

**A.A.
IN THE
WINDWARD
DISTRICT**

Hawaii Area
Archives Committee

August 22, 2007

The Windward District (District #4)

Before the 1970s

Unlike most of the A.A. Districts on Oahu, the Windward District boundaries were defined by Mother Nature many millennia ago, long before the arrival of humankind on its fair shores. Separated from the rest of Oahu by the majestic Koolau Mountains, and bordered on the east by the usually tranquil Pacific Ocean, the Windward District stretches 35 miles from Kahuku Point, in the north, to Makapu'u Point in the south.

The records of the General Service Office (GSO) of Alcoholics Anonymous, in New York, list no A.A. groups and no A.A. "loners" on the windward side of Oahu prior to 1952. This fact notwithstanding, attempts to establish an A.A. group in Windward Oahu are known to have occurred at least as early as 1945. George B., the secretary of the South Seas Group (of Honolulu) – the first A.A. group in Hawaii – informed GSO, in March of 1945, that the founder of the group, Euell G., had relapsed and had been committed to the Territorial Hospital, in Kaneohe; that, upon discharge, Euell had been hired as an attendant at the hospital and had organized an A.A. group at that institution. This was later confirmed by Euell in a letter to GSO, dated July 7, 1947. However, Euell also acknowledged that "In 1945, I was drunk six times." That he did not get sober until May, 1947, would seem to explain why the Territorial Hospital Group did not survive.

The earliest GSO-recorded A.A. group on the windward side – the Windward Oahu Group – also did not long survive. It came into existence in Kailua in 1952, but it was gone by 1956. During the years of its existence, the GSO-published A.A. Directory showed it to have between 8 and 11 members, seemingly enough to support a local group.

The lack of meetings on the windward side posed a special problem for the A.A. members who resided there. As Uncle Herb W. (a member since January 15, 1955) recalled in a June 1978 monograph:

"During the early days of the Aloha Group, Honolulu was still undisturbed by tourists and high-rises. Henry J. Kaiser had not come to Hawaii as yet. The Aloha Group was located at the dead end of Kawaihao St., with a membership of about thirty. There were a few members from the windward side traveling to Honolulu 3 times a week to the meetings. Travel was done on the old Pali Road with only two lanes, narrow, winding and dangerous when wet. When the wind was strong we would have a time maneuvering the turn on the top of the Pali. That never stopped us from the meetings. We wanted sobriety so badly that we were willing to go to any length to get it."

Evidently, the Pali trek gave the Kailua A.A.s the courage to change the things they could. Writing further, in November of 1978, Uncle Herb reported that –

"It was in early 1956 that a handful of windward A.A.s decided that we needed a group in the Kailua area.

Joanna M., Ed W., Frank M., Big Ben S., Kurt and myself decided to take turns in holding meetings at our homes. Wednesdays were selected as the day so it would not clash with the Aloha Group meetings. Meeting time was at 8 P.M. We members provided the after meeting snack. Within a few months the meetings were so popular and our homes so crowded that we decided to find a larger, permanent location.

Several of us approached Father Minton of the St. Christopher's Church and he gave us the O.K. to use the little library. Shortly after Claude D. relieved Father Minton, and has permitted us to use the premises since.

Our first meetings were held at 8 P.M. on Mondays and Fridays. There were times the coffee pot and I were the only ones at the meeting.

Membership grew slowly at the beginning, it it grew steadily with time and now (1978) there is a well-attended meeting nearly every night of the week.

The early members and founders are scattered. Ed W. has passed on; Joanna M. is now living in Indian Hills, Colorado; Big Ben S. and Kurt were Marines and were re-assigned to mainland duty. Frank was a chief petty officer in the Coast Guard and is now retired on the mainland."

As of this writing (2007), the Kailua Group, in an altered form, continues to serve the A.A. Fellowship on the windward side, as does Uncle Herb, now sober for over 52 years, and still carrying a strong message of recovery in his 90th year.

The precise date of the founding of the Kailua Group is unknown; however, its inclusion in the 1957 A.A. Directory indicates that it was registered with GSO in 1956. Because there was no effective intergroup structure on Oahu until September, 1962, there are no A.A. meeting schedules to tell us where and when the group held its meetings. The 1961 A.A. Directory indicates that the meetings were held on Mondays and Fridays, as of the end of 1960, but it is not until October 1962, when the newly created Oahu Intergroup (OIG) began to publish A.A. meeting schedules, that it became possible to track the activities and transformation of the group with reasonable accuracy.

