

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

‘ U M E K E K Ā ‘ E O

A WELL FILLED CALABASH, A WELL FILLED MIND

*Another Step Toward Self-Sufficiency:
HILT Conserves 225 acres of Kona Farmland Story*

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'Umeke Kā'eo is the newsletter of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to land conservation in Hawai'i.

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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

– Kāwika K. Burgess



Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

So far, 2017 is shaping up to be an exciting year for HILT as we have protected two additional properties totaling over 160 acres of agricultural and native forest lands on Hawai'i Island, engaged over 1,000 visitors at our preserves through our popular Talk Story on the Land series and Volunteer Work Days, and have built up a strong pipeline of conservation projects to protect significant lands and natural resources throughout the islands.

A large part of the work we do requires the help of dedicated volunteers at all levels of the organization. I'd like to thank all of HILT's volunteers who help in so many ways to care for our public preserves, guide visitors on hikes, and provide leadership and guidance to the land trust. As the organization grows, our need for volunteers grows as well, and HILT is actively seeking volunteers to assist with the implementation of our conservation programs including volunteer coordinators, event assistants, and voluntary land stewards on each island. If you would be interested in volunteering for HILT, please contact us at info@hilt.org.

As we enter the 4th quarter of 2017, HILT has several exciting events coming up including our Hawai'i Island Pā'ina on Friday, November 17th at Merriman's in Waimea with celebrity guest Chef Andrew Le, our Kaua'i Island Pā'ina on Thursday, December 14th at Merriman's Fish House in Po'ipū with celebrity guest Chef Mark "Gooch" Noguchi, and our annual Buy Back the Beach on Saturday, January 20th at the beautiful Old Lāhaina Lā'au. We hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate land conservation across the Hawaiian Islands.

Lastly, the 4th quarter is a very important time for HILT as a majority of all the gifts and donations that HILT receives are made in the 4th quarter of the year. Would you like to leave a legacy and help HILT protect even more of Hawai'i's precious lands and natural and cultural resources? Please share the mission of land conservation with a few of your family and friends and encourage them to join the HILT 'Ohana too! Your help in spreading the word will allow us to continue to protect the lands that sustain us for current and future generations! Mahalo nui loa!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kāwika K. Burgess
Chief Executive Officer

‘ĀINA ACTIONS

‘IKE KŪPUNA: REFLECTING ON OUR PAST TO CREATE A BETTER TOMORROW

Planning for Resilience



HILT Staff and volunteers conducting a benthic survey of the sediment depth at Nuu pond.

Ecologists and ecosystem managers have long known that healthy ecosystems are better able to withstand environmental calamities such as storms, floods, tsunami, fires and any number of threats to the structure, function and composition of an ecosystem. Climate change poses one of the most significant challenges to the health of earth's ecosystems in that it is not one threat, but a range of threats, including intense droughts, flash floods, sea level rise and accelerated coastline erosion. Climate change is a virtual certainty, and now is the time to prepare for the effects it will have on our natural habitats.

With these threats in mind, resiliency is vital to protect indigenous plant and bird communities in Hawai'i. Simply put, in terms of an ecosystem, resiliency is the ability to absorb the impacts of a disturbance while preserving the function and identity of the natural system. Resiliency is important for individuals, communities and ecosystems, and planning for resiliency involves two major efforts. The first is making the ecosystems as healthy as possible by ensuring

that habitats retain their native flora and fauna; the species that have co-evolved to be pa'a i ka' āina, firm on the land. Such ecosystems have roots and branches that are sturdy in the wind, and strong in the soil. The second effort lies in building a community who is also pa'a i ka' āina. A community who is connected to the land is one who cares for and protects the land, and whose connection to the land is unshakable. Building such connections to the land takes time and effort. What makes our community strong, makes our land strong. We are connected to one another, and our responsibility to one another will see us through whatever challenges we face. A strong community creates a resilient ecosystem, and a resilient connection to the land is the heart of any strong community.

