

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

‘ U M E K E K Ā ‘ E O

A WELL FILLED CALABASH, A WELL FILLED MIND

*Perpetual Conservation Easements
Secured on Wai’oli Valley Farmland
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

– Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.

Aloha HILT 'Ohana,

For Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") to succeed with its land conservation mission in perpetuity it must, as much as practicable, be an organization *of the people, by the people, for the people.*

One important aspect of this is the need for HILT to continue to develop a broad and diverse donor base to sustain our work long-term. A broad and diverse donor base translates into direct financial support which can more likely help HILT weather the uncertainties of life. It is important to recognize that even regular folks can do extraordinary philanthropy (e.g., the teacher or student who is inspired by HILT's mission and gets his or her school to work so that all of its students and teachers can become HILT members, or the modest homeowner who maintains a basic membership and later makes a bequest to HILT of their home so as to leave a lasting green legacy). A broad and diverse donor base also translates into other types of support such as political support for HILT's mission when elected officials see numerous people "voting" for HILT by donating their hard earned dollars or community support which demonstrates to large potential donors, such as foundations, corporations and governmental entities, that HILT is relevant and worthy of their grants.

For these reasons, HILT will be heavily focused on further growing our donor base this year, primarily through our membership program. In January 2013, HILT's donor base had dipped to just below 400 people. Recognizing the threat of such a narrow donor base, we launched our first-ever membership program on April 22, 2013, Earth Day, with various attendant membership initiatives such as a membership challenge for our Board, Staff and Island Councils. Our membership program has an affordable basic membership at \$25, a discounted youth membership rate of \$15,

a special gift membership rate of \$15 and other incentives. We worked hard on this and grew our donor base to 935 people by the end of December 2013. In 2014, we continued our important new membership program but we consciously did not run another membership challenge as we needed to put more time into starting our \$7+ million Capital Campaign in June 2014, which raised almost \$1.5 million by the end of December 2014. Nevertheless, our membership program and other efforts helped us steward and grow our donor base to 1,060 people by the end of 2014. With our 5-year Capital Campaign well underway, we will return to launching another membership challenge this year along with membership contests.

Our 2015 membership challenge began on April 1, 2015 and we are asking people to each bring in at least 10 new memberships by the end of this December to help us achieve a total donor base of 2,000 people by year end. Great prizes will be awarded to membership challenge participants. This year, HILT supporters are invited to join us for our 2015 membership challenge. To sign up and learn more, please contact our Assistant Development Director, Ku'ulei Kualā'au, at kuulei@hilt.org or 808-244-5263.

With your good efforts on our 2015 membership challenge, you can help HILT continue to become an organization *of the people, by the people, for the people* so that we can sustain our land conservation work in perpetuity.

Mahalo,

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.,
Executive Director


**Talk
 Story
 on the
 Land**




Photo by: Janet Britt

FREE TALK STORY ON THE LAND
 Public Environmental Education Series Expanded in 2015

Last year, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (“HILT”) launched our Talk Story on the Land public environmental education series. The purpose of this program is to give the public the free opportunity to get out and walk on the lands we work to protect and learn about those properties. This first-hand experience connects people with nature and the time-sensitive land conservation work of HILT. This educational program reflects HILT’s belief that experiential education is the most powerful form of environmental education.

Beach on Kaua’i, Kaiholena South and Volcano Kīpuka Mosaic Conservation Easements on Hawai’i Island and Pu’uhōkūkano in ‘Auwahi and Hāwea Point as well as favorites Waihe’e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands and Nu’u Refuge on Maui. The properties feature HILT’s efforts to protect land forever and some are not typically open to the public. For the complete series listing, visit www.hilt.org. The schedule includes information on how to sign up for each hike. Space is limited, and many hikes are already full or near capacity, so sign up quickly!



Photo by: Sonny Gamponia

“Marvelous day, so glad I came. I look forward to other activities with you.”

- Natalie Guerin, Captain Cook, Hawai’i

I appreciated how all aspects of land, ecology/spirituality/Hawaiian culture/history were all connected! I learned a ton.” ~ Ben Sibrack, San Francisco, California

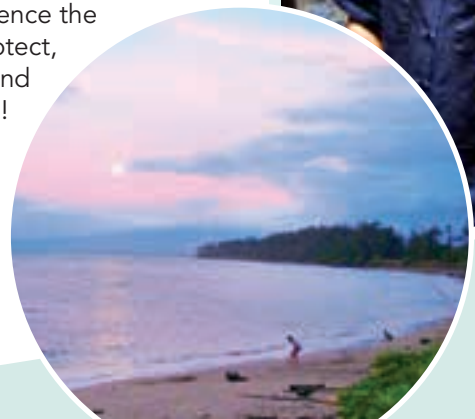
Every hike is free and open to the public. However, the special moonlight hikes have a suggested donation of \$25 to offset the cost of pūpū and refreshments provided. Participants that provide the suggested donation receive a one-year HILT membership with associated benefits (HILT newsletters, HILT member decal, etc.).

