

## Highlights of LKOC Activities Over the Past 10 Years 2014-2023

### Kawainui Marsh

Over the past 10 years, since a draft “**Kawainui-Hamakua Complex Master Plan**” was presented by DLNR for public input, LKOC has been closely involved with the protection and preservation of Kawainui Marsh, continuing our long-term commitment which started in 1950.

The draft Plan introduced in 2014 included numerous substantially sized modern buildings, parking lots, causeways, and other construction that LKOC and other community groups felt would compromise the health of this irreplaceable public trust resource. In the years-long Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) preparation process, LKOC attended multiple meetings and submitted testimonies including the submission its own comprehensive **LKOC Alternative Plan** with less impactful site design plans more in keeping with their intended purposes. When the Final EIS was published in 2019, allowing no further public input, LKOC was allowed to testify as a consulting party before the **State Board of Land and Natural Resources** where we asked that the Final EIS be revised, before its acceptance, to more comprehensively address multiple environmental issues at the proposed construction sites upslope of the wetland. Unfortunately, our concerns were not addressed, and when the Final EIS was approved by the Governor in 2021, LKOC, Hawaii’s Thousand Friends and the Hawaii Audubon Society filed a joint **Challenge to the FEIS** in Hawaii State Environmental Court and is awaiting a decision.

### Kapa’a Light Industrial Park

Since 2014, when Kapa'a Light Industrial Park owners received a **Special Management Area Permit (SMA)** to build a base yard, warehouses, and a wastewater treatment system on 31 acres of recently zoned industrial land directly above Kawainui Marsh, LKOC has been expressing its concerns about a 13-acre portion of Preservation zoned land and a large segment of Kapa'a Stream that was included in the SMA permit. In 2020, in response to the Kapa’a Light Industrial Park’s **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**, LKOC continued expressing its concerns to the Department of Planning and Permitting, via numerous testimonies, regarding the EIS for the project expansion along the Kapa’a Stream corridor and the interconnecting waters of Kawainui Marsh and Kailua Bay. Protecting and restoring the Kapa’a watershed is essential to the long-term health, productivity and economic wellbeing of the district. LKOC continues to monitor the progress of the project.

### Legislative Advocacy

LKOC continued its advocacy regarding protecting Kailua from building projects that would mar our view planes and negatively impact our neighborhoods and quality of life in Kailua. Oahu’s current **Koolaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan**, as well as the **Revised Ordinances of Honolulu (ROH)** and **Land Use Ordinances (LUO)**, set zoning and building standards regarding development in Kailua’s residential neighborhoods and business district, and we regularly submit testimony to our City Council and legislative members regarding legislation and projects, most recently those associated with affordable housing in Kailua, that threatened these standards.

## **Signage**

LKOC continued its vigilance in protecting Kailua from the proliferation of illegal outdoor advertising signage, particularly in our central business district. As illegal signs appear, we contact landowners as well as municipal authorities to have them removed.

## **Scholarships**

At Windward Community College (WCC), we continued funding our **LKOC Environmental Studies Scholarship**, established in 2010, and the WCC Agricultural Studies Scholarship, where yearly awards have been given to dozens of students over the past 10 years, and scores of students over the past 30 years.

## **LKOC/WCCC Partnership**

LKOC's "**Learning to Grow**" program is thriving at the Women's Community Correction Center (WCCC), where, since 2016, the students at a plant nursery at the facility have been producing weekly hydroponic lettuce for sale at Foodland stores across Oahu, as well as vegetables for the facility cafeteria. Dedicated LKOC volunteers mentor the women in the program on a twice-weekly basis, with professional instructors teaching 6-week classes throughout the year in a variety of horticultural techniques. LKOC continued funding for the **WCCC Community Service Workline Women** who, since 1999, have been performing landscape maintenance for us at several public sites in Kailua, including the Kailua Road median coming into Kailua Town and the multi-acre site at Alala Point overlooking Kailua Bay.

