



THE OUTDOOR CIRCLE
**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2014-2015

President's Message



It was a busy year with our ongoing statewide advocacy of trees, parks and open space preservation, and our continual vigilance over the state signs law. These and numerous other actions engaged The Outdoor Circle Board and Branches.

This year brought our new Exceptional Tree Mapping Program to fruition, a preservation and education tool available to all. This was the year the Hawai'i Environmental Court was officially opened: TOC advocated strongly for this crucial step toward keeping our islands clean, green and beautiful. We worked to uphold the hard won signs law when challenged by aerial advertisers, again. Collective hardwork with other environmental groups resulted in the defeat of Governor Ige's first DLNR Director nomination of a known development lobbyist and the appointment of a dedicated naturalist and preservationist.

This has also been a year of strengthening our own canopy, working with our Branches to further

our mission, and completing a development plan to increase our statewide efficacy. I am grateful for the contributions of The Outdoor Circle Board of Directors in this year long process.

As I complete my Presidency, I extend a big mahalo to everyone who supports the work of The Outdoor Circle. Your contributions through membership, donations and direct service make our work possible. I am deeply grateful to our Branches for leading their communities in preservation and beautification projects. There is still a lot of work to do, but The Outdoor Circle canopy of protection is made larger and stronger by your Keep Hawai'i Beautiful activism!

Mahalo nui loa,

Alexandra Avery
President of The Outdoor Circle
2013-2015

Huge strides this year with the Exceptional Tree Mapping Initiative



This year, Programs Manager Myles Ritchie, members of staff, and many volunteers have tromped all over the state to help complete TOC's landmark Exceptional Tree map.

Up mountains, down into valleys, through jungles and open fields, our hardworking tree mappers have been stalwarts in

identifying and mapping these wonderful trees statewide.

It is important to keep in mind, however, that while the map is a great guide for all of us who want to admire these treasures, this work is much more than pins stuck on a map.

What we are doing for each of these over 700 trees is to scientifically formulate the value—the worth, the benefits—to all of us. These benefits include: financial savings, storm water runoff diversion, energy conserved, and the reduction in atmospheric carbon. Pinpointing the benefits of these trees provides a basis for each of us to realize the worth of all trees, even those that grow in our own yards.

As an example, trees offset the heat island effect by reducing the average temperature under a tree canopy by 5-10 degrees. Apply that to your yard and you realize your own trees are probably keeping your house cooler. Even if your house is air conditioned, your trees still mean less strain on the AC. And next time you are cruising around in your air-conditioned car, consider that a tree canopy over the road reduces the surface temperature by 35 degrees. Saves tremendously on tires, and roads don't get as beat up.

The Exceptional Tree Map is nearly complete, and the final pieces of data are expected to be inputted this fall. TOC plans to take the map to communities as a valuable environmental learning tool.



Volunteers learn how to use their phones to measure tree height at Lolani Palace.

Gloria's Big Island Tree Mapping Adventure

The Circle is blessed to have the support of dedicated interns throughout the year. Here is an update from one intern, Gloria, on the tree mapping trip they took Hawai'i Island:

I have been an intern for the Outdoor Circle for almost six months. During my internship I have gained "real world" skills such as event planning, social media marketing, and most important, I am working on the first of its kind Exceptional Tree Map. When I found out I was going to Big Island from the funds raised from #GIVINGTUESDAY, I was beyond excited. I am from Tampa, and have never been to the other islands.

On March 4th, I flew to Kona with TOC interns Myles Ritchie and Lindsey Howard. As soon as we landed we started "ground-truthing" trees in Kona and then made our way to Hilo. The next day we met with members from the Waimea Outdoor Circle branch at Kalopa State Park to continuing the ground-truthing effort and share the techniques we have learned. On our last day I scheduled a meeting with Kailua-Kona Councilman Dru Kanuha. We discussed the Exceptional Tree Map and the importance of a Hawai'i Island Arborist Committee.

I am very appreciative of The Outdoor Circle for providing me this unique opportunity. During the Hawai'i Island trip I was able to go see the ocean

and snow all in the same day! We did a lot of driving, walking, and data-collecting for the Exceptional Tree map—it was grueling, but totally worth it. Mahalo nui loa for one of the most amazing experiences!



Interns and volunteers map Exceptional Trees along Ali'i Drive and at Kalakaua Park in Hilo

Advocating for an Environmental Court for Hawai'i

The Outdoor Circle, along with Keep the Hawaiian Islands Beautiful and many others, worked hard to get SB632 passed into law in 2014. This law establishes an Environmental Court in Hawai'i to improve enforcement of current environmental laws, and was one of TOC's main priorities identified by members at the 2013 Full Circle Meeting.



