

Kailua Way Back When . . .

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle began “Keeping Kailua clean, green and beautiful”

In May 1948, long before the Pali Tunnels made daily commuting from downtown Honolulu to the Windward side feasible, a small group of women gathered in the sleepy beach town of Kailua (population 3,619) to organize the Lani-Kailua Branch of The Outdoor Circle. More soon joined them and the Circle grew to more than 200 members within a few years. Thus began their more than 70-year history of planting trees in our neighborhoods, fostering environmental and educational outreach, and protecting the scenic, natural and cultural resources that define our community.

The history of Kailua is one of great historical, cultural, and archeological significance to Hawaii. Once a place of streams, fishponds and taro and rice growing fields, the area was changed forever when the Pali Tunnels opened in 1960, but the dedication and commitment of the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC) to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty that surrounds us has not wavered for over 70 years.

As an all-volunteer organization, LKOC has always relied on the generous support of the community, whether financially or through precious time, and they are eternally grateful for that support, without which their enduring achievements would not have been possible.

This is *their* story of Kailua way back when...





LKOC ~ The Early Years

In 1948, much of Kailua had no improved sidewalks, and little street tree planting, so LKOC took on the project of raising funds to build a sidewalk in downtown Kailua (a remarkable \$3000 at the time) and began planting trees in Coconut Grove and Kainalu Tract. This was just the beginning of their long history of spearheading planting projects to beautify Kailua.

They also organized the first efforts at restoration of Ulupo Heiau, thus beginning their long-standing commitment to the preservation of Kawainui as a valuable wetland, wildlife refuge, cultural site, and recreational and educational resource.

From its outset, the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle was involved in cleaning up litter and promoting property beautification in Kailua's neighborhoods. They set up a free plant exchange network, organized yearly anti-litter and recycling campaigns, and awarded prizes to school children for promoting litter-awareness. LKOC created a "spokeswoman" for the program, Aunty (Anti) Litter, whom some of you may remember appearing at local elementary schools, covered with pieces of litter which children delighted in picking off and depositing in a trash can.

One of LKOC's first planting projects was on the Kailua Road median at the entrance to Kailua, where they planted dozens of tecoma trees. Ten years later, a



major upgrade to the roadway was done with replacement kamani trees. At that time, LKOC planted scores of trees in downtown Kailua on Oneawa, Uluniu, Maluniu, Kainehe, Kihapai, and Hoolai streets, with crews of volunteers out digging holes and staking the trees.



LKOC ~ Over 70 Years of Keeping Kailua Clean, Green and Beautiful

By 1950 Kailua had 7,740 residents, with new subdivisions sprouting in Keolu Hills, Kalaheo Hillside, and Enchanted Lake. Soon the group was instrumental in



the landscaping and planting of over 2000 trees at the new schools being built, and along the streets of existing neighborhoods, including Kalama Tract, Bishop Tract (now Kailua Estates), Coconut Grove, and the newly developed Kailua Heights (now Keolu Hills) subdivision in Enchanted Lake. The lovely red royal poincianas seen on Kainalu Drive and in sections of Keolu Hills are testaments to their efforts.

In the late 1950's, LKOC collaborated to have the central median of Kainui Drive planted with coconut trees. Today, the Drive has a stunning display of coconuts along its entire length.

In 1954, LKOC volunteers planted the now iconic banyan at Kalapawai Park (commonly referred to as Kalapawai Triangle over the years). At the time, LKOC member, Herbert Dowsett, who helped plant the tree, and is shown at right during the planting, diligently carted 5-gallon buckets of water daily to make sure its new roots got established. According to a report 17 years later, "despite deep ruts and refuse that marred the soil, the tree held its head high and grew into a marvelous specimen". Today, some 65 years later, the banyan is still a 'marvelous' specimen!



In commemoration of Herbert Dowsett's efforts, in 1970 LKOC installed a plaque under the tree in his honor, as part of their extensive landscape refurbishment at that time.



Many LKOC volunteers, as well as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Pali Lions and Kailua Elks, helped in the landscape installation. It should be noted that LKOC performed performed a major landscape renovation in 2011 and continues to professionally maintain the landscaping and irrigation around the banyan to this day.

With the Pali Tunnels nearing completion, by 1960 Kailua's population had more than tripled to 24,402. Kaneohe Marine Base added another 6,397 to that figure. LKOC's projects included assistance with landscape plantings at the newly built Castle Hospital and with funds and labor to refurbish the landscaping in the Kailua Central Triangle at Kailua Road and Oneawa Street.

