Hanauma Bay
Celebrating 40 years as a Marine Life Conservation District
The year 2007 was very special for the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program as it marked Hanauma Bay’s 40th anniversary as a Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD). In this issue of Ka Pili Kai we celebrate this milestone and highlight the people with vision who embraced the concept that dramatic changes were needed to ensure this unique and special place was not destroyed by rampant overuse and neglect. Their foresight sparked what has been a long and successful journey to provide lasting protection for this area, and UH Sea Grant is proud to have been part of an unprecedented collaboration among community groups, state and local government and non-governmental organizations in this effort. Since the launch of the education program in 1990, the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program has been running the program continually and has molded it into the world-class facility that it is today.

Cindy Knapman, Communications Leader
Hanauma Bay is world renowned for its clear, turquoise blue water, reefs teeming with marine life and the pristine white sand beach. However, for those who are intimately familiar with its history, Hanauma Bay symbolizes more than just a spectacular natural environment. It has come to represent a long and difficult struggle between the expanding visitor industry and the need to conserve the natural resources of the Hawaiian islands, which is replicated in many coastal areas throughout the world to this day. Fortunately it is now seen as a model partnership among community groups, state and local government, and non-governmental organizations, and serves as a prime example of how individuals with the passion to bring about change can catalyze a lasting movement which still touches the lives of many.

Four decades ago, Hanauma Bay was designated Hawai‘i’s first Marine Life Conservation District in order “to permit people to see it as nature originally fashioned it, before irreparable damage is done” (Conservation at Hanauma Bay, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, September 23, 1967). The involvement of the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) at Hanauma Bay can be tracked at least as far back as the 1970’s, when reef investigations by undergraduate students enrolled in the University of Hawai‘i’s Marine Option Program (MOP) helped to expand our scientific knowledge. At that time, MOP was administered by UH Sea Grant.

In the early 1980’s, UH Sea Grant and MOP sponsored a symposium in response to the growing degradation and overuse issues of the Bay. Speakers from concerned agencies and the community shared their expertise about Hanauma Bay from historical, research, and management perspectives.
This helped to bring the diverse issues pertaining to the overall health of the Bay to the foreground of public attention, and highlighted the need for public education about the natural resources. In response, UH Sea Grant worked collaboratively with other partners to bring this vision to reality and, in 1990, joined into a unique tripartite cooperative agreement between the City and County of Honolulu and the newly emerging Friends of Hanauma Bay to initiate the Hanauma Bay Education Program.

UH Sea Grant’s Hanauma Bay Education Program began as a grassroots effort with a volunteer-staffed information desk in a central location on the beach. As it gained momentum, the Education Program was recognized with a number of awards including the nationally recognized Chevron Conservation Award which honors the outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation’s natural resources. This momentum culminated in 2002 when a new state-of-the-art education center opened its doors to visitors to the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. UH Sea Grant staff served as key members of the advisory and design team during its development, and features including three dimensional volcanic and geological displays, interactive touch screen learning tools and historical displays engage and captivate visitors to this unique nature preserve. The planning of the center itself reflects a commitment to smart growth principles and minimal environmental impacts to the surrounding environment. Housed beneath a berm of Hawai’i coastal vegetation and rock, the Hanauma Bay Education Center has been molded to the landscape and serves as the hub of all Hanauma Bay educational activities.

Prior to its designation as the state’s first Marine Life Conservation District, Hanauma Bay was a popular fishing and campground for Honolulu residents. Dr. Ernst Reese, now Professor Emeritus in the University of Hawai’i Department of Zoology, was familiar with the increasing popularity of Hanauma Bay and began to express his concerns as far back as the early 1960’s regarding its overuse.

Dr. Reese and his Zoology students began documenting evidence of Hanauma Bay’s environmental and fisheries decline in 1964. His research reflected a variety of fishing activities including SCUBA and skin divers using spear guns, hammers and crowbars. Fishing poles and nets were also being heavily used to catch marine life. It was even discovered during the course of this field research that fish, sea urchins and crabs were often used as target practice for people with bows and arrows and pistols. The widespread collecting of living coral and spearfishing were serious threats to the ecology of the Bay.

