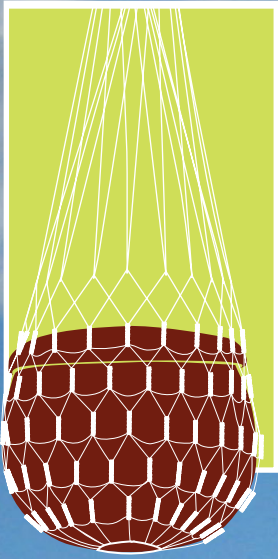


# ‘Umeke Kā’eo

*A Well Filled Calabash, A Well Filled Mind*

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

N E W S L E T T E R



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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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## A Time of Thanksgiving and Year End Giving

As the year draws to an end, it is time to gather with friends and family to celebrate our many blessings and give thanks.

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") has much to celebrate as well. The HILT 'Ohana grew by leaps and bounds this year with people from all over the country joining our ranks and signing up with a HILT membership. We have conserved more new properties this year than in the previous two years combined and we continue to make remarkable progress on our stewardship programs. HILT is extremely grateful that momentum is building as we work together to protect the remaining special places throughout the State of Hawai'i.

During this season of celebration and giving, please consider an additional year end annual

appeal gift to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. Your investment will help us end the current year with a bang and begin the new year financially strong so as to support our continued success in achieving our audacious and time-sensitive land conservation goals in 2014. Please use the enclosed remittance envelope or go to our website at [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org) to make your year-end contribution.

Remember our beaches, mountains, stunning scenic vistas, forests, cultural and historical sites, ranches and farms, and other outdoor recreation areas this holiday season. And remember the difference your support of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is making to ensure these special places from Kaua'i to Hawai'i Island remain vibrant and protected for current and future generations.



## New Board Members



Sarah Bakewell

The 2013 Board of Directors, led by Board Chair Peter Merriman, welcomes two new members, Sarah Bakewell of Kaua'i and Keith K. Ogata of O'ahu. We look forward to their contributions in making a lasting difference throughout the State of Hawai'i.



Keith K. Ogata



## Letter from the Executive Director

Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

Protecting the places that will sustain us for current and future generations is a bold mission statement because it involves protecting agricultural lands, scenic vistas, water resources, outdoor recreation areas, wildlife habitat, and cultural/historical sites in perpetuity for the lasting benefit of the people. Success with such a mission statement requires a solid organization. The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") takes this seriously, so at the start of this year we adopted four primary goals to strengthen our organization for long-term success with our mission.

The first goal involved financial sustainability through strategic fundraising. Phase one of our three-phased fundraising strategy for this year was focused on bringing in large general operating grants to stabilize our operations. Per our September financial report, our total income at the end of September was more than double what it was at that time last year. Phase two, focused on expanding and diversifying our donor base, was officially started on April 22nd, Earth Day, when we launched HILT's first ever membership program. The program has been hugely successful because as of September we had brought in 566 memberships which helped grow our individual donor base from under 400 at the start of this year to 842 donors. Our goal is to grow our donor base to 1,000 by year's end. Phase three of our three-phased fundraising strategy will be a major fundraising effort focused on building up critical sustaining funds for HILT. We look to start this initiative in the near future.

The second goal involved completing HILT's first ever proactive land acquisition analysis, the Iconic Lands Prioritization Study, and beginning implementation of it. In March, HILT completed this study. Numerous identified places were scored and prioritized with a set of conservation criteria. We have largely completed designing proactive conservation strategies for the parcels that scored the best in our Iconic Lands Prioritization Study. Furthermore, we are working towards the protection of a number of properties identified in our study such as Līpoa Point on Maui.

The third goal involved improving HILT's governance systems. Since January, we have created, adopted and implemented numerous organizational policies and job descriptions for HILT which provide greater clarity and direction. We also created a new staff Development Department this year to help focus and improve our fundraising. Since January, we have also done a number of other things to advance our good governance such as developing a sound nomination process for our Board of Directors and Island Advisory Councils.

The fourth goal was renewing our national accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. In March, we completed an extensive organizational assessment document to help us prepare. In April, we submitted our general registration to the Commission. In September, we submitted our pre-application. Our full application is due November 19th, and while there is much to do, we are making good headway.

As we strengthen HILT, success with our mission grows. For example, we recently conserved an over 12-acre property contiguous with our beautiful and public Kahili Beach Preserve on Kaua'i. We have conserved more new properties this year than in the previous two years combined. Your support is clearly helping us grow and accomplish extraordinary things for the lasting benefit of Hawai'i and all who love it.

