

# *Historic Gardens & Landscape Design of Hawai'i*



*Calendar 1988*



# Hawai'i's Historic Sites Inventory

For Hawai'i the preservation of our historic properties is a vital public concern. Our society is experiencing rapid changes, which can foster psychological and social instability. The preservation of our historic and cultural environment responds to this situation by retaining familiar surroundings. These properties reinforce the memory of an event or person, the perception of a shared identity. They remind us of how people used to live in Hawai'i, and thereby provide the community with a comprehension of itself and its heritage.

Part of our heritage is the way we have related to the land. The landscape is an especially fragile part of our environment, and in many instances has been heavily modified in recent times. However, historic landscapes and gardens can still be found in the Islands. The State of Hawai'i under the Department of Land and Natural Resources has been encouraging the identification of such places, and has supported projects which have studied the historic cultural landscape of Hanalei on the island of Kaua'i, the coffee farms on the Kona coast of the island of Hawai'i, the cemeteries of O'ahu, the pre-1940 parks under the jurisdiction of the City and County of Honolulu and the work of the landscape architect Richard Tongg. Each of these projects has further contributed to our knowledge of how people in Hawai'i have related to the land.

These landscape inventory projects are a part of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' on-going statewide survey of properties of historic, archaeological and cultural significance.



*Tree Tunnel, Kona'i*

*The landmark tunnel of swamp mahogany trees that line Maluhia road stands in picturesque relief from the surrounding cane fields. The trees were planted under the direction of Walter McBryde, the manager of Kailua'i Pineapple Cannery, and county engineer Joseph Moragne in 1911, when this road to Kōloa was under construction.*

The State's inventory contains materials on approximately 25,000 sites located within Hawai'i. It is the product of an on-going historic properties survey effort coordinated by the Division of State Parks. Through the inventory, professionals can place in perspective the amount, type and quality of historic properties in the Islands.

The inventory documents specific properties and from this data base decisions can be made as to which properties should be considered for placement in the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places. Planners can consult the files to determine areas where historic preservation concerns exist; other people use the information to help develop education programs and promote the sites.

The scope of the management aspect of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' historic preservation program extends far beyond maintaining a list of historic sites. In fact, most of the staff's efforts are expended on the review of proposed development and land use projects. Staff members also give lectures and undertake other public information efforts, and involve themselves in a wide range of planning projects.

For further information on the historic sites inventory, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 548-7460 or write P.O. Box 621, Honolulu, HI 96809

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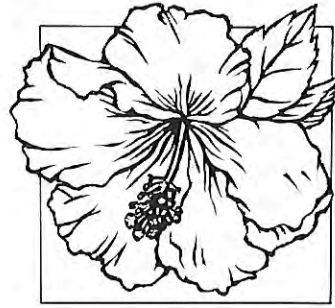


The Honorable John Waihe'e  
Governor of Hawai'i

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On the cover (clockwise from top): *Ka Ulu Kukui o Lanikāula, Molokaʻi; Liliʻuokalani Gardens, Hilo, Hawaiʻi; and Mrs. C.M. Cooke Residence, Makiki Heights, Oʻahu.*



State Flower: *Hibiscus*

# Historic Gardens & Landscape Design of Hawaiʻi

The landscape of Hawaiʻi indelibly marks itself upon the minds of all who view it. Much of this beauty may be attributed to nature, but in fact much of it is the result of purposeful human activity. As such, Hawaiʻi's landscape design is an important part of our cultural heritage, expressing the rich strength and simplicity of our multi-ethnic history. A series of patterned designs on the land created in response to the cultural and physical environment, Hawaiʻi's landscape and gardens reflect a lifestyle, and a way of being.

Landscape design involves itself with the shaping of the landscape for human living. It concerns itself with the establishment of human relations between flora, structures, surfacing, and such environmental conditions as rainfall, sunlight, soil type and drainage patterns. The primary emphasis, however, lies with the human content, the functional/aesthetic relationship between people and three-dimensional outdoor space. Landscape design is an appeal to human nature.

Large areas of our cultural landscape have resulted from utilitarian, especially agricultural, endeavors. We have evolved from an agrarian society. These designs often have no conscious aesthetic content and are rather

development of such spaces brings together, in creative synthesis, the existing conditions of the site, its required uses and the desire for beauty. For example, on the island of Lanaʻi, the Norfolk Island pine trees not only provide a means of collecting water into the ground from the air, but their verdant presence defines the landscape of Lanaʻi City.

