



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

**MAUI GROUP**  
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**SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP**  
**OCTOBER TO DECEMBER, 2008 NEWSLETTER**

**MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**MAUI SIERRA CLUB CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS**

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**State**

Senate Dist 5 **Roz Baker**  
Senate Dist. 6 **Kalani English**  
House Dist. 8 **Tasha Kama**  
House Dist. 9 **No endorsement**  
House Dist 10 **No endorsement**  
House Dist 11 **No endorsement**  
House Dist 12 **Summer Starr**  
House Dist 13 **Mele Carroll**

**County Council**

East maui -- **Lucienne DeNaie** (running against Bill Medeiros)  
Kahului -- (Joe Pontanilla and Netra Halperin) **No Endorsement**  
Wailuku -- Mike Victorino running unopposed -- **No Endorsement**  
Makawao -- **Kai Nishiki** (running against Mike Molina)  
S. Maui -- **Wayne Nishiki** (running against Don Couch, Joe Gannon and Norman Vares)  
West Maui -- **Joanne Johnson** (running against Jared Dubois, Alan Fukuyana and Chayne Marten)  
Upcountry -- **Michael Howden** (running against Gladys Baisa)  
Lanai -- **Sol Kaho'ohalahala** (running against Winifred Basques, Alberta DeJetley, Matt Mano and John Ornellas)  
Molokai -- Danny Mateo running unopposed -- **No Endorsement**

**BIG OIL IN THE WHITE HOUSE**

By Lance Holter, August 1, 2008

Everyone's wondering why we're having a crisis at the fuel pump nowadays and I maintain it's a direct result of having oil men in the White House, especially with oil corporation profits exceeding record levels quarter after fiscal quarter. Here's why:

Nine days after the Bush administration took office in 2000 secret high level meetings began between a White House task force headed by vice president Dick Cheney (former CEO of Halliburton Oil Services) and energy company heads. Their names have been a closely guarded secret but over time some names have been revealed. Those who participated on several occasions include the vice president of Exxon Mobile, James Rouse, Enron CEO Kenneth Lay, representatives from British Petroleum, the National Mining Association, Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, The American Petroleum Institute, and representatives of the Nations biggest electric utilities including Duke Energy and Constellation Energy Group. In all 300 groups and individuals met with the task force and on several instances vice president Cheney personally.

39,000 pages of internal documents were produced from Cheney's energy task force meetings and despite a vicious legal battle from the Sierra Club requesting disclosure which went all the way to the Supreme Court the task force has turned over no documents. In February 2002 the Government Accounting Office (GAO) for the first time in 80 years sued a vice president for details of the meetings. In July 2002 the Sierra Club won in a lower court ruling to have the documents released. Cheney appealed to the Supreme Court and in January 2004 Cheney and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia went on a duck hunt sponsored by Diamond Oil Field Services for a week in Louisiana, three weeks after the Court agreed to hear the case. Despite being challenged over their close relationship, Scalia refused to recuse himself and on April 26, 2004 the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Cheney.

The names of the participants in the task force provide evidence of heavy lobbyist pressure and unprecedented political access to makers of White House energy policy for oil and gas companies and the big financial backers of the Bush/Cheney administration. The big question is why had the White House fought so hard to keep the information secret by claiming executive privilege. What took place in these meetings is why the Sierra Club sued. The Cheney Energy Task force issued its report May 16, 2001 when oil sold for \$24 a barrel.

In 2005 The Washington Post obtained documents showing further participation in the energy task force by officials from Conoco Oil, Shell, British Petroleum while the GAO identified Chevron oil as one of the several companies giving detailed energy policy recommendations to the task force now identified as Vice President Cheney and cabinet level white house officials. A subsequent Senate hearing had officials from these companies either denying participation or not being able to remember if they did so participate. The possibility that they lied to Congress would never become more evident but Senator Ted Stevens-AK, Chair of the Commerce Committee decided not to swear in the testifiers under oath. The price of oil at the beginning of 2005 was \$40 a barrel.