They fought open burning at the Kailua dump on Kapa'a Quarry Road, worked for bike paths to connect Kailua neighborhoods, and advocated for legislation to

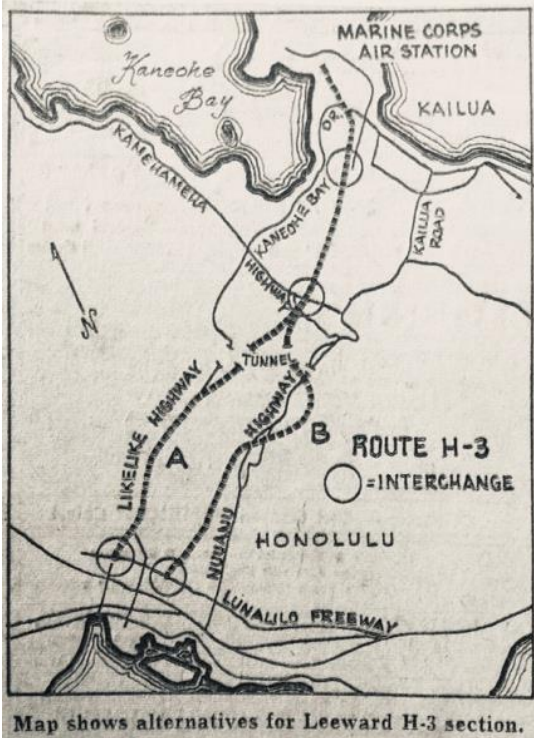


limit the size of outdoor advertising signage, including the large sign at the newly developed Kailua Drive In Theater. In the 1960's and 1970's, LKOC continued its mission, by planting trees at Kainalu Elementary School, landscaping the new Kailua Post Office, and working to expand Kailua Beach Park, remove the Kapa'a Quarry Road roadside junkyard, save Mount Olomana from development on its

slopes, and create height limitations for downtown Kailua's business core.

In the early 1960's, when the H3 Trans-Ko'olau Tunnel was being planned, LKOC took a strong stance and successfully advocated to route the tunnel from Halawa Valley into Haiku Valley, rather than several proposed routes through Nu'uuanu and Kalihi Valleys (Routes A and B on map shown).

LKOC conducted numerous community meetings with State officials and was adamant that the Windward side of the Ko'olau Range "will not tolerate any further desecration or scarring of the Pali area".



It should be noted that H-3 is a disaster-relief highway, unlike the Pali and Likelike highways, and is seismically restrained to withstand severe damage by an earthquake, thus providing the only reliable trans-Koolau evacuation route.

In a landmark effort in 1971, LKOC was successful in lobbying our City, State, and Federal legislators and officials to allow trees to be planted in the median of Mokapu Boulevard, from Kalaheo Avenue to Oneawa Street. At the time, the boulevard was designated as a Federal Assistance Secondary highway, for which median strip tree planting was strictly disallowed. This

lobbying involved LKOC sending numerous letters eliciting support from US Senators Hiram Fong and Daniel Inouye, US Representatives Patsy Mink and Spark Matsunaga, Hawaii Governor John Burns, State Department of Transportation head Fujio Matsuda, Honolulu Mayor Frank Fasi, and US Secretary of Transportation John Volpe. And this was all before 'email' was available!

LKOC's vigilance resulted in a federal exception being allowed for Mokapu Boulevard. Today the magnificent trees in that central median are a beautiful testament to the perseverance of LKOC leaders at the time.

By 1980, Kailua's population had grown to 35,812 residents (with 11,578 Marines). LKOC pushed for trees in the medial strip along the entirety of Mokapu Boulevard and Mokapu Road, and planted dozens of shower, narra and palm trees over the years.

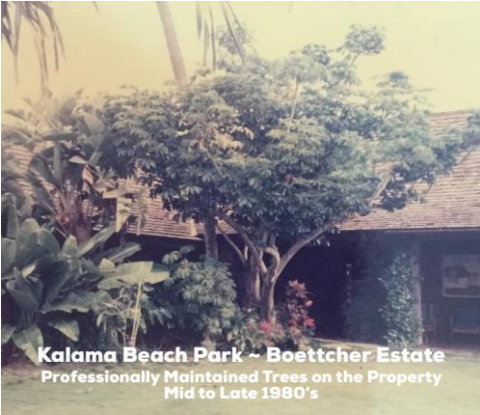


Another major achievement for the Kailua community occurred in 1980, when LKOC successfully prevented the acquisition of Aikahi Park Triangle by developers who wanted to expand the existing Aikahi Park Shopping Center into that area.



