

# ‘U MEKE KĀ‘EO

*A well-filled calabash, a well-filled mind*



*Volunteers planting native sedges at HILT's Nu'u Preserve, Maui.*

## ▶▶▶ IN THIS ISSUE:

**HILT PROTECTS POPULAR KAUA'I  
HIKING TRAIL Pg. 3**

**HILT HAPPENINGS:** Stories From Across  
the Pae 'Āina Pg. 4

**THE FUTURE IN FOCUS:** HILT's Bold Vision  
for Growth Advances with Phase II of its  
Statewide Strategic Conservation Plan Pg. 6





# HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Jonathan Likeke Scheuer**  
*Chair*

**Mary Charles**  
*Vice Chair*

**Keith Ogata**  
*Treasurer*

**Jennifer Luck**  
*Secretary*

**Matt Beall**  
*Past Chair*

### DIRECTORS

**Sarah Bakewell**

**Lisa Grove**

**Neil Hannahs**

**Le'ahi Hall**

**McD Philpotts**

**Clyde Sakamoto**

**Larry Stevens**

**Bill Swank**

**Anthony Takitani**

**Kāwika K. Burgess**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Scott Fisher, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Executive Director  
of Conservation*

**Courtenay O'Connor**  
*Associate Executive Director  
of Advancement*

**Angela Britten, CFRE**  
*Director of Development*

**James Crowe**  
*Land Steward*

**Karen Pollard**  
*Field Technician*

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

As a Hawai'i organization we encourage our entire community to learn more about the Hawaiian language. Should you come across a Hawaiian term or a word you don't understand in our newsletter, please visit [wehewehe.org](http://wehewehe.org) or email [info@hilt.org](mailto:info@hilt.org) for more information.


126 Queen Street, Suite 306  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
(808) 791-0729  
[www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org)

### FOLLOW US ON:

 Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

 @HILandTrust

 @HILandTrust

 Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

# Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

**Kāwika K. Burgess**



Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

Let's boldly move forward to ensure that Hawai'i's most significant natural and cultural resources, in every district, and on every island, are permanently and perpetually conserved. Let's join hands to make light work of stewarding our lands for the long-term wellbeing of our current and future generations. Let us forever preserve the Hawaiian way of life.

Change continues to unfold across the landscape, from Nā'ālehu in Ka'ū on Hawai'i Island to Hanalei in Halele'a on the island of Kaua'i. From the massive subdivisions of our native forests to the rapid privatization of our

pristine coastlines and beaches, our very way of life in Hawai'i is at risk of being inalterably changed, forever.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust will not sit back and watch the changes occur. Thirty years from now, our children will not reminisce about the lost beauty of their childhood lands, nor will they lament the missed opportunities of our current generation. Everyone at HILT, at every level, is actively working to be a significant and proactive force to protect and conserve these lands and natural resources – the lands that are the very essence of Hawai'i.

Now that we have a Strategic Conservation Plan in place, HILT is poised more than ever before to protect the most significant natural and cultural resources remaining in each district, on each island. Earlier this year, HILT developed maps that pinpoint the regions and properties on each island that represent our best chances for catalytic conservation. These maps contain the historical and cultural, agricultural, outdoor recreation, agricultural, wildlife, water, and scenic conservation values that HILT seeks to protect in order to sustain our unique quality of life that we all cherish here in Hawai'i. These maps will also guide our next phase of bold conservation.

Your support for HILT helps to fulfill our important mission: to save and steward these precious lands for current and future generations. In this moment, Hawai'i has a rare opportunity to safeguard the places that define us and provide for our wellbeing, and we look forward to boldly and collectively seizing this opportunity.

**“O ka pono ke hana 'ia a iho mai nā lani.”**

*Continue to do good until the heavens come down to you.*

**Blessings come to those who persist in doing good.**

**‘ŌLELO NO‘EAU 2437**

Ke Aloha Nō,

Kāwika K. Burgess, Chief Executive Officer



# *HILT Ensures Permanent Access to Popular Kaua'i Hiking Trail*

***Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and Wai Koa Plantation*** ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE WAI KOA LOOP TRAIL IN KĪLAUEA, KAUA'I WILL BE PRESERVED IN PERPETUITY. THIS AGREEMENT WILL ENSURE THAT THE KAUA'I COMMUNITY WILL HAVE PERMANENT ACCESS TO A TREASURED COMMUNITY RESOURCE WHICH PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT SCENIC AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND SUPPORTS THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE OF KAUA'I.