The October 1962 meeting schedule shows that the Kailua Group met on Mondays and Fridays at St. Christopher's Church, 93 N. Kainalu Drive, and that the Monday meeting was an open meeting, while the Friday meeting was closed. Not until

the December 1971 meeting schedule is the Monday meeting shown to be a speaker meeting. The Friday meeting was first shown to be a discussion meeting in the schedule of September 1974.

The 1975 A.A. Directory, providing data as of the end of 1974, lists the Kailua Monday Speaker Group (on Mondays) and the Kailua Group (Fridays) as separate groups. The Oahu Intergroup meeting schedules of 1975 show two separate groups: the Kailua Group Speakers Meeting, on Mondays, and the Kailua Discussion Group, on Fridays.

In September, 1982, St. Christopher's Church began a year-long construction project, which led the Kailua Speaker's Meeting to move temporarily to the Windward United Church of Christ, at 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, before returning to St. Christopher's Church by the end of 1983. The Discussion Group remained at St. Christopher's during the construction but, by March, 1983, it had been re-named the Kailua Discussion "Pathfinders" and, by September of that year, was named the "Windward Pathfinders Group."

When the Monday and Friday meetings separated, each apparently notified GSO and, as a result, were given "history" dates by GSO, which probably reflect the date of notification of GSO. For the Kailua Speakers Group the history date is October 2, 1975; for the Pathfinders Group, it is May 20, 1976. These dates notwithstanding, these two groups trace their origin to the original Kailua Group, and their history of continuous service goes back to early 1956, when that group was formed by Uncle Herb, and others.

In addition to the difficulty in tracking the history of various A.A. groups, caused by the lack of published meeting schedules, the absence of an Oahu Intergroup led to members of one group being unaware of the existence of other groups. Fran R., who came into A.A. in October, 1958, attended her first meeting at the Kaneohe Group, at the Calvary Church. She remembered the Kaneohe Group as being "the only A.A. group on the Windward side at that time," but she acknowledged (in a 1985 interview) that she only later became aware of the existence of other groups .

The Kaneohe Group was, in fact, the second long-lasting group to be formed on the Windward side. Although it may have started earlier than October 1958, it did not appear in the A.A. Directory until 1959, indicating registration with GSO during 1958. For several years it was the only Windward A.A. group besides the Kailua Group. The group lasted nearly 20 years, until 1978, having spent 16 of those years at the Calvary Episcopal Church, on Kaneohe Bay Drive.

The Kahaluu Group, according to a group history on file in the Hawaii Area Archives, was formed as a closed meeting in September or October, 1962, by Jack C., Vic B. and Butch C. Although the group still exists (as of August 2007), that existence has not been continuous. The group did not appear in any OIG meeting schedule between April 1970 and September 1974. When it reappeared in the October 1975 schedule, it was shown to meet at its original venue, St. John's by the Sea Church, and its

name had been lengthened to "Kahaluu Discussion Group." (It re-registered with GSO as of March 8, 1976.)

The group moved to its present location, at the United Methodist Church, on Waihe'e Road, Kahaluu, in September or October, 1986, where it continues to hold a closed discussion meeting every Saturday night, starting at 8:00 PM. It briefly added a closed Big Book discussion meeting on Tuesday nights, but that meeting lasted for only three years, from 1988 to 1991.

The Groper's Group, in terms of continuous service to the A.A. Fellowship, is the second oldest group in the Windward District. Although it is shown, by GSO, to have a history date of October 14, 1964, the group was formed several months earlier. As reported in the July 1964 issue of The Mynah Bird (then an Oahu Intergroup publication),

"The Groper's Group of A.A. is a new group just formed on the Windward side in Kailua. Meetings will be held starting as of now at the Windward United Church across from the Pali Palms Hotel every Thursday from 8:00 to 9:15 P.M. Kay B. is the Secretary and Dink is the intergroup representative. This will be a speaker type meeting for the first 20 minutes with a breakup into individual discussion groups for the balance of the meeting time. This is a very good system of holding meetings and we hope that everyone will find the time to visit with us at their earliest opportunity. Aloha, Katy B."

Unlike the Kailua Group, the Groper's Group has retained its original name. Although its format has been slightly altered, it has met continuously, for over 43 years, at the Windward United Church on Thursday evenings. It is a model of A.A. stability.

For the next six years following the founding of Groper's, the Windward District was host to at least six meetings a week, Monday through Saturday, conducted by four well-established groups, the Kailua Group (Monday and Friday), the Kaneohe Group (Tuesday and Saturday), the Kahaluu Group (Wednesday) and Groper's (Thursday). Other groups appeared briefly in Haaula and Punaluu, but did not last.

