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SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP
OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2007 NEWSLETTER

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.
Sierra Club members are invited to attend our monthly meetings.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

by Lance Holter, Chair, Maui Group and
Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director, Hawaii Chapter

Please see "Superferry Facts vs. Myth" at www.hi.sierraclub.org/superferry/

The Hawai'i Superferry presents a classic case of how not to do business in Hawai'i. Superferry's lack of planning and violation of the Hawaii Environmental Protection Act has created a public debacle, inconvenienced their customers, and put Hawaii's environment at risk.

Three years ago the Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow, and Kahului Harbor Coalition asked the Hawai'i Superferry and the Lingle Administration to complete an environmental review of the Superferry. Unknown environmental risks, concerned neighbor island communities, and a clear reading of the law demanded it. The review would have occurred while other planning proceeded. The Administration and Superferry corporation, however, decided to gamble and chose to skip this mandatory environmental disclosure process. A unanimous Supreme Court decision – announced just hours after oral argument– called their bluff. Then, despite the decision from Hawaii's highest court, Superferry decided to roll the dice again and start service early. Again, they lost when a judge ordered them to cease service to Maui.

A responsible company doesn't allow a problem to get to the point where they receive a restraining order. They lost in court, lost neighbor island support, and lost credibility.

Now poor planning and lack of community involvement angered some Kaua'i residents to the point of taking justice into their own hands, risking arrest (or their lives) to block the arrival of the Superferry. The Sierra Club does not condone lawbreaking – neither by

the Superferry nor by the protesters. The protests, however, surely reflect the deep sense of injustice many neighbor islanders feel toward the Superferry – contempt that has been irresponsibly inflamed by proceeding in open disregard of the law.

This is why the public review process is so important in the first place: to understand the environmental tradeoffs, to involve the affected communities, to separate fact from fiction, and to protect the environment against unintended consequences. Unintended consequences like the spread of mongoose to Kaua`i. Or the disastrous varroa bee mite to Maui. Or coqui frogs everywhere. These pests can easily become stowaways underneath car or truck bodies or inside the bushels of produce being transported. And with the Superferry shuttling hundreds of private vehicles and farm trucks daily, spreading these pests is all but guaranteed – unless proper protections are put in place and funded. For neighbor island farmers, the cost of new invasive species brought by the Superferry could be their livelihood.

The high-speed vessel operation itself may pose a threat to the marine mammals. Traveling at 35 knots through known whale calving areas may make riders sick in more ways than one. Environmental reviews are used to fix problems before they occur. They don't just look at wildlife but at social consequences such as unbearable traffic, curtailment of traditional Hawaiian activities, and costly freight increases to small businesses. What are the best ways to minimize harm to Hawaii's unique environment and communities? That's what we'll learn with an environmental review. Ultimately, the review process produces a better outcome for all involved, island-style.

When public taxpayer dollars are used as they are with the Superferry, the public has a right to ask questions – and get answers. Otherwise we might all be taken for a ride.

The environmental review process is a routine procedure. Private companies and State and Federal agencies complete reviews all the time. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed numerous such reviews in the past year. New roads, harbor improvements, airport upgrades: they all go through the process. Significantly, the DOT even required and conducted a full environmental impact statement when a ferry system just on the Island of O`ahu was proposed.

Three decades ago when the Hawai`i Environmental Protection Act was enacted, State elected leaders made clear that the environmental review be a “condition precedent” to implementation of the proposed action. In other words, the study must be complete before the project starts. We must look before we leap. It's not only common sense, it's the law.

Yes, the review process can be messy because you have to deal with real science – not soundbites and promises – and real public input. Superferry would actually have to respond to questions in writing and publish the answers. Yes, it takes a few months to complete. But the resulting document provides clear answers on what the adverse impacts are expected – and how best to prepare for them.

So why did the Superferry and the Administration chose to skip this process three years ago? Why did they chose not to complete an environmental review after the community groups asked, after neighbor island lawmakers asked, after the Maui, Kaua`i, and Big Island county councils asked, even after the State's own Environmental Council ruled that it was required. Why not? Were they worried about disclosing something the public wouldn't like to hear?