## **Beautification**

LKOC continued its landscape maintenance of public spaces, including a major re-landscape of **Alala Point** in 2019, with installation of new lawn, perimeter hedging and parking lot refurbishment, funded through Town Party proceeds. During COVID lockdowns, our dedicated LKOC volunteers maintained the area when our Workline Women from WCCC were unable to do so. We continued our professional landscape maintenance of the **Pali Palms** and **Kalapawai** traffic triangles at either end of Kalaheo Avenue (since 2010). We adopted **Kalama Beach Park** through the city's Hoa Paka program (since 2016), where LKOC volunteers perform periodic landscape cleanups and invasive species removal on the grounds surrounding the historic Boettcher home on the property.

## **Tree Planting and Protection**

LKOC spearheaded the planting of street trees along Oneawa Street in 2020, and we continue to collaborate with city departments regarding replacement of damaged or failing trees, for example the Kamani trees on Kuulei Road (2016), as well as with local business landowners regarding the disposition of trees on their properties, for example Alexander & Baldwin's Lau Hala Lane renovations (since 2016). LKOC and Outdoor Circle staff collaborated on planting over 30 trees on the great lawn at Windward Community College (2019), and with Kamehameha Schools to protect existing trees at Windward Mall during parking lot renovations (2022). LKOC leaders consulted with Adventist Health Castle regarding the potential removal of trees involved with proposed solar panel installations over their parking lots (2021). LKOC has been consulting with the city regarding disposition and replanting of trees in Kailua Municipal Parking Lot (2023).

## **Exceptional Trees**

LKOC is committed to maintaining the four Exceptional Monkeypod trees on the WCCC grounds, via professional pruning every 2-3 years (since 2004), as well as working with project engineers to protect these trees during current construction at the facility which started in 2021. These are some of the most spectacular specimens on the State Exceptional Tree Registry; LKOC nominated them to the registry in 2002 and has been maintaining them since then.

## **Education and Outreach**

In 2014, we hosted a tree mulching day at Kailua Recreation Center, where volunteers, from keiki to kupuna, mulched over 50 trees and learned about proper techniques to do so. We hosted numerous tours of trees and Botanical Gardens, including the Exceptional Trees at Schofield and Wheeler (planted by the Outdoor Circle over 80 years ago), Koko Crater and Foster Botanical Gardens. LKOC continued its educational outreach by visiting several preschools to talk about the importance of trees and distributed a reprint of TOC's charming "Trees of Hawaii" coloring book. We participated in the **Citizen Forestry Pilot Project**, starting in Kailua, to map and catalog all of Oahu's public-sector trees. The Outdoor Circle was a key partner in establishing the project in 2016. We participated in yearly **Arbor Day tree-giveaways** in Kailua, in partnership with HECO, in the past, and most recently with Smart Trees Pacific.

## **Town Party**

LKOC has been hosting the annual **"I Love Kailua" Town Party** for over 30 years, a street fair in downtown Kailua that brings the entire community together for a day of food, fun, family and festivities. Our recent event, after a 4-year hiatus due to COVID, was warmly welcomed back by the community. All event proceeds are used our beautification projects in Kailua.

LKOC has been proud to represent not just our members, but the entire Windward community!

For those interested in more information about the Outdoor Circle and its branches statewide, we invite you to view the following links on the LKOC website [www.LKOC.org](http://www.LKOC.org):

- The History and lasting impacts of TOC and its Branches Statewide 1912 to Present  
[https://www.lkoc.org/uploads/3/7/9/7/37971713/toc\\_history\\_doc.pdf](https://www.lkoc.org/uploads/3/7/9/7/37971713/toc_history_doc.pdf)
- The History of LKOC 1948 to Present  
[https://www.lkoc.org/uploads/3/7/9/7/37971713/lkoc\\_history\\_document.pdf](https://www.lkoc.org/uploads/3/7/9/7/37971713/lkoc_history_document.pdf)
- Interesting little-known Historical Vignettes about TOC and its Branches  
<https://www.lkoc.org/TOC-Historical-Facts.html>
- Interactive map of TOC Urban Honolulu Environmental Stewardship 1912 to Present  
<https://www.lkoc.org/TOC-stewardship.html#UrbanHonoluluMap>
- Interactive map of LKOC Environmental Stewardship 1948 to Present  
<https://www.lkoc.org/TOC-stewardship.html#KailuaMap>
- Interactive map of North Shore Branch Environmental Stewardship 1960 to Present  
<https://www.lkoc.org/TOC-stewardship.html#NorthShoreMap>