

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

‘ U M E K E K Ā ‘ E O

A WELL FILLED CALABASH, A WELL FILLED MIND

*A Conservation Success
by the North Kohala Community
Story Pg. 6*

In This Issue:

*The Creation of a Veterans' Peace Park
Welcome Our New Advisory Board
Your Contributions Make a Difference*



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LETTER FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

– Scott Fisher

Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

I have been given a great honor recently, to lead the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, following the departure of Ted Clement in September. I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Ted for his leadership and friendship over the last three years. For those of you who haven't yet heard, our executive director, Ted Clement, has taken on a new position with Save Mount Diablo, a land trust in Walnut Creek, California. Ted's fine leadership has left the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust not only in a solid financial position, but also in good hands so that we may seamlessly continue to achieve our conservation goals.

This summer saw the addition of three new members of the HILT 'Ohana. First, on Kaua'i Island, Angela Anderson joined us as our new Kaua'i Island Director. Angela brings with her a wealth of experience, having worked with environmental agencies and in environmental law for many years. Next, on O'ahu, Guy Nakashima and Angela Britten joined as our Associate Executive Director of Advancement and Director of Development, respectively. Both Guy and Angie are veteran fundraisers and share a passion for protecting Hawai'i's special places. They are joining a dedicated, hardworking team and we are looking forward to much more good work to share with you in the months to come.

In this issue of 'Umeke Kā'eo, you will read about a few of the projects that we've been working on during the year, like the fantastic easements Janet Britt has coordinated on Hawai'i Island and a project dear to me, the Veterans' Peace Park right here in Wailuku. However, the work we do would not be

possible without the dedication and support of the hundreds of individuals who make Hawaiian Islands Land Trust a priority in their charitable giving. From the land owners who voluntarily conserve their land, the volunteers who give their time in the field, our Island Council, newly appointed Advisory Board and Board Members, to our membership, each one of you plays an important role in ensuring that the lands that sustain us are protected in perpetuity, for our children, our grandchildren, and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to consider a gift to our Annual Fund this year. You can use the enclosed envelope for your gift or direct your gift online at www.hilt.org. Your gift makes a difference and mahalo in advance.

In closing, I recently celebrated my 12th anniversary with HILT, a milestone I am proud of. The lands that we work to conserve are the lands I have known all my life. The communities we serve are people I know and love. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to work with so many incredible people and places.

*He aikane, he punana na ke onaona
A friend is a nest of fragrance
(Sweet indeed, is a good friend)*

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Scott

Scott Fisher, PhD,
Interim Executive Director

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Cover photo: Janet Britt

‘ĀINA ACTIONS



A CELEBRATION OF CONSERVATION AND PEACE

on the Wailuku Waterfront

By Scott Fisher

*Celebrating closing the
easement from left to right:
Paul Mizoguchi, Yuki Lei
Sugimura, Brian Moto,
Ted Clement, Scott Fisher,
Malia Avila and Carol Gentz.*

When I was 19, I was deployed to the Middle East as an Infantryman serving with the 5th Marine Regiment. It was August of 1990, we were given less than six hours notice to pack our belongings. This abrupt departure meant we had no time to gather the items we needed to keep in touch with our families. Not long after arriving in Saudi Arabia, I borrowed a pen and scrounged paper to write to my parents to let them know I was okay and that we were low on many supplies.

Several weeks later, a flight of helicopters landed in our battalion compound. I could see box after box being unloaded. In all, there were sixteen boxes of supplies sent from Maui by my parents' coworkers at Maui Community College and HC&S. That evening, we drove around to each platoon in my battalion delivering a seemingly endless supply of paper tablets, pens and envelopes from home. Twenty four years later, I reflect on this as a transformative event, a realization of how much my community means to me.



Throughout history, veterans returning home have used their experiences of service to their country as an opportunity to better serve their community at home. The people of Hawai'i have always had a special place in their hearts for veterans. Hawai'i is home to the most decorated unit in American military history: the 442nd regiment of Nisei soldiers who fought during WWII. Long before WWII, there were those who served their chiefs during the tragic wars of Hawaiian unification. Prominent among them is Ulumāheihēi Hoapili, who served as commander under Kamehameha the Great and then as Governor of Maui during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Governor Hoapili was instrumental in the construction of the road which circumnavigates Maui known as Hoapili Highway.

