

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

‘ U M E K E K Ā ‘ E O

A WELL FILLED CALABASH, A WELL FILLED MIND

*Restoration Work at Waihe'e
Finds an Ally in Hala
Story Pg. 5*

In This Issue:

*Spirit of Aloha: You Bought us a Tractor!
Leaving a Legacy: Donna Howard's Story*



**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
LAND TRUST**

Board of Directors

Jonathan Scheuer
Board Chair

Mary Charles
Vice Chair

Keith K. Ogata
Treasurer

Jennifer Luck
Secretary

Matt Beall
Past Chair

Sarah Bakewell

Leahi Hall

Neil Hannahs

McD Philpotts

Clyde Sakamoto

David Shores

Larry Stevens

William Swank

Staff

Kāwika K. Burgess
Chief Executive Officer

Scott Fisher, Ph.D.
Associate Executive Director –
Conservation

Angela Britten
Director of Development

James Crowe
Land Steward

Karen Pollard
Field Technician

'Umeke Kā'eo is the newsletter of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, a 501c3 nonprofit organization committed to land conservation in Hawai'i.

126 Queen Street Suite 306
Honolulu, HI 96813
Oahu: (808) 791-0729
www.hilt.org

Cover photo: Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

Follow us on Social media @

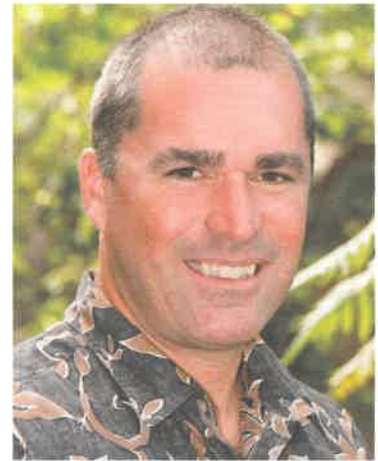
Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

@HILandTrust

@HILandTrust

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

Land conservation takes time, requires professional analysis, legal expertise, and strong relationships. A Strategic Conservation Plan is a tool that helps leverage limited resources to effectively conserve more land by focusing efforts on the highest priority lands.

Thanks to the generous support from the HILT 'Ohana at our Fund-A-Need at the 2017 E Mālama 'Āina Kākou event on O'ahu, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust is currently working to complete a Strategic Conservation Plan for the Hawaiian Islands. The National Land Trust Census shows that land trusts with a strategic conservation plan save twice as much land, on average, than land trusts without one.

HILT's Strategic Conservation Plan will use GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Technology to identify the regions and properties on each of the main Hawaiian Islands that contain the highest concentration of HILT's prioritized conservation resources including:

- Agricultural
- Wildlife
- Water
- Outdoor Recreation
- Cultural and Historical
- Scenic

With current maps and data of where the highest concentration of conservation resources are located, HILT is developing plans and strategies to protect these highest priority and strategic regions and properties on each island.

The Strategic Conservation Plan will help HILT to pro-actively pursue the permanent protection of the highest priority regions and lands in Hawai'i containing the most precious conservation resources to sustain our way of life in these islands.

Together we can all ensure that the most special and unique landscapes in Hawai'i are preserved for current and future generations!

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kāwika K. Burgess
Chief Executive Officer



CURRENTS

HILT HAPPENINGS



Kapanai'a, Hawai'i,

TALK STORY IN NORTH KOHALA

HILT started its Talk Story on the Land hike series on Hawai'i Island with a hike from Hapu'u to Kapanai'a together with community leaders from Kohala Lihikai who shared about the traditional homelands of King Kamehameha and the significant heiau

and cultural resources in this pristine area of the North Kohala coastline. The North Kohala community has built a successful track record of protecting some of the region's most beautiful and resource-rich coastal properties. We look forward to additional areas of this storied landscape being protected in the near future.