Dr. Reese reported his research findings to the Hawai’i State Division of Fish and Game (presently the Hawai’i State Division of Aquatic Resources) and, as concerns within the local community began to grow regarding the safety of swimmers and beach-goers, he continued to highlight the benefits to people and marinelife if Hanauma Bay were designated an underwater sanctuary. He stressed the importance of establishing such an area to ensure a healthy future for Hawai’i’s marine and economic resources. Although many fishermen opposed any regulation or management of the Bay and its marine resources, Hanauma Bay was ultimately declared Hawai’i’s first Marine Life Conservation District in 1967. Dr. Reese’s innovative thinking and research were instrumental in this decision, as were the contributions of other such pioneers dedicated to a healthy, sustainable future for Hanauma Bay.
Now, each of the one million annual visitors to the Bay is shown a short orientation video that prepares beach-goers on what to expect regarding the protected reef habitats of the Bay, and informs all visitors of appropriate reef etiquette. This brings to life the unique nature of the Bay and ways each visitor may lessen their environmental impact or “footprint”. Prior to the introduction of the education orientation, it was estimated that approximately half of Hanauma Bay’s visitors stood or walked on the reef. That estimate has now been reduced to less than two percent of Hanauma Bay’s visitors. While it is clear that this expanded knowledge has had a profound impact on the health of Hanauma Bay’s ecosystem, this knowledge is also carried with them once they leave our shores and ultimately, translates into more conservation-minded individuals.

With attendance exceeding three million visitors a year in the late 1980s, Hanauma Bay was in danger of being “loved to death.” As the Bay’s popularity continued to grow, concerns regarding overcrowding were on the rise as well. A master plan completed in 1977 acknowledged some overcrowding concerns, but it was not until a comprehensive master plan was completed in 1990 that overcrowding and trampling of the reef by visitors were recognized as major concerns.

Robin Bond, then with the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation, was assigned the task of drafting the plan to stem the environmental damage occurring at Hanauma Bay. The brief, 13 page plan mandated strong management, drastic restrictions to reduce the number of visitors, and an effective education program to sensitize users. Unlike many government plans, this one has been fully implemented and is still in use today.

A 1999 proposal for a massive capital improvement project in the Hanauma area, including a tram on Koko Crater, was met with strong public opposition. The Mayor asked Cynthia Bond, then Deputy Director of the Department of Human Resources and Facilitator for the East Honolulu Vision Team, to work to gain public support. She knew from Robin and Alan Hong, manager of Hanauma Bay, about the need for a world-class education facility. Her experience as a versatile, respected administrator along with Dick Baker, former president of the Friends of Hanauma Bay, led a task force to solicit input from the community, and, after participating in over a hundred meetings with community groups and agencies, successfully turned the tide. Her leadership helped to secure the necessary State and City permitting approvals for a dramatically revised plan.

Today these two visionaries, along with numerous other partners, are still working to ensure a healthy, successful future for Hanauma Bay.
Hanauma Bay deeded to the City & County of Honolulu by Bishop Estate for use as a recreational park.

1928

Hanauma Bay designated as Hawaii's first Marine Life Conservation District, prohibiting fishing and collecting.

1967

UH Sea Grant and University of Hawaii Marine Option Program sponsor symposium on Bay overuse and degradation.

1983

Hanauma Bay visitor arrivals peak at 3 million annually.

1988

Hanauma Bay Education Program. Nine-point management plan reduces visitor numbers and environmental impacts. Grassroots "Friends of Hanauma Bay" forms.

1990

1993

1995

1997

The City & County of Honolulu bans smoking on the beach making Hanauma Bay the first and only no-smoking beach.

Education Program opens visitor center and office; plans underway for new Education Center.

2000

2002

2006

2007

Hanauma Bay celebrates 40 years as a Marine Life Conservation District.

Hanauma Bay Education Center opens to the public.

Hanauma Bay Education Program begins monthly lecture series at adjacent community library.

Honolulu City Council recognizes Hanauma Bay Education Program for its exemplary outreach efforts.

88 volunteer docents donate over 4,400 hours to Hanauma Bay Education Program.

Entrance fee enacted for visitors; waived for residents and children.
Elizabeth Kumabe Maynard

By Heather Dudock, UH Sea Grant Multimedia Specialist

When the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve is abundant with first time visitors and regular guests, it is easy to recognize members of the University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) Hanauma Bay Education Program team. Whether interacting one-on-one with members of the community or providing groups with educational tours of the Bay, the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program staff are vital in transferring information regarding the history, science and stewardship of this tropical nature preserve to the public. At the forefront of this cohesive UH Sea Grant team is Elizabeth (Liz) Kumabe Maynard.

