

**News from the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance
For Immediate Release**

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**Hawai'i Conservation Week 2007 and the 15th Hawai'i Conservation Conference
July 22 to 28, 2007**

Governor Proclaims Hawai'i Conservation Week

August 2, 2007

Governor Linda Lingle has proclaimed the last week of July as Conservation Week for Hawai'i. Hawai'i is the first state in the nation to recognize the importance of setting aside a week each year for educational activities associated with conserving the natural environment.

The annual Hawai'i Conservation Week will promote the effective, long-term management of Hawai'i's native ecosystems through collaborative meetings, training and outreach among land managers, scientists, educators, and the general public. This year's Conservation Week (July 22-28, 2007) included such activities as the 15th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference and its 24 symposia, session, forums and field trips, the My Hawai'i Nature Writers Workshop for middle school students, the Hawai'i Conservation Film Festival, the Conservation through Art Exhibition, and the annual Hawai'i Conservation Public Seminar.

The 15th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference was held July 25-28 at the Hawai'i Convention Center. This international conference is the largest annual gathering of people actively involved in the protection and management of Hawai'i's natural environment. It attracted an attendance of over 930 registered participants this year. This anniversary year focused on "*Conservation Strategies: Matching Science and Management.*" Keynote and plenary speakers included Professor Michael Soulé, University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. J. Michael Scott, Senior Scientist at U.S. Geological Survey, University of Idaho, and David Helvarg Blue Frontier Campaign, Washington DC., with a welcoming address provided by our own Governor Lingle.

The conference had more than 230 oral and poster presentations, and conservation exhibitors, presenting on such diverse conservation topics as Hawai'i's Marine Managed Areas, Alternative Energies, Investing in Hawai'i's Environmental Future Workforce, Economic Perspectives of Invasive species, and Insect Conservation.

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (HCA) presented its Outstanding Leadership Award to ex-DLNR Chairman, Mr. Peter Young, and its Conservation Innovation Award Craig Rowland, Adonia Henry, Benton Pang, and Chris Swenson, managers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Conservation Partnership Program.

This year's HCA Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dr. Isabella Abbott for her more than 60 years research, publications, and mentorship on limu and ethonobotany.

The culmination of the first State-wide *My Hawai'i Story* Project was a Nature Writing Workshop from 9.00am to 11.00am on Tuesday, July 24 recognizing the talents of 25 of Hawai'i's best student authors. On July 25, Governor Lingle presented each of these winners with a Commendation and copies of *My Hawai'i 2007 - An Anthology* as well as other

awards and prizes. The stories were read by these student authors during the lunch hour at the Hawai‘i Conservation Conference. This project was made possible with generous financial support from Rotary Club of West Honolulu, Kōkua Hawai‘i Foundation, The Pacific Writers’ Connection, and the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation.

Hawai‘i’s first Conservation Film Festival – July 24, 11.00am-9.00pm – offered eight films that had either a clear connection to Hawai‘i or confronted the environmental consequences of ongoing events that will affect these islands. Equipment for the Hawai‘i Conservation Film Festival was provided by the Hawai‘i International Film Festival. The festival of films was rounded out by a multimedia presentation by Jeff Mikulina, Director of the Sierra Club, of Al Gore’s *Climate Project* incorporating the salient elements of *An Inconvenient Truth* bringing a Hawai‘i-specific update, and suggesting actions whereby we in Hawai‘i can become part of the global solution.

The second “Conservation through Art Exhibition” was held concurrently with the Conservation Conference. This year twenty artists were selected for the exhibition based upon their ability to use two-dimensional art as a medium of expression for environmental conservation in Hawai‘i. Each artist provided a statement of how they see their work reflecting conservation in the Hawaiian Islands. Several artists are professional wildlife biologists by trade. This exhibit aimed at providing a deeper awareness and appreciation of Hawai‘i’s natural environment.

The Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Foundation and the Australian American Chamber of Commerce Hawai‘i sponsored the Annual Hawai‘i Conservation Seminar, a presentation by world renowned marine conservationist and journalist, David Helvarg, President of the Blue Frontier Campaign. Helvarg explained that it’s not too late to turn the tide on the cascading marine disasters confronting 71 percent of our planet’s surface and 97 percent of its living habitat. Through individual and collective action as families, consumers and citizens, we can still make a difference by working to protect, restore and explore our last great public places, the oceans.

The Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance has plans underway for the 2008 Hawai‘i Conservation Week which will be July 27 through August 2, 2008. For more information contact Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, Program Coordinator www.hawaiiconservation.org or puttock@Hawaii.edu

Fifteen organizations currently make up the HCA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Sanctuaries Program, National Park Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Defense U.S. Army Garrison Hawai‘i Natural Resource Program, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Geological Survey Biological Resource Discipline, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Center for Conservation Research and Training, Kamehameha Schools, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and The Nature Conservancy Hawai‘i.