Kaua'i volunteer keiki,

CONSERVATION WORK CONTINUES WITH VOLUNTEERS

HILT operations on Kaua'i are currently being led by the all-volunteer Kaua'i Island Council (KIC). The group of committed conservationists happily rose to the challenge of supporting HILT operations and furthering HILT's mission until the Kaua'i Island Director position is filled. Over the past several

months the KIC hosted 2 beach clean-ups at HILT's Kahili Beach Preserve, worked to ensure the Kaua'i Pāina was a sold-out success and is actively planning several upcoming fundraisers for the remainder of 2018.

Over the next few months the Island Council plans to focus on closing at least one new HILT project, hosting a fundraising brunch and completing a signage project at Kahili Beach.



Northern Pintail

BRINGING THE BIRDS BACK

2018 started with some really exciting things on Maui. During our bi-annual water bird count, HILT Land Steward James Crowe witnessed a flock of at least 24 Northern Pintail, a migratory bird species from North America, fly into the wetlands at

Waihe'e. Over the years, Northern Pintail have been spotted here and there at Waihe'e, but nowhere near the numbers recorded in the 1930s, when over 200 Northern Pintail were banded over a two-day period at what was then the Waihe'e Dairy. A very wet January and February combined with 14 years of habitat restoration have made the return of this species, and many others, possible. In addition our January bird count also found more Ae'o, or Hawaiian Stilts than we have ever previously counted. These examples of success demonstrate the power and effectiveness of restoring degraded habitat.

We are happy to welcome Debbie and Greg Johnson as our new Hawea Point volunteers. Greg and Debbie have recently retired and moved to Maui. With a desire to improve the quality of life in their new home, Debbie and Greg approached us in February about the possibility of taking a leadership role as volunteers at HILT's Hawea Point easement. So far, they have been working every day replacing damaged and faded signs, improving trails, and removing invasive species. We are incredibly grateful to the Johnson's for their dedication to preserving and protecting this very special place.



Maunawila Menehune

LĀ 'OHANA AT MAUNAWILA

HILT, Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club, and Hau'ula Community Association hosted a Lā 'Ohana - Community Open House at Maunawila Heiau on February 10th. It was a beautiful day of sharing with the community of Hau'ula and Ko'olauloa the work that has been done by many volunteers since HILT acquired the 9-acre property. Guided tours were led by our young Maunawila Menehune of the heiau and cultural complex. Visitors were able to learn the history, stories, and traditions of the area, enjoy 'ono

Hawaiian food from Papa Ole's, and wonderful entertainment by our young project kuleana leaders. Mahalo nui to all of our partners who made this an unforgettable event: Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club, Hau'ula Community Association, Office of Hawaiian Education, McGregor 'Ohana, Bishop Museum, OASES Archaeology, Papa Ole's, and Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Hau'ula. If you haven't had a chance, please contact info@hilt.org to schedule a visit to Maunawila Heiau.

RESTORATION WORK FINDS HALA A WORTHY ALLY

By James Crowe



James Crowe planting hala

We started our habitat restoration work at the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge in 2005. For the majority of the area we're transforming nearly 100% non-native and invasive species to native vegetation; primarily to support the Hawaii-endemic wetland birds as well as a variety of migratory birds that also use the area. We've had wonderful success in the wetlands and along the coastline where the environment is best suited for plants that are adapted to the unique conditions of flooding and the 'ehu kai which blankets everything nearshore with salt.



Hala at Waihe'e, photo credit Forest & Kim Starr

We've also conducted restoration activities in areas surrounding the wetlands and further back along the shoreline. These areas have proved more difficult to keep in native vegetation. Our biggest challenge in these dryer areas have been the vines and the *Asystasia gangetica*. The asystasia is a violet or white flowered herbaceous plant which will climb and smother our native plantings. The asystasia has proven very difficult to eradicate due to its habit of intertwining with other vegetation along with its penchant when being hand weeded to break easily leaving the rooting nodes in place to grow again. For years we've been trying to keep this plant from suffocating our plantings such as naupaka and a'ali'i.