LKOC's effort directly led to the rerouting of Mokapu Road to its present position, creating the large tree-shaded area you see at that corner today. The monkeypods, coconut palms and flowering kalamona that grace the park were all planted by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle!

For five years in the mid-1980's, LKOC provided for professional maintenance of the trees at Kalama Beach Park (Boettcher Estate). In 1999, volunteers from LKOC replanted the naupaka beds on the makai side of the property fronting the historic Vladimir Ossipoff-designed home.

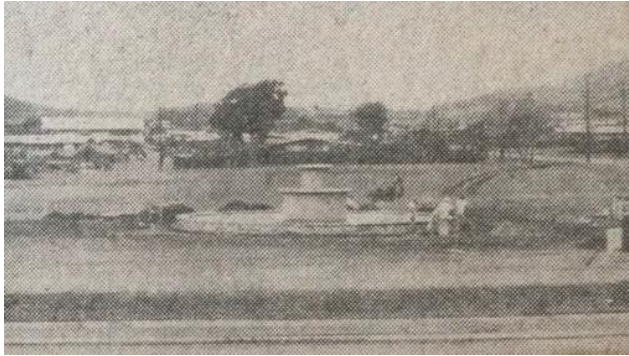


In 1985, LKOC spearheaded the planting of the monkeypods in the parking lot for Kailua District Park, so beautiful today as you travel along Kainalu Drive.

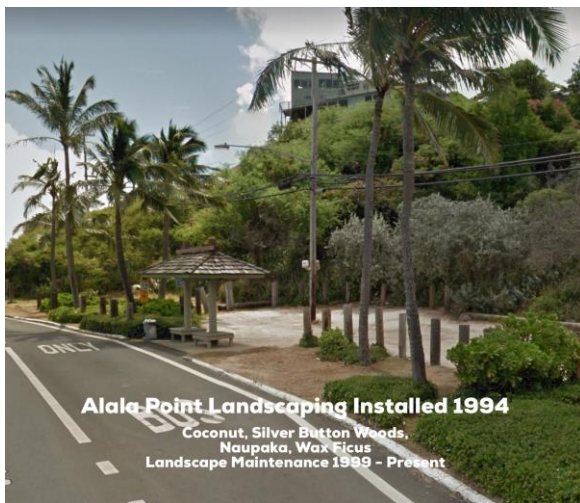


In 1991, LKOC raised \$20,000 to landscape around the Pohakupu Fountain at the entrance to Kailua. The city project also included spending \$150,000 to replace the aging fountain. At the official dedication and blessing, Mayor Frank Fasi was present, and the Royal Hawaiian Band played for the crowd. According to reports

at the time, “the Pohakupu fountain is a graceful entry sentinel to Kailua and was beautiful day and night.” Photos show Pohakupu Park with the original fountain (left) and new fountain in recent years (at right).



Over the years, LKOC has performed landscape maintenance and replanting projects at Pohakupu, including keeping the grass fertilized and planting a beautiful poinciana in honor of Dot Wright (2005), a long-time LKOC member and leader. They also pushed to keep the fountain in working order. In 2015, after two years of the fountain not functioning, the city upgraded its pumping mechanism, and “the fountain once again welcomes guests and residents into the community... the city and the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle say they hope the community can work together to keep the fountain, and all public parks, in top shape.” (KHON2 news report, December 2015).



In 1994 LKOC undertook a major landscape project at Alala Point at the entrance to Lanikai, planting silver buttonwoods, coconut palms, and shrubs. The entire Alala Point project covered multiple acres from the boat ramp to the monument, on the mauka and makai sides of Mokulua Drive, and was funded through donations from Kaneohe Ranch and proceeds from the first “I Love Kailua” Town Party (a remarkable \$100,000 in total).

Since 1999, LKOC has maintained the landscaping at Alala Point, where the work is performed by the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC) Community Service Workline under LKOC auspices. During the 2020 pandemic, when the Workline was unable to perform their regular maintenance for over 6 months, LKOC volunteers stepped up to the task and kept this iconic scenic spot overlooking the Mokulua Islands and Kailua Bay mowed and weeded.