Hawai`i is like no other place on Earth, with hundreds of species found nowhere else on the planet and deep community values. To protect this uniqueness, the Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow and Kahului Harbor Coalition requested Superferry and the DOT to comply with our keystone environmental law years ago. They chose to ignore the law. Our position hasn't changed: if the Superferry is going to operate in Hawaii's waters, it must to be done right. The first step is to comply with our state laws.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Thanks to all who helped make our fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza in Paia a big success. Mahalo to Jeanne Androvich, our Vice Chair, for organizing the event. We also appreciate the generosity of those who have donated to our special appeal to help with legal expenses for the Superferry lawsuit.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

by Lucienne de Naie

North Shore Heritage Park: Maui Group offered a short presentation to the General Plan Advisory Committee featuring maps showing lands to be set aside for parks, bikeways and open space along the north shore. Public hearings in November & December during the General Plan update will help guide the placement of open space, parks and urban growth boundaries. Speak Up.

Pali to Puamana Parkway: 200 acres of coastal lands along Ukumehame form the first segment of this envisioned eight mile coastal parkway. Landowners in the Launiupoko section are proposing development along several miles of land the community

wants to see in the parkway. Coastal parkway or coastal development? Please testify at General Plan meetings when they come to your area.

East Maui Streams: Wailua nui taro growers were promised more stream flows after an April hearing. They are still waiting. USGS research shows Maui in a drought cycle unequalled in 80 years.

Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration: Maui's Mayor has promised to condemn if necessary to secure the watershed lands and ditch system that could help restore stream flow. An appraisal has been requested. USGS report (Aug 07) notes 18% drop in recharge rate of Iao aquifer between 1926-1976 and 2001-2005. Central and South Maui have been placed on a voluntary drought restrictions for the first time in modern memory. The USGS report predicts restored stream flows in Na Wai Eha would contribute millions of gallons a day of much needed recharge to the Iao aquifer.

Sustainable Energy: Demand for an Environmental Review of the proposed palm oil facility proposed by MECO continues with numerous groups calling for more scrutiny. The Sierra Club will continue to monitor this plan to make sure it doesn't displace viable local energy crop production. For more information, go to: HawaiiBioFuel.org

Superferry Update: On August 23rd the Hawaii Supreme Court supported an appeal of a lower court decision filed by Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow and the Kahului Harbor Coalition. A temporary injunction was granted while the court decides if the Hawaii Superferry must follow the law and complete an Environmental Assessment before beginning service. Click here to read the August 23rd Supreme Court Order: <http://www.state.hi.us/jud/opinions/sct/2007/27407ord.htm>, and click here to read the entire opinion: <http://www.state.hi.us/jud/opinions/sct/2007/27407.htm>. In a second lawsuit, Judge Joel August ruled in August that the state Harbor Plan for Kahului didn't present an accurate view of traffic impacts and ordered a number of actions to be taken that were requested in the suit filed by Maui Group allies and the County of Maui.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): Haleakala National Park and Kilakila o Haleakala question Haleakala as the appropriate location for this proposed \$175 million telescope, 143 feet above the summit of Haleakala. Final EIS to be completed by the end of 2007. For more info, go to: kilakilahaleakala.org

Pumping Policy for Harbor tour boats: When will the Governor use her authority to require boats in the Marine Sanctuary zone to pump their sewage rather than dump it at sea? Keep our oceans free of disease. Weigh in at: pumpdontdump.com

Honolua Bay development: Save Honolua Coalition continues to advocate for a park and preservation plan for historic Lipoa Point and Honolua Bay. A proposed plan for a golf course and more luxury homes surrounding this former ML&P pineapple field is on hold. For more updates go to: savehonolua.org

Sand mining on Maui: Maui's sand supplies are predicted to be exhausted within the next decade. Sierra Club and others are pushing to end sand mining for export before supplies are completely gone.

