



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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JANUARY TO MARCH, 2006 NEWSLETTER

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.

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MAUI GROUP NEWS

CHAIR'S REPORT BY LANCE HOLTER

December Christmas Visioning Party

The annual Christmas visioning party held at Miranda Camp's home proved to be a feast in not only potluck food and drink but a fertile ground for ideas and support to grassroots change for a better future. 25 attendees gave their priorities for the next year 2006 and the common theme describing it all is SUSTAINABILITY. I'll list the top five issues I heard from the attendees in their order of priority:

1. Supporting research and legislation towards the production of bio-fuel crops from our Ag lands.
2. Preservation of coastal lands for open space, access, cultural traditions, camping with the prioritization of the North Shore Heritage Park and protection and preservation of the Makena lands.
3. Traffic solutions Island wide including a focus on the Paia By-pass Mayor's Task Force.
4. Continuing and supporting the efforts to create Affordable Housing for Maui residents.
5. Supporting regulation of gill netting and aquarium collecting with an emphasis on sustainable management of our fisheries with fishing reserves and enforcement of regulations.

The conclusion from the group is that committees shall be formed on these priorities, with identification and communication to coalition groups and mail lists perfected. Most importantly one big music festival needs to be held for Earth Day to fund raise and garner grass roots support! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All!

Protect our Marine Life

Of the many conservation issues facing Maui and Hawaii this coming year, an issue of great importance is gill net fishing and unregulated aquarium collecting. Anyone who spends time in the ocean can speak to the disappearance of our fishing resources in Hawaii's near shore waters and reefs. It is becoming dramatically apparent one root cause is the lack of DLNR enforcement of regulations and over fishing from gill netting, together with the devastation caused by commercial and unregulated aquarium collecting for mainland export to private collectors.

Recently The Maui News (11/25/05) published an article stating the Governor's Maui Advisory Council, after lengthy public comment, has recommended banning lay nets in Maui waters. One testimony declared a 75% depletion of fishing resources in Maui waters. Another individual commented that professional aquarium diver/collectors had boasted about recently collecting 30,000 fish of one species for export to the mainland. This is especially alarming as many of these fish are juveniles and a vital part of the ecological health and vibrancy of our Hawaii reef systems. Sadly I have been told 90% of these fish die within three months of leaving Maui for personal aquarium collections on the mainland.

Help stop the destruction of our most important resources. Will you please contact the Director of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources by emailing PeterYoung@hawaii.gov and the Governor's office Governor.Lingle@hawaii.gov. Let them know you support a ban on gill nets and aquarium collecting. Further, ask for increased enforcement and protection by the DLNR of Hawaii's fishing resources and reefs. Regulations, size, and bag limits must be enacted and enforced. Ultimately more marine protected areas need to be established to provide rest and rearing habitat for ocean life. Only thru protection will we see restoration and preservation of sustainable resources leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The House of Representatives removed leasing of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling from the House Budget Bill. Now the Budget must be reconciled with the Senate version of the Bill and sadly, despite overwhelming Hawaii and National Democratic Party consensus with Hawaii citizens support for protection of the Refuge, our Hawaii Senators Akaka (D) and Inouye (D) still insist on oil drilling in the biological heart of the Arctic and America's national treasure, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Recently Alaskan and Canadian Inupiat Eskimo communities have passed resolution after resolution to protect the wildlife refuge from oil industrialization. The facts of this stunning and overwhelming support for protection continue to be ignored by the Hawaii Senators. Please make your voice heard! Call Senator Inouye in Washington D.C. at 202-224-3934 and fax him in Honolulu at 808-541-2549. Also call Senator Akaka at 202-224-6361 and fax him at 808-545-4683. Please make your voice heard now!

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

To contact your State officials, go to www.hawaii.gov

To contact your County officials, go to www.co.maui.hi.us

Both sites are very educational and contain lots of email addresses.

Let them know your thoughts on the issues!

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Meeting with Rep. Case: MG Board Member Kallie Keith arranged a meeting with Rep. Case to talk about his policies. Several members of the ExCom attended the meeting to applaud Rep. Case on his environmental voting record and to speak with him about other issues, including alternative energy, domestic issues, the recent bankruptcy laws, and the war.