Our hikes have proven to be very popular and the hikes are regularly at full capacity with wait lists. We expanded the number of hikes offered from 16 in 2014 to 24 educational hikes in the 2015 series across Hawai’i Island, Kaua’i, Maui and O’ahu. Hikes include Maunawila Heiau and Waikalua Loko Fishpond on O’ahu, Wai’oli Valley and Kāhili

Due to the popularity and importance of Talk Story on the Land, this will continue to be an ongoing annual HILT program. If you cannot make one of our hikes this year, stay tuned for the 2016 Talk Story on the Land, which will be released early next year. Hope to see you at HILT’s Talk Story on the Land! It is a great way to experience the lands that you help to protect, reconnect with nature, and maybe make a new friend!



Heiau Photos: Janet Britt



CURRENTS

HILT HAPPENINGS



Photo by: Janet Britt

HAWAI'I ISLAND

HILT is thrilled to have five new members join the Hawai'i Island Council: Winfield Chang, Lily Dudoit, Dane Springer, Rebecca Colvin, and Jessica Schmelz. On each island, the council helps their Island Director focus on the places that are most important to conserve, provides introductions to owners and managers of important lands and assists at outreach events to introduce HILT to the general public. We are so happy to welcome these new members to our 'ohana! If you are interested in learning about the Island Council on your island, please contact your Island Director.



MAUI

The wetlands at Nu'u Refuge play an important role for the 'alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian Coot) and the ae'o (Hawaiian Stilt). This year, through a grant from the Pono Project, HILT built and installed floating nesting platforms for these endangered species through out the deeper parts of the pond. Shortly after installation, we were thrilled to see a group of ae'o socializing on these platforms. While they still haven't built nests, the fact that they are using these platforms is a really good sign. This

project is an excellent opportunity to learn more about the biological needs of these endangered water birds.



Photo by: Tina Aiu

O'AHU

HILT and Brigham Young University Hawai'i's ("BYUH") Anthropology program recently signed a formal Conservation Collaboration Agreement which will incorporate conservation and Maunawila Heiau into BYUH's Anthropology course offerings. O'ahu Island Director, Tina Aiu, was a guest lecturer for BYUH's Cultural Anthropology class. Students and faculty from BYUH joined community members, members of Hau'ula Community Association, and Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club for a work day where they removed three truckloads of trash and cleared invasive plants to make way for future trail infrastructure and public access. Community work days are held once a month at Maunawila Heiau. Interested in volunteering to mālama and learn about this historic site? Contact O'ahu Island Director Tina Aiu at tina@hilt.org.

KAUA'I

HILT's partnership with the Kilauea Neighborhood Association ("KNA") has been imperative to our ability to manage our Kāhili Beach



Preserve. KNA is our eyes and ears at Kāhili Beach, informing staff of abandoned camp sites, cut down trees, surf schools operating without a permit, and other activities. KNA has for years organized regular beach clean-ups - making Kāhili one of the most pristine beaches on the north shore and a quiet haven for local residents.

With mixed emotions, we announce that our talented Kaua'i Island Director, Jennifer Luck, has accepted a wonderful new opportunity. We will miss Jen and wish her the very best in her new position. We are excited that Jen will stay active with HILT as a volunteer on our Kaua'i Island Council.



NEW ADDITION TO HILT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Le'ahi Hall was born and raised in Hāmākualoa, Maui. Growing up, malama 'āina was more than just a concept. From a young age she attended countless meetings to protect water rights, open beach access, and preserve cultural sites.

Being raised in a rich cultural environment contributed to her earning a degree in Cultural and Social Anthropology from Stanford University. Le'ahi was also a member of the Stanford women's volleyball team, during which time Stanford won two NCAA championships.

Le'ahi is on the board of Hui Alanui o Mākena, is a First Nations' Futures Fellow, and has coached youth volleyball teams to numerous top 10 National finishes.

