



Blinded by the Light: CCH Sues to Protect Endangered Native Sea Birds, Sea Turtles

By Julie Leialoha

In February 2019, the Conservation Council for Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, represented by the Earthjustice Mid-Pacific Office, sued the Maui County Department of Public Works to block the replacement of some 4,800 streetlight fixtures with LED lighting that may needlessly kill or harm critically imperiled seabirds and sea turtles.

For years, community members and wildlife experts have warned county officials that utilizing LED lighting with a high blue light content may detrimentally impact sensitive seabird flyways and turtle nesting areas, and that other types of LED bulbs that filter blue light are available and even being used elsewhere, including in Hawai'i County. Maui officials nevertheless moved forward with plans to use high blue light content LEDs, and declared its streetlight project exempt from the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act (HEPA) – thereby avoiding the need to examine the lighting project's potential environmental impacts, and to consider alternatives that could mitigate such impacts.

"The county has no excuse for ignoring the harms of its streetlight replacement project on imperiled species, as well as the superior alternatives that are available," said Kylie Wager Cruz, an attorney in Earthjustice's Mid-Pacific office.



A critically endangered hawksbill hatchling makes its way towards the sea. Photo courtesy of Anita Wintner.

that filter out blue light, avoiding needless harm to seabirds and turtles. It is extremely irresponsible, not to mention blatantly illegal, for the county to try to dodge the mandated environmental review process, which is designed to help the county find more environmentally responsible ways to get the job done."

Endangered seabirds such as the Hawaiian Petrel or 'ua'u are prevalent on Maui, one of their last remaining strongholds, with thousands known to

ground nesting birds enter and exit their burrows during the evenings, using natural light sources such as the moon to navigate. Bright artificial lighting, such as the type Maui is seeking to use, can disorient 'ua'u, causing them to crash into structures or fly in circles until exhaustion forces them to the ground, where they may be further injured or killed by cars or predators. This is most prevalent during nesting season, as young fledglings exit their nests for the first time from September through December. Sadly, this fledgling time frame is known by locals and wildlife professionals as "Seabird Fallout Season."

In addition to native seabirds, sea turtles are also vulnerable to bright lights. The critically endangered Hawksbill as well as endangered green sea turtles are known to nest on Maui's beaches, and a single bright light can prevent newly hatched turtles from making it to the ocean – killing hundreds at a time.

The case being made by both CCH and the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund is simple: follow the environmental review process mandated by HEPA, protect Hawaiian wildlife, and utilize alternative options to minimize potential harm.

Fortunately, since the lawsuit was filed, Maui Electric Company – which is responsible for installing the new LED streetlights – agreed to stop their installation work pending the

Message from the President

As many of you are aware, the Conservation Council for Hawai'i has been in a state of transition for the last nine months, since the unexpected passing of our long-time executive director, Marjorie Ziegler. Through it all, I have been encouraged and invigorated by how CCH's board of directors, staff, members and friends have stepped up to help CCH move forward, grow and emerge even stronger and ready more than ever to tackle Hawai'i's evolving conservation issues and threats. The fact that so many have stepped up is a testament to what Marjorie and CCH meant and continue to mean to Hawai'i's conservation community.

Taking place just a few weeks after Marj's passing, the annual meeting in October 2018 was a moving and inspiring tribute to her work on behalf of Hawai'i's plants and wildlife, and provided an opportunity to begin building upon the foundation she set in CCH. Since then, CCH's operations manager Jonee Peters' invaluable efforts have kept CCH's operations running smoothly, ensuring that our finances and other administrative matters remain up-to-date while bringing them into an even more well-organized state. And we are also grateful for the National Wildlife Federation's support in allowing Les Welsh, NWF's Director of Conservation Partnerships for the Pacific Region, to serve as CCH's interim Executive Director,



CCH Board President Rachel Sprague, Ph.D.

continuing and expanding our program activities as we mount the job search for a new permanent ED. With Les' experienced leadership, we have already made significant progress in a new campaign to highlight Hawai'i's ongoing and emergent invasive species challenges, using our rare native seabirds as educational ambassadors to communicate the importance of addressing these threats, and the value of protecting the native species and ecosystems of our islands.

We are excited to see our members at our upcoming annual meeting on October 19, 2019, where we will continue to share our work and progress toward CCH's successful future. I am incredibly proud of this organization – for all it has accomplished up to this point, the direction it is going and the dedication and passion I have seen from our board, staff, members and partners in carrying out our mission to restore Hawai'i's native ecosystems, reverse the trend of extinction and build resilience across the Hawaiian archipelago.

We are grateful for your continued support.
Mahalo nui loa,
Rachel Sprague



2018 Annual Membership Meeting: A Night to Remember



Musician and cultural practitioner Walt Keale leads the audience in an oli.



