

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

‘ U M E K E K Ā ‘ E O

*Cloud Forest Thrives
on the Slopes of Hualālai
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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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Cover photo: Kona Cloud Forest-Kelly Dunn



LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

– Kāwika K. Burgess

Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

The past six months have been exciting here at HILT! We've protected two additional properties of over 220 acres on Hawai'i Island, hosted events on Hawai'i Island, Maui, O'ahu, and Kaua'i, conducted outreach with dozens of landowners, community groups, industry associations, and business groups, and have built up our pipeline of projects where we are working to protect significant landscapes across Hawai'i with unique natural and cultural resources.

One of our projects is in Kealahou, South Kona, an area listed on our "iconic lands" list for Hawai'i Island, and a great example of how the land trust can truly help to protect our rural farms, ranches and agricultural lands from being lost.

This 75-acre coffee farm had been divided into fourteen, 5-acre lots to be sold as gentlemen estates for residential development. However, the landowner preferred to have the land preserved for agriculture and contacted HILT to see if there was a conservation option. HILT was able to initiate a conversation about protecting the land with a conservation easement, and when the land was subsequently sold to the Honolulu Coffee Company (HCC) in 2016, HILT was able to acquire a conservation easement on the land ensuring that the farm would not be converted into residential lots, but would remain in agricultural production and the unique resources on the land would be protected. This year, HILT is working with HCC to protect another adjacent property of 150-acres to expand its agricultural production, mālama the cultural resources, preserve the native 'ōhi'a trees and native bird habitat, protect the watershed leading to the iconic Kealahou Bay, support the Kona coffee industry and life-blood of the South Kona economy, and ensure that the iconic views of the Kealahou Ridge remain for future generations.

I'd like to give a special thank you to all of HILT's members, volunteers, and donors who generously support our mission "to protect the lands that sustain us for current and future generations," and whose support helps to protect those lands in Hawai'i with unique natural and cultural resources that are threatened with development such as the Honolulu Coffee Company coffee farm in Kealahou.

In 2011, a group of visionaries, our Founding Few members, laid the foundation for a statewide land trust. Today, our current fellowship of major donors, our Nā Koa 'Āina Fellows, and our 'ohana of land trust members continue to promote the vision of a unified local land trust working across the Hawaiian Islands to improve the quality of life for everyone in Hawai'i by ensuring that our most precious landscapes are preserved and cared for in perpetuity.

However, our challenge is that there are more unique lands and landscapes that are being lost than we are currently able to protect. Each year, Hawai'i's precious coastlines and beaches, historical and cultural sites, and working farms and ranches face the constant threat of being lost forever to development.

I'd like to ask each of you, our members, donors, and volunteers, to share our vision and mission with just one more person this year and invite them to join the HILT 'Ohana. Together, we can expand our work to protect the most special places remaining in this, the most special place on earth, Hawai'i!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kāwika K. Burgess
Chief Executive Officer

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‘ĀINA ACTIONS

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

Fishponds & ‘Āina Momona



Moloka'i

Among the greatest achievements of the Hawaiian people, the loko i'a (fishponds) stands out along the coasts of Hawai'i and serves as a sign of wealth of the people. The Hawaiian word for wealth, waiwai, is a testament to the value of water, land, and food. The combination of these three created 'āina momona, a richly abundant land. The most common fishponds came in several different styles and designs, but by far the most numerous were the loko kuapā, which extended from the coast into the nearshore shallows, with some of the largest fishponds reaching nearly 50 acres in area. Because of the wave energy along the windward coasts, most fishponds lie along the leeward, or kona coast of the islands. However, one of the most innovative type of fishponds, the loko kalo i'a, produced as the name suggests both kalo (taro) and i'a (fish), the staples of the Hawaiian people. Generally speaking, these fishponds were built on existing spring-fed wetlands, with irrigation ditches, or 'auwai, bringing water into the pond from a nearby stream.

