

Mānoa Heritage Center Highlights 2022: Annual Report

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





Mānoa Heritage Center: 2022 in Review

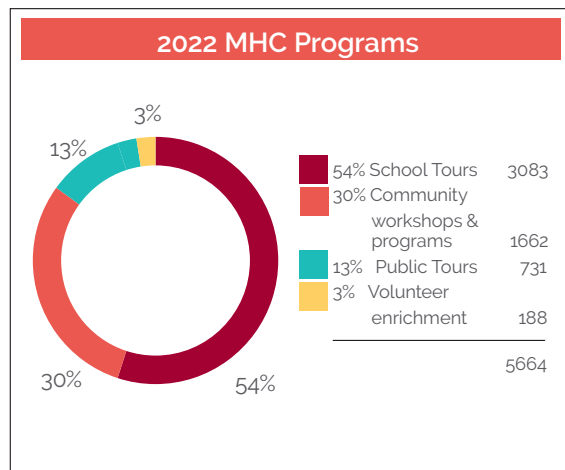
In the early 90s, Mary Cooke planted an 'ōhi'a lehua on the mauka side of her house. 'Ōhi'a trees are the definition of a keystone species, they are the glue that holds our native ecosystems together and without them, habitats change drastically or even cease to exist entirely. The 'ōhi'a lehua was Mary's favorite and it grew tall with red blossoms that greeted thousands of school children to Mānoa Heritage Center each year. In the summer of 2022, we lost both Mary and the 'ōhi'a lehua. In many ways, Mary was a "keystone species" that we depended on but she left behind a thriving ecosystem committed to inspiring people to be thoughtful stewards of their heritage and communities. We are so honored to be doing the work she set out for us to do. Below are highlights of what we were able to accomplish together in 2022.

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 be thoughtful stewards of their communities.

In 2022, MHC:

- Engaged 3,000 students in FREE on-site and virtual place-based programs. We resumed our in-person school programs and for many of these students, this was the first field trip they've had in two years.
- Developed tours focused on genealogy of the Valley and the importance of water for natural ecosystems.
- Expanded our partnership with Mo'O School - 15 of their students walked to MHC every other week for culturally-based educational activities including the opening of Makahiki.
- Partnered with the Filipino Clubs at Roosevelt High School and Punahou School to create space for their groups to partner and collaborate. Students worked in the Elpidio and Nobuko Acopan Garden and on another day worked with Rosie Ramiro and Phil Fernandez-Brennen to make parol for the holidays.



Goal #2

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

In 2022, MHC:

- Hosted Michelle Obama for a meeting of the Girls Opportunity Alliance.
- Worked with MHC's Japanese in Mānoa community group to conduct 13 oral histories with Valley residents.
- Partnered with Punihei Lipe, Director of the University of Hawaii's Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) Center, to implement two Pilina Circles (aka racial healing circles) for MHC's board, staff and volunteer corps.
- Hosted our fifth annual Hula Camp! Offered for students of all ages, many of MHC's docents participated in the camp and, as a result, they are now practicing with Kumu Kilohana Silve's hālau hula at MHC every Monday afternoon.
- Engaged 147 people in the following Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike workshops:
 - 'Ōhi'a Propagation with JC Watson
 - Hawaiian Floral Arrangement with Kai and Pua (flower) Musubi with Sayuri
 - Kaula Hau with Kahu Loko'ulu Quintero
 - Tenro Workshop with Sayuri Cockey
 - Microplastic Art Workshop with Sustainable Coastlines
 - Kadaanānā nga Agas: Reconnecting with Our Ancestral Medicine through Family Remedies and Food Dishes with Nicki Garces
 - Bamboo Hand-Flute Making with Jesse Kalu
 - Intro to Papa Ho'ōla Music and Cultural Arts with Kau'i Mead
 - Palm Husk Basket Workshop with Dianne Ige
 - Small 'Eke Lauhala Workshop with Kumu Wes Sen
 - Parol Workshops for students and community members with Rosie Ramiro and Phil Fernandez-Brennen



Families participated in the pilot 'Ohana Māla (family garden) program.



Nicki Garces shares her botanical knowledge in the Acopān Garden.



Kumu Wes Sen teaches lauhalā.

- Presented virtual Kahaukani Conversations for 356 people:
 - *You can learn a lot from a plant name: In this case, Hawaiian laud'e with Nani Fung*
 - *Mapping the Māhele in the Ahupua'a of Waititi with Dr. Richard Bordner*
 - *A Recipe for Dialogic Love, Learning, and Living History: Filipino Foodways in Hawaii's Diaspora with Shannon Cristobal*
 - *Elemental Mapping of Abundance: Mo'o Water Protectors on O'ahu with Candace Fujikane*
 - *Mō'ili'ili - The Life of a Community with Laura Ruby*
 - *Celebrating Kāhuli for Monte Cooke's Birthday with Nori Yeung and Ken Hayes*
- Mahina Paishon-Duarte and Kaulana Yoshimoto facilitated a 4-day retreat held at MHC in partnership with the Hawaii Leadership Forum. They wrote and offered a beautiful mele about Kūka'ō'ō Heiau.
- Promoted community collaboration by hosting retreats, meetings and programs with partners including:
 - Aloha Harvest
 - Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
 - Cooke Foundation
 - East-West Center
 - Education Incubator
 - Hunger Action Network
 - KUPU
 - Mana Maoli
 - The Nature Conservancy
 - Oahu Economic Development Board
 - Obama Foundation
 - Omidyar Fellows
 - Salvation Army Women's Way
 - Weinberg Foundation
 - Western State Arts Alliance
 - UH Manoa Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Campus Center



Sayuri Cockey teaches students how to make tenro.



