

# LIFE of the LAND

*Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Ihina I Ka Pono*  
**The Life Of The Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness**  
**Hawai'i's Own Environmental & Community Action Group**  
**Protecting Our Fragile Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**Through Research, Education, Advocacy & Litigation**

October 2004

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## OUR AWESOME BOARD

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## OUR DEDICATED ACTIVISTS

Henry Curtis, Executive Director  
Kat Brady, Assistant Executive Director

## OUR MISSION

The mission of Life of the Land is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sustainable land use and energy policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy, and litigation.

## KAT BRADY

LOL's activist Assistant Executive Director, is involved in a number of progressive issues in Hawai'i. Along with her work at LOL, Kat works on a plethora of issues ranging from prison reform and juvenile justice to gender equality to preserving civil liberties. She is passionate about civil rights, especially in these times as we see our Constitution under attack.

Kat is receiving The Interfaith Alliance of Hawai'i's 2004 award for civic advocacy on behalf of the Hawai'i Juvenile Justice Project on October 16<sup>th</sup>. As she says, "Good thing I'm a woman 'cause multi-tasking just comes naturally to me!"

We're proud that Kat has the courage to be on the front lines on the cutting edge issues of our time, too! Another of her recent accomplishments was being invited to present a paper at the 30th Anniversary Conference of the UH Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Kat's presentation was entitled, 'Planning, in the Context of Justice,' and starts on page 3 of this newsletter. This woman definitely sees the big picture!

## WAIHE`E AQUIFER, MAUI

The Maui community has been calling for designation of the Waihe'e Aquifer as a groundwater management area for years since Maui County has been pumping it beyond its sustainable yield. LOL testified for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time on this issue in June, 2004.

In 2002, instead of designating the Waihe`e aquifer as the precious and vital resource it is, the Commission adopted 'automatic triggers' for designation instead. The triggers require designation of the Waihe`e aquifer if the water level at the Kanoa Test Hole falls below +6 feet in elevation. Based on the Commission's established triggers, Life of the Land trusted that designation of the Waihe`e aquifer would be automatic. Sadly, that is not what happened. It appears to us that the Commission is using Beltway tactics to change the criteria to suit its agenda. Now it's all about the numbers...despite the fact that the aquifer is being pumped beyond its sustainable yield.

## WATER IS LIFE

In our testimony, LOL once again reminded the Commission of the weighty words of our Hawai'i Constitution that all state officials agree to uphold:

## ARTICLE XI CONSERVATION, CONTROL, AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

Section 1. For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.

**All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people.**

## PEARL HARBOR RAB

### *Hawai`i's Most Contaminated Site: Walker Bay, Waipio Peninsula, O`ahu*

This pilau site is part of the Navy's Pearl Harbor Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), yet the geographic extent of the site, formerly used by O`ahu Sugar Company is yet to be defined. A fence was thrown up around what might be the site, but no meaningful activity has occurred in the past 6 years.

According to Brewer Environmental Industries "the former pesticide mixing area on Waipio Peninsula was used by the OSCO [Oahu Sugar Company] to mix pesticides and herbicide solutions, loaded into backpacks, trucks, or planes for dispersal into the sugar cane fields".

The highest hit for dioxin was 1530 part per billion (ppb). The EPA's Industrial Land Soil Action Level is 10 ppb and the EPA's Residential Soil Action Level is 1 ppb. The site also contains high levels of furans. Dioxins and Furans are Persistent Organic Pollutants which rank among the most toxic man-made chemicals.

The site contains significant levels of Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) (benzo(a)anthracene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(a)pyrene, pentachlorophenol) Organic Chlorine Pesticides (4,4'-DDE, 4,4'-DDD and 4,4'-DDT); and Lead; and elevated levels of thallium; Volatile Organic Compounds (methylenechloride; 1,2,3-Tri chloro propane); 2,4,5-tri chlorophenoxyacetic acid; and copper.

## HICKAM RAB

### *Candidate for Hawai`i's Most Contaminated Off-shore Site: Hickam Air Force Base*

The US Navy's Pearl Harbor Sediment Study (to be released next spring) states that there is a toxic sediment hotspot adjacent to Hickam AFB, near the outfall of an Air Force Drainage System pipe. The Air Force's Installation Restoration Program has responded that unless the community can determine what site might be feeding contamination into their drainage system, they will not test their system to determine whether they are responsible for historic or continuing contamination of Mamala Bay. LOL is not sitting idly by. We continue to push for more testing of the area. Our coastal areas are precious and many people fish and crab along these areas. If you have, or know someone else who has, information of the current and historic uses in this area, please contact us immediately.

