

# The History of The Outdoor Circle

*Its Legacy and Lasting Impact on Hawaii*



*This historical narrative has been compiled from a wealth of historical records, archives, documents, photographs, and newspaper reports at the time. It is impossible to include reference to all of the leaders who have shepherded the organization over the last century, but to the extent possible they have been recognized for their remarkable contributions.*

*The Outdoor Circle is a non-profit 501c3 member-based organization that relies solely on funding through public support and grants. The organization and its branches are run by all-volunteer boards of directors.*

*For more information about The Outdoor Circle, visit their website [www.outdoorcircle.org](http://www.outdoorcircle.org)*

*This document, in its entirety can be found, to view or download, on The Outdoor Circle website's ['History of TOC'](#) webpage.*

*The Outdoor Circle  
1314 South King Street #306  
Honolulu, HI 96814*

*The Outdoor Circle @2023*



## **The History of The Outdoor Circle Its Legacy and Lasting Impact on Hawaii**

The history of The Outdoor Circle documented here recognizes our beginnings and celebrates all that we have achieved and will continue to pursue in the years to come in Hawaii.

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High Tea at Halekulani***

**[The Outdoor Circle's Vision for the Future](#)**



## **The Roots of the Circle ~ Our Founders' Vision**

The seven founders of The Outdoor Circle over a century ago had a vision for Honolulu of a “city beautiful” and went about achieving it with astounding will.

In the early 1900s, the Kilohana Art League, which had been established in Honolulu in 1894, had various sub-groups called ‘circles’ each devoted to various forms of the Arts, such as painting, music and drama. The last of these circles was formed in 1911 for “beautification in general and specifically for city improvement.” When the Kilohana Art league disbanded in 1912, the women of this last ‘circle’ founded their own organization, The Outdoor Circle with “the object and aim to work for a more beautiful city”. These founders were Mrs. Frederick J. (Cherilla) Lowrey (its first President), Mrs. Charles M. (Anna) Cooke, Mrs. Henry (Ida) Waterhouse, Mrs. George (Laura) Sherman, Mrs. Isaac M. (Catharine) Cox, Miss Kulamanu Ward, and Miss Frances Lawrence.

The organization immediately began forming garden ‘circles’ in neighborhoods throughout Honolulu to take on the task of beautifying their areas with plantings and ridding them of unsightly trash. By the end of the first year, they had enlisted 30 dedicated members. Over the next few years, they had garnered over 500! By 1932 they had formed 26 garden circles around Honolulu, each with its own chairwoman. In 1948 the Circle, through its Board of Directors, began chartering ‘branches’ in communities across Oahu and on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island, each operating under the direction of their own all-volunteer Boards of Directors.

These early Circle members are responsible for planting tens of thousands of many of Hawaii’s largest and most recognizable trees. They helped establish numerous urban green spaces including street trees, public parks, and botanical gardens. Although the organization is perhaps best known for banning billboards throughout the islands in 1927, their lasting impact on the quality of life in Hawaii reaches far beyond this effort. Throughout the years, the Circle has expanded its scope into communities across the state to advocate for green spaces and natural and cultural resource protection, scenic and urban view plane preservation, tree planting and protection and education about the importance of environmental stewardship.



*We’re the Little Old Ladies in Tennis Shoes*

Over the years, Circle members affectionately referred to themselves as “the little old ladies in tennis shoes” (L.O.L.I.T.A.s), but in 1950 the Circle was opened to men through their “Kane Kokua” membership level, welcoming “any who wish to support the work of the Outdoor Circle”. On their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 2002, the organization elected its first male President, and since then several men have proudly filled that position.

The vision of the Circle’s early founders to protect and enhance Hawaii’s natural beauty has spawned generations of environmental stewards who have kept this legacy alive and flourishing. Today, The Outdoor Circle is one of Hawaii’s leading organizations for protecting, preserving and enhancing the environment and natural beauty of the Islands. Chronicled here is the history of The Outdoor Circle and its remarkable and lasting impacts on the Hawaii we all enjoy.





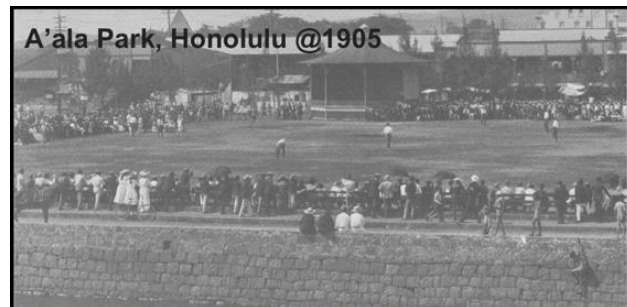
## **The Outdoor Circle ~ Beautifying Honolulu**

Chances are you've sat under a tree or driven along a street lined with trees planted by The Outdoor Circle over the last century. But Honolulu in 1912 was a far cry from a verdant tropical paradise. Back then it was dusty, dry and barren, and in fact, the area from Punchbowl to Punahou was called "The Plains". From the outset, one of the abiding goals of the Circle was to enhance the beauty of Hawaii through the planting of trees. Their early efforts stand today as a testament to their enduring work and vision.

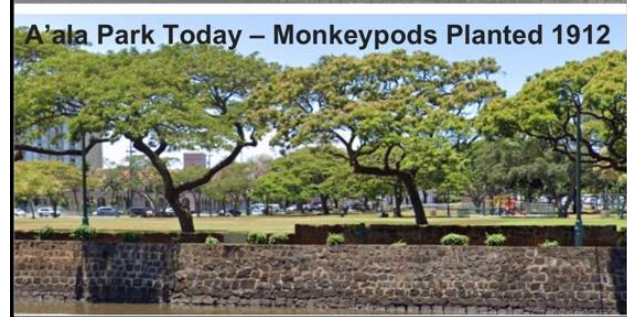
### **A'ala Park**

As one of its first planting projects in 1912, the newly formed Outdoor Circle undertook the planting of twenty-eight monkeypod trees at A'ala Park in Honolulu, to "shade the children's play area". These trees still grace the park today.

The area was once a complex of fishponds and wetlands bordered by Nu'uuanu Stream and the park, originally named River Park, was built around the turn of the century. It became a hub of activity next to the City's main train station, and by the early 1900s it featured a bandstand and two baseball diamonds, and baseball became the park's defining image. On an added note, its comfort station, built in 1916, was the first public restroom in Hawaii.



**A'ala Park, Honolulu @1905**



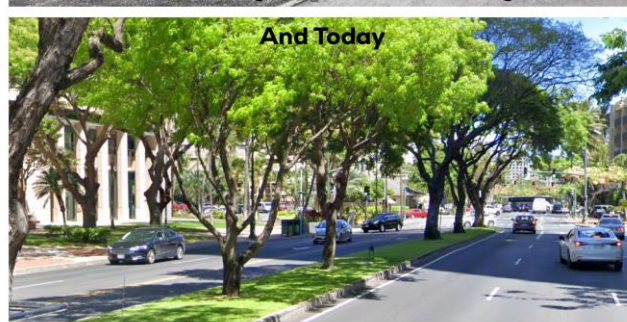
**A'ala Park Today – Monkeypods Planted 1912**

### **Kalakaua Avenue**

Another major early planting project undertaken by the Circle in 1912 was the planting of the stately mahogany trees that today adorn Kalakaua Avenue between South Beretania Street and Ena Road at the entrance to Waikiki. Mrs. George Sherman, one the Circle's seven founders, went down each morning with a crew of gardeners and personally supervised the digging and planting of each tree. Over the years, the Circle has replaced several trees that failed and added others. These mahogany trees (over 40 in number) are now listed on the Exceptional Tree Registry and make a stunning statement as you enter Waikiki.



**Kalakaua Mahogany Trees at Planting 1912**



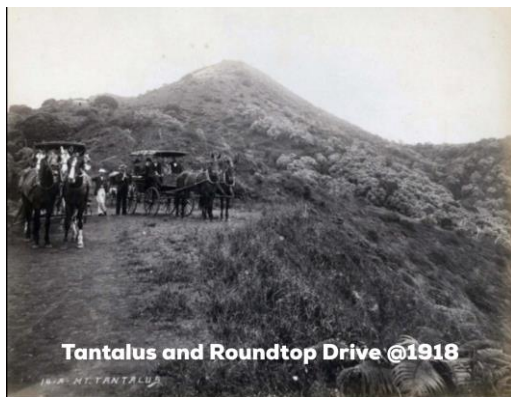
**And Today**



### **Honolulu's Streets and Parks**

Other notable examples of trees planted in those early days, many of which still exist today, include the shower trees along Vineyard and Piikoi, the kukui trees and bougainvillea on Tantalus and Round Top Drive, coconut trees along Kalakaua Avenue and hundreds of trees in Kalihi Park, Pauoa Park, Kamamalu Park (which the Circle transformed from a dumping ground into a park), Mother Waldren Park, Thomas Square, Alapai Plaza and thousands of trees in Kaimuki.

Imagine if you will the perseverance of the women of the Outdoor Circle in 1918, who, in their efforts to landscape the steep and often inaccessible slopes of Tantalus and Round Top Drive, rode on horseback scattering kukui nuts as they rode, “in the hopes that some of these nuts would lodge in the rocky soil ... to sprout and grow naturally”. Today, as you drive these roads with spectacular scenic views overlooking Honolulu, you can see the silvery-green leaves of these mature kukui trees.

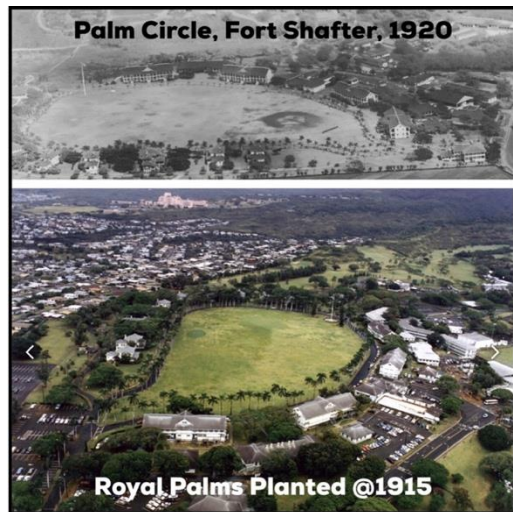


At that time the women of the Circle also carried water barrels up the mountain by horse and buggy to ensure that their bougainvillea, night-blooming cereus and wiliwili tree plantings were watered.

### **Palm Circle Fort Shafter**

The Circle's efforts were not limited to downtown Honolulu in those early years, as evidenced by the 231 stunning Royal Palms that they planted @ 1915 along Palm Circle Drive surrounding the parade grounds at Fort Shafter.

Palm Circle consists of a large, grassed parade ground in a roughly oval shape with fifteen two-story, frame officers' quarters lining the north and east sides of Palm Circle Drive encircling the parade grounds. Former enlisted men's barracks and other administrative buildings bordering the southern side of the drive were constructed in 1907–1909. On an interesting note, these quarters would have been completed in 1906, but the San Francisco earthquake had occurred, and the building materials were requisitioned for rebuilding the city of San Francisco.



When Palm Circle was originally built, Tripler Hospital was located as Quarters #1 along Palm Drive. In the lower photo here, you can see the current location of Tripler Hospital, with its iconic pink coloring, in the distance. Palm Circle was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

On December 7, 1941, Palm Circle housed the offices and quarters of the commanding general and his staff, U.S. Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas, which included all army forces in the Central and South Pacific. According to historical records, although Palm Circle was strafed during the

attack on Pearl Harbor, probably the result of planes clearing their guns, all the trees survived (although the maid's room of Quarters 4 had a bullet hole attributed to the attack), and during Hurricane Iwa, in 1983, about 100 fronds were snapped off but not one tree fell. Although the configuration of the surrounding quarters has changed over the last century, the stately palms remain to this day.

(Information credit for this section: "Palm Circle: A Brief History for The Outdoor Circle" by Quarters 5, 9, 11, 12, and 18 Co-Chairmen (undated))

### ***Kapiolani Plant Nursery***

By 1918, the Outdoor Circle was diligently planting street trees throughout Honolulu, and requests for plants became so numerous that it was necessary for them to establish and maintain a large plant nursery with a full-time attendant. In 1923 it was moved from Kalakaua Avenue to Paki Avenue, where the city had given use of a small piece of land to the Circle. It was so valuable an asset that further allotments of land were made to the Circle in 1925, 1926 and 1930. On an interesting note, local canning businesses such as Hawaiian Pineapple Company, Libby, and California Packing provided the nursery with their damaged tins for use as planting containers.

Thousands of plants were distributed from the nursery for highways, school grounds, military installations, cemeteries and other public planting projects, and for camouflage during World War II. A report in the Circle's 1937 minutes indicate "there were 15,668 plants ready to be used", which gives you an idea of the size of the nursery. The Outdoor Circle maintained the nursery until 1946, when it was turned over to the City Parks Board, and it remains there today as the Honolulu City Kapiolani Nursery on Paki Avenue, which also houses the Division of Urban Forestry offices.

Incidentally, the nursery attendant, Mr. Olivera, who worked there for 28 years, was Honolulu's first tree-trimmer, hired by the Outdoor Circle in 1915 to trim trees on public streets and in parks. He was paid 25 cents an hour out of the "Circle's slender funds" as noted at the time. And the Circle even provided his saw! He became so expert that in 1916 the Electric and Telephone Companies shared his services!

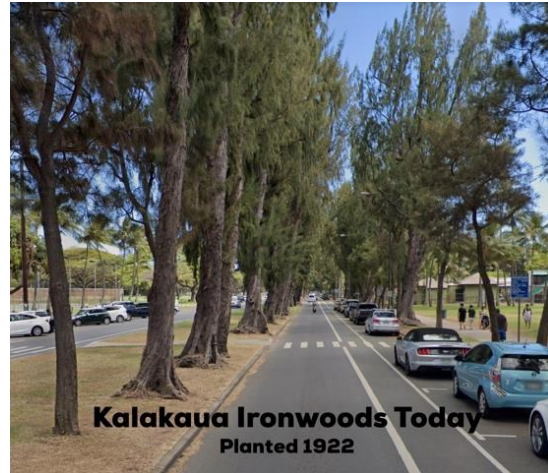
Amusing anecdotes exist regarding our volunteers and their attempts to see that trees were properly maintained back in those days. In one incident, as reported in 1918 notes, volunteers told of meeting resistance of men from the Harbor Commission in getting fronds removed from the coconut trees the Outdoor Circle had planted. "The man in charge refuses to take off all the leaves, saying the trees will grow better with them there... As he is armed with a gun, Mrs. Von Hamm cannot insist on carrying out her wishes."

In another anecdote from 1917, it was noted in meeting minutes that "trees planted [by the Circle] from end to end of Lusitania Street have all been eaten off by chickens" and the only feasible solution was to replant the entire street with larger trees. Similar reports at the time indicated that due to vandalism the trees along Wilder Avenue had to be replanted three times. It should be noted that in 1920, at the behest of The Outdoor Circle, a Honolulu city ordinance was passed making "cruelty to trees illegal." This city ordinance is still in effect today, stating "It shall be unlawful for any person to injure or destroy street trees in any manner or by any means" and is punishable by significant fines.

### ***Ironwoods at Kapiolani Park***

In 1922, the Outdoor Circle planted ironwoods in Kapiolani Park boarding Kalakaua Avenue. These, along with the mile of ironwoods planted by Archibald Cleghorn in 1890, created a spectacular colonnade.

However, in 1946, the trees on the mauka side were scheduled to be cut down due to road widening “in the name of progress because the road was built for 1920 cars, and 25 years later was too narrow for traffic”. So, the Circle came up with a proposal to build a parallel road mauka of the existing one and plant a third row of ironwoods. The proposal was accepted, the ironwoods were saved, and the road was built, but the third row of trees was not planted until 1960, when the Circle participated in planting a row of flowering trees along the new road. Additional threats to the ironwoods occurred in 1967 and 1976, but each time the Circle was insistent and successful in saving these trees, which are now on the Exceptional Tree Registry.



### ***Honolulu Shade Tree Commission***

In 1922, Honolulu Ordinance No. 227 was passed, and the **Shade Tree Commission** was established within the City and County of Honolulu. It was formed at the request and suggestion of the Outdoor Circle to help set guidelines to beautify the city and plant trees throughout Oahu. Many of these guidelines regarding the placement and maintenance of street and park trees still exist today in the Land Use Ordinance for the City and County of Honolulu. The Shade Tree Commission was composed of the president of The Outdoor Circle, the City and County of Honolulu Engineer, the Superintendent of the City and County of Honolulu Parks and Playgrounds, the Superintendent of Forestry of the Territory of Hawai'i, and one other person nominated by the public utility corporation. The Shade Tree Commission was able to purchase trucks and equipment thanks to monthly support provided by The Outdoor Circle, Hawaiian Electric, Mutual Telephone, and Honolulu Rapid Transit.

In 1931, the Shade Tree Commission merged with the Parks and Playground Department of Honolulu to form the Parks Board of the City and County of Honolulu. In 1946, the unification of the former Recreation Commission with the Parks Board formed the Board of Public Parks and Recreation which eventually became the Department of Parks and Recreation under the new city charter adopted in 1973.