Since 1999, Liz has led the Hanauma Bay Education Program as UH Sea Grant’s Regional Environmental Education Specialist. She brought her extensive experience in environmental education, education technology, curriculum development and instruction to UH Sea Grant in support of an effective and enjoyable educational experience at Hanauma Bay. Her management of the education, outreach and interpretive programs enhance the experiences of visitors and the local community alike.

Liz has been a member of the UH Sea Grant team for over 16 years. Enlisted in 1992 as a UH Sea Grant Regional Environmental Education Extension Agent, Liz has been a key resource for a myriad of UH Sea Grant education and outreach projects. She provides valuable consultation regarding program and curriculum development for a wide spectrum of education levels and age groups. As a previous project coordinator for the development and support of UH Sea Grant’s American Samoa extension program, Liz has provided her expertise to programs throughout Hawai‘i and the Pacific.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Western Washington University, Liz graduated from University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UH) with a Master of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction. In addition, she is currently working toward a second Master’s degree in Education Technology from UH. This will allow her to combine her considerable skills as an educator with the cutting-edge technology available today. As a member of numerous environmental councils and organizations, education groups and associations, and community service organizations, Liz plays an active role in the environmental and education community. She incorporates current educational tools and practice into all aspects of the Hanauma Bay Education Program while preserving the Bay’s rich heritage and honoring the memories of the past.
COMPONENTS OF A SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION PROGRAM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
By Shawn Carrier, UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program Outreach Coordinator

The Hanauma Bay Education Program, administered by the University of Hawai‘i’s Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant), provides a unique educational experience to millions of visitors to the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve while offering the local community a top-notch education program, free of charge, in the hopes of promoting ownership and stewardship of Hawai‘i’s fragile marine resources.

Every Thursday evening, excluding holidays, members of the community convene in the Nature Preserve’s theater to listen to University researchers, graduate students, resource conservation managers, and renowned marine biologists among others. Thursday evening presentations are generally dedicated to specific topics each month.

In addition to Thursday evening presentations, the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education team hosts and participates in a variety of community outreach events designed to engage the local community and promote an interest in the conservation and stewardship of Hawai‘i’s unique marine and coastal resources.

Throughout the years, the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program has partnered with many environmental groups and organizations. Their valuable contributions along with the dedication of scientists and researchers have made the program an effective and enjoyable educational experience for visitors to the islands, as well as the local community.

PARK EDUCATION
By Anne Rosa, UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program Marine Park Education Specialist

What is a living reef? What ocean creatures can I see in Hanauma Bay? How do the rules at Hanauma Bay help to conserve marine life? How was Hanauma Bay formed? How can I help preserve Hanauma Bay for the future?

An educational orientation with the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program provides visitors with answers to these questions and additional information about the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve.

The UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program community outreach presentations began in 2000 as a once-a-month evening program at the Hawai‘i Kai Public Library. With the opening of a new state-of-the-art Hanauma Bay education facility in 2002, the presentations flourished into a weekly series capable of accommodating up to 120 patrons. Presently, the evening program hosts an average of 40 community members each week, receiving more than one hundred individuals at times. This venue allows researchers and conservation managers to build support for their research while providing the community with the opportunity to learn about marine research, stewardship and conservation.
The UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program is dedicated to serving Hawai‘i’s school and community groups, as well as visiting groups from many parts of the world. Since 2000, the program has conducted nearly 2,500 group orientations.

Upon their arrival to the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, scheduled groups receive an educational orientation from a member of the education team who is eager to share facts and information regarding Hawaiian coral reef ecology and preservation. The orientation lasts between 30 to 45 minutes, and includes a viewing of the Hanauma Bay educational video. Groups may customize their orientation sessions by requesting specific information on topics such as coastal plants, introductory oceanography, the geology of Hanauma Bay and the Hawaiian islands, endangered species and Marine Protected Areas.

The UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program strives to build partnerships with local schools and educators. Various local schools participate in scheduled group visits hosted by the education program, many of which return every year for a memorable trip to the Bay. Students of all ages have the opportunity to learn about fish and invertebrate identification, maintaining native species, geological processes, and Hawaiian traditions of marine management and conservation in a fun, hands-on learning environment.

EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS
By Melissa MacGarrett, UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program Volunteer Coordinator

The UH Sea Grant College Program’s Hanauma Bay Volunteer Program has a dedicated corps of over 100 active volunteers. Most volunteers are O‘ahu residents who commute from all over the island and assist the education staff in educating and enhancing the experiences of nearly one million visitors annually.