## OTHER PEARL HARBOR RAB SITES

**WAIKELE:** As you may know, the Navy did a 'trade deal' with Fluor Hawai`i to develop the Waikele Naval Magazine. The deal was that Fluor would put in the infrastructure on Ford Island in exchange for the land at Waikele, on which they plan to develop housing. LOL toured Waikele with the Navy and we specifically asked if nuclear weapons were stored in their huge bunkers. The Navy person said he 'couldn't confirm or deny' that, but Waikele is surrounded by a double fence and vicious dogs ran between the fences to protect the area when it was active. Reports from Village Park (northern Waipahu along Kunia Road) residents we have spoken to say that they heard 'trains' under their homes. LOL believes that nuclear weapons were transferred to Pearl Harbor nuclear subs in the tunnels along this route which we think connects Lualualei and Waikele to Pearl Harbor. So now Fluor Hawai`i is going to develop this dirty land. Explosive idea, yeah?

**^AIEA LAUNDRY:** This area, next to St. Elizabeth's Church is contaminated with Perchloroethylene (PCE), which is colorless, nonflammable, evaporates when exposed to air and dissolves SLIGHTLY in water (according to the Navy literature). It was used as a dry cleaning solvent, used in printing inks, typewriter correction fluids and shoe polish. It enters the body through inhalation, dermal absorption (through pores of skin) and in the food and water we ingest. The community of St. Elizabeth's Church has a day care center in their basement and Life of the Land helped them push for more monitoring and clean up. The Navy had given the church such a run around that they ended up hiring their own consultant to interpret the documents back in the 90's. OUTRAGEOUS! And if this isn't enough, **THE PCES HAVE GONE DOWN TO THE BAY!** After speaking with some community folks to go to school in the area in the 60's, we learned that some classes were held in ^Aiea Laundry when an area school burned down. If you know anyone who has information regarding this, please contact us immediately by phone: 533-3454 on O`ahu or e-mail: [henry@lifeoftheland.net](mailto:henry@lifeoftheland.net). We are demanding more studies of this site and will push for epidemiological studies if people come forward to say that they were in classes held at ^Aiea Laundry. All information from the community is welcomed and appreciated.

Some of the Military's favorite 'remedies':

INSTITUTIONAL CONTROLS = A FENCE  
NATURAL ATTENUATION = DOING NOTHING  
MINIMAL CONTAMINATION = NO PROBLEM  
(for the Military)

**MAUNA KEA,  
KUAHIWI KU HA`O I KA MAILE**

*Mauna Kea, astonishing mountain that stands in the calm*



The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) held a public hearing On September 10, 2004 regarding unauthorized land uses and violations by the UH Institute For Astronomy (IFA) at the **James Clerk Maxwell Telescope** (two antennas, weather tower, trash and crates); **Subaru Japan National League telescope** (pit collar, weather tower, storage container); and **Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Sub Millimeter Array** (construction materials, storage container, concrete pads).

IFA's attorney said they didn't think they should be fined at all, but if they were, it should be for 4 violations only. Life of the Land was the sole public testifier at the BLNR meeting regarding the continuing desecration of Mauna Kea. LOL's Kat Brady spoke passionately about being educated by kupuna about the sacredness of Mauna Kea, known as the *piko* (umbilical cord) to Native Hawaiians. LOL was in the midst of reviewing NASA's proposed development there and Kat quoted from NASA's Draft Environmental Impact Statement: *"Snow often whitens the summit in winter, and the name Mauna Kea is often translated in English as White Mountain. In Native Hawaiian traditions, however, 'Kea' is also the abbreviated form of Wakea, the great sky god who, together with Papa, the earth mother, and other gods and forces created the Hawaiian Islands. The summit is the meeting point of Wakea and Papa. In this cultural context, the island of Hawai'i was the first-born offspring of this union, the eldest of the islands. Wakea and Papa also became the parents of the first Native Hawaiian man, Haloa, the first ancestor of the Hawaiian people. These beliefs about Mauna Kea make it a highly significant and spiritual place to the Hawaiian people."*

After Kat's testimony there was some discussion by the Board (Board member Gerald De Mello recused himself because he is an employee of UH Hilo) and then there was a motion to support the DLNR staff report recommending that the maximum fine be imposed: \$2,000 per fine for 9 violations plus a \$2,000 administrative fee. The Board vote was unanimous!