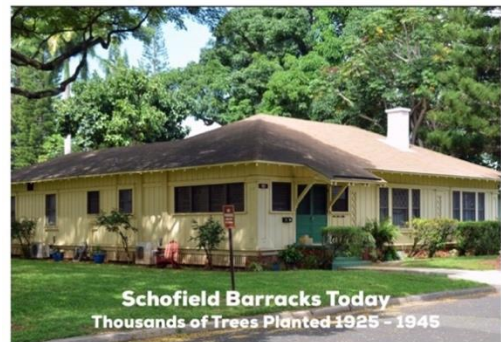
### ***Military Base Beautification***

In the 1920s and 1930s thousands of trees were planted for beautification at military installations across Oahu, spearheaded by the Honolulu Shade Tree Commission. These military bases included Forts DeRussy, Ruger, Armstrong, and Kamehameha, as well as Schofield and Wheeler.

Shortly before World War II, as noted in the “Schofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Airfield Exceptional Tree Guide”, “in 1939, a post policy for the continuous planting of trees was set forth for the purpose of beautification, shade and concealment. The Outdoor Circle responded with hundreds of trees such as Monkeypods and Earpods and continued to support the planting effort through WWII.”

In the words of Mrs. E. E. Black, Circle President, 1941-1945, “When the need for camouflage arose in many areas, the calls for material became overwhelming. We were so swamped with pleas from the army for assistance that we speeded up our planting and filled all requests. We contributed to Army Hospitals and shipped large plants to forward areas for camouflage and shade. All with no cost to the Army”.

Today, more than two dozen individual groupings of trees at Schofield and Wheeler are now on the State Exceptional Tree Registry, making these formerly treeless plains home to the largest collection of Exceptional Trees in the state.



The enduring benefits of the Circle’s early tree planting work in the 1930s can also be seen at Fort DeRussy in the center of Waikiki. This remarkable 72-acre public parkland, now entirely maintained to perfection by the military, is home to a spectacular must-see collection of tropical trees.

### ***Ala Moana Beach Park***

Another notable Outdoor Circle achievement occurred in 1925, when Governor Charles McCarthy asked for the Outdoor Circle’s help in developing plans for the Ala Moana Park area, then used by the city as an unsightly dumping ground. Mrs. Walter F. Dillingham, Outdoor Circle President at the time, agreed, and was instrumental in creating the current park plan, with tree-filled spaces, open lawns and promenades for all to enjoy.

As part of this effort, in the 1930’s, the Circle spearheaded a campaign to have grammar schools throughout Oahu sprout 4,000 coconuts for planting around the park’s lagoon. The Circle’s nursery at Kapiolani Park provided 2,000 mock orange plants for the six tennis courts, and Circle members donated and planted dozens of the magnificent trees that grace the park today. Hundreds of these trees are now on the Exceptional Tree Registry and stand as a tribute to the Circle’s contribution to enhancing our urban tree canopy. The park was dedicated in 1934 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt where he dubbed it "The People's Park". Incidentally, FDR was the first sitting US President to ever visit Hawaii.

On an interesting note regarding the manpower required to build the park during these Great Depression years, as cited by Outdoor Circle Executive Officer Mrs. Charles Wilder in 1932, “Great credit is due Mayor G. Fred Wright for his successful efforts in procuring an emergency fund which has been diverted to help relieve the unemployment situation in Honolulu by employing large numbers of men to develop the park as a permanent project”.



On another interesting historical note, the large banyan at the tip of Magic Island at Ala Moana Beach Park has been designated as an Exceptional Tree due to its exceptional history as a third-generation stately banyan standing as a link to Hawaii's past.

It was grown from a cutting taken from an enormous banyan that once stood at the corner of King and Ke'eaumoku Streets in downtown Honolulu (right photo below). That tree had been planted from a cutting that came from the famous Waikiki banyan that stood at Ainahau, and was cherished by Princess Kaiulani, who often sat in its shade chatting with her friend, Robert Louis Stevenson (Ainahau Banyan shown in left photo).

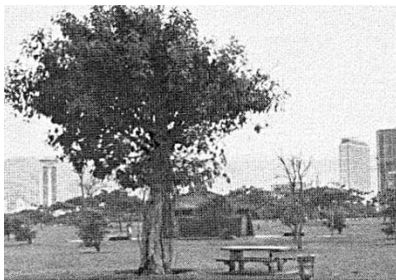


Photo Credit: Hawaii State Archives



By 1963, the King-and-Ke'eaumoku tree had become so massive that the city proposed cutting it down due to road widening. An ensuing battle to save the tree lasted four years and saw protests of all kinds, including an eleventh-hour occupation of the banyan's huge limbs by Outdoor Circle members. The battle was lost, but the war was won because it led to passage of the State Exceptional Tree Act in 1975, legislation which provides legal protection for our most valuable trees.

The cutting taken from the Ke'eaumoku tree was nurtured at Honolulu Community College until 1974, when campus expansion required that it be removed.



The Circle stepped up and provided the means to move the tree to Magic Island, as shown in photo at left, where it proudly stands today (photo at right), as link to the legacy of the past.



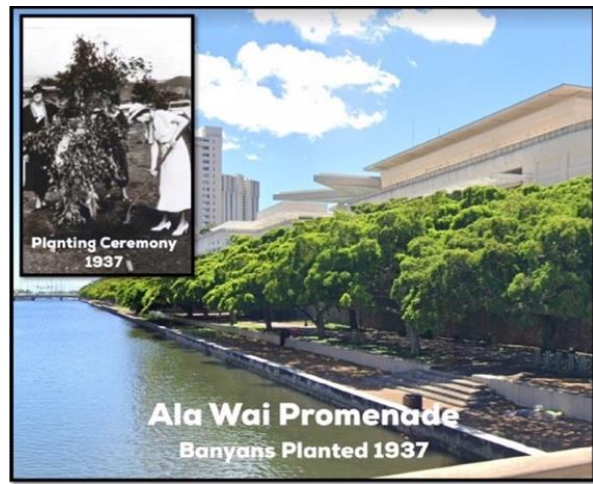
On an added note, in the Circle's continuing efforts to increase our environmentally important urban tree canopy, they planted hundreds of trees at Magic Island from 2000-2004. In 2008, they protected 15-20 mature trees that were threatened with removal to clear an area for a music festival to be held there.

**Territorial Hospital**

The Circle’s beautification efforts expanded beyond Honolulu when in 1931, at the invitation of Governor Lawrence M. Judd, and with the cooperation of the Territorial Forester Mr. Charles S. Judd, the Circle began landscaping the grounds of the newly opened Territorial Hospital in Kaneohe, including the planting of shower trees, coconuts, hibiscus, and, according to records, “ilima from which patients made lei.” The facility, now the Hawaii State Hospital, was built for the treatment of those with serious mental illness. When it opened 549 patients were transferred there from the Palama Facility in Honolulu.

**Ala Wai Promenade**

Another notable example of the Circle’s tree planting is the spectacular banyan colonnade along the Ala Wai Promenade, planted by the Circle in 1937. Over the years, the Circle has fought to protect these trees, in particular saving many of them slated for removal when the Hawaii Convention Center was being built behind them in the late 1990s. The 58 spectacular banyans forming a beautiful double-row arbor along this promenade are now on the Exceptional Tree Registry and are a testament to the Circle’s enduring efforts to enhance and preserve our urban tree-scape.



Pictured in the inset photo of the first tree being planted in 1937 are Circle leaders Mrs. Theo Cooke, Mrs. Cyril Damon and Mrs. Grace Wilder.

**East-West Center**

In 1966, at the request of Mrs. John Burns, wife of the Governor, the Outdoor Circle was chosen to represent all of Hawaii at a tree planting ceremony honoring Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson. Circle President Mrs. Harold R. Erdman assisted the First Lady in planting eleven Singapore Plumeria trees, donated by the Circle, on the grounds of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. President Lyndon Johnson was also present. These trees still grace the facility grounds today.



**McCoy Pavilion**

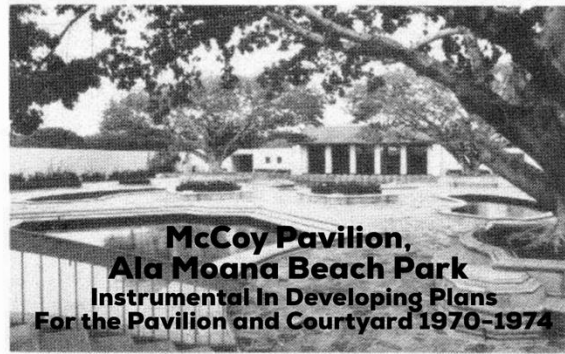
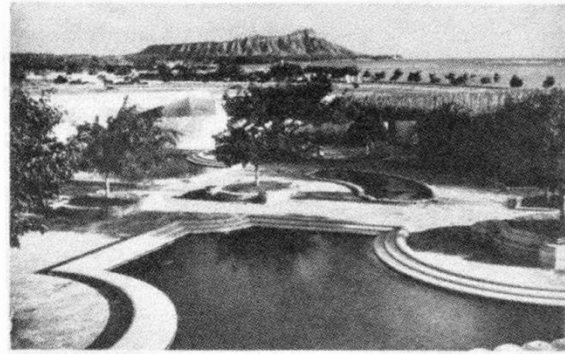
In 1974, after a five-year effort by the Outdoor Circle, groundbreaking began on the McCoy Pavilion at Ala Moana Beach Park. Longtime Outdoor Circle member, Mrs. Lester McCoy, had bequeathed \$1.2 million dollars to the city (the largest ever gift to the city at the time) to be used to build the pavilion in her late husband’s memory. The bequest stipulated that the Outdoor Circle



was to review the plans for the complex, which included a beautiful tree-filled courtyard and reflecting pools.

Members of the Outdoor Circle including past President Cecelia Blackfield, Cynthia Marnie and Janet Wimberly supervised the construction and use of the McCoy Pavilion for over 30 years. Incidentally, Lester McCoy was the first head of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City and County of Honolulu and served without taking a salary.

It should also be noted that Cecelia Blackfield was appointed to the Board of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu by Mayor Mufi Hanneman and served as a board member for 10 years until she was almost 100 years old! They said “bring the encyclopedia with you” as she was one of the few people left that knew the history of the parks.



**McCoy Pavilion,  
Ala Moana Beach Park  
Instrumental In Developing Plans  
For the Pavilion and Courtyard 1970-1974**

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In reports from The Outdoor Circle archives, it is noted that in the 52-year period from 1920 (when records started to be kept) until 1972, the Circle planted 269,000 trees on Oahu, or 5,173 per year!

Since 1972, thousands more trees have been planted by the Circle and its branches across the state. It would be impossible to detail all the types, numbers and locations of these trees, but this next section on Outdoor Circle Branch activity statewide gives a glimpse of “the rest of the *beautification* story...”



## **The Branches ~ Beautifying Communities Statewide**

Starting in 1948, newly formed branches of the Outdoor Circle extended beautification efforts beyond Honolulu and began landscaping and planting thousands of trees on streets, in parks, on school grounds and at various public facilities on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii Island and Kauai. The remarkable achievement of the branches, set in motion entirely by their volunteers, attests to the empowerment of civic volunteerism as inspired by the Circle's founders.

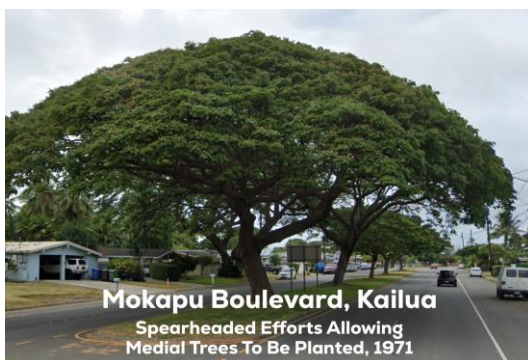
### **Lani-Kailua Branch**

In 1948, much of Kailua, on Oahu's Windward side, had no improved sidewalks, and little street tree planting, so the newly formed Lani-Kailua Branch took on the project of raising funds to build a sidewalk in downtown Kailua (a remarkable \$3,000 at the time) and began planting trees in Coconut Grove and Kainalu Tract, and hundreds of street trees in Kailua's newly developing subdivisions, school grounds and parks. By 1960, they had planted over 2,000 trees in Kailua. Today, the majority of these now mature trees still exist in Kailua, providing shade and beauty.



By the 1960s, with the opening of the Pali Tunnels, Kailua's population had tripled. The branch's projects included assistance with landscape plantings at the newly built Castle Hospital, funds and labor to refurbish the landscaping in the Kailua Central Triangle in the business district and landscaping the new Kailua Post Office.

In 1971, they were successful in lobbying 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, Mokapu Boulevard was designated as a federally funded highway, meaning that no medial strip tree planting was allowed. The branch felt compelled to rectify this.



This was in the days before email and internet communication, so to achieve this, branch President Mrs. L. Ferguson mailed numerous letters eliciting support for the effort 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. This resulted in an exception being granted for Mokapu Boulevard,

and today the magnificent trees in that central median, many of which were planted by the branch, are a beautiful testament to the perseverance of Circle leaders at the time.

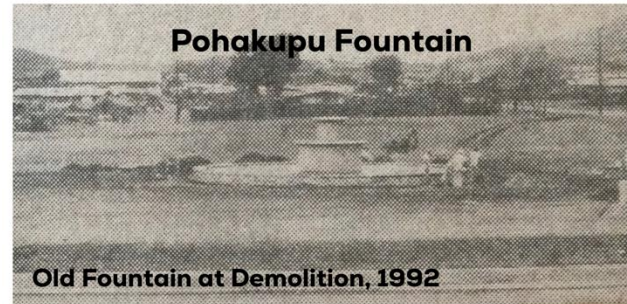
In 1980, the branch established the tree-filled Aikahi Triangle Park, at the corner of Mokapu Boulevard and Kaneohe Bay Drive. It took 3 years of grass-roots lobbying, spearheaded by Joan Fleming, its Beautification Committee Chair, and later branch President, to convert the dusty and often muddy 'eyesore' into a beautiful tree-shaded park.

Under the leadership of branch President Rusty Kunz, and with much help from longtime member Dot Wright, in 1991, they raised \$20,000 to landscape around the Pohakupu Fountain at the entrance to Kailua. The \$150,000 city project also included replacing 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."

Starting in 1992 and running annually since then, the branch has held its "I Love Kailua" Town Party, a street festival featuring plants and flowers for sale, local civic organization booths, arts, crafts, entertainment, a "Taste of Kailua" featuring local food vendors, and free horticultural related talks by local plant experts. Thousands attend each year. Proceeds from the event support the branch's beautification programs in the community.

In 1994, the branch performed a major landscape installation at Alala Point overlooking Kailua Bay, Oahu. This extensive multi-acre project was funded by proceeds raised at the branch's first "I Love Kailua" Town Party as well as a generous donation from Kaneohe Ranch. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the original installation, the branch performed a major re-landscaping of the area, installing a new lawn, hedging and parking lot refurbishment. The branch has been maintaining the landscaping at the scenic lookout since 1999 through the Community Service Workline from the Women's Community Correctional Center, which operates under the auspices of the branch. The Workline also maintains the landscaping at various other sites in Kailua under branch auspices, including the Kailua Road median entering the business district, in which the branch installed Loulu palms and other planting in 2000.

The branch planted dozens of trees along Mokapu Road in 2007 to replace wiliwili trees that had succumbed to disease, and in 2010 installed and continues to maintain the landscaping at two major traffic triangles in Kailua (Pali Palms and Kalapawai at either end of Kalaeo Avenue). In 2020, they spearheaded the planting of trees along Oneawa Street to replace 8 that had failed since their original planting by the branch in 2000.





### **Kaneohe Branch**

The Kaneohe Branch, formed in 1948, distributed thousands of trees and shrubs to residents, subdividers, and other organizations to beautify the community. In 1954 they planted rainbow showers on the Kamehameha Highway median. In 1956, they pushed for undergrounding of utility wiring in the business district, and in 1961, under the leadership of Mrs. O. Andrew, they spearheaded a campaign to plant sandalwood trees in parks.

They held flower shows, conducted classes on various forms of horticulture, and planted street trees throughout Kaneohe Town. They also held drives to rid the area of the African Snail, an extremely destructive pest to plants back in the 1960s and raised awareness about the threats of pollution in Kaneohe Bay.

In the 1970s, the branch spearheaded successful efforts to designate He'eia Fishpond as a State and National Historic site and place the entire Kualoa Ahupua'a on the State Historic Register and designate Kualoa Point as a State Park.

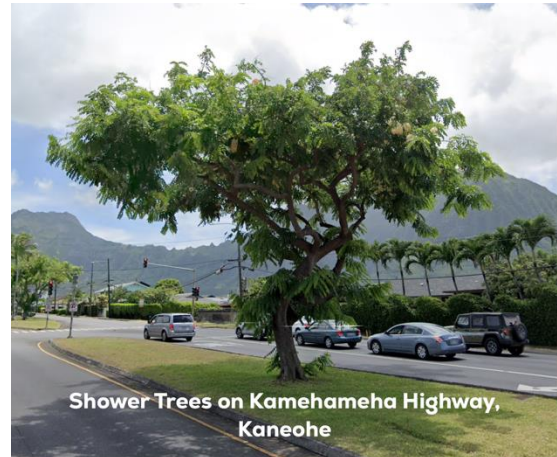
In 2014 they helped establish a Wa'a Garden at Puohala Elementary School, an Hawaiian Immersion School, where native 'canoe' plants are grown and tended by the students. To further appreciation of nature, they sponsored free-to-the-public "Sunday in the Park" exploration tours of Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden.

