



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

**MAUI GROUP**  
**P. O. Box 791180**  
**Paia, Hawaii 96779**  
**808 579-9802**  
**www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui**  
**email: laluz@maui.net**



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## **JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2006 NEWSLETTER**

### **MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.**

Lance Holter, Chair, 579-9442, holter@maui.net

Kathy McDuff, Vice Chair, 572-5662, hohani2@msn.com

Bob Babson, Treasurer & Outings Co-Chair, 874-1166, babsonb001@hawaii.rr.com

Stacia Bobikevich, Secretary, 298-9270, staciasage@yahoo.com

Kallie Keith-Agaran, Conservation Chair, 244-8982, kalliekeith@yahoo.com

Ann Fielding, Outings Co-Chair, 572-8437, annf@maui.net

Karen Chun, Web Master & Publicity Chair, 283-3049, karen@maui.paddle.com

Daniel Grantham, Director, 572-4571, dannygr@hawaiiintel.net

Jan Welda Fleetham, Director, 573-1558, janwelda@hawaiiintel.net

Rich Lucas, Political Chair, 572-5662, Hohani2@msn.com

Marta Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator, 878-6743, yukteswaji@hotmail.com

**Please note: The Sierra Club Maui Group Executive Committee Elections take place in October. Board members serve a 2 year term beginning January, 2007. To volunteer to serve or nominate another member, please contact Marta at 878-6743.**

### **MAUI GROUP NEWS**

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT BY LANCE HOLTER**

Call for Action! For the past four years, the luxury house on a beachfront lot adjacent to Baldwin Beach on Maui's north shore has stood vacant. To many, the "Montana Beach" house (named after the investment group's Limited Liability Corporation name) has been a symbol of community frustration regarding abuse of our planning process and loss of coastal open space.

The County of Maui settled several lawsuits last fall, resulting in the acquisition of two of three coastal lots at the former Lime Kiln site, on the Paia side of Baldwin Park. This provides a golden opportunity to turn a past planning blunder into a future showcase for Maui's environmental efforts. With support from Mayor Alan Arakawa, plans are underway to put the property into public use by establishing the Maui County Environmental Resource Center (MCERC).

In time, the MCERC should provide a physical location to showcase Maui County's natural history, native eco-systems, current environmental issues, and the efforts of partner organizations working to preserve and protect our island home. The MCERC will also provide a place for those partner organizations, to share information, set up displays, hold meetings, deliver presentations, offer classes, and even conduct fundraisers. This central environmental focus is vitally needed, especially with our healthy tourism, construction, and real estate economies straining our ability to take care of our parks, wild places, and ocean resources. (see <http://www.co.maui.hi.us/mayor/environment/partnership.htm>)

Since 1983, most of the coastal area between Paia and Spreckelsville has been in Park and Open Space designation. In 2004 a Sierra Club signature campaign and petition drive netted thousands of comments to establish permanent protection for the area. In 2005 and again in 2006 Congressman Ed Case placed a bill in Congress to study the area for the Patsy Mink North Shore Heritage Park in order to establish a National Seashore or Recreation Area composed of 130 acres stretching from the Paia Youth Center to Spreckelsville's "Baby Beach", an area with approximately 1 1/2 miles of white sand beach, coastal sand dunes and open space.

Now, the Council is faced with determining the best possible public use of this parcel and another lot to the East, behind the large rock revetment which once protected the Lime Kiln. Surprisingly, some Council Members have suggested moving, selling, or demolishing the house, so the lot is once again open space. This amounts to missing a rare opportunity to provide a unique and beautiful public facility as the centerpiece to an expansive stretch of undeveloped beach.

In discussions over the past several months, I have heard broad support for establishing an environmental center in this location. The "Montana Beach" lawsuit requires the building and property be used, "solely for public purposes," and not for residential or commercial usage. Priority is given to "educational uses."

