

In Perpetuity: The Work Of Annual Monitoring

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Annual Giving Report



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

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Musings from the E.D.

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.

Aloha HILT Supporters,

I only began working with the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") on January 14th, and already I see how important HILT and its success are to the State of Hawaii and beyond. It is an honor to work alongside so many great people, like you our supporters, on behalf of such a worthy organization and mission.

Hawaii's long-term well-being, environmentally, economically, and otherwise, is directly linked to the land and the choices we make about it. Indeed, Hawaii's state motto proclaims, "The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness." Thus, Hawaii is fortunate to have a statewide, non-profit land trust, HILT, with a mission to protect the places that sustain us for current and future generations – and we thank you for your righteous decision to support HILT.

By the end of the first quarter of 2013, HILT will complete its iconic lands prioritization study and then begin work on protecting those most important and strategic open space lands identified. Over the past several months, HILT's Island Councils across the State worked diligently and thoughtfully to identify the most iconic places throughout Hawaii. Iconic lands refer to those places that if lost would forever change the landscape, quality of life, character and culture of a particular island. Almost 40 such iconic places across Hawaii were identified. These places are now being scored with a set of criteria (threat of development, willing landowner, conservation values, public support, cost, etc.) to determine the most strategic properties on the list to begin conserving. Once completed, we will actively work to protect these priority lands which sustain us and distinguish Hawaii as a desirable place to live, work and visit.

HILT is also important for reasons that extend beyond protecting priority lands in Hawaii for current and future generations. A number of states in our nation lack a statewide land trust and/or are overwhelmed with too many small land trusts. Rhode Island, the state that I moved from, our smallest state, has over forty land trusts. This creates problems. For example, too many small land trusts competing for limited funds results in numerous land trusts not having adequate resources to implement proper standards and practices in carrying out their land conservation missions. This can eventually lead to failing land trusts which erode public confidence and support for land conservation, this most basic charitable endeavor to protect the land which all human systems ultimately rest upon and rely on. The merger of four existing land trusts in January 2011 which created HILT provided an important model to other states struggling with too many inadequately funded land trusts and beacon of hope to the larger conservation movement.

I have been working and studying in the conservation field for over 25 years and I have found a very worthy challenge and opportunity here. I am excited to work with you all to strengthen the foundation of our young organization so that it can succeed with its mission long-term thereby delivering lasting green returns, hope and guidance to Hawaii and beyond.

Best Wishes,



Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr. Executive Director

On the cover: James Crowe, HILT Land Steward, monitoring Kainalu Ranch, Molokai. Photo: Monica George

Currents Kaulahao

In the late 1800s, before Kahului Harbor was built, provision stations dotted the coastline of Maui's north shore. Due to the unpredictable ocean conditions, cables were often used to safely guide the boats to shore. One spot in Ku'au came to be known for its cable and many kupuna in the area still refer to it simply as Kaulahao, or steel cable. Last July, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. voted to permanently conserve this waterfront parcel by donating it to HILT.

Although small, the property is about an acre, its significance outweighs its size. The adjacent property has been subjected to erosion that has resulted in native Hawaiian iwi kupuna (human remains) washing out of the bluff. Although exposed iwi kupuna have not yet washed out of the donated portion of the Kaulahao property, the adjacent landowners and the Land Trust immediately recognized the urgency of protecting the coast from erosion during large storms. Through their generosity of time, labor and resources, several neighbors, many

of whom belong to a group known as Malama Kaulahao, have worked with HILT staff to reintroduce native plants such as naupaka and pohinahina along the shoreline to stabilize the bluff.

With several ua'u kani, wedge-tailed shearwater, colonies nearby (literally in people's yards), we hope that creating appropriate habitat will enable these protected native birds to grow their populations. Finally, Kaulahao is an important shoreline access point for local fishermen. With clear ocean views since the koa haole and Christmas Berry were removed, the spot has become a place to check ocean conditions and access the shoreline. When working at Kaulahao we frequently hear how great it will be to have guaranteed ocean access along this coast, which has seen so much development. Protecting the land comes with tremendous kuleana, a responsibility to our kupuna, our community, and to the land. We could not do it alone, but when hands are joined, the possibilities are endless.



