

March

2018

April



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aloha everyone,

Mahalo to Nathan and Alana Eagle, and all Friends and guests who made our 19 February 2018 Annual Dinner and Meeting such a memorable event! It was great to see everyone and reconnect over our passion for protecting and preserving Hanauma Bay. See more on page 4.

Water sampling results of oxybenzone levels in Hanauma Bay (See more on page 3) clearly support our advocacy for a ban on sale of SPF sunscreen products in Hawaii that contain oxybenzone. Hanauma Bay is a Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD), a part of the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and a Class AA marine embayment under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Allowing ongoing sunscreen pollution of the Bay does not comply with the CWA or with best practice conservation protocols of an MLCD. Since the City manages access control to the MLCD and the Hanauma Bay marine education program, we continue to urge DPR to implement proactive sunscreen education at Hanauma Bay that includes direct interaction with visitors to the Bay, inclusion in the information video, and multilingual messaging.

We are also advocating for the passage of legislation that would make Hawaii the first state in the nation to ban the sale of reef-toxic sunscreens:

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/2018/03/08/editorial/island-voices/impose-ban-on-sunscreen-chemicals-that-harm-coral-reefs/>

We are heartened by the recent support from the Star-Advertiser Editorial Board:

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/2018/03/13/editorial/our-view/ensure-sunscreen-is-safe-for-reefs/>

Please call/email your legislators and urge them to support SB2571.

A hui ho kākou,

Lisa Bishop

President

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Schedule of Events

2018 CLEANUPS

Saturday, June 2

Saturday, September 1

Saturday, December 1

FOHB BOARD MEETINGS

3rd Thursday of Every Month

5:00 PM

Hanauma Bay Education Alcove

HBEP THURSDAY EVENING EDUCATION PROGRAM

April 5 – Rebounding from the edge of destruction – A successful community effort to protect and restore our last fishponds

April 12 – Endangered waterbird conservation at the Hawai'i Wildlife Ecology Lab

April 19 – Increasing our understanding of O'ahu's White Terns with citizen science

April 26 – Art and science collaborations improve nesting habitat for seabirds

For a Complete Listing of Thursday Evening Talks, go to

<http://hbep.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/community-events-calendar>

You Can See Past Presentations at www.youtube.com/hanaumatalks

2018 FOHB Board

Lisa Bishop, President
Bob Kern, Vice President
Micki Stash, Secretary
Ron Bregman, Treasurer
Ken White, Scholarship Coordinator
Sid McWhirter
Steve Oppenheimer
Leslie Briggs
Dick Baker, Emeritus

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JOKE OF THE MONTH

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

You call him FSH

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Hanauma Bay Manager Tara Hirohata has taken a new Temporary Assignment with the Parks Department. Kaipo Perez, is now on Temporary Assignment as Hanauma Bay Manager.

Kaipo is a marine biologist who has experience managing the nature preserve. As a marine biologist, he has knowledge of the needs of the MLC. The Friends will help any way we can and we encourage our members and HBEP volunteers and all of you to give Kaipo your support, as well.

Temporary Assignment status is part of the City's complicated personnel system. What it means for the future is yet to be seen but let's give Kaipo all the support we can.

A THOUSAND WORDS ...

Because of our recent rough weather, our March 3rd cleanup yielded a lot of trash and debris on the beach. This mess came from ... somewhere ...

More pictures like this one taken by Anke Roberts and a video of the hard working and dedicated beach crew dragging a net out of the water can be seen on our facebook page www.facebook.com/Hanauma



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

WHO WE ARE

As noted in our November / December 2017 newsletter, Friends' advocacy has had a good deal of success and has resulted in positive changes at the nature preserve / MLCD. Our successes have not come about because we happened to notice something that could be changed for the better. Changes have been brought about because the Friends knowledge of the Bay has been learned from years of experience being there.