COVER STORY

HILT SECURES PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

on Wai'oli Valley Farmland



Photo by: Jennifer Luck

In April, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") accepted two perpetual conservation easements on about 40 acres of wetland taro located in Wai'oli Valley, in the Halele'a district of Kaua'i. Donated by Gaylord and Carol Wilcox and their daughters Nicole Pedersen, Darcie Gray and Eliza Wilcox, the conservation easements place permanent restrictions on the important farmland protecting it from future development and degradation. "If lands like these are not protected for the long term, we believe pressures that are evident now for housing development will win out, and the majority of Wa'oli Valley

will be housing before the century is out," commented Gaylord Wilcox. The conservation easements will not only ensure the land cannot be developed but identify certain conservation values, agricultural resources, cultural and historical values, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty, inherent in the property which cannot be compromised or threatened by future uses of the land.

"HILT is honored to receive these perpetual conservation easements" said HILT Executive Director Ted Clement. "Wai'oli Valley is a truly iconic place, and the preservation of this place is essential to the continuation of Kaua'i's rich history of taro production, the

ecological well being of the greater Hanalei area and the protection of an unforgettable scenic vista. We are incredibly grateful to the Wilcox family for their generosity, long-term vision and commitment to land conservation. I would also like to thank our Kaua'i Island Director, Jen Luck, for her hard work on this project."

Wai'oli ("Joyful Water") Valley has been in active taro production since pre-contact times and remains a major producer of poi for the state. It is situated mauka of Kūhiō Highway in Hanalei on the north shore of Kaua'i.

HĀNA HIGHWAY AND COASTAL CORRIDOR BEING PROTECTED

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust ("HILT") received two donated perpetual conservation easements on open space lands along the world-renowned scenic Hāna Highway and coastal corridor in Hāna last fall.

The first conservation easement was donated to HILT in October 2014 by Ronald and Marianne Dreisbach, as Trustees of The Dreisbach Family Trust, on approximately 5 acres of their land on the makai (ocean) side of Hāna Highway. Regarding this gift which will ensure this important land remains open space, Ronald and Marianne Dreisbach stated, "We are humbled and thankful to be able to play a small part in the preservation of this incredible coastline."

The second conservation easement was donated to HILT in November 2014 by HRP Hana LLC on over 10 acres of their land which is contiguous with the conserved Dreisbach land and is also on the

makai side of Hāna Highway. Roy O'Connor, Chairman of HRP Hana LLC, said, "HRP Hana LLC are pleased to insure the continued open space, agricultural use, and scenic views of the Pacific Ocean this land provides along this beautiful stretch of the Hāna Highway."

These recently acquired conservation easements build upon and compliment the 2003 conservation easement secured by the Maui Coastal Land Trust, now merged with the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, on a nearby 41 acre property.

The new Dreisbach Conservation Easement and HRP Hana LLC Conservation Easement protect over 15 contiguous acres of open space which contain important conservation values such as the scenic vistas afforded passersby on the Hāna Highway and coastal corridor in Hāna. This land area also has agricultural values, cultural and historical values, water resource values, and wildlife habitat values.



Ted Clement, HILT's Executive Director, stated, "We thank the Dreisbachs and HRP Hana LLC for their long-term vision, generosity and leadership. Piece by piece we are protecting important lands along this incredible Hāna Highway and coastal corridor. These recently acquired conservation easements marked our fifth and sixth successful conservation closings in 2014, an all-time record for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, and we thank our supporters for helping making that possible."

GIVING MATTERS

JOIN THE HILT TEAM TODAY!

Become a crucial member of the team that is protecting forever the precious lands that we cherish throughout Hawai'i. Become a HILT member TODAY!

HILT members are the greatest ambassadors of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's ("HILT") success. Our members demonstrate that protecting land forever is important and relevant to people throughout Hawai'i and the world!

our perpetual conservation easements on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island as well as educating keiki, residents and visitors about the importance of our work and advocating for land conservation. We depend on our members to fulfill our mission of protecting the lands that sustain us for current and future generations. Join the HILT Team TODAY!

"We all love and cherish the island we live on, so why not preserve and maintain the beauty for our future generations to come?"

~Brady Spangler, Branch Manager at AXIA Home Loans

Real estate professionals throughout the state are helping to increase the HILT Team by giving the gift of a HILT membership to their clients after closings. What a wonderful way to welcome someone to their new community and get them involved with the local charity that is helping protect their recent real estate investment and keep Hawai'i a desirable place to live, work and visit. To date, nine real estate professionals have given gift HILT memberships to over 1,000 of their clients! Of course, gift HILT memberships are also wonderful ideas for any business and a splendid way to honor family and friends on special occasions.

