



Friends of Haleakalā National Park

FALL 2012

P.O. Box 322 ☼ Makawao, HI ☼ 96768 ☼ www.fhnp.org

RETURN OF THE NĒNĒ: SCOUTS HELPED CARRY STATE BIRD TO NEW HOME AT PALIKŪ 50 YEARS AGO

By Shannon Wianecki

In June of 1962, a strange parade ambled down Sliding Sands trail. Chaperoned by a few wildlife biologists and some pack mules, a dozen Boy Scouts descended into the heart of Haleakalā National Park. Each boy carried a cardboard box on his back, and in each box was a Hawaiian goose. Troop 56 had been chosen to help transport 35 *nēnē* to the verdant grasslands of Palikū. As the boys trekked 10 miles to the park's farthest cabin, the geese on their backs jostled and occasionally honked.

When the scouts finally freed their feathered burdens, the *nēnē* joined a tiny new

flock of Hawaiian geese, which had been extinct on Maui for seventy years. No merit badge is big enough to commemorate restoring a native species from extinction.

Last summer marked the fiftieth anniversary of the triumphant return of the *nēnē* to Maui. Today, the charismatic bird is so commonly seen on Haleakalā that park staff have difficulty convinc-

ing visitors that *nēnē* are endangered—and still need radical protection.

Nēnē (*Branta sandvicensis*) number among Earth's rarest beasts. They're a tangible link to Hawai'i's paradise lost. Half a million years ago, around the time the Big Island bubbled



Boy Scouts prepared to haul boxes of *nēnē* to Palikū in June 1962.
National Park Service photo, Haleakalā National Park

See Boy Scouts, page 2

NEW ARCHIVE BUILDING WILL PROTECT PARK'S TREASURES

From adzes to butterflies to antique spurs, Haleakalā National Park's precious artifacts are now safely stored in a state-of-the-art archives building. It's been 14 years since the park first requested such a facility, and cultural resources manager Elizabeth Gordon has been pushing for funding since she began working at Haleakalā 13 years ago. Now the 800-square-foot building is up and running, not yet completely organized but ready to offer easy access for researchers.

Still to come are museum storage shelves that can be cranked together to conserve space, a computer, copier and scanner for researchers, and "finding aids," documents that help locate materials in the archives. Gordon, who is the only permanent cultural research person

See Park Archives, page 3

BOY SCOUTS HELPED NĒNĒ SETTLE IN NEW HABITAT

Continued from page 1

to the surface, a flock of Canadian geese was blown off course and landed by chance in Hawai‘i. Their descendants evolved into three distinct species. *Nēnē nui* and the giant Hawaiian goose, both fat and flightless, vanished soon after the arrival of humans. The smaller, more agile *nēnē* escaped its cousins’ fate—for the time being.

Nēnē closely resemble their Canadian ancestors, with some significant differences. In response to their new environment, the dusky-cheeked Hawaiian birds became more terrestrial. Over time, their taupe wings shrank. Instead of webbed feet, *nēnē* have long toes with thick padding—better for strolling lava plains.

Ancient Hawaiians sang chants about *nēnē*, used their feathers to decorate *kāhili* (royal standards), and feasted on their meat and eggs. An estimated 25,000 *nēnē* roamed the Islands when Captain Cook arrived in 1778. One hundred years later, they’d all but disappeared. Humans hunted *nēnē* indiscriminately. Worse, they introduced rats, cats and mongoose, which prey on the birds, steal their eggs, and thrash their nests. *Nēnē* parents fiercely defend their broods, but they’re no match for fangs and claws.

The species nearly flatlined in the 1940s. A 1946 tsunami effectively halved the world population of *nēnē*. Less than three dozen birds existed in the wild on the Big Island; a handful more in captivity.

Miraculously, the species survived—thanks to a few determined individuals. Starting in 1949, territorial (and later state) wildlife biologist Ah Fat Lee oversaw a *nēnē* captive breeding program on at Pōhakuoloa the Big Island. Two females birds and one male were sent halfway round the globe to Sir Peter Scott’s waterfowl refuge in Slimbridge, England. The valuable stud, christened Kamehameha, produced 49 descendants. Some of these British-born birds accompanied the Boy Scouts into Haleakalā.