### **Kona Branch**

In Kailua, Kona, the branch, formed in 1948, installed landscaping at numerous public sites including Kona Hale Halawai Cultural Center, Pali'i Park, the Painted Church, the Kona airport entrance, Honokaa Junction and the Keauhou refuse site.

Over the years, Kona branch members Kaz Shigezawa, noted landscape architect, and UH Tropical Agriculture Professor Norman Bezona spearheaded many projects to beautify Kona, creating green spaces that are enjoyed today by visitors and residents alike. Examples are Old Kona Airport Park, White Sands Beach Park, Kahakai School and Pahoe Beach Park. Many of these projects were funded in part through grants from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program.

Starting in 1978 and running for 35 years, the branch held its annual "Pua Plantasia" event, featuring plants and flowers for sale and free garden related seminars for the public. Proceeds supported their educational programs.



In 1985, the branch was deeded a major property in Kona, on which they founded the Sadie Seymour Botanical Gardens, named after the branch's first President. It is now maintained under the auspices of the Kona Educational Foundation Center.

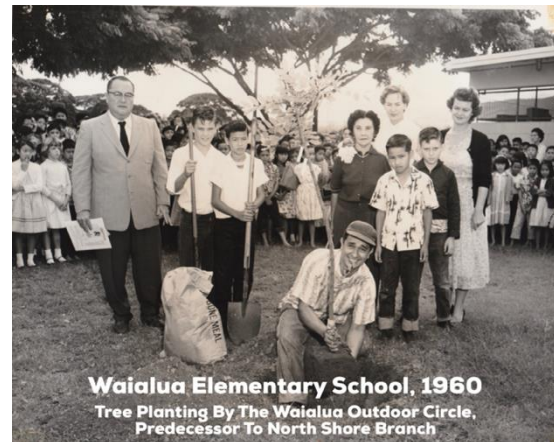
In the mid-2000s, the branch began planting trees at the Kealahiki Transfer Station as part of their "Green Lei" initiative.

### **Waianae-Nanakuli Branch**

A branch in the Waianae-Nanakuli area of Oahu was active for a time in the 1950s. It has since been deactivated.

### **Waiialua Branch**

The Waiialua Branch on Oahu, formed in 1952 (and later reestablished as the North Shore Branch in 1987), planted hundreds of shower trees in neighborhood subdivisions and schools around Waiialua and Haleiwa in the 1950s and 1960s. They planted trees at Kawailoa Ranch, Palama By The Sea, Waiialua Elementary School, the Waiialua Community Association and library, a banyan at St. Michael's School in 1959 in honor of Statehood Day, and landscaped numerous other sites on the Oahu's North Shore.



### **Aiea-Halawa Branch - Wai Momi**

The Aiea-Halawa Branch was formed in 1953. By 1964 it had grown to include Foster Village, Pearl City, Waipahu and Ewa and was renamed "Wai Momi". Among their many planting projects, they cooperated with the Hawaiian Civic Group to plant and label ancient Hawaiian herbs at the Keaiwa Heiau.

### **Maui Branch**

The Maui Branch, established in 1954, planted scores of trees along the Kaahumanu Highway, between Kahului and Wailuku, which was quite an undertaking. Funding for the project came from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program. The branch also installed landscaping at Hale Makua, the Wailuku Health Center building and the J. Walter Cameron Center, and was active in preserving the Kanaha Wetlands. The branch, deactivated in 2014, continues as a separate organization, "Maui Clean and Beautiful".

### **Wahiawa Branch**

A branch was active in Wahiawa in the 1950s and 1960s, that landscaped school grounds and the library, and had with a particular concentration on sign proliferation in the community. It has since been deactivated.

### **Kauai Branch**

The Kauai branch, which was established in 1974, planted trees and landscaped parks, schools, and public facilities throughout Kauai, including Lihue Airport, Lihue Bypass Road, Spouting Horn Park, Pahi Park, downtown Kapaa, Kauai Community College, and Koloa, Kilauea and Wilcox Schools.

After the destruction of Hurricane Iniki in 1992, the Kauai Branch established the “Ho’oma’oma’o Restoration Project” to replant more than three acres of land with indigenous plants, such as ohia, lama and koa trees. They also re-landscaped Poipu Beach which suffered extensive damage due to the storm, performing over two dozen planting projects in all. Many of these projects were funded in part through grants from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program.

As reported by Kaulunani spokesperson Teresa Trueman-Madriaga, “No one would recognize that beach [Poipu] right after Iniki came through, and I can only say what an extraordinary job the Circle did in replanting. We used the pre- and post-photos for years as an example of what is possible.”

In 2012, the branch stopped improper pruning of trees at Lihue Airport and provided free arborist training to state workers to ensure proper maintenance moving forward. This training was provided

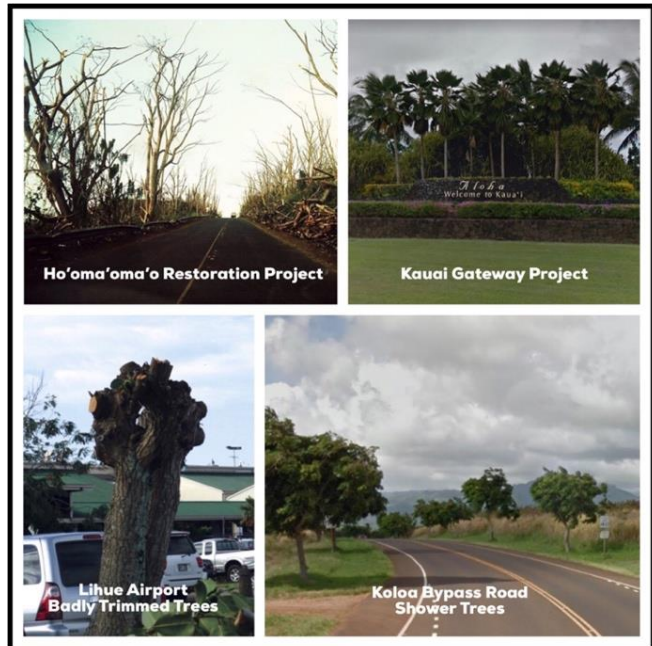
by longtime Kauai Branch President Maureen Murphy, noted arboriculturist and Registered Consulting Arborist, who was recognized in 2019 at the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture’s Annual Conference as the recipient of their President’s Award.

In 2016, the Kauai Branch spearheaded a petition to require the state to restore deteriorated landscaping in the Kauai Gateway Project at the Lihue Airport entrance and they continue to work with the Kauai County Public Works Department to better maintain 78 rainbow shower trees along Koloa Bypass Road.

### **Hawaii Kai Branch**

A branch in Hawaii Kai was active in the 1980s. One of their major projects was the year-long restoration of Puhia Heiau in Hawaii Kai in 1984. The branch raised \$20,000 for the effort, and the work was done as a volunteer Community Service project to “clear the dense scrub overgrowth, restore the structure to its probable original form, and then landscape the property with Native Hawaiian plants, preserving a valuable cultural/ historical resource for the benefit of the entire community.”

(Source credit: Holly Coleman, The Cultural and Historical Significance of Puhia Heiau, Maunaloa, O’ahu, OHA publication, 2014)





**North Shore Branch**

The North Shore Branch was established in 1987 and their extensive beautification efforts have included tree plantings at Haleiwa Beach Park, Kaiaka Beach Park, Kamananui Park, and Mokuleia Beach Park and numerous other sites in the community.

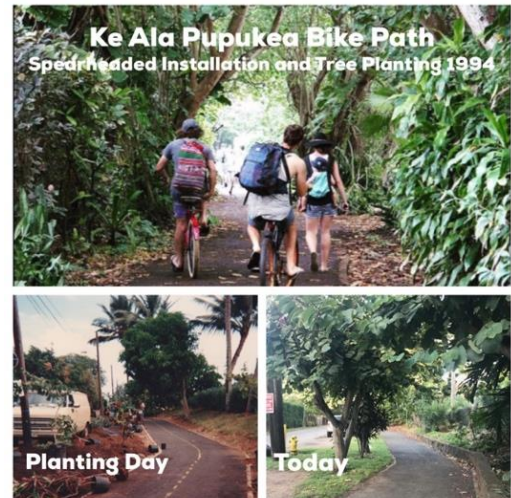
A major branch achievement is the now beautiful tree-filled Weed Circle, Gateway to Haleiwa, planted and maintained by the branch since 1988. It began as a barren area and is now a stunning 5-acre garden of flowering and native trees that greet visitors and residents entering Haleiwa. The branch regularly meets at Weed Circle with state crews to assess pruning and enlists volunteer arborists to help direct state crews on each tree’s specific needs. Weed Circle has a beautiful variety of shower, gold, kou, and hala trees, along with plumeria and one banyan tree. Almost all the trees memorialize a person who has been very special to the community.



In 1994, the branch spearheaded the design, installation and tree planting along the 10-mile Ke Ala Pupukea Bike Path, organized in large part by long-time North Shore branch leaders Patsy Gibson and Gidget Germaine. The project was honored as the “City and County of Honolulu Project of the Year” in 1995. Branch volunteers continue to maintain the landscaping on the path, which is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike, and provides a safe path to schools for the area’s children.

The Weed Circle and Bike Path projects were funded in part through grants from the Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry program.

Dedicated North Shore Branch volunteers regularly maintain the Ginger Garden at Waimea Valley which is one of 52 themed gardens that are home to over 5,000 documented types of tropical and subtropical plants.



**Waimea Branch**

The Waimea Branch on Hawaii Island was chartered in 1989 to foster environmental preservation and the enhancement of nature through education and community involvement.

The branch has beautified Waimea through landscaping projects, including medial strip and park tree plantings, and regular cleaning, weeding, trimming and sprucing up of the center of town, including the Hawaii County Senior Citizen’s Center.

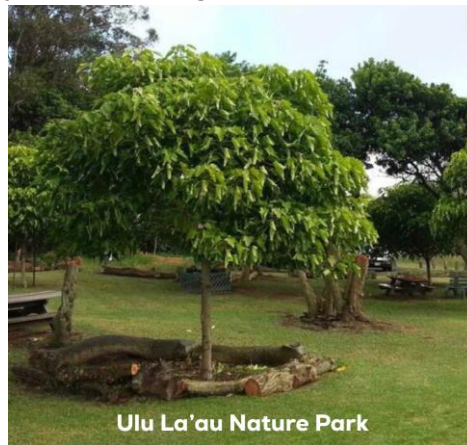
In 1994, branch volunteers helped landscape and plant trees in the newly opened Anuenue Playground. Twenty years later, in an unfortunate incident, vandals stripped the outer bark from

seven of the trees, ultimately killing them. While branch volunteers set to work re-planting the playground with ohia trees, woodworkers set to turning the dead koa trees into bowls, bracelets, and other beautiful works of art. The woodworkers generously gave 75% of all proceeds from the sale of these pieces to the branch in support of keeping the community clean, green, and beautiful.

In the first weekend of December the branch would host their annual wreath-making class, and regularly gave away hundreds of trees at the Annual Holiday Parade through Waimea town. They are also actively involved in efforts to research and prevent the devastating Rapid Ohia Death blight that threatens these native trees.

Their hallmark achievement, though, is the Ulu La'au Nature Park, established by the branch in 1999, after a seven-year effort by branch leaders ChaCha Kohler and Carol Hendricks.

The 10-acre public park is filled with Native Hawaiian trees and plants and is home to the largest collection of Ohia Lehua trees in the state, and therefore the world!



Ulu La'au is entirely maintained by branch volunteers and through donations. It provides environmental education and outreach workshops and events for school groups and the general public.

Under the leadership of branch President Cheryl Langton, and after a 3-year process, in 2020 the branch was successful in procuring a substantial grant from The Hawaii State Legislature for paving the entrance road to the Nature Park which will reduce erosion and contribute greatly to the health of the trees.

### **Hilo Branch**

A branch was founded in the Hilo area in 1992 to preserve and enhance the beauty of Hawaii Island. Their activities included saving urban trees from being cut down, nominating trees to the Exceptional Tree Registry, organizing workshops and plant exchanges and working to control unsightly signs. They were active until 2011 and have since been reactivated as part of the East Hawaii Island Branch.

One of their achievements was the establishment of the Liholiho Garden in historic downtown Hilo, officially opened in 1998 as part of the designated Kalakaua Park Heritage Area. King Liholiho, (Kamehameha II), who ruled for 5 years after the death of Kamehameha in 1819, is arguably best known for bringing the kapu system in Hawaii to an end. He is thought to have been born somewhere in the area between Wailuku River and the garden in 1797.

The Hawaii County Council, in its Resolution 238-95, gave the Hilo Outdoor Circle the task of designing and creating the garden to enhance this historic district. The area has a substrate of lava rock, which made it difficult for planting, so raised beds lined with lava rock walls were incorporated into the plan. The project was installed by branch volunteers and Hilo residents.

After installation, this unique small garden contained a selection of 23 plants either native to Hawaii or brought here by Polynesian settlers, and for years was maintained as a natural treasure in this historic urban setting. Today it remains as a open area shaded by now-mature milo and kukui trees with welcoming benches where you can sit in reflection of nature. It should also be noted that Kalakaua Park, adjacent to the garden, contains three spectacular specimens on the Exceptional Tree Registry.



**Ka’u and Puna Branches**

A branch was established in Ka’u, Hawaii Island in 1994 to perform park beautification, but has since been deactivated.

A branch in Puna, which in 1997 was instrumental in saving 600 trees from removal on the Puna Coast, has also been deactivated.

The Circle recognizes and is grateful for the considerable accomplishments of these branches.

**East Honolulu Branch**

The Waialae-Kahala Branch, since renamed the East Honolulu Branch, was established in 1997 under the leadership of branch President Susan Spangler.

In 2012, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Outdoor Circle’s founding, they held a planting project at Diamond Head Crater to plant 10 Kou trees. The Royal Hawaiian Band played and even got into the mulching spirit! In 2018, they celebrated Arbor Day with a birthday party at the Crater for the 10 thriving kou trees planted five years earlier.



Over the years the branch has spearheaded numerous planting projects and outreach events, including tree planting at Kuhio Elementary School and at Waialae Iki Neighborhood Park in 2016.

Branch President Spangler has been active in the Outdoor Circle for over 45 years! She served on their Board of Directors in various positions as well as on the Oahu Arborist Advisory Committee. Pictured in photo are (left to right): (past) Outdoor Circle Executive Director Marti Townsend, (future) Outdoor Circle President Mike MacFarlane, and Susan Spangler.



### **Waikoloa Village Branch**

The Waikoloa Village Branch was established in 1999 and has performed a variety of beautification projects in the community, including planting the median strip near the entrance to Waikoloa Village, and petitioning Hawaii County Parks and Recreation for the planting of shade trees at Ho’oko St. Playground/Park.

In 2012, under the long-time leadership of Beverley Brand and others, the branch spawned the “Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative” to create a 275-acre site dedicated to preserving and propagating endangered wiliwili trees.

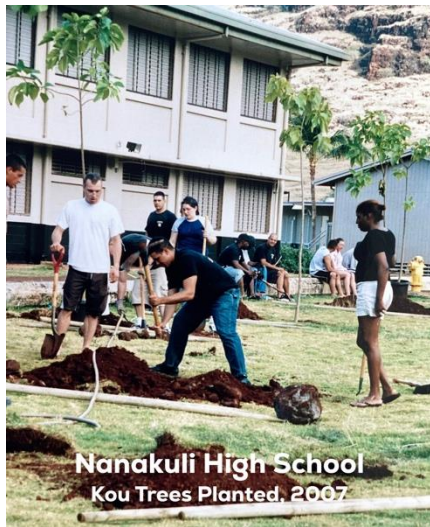
In 2019, the branch established the Waikoloa Village Community Garden, which has 72 plots available for individual gardeners who grow a variety of vegetables and other plants. Visitors are always welcome to stroll about and enjoy this delightful garden.



### **Kapolei Branch**

A branch in Kapolei on Oahu’s West side was established in 2005 under the leadership of branch President Jackie Rayla, Certified Arborist and Horticulturist.

With volunteers from Schofield, they planted Kou trees at Nanakuli High School in 2007, and the following year they hosted an Arbor Day event at Nanakuli Elementary School where a monkeypod tree was planted. The branch was active in the community through 2012.



However, in 2014 Kapolei did get a little bit cooler thanks to nearly 300 trees gifted to area residents at an event in which the Circle partnered with the Kaupe’a homestead for a community outreach and tree giveaway. The event featured 10 species of trees and plants — most native, some fruit-bearing, all non-invasive — one-third of which had been propagated by the Manoa Branch. Hui Ku Maoli Ola Native Hawaiian Nursery worked with the Circle to identify and provide native plants ideal for the Kapolei climate.

### **East Hawaii Island Branch**

As an example of how a branch of the Outdoor Circle can be formed as a result of an urgent community need, the East Hawaii Island Branch was established in 2017 largely in response to the proposed removal of the majestic “Honomu War Memorial Banyans” at Honomu Park.

