



PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION (attach extra sheet if necessary)

1. State in detail the reasons for introduction (include use or purpose).
  - RESEARCH: Monitoring the adaptation of this desert tortoise to a warmer climate with cleaner air quality is integral research for threatened and endangered species as conducted by the nonprofit AWAKE Community.
  - EXHIBITION: George the desert tortoise will be an important teaching tool for visitors of Shambhala Gardens.
  - FILMING: George will be featured in short films and virtual courses broadcasted on environmental justice. (see extra sheet for additional information)
  
2. Person responsible for the organism (include name, address and phone number).
 

AWAKE Community  
 Emily Richards and John Nogawski  
 PO Box 1381  
 Kilauea, HI 96754  
 808-320-8871
  
3. Location(s) where the organism will be kept and used (include address, contact and phone number).
 

Shambhala Gardens  
 7475 Koolau Rd E  
 Kilauea, HI 96754  
 Emily Richards: 801-580-8668  
 John Nogawski: 310-980-4458
  
4. Method of disposition.
 

Upon end of life, George the desert tortoise will be cremated by Kaua'i North Shore Animal Clinic, 4244 Kilauea Rd, Kilauea, HI 96754. (808) 755-8728
  
5. Give an abstract of the organism with particular reference to potential impact on the environment of Hawaii (include impact to plants, animals and humans).
 

George the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*) is a threatened species under supervised research of nonprofit AWAKE Community, which hypothesizes the environment of Kaua'i could be more conducive to the physical health of this organism. As the singular tortoise will be restricted to a controlled, fully-secured habitat there will be NO impact to Hawaii's plants, animals, humans, or environment.

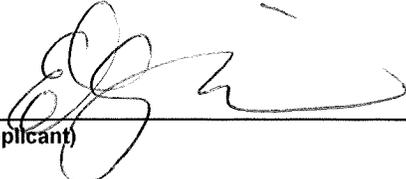
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***I request permission to import the articles as listed on the permit application and further, request that the articles be examined by an authorized agent of the Department of Agriculture upon arrival in Hawaii.***

***I agree that I, as the importer, will be responsible for all costs, charges or expenses incident to the inspection or treatment of the imported articles.***

***I further agree that damages or losses incident to the inspection or the fumigation, disinfection, quarantine, or destruction of the articles, by an authorized agent of the Department of Agriculture, shall not be the basis of a claim against the department or the inspectors for the damage or loss incurred.***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Emily Richards \_\_\_\_\_ Date January 16, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Applicant)





AWAKE Community ♦ PO Box 1381, Kilauea, HI 96754 ♦  
808-320-8871 – [awakecommunity.us](http://awakecommunity.us)

The nonprofit organization, AWAKE Community, is in the process of importing a desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*) named George to Kaua'i for the purposes of research, exhibition and filming. George will be moving from AWAKE's Brentwood Urban Farm location in Santa Monica, California to Shambhala Gardens in Kilauea, Kaua'i, Hawai'i.

#### *George's History:*

George the desert tortoise was adopted by AWAKE Community through the California Turtle & Tortoise Club in December of 2015. George was born and raised outside his natural desert habitat in the captivity of a southern California coastal community, Venice Beach. For the past seven years George has lived at the Brentwood Urban Farm in Santa Monica, California where AWAKE has created different habitats on the farm to monitor his regular roaming, grazing, sleeping and other patterns in correlation with sun exposure and weather. George's annual brumation has been closely monitored and managed in a climate-controlled root cellar. Temperature, humidity and the surrounding urban environment has been observed for its impact on George and his physical and mental health. George has been the first touch-point for visitors (in-person and virtual) to the Farm and has been featured in the nonprofits' media outreach.

#### *Relocating George to Hawai'i:*

In 2021, AWAKE Community began cultivating a sustainable, organic farm and habitat at Shambhala Gardens in Kilauea, Kaua'i, Hawai'i. After two years of tending to the land and detailed monitoring of humidity, precipitation and temperature, the research division of AWAKE hypothesizes the warmer weather and cleaner environment of Kaua'i is more suitable for George than that of Santa Monica. (Note: humidity in both climates is closely comparable.) As a threatened species, tracking a desert tortoise adaptation to a warmer climate with higher air quality is part of the research AWAKE is compiling. George will also be a key exhibition component for visitors to Shambhala Gardens as an intimate teaching tool for people who have never interacted with a threatened species nor felt a bond with an animal that has been so negatively impacted by human behavior. As he was in California, in Hawai'i George will be featured in [short films](#) and regular Environmental Justice virtual courses taught by AWAKE.