Oil prices jumped in 2006 from 65\$ a barrel to \$147 a barrel on July 10, 2008. Speculation appears to be a prime force in escalating prices because nothing has changed in the underlying forces of supply and demand said Uwe Beckmeyer, transportation chief for Germany's Social Democrats. The Economist Magazine noted "the number of transactions involving oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange (the world's biggest market for oil) has tripled since 2004. That neatly mirrors a tripling of the price of oil over the same period" Institutional Index speculators, according to Hedge and Wealth Fund managers testifying before the US Senate committee, stated daily demand for petroleum futures is almost as equal to the total new increase in oil demand from China, 900,000 barrels a day.

During the Senate Hearings on C-SPAN, July 17, 2008 Senator Amy Klobuchar-MN noted that back in year 2000 language was inserted into the Electronic Voting Act which essentially deregulated the oil markets allowing unregulated market manipulation of energy futures resulting in rampant oil speculation. Klobuchar believes the underlying forces for oil pricing substantiate a \$50-55 a barrel price and is co-sponsor of Legislation, The Consumer Energy Act, to crack down on speculation in energy markets by expanding the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and banning energy trades placed in off shore exchanges to avoid US regulation. Witnesses have described the energy commodities exchange as "one giant gambling hall without rules or a giant super highway without cops." The aim of the Consumer Energy Act is to end trading without Federal oversight and subject further trading to federal reporting requirements in order to end what currently is described as an "evidence free zone." The Bill has not made it out of the Senate with a veto proof majority but the discussion has forced oil prices down to \$124 a barrel. (\$109.00 for 9/3/08)

Which, brings us to the present mantra from the White House and Republicans, **Drilling Offshore!** The sad truth is that the cost of drilling for oil off the coasts and in the 50 below zero temperatures of the Arctic, are very expensive, time consuming and problematic in that we will not begin to see a slight change in oil supply until year 2020 according to one recent government study. If, as the White House argues, we have run out of places to drill and must go offshore to explore in order to have an immediate impact on prices now, why not explore and drill in the off shore areas and lands we have already opened, as Representative Speaker Nancy

## **Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, October - December, 2008, Page 3**

Pelosi argues. In fact, the world's fourth largest gas field and the largest ever discovered in the continental United States has recently been found at the Haynesville Shale near Shreveport, Louisiana according to Chesapeake Energy which controls 500,000 acres and leases in the area. The real reason for the off shore drilling mantra is, as some observers claim, that the oil companies are consolidating their holdings, increasing their assets and land banking their resources while thickening the bottom line. They are keeping the world addicted to oil according to Thomas Friedman in his June 22, 2008 NYT Op Ed "Mr. Bush Lead or Leave."

Even more to the point is the White House and the Republican members of Congress are deliberately preventing the renewable energy solution by not passing Bill H.R. 6049 — "The Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008," extending solar installation and investment tax credits up to eight years, so very important and necessary to draw investment venture capital into renewable energy development. These critical tax credits for renewables are set to expire at the end of this fiscal year and, if they do, it will mean thousands of jobs lost and billions of dollars of investments not made. "Already clean energy projects in the U.S. are being put on hold," said Rhone Resch, President of the Solar Energy Industries Association. The Bush Administration has also suspended, for two years, all permitting for Concentrated Solar Thermal Projects located on Federal lands in the United States requiring additional impact studies. Meanwhile Exxon Mobile has continued making record profits with an average of \$10 Billion per fiscal quarter since 2005. John McCain, meanwhile did not participate in Senate votes to extend tax credits for renewables throughout the Congressional session 2008.

According to Fred Krup in his new book: "Earth: The Sequel," in addition to the superior efficiency of solar plants compared to wind and biofuels: "The economic benefits of Solar farming is impressive. A 2006 study...found that solar thermal plants create twice as many jobs as coal and gas plants and produce eight times the retained revenues in the states in which they are located. Each gigawatt of solar thermal-generated electricity, according to the Natural Renewable Energy Lab, will create 3,400 construction jobs, 250 permanent jobs, and \$500 million in tax revenues." Again, Thomas Friedman wrote in the NYT July 20, 2008 "9/11 and 4/11" After 9/11, "Mr. Bush had the chance to summon the country to a great nation-building project focused on breaking our addiction to oil. Instead, he told us to go shopping. After gasoline prices hit \$4.11 last week, he had the chance to summon the country to a great nation-building project focused on clean energy. Instead, he told us to go drilling."