In 2014, David Fukuda from the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center approached HILT about taking ownership of five acres of land situated near the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. We could see that this could be an ideal spot for community recreation. During discussions with the Nisei Center, they suggested dedicating the park to veterans of all wars and the idea of a Veterans' Peace Park evolved. This will be a place where all people are welcome to enjoy themselves and the amazing views of the ocean, Kahului Bay and Haleakalā. We hope that visitors to this park will reflect on both the sacrifices of those who

did not return, as well as the ways that veterans have given back to their communities for generations.

Work to bring this dream to reality began in October of 2015. Goodfellow Brothers, Inc., generously donated all of the costs of creating the park, including clearing some of the dense vegetation, creating a parking area, a trail that encircles the park, and installing signage. Others in the community have also lent a hand – a group of high school students from Maui's King Kekaulike High School joined us for a morning of trash pick-up on the property. It was a pleasure working with them, and despite the hot, dirty work, these students stayed positive and motivated the entire day.

As with any community project, the realization of the Veterans' Peace Park could not have happened without the generous spirit of the many individuals and companies whose support made it possible. We are grateful to the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, the Freeman Foundation, Goodfellow Brothers, Inc., Matson, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., Hiroshi Arisumi, David and Judy Fukuda, Mary Stanford, Paul and Jessie Mizoguchi, and the many others who generously supported this project.

CURRENTS

HILT HAPPENINGS



HAWAI'I ISLAND

Hawai'i Island is happening! We are working to close more easements on Hawai'i Island than ever before. We closed two conservation easements earlier this year and are working on 2 more that we hope will close before the end of 2015. In June, we completed an easement on a 41 acre forested parcel owned by the Susan Kaye Lundburg Trust. This easement will protect native forest on the slopes of Mauna Kea, close to the Manowaiale'e Forest Reserve. We've expanded the K ipuka Mosaic Project (which creates corridors of protected lands by working with private land owners to place voluntary conservation easements on their properties), with a donation from Dan Taylor, former Chief of Natural Resources for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. He donated a third easement on three acres of forested land bordering the National Park. To find out more about these and other Hawai'i Island projects and events, contact Hawai'i Island Director Janet Britt at janet@hilt.org.



KAUA'I

HILT is excited to announce our first Conservation Collaboration Agreement on Kaua'i with Kanuikapono Charter School in Anahola. Kanuikapono's vision and mission beautifully resonate with HILT's work. HILT and Kanuikapono recognize that young people play a major role in determining what our

future environment will be like and that together, we can better protect Hawai'i while furthering our respective land conservation and education goals. This Collaboration will provide educational opportunities about land conservation for the students who will also participate in cleanups and restoration projects at HILT's Kāhili Beach Preserve. The students will work toward raising funds to become members of HILT's Young Friends Membership Program as well. Ms. Kerry Panui's eighth grade Earth Science class will have the opportunity to have first-hand experiences with the land working on projects and we are looking forward to imparting the value of mālama 'āina, caring for the land, in the field. Together we will work to deepen the students' understanding of 'āina and HILT's conservation efforts. For more information on Conservation Collaborations, contact Kaua'i Island Director Angela Anderson at angela@hilt.org.



MAUI

In 2001, Isao Nakagawa, a local fisherman noticed a seabird, the 'ua'u kani or wedge-tailed shearwater, on the ground at Hāwea Point near Kapalua. He had never seen this particular bird there before, and called Dr. Fern Duvall, a biologist at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Dr. Duvall surveyed the area and found 6 birds nesting. Although at one time they were very abundant, the 'ua'u kani are rare on Maui. Habitat loss and predation has caused a steep decline throughout their range in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Isao was inspired to make protecting the 'ua'u kani at Hāwea Point his personal mission. His work involves informing the public about the ground-nesting sea birds and

ensuring that chicks are successfully fledged. This year, HILT Land Steward, James Crowe, worked with Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project to band the 'ua'u kani at Hāwea. We are proud to announce that the colony has grown to more than 500 adults with 260 chicks banded in mid-October of this year. To learn more about Hāwea Point and other Maui Island projects please contact Maui Island Director and Interim Executive Director Scott Fisher at scott@hilt.org.