Then-CCH Board Secretary and current President Rachel Sprague runs the member meeting.



The CCH board of directors listens as former CCH president Hannah Kihalani Springer shared words of reflection on Marjorie Ziegler.



Julie Leialoha, Glenda Mitchell and Julie Pounder, with Paul Carson and Celeste Yamanaka in the background.



Honu Award recipient JoAnn Yukimura gives an acceptance speech upon receiving her award.

One of the most memorable and poignant annual meetings in CCH history almost never happened.

With the recent, tragic passing of longtime CCH executive director and beloved conservation hero Marjorie Ziegler, the CCH Board and staff struggled with the question of whether to postpone or cancel the long-planned 2019 Annual Membership and Awards Meeting.

However, as one of the last CCH events that Marjorie had worked on, and as the one annual occasion for members to reconnect with CCH and each other, it was realized that Marjorie herself would have insisted that the meeting be held as planned. The show would go on!

After the decision, overwhelming offers of support soon demonstrated that there was no shortage of love for CCH and for Marjorie, and it became abundantly clear that this would be a very special meeting: one to honor and uplift Marjorie, her life and what she meant to CCH, the conservation movement and all those she touched. Longtime volunteers, personal friends and even community and political leaders all pitched in, sponsoring VIP tables, donating auction items and offering unique contributions that would elevate this yearly event, and appropriately recognize one of the most remarkable women in Hawai'i's modern conservation history.

And so, on October 20, 2018, at the St. Louis Alumni Hall, CCH members and friends convened for a particularly poignant night of food, music, speeches and memories. **Walt Keale**, the evening's musician and former caretaker of the Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve, opened

Moving speeches from then-president Wayne Tanaka, interim CCH executive director and longtime friend Julie Leialoha and former president and lifetime member Auntie Hannah Kihalani Springer highlighted the blessings Marjorie had bestowed upon us all, eliciting laughter, tears and moments of silent reflection. Board member Steve Montgomery read a poem for Marjorie written by author and conservation champion **Rosemary Alles**, and artist and filmmaker **Laurie Sumiye** screened a beautiful tribute film featuring Marjorie's formative years in conservation, some of her most memorable campaigns and her personal thoughts on the future challenges and opportunities in Hawai'i's conservation landscape. The CCH Board also announced the **Marjorie Ziegler Legacy Fund**, to support Marjorie's favorite issues and programs, and young coconut trees were free for those who wished to plant one in her honor.

Of course, Marjorie would have never allowed any event to be focused solely on herself, especially with important CCH business to conduct. Accordingly, as attendees enjoyed delicious food catered by **Fukuya Delicatessen** and hand-picked by Marjorie herself, they also voted to welcome back former board members Bianca Isaki, Ph.D., and Robin Kaye to the CCH Board. As longtime friends of Marjorie and of CCH, Bianca

considerable insight and expertise to the organization moving forward.

CCH also recognized Joann Yukimura, former Kaua'i county mayor and ten-term county council member, as the 2019 Honu Award Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, for her years of steadfast advocacy and noted accomplishments in preserving natural spaces and protecting native species throughout her political and community career.

As the night drew to a close, it was clear that this was perhaps one of the most memorable and moving annual meetings in CCH history. Of course, this would not have been possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, donors and longtime supporters, including the following:

Silent Auction Donors: **Patagonia, Melody Bentz Photography**, Jen Holmcy with **Foundwood, Nohea Gallery**, Rick Barboza with **Hui Kū Maoli Ola, Coral Crater Adventure Park, Pūlama Lāna'i, Sabrina's Restaurant, Caren Loebel-Fried, Sunshine Arts Gallery**, Randy Bartlett with **Endangered Hawai'i, Kamehameha Schools, The National Wildlife Federation, Aloha Hawai'i Onipa'a, The Nature Conservancy**, Doug Lamerson, Randy Bartlett, Elizabeth Kashinsky, Wayne Tanaka, Julie Leialoha and Rachel Sprague.

Country Store Donors: **Hanna's Handmade on Maui, Caren Loebel Fried, Christine Ahia, Laurie Sumiye Studio, Kealopiko, Tutuvi Sitoa** by Colleen Kimura, **Hawai'i Wildlife Center, The 'Ālala Project**, Kapua Kawelo, Steve Montgomery &

Rachel Sprague, Edward Tanaka and Wayne Tanaka.

In-Kind Donors: **Valenti Print Group, Choco Le'a, Cece Patisserie**, Kauai Lucas and Wayne Tanaka.

Volunteers: Craig Tanaka, Eileen Herring, Lynette Williams, Kauai Lucas, Sharon London, Rick Barboza, Glenda Mitchell, Pat Richardson, Kanani Wond, Debbie Evans and Celeste Yamanaka.

