

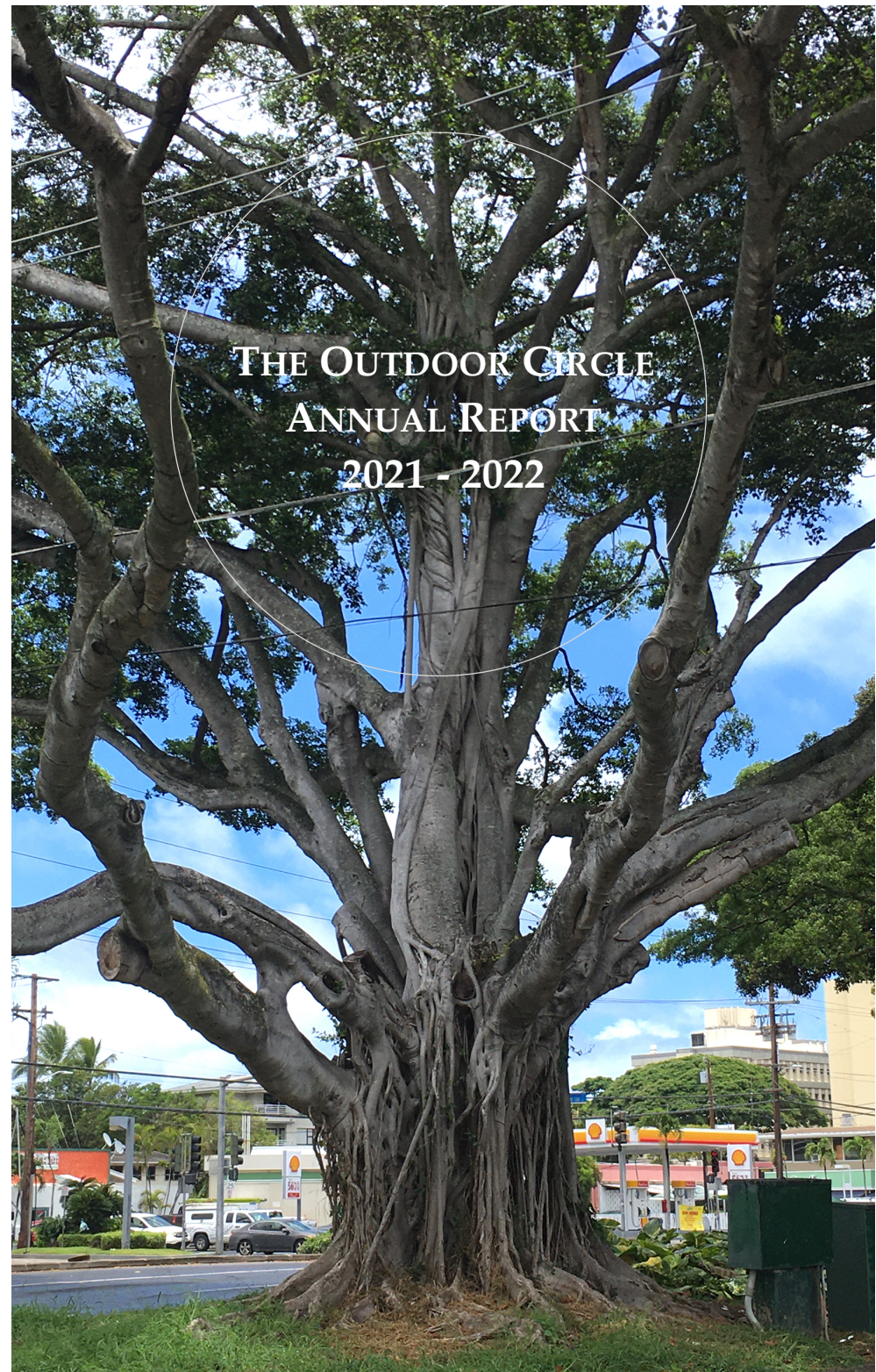


**The Outdoor Circle**

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Cover: Chinese Banyan tree, an Exceptional Tree in the Kailua Central Triangle, downtown Kailua, Hawai'i.  
This tree is over 81 years old and was exceptionalized with three neighboring trees in 2002  
by the Lani-Kailua Outdoor Circle.



