

CULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

# Haleakala Times

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## Environmental Awareness / Maui organizations promote environment throughout the year

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### Local businesses and organizations put environment first

March 28, 2006

#### Hawaii reefs under pressure, need help

Hawaii's reefs are in trouble. Among pressing issues are gillnets stripping our reefs barren. The aquarium collecting "industry" reports a half million fish taken from our reefs yearly. When did you last see a reef with 100 fish? The take may be a million or more. Collectors work at night, often at 40-60' depth, breaking coral to herd the fish, for an annual gross of one million dollars. Could we replenish and repair our reefs for a million? No.

Charter boats dump sewage and fish food overboard and run over whales and dolphins in the name of tourism. Every reef lover must be a reef defender. If we're to save what's left, we must step up and be heard. Petition the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, your state legislators and the Governor to ban gill netting and aquarium collecting. Use charter boats exhibiting responsible reef behavior. Don't buy products made from shells, whose inhabitants were killed for novelty. Avoid shutome (swordfish). It's loaded with mercury, often full of tumors, and the by-catch is sea turtles, dolphins and birds.

The Snorkel Bob Foundation solicits no donations. Support comes from vested interests in marine habitat and species defense, interests that are non-extractive—and

aggressive in conveying reef etiquette among tourists.

### **Land trust works with others to save resources**

Maui Coastal Land Trust is a non-political, non-profit, land conservation organization that works with private landowners, neighborhoods, community groups and government agencies to protect significant environmental and cultural resources in perpetuity. The protected resources vary by site and may include shoreline access and recreation, scenic views, endangered species habitat, agricultural lands, critical watersheds or culturally significant lands.

In some cases the Land Trust may own and manage the land, but more commonly the landowner retains control and management of his or her property but donates to the land trust a permanent Conservation Easement which limits any development potential and specifies what can and cannot be done on the property.

A property MCLT does own in fee is the Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Refuge, a 277 acre parcel with extensive cultural and environmental resources. The site hosted two ancient Hawaiian villages, several heiau and one of the largest inland fishponds in Hawaii. With the help of school groups, social clubs, volunteers and resource agencies, they are restoring the Refuge as a cultural and environmental education site for students of all ages.

To learn more about MCLT, including information about current projects and how you can get involved, see [www.mauicoastallandtrust.org](http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org).

### **Makana Technologies supports your charities**

At Makana Technologies, they provide a solution for all of your telecommunications needs but with a twist! For every service you sign up, they will donate a percentage of their profits to the charity of your choice. Through their "Affinity Partners" program, every dollar spent means more money in the hands of nonprofit organizations like the Surfrider Foundation, GMO Free Maui and the Sierra Club.

Makana Technologies contracts with many carrier partners like: Pacific LightNet Communications, Time Warner Telecom, Sprint, AT&T, Broadwing, Global Crossings, Level 3, Qwest Communications, WorldCom, MCI, New Edge Networks and many more to provide you with a competitive choice for all your business and residential voice and data solutions.

Whether it's for your residential services, small business services, voice over Internet services, long distance, cellular phones (plans from Verizon Wireless, TMobile, Sprint, Nextel and Cingular), dial up Internet access, web hosting or branded e-mail accounts, they can help you save hundreds of dollars while helping others at the same time.

Makana Technologies allows you to use your everyday telecommunication services to help make our world a better place. Come visit them on the web at [www.makantechnologies.com](http://www.makantechnologies.com) or call (808) 573-6702.

### **Alive and Well offers a top quality air filter**

If you are worried about cane smoke, vog or red dirt, Alive and Well in Kahului has just the thing for you. The IQAir filter systems are recognized around the world as the most advanced room air cleaners ever designed.

Whether used in homes for allergen control, or in hospitals for infection control, IQAir has just the right air cleaning system to provide the best possible air quality. IQAir systems are the only air cleaners to feature H13 certified HEPA filters. IQAir systems

are so effective that they are now being used in government hospitals in Hong Kong to prevent the spread of SARS to hospital staff and patients.

If you are looking for the absolute best in air cleaning, IQAir is your choice.

In a short-lived world, where companies come and go, IQAir is proud to have stood the test of time.

When Klaus Hammes and his brother Manfred introduced the world's first residential air cleaner in 1963, they could only imagine how their clean air machines would change the lives of the tens of thousands of users around the world for the better. It is with this history in mind and the future at heart, that this family company continues to be at the forefront of providing the most advanced air cleaning solutions to health conscious individuals and critical facilities. [www.aliveandwellonmaui.com](http://www.aliveandwellonmaui.com)

### **Yellow Seed Bamboo expanding, educating**

Greetings to the Island of Maui and beyond, my name is Jericho Stringer. I am the owner of Yellow Seed Bamboo Nursery and Steel Timber Bamboo located in Haiku off the Hana Highway. We supply the island with noninvasive clumping bamboo plants for privacy barrier, wind break, building timber, edible shoots, ornamental and more. We also supply treated Colombian Guadua bamboo poles for furniture making, interior design and building structures: our current stock consists of 700 twenty foot poles ranging in diameters of 3 to 6 inches.

