



SIERRA CLUB, MAUI GROUP

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JANUARY TO MARCH, 2011 NEWSLETTER

MAUI GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Give us a call and let us know your thoughts.

Sierra Club members are invited to attend our monthly meetings.

Meetings are usually held on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to learn where and when the next meeting is and to add an agenda item you want to discuss.

For more information about the Sierra Club, please visit our websites:

Sierra Club, Maui Group: www.mauisierraclub.org Please sign up for "action alerts."

Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter: www.hi.sierraclub.org Please sign up for "action alerts."

National Sierra Club: www.sierraclub.org Please sign up for "action alerts."

CHAIR'S REPORT

By Lance Holter

With the news of giant open ocean aquaculture (OOA) sea cage farms being approved for sites offshore of Kona-Hawaii Island including their 35 year leases, pro and con commentaries have been appearing in the Honolulu Star –Advertiser including the most recent commentary by Dr. Neil Frazer, Professor with University of Hawaii Manoa:

www.staradvertiser.com/editorials/guesteditorials/20101128_Open_ocean_aquaculture_can_be_destrutive.html.

Though open to debate as the recent 11/21/2010 Star-Advertiser industry commentary by Bill Spencer said "Open ocean fish farming was good for the environment" or as Christina Lizzi said in her Food and Water watch commentary, stated likewise earlier in the SA 11/16/2010, "Factory fish farming has a track record of costly messy failure" their remains serious questions and concerns about the entire process. Is OOA sea cage farming sustainable, will escapement damage the genetic diversity and vigor of Hawaii's wild fish populations, will the antibiotics and drugs used in the giant factory fish farms be enough to prevent disease transfer into wild populations, is factory fish farming necessary for the public good or does it only benefit a mainland corporation who exports 90% of their catch to Japan or the mainland dangling the promise of a few jobs at the expense of an entire people that sees fish and fishing as the embodiment of culture pure and simple?

Concerned salmon fisherman from Alaska to British Columbia see factory farms as a dangerous threat to their livelihoods and the future of their industry, an industry that in Alaska's Bristol Bay alone is worth \$350 Million annually to Alaskans and Native subsistence fisherman. Factory farming there is either banned entirely or in a state of moratorium. The risk is just too high to experiment at the expense of their culture.

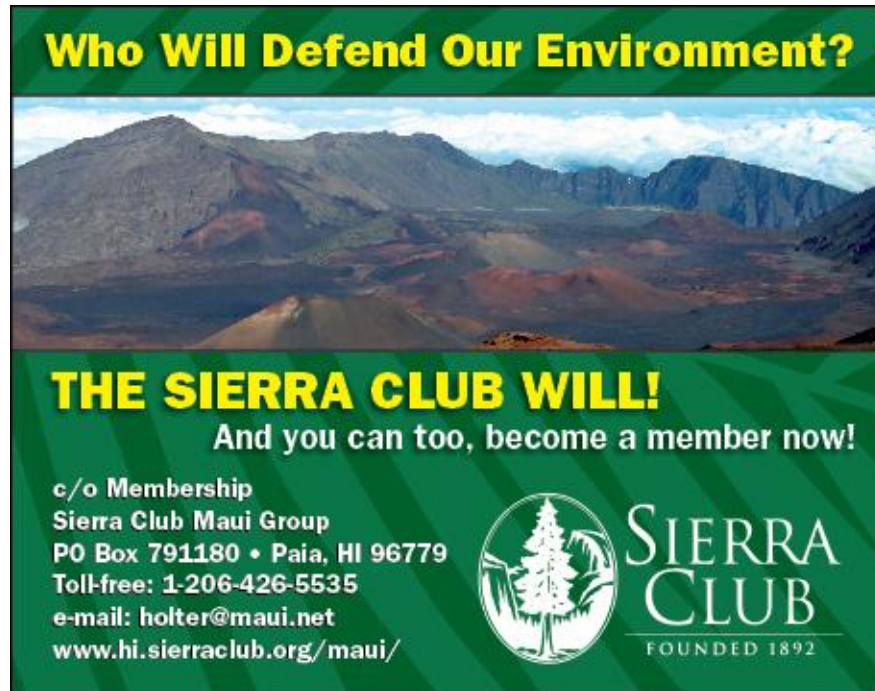
I recently attended the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council meeting regarding community Fish Aggregation Devices (FADS) held in Paia-Maui 11/6/2010. FADS are buoys anchored and deployed offshore in waters as deep as 1500 feet. The line connecting the anchor at the sea bed to the buoy at the surface creating a miniature ecosystem habitat for algae, plankton, larvae, small fish, larger fish and ultimately catchable sized Mahi, Ahi, Aku, Skip Jack and Big Eye Tuna, Ono and others. Most importantly it supports sustainability for local fisherman and their communities and provides fish to the local economy for Hawaii families and restaurants.

