



# 'ELEPAIO

Journal of the  
Hawaii Audubon Society

For the Protection of  
Hawaii's Native Wildlife

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 2

MARCH 2003

## State of the Society for 2002

by Wendy Johnson, President

*MISSION STATEMENT: To foster community values that result in the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific.*

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939 as an independent, non-profit membership association with specific aims pertaining to the protection of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitats through education, research and advocacy. The Society has a membership of approximately 1,500 individuals and operates in accordance with a constitution and by-laws under the supervision of a Board of Directors elected by the members. The Society became a certified chapter of the National Audubon Society in 1978, but continues to function independently in all fiscal, policy and programmatic matters. Several part-time employees and independent contractors provide administrative and professional services for the Society and for specific programs, but many necessary tasks and responsibilities are accomplished through the efforts of dedicated volunteers statewide. The Hawaii Audubon Society operates a website at [www.hawaii-audubon.com](http://www.hawaii-audubon.com).

### Education (see also the Pacific Fisheries Coalition report):

A variety of informational posters, publications and curriculum materials promoting the protection of marine resources were created and distributed by the Society's Pacific Fisheries Coalition program. The educational products and presentations target students and the general public as well as fishermen, lawmakers and resource managers.

The Hawaii Audubon Society established an informal partnership with the "Cats Indoors" campaign of the American Bird Conservancy in an effort to increase public understanding of the effect of pet and feral cat predation on wildlife. At the 45th Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair, the Society awarded two prizes for outstanding student research relating to Hawai'i's natural history. William Thomas, an eighth-grade student at Mid-Pacific Institute, received an award for his project which answers the question "Do Native Fish Eat Alien Seaweed?" The Society's Outstanding Research Award for the Senior Division went to three juniors from Campbell High School. Christine Asinas, Janette Allagonex and Krystale Dulatre analyzed soil and skeletal remains they recovered from a deep sinkhole at 'Ewa Beach. The students were able to identify bones from Dark-rumped Petrels and Hawaiian Petrels which once nested on O'ahu.

'Elepaio, the journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society, regularly provides important information regarding wildlife and habitat conservation matters in Hawai'i and the tropical Pacific.

The office of the Hawaii Audubon Society continues to serve as an educational resource and networking point for local, national and international contacts.

### Conservation and Advocacy (see also the Pacific Fisheries Coalition report):

The Society's legislative analyst tracked bills and provided testimony on behalf of Hawai'i's native wildlife and habitat, as did several Society volunteers. The Pacific Fisheries Coalition, a Hawaii Audubon Society program, sponsored briefings by experts for legislators on the need for conservation of Hawai'i's coral reefs and other near shore marine resources. The Coalition proposed a monitoring program for Hawai'i's aquarium exports and alien aquatic species imports, while also recommending a ban on the use of set/lay gillnets in Hawai'i. A Marine Reserve Network for Hawai'i's waters has been proposed and is supported by educational materials and programs created by the Pacific Fisheries Coalition. Hawaii Audubon Society continues to be an active participant in the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and similar activities on Maui and Hawai'i islands. This voluntary partnership of government agencies and non-profit groups and individuals is committed to eliminating the threat which alien invasive species pose to Hawai'i's native ecosystems. Society representatives continued to work with the Kawai Nui Heritage Foundation and 'Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi to promote the need for conservation and cultural education programs based at Kawai Nui Marsh. The Society's Conservation Committee, working to prevent threats to native wildlife and habitats, reviewed and submitted comments on a variety of proposed projects and activities statewide.

### Programs and Membership:

Five bi-monthly membership meetings were scheduled by the Society in 2002. These meetings are open at no cost to all Society members and the general public, and include informational presentations on a wide variety of topics. Programs offered in conjunction with membership meetings included the following: University of Hawai'i Researcher Gus Bodner with a slide presentation illustrating several "Kolea Migration Mysteries" and describing a statewide education program with students in grades k-12 helping to monitor the annual Kolea departure from Hawai'i; Linda Winter, of the American Bird

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## Field Trips for 2003

All trips with an \* are still in the process of being planned. Details will be provided as the scheduled dates get closer. A donation of \$2 per participant on all field trips is appreciated.

