This self-guided walking tour is intended to give you a feeling for Makawao from the 1920s to the 1940s through various buildings and sites that catered to, not only the farming and ranching community, but also sugar and pineapple workers from surrounding plantations. Makawao provided a place to buy whatever you needed and to use whatever service you required. But Makawao was more than a place to do business; it was a social center. For example, Komoda store originally included a coffee saloon which was a place to drink coffee and socialize with friends and there were billiard parlors in town. The many porches you will see on your tour attest to the companionship shared as folks came to town and talked story. Kindness town as large numbers of Portuguese settled in Makawao to farm and to ranch. However, the town’s ethnicity is more complex. For example, Hawaiians drove taxis and taught school here. Portuguese owned butcher shops and ran the theater. Chinese were merchants, blacksmiths and cowboys. Japanese owned general stores and were tailors. Filipinos were pineapple workers and owned a market. Spanish were laborers and restaurateurs. All ethnic groups were represented in the community and all were good-naturedly called guavas by outsiders. Makawao has so many worthy historic buildings we could not include them all, but those on the tour are representative of life in these formative decades – the 1920s, the 1930s, and the 1940s. Enjoy them all as you holoholo through town, though you need to watch out for those stray Makawao chickens which still saunter and strut! And come back and visit us again.

Aloha,
Makawao History Museum.
Note: For safety, please use marked crosswalks.
Enjoy a historic walking tour of Makawao town.

1 3643 Baldwin Ave. This is the start of your travel through time, here at the Makawao History Museum. This was originally a residence built in 1926. It is small but charming with the built-in bookcase you can see on the back wall, typical of old Hawaiian houses.

2 3621 and 3619 Baldwin Ave. Note the exterior design of this building and how it contrasts with so many of the structures around it. This structure, built in the late 1920s, had business in mind from the beginning. At one time it was a sandwich shop and in the late 1930s, it was the Ginsho Yoza barber shop. When you enter, look how the space is divided.

The front section was where the Yoza family of five slept on futons. Their living room and kitchen were next door, a section was where the Yoza family of five slept on futons. Their living room and kitchen were next door, connected by an interior door which still exists.

3 3621 Baldwin Ave. In 1939, a Korean family named Pung first lived here, though within a few years, a store took over. Madrid Store was run by ………Madrid and catered to the Filipino trade.

4 3617 Baldwin Ave. Built in 1930, this building was the residence of William and Ann Cooper. William was a taxi driver who was fortunate to see the BARBER SHOP sign still on the window. Evelyn and Violet in the skills needed to continue the business. We are fortunate to see the BARBER SHOP sign still on the window.

5 3677 Baldwin Ave. This paddock is a reminder of Makawao's love affair with horses. Transportation by horse to and from Makawao continued far past the rise of the automobile. Three blacksmiths kept busy at their trade for many years. At one time there was a sign in town asking riders "Please keep horses off the sidewalk."

6 3657 Baldwin Ave. M. Ichiki Store opened here in 1926. K. Matsui Store was run by ………Madrid and catered to the Filipino trade.

7 3663 Baldwin Ave. Chutaro Honda pioneered in Makawao with his modern and convenient barber shop. From 1926 to 1938, Honda provided shaves, cuts and a porch to socialize. He followed a local tradition by training his daughters.

8 3667 Baldwin Ave. The front building and opened as Komoda Store in 1930 and run by Hajime (Jimmie) Karakawa for decades. Notice where the back is where the Yoza family of five slept.

9 3677 Baldwin Ave. Built by the Matsu family at the same time as their store, this served as a gas station and repair shop for many decades. Look inside to see doors, now blocked, that are big enough for cars. Also check out the beautiful old window glass.

10 3681 Baldwin Ave. Kakusuke Matsu built this step-gabled false front building and opened shop in 1926. K. Matsui Store was a general store selling just about anything the community needed, including groceries and dry goods, as well as providing a watch repair service and issuing marriage licenses.

11 3685 Baldwin Ave. The front building and opened shop in 1926. K. Matsui Store was a general store selling just about anything the community needed, including groceries and dry goods, as well as providing a watch repair service and issuing marriage licenses. For many years the Matsui lived upstairs and provided housing for employees in the back. These structures are still there for you to see.

12 Balthazar Bridge on Makawao Avenue was built in 1940 and honors longtime Makawao postmaster Emil (Bill) Balthazar. Locals used to call it Tony Ah Poi bridge because Anthony Ah Po Tam owned the property above it. While crossing the bridge, look down on the makua (mountain-side) pasture. This small pasture is a reminder of Makawao's pan岛lo history where, at one time, cattle were driven through town.

13 1294 Makawao Ave. St. Joseph Church was founded in the 1880s to serve Hawaiian Catholics and recent Portuguese immigrants. Continued growth of the community spurred the construction of the current building in 1919 on sugar plantation land. Except for the bell tower, the church looks the same today. Gothic in style; the church has a soaring interior, magnificent stained glass windows and a bell which calls the faithful to church.

14 1188 Makawao Ave. Established in 1929 by a member of one of Makawao's founding Chinese families, Tam Chow Store served the community until the Crossroads UGO took over from 1943-1945, providing recreation for more than 100,000 servicemen. Salvador and Mary Molina later opened Club Rodeo as a restaurant, liquor store and nightclub, renowned for its Portuguese bean soup and prime rib.

15 3682 Baldwin Ave. This landmark Makawao building, known for many years as Crossroads Service Station, was built by Joseph Tam Sing in 1930 and run by Hajime (Jimmi) Karakawa for decades. Notice where two bays for repairing cars used to be along Makawao Avenue.

16 3674 Baldwin Ave. Takeo and Shigeri Komoda started Komoda Store and Coffee Saloon as part of their home on Olinda Road in 1916. They constructed the current building and opened as Komoda Store in 1932. As World War II loomed, they gave the property to son Takeo and wife Kyoko to avoid its loss, as the children were citizens and the patriotic parents were not. They did not add “and Bakery” to their name until after son Hsu went to baking school in 1947.

17 This paddock is a reminder of Makawao's love affair with horses. Transportation by horse to and from Makawao continued far past the rise of the automobile. Three blacksmiths kept busy at their trade for many years. At one time there was a sign in town asking riders “Please keep horses off the sidewalk.”

18 3672 Baldwin Ave. This small building was initially the S. Nozaka clothes cleaning shop and then Asato Tailor Shop. During WWII, Kame Atsotsi fledging business boomed as she repaired servicemen's uniforms.

19 3670 Baldwin Ave. Makawao Theatre was built in 1926 by major property owner Rose Crook shortly after electricity came to Makawao. J.C. Marcelin managed the theater for the Maui Amusement Company, which offered daily movies, including newsreels, for 10 cents. The films were offered in English and, on Fridays, in Japanese.

20 3612 Baldwin Ave. Rikiichi Kawaguchi founded a fish and vegetable store here in the 1920s and also delivered to the community via truck. He later added a restaurant and catered to Makawao Theatre customers hungry for snacks and ice cream. Tetsujiro and Sono Iwaishi took over his business in 1937, which was then known as T. Iwaishi. They started out peddling vegetables in plantation camps and, after their store opened, Sono operated the store and Tetsujiro continued to make his rounds. Their counter service flourished, beginning in WWII and for decades. Typical of the day, they featured hamburgers and saimin.