



PUBLIC ACCESS TRAILS
HAWAII

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PATH NEEDS *IMMEDIATE* VOLUNTEER HELP TO SAVE HALEAKALA TRAIL

Why you'll want to help: Ever heard of Haleakala Trail? The original route to the top of the crater? The trail used by ancient Hawaiians? The trail traveled by the likes of Mark Twain and Jack London? A beautiful path that could be used by you and your family? Probably not. But guess what: it is one of the most historically important trails on the island of Maui, and one of the most endangered. Unfortunately, without your volunteer help, we may never get a chance to walk it.

Why we need your help: Over three miles of the trail crosses lands owned by Haleakala Ranch (the rest is inside the National Park). Haleakala Ranch has denied the public access to the trail for over 70 years. The state has repeatedly claimed ownership of the trail but refuses to challenge the Ranch. PATH has sued the Ranch and the State. Guess what? The State is now seeking to dismiss our lawsuit. Who's side is the State on? We're not sure. But the hearing is set for May 11, 2011.

What we want to accomplish with your help: We want people to learn about this important public path. We want to educate them about the issues. And, we want Haleakala Ranch and the State to hear that we want our access back.

Who can help: Everyone (please respond if you're interested, regardless of your skill set – we need you). But, we are in particular need of volunteers with the following skills:

- Tech saavy, social media-type people who know how to spread a message fast to a lot of people (we already have the “back end” web system ready to go)
- People who know how to plan public events (we have some great ideas that need implementing soon)
- Extravert, story-teller, leader-oriented, folks who know how say something passionately and get people motivated.

The 5 x 5 x 5 plan: 5 ways to help in 5 minutes, multiplied by 5 people:

1. Read our brief story about the trail.
2. Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter and share our links with friends.
3. Go to our [pathmaui.org contact page](#); give us your email and phone contact so we can be in touch; tell us how you'd like to volunteer.
4. Let Governor Ambercrombie hear you call (808-586-2211) or email (<http://hawaii.gov/gov/contact/contact-gov>)
5. Multiply your effort! Ask 5 go-getter friends of yours to help us!

Walk the Talk - Help Save Haleakala Trail



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Story of Haleakala Trail

Cultural legacy. For hundreds of years before Captain Cook's arrival, Hawaiians made trips into Haleakala Crater for cultural and spiritual practices. One of the primary paths into the crater was Haleakala Trail.

Historical route for early adventurers. When the first westerners arrived to Maui, Hawaiians showed them this path and guided them to the top. For 50 years (1880s -1930s), the trail

was a major thoroughfare for adventure tourists eager to glimpse first hand a spectacle claimed to be one of the "wonders of the world." Tourists were guided on horseback to the crater rim, provided rough shelter during the frigid night, and awakened early to catch the awe inspiring sunrise. The likes of Mark Twain, Jack London and Isabella Bird experienced Haleakala Crater this way.

Crucial key to Maui's early economy. Maui business leaders considered Haleakala Trail a critical element to the economic growth of Maui. During the early 1900s, the Territory of Hawaii expended public funds to survey and improve the trail to increase tourism. Haleakala Ranch was a major supporter of the Territory's efforts.

Forgotten but not lost. With the advent of automobile travel and the new Crater road, the trail was largely forgotten. Although the trail fell into disuse, the state of Hawaii has continued to claim ownership over the trail. Under the law, a government never loses ownership of roads and trails through disuse.

Public access denied. Haleakala Ranch disputes the state's ownership and has denied access to the general public for over 70 years. The state refuses to assert its ownership, despite the overwhelming facts and law supporting the public's right of access over this recreationally and historically important trail.



Location of Trail

Related to modern landmarks, the trail ran up through Makawao and Olinda, starting near the present day St. Joseph's Church. It followed a path that is now part of the current Piiholo road. At the top of Piiholo and Olinda roads, it continued upwards, across land now owned by Haleakala Ranch. The trail then crossed the present day Crater Highway, continued up into lands now owned by the National Park, and entered the crater near the present day Halemau`u trail ("switchbacks"). Even during ancient times, this trail connected with Kaupo and was the overland route to East Maui.

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