



ACROSS THE NEIGHBOR ISLANDS, SERVICE TOOK ROOT.

On Hawai'i Island, Kaua'i and Maui, Y's Men found their own ways to support local YMCAs and communities.

Some clubs lasted for generations. Others became chapters in Hawai'i Region history.

HAWAI'I ISLAND

Chartered June 22, 1938, Hilo became the first Y's Men's Club established outside O'ahu. Y Service quickly spread to other Hawai'i Island communities:

HILO Y'S MEN & WOMEN'S CLUB — ACTIVE TODAY

Honoka'a — 1939 • Kona — 1939 • Kohala — 1940

Hilo endured — and remains active today.

A TRADITION THAT NEVER STOPPED



Hilo's annual Christmas tree sale began in 1950 and is still going strong. Run by volunteers, the sale has helped support YMCA programs, youth opportunities and community needs for generations



Y Service spread quickly across Hawai'i Island. This Honoka'a charter-night banquet was photographed on **March 15, 1939**, less than a year after Hilo was chartered.



When Hilo comes together for Merrie Monarch, the Y is there too. Hilo Y's Men & Women's Club members join the Island of Hawai'i YMCA in supporting one of the community's biggest annual traditions.

KAUA'I — HISTORIC TODAY

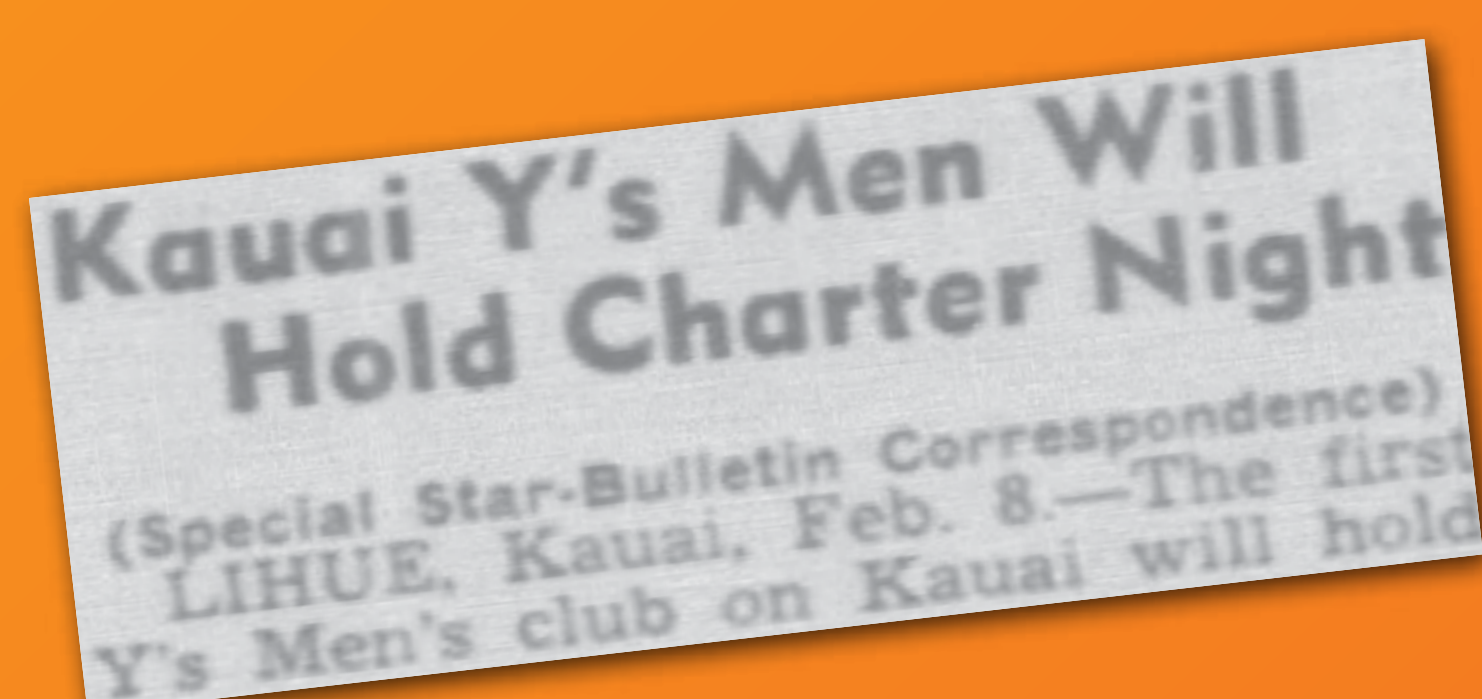
LĪHU'E ► WEST KAUA'I ► EAST KAUA'I

Kaua'i's first Y's Men's Club formed in Līhu'e in January 1939. A West Kaua'i club followed in October 1940.

After wartime changes, Y Service on the island continued through the East Kaua'i Y's Men's Club, chartered July 17, 1950.



By 1953, East Kaua'i ranked **9th among 449 clubs** in an international evaluation. At right is Yoshito R. Nakashima; at left, Mitsugi Nakashima — both recognized for outstanding Y's Men leadership



Līhu'e's 1939 charter night marked the beginning of a Y's Men tradition that would move across the island.



“NATO” MIKASA — 75 YEARS

Nato Mikasa was there from the beginning — a charter member of East Kaua'i on July 17, 1950, he remained connected to Y Service for the next 75 years.

WATCH NATO'S INTERVIEW



“We were a very close-knit club and... all the members got along well.”

<https://bit.ly/YGoldenMembers>

A KAUA'I IDEA THAT LIVES ON

In 2026, seven YMCA branches took part — Hilo, Kaimukī-Waialae, Kalihi, Leeward, Nu'uano, Mililani and Windward — showing how a Kaua'i idea grew into a statewide YMCA tradition.

Although the East Kaua'i Y's Men's Club dissolved on December 31, 2023, one of its most meaningful ideas continues. East Kaua'i club member Jennie Yukimura proposed “Peace Through My Eyes” in 2010, and the contest began the following year. Each spring, children in grades 2–4 at participating YMCA branches draw a picture and write a short essay describing what peace means to them. One winner is selected from each participating branch.



MAUI — HISTORIC TODAY

The Maui Y Service Club was chartered August 18, 1954. Maui had plenty of youth sports, but community leaders saw a gap: there was little organized YMCA-style work for high-school-age youth. Maui students were already traveling off-island for Hi-Y conferences and Youth and Government, and a Hi-Y Club was formed at Baldwin High School.

Junso Seno and the Rev. Ted Chinen took up the cause on Maui, with help from Honolulu YMCA leader Lee Wilson and Kaua'i Y's Men leader Yoshito R. Nakashima. Their efforts helped lead to the creation of the Maui YMCA, which began operations in 1960.

Y's Men continued to stand behind the new Y — helping improve Camp Ke'ānae and supporting YMCA programs and projects. Maui club members also became known for helping manage parking at the Maui County Fair — turning a practical need at one of the island's largest community events into a long-running service project.

The Maui club is no longer active today, but its decades of service remain part of the Hawai'i Region story.