Mahalo,

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.,  
Executive Director

## ‘Āina Actions

# Kahili Beach Purchased for Public Benefit and Habitat Protection

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (“HILT”) acquired a 12.2-acre parcel located at Kahili Beach in Kīlauea on Kaua‘i in September. The riverfront lot is now protected for public access and habitat and will expand HILT’s abutting and existing beach front preserve which had been just 5.4 acres in size.

HILT secured funding for the acquisition through a grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund (“NAWCA”). The 12.2-acre parcel includes portions of the Kīlauea River mouth and is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge

(“KPNWR”). The acquisition creates a contiguous protected habitat area with KPNWR and reduces habitat fragmentation for the endangered species that utilize the area. This project was spearheaded by Dr. Gary Blaich, who served as President of the Kaua‘i Public Land Trust until his passing in 2010. The Kaua‘i Public Land Trust was one of the four land trusts around the state that formed HILT in 2011.

The 12.2-acre property will now be kept undeveloped and open to the public in perpetuity by HILT. Kahili Beach, also known as Rock Quarry Beach, is a popular

surfing, fishing and camping spot for residents and visitors. Because of the ongoing efforts led by Kīlauea resident Gary Smith, who organizes beach clean-ups several times a year, Kahili is also one of the most pristine beaches on Kaua‘i’s north shore.

Beryl Blaich, Gary Blaich’s widow, said, “We are so grateful to the many people – in the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and HILT – who worked together, with such perseverance and diligence, through many challenges to obtain this amazing land where the river and ocean meet.”



# Kīpuka Mosaic Project

In June, Dr. Linda-Jane Irwin donated a perpetual conservation easement to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (“HILT”) over 32,000 square feet of her property located along Wright Road in Volcano, Hawai‘i. This small parcel is part of a larger effort by HILT and community members in Volcano to protect “kīpuka” or small oases of intact forest canopy in an area that is increasingly being developed. These oases provide green corridors for birds, butterflies and other insects to use while moving around the forest and onto adjacent protected lands such as Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Kahauale‘a Natural Area and ‘Ōla‘a Forest Reserve. Dr. Irwin’s donation brings the total number of conservation easements secured by HILT in its Kīpuka Mosaic Project to four.

HILT has been working with a group of landowners to preserve as much of the forest canopy as possible for the use of native birds and other species that move back and forth along the flank of Mauna Loa. This project is called the Kīpuka Mosaic and it is a grassroots conservation initiative that has brought together many small landowners, professional resource managers, and HILT to help ensure the survival of rare flora and fauna, especially native birds, along the southern flanks of the massive Mauna Loa Volcano. Data indicate the presence of native Hawaiian birds including the endangered ‘apapane and ‘ōma‘o, as well as the more common birds such as ‘amakihi, ‘elepaio and ‘io, the Hawaiian Hawk. Three large protected areas – Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park, Kahauale‘a Natural Area and the ‘Ōla‘a

Forest Reserve – are divided by huge and partially undeveloped subdivisions that have the potential to fragment the connections between these important protected areas. HILT’s Kīpuka Mosaic Project aims to secure numerous conservation easements within these potentially fragmenting subdivisions that will help provide a continuum of habitat for native and endemic flora and fauna. Regarding the conservation transaction, Linda-Jane Irwin stated, “When I purchased the property next to my home in 2004 I immediately knew that this wonderful native ‘Ōhi‘a forest should be preserved in perpetuity. Finally, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust’s Kīpuka Mosaic Project has become a reality and I am delighted to add my parcel to this beautifully conceived idea.”

# Saving Iconic Lands: Honolua and Līpoa Point



Anyone who has spent time at Honolua Bay, Maui near Kapalua cannot help but be taken in by its beauty and peacefulness. Beneath that tranquility is a rich history of Hawaiian life dating back centuries; Honolua is a place which is dear to the hearts of many on Maui, including surfers, divers, and anyone who appreciates Maui's special places. Several years ago during discussions about those places we love the most, our iconic lands, Honolua Bay and Līpoa Point came up over and over as a place badly in need of permanent preservation. We also knew that this land was being considered for development, but that the landowner, Maui Land and Pineapple, would prefer to place it in conservation.

Honolua/Līpoa Point was identified as the top priority iconic land on Maui in the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's ("HILT") Iconic Lands Prioritization Study which was completed earlier this year. With that, a clear mandate was established to find the funding to protect this wahi pana, this special place. Fortunately, we had great allies and collaborators. The Save Honolua Coalition is a grassroots organization with tremendous public support and a determined vision to preserve this land for future generations. West Maui Representative Angus McKelvey approached both HILT as well as the Save Honolua Coalition with an idea to raise the funds needed to buy the

nearly 300 acres from Honolua Bay to Honokōhau, the lands known historically as Kulaoka'e'a.