A special mahalo nui loa to VIP table sponsors: Denise Antolini with the **University of Hawai'i Law School**, Les Welsh with **The National Wildlife Federation**, Rachel Sprague with **Pūlama Lāna'i**, Wayne Tanaka and Julie Leialoha.

Finally, thank you very much to **Walt Keale** for the beautiful music and oli, David Diamond with the **St. Louis Alumni Hall** for hosting the venue, **Laurie Sumiye** for her film tribute and **Christopher McDonough** for photographing the event.

Mahalo, everyone, for helping make our 2018 Annual Membership and Awards meeting a resounding and touching success. 🌿



Doug Lamerson and Hannah Springer.



Teora Rey Morris, Lisa Hinano Rey and Kevin Morris.



Denise Antolini and Bianca

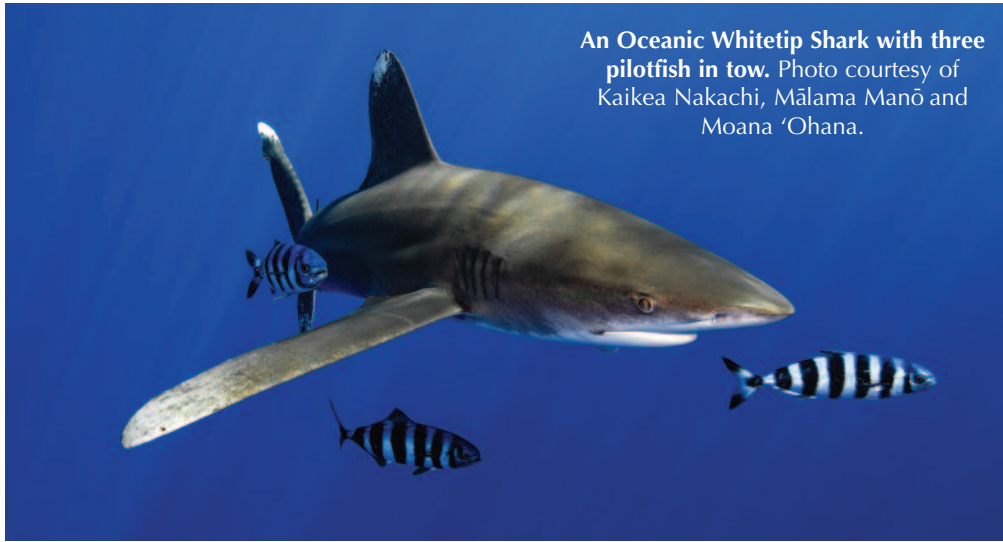


Charles Littnan and Rachel



Klaus Radtke and Gayle

CCH Legal Action Spurs Movement to Protect Threatened Sharks



An Oceanic Whitetip Shark with three pilotfish in tow. Photo courtesy of Kaikea Nakachi, Mālama Manō and Moana 'Ohana.

By **Wayne Tanaka**

Listing under the Endangered Species Act is supposed to be a big deal, representing one of the last lines of defense against the total extinction of a species that has otherwise existed for millennia. So why had there been no agency action to protect the Oceanic Whitetip Shark months after its listing?

That was the question CCH, Native Hawaiian manō (shark) cultural practitioner Mike Nakachi and

environmental law firm Earthjustice sought to answer, in filing a Notice of Intent to Sue against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), for the agency's apparent failure to initiate consultation to mitigate the taking of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark by the longline and purse seine fishing industry. Notably, the shark species had been listed as threatened under the ESA nearly a year prior, with fishing pressure identified as one of the major factors in

its decline; nevertheless, NMFS had continued to allow potentially hundreds if not thousands of sharks to be taken by Pacific longliners and purse seiners, without taking any steps to mitigate these often fatal interactions.

While it remains to be seen whether NMFS will now take its responsibilities sufficiently seriously under the ESA, it seems that the legal move has, at minimum, spurred some action by the agency: soon after the filing of the Notice, NMFS announced a meeting in Honolulu for April 23-24, to collect information for the development of an Oceanic Whitetip Shark recovery plan. Although this development is encouraging, CCH, Mr. Nakachi and the legal experts at Earthjustice will continue to monitor NMFS' response to our Notice, and take appropriate steps to ensure that our ecologically and culturally critical shark species are protected for present and future generations.

A special mahalo nui to Earthjustice attorneys Chris Eaton, Andrea Treece and Brettney Hardy along with their legal team for representing CCH and Mike Nakachi in this important case!



Conservation Council for Hawai'i: Earth Day Highlight

By **Natalie Garcia**

Hi, I am Natalie Garcia and I was born and raised in the island of Guam. I came to Hawai'i for the first time in December of 2017. I started working with the Conservation Council for Hawai'i in February 2018 as a temporary hire. I would have to say CCH has taught me so much about Hawai'i's environment and the native species that are in danger of extinction, due to invasive species and so many other threats, as well as the different methods being explored to save them.