Finally, in early 1970, two Sunday meetings were begun in Kaneohe. Neither meeting survived the year, and it was not until the early summer of 1971 that the Sunday meeting void was permanently filled by the Kailua Step Study Group (now Kailua Step & Tradition Study Group), first meeting at St. Christopher's Church, before moving to Windward United Church (in 1982) and then to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, on Keolu Drive, where it has held its meetings since early 1995.

As has been noted, attempts to establish an A.A. presence at the Kaneohe State Hospital (KSH) began in Territorial days, during World War II. These efforts reached fruition when, in May 1968, a joint A.A.- KSH alcoholic rehabilitation project, spearheaded by Bill O'R., was initiated. In December, 1969, Bill was able to report to the Oahu Intergroup that one program graduate had celebrated one year of sobriety. He also

reported that, earlier that month, KSH "gave" A.A. a building for its exclusive use for the treatment of alcoholics. This building –Hina Mauka – was the forerunner of the present Hina Mauka Treatment Center, now privately operated, in a modern facility adjacent to the KSH campus.

A.A. members, most of whom resided on the Windward side, provided volunteer staffing, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, to supplement the KSH professional staff. Other members formed meetings to serve the facility's patients. Many of these meetings were long-lasting. Among these were the Women's Stag Meeting and Men's Stag Meeting, both started in May, 1969. The former was the first women's stag meeting held in the Windward District. Both meetings continued until the end of 1988, when they were suspended.

A hospital memo, dated January 28, 1970, and titled SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES AT HINA MAUKA ALCOHOLISM PROJECT CENTER, listed five weekly A.A. meetings at the "Hina Mauka Alcoholic Center." The center was "open to all Alcoholic Patients on grounds pass daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m."

The development of the Hina Mauka Center was but one indication of the general growth of A.A. during the period. The earliest available Oahu A.A. meeting schedule, dated October, 1962, lists only 26 meetings on all of Oahu (6 of which were Windward meetings). By the end of the decade, the number of meetings held on Oahu had increased by 57%, to 42 weekly meetings, with 10 of those being held in Windward Oahu.

From 1970 to 1979

With this growth came the perceived need for "organization." The Oahu Intergroup, in February, 1970, organized Oahu A.A. into four geographic areas, with each to "have a Chairman who will be, in effect, responsible for that area." John H. of the Kailua Group was appointed as chairman of the Windward area. The "areas" were subsequently numbered in alphabetical order: Diamond Head/Waikiki (#1), Honolulu (#2), Leeward (#3) and Windward (#4). Six years later, when the Hawaii Area structure was developed, these same numbers were assigned to the four Oahu Districts of Hawaii Area.

The Nineteen Seventies began with the appearance of two new Windward groups in the July, 1971, Oahu Intergroup meeting schedule. These were the Kailua Step Study Group, previously discussed on page 4, above, and the Air Station Ahi Group, the first of a succession of Kaneohe Marine Corps A.A. groups, having meetings on Thursdays and Saturdays. This relatively late founding of an "on-base" meeting does not indicate a lack of A.A. involvement on the part of our Marine Corps brothers. To the contrary, as was noted earlier by Uncle Herb W., three of the founding members of the Kailua Group were active duty military personnel, two being Marines. Jack C. and Ed W., both Marines, were among the early members of the Kaneohe Group, and Ed was a key player in the creation of the Aloha State Intergroup, the antecedent of our present Oahu Intergroup, in 1958.

The Air Station Ahi Group was followed by F Troop, T.G.I.T., Brownbaggers, the BYOL Group and, most recently, the Semper Seeking Sobriety Group, which was formed in December, 2001, ending a seven year absence of regular A.A. meetings from the base. First called the Mokapu Searchers, the group soon adopted its present name and it has met at the Base Chapel on Tuesdays and Fridays since mid-2002.

The Kailua Men's Stag Group made its first appearance in the OIG meeting schedule in April, 1972, as a Wednesday evening meeting, at the Windward United Church. It has continued to hold a closed, one-hour meeting at the same location, on the same day, at the same time, since its founding, over 35 years ago.

The next still-existing group to be formed on the Windward side was the Kailua Beginners Group. This group was first listed in the September, 1974, Oahu meeting schedule. It met on Saturday, at 8:00 PM, at St. Christopher's Church, on Kainalu Drive, until it was displaced by the 1982 church renovation project. It met at the Kailua Methodist Church, at 1110 Kailua Road, for the next several years, until January, 1985, when it moved to its present location at the Windward United Church, at 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, and shifted its meeting to Friday evening, at 8:00 PM.