While these loko kalo i'a were frequently quite small, Maui's north shore from Kahului to Waihe'e became famous for its loko kalo i'a. The dual fishponds of Kanahā and Mau'oni were built by the chief Kapi'i'oho, probably in the 17th century, and named them after his children. These massive fishponds took up a large portion of what has become the town of Kahului. What is left of these two ponds comprise the Kanahā Pond State Wildlife Sanctuary. Further along the coast, near the mouth of Waiehu stream, lies the 12-acre loko kalo i'a of Keka'a. Sadly, virtually nothing remains of this once productive and thriving pond. Finally, the 7-acre Kapoho fishpond at HILT's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge is the smallest of these loko kalo i'a. However, while the pond remains largely intact, cultivation is not currently possible due to the loss of the 7 to 9 million gallons of water once brought in daily through the 'auwai. HILT strives to change this.

The Waihe'e Refuge has become an important place for people to hike, learn, and experience Maui's past. We have always held out hope that one day we can restore the water to Kapoho, and through that, return life to the fishpond. We are waiting for a response to our request, and hold out an enduring hope that through restoration, the community can once again experience a functioning, sustainable fishpond.

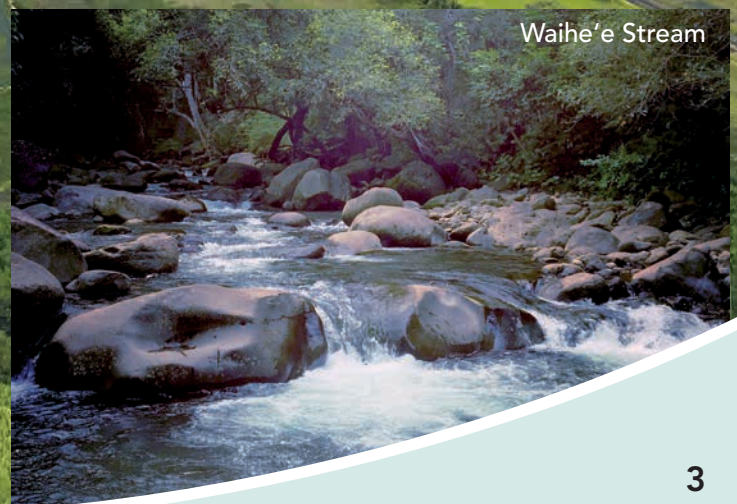


Waihe'e

The loko i'a, and the loko kalo i'a in particular, transformed the land into 'āina momona, where ka po'e kahiko (the people of old) thrived amid abundance. Hawaiian scholar, Samuel Kamakau described the loko kalo i'a:

"Fish of the taro patch pond gave life to the husband, the wife, the children and to the whole family, 'ohana, when anyone was hungry, the wife could get a few 'o'opu or 'ōpae, or āholehole and some taro leaves to relieve the hunger."

As Kamakau suggests, the loko kalo i'a was an integrated system in which humans thrived while the ecosystem benefited, and a level of resilient sustainability was achieved. As we seek to recover some degree of sustainability, it is important to listen carefully to ka 'ike kūpuna, the wisdom of the ancestors, and realize what waiwai truly means.



Waihe'e Stream

CURRENTS

HILT HAPPENINGS



LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOM WALLS

Each year, students from Seabury Hall Middle and High School in

Makawao take a week-long break from their studies in order to experience learning and service opportunities outside of the classroom walls. This year, HILT was very fortunate to host a dedicated group of students and faculty from Seabury Hall who not only gave five days of work but ample supplies of sweat (lots) and tears (very little).

