

April 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1



Voices



Kauai Path and the Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park



Earth Day is a wonderful event, paying homage to Mother Earth. Living on the most beautiful of all the Hawaiian Islands, it is our duty to be stewards of the 'aina.

A hundred or more volunteers are needed on Earth Day to help clean, do a beach sweep, paint, and landscape Lydgate Park and Kamalani Playground. Companies like Home Depot, Starbucks, and Unlimited Construction, to name a few, are planning to support this event.

Please bring a friend and come out early on Saturday, April 21 to be part of the crew.

Volunteer registration begins at 7:30 AM at the Lydgate Park Main Pavilion with refreshments, and lunch will be served at noon.

A new service offered on this Earth Day is child care for youngsters. **Children that are out of diapers up to 9 years old can stay at childcare from 8:30 AM until lunch**—please call 245-5959 to reserve a spot for your child and for details.

For general information about Earth Day at Lydgate Park please contact John Lydgate at 652-0552 or Thomas Noyes at 639-1018.

Kamalani Pavilion Rebuild Plus Three New Pavilions Envisioned

Spring is upon us. This is the season for renewal and hope. It is time for creating and building. On February 8, 2007 we were faced with an unfortunate

and devastating event.

The beautiful Kamalani Pavilion that so many of us worked tirelessly to create was destroyed by fire. We were shocked, saddened

and wondered what the steps would be required to rebuild this treasured gem. The delightful koa woodcarvings were priceless and irreplaceable.
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Kamalani Pavilion Rebuild (continued)



Fortunately the ceramic tile and mosaics were mostly undamaged. They stand around the charred structure as a reminder of the community spirit that built it.

The community build spirit has rallied once again as members of the Kamalani Pavilion Rebuild Steering Committee face the exciting and yet arduous task of making the Park even better. Many hands and hearts are needed for this project, but we can do it with your participation building a dedicated crew of volunteers.

Leathers and Associates, the firm that led us in the community builds of the Kamalani Playground, the Kamalani Kai Bridge, and the Kamalani Pavilion will once again head up the architectural team.

Thomas Noyes has offered to continue in his capacity as the General Coordinator for this project.

Kapuna Akana and **Graeme Merrin** are the design and special needs Coordinators.

Bruce Netzer has volunteered to supervise materials purchasing.

Robin Marshall is in charge of donated materials.

Pastor Fran Becker and **Valerie Woods** are coordinating volunteers.

Dale Rosenfeld, **Wayne Soma**, and **Eve Hands** have volunteered to serve as PR Coordinators.

Chef Reggie Berry has offered to be in charge of the Food Services.

The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park met with **Mayor Baptiste** on March 7th to discuss the next steps for clearing the site and new construction. The County's insurance, less a deductible, will cover the demolition and some portion yet to be determined of the cost for rebuilding the structure by a contractor.

The loss of the Kamalani Pavilion prompted a review of the Lydgate Park Master Plan. Three pavilions that have not yet been built appear on the Plan. Since the new sports fields are nearing completion, the Committee is determined to raise the funds for community builds of two new pavilions to serve the sports fields, plus a third pavilion in the same general area but closer to the shore. Build dates have not yet been targeted.

Artwork from schools will be solicited and we the community will be asked to come on board and erect beautiful new structures. The beauty of this project is the bringing together all sectors of the community for the common good.

Still needed are Fundraising and Childcare Coordinators, and the leads for the Children's Committee. You will find that the rewards from being part of the team are plenty, so if you have a talent to share, please contact Thomas Noyes at (808) 639-1018 or ThomasNoyes@hawaiiantel.net.