Nēnē soar across the sky with Haleakalā in the background. Once nearly extinct, the birds have regained a foothold in the Islands with help from human friends.

Forest and Kim Starr photo

They’d rather be down country, pecking around grassy wetlands. They’re free birds and can fly where they choose. But at least inside the park they’re protected from the dangers of civilization.

Next time you visit the marvelous wilds of Haleakalā, pay special attention to the resident *nēnē*. Watch them soar in formation against the crater’s interior walls, or forage amidst *pūkiawe* bushes for berries, mooing softly as the fog steals in. It’s a rare glimpse of a species that has returned from the brink.

Today, 250-300 *nēnē* call Haleakalā National Park home. Their fate is not guaranteed; they rely on park staff to keep predators from raiding their nests. Even then, goslings often fail to find enough nourishment in the cindery moonscape. The frigid summit is not the birds’ preferred climate.

PARK ARCHIVES UP AND RUNNING

Continued from page 1

on the park staff, also wants permanent funding for someone to work in the building, a job now handled by temporary museum technician Laysanna Rivera.

Until now, Gordon said of the park's artifacts, "they were hidden and scattered all over the place." Items were stored in a yurt in the park's service area, and even under the visitor center restroom. Vintage photographs were kept in Gordon's tiny office, and researchers looked at them in the maintenance lunchroom, also the location of a computer where they could view old superintendents' reports. When it was time for the maintenance crew's lunch break, the researcher would have to stop the computer work or clear photos from the lunch table so the workers could sit down to eat.

The park maintenance workers themselves constructed this new building. Contractors laid the concrete foundation and installed some items, such as the 24-hour monitoring and sprinkler system, but the park crew handled the rest of the work, creating a building that is visually similar to the other, considerably older, structures in the service area. This new building, however, is "green," well insulated and with photovoltaic panels on the roof that provide its electricity. The concrete foundation pad is larger than the building, allowing for future expansion if needed.

Inside, there is a portable dehumidifier to keep the environment favorable for the preservation of artifacts, "but we haven't had to use it yet," Gordon said. It turns out that the cool, dry environment on the mountain is perfect for museum-quality storage, and the temperature in the building is pleasant and stable.

Inside are a wide range of items—the Stetson



Elizabeth Gordon shows drawers of geological specimens.

worn by long-time ranger Jimmy Lindsay, art works depicting the park, research papers written by scientists over the years. There are plants collected by botanist Otto Degener, the first naturalist for what are now Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and Haleakalā National Park, and a copy of his book *Flora Hawaiiensis*. Gordon said a University of Hawai'i professor has obtained a National Science Foundation grant to photograph the plant specimens (some found as early as the 1930s in places where they don't exist anymore) and share the photos on the Internet.

Cabinets with specialized drawers hold everything from maps to collections of plants and insects to geological and archaeological specimens to unique pieces like an old spur found in the crater and one of the crank-handle telephones that used to be in the cabins.

In one drawer is a hammer from Civilian Conservation Corps days, apparently left by accident inside the wall of a house built for park employees. Contemporary workers found the hammer when they renovated the house, and it was still in good condition. Could they add it to their tool kit, they asked Gordon, or did she want it? Gordon wanted it all right, knowing it was a relic left by the young men of the Depression-era program that helped create trails and cabins still in use today. Now, along with all the other relics stashed for years in unlikely places, the CCC hammer rests safely in the new archives building.

Researchers can make appointments to work in the park archives by calling 572-4476.



The park's new archives building

VOLUNTEER NUMBER HIT RECORD HIGH

Haleakalā National Park welcomed the highest number of volunteers in its history during the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2012. Volunteers were honored at an awards dinner October 27 at the Seascape Restaurant in Mā‘alaea.

A total of 20,343 volunteer hours helped keep the park running in the last fiscal year, according to volunteer coordinator Melissa Chimera. Friends Haleakalā National Park and the Pacific Whale Foundation led monthly service trips to control weeds in sensitive areas. Internship programs brought in 29 individuals in middle school, high school and college, plus another six post-college interns to learn more about careers in conservation.



