

*[Photo: A logo reads, "Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum."]*

Narrator: Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum presents the following audio interview with Charles and Mei Ling Isaacs, "Bringing the Community in". The interview takes place in Hawaii where they work to preserve native species and ecosystems. The narrative is overlaid with photos illustrating the landscape and events described.

*[Photo: Charles Isaacs sits in his office.]*

Charles Isaacs: It's almost like, how dare you enter this pristine area?

Charles Isaacs: and I'm almost willing to bet a hundred bucks for each person. Then if I said,

*[Photo: A mountain is shown in the distance of a marsh.]*

Charles Isaacs: have you ever been out to help? Have you ever set foot in Kawainui?

*[Photo: A group of volunteers pick up items on a mountain of rocks.]*

Charles Isaacs: Have you ever actually put a shovel to the ground, hands in there to Earth?

Charles Isaacs: Because if you did,

*[Photo: A field of vegetation.]*

Charles Isaacs: you would see how neglected and almost abused that

Charles Isaacs: Kawainui has been. Now that's changing.

*[Photo: A map is circle with text that reads, "DOFAW Management & Research Station".]*

Charles Isaacs: DOFAW has created the bird ponds for different birds

*[Photo: A body of water near a mountain.]*

Charles Isaacs: but still, there's so much work to be doing.

*[Photo: Large trees crowd a dense area on a sunny day.]*

Charles Isaacs: The dominant plants are all invasive species,

*[Photo: Volunteers work in an area of muck near an open grass field.]*

Charles Isaacs: except for the areas that we worked at. This is the marsh right here.

*[Photo: A map of Kawainui Marsh and its surrounding features.]*

Charles Isaacs: This is Kawainui

Charles Isaacs: and the periphery all along here is all invasive species.

*[Photo: A close-up view of a map with Na Pohaku labeled on the east side of the marsh.]*

Charles Isaacs: Na Pohaku right here.

Charles Isaacs: and

Charles Isaacs: and of the 50 acres that we have, we transform four acres into a

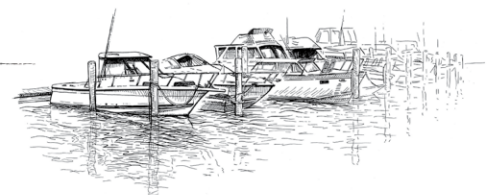
Charles Isaacs: native lowland forest.

*[Photo: A rendering of the upcoming cultural center.]*

Charles Isaacs: But it's not pristine and we need to work towards healing this area.

*[Photo: A view of the marsh and water that flows through it.]*

Charles Isaacs: Through healing, this area we think there's great community healing, as well



**[Photo: Charles Isaacs sits in his office.]**

Charles Isaacs: as our personal healings involved in this.

**[Photo: A view of the marsh on a sunny day.]**

Charles Isaacs: So, it's just a spin used by the opposition.

Charles Isaacs: It disturbs people up. They'll trust that person's observation.

Charles Isaacs: If anybody could step lightly upon the land,

Charles Isaacs: we can step very lightly.

Charles Isaacs: For generations our ancestors had been there.

**[Photo: Mei Ling Isaacs talks in a room wearing traditional Hawaiian clothing.]**

Mei Ling Isaacs: The whole idea is to introduce Kawainui to community members who probably haven't been there.

**[Photo: A grass field.]**

Mei Ling Isaacs: They drive past it every day to work

Mei Ling Isaacs: but now they're faced with changes that were unexpected.

**[Video: Mei Ling wears a flower print shirt.]**

**[Video: Mei Lings Isaacs talks to the camera.]**

Mei Ling Isaacs: We sit here as a result of our family and everything we've

Mei Ling Isaacs: learned in our practice.

**[Video: Mei Ling Isaacs shows a picture of her family.]**

**[Photo/Video: Mei Ling Isaacs shows an image of her' family.]**

Mei Ling Isaacs: So, that's pretty much my family and what I wanted

Mei Ling Isaacs: and I hope I was able to give you is a sense of who we are,

Mei Ling Isaacs: were people of the water,

Mei Ling Isaacs: were people who know how to use the resources of land to give us what

Mei Ling Isaacs: we need and to make things beautiful. And, and the ocean of course,

Mei Ling Isaacs: takes us places is the land really,

Mei Ling Isaacs: that has given birth that has sustained us for countless

Mei Ling Isaacs: generations. And when we go to the land, we go to the land.

Mei Ling Isaacs: Like we go to our Tutu's house. We ask for permission

Mei Ling Isaacs: and when we leave, we give thanks. So that's my family's connection

Mei Ling Isaacs: and I hope in my life that I've been able to,

Mei Ling Isaacs: demonstrate this.

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