We are in the process of moving to a new location in Haiku where we will be expanding the nursery, building with bamboo and hosting bamboo-building workshops twice a year. Additionally we will be establishing a model of sustainable farming practices using biodiverse agriculture techniques.

It is my belief that this planet is the greatest gift that we have received and my goal is to do what ever I can to restore balance, so that we as humans can continue to live and thrive here. My business and my life are devoted to providing products and ideas to the Islands, so that we may all come together and change the way we live with the highest regard for our environment. Because after all, it's all we really have.

If you are interested in bamboo construction go to [www.conbam.info](http://www.conbam.info) for great photos and lots of information. For information about Yellow Seed Bamboo Nursery go to [www.yellowseedbamboo.com](http://www.yellowseedbamboo.com) or call Jericho at 808-870-0591.

### **Watershed Partnership protects native forests**

Whether it's sloshing through tubs of diatomaceous earth to demonstrate how rivers are formed to hosting juried art shows about native wildlife, the East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP) engages Maui's community to support the protection of native Hawaiian rainforests.

The Partnership started in 1991 as an agreement between the County of Maui and six major land managers of East Maui to preserve the remaining intact native forests of East Maui.

The East Maui Watershed is the largest intact native forest in the State of Hawai'i and is directly linked to the present and future water supply for Maui.

Protecting this resource means that your grandchildren's children will have a reliable source of fresh water, and they won't have to go to a museum to see an I'iwi or an 'Ohi'a tree. EMWP and partner staff work in the field and with the community to protect the forest that supports our island's way of life.

Many of you are already familiar with EMWP because you or your child has trekked

with them through the native cloud forests of Waikamoi Preserve. Others of you have painted for their bi-annual "Malama Wao Akua" art contest, or seen the works of art during the traveling show. And a few of you have even participated in EMWP's hunting program that helps remove wild pigs from our watershed areas.

How can you get involved too? While hauling 250 pounds of fence through tangled webs of uluhe fern may be typical work for the EMWP field crew, it is not typically a volunteer activity. Instead, you can Adopt-a-Fence to support watershed protection, plant native species or conserve our limited water resources. Tell your child's teacher about EMWP's free hikes and classroom activities. Visit their website at [www.eastmauiwatershed.org](http://www.eastmauiwatershed.org) to learn more about these programs, or call 573-6999.

### **Treat Your Garden to Coffee**

Did you know that spent coffee grounds provide a valuable source of nutrients when added to the soil in your garden? Starbucks Coffee Hawaii launched a program called Grounds for Your Garden in April 2005 to celebrate Earth Month.

Grounds for your Garden is a year-round program that provides spent coffee grounds free to customers, parks, schools and nurseries. This program began as a grass roots initiative by a team of partners who received numerous requests for the organic waste from their regular customers. Today, this waste reduction program has become a popular way for gardeners throughout Hawaii and the rest of the United States to enrich their gardens.

In one year, it is estimated that customers have helped keep 200 tons of coffee grounds out of Hawaii's landfills. The overwhelming response from Starbucks customers shows that as a community we can all make a difference.

Maui Starbucks locations that offer Grounds for Your Garden include Pukalani Foodland, Piilani, Maui Marketplace, Queen Ka'ahumanu Mall and Old Lahaina Center. For more information about Grounds for Your Garden, visit [www.starbuckshawaii.com](http://www.starbuckshawaii.com).

### **Blue Hawaiian has quiet technology**

Blue Hawaiian Helicopters commenced operations on Maui in 1985 and expanded to Hawaii in 1992. In 1995 Blue Hawaiian opened up a base on Kauai and is currently the only helicopter tour operator to operate on all three principal neighbor islands.

Dave Chevalier, CEO of Blue Hawaiian pushed for quiet technology for more than a decade as a former chairman of Helicopter Association International's Helicopter Tour Operations Committee.

"We resolved that the biggest issue facing our industry was noise," he said. "Blue Hawaiian operates 10 EC-130 (ECO-Star) helicopters, which incorporate the latest in quiet technology and are 50 percent quieter to those on the ground than the industry standard A-Star helicopters." Blue Hawaiian was the launch customer for this state-of-the-art helicopter and is committed to the environment.

### **Promoting Democracy, environment on ballot**

Maui County Citizens for Democracy in Action is a newly formed nonprofit organization. Our mission is a 2006 voter registration and ballot initiative drive that will place our two ordinances onto the Maui County general election ballot this November. At the voting polls, the people of Maui will make their voice heard. Our two proposals are (1) Maui County Crime Reduction/Alcohol - Marijuana Equalization Ordinance, and (2) Maui County Compassionate Choice / Family Farmer Regulation and Revenue Ordinance.

The full text of these ordinances can be seen on our website: [www.mccfdia.com](http://www.mccfdia.com)  
Of special interest to those concerned about our fragile environment will be the Family Farmers licensed by Maui County. These farmers will be growing organic crops as part of the proposed plan; there would be no pesticides and no chemical fertilizers introduced into the environment. Furthermore, alternative sources of energy will be used whenever possible.