The Windward District became the center of A.A. activity for the entire State of Hawaii when, on January 25, 1976, it hosted the first Area Assembly of the newly created Hawaii Area (Area #17). The Assembly was an all-day affair, held in the Liloa Building, on the grounds of the Kaneohe State Hospital. Vic B. was the first Hawaii Area Chairman, and Harry L. was Hawaii Area's Delegate to the General Service Conference. Ben C. (of Gropers) was the District Committee Member (DCM) of the Windward District. Evidently, the Windward District was such a good host that it was chosen to host the next four Area Assemblies as well.

A group history, prepared by the Hang Loose Group and on file at the Hawaii Area Archives, states that "Hang Loose was started in 1981. Terry O. and Bob H. contacted Father Marks at St. George's Church in Waimanalo and he (sic) received permission to start an A.A. meeting on Thursday nights." Although the circumstances of the founding are probably accurate, the founding date is quite incorrect. The group, which began as the Waimanalo Group, first appeared in the Oahu meeting schedule five years earlier, in November, 1976, meeting at St. George's Church, in Waimanalo, on Thursday, at 8:00 PM. The group registered with GSO on March 27, 1978.

In 1981, the group changed its name to the Hang Loose Group, but the meeting place, day and time were unchanged. At the beginning of 1994, the group moved to St. Anthony's Church, on Makawao Street, in Kailua, where it remained for five years. In January, 2000, the group relocated to the First Baptist Church – Windward, on Kailua Road, and four years later, it moved to its present location, at the Salvation Army Community Center, on Waikalua Road, Kaneohe. It continues to provide a high-energy, 90-minute meeting every Thursday night, now beginning at 7:30 PM.

During the decade of the Seventies, the number of A.A. meetings in Windward Oahu doubled, from 10 to 20 meetings. Of those meetings, eight continue to exist: Kailua Speakers, Kailua Men's Stag, Gropers, Hang Loose, Windward Pathfinders, Kahaluu Discussion, Kailua Beginners, and Kailua Step & Tradition Study.

Old-timers may remember those meetings which did not survive: Hina Mauka Men's Stag, Hina Mauka Women's Stag (both on Mondays), Kailua Big Book Study (Tuesday), Kaneohe Discussion (Tuesday), Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station ARD (Tuesday) and KMCAS F Troop (Thursday), the Hina Mauka Group (Wednesday and Friday), St. Ann's Step Study (Saturday), the Hauula Group (Saturday) and Castle Discussion (Sunday).

The Nineteen Eighties

Windward A.A. continued its steady growth during the Eighties, with the founding of eight more groups/meetings that continue their service to A.A. today (as of August 2007). The first of these groups to form was Na Wahine O Koolau, which began life as the closed Castle Wahine's Meeting, in April, 1983, in the Doctors' Dining Room in the basement of Castle Hospital, on Saturday mornings, at 10:00 AM. It adopted its present name in mid-1996, and it moved to its present location, at St. Christopher's Church, Kailua, in August, 2000. It remains the oldest surviving women's meeting on the Windward side.

According to a group history, dated July, 1988, the Tell It Like It Is Group was founded by Kulani M. and Jenny E., in February, 1985, as a Saturday night replacement for the Kailua Beginners Group which, in January of that year, had switched its meeting day to Friday. The group was first listed in the Oahu meeting schedule in March, 1985, as meeting at the Windward United Church of Christ, on Saturdays, at 8:00 PM, which it continued to do for the next 11 years. The group then met for about a year at Castle Hospital before moving, in July, 1997, to its present location, at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, on Keolu Drive, in Enchanted Lakes.

A group history of the Search for Serenity Group, dated June 27, 1988, stated that the group held its first meeting on February 14, 1985, with Thomas B., Warren D., Louise and Paul C., Joe C., Philip O. and Frank E. in attendance. It first appeared as an unnamed meeting in the May, 1985, Oahu meeting schedule. It met on Fridays, at 12:15 PM, at the Windward United Church of Christ. It remained unnamed in the May and August schedules, but it was named "Search for Serenity" in time for the November, 1985 schedule. The group added a Tuesday meeting in November, 1987, a Wednesday meeting in February, 1990, etc., until, by December, 1994, it was meeting six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

By November, 2002, the group was obliged to relocate its weekday meetings from the Windward United Church. These moved to St. John's Church, on Kailua Road. (The Saturday meeting chose to remain at the Windward United Church as a separate group/meeting – "Reflections.") After four years at St. John's, the Search for Serenity

Group moved next door, into a separate cottage, on the grounds of the United Methodist Church. It still meets on Monday through Friday, at the distinctive time of 12:15 PM, for literature-based speaker/discussion meetings.

