

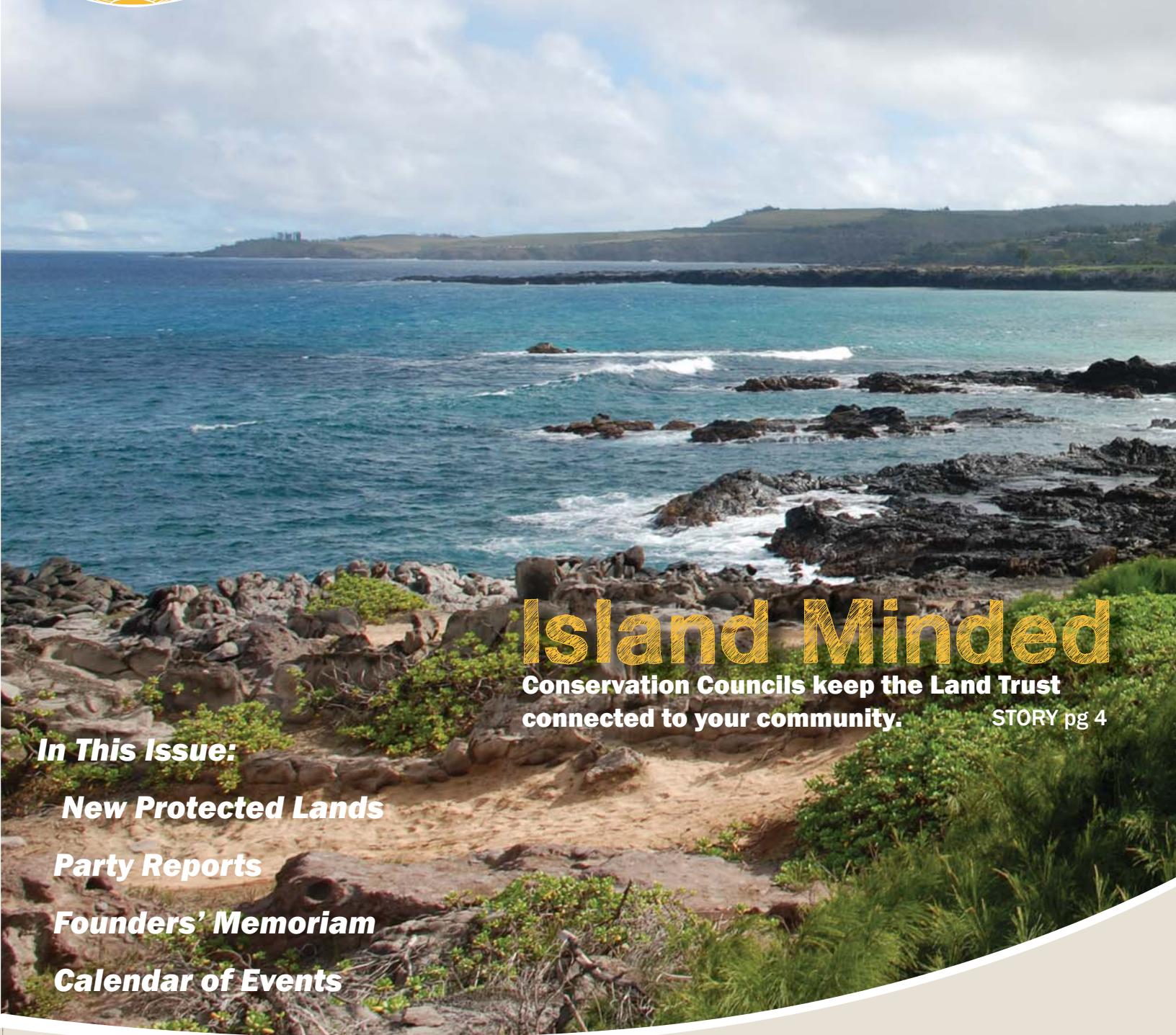


‘Umeke Kā’eo

A Well Filled Calabash, A Well Filled Mind

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

N E W S L E T T E R



Island Minded

Conservation Councils keep the Land Trust connected to your community.