In the late 1990's, LKOC collaborated with the "Coconut Grove Tomorrow Forum" and the newly formed "Coconut Grove Association" to plant 40 coconut trees in Coconut Grove. LKOC donated sprouted coconuts, including a pamphlet on their care. It was estimated at the time that of the original 300,000 trees that once existed there, only 3,000 were left.



By 2000, Kailua's population had stabilized at 36,513 residents and 12,000 military personnel at MCBH. In 2000, LKOC re-installed the landscaping on the Kailua Road corridor leading into Kailua town, where naupaka and loulu palms were planted. Original plantings were installed there by LKOC in 1993. LKOC has continued to maintain the landscaping along the corridor since then, where work is now performed by the Community Service Workline from WCCC, under LKOC auspices.

In 2000, when an over-zealous Kailua Fire Station captain ordered that seven 15-20-foot flowering Hong Kong orchids on the property be cut back to stumps, as part of their routine "yard maintenance", this angered LKOC, who had spent 2 years getting permission to plant the trees, valued at \$12,000. Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris was "very dismayed" and ordered that they be replaced. Honolulu Advertiser cartoon shown here captures LKOC Beautification Chair Carol Ann Ellett inspecting the damage.



On a very sad note, on the morning of September 11, 2001, a scheduled tree planting was completed in front of the music building at Kalaheo High School only hours after the World Trade Center destruction.



As a shower tree was planted, a circle of caring people from LKOC, the City and County, and Kalaheo High School prayed for all affected by the tragedy. In particular, the group asked blessings for Christine Snyder, who died in the Pittsburgh crash. She was an inspiration to so many at The Outdoor Circle where she was the Program Manager and Arborist for six years before her untimely death. She was a Kalaheo graduate. Let this tree stand as a testament to life, may it grow in her memory...lest we forget.

In the early 2000's, LKOC planted several royal poincianas at Kailua Intermediate School and two monkeypod trees at Lanikai Elementary School (now Ka'ohao Charter School). The Lanikai school tree planting involved transport of two 30-foot trees harvested with a massive tree spade from along Kapa'a Quarry Road, and were planted in memory of Muriel Flanders, a 50-year member of LKOC, whose favorite tree was the monkeypod (ohai).



In keeping with their long-standing tradition, in 2005, LKOC solicited the community's help in their "Spruce Up Downtown Kailua" workday, in which dozens of volunteers weeded, mulched and cleaned up the street trees in a 4-block area covering Kihapai, Uluniu, Maluniu, Punia, Kainehe, Ho'olai, Oneawa, and Aulike Streets. Young and old pitched in, and the streets and trees never looked better!



In the mid-2000's, LKOC raised \$15,000 to purchase and plant shower and narra trees on Mokapu Road, to replace wiliwili trees that had succumbed to disease. They planted silver trumpet trees in the Kailua municipal parking lot, Hawaiian kou trees at Kaimaki Loop Park, loulou palms along Kalaniana'ole Hwy at Waimanalo Junction, shower and loulou palms at the Kailua Recreation Center parking lot, and wax ficus in the Kailua Road median fronting

the Kailua Central Triangle and on Kaneohe Bay Drive fronting the Aikahi Wastewater Treatment Plant.

In 2010, LKOC installed a major landscaping project at the Pali Palms Triangle at the end of Kalaheo Avenue, to beautify this barren area that, at the time, had only minimal plantings. LKOC has provided professional landscape and irrigation maintenance at the Pali Palms traffic triangle since installation. Before and after photos show what a difference that has made!



For Arbor Day, 2013, LKOC held a mulching day at Kailua Recreation Center, where volunteers mulched over fifty trees on the property. It was an educational event as well, where our keiki and kupuna learned the value of mulching, as well as techniques on how to do it properly, from landscape expert (and past Outdoor Circle President) Steve Mechler.

In 2020, LKOC spearheaded a project to plant silver trumpet and tecoma trees along Oneawa Street, from Kawainui Street to Kuulei Road. The trees were planted to replace a dozen original tecomas that had failed and been removed over the past 20 years. This will restore an attractive arbor of trees on both sides of the street, providing much needed shade and an inviting atmosphere for residents and visitors alike.





Over 70 Years of Protecting Kawainui Marsh

LKOC began its active involvement with the preservation and protection of Kawainui Marsh over 70 years ago. Since then, they have been committed stewards and stakeholders in its preservation as a wetland and wildlife refuge, as well as a significant cultural and archaeological site, important to understanding the historical roots of pre- and post-contact human presence in Hawaii.

