



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Honolulu, Hawai'i
Permit No. 1467

MĀNOA HERITAGE CENTER

2856 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822

Return Service Requested



I ulu no ka lālā i ke kumu.
The branches grow because of the trunk.
(Without our ancestors we would not be here)

'Ōlelo No'eau #1261

Be a Part of the Change!



KŪALI'I RENEWAL PROJECT 2023-2028 (5 years)

- Electrical
- A/C
- Security
- Pavement/Driveway
- Fire Suppression
- Structural upgrades: windows, doors
- Gutter work
- Exterior painting
- Interior painting
- Carpentry
- Plumbing
- Build climate controlled storage spaces
- ADA Compliance
- Art Conservation
- Consultation fees
- New CUP
- New Staff

Contact Executive Director, Lisa Solomine (808) 441-5642 lisa.solomine@manoaheritagecenter.org

MĀNOA HERITAGE CENTER

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Aloha kākou dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I write to you as the new Executive Director of Mānoa Heritage Center (MHC).

I would like to acknowledge the remarkable legacy left behind by MHC founders, Sam and Mary Cooke. It is their vision and leadership that has enabled MHC to foster a deep appreciation of Hawaii's cultural and natural heritage for more than three decades. Through focused, place-based programming, MHC continues to engage with the local community leaving a lasting impression on thousands of children and visitors year after year.

For the past five months, I have been closely engaged with staff and MHC programming, immersing myself in learning about the Cooke family history and exploring Sam Cooke's unique Hawaiiana collection. Each day, I discover the beauty of this expansive 3.5 acre property, with its native plant gardens. Additionally, there are three distinctive architectural gems on campus to admire: Kūali'i, a 1911 Tudor Revival-style home designed by New England architect Walter Leavitt Emory; Hogan House, a 1962 midcentury modern home designed by Hawai'i architect George Vincent Hogan; and Kūka'ōō, an ancient agricultural heiau estimated to be between 500-800 years old.



The images above date back to 1911-1912, depicting the early stages of Kūali'i's construction for Sam's grandfather, Charles Montague (Monte) Cooke, Jr., a malacologist at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, and his wife Eliza (Lila) Lefferts Cooke, a civil and social activist. When Sam and Mary Cooke moved into the house in 1970, they began envisioning the role their site would play in serving the broader community, which led to the idea of a Visitor Education Hale (VEH). The VEH took a long time to materialize and was finally established in 2018. Earlier this year, Kūali'i was generously deeded to MHC, by the Cookes, in line with their wish to transform their private home into a historic house museum, again, to share with the community.

As we move forward in the process of integrating Kūali'i into a broader vision and mission of Mānoa Heritage Center, we face several significant tasks. Currently, Kūali'i is undergoing a renewal phase, during which we have identified immediate improvements for the house while also addressing priority issues. Unfortunately, these improvements will render the house inaccessible to the public for a period. Recently, we have completed the reroofing of Kūali'i and are now actively engaged in the design and construction of a climate-controlled collections storage space. This space will serve to safeguard Sam Cooke's invaluable Hawaiiana art collection.

The visioning process has also been reignited, and I will continue to engage with community members this year to gather valuable input. As we move forward toward future milestones, the need for additional staff members who will play a pivotal role in this transition phase will arise. Given the project's comprehensive scope, I anticipate it will take around 3- 5 years to complete.

I feel truly humbled and honored to be a part of Sam and Mary's legacy, and I am wholeheartedly dedicated to maintaining the lofty standards they established. As I ground myself into this role, I am committed to fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability within our organization. By remaining true to MHC's core values while embracing new ideas and approaches, staff and I will endeavor to continue to make a positive impact and bring about meaningful change.

I am excited to be on this journey with all of you and I have full confidence that remarkable things will be achieved!

Lisa Solomine, Executive Director

Visit us at www.manoaheritagecenter.org  

2856 O'ahu Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96822 (808) 988-1287 contact@manoaheritagecenter.org



1919 Kūali'i View
From Mauka Gate
(H.N. Poole)



1927 Kūali'i
Garden Gate
(Huc Luquiens)



1929 Kūali'i Front
Through Trees
(Huc Luquiens)



1934 Kūali'i Hala
with Back door
(Huc Luquiens)



1937 Kūali'i
Garden Path
(Huc Luquiens)



1948 Kūali'i
Dining Lanai
(Huc Luquiens)

Kūali'i in Etchings 1917-1948

As Mānoa Heritage Center works to transform Kūali'i from a residence to a house museum and community space, we have been reflective of the evolution of the home since it was built in 1911. One wonderful form of documentation of this is the collection of copper plate etchings commissioned annually by Monte and Lila Cooke for their annual Christmas card. Between 1917 and 1948, island artists Horatio Nelson Poole and Huc-Mazelet Luquiens created scenes of Kūali'i and its gardens to be printed and given to Cooke family and friends during the holidays.