I was reminded of this when a group of us spent the day extracting sediment cores at the Nu'u Pond earlier this year. The work was muddy, wet, and exhausting, but through this work, we now have a picture of what grew around the Nu'u Refuge over a millennium ago. This data is a critical step forward in knowing what once made this a vibrant ecosystem; and that puts us well on the way towards ensuring the land at Nu'u can withstand any future environmental changes. Whether an ecological community or a human community, we rely on one another. Our strength is not compromised by our reliance on one another, but through it we realize our inter-dependence. As Hi'iakaikapoliopole elegantly said, "I ola 'oe, e ola mākou nei." When you live, so do we. - Scott Fisher, Ph.D.



Seabury Hall High School students planting native Kawelu at Nuu.

CURRENTS

HILT HAPPENINGS



TRIBUTE TO HAWAII ISLAND COUNCIL MEMBER, JEFF MELROSE

It is with deep sadness that HILT recognizes the passing of agricultural land use planning expert and Hawaii Island Council member, Jeff Melrose.

Jeff was generous with his knowledge, suggesting strategies for protecting lands on Hawaii Island. Jeff also helped to inform HILT's agricultural initiatives with presentations on the importance of maintaining food security across the archipelago.

Jeff grew up on Maui and graduated from Hawaii Preparatory Academy. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Western Washington University in Anthropology and a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Hawaii. He worked in Kohala as an on-site archaeologist for the creation of the Lapakahi State

Historical Park and helped the community write its mo'olelo "Kohala Kēia". Agriculture and its role in Hawaii was Jeff's passion. He worked with the County of Hawaii creating a groundbreaking evaluation of the status of agriculture on Hawaii Island and later followed this work on a statewide basis for the State Dept. of Agriculture. Both works provide an enduring legacy for future policy consideration and legislative actions.

Jeff's contributions are enduring and we are deeply grateful for his commitment to the land and the community of Hawaii.



PROJECT BASED LEARNING ON THE 'ĀINA AT KAHILI

On April 28, the Island School 7th grade science class visited Kahili Beach as part of their Project Based Learning (PBL) curriculum. Representatives from HILT, the Surfrider Foundation, the Nene Habitat Conservation Plan and the Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) all took part in conducting

classroom lessons ahead of time in order to bring context to the dynamic issues at play at the preserve. One of the goals for using Kahili as an outdoor classroom is to help students connect with the place so that they may choose to become stewards of Kahili in the future. To learn more visit <http://islandschool7thgradepl.weebly.com/hilt-connection-with-place-reflections.html>



UA'U KANI FLOURISH AT HAWEA

The Ua'u kani, or wedge-tailed shearwater, is a seabird common to the Pacific region. The ground-nesting birds are threatened by loss of

habitat and introduced predators. The population at Hawea Point, part of which is overlaid by a conservation easement held by HILT, has been actively managed to improve the habitat. This has led to a population increase from just a few nesting pairs to more than 280 pairs. HILT's role in this dramatic increase has been to prevent loss of habitat through a conservation easement, and as hands-on-the-ground. HILT helps to add ID bands to individuals of the population at Hawea and elsewhere on Maui in support of Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project and to gather data

on the population's movements between colonies and other statistics that will help to determine the impacts of habitat loss and creation.

To get a better look at these fascinating birds visit Hawea Point in Kapalua. Arrive just before sunset in October or November and you will witness the adults as they return from the sea to feed the chicks which remain in the burrows until they fledge. When you visit these sites use caution and take heed of warning signs when in the area of the burrows as they can collapse on the chick when walked upon.



GOOD WORK CONTINUES IN HAU'ULA

HILT has been moving forward stewardship activities at Maunawila Heiau in collaboration with the Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club and Hau'ula Community Association. Thanks to a grant from the City and County of Honolulu, three acres of invasive species are being cleared,

and an access way is being created to provide access for our kupauna. Thanks to Rebekah Walker and a great team of volunteers, we've been able to share the history and traditions of the heiau and Hau'ula with over 2,000 students and participants so far this year in our popular Talk Story on the Land hikes and Volunteer Work Days.