O'AHU

Our O'ahu Island Director, Tina Aiu met O'ahu's newest Island Council Member, Melissa Uhl, while serving in the Environmental Law Society at the William S. Richardson School of Law. After interning at the Trust for Public Land and volunteering with the North Shore Community Land Trust during law school, Melissa became very passionate about the work of land trusts to protect places that are important to Hawai'i communities. As a surfer, hiker, and outdoor enthusiast, Melissa is excited to join HILT's O'ahu Island Council. Melissa currently works on policy and partnerships at the Energy Excelerator - a clean energy startup commercialization program in Honolulu. This primarily includes supporting the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative and aligning local energy stakeholders in supporting and implementing innovation in Hawai'i's rapidly evolving energy system. Prior to joining Energy Excelerator, Melissa has a background in environmental and ecosystem services project management from the Natural Capital Project at Stanford University where she worked as a Nature Conservancy Science Fellow.

ALOHA MAI KĀKOU TO HILT'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



ROB PACHECO

We are pleased to welcome to the board Rob Pacheco, the Founder and President of Hawaii Forest & Trail and Kohala Zipline. As an Interpretive Naturalist, Rob has spent three decades sharing his passion for nature with people of all ages and walks of life. Since 1993, Hawaii Forest & Trail has connected nearly half a million visitors and residents with Hawai'i's world renown nature and natural history. Rob has extensive leadership experience with Hawai'i's conservation challenges, land use issues and tourism industry. He served two terms as the Hawai'i Island member of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources. He is currently on the board of the Big Island Visitors Bureau and, starting in 2016, will serve as its Vice-Chairperson. He holds lifetime memberships in the National Speleological Society, American Birding Association, and the National Association for Interpretation. He lives in Holualoa with his wife and business partner Cindy Pacheco.



Photos by Michael Gilbert/
Maui No Ka 'O'i Magazine

CLYDE SAKAMOTO

We are also pleased to welcome to the board Clyde Sakamoto, Chancellor Emeritus of UH Maui College. Clyde has been the singular face of higher education on Maui for decades. On the forefront of sustainability practices in institutions in Hawai'i, he brings to HILT years of experience as an innovator and visionary. Clyde's pioneering leadership developed distance learning for the tri-isle Maui County that became a model for UH's work throughout the state. Clyde's legacy includes the beautiful UH Maui College campus, a robust suite of educational programs that support economic development with an eye to environmental conservation. The whole state will benefit from his mana'o as we advance the mission of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust.



ALOHA MAI KĀKOU TO HILT'S NEW ADVISORY BOARD!

To be effective in what we do, we have to rely on networks, partnerships and community relationships. In mid-2015 HILT formed an Advisory Board to help us expand our reach into the community. This is a group of experienced professionals with a variety of backgrounds whose knowledge we can draw from. These individuals will support HILT in our current and future endeavors. Help us welcome them!

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust Advisory Board

Dale Bonar, Solid Ground Consulting

Mark Dunkerley, Hawaiian Airlines

James Greenwell, Palani Ranch Company, Inc.

Alice F. Guild, Community Volunteer

Bob Hobdy, Environmental Consultant

Bitsy Kelley, Outrigger Resorts

Kitty Lagaretta, Communications Pacific

Mary McGrath, Philpotts Interiors

Helen Nielsen, Starr Properties LLC

Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Gaylord Wilcox, Waioli Corporation

COVER STORY

A CONSERVATION SUCCESS BY THE NORTH KOHALA COMMUNITY

Kaiholena, on the slopes of Kohala carries with it a storied past. One of the most important areas on Hawai'i Island, these lands at Kaiholena were the fifth and thirty-fifth registered properties in the Great Māhele documents. The ahupua'a of Kaiholena is one of the few whose boundaries extend to the horizon. We know that prior to western contact, Kaiholena was a thriving community. There are numerous remnants of heiau, massive hālau, burial sites, village complexes, hōlua fields, and many enclosures, terraces, and walls that are still visible. Kaiholena has many intact pre-contact cultural and archaeological sites with over 200 sites that qualify for the national registry.

