

# New Banyan Tree Planted At Entrance Into Pālolo

Kaimukī and Pālolo residents may have noticed the large Chinese banyan tree near Pālolo McDonald's has been removed. Located at the Pālolo Triangle at the intersection of Wai'alae and Pālolo avenues, the 50-year-old tree was removed after it suffered various pest infestations and reduced watering due to damaged irrigation.

In May, a blessing and community event was held to celebrate the new tree — an ali'i banyan — and other improvements such as repairing irrigation lines and adding new croton plants and bottlebrush trees.

"It is always sad when we need to remove large, 'sentinel' trees like the Chinese banyan," states Honolulu Division of Urban Forestry ad-



ministrator Roxanne Adams. "I refer to trees like these as 'sentinels' because they watch over our neighborhoods and provide a myriad



The new ali'i banyan tree at Pālolo Triangle (left) was celebrated with a blessing and brief community event (above and inset). **PHOTOS COURTESY CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

of benefits and protections. We very much understood the impact the loss of this tree had on the community, and wanted to replace it as soon as possible."

Adams states that they

chose the ali'i banyan and surrounding plant life as more suitable and appropriate for the space.

"Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more of these Chinese banyan trees

being impacted by a combination of these pests" states Navin Tagore, DUF community forester. "As important as it is for us to plant new trees, protecting our existing trees is also crucial for the growth of our urban forest. Trees provide more benefits the older and larger they get. When we do community plantings or tree education together with our community, we can inspire a larger



group of people to care for and better recognize the many benefits of our urban forest. This is a kākou thing!"

The event also marks the launch of the Trees for Pālolo initiative.

"We're excited to be working with Trees for Honolulu's Future,

Smart Trees Pacific and the City on a recently secured grant that will encourage resident participation and collaboration in future tree planting as we work together to increase tree canopy in our community," states Colin Peros, chair of the Pālolo Neighborhood Board.

To learn more or get involved, email [treesforpalo-lo@treesforhonolulu.org](mailto:treesforpalo-lo@treesforhonolulu.org).