



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
MĀNOA

Landscape Advisory Committee Annual Report

July 2008 – June 2009



Installation of landscape plantings at the Mo'ili'ili Gateway (Varsity Gate) by volunteer students, faculty and staff (supported by the Kaulunani Grant Project).

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www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/

LAC Mission Statement

The impression created by a university campus has a powerful effect on students, faculty, staff and visitors. Properly maintained, a university campus is much more than just the buildings and their rooms: it is also the functional and aesthetic organization of outdoor spaces and all they include. Properly maintained, the campus landscape and its associated amenities become the fabric that holds the buildings together and makes the campus's powerful impression a positive one. Without a strong advocate for the quality and maintenance of its landscape, an urban campus such as the University of Hawaii at Manoa loses green open space as well as trees and becomes cluttered with ad hoc utility installations, unauthorized projects and guerilla sales tables, and unkempt construction sites.

The Landscape Advisory Committee has been a strong advocate for the University of Hawaii Manoa campus since 1996 by promoting an attractive, appropriate, and sustainable campus environment with a Hawaiian sense of place that encourages and fosters positive academic and social interactions. These positive interactions include assuring the long-term health of plants on campus, assisting with the timely maintenance of all landscape features and providing opportunity for members of the campus community to propose landscape improvements. Moreover, the Landscape Advisory Committee looks to the future by advocating landscape practices that are water and energy efficient, the perpetuation and expansion of the green landscape environment through tree canopy, shrubs and ground cover plantings, and the development of an attractive and functional walkway system, with opportunities to sit down, all of which will continue to help foster positive academic and social interactions on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus.

The Committee was formed in 1994 by the Vice President for Academic Affairs to assist the Landscaping Office. It has also long assisted Campus Planning, and it currently provides reports to the Assistant Vice-Chancellors for Campus Services (David Hafner) and Financial & Physical management (Eric Crispin) and other committees under their direction.

Committee composition

Janet Gillmar (Architecture) Chair
Andrew Kaufman (TPSS) Vice-chair
Richard Criley (TPSS) Recorder
Roxanne Adams (B&G)
Roxanne Adams (B&G)
Orville Baldos (TPSS) graduate student rep.
Kim Bridges (Botany)

Jim Caron (English)
Wally Gretz (Planning)
Adam Williams (Botany),
undergraduate rep.
Laura Ruby (Art)
John Stimson (Zoology)
Eric Crispin (Asst. V-Chancellor
for Financial & Physical
Management)

The Landscape Committee met 8 times during the period to receive and review reports, provide advice, and initiate actions on a variety of projects and policies impacting the landscape of the Manoa campus of the University of Hawaii.

PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Getty Grant

Contributions from LAC members, Janet Gillmar, Kim Bridges, Richard Criley, and Roxanne Adams were incorporated into the final report to the Getty Grant Foundation, submitted in December 2008. The Getty Grant Committee produced a 396 page report, *University of Hawaii at Mānoa Campus Heritage Report*, plus appendices of supporting materials on an included CD-ROM.

Varsity Gate beautification

With the support of the UHM Grounds staff who provided a basic clean-up of the site and walkway improvements and funding from the Chancellor's office and the federal-state Kaulunani urban forestry program of DLNR, a group of university and community volunteers planted trees, shrubs, and ground covers at the Mo'ili'ili entrance to Lower Campus on January 19, 2009 as Phase I of a comprehensive beautification project launched by LAC in 2007. Principal organization efforts were led by Roxanne Adams and Laura Ruby. A proposal to change the name of the area to Mo'ili'ili Gate has been sent forward from the LAC to the Chancellor for referral to the Board of Regents since this is the connection to the Mo'ili'ili community.

Exceptional Tree nominations

Documents were prepared for 9 ornamental trees/tree groupings to nominate them as Exceptional Trees under the Honolulu City & County ordinance that establishes such recognition. Seven nominations were forwarded from the Chancellor's office and three were approved by the C&C Arborist Advisory Committee. City Council approval had not been received by the end of June 2009. Approved trees included the Baobab adjacent to the Art Building, the Hutu on the mauka side of Bilger Hall in McCarthy Mall, and the Banuyo at Campus Road across from Gartley Hall.

H-1 Underpass painting

Just prior to the start of the fall semester, Laura Ruby, Janet Gillmar and several other campus and community volunteers prepared and painted a simple geometric pattern on the dark grey concrete retaining walls of the University Avenue underpass leading to the University campus. This followed a similar effort the year before, approved by the State DoT, designed and led by Laura, to enhance the small H-1 underpass makai of Varsity Gate.

Bio-Med berm

In fall 2008 Roxanne Adams reported planting 4 milo plus many native shrubs with the help of Jim Caron's honors students, who did a great job. (See also Appendix Table A.)

Monkeypod plantings along Dole Street

A number of monkeypod trees secured in exchange for a large monkeypod removed for the Gateway Cafeteria expansion were planted along Dole Street from University Avenue to the East-West Road exit from campus. These have taken off and grown well. One tree near the Andrews Amphitheater was designated a memorial tree to honor deceased LAC member and Campus Planner, Wally Gretz, and a plaque was designed in his honor by Laura Ruby.

