



Aloha LKOC Members and Supporters,

We are looking forward to our “I Love Kailua” Town Party to be held on Sunday, April 28, 2024, and our Annual General Meeting of Membership on May 24, where we will be electing and installing our Board of Directors for the coming year. In this issue, you will find a proxy ballot for those who are not able to attend the meeting. Note that we are always looking for those who might be interested in participating on our Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC) Board, either as officers or as committee chairs or committee members, in particular for Public Affairs and Signs chairs. If you are interested in becoming more involved at the board level, we welcome you, and please email us at Lani-Kailua@outdoorcircle.org.

Our “Flashback” article in this issue is of special note given recent attempts by the State legislature to weaken our State’s current exemplary outdoor signage laws by allowing billboards and private business logos at Aloha Stadium and the Hawai’i Convention Center. Due to the testimony of the Outdoor Circle and the tremendous outpouring of public sentiment against the bill, it thankfully died in committee. But the effort stands as a testament to the important role our organization continues to play in upholding our state sign laws. So, thank you all for your support.

Many of you may remember past LKOC President, Rusty Kunz, from the 1990s. She was active in spearheading so many projects for us including starting our first Town Party in 1992, which has become our major fundraiser over the past 30-plus years. The proceeds of that party were used to landscape Alala Point which we still maintain to this day. She also headed the installation of landscaping around the Pohakupu Fountain when it was rebuilt in 1992, and our installation of landscaping and irrigation in the Central Triangle which LKOC has recently started maintaining again. New plantings at the Kailua Post Office were done under her term, and she started the “Christmas White Lights” tradition in downtown Kailua which was later taken over by the Kailua Chamber of Commerce. Her recent passing has saddened us all, and she will be fondly remembered for her excellent leadership of LKOC over the years and the legacy she has left our Kailua community.

The non-profit Friends of Boettcher Estate has been recently reformed to address the deteriorating condition of the historic home at Kalama Beach Park. You may email them at friendsofboettcherestate@gmail.com. LKOC board member, Pam Ross, was instrumental in reconstituting the group. Note also that LKOC was actively involved with landscape maintenance of the property in the 1980s and continues its Adopt-a-Park periodic landscape cleanups there.

Mahalo from all of us at LKOC for your continued support.
Diane Harding



Membership Reminder: Your membership term is shown above your address label. We hope you will consider renewing if you are near or past your expiration date. Send in the form on the last page of this newsletter, or go to <https://www.lkoc.org/join-the-circle.html>. Email newsletter recipients will be notified through email if your membership is expiring.

LKOC Past Events

Tree Planting at HECO Kalama Substation

On October 11, 2023, a 45-gallon heliotrope tree, purchased and installed with funds from the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC), was planted in front of the Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) substation on the corner of Kainalu Drive and Kalama Street. An initial water bag was attached to the tree, but HECO has since reactivated their watering system to the property. Steve Mechler, Diane Harding, and Jason Hills have been filling in with maintaining the lawn area until HECO takes over.

<https://www.lkoc.org/beautification-projects.html>



LKOC President, Diane Harding, HECO Project Manager, Kerstan Wong, and Beautification Chair, Steve Mechler at tree planting

Arbor Day – Kailua

The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle, in partnership with Smart Trees Pacific, hosted its annual Arbor Day tree giveaway in Kailua on Saturday November 4, 2023, at the United Methodist Church on Kailua Road. Hundreds of ornamental and fruit trees, flowering shrubs and native plants were given away. Tree trimmers provided demonstrations and allowed attendees to participate. “We ♥ Trees” School Art Contest winners were announced.

Left picture: Volunteer Arborists and Master Gardeners were in attendance to help with plant selections. Right picture: Timed entries helped to alleviate the massive lines that occurred in previous years.