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Musings from the E.D

- Dale B. Bonar

Strategic Planning. Just the mention of embarking on this sort of organizational visioning often results in cringes from participants who have not had great experiences with the process. Our agenda to bring together plans from the four merging land trusts into a single statewide vision provided increased complexity. Happily, however, I can report that the first formal strategic planning retreat of the newly merged Hawaiian Islands Land Trust this March was a productive, enlightening and stimulating experience that solidified the vision and core values we will follow as we work to protect the special places of Hawai'i.

The range of "special places" we seek to protect is broad, encompassing significant cultural areas, access to beaches, productive agricultural lands, habitats for native species, watersheds and scenic vistas. We agreed that these places are part of the fabric that gives Hawai'i its unique place in the world, and all are part of the physical, emotional and spiritual things that enrich us

as individuals and as a community. As fate would have it, crafting a clear mission statement that expresses these values without being overly verbose was surprisingly quick. When soft-spoken staff member James Crowe suggested these are "lands that sustain us," there was an *ah-hah!* moment. The new mission statement took swift shape:

"To protect the lands that sustain us for current and future generations."

Our challenges are great, of course, since opportunities are many and resources are limited. We will rely heavily on the localized Conservation Councils to help identify the special places needing protection on each island and to assist in the community connections which will support those protections. Your involvement is critical, too. We welcome your input and support. Look through our new website: www.hilt.org and let us know how you would like to be involved!

About 'Umeke Kā'eo: Between meals Hawaiians would hang their calabash, full with poi and other foods, in an intricately made hanging net. They depended on these two items, the net and calabash, to keep their stores of food and water safe and unspoiled. 'Umeke Kā'eo, literally a well-stocked calabash, represents bounty and sustenance, not only for the physical body, but also for the mind and spirit. If the bowl is full, we are nourished.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is committed to land conservation in Hawai'i—protecting the lands that sustain us, there's food for thought.

On the cover: Along the West Maui coastline a possible conservation project is under review with the Maui Conservation Council.

Black Pot Park Expansion

Hanalei, Kaua'i



More public access to Hanalei Bay.

In January the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and the County of Kaua'i proudly announced the successful acquisition of a 0.74 acre parcel adjacent to Hanalei

Black Pot Beach Park. The acquisition of this parcel, along the shore of Hanalei Bay, will protect the public's access to one of the most popular ocean recreation spots on Kaua'i.

The parcel is adjacent to the Hanalei Pier, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and Hanalei River, one of 14 designated American Heritage Rivers. The county plans to manage and limit commercial activities in the park and plans to provide adequate parking facilities, additional pavilions and improved restrooms.

HILT worked closely with the County of Kaua'i and landowner John Hodge to secure a bargain sale agreement and identify funding to acquire this crucial property which added much needed additional space to the park. The County's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Fund contributed \$1.85 million to the acquisition, and an additional \$350,000 came from the County's Special Trust Fund for Parks and Playgrounds. The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources contributed \$800,000 through its Legacy Land Conservation Program.

Nu'u Landing

Kaupō, Maui

This January HILT closed the long-awaited Nu'u Landing deal preserving 82 acres on Maui's rugged and remote southeast coast. The \$4 million purchase was made possible through funding from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Legacy Land Conservation Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Freeman Family Foundation (a member of the Hawai'i Community Foundation) and HILT founding board member Janice Lau Fergus.

This acquisition represents an important step in the effort to conserve and restore vital lands and shorelines in Hawai'i. Nu'u contains some of the healthiest coastal wetlands in the state, which provide habitat for several endangered bird species, including the ae'o (Hawaiian stilt) and 'alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian coot). In addition, the area preserves numerous pre-contact archaeological sites and has been used as a recreational spot by local fisherman for centuries. "Nu'u is rich both biologically and culturally, and by protecting it we can contribute to restoring the life of the land while telling the stories of how people have lived here for generations," explains HILT Director of Conservation, Scott Fisher.

The Land Trust's plans for the property, which was acquired from Kaupō Ranch, include habitat restoration, protection of cultural sites, and educational outreach. The public is encouraged to get involved by participating in future volunteer days or free guided hikes (schedule pending). Please contact our office for more details.



Adult ae'o at Nu'u's pristine wetland, a rest stop in their travels.

2000 Acres Protected

**Honouliuli, O'ahu
Honu'apu, Hawai'i Island**

Honouliuli grazing lands look out to O'ahu's central plain.