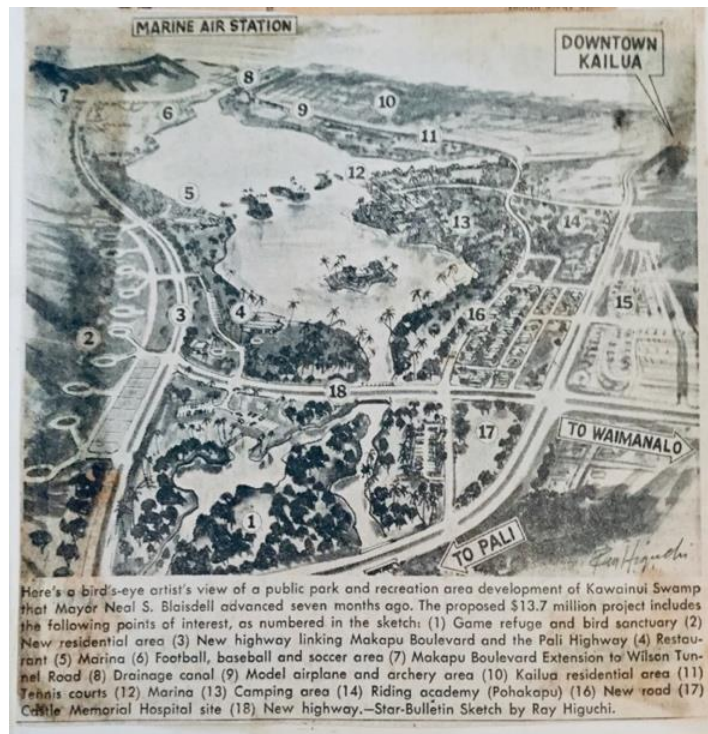


In 1951, LKOC petitioned for, and was granted, a permit from the Territory of Hawaii's Board of Agriculture and Forestry, to clear Ulupo Heiau, for archeological inspection. The site remained largely unmarked on maps of the time. This effort directly led to its inclusion in the Hawaii Territorial Parks System in 1954.

In the early 1960's, Kawainui Marsh (then called Kawainui Swamp) was privately owned, and LKOC successfully led the effort to convince the Honolulu City and County to purchase 749 acres of the marsh that had been slated for development of a 4000-home residential complex. Without that effort on the part of LKOC, Kawainui Marsh would be quite different today.

At that time, the city developed a plan for the area which included a restaurant, small boat harbor and a highway across the marsh, with no recognition of the cultural, archeological and historic sites that would be destroyed.

Thankfully, the city's proposal, shown here, never came to fruition.



In the early 1970's, LKOC formed the "Ad Hoc Committee for Kawainui", which was successful in stopping the development of an 88-acre shopping center in the Kahanaiki area of the marsh (across from the current Le Jardin Academy). An editorial cartoon shown here was published regarding that effort.

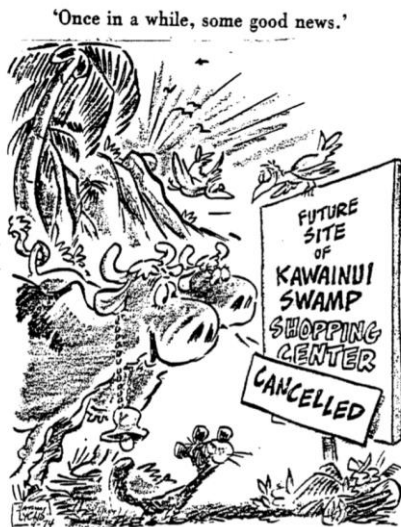


Figure 1.28 Newspaper Cartoon about the Cancellation of The Proposed Kawai Nui Shopping Center(1974) (Taken from: Honolulu Advertiser, September 19, 1974.

When the Department of Public Works planned to implement a concept using the marsh to accommodate the next 25 years of sanitary landfill (garbage), LKOC successfully fought it. In 1976, LKOC petitioned the City and County of Honolulu to rezone approximately 250 acres of privately-owned land along the southern edge of the marsh, from 'urban' to 'conservation', eventually resulting in 70 acres being rezoned as conservation in 1979.