### Whale Watch Cruise

**March 22, Saturday, 9:30 – 11:00am**

Whale watching aboard the Star of Honolulu! We will see whales, seabirds, and possibly spinner dolphins. The one and a half hour cruise is being offered to us at a special rate of \$15.00 per person. Bring sunscreen, water, snacks, and binoculars. Call the HAS office to register, 528-1432.

### Shorebird Farewells at Paiko Lagoon

**April 12, Saturday, 7-9:00 am**

**April 19, Saturday 9-11:00 am**

A chance to bid our shorebirds (Pacific Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, etc.) goodbye, as they will be leaving for Alaska shortly. Wear old tennis shoes or reefwalkers, and bring sunscreen, water, and lunch. We will meet at Paiko Lagoon. Call Alice to register, 538-3255.

### \*Aiea Loop Trail

**May 24, Saturday**

One of the best trails for upper-elevation forest on O'ahu. Possible to see 'apapane and 'amakihi. One of the best places to look for the elusive O'ahu Creeper, which has only been seen several times in the past two decades. Other birds include Japanese Bush-warbler and White-rumped Shama. The Guam Swiftlet has also been seen by several birders on one area of the trail. Plants may include 'ohi'a, koa, 'olapa, and 'ie'ie. About 4 miles round trip. Call the HAS office to register, 528-1432.

### Left-Over Shorebirds & All Other Incredible Things at Paiko Lagoon (*Really Low Low Low Tides*)

**June 14, Saturday 7-9:00 am**

**June 28, Saturday 7-9:00 am**

See aquatic creatures such as eels, crabs, snails, mantis shrimp, squid, puffer fish, ghost crabs, and whatever else becomes visible. Wear old tennis shoes or reefwalkers, and bring sunscreen, water, and lunch. We will meet at Paiko Lagoon. Children especially enjoy this field trip! Call Alice to register, 538-3255.

### Shorebird Homecoming at Paiko Lagoon

**September 6, Saturday 6-8:00 am**

**September 27, Saturday 9-11:00 am**

Welcome our shorebirds home! Another great trip to Paiko Lagoon to welcome our Kolea home and see if other shorebirds have also returned. This is a keiki-friendly trip – the kids will love it! Wear old tennis shoes or reefwalkers, and bring sunscreen, water and lunch. We will meet at Paiko Lagoon at 8:30am. Call Alice to register, 538-3255.

\*October - James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge

\*November - Ewa Plains Sinkholes with Dr. Alan Ziegler

\*December - Christmas Bird Count



Photo by T. Dove

## Bird of the Month –

### 'Anianiau (*Hemignathus parvus*)

The 'Anianiau, also known as the Lesser Amakihi, is found only on Kaua'i and frequently seen in Koke'e State Park and the Alaka'i Swamp. It is endemic, having evolved here in Hawai'i and found nowhere else in the world. The smallest of honeycreepers at only 4 inches, the 'Anianiau feeds on 'ohi'a nectar, insects, and fruit, which it finds by creeping on bark and dead twigs, or actively foraging in the understory and crowns of trees.

Males are yellowish-green above and bright yellow below. Females and adolescents are slightly smaller and not as brightly colored. The bird creates well-concealed nests in 'ohi'a trees from about February until June, laying 3 to 4 eggs which are whitish with tan to reddish brown markings. The young weigh about 1 to 1.5 grams at hatching. They fledge at about 18 days and are able to fly well from tree to tree.

The 'Anianiau gives an upward-slurred call-note, a warbled territorial song, and a whisper song.

