



# KŌLEA

News from the  
Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i

Volume 58, Issue 1 - Spring 2008

## Marine Debris Hurts!

*Cynthia Vanderlip*

**D**ERELICT FISHING NETS, LINES, AND TRAPS, OYSTER aquaculture tubes, plastic bottles, plastic caps, plastic bags, 6-pack rings, plastic food containers, rubber slippers, toys – just some of the human-generated junk that accounts for the tons of floating debris imperiling marine life in Hawaiian waters. The litany of horrors is distressing.

Mōlī (Laysan albatrosses) and other seabirds mistake disposable lighters, plastic bottle caps, and other bits and pieces of flotsam for food. Or, they ingest these items while gathering fish eggs and squid from the ocean.



An eel cone from a hagfish trap prevented this Hawaiian monk seal from opening her mouth or foraging and caused a deep wound on her muzzle. The cone is identical to the ones used by the California and Asia hagfish fishery.  
Photo by Cynthia Vanderlip

They regurgitate these items to their young, and birds die of starvation even though their stomachs are full ... of plastic. Most albatross chicks are able to

throw up the plastic in what are called boluses. Boluses consist of the hard items that their parents feed them. Before plastic was invented, a bolus would have consisted of squid beaks and floating natural items such as seeds and pumice.

Sea turtles mistake floating plastic bags for jellyfish – a favorite food. Ingested plastic bags can block a turtle's digestive system because they cannot be broken down. Whales, seals, dolphins, and sea turtles become entangled in discarded or lost fishing gear, resulting in serious injury or death.

The role of the fishing industry in the grim plight of these creatures was illustrated by an incident on Kure Atoll in June 2007. Personnel from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources and National Marine Fisheries Service captured a female monk seal to remove an eel cone wedged around her

Continued next page



Cynthia Vanderlip (right) and her daughter, Amarisa Marie, clean marine debris off Kure Atoll. Kure – a State Wildlife Sanctuary – provides habitat for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, threatened green turtle, Hawaiian spinner dolphins, Galapagos and tiger sharks, spotted eagle rays, large predatory jacks, and almost 80,000 acres of coral reef habitat supporting 155 species of reef fish.  
Photo courtesy of Cynthia Vanderlip

# Marine Debris

Continued

muzzle. Eel cones are part of traps used by the United States and Asia hagfish industry. (Hagfish look like eels hence the term “eel cone.”) The cone prevented the seal from opening her mouth or foraging. A deep wound resulted from the hard plastic rim cutting into her muzzle. The seal was not sighted for the remaining 2 months of the field season, and biologists do not know if she survived the ordeal.

Each year, thousands of eel cones from the hagfish traps are removed from beaches in the Main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The U.S. hagfish industry does not keep track of gear loss so it is difficult to determine the percentage of lost traps of U.S. origin in Hawaiian waters. Regulatory agencies should require commercial fishers to report lost gear as part of the permitting process so that this problem can be assessed. More importantly, fishing gear should be marked with tags that identify the owners of the gear. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has proposed a system of ownership marking and required reporting of lost fishing gear (see [fao.org/fishery/topic/14887](http://fao.org/fishery/topic/14887)). Until this is done, we will not be able to hold these plastic polluters accountable.

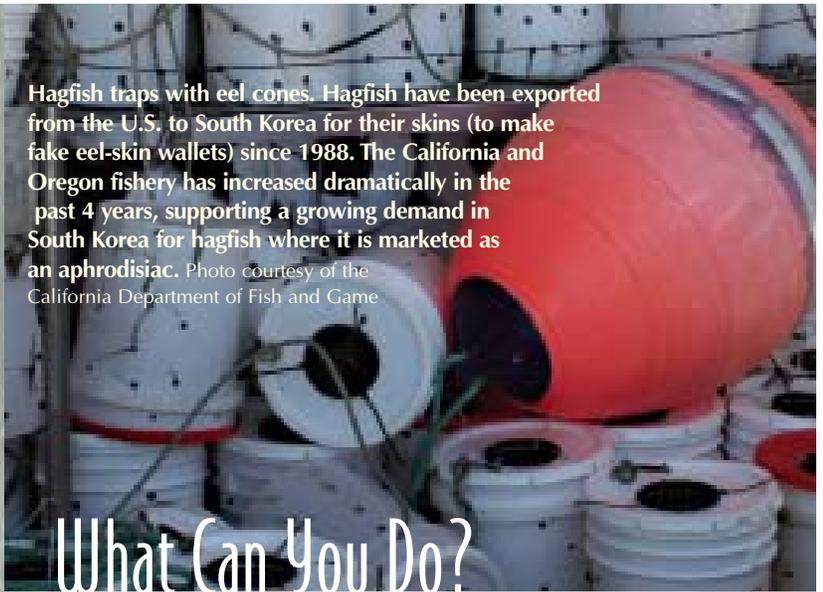
*Editor's Note: Cynthia Vanderlip is a Wildlife Technician with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. She spends 6 months each year on Kure Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands restoring habitat for marine life.*