James with volunteers at Waihe'e

COVER STORY



Pandanus tectorius

In some areas where the asystasia has gained domination we noticed one plant which seemed to grow beyond the tangle of stems: Pandanus tectorius, more commonly known as hala. The features of hala's growth lend itself well to escaping the tenacious asystasia. The hala's leaves, growing directly from its trunk, fall away to the ground taking anything that might be clinging on. Once the hala reaches up beyond the mesh of asystasia it is free to shade out its former competitor and drop its own thick and sturdy leaves to cover the herb.

Asystasia gangetica
photo credit Forest & Kim Starr

Due to this observation we have this past year begun a large push to plant out about 1,400 hala into areas where the asystasia dominates. By pushing out these masses of asystasia we should be reducing the amount of seed generated and slow the spread where the asystasia does not fair quite so well against its competition and we are capable, therefore, of controlling it.

Through this process we are learning to adapt our strategies as our restoration projects mature and face new challenges. Our restoration activities, like the hala, are shedding the early stages enabling us to reach up to a bright future leaving behind what weighed it down.

Pala ka hala, 'ula ka ai

When the hala ripens, the neck is brightened by them
People are very fond of hala lei.

From the name chant of Kualī'i #2589 - *'Ōlelo No'ēau Hawaiian Proverbs and Poetical Sayings*

By Mary Kawena Pukui



GIVING MATTERS



James Crowe with HILT's new tractor



James surveys the road at Waihe'e

"Flood Caused at Least \$15M in Damage to Public Property" was the headline of the *Maui News* article covering the destruction caused by heavy rains on September 13, 2016. The deluge reached as much as 10 inches during a 24-hour period. The Wailuku River and its tributaries raged through 'Iao Valley, Happy Valley and Paukukalo. Some residents in 'Iao Valley were forced to flee to higher ground and the county's Kepaniwai Park and the state's 'Iao Valley park were flooded and damaged. Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge didn't escape the damage, the road leading to our most popular public preserve was washed away.

Making matters worse, we no longer had the tractor that we used to maintain the trails, keep the grass low, and keep the road passable. With the road washed out, (an event that, unfortunately, happens at least once a year) we had to close off access to Waihe'e meaning dozens of campers and hundreds of school students were turned away. Thankfully, the community stepped up and we were able to re-open the road. However, we were still in dire need of the heavy equipment required to maintain Waihe'e for continued safe public use.

Buy Back the Beach on January 28, 2017 offered a solution. The event is HILT's signature fundraiser, held each January at the Old Lāhainā Lū'au. That night, the audience listened as Scott Fisher, HILT's Associate Executive Director of Conservation talked about the Refuge and its stewardship needs. We asked the audience to help us buy a new tractor. And they did.

Lead gifts from Peter and Victorine Merriman, The Jonathan Starr Foundation, The Bendon Family Foundation, Ed and Pamela Bello, Larry & Anne Stevens, Matt and Elif Beall, and Keith and Renee Ogata spurred the momentum of giving and we exceeded our goal of \$30,000 by \$600! However, we learned that obtaining a tractor that would meet our needs wouldn't be as easy as we hoped. It took nearly a year to find the right tractor at the right price. It was well worth the wait.

In early March, we received our brand new tractor. The tractor is a 37.5 horsepower Kubota L3901DT with a flail mower attachment. It will be immediately put to work mowing the camping areas and trails for public use, making minor repairs on the entrance road into the refuge, removing large masses of marine debris, prepping areas for native plant restoration, and clearing large fallen trees.

