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**The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation***

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# Little Beach, Hawaii and Nude Use: A Cautionary Tale

**Part 2, by Bill Schroer, NAC Chair**

## Recap

During Part 1 of our story we reviewed the long history of accepted nude use of Little Beach on Maui, Hawaii. Little Beach is a small beach just north of Big Beach separated by a steep lava outcropping (the tip of Pu'u Ola'i) and a 5-minute hike. The beach is only 450 feet (135 m) long and can seem crowded at peak times (given its small size but significant popularity). Little Beach is situated in a secluded cove that is bordered by two lava outcrops. It is considered a great swimming beach with a shallow sandy bottom. There's almost always a gentle shorebreak present that attracts bodyboarders and surfers. On calm days, the snorkeling conditions are excellent. The water at both Big Beach and Little Beach is some of the clearest/bluest ever seen, and the sand is a beautiful bright gold.

Although not without controversy and attempts by local authorities over the past decades to shut down Little Beach to nude use, it has always survived as one of the iconic nude beaches with accepted use....until now.

We learned that in April of 2020 while Hawaii beaches (except State Park beaches) were open "for exercise," the first recent



Little Beach citation for nudity was issued. Historically, this had not happened for 33 years. Later in May 2020, using the pretext of a violation of Covid-19 rules by a small group of students that resulted in a "scuffle" between a "student" and a DOCARE officer, Little Beach was closed for four weeks. While "scuffles" with authorities happen from time to time on all beaches, the notion of closing a beach to its entire community for four weeks was unheard of....and hinted at the kind of draconian action that may follow.

Forward to New Year's weekend 2021, and a "violation of Covid-19 rules" and an "out of control" drum circle party that weekend (with a totally different group of beach users), caused the closure of Little Beach again...this time for 9 weeks. When it reopened, there were multiple new signs with "No Nudity" prominently displayed in red at the top.

Additionally, from moving from no user fees in 2019....Little Beach was now faced with a \$5/person charge along with a \$10/vehicle parking charge. On top of signage and user fees the authorities now instituted a 4 PM weekend closing time....essentially eliminating the opportunity to watch the sunset and further

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punish Little Beach users. While the parking charge may be allowable, the per person fee appears to violate the Hawaii law allowing free and unfettered access via registered shoreline access corridors. The closing time is also special, not seen on other Hawaiian beaches. But, as will be seen, the DLNR does not appear to be worried about playing by all the rules when it comes to Little Beach.

This enmity toward the accepted nude use at Little Beach shown by the DLNR was clear in communications by the administrator, Curt Cottrell in a (Feb. 26, 2021) letter to Representative Tina Wildberger, the state legislator responsible for Little Beach. In his letter, Cottrell deplores the likelihood of Little Beach seeing nude use again and includes the veiled threat: “....once we reopen (nude use) behavior will likely return to the same degree of noncompliance by a subset of the community *at the expense of many.*” (Italics by the author)

Cottrell goes on to share his view that if the courts won't prohibit the nude use at Little Beach he will find a way to do so: “.....The community perception that nudity is acceptable by a segment of the public and citations for this violation may also get acquitted in criminal court is also disturbing. The current legal atmosphere reduces incentive for compliance and possibly civil punitive measures are needed to enforce State Park regulations.” (Italics by the author). In effect, Cottrell is saying that if the courts don't find nudity illegal, he will use civil punitive damages and other measures to enforce the prohibition of nudity as a violation of State Park rule.

### **FoLB (Redux) and the new effort to save Little Beach for Nude Use**

As reviewed in Part 1, the Friends of Little Beach was an active group beginning in the 1980s that served to help monitor the beach, communicate activities, haul trash, welcome visitors and stay alert for threats to the Beach. While commanding a distribution list of 2,500 at one time for the newsletter, the group gradually lost momentum. FoLB finally fell apart with the last members leaving in the 2013 timeframe. (last website update was 2012 but the business name was closed in 2015)

The reasons for the dissolution of the group are multiple, but often, the requirement to maintain a nude beach group, with the multiple demands for volunteering time, work and money become too burdensome for what are often only a few dedicated volunteers. Couple that factor with no perceived

imminent threat to the beach (no citations for nudity had been issued in decades) and the group disbanded on or about 2015.

