Looking Forward

2023 has already been a year of great transition for Mānoa Heritage Center. At the end of 2022, Executive Director Jessica Welch departed after 7 amazing years of positive growth for MHC. We thank her for assembling a strong, cohesive team and guiding our organization to be where it is today. While we work to fill our Executive Director position with someone as special as Jessica, the role of Interim Executive Director is being shared by MHC Director of Education Jenny Engle, and Cultural Site Manager Jenny Leung.

The entire staff at MHC will continue to be navigators in accomplishing our core strategic goals:

• To be an active resource for educators - helping their students connect with Hawai‘i’s cultural and natural heritage and inspiring them to be better stewards of their communities.
• To be an educational hub for kūpuna, families, neighbors, cultural practitioners, and community organizations.
• To be a well-maintained facility with relevant historical and educational collections.
• To be an efficient, financially stable non-profit focused on enjoyable learning.

With the passing of founder Mary Cooke in 2022, MHC has been entrusted with the continued stewardship of Kūali‘i, the historic Cooke family home on our campus, built in 1911. A lot of maintenance and repair work will be done over the next few years as we prepare Kūali‘i for its next incarnation as a place for community to gather, learn and exchange ideas.

Aloha pumehana to all of you, who make the work we do so very worthwhile,

The Jennys
**If you have ever visited Mānoa Heritage Center when a school group arrives, you have probably heard us share our oli komo, or welcome chant, composed by Puakea Nogelmeier. Our mele welcomes guests to this place, where the misty Tuahine or Kuahine rain greets the valley almost every morning, pushed along by the Kahaukāne wind, thought to be her brother.**

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**Kupulau Sprouting Leaves**

The end of Ho‘oilo (rainy season) brings change in daylight, rainfall and temperature to our garden. When you come to visit us, keep an eye open for these thriving native plants.

- **'Ewa Hinahina**
  - Endemic
  - Notable features: seed spikes can grow up to 10 inches tall and green/silverish leaves (more sun = more silver)
  - Forming a naturally round shape as it grows. 'Ewa hinahina has no known early Hawaiian uses but wouldn’t have gone unnoticed by our islands’ early settlers.

- **Pu‘uka‘a**
  - Endemic, Federally Listed, Endangered
  - Unique features: uniquely shaped flowers called spikelets, thin leathery leaf blades, and loves wet areas with lots of sun. Of the 14 species of native sedges in the genus Cyperus in Hawai‘i, Pu‘uka‘a is one of the rarest found only on Kaua‘i and O‘ahu.

- **Lama**
  - Endemic
  - Notable features: seed spikes that can grow up to 10 inches tall and green/silverish leaves (more sun = more silver)
  - Forming a naturally round shape as it grows, Lama has no known early Hawaiian uses but wouldn’t have gone unnoticed by our islands’ early settlers.

- **'Uhi‘uhi**
  - Endemic, Federally Listed, Endangered
  - Notable features: dense, durable wood that had many uses in early Hawai‘i. It was used in hale (house) construction, for tools (e.g. ‘ō‘ō digging sticks or ‘apa‘apa beaters), weapons (e.g. clubs or daggers), fishing supplies such as makau ‘mano (shark hooks with bone points), and as runners for papa hōlua (narrow sleds 12-18 ft. long) used by ali‘i for he‘e hōlua (mountain/lava sledding).

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**MHC’s New Talent**

Have you noticed the pristine landscaping around Hale Kūali‘i or our new-and-improved plant info cards used in student activities? Maybe you noticed our brand new MHC sticker! The wahine behind these polished tasks is our newest team member, Lilia Lorenzo. Hired initially to maintain the grounds around Kūali‘i, Lilia’s artistic background and passion for Hawaiian culture was a bonus, and she has expanded her role to assist the Education Team in creating learning materials and working with school groups and community visitors. Lilia holds dual degrees in Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies with a focus on Native Hawaiian Creative Expression, and has her own business creating print and wearable art inspired by Hawai‘i. Check-out her creations @liliapoliahustudio.

Lilia agrees with her māmā, that if she was a plant, she would be hau. Hau was introduced by Polynesian Voyagers and most can assume it is due to its versatility. Hau was sourced to make kaula (cordage), kapa (bark cloth), kapa dyes, lā‘au lapa‘au (medicine), and lei. The fair tinted, light-weight wood is still used today as a floating device for canoes and nets. From her dedication and humble passion for the ‘āina and promoting Hawai‘i through artistic expression, Lilia’s many talents have already impacted our space greatly.

Welcome to the ‘ohana, Lilia!

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**Save the date!**

We are thrilled to welcome Kumu Kilohana back for another 8-day Hula Camp, from Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 9 (skipping June 5). Hula camp is open to all ages with ‘ohana members encouraged to participate. No previous hula experience is necessary. Registration will be announced on our website, www.manoaheritagecenter.org and via social media (@manoaheritagecenter on FB and IG).

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**He ‘ānaana ke māpumāpu mai nei**

E hahani mai ana i ka welelau a‘o ka makani
Hoʻopōʻa mai ke malia i ka nehe nehe a ka Tuahine
I ‘ane‘i pumehana o ka poli kama‘aina aloha
Aloha mai – e komo mai ē

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**A delicious perfume comes sweeping in**

**Like a gentle caress on the fringes of the wind**

Sweetened by the rustling patter of the Tuahine rain

**Here is warmth, in the loving embrace of hospitality**

**Greetings, and welcome**

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