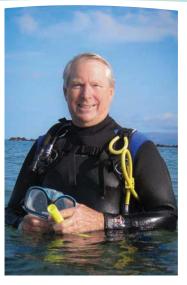




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Musings from the E.D.

All Trusts Are Not Created Equal

As I write this the Oscar Awards are upon us and "The Descendants", a movie about ownership and responsibility of significant family lands in Hawai'i, is up for Best Picture. In a nutshell, the movie is about family conflicts in determining the best disposition of the lands as the fictional "King Family Trust" prepares to disperse its assets.

Since the movie's release, several folks have expressed concern to me over something they learned from the movie, that there is a "Rule Against Perpetuity" stating that "trusts" must disperse their assets after a set time (typically within 21 years after the death of the last named beneficiary).

Well then, how can a Land Trust claim to protect land "in perpetuity"? Because we can.

The answer is straightforward: Land Trusts are not "that" kind of trust. By virtue of being a charitable nonprofit, there are both federal and state statutes which allow Land Trusts to hold land assets (both fee interests and conservation easements) permanently. And, in the unlikely event a Land Trust could not effectively oversee its land assets, there are provisions in place to assure all such assets would be assigned to appropriate entities that would continue to protect the conservation values

So rest assured, while not all trusts are created equal, the Land Trust is yours in perpetuity.

'Umeke Kā'eo is the newsletter publication of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization committed to land conservation in Hawai'i.

PO Box 965, Wailuku. HI 96793 Kaua'i: (808) 755-5707 Maui: (808) 244-5263 O'ahu: (808) 840-3336 Hawai'i Island: (808) 895-2429 www.hilt.org

Newsletter Design by: U'ilani Art & Design LLC



Hawaiian Island Land Trust



@HILandTrust

About 'Umeke Kā'eo: Between meals Hawaiians would hang their calabash, full with poi and other foods, in an intricately made hanging net. They depended on these two items, the net and calabash, to keep their stores of food and water safe and unspoiled. 'Umeke Kā'eo, literally a well-stocked calabash, represents bounty and sustenance, not only for the physical body, but also for the mind and spirit. If the bowl is full, we are nourished.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is committed to land conservation in Hawaii. Protecting the lands that sustain us—there's food for thought.

Currents

Cour Best Mex Fresh takes on the West's saverie hood Quick spring Scapes Top likes, drives John to the John to th

2012 Environmental Awards are featured in Sunset's March issue.

"Hero" Among Us

Our director of conservation, Scott Fisher, just received a top honor in Sunset magazine's 2012 Environmental Awards by being named an environmental "Hero". This is a great honor for a Hawaii-based conservationist and the work of our Land Trust. The full article, in their March issue, confirms what we've known all along: Scott is a true gem.

In putting together the 2012 Environmental Awards, Sunset gathered hundreds of nominations of worthy projects and individuals from all over the West. Final decisions were made by a panel of judges: Jon Christensen, executive director of the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University; environmental historian Jenny Price; Montana author and environmental mediator Brian Kahn; and Peter Fish, Sunset's editor-at-large.

"Competition was fierce in all categories, which makes your first-place finish all the more impressive," wrote Peter Fish of Sunset. "I speak for everyone at our magazine in saying that Sunset is enormously impressed by the work Scott Fisher and the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is doing."

Catch the Environmental Awards in Sunset's March issue, or online at sunset.com. Take a moment to read these amazing testaments to the passionate work of conservationists across the West. Great things are happening in land protection, and Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is right there on the front line.

HILT Happenings

Kaua'i

HILT welcomes Mike Fave to its Board of Directors. A Kaua'i native, he brings a deep-rooted knowledge of the island and expertise in land-use and business. Faye owns Kikiaola Construction Company and Wranglers Steak House in Waimea. He was instrumental in the restoration of the Waimea Theater and Waimea Plantation Cottages, which his family owns. He served on the State's Environmental Council from 1998-2007, is president of the West Kaua'i Business and Professional Association and is a charter member of the Historic Hawaii Foundation. He lives. in Waimea with his wife Colleen and two children.

O'ahu

Being able to experience the impact of our work is key to enlisting support there's no substitute for standing on protected land to demonstrate its conservation value (and conversely, to see adjacent parcels that went unprotected.) For this reason, we're working with Ed Olson, landowner and conservation easement donor, on developing an exclusive guided tour of his Honouliuli land overlooking Makakilo. The granted access allows occasional 4WD tours for potential and current supporters. We hope these tours will make believers out of all who attend.