CONSERVATION UPDATES

Paia Bypass: Mayor Arakawa has announced the formation of a task force to study the issues and facts surrounding the use of Kala and Sunnyside Road and Paia Bypass alternatives. The task force will be able to request and obtain all pertinent and necessary information from State and County offices. You can call the mayor at 270-7855 and urge him to pri-

oritize formation of the Task Force and ask to volunteer if you have time. Letting the Mayor know we need relief and a permanent solution to North Shore traffic jams can only help. The Paia "mini-bypass" is expected to open soon, but citizens want a permanent bypass with protected open space corridors. Most favor use of the existing publicly owned but privately used Kala Rd (currently used as a sugar cane road).

Marine Protected Areas: MG urging state to set up MPA's ("no fishing" zones marked by buoys) on Maui, similar to the program on the Big Island. This would protect coral reefs and fish out about 200 yards and allow fish to replenish.

North Shore Park: Ed Case submitted new legislation to study feasibility of Patsy Takemoto Mink Heritage Park along Maui's North shore. Sea Grant Geologist Zoe Norcross created a great map detailing potential park lands to accompany the Congressional request. County finalized purchase of 1.5 acres (with additional 1.4 acres pending) at old Lime Kiln beach site, a key part of the park.

Keone'o'io/Ahihi-Kinau: South Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2005 (introduced by Ed Case) will study feasibility of designating and acquiring much of this historic region as a National Seashore, National Recreation Area, National Monument, or other unit of the National Park Service.

Pali to Puamana Park-Way: Final public purchase of first 100 acres of proposed eight mile long coastal park along the West Maui shoreline depends on county approval for Ukumehame agricultural subdivision. Awaiting determination of clear land titles.

Makena Resort Rezoning Proposal: Seibu Corporation, rocked by scandals and delisted on the Japanese stock exchange, appears prepared to sell off all Hawaii resort properties. Resort-oriented developments are likely to be proposed for these archaeologically and biologically rich lands by any new owners. Independent archaeological study is underway by Theresa Dunham.

Organic wind Farm Project is under way: Ground was broken October 29 for the Kaheawa Wind Power Project farm. Kaheawa should produce about 9% of the kilowatt-hours consumed on Maui. HC&S already makes about 6% from renewable bagasse.

Streamlife Studies: Maui County Council approved funding for needed stream life studies in the 'Iao aquifer area, to begin in 2006.

Firm Water Source Bill: Maui County Council is currently considering an ordinance that would prohibit developments that don't have an assured source of water. The county water director would have to confirm that a "long-term, reliable" supply of public or private water was available for a project before it could receive subdivision approval from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management.

East Maui Streams: Three-year USGS study completed on East Maui streams. Conclusions: 60-70% of non-storm flow is diverted the majority of the time. Report could help set revised stream flow standards in 27 East Maui streams -subject of a successful legal battle.

Iao & Waihee Stream Restoration: The County is conducting public hearings to consider a citizen petition to restore flows to four legendary Maui streams and decide if water is being wasted by ongoing diversion. Up to 60 mgd is currently diverted and it appears former plantation Wailuku Agribiz intends to form a private water company to distribute the stream water it diverts.

Superferry Legal Action: We currently have a suit filed in Hawaii State Court asking the Court to require the State DOT and the Superferry to comply with State law by completing an Environmental Impact Statement before they begin operations of the ferry between the islands. Co-petitioners include: Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow, and Kahului Harbor Coalition. The lower Court held that the petitioners do not have standing to bring this action, and we have appealed this decision. We are also working on several other ways to get an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement completed prior to the time this service starts to run so that any potentially harmful effects can be properly and adequately addressed before they occur, not after (when it could be too late). The ferry is 345' long and operates at 40 mph. Petitioners are concerned with the impact this ferry, which can carry 900 passengers and 250 cars and freight,

might have upon the fragile eco-system in the Hawaiian Islands. Issues addressed include invasive species, safety of humpback whales, inadequate infrastructure, interference with Hawaiian culture, e.g., canoeing out of Kahului harbor.