We are incredibly grateful to the many donors who made the purchase of this tractor possible:

Matt and Elif Beall
 Ed and Pamela Bello
 The Bendon Family Foundation
 Susan Bradford
 Jake Buckner
 Patricia Chaney
 Larry Feinberg
 David Fukuda
 Jake Grodzinsky
 Becky Hanna
 Rhonda Hay
 Keoki and Betty Hay Freeland
 Diane Haynes-Woodburn
 Donna Howard
 The Jonathan Starr Foundation
 F. Puanani Lindsey
 Wayne McDonald
 Bo McKuin
 Peter and Victorine Merriman
 Lori Munekiyo
 Keith and Renee Ogata
 Jorma Palmer
 Steve and Michelle Parker
 Hokua Pellegrino
 Albert Perez and Laurie Barker-Perez
 Leilani Pulmano and Gary Bulson
 David and Milla Richardson
 Deborah and Michael Rybak
 Fredrick Sands
 Alan Shreder
 Larry and Anne Stevens
 Sharon Suzuki
 Edward and Eileen Takayesu
 Theresa and John Vail

GIVING MATTERS

LEAVING A LEGACY
OF CONSERVATION

Donna Howard

It takes people with a vision and passion for Hawai'i, to help Hawaiian Islands Land Trust fulfill its promise of perpetuity. HILT created a society to recognize donors who have the vision and passion to ensure that future generations will benefit from our mission to protect the lands that sustain us. The 'Āina Ho'oilina Society (literally Legacy Land Society), is a distinguished group of loyal supporters who have included HILT in their will.

The latest member of the 'Āina Ho'oilina Society member is no stranger to philanthropy. Donna Howard spent her career working as a fundraising executive primarily in higher education in California and Hawai'i. Currently, she's a freelance consultant and Advisory Board member for HILT. Donna notified us of her intentions to remember HILT in her will after a meeting with Clyde Sakamoto (HILT Board member and 'Āina Ho'oilina Society Member) who invited her to join. We asked Donna to share about her motivation. "When Clyde asked me to make a planned gift to HILT, I couldn't say no. The conservation work HILT does is important to me. Additionally, I recently heard a quote by Wendell Berry that resonates with me 'we don't inherit

the earth from our ancestors we borrow it from our grandchildren.' This gift is a simple way to pay it forward."

"Making a planned gift is easy to do. I would encourage everyone to take a look at their will and see if there's room to leave a legacy gift to HILT. There's so many options including simple bequests, life insurance gifts and retirement plan gifts. And none of it costs me a thing today."

Legacy gifts are vital to the perpetual stewardship of the thousands of conservation acres we monitor and maintain each year. By remembering HILT in your will, you help to ensure that future generations will benefit from HILT's mission to protect the special places that sustain us.

If you are interested in learning more about remembering HILT in your will, please visit our website at www.hilt.org/support/planned-giving to learn more. If you already have named Hawaiian Islands Land Trust in your will, please contact Angela Britten, Development Director, at (808) 791-0731 or angie@hilt.org.

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

Dr. Richard Bennett
Susan Bradford
Jackie Brainard
Neola Caveny
Mary Charles
Mindy Frankel
Hilary Harts
Donna Howard
Susan & Jac Kean
Maribeth & John Klobuchar
Peter & Luanna McKenney
Joan Pratt
Robert & Carolyn Richardson
Clyde & Gerrienne Sakamoto
Patricia Stillwell
Anonymous (3)

If there are any errors or omissions in our list, please accept our sincere apologies and contact Angela Britten, Development Director, at (808) 791-0731 or angie@hilt.org. We will be sure to update our 'Āina Ho'oilina Society listings accordingly.



HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST

126 Queen Street, Suite 306


Honolulu, HI 96813

www.hilt.org

(808) 791-0729

 Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

 @HILandTrust

 @HILandTrust

 Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PUUNENE, HI
PERMIT NO. 75



HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 1 • SPRING 2018

SAVE THE DATE!

FOR HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST'S WAIHE'E HO'OLAULE'A

Saturday, September 8 • 11am-2pm
Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge

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

This summer, enjoy HILT's Annual Waihe'e Ho'olaule'a. Bring the 'ohana and spend the day at Waihe'e enjoying live entertainment, great food, educational activities, guided hikes and more! HILT will also recognize some of our invaluable volunteers for generously committing their time to helping HILT ensure we continue to protect the lands that sustain us.

Visit www.hilt.org for more information.

MAHALO TO OUR SPONSORS!



TOM REED AND
JUDY McCORKLE

