

‘U MEKE KĀ‘EO

A well-filled calabash, a well-filled mind



An aerial image of Maunawila Heiau, Hau'ula at sunrise on the summer solstice, or Ke Alanui Polohiwa a Kāne, where the rising sun is observed in relation to pōhaku at the Heiau. Photo by Mark Lee.



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'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 word or term you don't understand in our newsletter, please visit wehewehe.org or email info@hilt.org for more information.

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Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Kāwika K. Burgess



Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

2018 was an exciting year for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust and 2019 is lining up to be one of our best ever. We are extremely fortunate to welcome Laura Kaakua as HILT's next President and CEO. Laura brings with her an extensive background in land conservation transactions successfully protecting some of the most significant lands in all of Hawai'i. Please join me in welcoming Laura as she takes the helm at one of Hawai'i's most promising organizations for creating positive change for the future.

I am both excited and humbled to transition to the HILT Advisory Board as a volunteer. I am also grateful to the HILT Board of Directors for the privilege to serve as Chair of HILT's ambitious capital campaign to fuel our strategic growth and expansion.

HILT is ready for the next level of land conservation and protection of the places that sustain us here in Hawai'i. Laura is uniquely qualified to lead the Land Trust into this next phase of conservation action. I am looking forward to supporting her vision, and to my continued engagement with HILT and the wonderful HILT 'Ohana.

The founders of our predecessor land trusts envisioned that the most significant natural and cultural resources in each district on each island would be preserved and protected for future generations, thereby sustaining the unique quality of life that we all love and enjoy here in Hawai'i. It has truly been a pleasure to see the continued progress and advancement that the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust has made over the past few years to make that vision a reality. I'm excited about the momentum that HILT has gained and the opportunities ahead to ensure that the lands that we love continue to provide for the sustenance that we all depend upon. Let us forever protect and preserve Hawai'i.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kāwika K. Burgess, Chief Executive Officer

Kuahaua

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust Welcomes Laura Kaakua as New President and Chief Executive Officer



“Fostering meaningful connections to the ‘āina is really what my work is about.”

– LAURA KAAKUA

HILT’s Board of Directors, in consultation with former CEO Kāwika Burgess, unanimously appointed Laura Hōkūnani Edmunds Kaakua

TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

“WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME LAURA TO THE LAND TRUST AND ARE EXCITED WITH THE LEVEL OF

LAND CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE SHE BRINGS TO HILT. THE LAND TRUST IS IN A GREAT POSITION TO ENSURE THAT THE MOST SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES IN EACH DISTRICT OF EVERY ISLAND WILL BE PROTECTED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS,” SAID JONATHAN SCHEUER, HILT’S BOARD CHAIRMAN. HILT THANKS FORMER CEO KĀWIKI BURGESS FOR HIS DEDICATED LEADERSHIP AND VISION, AND WISHES HIM WELL AS HE TAKES HIS TALENTS TO HIS NEXT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY.

Kaakua comes to HILT with a strong background in conservation, acquisitions, and community land stewardship. Since 2010, she has been with the Trust for Public Land serving as Manager for the Aloha ‘Āina Program. Kaakua has led significant land conservation transactions throughout Hawai‘i, including coastal wetlands at Ka‘ehu Bay on Maui, Kauleoli fishing village (South Kona) on Hawai‘i Island, and Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands on O‘ahu.

Laura is passionate about protecting cultural landscapes, native habitat, and places that build community. “HILT has worked with communities and landowners across Hawai‘i to conserve over 18,000 acres of our most precious lands – from native forests, to ranch pastures, to coastal wetlands. I am grateful and excited to build upon the organization’s previous successes, and to work alongside communities on all islands to protect and steward Hawai‘i’s special places,” said Kaakua.

Kaakua is a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i William S. Richardson School of Law, Boston College, and Punahou School. In addition to her career at The Trust for Public Land, Laura has been a lecturer at the William S. Richardson School of Law and served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Greg Nakamura in the Third Circuit Court. An alaka‘i of hālau hula Nā Pualei o Likolehua, Kaakua, along with husband Joshua and their two children, volunteers with Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana.