[information taken from *Hawaiian Birdlife* by A.J. Berger (1972) and *Hawaii's Birds* by Hawaii Audubon Society (1996)]

## 'ELEPAIO

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Conservancy, showed slides and a film which illustrated her discussion on the "Impacts of Feral and Free-roaming Cats on Native Wildlife Species;" Lyman Perry of DLNR and Dr. Steve Montgomery presented slides illustrating their perspectives on the "Ahupua'a of Pu'uwa'awa'a: Public Opportunities for Kona Drylands Restoration;" Michelle Reynolds, a graduate student from Virginia Tech who has been working with the USGS and USFWS, gave an illustrated lecture on the "Life History and Conservation of Hawai'i's Endangered Laysan Teal;" and a team presentation on the history of the Christmas Bird Count in Hawai'i with an introduction to the identification of bird species likely to be spotted in the field. A special program was held in May when Claudia Gaber, a field naturalist visiting from Australia, presented a beautiful slide show featuring Australian Birds.

#### Field Excursions and Service Activities:

Field excursions in 2002 included several new destinations and many sites which have proved to be annual favorites for members and visitors. Groups guided by Society volunteers visited the following sites: A walk through Ka'ena Point Natural Area Reserve to view nesting seabirds and whales with Betsy Gagne of DOFAW; two visits to Hanauma Bay, one for snorkeling and another night time excursion for star gazing with Dr. Samuel Rhoads; two visits to Paiko Lagoon Wildlife Refuge for reef and mud explorations and viewing opportunities for migratory shorebirds; a tour of the South American Aviary at the Honolulu Zoo including a walk-through aviary with beautiful exotic bird species; a trip to the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge to observe many species of migratory and wetland birds in their natural habitat.

In December, the annual Christmas Bird Counts were held at several locations on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Maui and the Big Island. Society volunteers served as organizers and team leaders of the event which operates in conjunction with Christmas Bird Counts at thousands of locations in the U.S. and around the world.

#### Volunteer Activities:

Hawaii Audubon Society volunteers continued monitoring seabird restoration efforts at Ka'ena Point in conjunction with efforts by the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources and the National Audubon Society. Rare bird sightings

by members and volunteers were registered with the database at Bishop Museum. Volunteers also participated in clean-ups and habitat restoration at several shore-line and wetland sites, including Kawai Nui Marsh. Members assisted with Miconia removal activities on several islands. Members also represented the Society at conferences and public hearings, and on several steering committees, teams, task forces and workshops, including: the Permit Process Task Force, the 'Alala Recovery Team, the Wetland Restoration and Protection Partnership, the Forest Bird Recovery Team, the Natural Area Reserve Commission, the Marine Fish Conservation Network Advisory Board, the Seafood WATCH Hawai'i Working Group, the Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force on Unintentional Introductions, Hawai'i's Watchable Wildlife Campaign, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reserve Council and the Species Survival Network Fish Working Group for CITES.

#### Other Society Activities:

The January 2002 Annual Chapter Leaders' Retreat featured lively discussions of conservation issues and the Hawaii Audubon Society's role in promoting the protection of wildlife and habitats. Strategic Planning for the short and long term included a workshop conducted by consultant Anne King on the topic of Building Fund Raising Capacity.

In October, the Society's ninth annual awards dinner was held at the Imin Conference Center adjacent to the University of Hawai'i's East-West Center gardens. Eight educators, volunteers, public figures and corporate leaders were honored for their contributions to environmental education and the protection of Hawai'i's wildlife and habitats. Dr. Phil Bruner, renowned Kolea researcher, presented a fascinating slideshow and summary of recent findings regarding the migration and habits of the Kolea, or Pacific Golden Plover. Among those honored was Representative Hermina Morita (President's Award) who, in her role as Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, exemplifies the high standards of environmental stewardship which are vital to Hawai'i's future. David Woodside, a charter member of the Hawaii Audubon Society, was recognized as the recipient of the Charles Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many years of service to the Society and his dedication to conservation of native wildlife and habitats.

