



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Now the Memorial Day has passed things are in full swing for the summer. We thank the lifeguards for extending their hours at the Bay to insure the safety of the early risers and the late comers.

We have asked the City for an update on the progress on repairs needed at the Bay. It is our intention to work closely with the City to insure that the schedule of repairs is met. The repairs include:

- Replace all of the air conditioning units
- Replace the lights in the parking lot
- Replace the video at the Visitors' Center
- Repair the faux rock
- Continue the rock fall mitigation
- Carrying Capacity Study

The Friends are continuing to negotiate with the City on the future operation of Hanauma Bay to ensure the Bay is properly cared for in the future.

The Friends are looking to undertake a grant for a 25 and 50 year study of Hanauma Bay that can be used as a guide for future operations at the Bay and effects on the reef as environmental conditions such as water temperature, increasing acidity and sea level rise change.

The Friends are looking forward to work with the state legislature and the Department of Education to expand the opportunities especially for public schools to send their students to Hanauma Bay to learn about conservation and stewardship of our precious ocean environment.

I hope everyone has a great summer and plans to come to Hanauma Bay to experience what a wonderful treasure it is and why the Friends are so passionate about its preservation.

Sid

Schedule of Events

Clean Ups

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015

Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015

FOHB Summer (May Thru August) Board Meetings Will Be Held the Third Wednesday of the Month in the Education Alcove at Hanauma Bay From 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Wednesday June 17

Wednesday July 15

Wednesday August 26

HBEP Sunday Education Program

June 7 – No Limu – No Fish

June 14 - Me he 'opihi pa'a la: Utilizing Science and Culture to Manage Our Shorelines

June 21 – Phylogeography of Tropical Pacific Marine Algae

June 28 – A Global Perspective on Hawai'i's Coral Reefs.

Please Contact the Hanauma Bay Education Program for More Upcoming Events. hbvp@hawaii.edu

2015 FOHB Board

Sid McWhirter, President
Bob Kern, Vice President
Micki Stash, Secretary
Lisa Bishop, Treasurer
Pam Weiant
Lucas Myers
Geoffrey Johnson
Dick Baker, Emeritus

e mails

For General Information
Info@friendsofhanaumabay.org

To Contact Board Officers

Sid
president@friendsofhanaumabay.org

Bob
vicepresident@friendsofhanaumabay.org

Micki
secretary@friendsofhanaumabay.org

Lisa
treasurer@friendsofhanaumabay.org

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

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

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DINNER

The Hanauma Bay Education Program put on yet another terrific Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. The Friends extend our appreciation to all the volunteers who dedicated over 11,000 hours to the Bay last year and join HBEP in congratulating its first 25 year service award to Jean Carr.

Dignitaries in attendance were City Councilmember Trevor Ozawa, City of Honolulu Deputy Managing Director Georgette Deemer, Parks Department Director Michelle Nekota and UH Sea Grant Director Dr. Darren Lerner and HBEP Director Dr. Darren Okimoto.

MAY 9 CLEANUP

Thank you all who participated in another successful cleanup, especially the 29 volunteers from Canon USA, 10 from the Hawaii Kai Lions Club and 25 students from Kaiser High School. Together you collected ...

1,200 Cigarette Butts
200 Plastic Bags
100 Beverage Containers
200 Bottle Caps
500 Pounds of Abandoned Fish Nets

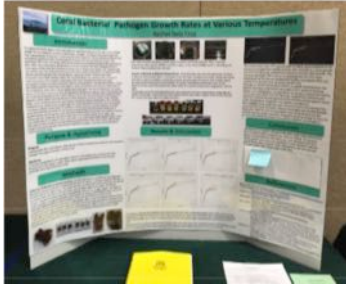
Next Clean Up is August 8. For Information, Contact info@friendsofhanaumabay.org or volunteer@malamamaunlua.org

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

The Friends of Hanauma Bay were privileged to participate in the Science and Engineering Fair March 22 – 24 sponsored by the Hawaii Academy of Sciences. Out of 570 projects, the Friends recognized two students and their teachers for the best projects related to Marine Related Research.

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

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR



Pictured are Friends President Sid McWhirter and Treasurer Lisa Bishop with Science and Engineering Fair Winners Evelyn Haase and Rachel Dela Cruz and Their Winning Projects.

AND THE WINNERS, PLEASE ...

Senior Research Division Winner

STUDENT: Rachel Dela Cruz

PROJECT: "Coral Bacterial Pathogen Growth Rates at Various Temperatures"

SCHOOL: Farrington High School

TEACHER: Traciann Harada

RECOGNITION: \$250 Cash Award, Award Certificate, a copy of the Ultimate Guide to Hawaiian Reef Fishes by John Hoover, one year paid membership with the Friends of Hanauma Bay.

Junior Research Division Winner

STUDENT: Evelyn Haase

PROJECT: "Molokai South Shore Ocean Water and Coastal Soil Study"

SCHOOL: Molokai Intermediate / High School

TEACHER: JENNIFER AIONA

RECOGNITION: \$200 Cash Award, Award Certificate, a copy of the ultimate Guide to Hawaiian Reef Fishers by John Hoover, one paid membership with the Friends of Hanuama Bay.