Mau

HILT is hangin' with Whole Foods Market. This spring the gallery space in their Kahului store features a photography collection focused on how land conservation supports our islands' food sustainability. Professional photographer Bob Bangerter and staffer Monica George captured dayin-the-life images of ranching and farming at Hana Ranch and Ulupalakua Ranch, both of which have lands conserved with HILT. Stop by and see the show, or view it later this year at Whole Foods Kailua on O'ahu.



Currents

Buy Back the Beach 11th Appual Benefit

Maui

Our Buy Back the Beach Benefit hosted by Old Lāhaina Lū'au has grown into an anticipated community event on Maui, bringing together a diversity of folks united in their love for the land. January 28 was the event's 11th anniversary, and its most successful to date, raising nearly \$135,000 towards the protection of Hawai'i's precious places. Our generous 2012 event sponsors, Sempra Energy, Mana Foods, Boeing, and Skyline EcoAdventures set the stage, and success followed in both general ticket sales and the live auction.

The event got "social" this year with the help of a team of professional bloggers and social media experts. With their help a \$5K matching challenge, presented by an anonymous donor, was successfully kicked-off online. At the event, the donors generously doubled the match to \$10K before it was brought live to the stage. In a few electrifying moments

the match was met, and an additional \$20,000 was rolled into the event's bottom line.

The night was impeccably hosted by the staff of Old Lahaina Lu'au-all of whom volunteer their time for the event. (This still amazes and humbles us!) Guests were treated to tastings from the lu'au and their sister restaurants: Star Noodle, Aloha Mixed Plate, and Leoda's Kitchen & Pie Shop. Governor Neil Abercrombie added a little star-power to the night, making a guest appearance to voice his support for land conservation. Emcees Joni DeMello and Liz Morales of Ahumanu kept us rolling with laugher, Joel Katz swooned on steel guitar, the Luau dancers gave a rousing performance. and HAPA's stellar set took our breath away. Perfect weather and great company topped off a fabulous night under the stars.

Mahalo to all who attended!



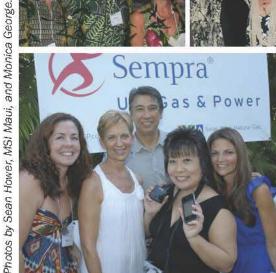


















Cover Story

Protecting the Wao Kanaka:

The Role of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust



Illustration: Phil Sabado

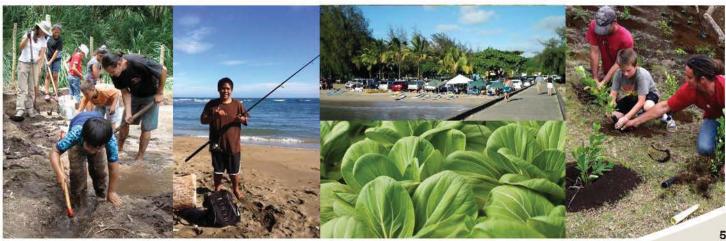
While there are a number of conservation organizations dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's most pristine and remote areas, the Land Trust's focus is on protecting the areas where people regularly connect with nature.

When the first Polynesians arrived in Hawai'i extensive forests stretched across virtually every island. They set about utilizing these natural resources to foster a strong and healthy community. Although these early settlers initiated significant changes to the landscape, their cultural paradigm of cooperation and reciprocity governed their interactions with both the human and natural world. These ideas of reciprocity and cooperation are embodied in the idea of aloha 'āina, or love of land.

Expressed in a variety of ways, this connection was often described through the distinction between the wao kanaka and the wao akua. The wao kanaka constituted the lands, particularly the forested lands (wao), most accessible to the community and therefore providing the bulk of the material culture the Hawaiian people (kanaka) relied upon. Because of its critical importance to the life and well being of the community, caring for and conserving these resources became a critical part of Hawaiian culture. And, since human activity was most extensive in this region, the wao kanaka across Hawai'i is most marked by the evidence of past generations.

The wao akua (or forest of the gods) consisted of land not easily accessible by humans. As one author points out, Hawaiians understood the wao akua as a source of supernatural activity, remote, difficult to penetrate, and awesome. While excursions to the wao akua were relatively rare, it was in this realm that koa logs were harvested to become the canoes which united the various islands. It was also the place where forest bird feathers were collected to make the stunning capes worn by the ali'i. For anyone who has spent time in the misty reaches of the wao akua, its power and influence does not soon leave you. Much important conservation work is taking place in the wao akua, with organizations HILT works closely and collaboratively with including the various watershed partnerships, the State of Hawai'i, and The Nature Conservancy.