## President's Message



This year marks the 110th anniversary of the founding of our organization in 1912. As we ease back into normal life, the mission created by the founding members seems more vital than ever. It has become evident that we live in an increasingly digital world, which creates an even greater need to have access to a physical world of beauty and greenery in order to help balance the everyday stresses of life. Preserving and enhancing the natural world is the essence of The Outdoor Circle's mission, allowing us to enjoy a quality of life that sustains and energizes us for the challenges ahead, be they sea level rise, climate change, pandemics or political upheaval.

This past year, the TOC Development Committee focused on raising public awareness of the history and contributions of our organization. From planting the stately mahogany trees that still line Kalakaua Avenue, to helping develop plans for Ala Moana Park, to enacting the statewide billboard ban, which are some hallmarks of the organization's early years. More recent accomplishments include establishing the Hawai'i Environmental Court, spearheading the creation of Trees for Honolulu's Future, and providing community engaged projects such as funding for successive tree giveaways for the East Hawai'i Branch on Hawai'i Island that addresses food insecurity issues and helping to save the Monkeypod trees at Manoa Marketplace. The reach of The Outdoor Circle has grown considerably over the last 110 years and our list of accomplishments has grown with it. With continued support from our dedicated membership and generous donors, who cherish Hawai'i's natural and scenic beauty, TOC will continue its role as an environmental guardian for another century to come.

The critical importance of trees, particularly shade trees with extensive canopies, continues to be a central focus for The Outdoor Circle. Raising awareness of the Exceptional Tree Program, which is documented in our *Majesty I and Majesty II* books, and has been shepherded by TOC staff since its inception in 1975, is also a priority. In light of the nearly ten-fold growth in the list of Exceptional Trees since *Majesty II*, we are interested in exploring ways to further publicize the program as part of the larger history of The Outdoor Circle and will continue to champion this important State program for tree conservation, protection and advocacy.

As the 2021-2022 year comes to a close and my three-year term as President concludes, I want to thank all of the branches and their members, the dedicated staff in our main office, and our Board of Directors for their time, financial support and hard work in pursuit of the mission of The Outdoor Circle. It has been an honor and privilege to be part of such a long-lived organization and I look forward to working with all of you to continue that longevity.

Aloha,  
Scott R. Wilson  
President, The Outdoor Circle

## Exceptional Tree Map 3.0



A monumental update was made to The Outdoor Circle's Exceptional Tree Map (ETM), with this version 3.0 update highlighting not only the many new Exceptional Trees on Maui and Oahu, but also the selection criteria and approximate age of each Exceptional Tree on Oahu (where data was available). This update was able to take place when TOC's Programs Director, Myles Ritchie, manually digitized all of Oahu's Exceptional Tree nomination forms and then used the data to find which of the seven selection criteria (*historical/cultural value, age, size, location, endemic status, rarity and aesthetic value*) each tree represents, in addition to their approximate ages and planting dates based on these nomination forms. The goal is to repeat this process for all Exceptional Trees on Maui, Kaua'i and Hawai'i counties, pending access to nomination forms. To view the updated ETM, please visit the TOC website, where under "Trees" you will find a link to the Exceptional Tree Map.

## Exceptional Tree Program Presentation, Tour & Workshop



TOC's Programs Director, Myles Ritchie, has been developing an Exceptional Tree program presentation, tree tour, and nomination workshop that will be held exclusively for TOC members. The presentation will highlight the history of Hawai'i's Exceptional Tree program, selection criteria, new research being produced on this topic, the nomination process and future goals of the program specifically looking at TOC's role in it. The tree tour will highlight some of Honolulu's Exceptional Trees in the Waikiki area, followed by a workshop at a later date that will allow interested TOC members the opportunity to nominate potential Exceptional Tree candidates. We will be working to schedule these events in late 2022, early 2023.