CONGRATULATIONS RACHEL AND EVELYN AND THEIR TEACHERS

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

Safety Concerns

The recent deaths at Hanauma Bay highlight dangers faced by people entering the ocean. Although the Lifeguards are being blamed for these fatalities, the Friends believe this and other tragedies occurred because an environment has not been created that will improve the safety of swimmers and snorkelers at the Bay.

Many people come to Hanauma Bay entirely ignorant of the potential hazards of swimming and snorkeling in the ocean. Some have little knowledge or the hazards or experience in the ocean. Some do not even know how to swim. Some possess only rudimentary swimming and snorkeling skills or have been swimming only in a pool. Many are unprepared for the physical challenges snorkeling presents. Some have health problems. Some overestimate their ability. Some are alone. And some, seduced by the beautiful, often calm waters of the Bay, don't know that these can be the most dangerous conditions of all.

Every day, volunteers see people young and old who appear to be in poor physical condition entering the water. Every day volunteers talk with people about whom they are concerned but can only offer words of caution - words that are often unheeded.

Volunteers at the beach desk regularly hear the same questions ...

"I can't swim, where should I go snorkeling?"

"I don't know how to snorkel, where is the best place to snorkel?"

"Can you show me how to use this snorkel equipment?"

"Can I rent a life vest?" (Currently, the answer is no).

And volunteers often hear the same alarming statements ...

"My tour guide told me I don't need to know how to swim to snorkel."

"My tour guide told me its ok to go outside the reef."

These "tour guides" are in reality no more than taxi drivers who have found a way around the City's restriction on the number of tours entering the Bay. They hand out cheap equipment and brief "instruction" in the parking lot resulting in what could be an hour for the "lesson" to be forgotten before their customers enter the water on their own. Have these "tour guides" ever been snorkeling? Can they swim? Do they know how to "read" the conditions or have they even looked at the ocean before giving advice?

The orientation video has long been known to be inadequate. Since its inception more than a decade ago, the City has been promising to upgrade it. Although the video upgrade was placed in several budgets, it was removed from each without consultation and with no explanation. Information regarding the video has been difficult to come by. Although the necessity of upgrading the video and the safety information it includes has been acknowledged, there does not seem to be a sense of urgency to get it done.

Many people don't know how to use their equipment but only those who rent from the snorkel concession can get instruction if they request it. Though the concessionaire is safety conscious, the concession is very busy and cannot give thorough instruction. Snorkeling looks easy but is a complex skill that requires more than just the ability to swim. Professional snorkel instruction covers many skills, takes more than a couple of minutes and includes in-water practice. The Friends believe many accidents would have been and would be prevented if professional snorkel instruction were provided by certified scuba instructors. The City's unwillingness to do so is highlighted by its removing a clause in the previous concessionaire's contract that required a certified scuba instructor to be on site at all times. There has been no explanation of why this requirement was excused or why in spite of recommendation by knowledgeable members of the Friends, the requirement was not replaced in the current concessionaire's contract.

Unless a visitor rents and requests instruction from the snorkel concession, *they are officially prohibited from receiving instruction* at the Bay. Volunteers are not allowed to give instruction nor are the lifeguards whose attention must remain on the water. This leaves visitors who bring their own snorkel equipment, sometimes purchased at a drug store on their way to the Bay, unable to get any instruction at all. The Friends agree that the volunteers and lifeguards should not give instruction but feel strongly that the City should allow professional snorkeling instruction at the Bay.

The City cites liability concerns as the reason for not providing instruction. While this may protect the City's coffers, it jeopardizes unsuspecting people by allowing them to enter the ocean unprepared. Adequate knowledge and preparation for ocean swimming and snorkeling should start before visitors arrive at the Bay. The Friends believe there should a concerted effort to work with the Hawaii Visitors Bureau to inform and educate visitors of the risks of going in the ocean before they plan their activities.

The City has done little to improve safety at the Bay and blames the lifeguards for the recent tragedy? This is wholly unfair. Lifeguards at the Bay have a very difficult job. At any moment throughout the day, hundreds of people are floating face down in the water moving slowly, if at all. Keeping watch over all these people requires lifeguards to have keen powers of observation, to be alert 100% of the time and to react quickly if necessary. Without the dedicated and professional lifeguards who watch over Hanauma Bay more snorkelers surely would have perished.

And more will unless the City makes safety a priority at Hanauma Bay.

SUMMER HOURS

For you early birds and late arrivers that Sid referred to in his President's Report, Summer hours for the Bay are now in effect. The Bay is open from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

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

Hanauma Bay Blog Spot by Larry Winnik

My girlfriend dumped me ! She said that "I was too into me !" All this because I had a 'selfie' stick surgically implanted into my back ! Go Figure...



CONTACT US

For General Information, Comments or Suggestions infor@friendsofhanamaby.org

Sid	president@friendsofhanamabay.org
Bob	vicepresident@friendsofhanamabay.org
Micki	secretary@friendsofhanamabay.org
Lisa	treasurer@friendsofhanamaby.org

Or Visit Our Website friendsofhanamabya.org

Or Snail Mail to: Friends of Hanauma Bay
PO Box 25761
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825-0761

It's Not a Park ...