The Maui County Environmental Resource Center will provide opportunities for volunteerism and stewardship, and for teaching our keiki and visitors environmental values, which they may carry with them for their entire lives. Maui's community deserves this facility as a place to celebrate the efforts to preserve, protect, and restore our precious and unique natural environment. The beachfront location for the MCERC should serve for years to come as an enduring legacy for the continuity of Maui County's environmental initiatives and efforts. **IMPORTANT ACTION!** Please call, fax and write your Council Members and ask that they support MCERC and the North Shore Heritage Park. The fax for Maui council services is 270-7686

### **UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES**

To contact your Federal officials, go to [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)

To contact your State officials, go to [www.hawaii.gov](http://www.hawaii.gov)

To contact your County officials, go to [www.co.maui.hi.us](http://www.co.maui.hi.us)

**All three sites are very educational and contain lots of email addresses.**

**Let them know your thoughts on the issues!**

**They really do read their email and you can make a difference!!**

### **GROUP ACTIVITIES**

On April 18th the Sierra Club hosted an Earth Day community discussion at Maui Community College entitled: "Protecting Our Sacred Lands." Specifically, the discussion focused on "Hawaiian Cultural Sites at Risk?? Trails, Shrines, Heiau, Villages, Burials, Native Plants and Wahi Pana: Who decides what should be protected for Maui's future??" We would like to thank our panelists for their heartfelt and highly educational input. The panelists were: Lei'ohu Ryder - teacher, musician and cultural practitioner, Sol Kaho'ohalahala - former Hawaii State Representative, cultural practitioner and currently head of Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, Keoki Souza - educator and past head of La'au Lapa'au practitioners group on Maui, and Kaleikoa Kaeo - educator and cultural practitioner. Also, a big mahalo to Lucienne de Naie, Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter Chairperson, for moderating this event, Kathy McDuff and Lance Holter who coordinated all the speakers and Tim Wolfe of Akamai Productions for filming it. The discussion was followed by serving cake and ice cream to all in celebration of the 168th birthday of John Muir who founded the Sierra Club. The movie, "Monumental - The Life and Times of David Brower," was then shown. David Brower is credited with building the Sierra Club into the national organization that it is today. And a Big, Big Mahalo to Joshua Cooper of the Hawaii Institute for Human Rights, co-sponsor of the event, for helping us organize the whole event at Maui Community College! For those who missed this excellent discussion, it is being shown on Akaku Community Access TV.

### **CONSERVATION UPDATES**

**Pa'ia Bypass:** A "mini bypass" funded by A&B, State & county is under construction, but may only serve to impact traffic on Baldwin Ave. It's an election year. Let all the mayoral candidates know that most citizens want a permanent bypass route with protected greenway corridors for non-vehicle use. Speak up for bypass that ties in with a variety of community centered uses such as the proposed North Shore Regional Park, La'akea farm, the new Puerto Rican- Portuguese cultural center and perhaps a revival of the Pu'uhene to Pa'ia railroad. County should also clarify status of publicly owned but privately used Kala Rd (currently used as a sugar cane road).

**Marine Protected Areas:** The state is considering creation of additional "no take" zones marked by buoys, which have proven successful in boosting fish counts on the Big Island. Write Peter Young <peteryoung@hawaii.gov> and ask that this program be expanded to Maui.

**North Shore Park:** A subcommittee of Maui Coastal Land Trust is seeking citizen input on lands that should be protected along the Hamakua coast (roughly Spreckelsville to Kaumahina wayside park near Keanae) **Request a simple input form from Lucienne de Naie** <laluz@maui.net> to give your ideas.

**Pali to Puamana Park-Way:** Bypass Now! Committee to speed the state action on the Lahaina bypass has been formed and will present ideas. Contact Stacie Thorlakson <stacie@thorlakson.com> if you want meeting times and dates. What's at stake: a new West Maui access road above an eight mile long linear park along this scenic coast. Developers want a new road with houses be-

tween it and the old Honoapi'ilani Hwy. It's an election year. Ask for the park.

**Makena Resort Rezoning:** At "Keaka Beach Club" - Everett Dowling proposed 72 luxury condos towering up to 5 stories high on 11 acres adjacent to the popular Makena beach park at Maluaka. The site, once part of a 15th century Hawaiian fishing village, was challenged for inadequate archaeological review. The discovery of several dozen additional cultural sites, including a multiple burial area has resulted in the need to revise plans for the development. More hearings expected in summer.