This curious mōlī (Laysan albatross) chick is unaware of the danger posed by marine debris.

Photo by Cynthia Vanderlip

Hagfish traps with eel cones. Hagfish have been exported from the U.S. to South Korea for their skins (to make fake eel-skin wallets) since 1988. The California and Oregon fishery has increased dramatically in the past 4 years, supporting a growing demand in South Korea for hagfish where it is marketed as an aphrodisiac. Photo courtesy of the California Department of Fish and Game



## What Can You Do?

- ♻️ Reduce, reuse, recycle
- ♻️ Put litter in its place
- ♻️ Use reusable shopping bags instead of plastic disposable bags – check out [ecobags.com](http://ecobags.com)
- ♻️ Raise funds for your cause and help reduce marine debris by selling reusable, recyclable bags – check out [simplygreensolutions.com](http://simplygreensolutions.com)
- ♻️ Buy products made from recycled materials if possible – check out [recycledproducts.com](http://recycledproducts.com)
- ♻️ Use water filters, water coolers, and refillable stainless steel bottles instead of purchasing bottled water – check out [kleankanteen.com](http://kleankanteen.com)
- ♻️ Buy soft drinks in aluminum cans or glass, which can be redeemed and recycled
- ♻️ Purchase biodegradable and non-petroleum-based paper goods and utensils for parties and events – check out [styrophobia.com](http://styrophobia.com)
- ♻️ Encourage restaurants to use biodegradable, non-petroleum-based, take-out food containers and utensils; better yet, bring your own – check out [lifewithoutplastic.com](http://lifewithoutplastic.com)
- ♻️ Avoid over-packaged merchandise, disposable lighters, razors, cameras, and other throw-away items – check out [ecocycle.org](http://ecocycle.org)
- ♻️ Learn more about marine debris and the North Pacific Gyre floating garbage mass – check out [algalita.org](http://algalita.org)
- ♻️ Ask elected officials to identify and reduce the sources of marine debris – check out [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov), [house.gov](http://house.gov), and [senate.gov](http://senate.gov) for contact information
- ♻️ Ask elected officials to require ownership marking of fishing gear and reporting of lost fishing gear – check out [fao.org/fishery/topic/14887](http://fao.org/fishery/topic/14887)
- ♻️ Ask manufacturers to use recyclable plastic in bottle caps – check out [americanchemistry.com/plastics](http://americanchemistry.com/plastics) for industry contact information
- ♻️ Ask dairies and beverage companies to stop putting plastic caps on milk and juice cartons (check individual containers for companies and distributors)
- ♻️ Participate in beach clean-ups and learn about marine debris in Hawai'i – check out [b-e-a-c-h.org](http://b-e-a-c-h.org)
- ♻️ Support environmental organizations, such as Conservation Council for Hawai'i, that are working on marine debris and wildlife issues



# Light May Begin to Shine on Wespac

Scott Foster

**H**AWAII ADVOCATES WORKING FOR increased transparency in the operations of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Wespac) are beginning to see their efforts paying off. On December 5, 2007, U.S. Representative Henry Waxman, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, requested the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate Wespac in response to concerns about its questionable use of federal funds. The letter notes, “In June 2007, a number of Hawaiian nonprofit organizations raised serious allegations regarding the inappropriate use of government funds and unethical conduct by Wespac and its Executive Director [Kitty Simonds]. More recently, credible sources have also contacted the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to raise similar concerns about the conduct of Wespac and its Executive Director.”