#### *Coordination with California:*

Since March of 2021, AWAKE has been coordinating the relocation of George from California to Kaua'i with Karen Berry (Director of Adoptions and Treasurer of [California Turtle & Tortoise Club](#), Valley Chapter) who works on behalf of and in correlation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Karen is supportive of AWAKE's plan to move George to Hawai'i.

George has been under the regular care of Dr. Frank Lavac, Medical Director of the [VCA Wilshire Animal Hospital](#) who supports AWAKE's relocation of George to Kaua'i and agrees a cleaner, warmer, sunnier climate would benefit the desert tortoise's physical and mental health.

*Importing to Hawai'i:*

AWAKE has been advised by both Linda Santos (Zoo Director of the Honolulu Zoo) and Noni K. Putnam (Land Vertebrate Specialist of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture) as to the proper procedures and permits required to relocate George to Kaua'i.

AWAKE is applying for an import permit (Form PQ-7) on the Restricted Animal List Part B (for private and commercial use) for George. George will continue to be an integral part of the nonprofit's desert tortoise research and will also serve as an exhibition for Shambhala Gardens visitors. George will also be filmed and featured in AWAKE Community live virtual courses on sustainability and environmental justice from his controlled habitat on the garden island.

AWAKE is coordinating with plant quarantine contacts of Kaua'i for an inspection of the desert tortoise's secured habitat at Shambhala Gardens in Kilauea. George will be restricted to an escape-proof second floor deck with protected habitat conducive to both sunning, grazing and sleeping. Brumation will be managed through a meticulously calculated, climate-controlled plan in a refrigerated cellar. At the end of his life, George will be cremated by the [Kaua'i North Shore Animal Clinic](#).

AWAKE is also coordinating with Debbie Rogers for George's medical requirements and travel arrangements from Los Angeles to Hawai'i.

*About AWAKE:*

The nonprofit organization AWAKE Community is led by Emily Richards and John Nogawski. John and Emily have been integrating and teaching permaculture and sustainability practices in urban, beach, and mountain environments for nearly two decades. On Kaua'i, John and Emily have been involved with Albatross education and preservation since 2011 and were donors and actively involved in the making of the documentary film "[Albatross](#)." Through AWAKE's research institute, John and Emily have been integral to raising Western Monarch Butterflies by creating organic, regulated wildlife habitats at the Brentwood Urban Farm and elsewhere in the Los Angeles area. At Shambhala Gardens on Kaua'i, John and Emily have created chemical-free natural habitats specifically for Tropical Monarchs, Gulf Fritillaries, Citrus Swallowtails and Kamehameha butterflies and other pollinators threatened by herbicides, pesticides and development. Preserving native plant and animal species, as well as advocating for Indigenous Peoples, cultures and languages are foundational to AWAKE Community's mission.

For more information visit: [awakecommunity.us](http://awakecommunity.us).

# Emily Richards

emily@artistechmedia.com | (801) 580-8668 | Kilauea, HI 96754

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### AWAKE Community

Dec 2003 – Current

*President, Co-founder*

*Kilauea, HI*

- Nonprofit organization with sustainability, threatened species habitat, and indigenous culture initiatives
- Education through technology and creativity via music, film, art, poetry, theatre, publications, social media
- Research & expertise: monarch butterflies, desert tortoise, albatross, biodiesel, rain water catchment, permaculture, natural habitats with beneficial insects, native plants, indigenous language, culture & wisdom
- Chair of Cool Block Carmelina for LA City Council – building climate conscious communities and neighborhoods
- Quarterly “Environmental Justice” courses on climate, endangered species, colonization, indigenous wisdom
- Designs, creates and sustains school, community and neighborhood gardens in both urban and rural locations

### ArtisTech Media

Dec 2009 – Current

*CEO, Co-founder*

*Los Angeles, CA*

- Leads online global creative community consisting of musicians, developers, scientists – ccMixer.org
- Original Music Libraries under Creative Commons License: Whale Songs with Oceanographers, Compositions for Alzheimer patients with Research Hospital, Climate and Species Adaptation Education, Emergent Behavior, etc.
- Educational videos, albums and social media on climate science, species extinction, quantum philosophy

### MP3tunes

Feb 2005 – Oct 2008

*President, Co-founder*

*Berkeley, CA*

- Built the first music in the cloud internet company, software, client and API

### PricewaterhouseCoopers

Sept 1993 – Jan 2005

*Manager, CPA*

*Salt Lake City, Boston, Los Angeles*

- Client focus: environmental organizations, zoo, nonprofits for women and minorities, high-tech, energy sector

## EDUCATION

### University of Utah

June 1993

Bachelor of Science – Accounting

GPA 3.98

- Licensed CPA, Masters of Accounting equivalent awarded by State of Utah for working on Franklin Covey IPO (then Franklin International Institute) and co-creating its internal audit department while a full time college student
- Studied piano composition, vocal performance and modern dance