The idea involved raising the \$20 million purchase price through a bond. Initially, garnering support from the State legislature for such a large bond seemed like a long shot. However, the first few hearings changed everything. By strategically using social media and other outlets, both HILT and the Save Honolua Coalition encouraged our followers to write letters to the applicable committee members expressing support for forever protecting Honolua Bay. When the legislature closed and Governor Abercrombie signed the funding bill to acquire Honolua/Līpoa Point in June of this year, we achieved a major milestone, not only for HILT and its partners but also for all of Hawai'i for generations to come.

However, there is still much work to be done on this project including working out an agreement with the landowner and long-term protection and stewardship strategies. Protecting and caring for land is something HILT takes very seriously and we know that the hard work has just begun. Nevertheless, the progress to date on this project demonstrates the power of a community to protect what it values and loves. Onwards and upwards together as we work to permanently protect this iconic land for the lasting benefit of the people.

## Accreditation Public Notice

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of its accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust takes accreditation seriously because we take our mission of protecting the places that will sustain us for current and future generations seriously.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Hawaiian Islands Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to:

[info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org).

Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments:

(fax) 518-587-3183;

(mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2,

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

**Comments on Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's application will be most useful by January 3, 2014.**

# Giving Matters

## Volunteers Making A Difference at Waihe'e Refuge

For over six years, local and visiting school groups, community organizations, company retreats as well as community members have been visiting Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge for weekly volunteers days and special volunteer trips.

Their work has successfully expanded wetland bird habitat, restored landscape that is friendly to endangered flora and fauna, and created walking trails with sweeping views of the ocean, wetlands, sand dunes, and rising mountains.

Our regular Friday volunteers range from individuals who have put in more than a thousand hours each over years of effort to those who come by on occasion to help when they can. All help is appreciated and the time out in nature together builds lasting friendships and an appreciation for what is tucked between the dunes and the sea in Waihe'e. Come on most any Friday and you'll meet Tom and Tommy, who have invested much care into the restoration of the area. Tom provides



additional help by starting plants at home for out-planting at the Refuge and Tommy provides a bag of ice every Friday to keep our refreshments cool during our efforts. Currently our work most often involves hand weeding the areas where we have recently done out-planting in order to assist the plants as they grow in. As we move into winter and the life-giving rains, we will begin to out-plant a variety of species, each to their appropriate environments. Once we, and the newly placed plants, catch up with the areas we are currently restoring, we will move our focus to removing aggressive and invasive plants from adjacent areas as we extend our impact.

If you too would like to donate your time to a fulfilling effort in a beautiful environment, come on down to the Waihe'e Refuge on any Friday at 8AM. Gather with us at our staging area by the green colored house. Refreshments and snacks provided! Contact our Land Steward, James Crowe, at [landsteward@hilt.org](mailto:landsteward@hilt.org) with any questions.

## The New HILT Staff Team

The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") has a new staff team which we are very excited about. The team is a wonderful mix of new staff members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm and experienced staff members who have been with the organization since its inception. The results of this new team, in the short period of time they have been together, have been outstanding, and HILT's future is very promising indeed.



**Ted Clement**  
Executive Director

Ted has been studying and working in the conservation field for over 25 years, having worked for organizations such as the Outward Bound School, Peace Corps, Vermont Land Trust and Aquidneck Land Trust. Ted is passionate about his family, time outdoors and working with others to create lasting public good by protecting, and connecting people to, the land which sustains us.



**Jennifer Luck**  
Kaua'i Director

During her time as Executive Director of the Kaua'i Public Land Trust, which later became part of HILT in 2011, Jennifer oversaw the successful acquisition of two conservation easements on the island's north shore and expansion of the very popular Black Pot Beach Park in Hanalei. Prior to that, Jennifer served as Executive Director of a professional organization in southern California.



**Carol Gentz**  
Development Director

Carol is an experienced non-profit development professional with a passion for the environment. Carol's professional experience includes The Nature Conservancy, the County of Maui's Community Development Block Grant Program and the Maui Arts & Cultural Center.



**Scott Fisher**  
Director of Conservation

Scott grew up in Kula and began working for the Maui Coastal Land Trust in 2003, which merged with three other land trusts to form HILT in 2011. Scott enjoys teaching people about the cultural and natural history of Hawai'i and pounding poi with his kids on the weekend.