Conservation Council for Hawai‘i has expressed its concerns to Hawai‘i’s congressional delegation about Wespac,

including Wespac’s use of federal funds to lobby in support of anti-regulatory fishing bills at the state level, and attempts to undermine the popular and successful campaign to establish Papahānaumokuākea – the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument.

Wespac is one of eight regional fishery management councils in the U.S. and is charged with managing fishing activity in federal waters in Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Unfortunately, several Hawaiian fisheries have been closed because of over-fishing, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands lobster fishery and part of the bottomfish fishery around the Main Hawaiian



**Above left: Honu dance.**  
Photo by Ursula Keuper-Bennett and Peter Bennett

**Above: Antler coral with ‘ālo‘ilo‘i (Hawaiian dascyllus), lau‘ipala (yellow tang), and hilu piliko‘a (blackside hawkfish).**

**Left: Lauhau (fourspot butterflyfish).**

Photos by John P. Hoover

Islands. Rather than focusing on managing fisheries properly in federal waters and bringing these fisheries back, Wespac is now interfering with efforts to protect resources in Hawai‘i state waters and local efforts elsewhere in the Pacific.

In March, representatives of government agencies and communities in the Central Pacific spoke out publicly against Wespac interference in collaborative fisheries management efforts, including complaints by the Governor of Guam and officials in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

The GAO, often called “the congressional watchdog,” is an independent, nonpartisan agency that supports congressional oversight by auditing agency operations to determine whether federal funds are being spent efficiently and effectively, and investigating allegations of illegal and improper activities. Hopefully, the GAO investigation will provide the information necessary to begin appropriate action against Wespac and hold this agency accountable.

*Editor’s Note: Scott Foster is a CCH member and the Communications Director of the Western and Central Pacific Network.*

Do whatever you can – every litter bit hurts!



A dead mōlī (Laysan albatross) with a stomach full of plastic. Although most plastic bottles can be redeemed for a refund and recycled, plastic bottle caps are not. They end up in the ocean and are ingested by albatrosses.

Photo by Cynthia Vanderlip



# A Friend of the Court and the Hawaiian Monk Seal

Lindsey Kasperowicz

**C**ONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII has weighed in on the debate over the proposed development of five new hotels with 3,500 rooms and condominium units at Turtle Bay and Kawela Bay near the Turtle Bay Resort on the north shore of O'ahu. CCH filed an amicus (friend of the court) brief in support of Plaintiffs Keep the North Shore Country (KNSC) and Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter in an appeal currently before the Hawai'i Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). The brief was filed in March and focuses on the use of the project area by the endangered 'ilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

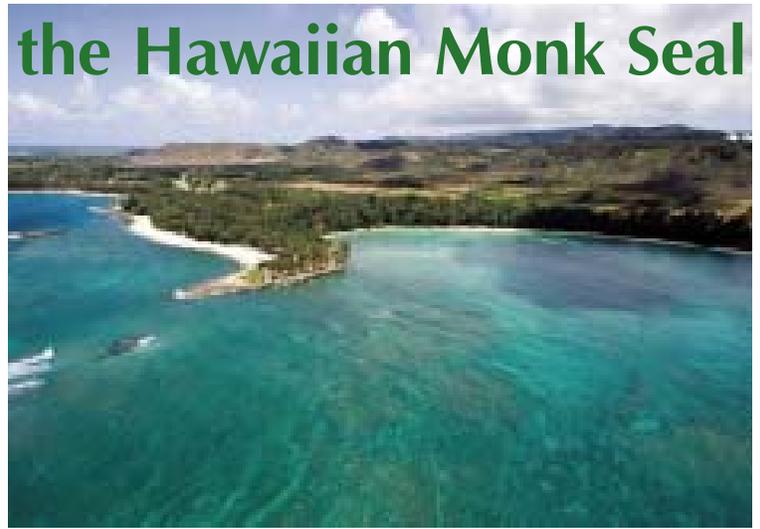
Since 2001, monk seal sightings in the project area have steadily increased. In the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, monk seals were rarely seen, if ever, there. Since reports by the general public have been collected in the Main Hawaiian Islands beginning in the early 1980s, monk seal sightings in the project area were initially sporadic, at best, with a high count of two sightings in both 1984 and 1991 and, as was more typical, no sightings in the years 1985 through 1989 and 1997 through 1999.