Annual Holiday Luncheon

The lovely Ballroom at the historic O’ahu Country Club was the site of our Annual Holiday luncheon on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Our speaker was **Myles Ritchie**, Programs Director for The Outdoor Circle. Myles is very active at the University of Hawai’i and for The Outdoor Circle (TOC) doing research projects, and he reported on several to us. One of the studies involves the historic trees on Banyon Drive in Hilo which are going to be treated for the invasive gall wasp. They are hoping to reverse or slow down the infections. We have three Chinese banyan Exceptional Trees in our Kailua Central Triangle that could be susceptible to the invasive gall wasp. So, we will watch the Banyan Drive study with particular interest. The island with the most Exceptional Trees listed is O’ahu with 935 registered Exceptional Trees including military land (606 trees – lots of old trees which may be reaching their end), public land (221 trees), and private land (108 trees).

We were also treated to a vintage mu’umu’u fashion show. Lei Batty, owner of De Stash Hawai’i provided the mu’umu’u and gave her commentary (www.destashhawaii.com).

The models, left to right in the picture, are Anne Orndahl, Terry Beuret, Lori Lloyd, Gwen Hanson, Sherree McKeller, and Fabienne Herold. Photo by Beth Grainger



TOC Directors Myles Ritchie, Programs, Jackie Wah, Operations, Diane Harding, LKOC & TOC President, and Winston Welch, Executive Director



BEAUTIFICATION - Kailua Central Triangle Maintenance

The Kailua central triangle is found at the intersection of Kailua Road, Oneawa Street, and Kuulei Road in the middle of Kailua town. As of January 2024, LKOC will now provide the monthly landscape maintenance of this triangle under the City & County of Honolulu, Department of Facility Maintenance's Malama O Ka Aina Adoption program. In years past, this triangle has been neglected with high grass and weeds and homeless people leaving their remnants of habitation. It may take some time for the grass and plants to get back to their vibrant looks, and we are looking forward to a revitalized area.

<https://www.lkoc.org/Beautification-Projects.html#project-updates>.



FLASHBACK *[Here we go again. In 2024, Senate Bills were being proposed to allow ads on the new Aloha Stadium as well as the Hawai'i Convention Center.]*

From the Los Angeles Times, February 20, 2000, Hawaii Beauty Brigade Insists That Billboards Are No Sign of Progress

First-time visitors to Hawaii quickly learn they don't need to leave their rental cars to enjoy spectacular scenery, even in the most urban settings. What sometimes takes longer to realize is that those views are unobstructed by roadside advertising. Hawaii is one of four states--with Alaska, Vermont and Maine--that completely ban billboards. Credit for keeping the islands billboard-free since 1927 is given to the Outdoor Circle, a local urban-beautification club.

Along with pushing through some of the strictest signage regulations in the nation, the beauty brigade has built parks, planted hundreds of thousands of trees and shrubs, and successfully lobbied to prevent developers from marring the views from treasured natural landmarks. "No environmental group has had such a profound, positive impact on Hawai'i as has had the Outdoor Circle," Honolulu City Councilman Duke Bainum said. "When I and millions of visitors look at the vista of Diamond Head, it's because of the efforts of the Outdoor Circle that we look at a pristine monument and not one built up with condos and billboards."

The Outdoor Circle has long maintained that Hawai'i's tourism-driven economy is best served by environmentally friendly policies. The group grew out of a chance 1911 meeting of three Honolulu women who decided their growing Pacific metropolis needed more gardens and fountains. The women planted hundreds of coconut trees along the main drag of Waikiki, lined downtown streets with monkey pod, shower and banyan trees, and helped city dwellers replace fences with flowering hedges. From horseback, they scattered kukui nuts on the steep hills of Tantalus above Honolulu and carried water barrels up the mountain by horse and buggy to water their plantings. Decades later, when a need for camouflage arose after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Outdoor Circle donated thousands of plants to Army posts.

With the tourism explosion that followed statehood and the first jet arrival in 1959, the group fought to keep Hawaii green amid the massive new construction. The Outdoor Circle isn't afraid to get tough. A Honolulu fire captain was targeted in January after he ordered his crew to chop down several [Hong Kong orchid] trees at his **Kailua firehouse** to reduce yard work. Mayor Jeremy Harris promptly ordered new trees planted, and the captain was reprimanded.