## MUSIC CAREER

- Currently producing a musical about oil industry’s impact on climate and indigenous lands and peoples
- Released 17 albums, headlined 4 international tours, 7 biodiesel conferences, Earthdance, Solfest, Burning Man
- Digital music pioneer: most downloaded artist on MP3.com, first artist to allow free streaming of original music
- Leadership in collaborative culture, free sharing and Creative Commons licenses in music, science and education
- Produced 3 events for US Senate and Congress on Capitol Hill, organized 2004 National “Rock the Vote” Tour

## SKILLS

- **Technical:** Music & software engineer, threatened species and climate research, spreadsheets, databases
- **Leadership:** Entrepreneur, early-adopter, team and community building, philanthropy, “nerd-herder”
- **Interests:** Biology, hiking, camping, meditation, yoga, piano, swimming, philosophy, reading, songwriting
- **Passions:** Endangered species, natural habitats, organic gardening, climate, Indigenous language & culture
- **Volunteer:** Beach, creek & neighborhood clean-ups, planting native & school gardens, food banks, thrift shops

**John “Keoni” Nogawski**  
[nogawski@gmail.com](mailto:nogawski@gmail.com) (310) 980-4458  
 Shambhala Gardens, 7475 Koolau Rd. E, Kilauea HI, 96754

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### CEO Shambhala Gardens

**Feb 2021-Current**

Responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of solar panel system and two Tesla power walls. The system has eliminated 100% of Shambhala Gardens’ electric bills and contributes significant power to the island of Kauai.
- Planting, maintenance and harvest of all organic fruit and vegetable gardens.
- Planting all host plants for each variety of the local butterfly community.
- Manage compost system for 3 1/2 acre property.
- Removal of litter that has flowed downstream in creek at the bottom of Shambhala.
- Removing bamboo and other invasive plants and trees so that native ones can thrive.

### CEO Brentwood Urban Farm

**Sept 2012-Current**

Responsibilities include:

- Working with the LA city council, surrounding neighborhood and communities on how to reduce their Carbon Footprint, with the Farm as an example.
- Installed 2 solar arrays that eliminate 75% of the electrical needs of the Farm.
- Installed 240V electric car charger powered by the solar array.
- Maintain and harvest fruit from over 25 fruit and nut trees and 2 grapevines.
- Grow herbs and vegetables in 18 garden beds on 1/3 acre in the middle of Los Angeles, modeling a farm to table lifestyle for the neighboring community.
- Installed and maintain a rain barrel and water catchment system which includes seven 60 gallon water barrels and a 1400 gallon cistern.
- Installed graywater system utilizing the laundry discharge system to irrigate the garden.
- The Farm just celebrated property its 10th anniversary as an all organic natural habitat and has been recognized by the city of LA as an example of urban sustainability.
- Lead tours for kids and adults interested in learning first-hand what sustainability looks like, providing tools and resources to do it at their own homes and neighborhoods.
- Maintaining fish pond, chicken coop and desert tortoise habitat.

### Co-Chair Cool Block Carmelina

**January 2017-Current**

After being asked by the city of Los Angeles to launch and lead a pilot program originated in Stanford CA, Cool Block Carmelina was created. The mission was to bring a diverse LA neighborhood street together to focus their combined efforts on sustainability, the environment, safety, and promoting projects to enhance a spirit of togetherness by creating initiatives that the entire neighborhood could rally around. Responsibilities include:

- Planting home gardens
- Facilitating installation of solar panels
- Planting new trees throughout the neighborhood
- Cleaning litter and invasives out of Kenter Creek
- Removing overgrowth and painting neglected guard rails
- Reducing waste and recycling in a more productive and responsible manner
- In 2019 Cool Block Carmelina was recognized as the most successful pilot program in Southern CA and is used as a blueprint for all startup neighborhoods.

**President CBS TV Distribution**

**Dec 1983-Oct 2012**

- Produced and distributed syndicated TV shows: Entertainment Tonight, Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Phil, Judge Judy, Inside Edition, Arsenio Hall, etc.
- Additional responsibilities: Ad sales, advertising and promotion, legal and business affairs, research, interfacing with talent
- Organized company-wide beach clean-ups each month
- Required shows (Entertainment Tonight and Inside Edition) to report on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch/Gyre and different personalities in the entertainment community that were champions of defending the environment, animals and sustainability.

**EDUCATION**

University of Utah  
Bachelor of Science – Business Management

**1983 Graduate**

**INTERESTS**

Camping; avid skier, hiker, swimmer and outdoorsman. Animal husbandry including 3 Desert Tortoises for over 30 years. Gardening. Golf. Native Habitats, learning Hawaiian language.