



MĀNOA HERITAGE CENTER

2856 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822

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'Ōhi'a Lehua Mamo – "The leaves of the lehua mamo twist and billow, golden in the sunlight"
Excerpt of Chant 9, Malamanui to Hi'iakaikapoliopele
The Epic Tale of Hi'iakaikapoliopele

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SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

A Dream Comes True!

Sam and I have long envisioned a site where children may learn more about the culture, practices and traditions of Hawai'i and inspire ways for them to take care of their own communities. As I walk through the new Visitor Education Hale, I am in awe, so grateful for the hard-work and dedication extended by many to finally make our dream come true! The MHC staff, contractors, consultants and capital campaign funders were crucial in making this development a reality. A heartfelt thank you to all!

I had the great pleasure of welcoming the first school tour, Hau'ula Elementary 4th graders to the site. What a beautiful class of students and educators whose personal values of aloha (love), mālama (care for) and mahalo (respect) were clearly evident. What a joy to see their smiling faces and warm friendships developed with teachers who promised to return with new classes each year!

With deepest aloha,

Mary M. Cooke



Here is my favorite BIG HUG photo from that memorable visit.

MHC Opens the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Visitor Education Hale - E Komo Mai!

After years of planning and design, MHC welcomed its first school group to the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Visitor Education Hale. While finishing touches were still being completed on the expanded campus, students were able to enjoy the multi-purpose classroom designed to meet their learning needs. Special thanks to exhibition designer Michael Wilson, graphic designer Kaleena Kwe, and woodworker Robert Owens, who took our ideas and created a beautiful, engaging space for visitors to enjoy.

We would also like to thank Puakea Nogelmeier, Jon Yasuda and Sam 'Ohu Gon III for their mana'o and 'ike as we worked to develop the four interpretive panels that greet guests. These panels, along with a visual timeline, share a bit about the history of Mānoa Heritage Center and provide visitors with some context to experience the exhibition and site.

There are also cultural objects to examine and handle carefully, a selection of books to peruse, and an inviting kōnane table just waiting for guests to sit down and play. Surrounding the new classroom is a garden full of Native Hawaiian plants, including māmakei, koki'o 'ula'ula, 'ohai, 'ākia, 'a'alii, alahe'e, pōhinahina and 'ōhi'a lehua.



Students from Kalei'opu'u 4th grade play a game of kōnane at MHC's new Visitor Education Hale.

Carol Fox



Carol served as a valued MHC trustee and board secretary for 16 years and is now an Emeritus Director for life. *"I feel so fortunate to have been invited to help Sam and Mary Cooke create Mānoa Heritage Center from the very beginning, along with innovative scholars like Victoria Kneubuhl and Nathan Nāpōkā. I am proud to be a founding Century Circle member. May this be MHC's best year yet, moving the organization to greater heights as it expands into exciting new programs and educational spaces.*

The extraordinary energy and generosity Sam and Mary put into developing MHC is now being amplified and enhanced by supporters of the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund and Annual Giving Circles. Wonderful docents, talented staff, dedicated board and special committee members have collectively contributed to the stewardship of this educational resource – an unparalleled treasure in the heart of Mānoa.

When I look at all that's been accomplished since those early days, I am overcome with gratitude. Congratulations on completing the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Visitor Education Hale construction and warmest wishes for MHC's continued success!"

Visit us at www.manoaheritagecenter.org



New MHC Staff Focus

Jenny Leung, Cultural Site Manager

After five years working with the Sam and Mary Cooke Collection as an independent contractor, Jenny Leung became MHC's first Cultural Site Manager in November 2017. In this role she ensures preservation of and access to the organization's cultural, historical, natural and physical resources – a critical component of MHC's strategic plan!

"MHC is a hidden jewel - an historic house, stunning native garden and significant cultural site. We're still learning new things about all of them, which is terribly exciting!

Fostering an interest and concern for our bio-cultural environment is something that visitors can take with them wherever they go. What I look forward to most as the Cultural Site Manager is the potential for more programming (workshops, storytelling, sharing of knowledge) in our new VEH!"



Kevin Prior and Jenny Leung in the 'Ulu Courtyard beside the Visitor Education Center classroom.

Kevin Prior, Caretaker

In November 2017, Kevin Prior became MHC's first full-time Caretaker. His position ensures that our buildings and physical assets are well-managed and maintained. Originally from Pennsylvania, Kevin grew up on a farm, is a certified machinist, and moved to Hawai'i in 2009.

"The lush landscape at MHC reminds me of home. The gardens are so beautiful and it is wonderful that the community can get hands on, up close and personal while on a tour. It is clear that learning about and understanding the cultural landscape is very important to them.

I also love the great work family environment where my skills can be used to grow this place and turn it into the best, must see, most talked about visitor site on O'ahu. And continuing to see all the smiles it brings to our guests."

Unique Cultural Implements to Touch and Feel

Complementing the newly opened Hale interpretive display are a number of Hawaiian implements crafted by cultural practitioners Umi Kai, Mahi La Pierre and husband and wife team May Balino-Sing and Lloyd Kumula'au Sing. Made of traditional natural materials, the objects are used by docents to enhance the cultural understanding of the importance of plants in Hawaiian subsistence living.

