

The Maile Wreath

Newsletter of Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

Spring 2017

Volume 38: Number 3

Safe History, Safe Journey

by Elizabeth Pooloa, Curator of Object Collections



Elizabeth Pooloa and Executive Director Tom Woods saw the safe to its new home, with Frances Sakai, left, of Castle and Cooke.

*Object Information
Safe (1916.01.121.C1) c. 1855,
Manufactured by Edwards,
Fernald and Co. Originally
owned by S.N. Castle, painted
signature on back. Inscription:
"Edwards, Fernald and Co.
Manf.'s of PATENT Bank Locks
Fire Proof Safes Boston"*

Last October, Hawaiian Mission Houses returned to the offices of Castle and Cooke Hawai'i one of the earliest safes, a one-ton behemoth patented in 1855, owned by Samuel N. Castle and used by the Castle and Cooke company. After being donated to HMH in 1916 by the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, it apparently had been stored in the Annex/Print Shop building at Hawaiian Mission Houses since that time. Though it really had nothing to do with printing, the Annex building had the only ground-level concrete floor that could bear the weight of the difficult to move artifact. It even cracked the concrete floor in that space. As HMH began the process of restoring and re-interpreting the Annex/Print Shop building in 2016, it was clear that we had to find a new home for the artifact, which had sat in that location for the past 100 years. We had no other space to store it appropriately, and happily, Castle and Cooke is a company that values its history and had the perfect space for it: on display in the foyer of their conference room just beneath the company's original incorporation papers and across the way from a diorama depicting Mission Houses Historic Site in the

1850s, with the original Castle and Cooke Depository building.

There is not much recorded specifically about the original arrival or designated purpose of this safe, other than it is the former personal possession of Samuel Northrup Castle, the proof of which is his signature on the back of the piece itself. The resources available are the books and letters documenting the Mission and Castle and Cooke during the Missionary Era and the original accession file for the safe from 1916, referencing a collection of 75 to 100-year-old letters pertaining to various attempts by HMH to find out more about it.

In December of 1836, Samuel Northrup Castle of New York, and Amos Starr Cooke, of Connecticut, set sail from Boston, Massachusetts, in the Eighth Company of Protestant missionaries sent to the "Sandwich Islands" by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

They arrived in Honolulu in April, 1837, after 116 days at sea aboard the *Mary Frazier*. Mr. Castle was the Assistant Superintendent of Secular Affairs employed by the Mission, whose daily stomping grounds were the very build-

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Annual Meeting 2017

It's time for our annual gathering to elect trustees, hear about plans for the coming year, and thank those who have given so much to HMH. Please join us on Saturday, April 22, for a 10:00 a.m. Call to Order with the annual Roll Call to follow right after the business meeting, as early as 11:00 a.m. The Annual Photo will be taken at the end of the meeting.

The afternoon will center on the newly restored Print Shop with lectures at 2 p.m. by Al Schütz and John Laimana. The public is welcome to join us for this free afternoon open house with activities for all ages, so please encourage your friends and neighbors to join us.

There is no need to register for the meeting in advance unless you want to order a lunch or sign up for Friday night's theatre performance. On Saturday, please be sure to sign in so we may accurately report the number in attendance.

THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE Friday, April 21

9:00 a.m. Breakfast with President Martha Morgan and Executive Director Tom Woods (and possibly the incoming Executive Director) at HMH—Please register in advance.

Visit the archives before it opens, by reservation (call Mary Ann Lentz, (808) 447-3922)

Friday historic house tours at HMH as usual with no admission charged for descendants

5:30 – 7:30 p.m. History Theatre, special pau hana at HMH featuring Emma Metcalf Beckley Nakuina and Ethel Damon two characters from last year's *Muses of Hawai'i* followed by talkback time to discuss the role, the research, and the times. \$30 per person includes pupu and beverage, reservations requested.

New spaces in the 1821 Mission House and Print Shop will be open for viewing while the sun shines. Performances at 6:30 p.m.

