

**For The Love of Concrete
Honor Our Fallen Law Enforcement Officers With Some More Green Beauty**



The New Hawai'i Law Enforcement Memorial At Civic Center

After six years of planning and \$1million+ of construction costs, the long-awaited Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial opened in May in the vast grounds behind Honolulu Hale (City Hall). It honors all our heroes who have fallen in the line of duty in Hawaiian police, National Park rangers, US Coast Guard and Military Police services. It is also a ceremonial stage for solemn official services with two flagpoles illuminated by blue floodlights at night. Here you'll find the 65 names of law enforcement officers who paid the ultimate price over many decades.

For more information visit the Memorial Foundation (hlemf.org)

Set away from nearby traffic, the site is located in the grassy Civic Center grounds which contain some of the city's finest old Heritage and Exceptional trees. As soon as it opened, however, the memorial was defaced by bike riders who left tire marks all over the bare cement walls. Some plantings in the surrounding beds have been completed but it will take some time for them to grow. With no shade, the all-concrete surfaces heat up to 115 degrees in the sunlight - not a place to leave any floral tributes or sit on a chair in a daytime ceremony. Some suggestions to help make this stark memorial a more beautiful place to honor our fallen officers? Put about 20-30 large planters at various locations to stop bikers and skateboarders from using it. Quite large trees and shrubs can be grown in these to provide much-needed shade and privacy. And plant many more new trees surrounding it - only one small one completed so far.