The gently rolling hills of Kaiholena were once covered by sandalwood and 'ilima. The 'ilima was once so abundant that, from a distance, the hills looked

like a sea of yellow. The sandalwood trade in the early 1800s destroyed the forest and changed the ecosystem to a more arid environment. Now, as in much of the dry land areas of Hawai'i Island, the land is dominated by Kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) and mostly non-native grasses. However, change is coming to this area. On Thursday, November 5, 2015, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association took ownership of 35 acres of Kaiholena lands. With this change in ownership, a new vision is being strategized that include honey and kiawe flour production and 'ulu planting.

The Kaiholena South parcel is part of an extensive community effort to protect one of the largest undeveloped stretches of coast in the State of Hawai'i. To date, several parcels adjacent to the Kaiholena parcel have been protected including the Pāo'o parcel of over 10 acres, the 17 acre Nu'uaniu parcel, and Kaiholena North parcel of 151 acres which extends along the ocean and protects ocean access from Kaiholena South.

This latest parcel is one of several key parcels connecting other protected areas through which the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs. This trail runs from North Kohala to Volcanoes National Park and is approximately 175 miles long. The Ala Kahakai NHT is a national trail and a unit of the National Park Service. The Ala Kahakai Trail



work reflects the Hawaiian concept of trails as a network connecting places of importance to Native Hawaiian people. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association and other organizations function as partners with the National Park Service in community-based protection of cultural sites and landscapes that are large enough to provide the setting for cultural conservation through the on-site practice and preservation of Hawaiian values. This program allows the community to learn from Hawaiian practitioners about traditional stewardship, and the opportunity to become involved in stewardship in a real and meaningful way.

The previous owner of the Kaiholena tract, EWM Enterprises, LP had purchased the property in 2005 for development. Some years after the initial purchase, the owners were approached by North Kohala community members who described the importance of the Kaiholena area to the Hawaiian families who have been on this land for centuries. The owners determined



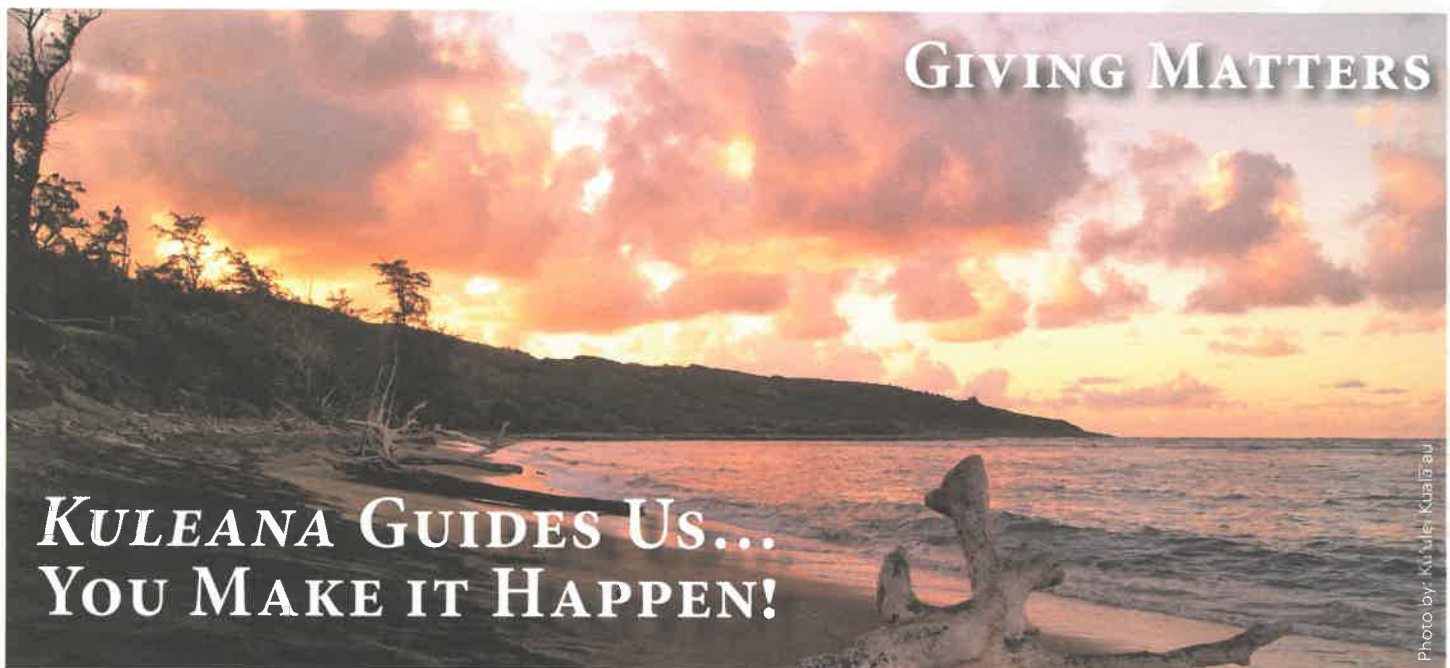
that the best use of the land was for conservation and generously agreed to sell the parcel for almost \$500,000 below the appraised value. A number of foundations and private individuals were instrumental in raising the funds for the purchase of the land, including the Hawaii State Legacy Land Commission, Atherton Foundation, Dorrance Family Foundation, Mālama Kohala Kahakai, Ala Kahakai Trail Association, Brown Family Foundation, National Park Foundation, L.L. Bean, Disney, Anschutz Foundation, Gail Byrne-Baber, and the Ahmanson Foundation.