In a group history, dated June 14, 1985, Stu H., the TYG's first GSR, wrote:

"TYG is the latest of many Kailua Beach meetings that have come and gone over the years. It was formed from recent graduates of the Castle Hospital Program. The name was chosen because the founder, Peter S., had a sponsor, Diana D., who ended many of her remarks with TYG."

The Group started with three morning meetings, 7 AM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The darkest time for this Group was the first winter, which was cold and wet. The only shelter was the over-hang in front of the Public Restrooms."

Stu identified the original members, in addition to Peter S. and himself, as Mike H., Jackson, Belinda, Laura and Clarise C., who was Alternate GSR. Beginning with its first meeting, on June 24, 1986, the group was literature-based, using the "12x12" on Monday, "As Bill Sees It" on Wednesday, and the "Big Book" on Friday.

The October, 1987, COR noted the addition of a Thursday meeting by TYG. The further addition of a Tuesday meeting was shown in the October, 1988, meeting schedule, and the start of the Saturday meeting was announced in the April, 1989, COR. Finally, in January, 1990, the Oahu meeting schedule showed the expansion to 7-days-a-week, with the addition of a Sunday meeting. The TYG Group has continued, since that time, to provide an early morning, literature-based meeting, every day of the week, at Kailua Beach Park.

The Ka'a'a'wa Step Study Group was started in May of 1987 by Shari L. and Tim O., who wanted a meeting close to home which would be keiki-friendly. Joined by Deana B. and Larry B., the group (and their children) met on Friday evening, at 7:45 PM, at the Recreation Center at Swanzey Beach Park. Twenty years later, the starting time was changed to 8:00 PM, but otherwise the meeting remains the same keiki-friendly, open step study that it has been since its founding.

A group history, prepared and submitted to the Hawaii Area Archives by the One Step Up Group, reports that the group held its first meeting at the St. Ann's Parish Hall, on Haiku Road, Kaneohe, on Sunday, July 12, 1987, at 8:00 PM. Clarence M. was listed as the founder of the group, while early members included Darlene, Kenneth, Rock, Lynda, Brother Joe, Jacob F., Benjamin R., Dennis T., Anthony N., Jasper, Sandy and Nancy T., the first Group GSR.

The group began as a 90-minute speaker/discussion meeting, which allowed smoking, and which held a monthly birthday meeting. In March, 1988, the "One Step Up

II" meeting appeared in the Oahu meeting schedule. It was held on Tuesday, at 8:00 PM, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Kam Highway, Kaneohe. In January, 1990, the meeting was renamed "Expect a Miracle," but it went out of existence by the Fall of 1993.

The original One Step Up Group continues to meet in the St. Ann's Parish Hall on Sunday evenings. The meeting time has been advanced to 7:30 PM and the group offers a no smoking section. Otherwise, after 20 years, the group is essentially the same as when it was founded.

The Pau Hana Happy Hour Group, as it was designated in Oahu meeting schedules for the first 10 years of its existence, was formed in October, 1988, with Joe C. as its first GSR, and Nalani S. as Alternate GSR. It began with only a Friday meeting, at 5:00 PM, at the Windward United Church of Christ, in Kailua. A second meeting was added in August, 1989. (The Central Office Reports for August and September had that meeting occurring on Wednesday, while the August, 1989, meeting schedule listed it on Monday.)

When the group registered with the General Service Office, in February, 1990, it did so as "Pau Hana Group." It reported having 35 members, and holding meetings on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. By the time of publication of the October, 1990, meeting schedule, the group was meeting every day, except Thursday, and it continued to do so until November, 1991, when a Thursday meeting was added. . It has, since that time, met daily, at 5:00 PM, at the Windward United Church of Christ and, since the beginning of 2001, has offered child care services for its attendees.

The creation of the Grow Up Group (now "Gro-Up") was announced in the Central Office Report of November, 1988. According to Howard S., one of the original members, the group was started by residents of the Pak Ranch (a treatment center in Kahaluu), "with the help and support of junior staff. Most involved were Mark R., Bob the Builder, and Martin, the English chef at Pak Ranch." The group's name came from the signature line of a TV comedienne (who's name Howard could not remember).

Howard recalled that "The meeting was mostly attended by new people, but Pete P. and Bob A., both former delegates, were regulars, but they didn't try to run the show. When Pak Ranch closed its door, we moved down to St. John's Church." This move occurred in September, 1989. The spelling change of the group name occurred in February, 1994. Otherwise, for the past 18 years, the group has been largely unchanged, meeting on Wednesday, at 8:00 PM, at St. John's by the Sea, at 47-420 Kamehameha Highway, in Kahaluu.

