

**Friends of the Forest**  
***Koke'e Leaseholders Association***  
<http://www.malamaokee.org>

22 March, 2005

**LEASEHOLDERS AND FRIENDS COMPLETE MAJOR PROJECT AT YWCA CAMP SLOGGETT**

Over the last three weeks, beginning on Friday, March 4, more than forty volunteers from the Koke'e Leaseholders and Friends of the Forest converted four existing cesspools into three EPA compliant large capacity septic systems and leach fields. What began as a weekend project continued two and a half weeks through the rain and mud until Monday, March 21, but still beat the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's deadline of April 5, 2005 – with fines of up to \$32,500 a day for non-compliance.

The bunkhouse was finished in the rain at 3 pm on Tuesday, March 8, just as a group of 20 from an Oahu Lutheran church checked in, and the historic Lodge was hooked up– again in the rain – as a meditation group arrived on Saturday, March 12.

Donn Carswell, who organized this marathon workday and served as laborer and supervising civil engineer between, said: "We scheduled this workday six months ago – we reserved the septic tanks and pipe arches and pipe. It was a real checker game getting our cesspool pumpers – Dixon Service and Aqua Engineers – our rock hauler, Les, and our material haulers, Mike Olson and David Carswell into the site. Canen Ho'okano, Robert Pa and the Makaweli Flats Boys and State Parks helped stabilize the steepest part of the access road so we could get heavy equipment in."

"Koke'e has been the second wettest spot on Kauai so far this year, with 35 inches of rain for January and February, second only to Waialeale's 43 inches," Carswell continued. "Even with months of preplanning, we had to go on a scavenger hunt to find enough pipe and fittings to hook in the septic systems to the Lodge and Bunkhouse. It seems that everyone in Hawaii is trying to meet the deadline."

"Major mahalos go to Mike Olson and Garden Tank Supply, Aqua Engineers, Brian Yuen "Brian Da Plumber", John McClure of Custom Concrete, Canen Ho'okano and the Makaweli Flats Boys, Brandon Anakalea, Ruth Belmonte & Eddie Molina, Wendell Bermoy, Sam Blair, Patricia Bradley, Gale Carswell, Connie Clausen, Erik Coopersmith, Frank "Nani" Cox, Ed de Deo, Diane de Vries, Colin, Duran and Lindsey Dana, Dixon Service, Lance Fu, Terry Goering, Frank Hay, Canen Hookano and the Makaweli Flats Boys, Mary Lu Kelley, David Kuhn, Gail Landburg, Jeff Lindner, Craig Millett, Peter Norberg, Sharon Ortiz, Robert and Kai Pa, Papa'a Bay Ranch, David Pratt, Princeville Ranch, Brandon Rathbone, Dick Rehmer, Kawika Rogers, Ellie Snyder, Robert Sweney, The Lodge at Koke'e, Waimea Garage, Carmen Wong, and a host of others."

During this extended workday, Leaseholders and Friends repainted the sign at Kalalau Lookout and Canen Ho'okano and the Makaweli Flats Boys graded and rocked the eroded dirt road serving Makaweli Flats and the Pu'u Ka Ohelo Trail and some of the worst portions of the dirt roads at Pu'u Ka Pele Park Lots.

When asked why they volunteered for this extensive project, Donn Carswell said "We love the YWCA and what they do for our youth. We did not want them to shut down if they were unable to meet the EPA deadline. We – the Leaseholders and Friends – saw a need and met it. The YWCA did not have the resources or expertise to do this job. Now my grandchildren can come up to summer camp at Koke'e! Malama Koke'e!"

Ruth Belmonte, dedicated soccer coach and perpetual soccer referee who spent two days in the rain checking grade added: "We kokua'd this for our granddaughters and their granddaughters – it's that simple."

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**Camp Sloggett Workday, March 2005**



Eddie Molina (left) and Brandon Anakalea (right) – Lowering a 1250 gallon septic tank into the ground at the YWCA Camp Sloggett Lodge, March 5, 2005 – photo by Sharon Ortiz, YWCA of Kauai



Donn Carswell (with pole) and David Carswell (operating the Princeville Ranch excavator), March 4,