

E MAU NĀ ALA HELE

Perpetuate Hawai'i's Trails For Hawai'i's People

May 2012

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National Trails Day Along the Ala Kahakai

June 2nd is officially National Trails Day. There will be events celebrating the day across the country. Go to the American Hiking Society's web page, <http://www.americanhiking.org/ntd.aspx>, to see what is happening in Hawai'i and across the Nation. You will see there is an event on Saturday, 2 June at Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site. (<http://www.nps.gov/puhe/index.htm>) The other National Park units may also have National Trails Day events. Please contact each National Park for details. E Mau Nā Ala Hele will celebrate National Trails Day on Sunday, 3 June. Take your pick of events or make up your own. Just be sure to celebrate with others around the country by getting out on a trail!

Join E Mau Nā Ala Hele as we celebrate National Trails Day weekend with a walk along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. We will meet at 9:00am on Sunday, June 3rd, at the entrance to the Manini'ōwali (Kua Bay) section of the Kekaha Kai State Park (on Hwy. 19, 2.6 miles north of Keahole Airport, across from the West Hawai'i Veterans Cemetery). We will walk north to the area near Kona Village where the shoreline is closed because of damage caused by the 2011 tsunami. We will then return to the beach access area near Kūki'o Bay for lunch. After lunch hikers may either car shuttle or hike back to Kua Bay. The trail goes over varied terrain from cobble beaches, smooth and rough lava, sandy beaches, and paved walkways. Participants should wear sturdy closed-toe shoes, bring at least two liters of water and a trail lunch. Be prepared for a hot, sunny hike. We will move at a comfortable pace to explore, appreciate, and photograph the cultural and natural resources of the area. Membership in E Mau Nā Ala Hele is encouraged, but not required, to join the National Trails Day walk. All are welcomed. There is no fee. Call (885-7132) or e-mail (bschaefer@hawaii.rr.com) Barbara for more information.

<http://www.emaunaalahahele.org/index.html>

New President's Message from Frank Dickenson

Aloha Members of E Mau Nā Ala Hele,

I retired from the Air Force, Hughes Aircraft and Photography studio work in Southern California. I am a recent (8 years) transplant to the Big Island of Hawai'i, I was born & raised on the North East Coast. I did NOT like the snow so at the age of 17 I lost no time joining the Military and exploring the world. My travels led me to Hawai'i in the 70's and many more times in the years to follow. I was determined to make Hawai'i my home if at all possible. Martha, my wife of 20 years held a similar dream and together we planned and finally made the move to fulfill our dream and the adventure in 2004. Photography has long been part of my life doing some work with the Military and as a paying second job. Since moving to Hawai'i and living within the best "open air studio" in the world I have been enjoying capturing my vision of these beautiful islands and the people who grace them. Martha and I love our island and do as much volunteer work as we can. We love hiking and adventure so it goes well with the many groups available that share this interest. As we all know, it's impossible to ignore that Hawaii is one small part of the Polynesian culture that encompasses over a thousand islands. Realizing that we all have different ideas of what beauty entails and how to capture it, I explore my home Isle of Hawai'i and continue to meet the Local Hawaiians. Every day is a new experience and access to new people. Working with groups that make use of our trails and put forth a joint effort to improve them and the availability/access to these unique locations is a combined effort of a lot of people. While doing this work, I continue in my photographic effort of finding a "niche" that would be a challenge and capture the essence of the people and places we visit. It is a love for the Island and the Paradise we've found that continues to drive me and my wife. My goal is a simple one, to explore and capture the beauty of ALL the islands in our chain, the landscape, the people and with my fantastic wife, continue to do our part in making our Island more accessible and friendly as we live Aloha.

Hope to see you out on the trail soon.