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The Maile Wreath

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Main Theme

Collaboration between Native Hawaiians and the American Protestant missionaries resulted in, among other things, the introduction of Christianity, the development of a written Hawaiian language and establishment of schools that resulted in widespread literacy, the promulgation of the concept of constitutional government, the combination of Hawaiian with Western medicine, and the evolution of a new and distinctive musical tradition with harmony and choral singing.

Farewell

By Martha E. Morgan, President

This is my last letter writing as Board President. Though I am more than ready to turn over the seat having taken it on with an already full plate, consider myself extremely fortunate to have been involved in the organization during this time of tremendous transformation for Hawaiian Mission Houses. The crowning evidence of that transformation has been the Ali'i Letters project which has begun to change the story being told about the relationship between the Hawaiians and the Missionaries. Through this project, Tom Woods has developed a relationship with Puakea Nogelmeier and his translation team that has added fuel to the already growing movement to broaden the mastery of the Hawaiian language. This will finally open the doors to fresh original research source materials that will be accessible for free to all on our website.

Tom is leaving us with an organization that has come into its own as a vital and invaluable resource to our community. He has proven the Mission Houses relevance through a solid strategic plan with creative programs that draw in a broad variety of people. His quiet but effective leadership will not be easily replaced and our gratitude for all that he has done can never be fully expressed.

With his retirement, we need all of you more than ever to help keep the momentum growing. Our multi-year bicentennial commemoration is about to be launched. This presents a huge opportunity for us to create a platform from which we can gain more visibility and support. Ambitious plans are emerging, and it is hoped that this will be a chance to collaborate with other organizations in the community, to strengthen our connections. Please stay tuned as these plans develop.

Come to our Annual Meeting on April 22 to learn more about the exciting research on early nineteenth-century Hawai'i that is emerging. Visit the newly renovated Print Shop that will be dedicated that day. Check out our new ADA bathrooms and, of course, our gift shop. We will be honored by your attendance and look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as board president for the past four years. It has challenged me to the core, but has been a privilege and a delight to be involved.

Aloha, 

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1


Saturday, April 22

9:30 a.m. Registration and coffee.

10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting Call to Order. Followed by Business meeting and election of new Trustees. (*NOTE: The Slate of Trustees will be available on our website under HMCS or at our offices.*) Roll Call and the Annual Photo following as early as possible.

Pre-order lunch online or by calling our offices or picnic under our tent while the Board of Trustees holds its first meeting of the new year.

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Rededication of the Print Shop with Lectures, FREE open house, and activities for all ages. Al Schütz and John Laimana will discuss the development of the written Hawaiian language and the spread of literacy in early Hawai'i beginning at 2 p.m.

Sign up for a behind the scenes tour of the archives or objects storage areas at 1 and 2 p.m. Hope to see you here! 



Martha E. Morgan

A Hui Hou Kākou Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives

By Tom Woods, Ph.D., Executive Director

As you who read this newsletter know, I am retiring on April 30, 2017. On October 27, 2009, I sat down at my desk in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and wrote a letter to the Executive Search Committee of Mission Houses Museum. In my first paragraph, I wrote,

I am writing to apply for the position of HMCS Executive Director. It has long been a goal of mine to direct a historic site in Hawai'i. I understand the importance of the HMCS in the history of Hawai'i, and I think it would provide a place to foster my continued growth as a museum professional and academic historian. I am attracted by your exceptional archival collection and your reputation for success as an early nineteenth-century historic site.

It took some time to learn the ins-and-outs of the organization. It took a few months to unwind some financial tangles and get the right staff in place. I met some remarkable people, board members, descendants, members, visitors, and worked with some amazing partners and very capable staff. I think I and our staff started getting our footing in 2012, after our strategic planning in 2011. For those who think strategic planning is a waste of time, because the document just sits on a shelf, taking up space, I have to say *au contraire*. The vision, mission, and main theme, the goals, and the new name we created during planning in 2011, along with some subsequent bylaws changes that have diversified the board, set the stage and were guiding principles for our programmatic and organizational growth.

We struggled to get the right mix of programming in 2010 and 2011, but finally created some really wonderful, mostly new programs. Our mele series, Cemetery Pupu Theatre and History Theatre performances, outdoor Shakespeare performances, rejuvenated Holiday Craft Fair, and revised tours in newly interpreted house spaces have become very popular with the community.