Jan Dapitan, Randy Awo, Senator Mike Gabbard, Representative Chris Lee, Marti Townsend, Alexandra Avery, and Alice Greenwood celebrate the passage of SB632.

The Environmental Court will hear cases related to certain public health and environmental laws on single court dockets or calendar. In each jurisdiction, these cases will be heard at the same time, by the same judge, instead of intermingled with other felony and misdemeanor cases.

While Hawai'i is well known for its natural environment, state enforcement of environmental laws has been uneven. Chronic illegal dumping, improper harvesting of natural resources and contamination of streams and near-shore waters are common experiences in the Hawaiian islands. Establishment of the Environmental Court signals Hawai'i's renewed commitment and focus on protecting the environment.

Thanks to all of our members who helped push for the bill by contacting their senators and representatives!



Alexandra Avery, Jan Dapitan, Representative Thielen at the Environmental Court Symposium in June 2015, held to educate lawyers and judges



TOC recognized in Washington, D.C. for its work in our community

Executive Director Marti Townsend and President Alexandra Avery attended the 2015 Keep America Beautiful Awards and national Conference in January, representing The Outdoor Circle and Hawai'i in receiving a Community Improvement National Award. KAB noted that Hawai'i is just the second state to vote in an Environmental Court (Vermont is the other) and that we are a vanguard to inspire other states to follow suit.

While in DC, they took the opportunity to share TOC concerns with Rep. Mark Takai, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Sen. Brian Schatz.

Bus advertisements defeated with TOC's help

Volunteers from our five branches on O'ahu worked hard to stop the passage of Bill 69, which would have allowed billboards on the outside of city buses. Councilwoman Ann Kobayashi, chair of the Budget Committee, committed to deferring the fundraising measure for one year.

The City Council passed a budget that restores key bus routes without resorting to bus billboard advertising to raise funds. Since then, the bill has not been heard and its time has lapsed.



Save DLNR Campaign a success in early 2015

The Outdoor Circle and more than 20 other advocacy groups opposed the nomination of Carleton Ching as Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and on March 18, the nomination was withdrawn after the public spoke out. This confirmation process demonstrated that when the people of Hawai'i engage, our voices are heard. Our participation resulted in a better future for our natural and cultural resources and our democratic process. Thank you to everyone who showed up—your testimony, phone calls, and emails all made the difference in this turn of events.

Other Highlights 2014-2015



Far left: East Honolulu Branch President and Central Board Advisor Susan Spangler on the State Arborists Council

Left: Crepe Myrtle tree planting at Kuhio Elementary School, Honolulu



Left: Kaneohe Outdoor Circle's Wa'a Garden Project

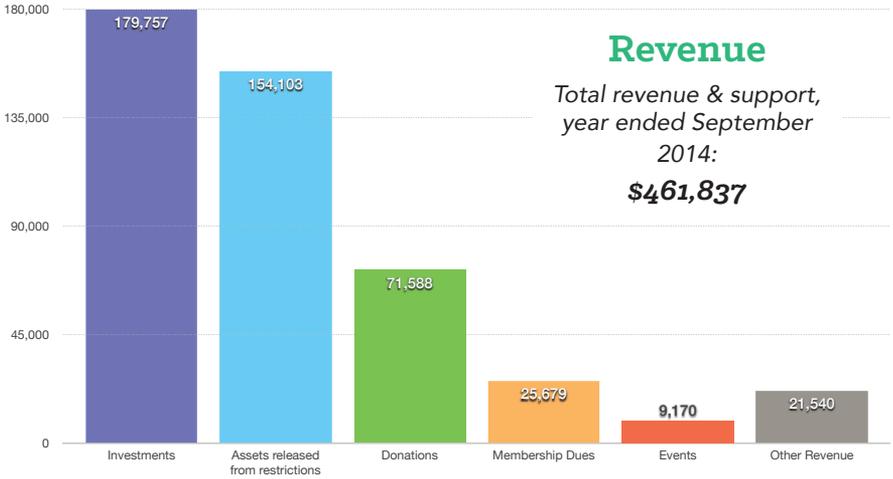
Right: TOC staff and volunteers give out 300 plants to Kapolei Hawaiian Homestead residents



Left: Waimea Outdoor Circle's Ulu La'au volunteer work day

Right: Manoa Outdoor Circle works to save this historic Monkeypod

Fiscal Year 2013-2014: Revenue & Expenses





Mahalo to Our Donors & Supporters

The Outdoor Circle relies on the generosity of individuals like you. From in-kind gifts and services to bequests and grants, our donors are the backbone of our organization. The Circle is not supported by government funding. Thanks to the consistent support of people like you, we are able to accomplish amazing things for Hawai'i nei.