In March of 2021 (after 9 weeks of Little Beach being closed due to the New Year's weekend incident), the idea of an imminent threat to Little Beach was now apparent to many. Few were under the illusion that Little Beach was back to business as usual, with the reopening of the Beach with the restrictions (“No Nudity” signs), limited hours, user fees, Curt Cottrell's letter (above) and his subsequent TV interviews. The threat was very apparent to at least three individuals who decided to act: Thomas Willman, Donna Dowling and Bill Watts, all dedicated local users of Little Beach.

The three came together in March of 2021 to recreate the “Friends of Little Beach”. Thomas Willman was named President, Donna Dowling, Treasurer and Bill Watts, Secretary. They hired an attorney, filed for papers of incorporation, and applied for a non-profit charitable organization certification (501c(3) status) so they could accept tax deductible contributions.

Over the summer they communicated with other activists, tracked citations for nudity, worked on getting a new FoLB website created and printed business cards to pass out to beach visitors to encourage membership and donations. “We wanted membership to be free...because it is most important to us to build a membership base.” noted Bill Watts.

Other activists who are aiding in the effort include “Frank”, an older surfer dude beach regular who has rescued over 100 from dangerous rip currents, serves as informal greeter, information guide, alerts visitors to police raids and, is overall, a casual beach ambassador. Frank doesn't serve in an official capacity but does provide a stabilizing, if somewhat permissive influence on the beach visitors. Until (and if) the new FoLB can establish a Beach Ambassador group, Frank is what FoLB has right now as the on-the-scene representative (because he is there much more than Bill, Robert or Donna.)

Robert is another volunteer serving as Member Liaison. However, at this point, with no established newsletter or e-mail listserver, Robert has limitations on how much he can connect with the membership.

Regrettably, during the summer, Thomas Willman, a founding member and President of the FoLB became ill from

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Covid-19 and died. The shock of that loss set the group back and it took time for the remaining founding members to regain the initiative and continue to pursue the mission of protecting and preserving Little Beach for nude use.

In spite of the loss of their president, Bill and Donna pressed on, passing out business cards, talking about the need for members and donations and establishing an ongoing dialogue with Rep. Tina Wildberger (D), the state legislator responsible for the area including Little Beach.

Bill Watts also established relationships with the Naturist Action Committee (NAC), the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) and other nudist organizations on the mainland. Those organizations, in turn, have communicated with their members on behalf of the new FoLB, with their members donating, signing up as members of FoLB and contributing their expertise and information to help the new FoLB move forward.

With the new FoLB website ([www.littlebeachmaui.org](http://www.littlebeachmaui.org)) and the ability to accept donations, established in October, the group became more visible and membership and donations increased. As of this writing the group now has over 130 members.



The group continues to monitor for indications of further DLNR assaults. Donna Dowling noted earlier in the summer the creation of a 5 year management plan (SCORP) for Hawaii parks and wanted to ensure FoLB input into the report regarding nude use of Hawaii beaches. There was also concern such a plan might be used to further the DLNR agenda of eliminating clothing optional use. Such concerns were justified when FoLB learned the DLNR put their own spin on the public input:

In the draft SCORP report on page 54 this reference is found:

*"Over 60 comments mentioned the desire for clothing-optional beaches, although multiple comments expressed frustration with clothing optional activity were expressed during the public meetings and it should be noted that Hawaii's indecent exposure law does not permit public nudity."*

FoLB reports the above statement is untrue and misleading. Hawaii has no State law prohibiting "public nudity". Hawaii's indecent exposure law applies only under specific circumstances. Those circumstances cannot exist on a beach where cult nudity is traditionally practiced such as Little Beach and Po'olenalena Secret Beach.