It took some time to overhaul our school programs, but we finally got that done. Since we introduced them three years ago, and

began marketing them with the help of our friends David and Cindy Cheever, we have seen an increase of 82% in the number of schools coming to participate in our programs, and it keeps growing every year!

Our digitization projects have been incredibly rewarding. It has never been easy to find the funds and get the projects completed with limited staff, but that process has matured and is in Archivist John Barker's very capable hands today. I am proud of working with Puakea Nogelmeier and Awaiaulu Foundation, interns, and scholars, to digitize the "Letters from the Ali'i," a project that has given voice and agency to the ali'i nui and their assistants. The letters also revealed significant collaborative relationships between them and the early missionaries.

Music, theatre, and dramatic stories have been major program strategies that I and staff have initiated to encourage emotional learning and memorable experiences for our audiences. Working alongside Marcia Timboy with Aaron Mahi, Sam 'Ōhu Gon, Mahealani Wong, Pohai Souza, Ken Makuakane, and a host of other Hawaiian musicians and dancers has been an experience of a lifetime for me, something I may not have had the chance to do anywhere else. The mele have been precious experiences I will not forget.

We could not have made the pivot to history theatre programming without the constant directorial and production direction of our friend Will Ha'ō. The chance to work with my talented son, Zach, who has written nearly all the Cemetery Pupu Theatre scripts and acted in several of them, has kept us close when separated by long distances, and I am grateful for that. Becoming a center for outdoor Shakespeare performances was an unexpected but completely appropriate use of the historic site, considering that the first real program here was a history play, performed in 1907.

There are initiatives underway that I will not be here to welcome. I will not see the construction of our hale, something I worked for many years with Spencer Leineweber to visualize, research, and plan. Glenn Mason is now working with us, and we have only one



Author Tom Woods

more permitting hurdle to clear. It should be permitted this summer. New ideas for the former café space include puppetry and musical plays for young families and school groups, Hawaiian language classes, and many other exciting possibilities.

I will be fortunate to continue to do contract work for some bicentennial projects that we have begun. Three of those projects include 1.) David Forbes' new missionary biography book; 2.) a project with Awaiaulu to translate into English, William Richards' *No Ke Kalaiaina*, the book he wrote for seminars with the ali'i on Western law and constitutional government in 1838, and directly preceded the new 1839 Hawaiian Bill of Rights and the 1840 Constitution, and a deep dive into research surrounding those classes and the development of the documents; and finally 3.) organizing and editing a book on our five themes, which will be composed of several chapters written by expert authors. I will be eager to see how the bicentennial progresses and hope to help where and when I can.

It has been a privilege to work with a hard-working and gifted staff and dedicated board. I was so right about everything I said in that first paragraph. I achieved my goal of directing this remarkable historic site and archives, and the challenges and opportunities here have allowed me to grow as a museum professional and historian. I am happy I will be able to spend more time with my family, but I will miss my HMH 'ohana and hope to see you all again.

A hui hou.

Safe Journey

Continued from page 3

ings that we care for today at the corner of King and Kawaiaha‘o.

From their arrival, Mr. Castle worked as an accountant of sorts for the Mission, under Levi Chamberlain, managing the disbursement of provisions to the seventeen mission stations and schools throughout the Islands. The offices for secular affairs, or the “counting room,” was on the second floor of the Chamberlain House, built in 1831. A later storehouse for the supplies was a depository building on the Mission grounds, Kawaiaha‘o-side of the main houses, which, if it were still standing, would straddle the HMMH wall, partly on our lawn and partly in the street, across from the Mission Cemetery.¹

After Levi Chamberlain died in July 1849, Mr. Castle was soon joined in the Depository by Amos Starr Cooke. The Cookes had completed most of their teaching duties at the Chiefs’ Children’s School in 1849, but remained in the school to provide a home for Bernice Pauahi until she married Charles Reed Bishop on May 4, 1850. Released from their responsibilities with the Chiefs’ Children’s School, they moved to the 1821 Mission House, closer to the depository.

