



2007-2008 HILO BAY ROTARY: COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. **Relay For Life (7/21/07)** – Walkathon for American Cancer Society. 4 members and 4 guests did 50 laps around Wong Stadium, for \$635 in club donations.
2. **ABCs Through Rotary (7/28/07)** – Club reps collected 20 boxes of school supplies and \$1,500 in donations to help underprivileged children, in joint effort with East Hawai`i clubs.
3. **Kilaue`a Wilderness Run (7/28/07)** – 10 members and 7 guests staffed aid station at Devastation Trail in Volcanoes National Park for a mini-marathon.
4. **Hands-On Optics (7/24/07)** – Club donated optics & light kits to two schools.
5. **Rainwater Catchment Conference (8/15/07-8/17/07)** – The 7th biennial American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association Conference was held August 15-17, 2007, at the Kilaue`a Military Camp in Volcano. All four East Hawai`i Rotary clubs co-sponsored the conference, and each club had a representative on the Steering Committee. The conference convened a gathering of experts to share innovative solutions for managing rainwater. Over 100 of the nation's rainwater experts attended, including scientists, educators, engineers, developers, city planners, and conservationists. The topics discussed included the latest technologies for ground water recharge, sustainability, water conservation, runoff control, agricultural water supply, and domestic water supply. The keynote speaker was Andy Lipkis, founder and president of TreePeople, a Los Angeles-based urban and environmental group which helps conserve urban water by ripping up concrete and building huge storage tanks under city parks and schools where runoff water literally "goes down the drain." The conference was relevant to Hawai`i because (1) it created positive awareness of the benefits of rainwater harvesting; (2) it provided opportunity for local planners to meet with a variety of professionals in the field; (3) it featured the latest innovations and designs in rainwater harvesting; (4) it provided a venue for local businesses to introduce their technologies and services to the public; (5) it offered solutions to areas with limited or no municipal water supply. The public was also invited to attend an evening Trade Show and Community Dinner, which included discussion with a panel of experts in the heart of catchment country (8/16/07 at Kea`au High School). Members of the public were invited to ask experts about local water catchment issues or problems. East Hawai`i Rotary funded dinner for over 200 people that evening. Club volunteers assisted as servers, ticket-takers, and as cleanup crew. Other donations helped supplement costs for educational tours, advertising, and registration.
6. **Food Basket (8/29/07)** – Club donated \$500 to hunger for a summer shortage.
7. **Keiki Vision (9/19, 26 & 10/17/07)** – Club spent \$594 on a 2nd set of equipment used in screening the vision of children, and provided 11, 15 and 14 volunteers at Hilo Union, Waiakea Elem. and Waiakeawaena Schools, where 307 students had their vision screened. Lead Optometrist Dr. Cedric Mitsui is a Hilo Bay Rotarian.

8. **Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary (11/3/07)** – On November 3, 2007, four Rotary Club of Hilo Bay volunteers spent a morning caring for and clearing land at Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary near Kurtistown. The Sanctuary's mission is to help, heal and find good homes for abused, neglected or homeless animals. Lost animals can be reunited with their human companions, and no animals taken in are euthanized. This animal shelter is dependent on volunteers to do its work. Over the centuries, humans have made some animal species such as dogs dependent on them, and that gives humans an obligation to care for homeless animals, just like homeless people! Right now, there are 68 dogs and 195 cats which have been taken in at this "no kill" refuge. Besides providing a shelter for abandoned pets, Rainbow Friends also helps people spay/neuter animals. "As an island, we need to figure out a low-cost way to do that," volunteer Sandi Alstrand says. The shelter also assists people who need to give up animals find someone who wants a pet. Unfortunately, Rainbow Friends has lost its primary source of funding, about \$3,000 a month. The Sanctuary has people helping with grant writing, but still seeks a secure corporate sponsor to continue its survival. Hilo Bay Rotary Club has been generous with time and money to support the shelter, and this year donated \$1000 to the Sanctuary for operating expenses.
9. **Hospice of Hilo Light up a Life (11/24/07)** – 11 club volunteers staffed tables in Macy's at the Prince Kuhio Plaza, to solicit, through a personalized "ritual of remembrance", donations to help the Hospice of Hilo program with end-of-life care. In 2007, the Light Up a Life campaign collected over \$17,491.
10. **Student Government Affairs Program (1/15/08)** – Club spent \$750 to buy the book "America's Legacy" and monthly legislative updates for 12th grade students at Kea`au & Pahoa High Schools, used for teaching Social Studies.
11. **11th Annual Hawai'i Heart Walk (2/9/08)** – A walk to raise money for American Heart Association. 14 club members and 3 guests walked 2 miles.
12. **Hawai'i Rotary Dictionary Project (2/15/08)** – Club spent \$540 on dictionaries for each 3rd grade student at Waiakea and Waiakeawaena Elementary Schools. In all, 7 club members distributed over 300 dictionaries to 3rd grade classes at 2 schools.
13. **Weinberg Friends, Girl Scout Camp Project (2/23/08)** – On February 23 (the 103rd anniversary of Rotary), the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay participated in its annual Weinberg Friends Service Project, this year at the Kilohana Girl Scouts Camp on Saddle Road. There were 26 Rotarians (including one from the North Hawai'i Rotary Club) and 9 adult guests present to carry out (1) removal of small trees, bushes, brush, and weeds within five feet of the camp lodge deck and walkways, (2) painting of the camp lodge deck and railings, (3) replacement of broken doors at the camp lodge and at the outhouses, (4) cleaning and repair of camp lodge windows and window screens, and (5) cleaning of the fire ring. As a result of about 140 person-hours of labor, the Girl Scouts received a \$10,000 check from the Weinberg Foundation, presented at the club meeting on March 19. The money will be used to purchase a generator for Camp Kilohana, which currently does not have a source of electricity or power, because the camp's photovoltaic system was

