



For Immediate Release

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Arbor Day Planting at Kuhio Elementary School

Honolulu (November 7, 2014) — The Outdoor Circle celebrated Arbor Day today with students, teachers and community members gathered at Prince Jonah Kuhio Elementary School. The school was established in 1884 and continues to flourish with one of the greenest campuses in Honolulu. The Outdoor Circle planted two crepe myrtle trees in memory of Errol Aczon “Kuhio’s Secret Gardener” who single handedly brought a barren dirt lot to the lushest most canopied campuses in Honolulu.

“Trees help bring not only shade, but moisture to cool our environment.” explained educator and Outdoor Circle volunteer Cindie Ogata. “This moisture helps our water table and the trade winds. Trees are much more than beautiful shade providers. By caring for our environment, we help our planet AND our friends at sea.” This year the school chose the theme “Malama Honua = Malama Kuhio.”

Arbor Day is an annual event to celebrate the important contribution trees make to a healthy environment, especially in urban communities. Arbor Day officially came to Hawaii in 1905. Territorial Governor George Carter proclaimed November 3, 1905 as Arbor Day and recommended that all public schools participate by planting trees and shrubs on school grounds.

The Outdoor Circle has helped public schools throughout the Hawaiian Islands plant hundreds of trees on their campuses. Students, faculty, administrators, volunteers, and dignitaries helped in this year’s tree planting ceremony, including Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi, Neighborhood Board Chairman Ron Lockwood, and Complex Area Superintendent Ruth Silberstein.

Special thanks to the staff and students of Kuhio Elementary School, Department of Education, the City and County of Honolulu’s Division of Urban Forestry, Wayne Ogasawara of Mililani Ag Park for the trees, and Arborist Steve Nimz for their support in making this a successful event.

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