Currents

HILT Happenings

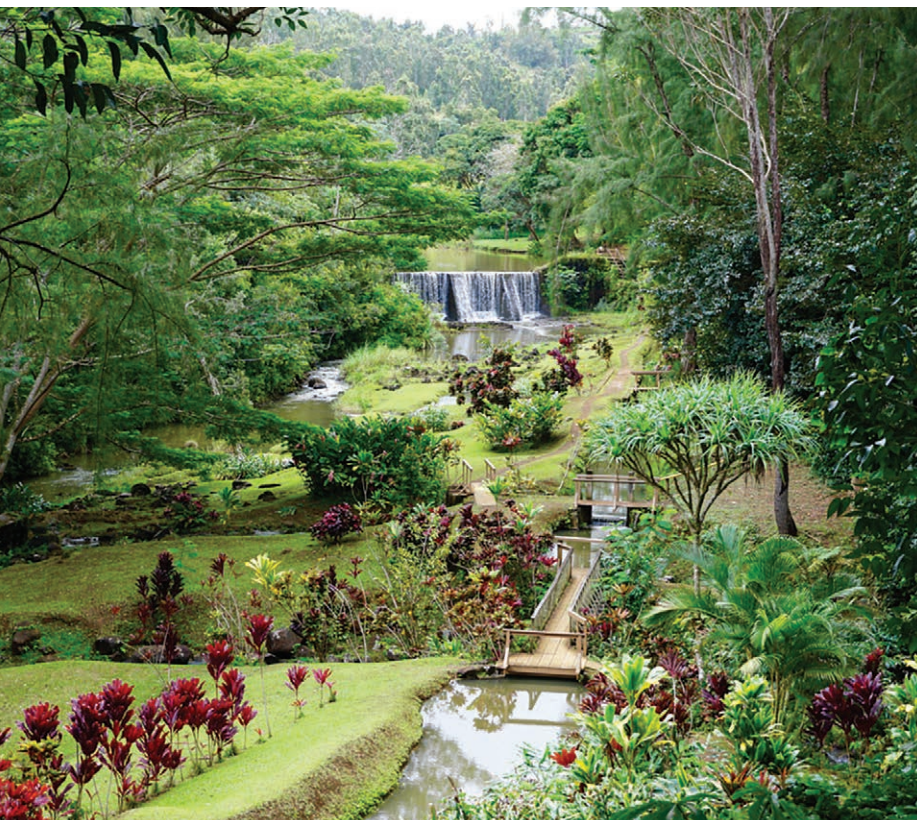
HAWAI'I ISLAND

HILT is working to acquire over 1,600 acres of land in Hilo mauka. The land contains native 'ōhi'a and koa forest, and habitat for the 'io (*Buteo solitaries* or Hawaiian hawk), 'elepaio (*Chasiempis ibidis*), 'ōma'ō (*Myadestes obscurus*), 'i'iwi (*Vestiaria coccinea*), 'amakihi (*Hemignathus virens*), and 'apapane (*Himatione sanguinea*). There are also a few kipuka on the property that have recorded native flora such as meu (*Cibotium hawaiiense*), ha'iwale (*Clermontia hawaiiense*), wawae'iole (*Lycopodium sp. nov*), pala (*Marattia douglasii*), loulou (*Pritchardia beccariana*), and ama'u (*Saleria souleyetiana*). We hope to complete the acquisition of this property in 2019.

HILT is also exploring ways to further support the protection of the North Kohala coastline makai of Akoni Pule Highway. This coastal area contains some of the most significant and well-preserved historical and cultural sites in all of Hawai'i. The North Kohala community has been successful in protecting several important sites along the coast and we hope to continue this collective effort to preserve Hawai'i's precious remaining natural and cultural treasures.



'i'iwi on 'ōhi'a.



KAUAI'

Historic Conservation on Kaua'i

On February 6th, Joan Porter, owner of Wai Koa Plantation in Kilauea, signed a conservation easement protecting public access on the Wai Koa Loop trail. The trail, approximately 4 miles in length, meanders throughout the 500+ acre Wai Koa plantation and includes a 100-year-old stone dam. The trail is now the first perpetually protected trail easement on Kaua'i. The dam, included in the easement, was severely damaged during the April 2018 Kaua'i floods and is currently under repair. Once reopened, pedestrians will be able to visit the dam and picnic under a pavilion made of wood sourced from the plantation's mahogany forest. The Porters have owned Wai Koa for over 10 years, and first opened their property to public access approximately six years ago.