In the early 1980's, LKOC convinced the Honolulu City and County to relocate a sewer line from inside the Kawainui Marsh boundary to along Kalaniana'ole Highway and Kailua Road, terminating at the Wai'auia site at the entrance to Kailua's business district. In the late 1980's, LKOC petitioned the city to void previously granted permits to build a light industrial complex on the Wai'auia (ITT) site, resulting in the state ultimately purchasing the property, and the removal of the partially constructed buildings there.

LKOC sponsored the formation of the "Kawainui Heritage Foundation" in 1983, under the leadership of Muriel Seto, and the effort to declare Kawainui eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2004, LKOC was one the original members of Ho'olaulima Ia Kawainui, a network of conservation, native Hawaiian, educational, and community organizations who came together to assist with planning the future of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex. In 2005, LKOC was a signed petitioner on the Ramsar Convention declaration of Kawainui as a "Wetland of International Importance".

In 2011, LKOC's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution opposing human access to the marsh other than what was necessary for wetland restoration, archaeological study, public education, maintenance, flood control and security, while supporting the use of the historic district for traditional cultural practices and traditional buildings.

Over the years, numerous plans were developed for the marsh, including LKOC's "Kawainui Directional Plan IV", which served as a guideline in those early planning stages. In 2016, the "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" was put forth by the Department of Land and Natural and Natural Resources to provide for much needed restoration and stewardship activities, as well as allow for cultural practices to occur within this significant Hawaiian historical site.

While many of the changes were beneficial, LKOC felt that it included an unacceptable number of buildings, parking lots, pavilions, observation decks, boardwalks, lawns, access roads, gravel paths and structures, and Kawainui's forested/riparian areas, critical to healthy wetland function, would be difficult to manage and vulnerable to overuse. LKOC felt modern buildings should be replaced with more traditional structures more in keeping with their intended purpose.

Despite these objections, the Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project was approved in 2020. However, LKOC's resolve has not weakened and they will continue their commitment to environmentally responsible treatment of the marsh.



LKOC's "I Love Kailua" Town Party ~ Giving back to Kailua

In 1992, LKOC held its first annual "*I Love Kailua*" Town Party in downtown Kailua. As their major fundraiser each year, it has grown into a full-scale annual community event and street fair, much anticipated by all.

The event was on Valentine's Day that year, thus the name "I Love Kailua". It was held in the parking lot behind Mike McKenna Ford and First Hawaiian Bank (now Whole Foods), and extended to Hekili Street, with about 15 restaurants, 40 crafters, 12 non-profits and 4 wonderful entertainers including Puamana, who has continued with them over the years. The entertainers all performed for free which was a wonderful thing for them to do (and they still do today). Over the years, many entertainers of note have graced the center stage, and one of the musicians from the 2018 event became a finalist on the TV show "The Voice" in May 2020!

There have been some interesting years...one in particular was when the toilet company missed the date by one week! When event organizers realized they were not coming, they had to literally beg all the businesses around the area to be kind enough to let the party goers use their facilities. In 2004, the event was moved to Kailua Road to accommodate the more than 60 crafters, dozens of restaurants, and a new group called “Art in the Park”, for Kailua's artists. What a job that first closing down of a public street was!



Each year, LKOC chooses a local artist’s design as a unique piece to be displayed on their Town Party Commemorative T-Shirts and Buttons for sale at the event. The buttons are also sold prior to the event at dozens of local merchants in Kailua. Proceeds from these sales go to support LKOC’s mission, which means by purchasing them, YOU are helping keep Kailua clean, green and beautiful!

It takes hundreds of dedicated volunteers to put on the Town Party, as well as sponsorship support from the local business community. Generous sponsors have included Kaneohe Ranch, A&B Properties, Buzzes ~ Lanikai, Adventist Health Castle, and Hardware Hawaii. All proceeds from the event are used for LKOC’s landscaping projects throughout Kailua, as well as their environmental and educational outreach projects on the Windward side. In 2020, due to the pandemic, the Town Party had to be cancelled, but their wonderful sponsors still supported them financially. LKOC has been proud to present the “*I Love Kailua*” Town Party as their way of giving back to the community that has so generously supported them over the years!



LKOC Scholarships ~ Aiding future environmental stewards

In 1993 LKOC began its scholarship program with the Windward Community College in Kaneohe. Since then, LKOC has given yearly scholarships totaling over \$68,000 to more than 80 students enrolled in Agricultural and Environmental

Sciences Programs there. Many of these recipients have gone on to the UH Manoa, UH West Oahu, and UH Maui. Over 30 of them have received their degrees or certificates in plant landscaping, agriculture, subtropical tree care, and bio-resources technology.