## Green Roofs & Walls Research



The Outdoor Circle's green roof and walls research collaboration, with Dr. Andrew Kaufman of the University of Hawai'i's Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences department, will begin planting this year after significant preparation over the past year. This research, being conducted at the Magoon research facility in Mānoa, will identify which green roof and wall plants will thrive in Hawai'i's climate and provide important knowledge that can be used to shift from traditional "grey" to "green" infrastructure, allowing concrete buildings and roofs to host ideal species that will reduce cooling costs, increase biodiversity in urban areas, increase food security and be more aesthetically pleasing.

## Waimanalo Root Barrier Project



TOC's root barrier research project, once again in collaboration with Dr. Andrew Kaufman of the University of Hawai'i's Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences department, reached its conclusion this past spring. The findings, which will be shared with the public through presentations, documents, free publications and academic journal articles, highlight this first-of-its-kind research for a tropical region looking at the impacts of different root barrier methods on common street tree species (Kou and Rainbow Showers). From these findings, newly planted trees in Hawai'i's urban forests should benefit by having better access to adequate soil volumes, leading to better overall health and growth rates, while also reducing the known and frequent conflicts that tree roots have with the built environment, specifically concrete sidewalks, utilities and roads. A showcase of the project site at the University of Hawai'i Waimanalo research site will take place during the upcoming school semester, with the potential for a second showcase based on stated interest.

## The Outdoor Circle's Hawai'i Arbor Day & 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planting & Tree Giveaway Events



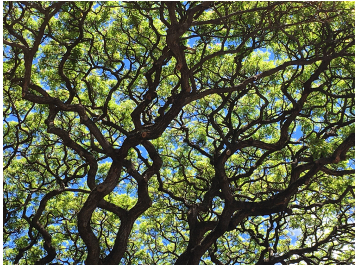
Windward Community College students, Enterprise Rent-A-Car (funding sponsor) employees, and TOC staff, plant trees at Windward Community College, on Oahu, with funding secured from the Arbor Day Foundation.

The Outdoor Circle statewide office submitted an elaborate multi-event proposal to the Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of TOC and would be seen in the form of nine events to be conducted on Hawai'i's Arbor Day (November 5, 2022) on three different islands (Oahu, Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island) by eight of TOC's branches. While it would be ideal to conduct all nine events, it is important to note that depending on funder interest, one or more of the events could be selected.

Cumulatively, the proposal would see at least 2,625 fruit and native Hawaiian trees given away, while also seeing 31 large trees (mainly 25-gallons or larger) planted. Should these events be funded, the giveaways would be either in-person or use a drive-through format that will have recipients select their desired species in advance. By providing and planting fruit trees around the state, Hawai'i's urban forests will be increased, while also addressing the known issue of food insecurity throughout the state.

A united event of this nature across the state would be one of the largest known Hawai'i Arbor Day programs of its kind, and while funding has not yet been secured, it is important to note that the hard work of the TOC statewide office, in collaboration with each of the eight branches, allows for the possibility that these programs can take place as funding becomes available.

## Oahu and Big Island Arborist Advisory Committees Reform



This year, Oahu and the Hawai'i Island had their Arborist Advisory Committees (AAC) reformed after a nearly two-year hiatus prompted by the Covid pandemic and election of new mayors. These committees feature tree experts selected by the mayor of each county and are responsible for not only each location's Exceptional Trees, but also act more broadly as an important advisory board for all urban forestry components. The Outdoor Circle is well represented on these two AAC's with TOC Program Director Myles Ritchie as Chair of the City and County of Honolulu's AAC, while Jonathan Sudler, TOC Board Member and Vice President of the East Hawai'i Branch, has once again been selected to the Hawai'i County's AAC. The reformation of these two AAC's would not have been possible without significant support from TOC's Executive Director, Winston Welch. The existence of these AAC's around Hawai'i will assist in improving the state's Exceptional Tree program and urban forestry best practices.