The cost of constructing and deploying FADS is between \$5,000 and \$8,000. Communities such as Hana, with 21 boats, have contributed and pooled their labor and monies together and successfully deployed buoys off shore of Kipahulu. Kahului fishing clubs, with 221 fisherman, are in the process of constructing and deploying two buoys from eight to 46 miles from Kahului harbor. There are approximately 50 FADS statewide and they have become wildly successful, popular and appreciated.

Warren Cortez, with the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, brought some catch numbers to the meeting at Paia. Using volunteer fishing logs, one buoy showed 100 trips and 1,165 hours of fishing brought in a total of 2854 fish. FADS had brought in catches at two locations of 77,000 and 150,000 pounds of fish. One buoy deployed over a three year period from 2007 to 2009 showed catches of 17,000 lbs. in 2007, 73,000lbs. in 2008 and 42,000 lbs in 2009- when that buoy had broken loose and had to be re-deployed.

It is plain to this observer that a far more beneficial and community sustainable solution to factory fish farming would be a state and community sponsored FAD program of constructing and deploying FADS at publically accessible locations along ocean ledges where upwelling currents create the ideal symbiotic system which promote fish habitats and fish aggregation. By successfully entering into this financially co-operative enterprise, the State of Hawaii can become more sustainable and at the same


time create the local jobs and support our local economy benefiting all of our people, our local communities and at the same time sustaining our culture and heritage.



Who Will Defend Our Environment?

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

c/o Membership
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UPDATES ON MAUI CONSERVATION ISSUES

Ma'alaea Harbor Expansion: Still waiting for Ma'alaea harbor consultation meetings with Army Corps of Engineers. State plans to repair bathrooms and other harbor facilities, that completed environmental review five years ago, may be beginning in 2011.

North Shore Heritage Park & Hookipa Expansion: Routes for the proposed Paia Reliever Road are still being discussed as part of the environmental review process. The council is expected to review the area in Maui Island Plan maps in 2011.

East Maui Streams: Several East Maui community groups are asking Water Commission staff to complete actual restoration of water levels that were specified in the September 2008 stream flow agreement. Community groups continue efforts to create a watershed management plan to provide more water security for their area.

Na Wai Eha Stream Restoration: Stream water users in Na Wai Eha will have their permit requests reviewed by the Water Commission this month at a meeting in Pa'ia. All users, from large ag operations to small farmers will need to demonstrate that they have a use for the amounts that are being requested. Many kuleana water users (native Hawaiian families with water rights reaching back to the Mahele or before) have chosen not to apply for permits, feeling that the law already protects their rights.

Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP): Review of the draft WUDP for Central Maui will continue in the Council's Water Resources Committee. The Water Resource committee meets at 9:00

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 4

am on the Tuesday prior to the first and the third Friday of each month. Check county website to confirm. WUDP is posted at www.co.maui.hi.us/index.aspx?NID=213.

Hamakuapoko Wells: The two low elevation wells inland of Hookipa beach have been suggested for cane irrigation. Currently, they are not allowed to be used for domestic or ag water due to elevated levels of agricultural chemicals DBCP, EDP and TCP which require filtration systems to remove. It does not appear that the wells have been re-tested since 2005.

Sustainable Ag: To address the needs of an aging farmer population, Section 7410 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub .L. No. 110-234) amended Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and made available in Fiscal Year 2009, \$17.2 million to fund a Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP). A beginning farm is one that is operated by one or more operators who have 10 years or less of experience operating a farm or ranch. In 2007, approximately 21 percent of family farms met that definition. For further information see: www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp.html.

Renewable Energy: Hawai`i's largest electricity company, HECO, has been given permission to burn 2.56 million gallons of palm oil in two large power stations for a 'test phase' - and they want to burn far more after that. HECO's so-called 'clean energy' will likely result in more deforestation and land-grabbing in Southeast Asia and West Africa, and more climate change. Please go to: www.rainforest-rescue.org for more info. Consider signing the action alert to policy makers in Hawai`i, requesting that they withdraw permission for HECO to burn palm oil or other agrofuels.

Big Island Fish Farm Proposal: In September of this year Hawaiian Oceanic Technology, Inc. asked the Army Corps of Engineers to halt review of their project proposal to deploy twelve 165' X 165' Oceansphere cages to raise Ahi off the North Kohala coast of the Big Island. Ponoaqua alliance and 300 commenters asking the Corps to hold public hearings before making any decision, are hailing the permit withdrawal as a victory. Now, HOTI staff are making public presentations about the virtues of farmed Ahi. Members of the Pono Aquaculture Alliance can keep you up to date on the project which proposed to export 90% of the 12 million lbs of tuna it hopes to farm in Hawaiian waters. For more information, go to: www.ponoaqua.org.

Regulation of Aquarium Fish: Maui County Council passed the "Aquatic Life Animal Control Bill" on August 24, setting stringent permit requirements on aquarium collecting, for the first time in Hawaii. A companion bill is being considered in the last weeks of this year's council session.

Wastewater Injection Wells: Maui Group continues to work with the DIRE (Don't Inject, REdirect) coalition to find solutions to funding for county upgrades for sewage treatment and delivery systems for treated water. Consultations with state and federal authorities are ongoing.

Waiale Development in Central Maui: Maui Group submitted extensive comments on the proposed 2,500 unit housing development proposed for the remnant sand dunes between Maui Lani and the community of Waikapu. Nearly 100 burials have already been disturbed at the site, and the minimal preservation areas offered are likely to put other unknown burials at risk. The project is seeking a State Land Use commission boundary reclassification from Ag to Urban.

Haleakala Solar Telescope (ATST): Kilakila Haleakala and other citizen groups, represented by Native Hawaiian Legal Corp, have requested a contested case on the permit at the Land Board hearing for the 14 story high Telescope, alleging that the permit did not follow laws governing protection of conservation lands. Please donate to legal expenses at: www.kilakilahaleakala.org.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: The Sanctuary management plan update team is collating numerous comments to begin the update process. MG is advocating for increased regulation of discharges as recently implemented at Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Check out the Maui plan: www.hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/management_plan_review.html.>

Honolua Bay Development: Cleanups, plantings, reef monitoring and educational events are ongoing at this popular Bay. For updates, go to: www.savehonolua.org or contact Les Potts: lespotts@msn.com.

Wailea 670: MG continues to advocate for a 130 acre preserve in the southern portion of Wailea 670 to protect numerous cultural sites, extensive Wiliwili groves that have survived wasp attacks, the endangered Blackburn Sphinx Moth and 24 species of native plants. The preserve is supported by US Fish and Wildlife Service scientists. The landowners have proposed a 22 acre preserve and scattered "enhancement" areas.

Makena Resort Rezoning: A hui of former investors and local developers purchased the 1,800 acre Makena Resort holding for around \$55 million a few months ago. It is expected that they will make their plans for the resort more public in the year ahead. MG will continue to monitor plans for this environmentally and culturally important area.

Makena State Park (Big Beach) Master Plan: Oneloa Coalition, a stakeholders group formed as a result of Makena Resort rezoning conditions, has had its first meeting with representatives of the resort's new owners. All agreed to work towards completion of studies needed for the park master plan.

HECO CONTINUES TO PUSH PALM OIL IMPORTATION ISSUE

By Rob Parsons and Lance Holter

In early 2007, Hawaiian Electric Co. and subsidiary Maui Electric Co. announced plans by BlueEarth Biofuels to construct a mega-sized palm oil refinery on Maui, which would have been the largest in the world. Since that time, several respected Hawaii environmental and cultural groups have raised a red flag against the idea of importing Malaysian palm oil to Hawaii.

