

# Mānoa Heritage Center Highlights 2023: Annual Report

Inspiring people to be thoughtful stewards of their heritage



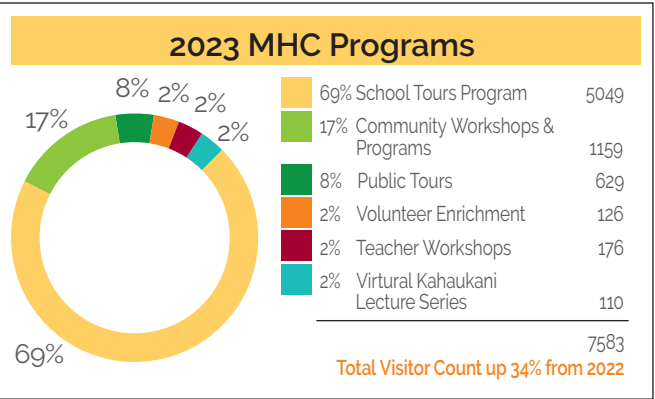
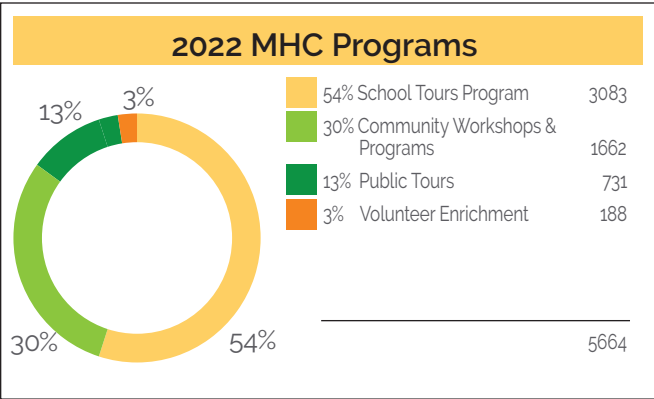
# Mānoa Heritage Center: 2023 in Review

In 2023, Mānoa Heritage Center (MHC) embarked on a significant journey of transition. At the onset of the year, the organization initiated a thorough search for an executive director. In May, this search concluded with the appointment of Lisa Solomine as the new executive director, marking a pivotal moment for MHC's future. With her leadership, MHC is poised to continue inspiring people to be thoughtful stewards of their communities advancing the cherished vision of Sam and Mary Cooke—to open Kūali'i, their historic Tudor revival home, to the public.



transition progresses, Kūali'i remains temporarily closed to the public. The Visioning Process, led by Facilitator Josh Levinson, and engagement with the community will run during early 2024 with the goal of envisioning the future uses of Kūali'i and Hogan House in the context of MHC's vision and mission.

MHC remained closely connected with the community and experienced a remarkable increase in the number of visitors and school groups to the Center. The organization extends its heartfelt gratitude to valued partners, dedicated educators, enthusiastic students, and committed volunteers whose contributions imbue its work with purpose and significance. Below are highlights of what MHC accomplished in 2023.



## Goal #1

MHC will be an active resource for educators - helping their students connect with Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage and inspiring them to act in their own communities.

- We engaged with 5,049 students in our FREE onsite and virtual place-based programs. As with last year, we had many elementary students for whom this was their first field trip ever, due to the pandemic.
- Received a HI Humanities grant through a partnership with Dan Kelin II, for the "Hawai'i's Kāhuli: Tiny Epics of Survival" project. Through a dedicated website, this project is designed to help inspire greater interest and understanding of these 'jewels of the forest,' celebrated in Hawaiian mo'olelo, oli and song as a symbol for both balance and change. MHC will host an event open to the community in the summer of 2024. This project complements the short film, also created by Dan, "After the Endling" inspired by the kāhuli Lonely George, which died in 2019.