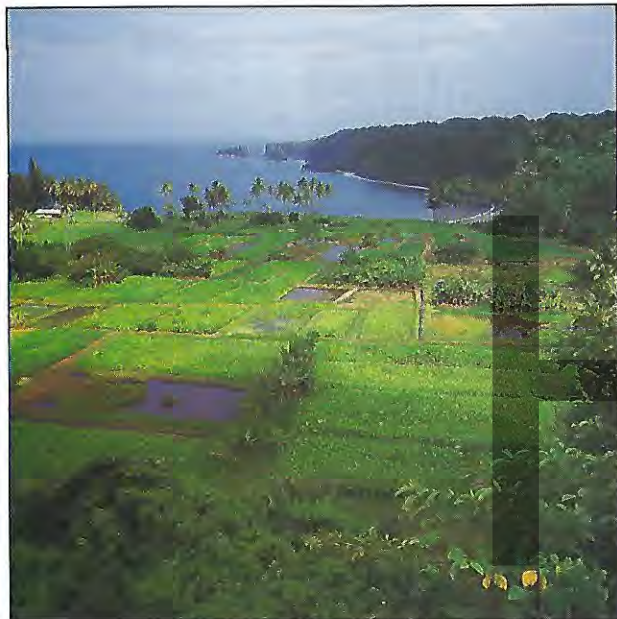
Hawaiʻi offers a unique landscape heritage to its residents and visitors. Seasoned over time through use and cultural preferences, our landscape design is a distinct reflection of our environmental conditions and multi-ethnic situation. Hawaiʻi's numerous micro-climates allow for an enormous variety of plants, many of which were introduced. Here they prosper and grow in unique combinations not found elsewhere in the world.

Much of the conscious landscape design draws from European and Asian traditions, translated into a Hawaiian context. However, the formal Italian, French and British gardens with their highly geometric and axial order, parterres, pools, avenues of trees and clipped hedges are rare in Hawaiʻi. Instead, the Hawaiian landscaped garden has soft edges and curving lines, reminiscent of exterior spaces associated with the late eight-



*Board of Water Supply Pumping Station,  
Nuʻuanu, Oʻahu*

amorphous by context. However, with the passage of time these functional designs become an expression of a place purely by repetition of ritual human activity. Taro lo'i, such as those at Ke'anae, have come to be considered aesthetically beautiful landscapes in their own right. Similarly the sacred kukui grove, Lanikāula, on Molo-ka'i, has a special meaning for its associations with the prophet of the same name, which deeply influences human perception of that place and further reminds us of traditional Hawaiian culture's strong association with place.



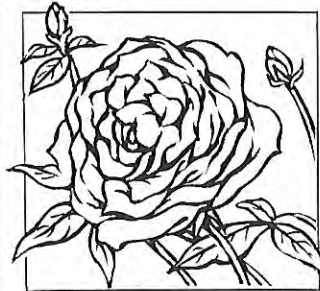
*Taro Lo'i, Ke'anae, Maui*

Other sites reflect a conscious ordering of the environment with the primary intent to provide beauty, pleasure and delight. Numerous public places such as military parade grounds, school campuses, the grounds of Board of Water Supply pumping stations and various parks, as well as numerous private gardens and estates, serve a variety of uses from ceremonial stages to serene retreats. They are defined by the selection and placement of plants, functional materials and other amenities. The

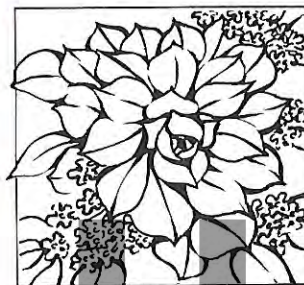
*Official Island Flowers*



*Hawai'i: Lehua*



*Maui: Lokelani*



*Kaho'olawe: Hinabina*



*Moloka'i: Kukui*



*Kaua'i: Mokihana*



*Ni'ihau: Papa (shell)*



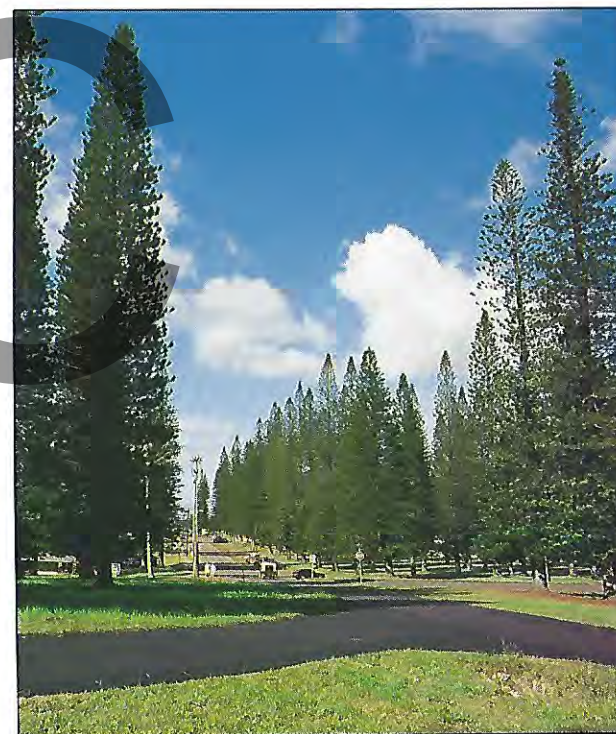
*Lāna'i: Kauna'oa*



*O'ahu: Ilima*

centh-century romantic movement. These designs appear to be more indicative of Hawai'i's culture, environment and lifestyle.