**PLANNING, In The Context Of JUSTICE**

*A Paper Presented by Kat Brady on 9.25.04*

I was heartened by two things said earlier today. The first was Senor Lerner's philosophy that anything is possible. The second was Tom Dinnell's comment that social justice was a pivotal point in his life. These are some of the things that motivate me. I believe that all things are possible - with justice.

One of the most powerful things anyone ever said to me was in response to a statement I made 30 years ago. That statement was, "I just don't seem to fit into the business world." The response was, "Kat, there's ONE WORLD and you're in it!"

I didn't quite get the *kaona* (hidden meaning) of that statement at the time, but I knew it was important.

When I finally did 'get it,' that profound comment has guided my life and my work ever since.

So when I was asked to be on this panel to discuss the options and challenges for our future, I was eager to discuss planning, in the context of justice.

How can we truly plan for the future in the absence of justice?

I don't believe we *will* have a future if we don't start planning in the context of justice now. All around us we see so much injustice that could have been avoided, if only mindfulness had prevailed.

On the U.S. continent, the homeland of the Dineh is surrounded by four sacred mountains in northern Arizona. The tribe has lived on this land for generations. In the 1990's Peabody Mining Company convinced the federal government to relocate the tribe so they could open up a mining operation on the homeland of the Dineh. The Dineh were moved onto land of an abandoned uranium mine and now the elders and the children are developing cancer and are dying. This is a stark example of greed prevailing over righteousness, INjustice, in the absence of planning.

You might say that we don't have such harsh examples in Hawai'i but, sadly, we have too many examples of planning, in the absence of justice.

When one considers what is happening on Mauna Kea (actually *Wakea* - the sky god who, together with Papa, the earth mother, and other gods and forces, created the Hawaiian Islands), the sacred temple of the Hawaiian people, we see an example

of planning, in the absence of justice. When the first people of these islands voyaged across the Pacific, guided by the stars, Mauna Kea was the first land they saw. Na kupuna have told me the stories and the chants so that I would understand why Mauna Kea is the *piko*, the umbilical cord, that connects the Hawaiian people to this sacred place. The summit of Mauna Kea was considered so sacred, they said, that most people never went there and only the highest ali`i were buried there. Mauna Kea is the closest connection to *Akua* (God). It is the most important reference point for Hawaiians - it guides their lives. It teaches those who listen, how to live.

That is why the astronomical development on Mauna Kea and the continuing conflict with the scientific community evokes such visceral feelings today. The conflict is not about astronomy. It is about respect. Mauna Kea is the sacred temple of the Kanaka Maoli, but the astronomers only see Mauna Kea for its scientific and militaristic purposes. They think they own Mauna Kea, when the Hawaiians are clear that they don't own it either. It is their sacred temple to care for. The over development on Mauna Kea is a harsh example of planning, in the absence of justice.

When we look at O`ahu and the public benefit projects that exist, one cannot help but notice that most of the polluting projects are on our Leeward Coast - numerous landfills, Campbell Industrial Park, H-Power, and HECO's Kahe Power Plant. These are projects that benefit all the people of O`ahu, but which most people do not want in their communities. Is it merely coincidental that the Leeward Coast is home to one of the largest Native Hawaiian populations on this island - the one population that is at the bottom of most social indices? This is another example of planning, in the absence of justice.

So what can we do? How do we include justice in the planning process? How can we start to shape a just and equitable future for all of Hawai`i?

We start today, right now, by adopting some basic tenets to help guide us. Employing principles such as the **Precautionary Principle**, which provides a framework for action to protect human health and the environment in the face of uncertainty. The central premise of the Precautionary Principle is that when an activity poses threats of serious, irreversible harm to human health or the environment, we should act to prevent that damage -- even if science has not fully worked out the details of the relevant cause and effect relationships.