The new objects include a variety woven hīna'i (fish traps); a wīli (pump drill); an 'ukēkē (bow instrument); and an ipu hōkiokio (gourd whistle).



Executive Director Jessica Welch and Mahi La Pierre have an 'ukēkē jam session on the Hogan House lānai.

Recently MHC staff contacted Mahi La Pierre for more information on how the 'ukēkē is played so that it could be demonstrated in the VEH Classroom. This led to an impromptu visit from Mahi, bringing a bag full of different 'ukēkē to try. It was a wonderful way to end a workday afternoon!

School groups and adult visitors are able to handle and closely examine the tools, and see them demonstrated. Most young school visitors recognize with excitement the hīna'i 'o'opu from the Disney movie Moana, and already know how it works!



Hīna'i hīnalea (wrasse trap) made of 'ie'ie and pōhaku, created by Lloyd and May Sing.

Volunteer Spotlight

Diane Perushek, Docent Since 2017

After my first visit, it was clear that I wanted to be part of this organization and signed up for the 6-week docent training to contribute my time and talents to share with MHC visitors. I highly recommend these classes, taught by very informed instructors and includes a comprehensive reading list on the rich Hawaiian culture, history, nature, geology and overview of five generations of the Cooke family lineage through MHC founders, Sam and Mary Cooke.

My favorite thing to present on tour is that once one could stand in front of the prominent Kūka'ō'ō, a real heiau and see the back of Mānoa Valley down to the ocean. This ancient temple is surrounded by Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants located just ten minutes from Waikīkī. More importantly, it is being protected and preserved by people who value its history and magnificence, and will be guiding visitors in the future.



As a close neighbor, I am fortunate to hear through my house windows the excited voices of children on their MHC field trips. Come and join me on a tour or become a docent!

'O ke Kanalimakūmāhā Mua Loa The first 54

Hulō! Ku'i ka lono! Komo maila ka hui mua loa i VEH ma ka lā 12 o Ianuali, 2018. Ua kipa mai kanalimakūmāhā mau haumāna papa 'ehā o Hau'ula Elementary. 'O kēia kā lākou mau hana; ua māka'ika'i a me kilo lākou i waho ma ka māla Hawai'i. Ma hope maila, hana pū lākou me ke alu like e ho'okō ai i ka ha'awina "Mālama i ke Ahupua'a" i loko o ka lumi papa.

Hurrah! On January 12, 2018, the sky rumbled as 54 Hau'ula 4th graders arrived, the first school group at MHC's Visitor Education Hale. They enjoyed a garden tour full of observations and later, a team building and an engaging Ahupua'a Resource' activity in the new classroom.



Ma ka hopena o ke kipa 'ana mai, kulu ka waimaka i ka wā i aloha aku ai 'o Mary i ia mau haumāna me ka leo paipai a me ka leo mahalo. 'O ka lapa ahi mua loa ia e ho'omaka ai i kēia 'i'ini o Mary a me kāna kāne 'o Sam Cooke 'o ia ho'i, he manawa 'dream-come-true' kēia

With joyful tears, Mary expressed words of gratitude, acknowledging that the students and teachers were the initial flame that sparked the beginning of a vision she and late-husband Sam shared, a "dream-come-true" moment.

Featured Plant

'Uki'uki

'Uki'uki is not new to our garden, however the viewing lens of the MHC staff has greatly changed to reveal "NEW" insights about this very familiar plant. Ka'iulani de Silva, a master kumu in the kapa community, often shares her time at MHC to identify plants in the garden that are useful in making brilliant natural dyes. It was a surprise to learn that the garden can yield an array of vibrant hues.

In the Makahiki season, 'uki'uki is in bloom with berries that produce grayish/indigo color pigments. It has become a daily ritual for Cultural Site Manager Jenny Leung to step away from her desk for a 10-minute walk around the garden and harvest a handful of what has become MHC staff's precious treasures!



In January, 'uki'uki began fruiting throughout the MHC garden with plump ripe berries popping up regularly.

Paintings, Prints, and Drawings of Hawaii from the Sam and Mary Cooke Collection



This stunning art book has become the talk of the town since garnering Historic Hawai'i Foundation, Pele, and Ka Palapala Po'okela 2017 awards!

"Paintings, Prints, and Drawings of Hawaii from the Sam and Mary Cooke Collection" presents a visual account of 18th to 20th century Hawaiian history through art from a kama'āina perspective providing the historical significance, personal anecdotes, and mo'olelo associated with each work of art, the book is a unique cultural, historical and scientific resource that will inform and inspire others." Kiersten Faulkner, Executive Director, Historic Hawaii Foundation



Mānoa Heritage Center Team Accepting the Prestigious Achievement in Interpretive Media Award

"I am touched with the outpouring of positive feedback on how people are enjoying Sam's book!"

Mary Cooke, Founder of Mānoa Heritage Center

Buy your personal copy or gift at a favorite book store, call (808) 988-1287, visit www.manoaheritagecenter.org, or stop by MHC at: 2856 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822