Frank

Puna Trail Project By Debbie Chang

An 11-month extension was requested and granted by Hawai'i Tourism Authority for this project which consists of a partnership between E Mau, the state's Na Ala Hele program and the landowner, WH Shipman Ltd. The plan is to create a trail head on WH Shipman property consisting of a small, unpaved parking lot and an interpretive sign. Another informational sign is planned for the Kea'au Beach destination. We are now working on sign designs and applying for sign permits. It is an eye-opening experience as we encounter the regulatory hurdles, especially where the sign is located by the beach in the Special Management Area. On a positive note, the t-shirts for volunteers have been printed and are ready once the on-the-ground work receives the "green light." We might be ready for volunteers on the trail in July. Watch the E Mau web site and your e-mail box for updates!

Pu'u Wa'awa'a News & Volunteer Event

Pu'u Wa'awa'a is now on Facebook! Check it out:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Puuwaawaa/368514446495579>

We will have a volunteer day at Pu'u Wa'awa'a on Sunday, 22 July. Meet at the kiosk just inside the front gate at 8:30am. There will be a small ceremony recognizing the organizations responsible for the kiosk construction. We'll follow this with a morning workday at the Hauaina/Reservoir outplanting site (where we've worked before), potluck lunch, and an afternoon activity. The activity will depend upon the number of volunteers and their areas of interest. Bring seed pickers if you have them (there's a wiliwili tree covered in seeds) and a potluck dish to share. For more information call or e-mail Barbara: 885-7132, bschaefer@hawaii.rr.com

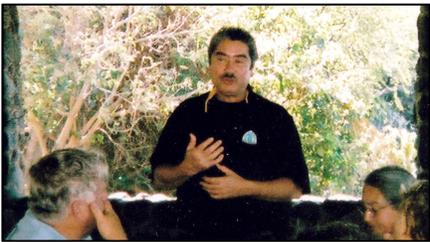
Annual Meeting Report
January 29, 2012 at Spencer Park Pavilion at ‘Ōhai‘ula Beach
By Debbie Chang

After reviewing the activities of the past year and ongoing projects, the membership ratified the officers for 2012: President, Frank Dickenson; Vice-President, Toni Thomson; Treasurer, Clare Wilson; and Secretary, Alison Martyn. The other members of the Board of Directors for 2012 are Deborah Chang, Barbara Schaefer, Martha Tumbleson, and Keith Wallis.



Outgoing President Debbie Chang (right) and Incoming President Frank Dickenson (left)

Aric Arakaki, Superintendent of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (AKNHT), described the many activities that are underway to establish the trail system.



After the annual meeting, the group hiked from the anchialine pond preserve in Waikoloa Resort to Honoka‘ope Bay in Mauna Lani Resort to experience the current conditions of the coastal trail. Two outstanding issues were noted:

(1) Extensive trail erosion and thorny plantings directly mauka of the eroding trail at Waiulua Bay (below left) in Waikoloa Resort.



(2) An unsightly pipeline within the buffer of the trail in Mauna Lani Resort (above right). The issue was called to the attention of the Hawai‘i Island State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) on January 30. The SHPD and AKNHT archaeologists inspected the site in April but as of this writing, no information has been received from SHPD regarding actions that can (or will) be taken to correct this situation.

Many thanks to Debbie Chang, Clare Wilson, Frank Dickenson and Debbie Hecht for their contributions to this newsletter. Mahalo also to the W. M. Keck Observatory for the printing of the paper newsletter copies.
~ Barbara Schaefer, newsletter editor

Land Conservation Charter Amendments

By Debbie Hecht

Help Pass TWO charter amendments for LAND CONSERVATION:

We need your help to educate friends and family to get the votes needed to pass two charter amendments.

2% Land fund charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot

Council member Brenda Ford and Debbie Hecht wrote changes to the existing 1% Land Fund charter amendment passed in 2010 by 57% of voters. **The new 2% Land Fund charter amendment** will appear on the November 2012 ballot.

