



The Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle

Keeping Kailua Clean, Green, and Beautiful since 1948!

The **Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle** (LKOC) was founded as a **branch of The Outdoor Circle** in 1948 and is dedicated to beautifying Kailua by planting and maintaining trees, shrubs and flowers in parks, public spaces, at schools and along streets and highways. LKOC maintains vigilance over these areas and endeavors to work with government entities and community groups to coordinate beautification and educational outreach projects throughout the Windward side of Oahu. Their efforts have enhanced the livability of Kailua for residents and improved the environment for local businesses, visitors, and the general public, who now enjoy the benefits of tree-lined streets, and public parks, schools, and open space with quality shade trees and a biodiversity of plantings.

LKOC is proud to be the parent organization to other Windward organizations that have carried out its goals, such as the **Kawainui Heritage Foundation** formed in the 1980s, which worked to preserve Kawainui Marsh, our Kailua watershed, and Kailua Bay. Another offspring, **Save Mount Olomana**, defended the iconic Kailua landmark from development in the 1990s, resulting in the governor signing into law its rezoning to preservation designation. The **Friends of Boettcher Estate** was another offshoot formed to protect the historic home at Kalama Beach Park.

In the 1950s and 1960s, LKOC planted thousands of trees that now grace our Kailua streets, schools, and parks. In 1993, LKOC held its first **“I Love Kailua” Town Party** to raise funds for its new planting projects at Alala Point and the Kailua Corridor leading into Kailua. LKOC funds scholarships at **Windward Community College** to students studying Environmental Science, and sponsors the “Learning to Grow” Educational Program at the **Women’s Community Correctional Center**. Over the years LKOC has landscaped the Senior Citizens’ Daycare Center on Kainalu Drive, worked with the Friends of Kailua Library to refurbish their courtyard, helped Ho’omaluhia Park develop a trail for the handicapped, and during rebuilding of the Pohakupu Fountain, providing the landscaping for the project.

LKOC has one general membership meeting a year to elect its board of directors, and it publishes two Newsletters a year to keep members informed about Circle activities. It also has volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Those who cannot contribute their time, but who believe in LKOC’s mission of “Keeping Kailua Clean Green and Beautiful”, are welcome to join the Circle!

To learn more, please visit the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle at
www.lkoc.org

The LKOC/WCCC Partnership

The **Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC)** sponsors several wonderful programs at the **Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC)** in Kailua, as part of its **LKOC/WCCC Partnership**.

LKOC was able to establish this partnership with the Department of Public Safety and the Correctional Center in 2001. The program has thrived and has been made possible through the generosity of our community supporters and through Harold Castle Foundation, Honolulu Garden Club, and HECO grants. Hundreds of women have gone through the program since its inception.

~ **Learning to Grow (LTG)**. This program, started in 2008, teaches inmates horticultural skills, as well as small business, financial and life skills, they can use upon release. They also grow hydroponic lettuce in their plant nursery, which is sold at Foodland stores across Oahu, as well as grow vegetables for the prison cafeteria. LKOC volunteers have been mentoring these women, where they volunteer several times a week at the facility, and we hire instructors from the community to teach a series of classes, throughout the year.

Below: Hawaii Governor David Ige visits the LTG nursery and hydroponic lettuce garden in September 2017



~ **The Community Service Workline**. Since 1999, this program has been providing teams of inmates who maintain the landscaping at numerous public areas in Windward Oahu, including Kawainui Marsh, Pohakupu Park, Kaha Field, the central median coming into Kailua, and the extensive landscaping at Alala Point, at the entrance to Lanikai. LKOC provides their training, equipment, and equipment repair, and provides them lunch on their workdays at Alala and the central median.

~ **Exceptional Trees**. Since 2002, LKOC has provided funds for the professional maintenance of three "Exceptional Tree" monkeypod specimens on the exterior grounds of the facility. These magnificent trees are clearly visible from Kalaniana'ole Highway, for all to enjoy, and are among the oldest monkey pods in Kailua. LKOC nominated these trees to the Exceptional Tree Registry in 2002. During construction at the facility starting in 2022, LKOC has been coordinating with design teams to protect these spectacular trees and meld them into the fabric of the new facility.

LKOC Beautification Projects

The **Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle** (LKOC) has been designing, installing, and maintaining beautification projects in public spaces around Kailua since its founding as a branch of the Outdoor Circle in 1948.

In recent years, in 2010, LKOC began maintaining the two traffic triangles at either end of Kalaheo Avenue, one at Pali Palms, and the other at Kalapawai. LKOC also funded the design and construction of the landscaping at both triangles. Note that LKOC members planted the iconic banyan at Kalapawai Triangle in 1954.

Below: Kalapawai Roundabout prior to recent reconstruction (left), Pali Palms Triangle, before/after landscaping (right)



In 2007, in partnership with the City and County of Honolulu, LKOC took on the project of replanting the median on Mokapu Road between North Kalaheo Avenue and Marine Corp Base Hawaii with new shower and narra trees to replace wiliwili trees that had succumbed to gall wasp infestation. In 2019, LKOC refurbished the landscaping at Alala Point. In 2020, LKOC spearheaded planting of street trees on Oneawa Street to replace 8 that had failed since original LKOC planting in early 2000s. In 2023, LKOC planted a heliotrope tree at HECO substation on Kainalu Drive. In 2025, ten milo and silver trumpet trees were planted along an open stretch of Keolu Drive in Enchanted Lake to replace those destroyed during Hurricane Iniki.

Below: Shower and narra trees on Mokapu (left), Alala Point landscaping (middle), Heliotrope tree on Kainalu (right)



LKOC Scholarships at Windward Community College

As part of its educational outreach and stewardship advocacy, **Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle (LKOC)** has been providing annual scholarship funds in agriculture and environmental studies for students at **Windward Community College (WCC)**. Since 1993, more than 80 students 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.

Since 1993, the **WCC “Agricultural Scholarship Fund”** has received over \$33,000 from LKOC. Since its establishment in 2010, the **WCC “LKOC Environmental Sciences Scholarship Fund”** has received over \$40,000 from LKOC.

LKOC is proud to offer these scholarships each year to the next generation of stewards of our `aina.



Testimonials from scholarship recipients

"I support your organization's mission and work, and have personally benefited from the organization, as beneficiary of a scholarship award while studying at WCC. I got my degree in Arboriculture and have gone on to use it both in my visitor industry life, as well as my work in human services."

- JH, Past Agriculture Scholarship Recipient

"As a student at Windward Community College, I am the proud recipient of your LKOC Environmental Studies scholarship. I cannot express enough what your scholarship has meant to me ... in my studies in Agriculture and Sustainability...and on my educational journey."

- EV, Past Environmental Sciences Scholarship Recipient