



# ‘Umeke Ka‘eo

*A Well Filled Calabash, A Well Filled Mind*

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST  
NEWSLETTER

## Kipuka Mosaic Project: Creating a continuity of habitat on Hawai‘i Island

STORY pg 5

**In This Issue:**

**Tsunami Debris**

**For the Love of Nu‘u**

**Who’s New to the Founding Few?**



## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

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## Musings from the E.D.

– Dale B. Bonar, Ph.D.

When HILT's four founding land trusts decided to merge almost two years ago, I agreed to continue on as Executive Director through 2012 and have been planning on retiring at the end of this time. Now the year-end is on the horizon, the Board has formed a transition planning group, contracted with La Piana Associates to help guide the process, and will soon be launching an active search for my replacement. Upon reflection, it's been quite a ride! When I arrived at my post as Maui Coastal Land Trust's first executive director just ten years ago, none of us could have envisioned the wild success we would come to experience. From a small group of committed citizens meeting in living rooms, we've grown into a professional, respected statewide organization—the only nationally accredited land trust in Hawai'i. In the process of protecting, in perpetuity, over

17,500 acres of significant conservation lands (with a conservation value in excess of \$150 million!) we've nurtured strategic partnerships with landowners, community groups and other conservation and cultural nonprofit organizations. It has certainly been a team effort; I am overwhelmingly proud of the great staff, board and volunteers that have worked so effectively for our success. Opportunities abound and the future looks bright!

Though "retired" I will still be around and engaged. No need to worry about me being bored... I intend on doing some consulting work and traveling internationally. And I have plenty of Koa stacked up in my workshop to make sawdust with. For the remainder of my time on earth I can't imagine living anywhere else, and my heart will always belong to the Land Trust.

### A Special Note from Helen Nielsen, Board President:

I've had the distinct pleasure of working with Dale for nearly ten years in building the land trust on Maui and through our successful merger. Dale will retire at the end of this year. Words cannot explain how deeply I appreciate him and all he has done for land conservation in this state. It was Dale, in fact, who first planted the dream of forming a statewide land trust several years ago during a strategic planning weekend. We've been so fortunate to have him; he has been a tireless advocate, teacher and all-around good guy. Dale will remain active in our community and will always be a proponent of land conservation and the environment. Should you bump into Dale, please join me in thanking him for his vision and leadership.

They will be hard shoes to fill, but HILT is beginning to search for its next executive director. As Dale himself has said time and time again, "Onwards and upwards!" We look forward to a fun and successful transition.

*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: Even in residential areas, stepping stones of intact native forest are being preserved in Volcano, Hawai'i with the help of a Hawaiian Islands Land Trust conservation project. Photo © Rob Shallenberger.*

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

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Newsletter Design by: U'ilani Art & Design LLC



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# Conservation Perspectives: Anticipating Tsunami Debris

**Maui**



The accumulation of marine debris in the north Pacific gyre is currently the focus of much attention, and the tragedy of the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan will significantly add to its already massive size. When some of the larger objects reach Hawaiian waters, which they undoubtedly will, they could inflict serious damage to the coral reefs around the islands and leave an eyesore along the coast.

The Land Trust is working on forming a strategy to deal with this seemingly inevitable situation. The first step lies in assessing the most vulnerable of all of our protected lands. Due to its size and orientation, the Waihe'e Refuge is most likely to catch this marine debris. The second step is to form partnerships and capitalize on what different organizations do best. For many years Maui's Community Work Day program has been a great partner in helping us with shoreline clean-ups

along the Waihe'e coast. Many other partnerships, including alliances with the State and County, will need to be formed to address the looming problem of accumulated marine and tsunami debris.

In many ways we've been down this path before: we removed several tons of marine debris from Waihe'e's coast—including an entire sailboat and a World War II hand grenade—when we acquired the property in 2004. With the help of student volunteers, we have cataloged the source of the marine debris that has washed up over the years. This has given us a good sense of where this material originates, nearly all from Asian fishing fleets. We are actively looking for people who are interested in lending their support to address this problem. If this is you, please let us know and we will find a way to get you involved.

