

JULY

2016

AUGUST



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aloha everyone,

I am pleased to report that Representative Gene Ward has committed to introduce legislation at the next legislative session starting in January 2017 to streamline/modify the lengthy process required for our public schools to obtain approval to send students to visit Hanauma Bay as a school-sponsored field trip. Mahalo to Kaipo, (Hanauma Bay Staff) and Sid for bringing attention to this issue and to Representative Ward for being willing to support it. To learn more about this, see page 5.

I am also pleased to report that in accordance with "Civil Beat" (June 24, 2016), Senator Will Espero has committed to introduce a bill at the next legislative session to ban the sale of sunscreen products containing oxybenzone. Scientific studies have established that oxybenzone adversely affects the ability of corals to reproduce, and makes them more susceptible to bleaching. We look forward to helping Senator Espero pass this important legislation. More on page 3.

Bob and I had a wonderful opportunity to share the history of the FOHB with the Pearl Ridge Chapter of the Rotary Club on June 6, 2016. Mahalo to Rotarian and FOHB member Ralph Portmore and the Pearl Ridge Chapter for being such gracious hosts!

Dick and I were privileged to have been invited to appear on a "Word with Ward" with Representative Gene Ward on June 14, 2016, in which we had an opportunity to discuss ongoing issues of concern to the Friends about the Bay. Mahalo Representative Ward for always supporting the welfare of Hanauma Bay. Watch us at www.facebook.com/hanauma/videos

Schedule of Events

FRIENDS BOARD MEETINGS
AUG 17 5:00 pm
Hanauma Bay Classroom

2016 CLEAN UPS
Saturday, August 20, 2016
Saturday, November 19, 2016

HBEP SUNDAY EDUCATION PROGRAM

August 7 – "Ocean Observing in the Pacific Islands Region" and "Tracking Hawai'i's Sharks"

August 14 – "Monitoring Nearshore Water Quality in Hawaii"

August 21 – "Sea Level Rise and Inundation – What Can We Predict Now and Future Projections"

August 28 – "Measuring Real Time Wave Conditions"

September 4 – Movie "BBC Life: Creatures of the Deep"

See HBEP Website For More Programs
www.hbep.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1
SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS



2016 FOHB Board

Lisa Bishop, President
Bob Kern, Vice President
Micki Stash, Secretary
David Chong, Treasurer
Anke Roberts, Outreach Coordinator
Sid McWhirter
Pam Weiant
Steve Oppenheimer
Dick Baker, Emeritus

E-mails

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PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Friends of Hanauma Bay
PO Box 25761
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825-0761

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Where do Shellfish go to borrow money?

To the Prawnbroker ...

There has been a recent controversy played out on Facebook in which the FOHB have been accused of trapping feral cats at the Bay. As a point of clarification, the FOHB do not participate in any trapping activities at Hanauma Bay. Only Hanauma Bay Staff are authorized to implement City approved animal trapping protocols at the Bay. Read more about this on page 3.

We are looking forward to our next Quarterly Clean Up of Hanauma Bay on August 20, and encourage everyone to come out and enjoy a great event that always makes such a difference to the Bay.

Lisa Bishop, President
president@friendsofhanauabay.org
lisa.fohb@gmail.com

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are very happy to announce that Steve Oppenheimer has joined our board. Steve is a self described “mostly retired” attorney. Before “mostly retiring” Steve was Hawaiian Electric's environmental compliance lawyer from 2001 to 2012. Prior to coming to Hawaii, he practiced environmental law on the mainland for over 15 years. Before he entered law school at the ripe old age of 39, was an environmental scientist at the state of New Mexico Environment Department, where he worked with a group that designed and implemented water pollution studies. He's loved Hanauma Bay from the moment he first visited in early 2001. Steve thinks joining the FOHB board must have been fate, because on that first visit he met Bob and Micki.

We will benefit from Steve's experience as an environmental attorney. We want to be clear, however, that while his participation as a board member might include suggestions on matters that could have legal ramifications, he will not represent us or be considered as “our attorney” should legal matters arise.

Welcome Aboard, Steve !

It's Not a Park ... It's a Nature Preserve

SUNSCREEN

Much attention is being paid to the effects of sunscreen on coral reefs. In particular, a chemical called oxybenzone, found in many sunscreen products, has been identified as being harmful to coral and humans. Several news articles have highlighted the problem.

<http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/06/why-you-should-check-your-sunscreen-label-right-now/>
<http://www.staradvertiser.com/hawaii-news/sunscreen-tied-to-coral-bleaching/>
<http://www.civilbeat.org/2016/06/senator-to-propose-oxybenzone-ban/>

Lisa and Bob met with Senator Espero who will introduce a bill in the next legislative session to ban the sale of sunscreen containing oxybenzone in Hawaii. We've agreed to support the bill and we encourage DPR to ban the use of sunscreens containing oxybenzone at Hanauma Bay and HBEP to introduce educational materials available to visitors.