The banyans were frequently visited by residents and tourists alike as they were located on the way to Akaka Falls. The newly formed branch rallied the community through petitions and outreach to have them trimmed properly, rather than removed, but unfortunately, due to improper branch and root trimming, one of the trees was destroyed later that year after heavy rains caused it to topple.



However, despite this loss, the branch continued its beautification and tree preservation efforts in the community. Branch members and volunteers from Hilo High School planted dozens of trees at Wailoa State Park, Hilo, and the branch has held yearly Arbor Day tree-giveaways, where thousands of specimens have been distributed throughout twenty-seven East Hawaii communities. Funding for the tree-giveaway events was provided by the Arbor Day Foundation, International Paper Company and FedEx.

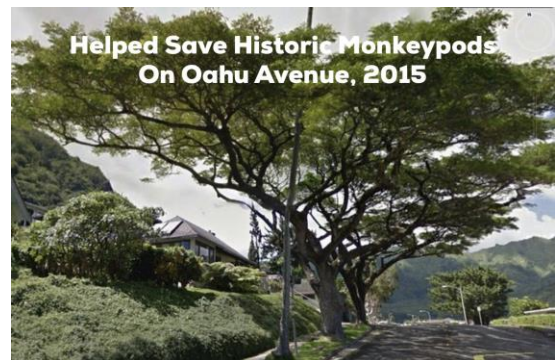
Branch leaders are actively involved in trying to save the iconic banyans on Banyan Drive in Hilo from gall wasp infestation, where experimental treatments have been performed in an attempt to preserve these “living monuments”. Forty-seven trees are affected with this devastating disease that threatens specimens on all the islands. The branch continues efforts to reactivate the Hawaii County Arborist Advisory Committee, so crucial to seeing that Hawaii’s heritage trees be protected.

### **Manoa Branch**

The Manoa Branch on Oahu was revitalized in 2014 under the leadership of branch President Jeremy Lam and has been active in beautification projects and advocacy in the community.

The branch holds an extremely successful annual “1000 Tree Giveaway” event, where the trees are nurtured by branch volunteers over the preceding year and distributed to hundreds of residents in the community.

In 2015, they helped save historic monkeypods on Oahu Avenue threatened with removal by the city. Thanks to the quick work of their members, two giant monkeypod trees on Oahu Avenue scheduled to be cut down due to curb and roadway uplifting, were saved and, instead, the sidewalk was repaired and the planting space expanded so that the trees could continue to thrive and pedestrians and cars could safely traverse the area.



Since 2016, the branch, in collaboration with Malama Manoa and other groups, has spearheaded efforts to restore Kamanele Park on University Avenue, the site of an ancient heiau. Note that in 1915, Kamanele Park was granted to the City & County of Honolulu by the College Hills developers of Punahou School, and officially dedicated at a ceremony with Queen Lili'uokalani, Honolulu Mayor John Lane and over one hundred Outdoor Circle members present.

The branch maintains a visible presence at the Manoa Neighborhood Board’s monthly meetings and co-hosts Town Hall forums to keep residents abreast of issues that affect the community. In particular, in 2022, a proposed 10-acre development project on forested preservation-zoned land abutting the historic Chinese Cemetery was of great concern due to the deforestation that would occur. Over 200 residents turned out for that Town Hall forum, co-hosted with Malama Manoa.

As environmental advocates for the community, the branch regularly submits testimony at the city and state legislative levels regarding issues related to threats to the urban tree canopy and collaborates and partners with multiple like-minded organizations in the community.

**Greater Waikiki Branch**

In 2016, the Greater Waikiki Branch was formed under the leadership of branch President Brian Bagnall to address issues relating to the unique urban environment of the state’s most important economic center. The district includes Waikiki (from Ala Wai Canal to beaches), Ala Moana Park and Kapi’olani Park and is arguably the most beautiful destination in the world. It is also the economic engine of the State of Hawaii and the center of its thriving international tourism industry. Thanks to the Outdoor Circle, as noted by Bagnall, “Among the many reasons it is such an acclaimed paradise are its stunning heritage of trees and its freedom from the visual blight of billboards and most other forms of outdoor advertising.”



Bagnall developed four wonderful “Tree Lovers Nature Walks” in Waikiki which are public-access on- or offline self-guided nature walks featuring Waikiki’s magnificent trees and historic sights, each with detailed route maps and informative descriptions at significant points along each route.

- The Cross-Waikiki Nature Walk from Ala Moana Park to Kapi’olani Park features glorious trees and historic sites, including the Sacred “Stones of Life”.
- The Exceptional Trees of Kapi’olani Park & Paki Avenue Nature Walk features the park’s world-class collection of spectacular trees, the Mahatma Gandhi Statue and the Kahi Hali’A Aloha Hawaiian Burial Memorial.



- The Ala Moana Park, Convention Center & Ala Wai Promenade Nature Walk features the park’s Exceptional and Heritage Trees and finishes along the Ala Wai Promenade fronting Hawaii Convention Center, under the banyans planted by the Outdoor Circle in 1937.
- The Fort DeRussy Nature Walk through this beautiful parkland features a huge variety of tropical trees, an Army Museum and Hawaiian historic markers.

To access these online interactive route maps, or to download or display detailed map guides for offline use, visit: [www.waikikioutdoorcircle.org](http://www.waikikioutdoorcircle.org)





## **Environmental Advocacy ~ A Century of Leadership**

For over 100 years, The Outdoor Circle has been at the forefront of significant legislative efforts advocating for environmental causes that affect our quality of life in Hawaii. Circle members consistently testify at the state and county levels regarding issues of environmental importance and sit on various task forces and committees effecting positive change in urban planning and Hawaii's growth.

### **Billboards and Signs**

Perhaps the most well-known of their efforts was the banning of billboards in Hawaii, in 1927. The effort actually began, however, in 1912, when the Circle took on the task of ridding Honolulu of unsightly billboards that proliferated throughout the city marring the landscape and view planes. The signs shown here, posted in 1911 and 1912 in the city and on Nu'uauu Avenue, hawked events and tobacco and pushed oats, footwear and scouring powder.



This prompted the women of the Outdoor Circle to start a boycott, supported by the local newspaper, The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, which devoted an entire edition to the anti-billboard effort. The women rubber-stamped all their bills and outgoing correspondence with "Anti-Billboard" and dropped off slips of paper at local merchants which said:

*I will not buy anything advertised on billboards  
as long as I can find a substitute, or as a last resort,  
go without. Signed \_\_\_\_\_*

The battle was a long one, taking 14 years, but the results of these actions caused all but one billboard company to go out of business by 1926. The Circle then fundraised and bought the last billboard company for \$4,000 and promptly shut it down. In 1927, the Circle had a bill drawn up "forbidding the erection of billboards" that was introduced to the legislature in 1927 and passed both houses. It was signed by the Governor as Act 195. Thanks to the early and tireless advocacy of the Outdoor Circle, the Territory of Hawaii officially banned billboards in 1927.

Still, the issue of signs was far from over. In 1957, the Circle spearheaded enactment of a state-wide Sign Ordinance to control the size and location of all outdoor signage. It took decades before another state enacted similar legislation, with Vermont in 1968, followed by Maine in the early 1980s, and Alaska by state referendum in 1998.

In 2004 the Circle spearheaded the enactment of Hawaii laws banning vehicular and aerial advertising, and successfully defended challenges to those bans in 2006 and 2014. Although Hawaii now enjoys one of the most exemplary outdoor signage statues in the nation, the Circle continues to advocate for its enforcement and against encroachments and weakening of the spirit and intent of those laws.

The state law limiting the use of campaign signs on private property to 45 days before and 10 days after election day was nullified in the early 1990s by a U.S. Supreme Court ruling because it infringed on residents' and private business owners' rights to free speech. So, unfortunately, campaign signs can remain displayed year-round in Hawaii. But, during each election year, the Circle reaches out to candidates asking them to respectfully adhere to the pre-1990s statutes and promptly remove signs after the election.

To help the public decipher the sign laws on Oahu, in 2008, the Circle developed a sign brochure which was distributed to sign companies and others to clearly define which sign types, sizes and locations were permitted or not-permitted. It is available on the Outdoor Circle website. The Circle and its branches remain a watchdog regarding outdoor signage, and regularly fields calls and inquiries from concerned citizens or those just wishing to put up a sign.

In recent developments in 2020, a proliferation of public art in the form of large murals began appearing on public and private property throughout Honolulu and in rural areas on Oahu, highlighting the need for a policy framework to protect the scenic landscape from being flooded with visual clutter in the way many cities across the nation are overwhelmed with signs and billboards competing for public attention. As a result, the Circle amended its Public Policy Positions to add its support for limits on the placement and number of outdoor murals to ensure that individually and collectively they aesthetically enhance the built environment while protecting Hawaii's natural beauty, scenic view planes and urban view corridors.

The Circle will remain a vigilant protector of Hawaii's urban and rural view corridors and scenic view planes, carrying on a legacy of strength and resilience that started with their founding members.

### **Leading the Recycling and Anti-litter Effort**

The Circle has been a proud leader in the environmental effort in Hawaii to "recycle, reuse, reduce." At their founding in 1912, one of their stated goals as an organization was to reduce litter and trash in neighborhoods in and around Honolulu, and they worked closely with the Department of Public Works to develop and improve methods for collecting rubbish and keeping sidewalks clean.

In the 1930s they held Campus Cleanup days to encourage students to keep their school grounds clean, with a yearly prize for the best kept grounds. Over 14 schools regularly participated, and as noted in records at the time, as an incentive, “a yearly prize of \$15 has keep interest going”.

In the 1950s, the Circle and its branches started a statewide anti-litter campaign, with a yearly “Cleanup Day” to rid neighborhoods of unsightly garbage conditions. To promote this concept, branches participated in events such as the Fourth of July Parade in Kailua, where the Lani-Kailua Branch’s 1949 entry float encouraged the community to keep their yards free of trash, and plant trees and shrubs instead. Again, 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).

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Circle sponsored statewide anti-litter poster campaigns for intermediate and high school students, with wide participation and yearly award winners. In 1975, their campaign “Why Hawaii Isn’t Big Enough for Litter” elicited over 1,300 entries which were each read and judged!

In 1967, noted local political cartoonist Harry Lyons created a mascot for the Outdoor Circle’s program, “Mr. Mynah”, who, with his partner “Anti Litter”, visited schools across Oahu to promote the concept that “Litter is no Mynah Mattah”.

This led to the Outdoor Circle establishing the first recycling plant on Oahu, on Sand Island in 1967. The recycling program, called “Cash for Trash”, had six pickup sites on Oahu and branches on Kauai and Maui.

In 1977, due to the diligent efforts of the Outdoor Circle, Governor George Ariyoshi signed the “Hawaii State Litter Control Bill, Act 2” to plan, coordinate, and implement litter control efforts. These provisions are still in force in the Hawaii Revised Statutes.



### **Undergrounding Utilities**

The Circle’s environmental advocacy and legislative efforts extended to the issues associated with above ground utility wiring, including its detrimental effects on scenery and view planes as well as the problems associated with damage due to severe weather conditions and other environmentally destructive events. In 1955, they launched the first campaign to place utility wiring underground in Honolulu. And forty years later, in 1995, they spearheaded state legislation requiring underground utilities in all new subdivisions and on federal aid highways.

### **Hawaii State Environmental Court**

Protection of our natural and built environment sometimes requires litigation, and resolution of cases often requires legal acumen in the environmental sector. Therefore, in 2014, the Outdoor Circle was proud to play a key role in the establishment of Hawaii's Environmental Court, via Act 218, SLH 2014, making Hawaii the second state in the nation to have a court specifically dedicated to environmental issues.

As Outdoor Circle President Alexandra Avery reported at the time, "The 2014 Legislative session ended with a big win for the environment (and The Outdoor Circle): establishment of a statewide Environmental Court. This new approach to enforcing our environmental laws will facilitate future efforts of our branches and volunteers to keep Hawai'i Clean, Green, and Beautiful. I want to especially thank the members who showed up at public hearings and spoke for the Circle. This was a major accomplishment for the Circle, considering this was our first Legislative Session without our long-time lead advocate and veteran lobbyist, Bob Loy [Outdoor Circle Programs Director]. It was not easy, but volunteers worked hard to keep up our legislative presence in his absence."



The Outdoor Circle is grateful for the efforts of member Jan Dapitan, who played a key role in bringing the idea of an Environmental Court to Hawaii. Pictured here at a celebratory event are (left to right) key players Jan Dapitan, DOCARE Chief Randy Awo Outdoor Executive Director Marti Townsend, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Outdoor Circle President Alexandra Avery, Rep. Chris Lee and Alice Greenwood.

### **Urban Planning**

The Outdoor Circle has been, and continues to be, actively engaged in the planning process for responsible development of communities across the state. Circle staff and board members, including branch board members, work with state and local authorities, as well as private individuals and corporations, to improve the quality, livability and sustainability of Hawaii and serve on numerous boards and task forces. Here are some notable examples.

### **Lei of Green**

In 1973, the Circle conceived the "Lei of Green" vision with shorelines primarily devoted to parks and open space. On Oahu, they advocated for efforts and legislation to begin this vision with a continuous landscaped pedestrian pathway along the south shore from Koko Head to the airport. This vision takes on increased importance today due to the recognition that climate change is already causing shoreline erosion in many parts of Hawai'i making these areas more suited to serve as green belts and landscaped open spaces instead of continued dense development.

### **Green Hawaii Coalition**

In 1997, the Circle formed the "Green Hawaii Coalition" to promote greener streets and the planting and better maintenance of trees in public spaces.



### **Hawaii Environmental Coalition**

In 1998, the Circle established the “Hawaii Environmental Coalition” (now called “Kahea”) for more effective legislative action.

### **Urban Reforestation Master Plan**

In 2005, the Circle was instrumental in developing Oahu’s “Urban Reforestation Master Plan” which set guidelines and standards for planting, maintenance and protection of trees in the context of Oahu’s diverse urban settings and environmental conditions. The Outdoor Circle also provided tree pruning workshops to the Departments of Transportation and Education to ensure that trees in our public spaces were properly maintained.

### **Complete Streets**

In 2010, the Circle joined the “Complete Streets Initiative” to make our communities more livable. Complete Streets incorporate trees, vegetation, and green infrastructure into street designs to mitigate environmental impacts and responsibly manage stormwater runoff.

### **Haleiwa Special Design District**

In 2015, the Outdoor Circle took a strong stand to preserve the scenic beauty and traditional plantation appearance of historic Haleiwa town by supporting much needed changes in the Haleiwa Special District section of the Land Use Ordinance for Oahu.

### **Light Pollution**

In 2016, with the city’s conversion of 53,000 Oahu streetlights to energy efficient LED lamps, which were too bright and too white with little or no shielding to stop light intrusion to non-road properties, the results in Waikiki were alarming. According to the Greater Waikiki branch President Brian Bagnall, “In Waikiki many of the residential streetlights have now been converted and the results — dazzling bright lights on existing posts or suspended in the center by cables. The old goal of Waikiki’s Hawaiian Sense of Place with gentle indirect warm exterior lighting has been forever lost.”

This led the Circle to lobby for changes to the Waikiki Special District Design Guidelines in the Land Use Ordinance, to include “use of dark sky friendly lighting is recommended for site and security lighting,” “uplighting should not be used to illuminate large expanses of buildings or entire facades,” and finally that “colored lighting does not change more than once in any 24-hour time period.” It was the hope that these guidelines would begin to clearly identify the major issue of light pollution in Waikiki and how the issue can be properly controlled over time.

### **Trees for Honolulu’s Future**

In 2017, the Circle spearheaded creation of “Trees for Honolulu’s Future”, with the goal of increasing our urban tree-canopy, in partnership with public and private organizations and local communities. This coalition’s vision is to have Honolulu achieve a 35% tree canopy coverage by 2035.



### **Manoa Stakeholders**

Since 2021, the Manoa Branch has been a member of the “Mānoa Stakeholders”, a collaborative project to collect community input and perspectives in order to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for Manoa’s future.



## **Protecting Our Natural Resources, Watersheds, Streams and Shorelines**

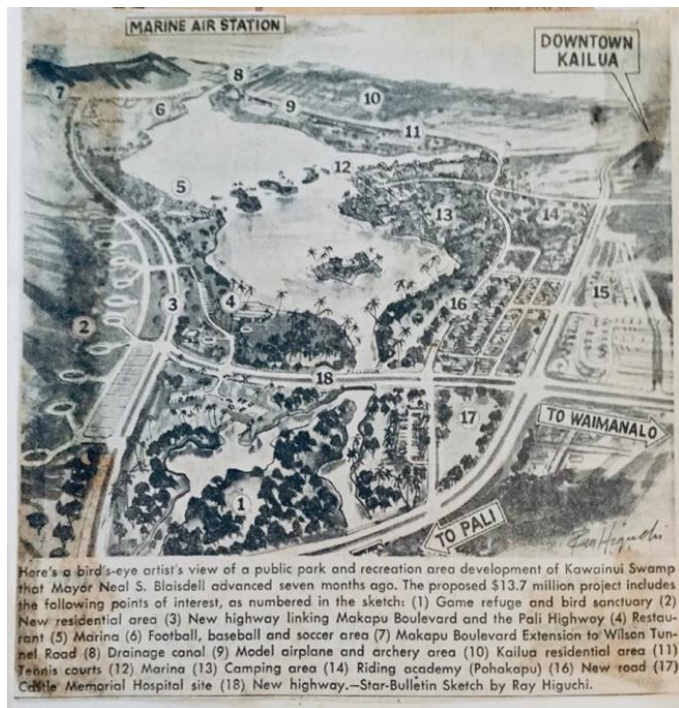
From the outset, the Outdoor Circle’s has been at the forefront of environmental and legislative efforts to protect Hawaii’s fragile natural resources and lands in preservation.

