



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM J. AILA
CHAIRPERSON

For Immediate Release: Jan. 29, 2013

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATES RAMSAR WORLD WETLANDS DAY AT
KAWAINUI MARSH WITH TOURS, FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in collaboration with Hoolaulima and the community present the Sixth Annual Ramsar World Wetlands Day on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kailua United Methodist Church, 1110 Kailua Rd.

Ramsar World Wetlands Day is celebrated worldwide every Feb. 2 to commemorate the first wetlands convention held in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. This event in Hawaii recognizes the 2005 designation of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex as a Ramsar wetland of international importance.

This year, the local event is being dedicated to the life and works of Ronald Walker. After 40 years as a wildlife professional, Walker dedicated countless hours supporting wildlife conservation and environmental literacy as a volunteer. The Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex in his home town of Kailua is a site where he shared much of his wisdom with children, strength supporting service trips, and dedication to the community and natural resources.

“Ronald Walker had an admirable devotion to wetland protection – a commitment that permeated his efforts as a volunteer with Hawaii Audubon society, Hawaii Nature Center, DLNR, and many others,” said DLNR Chairperson William J. Aila, Jr. “The knowledge he passed on and the spirit of service he exemplified will live on through the thousands of lives he touched, the art he created, and the species he worked to protect.

The 2013 event theme is *Wetlands Take Care of Water*, highlighting the many local organizations that work to protect our wetlands and Oahu’s water supply, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Honolulu Board of Water Supply. Throughout the event, participants will enjoy live music featuring guest artists Hawaii Loa, Walt Keale, and Jamarek. Educational

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exhibits will feature information about wetlands in Hawaii with interactive activities for children. A climbing wall will be onsite courtesy of Kamaaina Kids. Simply Ono lunchwagon will be providing food options for purchase such as Kalua Pig Plate, Herb Roasted Chicken with Rice, Pork Sliders, fish and vegetarian options and plenty of cold beverages. Ample parking will be available at Kailua United Methodist Church, Kailua Baptist Church, and St. John Lutheran Church.

Free, guided tours of Kailua's wetlands have been an event highlight since it started in 2008. Walking tours of Hamakua Marsh and Kawainui Marsh will be offered by DLNR's Division of Forestry Wildlife Staff at 10 a.m. and noon during the World Wetlands Day celebration. Tours of Ulupo Heiau will begin at 10 a.m. and noon and led by Hawaiian Civic Club. Bus Tours of Kawainui will be offered at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. by reservation. To make reservations, contact Kaimi at email@ahahui.net or call 263-8008.

Located in the center of the Kailua *ahupuaa*, Kawainui-Hamakua is the largest existing wetland in Hawaii. It provides significant wetland habitat for the endangered waterbirds of Hawaii, including the *alae ula* (gallinule), *alae keokeo* (coot), *aeo* (stilt), and *koloa* (duck). Kawainui and neighboring Kaelepulu Pond are culturally significant for their use as large fishponds by the early Hawaiian inhabitants of Kailua and the numerous cultural and archaeological sites associated with these wetlands.

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For more information news media may contact:
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Guided Tours Schedule

9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Kawainui Bus Tours led by Dr. Charles Burrows and Dr. Paul Brennan
Bus tours are limited to 25 people per tour.
Reservations recommended email@ahahui.net or 263-8008.

10 a.m. and noon

Hamakua Marsh Walking Tours led by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Ulupo Heiau Walking Tours led by the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Kawainui Pond Restoration Walking Tour led by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Directions

Kailua United Methodist Church is located at 1110 Kailua Rd.

Kailua United Methodist Church is located on the Windward side of the island at the end of Kailua Road, in Kailua. If coming from Honolulu, take the Pali Highway (61) through the tunnels and down into Kailua Town. Pali Highway becomes Kailua Road just after Castle Hospital, which will be on the left. Continue down Kailua Road until reaching 1110 Kailua Rd.

If coming from H-3, take exit 11 for Kamehameha Highway/HI-83 and turn right. Turn left when reaching HI-61

N/HI-72/Kalaniana'ole Highway. Follow for 2.5 miles and then make a U-turn. Destination will be on the right.

All activities are free and open to the public. Event updates are available at www.wwd2013.blogspot.com and www.ahahui.wordpress.com. For more information about Kawainui Marsh, visit www.kawainuimarsh.com.

Contacts and Information

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