FHNP volunteers trek across the crater during the October 2012 service trip. *Matt Wordeman photo*

Two of the top volunteers, retired employees Ted Rodrigues and Ron Nagata, and their volunteer crews contributed thousands of hours to backcountry sanitation, fence repair and weed removal. Rodrigues takes a special interest in maintenance, Chimera said, and worked on replacing the pasture fence at Palikū. Nagata focused on clearing weeds at Kapalaoa and also on his ongoing photo documentation project. Nagata revisits areas he photographed early in his career to make updated pictures that show the change in the area in the years since. For example, some areas have seen great regeneration of native plants due to the massive fencing project to keep goats and pigs out of the park, a project to which both Nagata and Rodrigues dedicated many years when they were employees.



CAKE RECALLS FIRST SERVICE TRIP

Geoffrey DeBrosse, one of the youngest volunteers ever to work on a Friends' service trip, was so stoked by the experience that he requested a Haleakalā cake for his eighth birthday.

“Attached is a photo of his to-scale Maui cake complete with the Haleakalā crater (which is technically not a crater),” John DeBrosse wrote in an email about his son's cake (apparently John was paying attention to the scientific information he heard on the trip; the “crater” is actually an erosional valley). Geoffrey's mother, Suzie, did the baking, “and I did the engineering/decorating. Please note the Ko‘olau and Kaupō Gaps and the route of our hike (in black). Aunt Eileen is attending the party, so she'll get a piece.”

Suzie's sister Eileen Curtis was on the hike in June, helping carry a share of the supplies that would have overloaded Geoffrey's junior-size pack. Suzie skipped the trip due to her tendency to altitude sickness. The hikers pulled thistles at Palikū, and John said, “I felt like we really did make a difference.” The work crew then headed down the rugged Kaupō Gap trail, earning their stripes as genuine crater hikers.

“Geoffrey's done some hiking, but this was pushing the limits,” John said. “We live in Vermont, and we're kind of outdoorsy, but that was a pretty big hike. It was a great experience.”

Did Geoffrey enjoy the trip? “Oh yeah!” he said. And he was pleased with his birthday cake; once he saw it, he spotted a personal connection with Maui: “I turned eight, and I didn't realize it was in the shape of an eight.”



Geoffrey shows off his Haleakalā cake.

SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

Who we are ...

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Haleakalā National Park achieve the purposes and goals for which it was established: To preserve Haleakalā's unique eco-systems, scenic character and associated native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual resources so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

What we do ...

- ◆ Facilitate volunteerism to accomplish projects recommended by park staff.
- ◆ Monitor actions and activities that could impact the Haleakalā.
- ◆ Urge responsible use of the Park by the public.
- ◆ Provide financial assistance for the benefit of the Park by soliciting funds from the general public. Provide financial assistance for the benefit of the Park by soliciting funds from the general public.
- ◆ Promote programs such as Adopt-a-Nēnē to generate funds that will enhance the protection and preservation of the endangered natural resources of the Park.
- ◆ Implement programs and activities that increase public awareness and appreciation of the Park and its highly diverse geological and biological resources.

What you can do ...

- ◆ **Join** the Friends of Haleakalā National Park
- ◆ **Adopt-a-Nēnē** – an unusual gift idea.
- ◆ **Volunteer** in the Park
- ◆ **Sign up** for Service Projects.
- ◆ **Serve** on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board of the Friends

The Adopt-a-Nēnē Program ...

was developed as a fun and educational way for you to become a part of the projects that are being conducted in Haleakalā National Park. The nēnē is an endemic bird on the Federal List of Endangered Species. By adopting a nēnē, you will be helping us protect not only the nēnē, but all endangered species and their important habitat in the Park.

REGULAR Supporters receive “adoption papers” that include information about your nēnē, an adoption certificate and a nēnē postcard.

MĀLAMA Supporters receive a postcard pack and all gifts given to Regular supporters.

ALI I Supporters receive an exclusive 5”x7” matted nēnē photo and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will have their names displayed at the Park. ALI I NUI Supporter receive an exclusive 8”x10” matted nēnē photo, a special certificate for display and all gifts given to Regular supporters. They will also have their names displayed in the Park.