Beginning in 2001, however, monk seals have regularly been sighted in the project area in steadily increasing numbers, with three sightings in both 2001 and 2002, six in 2003, nine in 2004, twenty-one in 2005, and fifty-four in 2006. The fact that multiple seals have used the project area indicates that there is something that is causing them to select it specifically.

Near shore waters in the project area are known foraging habitat, and seals often haul out on the beaches. A monk seal has even used the area for pupping, with the birth of Penelope in June 2006 being the only Hawaiian monk seal birth on O'ahu at that time since 1998. Moreover, female monk seals generally return to the same beach to give birth if they have previously had a successful breeding experience there. The successful pupping in 2006 suggests that as long as there are no changes in the conditions of the project area, monk seals will continue to use the project area as a habitat for pupping. Because the number of beaches that serve as pupping beaches in the Main Hawaiian Islands is very small, the use of the project area for pupping is highly significant to the recovery of the monk seal population, which is down to approximately 1,200 animals.

KNSC and Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in the First Circuit Court in 2006 seeking the preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) for the development project because circumstances in the surrounding community have changed significantly since the EIS was prepared in 1985. When the court denied the relief sought and entered judgment in favor of the developer, KNSC and Sierra Club appealed the decision to the ICA.

CCH filed its amicus brief with the ICA to highlight the potential impacts of the development to the monk seals that utilize the area and to the monk seal population as a whole. CCH asks the ICA to reverse the judgment below and send the case back to the Circuit Court with directions to order the Honolulu Department of Planning and Permitting to require the developer to prepare a supplemental EIS, including the impacts of the pro-



This relatively undeveloped coastline on the north shore of O'ahu – including Kawela Bay and Turtle Bay – provides habitat for the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and is threatened by resort development.

Photo courtesy of Keep the North Shore Country

posed development to the seals, and to prohibit development until the Circuit Court determines there is full compliance with the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act. Oral arguments are scheduled to be heard by the ICA on April 9, 2008.

**Editor's Note:** Lindsey Kasperowicz, an attorney with Paul Johnson Park & Niles, represents CCH on the amicus brief pro bono.



Volunteer Susan Lee at last year's annual meeting.

Photo by Evan Tector

## Save the Date!

The 2008 Conservation Council for Hawai'i Annual Awards and Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 4, 6-9:30 pm in Honolulu. Please mark your calendar for this fun

event, and stand by for more details. We also seek volunteers to join the Annual Meeting Committee. Please contact us at (808) 593-0255 or [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) if you would like to help organize this year's event.



# Mea Makamae – Nā Koholā



*Leina'ala Kaina*

**HAWAI'I HAS MANY** migratory animals, and one of the most magnificent is the koholā, or North Pacific

humpback whale. *Megaptera novaeangliae*, which means “giant wings” in Latin, weighs in at 25-40 tons and is 40-50 feet long. The whales swim 3,000 miles in their migration between Alaska and Hawai'i, spending November to May in Hawaiian waters, and June through October feeding in Alaska.

Hawai'i is the only place in the United States where humpback whales breed, calve, and nurse their young. Calves weigh approximately 2 tons and are 14 feet in length at birth. The adult whales rarely feed when they are in Hawai'i and live off stored fat. During the breeding season, males slap their tail flukes and chase each other in competition during mating rituals. Both adults and calves slap the water with their pectoral fins and tails, and take giant leaps out of the water known as breaching.

Nā koholā are noted for their songs. Males sing in competition or to challenge other males, and they produce themed and organized melodies. Their songs can be heard many miles away and usually last up to 20 minutes. The male singer repeats the same song for several hours, while other males within hearing range sing the same song in different tones and dialects. The songs change over time, resulting in new songs every few years.

The *heiau*, Pu'u Koholā (“whale hill”) near Kawaihae on Hawai'i, was named for the humpback whale. Whales (humpback and/or sperm whales) are

mentioned in the Second Era in the Kumulipo Hawaiian creation chant. Whales are also the largest manifestation of Kanaloa, God of the Ocean. The seasonal whale migrations to Hawai'i and between the islands remind us of our seafaring heritage and connection to Kanaloa and his many ocean forms.

Unfortunately, the humpback whale is still an endangered species even though it is protected in the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands State Marine Refuge. Humpback whales are also protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Treaty. The whales are threatened by boat traffic, boat propellers, entanglement with derelict fishing gear, marine pollution, and noise from sonar and other sources. Hawai'i plays a vital role in the recovery of nā koholā, and we must do our part to protect the whales and their habitat.