The week began with a huaka'i māka'ika'i (pleasant excursion) around the Nu'u Refuge where the students learned about the ki'i pōhaku (petroglyphs), heiau (temple sites),

fishpond and the many myths and legends associated with this special wahi. The culmination of the week came with the students planting native plants, including species that had not been on the property for several hundred years. We are deeply grateful to the Seabury students and faculty for their hard work and dedication and look forward to continued collaboration in the future. **To schedule a volunteer day on Maui, contact Maui Island Director, Scott Fisher, at scott@hilt.org.**

PRESERVING LO'I IN WINDWARD O'AHU

HILT has several projects in various stages on the island of O'ahu. Anticipated to close in 2017 is the Hakipu'u Lo'i project in which The Trust for Public Land is facilitating the acquisition of 1.5 acres of traditional lo'i lands in the ahupua'a of Hakipu'u by

Ka Huli o Hāloa. The City and County of Honolulu and HILT are collaborating to acquire a conservation easement on this historic property, which would ensure that the cultural and agricultural resources of the land would be preserved in perpetuity. **To learn more about HILT's projects, visit hilt.org or contact our O'ahu office at info@hilt.org.**



RECONNECTING WITH NATURE

Joe and Gladys McCarty had always wanted to come to Hawai'i, so when the local Greenwich New York Agricultural Stewardship Association offered an all-expense trip to the Big Island of Hawai'i, Joe took \$100 of their hard earned savings and promptly bought a ticket ---- and WON!! Dana McClure, Development Coordinator for the group, had contacted HILT's

Hawai'i Island Director, Janet Britt, to see if HILT could help by providing a tour of its agricultural projects, particularly the Honolulu Coffee Company coffee farm easement. **Join us on one of our popular Talk Story on the Land series of guided hikes scheduled on Hawai'i Island. Contact Hawai'i Island Director, Janet Britt at janet@hilt.org today.**

KIA'I CARE FOR KĀHILI THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

Our community stewardship at Kāhili is evolving. This year, we begin native plant restoration on the dunes. With insights from Dr. Mehana Blaich-Vaughn, we've coined Kia'i Kāhili as a name for our volunteers; Kia'i means guard, watchman, and caretaker. Each of us that visit has a responsibility to take care, to be watchful of our

actions, and acquaint ourselves with the rhythms of that place. In collaboration with Nā Maka O Papahānaumokuākea, HILT is introducing the observational practice of Huli'ia and integrating this practice into work days and talk stories at Kāhili. With an ever-changing environment, climate, etc...there is no better time to reacquaint, reconnect and share. **Please contact Kaua'i Island Director, Angela Anderson at angela@hilt.org for more information.**



COVER STORY

CLOUD FOREST THRIVES ON THE SLOPES OF HUALĀLAI

Across the many lava flows on Hualālai at an elevation of about 3,500 feet, you reach Kona Cloud Forest on Hawai'i Island. As you travel up, the road winds through several ecosystems, beginning with the lower, more tropical palms and ending up at an elevation of around 6,100 feet where you find 'a'ali'i, pūkiawe and hardy and healthy 'ōhi'a. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) recently protected the Cloud Forest

programs year round. Visitors are invited to discover what a tropical cloud forest really is; how it benefits the ecosystem and the story of its development on the slopes of Hualālai Volcano.

A tropical rain forest receives most of its precipitation from rain. Cloud forests however, receive as much as 40% of their precipitation from moisture that condenses on the leaves of



*Norman Bezona
Kona Cloud Sanctuary*

This easement is a concrete example of what one family who cares about the health of our planet can accomplish.

The protected area is home to the below species:

- hāpu'u ferns
- palms
- bamboo
- 'ōhi'a trees
- 'ākepa
- 'io
- 'amakihī
- 'apapane
- 'alala
- Hoary bat