Additionally, FoLB, not trusting DLNR to tell the truth, painstakingly went through the entire 679 page separate "Report on Public Participation". FoLB found 68 comments expressing support for clothing optional beaches. Even more telling, their review found only one comment expressing frustration with clothing optional activity (page 512). And, that comment was made in opposition to drum circles, drugs and nudity at Kehena Beach on Hawaii Island. No negative comments were received regarding Little Beach.

It was clear, however, the DLNR is using every tactic, ethical/legal or not to achieve its goal of ending a 70 year tradition of accepted nude use at Little Beach (and other beaches in Hawaii).

### The Future for Little Beach (and accepted nude use)

The team at FoLB continues to push forward, building members, raising funds, monitoring the activities of the DLNR and working with legislators like Rep. Tina Wildberger to attempt to affect a solution.

As of this writing, there have been no recent citations for nudity at Little Beach. However, two court cases are pending and it may be the DLNR is waiting to see the outcome before implementing their next steps to eliminate accepted nude use at Little Beach.

In any case, the battle lines are clearly defined. The DLNR has made clear it will stop at nothing to eliminate nude use at Little Beach (and other beaches in Hawaii) since it started its anti-nudity crusade in 2020. The DLNR has used trivial and one off events to close Little Beach for extended periods of time to punish users. They have implemented user fees and restricted hours to Little Beach not applied to other

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beaches. When the DLNR learned the courts may not uphold convictions for simple nudity, it promulgated a park rule to prohibit nudity in the State Parks. When the 5 year management plan draft report didn't show any meaningful opposition to clothing optional activities and instead showed considerable support for those activities, the DLNR influenced the report with misleading and untruthful statements.

Representative Wildberger is supportive of the FoLB and its goals and has advocated with the DLNR for restoration of clothing optional tolerance at Little Beach - emphasizing its value to the local economy. The ultimate goal of FoLB is "authorized" clothing optional signage at Little Beach.

There is a long (70 years) tradition of accepted nude use at Little Beach and thousands of vacationers have enjoyed the pleasures of clothes-free sunbathing and swimming at Little Beach. No database of that group exists, however, and the appeal for support from mainland or international users and former users will need to be global in reach.

Often a friend of successful nude beaches, the business community in Maui does not appear to recognize the link between successful nude beaches and the resulting economic benefits that accrue. It appears the former FoLB made little or no effort to cultivate the business community, an omission that will need to be addressed.

JOIN 4 FREE **FRIENDS OF LITTLE BEACH MAUI** TARGET 2000 MEMBERS

United we stand for justice:

- ❖ New "Clothing Optional Beach" Signs - see back
- ❖ Remove the Gate & apologize for desecration of a sacred cultural resource
- ❖ Restore Sunset Closing Time - 7:45PM, 7 Days
- ❖ Stop Extortionate Visitor Fees (e.g. \$30/day for a family of 4)
- ❖ Send Police When Help Needed, not for Harassment
- ❖ Repeal Tyrannical Park Rules that penalize harmless pleasure

Add your voice - Go to Friends of Little Beach website:


**LittleBeachMaui.ORG**



In sum, the new FoLB has its work cut out for it. The management team is a dedicated group of activist nudists and they now have an organization, website, membership increasing and growing visibility. However, they are few in number, with limited funds and the ability to galvanize beachgoers into activists is not a trivial task. Bill Watts notes the laid back culture of Hawaii is wonderful in many regards....but it makes organizing activists for a cause problematic. He notes "There is a lot of apathy here...."

While generating local volunteer support is a challenge, the call for support to the mainland and international audience is critical. As Bill Watts notes... "there are many long-time Little Beach users who would be shocked to learn what is happening here...and happy to help if they knew how."

The road ahead for Little Beach is significant but the nudist community has risen to the challenge before. Supporters of Little Beach and those who believe in the freedom to be clothing free on beaches identified for that purpose may see this as a great opportunity to make a difference for naturism. The time is now.

