



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2006 NEWSLETTER

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.

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MAUI GROUP CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sierra Club is proud to support this slate of visionary leaders for Hawaii's environmental sustainability. The organization's endorsement process involved sending detailed surveys out to the candidates, interviewing many of them, and reviewing their records. All endorsements received a majority vote from at least two Sierra Club committees of elected leaders in order to be approved.

U. S. Senate: No endorsement was made between **Rep. Ed Case** and **Sen. Dan Akaka**.

Congress - 2nd: Dual endorsements of both **State Senator Gary Hooser (D)** and **State House Representative Brian Schatz (D)**. Both individuals' years of environmental advocacy at the State Capitol differentiate themselves from the large field of candidates for the seat.

Governor: William J. Aila, Jr. (D) - Waianae Harbormaster.

Lt. Governor: David Henkin (D) - Political newcomer Henkin has been a successful environmental advocate as an attorney with the law firm Earthjustice for over a decade.

State Senate - 4: Shan Tsutsui (D)

State House - 11: Stephen West (D)

State House - 13: Mele Carroll (D)

Maui Mayor: Charmaine Tavares (NS)

Maui Council:

East Maui: Lucienne De Naie (NS)

Kahului: Lance D. Collins (NS)

Makawao: Pat Borge (NS)

Molokai: Danny A. Mateo (NS)

South Maui: Michelle Anderson (NS)

Upcountry Maui: Gladys Coelho Baisa (NS)

Wailuku: Mike Victorino (NS)

West Maui: Jo Anne Johnson (NS).

For more information, the Sierra Club's endorsements are online at www.hi.sierraclub.org/endorsements.

CHAIR'S REPORT

by Lance Holter

Several months have passed and the Sierra Club candidate endorsement process has been completed. In my capacity as Hawaii Sierra Club Chapter political chair (with Jonathan Star), I have enjoyed the most interesting and challenging of experiences. Interesting because I discovered how seriously candidates seek the Sierra Club endorsement. Challenging because how does the club choose one endorsement from a field of great candidates? For example the race for Ed Case's Congressional District 2 had an embarrassingly rich field of talent, an abundance of well known environmentally aware names in a race with state wide recognition. After considering the returned candidate questionnaires some in the Chapter executive committee hoped to endorse a team of candidates from the 2nd district to promote and support these outstanding individuals to co-operate and work for the betterment of Hawaii's future. Any one of them could be Governor or Lt. Governor, our next Senator or Congressperson but the main concept was for all to work together for our environment and social justice. In the end a super majority of votes was needed and it was agreed upon to endorse State Senator Gary Hooser and Representative Brian Schatz for the Sept 23 primary election. Hawaii's largest grassroots environmental organization chose this dual endorsement because of these candidates past legislative efforts and their continued commitment to ensure a sustainable Hawaii for generations to come.

In State Legislative elections Legislators who twice supported the Hokulia agricultural land fix Bill (HB1368) and thereby opening up agricultural lands for speculation and luxury home sprawl did not receive the Sierra Club endorsement. Supporters of the Hokulia Bill would have elevated the interests of a mainland developer over local families and local farmers thus undermining Hawaii's long term sustainability. This does not mean the Sierra Club does not support the Legislators when they vote for the environment but we have drawn a line in the sand over who will receive this year's Sierra Club endorsement. Legislators who were not up for re-election were not considered.

Of particular note I received several calls from first time Democrat and Republican candidates extremely grateful and proud for their endorsement, truly an example of non-partisan support for individual integrity and fully a rejection of polarized partisanship or big money politics. There are many good candidates out there but unfortunately not everyone can be endorsed. In some cases dual endorsements could be used but in any case myself, The Sierra Club and Hawaii are eternally grateful for the candidates who speak up, campaign hard on issues and by their fair participation in Democracy change the playing field and thus our society for the better. To view the Club Endorsements online go to www.hi.sierraclub.org/endorsements

On the local side, Maui benefited from heroic actions and resolutions made by the members of its Maui County Council. Resolutions to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling, the establishment of a no take sanctuary for The Northwest Hawaiian Islands, the requirement that Hawaii Superferry obtain an Environmental Impact Statement and most recently the resolution and ordinance to prevent contaminated well water from the "H'Poko" wells to be used in our domestic water supply were the first in the State and set the bar for all other actions in all other county governments to follow. I have heard that the Council's action for NWHI Sanctuary was partly responsible for the landslide of support statewide and the eventual National Monument designation by President Bush. Thank you council members, you are our Island heroes.