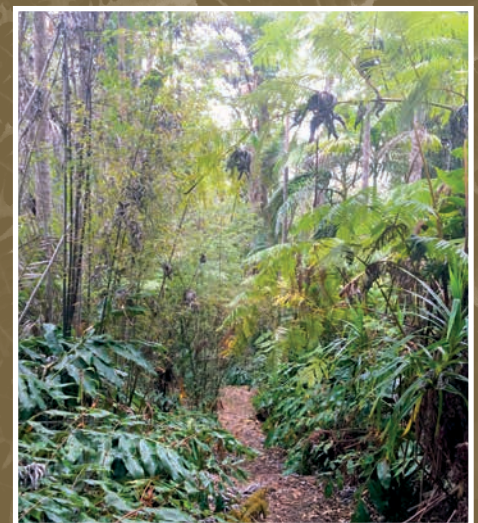


trees from mist and clouds that move through these upland forests. Tropical cloud forests occur on high mountains in the tropics, and in Hawai'i most commonly between 3,000 and 4,000 feet elevation, and experience very different environmental conditions. These forests are often referred to as the lungs of the planet. Healthy forests have the potential to benefit communities, wildlife, and the spiritual well-being of people, and are critical to the health of our living planet. Preserving cloud forests has become more critical now than ever. On Hawai'i Island, much of the cloud forest habitat is being subdivided into small lots, bulldozed and cleared, resulting in the loss of wildlife and habitat.

by recording a conservation easement on a 10-acre parcel of land in the Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary owned by Norman C. Bezona and his extended family. Mr. Bezona is a well-known and respected Professor Emeritus from the University of Hawai'i who has worked in tropical agriculture and reforestation for more than fifty years. Many Kona residents know Norman from his Sunday column on Horticulture in West Hawai'i Today. Norm dedicates most of his time to the Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary, by hosting botanical tours and educational

The conservation easement on this part of the sanctuary was purchased by a generous donation from Conservation Alliance and the Dorrance Foundation. Mr. Bezona owns other lands that connect to the 10-acre parcel, which he hopes to conserve in the near future.

The Kona Cloud Forest Sanctuary will permanently protect a portion of a rare and extremely threatened cloud forest system. As Norman always says at the end of each walk: "Plant A Tree!!"



GIVING MATTERS

SPRIT OF ALOHA: BUSINESSES GIVING BACK

Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu and Old Lāhainā Lū'au 'ohana know the value of preserving Hawai'i's beauty, lands, and culture. They have become an integral part of the Maui community for over 30 years through their generosity, service and aloha, and Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) appreciates the support they offer in keeping Hawai'i truly unique.

The partners have cultivated a strong sense of community within their businesses. These are businesses that give back! Michael Moore can't remember a time when the environment wasn't a passion of his. His father's love of the outdoors taught Michael respect for the environment and has always been a part of him. When Susan Bradford, a Board Member for



Michael Moore

statewide organization better suited to responding to larger conservation needs. He also became a member of HILT's Founding Few, a group of donors who have demonstrated their commitment to land conservation through a generous multi-year gift. Michael understood that growing the organization was the best way to attract funding from larger sources, but realized that it was a necessity to build capacity from internal sources first. This has helped HILT increase its acreage to over 17,800 acres statewide.

Michael combines his passions by sharing HILT's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge with his Old Lāhainā Lū'au 'ohana. He has witnessed employees becoming emotional on the visit. "You see, when you're there and look ma uka, you can see no evidence of human interference. There are no roads, no buildings, nothing. They know what a privilege it is to be there and to share it with their family. HILT is valuable because not only is it protecting the land, it is interpreting it and providing access to the community."

Mahalo to Michael Moore, his partners, and the family of Old Lāhainā Lū'au for their generosity and commitment to the Maui community. Their foresight and spirit of aloha is helping to create a lasting legacy in Hawai'i. If your business is interested in partnering with HILT, contact our office at (808) 791-0729 or info@hilt.org.

"Think about the visitors who come here. They come for the extraordinary natural environment and the host culture. You can't have one without the other. Protecting the environment is pono. It's the right thing to do."