In August 2002, Frank Ackerman and Rachel Massey of the Global Development and Environment Institute at Tufts University authored a report entitled "Prospering with Precaution" - [http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/policy\\_research/PrecautionAHTAug02.pdf](http://ase.tufts.edu/gdae/policy_research/PrecautionAHTAug02.pdf), which I urge everyone to read. The authors write, "*Implementation of the Precautionary Principle means taking a new, forward-looking approach to environmental regulations. It also requires careful consideration of alternative production materials and processes. The evidence shows that implementing the Precautionary Principle is not just good science; it is also good economics, for at least four reasons:*

1. *Precautionary action benefits workers;*
2. *Precautionary action does not impose damaging costs on industry;*
3. *Precautionary policies can stimulate technological innovation; and*
4. *Economic logic supports timely action to avoid massive health and environmental costs."*

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the Precautionary Principle as city and county policy June 17, 2003, a stunning and unprecedented breakthrough in the management of environmental matters in the U.S. The Precautionary Principle is also a working legal concept in the European Union.

We, in Hawai`i, live in a much more fragile environment and have much more to lose than most places on the planet. If we don't start planning, using guidance such as the Precautionary Principle and living more consciously now, we will surely be writing our own epithet.

We can plan by looking through the lens of Harm Reduction. **Harm Reduction** is a public health philosophy, which promotes methods of reducing the physical, social, emotional, and economic harms associated with drug and alcohol use and other harmful behaviors on individuals and their community.

Now think out of the box. What would it look like if we applied the philosophy of Harm Reduction to our planning process?

Well, we would be much more careful where we developed. Would we continue to allow development on steep slopes where we have seen boulders the size of Volkswagens roll down our mountains leaving a wake a death and destruction? Would we allow coastal development that causes major runoff, polluting our ocean and killing our reefs? No, of course not, we would assess the harm of any proposed action on our

environment, our economy, our people, those rights that are constitutionally protected, and on the surrounding community before any action was undertaken.

With the Precautionary Principle and Harm Reduction as basic tenets, I believe that Hawai'i can be sustainable.

A philosophical shift in how we look at our world, through the lens of environmental justice, economic justice, cultural justice, and social justice will take commitment and courage, but I believe that it is the course we must take, to be truly sustainable.

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Doc Berry's Paradise Index proffers the concepts essential for a sustainable world as:

1. The just and equitable treatment of human beings and a reasonably good quality of life for all humans,
2. Reasonable consumerism,
3. Corporate and individual behavior that provides measurable, sustainable impacts on local and global environments, preserving biodiversity.

If we start planning in the context of justice now we will be on the road to *true* sustainability.

Energy is the cornerstone of sustainability and sadly Hawai'i has been held captive by allowing one company to monopolize the generation and delivery of electricity on every island except Kaua'i. This utility says we need more power to meet the needs of changing technology, while continuing to rely solely on foreign oil for their owned and operated generators at our expense and that of future generations. With the overwhelming evidence proving the earth is warming, it is obvious that we cannot continue on this unsustainable course if we are survive.

I am currently reading "*Boiling Point*" by Ross Gelbspan, a book that everyone should read. Rising seas, dramatic climate change, and resulting disease will affect island nations first. A recent Pentagon study warned that global warming poses a greater threat than nuclear war. Hawai'i must become the leader in development of renewable energy, this is no longer optional. It is about our survival.

Unfortunately, the entrenched bureaucracy has been dictating our energy policy. In the last legislative session, Hawai'i took a giant step backwards by redefining renewable energy to

include the burning of some fossil fuels, energy conservation, and energy efficiency. This means that *any* quantifiable energy conservation measure, such as energy efficient light bulbs and building materials, building higher efficiency fossil fuel power plants, and using low-flush toilets, all count toward the utility's mandate to reach 20% renewable energy by 2020. In essence, this re-definition of renewable energy has now codified that the utilities don't have to do anything different to reach their mandate. In fact, they have surpassed that goal right now. This is shameful and has been done at our expense and that of our children and our children's children.

How do we correct injustices such as this? More Democracy! Democracy is the only basis for sustainable life on earth.

Injustice is not, and has never been, a sustainable strategy. Injustice is the common denominator for many of our social problems. Bob Marley said it best, "A hungry man is an angry man."

So another strategy is **Increasing Democracy**.

Since 1989, Porto Alegre realized that the community was an incredible resource and convened a group of 850 citizens in a decision making body to make proposals. The government brought in resources, requested by the citizen decision makers, to help them clarify their proposals and answer their questions. The City Council can also offer proposals, but the body does not have to accept them. Today there are 10,000 - 15,000 citizens involved and engaged in this democratic process who are shaping their own future.

