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Thursday, September 29, 2005 1:28 PM

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Ecological art show worth a visit to Makawao

The opening night at Viewpoints Gallery in Makawao of the second annual art contest benefiting the East Maui Watershed Partnership was special indeed. Kumu Keli'i Taua and his hula troupe blessed and entertained. Mayor Alan Arakawa graciously welcomed an appreciative crowd that overflowed into the courtyard.

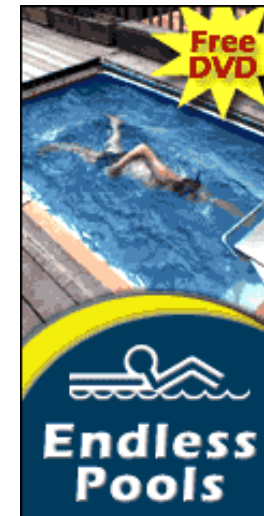
The goal of the contest and exhibition is to raise awareness about Hawaiian native species and rain forest ecology. This year, three student divisions were added, from elementary through high school, and guided hikes into the Waikamoi cloud forest were offered for education and inspiration. Once again, Kat Lui of the East Maui Watershed Partnership organized the event and deserves accolades, as do Managing Coordinator Alex Michailidis and the entire EMWP crew and volunteers.

The artwork itself is breathtaking. Robert Wagstaff's painting of possibly the last po'ouli is haunting and evocative. A photo collage by Jupiter Nielsen, titled, "Maui Mauka To Makai," is a phenomenal collection of native flora, each photo keyed for reference and identification.

The art show remains at Viewpoints until Oct 12., after which the show travels to Hana Library, a Central Maui location in November, and the Haleakala National Park Visitor Center in December. For more information, see www.

eastmauiwatershed.org.

I encourage everyone, local and visitor, to view inspiring artwork while learning more about our precious and unique native ecosystems and the efforts under way to protect, preserve and restore them.



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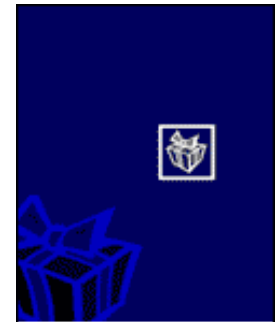
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