Photos: HILT | Monica George

## Volunteer Profile: Andrew Walmisley

**Maui**

Our volunteers are critical to perpetuate the conservation work we do. From volunteers who love to get hands-on every Friday at the Waihe'e Refuge, to our annual benefit lu'au volunteers, we are truly blessed to have this committed work force donating their time and effort. One such contributor is Andrew Walmisley, a history teacher and pastor at Seabury Hall, a private college-preparatory school in upcountry Maui. Several years ago Andrew chaperoned a student group who camped and worked at the Waihe'e Refuge for a week. With his intellect and keen interest in history, he became enraptured by the history and legends of this wahi pana. When Andrew offered to volunteer his talents, we tasked him with researching the history of the Nu'u Refuge, which we had recently acquired. Although he was only

provided minimal background information, Andrew dove into this project with furious passion. He made numerous site visits with his family, talking to kama'aina and archaeologists, making frequent trips to the library and the bookstores to get the material together to tell the story of the life of the land. Through his efforts Andrew has compiled a cultural and historical account which has helped us better understand Nu'u's place in Kaupo, and Kaupo's significance in Maui's fascinating history. Ultimately, we will use Andrew's research to share the the story of Nu'u and express the need to protect Maui's biodiversity and cultural history. Mahalo no kou kokua, e Andrew a e ho'omau ka mo'olelo o Maui. (Thanks for your help, Andrew and continue to perpetuate Maui's story.)



Photo: Jonathan Starr | Suzanne Frew (inset)

# Currents



## Habitat Helper: Easement donor does it again!

### Hawai'i Island

Dan Taylor, a retired Chief of Natural Resources Management in Volcano National Park who also served in Glacier, North Cascades, Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks, has been instrumental in building momentum for the Kīpuka Mosaic Project in Volcano (read more about this project on page 5). A staunch environmentalist, Taylor kicked off the project with its first three-acre conservation easement in 2010, and just this month signed on a second three-acre easement donation. He believes most landowners in Volcano are aware of how important creating a continuity of habitat

is to native species and has been leading community involvement in the project. The emphasis of the long range plan he and the community drafted is on protecting the vital habitat connection between Hawai'i Volcano National Park, Kahauale'a Natural Area preserve and the Ola'a Forest Reserve. HILT acquisition specialist Janet Britt is actively meeting with many other area landowners who have expressed interest in participating in the project, which has a goal of 20 easement donations.

Mahalo for your passion for the environment and leadership in the Kīpuka Mosaic Project, Dan!

Photo: © Rob Shallenberger | Janet Britt (inset)

## HILT Happenings

### Maui

HILT welcomes Thomas Lambert to its Board of Directors. A New England native, he followed his bride Kristina to Maui nearly 20 years ago; they have three children. Lambert is senior vice president and branch manager of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Kahului. He coaches youth soccer and is a player himself (in an adult league, he assures us.) Inspired by the pivotal conservation success achieved by land trusts in areas he visited as a child, Lambert joined the Maui Coastal Land Trust. Committed and involved, he's served in an advisory and leadership role for over three years. Welcome, Tom!

### O'ahu

Engaged community groups make great cultural and environmental stewards. To permanently protect Maunawila heiau in windward O'ahu, HILT is honored to be collaborating with the Hau'ula Community Association and Ko'olaupua Hawaiian Civic Club. The project entails acquisition of the 9-acre parcel, cultural restoration of the heiau, and if appropriate, other cultural features of the property. The community-driven project is being steered by devoted area residents who've been conducting site clean-ups and engaging in restoration and management planning. Little is known about Maunawila heiau, but efforts have been greatly enhanced by a UH archeology grad student who is volunteering service.

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia: No task is too big when done together by all.

### Kaua'i

Plans are underway for HILT to host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival next April at the historic Waimea Theater. The touring festival features award-winning films from Hawai'i and across the nation about nature, community activism, adventure, conservation, water, energy and climate change, wildlife, environmental justice, agriculture, native cultures. While instilling a deep appreciation and a sense of wonder for the natural world, the first-rate storytelling informs, inspires and ignites solutions and possibilities for a positive future. The Kaua'i Conservation Council is forming an event committee, let us know if you are interested in volunteering by contacting Jennifer Luck at (808) 755-5707.



# Kipuka Mosaic Project

## Stepping stones of healthy habitat

Hawai'i Island



The ancient idea of pohopoho, patching together pieces to save the whole, is well on its way to becoming a modern reality on Hawai'i Island. The Kīpuka Mosaic Project is a grassroots conservation initiative that has brought together many small landowners, professional resource managers, The Nature Conservancy, and Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) to help ensure the survival of rare flora and fauna, especially native birds, along the southern flanks of Mauna Loa. A kīpuka is a small oasis, and the protected lands will be just that, areas of intact forest canopy surrounded by an area that is increasingly being developed.

Three large protected areas—Hawai'i Volcano National Park, Kahauale'a Natural Area preserve and the Ola'a Forest Reserve—are divided by huge, partially undeveloped subdivisions that have the potential to fragment the connections between these important protected areas. The Kīpuka Mosaic Project will secure up to twenty conservation easements (and possibly more) within these potentially fragmenting subdivisions, helping to provide a continuum of habitat for native and endemic flora and fauna. These small conservation easements will create a vital permanent link of intact forest canopy.

Creation of the conservation project was led by concerned individuals and residents of the Volcano area, making it a proud statement of the value the community gives to the unique living environment around them. Indeed, the largely pristine Volcano area is the reason many have chosen to work and live in this area of Hawai'i.

HILT has been working with willing landowners to preserve as much of the forest canopy as possible. The planned conservation easements will form a stepping stone pattern of intact canopy that will facilitate the passage of birds and insects, many rare or endangered, between the three larger protected areas, as well as provide critical habitat for rare and endangered endemic plants. The corridor supports a forest dominated by uneven-aged stands of native 'ohi'a trees as well as many native ferns and plants in the understory. Data from the local offices of the Fish & Wildlife Service indicate the presence of native Hawaiian birds including the endangered 'io and 'oma'o, as well as the more common birds such as amakihi, 'elepaio and 'apapane, the Hawaiian Hawk.

A moving force in the Kīpuka Mosaic Project's momentum is local resident and easement donor Dan Taylor (see article on pg.4). Taylor believes most landowners in Volcano are aware of how important the continuity of habitat is to native species. The emphasis of the long range plan the community drafted is on protecting this vital connection. These concerned landowners are working to preserve the remaining mosaic of the native forest canopy by voluntarily granting conservation easements to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Each small easement is, itself, a kīpuka representing the hopes of those who love the area to keep a connected, perpetual and sustained forest ecosystem, proving concerned people can live in harmony with their natural environment.

# Giving Matters

## Founding Few Update

Last January the Land Trust launched a campaign that was equal parts faith and fundraising, we named it the Founding Few. The campaign, which will be active until the end of 2013, seeks a group of believers to step forward with a generous investment in the successful launch of our statewide land trust. In asking folks to make five and six-figure investments each year for three years, we are asking them, in plain terms, to be a founder of HILT. Never in the rest of the forever we promise will there be an opportunity like this again—to be in at the ground level, providing the support needed to ensure the long-term success of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. These leadership gifts enable us to focus on the forward momentum of building a successful organization, rather than spinning our wheels with day-to-day survival.

Since our last update one year ago we have more than doubled our Founding Few members. We are honored to recognize the most recent supporters who have made the founder's commitment. Help us welcome these new visionaries to our Founding Few:

Susan Bradford, Maui  
 Bob & Kelly King, Maui  
 Michael Moore, Maui  
 Judy & Mark Ellman, Maui  
 Makana Aloha Foundation, Maui

With these new pledges we have a total of nine Founding Few members. This is a solid start to the program and we are positive we will see many more commitments as the year progresses.

Many have been instrumental in building our Founding Few campaign. One standout is Maui Conservation Council chair, Susan Bradford. Not only did she join the Founding Few, she actively recruited two more members—and is just picking up steam! Indeed, the passion for land protection in Hawai'i is strong within our ranks. What fuels such generous commitments? In their own words, three of our newest Founding Few share their stories in the following personal statements.

Should you feel inspired to become a part of this momentous circle of support, please contact Anders Lyons at [anders@hilt.org](mailto:anders@hilt.org) or (808)244-5263.



*"We became members of HILT's Founding Few as an extension of our personal and professional support of the former Maui land trust. They've been active in protecting our shores for many years, and personally knowing many of the original board members gives us confidence that their mission is honest and true. When the decision was made to create a statewide land trust, it was a natural for us to help them in the preservation of lands all across Hawai'i. Our island paradise and our children's future are worth it!"*  
 —Bob and Kelly King

## Places That Sustain Us: Nu'u Landing

—Helen Nielsen, HILT Board Member

Upon entering the scenic and wild southeastern coast of Maui my spirits begin to soar. I love the expansiveness of the slopes of Haleakala, the lava, the ocean (which seems to change personality by the hour), and the endless sky. Some folks may feel uncomfortable in such a big place, but as I enter, I am the last piece of a puzzle: complete. A sense of belonging finds me, especially under the dark night sky where the Milky Way seems within fingertip reach.

HILT signed the 82-acre Nu'u Landing parcel into permanent conservation in 2011. The coastal parcel includes the only wetland in east Maui, one of the most pristine in the State. Endan-

# Giving Matters



*“When I came here over 20 years ago, I fell in love with Maui...the ocean, beaches, mountains, tropical air. But it was changing so fast, some of the most precious places were being lost to development. The land trust on Maui was created and some significant areas were gradually protected. When the decision was made to move statewide, I deeply appreciated the potential to save precious places on all the islands. I also knew that it would take a concerted effort by many to make this leap successful.*

*Giving at the level of the Founding Few pushed me beyond any giving I'd done in the past. I also know it takes any new organization two to three years to truly establish itself. So, if not giving at this level now, at this crucial juncture, then when? I wanted to do my part to ensure the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust would continue to preserve Hawai'i's treasures. It is a legacy to which I am proud to contribute.”*

—Susan Bradford



*“Last year I had the opportunity to hike some of the land protected by the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. It was a great experience, one where I gained a deeper appreciation for these significant archaeological and cultural sites.*

*Living in Hawai'i is clearly a blessing as the islands offer an abundance of outdoor activities and natural beauty. Woven into the landscape is a rich history and culture that binds us together as stewards of this land. I am impressed by the practical way HILT balances conservation and education, making it possible for future generations to enjoy and develop an appreciation for the beauty and history of these protected sites.*

*To be involved with an organization such as HILT, whose sole purpose is to preserve nature in its true form, is both a great responsibility and privilege. The leadership of HILT has always been one of the organization's great strengths and I feel honored to be involved as a Founding Few member.”*

— Chad S. Goodfellow

Photos: HILT | Monica George

gered native Hawaiian stilts, coots, even nene can be spotted resting here on their inter-island migrations. The view along the coast and up the dramatic slopes of Haleakala is awesome.

Many years ago, here along the ocean's edge I experienced my first awa ceremony with friends from Hana and visitors from Fiji. Our short journey by foot to the beach was slow as we had kupuna along who were moving quite deliberately. After enjoying the salt air, awa and story telling awhile, one kupuna quietly announced he was ready to dance if we kept up much longer! This joyous location is one that I am proud to say will be kept wild and accessible always.





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Photo: HILT | Monica George

Save the Date!

## HILT Calendar of Events

### August 7 - Kaua'i

Free, guided hike through the Waiakalua conservation area along the beautiful Kilauea coastline. Call (808) 755-5707 for reservations.

### August 31 - Maui

Moonlight hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Call (808) 244-5263 for reservations.

### September 29 - Maui

Annual Picnic at the Waihe'e Refuge. Free! Join us for a BBQ, guided hikes, cultural demonstrations, music and more. RSVP to (808) 244-5263.

### October 2 - Kaua'i

Free, guided hike through the Waiakalua conservation area along the beautiful Kilauea coastline. Call (808) 755-5707 for reservations.

### October 27 - Hawai'i

Visit HILT at the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge's Annual Open House

### November 10 - Maui

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