



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

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SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP
JANUARY TO MARCH, 2008 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

Waikalooa Depleted Uranium Hearings by Lance Holter

At the Waikalooa Community Church on Friday, November 16th I attended the first of a series of joint US Army and Hawaii Health Department informational hearings on Depleted Uranium (DU) held at Kona Hawaii. The hearings were the result of Big Island citizens monitoring high background levels of radiation (the subject of a KITV-4 news cast April 29, 2007) downwind from the Pohakuloa gunnery range during Army Stryker maneuvers at the range, April 22nd. Normal background levels are in the area of 10 to 20 counts per minute (CPM) but on April 22nd the citizens' measurements went as high as 93 CPM. Public outcry and concerns over dangers from radiation prompted two front page stories in the Honolulu Advertiser May 11 and May 14 (and an Advertiser editorial May 16) resulting with the military admitting the possibility that DU had been used at Pohakuloa. Earlier on Oahu in 2005 the American Friends Service Committee obtained a US Army email thru the Freedom of Information Act disclosing, during an ordnance clean up at Schofield Barracks Oahu, the email read as follows "We have found much that we did not expect, including the recent find of Depleted Uranium." Culminating in a release to the Honolulu media the discovery of 15 M-101 rounds containing DU.

In June 2007, citizens and groups demanded that Russell Takata, Hawaii State Health Department Radiation Branch, begin immediate testing for DU on all military bases in Hawaii. In response to the cumulative public and media outcry, the Army began helicopter aerial surveys at Pohakuloa and discovered 1960's cold war "Davy Crockett" M-101 spotter rounds made from DU, the same DU rounds found at Schofield. The Davy Crockett was a classified tactical nuclear weapons system which would launch a **.01 Kiloton** nuclear bomb towards advancing enemy ground forces and the DU spotter round would mimic the Davy Crockett trajectory and impact area with a visible two meter diameter explosion (for info on this and more web search www.NoDUhawaii.com). As a result of the Pohakuloa DU discovery, the Kona informational hearings were held to inform the public and address their concerns.

Upon arriving at the church I spoke with the pastor and after gaining permission to video, I set up my camera and was immediately approached by the Army information officer. She asked why I was there and I replied that I wanted to share with the outer Island public the information provided tonight. I also wanted to use the information for any proposed Bills regarding DU testing this next legislative session 2008. She was immediately interested and asked "Bills? What kind of Bills?" I said legislation to test returned Iraq military veterans and air and soil monitoring of military bases for DU. She then asked for my card and we both exchanged our business cards. After the Pule, facilitator, host and Kona Representative Cindy Evans introduced Russell Takata who gave a power point on the history of DU in Hawaii and results of air testing the perimeters of Pohakuloa Gunnery Range which, he said, showed no abnormal radiation levels. Takata discredited the idea of and dangers from windblown DU.

Representative Evans then introduced Colonel Howard Killian to the 60 people attending the meeting. Colonel Killian is the spokesperson for the Hawaii DU project and presented his power point slide show on the US Army DU survey at Pohakuloa. We were shown the areas at Pohakuloa where the Davy Crockett spotting rounds were used, saw the photos from the helicopters of the 45 year old spotting rounds laying in the lava flow, we were told that classified archives indicated 714 M-101 DU spotting rounds were sent to Hawaii in the 60's and that DU has not been used in Hawaii since 1968, and further the use of DU has been prohibited, by the Department of Defense (DOD), on US military target ranges since 1996. Killian assured us that Uranium oxides are too heavy to be spread by wind and that DU saves our soldiers lives as it's a superior "one shot, one kill weapon." To date Killian said the military has spent \$2.2 million in Hawaii on recent surveys including 5,000 man-hours collecting 1,600 soil/vegetation samples for DU testing and finally Killian again reassured all present that DU poses no health threats.

Dr. Lorren Pang, Maui District Health Officer spoke next. He was allotted five minutes "because he spent his time and own money to come to Kona to share his thoughts," said Rep. Evans. Dr. Pang spent 24 years as a US Army health officer, worked at Walter Reed testing drugs and vaccines and since 1985 a researcher with the World Health Organization (WHO). His biggest concern with DU and Uranium is when micron sized particles become oxidized, they are aero-soled and inhaled internally. These non-soluble particles position themselves in the lung tissue and are picked up into the lymph system, the uranium oxides emit alpha radiation and thus become "the most dangerous form of radiation when internalized," bombarding cell nucleus with alpha rays causing mutations and cancers. These nano-levels of uranium are of the greatest concern to Dr. Pang. He compared DU to a cigarette: "A cigarette by itself is harmless but when burned and inhaled it becomes dangerous, so with DU when it is weaponized, burned (oxidized) and inhaled it becomes so (dangerous)."