Joan Porter, owner of Wai Koa Plantation stated, "My family and I are very pleased to work with Hawaiian Islands Land Trust to protect and preserve this popular walking trail for the people of Kaua'i. Wai Koa was very special to my husband, Bill, and I know he would be deeply grateful for the opportunity to conserve it in perpetuity." The agreement will ensure that the trail and access to the scenic Stone Dam will be preserved for future generations.

The Wai Koa Loop Trail is a 4.5-mile hiking trail located in Kilauea, Kaua'i and can be accessed through the Anaina Hou Community Park located at 5-2723 Kuhio Highway. The hike is free, but hikers are asked to sign a waiver at Anaina Hou where maps of the trail are also available. The trail provides beautiful views of the Namahana Mountains, the historic Stone Dam, the Kilauea Forest, as well as the largest mahogany plantation in the United States. The trail is open from 9:00 am to dusk and takes between 2.5 to 4 hours to complete the hike. For more information about the trail visit: <http://anainahou.org/park-features/the-wai-koa-loop-trail/>.





# Currents

## HILT Happenings

### HAWAI'I ISLAND

#### *Talk Story with Forest Stewards*

Scott Fisher, HILT's Associate Executive Director of Conservation, recently travelled to Pa'auilo on Hawai'i Island to present to a group of forest stewards. Several of the attendees are active agro-foresters incorporating native species regeneration into their farming activities. The topics of discussion included how conservation easements work, the types of tax benefits conservation easement donors are eligible for, and the obligations and requirements of both the land trust and the land owners. This program is one of a number of outreach events HILT holds annually to educate landowners and those committed to perpetuating the health of Hawai'i's 'āina. If you are interested in hosting a similar event, or if you simply want to learn more about how the Land Trust protects Hawai'i's special places, please contact Scott Fisher at [scott@hilt.org](mailto:scott@hilt.org).



Forest stewards attending a presentation by Scott Fisher, (not pictured) in Pa'auilo, Hawai'i.

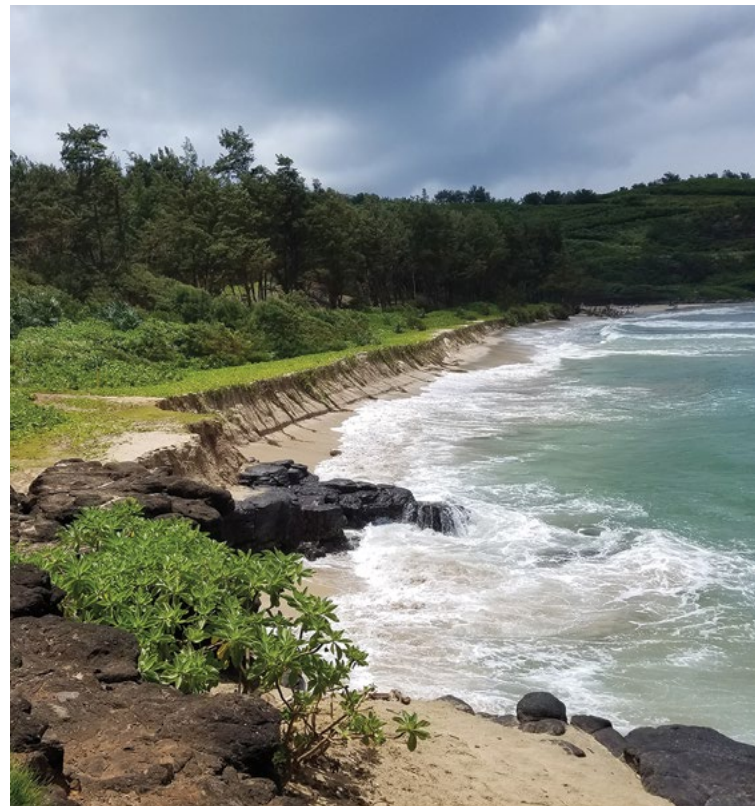
### KAUA'I

#### *Flood Can't Dampen Kaua'i's Spirit*

On April 14th, nearly 50 inches of rain fell on Hanalei and Wainiha in less than 24 hours. The storm set national rainfall records and caused devastating damage to Hanalei, Hā'ena, Kōloa, Kalihiwai, and Wainiha.