### **Kawainui Marsh**

On the Windward side of Oahu these efforts included the protection and preservation of Kawainui Marsh in Kailua. Kawainui Marsh exists today as the largest remaining wetland in the state, a wildlife refuge for four endangered water birds, and a significant cultural and archaeological site important to understanding the historical roots of pre- and post-contact human presence in Hawaii. However, it might have been lost today, if not for the efforts of the Outdoor Circle.

In the early 1960s, the marsh, then called Kawainui Swamp, was privately owned, and a developer put forth a proposal to construct a 4000-home residential complex there. The Lani-Kailua Branch was opposed to this and successfully led the effort to convince the Honolulu City Council to purchase 749 acres of the marsh to preserve it from development. However, once purchased, Honolulu Mayor Neal Blaisdell proposed a \$13.7 million plan for developing the area for active recreational use, including a small boat harbor, restaurant, and highway across the marsh, with no recognition of the cultural and archeological sites that would be destroyed. Due to Outdoor Circle and other community opposition, thankfully, the city’s proposed plan (shown here) never came to fruition.

But the Circle’s efforts at preservation of Kawainui did not stop there. In the 1970s, the Lani-Kailua Branch formed the “Ad Hoc Committee for Kawainui”, later restructured as the “Kawainui Heritage Foundation”, under the leadership of Muriel Seto, a long-time branch leader and life-long advocate for Kawainui preservation.



They were successful in stopping the development of an 88-acre shopping center in the Kahanaiki area of the marsh along the Kapaa Quarry Road. In 1976, they petitioned the city 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 to conservation in 1979.

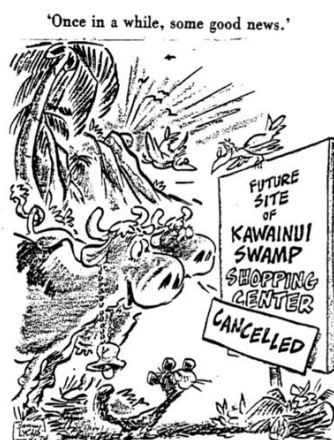


Figure 1.28 Newspaper Cartoon about the Cancellation of the Proposed Kawai Nui Shopping Center(1974) (Taken from: Honolulu Advertiser, September 19, 1974.

In the late 1980s, they petitioned the city to void previously granted permits to build a light industrial complex on the Wai'auia (ITT) site at the entrance to Kailua's business district, resulting in the state ultimately purchasing the property and the removal of the partially constructed buildings there. In 2005, the Lani-Kailua Branch was a signed petitioner on the Ramsar Convention declaration of Kawainui Marsh as a "Wetland of International Importance".

In 2016, a "Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project" was proposed by the Department of Land 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. However, the proposed plan also involved the construction of numerous buildings, restrooms,

parking lots and trails within the designated historic district and primary habitat of four of Hawaii's endangered water birds.

In 2021, after five years in development, and despite extensive public input and testimony in objection by the Circle and other community organizations to the hard-scapes and irreparable damaging environmental impacts of the plan, a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was approved for the project. As a result, in 2021, the Lani-Kailua Branch of the Outdoor Circle, as a 70-plus year leader in the protection and preservation of the marsh, joined two other like-minded organizations, Hawaii's Thousand Friends and the Hawaii Audubon Society, as plaintiffs in a Challenge-Appeal of the FEIS approval in State Court. The challenge included four separate counts, each asking for a claim for relief due to a variety of violations of the Hawaii Environmental Policy Act (HEPA), the Clean Water Act and various Articles of the Hawaii Constitution. As of this writing, that challenge is still in litigation, but the Circle's efforts will not flag as they continue to protect and preserve Kawainui.

### **He'eia Fishpond**

To keep it free from development, the Kaneohe Branch successfully spearheaded actions in the 1970s to designate He'eia Fishpond as a State and National Historic Site. Hawaiian fishponds are unique and advanced forms of aquaculture found nowhere else in the world. He'eia Fishpond was built approximately 600-800 years ago to cultivate pua, baby fish, to maturity.

### **Kaiwi Coastline**

In the 1990s, the Outdoor Circle helped in the efforts to protect the Kaiwi Coastline from development. It should be noted that after 40 years of effort by numerous environmental groups, finally, in 2017, the Trust for Public Land conveyed the east O'ahu coastline to the community through nonprofit Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, which now owns and stewards the land.

**Ka'elepulu Stream**

In the late 2000s, Hui O Ko'olaupoko initiated their "Popoi'a Street Storm Water Project" to re-plant the banks of Ka'elepulu Stream near Kailua Beach Park. The project filters the water flowing into the stream, and then the ocean, and includes pervious pavers, rain gardens and native plants. The Lani-Kailua Branch, as well as government and private organizations, helped provide financial support for the project which helps keep the stream alive and clean.



**Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary**

Since 2013 the Maui Branch (now its own organization called "Maui Clean and Beautiful") has been helping to preserve the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and protect it from development. It was once a royal fishpond, believed to have been built either by chief Kihapi'ilani who lived around 1500, or by Kapi'ioho'okalani, a chief of Oahu and Molokai. Today, it is a waterfowl sanctuary home to over fifty species of birds, including three endangered Hawaiian bird species, the Hawaiian stilt (ae'o), the Hawaiian coot ('alae) and the Hawaiian duck (koloa).

**Loko 'Ea Fishpond**

The Circle's North Shore Branch on Oahu has been working to protect and restore the ancient Loko 'Ea Fishpond in Haleiwa since 2016. This 400-year-old fishpond is home to many native species and was once the summer retreat of Queen Liliuokalani. A proposed retail complex that would block views of the fishpond and eliminate the open space on its banks was one of the primary concerns of the branch.



**Sunset Beach Dune Restoration**

Since 2018, the North Shore Branch on Oahu has been a partner in the "Sunset Beach Dune Restoration Project" to protect and rebuild our eroding shorelines.



### **Waikoloa Stream Restoration – Ulu La`au Nature Park**

In 2018, the Waimea Branch on Hawaii Island successfully partnered with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program and showcased the completion of a four-year long stream restoration project at Ulu La`au, the Waimea Nature Park. The Waikoloa Stream runs through the park and community members were invited to see the different methods used to stabilize the banks of the stream and control erosion with native plant restoration.



### **Ala Wai Watershed Flood Risk Management Project**

The Ala Wai watershed encompasses 19 square miles (12,064 acres) and extends from the ridge of the Ko`olau Mountains to the near-shore waters of Malama Bay. It includes Makiki, Manoa, and Palolo streams, which flow to the Ala Wai Canal, a 2-mile-long, man-made waterway.

Since 2018, the Circle's collaboration with municipal entities and community groups has assured more public engagement in the planning stages of the Ala Wai Watershed flood control project. It has been a strong proponent of a comprehensive EIS and community input on the proposed Ala Wai Watershed plans and was instrumental in holding an excellent public community forum in November 2019 on the issue. The Manoa Branch has been an advocate for UH Faculty Housing residents regarding valid environmental concerns about DLNR's Manoa Stream Dredging Project.

### **Hawaiian Memorial Park**

For years, the Circle was involved in trying to stop the Hawaiian Memorial Park expansion project in Kaneohe, in which 54 acres of forested preservation land were to be graded and cleared to provide an additional 30,000 burial plots.

The Circle testified in opposition to the project at numerous meetings, but the project was finally approved by the Land Use Commission in 2020, although it was fortunately scaled back to include only 28 acres of cemetery expansion. The Commission members voted 6-1 to reclassify the land from conservation to urban use but attached a long list of conditions to address issues of stormwater drainage, endangered species habitat, tree removal, rockfall hazards and other concerns that had led a community group, including the Outdoor Circle, to challenge the plan in the LUC's quasi-judicial proceeding that involved expert witness testimony and lengthy analysis by Outdoor Circle representatives. In particular, conditions for the cemetery's expansion included making stormwater detention basins bigger than proposed to reduce the risk of flooding of homes below the expansion site, planting one tree on Oahu for every one removed, and finding new uses for excavated soil instead of putting it in a landfill.



## **Protecting Our View Planes and Natural Beauty**

Since its founding, the Outdoor Circle has been at the forefront of protecting Hawaii's natural beauty and scenic vistas. As mentioned earlier, the Circle's successful and continuing efforts to ban billboards and unsightly signage clutter has been a major accomplishment that protects our scenic vistas. But the Circle didn't stop there. Here are some of their more notable achievements.

### ***Ko'olau Mountains***

In the early 1960s, when the H3 Trans-Ko'olau Tunnel was being planned, the Circle took a strong stance and successfully advocated to route the tunnel from Halawa Valley into Haiku Valley, rather than several proposed routes through Nu'uaniu and Kalihi Valleys. According to reports at the time, they conducted numerous community meetings with State officials and were adamant that the Windward side of the Ko'olau Range "will not tolerate any further desecration or scarring of the Pali area", as stated by Lani-Kailua Branch President Lucy Pfaltzgraff Creps. Note that Lucy Creps was later the Outdoor President in the 1970s and, in her dedication to their mission, would drive into Honolulu daily to meet with legislators during session regarding issues of importance to the Circle.

Note also that the proposed H3 project was the first in Hawaii to require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), following the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Environmental studies were conducted for the project over a period of 20 years, and nearing completion, another issue arose regarding the obtrusiveness of signs on the freeway that would mar the scenic views. Under the leadership of its Executive Director Mary Steiner, who held that position for 19 years, the Circle objected to the proposed signage.

As reported at the time "Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) formed a partnership with the Outdoor Circle, elected officials, and others to see what could be done. The first tangible result of this partnership came in February 1996 with a series of field trips to the project area with paint samples in hand. The idea was that if solid sign panels were going to be part of the view, they should be painted a color that fit harmoniously with the surrounding landscape. Based on these field trips, the previously selected light green color was replaced by a darker grey-green to match the color of the vegetation more closely". In the end, one week before the freeway opening in 1997 (at this point, after 37 years in the making), the Outdoor Circle, HDOT and elected officials and local businesses met to plant nine koa trees alongside H-3 near the tunnels.

(Information source/credit for this section: Barbara J. Braswell, [www.highways.dot.gov](http://www.highways.dot.gov), 1998)

### ***Diamond Head***

During the 1960s developers were planning to build hotels on the slopes of Diamond Head. Mrs. William Blackfield was president of the Outdoor Circle at the time and personally spearheaded a very vocal campaign to prevent this from ever happening and causing the permanent disfigurement of this iconic landmark.

To achieve that goal, in 1968, she invited the United States Undersecretary of the Interior Stuart Udall to come out to Hawaii and persuaded him to declare Diamond Head a National Natural Landmark, thus permanently preventing hotels from being built on its slopes. Cecelia Blackfield is shown at left in a photo with Undersecretary Udall.



In 1978, the Circle was instrumental in the conversion of Diamond Head Crater from a military/civil defense facility to a State Monument for passive public recreation.

### **Ala Moana Waterfront**

Also in the 1960s, the Circle successfully stopped the city's proposed elevated freeway along Honolulu's waterfront, including Ala Moana Beach Park. In addition, they were successful in stopping the development of a high-rise hotel complex on Magic Island, and instead, were instrumental in seeing that it became an extension of the park.

### **Mount Olomana**

In 1970, the Circle's Lani-Kailua Branch was instrumental in helping to save the scenic slopes of Mount Olomana from development.

### **Palolo Valley - Safe Power Action Network**

In 1994 HECO filed a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to build a 138,000-volt transmission line between the Kamoku Substation near Iolani School and the Pukele Substation in upper Palolo Valley. Three groups intervened: Malama O Manoa, The Outdoor Circle, and Life of the Land to stop this construction on conservation land, forming the "Safe Power Action Network". In 2002 the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) rejected the HECO application.

### **Wa'ahila Ridge**

In 2001, the Circle prevented by court order the proposed installation of 90-130-foot transmission line towers on Wa'ahila Ridge, thus preserving this pristine view plane.



### **Windward Oahu - Kamehameha Highway**

In 2008, the Circle was instrumental in stopping the installation of 130-foot utility poles along Kamehameha Highway on Oahu's Windward side, thus protecting these scenic view planes.

### **Honolulu Rail Project**

In a more well-known effort, in 2009, the Outdoor Circle came out in opposition to the Honolulu Rail Transit proposal due to its negative impacts to more than 900 trees along the 20-mile route, its damaging impacts to scenic view planes and the degradation of parks and historic sites near the project. In 2011, they joined a lawsuit in opposition to the Project and as a result, the Federal Transportation Authority mandated that Honolulu Rail officials consult with the Outdoor Circle as

to tree disposition during construction, ensuring that mature trees be relocated rather than destroyed and that new trees be planted where necessary. To date, hundreds of trees along the route have been relocated to various sites on Oahu, thanks to collaborative input from the Outdoor Circle.

The Circle has continued its active participation and advocacy concerning the environmental impacts of the 20-mile rail project, which by mid-2022, was still under construction and not operational. In particular, when a new revised recovery plan was put forth by the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) in 2022, Outdoor Circle President Scott Wilson, urged the Honolulu City Council to consider these impacts, saying HART's new plan "does not acknowledge key environmental and operational factors, including sea level rise, ridership objectives, loss of urban tree canopy and public revenue shortfalls that have arisen since the original rail route was planned. These new factors must be incorporated into the Revised Recovery Plan if the project is to be of sound use and value to the people of Honolulu."





## **Fostering and Establishing Nature Parks and Botanical Gardens**

Since its founding, the Outdoor Circle has been actively involved in the establishment and protection of nature parks, forest preserves and botanical gardens throughout the islands. Through these efforts, the Circle has fostered public engagement in and appreciation of the natural beauty and bio-diversity of the flora around us.

### **Foster Botanical Gardens**

In the early 1960s, the Outdoor Circle provided a 154-women all volunteer staff (363 days/year) at Foster Botanical Garden in Honolulu, the oldest botanical garden in Hawaii and home to more than 10,000 species of rare tropical plants from all over the world, including dozens on the Exceptional Tree Registry. Circle members continued to volunteer at Foster Gardens for years. Photo shows Outdoor Circle President Betty Crocker honoring long-time volunteers Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. K. Yee.



### **Hawaii Nature Center**

In 1982, the Outdoor Circle was instrumental in establishing The Hawaii Nature Center in Makiki, Oahu, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in June 2021. Since its inception, the center, nestled next to the stream in Makiki Valley, has been serving Hawaii's school children and the community, giving visitors access to over 20 miles of Tantalus trails. The Center seeks to foster awareness, appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of Hawaii's environment by educating children with an interactive and immersive approach.

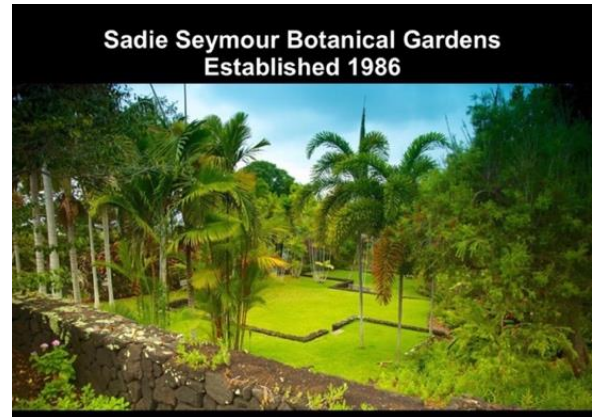


### **Sadie Seymour Botanical Gardens**

In the mid 1980s, the Circle's Kona Branch established the Sadie Seymour Botanical Gardens which features the plants of Hawaii, arranged in 11 tiers by geographic origin, featuring native Hawaiian plants and a variety of specimens from Australia, New Zealand, Indo-Asia, Africa and Central America. The botanical garden grounds are adjacent to the archaeological site Kealakowa'a Heiau ("temple on the way for dragging canoes") which was built in the time of King 'Umi a Liloa and used for construction and blessing of canoes.

The Sadie Seymour Botanical Gardens were established as a result of the deeding of the property by the Captain Cook Investment Company to the Kona Outdoor Circle (KOC) for its use in 1982. Rather than retain property in its own name, the branch re-deeded the property to a newly formed non-profit entity called the Kona Outdoor Circle Education Center (KOCEC), to hold title to the land.

It was intended that KOC and KOCEC would have mirrored boards and shared interests. The Kona Branch then held a capitol campaign, hired architects and contractors and built the building that exists today. The gardens were designed by landscape architect Scott Seymour and named in honor of his mother, the Kona Branch's first President. They opened in 1986.



The gardens and the building are now maintained under the auspices of the Kona Educational Foundation Center. The heiau is maintained by a separate entity.

### **Ulu La'au Nature Park**

In 1999, the Circle's Waimea Branch on Hawaii Island established the Ulu La'au Nature Park. Ulu La'au means "garden of trees". The land straddles the wet- and dry-side of Waimea, and is part of Waimea's ranching past, having once been used as pastureland. It had all but been forgotten when the Waimea Outdoor Circle took on the task of removing invasive species, clearing the Waikoloa stream that meanders through the property, shoring up the stream bed and installing native endangered and threatened species.