Sam Ainslie

The 2013 Board of Directors, lead by Chairman Peter Merriman, welcomes two new members, Sam Ainslie of Hawaii Island and Larry Stevens of Maui and bids a fond mahalo to outgoing members Bill Chase, Rick Bennett, and Janice Fergus for their years of dedicated service to the Land Trust. A full list of the members, including the executive committee, is available on the opposite page.



Larry Stevens

Currents

Buy Back the Beach Recap

This January nearly 500 folks came out to show their love for the land at the 12th annual Buy Back the Beach Benefit hosted by **Old Lāhaina Lū'au**. The most successful to date, the fundraiser brought \$145,000 to support the protection of Hawai'i's precious places. Our generous 2013 sponsors, **First Wind, Mana Foods, Boeing, Skyline EcoAdventures, Sempra Energy**, and **Honua Kai** set the stage for success, which followed in both general ticket sales and the auctions.



Hawaiian Airlines sweetened the deal by presenting a \$10,000 Matching Challenge toward our fundraising goals. Donors with big hearts for HILT ensured we met this challenge and then some, helping to roll a total of \$27,000 in to the event's bottom line.

Perfect weather and great company set the stage for a fabulous night under the stars. Guests were treated to tastings from the lū'au and their sister restaurants: Star Noodle, Aloha Mixed Plate, and

Leoda's Kitchen & Pie Shop. Emcees Joni DeMello and Liz Morales of Ahumanu kept the night strumming along, the Old Lāhaina Lū'au dancers gave a rousing performance, auctioneer Rusty Conway added his comic relief, and Makana's breathtaking set cinched the night.

As always, the event was impeccably hosted by the staff of Old Lāhaina Lū'au—all of whom volunteer their time for the night. Now that's love!



Film Fest with Us

Mark your calendars to join HILT as we host the **Wild & Scenic Film Festival** on April 6 & 7 at the historic Waimea Theater on Kaua'i. We are pleased to present this premiere travelling environmental and adventure film festival featuring award-winning films about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, and indigenous cultures.

This year's selections combine stellar filmmaking, beautiful cinematography, and first-rate storytelling to inform, inspire and ignite solutions for the environmental challenges that confront us locally (Saturday's theme) and globally (Sunday's theme).

The historic Waimea Theater serves as a backdrop for our cinematic journey into a deep appreciation and a sense of wonder for the natural world that surrounds and supports us. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per night or \$20 for a two-night pass, visit www.hilt.org to purchase.



Cover Story



Once a landowner and the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust sign and record a conservation easement, HILT is forever bound to that land as legal guardians of its conservation values. Fulfilling our duty to the land and the public we serve—and also in adhering to the standards and practices required for our status as a nationally accredited land trust—is our annual monitoring work, completed for every eased property under our protection. By walking the land and recording detailed notes of its condition, we ensure that our eased lands are being managed according to the terms detailed in the conservation easement.

Monitoring has three phases: first is a due-diligence period in which we schedule a time to meet the landowner and review the project file to refresh our memory on key provisions detailed in the easement; next is actually walking the land with the landowner to take photographic records and ensure the restrictions are being upheld; and last is completing the monitoring report and following-up with any necessary information for the landowner. Completed monitoring reports describe the condition of the property, noting any changes or potential easement violations, and over the years provide a written and visual record of the land. Generations from now they will serve as a history of the land, tangible proof of the successful protection of these cherished landscapes.

Our promise to protect these lands in perpetuity is one we don't take lightly, and working cooperatively with our landowners is paramount to our success. Monitoring essentially begins and ends with connecting and communicating with the landowner. It's an important opportunity for us to discuss any future plans they have for the area or to help with questions such as invasive species or erosion issues. It's also a time for us to inspire confidence and support their commitment to conservation—they are, after all, the primary stewards of the land.

Inevitably, monitoring reveals an occasional violation, perhaps a structure built not permitted in the conservation area. We are always cautious in confirming them and look forward to working cooperatively with the landowner in finding resolution.