Your membership gift is put to good use protecting new properties, continuing to steward our public preserves, and monitoring

Already a HILT member?

Renew your membership and continue to make a difference! Give the gift of a Maunawila Membership to a special person or to mark a special occasion for only \$15!

To become a HILT member, renew your membership or to get started with the creative and meaningful gift membership program, please contact HILT's Development Director, Carol Gentz (carol@hilt.org), or Assistant Development Director, Ku'ulei Kua'āau (kuulei@hilt.org), at 808-244-LAND (5263) or visit our website at www.hilt.org/join-us/membership/.



MĀLAMA KĪPUKA

14TH ANNUAL BUY BACK THE BEACH LŪ'AU

It was another fantastic celebration of the land at Mālama Kīpuka, 14th Annual Buy Back the Beach Benefit Lū'au! Nearly \$100,000 was raised to ensure that the precious places throughout Hawai'i are protected forever.

Dedicated HILT supporters braved the weather and traffic to come together to relish fabulous pūpū at the oceanfront reception and the family-style dinner by Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu restaurants as well as enjoy Nā Hōkū Hanohano winning trio, Nā Hoa.

Our annual signature fundraiser would not be possible without our Event Committee, our Kīpuka, Pā'ina, Laulima, and Pākaukau

Sponsors, auction and event donors as well as our many event volunteers. Thank you to everyone who joined us for an awesome evening of fabulous food, friends and funds all in support of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2016**

**FOR NEXT YEAR'S LŪ'AU TO COMMEMORATE
15 YEARS OF COMING TOGETHER TO #SAVELAND.**



Photo by: LightSea Images



Photo by: LightSea Images

Mahalo to our incredible hosts

Nā Hoaloha 'Ekolu



Kīpuka Sponsor



Pā'ina Sponsors



ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2014

FOUNDING FEW**

Founding Few, founders of Hawaiian Islands Land Trust, is a visionary group of donors who each made generous three-year financial leadership level commitments at the time HILT became a statewide land trust. These leadership gifts ensured the successful launch of HILT and enabled us to focus on the forward momentum of building the successful organization necessary to leave a legacy of priceless landscapes across Hawai'i.

Blue Hawaiian Helicopters

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Genevieve & Chris Campbell

Mark & Judy Ellman

Charles Engelhard Foundation

Janice Lau Fergus

Goodfellow Bros., Inc.

Hawai'i Community Foundation

Hawai'i Life Real Estate Brokers

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Kelly & Robert King

The Makana Aloha Foundation

Peter & Victorine Merriman

Michael Moore

Susan E. & Roy S. O'Connor

Edmund C. Olson

Jill & Doug Schatz

Helen Nielsen & Jonathan Starr

Anne & Larry Stevens



Photo by: LightSea Images

The following individuals, organizations, foundations and trusts made contributions to Hawaiian Islands Land Trust from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

\$250,000 - Above

The Freeman Foundation

\$50,000 - \$249,000

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 Geary Mizuno is honored by Sharon M. & Andrew S. Pessin
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 Mr & Mrs. Robert Williams are honored by Elsa Kreider

EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE REMEMBERED WITH COMPASSIONATE GIFTS:

John Furrie is remembered by Denise Nakanishi
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Leave your lasting green legacy toward the permanent stewardship of thousands of conservation acres! 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 lands that sustain us.

‘Āina Ho‘oilina Society, our legacy land society, is the distinguished group of our loyal supporters who have included HILT in their estate planning.

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.

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

- Susan Bradford**
- Jackie Brainard**
- Neola Caveny**
- Hilary Harts**
- Peter & Luanna McKenney**
- Robert & Carolyn Richardson**
- Patricia Stillwell**
- Anonymous (3)**

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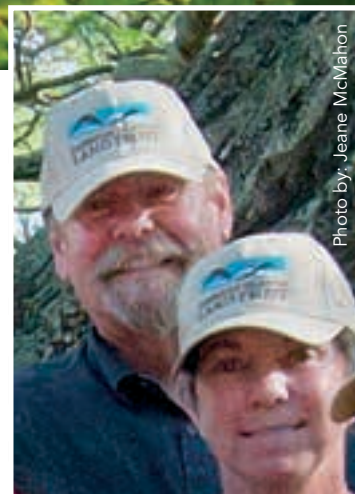


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Mahalo to our Sponsor