- Developed a watershed model tour activity, allowing students to visualize how water travels from the tops of mountains down to the aquifer. Students can also think about layers of a Hawaiian rainforest as they work as a group to “build” one. This led to applying for a grant to host a weeklong Watershed Camp for middle-school to high school age students interested in learning more about conservation, which will happen in 2024. (Marisla Fund awarded)
- For the youngest learners, created VERMA, a 5' paper mache vermicomposting worm to teach PK-2nd grade students about these important decomposers and how they play an essential role in the health of our environment, in addition to reducing food waste.
- Participated in the Office of Hawaiian Education's (OHE) Summit *Kupu Mai Ka 'Ōiwi* as a community 'āina-based huaka'i host site. This included hosting 20 Honolulu-based educators for a day of sharing and a follow-up plenary session at the Convention Center, a week later.

## Goal #2

**MHC will be an educational hub for kūpuna, families, neighbors, cultural practitioners, and community organizations.**

- Hosted our sixth hula camp with Kumu Kilohana Silve. 22 adults and 7 keiki spent a full week at MHC, immersed in hula, oli, mo'olelo and Hawaiian culture. This year, hula camp included participants from Japan and Turkey.
- Supported by the Louise and Y. T. Lum Foundation, we engaged with the community, including members of the Japanese in Mānoa group, to continue collecting oral histories of Valley residents. 22 oral histories were recorded in 2023.
- 'Ohana Māla days were held during spring break for families. 47 participants ranging in age from 'ōpio to kūpuna spent time together learning about native plants and helping us to continue to steward the land.
- Began hosting quarterly nature journaling workshops with artist Kate Righter. Nature journaling is the creative practice of recording thoughts and observations of the 'āina using a combination of words, numbers and drawings.

### Engaged with 716 people in the following workshops:

- *Special HI Handweavers' Hui Paper Class* led by Allison Roscoe
- *Keiki TENRO* led by Sayuri Cockey and daughter Lea Rose
- *Papa Hula a 'Ōlelo Series* led by Kumu Momi Akana
- *Native Plant Accordion Books* with Margo Vitarelli
- *Papermaking Workshop Series* led by Allison Roscoe
- *'Eke Lauhala Workshop Series* led by Kumu Wes Sen
- *Cooking for Health Series* led by Sayuri Cockey
- *Mother's Day Plant Make & Take* led by Garden Team & Staff
- *Lā'au Lapa'au Workshop* with Sister Malia Wong



*"The message that was relayed about our island and culture was so important for students to hear from a young age. From native Hawaiian plants to the importance of our water resource, students are learning how they play an important role in sharing this knowledge with others" - 2nd grade DOE teacher*

- o Summer Hula Camp with Kumu Kilohana Silve
- o Nature Journaling Series with Kate Righter
- o Hawaiian Style Bonsai Series led by Dr. Rick Wagner
- o Native Plant Journal led by Margo Vitarelli
- o Palm Husk Workshop led by Dianne Ige
- o Kaula Hau led by Kahu Loko'olu Quintero
- o Etching & Natural Chlorophyll Printing on Leaves led by Corinne Okada Takara
- o Haku Lei Po'o led by Kumu Wes Sen
- o Kapa Workshop led by Kumu Wes Sen

**Presented virtual Kahaukani Conversations for 110 people:**

- o Celebrating Kāhuli for Monte Cooke's Birthday with David Sischo and Jan Kealoha
- o An Introduction to Hospital and Rehabilitative Care of Native Winged Wildlife with Rae Okawa
- o Ka'ahupahau and the Legendary Birth of "Pearl Harbor" with Dr. Kyle Kajihiro

**Promoted community collaboration by hosting partners including:**

- o Hawai'i Green Growth
- o KALGOV - KASL Climate Security Discussions
- o One Shared Future
- o Hua Nani Partners
- o Papa Ola Lokahi
- o Mana Maoli
- o McREL International
- o East West Center
- o Stupski Foundation
- o UH Mānoa Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center
- o UH Community College System
- o Hālau Hula o Mānoa
- o LAING Hawai'i
- o Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

**Total Volunteer hours in 2023: 1,597**

**Total Garden Volunteer Service Learning hours in 2023: 623.75**



Kumu Wes Sen shares the art of printing on kapa with natural plant dyes and 'ohe kapala (bamboo kapa stamps) with students in his kapa workshop.