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## KOLEA WATCH 2003

Another Pacific Golden-Plover project similar to last spring is scheduled for April. In collaboration with the Hawai'i Nature Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and with support from Hawaii Audubon Society's Research Grants program, Dr. Wally Johnson (Montana State University) and colleagues will again attach temporary radio transmitters to Kolea and then monitor their migration. Last year, one of the birds set a new record of 70 hours from O'ahu to southern Alaska. The research thus far has revealed important new information about where Hawai'i's plovers are breeding in Alaska. In 2002, several

Hawaii Audubon Society members contributed to the work by "adopting-a-plover." If you want to help the investigators with their upcoming project, please consider a donation. Each transmitter costs \$135, but assistance in any amount will be most welcome. Anyone buying a transmitter will have "adopted" the bird that carries it to Alaska, and will be informed if/when/where "their" bird is found. Donations ear-marked for Kolea Watch can be sent to: Hawaii Audubon Society, 850 Richards Street, Honolulu, HI, 96813-4709.



## Biologists Begin “Last Ditch Effort” to Save the Po‘ouli

In a desperate attempt to save the rarest Hawaiian forest bird, a team of biologists will fly into Hanawi Natural Area Reserve on Monday, February 3, 2003 to begin an effort to capture and bring into captivity the last three po‘ouli known to exist in the world. After years of work to reduce the threats to the species in the wild, and an effort last year to translocate a female into the male’s territory, state and federal biologists agree bringing the birds into captivity offers the best remaining opportunity to establish a breeding pair.

“Saving the po‘ouli is without a doubt a tremendous challenge,” said Paul Henson, field supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific islands fish and wildlife office. “Our hopes and prayers go with this team into some of the roughest terrain in Hawai‘i. We have no guarantees we can save the species, but we have to try.”

The stocky little bird with a black mask is part of the Hawaiian honeycreeper family, but so unique it occupies its own genus. It is the only Hawaiian forest bird to rely heavily on native tree snails as its food. Despite extensive searches, only three birds—a male and two females—have been found in recent years, and all in separate home ranges.

Six 8-day trips into the forest have been scheduled during February and March. All of the birds have been captured at least once in the past. The biologists will first try to recapture the female they moved last year.

After sighting the bird, they will put up a mist net—a fine mesh, almost invisible net—in the vicinity to capture the bird. If successfully captured, the bird will be put into a padded box so that it cannot injure itself. A highly qualified avian veterinarian will be on each trip to evaluate the bird’s health and stress levels.

“The protocol we will be following was developed to a large extent during the translocation project last year by the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project staff,” explained Michael Buck, administrator of Hawai‘i’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife. “Although that effort did not result in a breeding pair, it was incredibly important for the knowledge it gave us regarding how a po‘ouli may react to captivity. Thankfully, the female captured last year seemed to take it in stride.”

If the bird is judged to be healthy and not overly stressed, team members will then hike with the bird to the nearest helicopter landing zone, where it will be picked up and flown with the avian veterinarian to the Maui Bird Conservation Center in Olinda. The facility—like the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center on the Big Island—is operated by the Zoological Society of San Diego.

“Establishing a breeding pair of po‘ouli may be the most challenging task we’ve ever attempted,” said Alan Lieberman, avian conservation coordinator for the Zoological Society. “We have successfully bred several Hawaiian bird species, including the ‘alala, puaiohi, and palila, and even reintroduced them into the wild, but to start off with only three birds, all of which are at least 6 years old, just increases the difficulties. We had hope these birds could be recovered in the wild,” he continued. “But now we’re running out of time, and we’re committed to management measures to prevent their extinction.”

The elusive po‘ouli was not even discovered by modern scientists until 1973, when a group of University of Hawai‘i

students conducting research on the east slope of Haleakala sighted a bird they had never seen before. It was named “po‘ouli,” which means black head in Hawaiian, by Mary Kawena Puku‘i, a renowned authority on Hawaiian culture. It has a quiet song “like dripping water” according to biologists, making it much more difficult to hear than more vocal species such as the Maui parrotbill.

“Sadly, fossil records tell us that we already have lost 82 Hawaiian bird species, including 26 since Europeans first visited the islands,” Henson said. “Our challenge is to make every effort possible to save this unique piece of Hawaiian heritage. I believe the effort we are now beginning gives us the best remaining opportunity to do so.”