Yes! I want to **become a Friend of Haleakalā N.P.** Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$ Other _____

Yes! I want to **Adopt A Nēnē.** Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution:

\$20 Student/Senior \$30 Regular \$50 Mālama \$100 Ali‘i \$200+ Ali‘I Nui

Send me no gifts please, I want my entire contribution to protect endangered species

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Make checks payable (in U.S. dollars) to:

Friends of Haleakalā National Park, Inc. Send to P.O. Box 322, Makawao, HI 96768

You can also donate on-line using your credit card at www.fhnp.org

THE COUNTY FAIR: PARK WELL-REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL EVENT

Five flying *nēnē* puppets, three *lei*-draped steeds and park employees dressed in endangered-bird costumes were among the Haleakalā National Park participants in the Maui County Fair parade September 27. Along with banner carriers and a fire truck topped with waving park folk, they lured Maui fair-goers to the park booth, open for all four days of the annual event.

“It ‘takes a village’ of staff to represent a park,” acting chief of interpretation Jeff Bagshaw wrote in a description of the fair that this year boasted attendance of 93,527. He and other staff members put in much time in preparation beforehand and in keeping the booth open for the entire fair. “Running the booth for four days with thousands of folks passing by is like running an extra visitor center,” Bagshaw wrote. “We were proud to be part of the state’s largest community event again this year.

“Friends of Haleakalā showed what friends are made of by joining us to help highlight the 50th anniversary of *nēnē* being returned to Maui,” he said.

“Shannon Wianecki, Elizabeth Speith, Fern Duvall and Mary Santa Maria helped folks make personalized *nēnē* buttons and really helped fill in some blank spots on the booth schedule.”

The FHNP members talked with hundreds of people about *nēnē* and the FHNP organization and answered questions about Haleakalā. Shannon made a poster celebrating the 50th anniversary of the return of the *nēnē* to Maui and describing how to tell the difference between *nēnē* and Canada geese.

Having a park booth at the fair is a longtime tradition, but the nature of the booth has changed. Historic photos from park files show a fair booth from the days when Haleakalā was a part of the Hawaii National Park, with headquarters at Kīlauea Volcano on Hawai‘i Island. That booth appeared to be primarily a display of plant materials from the summit. Contemporary fair booths are colorful and interactive, with not only displays highlighting the natural resources of the park but also educational games designed to teach Maui folks (especially the kids) about the wonders of their island.



Interested fair-goers listen to Jeff Bagshaw (with cap at rear) and Shannon Wianecki (with white jacket) talk about Haleakalā National Park in the park’s booth at the 2012 Maui County Fair.

CORRECTIONS: Oops! We had a few errors in the Spring edition of the newsletter. Please excuse our misspelling of *Ka Lua o Lapa*, *Pu‘u Nianiau* and *Christmas*. And please let us know any time you see errors—we strive for accuracy.

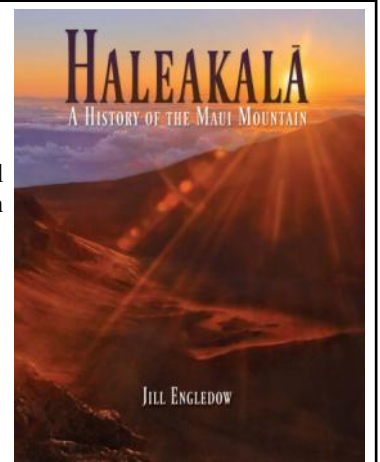


Coming soon: A new book by newsletter editor Jill Engledow.

Haleakalā: A History of the Maui Mountain is a unique and comprehensive history of the mountain and its national park. With 177 pages full of great stories, it includes more than 200 vintage and contemporary photos. \$29.95 plus shipping. Available after Nov. 20, 2012.

Order through Amazon.com or via PayPal at www.mauiislandpress.com.

Advertisement



TWO PLANS LOOK TO FUTURE OF THE PARK AND ITS RESOURCES

More tour vans to the summit at sunrise, or fewer? A bigger visitor center at Kīpahulu, or a visitor center relocated to the town of Hāna? These are a couple of the issues addressed in two plans that will determine important directions for the future of Haleakalā National Park. Details are available on the park website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/hale>) for both the Commercial Services Plan and the Kīpahulu Comprehensive Site Plan.