We can not drill ourselves out of the energy problem but if you listened to Vice president Gore and his ten year plan [www.wecansolveit.org](http://www.wecansolveit.org) for energy self sufficiency you can begin to understand there is a way out and it's not by letting oil men run the White House.

Update: 8/04/08: I just returned from Alaska WHERE Sarah Palin has become the Republican Vice Presidential Candidate. Before running for Governor, Palin was a former Chairperson for the Alaska Oil and Gas Commission paying \$122,000 a year, her husband Todd, has a very well paid job setting his own hours, on the North Slope working on oil facilities.

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

by Lucienne de Naie

**North Shore Heritage Park:** The County has settled legal challenges over the 5 acre Lime kiln site (also called "Montana beach"). The community owes a debt of thanks to Isaac & Dana Hall and Christine "Uma" Hemmings for standing up for this public land. Citizens need to keep pushing for the park and the addition of a greenway corridor (mauka of Hana Hwy) connecting Baldwin and Ho'okipa. For more information, go to [www.maui-county.gov](http://www.maui-county.gov) and click on planning department, then click on Long Range Planning and then click on General Plan 2030. Keep up your support for the Park through the Maui Island Plan (MIP) review process. **Support candidates who support the park!** To receive alerts sign up at Sierra Club Maui webpage. Please see: [www.northshorepark.org](http://www.northshorepark.org).

**Pali to Puamana Parkway:** The concept of an 8 mile parkway makai of any realigned Honoapiilani Hwy route is supported in the 2030 MIP. Several private developments are being proposed along the route that would place a number of houses and a partial park between the proposed bypass and the existing coastal road. If you have input about the highway "realignment," or Parkway, contact public interest rep on the advisory committee, Lucienne de Naie at [laluz@maui.net](mailto:laluz@maui.net).

**East Maui Streams:** The State Water Commission is expected to act within the next few months on a 7 year old citizen petition to amend (increase) stream flows in 27 East Maui streams. Sierra Club submitted comments supporting restored stream flows. Wailuanui taro growers, desperate for water to keep their crops alive, have opened one stream diversion after being promised increased flows in a legal mediation.

**'Iao & Waihe'e Stream Restoration:** Sierra Club recently submitted comments on a water treatment plant using stream waters from Na Wai Eha that is being proposed as a partnership between A&B and Maui County. Na Wai Eha streams were designated for management by the state earlier this year, and such designation requires all users must apply for permits. Club comments supported waiting for a decision by the commission on the amount of water that should be returned to the streams, before plans were made to permit diversions to a plant where only 50% of the water could be available to the public, but the public would be responsible for all

operational and maintenance costs.

**Sustainable Energy:** Check our Sierra Club's Sea Change Hawaii campaign to boost energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. [www.seachangehawaii.org](http://www.seachangehawaii.org). Sierra Club activists continue to monitor all plans to help shape a viable local renewable energy future for Maui. For more information: [www.HawaiiBioFuel.org](http://www.HawaiiBioFuel.org).

**Plastic Bag Ban:** A ban on plastic bag use in Maui County will go into effect in 2011. Thanks to Council Member Molina and his staff and all who worked hard to pass the bill.

**Superferry Update:** The superferry Draft EIS is being revised to accommodate the numerous public comments received. Meanwhile, Superferry customers are helping themselves to Maui's sealife--here's one month's haul: 400 lbs of reef fish, 49 lbs of Opihi (and another 75 lbs the following month) and over 250 lbs of limu. For the complete report go to: [www.SaveKahuluiharbor.com](http://www.SaveKahuluiharbor.com)

**Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST):** Members of Kilakila o Haleakala, a citizen's group urging an alternative site for the 14 story energy hog telescope, and a number of other kanaka maoli met with federal scientists in late August to express their concerns over the project which included use of ceded lands, huge size and energy uses of the project and lack of appropriate respect for an internationally recognized sacred site. A recent panel discussion on the topic co-sponsored by Maui Group is being aired on Akaku. For more info, go to: [www.kilakilahaleakala.org](http://www.kilakilahaleakala.org).