The majority of volunteers serve as Interpretive Guides who promote the appreciation and understanding of Hanauma Bay and Hawai‘i’s marine life. These docents spend their time answering questions in the visitor’s center, giving informational briefings and running the educational/safety video, and staffing the beach information desk. Volunteers serving as Interpretive Guides commit to at least four 4-hour shifts per month for a minimum of six months.

During peak summer months, when visitors can expect to wait up to an hour to gain entrance to the Bay, volunteers serve in our seasonal Ho‘okipa Cart position. The Ho‘okipa Cart is a small rolling cart stationed near the admission line at the entrance to the Hanauma Bay’s visitor’s center. Volunteers

“Thank you for showing us around Hanauma Bay and teaching us the amazing history. It was memorable! Some things I learned were: you shouldn’t walk on the reef or feed the fish…from now on I’ll follow the rules and motivate others to follow them too! This day was awesome!”

-Niu Valley Intermediate student

Hanauma Bay’s beach information desk.
provide answers to questions from visitors standing in line and teach them about the marine environment and marine life that they may encounter.

Other volunteer opportunities include serving as Educational Program Docents and assisting with the Hanauma Bay Education Program’s Outreach Program. Educational Program Docents assist the education staff with formal classroom presentations for visiting students and lead natural history tours for groups visiting the education program. Volunteers assisting the Outreach Program help greet visitors and staff the outreach and craft tables at various educational events.

The success of the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program is, in large part, due to the commitment and dedication of the program’s volunteers. Volunteers participate in a rigorous 16-hour training program for the Interpretive Guide position. Over a period of four Saturdays, the volunteers are educated on a variety of topics through interactive presentations, lectures, and hikes within the preserve. The Education Program staff provide training with assistance from the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve staff, State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources staff, faculty and graduate students of the University of Hawai‘i, and experts from conservation resource organizations.

The diversity of the volunteers also adds to the success of the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program. As a team consisting of High School students, college students, working class individuals, and retirees, volunteers offer their unique perspectives on marine conservation and education at the Bay.

Visitors to Hanauma Bay come from all over the world as does our team of education volunteers. “Meeting people from all different countries” is what Alan Takemoto, an interpretive guide, likes most about the experience.

Our bilingual and trilingual volunteers are vital in transferring important information such as reef ecosystem conservation and park rules and regulations directly to non-English speaking visitors. Noriko Sakakibara, a former Hanauma Bay Education Program volunteer from Japan and 2006 graduate from Trans Pacific College, stated in the Trans Pacific College Volunteer Newsletter (September/October 2007 edition) that “Volunteering is one of the best experiences I had in Hawai‘i, it helped me learn English and other knowledge and to make friends. Volunteering gave me a chance to learn things I could not learn in class.”

Having received world-wide recognition and numerous awards including the 2006 Exemplary Service award from the City and County of Honolulu, UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program volunteers continue to uphold the UH Sea Grant commitment to excellence in outreach, education and in serving the island communities of Hawai‘i.
E Mālama Hanauma

The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant) Hanauma Bay Education Program continues to expand its outreach efforts within the community while promoting environmental stewardship in a culturally sensitive manner. “E Mālama Hanauma” is a new addition to the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program. Its title states a simple purpose – to care for Hanauma.

The main objective of this exciting new community outreach project is to teach the young adults of Hawai‘i how to care for the environment and to better understand human impacts, both positive and negative, on natural land and marine resources. Through this opportunity, the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program hopes to empower students with the knowledge and information necessary in making informed decisions regarding the conservation, preservation and stewardship of environmental resources on a local as well as global level.

Native Hawaiian Internship Opportunities

As a leading education program within the state of Hawai‘i, the UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program works diligently in finding ways to better inform the public on the importance of marine conservation and stewardship. The University of Hawai‘i’s Hawaiian Internship Program (UH-HIP), a science-based summer internship opportunity that was created under the Pacific Internship Programs for Exploring Science, provides professional work experience to Native Hawaiian students and others with a background in science.

The goal of UH-HIP is to partner students with agencies and organizations in Hawai‘i involved in environmental research, education and management throughout the Pacific region. Over the last eight years, the Hanauma Bay Education Program has hosted five UH-HIP summer interns.

Interns that have been partnered with the Hanauma Bay Education Program have had the opportunity to create individual projects based on their areas of study and academic interests. Past projects have included Hawaiian Reef Fish and Legends, Hanauma Bay Coastal Plant Education, and Hanauma Bay Reef Life Education. Materials produced from such projects are eligible to be selected and published for public distribution by UH Sea Grant.
In 2007, the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program invited the public to submit their memories of Hanauma Bay to be included in the Bay’s 40th year celebration as a Marine Life Conservation District. A selection of the letters and photos that were submitted to the Hanauma Bay Education Program are featured below.

Earl Kidder

The water, the reef, the cliffs and the wild winds blowing over Koko Head are eternal and have made Hanauma a paradise on earth for barefoot boys through countless generations. In the days before Pearl Harbor, I had the joy of sharing this paradise with family, friends, and schoolmates; but the most vivid memories were of outings with my fellow Boy Scouts of Troop 11.

…Camping was permitted at Hanauma in those days, and my troop spent a week there in 1940. The days were filled with swimming and beach combing. We buried each other in the olivine sand and took delight in torturing the buried victim by placing a tiny sand crab to crawl over his face and neck.

… Those were the days of perfect freedom – no restrictions and, best of all, no adult supervision.

B.J. Wills, 1957

The following are excerpts from *Scouting Hanauma* by Irwin Rosa:

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… Those were the days of perfect freedom – no restrictions and, best of all, no adult supervision.
I am enclosing 4 general interest old photos dated May 31, 1941 of my mother and her work companions from Hawaiian Pine print shop which became Dole Pineapple. If you can use these photos somehow, please do so. My mother in the photos is Mabel Jung who was 30 years old when the photos were taken. She is still alive and is 94 years old now. I have not yet gone down to the beach to find the actual location in the photographs.

Aloha,
Bill Jung

As a child my family visited Hanauma Bay whenever we went “around the island”. Forty-plus years ago it really was around the island! The thing that stands out in our memory is the sign you see in the attached photos (taken at least 40 years ago). Perhaps another sign should go up in the area to remind everyone how fragile the environment is and that we can make a difference by taking care of the Bay. And, for selfish reasons, I’d like to take another picture with my sisters next to the sign!

I come from a family of five girls and the attached are copies of our favorite photos. Our parents, David and Lynn Manuka, live in Waipio Acres and have been there since 1958.

Aloha,
Roz Terry

From the Hanauama Bay archives, 1954, W. Sewell.

From the Hanauama Bay archives, 1957, B.J. Wills.
Homage to Hanauma

Having grown up in Hawai‘i Kai, I knew Hanauma Bay when it was our diamond in the rough. These were the days when there were no tour busses, orange cones or signs that said the lot was full. The parking lot was dirt, you brought your own bread to feed the fish, and walking up and down the hill was the price you paid to get to the water.

My father and I used to snorkel in the water for hours. We’d let the tide take us wherever it wanted, seems like we explored reef by the mile. My absolute favorite was listening closely to the parrotfish take small bites from the rocks below. One day we swam upon a group of people that were circled around one section of the reef. We joined them and I came face to face with an eel that was coming out of its home and I completely and utterly panicked. With arms flailing, sucking in seawater, trying desperately to reverse swim, I made a complete fool of myself amongst this crowd who gathered to see this beautiful creature in peace. Needless to say, I was the only one making a scene and I think it’s safe to say even the eel was wondering “what is up with this girl?”

To this day I laugh every time I think about that story. Mostly though, I think about my dad who held me close when the current was strong as we glided just above the coral below... and I will always remember that eel.

Submitted by Rosey Vera Cruz
Marine Life Conservation District signs being placed around the boundaries of Hanauma Bay, 1969.

From the Hanauma Bay archives, 1945.
March
Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Research Partnership

6th - “The Hawaiian Monk Seal: A genetic glimpse into its, past, present and future” - Jennifer Schultz, graduate student, UH Zoology Department and the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

13th - “Pin cushions of the Sea: Ecology of urchins in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands” - Erik Franklin, Research Specialist, Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

20th - “Coral endosymbiont diversity and how it relates to the health and resilience of the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument” - Michael Stat, Coral Research, Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

27th - “Coral reef connectivity: what does it mean, and why should you care?” - Rob Toonen, Assistant Researcher with the Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

Thursday evening programs begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Hanauma Bay Visitor Center theater and are offered free to the public. For more information on Thursday evening presentations and special events at Hanauma Bay, please visit: www.soest.hawaii.edu/SEAGRANT/education/HBEP.