vandalized and broken. The Girl Scout Program, which serves 4,000 girls and which has over 1,500 adult volunteers, is open to all girls in the State of Hawai'i between the ages of 5 and 17. Its mission is to develop girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. Outdoor education is an important component in Girl Scouts, providing experiential learning where girls work with each other as they connect with the world around them and take action to protect the environment. Research has shown that firsthand interactions with the natural world encourage youth to develop an appreciation for and a sense of stewardship of the environment. The use of facilities like Camp Kilohana extends beyond Girl Scouts to include churches, schools, and other non-profit organizations that serve youth or families and that care about sustainability issues in Hawai'i. To continue to provide a safe and nurturing outdoor environment for youth and their families, Girl Scouts of Hawai'i needs help with the maintenance and repair of the facilities at Camp Kilohana. "The support of individuals and organizations like the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay and its members make it possible for the Girl Scout Council to continue to preserve the outdoor experience in an idyllic setting for the benefit of Hawai'i's youth, now and for future generations, while preserving the uniqueness of Hawai'i, its culture and environment", noted Girl Scouts Officer Mariko Faith Kikawa. Those who came to help went away with a real sense of accomplishment.

14. **Friends of Big Island Drug Court (3/12/08)** – Through a District Simplified Grant (DSG) of \$922 (plus \$78 in club funds), the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay purchased items from a list requested by Friends of the Big Island Drug Court. The State of Hawai'i Drug Court program, implemented five years ago, allows certain individuals who have been arrested for drug violations, to start their lives over by being placed in the Drug Court system. These individuals cannot have committed a violent crime, are generally not repeat offenders, and show a serious interest in improving their lives. Assisting such individuals to re-enter the mainstream of community life, to become gainfully employed and to be worthwhile members of our community, is an area of community need for drug offenders, whose numbers are on the increase. Once an individual is convicted of a drug-related crime, the judge may decide to allow that person to enter the Drug Court program instead of giving the individual a prison sentence. The court program provides clinical and psychological assistance, which includes drug addiction treatment and counseling, while requiring the offender to get a job and pay restitution. Successful graduation from the program for these clients means they are gainfully employed, have paid restitution to all their victims, have stayed clean for several months/years and have met all requirements imposed by the judge. Graduation also means their prison sentence has been commuted, and their arrest record is wiped clean. There are currently over 100 clients in the Drug Court system on the Big Island, and over 50 who have graduated. The clients are released from jail when they enter this program, and therefore often have very little to their name. This DSG project will provide personal hygiene kits to help the clients initially take care of themselves as they begin

to look for employment and receive counseling. The hygiene kits will be used over the course of a year or longer. This project will also provide gift certificates as incentives for these clients to reach certain goals in the program. The incentives, which are enjoyments in life that most of us have, are to motivate in adult and juvenile clients of the Big Island Drug Court exceptionally high levels of success. The goods purchased were gift certificates from Prince Kuhio Plaza, grocery stores and theaters. Hygiene kits and gift certificates were presented to Drug Court representatives at our March 12 meeting.

15. **Boys and Girls Club of the Big Island (4/9/08)** – Club is donating \$1,000 to B&G Club, to expand facilities for youth age 6-17 in after-school programs.
16. **Rotarians At Work/Hilo Fire Station Renovation (4/26/08)** – Volunteers from the club will combine efforts with other East Hawai`i Rotary Clubs to repair, paint, and renovate dormitories in the still active Hilo Central Fire Station.
17. **Rotary on Radio and Rotary in the Newspaper:** This is a joint 4-club effort in Public Relations. Each month, Richard Crowe co-hosts (with Ken Hupp) a radio program about Rotary on KPUA's "Community Forum". This project was begun in the 2006-07 Rotary year, with a hiatus in the spring of 2007, then started up again in July 2007. Rotarians from all four clubs are invited to share information about Rotary (the 4-Way Test, Polio Plus), service projects (Keiki Vision, dictionary distribution to schools, DSGs, Matching Grants, NIDs), club functions (Oktoberfest, Hilo Huli), programs involving young people (Interact, Rotaract, Youth Exchange, RYLA), and personal experiences of Rotarians. Almost every topic in Rotary has been covered on these broadcasts over the last two years. The programs are broadcast live on either the 3rd or 4th Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. on 670 AM. At the same time, each month, an advertisement featuring the work of East Hawai`i Rotary is published in the local newspaper, the Hawai`i Tribune-Herald (HT-H). This is provided free of charge, thanks to HT-H publisher Ted Dixon, who is also a Hilo Rotarian. The layout for this is prepared by Richard Crowe from materials supplied by the Presidents and/or Public Relations officers of the four East Hawai`i clubs. This project was also begun in the 2006-07 Rotary year, with a hiatus in the summer of 2007, then started up again in September 2007. In the new format, seven of these ads have been produced (they are attached). Featured projects include all major activities that the four East Hawai`i clubs are doing in this Rotary year. President Crowe asks for submissions in the first week of the month, next prepares the ad (in MS-Publisher format) between the 12th and 15th of the month, then submits it to HT-H. Usually it is published between the 19th and 24th of the month in Section A. In February 2008, the ad came out on Rotary's birthday.

For other photos, link to <http://hubble.uhh.hawaii.edu/hilobayrotary/Photos/>