For more information, to contribute to FoLB or to become a member of FoLB visit [www.littlebeachmaui.org](http://www.littlebeachmaui.org) 





# NEF Aides in Preservation of Large Nudist Collection

By Mark Pavelchak, WNRL President

*[Editor's Note: The Western Nudist Research Library (WNRL) is a member of the Nudist Library Consortium along with the NEF Research Library.]*

When WNRL was founded in 2006 on the grounds of Glen Eden, one of the members of its Board of Directors was Dr. Cec Cinder, who was described by AANR West as a pioneer in the nudist movement – “one of the nudist leaders who has made a difference”. Over his 40+ plus years in leadership, he had accumulated a large collection of nudist material that he called the Archive of the Institute for Nudist Studies (AINS). At the time that WNRL was founded, he publicly committed to donating this collection to WNRL upon his death.


Dr. Cinder is still alive but is in failing health, so we have been preparing to acquire AINS for the past several months. In particular, we have been clearing shelf space by identifying excess inventory and offering it to our sister libraries. While that effort has helped, we still felt unprepared because we simply need more shelf space than we have been able to clear.

The major line item in the grant will fund the construction of additional shelving sufficient for our needs and matching the look and feel of the existing shelving.

*[Editor's Note: NEF had known about WNRL's acquisition of AINS through the Nudist Library Consortium meetings. It wasn't until September that NEF realized they could use financial help to make it happen, so the grant process began and the check was delivered in early November.]*

The timing of the grant couldn't have been better because about the same time it was submitted, Dr. Cinder's family decided that they needed to make the transfer sometime in November due to his health issues.

Using a rental truck paid for by the grant, two volunteers and I met at the Cinder residence on November 10th to transfer AINS to WNRL.

We are looking forward to digging deeper into the collection. Thanks for the opportunity. 

A few items in the collection...



Signed copy



Of the roughly 35 boxes, 22 are double Banker's Boxes (24 inches long).



Because the new shelving will take time to build, we rented storage pods with funds provided by the grant to temporarily store part of the collection. And we were able to conveniently place pods in a parking space right next to the library.

## Last Month's "Caption This!" Winner

So, you wanna close our beach 'eh?



- Submitted by Mike

Honorable Mention: "Just expressing our right to bare arms. (And other body parts.)"

- Submitted by Matthew D.

# NAC and NEF Making Progress With New Websites

By James Nunn

Every now and then it's nice to spend a little time improving something about oneself. With people, this may involve heading to the gym, or spending some time at the beauty shop. For organizations, it can involve new faces, new directions and new websites.

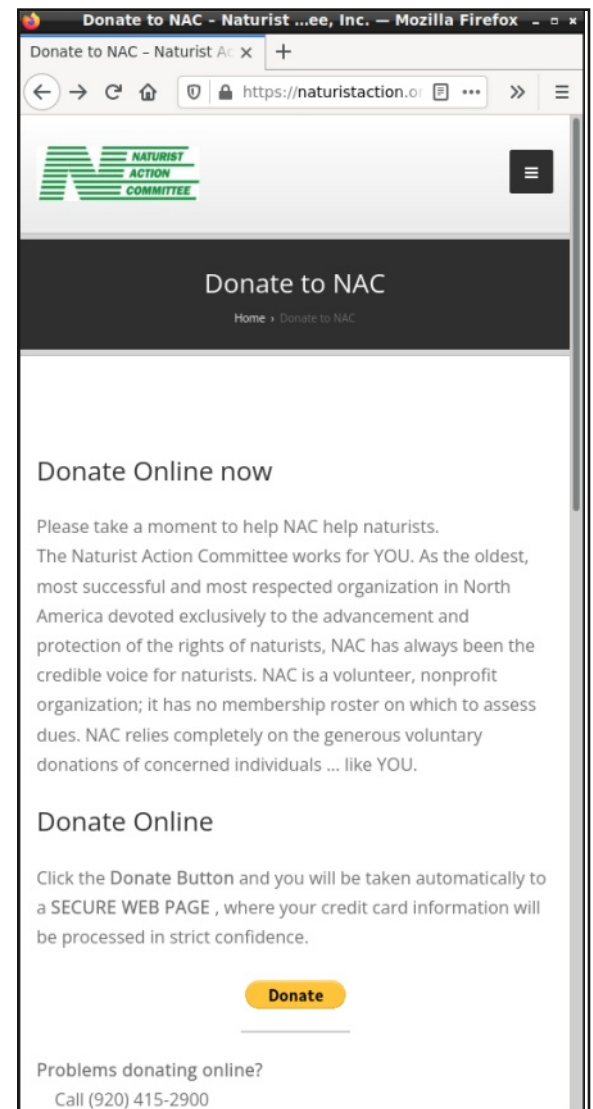
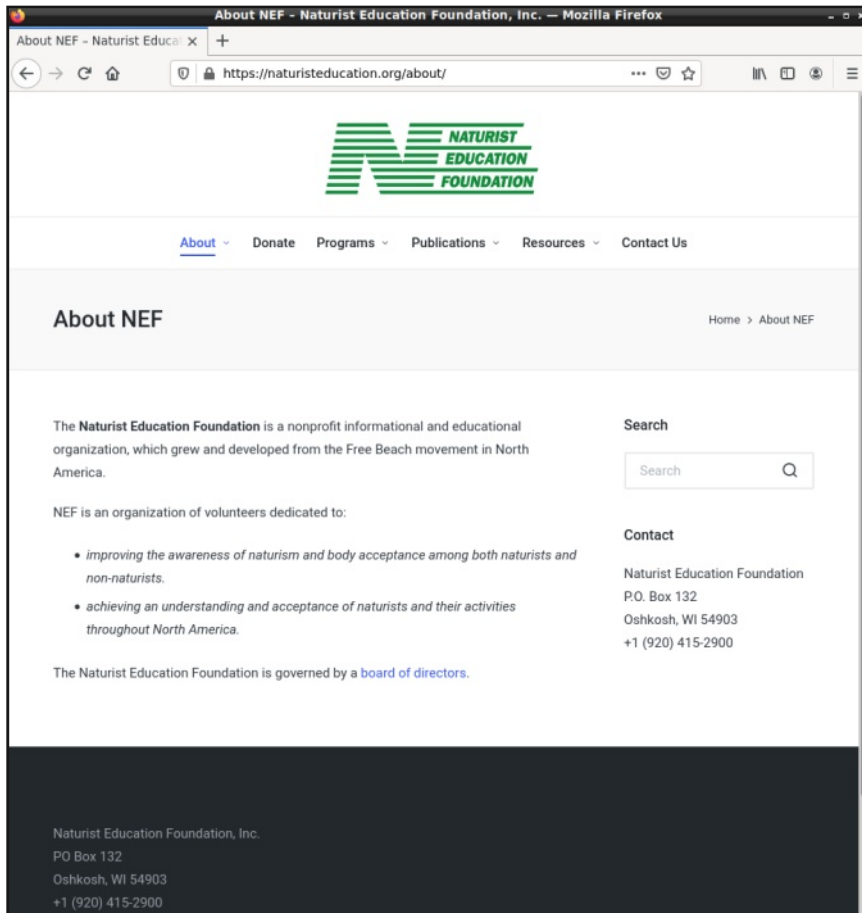
While both the NAC and NEF boards are starting to develop our plans for 2022, our highest priority has been to revamp the websites to improve their functionality, look and feel and responsiveness with a major goal of keeping our supporters and donors more informed. Over the past few months, we have been working to transition our websites to a new content management system, Wordpress, along with bringing some major updates to our communication tools.

For both NAC and NEF, Wordpress seemed like the best option to provide us with the opportunity to update our look and functionality, as well as enhance the tools needed for our site visitors. With the new sites, our search options have been expanded, and each site is organized to make finding documents through our menu system simpler.

One of the biggest challenges with this transition has been updating our vast collections of information, and Wordpress is making this process incredibly easy. We still have a lot of updating to do with the site, including a revamp of all the state law information on the NAC site and providing greater access to the information cataloged in our libraries. These updates will continue over the coming months, as we find more uses for these highly adaptable systems.

Our future newsletters will continue to be published and distributed to our supporters and friends, and we will begin extracting parts of each newsletter as feature posts on the new sites. This will increase our interactivity with our social media presence (Facebook and Twitter mainly), and our visitors will start to see more content being published on a regular basis.

We do ask that if you find something that doesn't work (broken links or missing files), please let us know. Many eyes will help continually improve our sites, and we are excited by the updates that will continue to be presented in the coming months.



*[Editor's Note: Above is the NEF website which has the menus and most pages enabled. On the right is the NAC page which is still mostly disabled, but the Donate page works at NaturistAction.org/donate. We're working to get everything back online that the old sites had, but it's a long process and a lot of content to work through for each organization!]*



## Caption This!

This ongoing series highlights a time when cameras were allowed and cheesy photographs were encouraged. (See the May 2021 newsletter for more details.) All photos are from items held at the NEF Research Library.

### About this Photograph

From Sunshine & Health, August 1958, this photo shows a couple viewing a nude statue. The pipe certainly adds to the 1950s look, and their facial expressions don't seem to convey the same appreciation of the statue.

Now it's your turn to Caption This! ➡

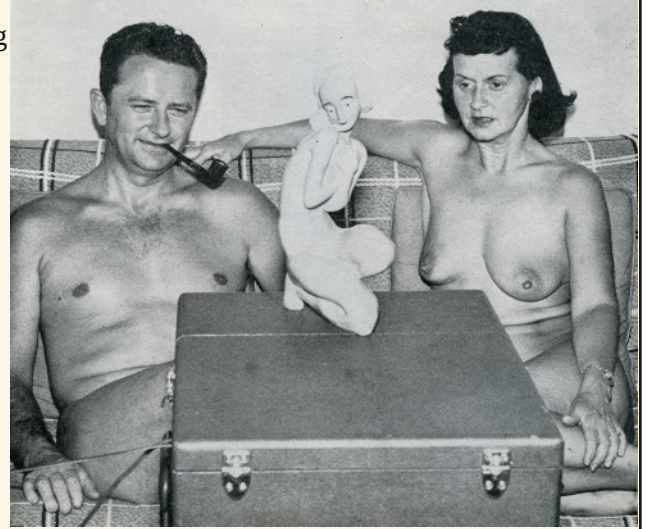
Send your caption ideas to:

Doug.Hickok@NaturistEducation.org

Please include:

- ▶ Your name that we can print if yours is selected. (Full name, or first name, or nickname, or anonymous...whatever you prefer)
- ▶ The type of caption (Title above, Caption below, Speech Bubbles, or a mix of all these).
- ▶ The caption wording, or who said/thought what.

Winners get fame in the next newsletter!



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- ▶ the activist efforts of the Naturist Action Committee,
- ▶ the educational & public outreach efforts of the Naturist Education Foundation, &
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Be in the loop with the **FREE** newsletter!

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<http://naturisteducation.org/library/newsletters.html>



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NAC is on Facebook and Twitter too!  
<https://Facebook.com/NaturistAction/>  
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## Like Our Efforts? Here's a great way to help out:

Please support NAC with its mission of naturist activism set forth by Lee Baxandall. NAC relies entirely on donations from generous naturists like you, now more than ever. Donations are accepted online or by mail.

[NaturistAction.org/donate](https://NaturistAction.org/donate)

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Please support NEF with its mission of naturist education and public outreach set forth by Lee Baxandall. NEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations to NEF are tax-deductible. Donations are accepted online or by mail.

[NaturistEducation.org/donate](https://NaturistEducation.org/donate)

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