The National Park Service undertook both plans because of the dramatic rise in visitor use, particularly in commercial operations at the summit and in Kīpahulu. Crowding and congestion have contributed to adverse impacts to visitor experience and to the park's natural and cultural resources, according to the Commercial Services Plan.

Public comment opportunities were held at several stages of the plans' development (the most recent on Maui during the summer), and there will be additional comment opportunities for the Kīpahulu proposals this winter. The Commercial Services Plan is in the final stages of completion, however, and no additional comments will be accepted.

Each of the plans, complete with maps and color photos, offers several alternatives. Each includes an alternative that calls for no action or change to current conditions, while other alternatives allow various activities to increase or call for a change or reduction.

In Kīpahulu, the site plan is proposed to serve the expected 550,000-750,000 visitors per year, protect natural and cultural resources and provide for park operations. As with the Commercial Services Plan, the Kīpahulu plan is based on a series of workshops in which participants reviewed basic site information and history, use of the park areas and concerns about their current and future use. If you love this section of the park, check the park website to see what's planned, and be on the lookout for opportunities to comment.

TRAIL MARKERS ON HALEAKALĀ

Haleakalā was the first national park I ever hiked in," says new Chief of Interpretation Polly Angelakis. "I was a junior-year exchange student at UH-Manoa in 1985-86 and was spending New Year's with a friend's family on Maui. Not only was HNP my first park, it was the first time I truly understood why sunscreen was important at high elevations and not just at the beach. My skin was glow-in-the-dark red for three days! I will be able to speak to visitors about this safety precaution with great insight. I'm originally from Boston, grew up along the coast, and have worked in 10 different national parks around the country, including the Arizona Memorial," Angelakis says. "I was also a regional interpretive specialist and volunteer coordinator for the National Capital Region." Angelakis was most recently at the Clara Barton National Historic Site in Maryland, where she was site manager. Angelakis arrived on Maui at the end of September with her husband, Alan Willis, an engineer and medic. Both are avid hikers and backpackers.



After three years as superintendent, M. Sarah Creachbaum bid farewell to Haleakalā National Park and headed north, to a new position at Olympic National Park in Washington State. Aloha and good luck, Sarah! Matt Brown, chief of resources management, has been acting superintendent.

Dr. Lloyd Loope, Haleakalā National Park's first biologist, retired Sept 1. Dr. Loope arrived at Haleakalā in 1980, and has spent his career here defending the biological integrity of the national park and the mountain which is its home.

See Trail markers, page 8

THREE NEW TRIP LEADERS WILL SHARE LOVE OF THE MOUNTAIN

Three new leaders will guide service trips during the coming year, after learning the tricks of the trade during a November training service trip for all leaders. None of the three is new to hiking, nor to Haleakalā National Park and the Friends' service trips.

Keith Nakata is one of the new leaders. "I moved to Maui in 1999 and volunteered with Nā Ala Hele to help with Maui's state hiking trails. This is where I first met Matt [Wordeman], president of the Friends of Haleakalā National Park. I believe my first Haleakalā service trip was either in 2000 or 2001," Nakata said. "I have done about one trip per year since then, which I obviously enjoy. I am looking to share this enjoyment with others as a trip leader for the Friends."

Michele Hershey is also a longtime volunteer. "I've been volunteering on service trips in HNP since about 1999, and the experience has been wonderful," she said. "After being led by Matt on various trips and his encouragement to become a leader, I knew becoming a leader was the next step in helping the national park. I am looking forward to meeting new volunteers and reconnecting with known volunteers. I enjoy hiking and try to incorporate some type of hiking into my world adventures."

Christy Kozama is originally from the mountains of western North Carolina and has lived on Maui for four years. "I moved here with my husband and dog to work as a naturalist for Pacific Whale Foundation," she said. Christy has a degree in Marine Biology and loves diving, surfing and swimming in the ocean. She and her husband, Marcelo, travel frequently to Marcelo's homeland in the south of Brazil. "My favorite thing about Haleakalā is the silence," Christy said.

Veteran trip leaders Joani Morris, Elizabeth Speith and Matt Wordeman will continue to lead service trips along with the new leaders. Jessica Sage-Blank has returned to school and is taking a break from leading service trips.