Sierra Club-Maui, Maui Tomorrow Foundation and several Oahu organizations stated that merely replacing one imported fuel with another does nothing for our energy security, local economy or sustainability. In fact, the cultivation of palm oil results in wide-ranging impacts of devastation to rain forest habitats through slash-and-burn clearing, which releases more carbon into the atmosphere than any reductions in HECO's or MECO's smokestack emissions.

Undaunted by criticism that palm oil imported from Southeast Asia can never be sustainable, HECO

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 6

forged an alliance with the Natural Resources Defense Council and concocted sustainability standards for imported biofuels. The idea was soundly criticized during a round of community meetings held on three islands and at Public Utility Commission hearings.

Despite turning down a biodiesel importation docket in 2008-09, the PUC last June approved HECO's request to import 2.5 million gallons of palm oil from Southeast Asia for testing on Oahu and at MECO's Maalaea power plant.

Tests are not needed. MECO already knows that biodiesel is cleaner burning, since it has contracted with Pacific Biodiesel for years to provide locally recycled vegetable oil biodiesel for generator startups to meet Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health emissions standards.

HECO claims that palm oil represents a bridge to the future, hoping that agricultural entrepreneurs might begin producing oil crops locally for conversion to biodiesel. But, that same reasoning was used in 2006 when Hawaii mandated 10 percent ethanol in our gasoline. To date, no one has produced ethanol commercially in Hawaii. We import all our ethanol from the Mainland - where it is federally subsidized - and from Brazil.

The bridge to the future referred to by HECO's spokesman would be a grim future indeed for diminishing rain forests, endangered orangutans and hundreds of other mammals, plants, insects, as cited in a November 2008 National Geographic cover story.

It may take years for any oil crops planted in Hawaii today to mature and produce. Furthermore, the 2006 "Biodiesel Crop Implementation In Hawaii" report indicates that even if all the available agricultural acreage in Hawaii were planted to fuel crops, it wouldn't come close to fulfilling our energy needs. It makes far more sense to utilize any locally produced biodiesel for transportation fuel and to move away from burning imported fuels for electricity. Wind, solar and wave energy are viable alternatives.

Yet, we now have learned that HECO has formed a nonprofit advocacy group, Hawaii Biofuel Foundation, which will conduct statewide meetings in December to present the Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels Standard for Hawaii. It has the appearance of another exercise to allow HECO and MECO to continue foot-dragging and obstruction of efforts to integrate more local renewables and to promote proved energy conservation and efficiency efforts.

Hawaii environmental groups are partnering with the international organization Rainforest-Rescue.org to spread the news of HECO's ill-conceived palm oil importation plan across the globe. More than 17,000 people have added their names to protest the action. Their concerns will be conveyed to HECO, MECO, Hawaii's elected leaders, the PUC and NRDC.

Will you add your voice to speak for a better Hawaii energy future to reduce our foreign dependency, to keep our energy dollars here at home and to provide well-paying energy jobs in Hawaii?

- Rob Parsons is the conservation chairman for Sierra Club-Maui, vice president of Maui Tomorrow Foundation and has served on the Greenhouse Gas and Carbon Emissions Working Group of the Maui County Energy Alliance.

- Lance Holter is chairman of Sierra Club-Maui and a Maui Tomorrow board member.

OPEN OCEAN AQUACULTURE REQUIRES MORE OVERSIGHT & BETTER REVIEW

By Rob Parsons, Conservation Chair

The recent lease approval for an enormous “fish farm” off the Big Island’s North Kohala coast underscores the need for greater scrutiny from our decision makers and resource managers. On October 28, the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved a 35-year lease of 247-acres of ocean for private commercial use, to raise Ahi in 12 gigantic “Oceansphere” cages, each tethered to a huge feed buoy standing 25-feet above the ocean surface.

