

Clearing a Path from Mauka to Makai at Kalaehi "White Stone"

The Lana'i and Maui Connection

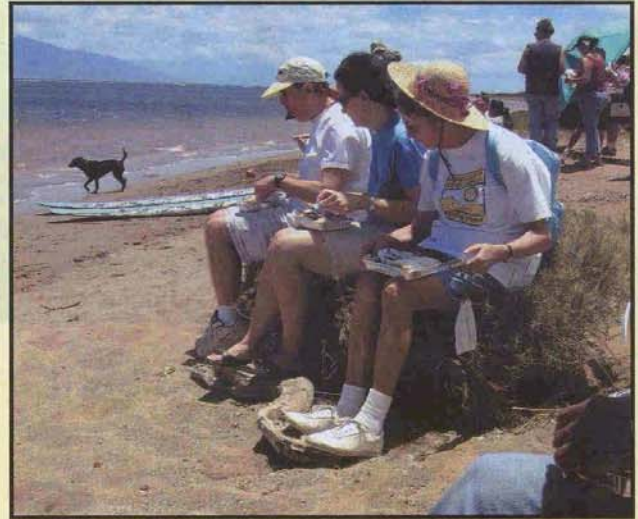
by Kathy Best, Castle & Cooke Community Relations Manager

Can you imagine 40 people coming over from Maui on the early morning Saturday ferry to help us with a community cleanup on Lana'i? Well, it happened. The Wailea/Kihei Rotary reached out to support their neighbors on Lana'i and came together for this community stewardship project with Lana'i residents and Castle & Cooke employees to work on clearing a pathway to the ocean at Kalaehi - commonly referred to as "White Stone."

How did we get so lucky? Who would take the time and money to come over to Lana'i to spend their day on a cleanup project? It all started with a phone call from Lis Richardson of the Wailea Rotary to her good friend Sue Murray who is the Principal Broker at Island of Lana'i Properties. Lis said that her Rotary group wanted to come to Lana'i to help with a community project. The Wailea Rotary has received recognition and awards for their community service on Maui and is especially known for their beach cleanups and stewardship



Maui Rotary member, Carol Perry, helped pick up broken glass and trash.



Bentos, brownies and time to relax - a great way to end our day at Kalaehi.

projects. This was the start of our Lana'i and Maui connection.

The caravan of cars to get the 55 volunteers to the site included Lana'i community members and Castle & Cooke employees. After picking up our Maui Rotarians and their family and friends who came to & Heritage Center, where we welcomed our visitors. Kepa Maly, Executive Director of LCHC shared some information on Kalaehi to give us all a "sense of place" and the significance about where we were going to spend the day. He also explained how we should approach the sites - to walk carefully on the uneven and sharp coral terrain, and no uprooting or pulling which can disturb the native plants. Instead, we should cut, saw or clip.

Armed with saws, loppers, clippers and lots of enthusiastic hands to help, the crew worked diligently in the heat of the day. They cleared lots of kiawe bushes, hauled the over-

grown brush and other plants and weeds that were crowding out the endemic native Hawaiian plants, as well as, picked up trash and broken glass in the area.

After hours of hard work, the dedicated volunteers headed down provided by Castle & Cooke and home-made brownies baked with aloha by Onaona Maly. The beautiful view looking towards Maui was

enjoyed by all as they rested their weary bodies and the keiki played joyfully with a carefree spirit in the ocean along the shoreline.

In the future, we ask everyone to please kokua and to keep our community beautiful and clean. camping or enjoying a day at the beach. E laulima kakou. Let's work together to be good stewards of our community.



Alberta de Jetley battles the keawe bushes with a saw



Pau hana time for this work crew ... time to head for the beach!

Mahalo!

A special mahalo to our Lana'i Drivers and Hosts for their time, vehicles and in-kind contributions!

Sue Murray
Elarka Yuen
Kathy Best
Kepa & Onaona Maly
Alberta de Jetley
Kahau and Liko Manuel

Mikala Borders `Ohana (and Ben)
Nick Palumbo `Ohana - van
Mike & Kathy Carroll - jeep
Lana'i Youth Center - van

An extra special mahalo to all our Maui friends! We heard they plan to return again sometime next year - we look forward to their next visit.