MAUI GROUP ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, September 9th, we had our Red, White and Blue Picnic. Every two years just before the primary, we have this picnic to invite all the candidates to come and talk story. This gives the voters a chance to ask questions and get answers. This year the picnic was held at Hoaloha County Park on beautiful Kahului Harbor. Our very generous host was the Na Kai 'Ewalu Canoe Club who supplied the outrigger canoes and steersmen for the Huli Pupule Canoe Races which everybody enjoyed. This was followed by lunch and our Sierra Club Onipa'a Awards to Walter Ritte, Jan Dapitan and Sharon Ioana Bailey Balidoy for their outstanding contributions to Maui and its environment over many, many years!! This was followed by candidate speeches and talking story. We would like to thank musician David Gallagher for his beautiful keyboard music in the morning and thank the Mapenzi Marimba Ensemble for their terrific music in the afternoon. We would like to especially thank Karen Chun for organizing the Huli Pupule Canoe Races and Jeanne Androvich for organizing the overall picnic!! A fun time was had by all!

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

by Lucienne de Naie

Pa'ia Bypass: No news from present administration. One mayoral candidate proposed use of publicly owned but privately used Kala Rd (currently used as a sugar cane road) as a bypass route.

North Shore Park: Environmental Education center at former Lime Kiln site has proven controversial; meanwhile Baldwin beach erosion takes numerous mature trees. Maui Group will recommend park status for several hundred acres along the Spreckelsville shore and low-lying mauka lands in the upcoming County general plan revision.

Keone'o'io/Ahihi-Kinau: Maui group recently reviewed a draft management plan for Ahihi-Kinau. Plan proposes further restrictions on public use in the area's most fragile regions to protect resources. Public hearings next.

Pali to Puamana Park-Way: 100 acres of future park secured, but remaining 7 miles of proposed eight mile long linear park along the scenic Honoapiilani Hwy are still coveted by developers.

Makena Resort Rezoning: Developer Everett Dowling proposes 72 luxury gated condos towering up to 5 stories high on 11 acres of coastal land. Once part of a 15th century Hawaiian fishing village, the project area is under scrutiny by Maui Planning Commission which has not yet accepted its Environmental Assessment.

Wind Power - Kaheawa Wind Power Project is on line and habitat restoration on the site is also ongoing every Sunday. Contact: Ed Lindsey 572-8085. A second wind farm is proposed for remote Auwahi area. Maui Electric has identified wind as a major component of its 25 year Integrated Resource Planning effort.

Stream life Studies: 3-year stream life studies have begun on four central Maui streams. Funds approved in 2006-07 budget to study flow levels required in historic Kaua'ula Stream which once watered the gardens of Lahaina. Completed East Maui studies show clearly: more water = more stream life.

Hamakuapoko Wells: Maui County Council wants 'em not used for human consumption. Mayor Arakawa is vague about what use they will have. Well opponents call the 10 year old sources a bad investment due to limited capacity of the aquifer and ongoing costs of clean up. This is an election issue to watch.

Wailea 670: Current plans are still under review by Maui Council Planning Committee. The bottom line: 800 luxury golf course estates and 400 promised affordable condos, rentals and houses will replace around 150 acres of native dry land forest plant habitat. Project lacks reliable water source, sewage treatment and road capacity but is seeking land use entitlements.

Iao & Waihee Stream Restoration: Mediation efforts underway among Earthjustice and its clients, and County of Maui, A&B, Inc and Wailuku water Co. EJ and the County seek end of water dumping and restored stream flows in Maui's legendary valleys. County is willing to condemn watershed lands and restore stream flows if mediation fails.