The ABCFM had advised its missionaries in Hawai‘i in 1848 that they would soon have to support themselves. When they reunited, Cooke and Castle decided that they should go into business together. As a result, Castle and Cooke became naturalized citizens of Hawai‘i and both requested and received their release from the Mission in 1851 and were given permission to use the Depository building, as long as they continued to supply the missionaries with goods. Soon thereafter, Castle announced that he and Mr. Cooke were opening a mercantile, to be housed in the Mission Depository building.

By 1853, the business was divided between the Depository and a store front, shared with a tailor named Nicholson, at the more foot-traffic-accessible location downtown on Bethel and King. The downtown location was so much more successful that most of the business was



After being donated to Hawaiian Mission Houses in 1916, the safe leaves its spot in the Annex, and begins its journey back to Castle and Cooke.

conducted there by about 1855,² and by the 1860s, Castle and Cooke bought the whole two-story building and moved all the goods to this location. Certainly a fire-proof safe would have been a necessary accessory to this new profitable venture.

The safe’s general manufacturing information, dating its production to after 1851, and the original donation documents also support this theory.

The safe itself is cast-iron and fire-proof. The walls are filled with a non-flammable material, most likely brick. As its inscription states, it was manufactured in Boston, MA by Edwards, Fernald and Co. Before the 1930s, not much more was known about the origins of the piece until a site visitor from Boston prompted Miss Harriet Forbes of the Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society to make inquiries back east. She was met with a response from The Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company of Connecticut and The Morris Island Safe Company of Boston, detailing that

Edwards, Fernald and Co were old timers on Sudbury St. with a factory on School St., which they started in 1835. Mr. Fernald dropped out [date not mentioned here] and was replaced by a Mr. Kershaw, changing the name to Edwards and Kershaw until 1868 when Kershaw dropped out, became Edwards, Co. until 1872, when the Boston fire wiped them out. The original company and their succes-

sors only built key-lock safes. This man Edwards did have a patent on a certain type of lock.⁴

Miss Forbes then inquired to the Editor of the People’s Column of *The Boston Globe*, who informed her that it is documented in the *Boston Directory* that this agency listed in the 1853 directory as having an associate “Holman,” in 1854 and in 1855 as Edwards and Fernald and in 1856 as Edwards, Fernald, and Kershaw. Thus the editor surmised that the safe was manufactured in either 1854 or in 1855, and Miss Forbes wrote back to agree.⁵


Thus, we can draw the conclusion that the safe was ordered in either 1854 or 1855, traveled around Cape Horn and arrived at a later date. Since the fledgling Castle and Cooke mercantile was reportedly doing very well by this time, it seems reasonable to think the safe was brought directly to the store on Bethel and King. The only remaining contents of the safe are four small clippings from *The Pacific* newspaper on May 8, 1874, referencing a trip S.N. Castle made to New Zealand.

The accession information, such as it is, seems to support this notion that the safe did not originally reside at the Mission Houses. In 1916, the then Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society (also called “the Cousins”) received the offer from Theodore Richards of the Hawaiian Evangelical Association to take the safe as they

prepared for a move and they could not house it in their new offices right across the street from the Annex/Print Shop building at the new Mission Memorial Building. The letter from 1916 describes it as “a very old fashioned device...perhaps the oldest article of furniture of its kind now around the city.” Mr. Richards also references having it “silvered over to bring here” when it was donated to HEA by Castle and Cooke themselves at an unknown date.⁶

As a result of this exchange, it appears that from 1916 until 2016, Samuel N. Castle’s safe sat steadfast in the center historic building at the Hawaiian Mission Houses, currently interpreted as a printshop. A plan to renovate the Print Shop exhibit space re-ignited the research and attempts to physically budge the safe, with the current Castle and Cooke Hawai‘i clearly being the best fit for this significant historical piece. All of us at Hawaiian Mission Houses are excited about this very appropriate transfer and so thankful to Castle and Cooke for seeing through the very tricky move to its new home.

