

Yes “New” Resources

Dear Editor,

We’d like to thank E.B. Cravens for his letter in April 16-30 *HIJ* (“No ‘New’ Resources” pp. 7), and for his compliments on our letter in March 1-15 *HIJ* (“Regeneration is a Virtue.” pp. 7). In his letter Mr. Cravens voiced upset about only one of the sentences in our letter – that sentence was: “A healthy world does not just sustain existing resources but actively creates new resources, new species and new culture.”

Mr. Cravens’ upset stems from the fact that he believes neither humans nor animals can create “new” resources. We agree with his point, in so far as no single species or resource works on its own to create new resources. For example, a farmer can be viewed as one resource that must work with several other resources to create fruit from trees. Even the carbon dioxide the farmer exhales is a resource that co-creates the very molecules of the tree itself.

The farmer, the sun and the tree’s DNA all share “co-generative” relationships with each other – contributing themselves as fundamental resources toward the creation of new resources. A resource for us is something that has value, which in turn can be used to produce something else of value.

For outstanding commentary on assessing the monetary value of environmental resources, please see Jeffrey Mikulina’s viewpoint in April 16-30 *HIJ* (“Bringing Ecology and Economy Together” pp. 9). Yes, healthy coastlines translate into more tourist dollars. Hotel owners are you listening? Mr. Mikulina shows us that making money and virtuous activities can naturally go hand in hand. Indeed that is what the founders of this country had in mind when they initiated a free market system as an integral part of our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We interpret Jeffrey’s viewpoint as simply applying “free market solutions” to environmental problems. A free market is “free” to evolve naturally, continuously changing as we see fit; it is unencumbered by government. So let’s stop focusing on restrictive regulations and start identifying and evolving ways to make money from virtuous activities, in this case activities that support the environment and its regenerative processes.

We give an unequivocal “Yes” to new resources, especially our most valuable kind of resource - people with virtue and with the determination to implement win-win solutions for our island. On that note, we’d like to acknowledge the Hawaiian Island Journal as one of the best resources we have. Keep up the excellent work!

– Anthony Colombo, *Hawi*
– Aaron Anderson, *Puna Palisades*