*Ho'i hou i ka iwi kuamo'o.*

Return to the backbone.

To return to the homeland or family after being away.

**Editor's Note:** *Leina'ala Kaina is a CCH member who lived in Colorado Springs until she recently returned home to Kāne'ohe on O'ahu.*



Artwork by Patrick Ching ([www.naturallyhawaiian.com](http://www.naturallyhawaiian.com))

## National Wildlife Federation News



*Matt Little*

**Ships Carry**

**More Than You Think!**

**H**AVE YOU EVER NOTICED WATER pouring out of the sides of large ships when they come into port? Ever wonder where that water comes from? Well, this question and its implications are important for our coral reefs and other aquatic ecosystems.

Many large ships need to take water into their hull to sit low in the water and have better balance. Oftentimes, ships take on this water, called ballast water, as they leave one port and discharge the water as they go into another. When they take in ballast water, they also take in any living organisms that may be present and sometimes transport them half way around the world before they are discharged into another environment. These environments may have never had a species like this before and do not have the natural checks and balances to keep it under control. With no natural predators, the species often gets out of control, pushing out native species and becoming invasive. Many non-native species, such as the damaging snowflake coral, discovered in Pearl Harbor in 1972, is believed to have been introduced to Hawai'i via ship hulls and possibly ballast water. It smothers Hawai'i's precious black coral.

The National Wildlife Federation and our affiliates, such as Conservation Council for Hawai'i, are working hard to tackle this problem. Currently there is legislation in the Congress (S.1578 and H.R.2830) that would require the ballast water from these ships to be filtered or treated before it is discharged into

Continued next page

## Ae’o Return to Kuapā

*Jim Dittmar*

**A**FTER NEARLY 40 YEARS, THE endangered ae’o, or Hawaiian stilt, has returned to Kuapā in East O’ahu. Kuapā – the old name for the Maunalua Fishpond – is now the Hawai’i Kai Marina. At one time, Kuapā was one of the largest fishponds on O’ahu with over 500 acres. Beginning in 1959, Kuapā was dredged to build the Hawai’i Kai Marina, and the surrounding housing development on the pond’s shores commenced in the 1960s.

During construction of the marina, Rim Island No. 2 – a 4-acre, doughnut-shaped island – was built in the middle of Kuapā for the disposal of dredge material. When the marina was dredged in 1996, the island was filled in such a way as to recreate a shallow wetland habitat for the ae’o. This is great news for the stilt, which has lost so much habitat on O’ahu, including Waikīkī, Āliamanu (Salt Lake area), and Ka’elepulu in Kailua.

Conservation Council for Hawai’i and others want to make sure Rim Island No. 2 is protected for the birds. We support alternative sites for dumping dredge material from the marina and thereby preserve the shallow wading areas and predator-free habitat for the ae’o.

Ron Walker, one of Hawai’i’s foremost wildlife biologists, stated that along with Paikō Lagoon, Rim Island No. 2 is the only habitat between Ke’ehi Lagoon and the windward side of O’ahu that is regularly visited by the stilt. To the extent that nesting by the stilt on Rim Island No. 2 has occurred, the value of this habitat increases. Wildlife officials emphasize that each acre of wetland in Hawai’i is critical to efforts to save the ae’o and other endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, including the koloa (Hawaiian duck), ‘alae ‘ula (gallinule), and ‘alae ke’oke’o (coot).

Since the stilts were first observed at Rim Island No.

2 in 2001, the Hawai’i Kai Marina Association has been pursuing a dredging permit to fill the island. However, due to concerns raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawai’i Audubon Society, and others, the dredging permit application has been pending with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 2002. The Hawai’i Department of Land and Natural Resources will also require an environmental assessment as part of the Association’s Conservation District Use Permit Application for any future dredging.

Fortunately, alternatives to the continued dumping of dredge material at Rim Island No. 2 exist. There are at least three upland sites for the disposal of dredge material, and one of them, MP-3, was deeded for that very purpose. We urge the Association and regulatory agencies to pursue these alternatives and let the ae’o thrive once again at Kuapā.