Most recently, I attended an Earth Day event with our operations manager, Jonee, and the Hawaiian Monk Seal

Preservation 'Ohana, held at the Pearl Harbor military installation this year. We shared a table with the Hawaiian Monk Sea Preservation 'Ohana and I met the nicest person, Dana Jones, the 'Ohana's Outreach Coordinator. She knew so many facts, such as how many native Hawaiian monk seals are left – only about 1,470 overall. At the event there were many other tables with various groups including the Hawaiian Electric Company, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death outreach team, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Prevention group and many others all seeking to protect our environment and conserve the native flora and fauna of the Hawaiian Islands.



Natalie Garcia,
CCH operations
assistant.

Photo courtesy
of Jonee Peters.

It
motivates me
to see how
much passion

goes into creating an awareness among locals and others, so that we can work together to create a better living environment for everyone. This is something that I have seen clearly embodied in the efforts of CCH during the past few months I have been working with them.

It is such an honor to write this story for CCH. Thank you for having me and have a good day!

MONK SEALS and MANU O KŪ: Fourth Annual Manu O Kū Festival Returns to 'Iolani Palace

By Wayne Tanaka

Ranger Rick and his Monk Seal friend joined the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, the **National Wildlife Federation** and conservation allies at the fourth annual Manu O Kū Festival, which returned to the 'Iolani Palace Coronation Grounds on Saturday, May 19, 2019.

Curious Manu O Kū parents hovered in the sunny skies above this year's festival, organized by CCH and NWF, along with partners **Aloha Arborist Association, B.E.A.C.H., Friends of Midway Atoll, Hawai'i Audubon Society, Hawai'i Wildlife Center, Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation 'Ohana, Honolulu Zoo, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, Pacific Rim Conservation, University of Hawai'i Arboretum, University of Hawai'i Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service External Affairs – Pacific Islands** and of course, the **Hui Manu-O-Kū**.

Featuring fascinating science talks, fun children activities, partner booths, chick viewing telescopes as well as free refreshments and snacks, this year's family-friendly festival entertained and educated local residents and visitors alike. Attendees learned not only about the festival's namesake bird, but



Festival guests enjoy birdwatching Manu O Kū chicks perched above the Festival.

also about a range of ongoing efforts to protect our native species, habitats and wild places. Kumu Hula James Dela Cruz with the Hālau Hula o Nā 'Ōpio O Ko'olau and Kamakāhau Fernandez and Lawrence Pau also delighted and captivated guests with hula and "chicken skin" leo ki'e ki'e musical performances.

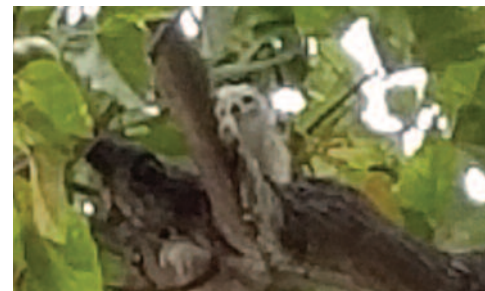
Ranger Rick and his Monk Seal friend even showed up to take pictures with keiki and lead a costume parade with families dressed as their favorite animals!



Volunteer Celeste Yamanaka of Patagonia and Jonee Peters ready with fun keiki crafts at the CCH booth.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service botanist and wildlife biologist James Kwon educates Festival



A Manu O Kū chick peers down at the attendees of the 4th Annual Manu O Kū Festival.

Special guests included NWF Vice President of One Federation Andy Buchsbaum and his wife Cathy from Ann Arbor, Michigan, as well as NWF Director Stevie Parsons from Aloha, Oregon.

CCH would like to thank event sponsors **Alohahawaiionipaa.Org, Aloha Petroleum, Christopher McDonough Photography, Friends of Iolani Palace, Helgaraphics, National Wildlife Federation, Patagonia, Samurai, Inc., Robert West Sound Systems, Special Event Equipment, Inc., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Pacific Region, Valenti Print Group, Jeanie & Murray Kilgour, Michelle Poppler Moody, Yoshiko & Klaus Radtke, Tammy Turgeau and Melody Bentz, as well as CCH staff and volunteers Natalie & John Garcia, Annette Kaohelauii, Amy Sojot & Joel Mark, Glenda Mitchell & Julie Leialoha, Celeste Yamanaka, Tory Grover, Klaus Radtke, Casey Takayama, Melody Bentz, Keith Swindle & Rachel Neville, Rich Downs, Les Welsh, Lisa Hinano Rey, Wayne Tanaka, Loa Simoes, Mae Prieto and Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters. Also, a big mahalo to the Festival organizing committee Rich Downs, Melody Bentz, Rachel Neville, Keith Swindle, Les Welsh and Jonee Peters.**

Mahalo nui to all for another fun and successful event!