Instructor Nicki Garces (center) with LAING members Janine and Jeannice prepare samples of Filipino plants for students to try as part of the Kadaanan Nga Agas series of classes held at MHC in partnership with LAING.



Garden Gnome Skye Haraga teaches families about the importance of watersheds at one of our 'Ohana Māla Family Garden days.



## Goal #3

MHC will be a well-maintained facility with important historical and educational collections.

### The Gardens

In 2023, we expanded garden areas by removing ground coverage, allowing for new areas for the planting of native plants. This initiative led to a notable 60% increase in the number of plants planted, totaling 179, with 61 plants removed.

The garden underwent significant transformations and innovations, aiming to create more deliberate spaces for planting and placement. A new planting style, known as Kona style, was implemented for kalo, offering new learning opportunities for students and visitors. This method involves planting the kalo at the bottom of a deep hole, gradually adding soil as it grows to cover the exposed corm until harvest.

A new irrigation system was installed in the Ka'aha'aina garden to minimize water wastage. Additionally, the garden now hosts new varieties of 'uala from the Lyon Arboretum collection, such as Mana Pōhaku, Lanikeha, Pā'ū-o-Hi'iaka, and Kala.

The community engagement efforts were also notable, with the largest recorded plant giveaways during outreach events. Events included the Native Hawaiian Plant Giveaway for the general public, the Punahou Sustainability Fair for Punahou School students, Sustainable Coastlines Earth Day event, and the Hanahau'oli Children's Fair, collectively distributing 200 plants to the community.

### Kūali'i Maintenance

In February 2023, ownership of Kūali'i was transferred to MHC. Shortly after, in March, we identified a need for termite control and promptly tented the entire house, undergoing a thorough fumigation process.

Following the fumigation, we commenced a comprehensive re-roofing project to address long standing issues and damage incurred during the treatment. Also part of this effort, six glass awnings on the mauka side of Kūali'i were removed due to safety concerns, leading to the reopening of the guided pathway along that side.

During the removal of the awnings, we also addressed the wood rot, repainted the affected areas, and repaired damaged fascia boards and eaves throughout the roof. Additionally, all existing gutters were replaced, and extra gutters were installed where necessary.

To mitigate leaks originating from the railing posts, the railing on the second-floor sun deck was dismantled. These comprehensive measures ensured the restoration and structural integrity of Kūali'i, aligning with our commitment to maintaining the property's quality and safety standards.

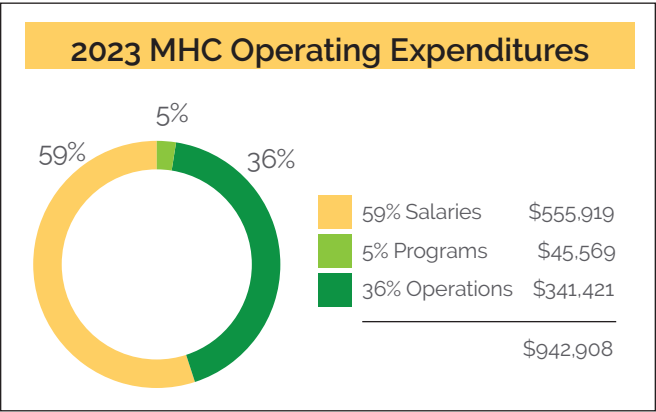
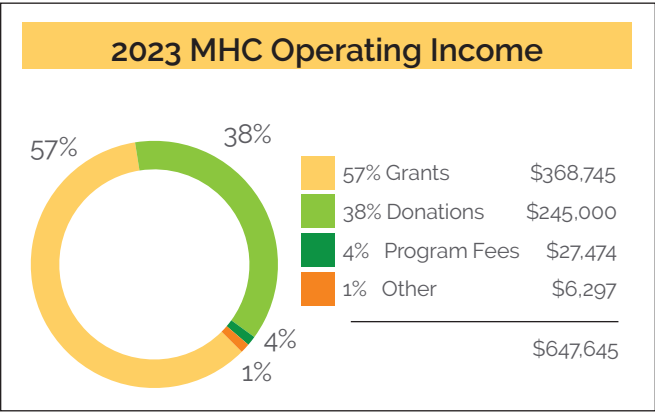






## Financial Snapshot

The following graphs represent unaudited financials for the period ending December 31, 2023:



## Goal #4

MHC will be an efficient, financially stable non-profit focused on enjoyable learning.