Source: Joint News Release from State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), San Diego Zoo (ZSSD), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project

Contacts: Barbara Maxfield, USFWS, 808 541 2749  
Jolie Wanger, DOFAW, 808 587 4188  
Christina Simmons, ZSSD, 619 685 3291

To learn more about DLNR and its programs visit  
[www.state.hi.us/dlnr](http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr)

Visit the Maui Forest Bird Project at [www.mauiforestbird.org](http://www.mauiforestbird.org)  
For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Hawaii, visit our home page at <http://pacificislands.fws.gov>  
For information about the San Diego Zoo’s conservation efforts in Hawaii visit: [http://www.sandiegozoo.org/conservation/fieldproject\\_hawaiian\\_birds.html](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/conservation/fieldproject_hawaiian_birds.html)

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## April 21<sup>st</sup> Program Meeting – Art and Nature

Michael Furuya, O‘ahu nature artist who paints scenes of native plants and birds of Hawai‘i, will discuss art and nature.

“My goal in these paintings is to show people the natural treasures that we have here in Hawai‘i. Most people will never have the opportunity to venture into the native Hawaiian forest to experience these special places. Many of our native species have already become extinct.” (Editor’s note: I attended Michael’s recent exhibition at Pauahi Tower downtown; his paintings of the extinct ‘O‘o were hauntingly beautiful.)

Michael is also the illustrator of the award winning children’s books “How the B-52 Cockroach Learned to Fly,” “Wailana The Waterbug,” and local best sellers, “Beyond ‘Ohi‘a Valley: Adventures in a Hawaiian Rainforest” and “The Adventures of Gary and Harry: A Tale of Two Turtles.”

Program meetings are held at Henry Hall Room 109 on the Chaminade University campus, 3140 Wai‘alae Avenue, Kaimuki. Meetings are from 7:30 to 9:30pm. Refreshments are served, and HAS publications, T-shirts, and maps are available for purchase. Some of Michael’s notecards and other items will also be available for purchase.



### Grants and Scholarships:

The Society's George C. Munro Environmental Law Award included a small grant which was presented to Kathryn L. Opedal, a second year student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. A full tuition scholarship for use in the University of Hawai'i system for one year was provided in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor to UH zoology student Matthew Medeiros. He has assisted on research projects on the 'Oahu 'Elepaio and at Hakalau Forest Biological Station on the island of Hawai'i. Two researchers working on projects focusing on the impact of alien species on Hawai'i's native biota received small grants from the Hawaii Audubon Society. Nathaniel Carroll is a graduate student at Yale University studying "The Capacity of Invaded Forest to Sustain Native Hawaiian Birds" at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Jeffrey Foster is a graduate student at the University of Illinois and will be working on the "Breeding and Foraging Ecology of Five Exotic Birds in Hawai'i. Support from the Society's "Kolea Fund" was provided to Oscar W. Johnson and Gus Bodner for radiotelemetry investigations on the migratory behavior of the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*).

### Publications and Products:

The Society published nine issues of the journal 'Elepaio in 2002. This publication was mailed to all local members and subscribers and includes peer-reviewed articles on current research in addition to news relating to the conservation and management of natural resources in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The August/September issue of the 'Elepaio featured an updated "Checklist of the Birds of Hawaii-2002" which includes all native and introduced birds in the Hawaiian Islands. The 'Elepaio also includes a "Bird of the Month" column along with Society updates and notice of activities of interest to members and the general public. Other educational products produced by the Society include the following: Hawaii's Birds, a definitive, full color paperback now in its fifth edition; a companion cassette tape set "Voices of Hawaii's Birds"; and current checklist of the Birds of Hawaii; "Hidden Treasures of O'ahu," a map featuring locations and detailed information on sites for exploring nature and ancient Hawaiian culture; "The Edge of Forever," an art-quality limited edition print featuring the endangered Nene (Hawaiian Goose). The Society also offers several T-shirt designs, a set of notecards featuring the work of local artist Patrick Ching, and an embroidered patch featuring the 'Elepaio.