Photos courtesy of Christopher McDonough."



Ranger Rick and CCH board vice president Lisa Hinano Rey lead a parade of keiki

Hawai'i State Legislature Recognizes Hawai'i's Conservation Champion Marjorie Fern Yasue Ziegler

By Lisa Hinano Rey,
Denise Antolini
and Bianca Isaki

In April, the 2019 Hawai'i State Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 136, urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) to document the history of "exemplary contributions made by kupuna, conservationists, and citizens," including Conservation Council for Hawai'i's former executive director, Marjorie Yasue Fern Ziegler. SCR No. 136 notes that Marjorie's "life's work had an unparalleled impact on Hawaii's conservation landscape," and urges DOFAW to choose a site that can honor her story. As DLNR Chair Suzanne Case testified, "Ms. Ziegler was an ardent and tireless supporter of Hawai'i's native plants and animals, and who in turn inspired many others to dedicate their efforts toward our natural resources."

DOFAW is currently exploring options for naming a beloved feature after her, as a way of honoring her service.

SCR No. 136 is the culmination of several efforts of Marjorie's colleagues, friends and admirers. In the months following her passing, discussions began as to how best to honor Marjorie's conservation actions and service. On January 14, 2019, Marjorie's birthday, CCH board vice president Lisa Hinano Rey and longtime friend and noted environmental law professor and attorney Denise Antolini attended the Hawai'i Climate Conference, where they continued brainstorming ways to properly honor

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S.C.R. NO. 136

1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
3 Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife is urged to
4 include on its website the story of each individual who is
5 recognized; the location that the Division of Forestry and
6 Wildlife has selected to honor each individual's story; and why
7 the Division of Forestry and Wildlife selected the location, so
8 that each recognized individual's background and contributions
9 can be memorialized for future generations; and

10
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
13 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and
14 Administrator of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for the
15 Department of Land and Natural Resources.
16
17
18

OFFERED BY:

21 Senators signed on to SCR136, a resolution passed to honor Marjorie and the work of Hawai'i's conservation champions.

Marjorie. They ultimately decided to draft two proposals to present to legislators.

One proposal, SCR No. 136, sought to honor her legacy and recommend that a natural feature associated with her work carry Marjorie's name, without displacing any Hawaiian place names. Such a legacy would not only reflect Marjorie's lifelong contributions to conservation, but also her own sense of pride in the naming of the Ewa sinkholes after her father, Alan Ziegler, himself a conservationist, scientist and major influence in her lifelong passion for the environment. SCR No. 136 also urged the documentation of the history of other individuals' conservation efforts, including their names, backgrounds and contributions through websites and at associated sites

The second proposal was a bill seeking to double DLNR's budget by 2030; although the bill did not pass, it helped to keep conservation priorities high in the minds of legislators, consistent with Marjorie's work in life.

On the opening day of the legislature, Rey met with Senator Gil Riviere, who knew Marjorie as a constituent and ardent environmental advocate at the Legislature. He readily agreed to champion the resolution for Marjorie and to introduce the DLNR budget bill. Through the efforts of Senator Riviere and his aide, Michael A. Dezellem, twenty-one other senators signed on to the resolution. Office of Environmental

Quality Control Director Scott Glenn, the Governor's then-Chief of Staff Michael McCartney and Representative Tina Wildberger were also key to the resolution's passage, as were the many who submitted testimony in support of the resolution including the Friends of Lāna'i, O'ahu County Democrats, the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club and Steve Montgomery, on behalf of CCH.

Marjorie's thirty years of environmental work, during which she both spearheaded conservation initiatives and worked behind the scenes with policymakers and grassroots groups, should be remembered and memorialized as urged by SCR No. 136. The legacy of Marjorie and those like her can and should inspire us all to make and continue their heroic efforts – small and large – to protect the Hawai'i nei we know and love.

Remembering Marjorie Ziegler

By Wayne Tanaka and Jonnetta Peters

CCH's longtime and former executive director Marjorie Ziegler continues to be honored at private and public events by friends and allies in the Hawai'i conservation community.

On November 3rd, 2018, Marjorie was honored at the Annual Arbor Day Hawai'i Free Tree Giveaway and Festival, where a young niu (coconut) tree was dedicated to her prior to being planted.

Organized by Shannon Rivera and Crystal Rogers with Smart Trees Pacific, the 2018 Arbor Day event at Foster's Botanical Garden featured partners including Kaulunani, the University of Hawai'i Master Gardener program and its College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources Urban Garden Center, Honolulu Botanical Gardens, Waimea Valley and the Department of Land & Natural Resources Division of Forestry & Wildlife. Then-CCH President Wayne Tanaka spoke on Marjorie's conservation legacy, and Rivera, Rogers and then-CCH Board Secretary Lisa Hinano Rey provided their personal reflections on how Marjorie had touched and helped transform their lives.