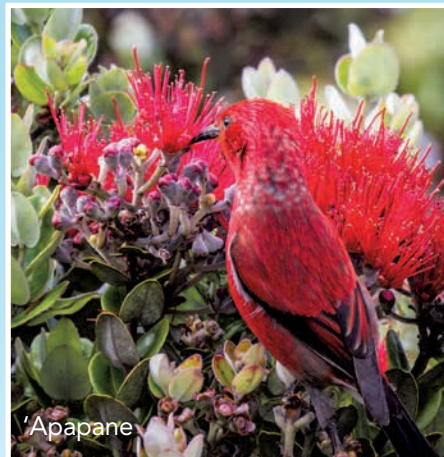
COVER STORY

ANOTHER STEP TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY: HILT CONSERVES 225 ACRES OF KONA FARMLAND

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and Honolulu Coffee completed a second conservation easement protecting an additional 150-acres of prime agricultural land situated above Kealahou Bay and part of the Honolulu Coffee Company's thriving coffee farm in June. The initial conservation easement was purchased by HILT in March 2016 on 75-acres of the HCC Farms property. With the second conservation easement in place a total of 225-acres of land is now protected for agricultural use in perpetuity. With the additional acreage, Honolulu Coffee will be expanding its coffee production in Kona as part of its Farm to Cup program. The protected farmland also includes cultural resources and swaths of native 'ōhi'a forests providing habitat for native birds including the 'apapane and 'io. The lands receive approximately 60 inches of rainfall per year making them ideal for Kona coffee.

"We were really excited to find a conservation group aligned with our goals for protecting agricultural land in

Hawai'i for the long term," commented Ed Schultz, President of HCC Farms LLC, "HILT's leadership team did a great job of educating us on the process and really worked with us every step of the way to ensure our land was conserved the right way."



'Apapane

The purchase of the conservation easement was done in alignment with the land trust's agricultural initiative to conserve working farms and ranches in Hawai'i. This second easement on HCC Farms LLC property is another

important step in moving Hawai'i towards greater self-sufficiency and increased food security. HILT has been actively reaching out to farmers and ranchers across Hawai'i to share information about voluntary land conservation programs and the financial benefits and incentives of working with a land trust and conservation easements.

For farmers and ranchers interested in learning about HILT's agricultural initiative and voluntary land conservation programs, contact us at info@hilt.org.



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GIVING MATTERS

SPIRIT OF ALOHA: BUSINESSES GIVING BACK

Skyline Eco Adventures was inspired by a Central American surfing trip thwarted by a hurricane. Danny Boren, a Maui native, was working at a surf camp in Panama when his father, Buck, came to visit. They had planned a surf trip but a hurricane forced the pair inland where they discovered what, at the time, was called canopy tours. The concept of speeding through a densely forested valley clipped to a metal cable, or “zip line,” had not yet been introduced to the US and inspired Buck to urge Danny to put his entrepreneurial talents to work. Several months later Skyline Eco Adventures found its home on the slopes of Haleakalā with Haleakalā Ranch and became the first zip line to operate in the U.S.

Since 2002, Skyline has grown to operate four separate zip line tours on three islands, employ over 100 people and has been a generous supporter of HILT through the 1% for the Planet program; an international initiative connecting conservation-focused businesses with certified environmental nonprofits. Conservation has always been at the heart of Skyline. Operating on three main principals: Conservation, Community and Culture, Skyline has given over \$1 million dollars to a variety of charities promoting such causes as native forest restoration, sustainability, and land conservation.