NEW! Proposed charter amendment: A Maintenance Fund for properties purchased with 2% Land Fund dollars

This charter amendment will provide that ¼% of our property taxes (approximately \$500,000) be placed in a Maintenance Fund each year to maintain the lands purchased with Open Space Fund monies. The amendment states that the monies *“shall be used solely for public safety, maintenance and preservation of those lands and easements acquired by the public access, open space, and natural resources preservation fund...Only 501(c)3 nonprofits or an organization that operates under the umbrella of a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and that can complete a project for the good of the community, shall be considered for a stewardship grant.”* This would mean that community groups that are already caring for trails or parks (like E Mau Nā Ala Hele, PATH, the North Kohala groups, Ka Ohana O Honu’apo and other Friends of the Parks groups) may apply for funding each year. For more information on the grant process and to see the exact language of the proposed charter amendment, go to www.dhecht.com

Why do we need a 2% charter amendment?

1. Charter amendments can only be changed by a vote of the people, not the council or Mayor. We will be assured that 2% of our property taxes will be deposited each year for use to obtain matching funds. The Mayor and Council suspended deposits to the fund from 2009 to 2011, which meant we did not have approximately \$8 million to acquire land during those two years. For the 2011-2012 budget cycle, the Mayor’s budget had 2% of property taxes set aside for the land fund, but the county council proposed to cut the amount to 1% of our property taxes. The Mayor’s budget prevailed, so 2% of property taxes were deposited in the Land Fund. We need this definite funding to attract matching funds from State Legacy Lands, US Fish and Wildlife and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
2. The great “gift” of the land fund is to obtain matching funds. \$4 million becomes \$8 million if the county gets dollar-for-dollar matching funds.
3. There are still MANY properties that communities on our island want to acquire.
4. With a 2% charter amendment in place, we can count on the funding being available.

Didn’t we already vote on this? Yes, twice!! Once in 2006 as an ordinance for 2% of our property taxes to be set aside, which was later suspended by the council and Mayor. Again, in 2010 for a 1% charter amendment which is only for ~\$2 million per year. 57% of us voted twice to support these measures!!

Some properties have been acquired by the County since 2006, but other properties recommended to the Mayor from 2001-2012 by the Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Commission have not been acquired.

Financial Data (how the county spent the 2% Fund Money and matching funds) can be found at: <http://records.co.hawaii.hi.us/Weblink8/1/doc/59788/Page1.aspx>

For more information or to get on the list to be informed or help with this campaign: Call Debbie Hecht 989-3222 or e-mail hecht.deb@gmail.com .

Are You a Member for 2012?

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Your mailing label indicates the last year that you renewed your membership. Membership dues help offset the cost of our newsletter published two or three times per year as well as support other E Mau Nā Ala Hele projects. One dollar of your dues goes to support the Partnership for the National Trails System, a non-profit organization supporting the National Scenic and Historic Trails across the country. One dollar of your dues also supports the American Hiking Society, a non-profit organization promoting and protecting foot trails and the hiking experience across the country. E Mau Nā Ala Hele is a member organization of both the Partnership and the American Hiking Society.

Support *E Mau Nā Ala Hele*. – Become a member for 2012!

(*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) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phones (home) _____ (work) _____ (FAX) _____

e-mail _____

Number of people included in this membership _____

_____ (check if desired) DO NOT SEND PAPER NEWSLETTER – ELECTRONIC VERSION ONLY

(The basic membership level is \$10. Please join at a higher level if you are able.)

_____ \$10 Regular

_____ \$15 Couple

_____ \$25 Family

_____ \$35 Supporting

_____ \$50 Sustaining

_____ \$100 Contributing

_____ \$10 each, Gift memberships

\$ _____ Other Donation

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If you are not a member for 2012 (check your mailing label), please consider renewing your membership. Your membership is important for helping us carry out our programs.

National Trails Day Events

Saturday, 2 June 2012

Pu‘ukoholā Heiau Nat. Historic Site

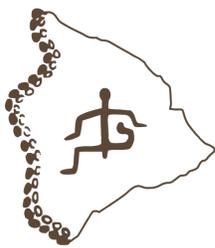
And other National Park sites around the island.

Sunday, 3 June 2012

Hike The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

With E Mau Nā Ala Hele

(See inside for details.)



**E MAU
NĀ ALA HELE**
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