West Maui Developments: A half dozen **BIG** (500 units plus) developments proposed for Maui's most congested road system. MG is asking to have West side projects evaluated as a whole, since most involve increased density in the area's community plan. The latest is a plan to create a 600-acre "village" at Olowalu by developers Bill Frampton and David Ward for land owned by Peter Martin, James Riley and Glenn Tremble. The project involves 570 acres of former Pioneer Mill fields mauka of the Honoapiilani Highway and another 30 acres makai of the highway in the vicinity of the old Camp Pecusa. Most of the land is designated ag.

Affordable Housing Ordinance: County considering several versions to codify affordable housing requirements. Key points: creating mixed neighborhoods, keeping property affordable long term, setting a fair percentage of units required for residential, industrial /commercial projects.

Cruise Ships: The Mayor's Cruise Ship Task Force final report can be downloaded from the County website: www.co.maui.hi.us/mayor/cstf.htm. It recommends daily and weekly limitations on the number of cruise ships visiting Maui. Fifty reports were given to the Sierra Club State Chapter in Honolulu for distribution to the legislature prior to consideration.

MAUI GROUP OUTINGS, SERVICE TRIPS, AND PROGRAMS

Please be prepared for outings. Bring food, water, sunscreen, sturdy footwear and rain gear for windward and upcountry hikes. A voluntary donation of \$5 (\$2 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. If you cannot or do not wish to make this voluntary donation, you are still welcome to come on our hikes. Limited hikes are popular. Please register early. Pre-registration absolutely required for specific hikes. Call Sierra Club hike line: 573-4147 or hike leader number shown below to register. Complete list of hikes with all updates are on our website: www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui/outings.html Mahalo!

JANUARY HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, January 7: Haleakala National Park - Hike from Halemauu Trailhead down to rim of the crater for spectacular views of the crater and then backtrack to the "Supply Trail" and hike to Hosmer Grove where we will look for birds. Leave one car at Hosmer Grove to take drivers back to trailhead where we began. All downhill!! 5 miles. Bring lunch, water and binoculars. Meet 8:30 am at Pukulani Terrace Shopping center at Bank of Hawaii to carpool. Park entrance \$10/car. Limit 12. Hike leader: Ann Fielding. Call Assistant Hike Leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, January 14: Hike Sugar Beach from Kihei to Maalaea and back. 6 miles roundtrip. Bring binoculars for bird and whale watching as we pass by Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. Bring bathing suits, snorkel equipment, lunch, sunscreen and water. Meet at 8:30 am at mile marker 3 on North Kihei Road. This is just north of the Kihei Canoe Club where Sugar Beach begins. Wear flip flops or just go barefoot - it is sandy beach all the way. Limit 20. Call Mary Ann Ciuffini at 281-9149 to register.

Saturday, January 21: Community Work Day: Make a Difference. Join the Sierra Club in Cleaning up Sugar Beach. 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Meet at mile marker 3 on North Kihei Road. This is just north of the Kihei Canoe Club where Sugar Beach begins. We will work our way north toward Maalaea bagging all trash and putting it next to the highway for pickup. Wear sturdy shoes and bring garden gloves. Refreshments provided. Leaders: Mary Ann Ciuffini and Bob Babson. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, January 28: Lahaina Pali Trail Hike. Hike to the top of the Pali Trail (1,500'). This is an ancient trail used by the Hawaiians for many centuries. Beautiful scenery and spectacular views of whales. Meet 8:30 am at Pali trailhead on Lahaina side of tunnel at about mile marker 11 on the Honoapiilani Highway in the trees right as the road comes to sea level from the tunnel. Limit: 20. Bring lunch and water. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

FEBRUARY HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, February 5: Pauwahu Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Ke'anae. Hike down trail surrounded with banana trees onto bluff high above the ocean with scenic views of Hana coastline and great seabird watching including frigate birds, tropic birds and the brown booby. Then descend steep trail to sea level and explore rocky coastline with natural arch and have lunch. Meet 8:30 am at Haiku Community Center. Bring lunch and binoculars. Limit 12. Hike leader Neola Caveny. Call Assistant Hike Leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, February 11: Sierra Club Annual Membership Meeting. 11am-3pm, Kaunoa Senior Center, Spreckelsville. The theme is "Building a new Energy Future" with guest panelists. The whole Maui membership of 650 people and the general public are invited and we have food for all. Sierra Club t-shirts will be for sale. Please come and talk story! Free admission!

