E MAU NĀ ALA HELE

Perpetuate Hawai‘i’s Trails For Hawai‘i’s People

May 2026

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Celebrating National Trails Day, Sunday 7 June 2026

You are cordially invited to participate in

E Mau’s CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

National Trails Day is traditionally celebrated across the country on the first Saturday of June. This year E Mau will celebrate the day on Sunday with a visit to the beautiful and historic Kīholo Bay area.

WHEN: 7 June 2026 (Sunday) 9:00 AM

WHERE: Meet at the south end of the gravel road to Kīholo Bay. Turn off Queen Ka‘ahumanu Highway at approximately the 82.5 mile, just south of the scenic overlook. Follow the signs toward the campsites. Park near Hale Hoa ‘Āina just past the camping area.

WHAT: Hui Aloha Kīholo stewards will share information about this special, beautiful area and the exciting changes that are occurring, thanks to increasing stewardship efforts and the area’s inclusion in the Hawai‘i State Parks System. Following the orientation we will walk some of the historic trails.

BRING: Your curiosity, water, sun protection, trail lunch, good hiking/walking shoes.
More information and updates: check our website or write to emauhawaiitrails@gmail.com

RSVP: by 31 May to BASchaeferPhoto@gmail.com (808) 640-9270

In Memory of Toni Thomson (1923-2026)

by

Debbie Chang and Barbara Schaefer

Toni was our most faithful, stalwart member until she could no longer walk, still maintaining her membership and following our group even after that. She passed away in late April at nearly 103 years old. Debbie remembers first meeting Toni in the early 1980s at Pelekane Bay in an open house event sponsored by Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site in which Nā Ala Hele had an information table. This was when E Mau Nā Ala Hele was named Nā Ala Hele and had been in existence since late 1979. Toni was so enthusiastic about our mission and signed up on the spot! Her enthusiasm never waned. Barbara remembers meeting Toni in the year (1997-98) when we hiked the Ala Kahakai from 'Upolu Point around Ka Lae (South Point) and on into Hilo. Toni was the only member to attend every hike during that momentous journey! AND she picked up trash all along the way.

Toni was an active member of E Mau Nā Ala Hele since the very early days, serving on the Board of Directors for many years. She represented E Mau nationally, traveling to Washington D.C. a number of times for Hike The Hill, an advocacy week for trails nation-wide. She also attended several Partnership for the National Trails System conferences and workshops, becoming an inspiration for trail leaders across the county.

Toni and Barbara in Washington D.C. at Hike The Hill trails advocacy week.

At 88 years young Toni hiked (while picking up trash along the way) from Kapanai'a Bay to Kauhola Point in North Kohala on a memorable huaka'i led by Fred Cachola in 2011. She never failed to inspire all of us to press onward.

While Toni may no longer be physically with us, her spirit remains and will see us forward into the future.

We love you, Toni!

Save the Date, Sunday 16 August 2026

PLEASE KEEP YOUR CALENDARS OPEN FOR AUGUST 16 (SUNDAY)
We are planning a service trip for that day; probably a shoreline clean-up. The details are still being worked out and will be forthcoming in July.

E Mau on the web: https://www.emaunaalahele.org

Are You a Member for 2026?

Membership numbers count, especially when we do advocacy work for our trails. Are you a member for 2026? For those members who have not yet renewed, we are sending a paper newsletter with a stamped return envelope to make it easy for you to reply. Please join us today!

2026 Members:
Christine Ahia, Gloria Amaral, Nancy & Jacques Baenziger, Wayne Borden, Deborah Chang & Edwin Petteys, Nolan Chock, Emily Claspell & Matt Belcher, Marcie & Guy Davis, Sandy & Dick Ednie, Topher Fast, Keoni Fox, Kim Garcia, William & Catherine Harlan, Antu Harvey, Tee & Kathy Jimenez, Rebecca & Clay Johnston, Joan & Peter Kinchla, John & Pat Leinen Jr., Caryl Lindamood, Eric and Chris Lindborg, Nicole Keaka Lui, Donald & Lynda Potter, Bill Randolph, Eugene Reynolds, Barbara Schaefer, J K Spielman, Elizabeth Star, Mary True & Greg Edwards, Ruby Tzimeas, Manny Veincent, Gary Werner & Melanie Lord, Clare & Phil Wilson, Toni Withington & Ty Knudson, Ellen Yamada-Regidor

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Support *E Mau Nā Ala Hele*. – Become a member for 2026!
(*E Mau Nā Ala Hele* is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.)
Please mail to E Mau Nā Ala Hele, PO Box 6384, Kamuela, HI 96743

Please use this form for your membership renewal and duplicate the form or attach a list with the information for each gift membership that you wish to give.

Name(s)_____
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Phones (home)_____(work)_____(Fax)_____
e-mail_____
Number of people included in this membership _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

_____ ELECTRONIC (EMAIL) NEWSLETTER ONLY

_____ PAPER NEWSLETTER

(The basic membership level is $20. Please join at a higher level if you are able.)

_____$15 Student
_____$20 Regular
_____$25 Couple
_____$30 Family
_____$50 Supporting
_____$100 Contributing
_____$20 each, Gift membership
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