### Palehua Three-Year Planting Program



The Outdoor Circle was able to secure a three-year restoration grant from First Insurance Company of Hawaii (FICOH) which will see thousands of native trees planted at Camp Palehua during this time span. The grant and program, which will be managed by Malama Learning Center and supported by The Outdoor Circle, will allow FICOH employees the opportunity to visit the three restoration sites at Palehua, plant native trees and learn about the botanical, cultural and environmental benefits the selected species will provide to this former pastureland.

## Branch Highlights 2020-2021

### East Hawai'i Island Branch

As an Arbor Day event, we held our third successful tree giveaway in Hilo in November 2021. With the help of TOC's Programs Director Myles Ritchie, we set up an advance reservation system and it worked like a charm. Some of our members are forming a non-profit, "The Friends of Historic Banyan Drive" to care for Hilo's living monuments as the banyans continued to play a large role in our branch. The Hawai'i Island Arborist Advisory Committee started up again due in part to our efforts in pushing Mayor Roth's administration on its importance. We also worked with the County of Hawai'i Parks Department to replace three trees (or more) for every tree they cut down.

### Lani-Kailua Branch

LKOC was able to hold its "Annual Plant Sale" after a several-year hiatus due to Covid, featuring plants nurtured and grown by the students in our "Learning to Grow" program at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC); held a volunteer workday event at Kalama Beach Park to remove invasive plants threatening to overrun the naupaka beds in the lawn makai of the historic Boettcher Estate home; have been actively involved at WCCC with state officials and construction teams regarding the protection of four Exceptional Trees on the grounds to ensure they are not adversely affected by new facilities under construction there; and continued its protection and preservation efforts at Kawainui Marsh, most recently filing a legal challenge to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Plan that was approved by the Governor in 2021.

### Mānoa Branch

During the State's Reapportionment process, in the Fall of 2021, the Mānoa branch successfully advocated for Mānoa to remain one, cohesive, compact district for the upcoming decade of elections. In the Spring, we organized a town hall meeting for over 300 community residents to discuss their concerns about the Mānoa Banyan Court Elderly Affordable Housing 201H Development Proposal by the Lin Yee Chung Association. In addition, we have continued caring for the heiau at Kamānele Park with quarterly service days, and we are partnering with UH Lyon Arboretum to propagate plants for our next 1,000 Tree Giveaway, which is scheduled for November 2022.

### North Shore Branch

2022 has been a busy year, filled with some difficult and some positive developments for NSOC. Although not formally a member, surfing legend Peter Cole, who was a staunch supporter of our small but mighty organization, passed away this year. The nearly 30-year-old Ke Ala Pupukea bike path is in serious need of reconstruction and our beautiful gateway to Haleiwa, Weed Circle, is in dire need of having its irrigation system rebuilt. Board Member Rex Dubiel Shanahan secured funding from the city and Councilwoman Tsuneyoshi to rebuild the bike path, but we have no funding yet for the Weed Circle irrigation project. Some other highlights: we won first prize with our colorfully decorated aid station at the Haleiwa Metric Century Bike Ride, enjoyed a community volunteer outreach event at Waimea Valley, and participated in the Haleiwa Arts Festival by giving away free seeds. We invite the public to join us as we continue to care for Torch Ginger Alley at Waimea Valley.

