



Save Honolua News

Revitalize the health of the Honolua Ahupua'a through community-based management utilizing Hawaiian values and practices.

5th Edition
May 2008

Public Meeting Summary: Lucienne De Naie

Lucienne is a Huelo resident of 23 years. When she first moved to the small farming village, it was mainly populated with older Hawaiians and she had the opportunity to learn a lot about stream diversion, which led to her becoming a water/stream activist about 13 years ago. Out in the country, there is no county water and they depend entirely on rain or well water. She soon realized the importance of learning about water laws and the state water commission. She believes that citizens and farmers need to educate themselves about the state water laws. Stream flow is crucial to our interconnected ecosystem - our streams and aquifers are important to sustain life and need to be taken care of. The process to petition for stream flow can take a long time, but it is something that needs to be done if we are looking at the long term big picture of a healthy ecosystem and sustainable water supply. The process involves gathering people who use stream water, those with standing who qualify and assert their legal rights to water under state law. People who use water for farming, gathering hihiwai, watering kalo lo'i, recreational use, etc. can to get together with a good attorney who is ethically motivated, because these types of cases can be time consuming. Petitioners need to take time to build their case - why it is important to have stream flow. The hearing process may take months and petitioners often get involved to assist the attorneys.



Lucienne believes that although the process takes time, the more citizens who exercise their rights, the more familiar the water commission will be with the magnitude of the situation. Returning water to streams will benefit taro farmers, breathe life into the forests and fauna and help resurrect Maui's ailing fish populations and reefs. Stream diversion in Hawaii has been going on for over a hundred years and is one of the primary reasons for the loss of our traditional Hawaiian lifestyle. Without water, the traditional subsistence lifestyle that sustained native populations for thousands of years has become endangered and it will take a united community to help bring it back.

As I write this issue, Maui Land and Pineapple Co. is petitioning the water resource commission to create a permanent instream flow standard for Honolua stream, or in other words going through the formal process to determine how much water will flow in the stream and how much MLP can take for offstream uses including irrigation of pineapple, golf courses and Kapalua resort.

This is something that we the public need to get involved in and the Stream Restoration Committee of SHC can provide information. Look for upcoming details on our website, or email kokua@savehonolua.org.

Mahalo John Severson

A big (belated) Mahalo goes out to John Severson, the creator of the Save Honolua Coalition logo and a personal friend of the Cochrans'. John Severson is a world renown surfer and artist who has his own website at www.surferart.com and a special place in his heart for Honolua Bay. When creating the logo for the coalition, he chose to represent the cliff with its zig-zag trail, the wave and the stream combined to make one logo, with the white background symbolizing the purity in all. It has become a cherished symbol proudly displayed throughout West Maui and the world and we offer our most sincere thanks to John Severson for creating the logo that has drawn us all together.

Editorial

Before the creation of the Save Honolua Coalition last year, I found myself beginning to open my eyes to what was going on in Maui and the rest of the world and I did not like what I was seeing. There has been overdevelopment in Lahaina and war on the global scene and I wanted to do something, anything to change the world, "Save Honolua, Save Hawaii" make it a better place. Now a year later, I am beginning to understand the importance of getting involved. As one person, it is easy to feel powerless in the struggle but as the constitution states, "We the people..." have the power. By getting involved in what is going on in your own backyard, by strengthening your own community, the impact it creates is multiplied. By starting out locally and building a strong community, it does have an impact globally. Politicians are more likely to listen to strong communities united in what they want and thus communities can affect global legislation. It takes a lot of time and persistent effort to build a strong community, but in my opinion it is worth it. That is why I continue to support the Save Honolua Coalition and other local grass roots organizations, I believe with persistent effort we will be able to make this world a better place.



Tamara Paltin