



PROOF POSITIVE

The Search Goes On For More Exceptional Trees

By Roxanne Adams, administrator of the City & County of Honolulu's Division of Urban Forestry,
and Dr. Myles Ritchie, chair of the Mayor's Arborist Advisory Committee and programs director of The Outdoor Circle

Exceptional trees are, well, exceptional. For nearly 50 years, the state's Exceptional Tree Act has helped recognize and protect trees of significance. A committee in each county reviews whether individual trees, or groves of trees, meet one or more of the following seven criteria: historic or cultural value, age, rarity, location, size, aesthetic quality and endemic status.

Trees that pass this review, and are approved by the appropriate county department on each island, are protected from removal (unless public safety concerns exist) and a

permit is required to prune them.

To sweeten the pot, tax deductions of up to \$3,000 are available every three years, per exceptional tree, to offset maintenance costs.

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The Mayor's Arborist Advisory Committee would

love to see more diversity in the species that become exceptional trees. We also know every community has trees that meet the criteria, yet there are areas on the island with little or none listed. We want to change this by encouraging people to get outside, look around and nominate trees they feel are worthy of this lofty designation.

For more information, visit bit.ly/exceptionaltrees.

Stately ironwood trees along Kapi'olani Regional Park were planted in 1890 by Archibald Cleghorn, the father of Princess Ka'iulani. PHOTO COURTESY THE OUTDOOR CIRCLE