***Editor’s Note:** Jim Dittmar is a CCH member and an environmental consultant. He is a resident of Hawai’i Kai and has been working to protect the endangered Hawaiian stilt at Kuapā for many years.*



**Invasive snowflake coral.** Photo by Sam Kahng, Hawai’i Undersea Research Laboratory

another harbor, preventing non-native species from entering our local ecosystems. Neither of these bills is perfect, and we are working to strengthen them so that they take effect sooner, do not preempt stronger state laws, and do not ignore important Clean Water Act requirements.

We are working to build support from members of Congress for stronger bills. Currently, we are hosting a fly-in trip for affiliates in states with key members of Congress who are on the Commerce and Environment Committees. In Hawai’i, Senator Dan Inouye supports weaker standards supported by the shipping industry. CCH has worked with NFW to encourage Senator Inouye that we need stronger legislation.

If you would like to weigh in, please tell your members of Congress that we need strong standards for ships ballast water to stop the spread of invasive aquatic species. Urge them to pass these bills today with strong provisions to protect aquatic ecosystems. Mahalo nui loa, and thank you for helping to make our environment a better place!



**Endangered ae’o (Hawaiian stilt).**

Photo © Jack Jeffrey

# Taking Our 'Ōpala to the State Capitol

Marjorie Ziegler

**D**OZENS OF AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HELPED LAUNCH the International Year of the Reef at the State Capitol on January 25. Conservation Council for Hawai'i partnered with Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i and prepared a compelling display on the effects of marine debris on Hawaiian marine life. Over 100 participants – including school children – visited our display, picked up wildlife posters, and learned more about the source and impacts of marine debris, and ways to help make a difference.

We also partnered with BEACH for a community event on Human Rights Day at the State Capitol on March 13. We focused on marine debris and promoted everyone's right to a clean and healthy environment, and justice for all species.

Mahalo nui loa to the International Year of the Reef Hawai'i Campaign and State Representative Lyla Berg and her staff for sponsoring these outreach events and inviting CCH and BEACH to participate.



Above: All of the plastic and other items on this poster by Cynthia Vanderlip (shown here) were found in a dead fledgling Laysan albatross chick on Kure Atoll.



Left: CCH/BEACH marine debris display at the State Capitol.

Photos by Dean Otsuki



## Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to help in the CCH office typing address labels into the computer, mailing membership letters and packets, or organizing documents and files, or if you have bookkeeping/accounting skills and would like to volunteer on a regular basis, please contact Marjorie Ziegler at (808) 593-0255 or [mz@conservehi.org](mailto:mz@conservehi.org). If you like meeting people, please help us at community outreach events. If you like working with kids, help us run the CCH Recycling Relay Race and administering the CCH Protect the Planet Pledge. We also need help organizing this year's Annual Awards and Membership Meeting on October 4 and soliciting items from local businesses for the silent auction and door prizes. Please let us know if you would like to kōkua.



Scott Foster checks out a Jack Johnson music DVD at last year's silent auction. Photos by Evan Tector

## Got Auction Items?

We are soliciting donations of art, jewelry, wine, books, music, outdoor gear, nature crafts, gift baskets, gift certificates, local products, native plants, children's items, or other items for the silent auction and door prizes at this year's Annual Awards and Membership Meeting on October 4. Please contact us at (808) 593-0255 or [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) if you would like to donate an auction item or door prize.



Auction items celebrating nature and the Native Hawaiian culture helped raise much-needed funds for wildlife last year.



# From the Executive Director

Marjorie Ziegler

**A LOHA, EVERYONE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR** response to our 2007 annual appeal last fall and follow-up request this spring. We ask for a donation above and beyond your annual membership dues to help support the organization, and we appreciate anything you are able to give. Your response is so gratifying, not only because it helps fund our conservation program, but also because it tells us that you think we are doing a pretty good job. That means a lot to us.

We are testifying on bills at the state legislature relating to forest and ocean protection, endangered monk seals, fishing, invasive species, solar energy, and publicly funded campaigns. The session ends in May, and we will have a wrap up for you in the next newsletter.

We are participating in public events spreading the word about marine debris and how it harms marine life. Mahalo nui loa to our partners, Suzanne Frazer and Dean Otsuki of Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i, and to Cynthia Vanderlip for sharing their knowledge, photos, and enthusiasm for taking on this important issue. We also thank the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for lending us its mounted Laysan albatross specimen.

