Hanakēhau Learning Farm Background Information

Site Name: Hanakēhau Learning Farm

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

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

Landowner: Kamehameha Schools

‘Āina Site Stewards: Andre Perez and Camille Kalama of Ko‘ihonua

Steward Contact: koihonua@gmail.com

Website: www.hanakehau.com

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

Site Mana`o
Shared by the site steward to EAEI participants in 2020

Hanakēhau Learning Farm is a 5-acre cultural kīpuka in Waiawa kai. The site stewards, who have worked on this site for the last decade, envision creating a restored site that provides for all the needs of those who gather there: food plants (including kalo), lā`au lapa`au, awa, plants for kapa, hula, carving. They seek to create a place to train cultural practitioners who can perpetuate Hawaiian cultural practice and `Ōlelo Hawai`i throughout the community.

- The site was part of konohiki Victoria Kamāmalu‘s land that was part of a land trade as the capital of the Hawaiian kingdom was moved to Honolulu.
- Site is located on Kamehameha Schools Lands - part of a pocket of kuleana lands in Waiawa Kai. Adjacent are kuleana lands owned by the Young (Keawe) family, Kuhialoko, and Kuhiawaho.
- One of the mahi`ai who worked the site prayed, but didn‘t know the akua‘s names, but one day on this site they revealed themselves to him.
- There was a heiau at the site where today the College Gardens townhomes are located. At one time, the Kahikonalani Church was to be built there. The kahuna at the time advised against building a church at the heiau site, but was ignored and construction began until the church minister died. Construction of the church was halted and it was built at another site.
- Ka`ahupāhau - the story of the shark guardian of Pu`uloa was referred to as an important story - perhaps for a mural project in the area (see the story of Ka`ahupāhau in the `Ewa `Āina Inventory).
- The place names and waters of Waiawa are important.
- Hawaiian history - colonization and military impacts and how they can be reversed - which includes civic engagement and activism. There are stories of what should not have happened and what should not be present on this site/in the area.
    - One of many examples is the filling of a large loko i‘a for a Navy landfill.

Restoration Work

- Clearing invasive species, soil remediation, removing “backfill” from other area construction sites that were moved to the area.
- Planting native species - kou, pōhinahina, ‘ilima, ‘a‘ali‘i
- Cultural restoration - the ahu, plants, and implements for cultural practitioners
    - The grow mai‘a, wauke, kalo, ‘awa, kukui - culturally important plants
- Water and soil testing have revealed minimal contaminants at this site
- The USFWS has a unit of the Pearl Harbor Wildlife Refuge Complex nearby - habitat for native, endangered species.
- Invasive Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (https://www.oahuisc.org/coconut-rhinoceros-beetle/) are on-site and students have helped find them
- The site managers are currently reestablishing lo`i kalo, clearing land for mala, planting native and non-native food and other cultural use plants.

Site Features

- Pūnāwai - freshwater, spring-fed ponds
- Shelter/picnic tables
- Māla/Garden
- Lo`i kalo
- Single porta-potty restroom
- Large grassy areas
- Adjacent to Pearl Harbor bike path, most safely accessed via Waipio Point Access Road (with parking at the Waipi`o Soccer Complex)
- Bees on the farm away from the main areas but important to note

Video Resources:

- **‘Ewa ‘Āina Education Initiative Virtual Training, an introduction to Hanakēhau Learning Farm** Mana`o shared by Camille Kalama during an `Ewa `Āina Education Initiative Virtual training session and posted on Vimeo and available via the following URL: https://vimeo.com/466974882 (From 16:20-29:30)