

*Native Paths to Volunteer Trails: Hiking and Trail Building on O‘ahu.* By Stuart M. Ball, Jr.  
Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2012. xii, 278 p. Maps. Illustrated. Notes. Index. \$21.99  
paper

Stuart Ball, a longtime outings leader for the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club (HTMC), is renowned for his extensive knowledge of hiking trails on O‘ahu. His previous hiking guide, *Hikers Guide to O‘ahu* (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2000), is popular and widely read in the local hiking community. I was excited to hear that he was nearing completion of a trail history book when he contacted me in my capacity as a member of Sierra Club, O‘ahu Group’s Outings Committee to obtain photos of trail building on the Maunawili Demonstration Trail. Ball’s latest work combines his own impressive trail knowledge with abundant archival material, oral histories, and published works to tell the story of how O‘ahu came to be overlaid with its network of official hiking trails.

Anyone who hikes on O‘ahu will certainly find his or her experience enriched by Ball’s meticulous research into the histories of many of the island’s hiking trails. In particular, Ball has mined the Hawai‘i State Archives and the archives of HTMC to find material documenting early 20<sup>th</sup> century hiking and trail building activity. Many new trails were constructed in the 1920s through the 1950s to provide access for fire protection and to improve hunter access. Greater access for hunters aided the struggle against invasive species like feral pigs and goats.

The book is clearly not intended to be read cover to cover. Ball has constructed each chapter so that it can be read independently. As a result, repetitive information appears in multiple chapters. The book is divided into sections based on the type of entity that constructed each trail or group of trails. A brief introductory chapter mentions traditional Native Hawaiian paths that later were

incorporated into official hiking trails. Additional accounts of traditional paths used by Native Hawaiians could have perhaps been obtained from a search of articles in Hawaiian language newspapers. The remaining chapters provide historical details about trails built by hiking clubs, sugar plantations, the U.S. Army, the Hawai‘i Territorial Forestry Division, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and volunteer groups.

Those doing research in the history of forestry and watershed conservation will be interested in the section concerning Territorial Forester Charles S. Judd, a major proponent of conservation and trail building in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ball includes many references to Judd’s files (now located in the Hawai‘i State Archives), documents which give a tantalizing glimpse of this very energetic man. One hopes that he will be the subject of an as-yet-unwritten biography. Particularly interesting are the accounts of how Judd worked closely with the U.S. Army to determine the routing and construction of the new trails being built by the Emergency Conservation Work program, later and more famously known as the CCC.

Ball searched the archives of HTMC to find accounts of club hikes on various trails and of the different routes that were used. He wisely does not try to document all of the many trails that have been constructed, rerouted, and maintained by the club (which would be a book in itself). Instead, he sheds light on the relationships between HTMC and other groups like the Army and the Piko Club, another hiking club. The brief history of the Piko Club is especially interesting, because it was born out of the unusual friendship between Judd and General Briant H. Wells, commander of the Hawaiian Division of the U.S. Army.

Of great interest to the hikers of today are Ball's accounts of legendary trails such as the Castle Trail and the Kīpapa Trail. These trails, once heavily used, became obscured and disused due to access issues.

Curiously, the book includes only three maps: *Trails of Leeward O'ahu* from *Fragments of Hawaiian History*; the 1938 *Trails on the Island of Oahu* (showing the CCC trails); and *Honolulu Mauka Trail System*. Ball tantalizingly references a 1947 Territorial Forestry Division map, *Forest Trail Map of the Island of Oahu*, but it is not reproduced in the book. Other maps, including a 1979 *Island of Oahu Recreation Map*, are also mentioned. Maps showing the locations of all of the trails discussed in the text would have enhanced the reader's understanding of the connections and relationships between various trails. Perhaps there was a conscious effort to avoid the encouragement of hiking on trails that are no longer accessible.

Ball makes reference to his source material throughout the work. However, the index is, unfortunately, not as complete as one might hope. For instance, while Dillingham Ranch is mentioned several times in the text, it is not listed anywhere in the index. The book is illustrated with historical photographs showing trail building, hiking, and many of the individuals mentioned, including Alexander Hume Ford, Charles S. Judd, Silver Piliwale, and Dick Davis.

*Native Paths to Volunteer Trails* is an essential work for those interested in the history of hiking, the CCC, the Army, or watershed protection on O'ahu. Stuart Ball has once again presented us with an outstanding volume that will quickly become a classic.

Gwen Sinclair is a librarian at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Library. She has been an outings leader for Sierra Club, O'ahu Group since 1996.