**Honolua Bay development:** Maui Land and Pine has proposed granting a conservation easement on the lands of Lipoa Point, Honolua Bay and valley in exchange for the right to add a 60 room hotel and TVR use to around 600 luxury units in the adjoining Kapalua mauka development. Kapalua Mauka was specifically granted approval with no TVR's permitted to ease traffic concerns on the two lane Honoapiilani Hwy. Comments are being taken at a series of public meetings island wide. For more updates, go to: [www.savehonolua.org](http://www.savehonolua.org).

**South Maui Development:** The 1400 unit Wailea 670 development has reportedly lost one of its off island backers, troubled Lehman Bros investment bank. The development has been tied up in court by 5 citizens who contend that the Sunshine Law was not followed in its approval process. On July 16th Judge Cardoza declined to lift a temporary injunction which halts further review of the project by the county. Wailea 670 reps have stated that a new EIS is being prepared for the project, which is now acknowledged to have an endangered species of native moth and a number of rare plants. USFW is consulting with the owners and a possible habitat preserve area of 100 acres is being discussed. Maui Group and others have advocated for the southern 200 acres of the proposed project to be a native dryland forest and cultural reserve rather than another water hungry golf course. For updates on hearings and actions, go to: [www.savemakena.org](http://www.savemakena.org).

**Food Security:** Sustainable life styles, home and community gardens, energy updates, a local economy and lots more are being discussed on a lively new action-oriented blog hosted by Sierra Club board member Rob Parsons. Check it out: [www.mauifoodsecurity.com](http://www.mauifoodsecurity.com).

**Maui Island 2030 Plan:** More public discussions of hot button issues and some public design Charettes will be coming up in September and October. Club ally, Maui Tomorrow has created several "Preferred Future" maps to offer a "Plan B" for Maui's future growth. Check out: [www.maui-tomorrow.org](http://www.maui-tomorrow.org)

### **MAUI GROUP HIKES AND ACTIVITIES**

Please be prepared for outings. Bring lunch, water, rain gear, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. Hiking boots are recommended and please 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. Call the hike leader number shown below. Also, please check our web site, [www.mauiSierraclub.org](http://www.mauiSierraclub.org), and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and outings and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

### **SEPTEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday, September 13, 8:30 am to noon:** Community Work Day: Get the drift and bag it! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524 for the cleanup nearest you. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

**Tuesday, September 16, 5:30 to 7:30 pm:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at the Flatbread Company "Board Room" upstairs, 89 Hana Highway, Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please call Bob to confirm meeting time and place.

**Saturday, September 20: Primary Election - Please vote!**

**Sunday, September 28:** From La Perouse Bay, hike south along the coast 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 recent lava flow onto the ancient shoreline where we explore further south. Bring bathing suit, 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. 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.

### **OCTOBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday, October 11:** 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 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 18. Call 874-1166 to register.

**Saturday, October 18, 8:30 am to noon:** Community Work Day: Make a Difference Day Cleanup! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524 for the cleanup nearest you. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

**Tuesday, October 21, 5:30 to 7:30 pm:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at the Flatbread Company "Board Room" upstairs, 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.

**Sunday, October 26:** Haleakala National Park, hike in Sliding Sands trail and hike out Halemahu Trail. 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. 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.

### **NOVEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, November 8:** 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. See where the lighthouse once stood and then walk down to sea level and swim in the "Birthing 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.

**Saturday, November 15, 8:30 am to noon:** Community Work Day: Holiday Gift to Maui Nui Cleanup! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524 for the cleanup nearest you. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

**Tuesday, November 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm:** Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting at the Flatbread Company "Board Room" upstairs, 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.