It should be noted that it took seven years of dedicated perseverance to establish the park, largely due to the efforts of branch leaders ChaCha Kohler, then branch President, and Carol Hendricks, then Outdoor Circle President, who were so instrumental in 'finally' securing a 55-year lease for the property from the County of Hawaii.

Among the hundreds of native and endemic species, Ulu La'au has the largest collection of different color Ohia Lehua trees in the state and, therefore, the world!

The park is maintained entirely by dedicated volunteers from the branch and the community and has picnic tables and a beautifully constructed education pavilion, perfect for workshops and academic gatherings. It provides a peaceful, accessible native park, which cultivates life-long stewardship of the 'aina, the earth, for the enrichment of the community and all who visit.



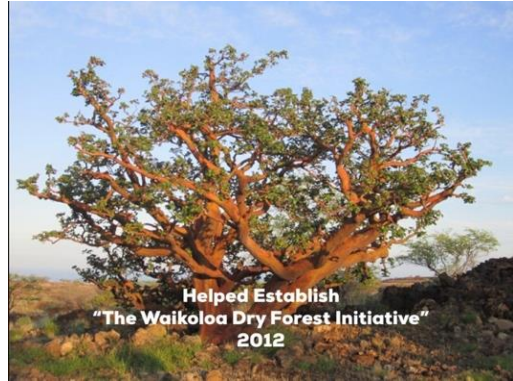
It should also be noted that Ulu La'au Nature Park is a trash-free zone, one of the first parks in the nation to institute this environmentally friendly public awareness policy, and very successfully at that. Digital tours of the park are accessible online from the Outdoor Circle website and include detailed maps, pictures and narratives about the extensive collection of native and endemic trees in the park.

### ***Waikoloa Dry Forest***

In 2012, the Circle's Waikoloa Village branch helped establish the "Waikoloa Dry Forest Initiative" to preserve and protect endangered wiliwili trees.

The wiliwili tree is endemic to Hawaii and was threatened with extinction due to gall wasp infestation, which had wiped out all the trees on Maui, and was threatening them on all islands.

As stated on their website, the Waikoloa Dry Forest is an inspiring place "where ancient wiliwili trees persist in some of the roughest terrain in Hawaii. Here, you can learn about the diverse forest that once covered the driest regions of our islands and learn how you can have a positive impact on the future of the forest. The Waikoloa Dry Forest Preserve encompasses 275 acres of remnant lowland dry forest and protects some of the last remaining native trees in the region. It is a dry, rugged, and degraded area that is gradually being reforested by the community of native plants that once dominated Waikoloa."



The Outdoor Circle is proud to have had a part in preserving these ancient native trees from extinction.





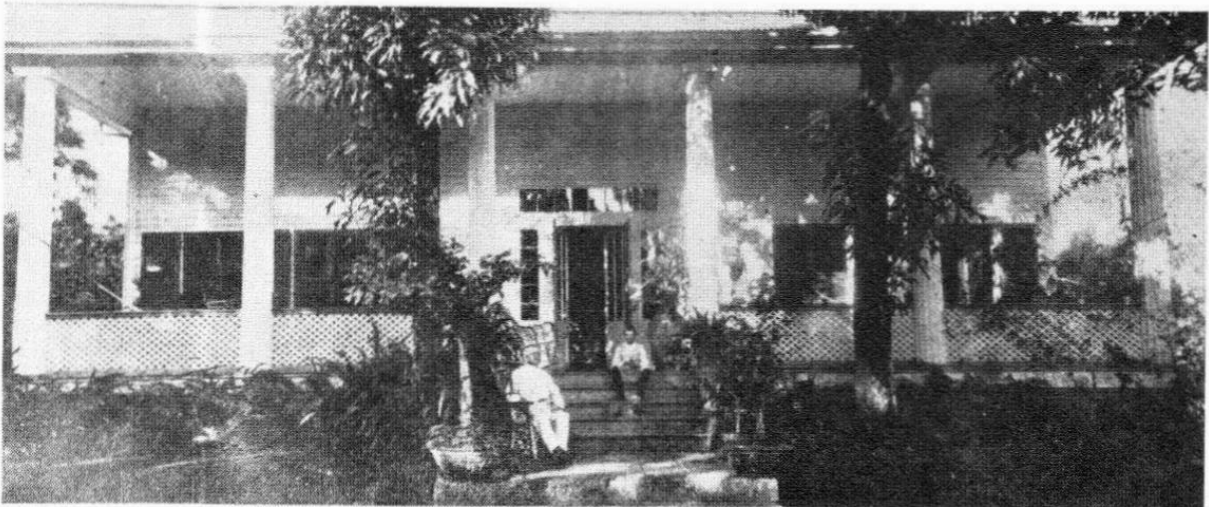
## **Preserving Hawaii's History And Culture**

For over 100 years, The Outdoor Circle has been at the forefront of significant efforts to preserve Hawaii's cultural and historical heritage sites. All of Hawaii has benefitted from these efforts.

### **Queen Emma Summer Palace**

As one their first historic preservation efforts, the Outdoor Circle began renovation of the grounds of the Queen Emma Summer Palace. The Palace, Hānaiakamalama, originally built in 1847, was the secluded mountain-home and summer retreat of Queen Emma of Hawaii from 1857 to 1885, her husband King Kamehameha IV and their son, Prince Albert Edward.

A newspaper article in 1913 reported that the Palace was to be demolished, and the trees were to be cut down to put in a baseball park. The Daughters of Hawaii and The Outdoor Circle immediately joined forces and convinced the Honolulu Board of Supervisors to visit the home and grounds with them, where they were able to verbally "paint" a picture of a beautifully restored home with gardens replanted. The Supervisors were won over, and over the next several years, the Outdoor Circle set about restoring the grounds with Hawaiian trees and plantings, and The Daughters of Hawaii refurbished the home with Queen Emma's possessions and other memorabilia of her era. When it was opened to the public, the people of Hawaii, were able to see first-hand a glimpse of history.



In 1913 The Outdoor Circle joined efforts with the Daughters of Hawaii to preserve the Queen Emma Summer Palace in Nuuanu as a museum and park. An upholstered rocking chair,

still part of the home, was donated by Mrs. Clarence Cooke, an early member of The Outdoor Circle.



### **Iolani Palace**

Iolani Palace was completed in 1882, and, following the Hawaiian Kingdom overthrow in 1895, the Palace served as the Capitol for almost 80 years until it was vacated and restored in the 1970s.

In 1914, the grounds of Iolani Palace, then called the Executive Building, were in great disrepair, and the Outdoor Circle stepped in to refurbish the landscaping. In a major undertaking by its volunteers, diseased trees were removed, new trees were planted, the lawns were reseeded, foot paths were constructed, and benches were placed on the grounds. Again, in 1922 and 1923, the Outdoor Circle undertook additional major renovations of the landscaping of the Palace grounds.



### **Washington Place**

Once home to Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani, this historic property is also the official residence of Hawai'i's Governors and their families.



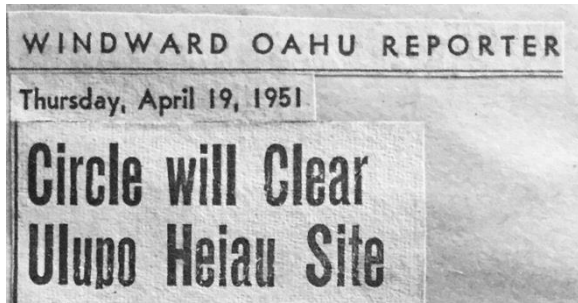
In 1930, the grounds of Washington Place needed attention, and the Outdoor Circle, along with other civic groups, took on the task of refurbishing them. Old and diseased trees were removed and new ones planted, gardens were replanted and lawns reseeded. Again, in 1963, at the request of Governor John Burns, the Outdoor Circle took on the task of renovating the plantings and beautifying the grounds. In the following years, Outdoor Circle volunteers continued as landscaping advisors to Governor George Ariyoshi's wife, as well as to serve as guides for scheduled tours of the historic home's gardens.

On an interesting historical note, the plumeria, before 1947, was primarily used as a graveyard flower. But the Outdoor Circle wanted to promote interest in this exotic tree and see it planted all over the islands. They held a lavish festival called "Ulu Melia" ("to grow plumeria") at which thousands of cuttings were given away to blanket the hills of Honolulu. Rare cuttings from the Robinson's on Kauai were sold for \$10 apiece! This rare tree was later planted by the Outdoor Circle in the Plumeria Garden at Washington Place.

### **Ulupo Heiau**

Ulupo Heiau, on the edge of Kawainui Marsh, in Kailua Oahu, is an ancient site associated in legend with menehune and Oahu high chiefs, such as Kakuhihewa in the 15th century and Kualii in the late 17th century. It may have reached the peak of its importance in 1750, before being abandoned after O'ahu was conquered in the 1780s.

However, back in 1951, it was neglected, and in fact, remained largely unmarked on maps of the time. So, the Circle's newly formed Lani-Kailua Branch spearheaded a project to clear the ancient



and historically significant site for archeological inspection. They petitioned for, and were granted, a permit from the Territory of Hawaii's Board of Agriculture and Forestry for the clearing efforts. This directly led to its inclusion in the Territorial Parks System, in 1954, and subsequently, at statehood, it became part of the Hawaii State Parks system. Ulupo Heiau was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

### ***Kualoa Ahupua'a***

Kualoa is one of the most historically significant destinations on Oahu. Ancient Hawaiians considered Kualoa one of the most sacred places on Oahu. It was the residence of kings, a place of refuge and sanctuary - a pu`uhonua - and a training ground for royalty who were instructed at Kualoa in the arts of war, history and social traditions.

In the 1970s, when the area was threatened with development, the Kaneohe Branch formulated a comprehensive plan and spearheaded actions to place the entire Kualoa Ahupua'a on the State Historic Register and designate Kualoa Point as a State Park, thus preserving this cultural and historical site for posterity.

### ***Pahua Heiau***

Pahua Heiau in Maunaloa, Oahu, is believed to have been built in the 14th century and is dedicated to the god of agriculture, although archeological estimates place the construction of the heiau between 1485—1665 CE or 1760—1795 CE.

Significant deterioration of the heiau occurred in the decades following the early part of the 1970s, much of it the result of the aggressive urban residential development in the area. For example, stones from the site were used to make walls in residential landscaping and agricultural developments of the area.



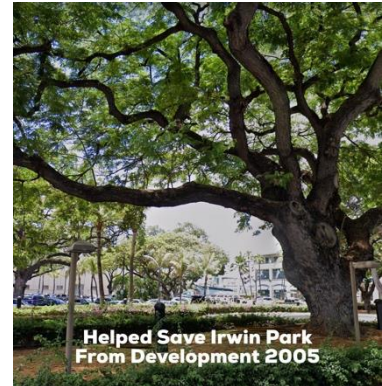
In 1984, the Hawai'i Kai Branch identified Pahua Heiau for its 1984—1985 volunteer community service project. The goal of the project was to “clear the dense scrub overgrowth, restore the structure to its probable original form, and then landscape the property with Native Hawaiian plants, preserving a valuable cultural/ historical resource for the benefit of the entire community” The Circle invested over \$25,000 to implement a phased restoration, landscaping, and maintenance plan for Pahua. Other financial contributions to the project were given by the Bishop Estate, Kaiser Development, Sandwich Isle Construction, the Tree People, and Waimea Falls Park. Restoration efforts engaged volunteers of diverse backgrounds, and included community members, tradesmen, and professionals. Students from Kamehameha Schools and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, the Boy and Girl Scouts, volunteers from the Lions Club and National Job

Corps, the Hawai'i National Guard, as well as the community service work force from the O'ahu Community Correctional Facility all contributed to these efforts. The restoration process was overseen by Earl Neller, an archaeologist with the State of Hawai'i Department of Historic Preservation, and Bertell Davis, an archaeologist with the Bishop Museum; Davis served as principal investigator in the project.

In 1988, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs acquired the site to preserve the archaeological structures and to provide cultural and educational opportunities in Maunalua. (Source credit for this section: Holly Coleman, The Cultural and Historical Significance of Pahua Heiau, Maunalua, O'ahu, OHA publication, 2014)

### **Irwin Memorial Park**

Irwin Memorial Park on Honolulu's waterfront was constructed in 1930 and was specifically dedicated for public park purposes to protect and preserve important view planes to other historic resources in the surrounding area. In 2005, when it was threatened to be re-developed as a 3-story parking structure, the Circle joined with Scenic Hawaii to sue the State to prevent this, thus preserving its historical purpose and character and saving its trees from destruction.



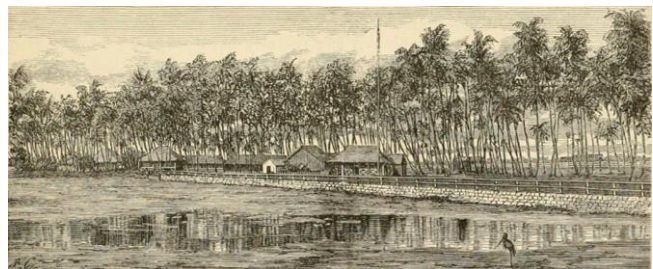
### **Waimea Valley**

In 2006, in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawaii Audubon Society, the Circle helped preserved Waimea Valley, Oahu as a historic and cultural site. The valley is surrounded by three major heiau, one of which is the largest in the state.

Waimea Valley is currently owned and managed by Hi'ipaka LLC, a non-profit created to nurture and care for this treasure.

### **Helumoa Coconut Grove**

The historic Helumoa Coconut Grove in Waikiki was planted by Chief Kakuhihewa around the 15th century and at one time had nearly 10,000 trees.



In 2008, during redevelopment of the Royal Hawaiian shopping center courtyard, several of these last remaining palms were slated for removal, and the Circle's Executive Director Mary Steiner insisted they replant two coconuts for every one they removed, thus helping preserve the character of this historic site. Helumoa is on the Waikiki Historic Trail.

### ***Kamanele Park Heiau***

Since 2016, the Circle's Manoa Branch has spearheaded efforts to restore Kamanele Park on University Avenue. In 1915, Kamanele Park was granted to the City & County of Honolulu by the College Hills developers of Punahou School, and officially dedicated at a ceremony with Queen Lili'uokalani, Honolulu Mayor John Lane and over one hundred Outdoor Circle members present. However, by 2016, over a century later, the perimeter of the park featuring massive rocks was hidden from view under excessive amounts of overgrown invasive plant species, and the Manoa Branch felt compelled to act.

In collaboration with Malama Manoa and other groups, Circle members and volunteers cleared the area for archeological inspection and removed over 3 tons of green waste invasive vegetation. In 2020, archaeologists were able to discover 12 features of the site, including an ancient heiau, which had never been registered with the state because no archeological inspection had been done.

Thanks to the Outdoor Circle and collaborating partners, this heiau is now being restored as a significant part of Hawaii's historical and cultural heritage.







## **Fostering Environmental Stewardship ~ Education & Outreach**

Since its founding the Outdoor Circle's education and outreach efforts have focused on raising public awareness about the environmental benefits and beauty of trees, encouraging the public to be good environmental and tree stewards, and fostering public engagement in and appreciation of the natural beauty around us. Through their educational outreach efforts, the Outdoor Circle has been proud to nurture generations of environmental stewards.

### **Youth Education - Children's Auxiliary**

Educating children about the importance of outdoor beautification was reflected in the Circle's establishment of a "Children's Auxiliary" in 1915, through which they talked to school children about the importance of plants and engaged them in the landscaping and planting at their schools. The program was so successful that by 1923, the Department of Public Instruction asked the Circle to provide a program of planting for all schools of Honolulu. In addition, after World War II, there was a great need for rehabilitation of school grounds and the Circle assisted most of Oahu's 80 public schools with landscape plans if none existed, while also supplying the plant material.

In 1930, the Circle spearheaded a campaign to have grammar schools throughout Oahu sprout 4,000 coconuts for planting around Ala Moana Beach Park's lagoon. In the 1940s, to raise the level of awareness and involvement in outdoor beautification, the Circle celebrated youth involvement in these efforts through their annual children's fete called "Birds, Beasts and Blossoms."

Through its Youth Education Committee, active in the 1960s through 1980s, the Circle provided schools with materials and programs to teach Hawaii's youth about the importance of beautifying Hawaii and the damage caused by littering.

### **Scholarships**

Over the years, the Circle has been proud to provide scholarships to the next generation of stewards of our 'aina.

The Kona Branch offered two scholarships in education, the Julie M. Ellison "Tropical Gardener Scholarship, offered four times a year, and the yearly "Kona Outdoor Circle Annual Scholarship" for higher education.

Since 1993, The Lani-Kailua Branch has been providing annual scholarship funds in agriculture and environmental studies for students at Windward Community College. Through the LKOC Environmental Sciences Scholarship Fund and WCC Agricultural Scholarship Fund, more than 80 students to date have received these scholarships, many of whom have gone on to the UH Manoa, UH West Oahu, and UH Maui. Additionally, over 30 of them have received their degrees or certificates in plant landscaping, agriculture, subtropical tree care, and bio-resources technology.