## HAS Website Now Redesigned and Updated

Check out our website ([www.hawaii-audubon.com](http://www.hawaii-audubon.com)) which continues to grow and flourish under the care of talented webmaster Stephen Bibbs. We are still in the process of improving and expanding it – your suggestions and comments are welcome. Email us at [hiaudsoc@pixi.com](mailto:hiaudsoc@pixi.com).

## Other Happenings

**April 6 Kokua Kailua Beach cleanup**, meet 9am at Kailua Beach Main Pavilion.

### April 25-27 Honolulu Academy of Arts, "The Academy in Bloom" flower show presented by The Garden Club of Honolulu

"For three days in April, masterworks of art will come to life in a spectacular array of floral and horticultural displays at the Academy. From botanical hats and floral jewelry to creative and imaginative interpretations of Academy prints, this show will inspire and delight visitors as art and nature interact."

"The Show will feature seven competitive classes in flower arrangement with a minimum of 36 entries...the educational exhibit, "Celebrating Hawaiian Medicinal Plants" will focus on those Hawaiian medicinal plants considered most important in Hawaiian healing, explain how those plants were used, and touch on their continued medicinal use today."

Free for Hawai'i residents, non-residents \$7, and non-resident seniors, military, and students \$4. Friday and Saturday 10am to 4:30pm, Sunday 1pm to 5pm.

## Reminder: Due Date for Applications for Research Grants in Hawaiian or Pacific Natural History is April 1, 2003

The Hawaii Audubon Society offers grants for research in Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Awards are oriented toward small-scale projects and generally do not exceed \$500.00. Grants are reviewed semiannually. Deadlines are April 1 for summer/fall grants and October 1 for winter/spring grants. Application guidelines are available by calling (528-1432) faxing (537-5294) or emailing ([hiaudsoc@pixi.com](mailto:hiaudsoc@pixi.com)) the HAS office.

## Reminder: Deadline to Apply for UH Undergraduate Scholarship is May 1, 2003

Through a trust set up in memory of Rose Schuster Taylor, Hawaii Audubon Society offers a full tuition scholarship to an undergraduate student in the University of Hawai'i system each school year.

Students must be or plan to be majoring in a field related to Hawaiian or Pacific natural history. Applications are available by calling (528-1432) faxing (537-5294) or emailing ([hiaudsoc@pixi.com](mailto:hiaudsoc@pixi.com)) the HAS office. Completed applications must be received by May 1, 2003.

## OPPS

Many apologies for the error in page number listings in the Table of Contents for the February issue. The proofreading elves (and elveses) must have been dozing. Sorry for any confusion the error may have caused.



## Pacific Fisheries Coalition Annual Report 2002

by Linda Paul, Executive Director of Pacific Fisheries Coalition

*The collaborative marine conservation education and policy effort begun in 1998 continued to work on several marine policy goals in Hawai'i and the Central and Western Pacific. Progress in 2002 was as follows:*

### **Establish a network of marine reserves in state waters.**

Our 21 page four-color illustrated booklet *The Importance of Refuges for Reef Fish Replenishment in Hawai'i* was distributed widely. Contributions for the second printing were received from the Hawaii State Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), U.S. Park Service, National Ocean Service, and the Pacific Whale Foundation. Fishery Management Area (FMA) hearings on rules for state waters in the Northwest Hawaiian islands (NWHI) were held in January. Coalition members gave testimony on O'ahu and Maui. The proposed FMA is a result of a petition the Coalition sent to Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources in 1999. As a result of testimony draft rules giving more protection to those waters came before the Board of Land and Natural Resources in September. Members of the Coalition gave expert testimony, pointing out that the draft rules still left open the possibility of fishing in state waters in the NWHI between the new federal reserve and the refuge, and there was still no bond-posting requirement to cover the costs of removal and cleanup costs if fishing vessels became grounded. The Board ordered the Division to include a bonding requirement before it went out for a new round of public hearings. The Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Reserve Council met in January, May, August, and November and is working towards establishing a National Marine Sanctuary in the area. William Aila is a member, Linda Paul is an alternate.