As elsewhere in the world, Hawai'i's gardens eliminate the visual break of garden and landscape, but they do so in a more direct and honest way. Less frivolous than their European counterparts, they use space in a more straight-forward manner, not relying heavily upon surprise, concealment and idyllic prospects. Instead they rely more on their serpentine lines of beauty, the articulation of light and shade, and the lushness of their plantings. Historically, in Hawai'i the natural environment has been augmented and shown to its best advantage through artful handling, rather than transformed into something totally artificial.



*Norfolk Island Pine Trees, Lāna'i City*



*New Moon*



*First Quarter*



*Full Moon*



*Last Quarter*





*Allerton Gardens, Lāwāʻi, Kauaʻi*

An art deco pool defines this section of the 100-acre Allerton Gardens. Started by Queen Emma in the 1870s, this garden was purchased in 1935 by Robert Allerton, who developed the formal plantings. The formality of the pool and the straight lines of the corridor are tempered in a typical Hawaiʻi fashion by the “wildness” of the vegetation.



*Violet Harris Estate, Kula, Maui*

One of Hawai'i's few remaining large estates, this grand residence and its grounds were originally constructed for Violet Harris in 1926. The extensive gardens include a Japanese section and a large collection of protea.



*Lili'uokalani Gardens, Hilo, Hawai'i*

Lili'uokalani Gardens were the inspiration of Mrs. C.C. Kennedy, following a visit to Kyoto. Laid out by contractor T.H. Yamamoto in 1918, the winding chain of placid ponds gave urban Hilo "a bit of Oriental outdoor art in the midst of its bustling Americanism."



*Hickam Air Force Base Parade Mall, O'ahu*

With its expansive lawn and border of royal palms, this ceremonial parade mall is one of Hawaii's more formal landscape settings. The Moorish-style water tower serves as a focal point for the mall. It stands 171 feet high, has a capacity of 500,000 gallons and was completed in January 1938





*Garden in Kula, Maui*

*Pualani*, "Heavenly Flower," on the slopes of Haleakalā, features a garden that dates from the 1890s. Large, fragrant eucalyptus trees provide a dramatic backdrop for the garden's neatly manicured beds and casual pathways.



*Andrews Amphitheater, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

A glorification of Hawai'i's beneficent climate and luxuriant vegetation, Andrews Amphitheater was constructed in 1934. Designed by Ralph S. Fishbourne, this outdoor theater features a central lawn area and a stage with a lush garden backdrop, the work of Richard Tongg, Hawai'i's pioneer landscape architect.



*Thomas Square, Honolulu, Oahu*

On July 31, 1843, Thomas Square was the scene of the restoration ceremony for the monarchy. It became Hawai'i's first public park shortly thereafter. In 1875 Archibald Cleghorn, the father of Princess Ka'iulani, planted the large banyan trees which grace the center of this open space. The fountain and other landscaping were the product of a 1932 redesign, the work of Katherine Jones Richards and Robert Oliver Thompson.



*Garden at Volcano, Hawai'i*

Native *bāpu'u* (tree fern) and *ʻōhi'a lehua* in this Big Island garden, which was developed in 1916, characterize the landscape of the 3,000-4,000 foot elevation rain forest of the volcano area. The meandering pathways display an informality and charm common to many Hawaiian gardens.



*W. F. Dillingham Residence, Diamond Head, Oahu*

The former W. F. Dillingham residence was constructed in 1913. One of the earliest homes in Honolulu to employ a Japanese style of architecture, its gardens reflect a similar inspiration.



*Garden in Nu'uamu, O'ahu*

Bromeliads are relatives of the pineapple and native to tropical and subtropical America. This garden, *Lipolani*, one of the grandest profusions of these ornamentals in the state, well demonstrates the unique landscape potential of these plants.



*Cottage, Kōʻele, Lānaʻi*

Located amidst the open, former ranch lands of Kōʻele, the yard of this house displays a beautiful, as well as useful, landscape with its flowering plants and fruit trees. It reminds us that an aesthetic response to the land can occur on any scale.



*Taro Lo'i, Ke'anae, Maui*

The taro *lo'i* (terraces) of Ke'anae with their grassy berms, broad-leaved plants, and gentle moving water define the landscape of this peninsula, providing it with a vibrant beauty. These lands have been under continuous cultivation from pre-contact times.