The historic flood also caused significant changes to local north shore beaches, including HILT's Kāhili Beach Preserve and small Wainiha coastal fishing parcel. Kāhili Beach typically offers a large sandy area along the shore. The beach area was entirely gone after the flood, leaving only the ironwood-covered sand dunes. Kāhili Stream which feeds into the ocean at the Preserve nearly doubled in size as the water drained from the mountaintops. Thankfully, five months later, the sand has returned to the shore, the stream has shrunk, and the beach once again is safe for families to visit and play.

The April flood, though devastating to many, revealed the power of the north shore community. An unprecedented community effort provided food supplies, financial, medical and mental health support, home repair and cleaning, and rescue efforts for residents in affected areas. Beach clean-ups on HILT's Kāhili Beach Preserve, Hanalei Bay, and Kalihiwai Bay attracted hundreds of volunteers who cleared tons of debris. We deeply admire our Kaua'i 'ohana for their strength and perseverance.



The shoreline at Kāhili Beach soon after the flooding on April 14.



*HILT's Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge.*



## MAUI

### *Waihe'e Ho'olaule'a*

On September 8th, HILT hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Waihe'e Ho'olaule'a at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge. The day commenced with a blessing and hula offering from Kumu Hula Kapono'ai Molitau's halau, Nā Hanona Kūlike 'o Pi'ilani, and continued with huaka'i led by Scott Fisher and James Crowe. Guests enjoyed lū'au fare provided by Zing Maui, shave ice from Tobi's Shave Ice, excellent live entertainment by Anthony Pfluke, cultural demonstrations, and lei making. The free annual event showcases the history of the Refuge, the ongoing ecological restoration work, and how people can get involved. We are tremendously grateful to both Goodfellow Brothers, Inc. and Thorne Abbott for the generous donation of time and resources to repair the road into the Refuge. Access to the Refuge through the main gate is once again open, and camping and hiking have resumed. If you are interested in our camping program for volunteers, Please visit [www.campwaihee.hilt.org](http://www.campwaihee.hilt.org).

## O'AHU

### *Student Enrichment at Maunawila*

(Submitted by Keonaonaku'upuaihalihali'iamaikalanimai Hailey Kamaka'ala Keo, Kahuku High Class of 2020)

Over the summer, a group of youth from Ko'olauloa joined the community of Hau'ula to learn about Maunawila Heiau. I was fortunate to have this opportunity to work with my peers and learn more about my one hānau. We learned mo'olelo about the type of heiau Maunawila was, and one of the caretakers: Makuakaumana. We also helped uncover multiple ancient Hawaiian and modern artifacts scattered around the property and learned how to document them with an archaeologist. Each of us was assigned a project this summer including: clearing hau in certain areas, pulling weeds, painting entrance signs, creating a path that leads to the heiau, and building a māla lā'au lapa'au. My project was designing and painting signs to educate community members about this special place. All of the projects were successfully completed by the end of the summer. This was a humbling experience for me as I was born and raised in Hau'ula. At first, the only reason I was working there was because I would get paid to work close to home. However, my perspective shifted as I recognized the sacredness of the land. Then, I wanted to gain more knowledge of the wahi. Learning more about the history of my community is important to me because it helps build a deeper connection to my Native Hawaiian culture, my ancestors, and most importantly to Maunawila itself.

Not many people in Hau'ula know about this wahi kupuna. It is my kuleana as kama'aina of this place to share what I know about Maunawila with others so that the history of Hau'ula never dies.



*Students at Maunawila Heiau.*



# The Future in Focus

## **HILT's Bold Vision for Growth Advances With Phase II of its Statewide Strategic Conservation Plan**

*What will it take* TO ENSURE THAT HAWAI'I'S MOST SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES — IN EACH DISTRICT AND ON EACH ISLAND — ARE PROTECTED AND MANAGED FOR A SUSTAINABLE HAWAI'I? HOW DO WE INSTILL THE ETHIC OF MĀLAMA 'ĀINA ONCE AGAIN INTO OUR WAY OF LIFE, AS IT WAS SO NATURALLY CULTIVATED FOR GENERATIONS ACROSS THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS? THESE ARE THE BIG QUESTIONS WE ARE ASKING OURSELVES AROUND HILT THESE DAYS.

