

# The Outdoor Circle



## *Our 'Green Advocacy Initiative'*

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## The Outdoor Circle ~ What is the *Green Advocacy Initiative*?

The State of Hawai'i is experiencing sustained growth and urbanization, which could have adverse environmental impacts on our quality of life in the Islands. To mitigate this impact, The Outdoor Circle, through its *Green Advocacy Initiative*, is **actively and systematically** pursuing the following:

- Protecting **old growth trees**,
- Planting new trees to **expand our tree canopy**,
- Preserving and enhancing our **public parks, green spaces, and view planes**,
- Implementing sustainable city and **urban area designs** that foster tree planting and green spaces.

By 2035, our goal is to have increased our **urban tree canopy** from its current **22% to 35%**.

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## The Outdoor Circle ~ Why a *Green Advocacy Initiative*?

- As our economy becomes more reliant on tourism and development, **preserving Hawai`i's beauty and livability for the future** is of paramount importance.
- With the **burgeoning development** across Oahu, addressing **environmental impacts of this growth** is becoming increasingly relevant.
- The Outdoor Circle is **uniquely positioned** to leverage its proven legacy and existing relationships with Federal, State, City and County, and community leaders to **further this planning and planting process**.

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## Who Benefits From Our *Green Advocacy Initiative*?

- **Communities:** whose members and organizations have a stake in ensuring their neighborhoods are designed with green and open spaces for residents to enjoy.
- **Real Estate Investors and Developers:** whose properties will be enhanced by proximity to existing parks, public open spaces, and green street-scapes, and who benefit from our added expertise and collaboration on projects.
- **Partners:** interested in being **proactive in ensuring a 'green' Hawai`i for the 21st Century**.

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## Progress to Date ~ Green Advocacy Initiative

- **Since 2011** ~ active collaboration with Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit on the disposition of thousands of trees along the rail corridor, assuring trees are replaced with comparable specimens or moved to **other public spaces** in communities across Oahu.
- **Since 2014** ~ creation of an open-source, digital map of Oahu's current **green infrastructure and urban trees**, as a tool for policymakers.
- **Since 2016** ~ active participation in the *Carbon Neutrality Challenge* Project, whose goal is to plant trees for **carbon sequestration**.
- **Since 2017** ~ active involvement in the *Waimea Valley Reforestation* Project, where, to date, our volunteers have planted over **90 native trees**.
- **In 2017** ~ formation of *Trees for Honolulu's Future* project, in partnership with UH, and supported by the city, which aims to **increase the urban tree canopy** to 35% by 2035.

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## Our Goals ~ Green Advocacy Initiative

- **By 2020** ~ will have **calculated the amount of greenspace** and new trees needed to effectively manage urbanization environmental impacts, and will have **developed a plan** to plant the thousands of trees need by 2035.
- **By 2020** ~ will have **added at least 500** new trees to the State "Exceptional Tree" Inventory
- **By 2020** ~ will begin the process of **propagating** thousands of trees needed to mitigate the impacts of urbanization, working in partnership to provide volunteer job training.
- **By 2025** ~ will begin **planting** thousands of urban canopy trees in our communities.
- **By 2035** ~ will have **increased** our urban tree canopy from its current 22% to 35%.

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## Our Approach ~ *Green Advocacy Initiative*

- **Over the next 2 years** ~ will complete our **map of Honolulu's urban forests and greenspaces**, which will improve management of and protections for this infrastructure, and direct new planting projects to where they are **most-needed**.
- **Over the next 5 years** ~ will expand our community-based network to 1,000 **volunteers** needed to **plant and maintain trees** and expand public parks and other greenspaces.
- **Beginning now through 2025** ~ will partner with individuals and businesses to actively participate in the **planting of trees and other forms of landscaping**, in communities across the Oahu.
- **Beginning now through 2025** ~ will advocate for specific **public policies** that ensure our diverse communities are strong, resilient, and **environmentally sustainable**.

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## What We Need ~ *Green Advocacy Initiative*

- **Annual Budget:** \$350,000 to support **additional staff** of 5-6 people to lead our efforts:
  - Public Policy Advocate: will establish public policies to protect our environment.
  - Development Director: will raise funds to sustain this Green Advocacy Initiative effort.
  - Tree Specialist: will provide technical expertise, advocacy for greater tree protection.
  - Greenspace Advocate: to spearhead the planting project opportunities.
  - Volunteer Coordinator: to support volunteers in our Green Advocacy Initiative effort.
  - Administrative staff: to oversee the administration of our Green Advocacy Initiative.
- **Existing Volunteer Board of Directors, Executive Director and staff** committed to achieving these project goals.

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## What You Can Do Now ~ *Green Advocacy Initiative*

### ▪ **Support Our Initiative:**

- We welcome **your support** for our *Green Advocacy Initiative*.
- We value **your input** and expertise, services, and ideas.
- We share **your commitment** to preserving Hawai`i's scenic beauty and environmental sustainability.

### ▪ **Help Us Reach Our Goal:**

- Support us with a **financial pledge** to the Outdoor Circle "**Green Advocacy Initiative**"

**Your financial commitment to our "Green Advocacy Initiative" will have a significant impact on shaping how Hawai`i will look over the next century.**

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## Summary: *Our Green Advocacy Initiative*

- The Outdoor Circle has a **100 year legacy and track record** of preserving and protecting the fragile environment and natural resources of our Hawai`ian Islands.
- A strong and vibrant Hawai`ian economy is highly reliant on the **continued preservation** of our State's natural beauty, unique environment, and livability.
- The Outdoor Circle is **uniquely positioned** to work within our local communities to beautify, protect, and enhance our new and existing diverse neighborhoods.
- With your support and financial commitment to this initiative, you can have a **significant impact on shaping how Honolulu will look in the 21st century.**

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