### **Learning to Grow Program**

One of the Circle's hallmark education projects is the "Learning to Grow" Program at the Women's Community Correctional Center in Kailua, established and run by volunteers from the Lani-Kailua Branch in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and prison staff. Through the program, inmates at a garden nursery on the grounds grow hydroponic lettuce and vegetables for the facility cafeteria and for sale in the community. Branch volunteers within the program teach the students plant maintenance and management skills, working side by side with the women, two to three times a week, providing not only hands-on guidance, but a mentoring sense of camaraderie and friendship as well. The branch also provides instructors from the community to teach six-week classes throughout the year on horticulture and gardening, running a small business, as well as financial and life skills they can apply upon release.

The program began as the "Environmental Sciences Vocational Training Program" in 1999, when the branch was given the opportunity to renovate an abandoned plant nursery on the property. At the time, Warden John Kellerman approached the branch leaders asking for their help in convincing the Department of Public Safety to allow this plant nursery to be reactivated to provide offenders with horticulture classes. Carol Ann Ellett, then chairperson of the branch's Beautification Committee wrote to the head of DPS and their Education Program Manager for six months before getting a reply. This eventually resulted in the refurbishing of the abandoned nursery by branch volunteers and WCCC women, in 2001.

A curriculum was developed so that the women would get college credits for their classes given by college faculty and accompanied by work in the renovated nursery. The program was renamed Learning to Grow in 2008. Since 2001, over 300 students have participated in the program, many of whom have gone on to work in private-sector horticulture fields upon release. One past inmate, now employed at Home Depot, says she wouldn't have made it out of prison without the garden. It is a life-altering experience for the students and a rewarding and enriching experience for Circle volunteers.

In 2014 the Learning to Grow program was one of many projects showcased for visitors from the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education. Conference participants -- indigenous



leaders in education from around the world -- were introduced to program participants, program graduates, and branch volunteers who showed them how the inmates raise the nearly 1,000 heads of lettuce, herbs and other vegetables used in prison meals every week.

In 2017, Governor David Ige visited the plant nursery and posted about his "memorable experience" on Facebook.

Since 1999, as part of the partnership with WCCC, the branch has sponsored the "Community Service Workline" through which teams of inmates maintain landscaping in public areas in Windward O'ahu. Initially a workline of inmates was set up for Kailua Beach, but Warden Kellam wanted the women to be part of the community. So the areas were extended to include the Kailua

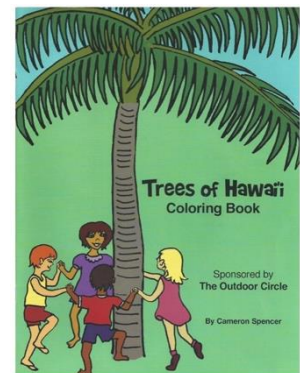
Road median, from St. John Lutheran Church to Oneawa Street, Alala Point at the entrance to Lanikai, Pohakupu Park, Kaha Park, Kawainui Marsh and Hamakua Marsh. The Workline goes out with several crews of 10 for four hours, three to four times a month, which comes to over 150-woman-hours per month! The branch provides for their training, equipment, equipment repairs and lunches on their 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.

In 2019, the branch received a grant from the Women's Fund of Hawai'i for an innovative project at WCCC called "Goats in the Garden", where a herd of four goats is now housed at the Garden Nursery. The goats were hand raised on the Island of Hawaii, specifically for this project. Staff, inmates, and volunteers worked together to transform an old shed into a goat home, and the goats move around grazing and maintaining the invasive undergrowth around the garden nursery. Opportunities for caring and nurturing are limited in an institutionalized setting, and the benefits to the women, staff, and the community are enormous.

Many organizations have supported the Learning to Grow program through grants, including Castle Foundation, HECO and the Garden Club of Honolulu, and the support and vision received over the years from the prison staff has as been invaluable to the program's success.

### **Educational Materials for Children**

In 2000, the Outdoor Circle produced and distributed to local schools a charming coloring book called "Trees of Hawaii" featuring Hawaii's native trees with easy-to-read descriptions of their cultural and historical significance. For example, did you know that the hala tree is one of the world's most ancient plants (over 250 million years old), or that the loulu palm is the only palm that is native to Hawaii, or that the ohia tree is found only in Hawaii? Reprinted versions of this coloring book are available and are distributed to schools upon request.



In 2000, the Circle's Lani-Kailua Branch partnered with Kalaheo High School audio-visual department students to produce a delightful children's video, widely shown in schools on Oahu, about the Outdoor Circle's positive impact on Hawaii and why it is important to plant and protect trees. The video featured local entertainer/comedian Frank De Lima and the Circle's Anti-Litter mascot Mr. Mynah, giving children an entertaining way to learn an appreciation of nature.

On a poignant note, on September 11, 2001, only hours after the World Trade Center destruction, a scheduled tree planting took place at Kalaheo High School to thank the students for their work on the video. As a shower tree was planted, a circle of caring people from the Circle, the City and County and Kalaheo High School prayed for all affected by the tragedy. In particular, they asked blessings for Christine Snyder, who perished on Flight 93 that morning. Christine was a beacon for the Circle, as their arborist and Programs Director, and this tree and many others planted in her memory still stand as a testimony to her life and legacy.

### **Google Trekker**

In partnership with Google Trekker, in 2016, the Circle created over 50 public-access online interactive virtual tours featuring Hawaii's most iconic and unique locations statewide, including those of historical and cultural significance. Myles Ritchie, Outdoor Circle Programs Director, 'trekked' these sites across Hawaii- nei to create the videos. The tours, which include route maps and views of sites along the routes, are accessible from the Outdoor Circle website, and are a wonderful way for everyone to enjoy these special places from the comfort of home!

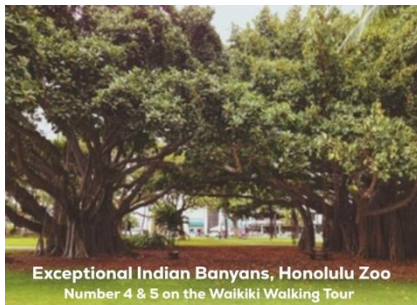


### **Public-access Interactive and Self-guided Nature Walks**

To raise public awareness about the spectacular heritage trees that grace Waikiki, in 2016, the Circle's newly formed Greater Waikiki Branch developed four public-access online interactive nature walks through greater Waikiki. Each self-guided tour features magnificent trees and historic sights, with detailed maps and informative descriptions at points along each route. These interactive tours are accessible from the Outdoor Circle website. You can follow the routes online from your home, or in person as you walk through Waikiki, and are a must-see for residents and visitors alike.



To raise awareness of Exceptional Trees, in 2010 the Circle sponsored an Ambassador Girl Scout project to create a self-guided walking tour map and brochure



featuring two tours of Exceptional Trees, one in downtown Honolulu and one in Waikiki. This brochure is available for download or viewing from the Outdoor Circle website and gives a wonderful glimpse into the background of these historic trees. It includes detailed easy-to-follow maps and fascinating historical information and photos for each tree on the walking tour.

### **Citizen Forester Program**

Since 2016, the Outdoor Circle has been a key player in the award-winning Citizen Forester Program in which community volunteers are taught how to map and catalog the environmental benefits of all trees in public spaces on Oahu, viewable in a public-access online interactive map. Kailua, in Windward Oahu, and parts of Honolulu have been mapped by hundreds of volunteers, who find it to be an enriching educational experience that raises awareness on the importance of caring for trees where we live. The map itself is a wonderful tool for the public as well as urban planners and is accessible from the Outdoor Circle website.



### **Carbon Neutrality Challenge**

In 2016, the Circle announced a new collaborative program undertaken with the Mora Lab at the University of Hawaii called the “Carbon Neutrality Challenge.”

This program uses a three-tier approach focused on:

1) education, 2) a unique carbon footprint calculator that tells you how many trees of a given species you need to plant to become carbon neutral, and 3) a means to achieve this goal of carbon neutrality through the planting of trees at one of the program’s sites.



Hundreds of students from elementary schools through the university level have participated in this program which has led to the planting of over 1,300 native Hawaiian tree species at Camp Palehua and Ala Mahamoe Cultural Garden sites. In 2018, over 1,100 native trees consisting of 18 different species were planted in a single day with over 220 volunteers turning out for the event!

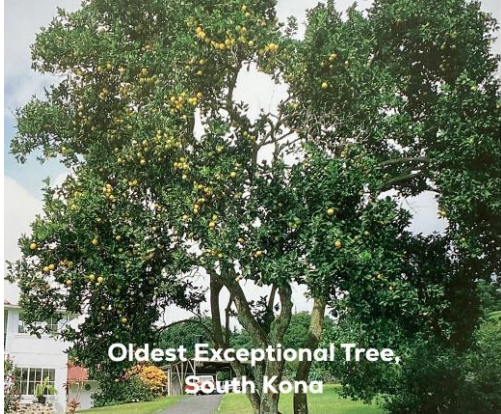


### **Hawaii’s Exceptional Trees**

In 1975, the Outdoor Circle spearheaded passage of Hawaii’s Exceptional Tree Act 105 to protect and promote Hawaii’s trees through a registry of Exceptional Trees, thus ensuring their perpetual protection from harm or removal. To date, thousands of trees across our islands are afforded Exceptional Tree status and protection, thanks to the Outdoor Circle. In particular, hundreds of trees planted by the Outdoor Circle over a century ago are now on the registry and are among some of the finest specimens in the state.

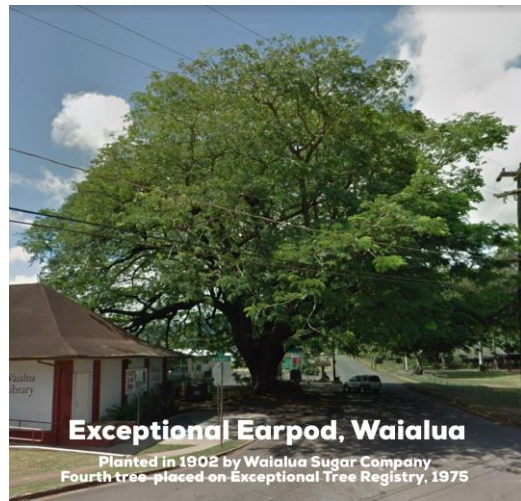
The Hawaii Revised Statutes set up County Arborist Advisory Committees for each of Hawaii’s counties: Oahu, Maui, Kauai and Hawaii Island, to “research, prepare, and recommend to the county council exceptional trees to be protected by county ordinance or regulation.” There are seven possible criteria for being deemed ‘exceptional’ - age, rarity, location, size, aesthetic quality, endemic status, and historical or cultural significance. The Circle has actively pursued efforts to standardize the ordinances and regulations for Exceptional Trees across all four counties, and various Circle members, leaders, and staff have served on these arborist advisory committees over the years. A complete list of all Exceptional Trees in Hawaii, by county, can be found on the Outdoor Circle website’s Exceptional Trees page.

In 1982, the Outdoor Circle published “Majesty, The Exceptional Trees of Hawaii” highlighting 45 trees on the registry, with beautiful photographs and informative narratives about how they got to Hawaii, and where they are located. A second edition, “Majesty II”, featuring additional noteworthy specimens, was published in 1992 on the Outdoor Circle’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Hawaii’s oldest exceptional tree is a centuries-old orange tree that grows in South Kona, planted in 1792 after British captain George Vancouver visited the islands on HMS Discovery. In an effort to establish citrus trees for future re-provisioning of the health-saving fruit, the ship’s surgeon and naturalist, Archibald Menzies, distributed citrus seedlings to local chiefs, left over from the ones he kept on board to keep scurvy at bay. This tree is one of those and is still flourishing. (Source/Photo credit: Majesty II)

The Circle’s North Shore Branch on Oahu has professionally maintained an exceptional Earpod in Waialua since 1991. The tree was planted in 1902 by the Waialua Sugar Company and was the fourth tree placed on the Exceptional Tree Registry in 1975.



Other notable examples of the Circle’s Exceptional Tree protection include the Hilo Branch’s 1999 nomination to the registry of a grove of seven magnificent monkeypod trees at the corner of Kamehameha Avenue and Pauahi Street, fronting Hilo Bay.



In 2002, the Lani-Kailua Branch nominated eight trees in Kailua, Oahu, including four banyans in Kailua’s Central Triangle and four monkeypods at the Women’s Community Correctional Center. The trees at the Correctional Center are some of the oldest and most ‘exceptional’ on the registry, and the Lani-Kailua

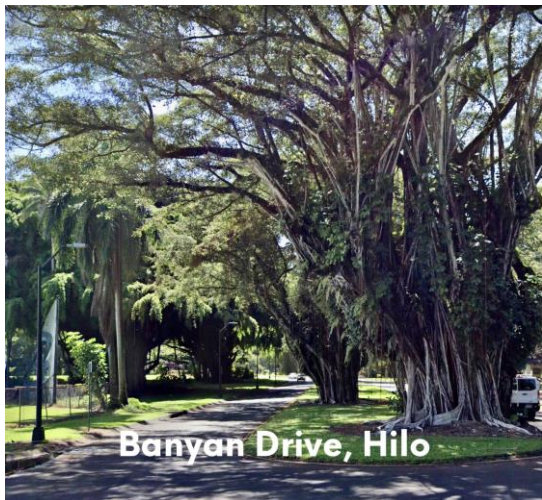
Branch has provided for their professional pruning every few years since 2002. At the time they were first nominated, noted arborist Abner Undan from Trees of Hawaii, Inc. said the girth of one of the trees at WCCC was bigger than “the granddaddy monkeypod at Moanalua Gardens!” Undan was the arborist maintaining the Moanalua monkeypod tree, so he would know!

In 2004, the Outdoor Circle spearheaded passage of state legislation HB 1848 allowing a tax benefit for private owners of Exceptional Trees, entitling them to a state tax credit of up to \$3,000 for the expenses incurred to professionally maintain their tree. This has been a great incentive for homeowners to consider placing their trees on the register. Note that nominating a tree is a simple process, accessible online.

In 2015, the Circle created a public-access digital map of all Exceptional Trees in the state as a resource for the public as well as urban planners. It features detailed information including environmental benefits, age and street views of these heritage trees and groves that grace our communities across the islands. These environmental benefits include financial savings, storm water runoff diversion, energy conserved, and the reduction in atmospheric carbon. Pinpointing the benefits of these trees provides a basis for each of us to realize the worth of all trees, even those that grow in our own yards.



Thanks to Outdoor Circle Programs Director Myles Ritchie for spearheading the development of this map, which is accessible from the Outdoor Circle website, and allows the public to view these 'exceptional' specimens from the comfort of home!



Since 2016, the Circle's East Hawaii Island Branch has been actively pursuing efforts to reinstate the spectacular banyans on Hilo's iconic Banyan Drive to their rightful place on the Exceptional Tree Registry. Unfortunately, the original paperwork nominating these trees to the registry decades ago had been lost, and the branch has been working to reinstate these magnificent specimens. They also pursue efforts vitalizing the Hawaii County Arborist Advisory Committee, so critical to protecting Hawaii's heritage trees.

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As stewards of Exceptional Trees, the Outdoor Circle is committed to their preservation and to fostering an appreciation of the role these distinctive trees have played, and will continue to play, in the collective memory and history of Hawaii.





## **Fostering Tree Stewardship**

The Outdoor Circle regularly consults with property owners in an effort to help them make decisions that enhance Hawaii's landscaping. The following are just a few examples of how the Circle works with landowners to foster stewardship of our urban tree canopy.

### **Central Kailua**

In 2007, when landowner Kaneohe Ranch was developing plans to revitalize Kailua's central business district, a large, treed parking lot in front of the to-be-constructed Whole Foods Market was slated to have many of its mature monkeypod trees removed. The Lani-Kailua Branch was adamant that they be saved. After a meeting between branch President Sharon Geary and landowner representatives, at which she hugged the trees and spoke passionately about them, they were convinced to redesign the parking lot around them. These magnificent trees stand today as testament to the Outdoor Circle's unflagging commitment to protecting our urban tree canopy.



The branch's Beautification Committee continues to collaborate with current landowner Alexander and Baldwin on their ongoing landscape design for the area. Alexander and Baldwin, and Kaneohe Ranch for decades before them, have been strong supporters of the branch's beautification efforts throughout Kailua. Both have been significant yearly donors to the branch's annual fundraiser for its ongoing projects, the "I Love Kailua" Town Party.

As with all of the Circle's branches, collaboration in the community has been integral to the success of the organization.

### **Park Lane Honolulu**

In 2014, construction began on the Park Lane Ala Moana condominium on the corner of Pi'iko'i Street and Ala Moana Boulevard. This construction would have resulted in the loss of several mature monkeypod trees, as well as other landscaping along this city block. After consultation with the Outdoor Circle, the property owner agreed to not seek any zoning variances, protect as many in-place trees as possible, plant new, native trees on the property to give greater biodiversity to the project, and gift at least \$150,000 towards tree-planting and other improvements at Ala Moana Beach Park across the street from the project area.

As stated in a press release from the Outdoor Circle's Executive Director Marti Townsend, "While it is always unfortunate to lose healthy shade trees like those on the Ala Moana property, we applaud the Park Lane developers for their commitment to minimize this loss with a significant investment in the surrounding landscape. We expect this project will ultimately result in an improved beach park at Ala Moana with more higher quality shade trees for the general public to enjoy".