Donations to the Kamalani Pavilion Rebuild Fund may be sent to:
 The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park
 c/o YWCA of Kaua'i, 3094 Elua Street, Lihue, HI 96766

Kauai Path & Friends of Kamalani Voices

The Voices newsletter is like a tree that has many branches. News and information about the Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park activities and Kauai Path's plans for Ke Ala Hele Makalae (the Nawiliwili to Anahola bike path) and other pedestrian and bicycle paths serving Kauai will be addressed in each letter. Readers are invited to send in their announcements, concerns, questions, and comments to editor Tammi Andersland at centralpacmedia@hotmail.com.

We are expecting a busy and eventful spring season and need the help and support of all in the community who can give of their time and talents. So please remember that the Kamalani Pavilion needs to be rebuilt and the events of Earth Day are just around the corner. Bring the family down to the park and get involved, you will be glad that you did.

Shade Trees for the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Sports Park

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Sports Park is the three new fields within Lydgate Park, and landscaping work is steadily progressing.

Part of the project is cultivating shade trees such as milo, a'ali'i, heliotrope, and kou to make the fields more inviting for spectators.

The plantings have been phased in three stages, and May 19th is the tentative date for the first phase—planting trees around the central field, pending installation of the irrigation system.

If the May date is not met, an alternative date in July will be announced.



A hundred or more volunteers are needed on **Earth Day, Saturday April 21, 2007** to help with maintenance, do a beach sweep, paint, and landscape in Lydgate Park and Kamalani Playground.

Volunteer registration begins at 7:30 AM at the Lydgate Park Main Pavilion with refreshments, and lunch will be served at noon. Attire is gardening clothes, and shoes or boots and sunscreen are recommended. Helpful tools to bring (labeled with your name and phone number, please) include extension ladders and shovels.

Lydgate Beach Park Recurring Beach Grooming

Recently The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park officially adopted Lydgate Beach Park. A petition went into the Mayor's office and the Friends' contact person John Lydgate was presented with a certificate of adoption. This enables him to arrange for ongoing clean up efforts as needed by the Park.

Frequently heavy rains inland bring a deluge of driftwood down the Wailua River, and the mass of it chokes the Morgan Ponds. This influx necessitates closure by the Department of Health due to the dangers of injury by the large floating logs and high bacterial counts. Contamination signs get posted, and the County dispatches heavy equipment to clear the debris (see photo at right from March 24, 2006).

This is an ongoing situation that we face each rainy season, so what to do? If anybody has suggestions on how to stop the wood from washing in, please send them in. The preferred fix is to raise the level of the stone walls around the ponds.

Dredging the ponds is another item that John Lydgate is championing. Because ocean currents flow through the ponds, sand has accumulated in them. The



ponds once used to be as much as twelve feet deep, but now are no more than four to six feet deep.

John Lydgate would like to see the Park have a moniker stating: Lydgate Park - Safe, Accessible and Sparkling. To keep the beach this way, volunteer clean ups take place on the first Saturday of each month. Meet on the beach by the lifeguard stand at 8:00 AM, bring a rake or a shovel, and be prepared to clean up wood and debris. Coffee and donuts will be provided, bring your families and make a beach day out of it. During the rainy season, John typically works with volunteers every Saturday from 8:00 AM until 10:30 AM or so to clear safe walking paths through the driftwood.



**Beach Grooming
1st Saturday of
every month**

Kauai Path Advocacy Organization Being Formed

KAUAI PATH is an emerging pedestrian and bicycling advocacy non-profit organization. It is the logical development arising from Kauai's Ke Ala Hele Makalae committee, a citizen's advisory group that was convened in the 1990s.

Ke Ala Hele Makalae (Hawaiian for "The Path that Goes by the Coast") is the federally funded 17-mile long multi-use path system currently being built along Kauai's eastern shore, and is envisioned to connect Lihue and Anahola.

This challenging project gathered support amongst residents, resulting in the formation of a non-profit organization with this vision: Kauai residents working together to preserve, protect, and extend access island-wide through the design, implementation, and stewardship of non-vehicular paths.

Kauai Path's broad advocacy and implementation objectives are to protect access to Kauai's mauka and makai recreational resources, to encourage modes of transportation that are environmentally friendly and less dependent on fossil fuels, and to establish children's



Island School students (l to r) Tayler James, Jessica Duarte, and Miguel Mensague on a section of Ke Ala Hele Makalae multi-use path in Lydgate Park, Wailua, Kauai.

healthy habits at an early age by encouraging safe bicycling and walking to school and other activities. Kauai Path sponsors community stewardship of trail segments, encouraging schools, organizations, and businesses to help maintain path sections and keep them clean and graffiti-free. It is anticipated that, as in other communities that have attractive path systems, Kauai's multi-use paths will nurture eco-tourism, expand business opportunities, and provide ideal venues for a healthy variety of community building events, such as Malama Pono's annual Paradise Ride.

Kauai Path has made

significant progress in building awareness and lively discussion in the community concerning aims, goals, and concerns primarily around the large scale Ke Ala Hele Makalae project, as it is the most visible of the various multi-use path initiatives. In November 2006 the Ke Ala Hele Makalae committee organized Kauai's Living Pathways Conference. The two-day event's purpose was to explore and strategize the future of the best possible pathways system for Kauai.

During the Conference, two of the nation's leading experts on pedestrian and bicycle trails gave lively and

informative presentations: Ed McBrayer, Executive Director of The Path Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia, and Jeff Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Greenway Foundation of Denver, Colorado. Participants learned about the successes of these respective organizations and the successful installation of pathways in these two very different cities. Results of the conference included documenting an expanded vision for Kauai's pedestrian and bicycling facilities, and since then a core of committed individuals have dedicated themselves to forming an effective non-profit advocacy and implementation organization—Kauai Path.

Construction of the Ke Ala Hele Makalae pathway system is accelerating. The project was divided into six Phases.

Phase I of Ke Ala Hele Makalae, the 2.5 miles of path within Lydgate Park in Wailua, Kauai, was completed in 2003.

Phase II extends 4.5 miles from the center of Kapaa to Kuna Bay (north of Kealia Beach), and construction is nearing completion. Although presently a construction site with barricaded bridges and unsanctioned for public use, sections of this path are already being enjoyed by walkers, joggers, roller-

bladers, and bicyclists. The grand opening dedication of Phase II of Ke Ala Hele Makalae is planned for October 6 & 7, 2007 as part of the Kapaa Business Association's 11th Annual Coconut Festival.

Phase III will extend about 2 miles northwards from Lydgate Park, crossing the Wailua River and connecting to Phase II in mid Kapaa. The Environmental Assessment for Phase III is soon to be finalized, and the Phase will be constructed with federal highway transportation enhancement funds under a design-build contract that will be awarded by the County of Kauai.

Phases IV - VI will

complete the connections from Lihue to Anahola, and are in various planning stages for preparation of each Phase's Environmental Assessment. No scheduled completion dates have been released.

Kauai Path intends to develop an island-wide Pathways Master Plan, and be a long-term advocate for implementing multi-use path systems accordingly throughout the island. Biking is taking a huge jump forward on the Garden Island at the beginning of the 21st century.

Further information about Kauai Path and the Ke Ala Hele Makalae project can be obtained from the website, www.kauaipath.org.



Recruiting Path Ambassadors

Kauai Path is preparing for the grand opening of Phase II of Ke Ala Hele Makalae from the Lihi Boat ramp in Kapaa to Ahihi Point in Kealia during the Kapaa Business Association's October 6 and 7, 2007 Coconut Festival.

One way to assure that every section of Ke Ala Hele Makalae will be as enjoyable and inviting as possible is to have trained volunteer Path Ambassadors

visible and present on it.

The Ambassadors' training will include how to establish path etiquette. Social skills for conveying path etiquette and safety measures will be taught in a training course on the Lydgate Park paths. To keep things moving smoothly on the path it will be helpful if path users are familiar with safety procedures and protocols.

Pathside landscaping and beautification projects are also an aspect of the Path Ambassador program.



To learn more about Path Ambassadors please contact Richard Sugiyama at sugi@aloha.net.

Phase II—Kapaa to Ahihi Point Path Update

Phase II—Lihi Boat Ramp in Kapaa to Ahihi Point in Kealia. For safety reasons, Kauai Path does not endorse use of the Kapaa to Kealia Path (currently a construction site, not yet a part of the County's park system) until the facility is completed and opened for the public's enjoyment and general use.

The Kauai County Planning Commission is scheduled to review a Special Management Area (SMA) Permit Amendment regarding the six contested structures (pavilions) that have been partially constructed along Phase II. The hearing will be held at the Lihue Civic Center on Tuesday afternoon, May 8, 2007.

A strong showing by the public will be helpful in resolving this matter.

You are encouraged to speak your mind at the hearing, and/or prior to May 1, 2007 submit written testimony regarding the Kapaa-Kealia Bike Path Pavilions to:

The Hon. Theodore Daligdig, Chair, and Planning Commission Members, 4444 Rice Street, Lihue, HI 96766, fax: (808) 241-6699.

The nine uncontested picnic shelters along Kealia Beach have been completed and are available for public use.

After a brief pause in March, Phase II contractor Jas. Glover Ltd. is back at work once again with a focus on the path from the Kealia Beach comfort station south to Lihi Boat Ramp. Concrete deliveries are scheduled to resume on April 19, and Mr. Marc Nishida, project manager for Jas. Glover, Ltd. indicated that at least the portion of Phase II from Lihi Boat Ramp to the Kealia Beach Comfort Station will be in service in the summer of 2007.

Bridge railings are being fabricated, but no installation dates are available.

Construction efforts are not presently being directed at the 1.8 mile section between the Kealia Beach comfort station and Ahihi Point due to

three outstanding issues.

Issue one: there is a section of the historic Kealia cane haul road that as conveyed by Kealia Kai Ranch to the County is just slightly too narrow for the four foot wide equestrian path, buffers, and the eight foot wide pedestrian and bicycle path. Boundary adjustments have been surveyed, and negotiations are in progress with the landowners to obtain sufficient additional area to accommodate the two parallel paths.

Issue two: the same narrow cane haul road section is threatened by a potential danger from rock falls. A rock fall hazard study will be conducted for the County, pending confirmation of funding. The study will include recommendations for any necessary mitigation measures. The 1.8 mile long section from the north end of Kealia Beach to the northern terminus of Phase II at Ahihi Point (Kuna Bay) is actually the only portion of Ke Ala Hele Makalae Phase II planned to accommodate equestrian

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Building It Together**

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www.kamalani.org &
www.kauaipath.org

use on a separate, parallel path.

Resolving the two above issues will require an additional Special Management Area Permit Amendment, yet to be prepared.

The third issue in this section is the permitting question posed by the County Council regarding one of the unfinished

pavilions, this one overlooking Kuna Bay.

This matter will be addressed by the Planning Commission on May 8, 2007.

Prior to being built, the alignment of a section of the path on the makai edge of the Kapaa Beach Park has been shifted inland due to rapid coastal erosion in that area.

YOUR testimony can help legalize overnight camping in Lydgate Park

On April 18, 2007 the Kauai County Council and members of the Administration will discuss Bill 2149, which if passed will allow legal overnight camping by permit in Lydgate Park.

In 2004 The Friends of Kamalani and Lydgate Park built 31 campsites at the south end of the Park, but the legal and staffing issues are as yet unresolved.

**Please attend the 9:00 AM
Wednesday, April 18, 2007
session of the Council to
testify, or e-mail your
testimony to:**

cokcouncil@kauai.gov

and

mayor@kauai.gov

with a copy to:

ThomasNoyes@hawaiiintel.net

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