**Ku'ulei Kualā'au**  
Assistant Development Director

Ku'ulei's genealogical connection to the land, as a Hawaiian, serves as her motivation to protect Hawai'i's resources and natural beauty. By obtaining a Bachelor's degree in History with a specialization in Hawaiian History and a minor in Hawaiian Studies, Ku'ulei has gained knowledge to help in that endeavor.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

# Giving Matters

## #SaveLand Through HILT's Membership Program

Help save Hawai'i, its beaches, mountains, stunning scenic vistas, forests, cultural and historical sites, ranches and farms, and other outdoor recreation areas for the lasting benefit of current and future generations by becoming a Member of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT").

Hawai'i's long-term well-being, environmentally, economically, and otherwise, is directly linked to the land and the choices we make about it. Thus, Hawai'i is fortunate to have a statewide, non-profit land trust, HILT, the first nationally accredited land trust in the State, with a mission to protect the places that will sustain us for current and future generations. To date, HILT has conserved over 17,500 acres on a number of properties with various conservation values important to residents and visitors alike.

On April 22, 2013, Earth Day, HILT launched its Membership Program with \$25 entry-level Memberships, along with higher

levels, and a special Young Friends Membership, so young people can join our ranks. Young people have the most at stake when it comes to our environment, as they will have to live with what we leave behind. By becoming a Member, you help HILT succeed with its time-sensitive land conservation mission.

As of September, we are 566 memberships strong! That is absolutely awesome and there is more good news. Our individual donor base has grown from under 400 at the start of this year to nearly 850 donors in September! Our donor base has increased by over 100% in nine months and, with it, the support for land conservation continues to expand!

For those who would like to become a member and join the HILT 'Ohana, please sign up online at [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org). Thank you for your support and action to help protect the places that sustain our families, our communities, our islands.



**Janet Britt**  
**Acquisition Specialist**

For Janet, conservation has been a lifelong career. Janet worked for the Fish & Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and the Wyoming Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for nearly 20 years. She is passionate about caring for wildlife and the lands they depend on.



**James Crowe**  
**Land Steward**

Born and raised on Maui, James is rooted in the islands and that connection continues to grow stronger as he works to restore natural systems endemic to Hawai'i and takes pride in the renewed life that has been given to the land.



**Malia Avila**  
**Office Manager**

Malia has years of administrative experience while also being a steward of the land. She has donated hundreds of hours doing volunteer clean-up work, took a stand to "Save Makena" and even made this her platform in the Miss Hawai'i Pageant, where she represented Maui as Miss Haleakala in 2009.

## 'Āina Ho'oilina Society

By remembering Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") in your planned giving, you help ensure that future generations will benefit from HILT's mission to protect the special places that sustain us. Your support is vital to the perpetual stewardship of the thousands of conservation acres we monitor and maintain each year. Your gift will make a lasting green legacy.

'Āina Ho'oilina Society is the distinguished group of our loyal supporters who have included HILT in their estate planning. The literal translation of this group's name in 'Ōlelo Pelekānia (English) is the Legacy Land Society or the Land Legacy Society.

If you have named Hawaiian Islands Land Trust in your will or are interested in knowing how to incorporate HILT in your estate planning, please contact Carol Gentz, Development Director at (808) 244-5263 or [carol@hilt.org](mailto:carol@hilt.org).

We would like to recognize and thank the current members of our 'Āina Ho'oilina Society:

Susan Bradford  
Neola Caveny  
Patricia Stillwell

Jackie Brainard  
Hilary Harts  
Anonymous (3)

If there are any errors or omissions in our list, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Carol Gentz, Development Director at (808) 244-5263 or [carol@hilt.org](mailto:carol@hilt.org). We will be sure to include you in our future 'Āina Ho'oilina Society listings.



# HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

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Save the Date!

## HILT Calendar of Events

- November 9 - Maui**  
Free, guided hike at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge from 9-noon. Call (808) 244-5263 for information and reservations.
- November 16 - Kaua'i**  
Free, guided hike through the Waiakalua conservation area along the beautiful Kīlauea coastline on Kaua'i from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Call Jen Luck at (808) 755-5707 for information and reservations.
- December 7 - Maui**  
HILT Annual Picnic at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Call (808) 244-5263 for information and reservations.
- January 25, 2014 - Maui**  
Annual Buy Back the Beach Benefit Lū'au: Mālama Kīpuka hosted by Old Lāhaina Lū'au. Purchase tickets at [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org) or (808) 244-5263.



Have you caught Hawaiian Airlines' in-flight video about Hawaiian Islands Land Trust on a recent flight? It is pretty cool! We are very grateful to Hawaiian Airlines for this terrific visibility for HILT and our time-sensitive land conservation mission. The video is also featured on Hawaiian Airlines blog, Hawaiian Skies, and you can check it out on our website at [www.hilt.org](http://www.hilt.org).