We recently allied with Hawaii Ocean Ambassadors, a grass roots organization based on the Windward side. HOA's goals are similar to ours. Al Smith of HOA interviewed Dr. Craig Downs who is a leading proponent of a ban on oxybenzone. You can read the interview at <http://www.hawaiiocceanambassadors.com/events--projects> THIS IS A MUST READ !

At present, Hanauma Bay has not been tested for oxybenzone. We have offered our help in collecting samples if and when the Bay is tested. Stay tuned ...

WE'RE OUT THERE - UH SUSTAINABLE SUMMER DAY

Anke, Lisa and Kristen Moy an HBEP volunteer and Marine Debris Coordinator for DAR



It's Not a Park ... It's a Nature Preserve

CATS ...

This picture below appeared on our Facebook page. The opinion offered above it implies that The Friends are engaged in inhumane trapping of cats at Hanauma Bay. We are not.

In response, we have posted this accurate information on our facebook page.

"The humane trap shown in the photo has been set by an authorized staff member of Hanauma Bay and the City & County of Honolulu. The objective is to trap kittens that have been noticed in the last couple of weeks, and take them to the Humane Society to be made available for adoption. This is a humane rescue of feral kittens who have a chance of being provided medical care, getting spayed / neutered and adopted to good homes. If adult cats are caught in the trap, they are released back into the Nature Preserve. The kittens are tameable and are more desirable for prospective adopters. The traps were donated to the Friends of Hanauma Bay for use by authorized Hanauma Bay staff as needed to participate in the humane re-homing of adoptable feral cats. Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns. Mahalo for your support of Hanauma Bay and for sharing your concerns about Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve."

We appreciate that the person who posted the picture and caption has apologized. Our thanks to Tara Hirohata, Hanauma Bay Manager for working with Lisa to understand and clarify the situation. We have removed our name from the trap to prevent future misunderstandings.

OUR POSITION

Trapping & removal of feral cats. Unacceptable.



We refer you to an excellent article in the July 17 Star Advertiser and July 20 Midweek by Suzanne Case, Director of DLNR. <http://www.staradvertiser.com/editorial/theres-nothing-humane-about-treating-cats-gone-wild-like-pets/>

<http://midweek.com/pdf/MidWeek/2016/0720/index.html>

1. We do not object to trapping kittens for the humane purpose of health checks, spay / neuter and adoption.
2. We agree with Director Case that a "multipronged" approach should be found to this complex issue and will support DLNR's recommendations.

It's Not a Park ... It's a Nature Preserve

INDEMNIFICATION ? WHAT'S THAT ?

Indemnify - to guard against future loss, give security against future liability.

How does this apply to Hawaii's public schools? It means that if a public school teacher wants to take a class on a field trip to Hanauma Bay, he / she must put in a request to the school approximately a year before the requested date.

Why so far in advance? Because once the principal approves, the request is forwarded up the Department of Education chain of command to the State Attorney General, and then the Governor for his signature. That's right – either the Hawaii State Attorney General or the Governor must approve every individual public school field trip.

Private schools have no such hindrance. They make arrangements with the Bay and voila, their students get the benefit of HBEP's expertise.

Indemnification also means that if public school students on a school field trip want to stop for a picnic or use the restroom at a City park, they are prohibited from doing so without the Governor's authorization.

This is all in the name of concerns over liability. The same liability concerns that compromise visitor safety at the Bay by preventing them from getting snorkeling instruction.

The Friends are working with Representative Ward and his staff on streamlining the process so public schools have easier access when they want to visit the Bay. We are looking forward to joining with HBEP and Sea Grant in our efforts to do so.

GIVE ALOHA

The Friends of Hanauma Bay are participating in Give Aloha, Foodland's Annual Community Matching Gifts Program that begins on September 1. Customers at Foodland, Sack N Save and Foodland Farms stores statewide will be invited to make donations to their favorite participating Hawaii non-profit organizations. Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will match each donation up to a total of at least \$300,000 for all organizations combined. If you would like to donate to the Friends through Give Aloha - you can even pay your annual membership to the Friends through Give Aloha and earn matching funds for the FOHB! If you pay for membership or renew your membership throught Give Aloha, please be sure to let us know..



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, MAYBE ... ?

Sculpted by an artist of unknown origin, this likeness of Koko Crater stood until the tide reclaimed the beach.

Maybe the aliens heard about the Bay on their first trip and returned to visit. Earthlings, beware. Hanauma Bay may now be a universal destination.

It's Not a Park ... It's a Nature Preserve

BULLETHEAD BLENNY

Well, if the Brits can do a BREXIT, I figure we can do a BAYEXIT. It won't apply to locals, just some of the 3000 visitors we get every day.



CONTACT US

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