Done in a cooperative, positive way, these hiccups can actually become opportunities to better educate and further involve our conservation landowners. This is especially important as lands change hands, creating distance with the originators of the voluntary conveyed conservation easements.

Each year HILT monitors over 17,000 acres of land protected by conservation easements. To ensure we are financially capable of expending the resources necessary to monitor so many acres we ask landowners who grant easements to us to also make contributions to our stewardship fund. These gifts help to cover annual monitoring costs and other stewardship activities.

Ask any staff member and they will tell you that being out on the land is by far their favorite part of the job. Walking the spectacular properties under HILT's protection is what helps inspire our hard work and reminds us how lucky we are to be working to protect the unique beauty and resources of our islands—not only now, but for every generation to come.



Photographs (above) & GPS coordinates (right) assure accurate monitoring reports.

Civing Matters Places that Sustain Us: Honouliuli-McDPhilpotts O'ahu

I was asked to share my thoughts on the Honouliuli conservation easement near Palehua on the slopes of the southern Waianae Mountains. I'm passionate about conservation in general, but this easement also happens to be adjacent to our home of the last 40 years. I have spent a lot of time on this land. The protected area encompasses a beautiful, windswept arid grassland with rolling hills and commanding views. The 1275-acre easement, along with the large forest area that sits just above it, was once the home of a native Hawaiian community going back hundreds of years. The area is still home to many native birds such as elepaio and plants like iliahi (sandalwood), naio, a'alii, and wiliwili, to name a few.

In my lifetime much of the surrounding area has changed dramatically. The demise of sugar in the early 80s led to the development of the Ewa Plane and a large population increase out here. A common development practice is to cut down the ridges of nearby slopes to squeeze in as many homes as possible, dramatically changing the original topography. Now

most slopes are covered with residential development, and there's an even larger hillside area approved for more. Perhaps in just fifty years, more than half of these Waianae hillside grasslands will be lost to this process.

Thanks to the vision and generosity of landowner Ed Olson, and his voluntary donation of a 1275-acre conservation easement to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust at Honouliuli, a good piece of this beautiful landscape has been preserved in perpetuity!

Development doesn't just change the places we know in our hearts now, it affects the landscapes for every generation going forward. It affects native species and erases cultural sites, these are the footsteps of many of our ancestors! Permanently erasing the natural beauty of the islands, our native species, and the Hawaiian cultural footprint, leaves only the footprint of development for our children to know. This is nothing less than stealing from the future.

And as it turns out, the future is a very long time!



With a mantra to "keep Earth in business," 1% for the Planet was created in 2002 to build and support an alliance of businesses that is financially committed to creating a healthy planet. They connect their member companies—a group that has vowed to reinvest in the environment as a necessary tenet of doing business—with approved environmental organizations, such as Hawaiian Islands Land Trust.

By taking a lead role as an environmental steward, these businesses set an example for the rest of the business community. In fact, longtime HILT supporter Skyline EcoAdventures was just named Maui Small Business of the Year. They've given generously to HILT and many other community organizations through they're affiliation with 1% For the Planet.

1% member and Oʻahu business owner Dana Bergeman had this to say about the program: "Giving back, assisting those in need, and caring for 'aina have been family values for generations. Finding an effective way for my businesses to contribute was a problem until I discovered 1% for the Planet. Ever since, both of my companies, Island Olive Oil Company and Bergeman Project Group, have been proud participants. As Hawaiʻi grows and evolves, we believe it is important to preserve some of Hawaiʻi's most beautiful and undisturbed places for future generations. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust accomplishes this goal and we're pleased to support them through our participation in 1% for the Planet."

If your business embraces the notion that the sustainability of the natural environment is fundamental to the sustainability of business, we encourage you to explore 1% For The Planet, www.onepercentfortheplanet.org.

Corporate Giving: Doing Good By Doing Well

Hawai'i businesses are finding creative ways to support Hawaiian Islands Land Trust through programs or initiatives developed for the betterment of communities and native habitats. Creating this kind of compounded good is an easy fix given HILT's mission foci. And while the financial backing is extremely important, the endorsement and outreach benefits of these corporate programs are also providing a tremendous value to the growth and stability of our organization.

Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods, for example, has built-in multiple layers of benefit to the Land Trust into their business model. The company is replanting hundreds of acres of native koa on Hawai'i Island, reestablishing the majestic native tree that once dominated the forested slopes of Mauna Kea. Participants in their Forest Investment program finance the planting of trees, which are eventually logged providing a return on their investment. To establish a new, permanent forest, HLH created the Legacy Tree program. These plantings are never harvested and provide a meaningful gift, memorial or tribute. From every sale, HILT receives up to a \$21 donation, always with the option for the purchaser to give more. The work of Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods is helping the Land Trust grow while providing beneficial conservation throughout the state of Hawai'i.

A more straightforward example of corporate giving comes from Alexander & Baldwin, one of Hawaii's largest landowners, who recently donated one acre of oceanfront land in Pā'ia, Maui (see article on pg. 3). Recognizing the community's need for continued shoreline access, A&B partnered with HILT to permanently conserve the parcel, which could have been developed. The Land Trust will resell the property with a conservation easement that will forever preserve the conservation values of shoreline access, open space and native habitat for the betterment of the community, while revenue from the sale will fund future HILT conservation work.

The Land Trust is partnering with Sempra Energy to improve habitat for 'ope'ape'a, the endangered native Hawaiian hoary bat, on Ulupalakua Ranch as part of its regulatory requirements. By sponsoring a 132-acre conservation easement designated for restoring the native plants preferred by bats for nesting and foraging, Sempra is contributing to the overall native reforestation actively being done by the Leeward Haleakala Watershed

Restoration Partnership. While native forest bird activity in the area is minimal now, the combination of these restoration areas will provide great habitat in the future. In addition to providing a significant contribution to HILT's stewardship fund Sempra felt the partnership on the easement was so beneficial, they additionally decided to sponsor HILT's annual Buy Back the Beach Benefit in January and have made a commitment to sponsor again next year.

Hawaiian Airlines, too, helped our fundraising take flight by posting a \$10,000 Matching Challenge towards Buy Back the Beach. The campaign ran for two weeks prior to the event via social media, and was then dramatically finished on stage. With their generosity and tremendous reach, Hawaiian Air's original ten translated to \$27,000 in gifts! Indeed, for donors across the State, the chance to have their donation

doubled was an opportunity seized. Providing us funding for our conservation programs was just the beginning for Hawaiian Airlines. They've now begun work on a segment featuring HILT in their in-flight entertainment, offering invaluable exposure to residents and visitors.

These examples are proof-positive that building-in support for the Land Trust can be done with just about any business model. If you are a business owner interested in exploring partnership ideas, call us. We look forward to brainstorming with you.



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\$50,000-Above

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Koaniani Fund of the Hawai'i
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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.

(M) Monthly Donors

1%FTP: 1% For The Planet contributing business or business owner

To learn more about the Founding Few program, Monthly Donor program or 1% For The Planet program please contact Anders Lyons (808) 244-5263 or anders@hilt.org.

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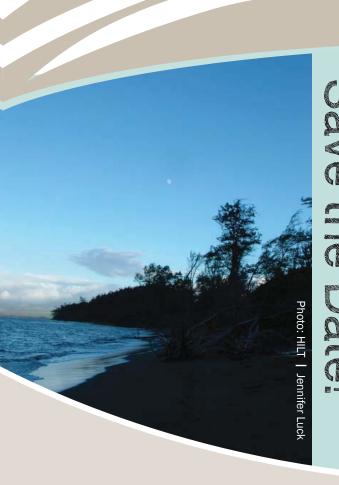
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1EMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3. NUMBER 1 - SPRING 2013



HILT Calendar of Events

April 6 - Maui

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

April 6 & 7 - Kaua'i

HILT hosted Wild & Scenic Film Festival at the historic Waimea Theater. Call (808) 244-5263 for info and reservations

April 26 - Maui

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

May 11 - Maui

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

May 21 - Kaua'i

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

June 22 - Maui

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

July 16 - Kaua'i

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