



Executive Director's Report
173rd Annual Meeting of the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society
April 26, 2025

Administrative Report

1. Full (10-year) Re-Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums!!!

We are extremely proud to be recognized by AAM for the quality of our programs and the integrity of our governance practices. Mahalo to the entire staff for their hard work, our Board of Trustees for their guidance, and our Society Members for your steadfast support. These were critical in securing our re-accreditation.

2. Staff Acknowledgements & Updates

Mahalo to our "Veterans" (w/ years in service):

Mike Smola (16)

Susan Pelfrey (10*)

Duane Enck (3)

Elisabeth Case (3)

Ipo Santos-Bear (3)

Cheye Alarcio (2)

Quadalupe Amor (20!!!)

A hui hou to our wonderful team members who recently left us:

Hokulani Ofsthun (moved closer to family) and Amy Garcia (military spouse reassigned) both to Washington State!

New Team Members:

Amy Schwab (Development & Communications)

Ke'alohilani Wong (Guest Experience & Retail)

Kyle Hart (Archivist & Head Librarian)

Morgan Cassens (Library & Archives)

Nikki Hennecy (Office Administration)

3. **Availability of Federal funds are in jeopardy.** We are refocusing our efforts on existing programming, local resources, Corporate partnerships, Foundations & Philanthropic institutions. We need the community's help, now more than ever!
4. **Aloha United Way (Agency Designation number: 81740).** We are now eligible for workplace giving. Please share widely with your professional and personal networks.

Program Highlights

Library & Archives (from Archivist/Librarian Kyle Hart, with edits from Phil Acosta)

In 2024, the Hawaiian Mission Houses Archives deepened its public engagement and advanced important internal initiatives. We were proud to host a range of visiting educational groups, including Dr. Larry Kimura's Hawaiian Language class from UH Hilo, Kūkalahale from Honolulu Community College (a professional development initiative aimed at integrating Indigenous education frameworks into institutional practices), the Punahou Hawaiian Studies program, and Dr. Kekeha Solis' class from the UH Mānoa Hawaiian Language program. These visits reflect our growing role as a living classroom and research site for students and educators dedicated to revitalizing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and reconnecting with Hawaiian historical narratives.

We continued to grow Archives Uncorked, our ongoing evening program co-hosted with the Hawaiian Historical Society. This year's events featured artifacts and records that sparked conversation around Hawai'i's historical "firsts." Internally, we began the long-overdue process of cataloging our backlog, improving intellectual control and long-term accessibility for researchers. We also welcomed Morgan Cassens as our new Archival Technician, whose thoughtful and efficient approach has already transformed our workflows and service capacity.

Altogether, these milestones represent a year of renewed relevance, increased community impact, and strengthened stewardship of our collections.

**We are also implementing Google Analytics as part of our data collection and reporting to better track Visitors, Library Room Usage, Digital Collection searches, and staff utilization.*

Tours, Special Events, & School Programs (from Director of Education Mike Smola and School Programs & Volunteer Coordinator Matt McConnell, with edits from Phil Acosta)

- *505 people attended CPT (Cemetery Pupu Theatre) in 2024; 4 out of 6 nights were SOLD OUT!*

- *Makawao CPT was very well received (145 people attendees), with plans/commitments for future sponsors and support*
- *4000+ attendees to our regular/ticketed events; nearly 1000 people come on special tours*
- *Had nearly 150 attendees to Mele program last year -- more than previous years of Mele programs by about 50*
- *A RECORD 52 vendors at the Annual Craft Fair, and approximately 2,500 attendees*
- *7 History Theatre engagements in the community — with an attendance of 477*
 - *Including 150th anniversary of Aliiolani Hale, American Renaissance Academy, the State Library, and Kahala Nui Retirement Home*
- *We hosted our first wedding function ever this past year; we are making an effort to book more private events onsite as an additional source of revenue*
- *Over 1,000 people used our site for `Olelo Hawai'i classes, Lauhala Weavers, and various facility uses*
- *In 2024 we served a total of nearly 2,000 students, 340 from Title 1 schools*
- *Tours and all other programs brought in over \$81,000 in gross earned revenue*

Facilities & Collections

Major upcoming projects include:

- *Improved campus safety and security*
- *Restoration of the Chamberlain stairs*
- *Restoration of the interior of the Frame House*
- *NEW & EXPANDED exhibit spaces!*
- *And a "Makers Space"...in the making!!*

Development, Marketing, Community & Society Relations (to be share by EC?)

Programs and Upcoming Events – JOIN US!

May 17 - Mele Program (Wahi Kapu "Forbidden Places")

June 13,14, 20, 21, 27, 28 - O'ahu Cemetery Pupu Theatre (Visions of Hospitality)

*With a special showing for Pacific Club members (June 26th)

July (TBD) - Makawao Cemetery Theatre

July 18 - Archives Uncorked ()

September 13 - Huaka'i Annual Fundraising Gala at the Royal Hawaiian

September 27 - 'Ohana Day Open House

October 4 - Mele Program (Pilina Kapu "Forbidden Love & Relationships")

October 17 - Archives Uncorked ()

November 28 - 54th Annual Holiday Craft Fair

December 6 - Holiday City Lights Family Evening