Memorial tree plantings

Memorial trees were planted to honor deceased UHM faculty: Dr. Nina Etkins, Ann Sloat, and Jane Kaufman. The listing of memorial trees on campus was updated to include the new plantings.

Nina Etkins – *Majidea zaquebarica* – Hawaii Hall Quad near Saunders Hall.

Ann Sloat – *Polyalthea longifolia* – right side of Webster Hall entrance

Jane Kaufman – *Polyalthea longifolia* – left side of Webster Hall entrance

Vincent DeFeo – *Aleurites moluccana* – approach to cloning lab entrance of BioMed

Generation of Policy proposals

While the LAC has previously generated proposals on a variety of tree and landscape issues, this was a particularly busy year in regard to a number of related issues. Vice-chancellor Kathy Cutshaw's office created a format for such proposals, and the LAC developed and sent forward policy proposals dealing with Aesthetics, Memorial trees, Artwork and gift tree acceptance, Portable Personal Transport, and Skateboard usage. A tree protection policy previously submitted is now in UHM model specifications when new buildings are being proposed and specifications drawn up.

REVIEWS and ADVICE

Campus Center Recreation Center

The committee reviewed the PDR, learning that the program area was too large for its site and impacted the historic Engineering buildings. A revised plan which incorporated two of the historic buildings resulted in the loss of numerous shade trees and shrubs, including 17 trees of historic value documented in the Campus Heritage Report, including an old very large-canopied *Ficus benjamina* var. *comosus* that absorbs significant amounts of CO₂ and storm water. The site is not subject to change. The committee's inputs were directed at trying to save trees, retain some of the mountain view, and scale back the over-large footprint of the addition. The plan shown on the campus center website was found to be an older vision.

C-More laboratory addition to BiodMed

The Committee reviewed the design plans, noting that landscaping and irrigation were not included in the design and that numerous trees that absorb significant amounts of CO₂ and storm water would be removed. In our memoranda and letters we also voiced concern about termination of irrigation for the present landscape, the impact of contractor vehicles, the relocation of a rainbow shower tree planted by Carolie Simone, and the need to relocate a Bumpei Akagi sculpture piece. We asked for retention of some of the Mindanao Gum trees in the present courtyard entry and were successful.

Concerns about turning off irrigation have been validated by the death of Mexican Heather plants installed 2 years ago when the fence between the BioMed parking lot and the MidPac athletic field was replaced. These ground covers are on the BioMed landscape irrigation lines.

Gartley Hall renovations

The installation of an elevator to render Gartley Hall handicap-accessible is being met by an external tower addition that will necessitate removal of two mature pink tecoma trees. Other trees originally slated for removal to enable water-proofing of external basement walls can be saved by using excavation techniques close to the building. Replacement trees for the pink tecoma that will be lost were recommended, including two pink shaving brush trees that will be removed in the ITC building construction.

Information Technology Center (ITC) Building

Landscape plans were reviewed for the ITC building to be located between the Bilger Hall addition and the Physical Science building. Of concern were pedestrian and vehicular access and traffic on Correa Road and between the new building and Physical Science. The Committee passed along its recommendations, including relocation of trees and a turn around designed to accommodate vehicles that will not progress further on Correa Road. Recently, we were also apprised of a cutback on the building design due to budgetary restrictions, but the landscape impacts were not specified.

Kennedy Theater addition and parking structure

What began as an addition to increase on-campus parking evolved to include a performing arts center to Kennedy Theater. The Committee has had little input on landscape issues other than how access to Correa Road ties in with the ITC building.

Maile Way and other gateways

Responding to Chancellor Hinshaw's concern about visitors' first impressions upon entering campus, ideas have been discussed, including improved signage and maps. Nothing concrete has emerged beyond the improvements underway at the Lower Campus entry from Mo'ili'ili (see report above). A design charrette by teams of architecture students looked at how the Campus Road entry from University Avenue might be revamped.

McCarthy Mall renovation

Replacing the McCarthy Mall sidewalk and planters around the monkeypod trees was proposed. It was subsequently taken off the budget due to costs and the need to wait out construction of the electrical/mechanical building for Hamilton Library as contractor vehicles are using the mall as an entry to the construction site. The committee considered the replacement of the concrete walls around the monkeypod trees and possible root damage.

New Henke Hall

The Committee reviewed the successive drafts of the PDR and its successors and wrote several memoranda and letters voicing our concerns about a proposed alarming intrusion into McCarthy Mall and the loss of trees, including memorial trees and the outstanding Gold Tree on the McCarthy Mall side of Henke Hall. We were assured that

the set-back of the new building would preserve that Gold Tree, but were told that the Primavera memorial tree and others would go as the building footprint would line up with Moore Hall. Horizontal space limitations and the topography make it impossible to tuck two proposed lecture halls unobtrusively underground when located in the visually sensitive McCarthy Mall green space specified in the 2007 LRDP. A *Brachychiton acerifolium* (Flame tree) is imperiled by a 12' high wall enclosing a lecture hall placed in the McCarthy Mall. [We have since learned that the building design is being re-thought in light of budgetary and design concerns.]