Having moved to Maui from Oregon in 1980, Michael Moore, recalls having arrived and "feeling like I had just come home." Having decided to put down roots, Michael partnered with Robert Aguiar and Tim Moore (no relation), formed the business Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu and opened the doors to Old Lāhainā Lū'au in 1986, which has since grown to an award-winning venue. Over the years, the partners have added Aloha Mixed Plate, Star Noodle, Leoda's Kitchen and Pie Shop, Hoaloha Bakeshop and Hoaloha Farms to diversify their offerings and to strengthen their commitment to the Maui community.

the newly formed Maui Coastal Land Trust (MCLT) approached Moore in 2000, it was a natural way for him to contribute to the community. He was inspired by the supporters of the land trust and felt like it was the right thing to support. The concept of the land trust's signature fundraising event, Buy Back the Beach: Mālama Kīpuka, was born. The event, has been held at Old Lāhainā Lū'au for 16 years, and according to Michael, it will continue there for as long as the event continues to serve the organization.

Michael Moore's support has helped to grow the land trust from the Maui Coastal Land Trust to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT), a

Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu



GIVING MATTERS

NŌPILI MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

Are you looking for a way to contribute and make a lasting impression? Join our Nōpili Monthly Giving Program today!

The 'o'opu of the nōpili variety (freshwater gobi) would travel upstream and up waterfalls by clinging to wet stones. This determination to achieve the impossible became synonymous for showing steadfast love.

Our Nōpili Monthly Giving Club is a tribute to that steadfast commitment. Our commitment is to protecting the lands that sustain us for current and future generations. Setting-up a recurring monthly gift with Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, in any increment, is a small act that demonstrates your commitment to Hawai'i and its communities.



“He nōpili ka i'a, pili pa'a ke aloha.

The nōpili is the fish; love clings fast.” -'Ōlelo No'eau

The advantages of donating monthly:

- You determine the amount of your monthly gift
- You retain the ability to change or suspend it anytime
- Automatic and hassle-free, your credit card is charged around the same date each month
- Annual giving statements are provided for tax purposes
- Your donation is put to work immediately
- You'll stay current with HILT Happenings via our official newsletter and e-news briefs
- Your donation conveniently renews each year

To sign up for the Nōpili Monthly Giving Club, go to <http://www.hilt.org/support/monthly-giving/> or call our office at (808) 791-0729.

'ĀINA HO'OILINA PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY

Provide a legacy that will remain in perpetuity through our planned giving society. With your vision and a passion for Hawai'i, we can maintain the beauty of the islands that we all hold so dear. Your generosity will help ensure that future generations are able to experience this special place as we did.

'Āina Ho'oilina Society is the committed group of our loyal supporters who have included HILT in their estate planning. The literal translation of this group's name is the Legacy Land Society.

If you are interested in learning more about our planned giving options or to enroll today, feel free to visit <http://www.hilt.org/support/planned-giving/>.

If there are any errors or omissions in our list, please accept our sincere apologies and call our office at (808) 791-0729 or info@hilt.org. We will ensure that you are included in future 'Āina Ho'oilina Society listings.

We would like to recognize and say mahalo to the members of our 'Āina Ho'oilina planned giving society.

Dr. Richard Bennett

Susan Bradford

Jackie Brainard

Neola Caveny

Mary Charles

Mindy Frankel

Hilary Harts

Maribeth & John K. Klobuchar

Peter & Luanna McKenney

Joan C. Pratt

Robert & Carolyn Richardson

Gerrienne & Clyde Sakamoto

Patricia Stillwell


Anonymous (3)



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SAVE THE DATE!

FOR WAIHE'E'S FAMILY PICNIC

This summer, enjoy HILT's Annual Waihe'e Picnic. Bring the 'ohana and spend the day in the sun at our Waihe'e Refuge. Enjoy the sweet voices of the keiki of Pūnana Leo o Maui Hawaiian immersion preschool, Talk Story on a guided tour of the wetlands, listen to live music by local artists, Ron Kualā'au and Zanuck Lindsey, and experience great food by Zing Maui! HILT will also be recognizing two invaluable volunteers that generously commit their time each week to see Waihe'e restored and thriving!

Saturday, June 3

11am-2pm

Waihe'e Coastal Dunes
& Wetlands Refuge

RSVP to info@hilt.org
or (808) 791-0729 today!