Hawaii passed legislation over a decade ago enabling a process to lease its state waters for aquaculture research, which quickly morphed into commercial operations. But, two existing operations have struggled to make ends meet, and to avoid harmful impacts. Hukilau Foods (formerly Cates International before acquisition by Steve Case and Grove Farms), raising Moi one mile off Ewa Beach, recently filed for bankruptcy and reorganization. Kona Blue Water Farms, raising Amberjack (trademarked as “Kona Kampachi”) a half-mile off the Keahole-Kona airport coastline, is moving operations to Mexico, for cheaper costs overall, including transportation to Mainland markets. Last January, they also transferred their lease for the Kona site to Mainland corporate interests from California and Washington. No Kona Kampachi have been sold in the past year.

Yet the state DLNR, BLNR, and other agencies continue to approve permits for a proposal many times larger, and with a long list of questions marks, untested theories, and unproven technology. Hawaii Oceanic Technology, Inc. is led by CEO Bill Spencer, who also founded the Hawaii Venture Capital Association. Since 2006, Spencer and investors have marched forward with their \$100 million/year pipedream, a plan that at full build out would require 24,000,000 pounds of imported feed yearly, to produce as much as 12,000,000 pounds of Ahi (Yellowfin or Bigeye Tuna), with more than 90% to be shipped to Japan or the Mainland.

The Sierra Club has joined other environmental and cultural groups in asking for greater oversight, permit review, and monitoring. Last April, a coalition of groups—the Pono Aquaculture Alliance—stated their concerns at a press conference on the steps of the state capitol. More than three dozen groups (KAHEA, Maui Tomorrow, Life of the Land, Food and Water Watch, `Apono Hawaii, Kanaka Council) have signed on to their guiding, precautionary principals. Much more information may be found on the PAA website <http://ponoaqua.org>

Stay tuned as legislation requiring more stringent regulation of Open Ocean Aquaculture will likely be introduced to the 2011 legislative session.

CONTINUOUS SPECIAL SERVICE EVENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Maui Coastal Land Trust Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Restoration: Every Friday, 8:00 am to noon. 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. Go to Waihe'e and turn toward the ocean on Halewaiu Road (which also goes to the golf course). Turn left onto the dirt road marked "Maui Coastal Land Trust" and take a left through the inner gate at the beach parking lot and

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 8

go to the green caretaker's house. 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. The MCLT is a 501c3 charitable organization. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Project Malama Honokowai: Every Saturday, 9:00 am to not later than 5:00 pm. This is a service trip and you will be helping in an archaeological stabilization, reforestation and education project known as Project Malama (to take care of) Honokowai. A very special experience! Simply meet at 9:00 am at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway (between mile marker 25 and 26) and Pu'ukoli'i Road at the "Sugar Cane Train" station parking lot in Ka'anapali. In the mountain valley above is a three mile long valley with significant archaeological ruins where an estimated 600 ancient Hawaiian families once lived. Please call 249-8811 in advance to sign up! For more information please go to www.mauiculturalands.org. 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 statewide five times a year. They are truly a wonderful organization!! For more information please go to www.facebook.com/communityworkday or www.cwdhawaii.org. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Additional Volunteer Activities: Please go to the Pacific Whale Foundation's "Volunteering on Vacation" at www.volunteersonvacation.org. Or, you can call them at 808-249-8811 or at 800-WHALE-1-1. This is not a Sierra Club activity.



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. Call the hike leader number shown below. Also, please check our web site, www.mausierraclub.org, and click on Hikes and Activities for additional hikes and activities and/or changes which we have added after this newsletter was published. Mahalo!

We need more hike leaders. It is lots of fun. You pick the hikes. To be a hike leader, you need to read a 100 page book published by the Sierra Club on hiking, be certified in CPR and First Aid, and be a Sierra Club member. CPR and First Aid classes are 2 hours each and are offered by Kaiser (phone 243-6484) each month for \$20 each and we will reimburse you for the \$40 when you lead your first hike. Please call Lucienne de Naie at 214-0147 for more information.

In the hike descriptions below: (C) means conservation such as discussing how to conserve this land for future generations to enjoy. (E) means educational such as visiting and learning about archeological sites and naming the plants and flowers. (D) is the round trip hike distance.