The Coalition also arranged for educational briefings for the Hawai'i State Legislature by a panel of experts on the status of Hawai'i's near shore living marine resources. Rep. Schatz introduced the Coral Reef Protection Act in the House, which would have mandated that a minimum of 20% of state waters around the main Hawaiian Islands and all of the state waters in the NWHI be set aside as pu'uhonua (no-take refuges). The bill passed the House, but was held in the Senate despite efforts by Coalition members to get it dislodged. In August a Marine Protected Area workshop on the main Hawaiian Islands was convened to get additional feedback and support for legislation. A bill mandating a marine reserve network encompassing a minimum of 20% of state waters in the main Hawaiian Islands will be introduced in the 2003 legislative session and we are now working on a major public education campaign to help get it passed, which includes a new four-color Marine Reserve Network poster, public presentations, etc.

### **Initiate a pilot program of inspections of aquarium exports and alien aquatic species imports to obtain data on what and how much is being traded.**

Saltwater aquarium fish and invertebrates are shipped into and out of Hawai'i to collectors on the U.S. mainland and in Europe. In 1999 the reported annual harvest was 422,823, but biologists in the field estimate that this is only 20% of what is actually being harvested and exported. Kim Moffie, our newest Coalition hire and a young lawyer is writing, at DAR request, the draft inspection rules, which will set up the monitoring program at the Kailua-Kona and Honolulu airports. She also drafted a

white paper on the problem, which was included in the briefing book of Coalition white papers sent to both gubernatorial candidates, and can be found, along with our other white papers, on the Pacific Fisheries Coalition website ([www.westpacfisheries.net](http://www.westpacfisheries.net)). To sensitize aquarium enthusiasts regarding the damage their hobby is doing to marine ecosystems in Hawai'i, we are working on a consumer awareness campaign. To provide a factual background, Alison Rieser's group (Marine Law Institute) completed a report on the extent and effects of the aquarium trade and a two page information sheet that was distributed to delegates at CITES COP12 (CITES: a convention on trade and endangered species, COP12: Conference of Parties #12) to support the listing in Appendix II of aquarium trade species (seahorses & humphead wrasse). We also distributed species-specific information sheets on the marine species proposed for listing, including the basking shark and whale shark, which are still being threatened by the fin trade. Linda Paul, who is a member of the Species Survival Network Fish Working Group, attended COP12. Information from the Rieser report will also be used in presentations and public service announcements and will be published in 'Elepaio. Elyn Tong is working on an aquarium trade awareness poster. In addition, there is still a flow of baled shark fins coming into Hawai'i from Africa for preliminary processing. We are currently collecting more information on this business and will be advocating for additional legislation to stop the practice.

### **Establish a state-sponsored task force to make recommendations on preventing intentional introductions of non-native aquatic species in Hawai'i.**

Presentations on the Aquarium Trade and the Alien Species Problem were given at the 2001 Fisheries Symposium, the Second State Aquatics Conference, and at our Expert's Briefings at the Legislature. Rep. Kanoho introduced an Alien Aquatic Species Bill in the House, which would have set up a task force to make recommendations to curb the intentional introduction of alien aquatic species. It passed the Water & Land Use Committee but was held by Finance, because it called for the creation of a new position in DAR, which required new money. However, language was added to another Alien Species bill that did pass the Legislature to establish a Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to coordinate the State's effort to control and eradicate all alien invasive species, including aquatic ones. Unfortunately the Governor failed to sign the bill. A renewed legislative effort will begin in 2003. A report on the problem was published in the October issue of the 'Elepaio and Elyn Tong is working on an alien species identification card. Also, the Alien Aquatic Organism Task Force on Unintentional Introductions has been reconvened by DAR to develop the state's prevention program and Linda Paul was invited to participate. This Task Force is an outgrowth of the legislation the Coalition worked to get passed during the first year of this project in Spring of 1999.