New FHNP service trip leaders (left to right) Keith Nakata, Michele Hershey and Christy Kozama are no strangers to high places. Dedicated hikers all, the three will lead service trips beginning in 2013.

TRAIL MARKERS: CHANGES AT HALEAKALĀ

Continued from page 7

Loope's work at HNP included leading proactive efforts to stop the spread of *miconia calvenscens* before it could reach park boundaries. Even after his position was transferred out of the park service to the U.S. Geological Survey, he continued to work with a wide range of partners concerned about the health of Haleakalā. Now taking a well deserved rest, Loope says, "I've really enjoyed postseason baseball this fall, and as a San Francisco Giants fan was excited about the World Series. I also recognize that to preserve my sanity, I need to continue trying to work with others as possible toward moving forward on specific conservation efforts, for example more effective protection of Maui through preventing continual arrival of pests from the Big Island (e.g., little fire ant). I'm of course still very much concerned about anthropogenic climate change and am willing to help try to do something to address it if others on Maui become engaged in that issue."

FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TRIPS FOR 2013

Date	Location	Leader
Jan 19-21	Palikū	Elizabeth
Feb 16-18	Hōlua	Keith
March 29-31	Kapalaoa	Michele
April 20-22	Hōlua	Christy
May 25-27	Palikū	Matt
	Service/Learning	
June 15-17	Kapalaoa	Joani
July 4-6	Palikū	Elizabeth
	Service/Learning	
Aug 3-5	Hōlua	Christy
Aug 31-Sep 2	Palikū	Keith
	Service/ Learning	
Oct 12-14	Kapalaoa	Joani
Nov 9-11	Hōlua	Matt
Dec 7-9	Kapalaoa	Elizabeth

This schedule is subject to change. Please contact the trip leader to confirm dates, cabins and mission. The last date of each trip is the return date. Participants will backpack into the crater to a cabin or campsite and back. Depending upon the trip, the group will perform one of a number of tasks ranging from cabin maintenance to native planting to invasive species removal. An Interpretive Park Ranger will be along on the Service/ Learning trips.



Join us on Facebook for updates on service trips, talks and events, and to stay in touch with other "Friends." You'll find us at:

[http://www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/113998833864/)

[groups/113998833864/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/113998833864/)

And don't forget to check out our website, www.fhnp.org, for more in-depth information about our organization and the many ways we work to support Haleakalā National Park. Sign up for an FHNP account to receive timely e-mail messages from the Friends of Haleakalā.

If you prefer to help save the cost of printing and postage by receiving this newsletter electronically, please e-mail matt@fhnp.org and let us know.

Before signing up for a service trip, please go to the FHNP website at www.fhnp.org, create an account, then log into the account to learn more about the trips and certify your readiness for a service trip. For more information and to make reservations to join a trip, call the appropriate trip leader:

Matt (808) 876-1673, matt@fhnp.org
 Elizabeth (808) 264-4757, beth@fhnp.org
 Joani (808) 669-8385
 Keith (808) 267-5429, keith@fhnp.org
 Michele michele@fhnp.org
 Christy christy@fhnp.org



Looking for a way to help keep Haleakalā beautiful but can't manage a service trip? Consider joining Friends of Haleakalā National Park to keep the highway clean near the park entrance. The Friends pick up litter from the park entrance down about 2 miles once a quarter. The cleanup is usually on a Saturday, beginning about 8 a.m., with the work finished by about 10. For those who are interested in spending a little more time on the mountain, the park sometimes needs help following the highway cleanup on a project such as invasive species removal. Dates are set as the year goes along, so check out the website to see when the next cleanup is scheduled. Call Mary at (808) 927-3288 to find out about carpooling for the drive up the mountain.



The annual Christmas tree cutting at Pu'u Nianiau helps control invasive pines while offering a great outdoor experience and fresh Christmas greens. Saturday, December 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please: no power tools, axes or hatchets, just saws. For more information, contact Matt at matt@fhnp.org or 876-1673.

**Friends of Haleakala National Park
P.O. Box 322
Makawao, HI 96768**

LOOKING NORTHEAST TOWARD HANAKAUHI PEAK

Matt Wordeman photo