Endnotes

1. *Missionary Album: Portraits and Biographical Sketches of the American Protestant Missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands, Sesquicentennial ed.* (Honolulu, HI: Hawaiian Mission Children’s Society, 1969), 59.
2. William R. Castle, *Life of Samuel Northrup Castle* (Honolulu, HI: Samuel N and Mary Castle Foundation with the Hawaiian Historical Society, 1960), 86.
3. Richard A. Greer, *Downtown profile: Honolulu, a century ago* (Honolulu, HI: Kamehameha Schools Press, 1966), 47.
4. W.P. Mosely to Harriet Forbes. September 13, 1929. The Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company, Stamford, Connecticut.
5. The Editor of the People’s Column to Harriet Forbes. November 13, 1930. *The Boston Globe*, Boston, Massachusetts; Harriet Forbes to the Editor of the People’s Column, *The Boston Globe*. December 1, 1930. Honolulu Mission Children’s Society, Honolulu, Hawaii.
6. Theodore Richards to Agnes Judd. January 17, 1916. Hawaiian Evangelical Association, Honolulu, Hawaii. 



JOSEPH POEPOE
1853 – 1913



JOHN PAPA ʻĪʻĪ
1800 – 1870



EMMA NĀWAHĪ,
1854 – 1934



REV. LORRIN ANDREWS
1795 – 1868



SAMUEL KAMAKAU
1815 – 1876

“Yesterday’s News” premiers in June

At one point there were no fewer than eighteen newspapers being printed in Hawai‘i. Producing that rich proliferation of printed matter were the newspaper men and women who will be portrayed in June at O‘ahu Cemetery as HMH presents *Yesterday’s News*.

The widespread attainment of literacy by Hawaiians gave rise to a vibrant and important role for newspapers among the general population. Newspapers were used for Christian educational purposes, to record and debate Hawaiian history and culture, and to debate politics or argue for political activism. Characters portrayed are Rev. Lorrin Andrews, the editor of the first Hawaiian language newspaper *Ka Lama Hawaii*; John Papa ʻĪʻĪ and Samuel Kamakau, both contributors on Hawaiian history and culture to Hawaiian language newspapers; Joseph Poepoe, editor of *Kuokoa Home Rula* and *Ka Nai Aupuni*; and Emma Nāwahī, co-editor and co-owner of *Ke Aloha Aina*.

Reservations may be made online at www.missionhouses.org or by calling 808-447-3926 (be prepared to leave a message so we may return your call). Be sure to let us know if anyone in your group cannot walk between the gravesites. \$55 includes pupu and two drinks. “Gates” open at 5 p.m. with performances beginning promptly at 6 p.m. The evening ends in the chapel with an opportunity to meet the actors, discuss the play, and ponder the issues.

Special thanks go to the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority and O‘ahu Cemetery and Crematory for their support. 



Far left, Ethel Damon portrayed by Alicia Rice and Kahana Ho, left, as Emma Metcalf Beckley Nakuina in the premier of *Muses of Hawai‘i* last June.

Special History Theatre in April

Ethel Damon and Emma Metcalf Beckley Nakuina will visit HMH on Friday, April 21, in a special history theatre appearance from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Performance at HMH begins at 6:30 p.m. Their stories were well received at their debut during the June 2016 Cemetery Pupu Theatre, and we look forward to sharing their stories with you.

Emma Nakuina (1847 – 1929) was the first woman curator of a museum in Hawai‘i. She became curatrix, as she preferred to be called, of the Hawaiian National Museum in the Judicial Building during Kalākaua’s reign and authored *Hawaii: Its People and Their Legends*, as well as many other works.

Ethel Moseley Damon (1883 – 1965) author of no fewer than thirteen plays and books wrote the plays *Punahou’s 75th Anniversary Pageant* and *The Romance of Reality: A Historical Play in Two Acts*, a centennial missionary memorial play. She also authored *Samuel Chenery Damon* (a biography of her grandfather), *Early Hawaiian Churches and Their Manner of Building*, and her seminal history of Kaua‘i, *Koamalu: A Story of Pioneers on Kauai*.

Reservations at missionhouses.org or at 1-808-447-3926. \$30 includes pupu and beverage.

Save The Dates Leading Up to and Including 2020!

Plans are underway in Kona, Honolulu, and Connecticut for a variety of activities in 2020 as we take the opportunity for Reflection and Rejuvenation. Please hold these dates and join us as often as you can. In addition to the April 4 arrival in Kona on the Big Island and the subsequent trip to Honolulu which we will mark on April 11, 2020, take note of these dates:

February 17, 2018

to commemorate the life of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia

October 23, 2019

to celebrate the departure of the *Thaddeus*

March 30, 2020

to mark the first sighting of Hawai'i

March 31, 2020

to mark the first landfall at Kawaihae

April 4, 2020

to mark landing at Kailua and first major engagement with Hawaiians

April 11, 2020

HMCS Annual Meeting in Honolulu

April 18, 2020

to visit Kaua'i as they did to return Humehume home

April 25, 2020

to visit Maui for commemorations there.

Keep in touch to get up-to-date information, and contact Mary Ann Lentz if you wish to help with the planning for any of these dates.

Mahalo to our Supporters

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives is dependent upon donor support. We sincerely thank the following who made contributions in the fall of 2016.

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For our work in preserving important historical records of Queen Lili'uokalani, from the Lili'uokalani Trust

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Historic Site and Archives

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www.missionhouses.org
info@missionhouses.org

Historic Site Hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm

Archives Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10 am to 4 pm

Mission Social Hall and Café

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 am to 2 pm
Telephone: 447-3913

Admission

Historic House Tour: \$10
Kama'āina, Military, Senior: \$8
College student (with Valid ID): \$6
17 years or under with parent: FREE
Participating Members: FREE

Guided Tours

Chamberlain Exhibit, Printing Office,
and 1821 Mission House
Tue – Sat, 11 am, 12, 1, 2, 3 pm

Kama'āina Day

Last Saturday of the month. 10 am – 4 pm
Discounted admission of \$4 with valid
Hawai'i ID.

Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and
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Mission Children's Society (HMCS), a 501(c)3
not-for-profit organization founded in 1852.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

*The 165th Annual Meeting of the
Hawaiian Mission Children's Society will
be held Saturday,*

April 22 at 10:00 a.m.

*NOTE: The Slate of Trustees will be
available on our website under HMCS
or at our offices.*

Upcoming Events

Nani Ke Ao Nei Music Series

Nā Mele Honua Songs of the Earth

Saturday, May 13, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Nani Ke Ao Nei Music Series

Nā Mele kō Uka Songs of the Uplands

Saturday, July 22, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

James Grant Benton's

Twelf Nite O Whateva!

Friday and Saturday, August 11, 12, 18,
19, 25, and 26, Doors open at 6:30 p.m.,
Performance at 7 p.m.

HMH Annual Fundraiser

Huaka'i: A Musical Journey

Saturday, September 16

Free Admission, Family Activities, & Tours

Family Day Open House

Saturday, September 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nani Ke Ao Nei Music Series

Nā Mele kō Kai Songs of the Sea

Saturday, October 21, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Newest Docents

Please welcome our newest docents
as they begin giving tours and helping
with the burgeoning school program.
Juliette Cooke, Jean Kellerman, Stephen
Hazam, Glen Tapanila, and Kalona
Nani completed the three-week course,
plowed through hundreds of pages of
reading, and are training by shadowing
tours and then giving their first under
the watchful eye of Curator of Programs
Mike Smola.

Added to the docent roster a year
ago were Barb Morgan, Rose Hanson,
Nancy Perry, David Goodbody, Ann
Antal, Professor Willis Moore, and
Catherine Connolly who have been
active all year. As a result of these new
faces, veterans Kathy McGovern, Joan
Ciampa, and 'Iolana Allen, could step
back or take a break without feeling that
HMH would be short-staffed in the face
of increasing visitation. Arleen Young,
Audrey Yoneshige, Mary Piette and
others help with other visiting groups
like the O'ahu Nature Tours from cruise
ships and at our special events, rather
than holding to twice-weekly commit-
ments.

Volunteer time is a critical asset
at HMH; we literally cannot operate
without these dedicated individuals.
Please thank them the next time you
visit HMH. 🌺