

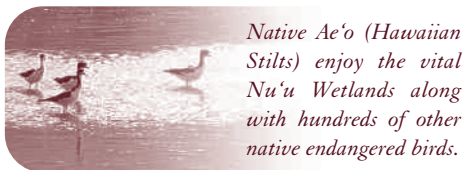
# Coastalviews

A Quarterly Publication of the **MAUI COASTAL LAND TRUST**

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*Nu'u Coastline*

## CLOSER TO PROTECTION: NU'U LANDING & KE'ANAE FARM County Open Space Funds Proposed to Match Federal Grants



*Native Ae'o (Hawaiian Stilts) enjoy the vital Nu'u Wetlands along with hundreds of other native endangered birds.*

Years in the making, two Maui Coastal Land Trust (MCLT) projects – the Nu'u Landing acquisition and the Kepler Farm conservation easement in Ke'anae - will be completed once designated County of Maui Open Space Funds are approved by the County Council in the 2009 budget proposed by Mayor Tavares.

The Nu'u Landing project is a rare land purchase by MCLT from Kaupo Ranch whose owners appreciate the high conservation and historical values on the land. The shoreline parcel on Maui's south

east coast stretches over 75 acres and encompasses the traditional landing and fishing area used for centuries by local residents. In addition, the parcel hosts an abundance of archeological sites and one of Hawai'i's most vital wetlands area, home to an impressive array of native and endangered birds.

MCLT has tapped numerous funding sources to raise the just over \$4 million needed for the Nu'u purchase. The majority of funds were from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's coastal wetlands and endangered species protection programs along with the State of Hawai'i's Legacy Land program. \$230,000 of Maui County Open Space funding is earmarked in next year's budget for the project.

On the north side of Haleakala, the 6.5 acre Kepler Farm in Ke'anae will forever be held in a conservation easement protecting the prolific and historic taro cultivation on the land.

MCLT requested a one to one match of \$350,000 of the County Open Space Fund to purchase the easement valued at approximately \$700,000. The other half of the funding will come from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Farm & Ranchland Protection Program which has been awarded to MCLT specifically for the easement.

Both projects are set for completion by year's end once the proposed budget is approved.

# Currents



GIL KEITH-AGARAN  
President, Maui Coastal Land Trust

## President's Message

Aloha to the friends who celebrated at Old Lahaina Luau with MCLT's board and staff. Buy Back the Beach remains a centerpiece of our annual fundraising and outreach to the community. We'll continue to share our successes and challenges through that event, but MCLT may invite your kokua in the new phase of our development and maturity.

From stewardship over 395 acres in 2004, MCLT was managing 3682 acres by the end of 2007, conserving \$25 million of our coastlines from development pressures. The acreage could further double by December.

But our board remains ever mindful that our efforts must be sustainable. Collaboration with other land trusts is a promising key.

We're neither unique nor the oldest land trust in Hawaii. Oahu's North Shore Community Land Trust (1997) and Kauai Public Land Trust (1989) both organized before MCLT (2001). The Big Island, other regions of Oahu and Molokai also have trusts.

I see other land trusts as our allies – not our rivals. Like you, they share with us the goal of protecting Hawaii's wilderness vistas, important cultural sites and open space areas. How well we play together may determine how successful we all are in the future.

Gil Keith-Agaran



*MCLT benefited from a portion of the proceeds garnered at the 2008 Focus Green series. Of course, meeting some of the world best minds on environmental issues wasn't bad either. MCLT Executive Director Dale Bonar (l) shared some time with Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute.*

## Focus Green Series

Focus Green "Conversations on Climate Change" 2008 was celebrated this Spring with a weekly series of presentations at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. The Dowling Company must be saluted once again for assembling another world-class line up of speakers who shared their wisdom regarding issues confronting our environment and how we can as a community and individuals act as better stewards. Hana Hou!



## Welcome Jennifer!

Trust Worthy – Though we've had the pleasure of working with her many times over past few years, Jennifer Sabas is now contributing her knowledge & talents to MCLT as one of our newest Executive Board members. Jennifer is currently the chief of staff for Hawaii's U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. Prior to her return to Hawaii in 1993, Jennifer served as an administrative assistant in the Senator's Washington, D.C. office. She received her law degree from Georgetown University and B.A. from the University of Hawaii.