The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust received a generous donation from the Freeman Foundation to purchase a conservation easement on the

Kaiholena land. This easement ensures conservation of this parcel in perpetuity and allows recreational activities and public access as well as a possible visitor center. What's more, honoring the legends of the area, the easement would also allow agricultural activities to take place. An important component of the management plan is to allow small gardens and nurseries for native plants. All activities allowed by the easement would first consider protection of the land's conservation values, including the view shed, the native habitat, and the cultural and historic features of the property. The Community of North Kohala has already committed to stewarding the property in perpetuity. They have received a stewardship grant from the .25% Fund of Hawaii County that is specific to the stewarding and management of protected lands.



The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is very proud to have been a small part in the protection of the Kaiholena landscape and we extend a big mahalo nui loa to all the members of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, the North Kohala Community, and all the partners who have worked so hard to see that Kaiholena is protected forever.



Many of us love nature for its own sake, but there are many practical reasons for protecting nature, too. Nature sustains us, educates us, restores our health, creates clean air and provides food that feeds our bodies and inspiration that feeds our souls. Land conservation is the intrinsic recognition that nature is part of us and we are part of nature. In Hawai'i, we take this sentiment a step further to acknowledge that it is our kuleana, our responsibility, to protect and serve the

land that sustains us. Your gift to our annual fund helps to ensure that we are able to act quickly and efficiently on that kuleana.

When you donate today, you'll help the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust achieve lasting results for both people and nature. In 2015 we conserved more land than ever before in HILT's history. That means more places maintained for communities to enjoy, more cultural and historical

sites protected, more food-producing agricultural lands saved. All of it protected forever. If you believe in what we do, please consider making a gift to our annual fund today by using the enclosed donation envelope, calling our development office at (808) 244-LAND (5263) or by directing your gift online at www.hilt.org.

Mahalo!




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WAI'OLI VALLEY, MAUI



BUY BACK THE BEACH MĀLAMA KĪPUKA

Saturday, January 23, 2016
at The Old Lāhaina Lū'au.
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

DON'T MISS MAUI'S TOP
CONSERVATION EVENT OF THE YEAR!

Celebrate the 'āina under the stars with 'ono lū'au fare, complimentary cocktails, live and silent auctions, and live entertainment featuring the incomparable John Cruz!

Purchase your table or ticket at
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