

Good morning. My name is Chris Lee and I am the Founder and Director of the Academy for Creative Media and the Principal Investigator for 'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i. With me today is Janel Quirante, Head Archivist. Thank you for inviting us to speak to you today to introduce our archive, and to describe our activities and efforts to help ensure the preservation of Hawai'i's moving image history.



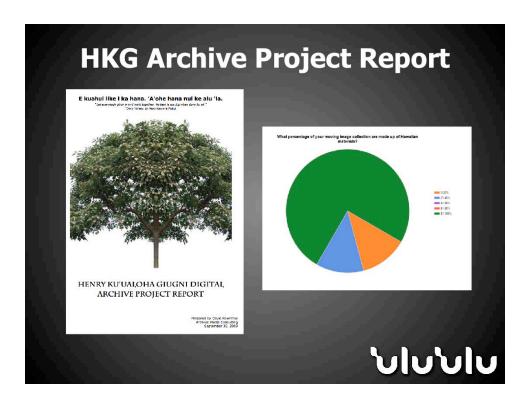
Slide 2 'Ulu'ulu's mission is to perpetuate and share the rich moving image heritage of Hawai'i through the preservation of film and videotape related to the history and culture of Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai'i. 'Ulu'ulu is a Hawaiian word meaning collections, assembly or gathering. Our archive is not just a collection of moving image items, but also an assembly of voices, communities, and stories...



...a gathering place for people to share Hawai'i's culture, traditions and collective memory. The people you see in this image are librarians, archivists, independent filmmakers and educators from around the state who have supported our project and participated in our Pilot Program.



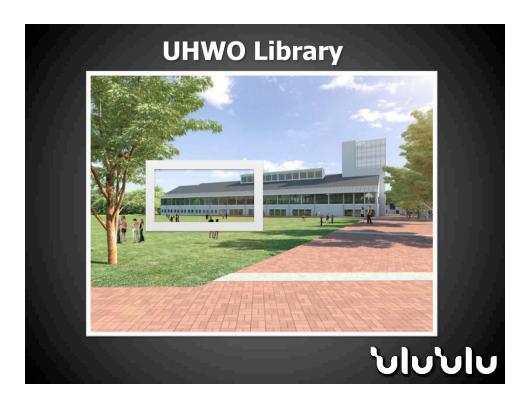
Founded in 2008, 'Ulu'ulu is a special project of the Academy for Creative Media at the University of Hawaii. Our archive honors the memory of Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni, long-time aide to Senator Daniel Inouye and the former United States Senate Sergeant-At-Arms, the first person of color and the first of Polynesian ancestry to hold this position. We are grateful to Senator Inouye who was instrumental in securing a Congressionally-directed grant through the U.S. Department of Education to create the first moving image archive in Hawai'i, initially named the Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni Digital Archives.



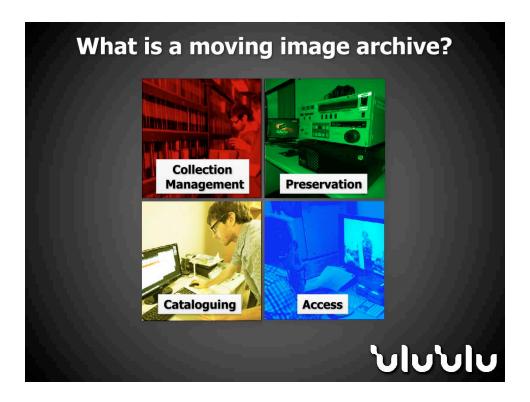
Phase I of the project focused on creating a digital archive to address the urgent crisis facing Hawaii's moving image heritage: the impending loss of important and unique videotapes and film due to physical deterioration and the rapid obsolescence of analog videotape and film technology. Our Project Consultant conducted a statewide survey of archives, museums, and libraries and wrote a 100-page Report on the state of moving image preservation in Hawai'i and created an implementation plan for establishing an archival facility.



Phase II was the Beta Pilot Program, a collaborative effort between 'Ulu'ulu and local institutions, filmmakers and educators that built upon the consultant's report to create a representative digital collection of Hawaiian film and video, and implemented standard processes for digitization, preservation, and access. 13 participants submitted 452 individual items of various audiovisual formats ranging in dates from 1928–1998. 'Ulu'ulu digitized approximately 300 hours of footage which included local television news, raw footage from documentary productions, hula chants, personal home movies, and musical performances, much of which had not been viewed in over 30 years.



Slide 7 Phase III is our current phase and will lay the foundations for a long-term and fully operational Archive through the establishment of a permanent physical location on the new UH West Oahu campus in Fall 2012.



As a moving image archive, our activities are focused on Collection Management, Cataloging, Preservation and Access and our work is guided by the standards set by professional organizations such as the Association of Moving Image Archivists; the Society of American Archivists; and the Association of Hawai'i Archivists.

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Slide 9

Our holdings include over 10,000 hours of videotapes and motion picture film reels. We collect moving image materials which document the history, culture and stories of the people of Hawai'i and which illuminate life in Hawai'i from different regions and eras. Our collection focus is on unique, primary source material not widely available or commercially distributed.

In addition to the HKG Pilot Project Collection, our other permanent collections are: The KGMB Television Collection, which includes local news, original programming, sports and commercials; The Ted Shibuya Collection, which includes footage from one of the first television news cameramen in Hawai'i; And the Victoria Keith and Juniroa Productions Collections which contain documentaries and raw footage from these two independent local production companies.