Superferry Legal Action: Latest legal challenge to ferry infrastructure also rejected by local judge: Lack of standing. MG not a named plaintiff. Big protests over S-ferry taking over inter-island barge space resulted in Governor & DOT giving Young Bros more Kahului Harbor space. Other major questions about superferry remain unanswered.

West Maui Developments: General Plan Advisory committee voted in June to ask Maui Planning Department to hold off on further development approvals until urban growth boundaries set in updated County General Plan. Candidate's forums asking about moratorium until General Plan update complete.

Affordable Housing Ordinance: Current versions ask for 30% affordable housing. HALE, an affordable housing land trust, has formed and is offering more choices for affordable rentals and homes.

Cruise Ships: These floating hotels are slipping by with minimum contribution to local economy while dumping thousands of extra visitors a day onto Maui's jammed roads. Unions are concerned about impacts to traditional hotels.

Haleakala Solar Telescopes: Draft EIS out soon. Fourteen story structure is unpopular with many community groups. MG will review.

MAUI GROUP OUTINGS, SERVICE TRIPS, AND PROGRAMS

Please be prepared for outings. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen 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. Also, please check our web site, 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

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 and click on Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands. They also offer a free guided walk of the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am. Call 244-5263 for more information and to make a reservation.

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 statewide four times a year. They are truly a wonderful organization!! For more information please go to www.cwdhawaii.org.

Learn about Hale Kahiko (traditional building): The ancient art form known as hale kahiko almost died out, but is now making a comeback thanks to county and state laws which have legalized it. People can now build traditional hales and live in them. Ulani Combo is a licensed practitioner of this ancient art form. If you are interested in learning more, you can meet with Ulani every Sunday from now until November 12th at the Hana Cultural Center between 10 am and 4 pm. Please call Ulani at 264-0024 to learn more.

SEPTEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

ASAP! If you have not already registered to vote, then immediately go to your telephone book and find the "Wikiwiki Voter Registration," fill it out and mail it in! Even if you miss the Primary Election, you will now be registered for the General Election. For more information and/or to order an absentee ballot, call 270-7749.

Saturday, September 16: "Get the Drift and Bag It!" 8:30 to 10:30 am. Annual cleanup at the Maui Coastal Land Trust's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands. From Wailuku, take the Kahekili Highway to Waihe'e and meet at the Waihe'e Ball Park. Supplies, refreshments, and lunch will be provided. Bring water and sunscreen. You do not have to register. Just show up! Mahalo!

Saturday, September 23: Primary Election! Please Vote!!

Saturday, September 23: Community Work Day! Help cleanup the road to Hana! Meet at 8:00 am at the intersection of Hana Highway and Kaupakalua Road (mile marker 0). There will be CWD team leaders there to organize the cleanup. This is phase 2 of the cleanup and will be from Kaupakalua Road (mm 0) to Kaumahina State Wayside Park (mm 13). For more information, please call CWD at 877-2524.

Tuesday, September 26: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place. Mahalo!

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, water, sunscreen and bathing suit. Park entrance fee is \$10/car. Meet 8:00 am at Haiku Community Center to carpool. Limit 12. Hike Leaders: Bill Schnitzer and Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

OCTOBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, October 15: Haleakala National Park, hike in Sliding Sands trail and hike out Halemau'u Trail. Explore the crater and enjoy the absolutely breathtaking scenery. Strenuous, high elevation 12 mile all day hike. Must be in good condition. Dress warm and bring rain gear, camera, hiking boots, lunch & water. Meet 7:30 am Bank of Hawaii, Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center to carpool to the top where the hike begins. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 12. Call 874-1166 to register.

Tuesday, October 17: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

Saturday, October, 21: Community Work Day - Make a Difference! Help cleanup the road to Hana! This is the final phase of the cleanup and will be from Upper Nihiku (mm 26) to Hana Town (mm 38). Please call CWD at 877-2524 to learn where and when to meet. At the end of the day there will be a party in Hana at the ball field to celebrate.

Sunday, October 29: From La Perouse Bay, hike south on the Kings Highway. Visit anchialine ponds (unusual shallow ponds with tiny red shrimp) and archeological sites along the way. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. 6 mile roundtrip all day hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Leaders: Lucienne de Naie and Ann Fielding. Limit 18. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

NOVEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Tuesday, November 7: General Election!! Please vote!!