Orvis - Music complex renovations

Several trees were removed with the guarantee that they would be replaced, but the contractor's failure to hook up the irrigation system has made survival of the replacements already installed "iffy." Two rainbow shower trees are supposed to replace two large *Ficus* trees by the Orvis entry court due to rainwater infiltration via cracks in the pavement caused by the *Ficus* roots and ground surface sloping toward the auditorium, and the maintenance needed to keep the covered walkway gutters clear. The project was over-budget, and the landscape appeared likely to suffer as a result.

PROJECTS INITIATED BY BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Frear Hall

A report from a team of horticulturists who visited the site of the new Frear Hall dormitory was critical of the installation and condition of some of the plantings.

Tree plantings and losses

Five trees, including a monkeypod, two milo, and two lonomea, were planted in Phase I of the Varsity Gate / Mo'ili'ili Gate beautification project. Palms were planted in the lawn area of Hawaii Hall, contributing to the Joseph Rock Palm Garden collections. More than 100 trees and palms were planted during the UHManoa 100th anniversary year. See Appendix A for complete list of plantings.

Seven *Munroidendron racemosum*, an endemic species from Kauai, planted in 2006 as replacements for five Coral trees lost to insect damage, were reported stolen from the POST lawn area in late summer 2008. As replacements, gall wasp-resistant *Erythrina abyssinica* trees were to be planted. A *Tabebuia impetiginosa* donated from the CTAHR nursery in Waimanalo to the landscape of the Orvis-Music complex failed to survive since the irrigation system was not functional. A limb from a *Schefflera actinophylla* fell in the Krauss Hall circle, necessitating removal of that tree. An old kiawe tree between Campus Road and Sinclair Library fell in late spring, partially crushing an Ombu tree (*Phytolacca dioica*), part of the campus heritage botanic collection, in the circular seating area behind the bulletin boards. Upon removal of the kiawe the rare old Ombu was found to have decay and will need to be removed and replaced.

While we appreciate Campus Center's plans to relocate several of the heritage and post-1957 trees that will be affected by their Recreation Center addition, the projected loss of several heritage trees, including the very large rare *Ficus benjamina* var. *comosus* and at least four of six trees of the breadfruit collection, will have a major visual, ecological, botanical collection and cultural impact in the center of campus.

College Hill landscape

Some renovations of the plantings between the house and the parking lot had been suggested in response to concern expressed by Mrs. McClain, but no meeting was scheduled before the McClain's recent departure.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gillmar, Chair
Landscape Advisory Committee

Appendix A, Tree Planting on UHM campus 2008-2009

Quantity	Common name	Botanical Name	Location
13	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Holmes Hall
8	Loulu	<i>Pritchardia species</i>	Hawaii Hall, campus Center side near Dean Hall
1	Bottle palm	<i>Hyophorbe lagenicaulis</i>	Hawaii Hall
1	Poytail palm	<i>Nolina recurvata</i>	Hawaii Hall
1	Milo	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Hawaii Hall
3	Hala	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	Hemenway Hall
4	Foxtail palm	<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	Hemenway Hall
6	Areca palm	<i>Dyopsis lutescens</i>	Hemenway Hall
2	Avocado	<i>Persea americana</i>	Energy House
1	Carambola	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	Energy House
10	Ivory cane palm	<i>Pinanga coronata</i>	Mall side of Keller Hall
2	Hala	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	Webster Hall
5	Kiawe	<i>Prosopis species</i>	Physical Science
1	Plumeria	<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Bilger loading area
4	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Krauss Circle
12	Monkeypod	<i>Samanea saman</i>	Along Dole Street (one Memorialized for Wally Gretz near Andrews Amphth.)
4	Hala	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	Krauss circle
2	Coconut	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Krauss Hall
1	Koa	<i>Acacia koa</i>	Andrews Amphitheater
1	Royal Poinciana	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Castle Memorial Hall
1	Royal Poinciana	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Krauss Hall pond
4	Abyssinian coral Tree	<i>Erythrina abyssinica</i>	POST lawn
6	Kou	<i>Cordia subcordata</i>	5 th floor parking structure
4	Milo	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Behind BioMed
1	Monkeyond	<i>Samanea saman</i>	Varsity Gate (Mo'ili'ili Gate)
2	Milo	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Varsity Gate (Mo'ili'ili Gate)
2	Lonomea	<i>Sapindus oahuensis</i>	Varsity Gate (Mo'ili'ili Gate)
3	Ohia	<i>Metrosideros polymorpha</i>	Landscaping shop
15	Plumeria	<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Music and H-1 off-ramp
16	Loulu	<i>Pritchardia remota</i>	Maile Way side of QLSSC
1	Lemon	<i>Citrus lemon</i>	Energy House

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