These beautifully detailed etchings were a delight to their recipients and also act as a time capsule of information of the home. Alterations to the house, views of garden spaces, and even specific types of trees in certain locations can be gleaned from the prints.

Horatio Nelson Poole arrived in Hawai'i in 1914 to work as an illustrator for the Pacific Commercial Advertiser. It is likely that he met Monte Cooke while taking commissions for custom

bookplates that were popular at the time, and was later engaged to create the Christmas card etchings of Kūali'i. Poole would leave Hawai'i in 1921 for San Francisco, where he taught at the California School of Fine Art and continued to create paintings, murals and etchings.

Huc-Mazelet Luquiens arrived in Hawai'i from New England in 1917, and like Poole was enamored of the island landscapes he found. Luquiens taught art at Punahou School and later the University of Hawai'i. He also created etchings of Kūali'i and Kuaihelani, Monte and Lila's Maui home, from the early 1920s through 1948. Luquiens, along with Charles Bartlett, John Melville Kelly and Alexander MacLeod, co-founded the Honolulu Printmakers in 1928.

The last Christmas etching of Kūali'i was done by Luquiens in 1948, the year of Monte Cooke's death. It is a view of Diamond Head from the open Dining Room doors, one that is largely unchanged 75 years later, save for differences in background foliage.

Visits to MHC January – August 2023

Mānoa Heritage Center engages annually with students in onsite and virtual place-based programs, representing more than half of our programming. We have become a thriving resource for public school educators via professional development (PD) workshops and ongoing partnerships with universities and schools. In addition to school tours and teacher workshops, MHC's on-site programs include adult tours, workshops with cultural practitioners, community meetings and retreats, and service-learning projects. The numbers below reflect our engagement with the community from January - August 2023.

2,662 Students & Teachers

397 Public Tour Participants

62 Volunteers
in the garden for 339 hours

1 Hula Camp
with 29 participants ages 6-70

24 Workshops
with 265 participants

Upcoming Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Workshops



Dr. Rick Wagner first discovered Mānoa Heritage Center on a tour in 2013, and a year later enrolled in docent training. Wanting to give back to the community in his retirement, and as an avid learner of Hawaiian history and language, MHC was a natural fit. He has been an active docent, along with his wife Andrea, ever since, leading many school and community tours. Earlier this summer he led a sold out workshop on "Hawaiian Style" bonsai at MHC. Due to popularity and interest, a second bonsai workshop is scheduled for November.

Rick first became intrigued with the practice of bonsai in the 1960s after reading an article in Sunset Magazine and took his first class in the 1980s at a local adult school in Southern California, where he met his first sensei, Jim Tatsukawa. Hooked, he then joined a bonsai club, Dai Ichi Bonsai Kai, and immersed himself in the local bonsai community. Since retiring and moving back to Hawai'i, Rick has continued honing his art and been the president of Rainbow Bonsai Club and is a member of Hawaii Bonsai Association. His book, *Bonsai Hawaiian Style: An Illustrated Guide*, was published this year.

What makes bonsai Hawaiian style? Practicing bonsai with notable trees of Hawai'i, some native, some introduced, and with a unique Hawaiian style that he explains in his workshop presentation. When asked about Hawaiian native trees he is excited about working with, Rick says, "I have a hau tree from seed that is a nice big moyogi (informal upright) now that I like a lot. I think a'ali'i have a lot of potential because of the really hard wood. Of course, all the Hawaiian trees are suitable to some extent, and much of it is personal taste."

Words of encouragement/meaning for new bonsai practitioners? Rick advises that bonsai are among the few things we have that improve with age. For novices, there is safety in numbers. Have lots of bonsai of different kinds to get experience. Look at lots of trees. Trees in nature, trees in parks, trees in bonsai shows. As my first sensei Jim Tatsukawa used to say, "good bonsai is what you like."

Hawaiian Style Bonsai with Dr. Rick Wagner

SAT., November 18, 2023 9:30am-12 noon
1 session - \$15

Join Dr. Rick Wagner for an engaging session about "Hawaiian style" bonsai. Dr. Wagner will share a short presentation with slides followed by a hands-on wiring and potting exercise. Limited to 15 participants.

Trees, pots, wire, and soil are provided. **Participants need to bring their own small sharp garden shears.**



Haku Lei Po'o with Kumu Wes Sen

SAT, November 11, 2023 9-11am
1 session - \$30

Join us and learn to make a haku-style lei po'o with Kumu Wes Sen. We'll start in the garden, gathering materials and spread out in the classroom learning how to transform la'i (ti leaf) into sturdy base for the lei po'o. Limited to 10 participants.

Sign up for workshops at <https://calendar.manoaheritagecenter.org/>