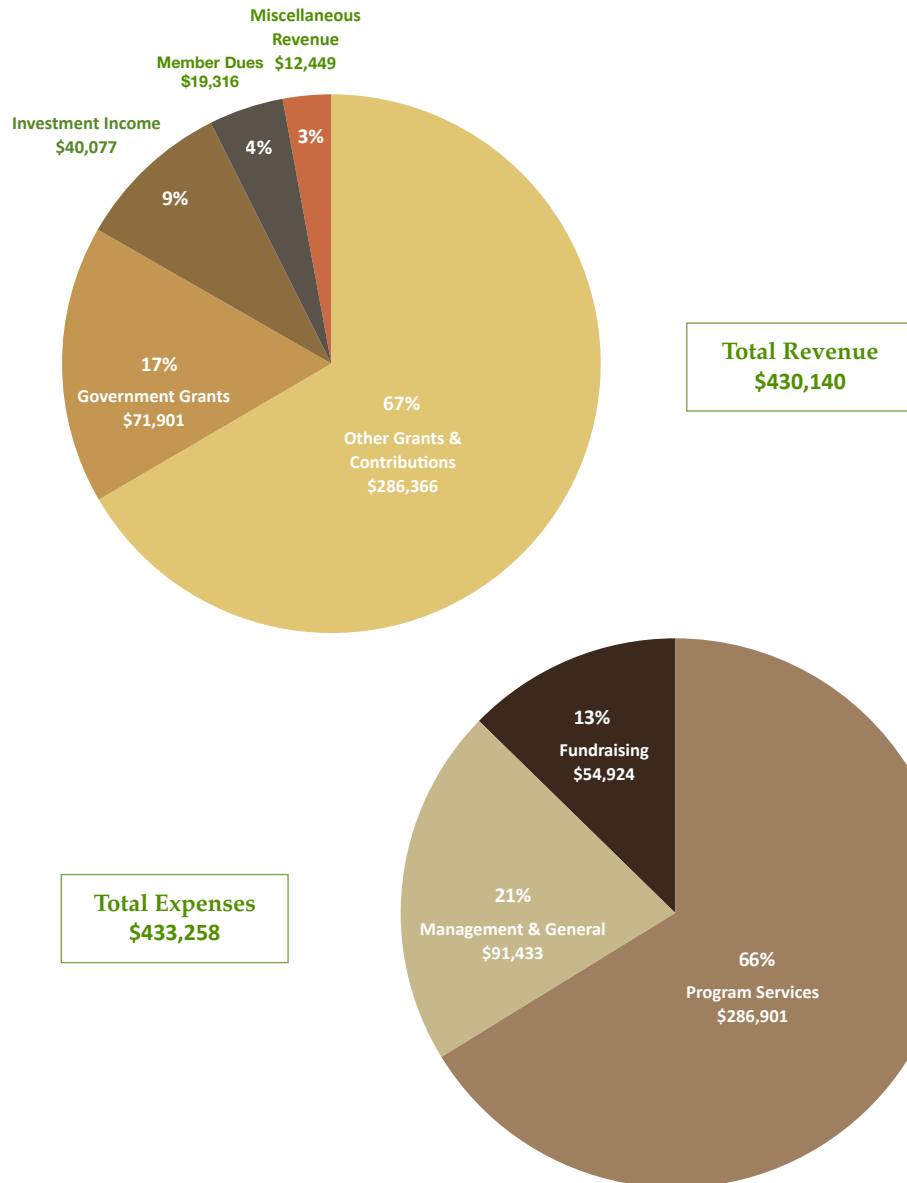
### Waikoloa Village Branch

To plant a garden is to believe in the future. Our community gardeners count their blessings every day, especially the days they go to Waikoloa Village Outdoor Circle's Community Garden. We grow lettuce, spinach, yummy golden beets, radishes, green onions, soy beans, and carrots (among other things). Good friends and beautiful plants grow in our little garden.

### Waimea Branch

The Waimea Branch has been focused on planting 'Ōhi'a Lehua trees in the Waimea Nature Park and protecting those already growing from Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. This disease has killed more than a million trees on Hawai'i Island alone over the past eight years. With the recent passing of Senate Bill 2059, designating the 'Ōhi'a Lehua as the official Hawai'i State Endemic Tree, we hope this recognition will help spread the message about how important this species is to Hawai'i. Outside of native forests, Waimea Nature Park has the largest collection of diverse colors of Lehua blossoms in the State.

## Financials for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021 Revenue & Expenses



**Net Assets at Year End \$2.19M**

## Mahalo to Our Donors & Supporters



The North Shore Outdoor Circle during a clean-up of Torch Ginger Alley at Waimea Valley on Oahu.

**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. We are thankful for the consistent support of people like you, through which we are able to accomplish amazing things.