Saturday, February 18: Whale Day Celebration, Kalama Park in Kihei! 9 am to 4 pm. Parade, food, entertainment, artisans, and non-profits with lots of information. Come join the fun and visit the Sierra Club info booth.

Monday, February 20: La Perouse Bay hike south to Hanamanioa Point and visit anchialine ponds (unusual shallow ponds with tiny red shrimp) and historic sites along the way. Meet 8:00 am at Kihei Community Center to carpool to La Perouse Bay parking lot. Hike ends 2:00 pm. Bring water, sunscreen, lunch and optional bathing suit for swim at La Perouse Bay after the hike. Limit 20. Hike Leaders: Ann Fielding and Lucienne de Naie. Call Lucienne at 572-8331 to register.

Saturday, February 25: "Make a Difference Day" Makena Beach cleanup. 8:30 am to 11:30 am. Meet at first paved parking lot, Makena Beach Park. Refreshments provided. Call Lucienne at 572-8331 to register.

MARCH HIKES AND EVENTS

Wednesday, March 1: Visit Kahanu National Botanical Garden in Hana and see the largest heiau in Hawaii. \$10/person entrance fee. Then, walk down the country road about a mile to beautiful Blue Pool for a swim. Blue Pool is located right on the ocean and is fed by a natural waterfall. Meet 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center and carpool to Hana. Bring bathing suits and lunch. Limit 20. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, March 4: "Buy Back the Beach" Benefit Luau sponsored by Maui Coastal Land Trust, 5:30 pm Old Lahaina Luau, Lahaina. Great food, entertainment, live & silent auction, all for a good cause. Tickets \$100. Call 244-5263 for more information.

Saturday, March 11: Haiku Ho'olaulea Flower Festival. Music, food, contests, auction, farmer's market, historical display & family fun!! Check out the Maui Group plant sale booth in the Farmer's Market! Free admission! 9am-3:30 pm, Haiku Community Center on Hana Hwy. Plant sale help needed. We need donated plants as well as volunteers to work at the 9 to 5 event. Start your keiki plants now! Please contact Kathy McDuff at 572-5662 to donate plants or time.

Saturday, March 18: Hike approximately 3 miles up Kaupo trail into Haleakala National Park. Enjoy the natural beauty of walking through the lower pastures before ascending up the trail. Trail starts at 1,500' and we'll hike up to about 4,000' and then have lunch. The scenery below is awesome with the ocean and the Big Island in the distance. This is a difficult trail and you should wear hiking boots that support your ankles. Meet at 8:00 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center in front of Bank of Hawaii. Limit 12. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Sunday, March 26: Kanaio Buddhist Sanctuary. Steep one mile hike with great views and tour of sanctuary in historic Kanaio. Meet 9:00 am at Keokea Park (across from Grandma's coffee house). Limit 20. Call Lucienne at 572-8331 to register. Hike Assistant: Bob Babson.

Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2, 2006: 14th Annual East Maui Taro Festival in Hana. Concerts, Musicals, Plays, Performing Arts, Cultural, Ethnic, Food & Beverage. A wonderful festival. Please come and enjoy.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

“In a world where everything is being privatized, citizens must establish clear perimeters around the areas that are sacred to life or necessary for economic and social justice.”

Maude Barlow & Tony Clark, *Blue Gold* book about water.

“The market economy is not everything. It must find its place within a higher order of things that is not ruled by supply and demand.”

Conservative economist Wilhelm Ropke c. 1950's

"Nature has already solved every problem humans face and have ever faced. If you see nature as our university, you're not going to burn down the university; you're going to protect it."

Jay Harman, designer and CEO of Pax Scientific, San Rafael California

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