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**Push for implementation of conservation measures under the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Convention.**

Linda Paul, who, along with William Aila, are on the U.S. delegation to the Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Convention, attended the Second Preparatory Committee meeting in Papua New Guinea in February and the Third Preparatory Committee meeting in November in Manila. The draft rules submitted by the interim Secretariat in January took a step backward and again cut NGOs almost completely out of the management process.

We managed to get it tabled until the November meeting and the new rules, which were passed, allow for participation of NGOs in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Still to come are overcapacity, IUU (illegal, unrecognized and unreported) fishing and bycatch issues. In April Linda Paul gave talk on the progress of the Preparatory Committee meetings at the "Bringing New Law to Ocean Waters Conference" and "Ocean Governance Study Group Conference" at Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley.

**Achieve a ban on the use of set/lay gillnets in Hawai'i.**

After three years of Coalition education and advocacy efforts, including facilitating the creation of a Gillnet Task Force, DAR drafted a preliminary set of lay gillnet rules, based on the recommendations of the Task Force. The first round of meetings with the public were held in the fall to get feedback. The Coalition suggested both orally and in writing that lay gillnet fishing be completely banned and we are continuing our educational efforts to accomplish this goal, including a presentation on the destructiveness of gillnets to reef fish populations as well as

turtles at our Experts Briefings to the 2002 Legislature, an update of our white paper, which we are distributing broadly, articles in fishing publications, posters and public presentations.

**Other activities that continue to advance the goals of the Pacific Fisheries Coalition.**

Coalition members continue to monitor the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and its committees and attended the 15th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Tuna & Billfish held in Honolulu in July 2002. Linda Paul, a member of the Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN) Advisory Board, helped with a national effort to prevent the Sustainable Fisheries Act from being gutted from the Magnuson Act as part of the reauthorization process. Ellyn Tong attended the MFCN annual meeting in Washington, D.C. in June. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy met in Honolulu in May and Linda Paul testified and was quoted in a Honolulu Star Bulletin article. Linda is also a member of the Seafood WATCH Hawai'i Working Group. Kim Moffie gave oral input and distributed and displayed educational materials on the status of Hawai'i's coral reefs at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in Puerto Rico in October. Our 'OLELO (local public-access television) sustainable fisheries television program finally got off the ground in September with the taping of Buzzy Agard, a Hawaiian elder and former fisherman, interviewed by William Aila, on traditional Hawaiian fisheries management practices. Ellyn Tong continues to do fish conservation outreach at fishing club meetings. Our website is being updated by our new webmaster Stephen Bibbs.

**2003 Membership in Hawaii Audubon Society**

Regular US Member (via bulk mail, not forwardable)	\$ 15.00	Mexico	\$ 21.00
First Class Mail	\$ 21.00	Canada	\$ 22.00
Junior Members (18 and under)	\$ 10.00	All other countries	\$ 28.00
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**Board of Directors**  
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First Vice President: Liz Kumabe  
Second Vice President: vacant  
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Director: Chad Castle, 262-5412  
Director: Arlene Buchholz, 988-9806  
Director: John Harrison, 956-3968  
Director: Alice Roberts, 538-3255  
**Committees**  
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Field Activities: Alice Roberts and Linda Shapin, 528-1432  
Grants & Scholarships: Phil Bruner, 293-3820  
Membership: Linda Shapin  
Programs: Arlene Buchholz  
Publicity: vacant  
**Island Representatives**  
Maui: Renate Gassmann, 579-9294  
**Pacific Fisheries Coalition**  
Executive Director: Linda Paul, 262-6859  
**Marine Policy Analyst:**  
Kim Moffie, 529-0430  
**HAS Administrative Assistant:**  
Linda Shapin

## Calendar of Events

- March 10, Monday, HAS Board meeting**  
Open to all members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the HAS office. Education and Conservation Committees meet at 5:45 p.m. before Board meetings.
- March 22, Saturday Field Trip**  
Whale Watch Cruise. See page 10.
- April 21, Monday, Program Meeting**  
"Art and Nature" with artist Michael Furuya. See page 12.

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**GIVE HAWAII'S NATIVE WILDLIFE A FUTURE.**

Please make a donation with your membership renewal

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