Perpetuating the Care of Ancestors

"We relearn in the process the value of our resources the way our kupuna valued the aina, with great care, respect and a responsibility to mālama." A statement from Loko'olu Quintero and 'Ihilani Chu, the kahu of The Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei, a Native Hawaiian cultural faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to strengthening and empowering Hawaiian spirituality through traditional Hawaiian ceremonies, rituals and protocols.

Mānoa Heritage Center is humbly honored to provide space and resources for the Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei’s project called E Ho’omau O Na Malama I Na Iwi Kupuna (To Perpetuate the Care of Ancestral Native Hawaiian Remains). Funded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the purpose of this project is to conduct workshops where participants prepare Hawaiian sacred burial items and resources (hina'i lauhala [lauhala baskets], kaula hau [hau cordage], and kapa [wauke bark cloth]) and provide them to lineal descendants, Native Hawaiian groups and organizations such as the State Historic Preservation Division, Island Burial Councils and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for repatriation and reinterment of nā iwi kūpuna.

We invite you to join the E Ho’omau O Na Malama I Na Iwi Kupuna Workshops here at MHC. No experience is required. There are also workshop locations on other islands. See the Hawaiian Church of Hawai'i Nei website for more information.

Wauke Kapa - Friday, November 19, 3-7pm and Saturday, November 20, 8am-2pm
Hina'i Lauhala - Friday, December 3, 1-5pm and Saturday, December 4, 8am-5pm
Register at https://hawaiianchurchhawaiinei.org/malama-i-na-ili-kupuna

We are grateful to support this transformative process where our communities return to what is most important in life: love and care of our ‘ohana.

Ola i ka wai a ka ‘ōpua.
There is life in the water from the clouds.
‘Ōlelo No'eau 2482

MHC Summer Interns

Aldrin Ventura joined MHC’s staff to help steward the growing gardens. A rising Junior at Farrington High School, Aldrin also works as a Junior Mentor for Surfing Spirit Sessions serving at-risk and adjudicated youth by teaching them about ocean awareness, environmental sustainability, and Hawaiian culture.

Jordan Halagao spent the summer working closely with MHC’s Caretaker Kevin Prior. Soon to be a freshman at Punahou School, Jordan wanted to spend the summer outdoors and combined his MHC work with surfing with friends.

Mahalo nui Aldrin and Jordan for your help and positive, can-do attitudes. If this is what the next generation looks like, the world is in good hands!

Upcoming events at MHC

Thursday, Sept. 30 Kahaukani Conversations with David Shepard
October 12-15 Fall Hula Camp with Kumu Hula Kiloohana Silver

Check our website and social media for more information.

Hau bark drying in preparation to make kaula (cordage).

Cultural practitioner Umi Kai teaching the basic knots that create the Maka (Eye) of the net.

Hina'i Lauhala (lauhala baskets).

Ma ka hana ka ‘ike (through doing one learns) of making kōkō pū‘alu (loose net).

The youngest haumana (student) observes at the ‘Upena Workshop in July.
An aloha message from 2020-21 Kupu Member Sami Nakahira

Hi Everyone! Thank you for an amazing year! It was wonderful to meet the community and be a part of the Mānoa Heritage Center team. I’m in love with this place and the beautiful garden which has taught me so much. I will miss it and would definitely stay longer if it were not for my plans to go back to school at Leeward Community College!

I was asked what my favorite plant in the garden was, and that’s a hard question! It’s like choosing a favorite family member. Each has their own characteristics and nobody is pleased at the same time. When the ‘ōhi’a is happy (because of the rain) the ko‘oko‘olau is not (the leaves brown so easily when getting wet). And while most of the plants are blooming in the beginning of spring, that’s when the ‘ōlena and ‘awapuhi are just waking up from their slumber. Pōpolo is the neediest plant and a pest magnet.

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