



1932: The Founding of Camp H.R. Erdman

YMCA camping in Mokulē'ia began in 1926, made possible through the generosity of Walter Dillingham and the O'ahu Railway & Land Company who offered use of the site for just one dollar a year—on the condition that campers plant 1,000 ironwood trees each year as a wind break for the rail line.

The area quickly became a cherished haven for outdoor learning and leadership. A community work camp soon followed, with volunteers building the first huts and Hi-Y boys constructing seven more.



Early Hi-Y Boys camping



1920s: Early camping was done with tents only.



1929: This early Camp Erdman building served as both the kitchen and sleeping quarters. Cooking was done using a wood-burning stove.

In 1931, tragedy struck when Harold Randolph Erdman—Walter Dillingham's nephew—tragically died in a polo accident.

On Christmas Day in 1932, the Dillingham family gifted the site to the YMCA in Harold's memory so that "his spirit of contribution to the happiness of others carries on." Two months later, Camp Harold R. Erdman was formally dedicated before 200 boys, leaders, Rotary members, and 'ohana.



Harold Randolph Erdman



1932: The first Summer Camp brochure under the new Camp H.R. Erdman name.