In January landowner Ed Olson signed a voluntary preservation agreement with Hawaiian Islands Land Trust to ensure that 2,183 acres on O'ahu and Hawai'i Island will continue in perpetuity as working ranch and farmlands. The agreement was secured collaboratively with The Nature Conservancy.

A vision for sustained agricultural use and managed conservation areas drove Olson's decision: "When I acquired these lands, it was for agricultural production and to maintain the character of the area. This conservation easement guarantees that this will happen."

On O'ahu, cattle grazing predominates the 1,276 acres at Honouliuli situated on the eastern slope of the Wai'anae Mountains. The parcel is in close proximity to the Wai'anae Kai Forest Preserve and creates a continuity of natural areas, preserving a significant expanse that dominates downtown Honolulu's 'Ewa view. In addition to securing the land for continued agricultural use, the agreement safeguards the property's numerous cultural sites and pockets of healthy wildlife habitats.

Similar to O'ahu, the 907-acre property at Honu'apu on Hawai'i Island ensures the traditional land use of farming and ranching characteristic of surrounding Ka'u is forever protected. Likewise, the terms of the land preservation agreement protects significant wildlife areas and cultural sites within the property.

A major holder of former C. Brewer and Campbell Estate lands, the Edmund C. Olson Trust owns over 15,000 acres of agricultural lands throughout Hawai'i.



Helen Nielsen is congratulated by Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz

Maui

Board President Helen Nielsen was chosen from a competitive field of eleven finalists as the 2011 Michael H. Lyons II Palaka Award winner. The award, presented by the Kahului Rotary Club, acknowledges outstanding community service. Nominees were required to have at least ten years of volunteer service with one organization and have an impact that was both significant and enduring. Helen helped to found Maui Coastal Land Trust, was instrumental in the statewide merger process, and now continues to serve as HILT's Board President. Congratulations to Helen on this great honor!

HILT Happenings

O'ahu

Mary McGrath held an intimate dinner party in May to support the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and honor Jan and Ed Olson who recently placed over 2000 acres into conservation on 'Oahu and Hawai'i Island. Overlooking the banks of Nu'uaniu stream, partygoers celebrated the permanent protection of these lands, some of which are of family significance, while toasting to the Olson's. In attendance were Mary's family and friends who took advantage of the opportunity to get to know the Land Trust a little better. Our sincere mahalo to Mary and McD Philpotts, a HILT board member, for extending their hospitality and 'ohana to us.

Hawai'i Island

Thanks to Peter Merriman and Merriman's Waimea, nearly a hundred folks got to "Feast For the Aina" at a benefit dinner in May. An ardent supporter of land conservation in Hawai'i and Secretary of HILT's Board of Directors, Peter introduced the community to the newly formed Hawaiian Islands Land Trust the best way he knows how—over a great dinner. Exemplifying how land conservation directly relates to the food we grow and consume, the five-course event menu featured delicacies sourced from local farms, growers and fisherman. As he emphasized, protecting Hawai'i's agricultural lands is vital to continuing to enjoy meals that are truly fresh, local and sustainable. Mahalo to Peter and the staff at Merriman's Waimea.

Island Minded

Conservation Councils keep the Land Trust connected to your community.

In forming the new statewide organization one thing was clear: maintaining a direct and active presence on each island was a top priority. To achieve this, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust adopted an innovative three-tiered leadership structure. The merger entailed forming a new statewide Board of Directors to provide overall direction and oversight, an affiliation of engaged and well-connected community members as a Board of Trustees, and lastly, HILT instituted Conservation Councils to serve at the community level on each island with the purpose of providing advice and direction. These are the people who ensure that, as a statewide Land Trust, we keep local conservation interests in mind.

The Conservation Councils are comprised of individuals who are focused and committed to conservation issues on their island. Fortunately the Councils, which have been established on Maui, Kaua'i, O'ahu and Hawai'i, have retained the involvement of many who were active as board members from the organizations that founded HILT. Instrumental in HILT's growing momentum, these are groups of community experts, dynamic and engaged from the get-go.

In fulfilling their advisory role, the Conservation Councils work with their respective Island Directors to identify and recommend lands of local significance for protection. These recommendations are then elevated to the statewide board and help to define HILT's overall conservation priorities. In this way, local conservation projects are being supported by the full political and fundraising abilities of the statewide organization.