**Kaheawa Wind Farm:** The Kaheawa Wind Power Project under construction should produce about 9% of the kilowatt-hours consumed on Maui. Public controversy has surfaced over the size and visibility of the turbines and the operators should respond to those concerns. Efforts are underway to restore the unique native plant habitat disturbed by wind turbine installation, but ongoing public vigilance of the whole project is needed.

**Hamakuapoko Wells:** Maui County Council deleted funds to connect the two controversial wells to the Paia water system from its final 2006-07 budget. Now the ball is in the County Water Department's court. The wells, located near Old Maui High, require various filters to clean out ag pollutants. Pa'ia residents want to continue receiving 'Iao aquifer water.

**East Maui Streams:** Mediation efforts between A&B and its subsidiaries and East Maui community members asking for restored stream flows continues. Recent USGS report concludes that around two-thirds of base flow is diverted the majority of the time. State agencies responsible for our streams need to act to protect stream life and native Hawaiian water rights.

**Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration:** The County Council voted to include funds to purchase Na Wai Eha watershed lands to provide a reliable source of recharge for Iao aquifer, secure clean drinking water and restore waters to 'Iao, Waihe'e, Waikapu and Waiehu streams - all currently diverted. This landmark effort is being supported by a number of citizen groups including Sierra Club and will be watched closely by Earthjustice staff, OHA and others as it is implemented.

**Superferry Update:** Young Bros shipping is losing crucial interisland shipping space at the harbor to the Superferry and the cost of these changes will be passed on to many small businesses. What other bad surprises lay ahead as the Superferry moves forward with little public review? Check the MG website [hi.sierraclub.org/maui](http://hi.sierraclub.org/maui) for future meeting dates and updates and support the call for a complete EIS (Environmental Review) process for Kahului harbor.

**West Maui Developments:** Pulelehua - 800 units surrounding the West Maui airport, is under review by the Planning Commission and County Council. Still unanswered: will there be sufficient water and sewage capacity, school facilities and traffic improvements in place by 2008 when the project is planned to begin construction? Many are asking large projects seeking changes in land use to be deferred (except the portions affordable to local residents) until the new General Plan is discussed and adopted. Let the Planning Commission and Council know what you think.

**Affordable Housing Ordinance:** a draft of the county's proposed policy asking for 30% affordable house for new projects requiring community plan changes is being reviewed by the County Planning Commission. Should the percentage be higher or lower? Should industrial/commercial developments also provide fees or land for affordable housing? What role should the new community Land Trust dedicated to administering affordable housing agreements play? What do you think? Let the Planning Commission know. Fax comments to 270-7634

**Kahului Harbor:** After Mayor Arakawa threatened to join Maui Tomorrow, Friends of Haleakala & the Kahului Harbor Coalition's legal challenge of the pieced together "Master Plan" for Kahului harbor, the state admitted that a new master plan effort was needed. The problem - the new plan won't be done for a number of years and meanwhile more cruise ships, Superferry, etc. continue to compete for scarce harbor space with essential freight services and recreational users. A court ruling is expected this summer on the adequacy of the current harbor plan. **More updates at our Sept 9th Red, White & Blue Picnic and "Jes' fo' Fun" Canoe Challenge at Hoaloha park at Kahului Harbor.**

**Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST)** The \$175 million project that will soar 143 feet above the summit of Haleakala does not yet have secure funding from Congress. A number of local groups are extremely concerned that a facility of this size is being proposed for a venerated site such as Haleakala. Maui Group will be participating in public meetings once the project's EIS is released in June.

**Keep Depleted Uranium (DU) Out of Hawai'i:** Evidence has been found indicating that the military used DU weapons in live fire exercises on 'Oahu (Schofield). The military has denied this in several documents, but when confronted with their own memo, had to admit they did use DU weapons in 2004. Live fire DU pollutes the land with radioactive, heavy metal dust which has been implicated in Gulf War Syndrome. You can prevent this by contacting your State Legislators and asking them to pass the bill (HB2741) providing free DU testing to our returning soldiers and banning the use of DU anywhere in Hawaii. The bill will be reintroduced automatically next year. More information is available at [www.noDUhawaii.com](http://www.noDUhawaii.com).