**Sunday, November 23:** 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 as we ascend 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, rain gear 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.

### **DECEMBER HIKES AND EVENTS**

**Saturday, December 6:** 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 swim, snorkel and eat lunch on the black sand beach. After lunch, visit Hana Cultural Center Museum and see reproductions of pre-contact hale's and the old Hana courthouse. Bring lunch, sunscreen, bathing suit and camera. Meet at 8:30 am at the Haiku Community Center. Limit 18. Hike leader: Bob Babson. Please call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

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**Sunday, December 21:** From La Perouse Bay, hike south on the Kings Highway to 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 have lunch and swim on a beautiful sandy beach. Bring swimsuit, 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. Leader: Bob Babson. Limit 18. Call Bob at 874-1166 to register.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

If you would like to join the national Sierra Club or renew your membership, please go to [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) and click on "Join or Give." When you join the national Sierra Club, you automatically also 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 1,300,000 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 20, 40 and 60+ 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](http://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. For more information, please go to [www.tscf.org](http://www.tscf.org).

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.mauisierraclub.org](http://www.mauisierraclub.org).

### **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 Club address label (if you have it) 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](mailto: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.mauisierraclub.org](http://www.mauisierraclub.org) 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 sign up 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.

**2008 SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICIAL BALLOT**

**This is your OFFICIAL BALLOT for the Sierra Club, Maui Group 2008**

**Board of Directors election. Those elected will take office on January 1, 2009 and serve for two years.**

**Please vote for NO MORE THAN FIVE CANDIDATES (joint memberships can vote twice)**

**by placing an "X" on the line next to the candidates' names.**

**BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY NOVEMBER 15, 2007.**

<b>BOB BABSON</b>	_____	<b>STACIA BOBIKEVICH</b>	_____
<b>MARK DREHSEN</b>	_____	<b>LANCE HOLTER</b>	_____
<b>RICH LUCAS</b>	_____	<b>ROB PARSONS</b>	_____
<b>CHRIS TAYLOR</b>	_____		

*Please vote and re-fold this ballot so that the section with your address label is folded INSIDE and the Sierra Club address is on the OUTSIDE. Attach stamp and mail it back to the Maui Sierra Club address pre-printed on the back of this ballot. Your ballot must have your membership label (or part of it) on it to be valid. If your ballot is damaged and can't be mailed, then vote on it and put it in an envelope and mail it back. Write "ballot" on the outside of the envelope. To maintain secrecy, the elections committee will then remove the part of the ballot showing your label after verifying membership. Thereafter, the ballots will be counted.*

Board of Directors members whose terms expire Dec 31, 2008 are: Bob Babson, Stacia Bobikevich, Rich Lucas, Lance Holter and Rob Parsons for a total of five. Board of Directors members whose terms expire Dec 31, 2009 are: Karen Chun, Daniel Grantham, Jeanne Androvich and Kathy McDuff.

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES**

**BOB BABSON** is currently serving as the Maui Group Treasurer and Outings Chair. Bob is an active hike leader and volunteer. He says, "I became very interested in the environment in the Boy Scouts in Los Angeles where I grew up. The scout master always told us to leave it cleaner than we found it, and I have tried to do that all my life. I graduated college with a degree in accounting and international business management. I have worked as an auditor, realtor and B&B host. I love to snorkel and I am especially interested in preserving the coral reefs here in Hawaii. I hope someday soon the State Legislature will pass a Marine Protection Bill that protects the coral reefs." Bob was an Election Observer in 2006 and has been working to improve election integrity here in Hawaii.

**STACIA BOBIKEVICH** has lived in Hawaii for 17 years and has a BS degree in environmental science. Her environmental focus is sustainable community development and preserving community character. Stacia has served for two years as the Maui Group Secretary. In the past she has been the Sierra Club conservation co-chair, tracked cruise ship regulation and represented the Club at Mayors Cruise Ship Advisory Committee. She presently works for the County of Maui in the Department of Environmental Management as a recycling specialist and manages an array of recycling programs and contracts on Maui and Molokai and has recently assisted with the passage of the new Plastic Bag Ban Law! Her hobbies are reading novels, paddling outrigger canoe for Lae Ula 'O Kai and hiking with her daughter.