The meeting then opened up to public testimony and questions to Colonel Killian. One heart wrenching testifier mentioned her sister was dying from leukemia, she began to cry while describing the agony of it all and remarked that her sister said: "There were many Iraq war veterans at the hospital suffering and being treated for the same type of rare blood disorder she had."

The highlight of the meeting was an unannounced surprise speaker introduced by Col Killian as "Mark" who described himself as an Army Physicist specializing in radiation. I was later able to identify him as Dr. Mark Melanson, who often appears in public for the military to discredit DU radiation activists testifying on health effects and illnesses from DU uranium exposures. Among the many statements he gave was an answer to a question about the high rates of cancer among civilians in Iraq and the Balkans. He said that the high rates and huge levels of cancer in Iraq was only a claim by Saddam Hussein and not verified by the World Health Organization (WHO). He went on to say: "All the studies known and all research shown does not show any relationship between uranium exposure and cancer and any other health effects-except with radon in uranium miners." I had the uncanny Déjà Vu feeling that I was listening to the same things tobacco industry hired gun Doctors and expert witnesses were told to do when they said "smoking cigarettes doesn't cause cancer" during the tobacco trials and hearings. I was most concerned that the Army spokespersons did not mention the devastating effects of DU use upon civilian populations in the battlefield.

Needless to say I was shocked and disturbed by "Dr. Mark" so I did some further research for this story. My cousin, Dr. Doug Rokke, Major U.S. Army Retired, was in charge of the DU clean up during Gulf War I and wrote the 1992 DOD training program mandating that US soldiers be trained on the dangers of DU uranium exposure. To date the program has been shelved and ignored. He told me members his Iraq clean up crews (including Doug) are sick and dying from illnesses as a result of the radiation exposure from tanks and armor hit by "friendly fire" that they re-habilitated and removed from the battle field. In 1996 the United Nations passed a resolution making DU weapons illegal under international law. In the BBC film documentary "The Doctor, DU and The Dying Children" (www.traprockpeace.org), Iraq war veteran, Tedd Wyman of the Uranium Medical Research Center, Toronto (www.UMRC.net), investigates civilian illnesses from DU radiation in Iraq, the Balkans and Afghanistan. Illnesses attributed to DU uranium according to UMRC doctors include high rates of horrible birth defects, still births, cancers, leukemia, diabetes, skin disorders, eye problems, thyroid disease to name a few. In one interview Wyman talked about eyewitness civilian accounts to DU "bunker buster" bombardments where neighbors to the blasts related "chronic fatigue flu like symptoms lasting for weeks and months afterwards." Wyman accompanied a medical group to the villages near Tora Bora, Afghanistan, where Al Qaeda and Bin Laden had been cornered in caves and subsequently bombed with tons of DU "bunker busters." Measuring the springs percolating from ground water the team found the water supply radioactive and thus rendered undrinkable.

In conclusion the military use of DU can only be attributed to its incredible effectiveness on the battlefield, its "one shot, one kill

quality." However the devastating effects to civilian populations lasting for generations, the same effects that destroy the environment and the economies of these countries make the weapon immoral and unethical. As Tedd Weyman, Dr. Rokke and many, many international leaders and scientists conclude, the use of Depleted Uranium is simply nuclear warfare and therefore forbidden by all international treaties and laws and plain common human decency.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Isaac Hall, Attorney at Law, for his outstanding legal work in winning a unanimous decision of the Hawaii Supreme Court regarding the enforcement of HRS 343 which requires an EA/EIS when public funds are spent. This is a landmark double victory for the environment and for the people of Hawaii because the Supreme Court also ruled the Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow and the Kahului Harbor Coalition (the plaintiffs) did have "standing" to sue their government. All executive branches (state and county) are now on notice that HRS 343 is alive and well and must be enforced. And all lower court judges will be required to follow this "precedent" ruling in all future cases which come before them.

Also, Maui Group wants to thank Maui Mayor Tavares, Council Chair Hokama and other Council members, Maui Senators English, Tsutsui and Baker and Rep. Mele Carroll for standing up to the Hawaii Superferry PR blitz and voting against the Hawaii Superferry exemption.

UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

by Lucienne de Naie

North Shore Heritage Park: On Dec 13 the new General Plan maps will be posted on the County website at www.co.maui.hi.us/departments/Planning/gp2030/index.htm. 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. These were all recommended in previous community plans and studies. If these lands are not proposed to be protected for recreational, cultural, alternative transportation and open space uses, the public will need to insist that they are. If this is proposed for protection, the public will need to support that decision. Public hearing dates and places will be posted on the Sierra Club website. See January 10 listing in Calendar below for first meeting time and place.

Pali to Puamana Parkway: A State DOT planning effort is underway to choose whether to widen the existing Honoapiilani Highway or define a route for a future bypass road between Ma'alaea and Launiupoko. The future of any expansion of the coastal parklands between the Pali tunnel and Puamana will be affected by this decision-making process. About 35 different alternative solutions are being considered over the next month. Some of the project goals are to improve present and future traffic flows, improve road safety and emergency services, prevent further erosion of the road and provide access to non-vehicle travel. The options will be reviewed by a community Task Force and four alternatives will be recommended for review in an "Alternatives Analyses" report expected by November, 2008. Sierra Club, Maui Group Conservation Committee member Lucienne de Naie is representing the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations as a Task Force member. Please email her at laluz@maui.net about your ideas for this important decision-making process. Quarterly updates will be posted on the Sierra Club website and in future newsletters. The issue of parklands in this area will also be reflected in the upcoming General Plan maps (see above).

East Maui Streams: Wailua nui kalo (taro) growers are receiving more water flows from Kulani branch of Waiakamilo stream, but other kalo growers and community farmers continue to be denied sufficient flows. State biologists are currently doing their own studies of native streamlife in several Huelo streams. Next step: get the State Water Commission to hear and act on the citizen petition to increase flows in 27 East Maui streams to viable levels.

'Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration: A recent USGS report predicted restored stream flows in Na Wai 'Eha would contribute millions of gallons a day of much needed recharge to the 'Iao aquifer. A state water commission hearing on the matter is expected to span December, 2007 and run into January, 2008. Hui o na Wai Eha, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Maui Tomorrow are asking the Commission to grant interim releases of water while the case is being decided. Maui County is also generally supportive of this position. Sierra Club is not a party to this historic action, but has lent support.

Sustainable Energy: Important decisions about Maui's energy future are tied to the proposed MECO palm oil processing facility. Is one unsustainable imported fuel (petroleum oil) being replaced by another unsustainable imported fuel (palm oil) to give the appearance of "greening" our energy production? Are there other alternatives that are cleaner, involve less imports and are more renewable? The Sierra Club will continue to monitor this plan to make sure it doesn't shove aside viable local energy crop production and other local renewable sources. For more information, please go to: www.HawaiiBioFuel.org.

Superferry Update: There are still more questions than answers about the proposed Hawaii Superferry (HSF). Did campaign contributions influence key legislators to change Hawaii's laws to help a single business and override decisions by the Hawaii Supreme Court and Local District Court Judge Cardoza?? Will the HSF actually be able to safely dock at Kahului or Nawiliwili Harbors dur-

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ing typical winter seasonal weather? How effective will vehicle inspections be with 30 seconds allowed per car. Should the ferry sail before the environmental review process attempts to answer many of these questions?

As we go to print, the HSF Oversight Committee mandated by the legislature as they bypassed Hawaii's existing environmental laws, has yet to be appointed. HSF plans to begin its Maui-Honolulu route in December. Who will be monitoring their performance? Sierra Club Hawaii plans to set up a website and hotline for citizens to send in their updates on how well the HSF is keeping their long list of promises. Sierra Club's efforts are to defend Hawaii's environmental laws from being swept aside when they are "inconvenient." Public funds require public review process. Our environmental laws provide a framework to protect so much that we all hold dear. Your past support and your year end donations are appreciated. For updates please go to: www.SaveKahuluiharbor.com

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): Haleakala National Park and the citizen group, Kilakila o Haleakala are waiting for the project's final EIS to be released to see how their concerns have been addressed. Is Maui Electric planning for the huge power load the telescope will demand? The EIS may answer these and other questions. For more info, go to: www.kilakilahaleakala.org.

Pumping Policy for Harbor Tour Boats: This issue will be pursued during the next legislative session. The Governor has authority to end raw sewage dumping in Hawaii's Marine Sanctuary waters. Keep our oceans free of disease. Weigh in at: www.pumpedontdump.com.

Honolua Bay development: Active citizen efforts continue to envision a plan to protect one of Maui's most historic and culturally significant regions. Hawaii Wildlife Fund has offered a planning process for community members meeting regularly with interested citizens of Save Honolua Coalition and other groups. For more updates go to: www.savehonolua.org.