Whether campaigning to save trees threatened by road-widening projects or against an elevated freeway along Honolulu's waterfront, the group's reputation for tenacity sticks to this day.

SAVE THE DATES



LKOC Town Party

The “I Love Kailua” Town Party is LKOC’s major fundraiser each year, where all funds generated go back into the community through our many beautification projects in Kailua. This year’s Town Party date is Sunday, April 28, 2024. We are always looking for new volunteers. Town Party volunteer activities include: •Volunteers to monitor the three street barricades; •Volunteers to monitor Craft and Artisan Booths; •Volunteers to handle setup and take-down; (e.g., tents and stage area); •Volunteers to help in our LKOC booths where we sell scrip, Town Party buttons, plants, and commemorative T-Shirts. Please Email: Lani-kailua@outdoorcircle.org if you would like to participate.

Spring Membership Meeting and Luncheon

Please join us for our in-person Spring membership meeting and luncheon. It will be held at the Lanikai Pavilion, on the corner of Aalapapa and Kaiolena Dr., on Friday, May 24, 2024, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. A boxed lunch will be served. Women’s Community Correctional Center Warden Ione Guillonta will speak about her vision for WCCC and our program there. Event details will be sent in a separate mailing and will be available on our website: <https://www.lkoc.org/upcoming-events.html>.



THE GARDENER’S CORNER

Kaoru Harada has been a stalwart member of LKOC and its work in the Learning to Grow program at the Women’s Community Correction Center (WCCC). For this newsletter issue, she is highlighting the *Adenium obesum*, ‘desert rose,’ which is native to Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. These plants are succulents with flowers that bloom in a variety of reds and pinks with both single and double blossoms. Their trunks are thick and tuberous, and as succulents, they do best in a well-draining potting mix. When potted, they prefer a shallow and wide pot. They may grow three to nine feet tall. The plants are poisonous, so keep them away from children and pets. You should also wear gloves when handling the plants. Because the flowers look similar to plumeria flowers, another name for the plant is Japanese frangipani. The Japanese nomenclature may come from the fact that they make very nice bonsai specimens. The plants can be propagated by seeds, cuttings and by grafting. Betsy Connors has successfully grown plants from seeds, and we will be trying to grow cuttings at the Learning To Grow program at the WCCC. Perhaps you may be able to buy one of them at the upcoming plant sale during the I Love Kailua Town Party.



**THE LANI-KAILUA BRANCH OF THE OUTDOOR CIRCLE
NOTICE OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PROXY STATEMENT**

[The following must be filled out ONLY if you will NOT be attending the May meeting.]

The General Membership Meeting of the Lani-Kailua Branch of The Outdoor Circle (LKOC) will be held on Friday, May 24, 2024 at the Lanikai Pavilion, 126 Kaiolena Drive, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. for the purpose of electing members of the Board of Directors.

ONLY IF YOU CANNOT BE PRESENT, please sign and date the proxy form below and mail so it is received by Monday, May 20, 2024 to: LKOC, P.O. Box 261, Kailua, HI 96734, Attention: Secretary.

By order of the LKOC Board of Directors,
Secretary, Teddi Baumgartner

PROXY STATEMENT

The proxy below is being solicited by the Board of Directors of LKOC for all members in good standing **who will not be attending** the General Membership Meeting. Your interest represented by this proxy will be voted if it is properly signed and received by the Secretary by the deadline listed below.

If you select Diane Harding as your proxy, she will vote in favor of the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee.

If you do not select Diane Harding, your designated proxy must be present to vote.

PROXY

I, the undersigned member of the Lani-Kailua Branch of The Outdoor Circle, acknowledge receipt of the Notice of the General Membership Meeting of said Branch.

