

July

2017

August



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aloha everyone,

We have made progress on sunscreen education since our last Newsletter. On 21 June 2017, we were honored to work with Senator Will Espero and his staff to co-sponsor a seminar at the Capitol on reef-toxic sunscreens by Dr. Craig Downs, Executive Director of the Haereticus Environmental Laboratory in Virginia.

The documentary "Reefs at Risk" was screened on 21 June 2017 at the Maui film festival.

And on 27 June 2017, the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood unanimously passed a resolution to support proactive reef-toxic sunscreen education at Hanauma Bay.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Senator Espero and his staff, Dr. Craig Downs, and the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board for their hard work and support of sunscreen education and legislation in Hawaii. Minimizing sunscreen pollution and improving sunscreen education will measurably improve the quality of marine life not only at Hanauma Bay, but also throughout our beautiful island state.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Representative Gene Ward and his staff for coordinating a letter signed by House members celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of Hanauma Bay as Hawaii's first Marine Life Conservation District. We look forward to its presentation as part of the Anniversary celebration in October.

Thanks also go to the wonderful volunteers from our community, and Kaiser High School's Wipeout Crew, for another successful and fun clean-up of Hanauma Bay on 3 June 2017. Our next quarterly clean-up is scheduled for 2 September. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Schedule of Events

2017 CLEANUPS

Saturday, September 2
Saturday, December 2

FOHB Board Meeting
August 24 September 21
5:00 pm
Hanauma Bay Classroom

HBEP THURSDAY EVENING EDUCATION PROGRAM

August 3 - Exploring the Deep Sea Through Oceanographic Collaborations on Board Schmidt Ocean Institute's R/V Falkor

August 10 - Hawaiian Coral Reefs and Rapid Sea Level Change During the last Ice Age

August 17 - Exploring the Marianna Trench

August 24 - Artist at Sea: How Art Helps Tell Stories in Marine Science

August 31 - What Lies Beneath: Mapping the Marine Monuments of the Pacific

HBEP ON YOUTUBE

See past Thursday Evening Program talks and find other videos on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/hanaumataalks>

For More Information and other media sources to find talks contact HBEP

hbaynews@hawaii.edu

2017 FOHB Board

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Bob Kern, Vice President
Micki Stash, Secretary
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JOKE OF THE MONTH

What is a blue whale's favorite
James Bond movie?

A License to Kill

Foodland's great Give Aloha Program is coming up in September. Please designate the Friends of Hanauma Bay as a recipient each time you check out.

Lisa Bishop
President

ON THE COUNCIL'S MIND

The Friends have been attending monthly meetings of the Parks, Community and Customer Services Committee of the Honolulu City Council. When appropriate, we have testified on behalf of the Bay.

At the last meeting, the Committee agreed that we provide them a monthly report prior to each meeting. Our first report included updates on the Carrying Capacity Study which is still being negotiated between UH and DPR, the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Hanauma Bay becoming Hawaii's first Marine Life Conservation District, now being planned, Sunscreen Education at the Bay (more about this on page 3), and Roberts Hawaii winning the tram concession (more about this on page 3) and the status of the new video which is still in production.

Committee meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 10:30 in Honolulu Hale. Agendas are posted in advance at <http://www.honolulu.gov/council-cal>

We appreciate that the Committee recognizes the importance of Hanauma Bay and is willing to have monthly updates. We particularly appreciate and thank Councilmember Kobayashi for her long and steadfast support of the Friends and the Bay and her desire to make Hanauma Bay a better place.

MAYBE NEXT TIME

We are sorry to hear that the Governor vetoed the Aquarium Fish Collection Bill. While we believe collection for the aquarium trade should be banned, this bill seemed like a reasonable compromise to limit the number of fish collected in the future. We chimed in with our thoughts but along with the opinions of others who agree with us were unable to overcome the objections to the bill.

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



Last year we mobilized to prevent Roberts Hawaii from instituting its Transportation Management Plan that would have their customers see the video on their large busses en route from Waikiki and then have them bypass the admissions line to go directly to the beach.

As a result of unanimous opposition from the Friends, the Hanauma Bay Advisory Committee and many concerned citizens who attended the briefing by Roberts, they stepped back from their plan. But they may not have abandoned it.

We have learned the Roberts won the contract for the tram concession that brings visitors to and from the beach. If they have further plans for the Bay, this gives them a foothold in the nature preserve. We are studying the contract and will be watchful that it is followed. An unsubstantiated rumor holds the Roberts wants to drive their vans directly from Waikiki to the beach, bypassing the entire admissions process.

Could winning the tram concession be a step in a long-range plan by Roberts to have more influence at the Bay? That would be a disaster and could spell the end of Hanauma Bay as a nature preserve dedicated to marine education and see it reduced to just another commercialized beach park.

Many questions remain. We **ALL** need to be watchful. We'll keep you posted.

SUNSCREEN UPDATE

We continue to encourage DPR to institute a proactive sunscreen education program at the Bay, which is an ideal place to do so. We have asked numerous times why this no brainer is not being done but have not received a response. Perhaps of greater concern than the fact that DPR is showing little interest in protecting our reefs by educating visitors is that our offer to help with an educational effort is being ignored. Not only does failure to proactively educate visitors reflect DPR's failing to carry out its responsibility to the Bay, the City and the State, it is a sign of disrespect to the Friends who have, it can fairly be said, done more in the past few years to protect and preserve the nature preserve and the MLCD than DPR has.

We have asked DLNR to intervene on behalf of the MLCD. In theory, DLNR can close the Bay to human activity. This may not be necessary, however, because unless something is done now to control the use of sunscreens containing oxybenzone the reef could soon degrade and the fish all leave. There will be nothing to see.

HANAUMA BLOG SPOT – Larry Winnik

Higher Ocean Temperatures Have Turned My Tail Assembly Transparent. Another Couple of Degrees and My Body Will Follow Suit. The Only thing You'll See Are My Eyes ! Sigh



CONTACT US

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It's Not a Park ...