



MĀNOA HERITAGE CENTER
2856 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822

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Ola i ka wai a ka 'ōpua.
There is life in the water from the clouds.

'Ōlelo No'eau 2482

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FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Perpetuating the Care of Ancestors

"We relearn in the process the value of our resources the way our kupuna valued the āina, 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://hawaiianchurchhawaiiinei.org/malama-i-na-iwi-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.

Upcoming events at MHC

Thursday, Sept. 30 Kahaukani
Conversations with David Shepard

October 11-15 Fall Hula Camp with Kumu
Hula Kilohana Silve

Check our website and social media for more information.



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



Hina'i lauhala (lauhala baskets).



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



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.



Aldrin Ventura

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 Surfrider 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!



Jordan Halagao

Visit us at www.manoaheritagecenter.org



Ready for tours!

With a successful docent training class just completed, MHC docents and staff are ready for a new year of group school tours, whether virtual or in-person. Looking back on 2020, although it was a very different kind of year, we were still able to share with 1,478 students in person (before lock-down) and 548 students virtually. If you are a teacher interested in learning more about our school tour program, please visit the Nā Kumu page of our website.



Docent Training 2021 huaka'i to Pālolo Valley (from L to R): MHC Board Member Jack Gillmar; Docents: BJ Tang, Sara Wakayama, Suzanne Marinelli, Emily Fay, Carol Paul-Watanabe, Adele Chong, Michael Sims, Jenny Engle, Jun Funahashi, Devin Oishi. Second row: Kelsey Hara, Loke Simon, Simone Park, Shea Simmons.

Questions? Please email jenny.engle@manoaheritagecenter.org or call (808) 988-1287

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. It's also an annual and a backup is always needed in the nursery. I think that my favorite part of the garden are these interesting characteristics of all the plants, as well as the lā'au lapa'au and other ethnobotanical uses of the plants. Thank you, MHC for giving me the chance of a lifetime to care for these beauties. And thank you all for welcoming me into your community!!



Sami immediately became an integral part of the MHC 'ohana while she was here, and we will miss her!



'ōlena blossom.



'Awapuhi



Voyager PCS Middle School Math Teacher Christina Conrad uses the Hawaiian Star Compass at MHC to illustrate a math concept while visiting in April 2021. Voyager Middle School students walked to MHC a total of seven times as a part of an extended learning journey to learn and connect with Mānoa Valley.



Cohort 7 students in the STEMS'22 Masters Program at UH learned the process of preparing lauhala into kuka'a or storage rolls for future weaving projects.

"The (Mānoa) land provided a livelihood for an immigrant family of 8... I feel like it's a part of our DNA... but now it is just vivid memories." Debra Shiraishi-Pratt

In March 2021, MHC hosted an informal talk story with the Shiraishi family. Lillian Ito, the youngest of the Shiraishi family children, shared stories of growing up on a banana farm in the back of Mānoa Valley. Also in attendance at the talk story were Doris Shiraishi, Tamae Shiraishi, Susan & Christopher Fenney, Linda & Rich Moran and Dick Pratt. Debra Shiraishi-Pratt led the conversation and has since become a MHC 2021 docent trainee.

Tokuji and Kimiyo Shiraishi started banana farming in the back of Mānoa Valley, on Wa'aloa Way, in the 1930s. They were issei, born in Japan, and in 1920 they started their married life as farm laborers in California. As the Great Depression worsened, they relocated the family to O'ahu.

Lillian Shiraishi recounted that, when she was growing up in the 1940s, the back of the valley was all farmland. Her father took great pride in that his bananas received awards for their quality. The work was hard and required heavy lifting. Once harvested, the bananas were stored in a kura (warehouse) for ripening, then sold to stores in Aala and Chinatown. A business expense often listed in his ledger was chicken manure.

Her memory of daily life included a water intake that was a hose in the stream, an outdoor wood-fired furo, and attending Mānoa Japanese Language School. She had to cross five wooden bridges to get to her home, and sometimes, after heavy rains, they could not be crossed. The family belonged to the Kita (North) Mānoa Nogyo (Farming) Association and the Kumamoto-ken Association.

The Shiraishi farm was on land leased from the Board of Water Supply. Their lease was discontinued in the 1980s since it could not be extended past Charley's (eldest son) lifetime. Eventually, nature and the elements took away any of the remaining structures.



Tokuji Shiraishi and his award-winning bananas.



Members of the Shiraishi family gather at Mānoa Heritage Center to recall their time on the family farm at the back of Mānoa valley.

Community Support

We are beyond grateful to receive financial support from individuals and organizations throughout the year - support that makes it possible for MHC staff and partners to steward Kūka'ō'ō Heiau and its surrounding gardens of native plants and co-create programs that explore Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage. The following donors contributed \$10,000 or more during the last year.

- Atherton Family Foundation
- Robin Freeman Bernstein, Nat Bernstein, and Mathew Bernstein
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- Hawai'i Council for the Humanities
- Island Insurance Foundation
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