Sand mining on Maui: Global warming sea level changes are already a fact in low-lying islands. Sierra Club and others are pushing to end sand mining for export on Maui to conserve supplies that will be needed to replenish Maui's own beaches. Support this concept in our new General Plan.

South Maui Development: Wailea 670 (approx 1,400 units priced from \$350,000 to \$4,000,000) was sent out of the Council Land Use committee with 28 conditions. No final decision on the project has been made. Citizen concerns about viable affordable housing, protection of cultural sites and native plant habitat, clear land titles, sufficient parks and buffers with existing neighborhoods, traffic tie-ups on Piilani highway, reliable water sources, sewage injection wells impacting reefs were mostly passed on to other agencies to decide out of public scrutiny. Two more levels of public hearing will continue the discussion. Maui Group and others advocate for the project to update its EIS to let policy makers know what is really planned to address the many unanswered concerns. For updates on hearings and actions, go to: www.savemakena.org.

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. 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'koli'i Road at the "Sugar

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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. 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.

DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

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 tabs 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.

JANUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 6: Makena Cultural Tour and heiau cleanup. Tour begins with cleanup at Pa'ako heiau, just South of Makena State Park and includes several stops between heiau and Pu'u Ola'i. Tour concludes with short hike from Pu'u Ola'i to Keawala'i Church (approx 1 mile). Bring lunch for picnic and optional swim at Maluaka Beach. Meet 8:30 am at second paved parking lot, Makena State park. Tour ends around 12:30 pm with lunch. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Limit 25.

Thursday, January 10: Maui General Plan Advisory Committee: Be a voice in Maui's Future! First public meeting on proposed General Plan maps: Topic Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and Ag land use - where to preserve? 5-8 pm, Kaunoa Senior Center. Public can testify. Meetings at Kaunoa (all 5-8pm unless noted) also on 1/24, 2/7, 2/21. 2/23 9am-3pm, 3/6 and 4/3/2008. Community meetings in 1/26 in Hana 9am-3pm ; 3/20 5-8 pm & 3/22 9am-3pm (both in Lahaina). To confirm times and locations, call the Planning Department at 270-7735.

Sunday, January 13: Explore Maui's North Shore. Swim in the Olivine pools, walk the Ohai Loop Trail at Papanalaho Point near Kahakuloa and visit the Nakalele Blowhole. The Ohai Loop Trail features native plants, including the endangered Ohai along with the 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. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 20. Call 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, January 19: Community Work Day "Aloha Aina Cleanup." Makena State Beach, second parking lot, in partnership with savemakena.org. 9am-noon. Pickup trucks welcome. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. 214-0147. Mahalo for volunteering.

Tuesday, January 22: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Flatbread Company upstairs in the Board Room, 89 Hana Highway, Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to confirm meeting time and place.

Friday & Saturday, January 25 & 26: Maui Recycling Group (a 501c3 organization) Compu-Swap at the War Memorial Stadium parking lot on Kanaloa Avenue, Kahului. Friday is for commercial donors only (large drop offs) from 10 am to 2 pm, and Saturday is for the general public to donate from 9 am to 1 pm. Compu-Swap will take your old computers, monitors, TV's, printers, fax machines, cell phones, connecting cables, etc., you no longer want. Please delete personal information off your hard drives if you can before donating, but if you can't or don't know how, they will remove the hard drive and hand it back to you if you wish. Suggested/optional donation of \$10/system is requested from donors to help with administrative costs of recycling but is not mandatory. Compu-Swap personnel will identify newer computers in good condition to be given away for free as follows: (1) General public giveaway on Saturday: Arrive at 9 am and take a number and comeback at noon to pickup your free computer. (2) 501c3 giveaway: If you are a 501c3 organization, call Ron Riccio and describe the computer system you need. Compu-Swap will then attempt to set

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aside such a computer system and refurbish it for you and call you when it is available for pick up. Please don't put computers in the land fill. They have hazardous waste in them. Compu-Swap ships all computers they can't use here on Maui to the mainland to be recycled properly. For more information, please call Ron Riccio at 879-9390. The next Compu-Swap will be in July, 2007. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

FEBRUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 2: Pali Trail Hike. Hike to the top of the Pali. Spectacular views of whales, ocean, mountains and the Kaheawa wind farm. This is the same trail ancient Hawaiians walked to get from Lahaina to Wailuku. It rises from sea level to 1,500 feet above Maalaea and is 6 miles round trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and camera. Meet 8:30 am at Pali trailhead (Lahaina side of tunnel just as the highway comes down to sea level – approx. mile marker 10.8) Limit 18. Hike leader: Mitch Skaggerberg. Assistant Leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Saturday, February 9: Sierra Club Annual Membership Meeting. 11am-3pm, Kaunoa Senior Center, Spreckelsville. Members and community welcome. Awards, updates and panel discussion @ noon - topic: **Choosing our Future: Energy, Water & Livable Communities - with audience participation.** Potluck picnic to follow (main dish and beverages provided). More updates at: <http://www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui>. Sierra Club t-shirts (Great new colors) and other items will be for sale. Please come and talk story! Free!