Having participated in recent Conservation Council meetings on most islands, HILT Director of Conservation Scott Fisher (who also serves as Maui Island Director) reports an incredible sense of enthusiasm and energy overall. Thanks to the work



The Kaua'i Council reviews a map before conducting a site visit.



The Maui Council hikes a West Maui coastline gathering information on a project under consideration.

of the Councils, Fisher is busy bouncing from island to island to meet with large landowners, political leaders and key officials. "Because of the intimate knowledge that the Councils bring, they see the conservation potential for their area," he says. "We have the possibility of doing some great conservation work right now on all of the islands."

Through the Conservation Councils, HILT is able to honor the unique character and conservation priorities of each island. The incredibly active and productive Kaua'i Council has identified a need within their group to get better island-wide representation. The mostly North Shore oriented group members are recruiting peers from complimentary parts of the island. Likewise, the Hawai'i Conservation Council is considering forming two groups for their vast and varied island.

The Councils are also responsible for building awareness and support for the conservation and stewardship mission of the Land Trust within their community. To do this, the Maui Conservation Council formed a task force to spearhead local fundraising events and community outreach opportunities like speaking engagements with groups such as community associations, Rotary and Kiwanis, manning information booths at community festivals, and developing the Land Trust's social media strategy.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust was established to elevate the private land conservation effort in Hawai'i to a new level. By utilizing the strengths of each island's Conservation Council in compliment to the statewide Board of Directors and Trustees, HILT is better positioned to make more solid conservation decisions, attract high-profile community leaders and conservation investors, and raise the funds for the long-term support of the organization.

To learn more about the Conservation Council on your island, and who is on it, visit www.hilt.org.

Giving Matters



Pōhakupili Bay, one of many gems preserved in perpetuity on Molokai's East end.

I had the good fortune to visit Molokai's Pu'u o Hoku Ranch with my husband and some friends recently. As we bumped along the road stretching around the southeast end of the island my mind was lulled into memories of Hawai'i long ago — pristine surf breaks, quaint beach shacks, swaying palms. As we were enjoying the spectacular views across the channel to West Maui, the road veered

Places That Sustain Us: Pu'u o Hoku Ranch

from the rocky shoreline and turned steadily uphill until we were greeted by an open expanse of pasturelands. A welcoming country store—stocked, no less, with gorgeous organic vegetables grown on site—announced our destination: Pu'u o Hoku Ranch. This 13,000-acre ranch encompasses much of Molokai's remote east end and has remained intact since the original royal land grant in the 1800s. In 2007 Lavinia Currier, owner of the working organic ranch, donated a 2,800-acre conservation easement to the Land Trust to keep it open space and ag land in perpetuity. And open space it is! The gracious 1930s ranch house features an expansive veranda loaded with comfortable puné'e that beckon you to kick off your slippers and pour a glass of wine. Gazing back to the rolling hills behind us or out to the glimmering ocean below was enough to make us want to linger, but the land beckoned us to explore. One

day we went holoholo following cattle trails up through the pastures behind the house. Uninterrupted land, lush and vital, unfurled in all directions, the panoramic views getting more breathtaking the higher we climbed. Buoyed by its vastness we could have sworn we could all breathe a little deeper. Nightfall revealed the appropriateness of the Ranch's name, which means "hill of stars." There, a special kind of quiet envelops the dark, dark night. The next day we hit the curvy drive down into Halawa Valley, a spectacular pocket of paradise that most would believe only to exist in the movies. Our brief stay at Pu'u o Hoku conjured a swelling of pride and appreciation that this area will stay as it has been and still is to this day: pristine and undeveloped. Hawai'i doesn't get any better than this!

– Susan Kean
HILT Board Member

The Founding Few



Photo: Rob Shallenberger

As a tiny seed unfurls to mature into a mighty and miraculous koa tree, a few among us are now sowing a deep and vital foundation for the perpetual protection of Hawai'i's special places.

You are invited to join the Founding Few, a visionary group of annual donors to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Gifts at this level, a pledge of \$10,000 and above for three years, provides the support necessary to leave a legacy of priceless landscapes across Hawai'i Nei. Gifts like these assure we can focus on our most important mission, conservation.