During the decade of the Nineteen Eighties, the weekly A.A. meetings on all of Oahu had increased from 102 to 278, while the Windward meetings had increased at a somewhat slower pace, from 20 to 42 meetings each week. Sixteen groups, which then held 24 of those meetings, still exist. Eighteen of the meetings no longer exist, but they are named as a matter of interest to those members who may have attended them. Monday: Just Another A.A. Meeting and Ladies Night Out; Tuesday: Attitude

Adjustment, Country Living, Waikane Group, Kahaluu Big Book, Kailua Big Book Study Group, KMCAS Discussion, and One Step Up II; Wednesday: Kaneohe Marines, Kahuku Meeting and Kailua Wahines; Thursday: Kaneohe Marines, Kailua As Bill Sees It and Walking Tall; Friday: One Step at a Time; Saturday: Castle Men's Stag; Sunday: Castle Discussion/Hui Malama.

From 1990 through 1999

The first new group of the Nineties was the Gripers Group. Formation of this group was announced in the Central Office Report of September, 1990: "GRIPERS GROUP, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 780 Keolu Drive, Kailua, Thursday at 8:00 PM Discussion/Closed." According to an early member of the group, a split from the Gropers Group was fueled by a resentment, leading to a new meeting with a very similar name, on the same day and at the same time as the Gropers meeting. Whatever the original controversy may have been, the Gripers Group has since led a quiet, uncontroversial existence. Since it first appeared in the Oahu meeting schedule, in October, 1990, the Gripers listing has remained the same in every particular.

As has been discussed, there have been regularly scheduled A.A. meetings at the Kaneohe State Hospital (KSH) since the late Sixties. Most of these were related to the presence, on the KSH grounds, of the Hina Mauka treatment facility. After Hina Mauka moved to Kailua, at the end of 1987, there were no A.A. meetings at KSH for almost five years. However, since October, 1992, the Oahu meeting schedules have listed at least one meeting (but usually two) every week, brought in to KSH residents by A.A. members from adjacent Windward communities. With the return of Hina Mauka to the KSH neighborhood, some KSH patients are permitted to attend meetings at that facility. However, at the present time, only one A.A. meeting is held at KSH: Tuesday, beginning at 7:00 PM, a 90-minute meeting is held in the Hospital Auditorium, at 45-710 Keahala Road, Kaneohe.

The Hauula Sunday Group has been similarly stable since its announced formation (at the July, 1992, meeting of Oahu Intergroup). The original listing in the Oahu meeting schedule (October 1992) showed the group meeting at Hauula Beach Park (Across from 7-Eleven) for a Big Book Discussion, starting at 8:00 AM, on Hawaiian Time. The schedule listing was unchanged, until March, 2006, when the notation "Starts on Hawaiian Time" was dropped.

Two new Windward groups were announced in the December, 1992, Central Office Report, and listed in the Winter 1993 Oahu meeting schedule. These were the Women in Recovery (promptly renamed Kailua Women's Stag) and Stand in the Light.

The Women in Recovery Group was announced in December, 1992, as meeting "at Windward United Church, 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kaneohe, Wednesday at 8:00 PM, a Closed Discussion meeting." The following month, the Central Office Report announced yet another "new" group: "Kailua Women's Stag, at Windward United Church, 38 Kaneohe Bay Drive, Kaneohe, Wednesday at 8:00 PM. Discussion CLOSED

NSS." It does not seem unreasonable to consider a change of group name more likely than the creation of a second, replacement, women's group at the same place, on the same night, at the same time, with the same meeting format. Whatever the case, the Kailua Women's Group ("Stag" was dropped from the name in 2002) met at the Windward United Church for 14 years before moving, in January, 2006, to the Kailua Methodist Church, 1110 Kailua Road.

The Stand in the Light Group has held its torch light, open, speaker/discussion meeting at "Kailua Beach Park (near showers), across from Buzz's Steak House," on Friday night since its founding, in December, 1992. Initially, the meeting began at 10:15 PM, and continued to do so until the Fall of 2001, when the starting time was moved forward to 9:00 PM (presumably due to closing of the parking lot at 10:00 PM). Subsequently, in December, 2005, the starting time dropped back to 9:30 PM.