A young niu (coconut) tree to be planted in honor of Marjorie at the Smart Trees Pacific's 2018 Arbor Day event.

Right: The crowd listens to Chuck "Doc" Burrows speak at the Ramsar Wetlands Day event in Kawainui.



On February 2, 2019, the Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui held a small remembrance ceremony in the Keawāwa Wetlands at the Hāwea Heiau, where another young niu tree was planted in Marjorie's honor. Attendees included CCH Vice President Lisa Hinano Rey, CCH operations manager Jonee Peters and Marjorie's brother Walter Ziegler. The ceremony took place as part of a World Wetlands Day event, which opened with a chant by Mahi LaPierre, followed with hula performances. Hui President Elizabeth Reilly gave a speech describing how the planting was in honor of Marjorie. CCH operations manager Jonee Peters joined Elizabeth and shared the history of Marjorie's and CCH's involvement with Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and the area in Maunalua that the group cares for. Throughout the day, speakers also shared information with guests about plants, birds and even the native shrimp living in the area. It was a beautiful day and wonderful event!

On February 23, 2019, Marjorie was also remembered at the Ramsar World Wetlands Day event at the Kailua United Methodist Church on the edge of the Kawainui-Hā mākuā Marsh Complex, which featured a beautiful nā'ū (Hawaiian gardenia) tree donated by former CCH board member Rick Barboza, to be planted in Marjorie's honor at Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine.

Jonee Peters gave a speech along with the venerable Chuck "Doc" Burrows, founding member of 'Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi – one of the event's many community partners and the longtime caretaker of Nā Pōhaku o Hauwahine, as well as other sacred and ecologically significant sites in Kawainui.

Mahalo nui loa to those individuals and groups who have helped to remember Marjorie and celebrate her legacy as one of Hawai'i's true conservation champions. While Marjorie's passing has shaken and saddened us all, her memory and contributions – from successful hard-fought campaigns to the seeds she planted in so many people and places – will live on for generations to come.



Growing Leadership, Recovering Wildlife: Ensuring a Brighter Future for Conservation

By Anne Walton

In May 2019, the United Nations reported that one million species worldwide – including one-third of U.S. wildlife – are at risk of extinction. This report brought home a sobering realization for the 52 National Wildlife Federation affiliates representing 51 states and territories at the NWF's 83rd Annual Meeting held June 5-8 in St. Louis, Missouri.

With the theme of *advancing conservation leadership*, this year's annual meeting was comprised of networking sessions, policy discussions, issue caucuses, informational panels and training sessions. The meeting's collaborative structure allowed conservation leaders from across the country to share our passion for wildlife protection, as well as brainstorm ways to achieve our conservation targets with a government administration in a state of paralysis, with limited budgets and while trying to keep up in a rapidly changing world. This included ways to support and contribute to NWF's strategic plan *Saving America's Wildlife: Toward a Common Agenda 2018-2021*.

Affiliates agreed that the U.N. extinction report confirmed the importance and urgency of our collective work.

Conservation Council for Hawai'i is in its 43rd year as an NWF affiliate, and our board had a strong presence at the annual meeting. Lisa Hinano Rey served as CCH's primary delegate, and myself, Anne Walton, as the alternate. Also in attendance were board members Les Welsh and board president Rachel Sprague (more on this later).

CCH's longtime former executive director Marjorie Zeigler was acknowledged in the opening session for her lifetime of dedication to conservation, and her legacy of scientific credibility, successful grassroots campaigns and effective engagement in environmental

policy and decision-making with the sole purpose of protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals and ecosystems for future generations.

Eight resolutions were passed during a floor session on the meeting's final day. In brief, the resolutions urged action to:

1. Advance climate smart infrastructure investments that will set the U.S. on a path to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050;
2. Protect habitat, wildlife and water resources around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining;
3. Significantly reduce single-use plastic products in the American marketplace;
4. Urge the Environmental Protection Agency and state departments of agriculture to suspend authorizations of dangerous volatile herbicides;
5. Support tribes on wildlife and natural resource management;
6. Protect habitat by balancing conservation and recreation on public lands;
7. Support strategic and ecologically appropriate prescribed burn programs; and
8. Call on governors and state lawmakers to fulfill their wildlife trust obligations through adequate investments and science-based guidance to all agencies of state government.