### **CompUSA Honolulu**

In 2014, an issue arose regarding the redevelopment of the old CompUSA site on Ala Moana Boulevard where several mature monkeypods were slated for removal. The Outdoor Circle consulted with experts in the field, including arborists, landscape architects and designers, and others, and after visiting the site, reviewing the final landscaping design plans, and meeting with the landscape architect for the project, the Circle concluded that it had no grounds for objecting to the landscaping plans for the project. However, as a result, the developer, Alexander and Baldwin, decided to keep one monkey pod in place, relocate one of them elsewhere on the property, and replace a third one slated to be removed. The new landscaping resulted in 40 shade and palm trees installed on the site, a native wiliwili, and a 40-foot setback for pedestrians on Ala Moana Boulevard (a significant design enhancement given that the statutory setback is currently only 8 feet).



### **Manoa Market Place**

In 2018 the Circle was influential in successfully saving seventeen mature monkeypods from removal at the Manoa Market Place due to parking lot renovations. By working with the property owner Alexander and Baldwin, and with collaboration with Malama Manoa, the Outdoor Circle's staff and Tree Committee were able to help them redesign the parking lot around the existing trees, saving them from destruction and preserving this beautiful tree canopy.

### **Windward Community College**

In 2019, with sponsorship from the Arbor Day Foundation and with collaboration from campus faculty and administration, the Outdoor Circle staff, including Executive Director Winston Welch and Programs Director Myles Ritchie, and its Tree Committee Chair Steve Mechler, enlisted over 75 volunteers to plant 31 large trees (29 native and 2 Ficus) on the Great Lawn at Windward Community College, Kaneohe, Oahu. The Great Lawn contains a stunning collection of large mature Chinese banyan trees, several of which had succumbed to stem gall wasp disease and had to be removed. The Circle's planting event hopes to restore the lawn to its glory.



### **Adventist Health Castle Hospital**

In 2021, Adventist Health Castle Hospital in Kailua initiated plans to install solar panel canopies above two of their parking lots to reduce the facility's carbon footprint. The project required that 16 mature shower trees be removed, although four of them would be relocated elsewhere on the campus. The Lani-Kailua Branch consulted with the design/engineers for the project to possibly relocate these 12 beautifully maintained trees to other locations, rather than have them destroyed. The Outdoor Circle supports renewable energy projects as part of their mission but

does keep in mind the disposition of trees that may be affected by such projects, the view planes that may be impacted by them, and other possible adverse environmental impacts.

Adventist Health Castle is a strong supporter of the Lani-Kailua Branch's ongoing beautification efforts throughout Kailua and has been a regular donor to the branch's yearly fundraiser, the "I Love Kailua" Town Party, every year since the event's inception in 1992!

### **Windward Mall**

In 2022, the Circle staff and its Tree Committee worked with Kamehameha Schools, the property owners of Windward Mall in Kaneohe, to prevent numerous trees from being removed due to parking lot redesign and refurbishment. In particular a large signature monkeypod at one of the mall entrances and several mature narra trees on the mauka side of the facility were saved due to the Circle's collaborative input.



### **Historical Vignettes**

The Outdoor Circle has played a role in several interesting facets of Hawaii's history that deserve attention. Here are a few examples.

### **Punahou's Night-Blooming Cereus Hedge**

Did you know that the Outdoor Circle had a role in saving the spectacular Night-blooming Cereus hedge surrounding Punahou School?

It is believed the walls around Punahou School were built by Hawaiian chiefs and the Night-Blooming Cereus hedge adorning them was planted in 1836 by Sybil Bingham, wife of one of the first missionaries to Hawaii, the Reverend Hiram Bingham. The story is that a cutting was brought to Honolulu by Charles Brewer, the first mate on the *Ivanhoe*, who had collected it in Mexico en route to Hawaii. Only a single clipping survived the journey, which was given to Mrs. Bingham. Eventually, in 1907, the entire hedge was planted, almost half a mile in length, becoming one of the most impressive night-blooming cacti hedges in the country.

However, back in 1923, the hedge was scheduled for removal, due to road widening on Punahou Street, and the poor condition of the wall itself. The Outdoor Circle opposed the destruction of the hedge, and through their efforts, only a portion of the hedge was removed, and they were able to secure about 1500 cuttings, which were transplanted to Red Hill. You can still see these today as you drive along Moanalua Freeway.



Punahou School cereus hedge along Punahou Street c. 1900.  
Photo by Frank Davey, Bishop Museum.

Another part of the hedge was scheduled to be removed in 1942 by the US Army (which had a presence on the Punahou campus during the World War II), but again the Outdoor Circle stepped in and obtained a truckload of cuttings to plant in many parts of Honolulu. Today, these still flourish on the slopes of Punchbowl and Round Top Drive and elsewhere around the city.

### ***Lovely Hula Hands***

Most people have heard of the iconic Hawaiian song “Lovely Hula Hands.” But did you know the Outdoor Circle’s connection to its being composed?

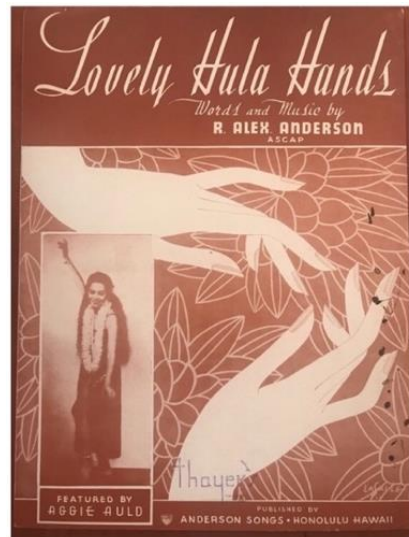
Just before World War II, as a fundraiser for its tree planting and beautification efforts, the Outdoor Circle produced a spectacular show entitled “A Night to Remember”, which netted a remarkable \$7,000 at the time!

The show was produced with the help of Don Blanding, Poet Laureate of Hawaii, and with stage sets painted by local muralist Juliette May Frazier. Especially for the show, noted local composer R. Alex Anderson wrote the three now iconic tunes “Lovely Hula Hands”, “White Ginger Blossoms” and “Say it with a Flower Lei”.

“Lovely Hula Hands” went on to become a classic, recorded by dozens of artists, including Bing Crosby.

On an added note, R. Alex Anderson, who was born in Honolulu in 1894, wrote over 200 Hawaiian classics, including “Mele Kalikimaka” and “The Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai”.

He was also a World War I pilot who was captured by the Germans and involved in a daring prison escape which was made into a movie called “Dawn Patrol”, starring Douglas Fairbanks. It was released in 1930 and won an Academy Award for “Best Story”.



(Information source/credit for parts of this section: Star Bulletin and Advertiser Sunday Supplement “The Outdoor Circle – 65 Years of Service to Hawaii”, September 11, 1977)

### ***Hawaii’s State Flower***

Did you know the Outdoor Circle’s role in the designation of the hibiscus as the Hawaii State Flower?

In 1915 the Outdoor Circle adopted a cream white hibiscus as its emblem. This particular one was produced by Valentine Holt, a noted Honolulu horticulturalist at the time. That same year the Outdoor Circle initiated action to have the hibiscus, in its many colors and varieties, adopted as the City of Honolulu’s official flower.

In 1923, the Circle worked successfully to have the hibiscus adopted as the official flower of the Territory of Hawaii.



With statehood, the first Hawaii State Legislature adopted many of the Territory of Hawaii's symbols as part of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, including adopting the hibiscus as the state flower. But it wasn't until 1988 that the yellow hibiscus (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*, Pua Aloalo), native to the Hawaiian Islands, was selected as the official State Flower of Hawaii. The Outdoor Circle is proud to have had a part in this historic process.

### ***Cherilla Lowrey's Loulu Palm***

Did you know that one of Hawaii's endemic loulu palm species is named after Outdoor Circle founder Cherilla Lowrey?

In Honolulu's Foster Botanical Gardens there exists a very rare *Pritchardia Lowreyana* loulu palm tree that is listed on the Exceptional Tree Registry. It is a member of the endangered Hawaiian Loulu Palm *Arecaceae* Family. Loulu is the Hawaiian name for all species of *Pritchardia* in the Hawaiian Archipelago and has the distinction of being the only genus of palms growing in Hawaii prior to human contact.

It is believed that this particular tree was planted in 1851, by Dr. William Hillebrand, who owned the property at the time, and, in fact, planted many of the beautiful specimens that grace Foster Botanical Garden today. The palm's generic name *Pritchardia* is named for William Thomas Pritchard (1829-1907), 19th century British consul in Fiji, adventurer, and author of "Polynesian Reminiscences". As noted in "A Monographic Study of the Genus *Pritchardia*", by Joseph F. Rock and Odoardo Beccari, published in Honolulu in 1921, *Pritchardia Lowreyana* were discovered in June 1918, at Waialea on Molokai, by noted botanist Professor Joseph F. Rock, and he gave it the specific name *Lowreyana* in "honor of the late Mrs. F. J. Lowrey of Honolulu, an ardent admirer of palms, who was in a measure responsible for the embellishment of this city".



But there's also an interesting back story to this particular tree at Foster Botanical Gardens. As mentioned, this tree is believed to have been planted around 1850, by Dr. William Hillebrand. The original habitat of this species, then known as *Pritchardia macrocarpa*, was in the upper end of Nu'uuanu Valley on O'ahu and thought to be extinct today. While the *Pritchardia lowreyana* looks like the *macrocarpa* type, it turns out that *P. lowreyana* was not found on O'ahu... it was only found on the island of Moloka'i as mentioned above. This led people to believe that *P. lowreyana* was brought to Honolulu from Moloka'i.

However, this all changed in 2008, when a colony of *P. lowreyana* was found on Pu'u Ohulehule on the windward side of O'ahu, in the Koolau Range. It was a small colony of tall, older plants "growing at 1700 feet on a steep, rocky north facing slope." This meant that this species wasn't only found on Moloka'i after all!



This brings us back to this tree at Foster Garden. Is it a *P. lowreyana* that was brought over from Moloka'i? Or is it actually one of the last survivors of a population whose extinction in the wild on Oahu was thought to have been complete. That mystery remains, but the Outdoor Circle is proud to have such a special connection to this endemic species, and to this remarkable specimen at Foster Botanical Garden.

(Information and photo credit for this section: nativeplants.hawaii.edu, studiomirabilium.com, Dana Anne Yee)

### ***Cherilla Lowrey Memorial***

Did you know that in honor of Cherilla Lowrey, at her passing in 1919 a large marble bas-relief plaque and reflecting pool were installed at the Mission Memorial Hall on King Street?

The memorial, created by sculptor Roger Noble Burnham, depicts a symbolic group in Greek costuming, with leader in the center, at work on plans for a City Beautiful. It was fitting that it be erected at that site which had been the old Kawaiaha'o Seminary at which Cherilla had been a teacher.

According to an article in the Hawaiian language newspaper "Ka Nupepa Kuakoa", June 20 1919, *"There were no honors or glorification of the grand sort that day, but it was all done quietly; and all the words spoken in memory of Mrs. C. A. Lowrey were spoken coming from the hearts of the people who knew and were familiar with the works of this fine woman, for the beautification of this town while she was living."*

The local monthly newspaper "The Friend", reported in their July 1919 edition, that at the memorial installation ceremony, Mrs. Isaac Cox, one of the seven founders of the Outdoor Circle, gave this loving tribute:



*"Mrs. Lowrey's true memorial as our leader is an imperishable one - the grateful shade of spreading trees that border A'ala Park, the splendid color of bougainvillea along Nu'uuanu Stream, the palms and oleander of Kalakaua Avenue, the streets of flowering trees - such gifts of beauty as these will praise her through the generations."*

When the Mission Memorial building was repurposed by the City & County as a government building in 1940, the plaque was moved to the United Council of Churches building on Nu'uuanu Avenue, where, for years in the early 1960s, it adorned an exterior wall. When that building was demolished for construction of a high-rise, Cherilla's grand-daughter Virginia Lowrey Brown had it moved to Cherilla's grave site at Oahu Cemetery, where it stands today. In 1998, on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing, The Outdoor Circle planted a lovely flowering jatropha tree at the grave site as a tribute to her lasting legacy.

### ***Lowrey Avenue***

Did you know that Lowrey Avenue connecting East Manoa and (Upper) Manoa Roads is named in honor of Mr. Frederick Jewett Lowrey, husband of Outdoor Circle founder Cherilla Lowrey?

Not to diminish the remarkable accomplishments of his wife Cherilla, Frederick Lowrey had quite an illustrious career. It began in San Francisco and then in Honolulu with Lewers & Dickson, in 1879, and later with Lewers & Cooke, hardware and lumber merchants, at which he became president when it incorporated Jan. 1, 1901. Over the course of his career, he was president of Oahu Sugar Co., Ltd.; president of Waiahole Water Co., Ltd.; vice-president, Honolulu Gas Co., Ltd. He was chairman, Board of Prison Inspectors; member, Board of Health during the plague epidemic; sergeant and later captain, Citizens' Guard; president, Queen's Hospital; president, Oahu Cemetery Assn.; president, Trustees Central Union Church; trustee and president, Y.M.C.A.; member and president, Social Science Assn.; trustee and president, Chamber of Commerce. (Information source for this section: [wc.rootsweb.com](http://wc.rootsweb.com))

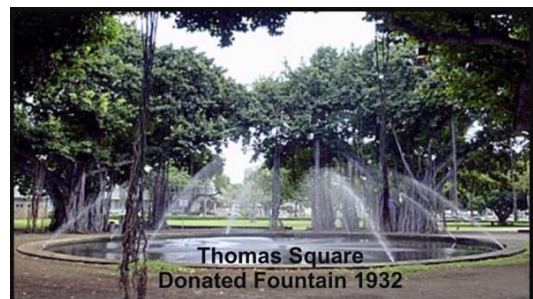
There's an interesting side note regarding the correct pronunciation of Cherilla and Frederick Lowrey's surname. As confirmed by direct descendants of the Lowreys, who reside in Honolulu, the correct pronunciation is as in 'lorry', where the 'low' is *not* pronounced as in the word 'allow'. (This writer, who grew up visiting cousins in Manoa as a child in the 1950s and attended high school there in the 1960s, has been mispronouncing it for years!)

### ***Thomas Square Fountain***

Did you know that the fountain at Thomas Square was donated to the city by the Outdoor Circle in 1932?

It was dedicated in honor of Beatrice Castle Newcomb, past Outdoor Circle President, and incidentally one of the founders of the Hawaii Red Cross.

For decades it has stood as a focal point in the park, surrounded by an oculus of spectacular banyan trees that were planted in 1887 by Archibald Scott Cleghorn, Princess Kaiulani's father. These banyans are on the Exceptional Tree Registry. On an added note, in 1970 the fountain was in great disrepair and the Circle was instrumental in having the needed work done through the generosity of the Mary Castle Trust which donated \$6,000 to the project.



### ***High Tea at Halekulani***

Did you know that in 1993, a book was written about how the Outdoor Circle changed the face of Hawaii forever?

The book "High Tea at Halekulani: Feminist Theory and American Clubwomen" tells the dramatic and fascinating story of the visionary women who formed the Outdoor Circle. As described in the book editor's notes, "[The Outdoor Circle's] main activities were to make Hawaii beautiful; to plant trees, clean up eyesores, preserve nature, and rid the islands of billboards. To achieve these goals, the women had to become consummate politicians and

lobbyists and learn how to run grassroots boycotts and publicity and educational campaigns, and how to form long-lasting coalitions. Above all, as . . . [this book] . . . shows, **they insisted that their female vision, their woman-centered view, became an accepted part of the public discourse.**"

Based on the extensive files of the organization, Margit Misangyi Watts' book includes numerous photographs and documents. It is essential reading for anyone interested in Hawaii, in the history of women, or in feminist theory.



## **The Outdoor Circle's Vision for the Future**

Thanks to the generous support of those who care for the Hawaiian Islands, the Outdoor Circle has worked to protect Hawaii's natural resources and enhance its natural beauty for over 100 years. Today, as Hawaii experiences unprecedented growth and development, increasing environmental threats to our quality of life, a declining urban tree canopy, and the wealth of our natural resources dwindles, our green spaces become more than just beautiful, they are essential to the very well-being, economic viability, and 'livability' of our communities.

With their rich legacy of accomplishments, the Outdoor Circle is uniquely positioned to meet these challenges and will continue to shape Hawaii moving forward. Their planning and advocacy programs will encourage robust oversight, true accountability and sustainable planning to ensure our resources are healthy for future generations. They will continue to catalyze crucial adaptations in urban planning to address long-term changes in the quality of the environment. By leveraging their existing long-standing relationships with municipal and state entities, and by partnering with organizations and entities that share these goals, they intend to accomplish this and improve the quality of life for all of Hawaii.

From freshwater to native ecosystems, from urban landscapes to breathtaking view planes, the Outdoor Circle is committed to protecting our resources and improving our quality of life. They are proud to be a part of the movement for responsible and sustainable progress and growth in Hawaii.

As they work to keep Hawaii clean, green and beautiful through community improvement projects, public interest advocacy and educational outreach, they envision a future where the State of Hawaii is used as a model to demonstrate effective sustainability.

The dedication and commitment of The Outdoor Circle to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty around us has not wavered for over 112 years.

*"Eternal vigilance is the price of our success".*

Mrs. Charles Wilder, The Outdoor Circle Executive Officer, 1932

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