In April, 1993, the Women's Welcome Meeting joined the Kailua Women's Group as the first of two women's A.A. meetings on Wednesday, at the Windward United Church of Christ. The differences were that the Women's Welcome Meeting was (and is) a morning meeting, starting at 11:00 AM, it was (and is) an open meeting, and it was (and is) a "Big Book" study. Since it was first listed in the Spring 1993 meeting schedule, it has emphasized "Children Welcome!" (with an exclamation mark).

The Reflections Group did not become an independent group until it separated from the Search for Serenity Group, in November, 2002. However, as a meeting, "Reflections" came into existence in December, 1994, as announced in the Central Office Report of that date. Now a group, it continues to meet at the Windward United Church of Christ, at 12:15 PM, on Saturdays, basing its meeting on the "Daily Reflections" book.

The Ke Akua Mana Group, which meets on Wednesday evenings at the Hina Mauka treatment facility, adjacent to the Kaneohe State Hospital, has a GSO history date of "9/01/95." The GSO history date is, most commonly, the date that GSO received the group's registration information. If the "9/01/95" date is valid, the Ke Akua Mana Group would have had to come into existence in August, or earlier. Given the possibility of a start-up date in July or August, 1995, and given its relationship with Hina Mauka (as the first A.A. meeting at Hina Mauka after it re-opened in its new facility in September, 1995), it is not unreasonable for the archivist to wonder if the Ke Akua Mana Group grew out of the Hina Mauka Alumni Group (also a Wednesday night meeting), which ceased to meet at St. Anthony's Church, in Kailua, in June, 1995, just as Hina Mauka was closing down its interim facility, in Kailua, preparatory to moving to its newly constructed facility at its present location.

The conjecture notwithstanding, the October, 1995, Central Office Report announced: "WEDNESDAY: Ke Akua Mana, at new Hina Mauka facility, 45-845 Pookela, on the grounds of Kaneohe State Hospital. Speaker/Discussion 8:00 PM." The identical listing appeared in the Winter 1995-96 Oahu meeting schedule, but was corrected in the subsequent Spring/Summer 1996 schedule, placing Hina Mauka "near" the hospital, rather than on its grounds. Twelve years later, the Ke Akua Mana Group

continues to serve the Hina Mauka clientele and the A.A. Fellowship with a high-energy meeting which, since mid-2006, begins at 7:00 PM.

The formation of the Phoenix Group was also announced in the October, 1995, Central Office Report. Riccarda was the prime mover in starting the meeting "to satisfy the need for a Tuesday night meeting in Kaneohe." It held its first meeting at the Calvary Episcopal Church, on Kaneohe Bay Drive, where the original Kaneohe Group had met nearly 40 years earlier. The Phoenix Group has remained at that same location and has conducted a closed, "Big Book" discussion meeting, at 8:00 PM, every Tuesday night, for nearly 12 years.

The Saturday morning Beginners Meeting at Hina Mauka was begun in April, 1996, by the South Pacific Group (of Waikiki District). Sponsorship of the meeting was passed to the Downtown Lunch Group (of Honolulu District) in November, 1997. The meeting is open to everyone. It is a one-hour meeting, beginning at 9:30 AM, every Saturday, and is a speaker/discussion meeting (mostly speaker), which focuses on the 12 Steps of A.A.

The First Things First Group was announced as a new meeting in the September, 1996, Central Office Report. It met in the basement auditorium at Castle Hospital, on Tuesday evening, at 8:00 PM, for a one-hour discussion meeting. In August, 2000, when Castle Hospital seemingly purged itself of all A.A. meetings in its facility, the First Things First Group moved to the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, on Keolu Drive, in Enchanted Lakes. In August, 2002, the Oahu meeting schedule (Fall 2002) recorded the move of the group to its current location, at the First Baptist Church – Windward, at 1276 Kailua Road, where its one-hour speaker/discussion meeting is still held on Tuesday nights, beginning at 8:00 PM.

The formation of the "Hina Mauka Sunday Brunch Meeting" was announced in the March, 1997, Central Office Report, immediately stirring up a Sixth Tradition mini-debate at Oahu Intergroup meetings (especially after the meal cost was included in the meeting schedule). The issue settle down somewhat by January, 1998, when the Winter 1997/1998 meeting schedule listed the lunch separately, and the meeting was renamed. It was now the "How It Works Meeting," held in the Hina Mauka Dining Room, on Sunday, at 1:15 PM. The meeting starting time was later advanced to 1:00 PM.

The How It Works Group registered as a group with GSO, on June 29, 1998. It continues to meet in the Hina Mauka Dining Room on Sunday and, although the preceding lunch is not an A.A. function, it continues to be listed in the Oahu meeting schedules, immediately before the How It Works Group meeting.