The market value of the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund supporting MHC programs and operations is \$11,783,282 as of December 31, 2023. We continue to build this fund and every gift is matched dollar for dollar by the \$1 million challenge grant from the Harold K. L. Castle Foundation. Thank you so very much for getting us this far!



# Mahalo 2023 Donors

We are deeply grateful to the following donors who supported MHC's operations, programs, and the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund with contributions of \$1,000 or more during the period January 1 – December 31, 2023.

## Sam & Mary Cooke Circle (\$50,000+)

- City and County of Honolulu
- Cooke Foundation, Limited
- Mary Cooke Estate
- Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
- Jack & Janet Gillmar
- Michael & Linda Horikawa
- Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali
- Daphne Park
- Sharan & Scott Power
- Barbara Toschi & Gene Toschi
- Moana Heu
- Sandy & Mike Irish
- Jhamandas Watumull Fund
- Lynne Johnson & Randy Moore
- Dr. & Mrs. Daniel H. Katayama
- Liz Kinney
- Carol Mon Lee

## Benefactor Circle (\$10,000 - \$49,999)

- Robin Freeman Bernstein, Nat Bernstein & Matthew Bernstein
- Hawai'i Tourism Authority Fund
- David A. Keliikuli & Ronald R. Bunn
- Marisla Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation
- State Foundation on Culture and the Arts
- State of Hawaii
- TSK Charitable Foundation

## Century Circle (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

- Alison & Ernest Baclig
- Peter Bihari & Chris Campbell
- Frederic A. Brossy, Jr.
- Mark and Mary Anne Burak
- Kirk Caldwell & Donna Tanoue
- Leonard & Charlotte Chow
- Heather Conahan and Shawn Taras
- Catherine Cooke & Les Ihara, Jr.
- Janet Cooke
- Richard & Evelyn Cox
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- George & Katie Diskant
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- Hale Kauai Ltd.
- Gaylien Hall
- Hawaii Council for the Humanities
- Jim & Honey Bun Haynes

- Elizabeth Lum
- Malama Manoa
- Andrew & Ann Mathieson
- David & Noreen Mulliken
- George & Helen Nakano
- Julia K. Muller & Earl K. Shreckengast
- Frank & Margie Newell
- Ann B. Oliver
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- Ralph & Pakinee Portmore
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- Tradewind Group Foundation
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- Paul Weissman
- Carol & Gaylord Wilcox
- Gregory Wrenn and Robert Pyburn

## Patron Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

- Anonymous (2)
- John R. Halligan Charitable Fund
- Larry Johnson
- Louise and Y. T. Lum Foundation

## Guardian Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

- Tanya & Paul Alston
- Roger Brossy & Rona Elliot
- Monica Chun
- Mary Dobson

## Board of Directors

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Ian Fitz-Patrick - *Vice-President*

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Helen Nakano - *Secretary*

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Catherine L. Cooke

Juliette M. Cooke

Jack Gillmar

Patricia Halagao

Lynne Johnson

Ka'iu Kimura

## Staff

Kevin Allen - *Garden Assistant*

Jenny Engle - *Director of Education*

Emily Fay - *Development Officer*

Kelsey Hara - *Digital Content and  
Collections Associate*

Lilia Lorenzo - *Education Designer*

Kanoa Nakamura - *Botanical Educator*

Kevin Prior - *Facilities Manager*

Lisa Solomine - *Executive Director*

Ke'ala Wong - *Cultural Educator*

As of January 2024



Mānoa Heritage Center

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