



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 Iolani 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.

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## *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.




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## *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**

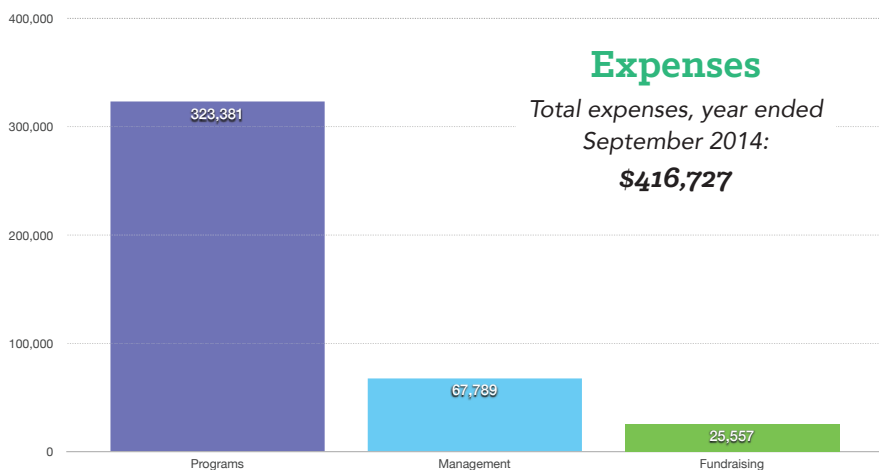
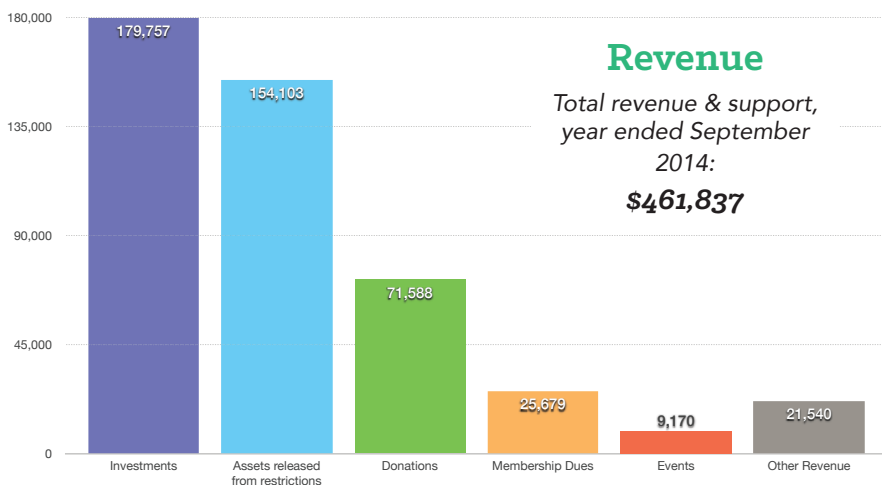
**Right: TOC staff and volunteers give out 300 plants to Kapolei Hawaiian Homestead residents**



**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       | Rebekah Kanter   | Errol Rubin          |
| Alexandra Avery      | Mary King        | Heather Shank        |
| Joan Bellinger       | Thomas Kosasa    | Carol Silva          |
| Patricia Benjamin    | Jeremy Lam       | Denise Soderholm     |
| Kathleen Bryan       | Cheryl Langton   | Luella Spadaro       |
| Earl Chapman         | Liziha Lau       | John Spangler        |
| Bonnie Rose Coonradt | Elliot Loden     | Susan Spangler       |
| Midi Cox             | Barbara Marumoto | Sandra Stephenson    |
| Kevin Eckert         | Mike Mcfarlane   | Marti Townsend       |
| Sally Edwards        | Steve Mechler    | Charlene van der Pyl |
| Sharon E. Geary      | Gunner Mench     | Chee                 |
| Kari L. Hagerman     | George Norcross  |                      |

### ***New Lifetime Members***

|                      |                       |                |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Alexandra Avery      | Virginia Lowrey Brown | John Spangler  |
| Patricia Benjamin    | Deborah Luckett       | Susan Spangler |
| Bonnie Rose Coonradt | Barbara Marumoto      | Marti Townsend |
| Midi Cox             | Mike Mcfarlane        |                |
| Thomas Kosasa        | Katherine Orr         |                |
| Jeremy Lam           | Errol Rubin           |                |

# ***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.

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## ***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  
Kauai 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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