

HIGH SCHOOL HIKERS NEWS

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ECOLOGY CAMP 2012

During Presidents Day weekend from February 18 to 20, 2012, High School Hikers' clubs from Moanalua, Pearl City, Roosevelt, Leilehua, and Kapolei came to Our Lady of Kea'au to take part in Ecology Camp 2012. The first day began with each club setting up their respective camp sites and pitching their tents. After lunch, everyone took an afternoon hike to Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve. Led by hike leaders John M. Cummings III and Fred Nakaguma, students learned about the plants and animals that make this area special and unique. Students spotted monk seals, albatross, and humpback whales while learning about the natural and cultural history of Ka'ena. After the hike, students were served a delicious dinner, prepared by our wonderful camp cooks who prepared all of our meals – Darryl Nishimoto, Nylen Takahashi, and Sandra Nakagawa-Saito. They were assisted by Erron Yoshioka, Mark Lee, Jeffrey Lee, and Marisa Kiethanom.

In the evening, students took part in Eco Camp workshops. The rotating workshop sessions were informational, creative and skill-based and were led by the following individuals:

Camp Cooking – Marc Morinaga

Why Knot? – Jim Yuen

Making Base Camp and Pitching Tents – Bob Keane and Fred Nakaguma

Sierra Club and Hawai'i Service Trip Program – Jennifer Homcy

Gyotaku – Pauline Kawamata

Sunday's service project, coordinated by Jamie Tanino, gave the students an opportunity to work in Makaha Valley with Amy Tsuneyoshi, Watershed Specialist from the Board of Water Supply. The goal was to create a vegetative fire-break that would prevent and slow the

spread of fire into forested areas. It would also provide a first line of defense against wildfire. After the koa haole and guinea grass was removed, students out-planted and watered over 120 plants.

Sunday evening culminated with the Eco Camp Challenge. Five groups comprised of students from each club worked together to answer questions based on all they did and learned at Ecology Camp. It was a great way to end a weekend of fun, service, education and friendship. Our last day of camp on Monday ended with camp evaluation and prizes to the winners of the Eco Camp Challenge.

This year's Ecology Camp was a success, thanks to all the HSH advisers and kōkua. You made camp possible! In addition, a generous donation was made by Ed Lee, a staunch and loyal HSH supporter. Through his donation, students from Pearl City, Leilehua, and Roosevelt were able to apply for a camp scholarship and attend camp at no charge. Mahalo nui loa to everyone for your participation and for all your hard work and dedication!



Ecology Camp 2012 Photos



Photos by Jamie Tanino and Ralph Toyama

PCHS MOLOKA'I ADVENTURE

Photos & Article by Chuck Stutz



The Pearl City High School Hikers Club ventured over to the "Friendly Isle" during spring break to carry on the "Advanced Ecology Camp" theme of the High School Hikers Program. They had cleaned classrooms all of third quarter to help finance the trip and eagerly waited for the break. Because of the storms in early March the trip was nearly cancelled, but the weather cleared just in time for the 14 intrepid hikers to pack and get seat belted in for the short rollercoaster airplane ride to Moloka'i. We looked out our window for any signs of civilization, but only vast amounts of untouched land were to be seen. Soon, a tiny runway appeared and we landed with a bounce. We were greeted by Chris,



our Moloka'i contact, who helped us with our equipment and bags. We drove only a short few miles to our accommodations, a church hall, opposite the ocean, and a mile from the town of Kaunakakai. From there we were able to venture out over the next four days to experience the people and the 'āina of Moloka'i.

We met Penny, who shared with us through her slide show, what it was like to be the only female on the first voyage of the Hōkūle'a . She also shared with us the vision of Moloka'i's future and helped us to feel comfortable at the hall where we stayed. We met Walter at his small office in town, where he asked us why we enjoyed walking the

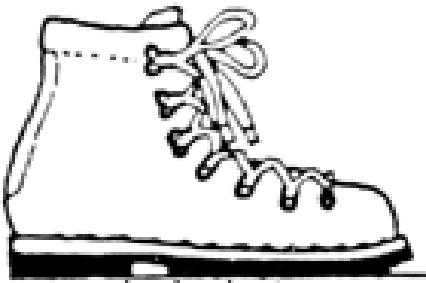
'āina. He gave us suggestions on where to go to and explained how he and his friends helped save the island of Kaho'olawe from being destroyed. During our education and service project at the fishponds, we met Ikaika, Melvin, and Mark, who were dedicated to bringing sustainability back to the islands. We pulled tons of mangrove, sang "Take Me Back", drank coconut milk, and ate 'opihī. That evening we dined on barbecued deer meat. We felt totally local! The next day, we were invited to the visitors' headquarters, a small two-room office, where we were greeted with Moloka'i T-shirts and shopping bags. Moloka'i is one of the islands



that has a ban on plastic bags. We were invited to Hālawā Valley by Mahina Ho and he shared how he lives and works on the 'āina. We worked in his lo'i and then hiked up to a beautiful waterfall to swim in its cool waters.

Whether we were hiking along the pristine west end shoreline, visiting the macadamia farm, or entering the Kalaupapa peninsula, the people we met were always friendly and inviting. As high school hiker Tanya Ching put it, "I love the friendliness here, and the stars are beautiful." Triston Ocoma Neyra summed it up when he said, "The island taught us the true meaning of aloha 'āina (love the land) and showed us the many ways that we can take care of Hawai'i





High School Hikers
Sierra Club Hawaii

Active High School Hikers Clubs and Advisors

Leilehua High School

Jeannette Keane, Bob Keane

Moanalua High School

Erron Yoshioka, Mark Lee,
Jeffrey Lee, Marisa Keithanom,
Sandra Nakagawa-Saito
Darryl Nishimoto, Nylen Takahashi

Pearl City High School

Chuck Stutz, Ed Duggan,
Anthony Ferro, Prudence Renti Cruz

Roosevelt High School

Joan Matsuzaki, Tomonori Hayamichi,
Jason Akamine, Jordan Yamasaki

Waldorf School

John and Adaline Cummings

Kapolei High School

Janice Staab

Our Mission

HSH provides support for hiking activities in various high schools in the State of Hawai'i. HSH/Sierra Club approved hike leaders work in cooperation with an advisor of a high school to provide leadership knowledgeable in hiking skills and environmental subjects.

Ecology Camp 2012 Group Photo—Hope to see you next year!