**MARC DREHSEN** is a former member of the Maui Sierra Club board and is the newly (re)elected Chair of the Air Quality Committee. He has a degree in meteorology with 15 years experience in air quality research and enforcement in LA. He moved to Kihei in 1989 when Kihei had only one traffic light. He co-founded the Maui Clean Air Coalition to stop sugar cane burning on Maui. Recently he has started focusing on global warming solutions.

**LANCE HOLTER.** While in Alaska recently I came upon this quote from their former Governor Jay Hammond: "To err on the side of Conservation one can always repair the damage, but to err to the side of development and that damage becomes irreversible." I want the Sierra Club to maintain their status in Hawaii as the most influential defender of conservation, preservation and restoration. No conservation group has as much traction in the State or County Legislatures as the Sierra Club. Being able to muster 6,500 members and their families statewide on any issue is a lot of political clout. So it was this year during the candidate endorsement process. I was very impressed with the seriousness that candidates actively sought the Sierra Club endorsement and subsequently they were not given without thoughtful chapter consideration. I am the current Maui Group Chairperson.

**RICH LUCAS** has served as the Maui Group Political Chair for 4 years. He is a retired attorney from Ha'iku who is committed to protecting Maui's open spaces, endangered species and coral reefs. He says: "We have known the answer since the time of Thoreau -- 'simplify, simplify.' As we embrace a more rational and community-centered society, we will inevitably reject the manic consumerism that has been used to distract us from the real principles that bind us together as a people. The environment demonstrates for us how living in balance can insure the survival and well-being of all." Richard works as the planning director for Friends of Old Maui High School, a non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation on Maui. He also works with Ha'iku Living Legacy Project, an organization that works to preserve the history and culture of the Ha'iku district. He and his wife Kathy are in the process of saving from demolition a 1930's medical clinic in Paia, which they will be moving to their land in Ha'iku as a residence for their family. His passion is to see a Maui that is free from the need to import fuel and food to sustain its population.

**ROB PARSONS.** I have been fortunate to call Maui my home since 1977, and have seen considerable changes, many of which have motivated me to work to improve our community planning process, and the overall impacts on our quality of life and precious environment. I served as Maui's first Environmental Coordinator from 2003-2007, addressing a wide idea of projects and initiatives. I feel extremely fortunate to have served our County as liaison to numerous environmental organizations and agencies, and to have strengthened partnerships in the conservation community. Previously, and for the past year-and-a-half, I've been the Sierra Club-Maui Group's Conservation Chair. My current focus is on topics of renewable energy, sustainability, food security, and other local quality of life issues. I have authored the weekly Rob Report environmental column since January, 2007 in Maui Time Weekly, our last independent newspaper. I've been married to my sweetheart, Heather, for eight years.

**CHRIS TAYLOR,** a recent graduate of Maui Community College's Sustainable Tech Program and avid promoter of green technologies, grew up on Maui and calls this inspiring place home. He got his start in the computer industry and currently owns a computer consulting and repair company. After realizing the importance energy and the environment play in each and every person's life, Chris dove head first into the sustainability movement. Working with community leaders, educational institutes and engaged individuals, he helped organize on-campus events and founded the MCC Sustainability Club. During his education at MCC he served as president of the Peace Club and as a Senator on Student Government. Since graduating Chris has been bringing concerned community members, politicians and businesses together to discuss topics ranging from gardening to starting a green business through an informal gathering called Green Drinks. Having known many people involved with Sierra Club projects, I see how beneficial the club is to Maui and the Nation. I am confident that the club makes a huge difference and want to be a part of progressive programs to keep Maui as beautiful and healthy as I remember from my childhood. Working with the Sierra Club I know that I could bring another voice and set of hands to create and strive along with those already doing so much.

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

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**PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE**

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