In August, 1997, the Waimanalo Blues Group was announced, in the Central Office Report, as a new group. Its speaker/discussion meeting was on Monday night, at 7:00 PM, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, on Paolima Street, in Waimanalo. A year later, the meeting was expanded to 90 minutes. In the August, 2005, Central Office Report, the group was shown to have moved to the Waimanalo Health Center, on

Kalaniana'ole Highway, with a later starting time, at 7:30 PM. The COR also reported a shift to Friday, but the next meeting schedule (Fall 2005 – Winter 2006) continued to list it as a Monday meeting, as have all subsequent schedules.

A second Waimanalo group was formed in October, 1998, when the 'E Alaka'i o Waimanalo Group began to meet on Sunday, at 6:30 PM, at St. Mathew's Church, on Ehukai Street, to study the "Big Book." In April, 2000, the group changed its name, its meeting time and its meeting format. It was now the Waimanalo Oasis Group, whose open discussion meeting began at 8:00 PM.

Strangely, the Central Office Report of April, 2000, deleted the Waimanalo Oasis Group as a Saturday meeting and, in August, 2001, listed it as a new Sunday meeting, at the same place and time, with the same meeting format. Fortunately, the Oahu meeting schedule did not reflect this confusion. Since July, 2000, the schedule has placed the Waimanalo Oasis Group at St. Mathew's Church, on Ehukai Street, for a one-hour discussion meeting, on Sunday evening, beginning at 8:00 PM.

The decade of the Nineties ended without the creation of any other still extant Windward A.A. groups. Thus, the District began the new millennium with 42 groups, holding 58 meetings each week. During the decade, the Windward District had added 8 groups and 16 meetings.

2000 and Beyond

A.A. growth in Windward Oahu has slowed during the current decade. Since December, 1999, only two still surviving groups have come into existence, and both of these were founded in 2000. (The Semper Seeking Sobriety Group, formed in December, 2001, is not thought of as a "new" meeting, but rather as a continuum of a meeting tradition dating back to 1971.) A half dozen other groups have been created since the decade began, but have not survived. The two surviving groups are the Show-Up Group and the Hui No Name Group.

The formation of the Show-Up Group was announced in the April, 2000, Central Office Report. It was described as a Literature/Discussion meeting, one-hour long, held on Tuesday, at 8:00 PM, at St. John's-by-the-Sea, 47-420 Kam Highway, in Kahaluu. This description has remained the same in the Oahu meeting schedules since it first appeared in the Summer/Fall 2000 schedule.

Although the Hui No Name Group's registration reached GSO, in New York, on December 7, 2000, its founding was not announced in the Central Office Report until January, 2001. Apparently, the information reached Intergroup too late for inclusion in the Winter 2000/2001 schedule (closed 1/15/01). Thus, the group's existence did not become generally known until it appeared in the Fall/Winter 2001 schedule (closed 9/15/01). Hui No Name began with five weekly meetings, Monday through Friday, and its addition of weekend meetings was announced in November, 2001. The group meets daily, at 5:00 PM, at Kailua Beach Park.

Although these two groups have added eight meetings to the schedule, this growth has been off-set by the discontinuance of as many others. Windward groups which were active at the end of 1999, but are no longer active (in August, 2007) include Monday Night Live, Attitude Adjustment, Country Living, Kailua Ka Wahine, Kailua As Bill Sees It, Windward Men's Stag, Fellowship Group, Hui Malama and the Basics Group.

The leveling of A.A. growth in the Windward District may be temporary, perhaps indicating that a point of natural balance has been reached, where there are just enough meetings for the alcoholics who need them and want them, or perhaps a loving God has taken pity on a beleaguered Windward DCM, saying that 33 groups, with 57 meetings, is enough for now. Powerlessness has been established.

***** ***** ***** ***** *****

This brief history, prepared by Ted K., the Area Archivist, is far from complete, and may even contain factual errors, albeit unintentionally. It is presented to the Fellowship in the hope and expectation that some of its readers will possess more specific knowledge of the circumstances and events described herein and will be willing to share that knowledge with the Archives Committee so that this history can be corrected and improved. Necessarily, the archivist must rely most heavily on the impersonal documents which are available to him, or her, to provide the skeleton of the story. These are mainly the Oahu Intergroup's meeting schedules and its Central Office Reports, as well as the few group histories, prepared at the group-level, which have found their way to the Area Archives.. The individual A.A. members who participated in the various groups, or in the district structure, are better able to "hang the flesh, the personal information" on the skeleton. Any reader who has such information is encouraged to contact the Area Archivist at kramerg001@hawaii.rr.com.

August 22, 2007