CCH affiliate delegate
Lisa Hinano Rey at the
NWF Annual Meeting

CCH's proudest moment at this year's meeting was when our board president Rachel Sprague accepted her nomination as a member of the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors, representing Region 12 – comprised of Hawai'i, California, Nevada and Guam. Speaking as a candidate, Rachel graced the audience with her insights (excerpted):

"Along the way, I've learned that one of the



CCH board members Anne Walton, Les Welsh, Rachel Sprague and Lisa Hinano Rey at the 83rd NWF Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri.

most important things we can do for wildlife is to think about the people. Because in my experience, whether I thought I was working on wildlife research or conservation policy, what I usually ended up working on was actually conflict. In particular, I learned what many of you probably have as well, that what we tend to call human-wildlife conflict, often turns out to really be human-human conflict about wildlife. But I feel hope for wildlife and excited to be part of NWF when I see conflicts being transformed across the Federation by people building relationships and common ground between non-traditional conservation partners, or working with private landowners and indigenous peoples, and throughout all of it including partners and communities in dialogue from the very start."

Needless to say, without hesitation, the NWF board and affiliates embraced Rachel as a new board member.

Finally, Collin O'Mara, NWF President and CEO, closed the 83rd Annual Meeting with words of inspiration, speaking to affiliates as one would to warriors being sent off to battle. Reminding us that within the last eighty years, the U.S. population has grown from 128 to 325 million people, 4 million miles of road have been paved and 200 million acres of habitat have been lost, Collin urged the need for "transformative changes" to restore and protect nature. Collin implored affiliates to shoulder this serious responsibility, because "healthy natural resources create healthy communities and healthy economies," and, in his parting words: "When we save wildlife, we save ourselves."

National Wildlife Federation News



Les Welsh, NWF Associate Director for the Pacific

Dear friends, Summer is here and with it, CCH and NWF have a busy schedule of shared events and joint conservation programs. We just completed our 4th annual *Manu O Kū*

Festival and are moving fast towards our *Blues for the Birds* fundraiser in Hilo on August 8th.

The family-focused *Manu O Kū Festival* celebrates the official bird of the City and County of Honolulu, a native seabird that, in the populated Main Hawaiian Islands, makes its home only in the urban landscapes of O'ahu. This makes them the perfect ambassador to teach keiki and adults alike about our native wildlife and what we can all do to help protect and restore them.

Our *Blues for the Birds* concert will feature the Hawaiian swing sounds of **Kahulanui** and the smooth blues of **Larry Dupio and Friends**, and will help to raise funds for CCH's campaign to protect our native seabirds from the impacts of non-native and invasive predators.

Conservation challenges on the national front continue to confront us at every angle. CCH has joined NWF and its other state and territorial affiliates in collective efforts to eliminate single use plastics, and secure full permanent funding for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Together, we must hold the line and protect the 'āina and Hawai'i's native wildlife for future generations to know, understand and enjoy.

Mahalo nui for your ongoing support of CCH and the important work that we are striving to achieve together.

Les Welsh
Associate Director for the Pacific
National Wildlife Federation



TELL CONGRESS: Fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund

A Call to Action from the National Wildlife Federation

By Les Welsh

Often called America's most successful conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – at no cost to taxpayers – expands and supports parks, forests, wildlife refuges, seashores, rivers, lakes and much more in nearly every zip code in the United States. For more than five decades, this important fund has also improved and increased habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife, many in threat of extinction.

The LWCF uses fees from offshore oil and gas revenues to invest in wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation areas. Since its inception, the program has provided more than \$18 billion to projects in every county in the nation. Hawai'i has received an estimated \$249 million from the Fund to protect areas across the islands, including the ecologically rich Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. But congressional inaction last fall meant the fund expired, depriving conservation projects of more than \$350 million.

This spring, the LWCF was



An iconic and endemic 'ae fern, one of the first plants to colonize fresh lava landscapes, at Volcanoes National Park, one of the many areas protected through the support of the LWCF. Photo courtesy of the National Park



NWF President and CEO Collin O'Mara testifying in Congress on behalf of the nation's wildlife and wild places. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

permanently reauthorized under the John Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. It was an important first step, but **now Congress needs to also ensure that the fund is permanently and fully funded.** The LWCF is entitled to receive \$900 million every year, but only twice in its history has Congress actually fully funded it. This year, White House budget advisors tried to zero out funding. Congressional budget leaders restored funding to \$524 million, which is still woefully short of what the LWCF is due.

Now, a bipartisan group of leaders have introduced a full-funding bill (H.R. 3195 in the House and S.1081 in the Senate) to make sure that money will no longer be wrongfully taken away from this important conservation program. Permanent full funding of LWCF will mean that our treasured public lands and the diverse wildlife that call them home will be protected for generations to come.

Want to help ensure the LWCF gets the funding it needs? Contact your congressional representatives and tell them to **#FundLWCF**.



Staff spotlight: Jonnetta Peters, CCH Operations Manager

In this staff spotlight, we showcase Jonnetta “Jonee” Peters, CCH operations manager and longtime friend of the organization.

WT: When did you first get involved with CCH?