Saturday, November 18: Community Work Day Clean up: "Holiday Gift to Maui." 8:30 to 11:00 am. Meet at the first paved parking lot at Big Beach. Trash bags will be supplied. Bring garden gloves if you wish. Call Bob Babson for more info at 874-1166 but not necessary to register. Just show up!! Mahalo!

Sunday, November 26: Hike up Kaupo trail into Haleakala National Park. Enjoy the magnificent natural beauty. The views of the ocean and mountains just get better and better and if we are lucky we will see the Big Island in the distance. Trail starts at 1,500' and we'll hike up to about 4,000' and then have lunch. This is a difficult trail and you should wear hiking boots that support your ankles. Seven miles round trip all day hike. Bring lunch, water, raingear and sunscreen. Meet at 8:00 am at Pukalani Terrace Shopping Center in front of Bank of Hawaii to carpool. Limit 12. Call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register.

Tuesday, November 28: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

DECEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, December 9: Annual Christmas Tree Service Trip! Join the Friends of Haleakala National Park and Park staff in pulling and cutting alien pine seedlings and trees. Take home a Christmas tree and greens for decorations. Bring hand saw or loppers. Meet at 9:00 am at the Pu'u Niania cinder pit parking area. It's the pu'u just before the entrance to Haleakala National Park. No need to register - just show up! Mahalo! For more information, please call Mary Evanson at 572-9724.

Tuesday, December 26: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting. 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call 579-9802 to confirm meeting time and place.

INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

To contact your Federal officials, go to www.firstgov.gov

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

To contact your County officials, go to 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!!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that you can sign up for all Council and Committee meeting agendas to be emailed directly to you and that you can testify by sending an email to the Council Chairperson or the Committee Chairperson and then the chairperson will forward a copy of your testimony to every member of the Council or Committee. Your one email will reach all members of the Council or Committee! It is that simple! Here's is how it works. Go to www.co.maui.hi.us and then click on E-mail subscriptions in the left column. There, you can pick the Council and all the Committees you want to receive agendas from. Once the agenda arrives in your email, you can read it and respond (testify) to the email address specified on the agenda. Specify the item number on the agenda you are testifying about. A copy of your testimony will then also be permanently filed away in the official records of Maui County under that item number for future interested people to read and learn how you feel about the subject. You can make a difference without even leaving home! Note: on the email subscriptions page, you can also sign up to receive emails about civil defense notices such as

road closures, big waves, flood alerts, and receive County announcements and most Commissions agendas.

DONATIONS

If you like the work we are doing and you would like to make a tax deductible donation to the Sierra Club Foundation, please make your check out to the "Sierra Club Foundation" and mail it to 85 Second Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. On the memo line of your check, please write: "Maui Group." Mahalo. The Sierra Club Foundation is a 501c3 organization and is active in environmental education and the enforcement of environmental laws to protect our environment. Its federal tax ID # is 94-6069890 for your records. For more information and/or to donate online, please go to the www.sierraclub.org/foundation.

If you would like to make a donation to the "Sierra Club, Maui Group" which is not tax deductible but which will help us with our direct lobbying of government officials to protect the environment, please make your check out to "Sierra Club, Maui Group" and mail it to POB 791180, Paia, HI 96779. Mahalo! For more information about what we are doing, please go to www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui.

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB

Consider asking a friend to join the Sierra Club. The national Sierra Club is one of the biggest environmental organizations in America and really is making difference. They are continuously monitoring thousands of environmental developments around the country (national, state and local) and lobbying to protect the environment and, where necessary, filing lawsuits to stop the destruction of the environment and they are winning on many of their lawsuits. As a member of the national Sierra Club, members are automatically members of their nearest Chapter and local Group and get the national magazine, the Chapter newsletter and the Group newsletter, each full of information and how you can protect the environment. In addition you can sign up for email alerts about action needed right away and how you can help out. To join, simply go to the www.sierraclub.org and click on "Join or Give" in the right hand column. Mahalo!

HAVE A GREAT DAY!!