Testimonials from past recipients, such as

“I cannot express enough what your scholarship has meant to me ... in my studies in Agriculture and Sustainability...and on my educational journey”,

reinforce LKOC’s commitment to helping these next stewards of our land and natural resources.



The LKOC/WCCC Partnership ~ Enriching women’s lives

A unique partnership was formed in 1999, between LKOC and the Department of Public Safety and the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC), called the “Environmental Sciences Vocational Training Program”, in which a curriculum was developed so that the women would get college credits for classes given by college faculty, accompanied by work in a renovated plant nursery on the prison facility grounds. This enduring relationship between LKOC and WCCC has been maintained since then and is a hallmark of LKOC’s commitment to the Windward community.

As part of the partnership, the “Learning to Grow” (LTG) program was started by LKOC in 2008, in which inmates built and now maintain a large hydroponic system and plant nursery where they grow organic vegetables for the prison cafeteria, and hydroponic lettuce available at Foodland grocery stores on O’ahu. Lettuce is harvested and delivered fresh once a week, and the proceeds go to support the program. Over the years, other support for the program has come from generous public donations as well as grants from Castle Foundation, Hawaiian Electric Company, and the Garden Club of Honolulu.



In addition to hydroponics, LKOC volunteers within LTG teach the students plant maintenance and management skills, working side by side with the women, 2-3 times a week, providing not only hands-on guidance, but a mentoring sense of camaraderie and friendship as well. LKOC also has provided instructors from the community to teach a series of 6-week classes, throughout the year, as well as all garden supplies for the nursery.

In 2019, LKOC received a grant from the Women's Fund of Hawai'i for an innovative project at WCCC called "Goats in the Garden", where a small herd of four goats is now part of the LTG program. The goats move around grazing and maintaining the invasive undergrowth around the garden nursery, and the inmates learn to nurture and care for them.

Since 1999, as part of the partnership, the "Community Service Workline" at WCCC



has provided teams of inmates to maintain landscaping in public areas in Windward O'ahu. Initially a workline of inmates was set up for Kailua Beach, but the Warden at the time wanted the women to be part of the community so the areas were extended to include the Kailua Road median, from St. John Lutheran Church to Oneawa Street, Alala Point at the entrance to Lanikai, Pohakupu Park, Kaha Park, Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua

Marsh. The Workline goes out with several crews of 10 for 4 hours, 3-4 times a month which comes to over 150-woman-hours per month! LKOC provides their training, equipment, equipment repairs and lunches on their LKOC sponsored workdays at the Kailua Road median and at Alala Point. The Lanikai Association generously donates a portion of the women's lunch expenses each month. The work the women do makes such a difference, and LKOC is proud to sponsor them.

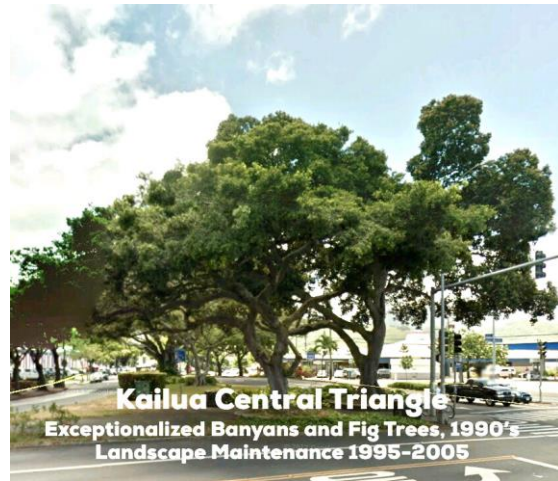
Over 300 women have gone through the LKOC/WCCC Partnership program since it started, many of whom have gone on to work in private-sector horticulture fields upon release, a wonderful testament to the value of this life-altering program.



LKOC's commitment to Exceptional Trees

LKOC was instrumental in adding several trees on public property in Kailua to the State Exceptional Tree register. An Exceptional Tree is one recognized by the State of Hawaii as special and deserving of care and protection. The State Exceptional Tree Act, enacted in 1975, was spearheaded by The Outdoor Circle. These trees contribute greatly to our urban canopy, providing shade, cooling, health benefits, and beauty.

In the late 1990's, the four large banyans in the Kailua Central Triangle were nominated to the Exceptional Tree Registry by LKOC. These trees provide a stunning focal point as you enter the Kailua business district. The oldest of them was planted in 1926 by Lucius Tuckerman, known as "the grand old man of Kailua". LKOC provided the landscape and irrigation system maintenance of the triangle from mid-1990's to 2005.



