

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

2019 WESTERN CHAPTER ISA
CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

What it takes to preserve a ten-million dollar tree from a common pest in urban forests

Date/Time/Session: **WEDNESDAY, 5.01.2019, 9:00:00 AM, in the URBAN FORESTRY session**

Presentation Length: **60 minutes**

Presented by: **Steve Nimz**

Co-Presenter (if scheduled): **NA**



Overview of Presentation:

At the heart of the world-famous International Market Place in Waikiki is an iconic Exceptional Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*). In 2014, the quirky Market Place was demolished to establish a multi-story high-end retail and restaurant complex. The land owners recognized the Banyan as the focal feature of the original Market Place and chose to preserve it in the new development, despite the large volume of prime real estate the tree occupies. This concept was easier said than done. With this case study, I address how to control a long time pest in urban forests: Humans.

My responsibility as Project Arborist was to establish a mutualistic relationship with the developers, design team, contractors and land owners, to do everything possible to preserve the Banyan's health and structure, and still construct the project. Designing around a 90-ft. tree with a 220-ft. crown spread took an enormous amount of planning and coordination. While the standard arborist tasks involved working with the designers and developers prior to construction, establishing a tree protection plan, and overseeing all work that could impact the Banyan, the real challenge was making them believe in the tree. Teamwork preserved this historic tree from the human pest.

Presenter Bio:

Steve Nimz has been an arborist in Hawaii for 50 years, specializing in assessment, care and translocations of tropical trees. He has served as president or board member for five professional organizations. Steve also teaches classes on planting, pruning, and tree risk assessment. Be sure to join Steve's tree tour around Waikiki to see the iconic International Market Place Banyan and hear stories from his exciting career as an arborist in paradise.