This Year's Exceptional Donors (donors who have given over \$500 in 2014-2015)

Lawrence Adams
 Alexandra Avery
 Joan Bellinger
 Patricia Benjamin
 Kathleen Bryan
 Earl Chapman
 Bonnie Rose Coonradt
 Midi Cox
 Kevin Eckert
 Sally Edwards
 Sharon E. Geary
 Kari L. Hagerman

Rebekah Kanter
 Mary King
 Thomas Kosasa
 Jeremy Lam
 Cheryl Langton
 Liziha Lau
 Elliot Loden
 Barbara Marumoto
 Mike Mcfarlane
 Steve Mechler
 Gunner Mench
 George Norcross

Errol Rubin
 Heather Shank
 Carol Silva
 Denise Soderholm
 Luella Spadaro
 John Spangler
 Susan Spangler
 Sandra Stephenson
 Marti Townsend
 Charlene van der Pyl
 Chee

New Lifetime Members

Alexandra Avery
 Patricia Benjamin
 Bonnie Rose Coonradt
 Midi Cox
 Thomas Kosasa
 Jeremy Lam

Virginia Lowrey Brown
 Deborah Lockett
 Barbara Marumoto
 Mike Mcfarlane
 Katherine Orr
 Errol Rubin

John Spangler
 Susan Spangler
 Marti Townsend

Mahalo & A Hui Hou

Sally Edwards (1920-2014)

Sally Hailauaala Edwards lived a long and distinguished life. She was a true mentor to many of us in The Outdoor Circle. Her generous time, treasure and talent bestowed upon TOC has created a legacy we strive to honor. Sally Edwards was a true dame, born (1920) in Berkeley, CA, educated at Stanford University, served during the war as an air traffic controller at Ford island, and had a long career in the travel industry. She will be long remembered within TOC, as in so many circles, for her generous spirit.

Ruth Leinau (1917-2015)

Ruth, a longtime member of the North Shore Outdoor Circle and at one point its President, will be remembered and loved by all ages as she was just as comfortable with the younger members as she was with her peers. She blended into the age of exceptional women, a marvelous volunteer with the charm and beauty of spirit and gentility.

Outgoing Board Members

We sincerely thank our outgoing board members for their dedicated service at TOC!

Alexandra Avery, President
Midi Cox, Treasurer
Mary Farkash, Secretary
Barbara Marumoto, Advisor
Adi Philips, Advisor
Susan Spangler, Advisor

Outgoing Staff

Marti Townsend served as TOC's Executive Director, bringing just the right expertise and malama to The Outdoor Circle since she joined the staff three years ago. She is now serving as ED for the Hawai'i Chapter of The Sierra Club. We will miss her skilled competence and bright spirit as our Director and we are looking forward to her continued involvement as a member and volunteer.

Noelani Sugata served The Outdoor Circle for ten solid years, working her way up from Administrative Assistant to Operations Manager and learning every facet of the organization in the process. We thank her for her long list of contributions to TOC's operations and wish her all the best with her future endeavors!

Our Members make the difference!

The Circle is a membership-based organization—we are successful because we are made of people like you. We work to protect the beauty of Hawai'i because this is our home. This amazing island environment keeps our families healthy and our souls nourished, which means we have a duty to protect and enhance it for future generations. By working together across our diverse communities, we leverage our collective strength to establish lasting protections for Hawai'i's environment and people. We need your help—please join us.



Our Mission

To keep Hawai'i clean, green, and beautiful by preserving, protecting, and enhancing our environment for future generations.

Board of Directors

2014-2015

- Alexandra Avery, President
- Kathleen Bryan, Vice President
- Midi Cox, Treasurer
- Mary Farkash, Secretary
- Diane Harding, Branch Representative
- Kaui Lucas, Nominating Chair
- Advisors:
 - Rep. Barbara Marumoto
 - Susan Spangler
 - Steve Mechler
 - Paula Ress
- At-Large Members:
 - Dr. Jeremy Lam
 - Adi Philips
 - Mike McFarlane
 - Cheryl Langton
- Kupuna Advisory Council
 - Mary Cooke
 - Patsy Gibson
 - Mary King
 - Laura Thompson

Branch Presidents

- East Honolulu: Susan Spangler
- Kaneohe: Mary Yannell
- Kauai: Maureen Murphy
- Lani-Kailua: Diane Harding
- Manoa: Dr. Jeremy Lam
- North Shore: Carolyn Sandison
- Waikoloa Village: Alice Browne, Ali Blackmore
- Waimea: Cheryl Langton

Staff

- David Cheever, Interim Executive Director
- Renee Nakagawa, Office Manager
- Myles Ritchie, Project Manager



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