In 2002, four monkeypods on the grounds of the Women's Community Correctional Center were nominated to the Exceptional Tree register by LKOC. These majestic trees, clearly visible from Kalaniana'ole Highway, attract visitors and residents alike and are among the oldest monkeypods in Kailua. LKOC pays for their professional pruning every few years as their contribution to the community.

In 2015, LKOC sponsored an Exceptional Tree tour of Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Air Force Base, home to over 500 trees on the State Exceptional Tree register, planted by The Outdoor Circle in the 1930's. Agronomist Patrick Ching, Director of Public Works US Army, and Steve Nimz, a noted arborist, guided the tour. All stood in awe of and were grateful for those protecting them despite new construction and modernization of facilities over the years.





LKOC's anti-litter campaign ~ Everybody loves a parade!

In 1949, LKOC participated in Kailua's very first Fourth of July Parade. In those days, the parade was on Oneawa Street, from Kalama Street to Kuulei Road to Kainalu Drive, where a "crowd of 4000 thronged the streets", according to newspaper reports. LKOC's theme that year was "Let's Make Kailua a Garden City", and their impressive float encouraged the community to keep their yards free of trash, and plant trees and shrubs instead. At that time, LKOC sponsored a community "Plant Exchange", for homeowners to deposit/pickup plants from/for their own yards to beautify them.



In 1955, "The float that drew the biggest laugh all along the parade route was the Outdoor Circle float that resembled a garbage truck with a 'litter bug' sitting on top the cabin throwing rubbish" (Honolulu Advertiser July 5, 1955).



Anti-litter and responsible garbage disposal were a large focus for LKOC at the time, where their Youth Education Committee taught anti-litter and recycling to grade-school students through their "Reuse, Recycle" program, featuring spokeswoman Aunty (Anti) Litter. In the 1960's, the Outdoor Circle started a statewide anti-litter campaign, with a mascot for the program, Mr. Mynah, created for The Outdoor Circle by local cartoonist Harry Lyons.

Mr. Mynah and Anti Litter continue to promote environmental awareness through activities in the community, including the Fourth of July Parade each year. Young and old love to see them passing by!





LKOC Tree Appreciation and Educational Outreach

In 2000, LKOC partnered with the Kalaheo High School video department, whose students created an entertaining 10-minute video for young children about The Outdoor Circle and why it is important to plant and protect trees.

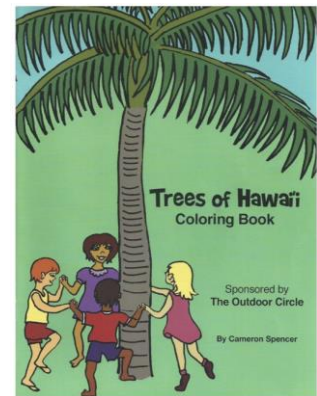


Mr. Mynah and Frank De Lima

It featured Outdoor Circle mascot Mr. Mynah and local entertainer Frank De Lima. LKOC volunteers, with Mr. Mynah in attendance as well, would present the video at elementary and pre-schools on the Windward side. It was very popular with the students, where lively discussions made it a fun way for children to learn an appreciation of nature. Some of you may remember seeing the video,

and Mr. Mynah, in your classrooms!

In the early 2000's, The Outdoor Circle produced a "Trees of Hawaii" coloring book for young children, featuring delightful line-drawings of trees by Cameron Spencer, suitable for coloring, with easy-to-read descriptions of why and how each is significant to Hawaii. Did you know the Hala Tree is one of the world's most ancient plants (over 250 million years old)?



In 2017, LKOC reprinted the coloring book and presents it at visits to pre-schools, where volunteers talk about the importance of trees with these wonderfully receptive young audiences!

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“Keeping Kailua Clean, Green and Beautiful since 1948”

For almost 75 years, the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle has championed issues that are important to Kailua and the Windward side, and they are proud to be a voice for the community. They hope you have enjoyed reading about their history and impact on Kailua way back when... and their impact on Kailua today!

The history of the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle was compiled by their members and leaders, based on written and oral recollections of past events and media reports of the time.

For more information about the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, please visit their website www.LKOC.org

An edited and published version of this history in booklet form can be purchased from the Kailua Historical Society, BookEnds in Kailua, or from the LKOC website.