The Friends Board of Directors consists of four current HBEP volunteers, one former staff member, an Ocean Safety supervisor, two former Friends presidents, one of whom chaired the committee that developed the education center in 1998. Two board members served on that committee and have been Friends Board members for more than ten years. Two board members, who are current HBEP volunteers, have more than 35 years combined experience volunteering from the days when that meant standing in the hot sun to trying to prevent the HBEP banner from being blown away at the beach and then, after the education center was opened, in the theater, in the visitor center and at the beach kiosk. In total, the Board members have almost 60 years experience at Hanauma Bay.

In spite of our knowledge and experience, our input has not often been requested when changes are being planned at the Nature Preserve. We want to work cooperatively with all stakeholders and to know our knowledge and experience is considered for the betterment of the Nature Preserve / MLCD.

THE RESULTS ARE IN ... they aren't good ... (and you're swimming in them)

The results of water sampling taken at Hanauma Bay are in. And the numbers aren't good.

A Civil Beat article (Jan 31, 2017) <http://www.civilbeat.org/2017/01/bill-banning-many-sunscreen-products-advances-in-house/> notes that scientists believe oxybenzone in excess of 62 PPT (parts per trillion) is damaging to coral. Water samples collected from various points from the inner reef at the Bay contained oxybenzone levels of as much as 27,888 PPT! Readings taken in 2016 at Waikiki resulted in 11,300 PPT making Hanauma Bay the uncontested leader in sunscreen pollution, not just on O'ahu, but in Hawaii.

Some educational help is on the way. The award winning documentary, "Reefs at Risk" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28qWIPeOkvI>) will be shown on Hawaiian Airline flights coming to Hawaii beginning in April. But much more needs to be done on the ground. As noted in the President's Report we continue to urge DPR to begin a proactive sunscreen education program at the Bay. We hope the unfortunate results of the sampling will be encouragement enough.

COOL SHIRTS

We have a batch of new shirts (see next page). They are a benefit of membership or you can have one if you make a donation. We'll also be planning field trips that will be for members only.

We have several membership categories:

Llio Holo I Ka Uaua / Monk Seal: \$200	Honu Green Sea Turtle: \$100
Uhu / Parrotfish \$50	Awela / Christmas Wrasse: \$20
Humuhumunukunukuapua'a / Reef Triggerfish : Special Rate For Active HBEP Volunteers \$10	

Contact any Board Member or email info@friendsofhanaumabay.org for more information

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

WOW ! What a Show ...

The Friends Annual Meeting on February 19 was a huge success. 70 people attended and quite a few joined as new Friends members. Among the dignitaries were Senator's Thielen, Chang, and Espero, Representative Ward and Councilmember Ozawa as well as Hawaii Kai Board members Natalie Iwasa, Rene Garvin and Page Altonn, who was so helpful in organizing our Hanauma Bay 50th Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to all who attended and the O'ahu Club for hosting our event.

The highlight of the evening was a terrific presentation by Nathan and Alana Eagle who talked about their journey to Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument. Their full piece is featured in Civil Beat - The Last Wild Place. It is well worth the look.

<http://www.civilbeat.org/projects/the-last-wild-place/>

Nathan and Alana talked with us about their experiences making the documentary and whetted everyone's appetite to visit. Of course, that's not possible at the moment but, maybe some day.

Students from Kaiser High School's WipeOut Crew also attended along with their sponsor Mr. Paul Balasz, as did members of Kaiser's Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) (<https://vimeo.com/17475240>) who presented the Friends a \$400.00 donation.

This wonderful evening kicked off another year of successful advocacy for Hanauma Bay and exciting community activities.

Pictures Clockwise from Top Left

Guest Presenters Nathan and Alana Eagle / Emcee Mike Feeley / Paul Balasz shows off his new shirt / Alan Hong and Volunteer Cathy Deeters / Kaiser DECA Club Members / Good Grindz / Three newest Friends Board Members Leslie Briggs, Ken White and Ron Bregman



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

