

Mānoa Heritage Center Highlights 2021: Annual Report

Promoting an understanding of Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage



Mānoa Heritage Center: 2021 in Review

In 2021, Mānoa Heritage Center opened itself more than ever to being centered around community. From the inaugural *Filipinos in Mānoa* program to working with local schools to plant and harvest kalo and 'uala, 2021 was a year of abundant relationships. We spent the year getting to know the community and the plants that sustain us, getting our hands dirty, learning what works and what doesn't. Our goal was to learn about ourselves and the plants we live with, and to transform our campus space into one that is not only community-focused but community-stewarded. We are so grateful to the educators, students, volunteers, partners and donors who helped MHC connect with and serve our community during this year of exploration. Below are highlights of what we were able to collectively accomplish in 2021.

Goal #1

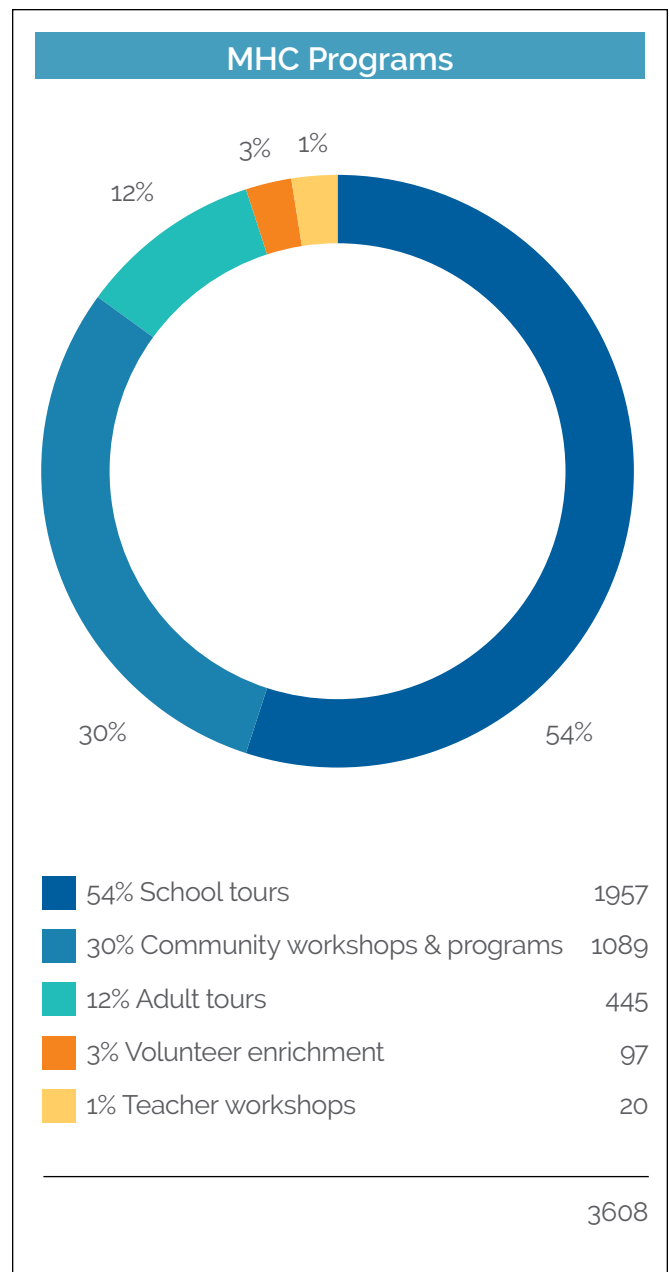
MHC will be an active resource for educators – helping their students connect with Hawai'i's cultural and natural heritage and inspiring them to act in their own communities.

In 2021, MHC:

- Welcomed 1,957 students to participate in free on-site and virtual programs.
- Harvested the largest crop of kalo we've ever had with Mo'O School and fifth graders from Mānoa Elementary School
- Shared the importance of native plants with Hanahau'oli School 4/5th graders who then researched specific plants and created QR codes for the MHC garden; these students also helped Kevin Prior and Kanoa Nakamura, MHC Staff, create a lei garden.



Students from Assets High School planted our first 'uala-producing 'uala bed.