A heartfelt mahalo to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's first Founding Few:

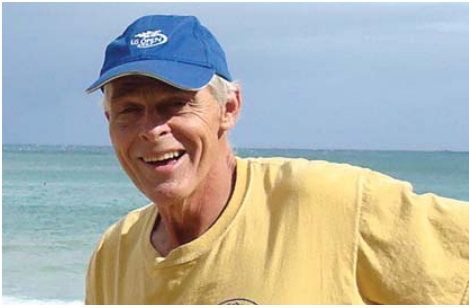
Susan and Jac Kean

Peter and Vicki Merriman

Helen Nielsen and Jonathan Starr

Janice Lau Fergus

Please consider joining these supporters who are investing leadership gifts in the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust.



Gary's smile warmed the hearts of many.

Founders' Memoriam

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust bids a fond farewell to two tireless champions of land conservation and founding land trust members in Hawai'i, Dr. Gary Blaich of Kaua'i and Carey Lindenbaum of Hawai'i Island.

Dr. Gary Blaich

A founder of Kaua'i Public Land Trust passed away last year on Thanksgiving Day. Gary helped found KPLT and served as Board President for more than a decade. Because of his tireless efforts the land trust raised enough money to hire their first executive director, placed more than 160 acres of precious coastal lands into protection, and became a trusted partner of local and state government agencies.

Gary wasn't just a committed conservationist; he was an active community member, willingly lending his time, expertise and money to a variety of causes and is-

sues including 1000 Friends of Kaua'i, the Kīlauea Neighborhood Association and Kīlauea School PTSA. His greatest passion in life was his family, wife Beryl, daughters Mehana and Meleana, their husbands Paki and Will and grandchildren Piko and Na'e. His sense of humor, smile, enthusiasm and energy are and will continue to be missed by all those who had the great privilege to know him.

Gary's commitment to land conservation continued even after his passing, at his request donations were made to the Land Trust in lieu of flowers. More than 63 friends, neighbors, family members, and colleagues made donations in Gary's name resulting in \$9,695 that will be placed into a memorial fund and restricted to Kaua'i. The Blaich family also continues to remain very involved in land trust work both Beryl and Mehana sit on HILT's Kaua'i Island Conservation Council.



Carey at work on her organic farm.

Carey Lindenbaum

An attorney, organic farmer, Kona Ironman triathlon finisher, and devoted paddler, Carey Lindenbaum was one of three passionate volunteers who founded Kona Land Trust (later renamed Hawai'i Island Land

Trust.) To commemorate the year anniversary of her passing, her parents, Pearl and Israel Lindenbaum, honored their daughter's work with a \$5,000 donation to the Land Trust.

After witnessing local families, crippled by inheritance taxes, having to sell off their land to developers, Carey and friend Gretchen Currie identified their community's sore need for options for landowners. With no experience in land trusts, the two wrote the initial grant to Trust For Public Lands, which was received. Ann Datta joined the mission, and together they formed Hawai'i Island's first land trust in 2001.

Carey's legal background coupled with her passion for the land and farming was an invaluable asset to the organization's start-up team, as was her characteristic zeal. "When she focused on a project she brought boundless, good positive energy to it," says Currie of her land trust colleague. "Founding the land trust with her was a joy."

The vision for land protection that drove both Gary and Carey to help found their respective land trusts, is in large part why Hawaiian Island Land Trust exists today. By continuing the mission of land conservation, we honor their spirit and the generosity of those that loved them.

Cruise for Conservation

Attention travelers, here's a suite deal: indulge in an intimate all-suite, ultra-luxury cruise along Spain, Morocco, and Portugal and support HILT while you're at it. The decadent, 11-night itinerary is being coordinated by Kona resident and retired travel columnist Irene Croft, Jr. of The Hawaii Connection, dates are February 29 to March 16, 2012. Call Irene at (808) 324-1288 or visit www.hilt.org. Each fare includes a tax-deductible donation so please identify HILT when booking.

Bon Voyage!





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Save the Date!

HILT Calendar of Events

August 6 - Maui

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

September 4 - Maui

Visit us at 'Ulupalakua Cares: An 'Ulupalakua Sunday Drive Event. More information at www.mauiwine.com/events

September 24 - Maui

Annual Picnic at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Join us for a free community picnic, complete with guided hikes, cultural demonstrations, music and more. Call (808) 244-5263 for more information.

October 1 - Maui

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

November 10 - Maui

Moonlight Hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. \$25 suggested donation. Call (808) 244-5263 for reservations.