DECEMBER HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, December 12: Hike beautiful Kapalua Resort Trails. Maui Land and Pine has opened up these beautiful trails through pristine forests for the public to enjoy for free. We start at the Kapalua Resort Center (aka golf club house on Office road immediately above the Ritz Carlton at the intersection with Village Road). We must sign waivers there. Then, ML&P provides free buses to the top where the trail begins at approximately 1,500 feet. We will catch the 9:30 am bus. We then hike through the Maunalei Arboretum and up the Honolua Ridge Trail 2 miles to a spectacular mountain top view point of the West Maui Mountains. Many trees, flowers and plants are named along the trail and labeled endemic or indigenous if applicable. Very educational hike. From there we hike down the Mahana Ridge Trail 6 miles back to the Kapalua Resort Center where we parked our cars. All day hike. Meet at 8:00 am at Buzz's Wharf to carpool to Kapalua. If you live in the Lahaina area, meet at 9:00 am at the Kapalua Resort Center on Office Road. Please call hike leader Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. Limit 18. (C) (E) D = 9 miles: 2 miles of moderate upslope and 6 miles of moderate down slope.

Sunday, December 26: 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.

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 11

Bring swimsuit, lunch, water, hat and sunscreen. All day hike. Meet at Kihei Community Center (Lipoa Street & Piilani Highway) at 8:30 am to carpool. Limit 18. Please call Bob Babson at 874-1166 to register. (C) (E) D = 6 miles mostly level.

JANUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, January 15, 8:30 am to noon: Community Work Day: Aloha Aina Cleanup! To volunteer, please call CWD at 877-2524 for the cleanup nearest you. For more information and future cleanups, please go to: www.facebook.com/communityworkday or www.cwdhawaii.org. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Monday, January 17: Ma'alaea petroglyphs hike. Explore one of Maui's largest collections of petroglyphs (native Hawaiian picture symbols chiseled into rock) and learn about the history of the Ma'alaea area. Meet 9am at Ma'alaea harbor parking lot in front of Buzz's Wharf. Sturdy shoes and long pants recommended. Limit 18. (E) (C) D= 2 to 3 miles RT, some steep uphill. Register w/ Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147.

Saturday, January 22: South Kihei Historical Hike in association with South Maui Sustainability. Explore the traditional ahupua'a of Kamaole and visit Hawaiian cultural sites hidden away in housing developments, as well as along the shoreline trail. Sturdy footwear, please. Meet 8am at Kihei boat ramp upper parking lot. Hike ends around 11 am. Register w/ Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (E) (C) D= 2 miles RT, mostly moderate grades.

Thursday, January 27, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting upstairs at Flatbread Pizza in Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Saturday, January 29: Maui Coastal Land Trust 10th Annual "Buy Back the Beach" Benefit Lu'au. Ten years ago, land conservation was just a dream for our newly-formed non-profit. Today we have preserved over 14,000 acres in Maui County. With your help, we can do so much more, protecting valuable lands across the entire State! We invite you to join us at our 10th Annual "Buy Back the Beach" benefit Lu'au. For more information please visit www.mauicoastallandtrust.org or call 244-5263. Mahalo!

FEBRUARY HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 5: Maui Group Annual meeting. Time 11am to 3 pm. Special awards will be presented. Main dish provided. Please bring side dishes for a great picnic lunch. Theme: Protecting Our Natural and Cultural Resources. Special Guest speakers will be State and County officials charged with resource management and protection. Admission is free. To get an email reminder about our annual meeting with all details, please go to our web page www.mausierraclub.org and click on "Join Our Email List" in left column of our home page.

Monday, February 7: South Maui historical hike 8 am to noon. Palauea to Makena Landing. Follow old roads and trails as much as possible, visit secluded coves and learn about the traditional fishing

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 12

and farming communities along the shoreline of what today is an exclusive resort community. Limit 15. Meet 8 am at Polo Beach Parking lot. Register w/ Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (E) (C) D= 4 miles RT, some narrow rocky sections along coast. Some uphill.