Slide 11 Our preservation activities revolve around stabilizing the physical collection items for safe long-term storage and digitizing videotapes and films to create digital preservation files. The moving image materials in our collection face many preservation challenges.



Slide 12 The videotape and film formats are fast becoming obsolete, with playback machines rare and no longer being manufactured and the engineers who know how to repair the equipment becoming more and more scarce.



Slide 13 In addition, the high temperatures and humidity in Hawai'i accelerate the physical deterioration and decay that naturally occur over time.

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Some examples of the types of deterioration we've encountered include flaking of the laminate on transcription discs and film shrinkage. Luckily we worked with a preservation lab that was able to successfully transfer and digitize both of these items.





Slide 15 Unfortunately, we were not able to save this 1" videotape with severe mold infestation.



All our collection items are cataloged using MAVIS, an asset management software specifically designed for audiovisual materials. MAVIS is the backbone of our archive, serving as the central database of descriptive metadata about our collection material, as well as technical metadata about digital files created through the preservation process. This data can be searched by staff and we are working to also make it publicly searchable via our website.

MAVIS generates a unique ID number and barcode for each item that is cataloged. This barcode is affixed to the collection item and is used to track that item through every stage of its acquisition, preservation and digitization activities.



Slide 17
Our preservation lab is equipped with a SAMMA Clean, which gently removes surface dirt and corrects tension problems on ¾" Umatic videotapes. This process ensures that we transfer the best possible image when the tape is played back and digitized.



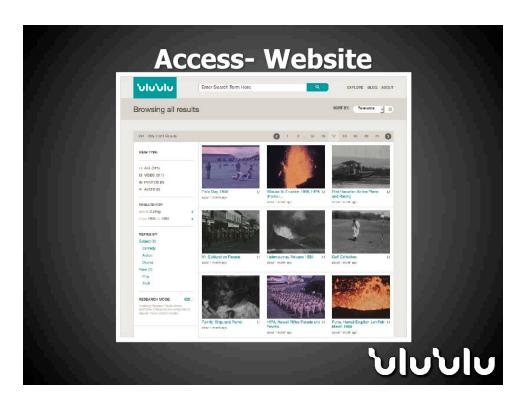
One of our digitizing tools is the SAMMA Solo. With one playback of the source videotape, the SOLO creates multiple digital files including an uncompressed preservation copy, a high resolution edit copy, and low resolution access copies suitable for web streaming. Digitizing occurs in real time, for example a 60-minute tape takes 60 minutes to transfer plus post-processing time. Because the SAMMA creates multiple files with one playback, this not only minimizes potential damage to the archival tape by limiting the number of times it is played back, but also reduces the amount of staff time needed to create all the necessary files.



Slide 19
The SAMMA Solo is also scalable. We currently have one Solo which transfers one tape at a time, but as our facilities and operations continue to grow, we envision adding the SAMMA Robot to our digitizing lab, which can be loaded with 80 videotapes at a time, migrating up to 7 tapes simultaneously.

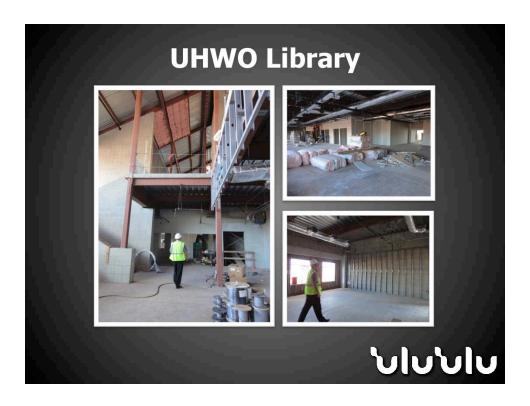


Slide 20 We currently have about 300 hours of digital video content: about 30TB, plus another 30TB of backup files, stored on servers at UH Manoa.



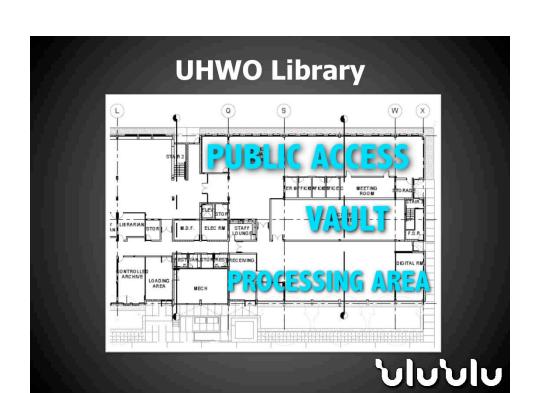
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Much of this digital video content has not been viewed in over 30 years and our focus right now is on making it accessible on our website which is close to a public launch. Our MAVIS catalog will be keyword searchable and streaming video clips will be viewable.



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We are currently preparing for our move to UH West Oahu this summer. We've spent the last year and a half in our temporary location in the Waiakamilo Media Center in Kalihi and as construction nears completion at UH West Oahu, we are very much looking forward to our new permanent home, where the public will be able to visit and view our collections.



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'Ulu'ulu will be located on the first floor of the new Library. Our space will include a public access area for students and researchers including private viewing carrels, group study rooms, an exhibit space, conference room, and a theater area for educational symposiums, lectures and screenings; a staff area for processing, cataloging and digitizing collection materials; and a temperature and humidity controlled vault for long-term storage of our collections.

Connect with us

hkgarchives.org

twitter.com/uluuluarchive
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Launching soon: uluulu.hawaii.edu

Slide 24 We will open to the public in Fall 2012, but until then you can connect with us online.

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Slide 25 Now, I'd like to share some highlights of newly digitized collection material.