Denmark has set up a panel of randomly selected citizens to focus on the technological issues of the day. After deliberation, the panel's report and recommendations are sent to the government, who is required to act on them. The media is also required to publish the panel's report and recommendations in full.

These are great examples of how democracy is being increased in other parts of the world.

In Hawai'i enacting **REAL Campaign Finance Reform and Clean Elections** would be a huge step forward. Campaign Finance Reform and Clean Elections are the *only* way that everyone can be equally empowered and represented.

- It would impress upon those running for office that their job is public service and not merely to serve the agenda of powerful interests at the expense of the people,

- It would remind elected officials that the laws they enact today will have a profound effect on their children, their children's children, and so on down their family line,
- It would create an environment where all voices are welcome and considered,
- It would open up government so that everyone operates in the light, and where backroom deals are frowned upon and become the exception, rather than the rule,
- It would demand more thoughtful action from our elected officials - demanding that they think past their two- or four-years terms and that they *truly* understand the impact of their votes in the context of history,
- It would help our legislators to assess the impacts and the unintended consequences of their votes.

Utilizing the Precautionary Principle, a Harm Reduction philosophy, and Increasing *True* Democracy can change the unsustainable course we are on. If the planning community adopted these ideas, the community support you would receive would be enormous. You would be a real and powerful voice advocating for a positive and just future for all.

Your expertise can help us shape the world we all want to live in. A peaceful and just society where everyone has a home to live in because there is adequate affordable housing, where everyone has enough food to eat because our resources are managed sustainably, and where living consciously is the guiding principle of individual and corporate actions.

## GENETIC MANIPULATION

Monsanto, the company that has produced some of the deadliest chemicals known to man, wants to control the world's genetically engineered seed industry. Is this who we want to control our food supply?

Monsanto has produced a majority of the world's PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls) banned in the US in 1977; produced Agent Orange containing the highest levels of dioxin; promoted Saccharin (a carcinogenic artificial sweetener); knowingly sold Lysol, contaminated with dioxin; manufactured Roundup (with an "inert" ingredient glyphosate that is harmful to people); sold the controversial Aspartame (nutrasweet; Equal); and is promoting biotechnological methods such as recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH); and Roundup

resistant crops (Roundup-Ready).

Recent genetic testing of organic papaya grown in Hawai'i yielded alarming results. 50% of the organically grown papaya were contaminated with genetically engineered seeds, including the organic papaya seeds purchased from UH! So when we are told by the biotech industry that cross pollination cannot and does not occur, we have proof that this is NOT TRUE.

Organic farming is one of the fastest growing industries in Hawai'i and should be supported by 'The Health State.' Why then, does Hawai'i constantly open the flood gates to 'big ag' without regard to our small organic farmers, not to mention the irreparable harm genetic engineering may cause our threatened and endangered species?

There was an air of mendacity on the floor of the House last session as biotech's legislative cheerleaders regurgitated the promises they were fed, and they sure didn't let the facts get in the way of their cheerleading. Shame on them.

Instead, we need legislators that work for the people instead of the big moneyed interests that can buy seats in our government.

## ECONOMIC EXTERNALITIES



When tourists come to Hawai'i they spend money. Money spent within Hawai'i ripples across the marketplace creating secondary and tertiary impacts. Thus each dollar that is spent is worth \$2-3 to the economy. This is called the multiplier or the ripple effect.

When we intentionally export money from the economy, we are losing both the dollar and the ripple effect. When we export cash for fossil fuel (over \$1 billion a year - instead of using local renewable energy resources), export cash for food (estimated at \$60-\$80 million a year - instead of putting greater emphasis on home-grown agricultural products), or export cash to buy beds in private prisons on the U.S. continent (approximately \$35 million a year - to warehouse our inmates far from home), we lose both the dollars and the ripple effect those dollars would have in our economy.

What do we get in return?



When we ship cash for oil we get pollution and global warming gases. When we ship cash for food we get urban sprawl gobbling up our agricultural land base. When we ship cash to exile our inmates we get a higher rate of recidivism because we isolate them far away from home and disconnect them from their `ohana.

Is this any way to manage an economy?

