Community Partnerships make the Difference

The Hilo community – and beyond to all of Hawai`i Island – treasures Lili`uokalani Gardens. Since the first official volunteer day in May 2014, partnerships with local and national organizations have added to these efforts.

Sierra Club Moku Loa chapter, Rotary, Lions, UH-Hilo athletic teams and coaches as well as Sociology Club and Pharmaceutical School students, Waiakea High School, Keaukaha and Kamehameha Schools intermediate students, Youth Challenge, Moku `Aina, LFS Just Serve, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the North American Japanese Garden Association are among the many groups who have made a difference in Hilo’s cultural landscape.

from top left: Jennifer Ho and the Moku Loa Sierra Club worked at the first official volunteer day in May 2014. Jane Kawazoe speaks about Urasenke to a Sierra Club tour in September. The visitors pitched in to clean all around Shoroan before lunch.
Moʻi Wahine Liliʻuokalani’s birthday is celebrated in the Hilo park named for her on the first Saturday in September after her birthday. On the occasion of the 20th annual He Haliʻa Aloha No Liliʻuokalani, a bush was planted in view of the live entertainment stage. Osmanthus fragrans also is known as ginmokuse in Japan and kwai fah in China. Heidi Bornhorst wrote in an old Honolulu Advertiser story that this "is a plant we cherish in Hawaii for its tiny, intensely scented blossoms."

Participating in the planting were kumu Kahoʻokele Crabbe, emcees Penny Vredenberg and Kuehu Mauga, family of the late Jacqueline "Skylark" Rossetti: her son Makana and beloved companion Kimo Laʻau. Following the blessing and planting, hula halau brought loose orchids and ti leaf lei to encircle the bush.

Friends of Liliʻuokalani Gardens shared a booth with Jane Hoff, author of a book on the banyan trees of Banyan Drive and with Japan Airlines who offered a delightful costume and photo opportunity for the children. Japan Airlines also provided prizes for all the children who completed the Queen's Passport scavenger hunt.

Friends of Liliʻuokalani Gardens events & partnerships: October+

Saturday, October 12, 8 a.m. to noon: Lions Legacy Project cleanup. Crescent City Lions Club takes the lead.

Saturday, October 19, (tentative) restoration of the peace pole near Hilo Bay Café.

Saturday, Nov. 16: 8 a.m. to noon: Lions Legacy Project cleanup. Hilo Lions Club takes the lead.

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 3: Giving Tuesday

Friday and Saturday, December 6 & 7: Na Makua invitational Christmas Gift Fair at Afook-Chinen Civic Auditorium. Friends of Liliʻuokalani Gardens will have the first Christmas tree ornament plus 2020 photography contest calendars, and pins.

Saturday, January 11, 2020, noon to 6 p.m.: Fourth annual Banyan Drive Art Stroll. Supporter pins required for pupu.

Below: information booth from Hui Malama O Na Oiwi; Hilo High halau during the annual mass hula
September memories – wedding vow renewals

begin decorating white pillars, one of 3 sites (K.T. photo) finished white pillars (Sarah Anderson photo)

white pillars in use: Rev. Satoshi Tomioka with Ashtin & Brian Hart (Rita French photo) and Kumu Leilehua Yuen with Yolanda and Gilbert Hesia (Sarah Anderson photo)

moongate under construction with Alison Higgins and crew (Sarah Anderson (l) and Rita French (r) photos) In use with Tony & Judy Graaf and floral friends Brenna Quan, Hitomi Gilliam and Alison Higgins (Sarah Anderson photo) In use with passersby (Charles Preble photo)
September memories – wedding vow renewals

3rd site: bamboo chandelier, Brenna Quan center (Sarah Anderson photo), Phoebe Anderson right (Rita French photo), Galyn Williams delivers more flowers (Sarah Anderson photo), bamboo chandelier in use with Rev. Tomioka and Yuko & Dennis Blinn (Sarah Anderson photo), Rev. Katlin McCallister tosses orchids for LaRonde & Adrian DeMello (Sarah Anderson photo); photo below of Dani & Joshua Daugherty-Willing by Rita French.

Mahalo to Alison, Hitomi, Lois, K.T., Amy, Gladys, and all the farmers & shippers who made this possible

above photos 1) by Sarah Anderson, 2, 3 & 4) by Rita French  below photos 1) by Sarah Anderson, 2 & 3) by K.T.