

Carol D. Shull

Preserving Hawai`i's Heritage Who Makes It Happen?

When Bill Chapman asked me to do an article for this issue of *CRM*, he did not know that I would be writing about him and others I met in Hawai`i—the people and organizations working to preserve Hawai`i's heritage for all of us to enjoy. Here are just a few examples of the dedication, creativity, and zeal they demonstrate in attacking the preservation challenges on those beautiful islands.

I was invited to Hawai`i to speak as part of the Experts at the Palace lecture series. The University of Hawai`i at Mānoa sponsors these lectures for the public held at the National Historic Landmark, `Iolani Palace, in downtown Honolulu. When I got to this magnificent place, I found H.J. Bartels, the Managing Director of the Friends of `Iolani Palace there to welcome me, reminding me that preservation needs more of these active friends groups. The lecture was well attended by local professionals, students from the University, representatives from state and local preservation organizations, and other citizens. This series brings an international group of speakers to Hawai`i and provides a forum for preservation advocates to learn from the lectures, mingle with each other, and introduce a wide variety of citizens to preservation issues.

After the lecture, Bill Chapman, Lowell Angell, the program administrator for the University's preservation program, and David Scott, Executive Director of the Historic Hawai`i Foundation, took me to lunch and to visit National Trust advisor, Mary Cooke, in her National Register listed home in Mānoa. Mary is a founder of Mālama o Mānoa, the nonprofit community organization established to preserve, protect, and enhance historic Mānoa Valley. Both she and Lowell, who also lives there, are working through the organization to get the district listed in the National and State registers, and to achieve special district status to protect it from the threats that are described in the article in this issue.

Mary gave me *Mānoa, The Story of a Valley*, a book by Mānoa Valley residents sponsored by businesses, organizations, and individuals and published with the encouragement and assistance of Mālama o Mānoa. The book says that proceeds from the initial hardcover edition "will be used to establish a Mālama o Mānoa Educational

Endowment Fund, the income from which will support educational efforts to help preserve, protect, and enhance the unique 'sense of place' of our Mānoa community." In the publication, which won an award from the American Association for State and Local History, a variety of contributors lovingly describe the multicultural heritage of this Honolulu neighborhood and what it means to those who have been part of its history. Mary, who took the time to attend my lecture and to show me through her home, was leaving right away with David Scott to attend a National Trust Advisors meeting on the mainland.

My next stop was the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa campus to talk to Bill's graduate students about some of their projects. Every state university system should have a historic preservation program to train students to do our work. Professor Chapman assigns his students practical preservation projects that provide a public service, contribute to achieving community preservation goals, and train students to carry out the real work of historic preservation. I heard about the 1996 Summer Field School that prepared an inventory of buildings in the Upper Wai`alae Avenue commercial area of Honolulu, which student Scott Bogle describes. In 1997, the students worked at Kalaupapa, one of seven units of the national park system in Hawai`i. In 1998, the students will complete a survey to record the buildings in Honolulu's National Register listed Chinatown Historic District. I am eager to add the results of their work to the National Park Service's documentation on this outstanding historic district. Students have done National Register nominations, too. Bill is also working with Don Hibbard to develop the context for evaluating the more recent historic buildings in Honolulu. Their work will make it possible to add some of these buildings to the National Register and help educate Hawai`i's citizens about their importance.

Don Hibbard, the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, spent a whole day taking me around the island of O`ahu to see historic places in Honolulu and `Ewa Plantation. Jean Hamilton from the Department of Housing and Community Development in Honolulu writes in her article that the historic preservation community led the City and County of Honolulu to modify its plans to

assure that the historic character of the `Ewa Villages plantation sugar camp was preserved and provide affordable housing for its residents. Don and his staff in the historic preservation office described the challenges they face in fighting opposition to designation of historic resources because of development pressures, especially on O`ahu, and the threat of staff cuts in a bill proposed by the legislature. They showed me some of their impressive public education publications, a 1998 calendar with beautiful photographs of Native Hawaiian traditional cultural places, and handsome brochures describing the state preservation program, registration, the historic preservation development process, and small towns in Hawai`i. Hawai`i state laws require the review of projects that will affect designated historic properties and encourage preservation by making owners eligible to apply for state grants for preservation projects and county tax exemptions for historic residences. That evening there was a special meeting of the state review board, where we discussed how to evaluate buildings with integrity problems. I was reminded of the countless hours that review board members and other public spirited people donate to the preservation cause.

Maui is one of the Hawaiian Islands that are certified local governments (CLG). County planner Elizabeth Anderson, who runs the Maui CLG program, arranged for me to come to Maui to meet with her and local preservation advocates. Janice and Tom Fairbanks provided me a place to stay in their beautifully restored bed and breakfast, The Old Wailuku Inn at Ulupono in Wailuku. Linda Decker, president of the Maui Historical Society and Cathy Riley, Executive Director of the Society's National Register listed Bailey House Museum, arranged a luncheon meeting there where I could talk with citizens who are committed to preserving Maui's heritage. The Bailey House, built by missionaries as part of a school for Hawaiian girls, now houses the society's museum of artifacts from the missionary and early Hawaiian periods of Maui's history. Elizabeth and I also had a chance to look at some other historic properties with the Chair of the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission, Dorothy R. Pyle. Dorothy had written an eloquent letter to the Chair and Members of the Ways and Means Committee of the Hawai`i State Senate opposing proposed cuts to the development project review staff of the State Historic Preservation Office. I understand that the cuts did not occur. I would bet that Dorothy's letter helped with its testimony to the

critical role that State preservation office plays in protecting cultural resources.

Every state needs a strong statewide nonprofit preservation organization. David Scott is the Executive Director of the Historic Hawai`i Foundation, which was founded in 1974. David told me about the Foundation's work and gave me a brochure describing the conference they were sponsoring celebrating National Preservation Week and National Tourism Week entitled "Heritage Preservation and Tourism, Working Together to Strengthen Hawai`i's Economy." David showed the Foundation's political savvy in holding a conference that would call attention to how critical preserving heritage resources is to bringing more tourists to Hawai`i, an essential strategy for recovering from the current recession. The conference had a number of cosponsoring organizations and featured outstanding speakers like Donovan Rypkema, author of *The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide*, and Mayor Joseph P. Riley of Charleston.

Before I left the mainland, architect Puanai Maunu sent me an email message on behalf of the AIA/Honolulu Chapter Women in Architecture Committee inviting me to meet with the members one evening at Spencer Leineweber's beautifully restored historic home in Mānoa. Spencer is not only an award winning practicing architect doing the kind of preservation projects she describes in her article in this issue, but she is an Associate Professor at the University of Hawai`i at Mānoa's School of Architecture. Preservation work is not just a part of their profession for women like Spencer and others who make time in their busy lives to help save and promote Hawai`i's heritage.

Hawai`i has 292 listings in the National Register that include 2,159 contributing resources; 32 are National Historic Landmarks. I saw many more that should be registered and preserved on my whirlwind tour of four of the Hawaiian Islands. Some of these places include Mānoa; `Ewa Plantation and other sugar, pineapple, and coffee plantation resources; commercial districts; exceptionally significant 20th-century buildings in Honolulu; Native Hawaiian traditional cultural places; small towns and rural historic districts that illustrate Hawai`i's unique multicultural heritage. The people and organizations I have described here and others like them will make it happen in Hawai`i, because they care.

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