### WHAT'S AN ACTIVIST TO DO?

LOL often stands alone because we refuse to compromise our principles. Definitely the hardest aspect of our work is to see traditional allies be co-opted by interests that work against the community, and the second hardest aspect is to raise enough funds to keep our doors open. LOL has always operated on a very tight budget, with our dedicated activists not even earning minimum wage. This is not why they do this work, they assure the Board. They truly believe that their research and work will help Hawai'i become a more self-sufficient place where people can live healthy lives and enjoy the most beautiful environment on the planet. And they want to leave a good sound body of work that those after them can build on as their legacy.

In our efforts to stay alive, LOL has tried several different fundraising strategies.

Several years ago we hired two experienced canvassers. During the week of training on our issues, Kat reinforced that they should never lie at the door. They were told that if they didn't know the answer to a question, they were to give our business card to the person and suggest they call the office for an answer. After two weeks, we started to receive calls from people who said they contributed because they felt coerced. What did Henry and Kat do? The canvassers were immediately let go and

that's the last time we sent other folks around to talk about LOL's work. Then they took our checkbook, with a balance of \$300 at the time, and visited each person apologizing for the canvassers and offered to write checks to reimburse each person.

Grants are another source of funding, but have been difficult for LOL because our work is really being a government watchdog, and there aren't many grants to support that type of work. We've tried for some that say they do, but have not been successful after two or three proposals. Most grants are for projects and about 10% of those funds can be used for overhead - LOL's greatest need. That is why we depend solely on community support. YOUR SUPPORT. We bravely stand alone when all others are caving in, we are courageous in the face of intense adversity, we are principled in that we would never sell our the values and ideals that Life of the Land has lived by for 35 years, and we will continue to be the clear voice for the community when powerful interests are trying to roll over you.

Many long-time supporters have taken to regularly sending in their support through the mail and we deeply appreciate that. We humbly ask if you could do the same.

### **YOU ARE LIFE OF THE LAND!**

*Your support is absolutely vital to continue our work on issues of importance for our community. Will you consider deepening your support of LOL's important work?*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your burning issues: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Would you like to be on our e-mail alert list?*

Yes  No

*Mahalo a nui loa for your support!*

## 2004 STATE LEGISLATURE

The 2004 session of the Hawai'i State Legislature was the worst session that our activists have ever experienced. The session was nasty, partisan and produced little. It consisted mostly of political jousting at the expense of the people's issues. LOL's advocacy is out in the open, we have never liked, and we don't engage in, backroom deals and horse trading. Both parties acted shamefully and unprofessionally, in our view. We were continually embarrassed for them as we sat alone in the gallery during most of the floor sessions, where too much ego and not enough thoughtfulness prevailed. On the last day of the session, Kat was stopped in the hall by Rep. Schatz who mockingly asked, "Well, how do you feel now that LOL stands alone in opposing the Renewable Energy bill supported by the Legislature, Sierra Club and Hawai'i Renewable Energy Alliance?" (*This is the Renewable Portfolio Standards bill (Act 95) that has the Orwellian definition of renewable energy that includes the burning of fossil fuels and any quantifiable energy conservation measures (energy efficient light bulbs, more efficient fossil fuel power plants, low flush toilets, etc) to count toward the utilities' mandate for renewable energy!*) "How do I feel?" asked Kat - "PRINCIPLED!" As citizens, we must demand more from our legislators; our lives are impacted daily by the decisions they make.

## LIFE OF THE LAND

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# VOTE!

You must be the change you wish to see in  
the world. -- *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi*

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

One very scary aspect of our political landscape over the last two sessions has been the overabundance of proposals to amend our Constitution - 125 in the 2003-2004 sessions alone - in the guise of "Let the people decide." Hawai'i's unique history - the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy, the imprisonment of Queen Liliu'okalani, the imposition of martial law, and the arrest and incarceration of our citizens solely because of their Japanese ancestry - should inform our decision. With the USA PATRIOT ACT steadily eroding our rights, we should act judiciously when it comes to weakening Hawai'i's strong privacy and due process rights. The Progressive community in Hawai'i believes that amending our Constitution should not be a knee-jerk reaction to prevailing social issues. This year there are 4 amendments (mostly relating to emotionally-charged, provocative issues stemming from court decisions that the AG and prosecutors disagree with) but they all diminish rights. The Constitution should be a vehicle to expand rights, not take them away. The ACLU of Hawai'i, the League of Women Voters, the AFL-CIO, and the ILWU are recommending NO VOTES on all 4 Constitutional Amendments.

**Protect and Defend Our Constitution!**