



TIKI WA'HA ROTARY CLUB OF ALA MOANA



March 16, 2004 Special Edition

Pahole Hawaiian Native Plants Nursery: HBA Interact and Ala Moana Rotary “Lending a Hand” to Help Hawaii’s Fragile Ecosystem!

On 13 March 2004, 25 volunteers from both the HBA Interact Club and the Rotary Club of Ala Moana spent a service Saturday at Pahole Hawaiian Native Plants Nursery. Pahole is 2,000 feet above sea level in the Waianae Mountain Range overlooking Dillingham Ranch. The mission of Pahole is to save endangered native Hawaiian plants from extinction, and to educate the public about the precarious position Hawaii’s ecosystem is in.



Left – The writing on the wall. Can you tell where we’ve been? Right – Outside view of the primary office facility at Pahole. There is another building of similar size to this one at this facility. Yes, it was foggy!

The Federal Government ceded Pahole to the State of Hawaii - Department of Land & Natural Resources approximately 8 years ago, and the native Hawaiian plant nursery was started about 7 years ago. The site sits on approximately 2.5 acres of some of the most beautiful land on the island of Oahu, and is adjacent to one of our states forest reserves. Pahole’s surroundings are one of the few remaining pristine locations remaining on Oahu.

ALA MOANA HOTEL - LUNCH - THURSDAY NOON



Left - HBA Interactors, with Ambassadorial Scholar Yoshiko Nakata, in the back of one of the trucks ready to embark on a pseudo “Mexican Hayride” up to the Nursery. Right – Grasslands on the way up to the nursery (at a much lower elevation than Pahole’s).

The service day started at HBA Upper School Campus at 7:00 AM. Interactors and Rotarians congregated in preparation for the bus ride to Pahole. The bus ride was a rare opportunity for both the Interactors and Rotarians to “interact”. The bus arrived at the foothills below Pahole around 8:30 AM. The volunteers proceeded to load into three four-wheel drive vehicles for the journey to the nursery.



Left – HBA Interactors congregating in the service project staging area. Can you tell it was cold? Right – Rotarians doing the same. The whiteboard at the rear right has a list of tasks to completed.

After a quick potty break, Bob Bevacqua, the botanist in charge of the facility gave the volunteers a quick history of the facility, its mission, and a tour of the facility.



Left - The volunteers tour the "mist room" holding seedlings and young plants. Right - Mature plants ready to be planted in the wild.



Left & Right – The volunteers touring other portions of the nursery.

The volunteers congregated in the facility's potting room for the volunteer tasks to be tackled for the day. First, a quadrant of the nursery needed to be cleared of plants, potting stands, and geo-textile flooring in preparation for grading work. Second, the interior walls of the three of the offices needed to be prepared and cleaned. Third, all the windows of the office building needed to be cleaned. And last but not least, a temporary nursery structure needed to be erected in a gravel-bedded area. The volunteers quickly broke into teams and tackled all four tasks simultaneously and expeditiously!



Left & Right – We're getting into it! – Stanza 1: Clearing of portions of the nursery.



Left & Right – We're getting into it! – Stanza 2: Cleaning and preparing the interior walls for paint. These volunteers did this before! Notice how they've painted the mortar joints prior to applying paint by roller.



Left & Right – We’re getting into it! – Stanza 3: Putting the finishing touches on the paint job.



Left & Right – We’re getting into it! – Stanza 4: The temporary nursery erection crew in action. Yes, Rotarians and Interactors are builders!

Since there were plenty of hard-working volunteers, the various tasks were completed in a very short time with seemingly little effort. The group then broke for lunch, while our weather deteriorated quickly. After a quick lunch, the group decided to focus on the completion of the paint job. Unfortunately, we did not finish, because we ran out of paint!



Left – Botanist Bob Bevacqua inspecting the paint job with a shy Interactor. Right – Ambassadorial Scholar Yoshiko Nakata in a poncho braving the rain and wind outside.



Left – Pau Hana Cleanup! Right – Figuring out what to do during the afternoon.

After cleaning up, the volunteers gathered to decide what to do with the remainder of the day. It was decided that the volunteers would take a “rain check” on the nature hike, because of the windy and rainy weather. So we are likely going back sometime in the near future! We then loaded up on the trucks in preparation for the ride down the mountain. The bus arrived soon after our group arrived at the lower parking area.



Left & Right – The end of the service day back at the lower parking area.

In summary, having an opportunity to visit Pahole and helping the nursery in its mission to repopulate endangered native Hawaiian plants was a rare and meaningful opportunity for the group of volunteers. The group wanted to return to the nursery sometime in the near future, if they will have us back!

Footnote: Special thanks are due Mr. Bob Bevacqua, Ms. Leanne Obra, and Mr. Steve Seiler, from the State of Hawaii – Department of Land & Natural Resources. Their efforts made this service project happen, and they, along with the group of volunteers, dedicated a service day of their own to work along side of us. They also provided the transportation up and down the mountain and gave us the grand tour. Special thanks are also due Hawaii Baptist Academy Interact Club for graciously allowing Ala Moana Rotarians to share their bus from HBA to Pahole, and back. Mahalo!

Photos are by Clayton Wong