## "Buy Back the Beach" Benefit Lū'au Dazzled

Dubbed 'the best ever', the 7th Annual "Buy Back the Beach" Benefit Lū'au raised over \$55,000 for MCLT last February 16th thanks to many contributors. The Old Lahaina Lū'au 'ohana once again provided a wonderful evening of food & entertainment. Sponsors: Dowling Company, The Ritz Carlton Kapalua/Gencom Group & Whalers Realty, Inc. underwrote the balance of expenses. Mahalo goes to all of you who bought tickets and sponsored tables (many who come back year after year) and of course, our volunteer corps who made it a delightful evening for everyone. Mahalo!



*Dale Bonar was pleased to bring Pu'u O Ho'ou Ranch owner Lavinia Carrier on stage at Lū'au '08. She eloquently shared her love of the land and simple motivation for placing much of her ranch in conservation protection with MCLT.*



*The info table was hopping. MCLT Land Steward James Crowe (in lei) shared an overview of the Waihe'e Refuge with inquiring guests.*



*The legendary Mākaaha Sons have been sharing their special sound of Hawaiian music for over 30 years. How fortunate we were to have them close a stellar evening of aloha.*



DALE BONAR *Exec. Director*

# Musings from the Shoreline....

aren't reflected in the financial statements when donated conservation easements constitute so much of the protection.

To put this in perspective, during this fiscal year to date (2007-2008) for an "overhead" of almost \$300,000, we have already permanently protected \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000 of conservation value in donated conservation easements. That comes to an overhead of 1.2% of total mission value!

In the bigger picture over our seven-year existence, we've protected over \$50,000,000 of conservation value of Maui lands in perpetuity for an "overhead" of about \$1,000,000 (less than 2% of value).

And, in the next few months we expect to receive 11,000 to 15,000 acres of donated conservation easements which will push conservation values of protected lands above the \$100,000,000 mark!

Given the broad range of professional experience required for us to do all this, I am constantly astounded that we have been able to do so much for so little. As I've mused previously, it has been the right time, the right place and the enormous need that has allowed us to be so successful in protecting our cherished islands in perpetuity.

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## Waihe'e Refuge – The Ultimate Outdoor Classroom



**1** *The Waihe'e shoreline was a source of rich data for this Kalama Intermediate science team using laptops, temperature probes, GPS units & digital cameras to record their findings.*

**2** *The children of Kamehameha Schools' Ho'olauna Program worked hard to weed and plant indigenous species at the Waihe'e Refuge during Spring break.*

**3** *Students from Kihei Charter School and Kahului's new Pomaika'i Elementary had regularly scheduled visits to study shoreline drift (They picked up a lot of plastic!).*

For many Maui students studying science, social studies, math and language arts, the ultimate classroom has been found at the Waihe'e Refuge.

Just a short four miles from Wailuku, the Refuge is easily accessible to the majority of Maui schools. It has been a busy school year at the site as many teachers are utilizing the area's natural and cultural riches as a hands-on place to learn.

For the second year, Maui Coastal Land Trust teamed up with the Alaka'ina Foundation's Digital Bus to host teaching teams and students from Maui Waena and Kalama Intermediate Schools. Coordinated by Diana Papini Warren, the program was made possible by a grant from the Bay Watershed Education & Training (BWET), a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

As the year concludes, students are preparing multi-media presentations to share their Waihe'e-based projects with peers, teachers, parents and the conservation community at the BWET Student Showcase. The community is welcome to this year's event, Wednesday, May 21st, 6 p.m. at the I'ao Theater in Wailuku.



**Our Mission:** To preserve & protect the coastal lands of Maui Nui for the benefit of the natural environment and of current and future generations.

*MCLT's Website! [www.mauicoastallandtrust.org](http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org)  
The latest news & project info  
PLUS MCLT's E- Store Coming Soon  
Check it out today!*



**MAUI COASTAL LAND TRUST**

P.O. Box 965, Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793



## Waihe'e Refuge Hikes - First Saturday of Each Month

A wonderful (and free!) opportunity to see the "Wonders of the Waihe'e Dunes and Coastal Refuge." Come hear from Project Manager Scott Fisher of the history, legends and habitat restoration efforts of this very special place. A unique and fun experience to share with family and friends on the 1st Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon.

**Space is limited. Reservations are a must. Please call the MCLT office at 244-5263**

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