**MAUI GROUP OUTINGS, SERVICE TRIPS, AND PROGRAMS**

Please be prepared for outings. Bring food, water, and sturdy footwear. A donation of \$5 (\$2 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Please register early. Pre-registration is required for some hikes. Call Sierra Club hike line at 573-4147 or the hike leader number shown below. The East Maui Irrigation Company (EMI) allows us to hike across their land so long as each hiker has a waiver. An EMI WAIVER is absolutely required for EMI hikes (listed below). One waiver covers all EMI hikes this quarter. Call in your waiver request well in advance of going to EMI'S Pa'ia office at 497 Baldwin Avenue. Ask for Jackie at 579-9516. Please be considerate of Jackie's time and pick up permits 5 days in advance. Also, please check our web site, [www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui), and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

Just a quick note to also say we do need new hike leaders. Being a hike leader is fun. You can pick the hikes you lead. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 for more information if you are interested.

**Continuous Special Service Events**

**Project Malama Honokowai:** This is a service trip and you will be helping in an archaeological stabilization, reforestation and education project known as Project Malama Honokowai. Every Saturday at 9 am, 52 weeks of the year, a very special experience! Simply meet at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway (between mile marker 25 and 26) and Pu'ukoli'i Road at the "Sugar Cane Train" Station parking lot in Ka'anapali. You don't have to register - just show up. In the mountain valley above is a three mile long valley with significant archaeological ruins where an estimated 600 ancient Hawaiian families once lived. For more information, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085 or just show up. For more information please go to: [www.kaanapali2020.org/plan/hono\\_gulch.shtml](http://www.kaanapali2020.org/plan/hono_gulch.shtml)

**Maui Coastal Land Trust Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands restoration:** Be a part of restoring an ancient fish pond and other sites which have a major cultural significance and participate in the remarkable learning experience. Please call Scott Fisher at the Maui Coastal Land Trust at 808 244-5263 for more information if you would like to volunteer for habitat and archaeological restoration at their Waihe'e site. For more information, please go to: [www.mauicoastallandtrust.org](http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org) and click on Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands.

**Community Work Day Cleanups:** If you know places that need to be cleaned up and would like to organize it with friends or an organization you belong to, you can call Community Work Day at 877-2524 and they will provide you with trash bags, advertise your location in the newspaper to get more volunteers to help you, and coordinate having a truck come out and pick up all the trash you bag and leave along the roadside. Community Work Day is a 501c3 charitable organization and organizes these clean ups state-wide four times a year. They are truly a wonderful organization!! For more information please go to [www.cwdhawaii.org](http://www.cwdhawaii.org).

**JUNE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 27:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

**JULY HIKES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, July 8:** Upper Waikamoi trail/Makawao Forest hike. 5 mile moderate round trip through koa and 'ohi'a forest to reservoir. Meet 8:30 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center near Bank of Hawaii to carpool. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Sunday, July 23:** Community Work Day cleanup 8:30 to 11:00 am. Please join the Sierra Club at the first paved parking lot at Big Beach. For more information call Bob Babson at 874-1166. No need to register. Just show up. Mahalo for helping keep Maui beautiful!

**Monday, July 24:** If you won't be in town or it is not convenient to vote at your precinct on Saturday, September 23 for the Primary Election, please call the County Elections Office at 270-7749 and order an absentee ballot. At the same time you can order an absentee ballot for the November 7th General Election if you wish. Please Vote!!

**Tuesday, July 25:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Sunday, July 30:** Explore Maui's North Shore. Swim in the Olivine pools, walk the Ohai Loop Trail at Papanalohoa Point near Kahakuloa and visit the Nakalele Blowhole. The Ohai Loop Trail features native plants, including the endangered ohai along with the

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more common nehe, ulei, akoko and aalii, plus native seabirds, turtles and whales in season. Bring swimsuit, camera and lunch. Meet 8:30 am Waihe'e School parking lot to carpool. Limit 18. Hike Leaders: Bill Schnitzer and Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

