

Aloha Board: For the record, I am reporting what happened today, Thursday, Nov 12, 2015.

I received a phone call from the Lot 29 owner, Nancy Firestine, at about 9:45am to let me know that the County tree trimmers were on Lae St trimming the County trees. She felt they were not doing a good job and said I better get down there right away, so I raced down to Lae St to check. I found them just finishing up the first block of Lae St. I thought they were doing a great job, especially compared to the last time it was done. The boss, Paul, even cut several more branches at my request. I went around the neighborhood with the two tree trimmers pointing out problem trees and knocking on doors in some cases to see what branches people wanted cut & passing on requests owners had made over the past two years. I helped Paul & his worker by feeding branches into the chipper and raking the street. When we got to the top of Lae St the owners of Lot 92 and Lot 2 came out and discussed their trees with Paul. I pointed out to Paul the Plumeria tree Karen Chun had planted on the County planting strip to deliberately block access to the Makana park land behind her house. David Sakoda, County Arborist, had stated that any vegetation planted on the County strip belonged to the County regardless of who planted it. He said that the Plumeria was definitely a County tree. As the wood was soft, Paul told me it didn't need a chain saw so to just cut the branches and put them in the chipper. I wanted him to do it but it was true they were busy cutting the huge Formosan Koa trees with a chain saw so I didn't want to bother them with neighborhood politics.

I carefully stood on the sidewalk and cut two small branches that leaned over the sidewalk blocking the entrance to the park strip. Karen's whole tree is on the County planting strip so I was at least 3 feet from her property at all times. Some owners had mentioned they would like to be able to get through to the park with their baby strollers. I headed back toward the chipper with the branches and suddenly this big hulk of a man (I thought) came flying out of Lot 16 (Lynn Austin's house) yelling, "Get the fuck off my property!" He was heading toward me yelling when I realized it was Karen Chun. Nightmare incarnate. She was waving her arms over her head, punching the air, saying "Fuck you, fuck you, fuck you, you crazy, insane..." -- she almost blew a gasket trying to think of a word foul enough to call me, but all she could do was growl apoplectically, then went on screaming, "I am calling the police. You trespassed on my property!" I said, "No one set foot on your property." She said, "That tree is my property." I replied, "Not according to the County." I was quite calm (in shock really), and that is all I said to her. I was very afraid she was going to hit me as she was approaching at a rapid pace directly toward me, but I stepped back and she passed within 2 feet of me without hurting me. There was more cursing and gnashing of teeth on her part while I continued to the chipper and then back to my house to call the police myself. Then I returned to help the tree trimmers. Paul told me not to worry about the police as I hadn't done anything wrong. Soon a police car pulled up outside Karen's house and I saw her by the tree gesticulating with her back to me. Then the officer got in his car and drove over to where I was working by the corner of Kaiea. I told him that no one had trespassed and that the tree was on the County planting strip. I had to explain to him what "county strip" meant as Karen had apparently told him that her property went to the sidewalk. I showed the officer how Paul was cutting the Formosan Koas inside the sidewalk because they were County trees on the 42" County strip. Then another officer pulled up in a second police car. He was the one I had called. Then Tom rode up on his bike and we all talked. The officers left after commiserating and advising that we should try to avoid going near Karen in the future. I said I'd been doing that for the last 18 years.

Darlene Brothers
Kua Bayview HOA Manager