Dianne Ige teaches palm bark basket-making.



Community members make parol with Rosie Ramiro and Phil Fernandez-Brennen.



Phil Fernandez-Brennen makes a parol with a community member.

Goal #3

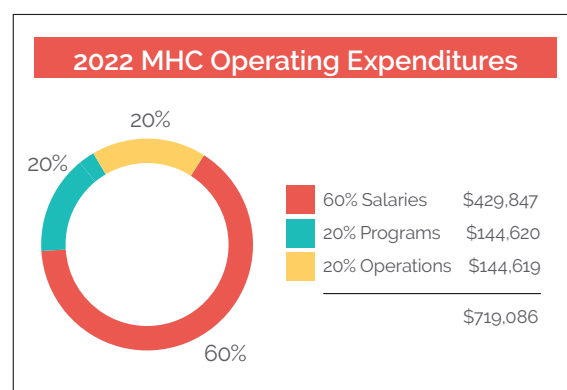
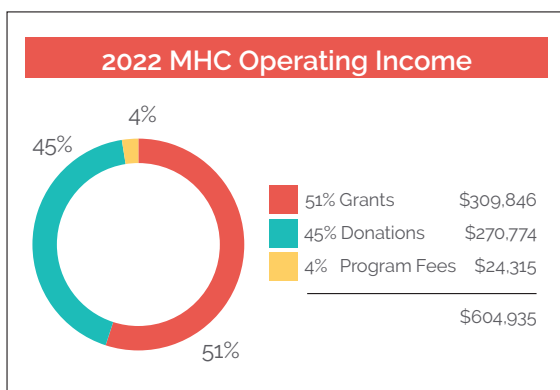
MHC will be a well-maintained facility with important historical and educational collections.

In 2022, MHC:

- Exponentially grew its volunteers in the garden program! Through its partnership with the East-West Center, MHC was able to offer new students a chance to not only give back to their new community but to learn about Hawaii's cultural and natural heritage. More than 804 volunteer hours supported the Native and Polynesian-introduced gardens (compared to 487 hours in 2021).
- Hired Skye Haraga and Lilia Lorenzo. Skye was our Kupu member and we liked her so much that we hired her after her one-year internship was complete. She splits her time between the garden and school programs. Lilia joined us as full-time garden assistant. Fluent in 'ōlelo Hawai'i, Lilia will soon work with our education team to create materials for our school program. Hiring educators who also work in the garden has made it possible for us to learn more about this special place that we steward.
- Kevin Prior, MHC's caretaker/builder/educator, worked with volunteers to refurbish the waterfall in the White Garden. Come check it out - you can even feed the fish!

Financial Snapshot

The following graphs represent unaudited financials for the period ending December 31, 2022:





MHC bids a fond aloha to Executive Director Jessica Welch. She made a tremendous impact and accomplished great things during her time with us. Jenny Engle, MHC's Director of Education, and Jenny Leung, MHC's Cultural Site Manager, will serve as co-interim Executive Directors.



Friends, supporters, and family donated more than \$95,000 in honor of Mary Cooke's 86th birthday and the thirtieth anniversary of the beginning of Sam and Mary's vision for MHC. Lei (thank you Mālama Mānoa volunteers!) and a book of birthday messages were presented to Mary on her birthday. What a smile we received in return!

Goal #4

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

In 2022, MHC:

- Welcomed new board member Ka'iu Kimura, Executive Director at 'Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai'i.
- Worked with Josh Levinson to create a new strategic plan. Centered around navigating the transition into the post-founder era of MHC, the strategic plan includes 10 objectives that will guide MHC through this next phase. It was Mary and Sam's dream to give their historic home, named Kūali'i, to MHC so that it may serve the community as a house museum. The objectives in our 2023-2028 strategic plan include developing a programmatic vision for Kūali'i, developing a plan for deferred maintenance and continuing to advance inclusive history and multiple narratives. We look forward to sharing more about this very exciting initiative with you in 2023.
- The market value of the Sam Cooke Endowed Fund supporting MHC programs and operations is \$6,609,781 as of December 31, 2022. 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 for getting us this far!

2022 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, 2022.

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- City and County of Honolulu
- Cooke Foundation, Limited
- Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
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- In memory of Jerry H. Bentley on the 10th Anniversary of his Passing
- Robin Freeman Bernstein, Nat Bernstein & Matthew Bernstein
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Jenny Leung - *Cultural Site Manager*
Lilia Lorenzo - *Garden & Grounds Assistant*
Kanoa Nakamura - *Garden & Grounds Assistant* *
Kevin Prior - *Caretaker / Educator / Builder*
Jessica Welch - *Executive Director*
Ke'ala Wong - *Education Assistant &
Cultural Steward*

* part-time



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