HILT has protected some lands in the wao akua, but the bulk of our protected lands lie below. The wao kanaka, the areas where humans live, love, laugh and build strong communities, is where we cultivate our sense of aloha 'āina. Conservation in these areas-through protection of agricultural lands, the cultural and historical sites that tell our stories, and our most threatened ecosystems—is vital to how we as a modern society continue to connect with the natural world. It is where we, as a community, must put our beliefs about our relationship to the land into action.



Giving Matters

Places That Sustain Us: Keopuka

Richard H. Bennett, Ph.D. **HILT Board Member**

Hawai'i holds a special place in my family's heart and much of its culture graced my youth and us. My father had us dancing hula back as far as I can remember. Little did I realize how deeply the culture had permeated my soul. Many decades later, when I retired at 50 from the University of California, I had the opportunity to live anywhere in the world. As I traveled and explored for a new place to call home, the songs of Hawai'i nei kept calling.

The vast natural beauty of Hawai'i Island was irresistible, and most irresistible to me was the magnificent beauty of the shorelines of South Kona.

Outrigger canoe paddling the waters from Miloli'i to Kawaihae, I quickly realized the shores of South Kona were the most natural and pristine. We often of which I was a board member, was



paddled from Honaunau to the headlands at Ka'awaloa and gazed upon the plateau of Keopuka. It saddened me to see golf courses being built right next to the shore in the area, and it troubled me even more to learn that another was planned for the headlands of Kealakekua Bay at Keopuka.

Years later Hawaii Island Land Trust,

approached to see if we would accept a conservation easement on the Keopuka plateau. With great eagerness we did our work and negotiated land's preservation in record time.

Today, and for all time, Keopuka remains as it was-a proud testament to the real Hawai'i. Generations to come will say the elders did good. Every time I paddle by, my heart swells with pride.



Dedication, love, and remarkable results. Introducing...

Nepili Menthly Dener Club

"He nopili ka i'a, pili pa'a ke aloha" The nopili is the fish; love clings fast. This traditional Olelo No'eau speaks of the 'o'opu (freshwater gobi) of the nopili variety, which were known to climb waterfalls by clinging fast to the wet stones. Remarkable isn't it? Steady, determined, these fish achieved the seemingly impossible. And their small acts became synonymous for showing steadfast love.

With this inspiration in mind, we introduce the Nopili Monthly Donor Club. The commitment of setting-up a recurring monthly gift with Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, in any increment, is a small act that shows great love. Together, this support yields remarkable results by empowering HILT to take a more proactive role in identifying and acquiring critical conservation lands across Hawai'i.

Interested in joining this special group, of donors so committed to protecting the islands they love? Find more information at www.hilt.org/support or by calling (808) 244-5263.

Giving Matters

Three Funds: Defining Tools for Perpetuity



Annual easement monitoring and habitat restoration work is support by the **Stewardship Fund**.

The **Capacity Fund** ensures a steadfast organization.

Every trade has its tools; the plumber has wrenches and the carpenter, a hammer and saw. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is no different. Our tools, while financial in nature, are equally important to our success. That is why we have been working diligently over the past few months to develop three essential board-designated funds: the Stewardship Fund, Capacity Fund, and Acquisition Fund.

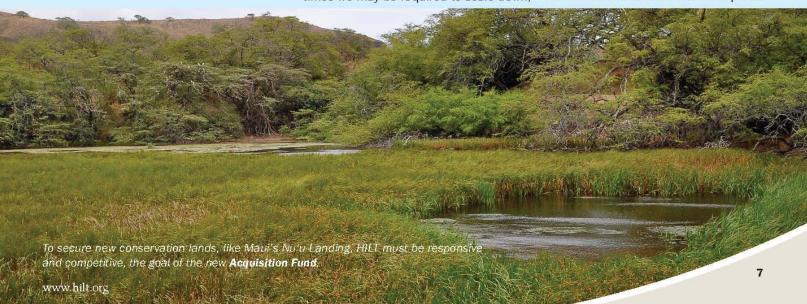
Our responsibility to the land we protect begins, not ends, with the signing of a deal. We have a moral, as well as legal, obligation to uphold our agreements. To assure we can meet those obligations forever we have created the **Stewardship Fund**. The income generated from this fund will support our annual monitoring of each of our eased properties, and, in the case of violations that can't be resolved through dialogue, the fund will support legal costs in defending our conservation easements.

