Point and visit the Nakalele Blowhole. Bring swimsuit, snorkel, camera and lunch. Meet 8:30 am at D. T. Fleming Beach Park. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 20. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, July 23: Kapahu Farm Taro Patch Tour and Kokua Day in Kipahulu -moderate one-mile hike through (sometimes) wet, muddy terrain takes you through a lush valley to help care for ancient terraces filled with taro and other Polynesian introduced plants. Bring: Snacks, water, sunscreen, raingear, camera and shoes with good traction (or tabis). Meet at 10 am at Haleakala National Park Kipahulu visitor center. Park entrance fee is \$10/vehicle. For \$20/vehicle you can buy a one year tri-park annual pass. Also can meet at Haiku Community Center at 8:00 am to carpool. Hike leader: Bob Babson. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, July 23: Hanawi Stream Hike. (Nahiku Area) Pools waterfalls, native stream life. Numerous stream crossings. Good water footwear a MUST. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Meet 8:30am at Haiku Community center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Call 572-8331 to register.

Sunday, July 31: Hike to beautiful Hoalua Bay near Huelo. Wear sturdy shoes and bring bathing suit and lunch. Steep but safe 300' descent on cow trails to bay. 5 miles round trip. Limit: 15. Leader: Neola Caveny. Meet 8:30 am at Neola's home. Register and get directions from Neola at 573-1451.

AUGUST HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, August 13: Poli Poli State Park, hike the boundary trail, bring binoculars for bird watching. All day 7 mile hike, bring rain gear, lunch and water and dress warm. Meet 8:30 am Rice Park (Lower Kula Road). Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 20. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, August 20: Pa'ia Meander. Explore the old plantation town of Pa'ia, from the old sugar mill to the ocean. Meet at 9 am at the Pa'ia Community Center. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register: 572-8331.

Sunday, August 28: Upper Waikamoi Trail/Makawao Forest hike. 4 to 5 mile moderate round trip (some uphill) through koa and 'ohi'a forest to reservoir. Meet 8:30 am at parking lot across from St Joseph's church in Makawao. 18 person limit. (EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register: 572-8331.

SEPTEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, September 3: Makapipi trail hike. Moderate 4 mile hike. Explore historic Ko'olau Ditch from Makapipi to Kopili'ula Stream. Scenic vistas, pools, waterfalls and native plant life. Water shoes are suggested. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (See above). Meet @ 8:00 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 15. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Register 572-8331.

Sunday, September 11: Snorkel Coral Gardens. One of the most beautiful snorkel sites on Maui. Must be good swimmer. Approx 2 miles of swimming round trip and hence 2 hours time in the water. Bring suntan lotion, lunch and flotation device of some kind. Meet 8:30 am at mile marker approx. 10.5 Honoapiilani Highway (on the Lahaina side of the tunnel where the sandy beach begins). Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 20. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, September 24: Get the Drift and Bag It! Maui Coastal Land Trust service outing at the Waihe'e Refuge. 8:00 am to Noon followed by food for all. Take Halewalu Road and turn left into Refuge on dirt road just before Waihee Beach Park. Hike leader: Bob Babson. Register: 847-1166.

Sierra Club
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