Wai Koa Loop Trail, Kilauea, Kaua'i.



Logan McBarnet

MAUI

New Leadership for the HILT Maui Island Council

The Maui Island Council sends a big mahalo to Judy McCorkle for her many years of service as Chair of the Island Council. Under Judy's leadership, the Council worked on a number of important projects and events. Fortunately, Judy will be staying on the Council to support incoming Chair, Logan McBarnet. Logan is a 5th generation kama'aina.

He graduated from Seabury Hall in 2000 and attended Gonzaga University, graduating with a Master's degree in Business Administration. Upon completing his studies, Logan served as an infantry officer in the US Army and was stationed in Iraq from 2007 until 2009. Logan's first experience with HILT was as a volunteer, removing invasive species and planting native plants at the Waihe'e Refuge several days each month. Logan served on the Island Council for one year before assuming leadership in December 2018. Logan's deep Maui roots, love for the land, and passion for making our community a better place will serve the Maui Island Council very well. Please join us in welcoming Logan!

O'AHU

Our community restoration efforts continue at Maunawila Heiau. With the help of funds from the Honolulu City and County Grant in Aid program, we installed interpretive signage at the heiau and cleared additional acreage of invasive trees. We are looking forward to another summer internship program in partnership with Alu Like, proactively engaging the next generation of cultural stewards in caring for this precious resource.

HILT has several potential projects in the works to protect O'ahu's remaining cultural and natural resources. We are currently exploring opportunities to protect additional heiau, lo'i, and significant scenic vistas along Windward O'ahu.

We are excited to move forward this year with an agricultural easement protecting 21 acres of MA'O Organic Farms in Wai'anae and expanding their organic farm and youth empowerment programming. We continue to work with the Pacific American Foundation to protect the Waikalua Loko I'a. This traditional fishpond, dating back to the 1600's, is an incredible cultural and ecological resource for our community.



New educational signage at Maunawila Heiau, Hau'ula, O'ahu.

HILT's Conservation Successes 2018 in Review

2018 was a year of growth and excitement for HILT. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THIS PAST YEAR AND THRILLED TO BE BUILDING EVEN GREATER MOMENTUM FOR THE PROTECTION OF MORE OF HAWAII'S PRECIOUS LANDS. ALL OF HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST'S IMPORTANT CONSERVATION WORK IS DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS. EVERY ACRE SAVED IS WITH THANKS TO EACH OF YOU – MAHALO!

2018 HIGHLIGHTS:

- HILT successfully completed monitoring of all 38 conservation easements protecting over 17,500 acres of our most precious natural and cultural resources.
- HILT led over 40 Talk Story on the Land hikes with over 300 participants.
- HILT engaged over 2,500 volunteers who contributed over 5,000 volunteer hours.
- HILT accommodated over 500 campers at our Nu'u and Waihe'e Preserves.
- HILT welcomed over 1,000 additional visitors each month to our public preserves.



A Talk Story on the Land gathering at Kaiholena, Kohala, Hawaii'i Island.



School children at Maunawila Heiau, Hau'ula, O'ahu.



Land Stewardship manager James Crowe plants hala at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, Maui.



Volunteers clear the shoreline at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, Maui.



(Above) Hawea Point, HILT's easement off the Kapalua Coastal Trail, Maui.

(Below) Makena Beach and Puu Ōla'i li in the foreground, with Makena Golf & Beach Club, Makena, Maui beyond.

KAPALUA, MAUI

HILT finalized a 1.2-acre conservation easement along the Kapalua Coastal Trail. “This conservation easement will ensure that the land will remain as open space for future generations,” Bob Gilliom said in a statement representing the Cooley Trust.

MAKENA, MAUI

HILT is assisting the Makena Golf and Beach Club and the Makena community with cultural resource management of a 47-acre property in Makena containing numerous pre-contact sites. HILT will help establish educational cultural programming and restoration activities on the land.





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Save the Date!

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's Waihe'e Ho'olaule'a

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2019 • 11AM TO 2PM

WAIHE'E COASTAL DUNES AND WETLANDS REFUGE

RSVP to info@hilt.org or (808) 791-0729 today!



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Visit hilt.org for more information.

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSOR!