We asked Danny why he made the environment a priority in his philanthropy, he tells us that, as a kid he always felt most at home outdoors and has learned to appreciate the native plants and animals and the cultural significance of his island home. “Preserving open spaces for the community, restoring the native environment, and protecting culturally important areas are critical to the well-being of our island and our community. The condition of our environment has a direct impact on all our lives, and the lives of the many species of plants and animals that were here long before people arrived. There is no replacing Maui or Hawai’i, so we feel an urgent need to protect the things and places that we love so that our kids and the generations to come, across our islands, will be able to enjoy all the things that make Hawai’i special.”

Not to be satisfied with the status quo, Skyline is looking toward the future. They will continue to

implement and model business practices that support the environment. They are continuing to expand the native forest restoration project at their Haleakalā Ranch location, and are also making efforts to eliminate single use plastics from our community through the company’s new Wipeout Plastic Grant Program in local schools.

HILT nominated Skyline Eco Adventures for the Association of Fundraising Professionals – Aloha Chapter National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Small Business Award and they will be honored on O’ahu on November 1st. They will be recognized amongst a variety of philanthropists from all over the State who have made a difference in the community through philanthropy. It’s a great honor and we are proud to work with companies like Skyline Eco Adventures who recognize the value of Hawai’i’s special places and make a measurable difference in their preservation.



Skyline Eco Adventures volunteers at a recent native tree-planting event.

GIVING MATTERS



Photo credit: Kelly Dunn

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE: KONA CLOUD FOREST

Cloud forests – storehouses of biodiversity, which in Hawai'i are commonly found between 3,000' and 4,000' elevation and characterized by persistent, low-level cloud cover, are called nature's water towers because they provide the vital function of capturing water that would otherwise never fall to the ground as rain. However, despite this essential purpose, the world's cloud forests are quickly disappearing. Most are being cleared for grazing, farming, logging, or development. Biologists warn that, in as little as a decade, the world's cloud forests may be all but gone. On Hawai'i Island, much of the cloud forest habitat is being subdivided into small house lots,

bulldozed and cleared, so the threat of losing cloud forest habitat is very real. But, efforts are being made to stop this, or at least preserve what can be saved. Earlier this year, with the help of individual donors, the Conservation Alliance, and the Dorrance Foundation, HILT recorded a conservation easement on 10 acres of cloud forest just mauka of the Kona airport on Hawai'i Island. In addition to being vital to the watershed, cloud forests are home to a vast number of endemic plants and animals including rare birds like the 'akepa; the Hawaiian creeper; the Hawaiian hawk, 'io; as well as more common birds such as 'amakihi, 'apapane, and 'elepaio. The federally endangered Hawaiian crow,


'alala at one time was found in this area and may be again as this area is included in the "Potential Crow Habitat Recovery Area". Additionally, the federally endangered Hoary bat is widely distributed in this area where it is a resident species. The work continues. Along with a number of community partners, HILT is hoping to expand our conservation work in the Kona Cloud Forest. You can help. Your support ensures we can continue our conservation efforts, not only on Hawai'i Island, but throughout the State. Please consider this when making your year-end gifts and know your giving means a great deal to us and the work we do. Mahalo.



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CELEBRATE THE LAND AND SUPPORT HILT!



**Hawai'i Island Pā'ina
Merriman's Waimea
Friday, November 17, 2017**



**Kaua'i Island Pā'ina
Merriman's Fish House
Thursday, December 14, 2017**



**Buy Back the Beach
Old Lāhaina Lā'au
January, 20, 2018**

This winter offers HILT supporters three exciting opportunities to come together to celebrate land conservation! Each event will be a feast for the senses with delicious food and drink, excellent local entertainment and great company. Enjoy sumptuous fare provided by local

celebrity chefs, Andrew Le and Mark "Gooch" Noguchi, partnering with Merriman's to create a unique farm-to-table menu on Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i and the famous Old Lāhaina Lā'au will feed our guests' hearts, souls and bellies with wonderful entertainment and food.

Tickets and tables for all events can be purchased online at www.hilt.org/upcoming-events or by calling (808) 791-0731. For more information, contact Angela Britten, Director of Development, at angie@hilt.org

Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu





