



Hawai'i News



Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance and Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps, Spring 2013; Earth Expeditions, Summer 2013. Photo: Cheyenne Perry

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Hele On!**
Cycle On Hawai'i
- 2. Honolulu Bike Share and Safe Routes**
State Department of Health
- 3. Wailua River Blueway**
Hawai'i State Parks
- 4. North Shore Oahu Trails**
North Shore Community Land Trust

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Working together for clean water, healthy living, and a sustainable future in Hawai'i

What do clean water, healthy forests, community, culture, nature, and large land owners have common? They are all very important parts of Hawai'i's Association of Watershed Partnership (HAWP). The HAWP consists of eleven island-based watershed partnerships that work collaboratively with more than 71 public and private partners on six islands to protect over 2.2 million acres of essential forested watershed lands. The first watershed partnership was formed in 1991. Its success in conserving forest, that provides billions of gallons of fresh water to the area, resulted in the establishment of six additional watershed partnerships across the islands. By 2003, the state formally recognized the importance of these partnerships and dedicated resources for these efforts. Four additional partnerships were then formed.

In 2008, at the request of the state, the NPS provided the Mauna Kea Watershed Partnership with research and planning expertise to finalize the watershed plan for the partnership. Embraced by the community, this plan has helped to establish an inspirational partnership that continues to work towards a sustainable and healthy forest from the top of Mauna Kea to the sea, extending across 350,000 acres. The partners meet quarterly and share projects, resources, issues, and ideas to best conserve the lands that provide clean water, healthy natural areas, and the benefits that nature provides. The surrounding communities, working ranches and farms, government, and large land owners have come together to protect, preserve, and recreate in these important lands.

continued on last page

Current Projects

1. Hele On!

Project Partner: Cycle On Hawai'i
NPS Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Kalihi
Congressional District: HI - 1

Project Goal

Build a partnership of understanding between the city, businesses, and residents for improved biking and walking by hosting regular open street events. Enhance the community with complete streets that are safe, walkable, and bikeable. Hele On projects aim to improve awareness and address bicycle and pedestrian needs in urban communities. These events help to re-envision roadways and encourage active community engagement. With community and stakeholder support, specific on-the-ground improvements allow for safer walking and biking on the public streets for all ages and abilities.

NPS Role

Continue to advise Cycle On Hawai'i and provide recommendations of best practices for the development of cyclovia events at a statewide level. Work to identify on-the-ground improvements and the development of a sustainable program.



Hele On! - Young riders get a taste of alternative and creative bike use for Hele On Kaka'ako, a cyclovia event and complete street demonstration for Honolulu. Photo: Iwasa

2. Honolulu Bike Share and Safe Routes

Project Partners: State Department of Health, City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu's Clean Cities Coalition
NPS Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Honolulu
Congressional Districts: HI -1, 2

Project Goal

Establish a bike share system in the Honolulu urban core. Bike share will offer a viable, affordable, and active-transportation alternative to using a vehicle for short commutes, and will

complement Honolulu's existing transit systems. Assist with activating the county's newly funded Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program. Coordinate among various public and private entities, establish a working group to collaboratively assist in developing partnerships, implementing SRTS tasks, and achieving long-term success.

NPS Role

Support the Honolulu Bike Share Committee, a large group of public, private, and community organizations interested in establishing a bike share system in the Honolulu urban core. Provide public outreach support through using an online crowd sourcing platform. Additionally, assist in the development of the new city and county SRTS programs and facilitate an open process with the State Department of Transportation to better allocate funds to improve student's ability to safely walk and bike to school.



Bike Share Honolulu - Hele On Kaka'ako participants try out B-Cycle bikes, part of a pilot bike share project on Oahu. Get ready Honolulu, more bike share opportunities to come! Photo: Iwasa

3. Wailua River Blueway

Project Partners: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Parks Division
NPS Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Wailua
Congressional District: HI - 2

Current Projects cont.



Wailua River is the only river on Kauai that allows motorized boats, barges, kayakers, commercial tours, outrigger canoes, and stand up paddle board riders within the river. Photo: NPS

Project Goal

Establish the Wailua River Blueway on the island of Kauai, as a recreational and educational resource for local residents and visitors. The Wailua River currently experiences heavy use by many different users, from kayak tours, river barge trips, and canoe clubs to local recreation. Restore, protect, and interpret the blueway and the rich historical river valley, cultural sites, and natural resources for current and future generations.

NPS Role

Work with state parks to design the interpretive signage and educational training program. The first two years of the project consisted primarily of gathering data, conducting field visits, assessing site conditions and opportunities, meeting with stakeholders, and evaluating recommendations for improvements in and around the state park. The needs assessment completed by NPS included recommendations for interpretive signage and docent training.

4. North Shore Oahu Trails Consultation

Project Partner: North Shore Community Land Trust
NPS Contact: Meredith Speicher
Location: Haleiwa
Congressional District: HI - 2

Project Goal

Maintain the vision of the North Shore Community Land Trust (NSCLT) to protect the perpetuation of the living connection to the traditional ahupua'a for future generations. Create a north shore community trails and bike network that better connects the unique recreational, cultural, environmental, historical, and

agricultural opportunities, resources, and destinations to the communities within and around the north shore.

NPS Role

Work with the NSCLT to develop a trails map and report that identifies the resources and destinations to connect the north shore through a trails system. The trails system, coupled with other alternative transportation options, would change the options for recreation on the north shore and address current traffic and congestion issues that detract from the appreciation and conservation of the resources throughout the area.

“The NPS helped us tremendously in the planning stages of our retreat and provided much-needed advice on the approaches we could take to accomplish our goals.”

- Joan Yoshioka, Statewide Plant Extinction Prevention Coordinator

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

Meredith Speicher

808.541.2693 ext. 725

Meredith_Speicher@nps.gov

2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Cheyenne Perry, the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator, has been able to bring together support and resources to achieve a number of big projects, including include an active and growing education and outreach program for Hawai'i's youth, stewardship and restoration projects to protect the forest and birds that are found only in Hawai'i, and the building of key partnerships so that the resources and support are sustainable.

Perry is hopeful that within the next year, their staffing will consist of five full time employees with an education and outreach coordinator on board soon. The Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance brings people together to better understand and care for the natural lands. It creates a deeper sense of place and supports healthy, local communities who rely on each other and work together to care for the land.

“Perry recalls the famous Hawai’ian proverb, “Ku a ‘ahu lua”: A standing together in twos, a time for comradeship (Pukui 1983). These are times where we must all realize who and where we come from; let us work together through positive action and re-create deeper connections to our places and each other to support healthy local communities and environment.”

- Cheyenne Perry, MKWA Coordinator



Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Partners on a field trip. Photo: Cheyenne Perry

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.