JP: Marjorie Ziegler asked me to volunteer for CCH when I first moved back from the mainland in 2007. Before I moved away, Marj and I used to dream of starting an event planning business. One of the first projects she had me work on was the annual meeting event, which was a huge undertaking. I began volunteering regularly in 2008, and began taking care of office work and helping with other events.

Later I would also testify for CCH on various matters before the legislature, such as for the expansion of Papahānaumokuākea, and for the return of streamwater to East Maui. I also testified against overfishing by longliners, which I could speak to personally as a member of a Native Hawaiian fishing family.

Marjorie eventually hired me as an office administrator, part-time in 2012 and later full time in 2014. In 2018 I became the operations manager.

WT: Speaking of your family – what was your childhood like, did it inform your passion for native species?

JP: I grew up in Kāneʻohe Bay, and we moved to Kāneʻohe town when I was 7. I loved it – Kāneʻohe was the best town ever, it was still a small town back then and everyone knew each other like family – everybody was your uncle or aunty. My dad was a fisherman, so we spent a lot of time at the beach, in the ocean. Dad would take me when he went to throw net and put me in the pakini bucket when he went diving. Clamming season was the best!

Later my dad got a job at the Board of



Jonnetta “Jonee” Peters, CCH operations manager

Water Supply, and his job was to check the water tables, which meant going up mauka into the mountains, into the forest. I went with him and it opened up a whole different world. That’s what started my love for the environment.

When I was really young I would also go visit my tūtū in Keʻanae, where we had a house in the middle of a loʻi (taro patch) on “Kilo

Point.” My grandma and I would go into the forest, search in the streams for hīhiwai, ‘oʻopu. She taught me that if you want to gather, you leave something behind, so that whatever you are gathering can be replenished. I remember learning the different bird songs, like ‘ākohekohe. I was young and chatty and my grandma would tell me, “Kulikuli!” – be quiet, listen.

WT: What are some of your favorite CCH memories?

JP: I think one of the best moments was the 2014 Annual Meeting at Papahāna Kuaola. Seeing Marjorie happy, sitting back, trusting the organizers and experiencing the annual meeting from a different role – that was rewarding.

The Expand Papahānaumokuākea campaign was very exciting. CCH was one of the top groups behind the campaign, from start to finish. We networked, got the word out and built a pretty strong coalition of groups. I even went to testify at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and they ended up supporting the campaign.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress in Hawaiʻi – oh my gosh. CCH was one of the core organizers. Planning the event, meeting conservationists from around the world, it was fun!

WT: What do you like the most about working for CCH?

JP: Lots. I really love our events – I

like to see kids get involved, and educating the public on things they never knew before is very rewarding. Winning things at the legislature is also very rewarding.

WT: You were quite involved in the Hawaiian Renaissance, correct?

JP: Oh I knew you were going to ask that. During the early 80s I started with Mālama Hawaiʻi, learning about the Sand Island struggle – after that I got involved with the Protect Kahoʻolawe ‘Ohana, then helped with Mākua Valley, and the Waimea evictions. I founded a group to educate the Hawaiian people about cultural and political issues – at that time it was not “cool” to be part of Hawaiian movement, many people didn’t see the value in understanding our history, what happened.

WT: Did you see protecting native species as a part of the Hawaiian movement?

JP: Yes. Environment is part of the Hawaiian culture, the Hawaiian way of life in every aspect. To lose native species would be to lose the culture because so much of it is based on the environment around us.

WT: What’s your favorite native species?

JP: Oh that’s a hard one. My favorite would be the ‘elepaio. I like the ‘ākohekohe, it reminds me of my grandma and Keʻanae, and I LOVE jellyfish. But I like the ‘elepaio because it was such a common bird, and very unassuming – nothing flashy.

WT: What is your vision for CCH in the future – 5 years, 10 years?

JP: I want CCH to be a household name. CCH has done such good work, it is the oldest nonprofit environmental group in Hawaiʻi, and focused on Hawaiʻi. I want it to grow and become stronger, and become a household name here.

WT: What do you like to do in your spare time?

JP: Fish, garden, just spend time with my mom. That’s about it.



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Consult your attorney and contact Jonee Peters at 808 593-0255 or jp@conservehi.org for more information.



'Anianiau.

Photo by
Jack Jeffrey

Deanna
Spooners
and our
'ō'ō bird
tote
bag,
and
'ō'ō
water
bottle.



KŌLEA

News from the Conservation Council for Hawai'i

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Upcoming CCH Events



Blues for the Birds

Sunday, August 18

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Hilo Hawaiian Hotel Mokuola Ballroom

Hilo, Hawai'i Island

**CCH Annual
Membership
Meeting**

Saturday, October 19

6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Elks Lodge Waikiki

Honolulu, O'ahu