### **AUGUST HIKES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, August 12:** Wahinepe'e Water Hike: Beautiful tropical forest. Moderately strenuous uphill hike in East Maui watershed, falls, and pools. EMI WAIVER REQUIRED (see above). Six miles round trip. Meet @ 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Sunday, August 20:** Visit beautiful Waianapanapa State Park and hike along the trail overlooking the ocean in both directions observing archeological sites and birds along the way. Then visit Hana Cultural Center Museum and see reproductions of pre-contact hale's and the old Hana courthouse on the way to Hamoa Beach where we will have lunch and swim. Bring lunch, sunscreen, bathing suit and camera. Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

**Tuesday, August 22:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

### **SEPTEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, September 9:** Sierra Club Red, White and Blue Picnic at beautiful Hoaloha Park right on Kahului Harbor. Don't miss the music, food and fun for the whole family - plus a chance to talk story with candidates for County and State office. For more information, please check our web site at [www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui](http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui) and click on Hikes and Activities.

**Saturday, September 16:** "Get the Drift and Bag It!" 9 am to 12 noon. Annual cleanup at the Maui Coastal Land Trust's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Reserve. From Wailuku, take the Kahekili Highway to Waihe'e and turn right toward the ocean on Halewaiu Road. Turn left onto the dirt road where there is a sign that says Maui Coastal Land Trust. If you get to the golf course, you have gone too far. Bring water and sunscreen. You do not have to register. Just show up! Mahalo!

**Saturday, September 23:** Primary Election! Please Vote. Also, if you won't be in town or it is not convenient to vote at your precinct on Tuesday, November 7 for the General Election, please call the County Elections Office at 270-7749 and order an absentee ballot.

**Tuesday, September 26:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

**Saturday, September 30:** Hike from Haleakala National Park Kipahulu visitor Center up the Pipiwai Trail through beautiful grasslands and bamboo forest to 400' Waimoku Falls. At end of hike swim in pools near visitor center. Bring lunch and bathing suit. Park entrance fee is \$10/car. Meet 8:00 am Haiku Community Center and carpool to Kipahulu. Limit 12. Hike Leaders: Bill Schnitzer and Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

### **SIERRA CLUB DAILY RAYS OF HOPE**

To subscribe to the Daily Ray of Hope, go to  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/dailyrayofhope/subscribe.asp>

**August 10, 2005:** "Now the smallest of creatures, who do not know they have names, in fields of pure sunshine open themselves and sing. All over the marshes and wet meadows, wherever there is water, the companies of peepers who cannot count their members, gather with sweet shouting. And the flowers of the woods who cannot see each other Appear in perfect likeness of one another..." Katherine Anne Porter, writer.

**August 8, 2005:** "...The grasp of a child's hand in your own, the flavor of an apple, the embrace of a friend or lover, the silk of a girl's thigh, the sunlight on rock and leaves, the feel of music, the bark of tree, the abrasion of granite and sand, the plunge of clear water into a pool, the face of the wind, what else is there, what else do we need?" Edward Abbey, writer.

**August 3, 2005:** The nation's colleges throw out more than 4.5 million pounds of food waste per meal. But more and more campuses are directing this food to soup kitchens, pig farms and to compost heaps. Ithaca College recovers 350 tons of food waste a year, saving \$20,000 in landfill fees. Washington State University makes \$50,000 a year by selling its compost to local garden stores and landscapers.

**August 2, 2005:** "Is it morning? Is it the little morning Just before dawn? How big the sun is! Are those the birds? Their voices begin

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everywhere, whistling, piercing and joyous All over and in the air, speaking with words Which are more than words...."

**August 1, 2005:** A new report from the California Department of Education documents the academic and social benefits of outdoor education for schoolchildren. Science and math scores improved 27 percent. The kids' self-esteem, problem-solving abilities and classroom behavior also improved.

**July 28, 2005:** Air travel is a major contributor to global warming -- but you can buy carbon offsets, environmentally beneficial actions like planting trees or modernizing old water heaters that can help compensate. For \$10, American Forests will plant ten tree seedlings in a damaged forest on public land. For \$11, the Better World Club balances emissions by retrofitting oil-burning boilers and water heaters in public schools.

**SOMETHING REALLY FUN TO DO**

If you would like to do something really fun, go to the National Sierra Club home page: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org), and surf around for a while. It is absolutely loaded with a wealth of knowledge. It is incredibly educational! Also, you can sign up for free email on various different subjects which will keep you right up to date with what's happening and how you can help.

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