Students from Mo'O School harvested kalo.



Sister Malia Wong and her Environmental Ethics students from Chaminade planted a lā'au lapa'au garden including 'uhaloa, pōpolo, comfrey, and ko'oko'olau.

Goal #2

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

In 2021, MHC:

- Worked with Rosie Ramiro, Shannon Cristobal and Nicki Garces to create the Elpidio and Nobuko Acopan Garden of Filipino plants.
- Connected with new audiences via virtual *Kahaukani Conversation* lectures:
 - *Manoa Chinese Cemetery: Legacy of a Valley* with Nanette Napoleon
 - *How to Make Taking Oral Histories Fun!* with Jane Goodsill
 - *Living Life Source Foundation and Albizia Project: Waiakeakua Restoration* with Uncle Bruce Keaulani and Matt Lynch
 - "Hawaiian Soul" screening followed by Q & A with Director 'Āina Paikai
 - *Lomilomi: A Healing Tradition* with Kapono Souza
 - *Eia Hawai'i, He Moku, He Kanaka: Mele as repositories of Hawaiian epistemology* with Kawailanaokeawaiki Saffery
 - *Mānoa Plants: A Changing Landscape* with David Shepard

- Offered the third and fourth annual Hula Camps completely in person during Summer and Fall Break. Twenty-nine people between the ages of 8-80 participated in both camps. Each student received a “hula camp activity kit” complete with supplies for hands-on projects. Thanks to generous funding, the cost of materials for each kit was subsidized so that there was no fee for participants. It was a special treat to feature longtime MHC docent and friend, Kumu Hula Kilohana Silve of Hālau Hula O Mānoa to lead the week-long camps.
- Launched our ‘Ohana Mala program where families are encouraged to embrace culture and sense of place as they steward a section of MHC’s gardens (māla). Activities include weeding (lots of weeding!), collecting seeds, harvesting and even propagating plants. Participants spend time together outside while learning about Hawai‘i’s ecosystem. More and more, groups from across the continent are reaching out to MHC to provide volunteer opportunities for people visiting Hawai‘i. Designed for both residents and visitors, ‘Ohana Mala days provide an opportunity for volun-tourism while also learning about Hawai‘i and connecting to a sense of place.



The Japanese in Mānoa committee partnered with students at Mid-Pacific Institute to conduct research on the Japanese heritage of Mānoa Valley.



Hula camp was so much fun we offered it twice!



The Filipinos in Mānoa program explored the contributions the Acopan family made to Mānoa Valley.



MHC was honored to support the Hawaiian Church of Hawai‘i Nei’s Mālama i nā iwi kūpuna initiative by making hina‘i (baskets) for iwi kupuna (human remains). This is part of a community-wide effort to provide proper burial protocol for ancestral remains throughout Hawai‘i.



Keiki hala pepe.



Keiki 'ōhi'a mamo.



Goal #3

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

In 2021, MHC:

- Planted new species including 'ōhā (delissea), 'āweoweo, 'uhaloa, ko'oko'olau, pōpolo, pili grass, 'awa, ipu, hinahina (*Heliotropium anomalum* var. *argenteum*), ma'o hau hele, maiapilo, 'ōhi'a (*metrosideros tremuloides*)
- Propagated munroidendron, hala pepe, māmaki, carex, a'ali'i, loulu, pāpala kēpau, 'ohe makai, 'ulu, 'ōhi'a mamo, 'ōhi'a lehua, koki'o ke'oke'o, 'ala'ala wai nui wahine, 'ilima, pōhinahina, and 'ohai
- Planted a lei garden featuring crown flower, shell ginger, kupukupu, shinobu fern, palapalai, panax, ko'oko'olau, 'ilima, several varieties of tī, and more to come!
- Happily partnered with KUPU for the second time. As a host site for their Conservation Leadership Development Program, MHC was able to hire a part-time Garden Steward/Educator to help transform the gardens to a community-based space. Sami Nakahira joined the MHC team in September 2020 and Skye Haraga in September 2021. Both worked closely with Kevin Prior (MHC's Caretaker/Educator/Builder) to expand our propagation program, supervise an increasing number of volunteers, and mālama the native and introduced species that comprise MHC's garden.
- Hired Kanoa Nakamura, a part-time Garden & Grounds Assistant to help maintain the space and also lead educational programs.
- Significantly expanded our service learning program through partnerships with Assets High School and East West Center. More than 487 volunteer hours supported the native and polynesian-introduced gardens (compared to 285 volunteer hours in 2020). That's an increase of 70%!