The **Capacity Fund** is a perfect complement to the Stewardship Fund in that it assures up to 50% of the Land Trust's budget will be covered every year. By creating a fund whose income supports the annual budget, we assure that the Land Trust will exist forever, regardless of challenges the organization may face. In dire times we may be required to scale-down,

but we will never have to close our doors. An added benefit to this fund is that a greater percentage of your donations go directly to land protection, which is the focus of our third Land Trust tool, the Acquisition Fund.

The Acquisition Fund is designed to keep the Land Trust nimble and responsive in achieving its conservation goals. The Land Trust must be prepared to act decisively at scale when priority pieces of land come up for sale, or present themselves as candidates for conservation easements. To compete with other buyers wing for priority lands, we have developed the Acquisition Fund from which we can make purchases as approved by our Board. Even when external funding is identified and committed to a project, the timing of the disbursement of those monies can be glacial. In those circumstances the Acquisition Fund would allow for a quick response, with an eventual replenishment of the money expended.

These three board-designated funds are vital to our mission and we have taken a huge step forward in creating them. We can now begin our solicitations to make these tools fully effective. If you've been waiting to donate to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, now is the time to act. We have our tools for success in place.



(Gifts made from January 1 to December 31, 2011)

Founding Few**

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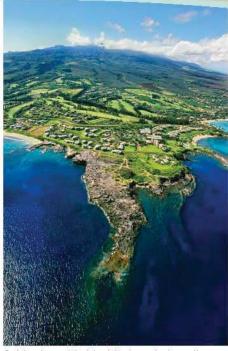
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Critical seabird habitat and shoreline access preserved at Hāwea Point, Maui.

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The protected lands at Kāhili Beach, Kaua'i benefit native habitats and beach-goers alike.

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In Memory of Charles G. Meyer: Phillip J. & Suzan J. Johnson William C. Meyer

In Memory of Dorothy (Dottie) Crouse:
Roger L. & Joan L. Crouse
Kimberley Haines
Maribeth & John A. Klobuchar

In Memory of Gary Blaich:
Lauren A. Avery
Justine C. Blaich
Stephanie Lei Fitzpatrick
Walter W. Larsen & Kaleinani M.
Larsen
Nicole Shepardson

In Memory of Geary Mizuno: Sharon M. & Andrew S. Pessin

In Memory of Gene Thompson & Jack Esker:

A. Frederick & Carolyn Wood

In Memory of Jeff Evans:

A. Frederick & Carolyn Wood



Ag lands and open space preserved at Pu'u O Hoku Ranch, Moloka'i.

In Memory of Jim Gilliland: Elfriede D. Green Sharon Nesbit

In Memory of John Darby Campell and Amber Acacia Campbell: Genevieve T. Kearns Campbell

In Memory of Leonard Prybutok:
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Eileen and Stephen Feldman
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Elsa M.E. Rapp
Theresa L. Raub & Daniel Levin
Bonnie & Bryan Silbermann
Kathleen & Tim Wilson
Lydia R. & James T. Zappacosta

In Memory of William Villa: Jane Scott

Mahalo Nui Loa!

** The Founding Few have made a three-year commitment to supporting the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust through its transition into a statewide organization. If you would like to know more about the Founding Few program please contact Anders Lyons at (808) 244-5263 or anders@ hilt.org.

+Monthly Donors

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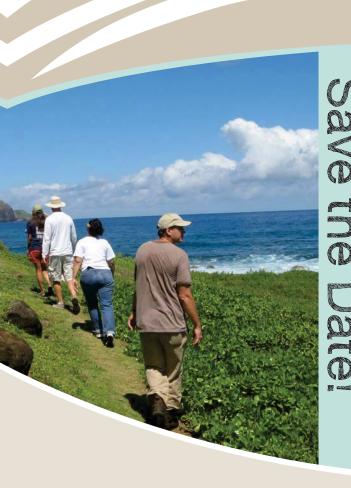
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MEMBERSHIP 2 0 1 2



HILT Calendar of Events

April 3 - Kaua'i

Free, guided hike through the Waiakalua conservation area along the beautiful Kilauea coastline. Call (808) 755-5707 for information and reservations.

April 4 - Maui

Moonlight hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Call (808) 244-5263 for information and reservations.

April 7 - Maui

Visit HILT at the Maui County Ag Festival at the Maui Tropical Plantation.

June 5 - Kauaʻi

Free, guided hike through the Waiakalua conservation area along the beautiful Kilauea coastline. Call (808) 755-5707 for information and reservations.

June 9 - Maui

Free, guided hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Call (808) 244-5263 for information and reservations.

August 31 - Maui

Moonlight hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Call (808) 244-5263 for information and reservations.