South Maui Development: 10 new large developments proposed for South Maui – most mauka of Piilani Hwy. The fate of two large developments – Makena Resort & Wailea 670 is still being debated in the county council. Where's the water? Latest proposed development maps (7/07) available at Long Range planning department. Learn more about Makena development in a public Forum, October 18 from 6 to 8 pm at Kihei community Center, or go to: savemakena.org for updates.

MAUI GROUP HIKES, SERVICE TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Please be prepared for outings. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen, sturdy footwear (hiking boots are recommended) and trim your toenails. No kidding! Hiking can cause "tennis toe." A donation of \$5 (\$3 for Sierra Club members) is requested of hikers over age 14. Please register early. Pre-registration is required for some hikes. 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.

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 Lucienne de Naie at 572-8331 or Bob Babson at 874-1166 for more information if you are interested. Bob Babson will take care of getting permission from land owners and issuing certificates of insurance, if needed.

CONTINUOUS SPECIAL SERVICE EVENTS

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 a remarkable learning experience. Every Friday, 8 am to noon. No need to register, just show up. Go to Waihe'e and turn toward the ocean on Halewaiu Road. Turn left onto the dirt road marked

"Maui Coastal Land Trust" and park at the parking lot overlooking the ocean. This area is called "Roundtable." For more information, please call Scott Fisher at the Maui Coastal Land Trust at 808 244-5263 and/or go to: www.mauicoastallandtrust.org and click on Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands. MCLT also offers 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. Spots fill up quickly, so call early. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

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 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. A very special experience! Simply meet at 9:00 am at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway (between mile marker 25 and 26) and Pu'u'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 and to confirm the date, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085. Also, please go to: www.kaanapali2020.org/plan/hono_gulch.shtml. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Project Malama Hanaula: Help reforest the area around and above the Kaheawa Wind Farm above Ma'alaea. Meet every Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Park in the public parking lot near Carl's Jr. Restaurant at Ma'alaea. Carl's Jr. is located next to the gas station at the stop light. Then carpool 2,000' up to the wind farm where the view is incredible. Help remove alien species and re-plant endemic plants and learn about the area and the wind farm. The wind farm currently consists of 20 1.5 MW turbines and provides 9% of the electricity for Maui and 18 more turbines are planned. Bring your camera, lunch, water and suntan lotion. For more information and to confirm the date, please call Ed Lindsey at 808 572-8085. Also, please go to www.kaheawa.com. No registration is necessary - just show up. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

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 five times a year. They are truly a wonderful organization!! For more information please go to www.cwdhawaii.org. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, October 14: Hike to the Pauwela Point Lighthouse. Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. We will walk from here. It is directly north through the pineapple fields toward the ocean. See where the lighthouse once stood and then walk down to sea level and swim in the tidal pools where we will have lunch. Bring your bathing suit, lunch and water. Limit 18. Hike leader: Bob Babson. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Thursday, October 18: Please attend Public Forum: "Makena: Past, Present & Future." What's up with Makena? Luxury eco-resort or traditional community? Guest panelists, displays, refreshments and talk story. The range of topics will include everything from Wailea 670 to La Perouse Bay. 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Kihei Community Center. Please come and let us know your thoughts.

Saturday, October 20: Hike the Waihe'e Ridge Trail. Hike up to the edge of the rain forest where the Nature Conservancy land begins. This is a beautiful trail with fabulous views as we ascend the mountain. Meet at 8:30 am at the Waihe'e Grammar School. Hike leader: Mitch Skaggenberg. Assistant hike leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, October, 27: Community Work Day - Make a Difference Day! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524. There are organized cleanup teams all over Maui and CWD will be able to direct you to the nearest one with exact time and location of where to meet. Mahalo for helping keep Maui beautiful.

NOVEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Sunday, November 11: From La Perouse Bay, hike south on the Kings Highway to Kanaio - one of the most remote and beautiful areas on Maui. Visit anchialine ponds (unusual shallow ponds with tiny red shrimp) and archeological sites along the way. We actually walk off the lava flow onto the ancient shoreline where we explore further south. Bring lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. 8 mile roundtrip all day hike. This hike goes about 2 miles further south than our regular La Perouse Bay hike and there is no place to swim due to the rocky shoreline and currents. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, November 17: Community Work Day Clean up: "Holiday Gift to Maui." To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524. There are organized cleanup teams all over Maui and CWD will be able to direct you to the nearest one with exact time and location of where to meet. Mahalo for helping keep Maui beautiful.

Saturday, November 24: Hike Skyline Trail above Poli Poli. Meet at Pukalani Shopping Center near Bank of Hawaii at 8:30 am to carpool. We drive up to Poli Poli State Park and then hike up the Mamane Trail to Skyline Trail. We have lunch above the timberline with fabulous views. Approximately 6 miles roundtrip. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

DECEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS

Saturday, December 15: Explore Makamakaole Stream. This is a beautiful hike up a valley loaded with ancient taro "loi's." Bring bathing suit, lunch and water. Water tabi's recommended for stream crossings. Three miles round trip. We will pick a nice pool to swim in and have lunch. Meet 8:30 am at Waihee Grammar School where we will carpool. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

INFORMATIVE WEB SITES

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

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

To contact all State Senators with one email, go to sens@capitol.hawaii.gov

To contact all State Representatives with one email, go to reps@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

All 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!!

*Note: At the Maui County website, click on "General" and then click on "E-mail Subscriptions." You can then sign up for all council and committee meeting agendas and other information such as civil defense weather and high surf warnings, press releases, etc. They will all be emailed to you for free and you can then email your testimony to the council chair or committee chair shown on the agenda and it will then be made available to all council or committee members to read. You don't even have to leave home to testify! It will also become a permanent part of the meeting records and interested citizens can review your testimony by going to the "Council Services" office and asking for it. Make sure to reference the agenda item by number you are testifying about so it gets filed correctly by Council Services.

Who Will Defend Our Environment?



THE SIERRA CLUB WILL!
And you can too, become a member now!

c/o Membership
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e-mail: holter@maui.net
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SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join the national Sierra Club or renew your membership, please go to www.sierraclub.org and click on "Join or Give." When you join the national Sierra Club, you automatically join both the Hawaii Chapter and the Maui Group and receive the national Sierra Club magazine, the Hawaii Chapter newsletter and the Maui Group newsletter. The national Sierra Club now has over 750,000 members nationwide and is a leading organization in the fight to preserve the environment for future generations to enjoy. Think what America would be like today if environmentalists had not fought to preserve it 10, 20 and 30+ years ago. Did you know that "Big Beach" almost became a hotel? But because of environmentalists in the early 1970's, it was bought by the state for future generations to enjoy forever!! Please tell your friends to join!! Anyone can join for as little as \$25.00 per year.

Also, whether you are a member or not, everyone is welcome to surf our national home page at www.sierraclub.org. It is highly informative of all the projects we are working on nationwide. Anyone can sign up for email alerts of environmental actions the national Sierra Club is taking and how you can help by emailing your elected Senators and Representative asking them to vote for vital legislation that will preserve our environment.

DONATIONS

We especially need donations during this period of time where we have been suing the Hawaii Superferry and the Hawaii Department of Transportation requesting them to get an environmental impact statement (EIS). And, as you know, we recently won in the Hawaii Supreme Court. So our efforts to protect the environment for future generations have paid off, but now we must pay for it.

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, Maui Group Account," and mail it to 85 Second Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94105. Your donation will be used here on Maui to protect the environment for future generations. 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 tax records. The Sierra Club Foundation will send you a letter meeting all IRS donation requirements for your tax records.

If you would like to make a donation to the "Sierra Club, Maui Group" which is not tax deductible but which will also help us pay for the Superferry litigation and our direct lobbying of government officials here on Maui to protect the environment, please make your check out to "Sierra Club, Maui Group" and mail it to POB 791180, Paia, HI 96779-1180. Mahalo! For more information about what we are doing, please go to www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui.