BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Dr. Scott Hoskinson

Dr. Scott D. Hoskinson is an infectious disease specialist in Wailuku, Maui. He was born in Missoula, Montana and shortly after moved to Oregon and then Panama. His father was a doctor, and eventually moved his practice to Maui when Scott Hoskinson was fifteen years old. He graduated from Baldwin High School and subsequently went to the mainland for college before coming back to Honolulu for medical school. He spent many years exploring Haleakalā and continues to go to the Park as often as he can.

INTERVIEW INDEX: Dr. Scott Hoskinson

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
with
Dr. Scott Hoskinson (SH)
April 13, 2021
Via Zoom
Interviewed by Alana Kanahele (AK)

AK: So just to start off, could you give me your full name and when and where you were born?

SH: Yeah, my name is Scott Hoskinson and I was born in Missoula, Montana many years ago in 1955 and I lived in Missoula, Montana for a very short period of time. Actually, my parents had me while my dad was in medical school or just before he went to medical school. And so shortly after being born, we moved to Oregon where he went to medical school and then to Panama, where he did his residency and then back to Montana, to eastern Montana, which you've probably never been. But it is nothing like Haleakalā National Park and subsequently he wanted to move back to the tropics so we moved to Maui in 1971.

AK: And was it his work that brought you over to Maui?

SH: Absolutely, after that exposure to Panama which is a very tropical, Kaiser offered a job over here on Maui and dad came over to look at it and noted that Maui looked very much like Panama did. Both of them very tropical and lots of ocean around them and lots of other resources, natural resources, and he kind of fell in love with those. And so that was really his reason for moving because he had a job and he could move to a place that was much more enjoyable than eastern Montana. So that's the primary reason we moved over.

AK: And I'm sorry, how old did you say you were when you moved to Maui?

SH: I was only about fifteen years of age when we moved to Maui, so kind of moved in the middle of high school and I moved over here and basically really kind of grew up on the island. I went to Baldwin High school and graduated from Baldwin High School and subsequently went to the mainland for college and then came back to Honolulu for medical school.

AK: Thank you. And can you maybe talk about some of your first introductions with Haleakalā or maybe your first time visiting?

SH: Yeah, it was amazing. So, you know, my family has always been kind of an outdoor family, basically in Montana most of the activities we did as a family together were always outdoors. We did a lot of backpacking in Montana, we did a lot of hiking in Montana, we also did river rafting and we did a lot of hunting also in Montana. So, you know, most of our recreational activities were always outdoor, very outdoor family, led by my father, who grew up in a small town in Montana.

And so when we moved to Maui, of course, we were most interested in what was outdoors, right? And very shortly after arrival here, we basically went up and did the hike, the famous through and through hike and Haleakalā crater, which was going down what was then known as Sliding Sands or Keonehe‘ehe‘e and we went through the crater and then came up Halemau‘u and we were blown away. I mean, there was nothing that we'd ever done in a number of states that compared to that experience. I mean, boy, when you go down the Keonehe‘ehe‘e and you look out on the crater and all of that lava, all those pu‘u's, and all the colors and the lighting, and then you go across the crater and hit the vegetation of Hōlua Cabin area and come up the Halemau‘u looking down Kaupō gap and stuff, it's breathtaking. And when you've been in eastern Montana and kind of into the Badlands, so to speak, it took our breath away and we went like, wow, this is a place that we are going to come back to time after time again. I mean, you wouldn't think when you look out over the crater and it's ten, twelve miles across and stuff and you go like, well, this isn't that big of an area, but it is an amazing area to explore. And I never get tired of doing it. So my father and my brothers and sisters, when we got to the top of the Halemau‘u, breathless as everybody is, by the time you get to the top of the Halemau‘u, we sat in the parking lot there and said, man, this is one cool place we're coming back here again. So that was our first experience and we fell in love, it was love at first sight.

AK: Oh, that sounds great. Do you remember how was the weather when you were there? It can be kind of fickle up at the crater.

SH: It was that classic Haleakalā where we started out with kind of bright sunshine and it was cool, fifty or sixty degrees and we went across a crater and the clouds blew in the Ko‘olau on the trade winds, you know, and it clouded it up and by the time we hit the Halemau‘u, it was blowing clouds in and out, the misting rain and stuff and we're like, oh, like fifteen, twenty degree temperature change from the sunshine. And then we'd go out on one side and the sun would come out again, and then we'd go back to the other side towards Ko‘olau and the clouds would come in again and we had our jackets on, jackets off, jackets on, jackets off. I mean, it was shocking, but it's so, so typical of all the microclimates of Haleakalā. That's a part of what makes it crater so fascinating is you wander a mile this way and you're in a totally different microclimate than you wander a mile the other way. So that was just part of the experience.

AK: I bet, had you ever visited Maui prior to moving there?

SH: Oh, never. My parents, my father came over here a couple of months before we moved for an interview with Kaiser. He'd never been here either and basically he just pulled us all up, threw us in an airplane and we flew over here, having never been here before ever, knowing nothing about the culture or the people or anything. And of course, Maui at that time in 1971 was a backwater, basically thirty or forty thousand people on the island and there was one mall and there was nothing else here. Everybody thought of it as a remarkably rural area, yeah, which it was of course.

AK: I'm sure, I'm sure. And then I know you said you mentioned you went away to the mainland. How long were you gone prior to, I guess, coming back to Maui?

SH: I was gone. I basically graduated from high school in 1973 and went to college and then came back in 1977 to go to Honolulu really and spend some years there and then went to the mainland again and came back but arrived back in 1988 that we actually came back and we've been here on Maui ever since 1988. So, I spent some time training on the mainland but came back here to do medicine here on Maui.

AK: Yeah. When you initially moved to Maui, where were you living or what part of Maui?

SH: Oh, wow. When we first moved here, we rented a house in Kahului which was right in the middle, right? probably just two or three miles from Baldwin High School and it was a wild experience. You know, we are kind of like these little white boys from the mainland and it was kind of really amazing to lie down in such a multicultural setting, which Montana at that time, there was no experience like that. So, it was quite, quite amazing. And we were there and then we kind of moved to Wailuku Heights. And then ultimately the parents found a house upcountry, in Pukalani and we've been kind of upcountry people ever since then, which was part of the whole Haleakalā thing, living up on the side of the mountain is not quite as good as being in the crater itself, but certainly quite nice.

AK: I'm sure, I'm sure. Can you talk about maybe some (if not your first trip, I know you kind of briefly mentioned that) but maybe any subsequent trips or times you were hiking through the crater?

SH: Yeah, you know something? It was almost kind of hard for me when I was reading that question to remember because basically, I've been in the crater so many times in the past forty-plus, forty-five-plus years, I would say probably been in the crater at least 80 to 100 times easily in those past number of years. And a number of those are day hiking trips, you know, and some of the absolute best trips are the overnighters at the cabins. I mean, that is such a unique experience. How many national parks – I mean there are national parks that certainly have overnight cabins and stuff – but those three cabins in the crater are really spectacular. And having the opportunity to spend a night in those cabins where there are wood burning stoves and so forth. It is just beautiful. So, I've been basically doing those trips through the crater to, as I said, since 1971.

I'll tell you though, that the Haleakalā crater and I'm not talking about Kīpahulu obviously I've been to Kīpahulu area of the national park, but predominantly my experience has all been within the crater itself portion of the national park. But in 1971 Haleakalā National Park was a wild place basically. Remember there were pigs and goats running all over the place, there were rats and cats and you name it and there were Portuguese guys hunting goats and pigs. There were people riding horseback all over the place and the hunters were going all over the crater. There was gunfire everywhere in the crater and of course, everybody went all kinds of places – there was no set trails that you had to be on. The hunters were everywhere they had hunters trails that led down on each side of the gaps

and there were trails – several of them still exist that would go up the north and the northeast rim of the crater onto the top so that the hunters could get up there to hunt goats and stuff. And now, of course, the helicopter tours were just getting started then and there was no regulation on helicopters or for that matter, fixed wing aircraft, but particularly the helicopters. And they would come ripping through the crater like some kind of Apocalypse Now and they'd come roaring up over the top of pu‘u's and stuff and diving back down again in some kind of wild joy ride, you know, as the tourist rip through there. You'd be hiking along the trails and these helicopters would just buzz you out of nowhere. And of course, there was no regulations and it wasn't really enforced about where you could explore in the crater and so we were everywhere in the crater. We were off trail all over the place on the lava, looking at lava tubes. We were up on all the rims of the crater, the north and the northeast and the south rim of the crater, looking around on all of those areas. So the crater was markedly different. And I came at that time than what it what it is now. And I got to say, we were everywhere looking at everything because we had the opportunity to do that.

It changed, of course, in 1980s. I believe it. I can't remember the exact year, but the perimeter fence was built in the 1980s and it was a way for the better when they built the perimeter fence and obviously they got rid of all the goats and the pigs which to this day is still pretty much true. And with the goats and the pigs gone, of course the hunters were gone too. So it didn't sound like a war in the crater at all times. And then very strict regulations concerning the helicopter tours, which has been very nice – I mean, obviously, the helicopters now are basically only on the perimeters of the crater and they don't enter the crater at all anymore. And everything has to fly thousands of feet over the crater. So in the 1980s, the whole crater experience markedly changed.

And of course, for the good, again, I mean there was a marked increase in visitors in 1971 when I first started hiking in the crater. I mean there were very few people, it was basically just a local experience. I mean there were people, there were tourists, there were international visitors and stuff but it was very uncommon and it was mainly a local experience with the hunters and those crazy ones of us that wanted to go down in the crater. The cabins themselves were a lottery system, and part of the days of each month were reserved for people of Maui, which was supposedly a lottery. It was kind of like a who's who who knows who, because basically, if you kind of knew somebody in the park and stuff, you could secure a cabin that way. And it was kind of wild. And my father, of course, being the doctor, knew quite a few people. And so we ended up at the cabins a number of times.

But anyway, in the 1980s, things did significantly change and it really changed for the better. There were much more or a significantly increasing number of people that wanted to experience the crater and so there was much more strict enforcement about where you could go and the people really did have to stay on the trail. Obviously would have trampled everything to pieces had a herd of us been running through the crater all the time and so it all became much more regulated. And again, much for the better.

I mean in 1971 or 1972 spotting a nēnē goose or a pair of nēnē geese was like an experience. Whoa, it was beyond belief because they'd just been introduced in the 1960s, right? The Boy Scouts had just trooped them back into the crater again and released them, you know, but of course their population has markedly improved by that time and it's not uncommon to see them at all now.

The silverswords, I mean, there were barely any silverswords in 1971 or 1972, the goats gnawed them down to nothing and the pigs uprooted them and stuff but it was predominantly the goats that ate them. And you have to really have special enclaves or go to a special area to see silversword or the ʻahinahina in the crater, and once you fenced the goats out I mean, there is ʻahinahina throughout the crater in its usual environment now. And even though it's still, you know, kind of worries us as to how well they're going to do still yet it's way more than what it was then. And of course, the vegetation was totally uprooted by the pigs and everything. Of course, we went to Hōlua up to Halemauʻu the whole meadow out there was completely all dug up and rooted up by the pigs that come up from the Koʻolau gap and all of that grew back in again and so all of the native indigenous vegetation has made a marked improvement with the raiding of all of the invasive animals that were chewing it to nothing.

So as the 1980s progressed into the 1990s, everything they created became. . . . we even used to climb in the crater – there is a rock next to a Hōlua Cabin next to their ranger cabin up there that they call Refrigerator Rock. I don't know why they felt like that, but it's just a big dike is what it is that's eroded in that hard rock of the dike remains which many areas of the crater do – fascinating geological formations. We used to actually go rock climbing there and we'd climb up and we also do repelling off the rock and stuff. You can't do anything like that anymore for obvious reasons, right? So the 1990s and the 2000s have brought marked changes in the park and I have to say really significant improvements. I mean, we can't run across the crater like we did anymore but it's been a pleasure to experience kind of the regrowth, if you will, of the crater of its natural resources, both of the flora and fauna.

And, of course, the park maintains significant traps at the present time with their trails and stuff, trapping the feral cats and rats and stuff that still come up through and then the fence to keep out the goats and the pigs. So my experiences now in the crater, I would have to say, are different than what they were in 1970s, where we were kind of like kids, you know, exploring or in a candy shop, you know, exploring the big adventure. And now, I don't know, it's still an adventure when we go down, but it is just, I guess, more mature experience in the park than what we had then. It's not so much of an adventure ride anymore. It's more of a true kind of communing, if you will, with nature, if you want to use that term.

That's kind of my experience through the years with the park and I still really enjoy, I've been missing it. It was really hard when the park closed in 2020 for the pandemic. That was really tough, boy, not being able to go hiking or anything and finally they open the trails just partially and we'd run down Keonehe‘ehe‘e for a short distance and we had to run back up again. And now finally all the trails are open but I can't wait for the cabins to

open again. There's just something special about getting those cabins and being able to stay overnight and witness kind of nighttime in the crater. Nothing better than sitting at Kapalaoa Cabin and watching the sun go down over the top of the of the kind of the west, southwest or west rim of the creator and then watching the sun come back up through the Kaupō gap again, it's spectacular.

AK: It sounds like you've seen the park through many seasons. . .

SH: Ooh many, many seasons. I've made a point to go down during all seasons. Even in the rain it's fascinating, although people call you crazy for that one. I don't go in during large Kona storms, you know, when it's predicted to really pour but obviously in the crater where the trade winds blowing and stuff, you're going to get in the rain and stuff and even in the rain against Palikū when you go over to Palikū Cabin where you have that northeast rim and the clouds come pouring over the top from the Kīpahulu area, you know, and turn into big time. . . . I always feel bad for the people camping out at Palikū because, man, that is the wettest place in the world for camping. But the cabin is so beautiful and even in the rain here, it's spectacular. And you watch the water cascading off of those cliff faces that surround the Palikū Cabin. It's dramatic. So no matter what the weather, the total fog or the total rain, the blinding sunshine, the cool, crisp mornings, all of it is a great experience.

AK: What are some of your favorite parts of the park? I know you mentioned Hōlua Cabin, sliding sands trail. . .

SH: I got to tell you about staying overnight at Kapalaoa Cabin is perhaps one of my absolute favorite. It kind of sits up against the south rim of the crater and it's spectacular. You kind of have a panoramic view of the crater, looking over to Hanakauhi, looking down towards Kaupō, looking up towards the summit of the crater. It's just spectacular at night the campground and the two campgrounds, one at Hōlua and one at Palikū. And there's no campground at Kapalaoa of hours. Of course, basically things have become really quiet at night. And you get the Hawai'ian petrel at night there, the ʻuaʻu, and making that exact sound at night in the crater and stuff. It's spectacular and the stars are beyond belief when the moon isn't lighting them out in the clouds have haven't been blowing in through the Koʻolau and across the crater when it clears up at night. Kapalaoa, oh my gosh, it's hard to believe that the sky has that many stars in it when you look up. So that's probably my absolute favorite place.

I tell you, though, any of the cabins are spectacular, Hōlua, of course, gets so much more traffic coming through because of that famous through and through type hike. But Hōlua is very nice on the edge of the Koʻolau and Palikū I like very much because it's so different than the other areas, because it received so much more rain and hiking down to Kaupō is an experience and a half – even going down just the trail to the park boundary and back up again is massive vegetation and of course, there's a few of the native koa forests that still exist down there and stuff which is super cool to go look at.

But I got to say, my absolute favorite places are Kapalaoa but it competes with all the rest of the crater and just barely ahead of the rest.

AK: And I know you mentioned you also went to Kīpahulu was that sort of before the fencing? I know a lot of Kīpahulu is sectioned off now.

SH: Yeah, Kīpahulu. . . . When I first arrived on the island, Kīpahulu was attractive, you know, there just weren't so many visitors and stuff and of course, we thought at that time they called it seven sacred pools or ʻOheʻo gulch and stuff and it was it was very spectacular scenery and hiking up the trails towards the top pools and stuff was very, very dramatic. And then, man, the place has become swamped with people. And it just it's overwhelming to me anymore to go to Kīpahulu. And of course, crowds are coming back again. Obviously, it was closed down for a significant period of time in 2020 but in 2019, holy moly, you know, even just getting to the Hāna side was like some major traffic jam, and then the ʻOheʻo gulch area and Kīpahulu area of the national park, the trails and the pools and everything else is just teeming with people full time. And so I don't know that compromised my experience a lot. And it's kind of amazing, even though Haleakalā Crater, the park itself, that entrance, like in 2019, had almost a million visitors, which is pretty staggering. Obviously, 2020 fell off almost to the levels of what it was in 1971, but even with a million visitors, it's predominantly all at the top and there's a significant number of people that go through but once you're down inside the crater, the crowds thinned out markedly. And especially as you go towards the Kaupō side, the crowds are very thin and few between and particularly weekdays and stuff, it's amazing. So I don't tend to go to Kīpahulu much anymore; it's a beautiful part of the park. I'm so glad that, I forget exactly what year that was, that we were able to acquire the Kīpahulu area and include it as part of the national park, and I'm glad they did – I mean, it's very unique and it's significantly different than the crater itself but I don't go there much.

AK: Thank you. And then I think you've kind of mentioned over time, but you've mentioned it previously, but how do you feel I guess the park has changed over time? Maybe in terms of the qualities of the park or the purposes of the park. I know you mentioned there's been a lot more people now and traffic. . .

SH: Yeah. Yeah. So you know definitely the quality of the park has changed. You know, getting rid of all of the invasive animals was significant and then better crowd control and better regulation of the hunters and stuff in the crater. So to me, it's the flora and the fauna of the crater that has markedly improved with the perimeter fence and stuff. So it's been really very heartening. It's been very neat to watch the progression from kind of a torn up place and eaten to pieces to something. . . . If you want to see something that is dramatic, you should go down to Kaupō to the boundary of the park with Kaupō Ranch and look at the difference between the the vegetation on the national park side of the fence and the vegetation on the Kaupō Ranch side of the fence, Kaupō Ranch still get goats and pigs all over the place and then, of course, the cattle and stuff. But there the vegetation is chewed to nothing with all the indigenous shrubs and stuff are basically chewed to nothing and then you look at the park side and there's this lush contrast and you can see it from a distance above and it's like, whoa, so that part of the park has significantly improved.

The part that's been very difficult is the marked increase in people which I think is important, I mean, that's part of the mission of a national park, is we're trying to share all of this with people, you know, part of it is resource protection which is tremendously important but the other part of it is, is the people. I mean, we're trying to educate and share with people these natural resources. But I have to say, that came to a point and I congratulate the National Park Service for controlling the sunrise because that was a mob scene. We didn't even bother to go for the sunrise for a number of years because it was a push, shove, bite, scratch and yell at each other for parking spaces. It was just amazing. Whereas now it's limited to, what, 200 cars for entrance each morning? That was very good and great and I've been up there several times now and the whole viewing experience and the whole experience is much more pleasant than what it was just a couple of years ago. So crowd control in that sense, and they're going to have to do that for the sunset too, sunset is becoming a mob scene. So intervention there again, crowd control is significant for the park and then down inside the crater itself again. Unfortunately, it would be nice to have more trail monitors and stuff because we have I don't know, it just fascinates me, I have no idea why people would go down into a beautiful place with natural resources and decide that they have to run all over the ash every which way and they have to write things in the ash and they have to do this and they have to do that. It just---it always amazed me, like, aren't you here to look at things and to take in the beauty into it rather than to basically write your name in the ash, which doesn't change for years and years and years? So the crowd control is definitely a problem for the park.

I don't know where the happy balance is between number of visitors versus resources in the park. I got to say, but I would hate to see a limit on the number of people that can enter each day into the park but, you know, when you consider like 2019 with a million visitors, you just kind of wonder if there's a time that, and a number that we place on, you know, on the park to basically preserve the natural resources that everybody's coming to see. So changes in the park, I think it's markedly improved since 1971. I think the whole service has markedly improved in the park itself with all the indigenous flora and fauna has markedly improved. And where the future is is basically trying to figure out how to share those resources with as many people as possible without destroying them.

AK: Have you ever been involved with any kind of educational outreach or volunteer programs with the park?

SH: You know something? I have not been involved significantly I do have contact and I have been with the Friends of Haleakalā, which is a great organization. But I haven't done a lot of volunteer work with them. The other group that I that I like, although I always have a little bit of difference of opinion, is The Nature Conservancy, which owns the land from the Koʻolau Gap right up to the border of the park and stuff, and I've been on several of their volunteer trips to pull invasive weeds and stuff on their land as it moves up there. And I actually I really do like most of their mission. And of course, a lot of the native birds in particular are down the Koʻolau and stuff and on their land and it's great that they are preserving those areas for the birds and so forth. So, I've not done a lot of other volunteer work for the park. I have since retired from medicine and I've been looking at

several of their volunteer positions because I would love to do something like that now that I have more time.

AK: That would be great. Do you feel and you may have mentioned this already, but is there a part of the park that you feel closest to?

SH: I know something, I guess the part of the park I feel closest to is really just being down inside the crater itself. It's really nice to be up on the summit and stuff and looking down on the crater, it's a beautiful view and stuff but I don't know there is just something about being able to hike down inside and just hiking along the trails there. You've probably seen that. But Haleakalā National Park is rated as one of the quietest national parks in the nation and it truly is. And I don't know, there's just something about down inside there listening to the wind, to the sounds of the crater and just looking around and watching as the day progresses. The light plays off the lava and all the formations of the crater and it just changes hour by hour it changes. So I don't know, I do a lot of day hikes down to the crater just to to wander those trails and come back out again. The only thing that's challenging about the crater is you will always hike down to begin with and up at the end, (laughs) which is a lot of effort.

AK: Yeah, definitely.

SH: It's nature's treadmill. It's beautiful.

AK: It's a good way to describe it. Could you also maybe describe two or three of maybe some of your most special moments that you've had in the park or special trips you've had either by yourself or with your family?

SH: Yeah, my crazy father took us, like I said, I do not go in in storms but my crazy father decided he had Palikū Cabin, he wasn't going to give it up one year and they predicted a major/huge south storm. He marched us down in the most outrageous rainfall you can possibly believe, across the sliding sands across the crater bottom to Palikū in a blinding rainstorm and we were so soaked and wet and cold by the time we got to Palikū. At that time, they only had the big wood burning stoves and they still have those of course, the wood burning stoves, but they are much smaller and actually much more efficient, by the way, too. And then, of course, some propane cooking rings are dynamite compared to cooking over those old wood stove. Holy moly, those are such a challenge. So we had it red hot that night to try to dry ourselves off and to ward off the cold and stuff and I was just like never again am I going down in a major storm like that. So that was one of those moments.

I think most of my special moments always come overnight in the cabin. So I really try and it's hard, it's very hard, it's very competitive. We're competing with the world now, as you know for those cabins when they're open, which is interesting, I've always kind of wondered about that. And again, I mentioned in the 1970s that part of the nights each month were reserved for Maui and then there were actually parts reserved for the state of Hawai'i and then it was open to everybody else. And now it's, as you know,

recreation.gov and you literally compete with the entire world for those cabins which makes it pretty difficult. But I always try really hard to get a couple of nights in a row, because that's one of my absolute favorite things to do, is to go down and spend like two or three nights in a row at those cabins. It's hard to describe a better experience than that, a little bit hard sleeping at night on those bunks but they're pretty comfy with the mattresses they have on it now and stuff but I guess those are my most special moments is the overnights at the cabin.

AK: Thank you. And, you know, I'm also wondering, do you feel as if there's been any kind of direction that you've seen the park go or a direction that you'd like to see the park go?

SH: No, I think we mentioned that before, but I think the direction of the park has been really good in the past ten to fifteen years. In particular, they've been concentrating a lot more on preserving resources. And it's hard, they've made hard decisions. They threw all the bicycle tours out of the park, which was a good thing, actually. And they still come up, of course, and watch the sun rise and then they start out on state land below the park for their ride down Haleakalā. But that was a resource decision. I mean, it was a good one, but a hard one. The other thing they've done again is the sunrise where they control the crowd and stuff. So I have to say that National Park Service has done a good job of doing resource decisions, kind of trying to make that hard balance between what are we, are we kind of like an entertainment, are we kind of like a amusement park or are we kind of more a national park with significant resources that are very unique to the island of Maui and to the state of Hawai'i and we need to spend a significant period of time planning for and protecting those resources for people. And so I like the direction in the past ten to fifteen years and I think they've been a lot more aggressive about doing that.

And I have to say, as much as I like my younger days running all over the place and discovering this and that, I do think that the direction of significant control and preservation of our resources, if you've been to very popular parks on the mainland like Yellowstone National Park or Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, which is beautiful, holy moly, the crowds are beyond belief and they've had to do a really strict job of crowd control with, I mean, basically busses that take you to the trailhead and stuff like that. And I'm kind of like, ahh geez, but I do feel that concentration on management on protection of our natural resources and then somehow trying to balance out together with as many people as we can to share it with. And that's the direction I'd like to see the park go in. And I and I think they've been doing a good job of that.

AK: Thank you. And have you noticed, I know kind of now or in the midst of COVID how national parks have had to combat. . . . no longer being able to have these large crowds. Is there anything in particular that I guess you've noticed as a doctor where you've seen ways in which these parks have been able to to kind of continue their mission despite all of these hardships that have occurred, especially on Maui, where it seems like there's been large clusters?

SH: Yeah, the parks have been very aggressive. I actually kind of you know, like I said, I really miss staying in the cabins, so I'm kind of like, you know, but they've been very

aggressive about crowd control. I mean and they do they do a good job. They're kind of like, okay, let's limit it to groups of five for hiking and no more than that. You know, obviously outdoors, it's a lot less risk when you have a huge outdoors like Haleakalā crater and stuff as far as spreading the virus but we wear a mask on the trail when we pass each other and of course, they closed the visitor centers. So you don't congregate people within the visitor centers and stuff in that sense, I mean they do have the bathroom open but the visitors centers themselves are closed. The little summit shelter is open but again, there's a controlled, a relatively controlled number of people with masks and stuff in those centers. So I would say the park's done a pretty good job of trying to control crowd control and exposure for COVID. And of course, they kept them closed for a significant period of time, the trails closed for a significant period of time, but they've done a good job.

AK: And I know you mentioned you recently retired. Was your practice always on Maui?

SH: Yes, yes. Yeah. I basically practiced my entire medical career, thirty-plus years here on Maui. Now, I mean, you know, my wife is born and raised here and I went to high school here and stuff so coming back here was kind of a natural, and I spent on my career here so it's been good. It's nice to be retired, but that's kind of hard to retire from medicine.

AK: Are you the same kind of doctor as your father was?

SH: No he was OBGYN, I did internal medicine. I have a subspecialty in infectious diseases.

AK: Wow. That's very important right now.

SH: Yeah, 2020 has been amazingly stressful and quite the year. Yes, of course, really interesting, but very stressful.

AK: I can't imagine. Well, is there anything else in particular that you wanted to talk about, about the park or any memories or anything you'd like to add?

SH: I can't think of anything that I haven't added significantly already. I just have to say that the park has been extremely enjoyable, and I just hope that I have many more years to enjoy Haleakalā National Park.

AK: I'm sure they'd love to have you as a volunteer.

SH: Like I said, I'm looking for those positions. I'm waiting or not waiting, I've been looking online, and they are listed online and so forth. I also have several friends, rangers and stuff, so I'm keeping my ear to the ground on those volunteer positions.

AK: Oh, great. Yeah. They're slowly starting to open up things there, so it's been great. And thank you so much for sitting down, it's been my pleasure to talk with you and to chat with you about your connections to Haleakalā. You know, it's great to hear it. We've been

doing a lot of interviews with, you know, rangers and people in interpretation and it's great to kind of hear personal connections to the park outside of professional ones.

SH: Exactly. I know what you mean. Actually, it's really funny for me because I started so many years ago and everybody I see now and pass on the trails and stuff, I'm just going like, oh, my gosh, look, all these baby rangers, I can't believe it everybody is so young. It's just staggering. And I don't think anybody has been in the park for forty-plus years like myself, so it's kind of like, whoa, it's just amazing.

AK: I bet. I bet. Yeah, very different from I've spent some time in Missoula, so very different from there.

SH: Yeah, yeah. Missoula, Montana is a beautiful place, but I was there for a very short period of time, like I said, I was way out on the eastern planes in Montana, oh my goodness.

AK: Yeah I bet. Oh great and thank you so much and I'll be sure to type up a transcript and send it to you via email or if you prefer a hard copy, we can mail it to you as well.

SH: Email is fine with me. No problem.

AK: Okay, and then you can go ahead and look through it. If you want to edit anything, you're more than welcome to and we'll put that in. And then I also just want to say, if you have any photos or anything that you'd like to include with your audio file, with your video file, with the transcript and in the archives, feel free to email them to me and we'll be sure to put them in if you have any.

SH: Ok, Yeah, I have a couple of pictures I think would be kind of nice. Yeah. I'll email you those.

AK: Oh great. Yeah. Well we'll put them in the archive and I'll probably send you your transcript in the next week or so.

SH: Sounds good.

AK: Great. Thank you so much

SH: Thank you very much, Alana I appreciate it.

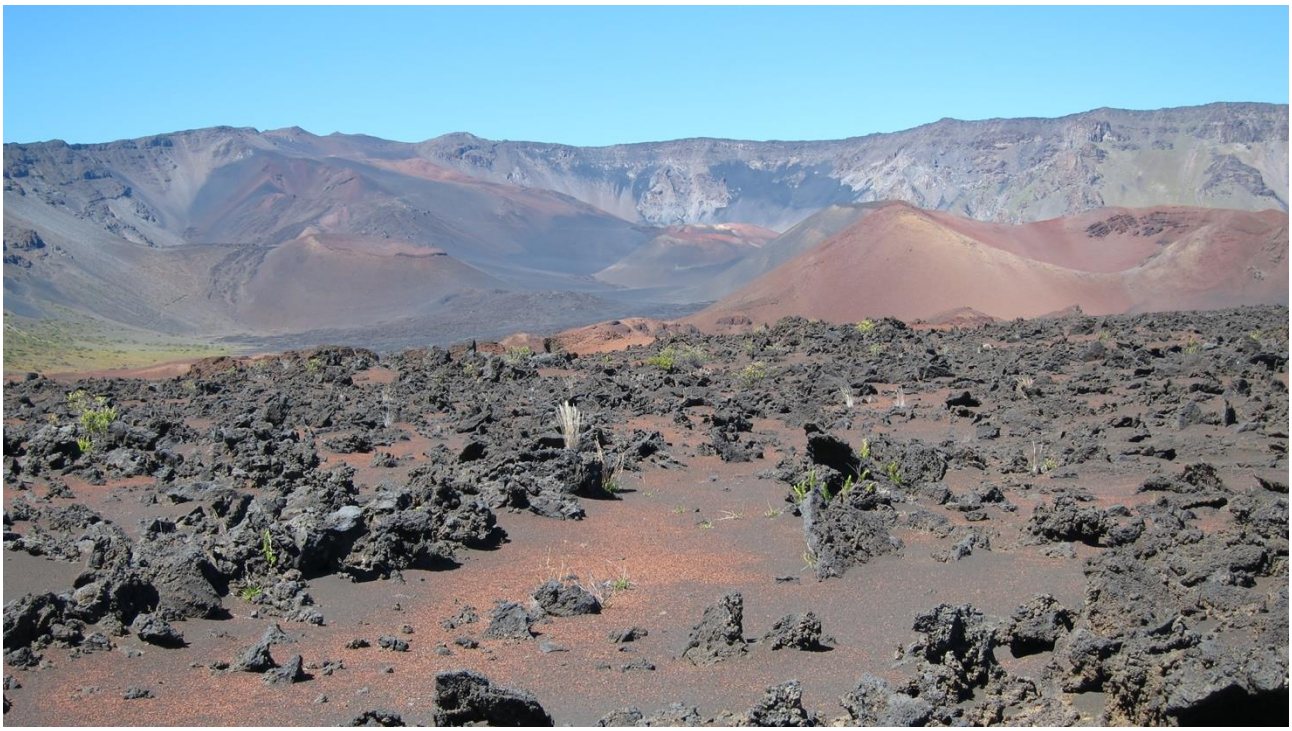
AK: It was great talking to you. Thank you.

SH: Thank you.

AK: Bye.

SH: Bye bye.

AK: Aloha.



Unique scenery, looking back at the summit – Photo by Scott Hoskinson

Palikū Cabins and Kaupō gap from old hunter's trail - Photo by Scott Hoskinson

Nēnē goose, a significant comeback - Photo by Scott Hoskinson

Ice crystals, the weather is always changing - Photo by Scott Hoskinson