### This Year's Exceptional Donors [ donors who gave \$500 or more in 2021-2022 ]

#### Individuals

Gordon Aoyagi  
Arlene & Ken Block  
Paige Block  
Peter Drewliner  
Kevin Eckert  
Carol Golembeski  
Diane Harding  
Bobbie Jennings  
Lynne Johnson & Randolph Moore

Tracey McCullough  
Paula Ress  
Meg Sibley  
Denise Soderholm  
Bevil Walker  
Claudia Webster  
Scott Wilson & Christine Yano  
Barbara Schneider Yeackel

#### Corporations, Foundations and Other Entities

Adventist Health Castle  
American Carpet One Foundation  
Ananda Fund Hawaii  
Anonymous  
Arbor Day Foundation  
Armstrong Foundation  
Atherton Family Foundation  
HomeStreet Bank

Lanikai Association  
LGA Family Foundation  
Padosi Foundation  
Poha Fund  
Prisanlee Fund  
Sara Marie Riley Trust  
Sustainable Solutions Foundation  
Zadoc and Lawrence Brown Foundation

## Mahalo & A Hui Hou

The Outdoor Circle's members and supporters are an integral part of our organization. We honor the memory of a few who have passed away over the last year, grateful for their devotion and commitment to our mission.



**Mary Moragne Cooke** was a powerful force in Mānoa Valley and an invaluable treasure. As a charter member of the Mānoa Outdoor Circle, the founder and first President of Malama Mānoa, and the driving force behind the creation of the Mānoa Heritage Center, her leadership in preservation efforts were countless. We will miss her quiet and effective ways as an activist and a philanthropist whose efforts made a huge impact in the Mānoa community and beyond.



**Joan Wood Fleming**, one of the Circle's most dynamic and beloved leaders, did so much for The Outdoor Circle and Kailua during her 45-plus years of involvement with the Lani-Kailua Branch. She was a wonderful mentor and inspiration to so many of us, and her legacy lives on in the many beautification projects she spearheaded in Kailua.



**Mary Hines King** was a leading advocate for the Lani-Kailua Branch for over 40 years, serving as Board President and as a leader in Public Affairs and beautification efforts throughout Kailua. She will always be remembered as a gentle and charming person who got the job done! She and her husband Harvey loved traveling, and she always had a sparkle in her eyes as she was off to her next adventure. A Hui Hou, Mary. We will miss you.



**Jean Louise Thompson Merlet** was a past President of the North Shore Branch and was instrumental in the creation of the well-loved Ke Ala Pupukea Bike Path, one of the branch's proud accomplishments.

## Outgoing Board Member

**Kathy Whitmire** held many positions on the TOC Board, serving as Board President from 2005 to 2007, Treasurer from 2020 to 2022, and served on the Finance and Public Affairs Committees. Over the years she has been an active member of the Kaneohe and North Shore branches. The Outdoor Circle thanks Kathy for volunteering her time and energy to help uphold our mission.



## Our Mission



The Mānoa Outdoor Circle with community volunteers after a clean-up of Kamānele Park.

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



## Board of Directors 2021-2022

Scott R. Wilson, President  
Jonathan Sudler, Vice President  
Paula Ress, Secretary  
Kathy Whitmire, Treasurer  
Diane Harding, Branch Representative  
Kathleen Bryan, Nominations Committee Chair  
Denise Soderholm, Advisor  
Directors:  
Gordon Aoyagi  
Mimi Bornhorst Gaddis  
Joan Gossett  
Cheryl Langton  
Maureen Murphy

## Branch Presidents

East Hawai'i Island: Donald Inouye  
East Honolulu: Susan Spangler  
Kaua'i: Maureen Murphy  
Lani-Kailua: Diane Harding  
Mānoa: Jeremy Lam  
North Shore: Vera Stone  
Waikoloa Village: W.S. Lawrence  
Waimea: Cheryl Langton

## Staff

Winston Welch, Executive Director  
Jackie Wah, Operations Director  
Myles Ritchie, Programs Director