We participated in Word Wetlands Day at Kawainui Marsh and Le Jardin Academy in Kailua in February. We distributed our Kawainui Marsh wildlife posters and helped kids operate a wetland model showing how Kawainui Marsh provides habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds and helps maintain high water quality in Kailua Bay. Mahalo nui loa to the World Wetlands Day Hawai'i Organizing Committee for inviting Conservation Council for Hawai'i to participate, and to Maura O'Connor and the Pacific American Foundation for lending us the wetland model.

**Endangered ko'oloa 'ula (red 'ilima) – a small, hibiscus-like blossom of the native dry forest. Although much of its habitat has been destroyed by feral ungulates, invasive plants, large-scale agriculture, and land development, ko'oloa 'ula can be cultivated for reforestation and landscaping.**

Photo by Forest and Kim Starr



**Sick juvenile 'amakihi infected with avian pox spread by introduced mosquitoes.**

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey



**'Ohelo – a native Hawaiian member of the cranberry family. 'Ohelo was sacred to Pele, to whom offerings were made by throwing the berries into Halema'uma'u, the fiery pit in Kilauea Crater. Feral pigs and feral goats eat 'ohelo, eliminating food for the endangered nēnē (Hawaiian goose) and Hawaiian forest birds.** Photo by Forest and Kim Starr



**'Apapane on kanawao.**  
Photo by Hadoram Shirihai

We continue to raise awareness and support for changing the State's game management paradigm. Feral pigs, feral goats, feral sheep, mouflon, and deer are taking over our watersheds, natural area reserves, and forest reserves. These animals are beautiful, but they do not belong in fragile island ecosystems that evolved over millions of years in the absence of continental grazing and browsing mammals. They eat native Hawaiian plants – including rare and endangered species, spread invasive plants, create wallows for breeding mosquitoes that spread diseases to Hawaiian forest birds, and cause erosion and siltation of our streams and coral reefs.

In urban environments, these animals are also very dangerous. Feral pigs enter and destroy private property – putting people and pets at risk. The exploding axis deer population on Maui is a serious threat to motorists, and feral goats regularly graze along the Hawai'i Belt Road and Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway in North Kona and South Kohala on Hawai'i. Clearly, something needs to be done, and we call on the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources to begin managing game animals responsibly in appropriate **fenced** areas.

This spring, we launched our 2008 Membership Drive. Our goal is to double CCH membership in the next 6 months. We really need your help to grow the organization. We ask each of you to recruit just one member to CCH – a family member, friend, or colleague at work. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase a gift membership for someone to help us reach our goal. Please share this newsletter with someone who would like to join CCH, or use the remittance envelope we include in every newsletter. If you prefer, we will be happy to mail our newsletter and membership envelope to your contacts. Please let me know at (808) 593-0255 or [mz@conservehi.org](mailto:mz@conservehi.org).

Mahalo nui loa for your support and kind words of encouragement.





# KŌLEA

## News from the Conservation Council for Hawai'i

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## Save the Month!



CCH/BEACH marine debris display at the State Capitol.

Photo by Dean Otsuki

Conservation Council for Hawai'i is pleased to partner with Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawai'i in organizing Marine Debris Awareness Month in October 2008. Free public events on marine debris will be held at the Hanauma Bay Marine Education Center every Thursday evening in October. A special public event at the State Capitol on the evening of October 22 will feature Captain Charles Moore of the oceanographic research vessel, Alguita. Captain Moore and his crew study the marine debris in the North Pacific Gyre – one of the largest floating garbage masses in the world. Please mark your calendar and stand by for more information in our next newsletter and on our website.



## Give a Gift for Wildlife

You can give a gift that protects wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i by naming Conservation Council for Hawai'i as a beneficiary in your will or trust. For more information, please contact Marjorie Ziegler at (808) 593-0255 or mz@conservehi.org.

‘Ā (brown booby) ‘ohana.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



### Order Form (Prices include handling and shipping)

	Quantity	Amount Enclosed
Kawainui Marsh 9"x 12" open edition giclée by Patrick Ching (\$95)	_____	\$ _____
Kawainui Marsh 13"x17" open edition giclée by Patrick Ching (\$295)	_____	\$ _____
Kawainui Marsh 20"x26" limited edition giclée by Patrick Ching (\$550)	_____	\$ _____
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Mōli (Laysan albatross) and chick. Photo © Robert Shallenberger

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