

## Kuhiawaho Background Information

**Site Name:** Kuhiawaho

**Ahupua'a:** Waiawa

For more information on Waiawa, please visit

[https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special\\_section/regions/ewa/Halau\\_o\\_Puuloa\\_Waiawa.pdf](https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special_section/regions/ewa/Halau_o_Puuloa_Waiawa.pdf)

### Cultural-Historical Summary of the 'Ewa Moku

(From the 'Ewa 'Āina Inventory):

[https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special\\_section/regions/ewa/Halau\\_o\\_Puuloa\\_Cultural-Historical-Summary.pdf](https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special_section/regions/ewa/Halau_o_Puuloa_Cultural-Historical-Summary.pdf)

**Landowner:** Kamehameha Schools

**'Āina Site Stewards:** Ron Fitzgerald, Samantha Ai, and La'akea Ai

**Steward Contact:** [laakea@kuhiawaho.org](mailto:laakea@kuhiawaho.org)

**Website:** <https://www.kuhiawaho.org>

**Site Physical Address:** 96-053 Waiawa Road, Pearl City, HI 96782



### Site Mana`o

**Shared by the site steward to EAEI participants in 2020**

- The Ai 'Ohana has been taking care of this area since 2012.
- They work with school groups of all ages (pre-k to kupuna); maximum capacity of 125 kids at one time. Per person site fee required.
- There is access to bathrooms/showers on site.
- Potential activities: ku'i kalo (make poi), learn parts of the kalo, fish reproduction, invasive species, natural dyes, & mahina
- Kuhiawaho has fishponds and lo'i kalo all in one place.
  - Freshwater is at a constant 67 degrees F. It never floods and is pretty fresh!
- Site hosts welcome students to develop their own research projects. The Ai 'ohana loves to do their research and educate (they are all educators) so they are always trying to find out more about the place so they can share it with the community.
- Kuhiawaho and Kuhialoko were twin brothers that were konohiki of these lands; they named many of the places in 'Ewa as they were on their journey around O'ahu.
  - They were the ones that would feed manō/shark akua (Ka'ahupāhau) and made a deal with her that the manō/shark would not bite people in this area.
- In 1852 during the Māhele, people were claiming lands; this is where there is record that this place is named Kuhiawaho ('ili 'āina in Waiawa).

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- Although this was a loko iʻa/fishpond, they claimed it as a puʻuone to hide the real value of the place; not claiming it was a fishpond otherwise it would've been known how much fresh water was in the area.
- It was a traditional loko iʻa/fishpond, then it turned into a watercress/rice farm and then a developer backfilled it and now the soil is rock hard.
- This area is rich in freshwater springs. Aliʻi would love to come here to rest and relax.
- ʻEwa was the area that the first well was drilled for sugarcane
  - According to maps, there is a well on site, the Ai ʻohana is currently trying to uncover it.
- ʻEwa caprock creates plenty of pūnāwai/water springs; caprock is semi-permeable so it creates lots of aquifers- the Pearl Harbor Aquifer is the largest aquifer on the island because of this caprock.

### Restoration Work

- In this area (Waiawa) there were 32 loko iʻa/fishpond; in just this one ʻili (Kuhiawaho) there were 18 families that lived here, 12 loʻi kalo, and 18 loko iʻa/fishpond.
- Currently there is more than one fishpond and several loʻi patches. They are working on expansion.
- The current goal is to create community loʻi plots so that families can come to work/harvest their own plot.
- Another project is bringing back the mullet. Students are welcome to help design the project to keep birds from eating all of the mullet.

### Site Features

- This site features both loʻi kalo and loko iʻa; these two systems are symbiotic (great teaching tool).
- There are a lot of native wetland birds.
- It is a puʻuhonua (fish nursery/refuge). Students can design more puʻuhonua.
- There are many variety of kalo growing there. Site managers would like to know which variety is most resilient. Pili Aloha kalo variety has shown its resilience.
- Like all sites, they have problems with invasive species- tilapia, algae blooms and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle!! Students can study these things as well.

### Video Resources:

- **Kupuʻāina Stories: Wai and Loʻi (narrated by Laʻakea Ai)**  
Supported by KS ʻEwa Region, created by Nohopapa and Kuhiawaho. Posted on Youtube and available via the following URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZx-CvnjTHM&feature=youtu.be>
- **ʻEwa ʻĀina Education Initiative Virtual Training, an introduction to Kuhiawaho**  
This video clip was a recorded presentation by Laʻakea Ai to introduce teachers in the ʻEwa ʻĀina Education Initiative program to Kuhiawaho. Posted on Vimeo and available via the following URL: <https://vimeo.com/466974680> (From 41:29- 55:00)
- **Hoʻomahele: Kuhiawaho**  
Moʻolelo of Kuhiawaho and how the Ai ʻohana works to restore the land and its people by getting the community involved and ʻono for Hawaiian food again! Video produced by Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo. Posted on Vimeo and available via the following URL: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8963214/video/635021085>