Saturday, February 16: Maui's Whale Day Celebration. Sierra Club info booth. Come enjoy free, family celebration 10 am to 5 pm at Kalama Park (by the big whale statue) on South Kihei Road, Kihei. Booth set up and staffing volunteers wanted. Join the fun. Call 214-0147 to volunteer.

Saturday, February 16: Maui Coastal Land Trust's 7th Annual "Buy Back the Beach" Benefit Lu'au. Featuring The Makaha Sons - The Heartbeat of Hawai'i's Music, the Old Lahaina Lu'au Dancers and fabulous food! Located on Front Street across from the Lahaina Cannery. Please call 244-5263 for reservations and more information. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Monday, February 25: Historical Tour - Waile'a's Fishing Villages. Driving and coastal walking tour with 3 stops. Tour meets at 9am Polo Beach Parking lot (behind Kea Lani resort in Wailea). Tour ends at Ka'awa cove in Makena Surf condos. Terrain includes cement paths, rocky shoreline path and sandy beach. Please bring versatile footwear, water, hats and an adventuring spirit. Limit: 20. Leader: Lucienne de Naie. Please call Bob Babson to register at 874-1166.

Tuesday, February 26: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Flatbread Company upstairs in the Board Room, 89 Hana Highway, Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to confirm meeting time and place.

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 2: Kanaio Stupa Tibetan Monastery - Hike 1.5 miles up steep grade to this monument/shrine built in 1982. Meet 9 am across from Grandma's Coffee House in Keokea to carpool. Bring lunch and also bring rain gear just in case. Hike leader: Lucienne de Naie. Limit 18. Call Lucienne to register at 572-8331.

Saturday, March 8: Haiku Ho'olaulea and Flower Festival. Free admission! Music, food, contests, auction, farmer's market, historical display & family fun!! Check out the Maui Group PLANT SALE booth in the Farmer's Market! 9 am-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 event. Start your keiki plants now! Please contact Jeanne Androvich at 575-2789 or jeanne.androvich@mindspring.com to donate plants or time.

Saturday, March 15: Haleakala National Park crater hike. Hike in Sliding Sands trail (10,000') and hike out Halemau'u Trail (8,000'). Explore the crater and enjoy the absolutely breathtaking scenery. Strenuous, high elevation 11 mile all day hike. Must be in good condition. Dress warm, rain gear, hiking boots, bring lunch & water (2 liters per person - there is no water in the crater). 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 Bob at 874-1166 to register.

Tuesday, March 25: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Flatbread Company upstairs in the Board Room, 89 Hana Highway, Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to confirm meeting time and place.

Monday, March 31: North Shore Historical Tour - Mama's Fish House to Maliko Gulch (approx. 9am to noon). Learn about the rich history of this scenic coastal area from ancient fishing villages to plantation days. Route includes sand, dirt and rocky areas. Meet 9 am at Pa'ia Community Center. Hike leader: Lucienne de Naie. Call 572-8331 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.co.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: www.co.maui.hi.us, 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 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.

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. 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

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 help us pay for 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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are moving and want to change your address for the Sierra Club, please send old and new addresses and a Sierra address label to Sierra Club Member Services, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80328-2968, or call (415) 977-5653, or email the information to address.changes@sierraclub.org. This one notification will change your address for all newsletters and magazines including the national Sierra Club magazine, the Hawaii Chapter newsletter and the Maui Group newsletter.

SIGN UP FOR MAUI GROUP'S EMAIL ALERT SYSTEM

Please go to www.hi.sierraclub.org/maui and click on "Join Our Email List." Simply put in your email address and we will send you emails alerting you of important news concerning the environment and activities where you can help to protect the environment of Maui for future generations to enjoy. Such activities could include rallies to attend, meetings to attend where you can testify, and vacancies on important environmental boards and commissions where you can volunteer to fill a position and be on the board or commission and represent the best interests of the environment and vote to protect it. This is a great way to be heard and make a difference.



**Sierra Club, Maui Group
P. O. Box 791180
Paia, Hawaii 96779**