Saturday, February 19: Maui's Whale Day Celebration sponsored by the Pacific Whale Foundation. 10 am to 5 pm at Kalama Park on South Kihei Road (by the big whale statue). The Sierra Club will have an information booth in "Eco-Alley." Come enjoy and talk story. Free admission. This is not a Sierra Club activity.

Thursday, February 24, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting upstairs at Flatbread Pizza in Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Saturday, February 26: Pali Trail Hike. Hike to the top of the Pali above Maalea. Spectacular views of whales, ocean, mountains and the Kaheawa wind farm. We have lunch at the top and then walk back down the same way we came up. This is the same trail ancient Hawaiians walked to get from Lahaina to Wailuku. It rises from sea level to 1,500 feet and is 6 miles round trip. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and camera. Meet 9:00 am at Pali trailhead (Lahaina side of tunnel just as the Honoapiilani Highway comes down to sea level at mile marker 10.8). Please call hike leader Mitch Skaggerberg at 875-4970 to register. Limit 18. (C) (E) D = 6 miles all day hike.

MARCH HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Saturday, March 5: Haiku Ho'olaulea and Flower Festival. Free admission! Music, food, contests, auction, farmer's market, historical display & family fun!! Check out the Sierra Club PLANT SALE booth in the Farmer's Market! 9 am-3:30 pm, Haiku Community Center on Hana Highway. Plant sale help needed. We need donated plants as well as volunteers to work at the event. Start your keiki plants now! Please call Lucienne de Naie for information about how to donate plants and to volunteer at 214-0147.

Friday, March 11: Ulupalakua to Kaupo tour. 9am-3pm. Carpool along this scenic drive with several stops to hike about and view native plant life and historic and cultural sites. Meet 9 am across from Grandma's coffee house in Keokea. Stops include: Sun Yat Sen cemetery, Ulupalakua ranch, Kahikinui, Manawainui Gulch, Nu'u and Kaupo/Mokulau. Limit 20. Register w/ Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (E) (C) D= 30 miles each way.

Thursday, March 24, 5:30 to 7:30 pm: Maui Sierra Club Board of Directors meeting upstairs at Flatbread Pizza in Paia. Sierra Club members are invited to attend and share their ideas. Please email Karen Chun at Karen@RedwoodGames.com to confirm meeting time and place and to add any agenda items you would like to discuss.

Sunday, March 27: 9 am to 1 pm. Huelo watershed hike on private lands. Travel the old Kings highway between Huelo and Hanawana valleys. Sites include remnants of Claus Spreckel's ditch system, streams and spectacular coastal views from overlooks. Wear shoes with good traction in

Sierra Club, Maui Group Newsletter, January - March, 2011, Page 13

water or mud. Bring lunch or snacks. Meet 9 am at top of Door of Faith Rd in Huelo. Limit 15. Register w/ Lucienne de Naie, laluz@maui.net or 214-0147. (E) (C) D= 5 miles R/T

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 also join both the Hawaii State Chapter and the Maui Group and receive the National Sierra Club magazine and the Hawaii Chapter newsletter "Malama." Malama means: "to take care of." The Maui Group newsletter is posted on our website at www.mauisierraclub.org and will be emailed to you if you sign up for "action alerts." And, you can email it on to all your friends to spread the word about how to protect Maui's environment. Please also go to www.hi.sierraclub.org and sign up for Hawaii Chapter "action alerts." The National Sierra Club now has over 1,300,000 members nationwide and is a leading organization in the fight to preserve the environment and stop global warming 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. It is highly informative of all the projects we are working on nationwide. Anyone can sign up for national Sierra Club 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. Please also surf our Hawaii Chapter home page for State of Hawaii environmental news at www.hi.sierraclub.org, and our Maui Group home page at www.mauisierraclub.org for Maui County environmental news.

DONATIONS

If 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 mention us in your will, your IRA and/or your 401k, just say: "Sierra Club Foundation, Maui Group Account" and include the Federal ID # above. For more information, please go to 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. Or, you can donate using your credit card and PayPal. Just go to our home page www.mauisierraclub.org and click on "Donate." Mahalo!

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. This one notification will change your address for all newsletters and magazines including the national Sierra Club magazine and the Hawaii Chapter newsletter "Malama."