As we enter a new, outward phase of our strategic planning process, we are grateful to the members, donors, and partners who have contributed to the incredible progress achieved in our first wave of efforts. Over the past year, we have led constructive dialogues with our volunteers and members to clearly define the six conservation values that we seek to protect: working agricultural lands; wildlife habitats; water resource areas; outdoor recreational spaces; cultural and historical sites; and scenic viewscapes.

Equipped with a common understanding of the resources at stake, we then conducted a statewide landscape analysis. We deployed GIS (Geographic Information Systems) technology to identify which regions and properties on each of the islands contain the highest concentration of HILT's conservation values.

Now, with real-time maps and data locating priority regions and properties, HILT can move into a new, proactive phase of our strategic planning process. In continued consultation with our volunteers and membership, we may now use these maps to inform outreach strategies for the landowners, communities, and stakeholders that overlap these high-priority lands. HILT will also be able to develop a targeted portfolio of properties that is reflective of our conservation heatmaps, and the values that contribute to our unique way of life in Hawai'i.



*Maka'ala'e, Maui*





ABOVE: A native 'apapane grazing on 'ōhi'a lehua.

RIGHT: Kona Cloud Forest, Hawai'i

BELOW: Wai'oli, Kaua'i



HILT's Strategic Conservation Plan is an evolving tool that will enable us to better leverage our finite resources, and is a window into the vast potential for high-impact conservation. The National Land Trust Census<sup>1</sup> shows that, on average, land trusts with a strategic conservation plan save twice as much land as land trusts without one. Our plan is an important driver that will generate the momentum we need to increase the pace, scope, and efficacy of our conservation efforts. Without this tool, the collective demand for conservation across Hawai'i risks overwhelming our small-but-mighty staff. With this tool, we can now proactively target a long-term, relationship-building effort with the landowners and communities associated with properties most important to fulfilling our mission.

Please stay tuned for the rollout of an expanded, statewide conservation outreach program for landowners, communities, and stakeholders across the islands. We are actively raising support: to improve our long-term organizational stability; to increase our capacity to protect and steward lands aligning with our "conservation heat maps"; and to address the unique community conservation needs that each island will require.

As we look forward to a strong, stable vision for a vibrant Hawai'i, we thank you for your efforts to bring us to this inflection point, and invite your engagement in the next exciting phase for conservation in Hawai'i. Together, we will ensure that the most special and unique landscapes in Hawai'i are preserved for current and future generations!

---

1. Land Trust Alliance, National Land Trust 2015 Census, [www.landtrustalliance.org/about/national-land-trust-census](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/about/national-land-trust-census)







# HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

126 QUEEN STREET, SUITE 306  
HONOLULU, HI 96813

WWW.HILT.ORG  
(808) 791-0729

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PUUNENE, HI  
PERMIT NO. 75



Hawaiian Islands Land Trust



@HILandTrust



@HILandTrust



Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 2 FALL 2018

*Celebrate the Land and Support HILT!*

### ***The 18th Annual Buy Back the Beach***

**OLD LĀHAINA LŪ'AU • JANUARY 26, 2019**

HILT'S POPULAR LŪ'AU BENEFIT, CHAIRED BY MAUI BREWING COMPANY'S GARRETT MARRERO, WILL HONOR SUSAN AND JAC KEAN AS HILT'S 2019 CHAMPIONS OF THE LAND. Join us for an event that is sure to inspire. Guests will be treated to live entertainment by The Old Lāhaina Lū'au Entertainers and Gretchen Rhodes, an amazing live and silent auction with highly exclusive items curated specifically for HILT, and ono cuisine provided by the local farmers, ranchers and fishermen who work with the chefs at Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu. Table sponsorships and tickets can be purchased online at [www.hilt.org/special-events-calendar](http://www.hilt.org/special-events-calendar) or by calling (808) 791-0731. For more information, contact Angela Britten, Director of Development, at [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).

### MAHALO TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

**Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu**



**STAR NOODLE**



Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact Angela Britten, Director of Development, at (808) 791-0729 or [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact Angela Britten, Director of Development, at (808) 791-0729 or [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact Angela Britten, Director of Development, at (808) 791-0729 or [angie@hilt.org](mailto:angie@hilt.org).