This helps reduce our dependence on petroleum based energy, and the demands placed on Maui Electric by actions from Green Harvest only serves to force responsible growers indoors, using large amounts of electric power. We see these Family Farmers as being an important part of restoring the delicate ecological balance on our beautiful island paradise. To find out more about us, and to get involved, please call Democracy in Action at 579-8315.

### **Eco-friendly products at Ohana Greenhouse**

Ohana Greenhouse and Garden Supply opened in Maui in February of 2005. Starting with a small inventory of specialty garden supplies, the inventory has grown immensely; stocking full lines of organic plant food, organic pest control, organic disease control, indoor/greenhouse plant lighting, greenhouses, hydroponic systems, coconut grow media, air filters, organic soils and commercial landscaping products. Ohana Greenhouse and Garden Supply strives to stock eco-friendly products that help to support a healthy planet. With a friendly and knowledgeable staff we are confident that we can become your one stop garden shop.

Located at 300 Hukilike St. Bldg. 2m in the Kahului industrial district and at their newest location at 811 Laukapu St. #5 in Hilo industrial. As always, we offer free inter-island shipping and free classes in soil and hydroponic growing techniques. Email at [OhanaGreenhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:OhanaGreenhouse@hotmail.com) and Garden Supply or call (808) 871-6393.

### **Maui Tomorrow looks out for island's future**

Maui Tomorrow volunteers have a reputation. Do the research, then ask the hard questions as important planning decisions are made. "We have a choice," says MT President Ron Sturtz;. "Do we want Maui to be seen as a commodity or a community, as we plan its future?"

Affordable Housing: MT researched the topic nationwide and submitted its plan to the Council.

Water Resources: MT went to court asking for streams to flow in both East and West Maui to recharge natural systems.

Cultural Resources: MT requested better review of sensitive Makena lands leading to protection of burials and sites.

Superferry: MT wants the public to have a say when \$40 million in public funds is spent on a project with more questions than answers.

Renewable Energy: MT volunteers work to make Maui self sufficient in energy, food and fuel crops.

Natural Coastlines: MT works with allies to create coastal parks for Maui's people along West Maui and the North Shore.

"It's hard for folks to get to meetings," says MT's Judith Michaels. "We appreciate that they support us to go get the facts and speak up for responsible planning."

Donations can be made at [maui-tomorrow.org](http://maui-tomorrow.org) or call 579-9802.

### **Conserving Water in the Landscape**

The Department of Water Supply reviews, recommends and funds numerous conservation efforts to alleviate demand on the island's water systems. The most efficient potential measure in terms of gallons per day savings is landscape conservation, or xeriscaping. In a comparison with other implemented and potential conservation measures, xeriscaping could save 10 times more water than the next highest ranking candidates – toilets and urinal retrofit programs. Xeriscaping is a creative landscaping method that can benefit both small and large landscaping projects. And there's nothing boring about it! Almost any landscaping style can be achieved.

The main principles are included in a Draft Water- Efficient Landscape Conservation ordinance by the Department of Water Supply (submitted to water advisory committees as part of the Water Use and Development Plan process).

It includes planning and design, good soil improvement and mulching, water conserving irrigation methods, use of appropriate plants and limited turf areas. That's also why the Department funded construction of a native plant nursery for the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens a few years ago. Xeriscaping can reduce landscape water use by 50 – 75 percent. It also minimizes maintenance and the use of fertilizers or pesticides. That's good for your waterbill too!

For information about xeriscaping and appropriate plants for your yard, or to volunteer to serve on a landscape conservation subcommittee, call the Department of Water Supply at 244-8550.

### **Recycling helps keep trash out of landfill**

Recyclables are being accepted at the new Central Maui Landfill Recycling and Refuse Center. The state-of-the-art facility is located on Pulehu Road, one quarter mile makai of the old landfill entrance road.

Within the facility there are separate off-loading areas for household solid waste and bulky items as well as recyclables such as cardboard, plastic bags, plastic, glass, aluminum and newspaper. The Recycling and Refuse Center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The new facility was designed to divert more material from the landfill. "Maui should be proud of our 30 percent landfill diversion rate, which is higher than the national average, and we're making plans to achieve a 50 percent diversion rate, which is the state goal," states Hana Steel, Maui County Recycling Coordinator. The plans will include curbside recycling and yard trimmings pick-up.

A HI 5 Redemption Center will also open at the Central Maui facility within a month or so. It will be operated for the County by Maui Disposal Company, Inc. They are in the last stage of permitting. Days and hours will be announced at a later time.

Maui is familiar with the three R's of recycling: reduce, reuse, recycle. With the implementation of the Bottle bill in January of 2006, the fourth R is Redeem.

Redeeming bottles and cans for the five-cent deposit has resulted in recycling over 70 percent of Maui's beverage containers.

A nickel is the right incentive and has successfully motivated many that never recycled before. The end result is less litter on Maui, the capture of materials for re-manufacturing and an increase in the life of the landfill.

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71 Baldwin Avenue Suite B2 & B5  
Paia, HI 96779, Ph. 808-579-8020, fax 808-579-8026

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