Uhiuhi is an endangered endemic Hawai’i species. The very dense wood is traditionally used for hōlua (sleds), ʻōʻō, and house poles.

Native Plant Specialist, Anthony Ortiz became part of the MHC ‘Ohana in 2005 and has been volunteering and working in the garden at least once a week since then. He completed docent training in 2007. “Mānoa Heritage Center has always been a place that has given me an indescribable, powerful feeling, and the plants absolutely love it here.”

The significant changes to the garden over the years, he says “have been seeing the generations of plants throughout their life cycle. Many of the plants in the garden are keiki from mother plants that are no longer with us. The large halapepe and the Munroidendron (now Polyscias racemosa) near Kūkaʻōʻō are grown from seed collected from 15-20 year old mother trees no longer here.”

Of all the native plants in the garden, Anthony is particularly fond of the generations of Munroidendron, halapepe, and alahe’e he has watched flourish as keiki from the original mother plants. “Munroidendron is especially significant, because its historical Hawaiian name and use have been lost. The information behind each of the plants (historical, cultural, ecological, biological) can disappear just as easily without educating ourselves and others.”

Anthony and his family, Moani and Seraphina (and Kua the dog).
Dry Stack Wall Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Workshop with Billy Fields

Ua ho’ono niho ‘ia.  
Ho’oku‘u ka hana.  
- Traditional Hawaiian saying shared by Billy Fields

Only when all the stones are stacked properly, then the work is done.

Hawai'i Island stone mason Billy Fields was on site at MHC in late July to dismantle and rebuild a portion of the ancient wall alongside the White Garden that needed stabilization, as well as a corner of a wall extending from Kūkaʻōō. During the week long project, he conducted a workshop with seven participants from local cultural organizations to learn the basics of traditional Hawaiian dry stack wall techniques. The goal is to have the participants form a hui to assist and support each other with their own rock wall repair projects in the future.

From the Kūaliʻi Archives

When Kūaliʻi was built in 1911 the property of Monte and Lila Cooke was 30 acres and was bordered by Cooper Road, Mānoa Road, and O'ahu Avenue. The Cookes kept dairy cows on the property, and a one-story dairy barn and caretaker’s cottage were built at the same time as the home. The dairy operation, Kaimi Farm, would later be moved to Maunawili as Mānoa became more residential.

Kūaliʻi under construction, 1911, viewed from O'ahu Avenue. Note the farm worker in the open pasture below the home.
Connecting Educators Through Native Hawaiian Cultural Resources

As we enter our second year of a 3-year Creating Humanities Communities grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, our project partners at Awaiaulu, Kau‘i Sai-Dudoit and Puakea Nogelmeier, have been investigating Hawaiian language newspapers and archives, searching for articles relating to Kūka‘ō‘ō Heiau and Mānoa Valley. Below is a report (in Hawaiian with English translation) about one wonderful resource newly translated by Awaiaulu, an interview about sites of Mānoa with Annie Kamakakaulani (Woolsey) Harris, a Mānoa resident and contemporary of Charles Montague Cooke, Jr.:

He ‘ike hou ka ‘ike kahiko.

'Oiai nui nā mea ho'oihi i hō‘ōli‘ili ‘ia mai ma ka papahana a Awaiaulu me MHC, ‘ono ‘oko'a nō kekahi i ka maka o ka mea no'i, e la’a me ka ninauele me Mrs. Annie Kamakakaulani (Woolsey) Harris. Kauka‘i lō‘ihi ‘ia ka mo‘olelo a Miriam Woolsey Reed no kona ‘ike i pili iā Mānoa, a eia nō kekahi mo‘olelo ma ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i i ha‘i ‘ia e kona makuahine, he kupa o ke awāwa i hānau ‘ia i ka makahiki 1874. Wehewehe ‘o Kamakakaulani i ke ano o Mānoa a me nâ wahi pana o ia awāwa a ua kākau lima maia ‘o Mr. Theodore Kelsey i kāna i ha‘i mai ai. He waihona lua ‘ole nō ia o ka ‘ike i pili i ia ‘āina kaulana o Mānoa i ka ua Tuahine.” Mahalo nui ‘ia ‘o Mrs. Harris i kona ka‘ana ‘ana mai i ka ‘ike, a mahalo ‘ia ho‘i ‘o Mr. Kelsey i kona ho'opa’a ‘ana i ia ‘ike ma ka pepa a ma ka waihona palapala kahiko o ka moku‘āina. Pōmaika‘i maoli kākou.

Old knowledge is new

We have collected many materials in the course of Awaiaulu’s research work with Mānoa Heritage Center, and some are just delectable to the researcher’s eye, like the interview with Mrs. Annie Kamakakaulani (Woolsey) Harris. We have long relied on details about Mānoa from the story of Miriam Woolsey Reed, and here we find an account in Hawaiian by her mother, a native of the valley born in 1874. Kamakakaulani details the nature of Mānoa and its many storied places, all of which were written down by Mr. Theodore Kelsey. This is an invaluable resource about this renowned land, Mānoa of the Tuahine rain. Mrs. Harris is greatly appreciated for sharing her knowledge, as is Mr. Kelsey for recording it and putting it in the State Archives. We are all fortunate indeed.

What’s New in the Garden?

‘Ihi‘ihilauhea (Marsilea villosa) is an endangered endemic fern. ‘Ihi‘ihilauhea Crater on the southern edge of Hanauma Bay is named after this petite rare plant.
Upcoming Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike Workshops in Fall/Winter 2019

Mānoa Heritage Center presents community workshops with cultural practitioners on the last (with the exception of December 14) Saturday of each month throughout 2019, made possible with funding by Hawai‘i Tourism’s Kūkulu Ola Program. Each Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike Workshop is designed to connect audiences at a deeper level with Hawai‘i’s living culture and provides cultural practitioners with an opportunity to share their knowledge. See below for upcoming workshops and visit www.manoaheritagecenter.org for registration information.

September 28, 2019  ‘Ūkēkē (Hawaiian musical bow instrument) Making Workshop with Hui ‘Ūkēkē A‘o
October 26, 2019  Palm Bark Basket Workshop with Tamsen Fox
November 30, 2019  Lauhala Workshop with Kumu Aloha Kekipi
December 14, 2019  Botanical Body Butter and Salt Scrub Workshop with Moani Hibbard

2020 Mahalo Party for Donors
Donors who make a gift to MHC by December 31, 2019 will be invited to a special Spring reception at Mānoa Heritage Center.

Your donation will help support ‘āina-based school programs that inspire students to become stewards of Hawai‘i’s cultural and natural resources.

Go to www.manoaheritagecenter.org to make your gift today. Thank you for supporting our mission!

** Space is limited. RSVP as soon as you receive your invitation.