Engaging new online audiences

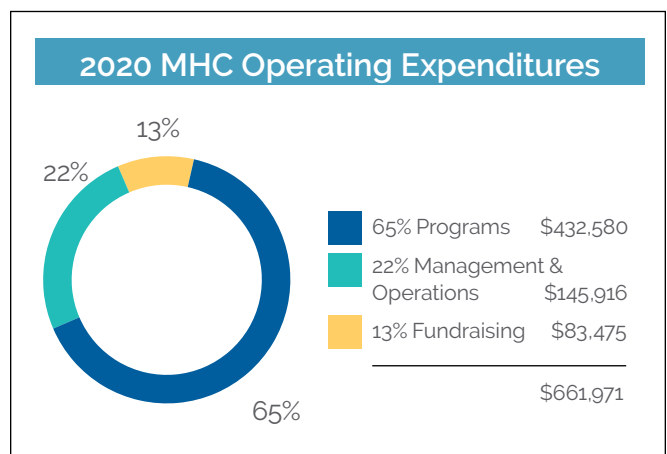
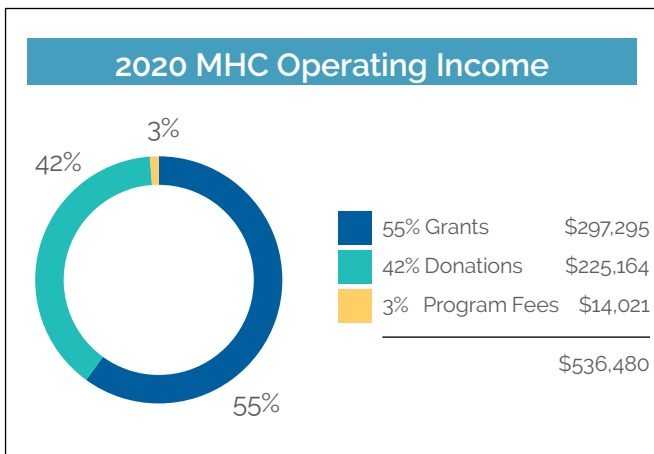
 Facebook fans increased by 19% (631 followers)  Instagram followers increased by 28% (1,471 followers)
38% of MHC's audiences for 2021 connected virtually.



We renamed the Canoe Garden the Ka'aha'aina Naihe Garden in honor of the central role she played in preserving this space.

Financial Snapshot

The following graphs represent unaudited financials for the period ending December 31, 2021:



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 operations was \$7,846,352 as of December 31, 2021. We will keep building this fund and every gift continues to be matched dollar for dollar by the \$1 million challenge grant from the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation. THANK YOU for getting us this far!

2021 DONORS: MAHALO MAHALO MAHALO

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, 2021.

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- Cooke Foundation, Limited
- Mary M. Cooke
- Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

- Robin Freeman Bernstein, Nat Bernstein & Matthew Bernstein
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Kai'u Kimura (November 2021)
Susan Shaner

Sam A. Cooke - *Founder Emeritus*
Carol M. Fox - *Director Emeritus*

Staff

Mānoa Heritage Center depends on a team of full and part-time (*) staff to implement its mission.

Jenny Engle - *Director of Education*

Emily Fay - *Development Officer* *

Kelsey Hara - *Digital Engagement / Web Content Associate* *

Jenny Leung - *Cultural Site Manager*

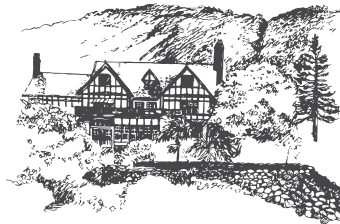
Kanoa Nakamura - *Garden & Grounds Assistant* *

Kevin Prior - *Caretaker / Educator / Builder*

Jessica Welch - *Executive Director*

Ke'ala Wong - *Education Assistant & Cultural Steward*

Photography by Lianne Rozelle.



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