

# ELP NEWS

WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW



## *Letter from the ELP Co-Directors*

As we reflect on 2023 and head into 2024, ELP wishes to acknowledge the immeasurable loss caused by the Lahaina fires. In the wake of recovery efforts, we are reminded of the resilience of communities bound by a shared sense of responsibility for one another. We are heartened by the efforts of so many to help the Lahaina community heal, including hard work by ELP faculty members Malia Akutagawa and Kapua Sproat, and their students.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful that these events will imprint into our collective memories the importance of healthy ecosystems that sustain us and protect the resources we depend on. To our students, alumni, colleagues, and friends, we hope that you will continue taking lessons from the William S. Richardson School of Law's classrooms and clinics, and put them into practice for the benefit of communities like Lahaina all over Hawai'i and the world.

**With gratitude,  
ELP Co-Directors  
Richard Wallsgrove and David Forman**



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## **SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **EPA Climate Hearing**

WSRSL students, community members, attorneys, and scientists testified at a public climate hearing co-hosted by ELP, CPRI, and the Sierra Club of Hawai'i.

### **Mānoa Cliffs Restoration**

The Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnerships hosted ELP volunteers at a community work day focused on invasive species removal and native plant restoration at Mānoa Cliffs.

## **OCTOBER 2023**

### **Native Plant Fundraiser**

With the overwhelming support of WSRSL students, faculty, alumni, and community members, ELP and 'Ahahui o Hawai'i raised over \$2,000 in proceeds which will support WSRSL students and the Nā 'Aikāne o Maui Lahaina Cultural Center.

### **Tea Time**

Tea Time provides students with an opportunity to meet and talk story with ELP professors, as well as learn more about ELP and its course offerings.

### **Enviromentors**

Enviromentors connects current students with practitioners in the environmental field ("enviromentors"), many of whom are graduates of WSRSL and recipients of the Environmental Law Certificate.

# UPDATE FROM ELP'S POST-JD FELLOWS



**Evan Miyaki '23** received a Post-JD Fellowship with the **Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)** where he primarily researches wetland restoration. He also spends his time revising administrative rules and acquiring new trails for Nā Ala Hele: Trail and Access Program. When needed, Evan helps to fill the gaps throughout the different DOFAW programs. And lucky for Evan, securing a fellowship with DOFAW means that he will have the opportunity to travel across the islands to hike! Congratulations Evan!

**CHECK OUT OUR [CAREERS DIRECTORY](#)  FOR A LIST OF SUMMER AND POST-JD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW OPPORTUNITIES!**



**Kanani Smull '23** is a Post-JD Fellow with the **Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL)** where she is a Legal Research Specialist. As a Fellow, Kanani researches and evaluates current Hawai'i Administrative Rules and Hawai'i Revised Statutes related to OCCL, recommends possible revisions for priorities identified in collaboration with the State of Hawai'i, reviews proposed rule changes, compiles research for statutory and regulatory revisions to enhance enforcement capacity and State initiatives, develops documents for priority regulations, provides support for State-directed initiatives and policies, assesses administrative and enforcement tools to address violations, and examines criminal, civil, and administrative prosecution options for violations. Kanani is most excited to be working in a position that allows her to work on legal issues related to the management of two million acres of public land in Hawai'i, including beach and marine areas to the seaward extent of the state's jurisdiction! Congratulations Kanani!

## SUMMER SPOTLIGHT



Siena Schaar '23 and Hi'ilei Casco '23 complete their summer clerkship at Earthjustice.

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## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

*Denise Antolini*



Dean Antolini brings her Environmental Law class to Hakalau during her last year teaching at the WSRSL.

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