I hereby appoint: [] Diane Harding, President OR [] _____
(Name of Proxy- Please Print)

with full power of substitution, for and in my name, to vote as my proxy at said General Membership Meeting on the following matter: Election of Officers.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominating Committee Candidate</u> OR <u>Other Candidate</u>
President:	Diane Harding _____
Vice President:	Ken Curtis _____
Treasurer:	Kathleen Bryan _____
Assist. Treasurer:	Francine Mendes _____
Recording Secretary:	Teddi Baumgartner _____
Corresponding Secretary:	Nani Vermillion _____
Nominating Committee:	Ad Hoc Committee _____
Advisor:	Margaret Brezel _____
Advisor:	Lyn Turner _____
Advisor:	Claudia Webster _____

PLEASE SPECIFY CHOICES ABOVE, SIGN AND DATE BELOW. RETURN BY 5 P.M., MONDAY, May 20, 2024.

Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Print name and address:

Please return proxy to LKOC, P.O. Box 261, Kailua, HI 96734 Attention: Secretary by Monday, May 20, 2024.



TREES OF KAILUA – Hong Kong Orchid Tree

The Hong Kong orchid tree (*Bauhinia blakeana*) is a sterile tree that does not develop seeds. Therefore, it is not considered invasive. As mentioned in the Flashback article, the Hong Kong orchid tree can be somewhat messy. Like plumeria trees, the Hong Kong orchid tree flowers drop off the tree. Cleaning up after these blossoms drop is a small price to pay for the beauty of the flowers and their trees. The flowers can bloom from winter through summer, but here on O’ahu, blossoms have been seen outside of those seasons as well. It is a fast-growing tree that can reach 20-40 feet in height and 25 feet in width. Pruning in the tree’s early years will help to give it a nice shape for the rest of its life.



ALOHA ‘OE

Ann Latham was one of our most dedicated LKOC members. She exemplified the spirit of Aloha within the Outdoor Circle and our LKOC Branch for over 40 years. Since 1999, Ann volunteered at the Women’s Community Correctional Center (WCCC), going through the many phases of LKOC’s presence there. In 2008, she was pivotal in establishing the hydroponic lettuce program which is successful today with our sales to Foodland. She had a gentle, concerned way about her, and the women responded eagerly as she encouraged them in every possible way. Upon her passing, the women at the prison erected a bulletin board honoring Ann.



Ann was also our LKOC Historian and long-time Town Party volunteer, single-handedly setting up our stage decorations for the event every year. She was kind, generous, and thoughtful, and her spirit will always stay in our hearts. Farewell to thee, sweet Ann.

Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle Board Roster 2024-2025

Officers

President: Diane Harding >262-1826

Vice President: Ken Curtis

Treasurer: Kathleen Bryan

Asst. Treasurer: Francine Mendes

Recording Secretary: Teddi Baumgartner

Corresponding Secretary: Nani Vermillion

Nominating Committee: Ad Hoc committee

Advisors: Margaret Brezel, Lyn Turner, & Claudia Webster



Committee Chairs

Beautification: Steve Mechler >341-1802

Communications: Teddi Baumgartner >888-9977

Education: Betsy Connors >261-8839

Historian: Diane Harding >262-1826

Kailua Town Party: Diane Harding

Membership: Barbara Krasniewski >384-2879

Programs: Pam Ross >754-0257

Scholarship: Betsy Connors

Volunteers: Barbara Krasniewski

WCCC Partnership: Betsy Connors

Website: <http://www.lkoc.org>

Email: Lani-kailua@outdoorcircle.org



Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle
 P.O. Box 261
 Kailua, HI 96734



Membership

New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: [per person annually unless otherwise noted]

\$25 \$50 \$100

\$150 \$250 \$500

\$1,000 \$2,500 one-time life pledge

Donations \$ _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____
 (Tax Deductible)

You may also go online (lkoc.org) to pay your dues (Join the Circle).

Your membership alone is a very worthwhile contribution. If you wish to take a more active role in any of the categories listed, please check below and return this sheet with your remittance.

LKOC
P.O. Box 261
Kailua, HI 96734



- Workday Projects
- I Love Kailua Town Party
- Learning to Grow (WCCC)
- Lettuce Delivery to Foodland
- Beautification
- Public Affairs
- Luncheons
- Sign Control
- Publicity/Newsletter
- Clerical

On occasion, can you supply?
 Flowers Greens Other:

Email me the newsletter instead of mailing through the US Postal Service.