

Loko I'a Pā'aiau Background Information

Site Name: Loko I'a Pā'aiau

Ahupua'a: Kalauao

For more information on the Kalauao ahupua'a, please visit

https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special_section/regions/ewa/Halau_o_Puuloa_Kalauao.pdf

Cultural-Historical Summary of the 'Ewa Moku

(From Hālau o Pu'uloa 'Ewa 'Āina Inventory):

https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special_section/regions/ewa/Halau_o_Puuloa_Cultural-Historical-Summary.pdf

Land Manager: Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club holds a MOU with the U.S. Navy

'Āina Site Stewards: Kehaulani Lum, Bruce Keaulani, Verna Apio-Takashima, Kim Moa, Kumu Kahale Unciano

Steward Contact Email: ealapaaiau@gmail.com

Website: <https://paaiau.org/>

Site Physical Address: 122-184 McGrew Loop, Aiea, HI 96701



Site Mana'o

Shared by the site steward to EAEI participants in 2020

This 400-year old royal Hawaiian fishpond, Loko I'a Pā'aiau, located in the Kalauao ahupua'a in the 'Ewa moku on the moku-puni of O'ahu, is a beautiful reminder of the peace, healing, and lōkahi Hawai'i once had. It was home to mō'ī wahine Kalanimanuia, who reigned peacefully over the island of O'ahu in the 1400s. This 6.34 acre loko kuapā, located in the Pā'aiau 'ili of the Kalauao ahupua'a, is listed on the National Historic Register. The sacred site is currently stewarded and restored with the loving hands of many, as a community-based partnership between the U.S.Navy, the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, the 'Aiea Community Association, the descendants and residents of Pā'aiau, 'Aiea and Kalauao, and the larger community.

- Kalanaimanuia, the mō'ī wahine ali'i of O'ahu who in the 1600s reigned for 65 years in peace and was associated with the building of at least 3 loko i'a in Pu'uloa, including Pā'aiau - an important leader, worthy of reverence.
 - She was known as a leader who worked alongside her people
 - She is the daughter of Kūkaniloko and the granddaughter of Mailikūkahi who created the ahupua'a system
 - She chose to live in Kalauao vs. Waikīkī - it's important we work to learn why
 - Pā'aiau is a "Queen's Fishpond" - her Kalanimanuia raised nehu (anchovy like fingerlings) and used them as a resource to harvest large quantities of fish outside the fishpond - an efficient and effective means of feeding her people.
- Those in the area revere Ka'ahupāhau - and mo'olelo about her are important - canoes/fisherman from the area fed manō and considered them 'aumakua.
- Kumu Kahale Unciano, a vital member of the Pā'aiau 'ohana, as a steward of the pond and a lineal descendent of Kupihea, with whom he is reconnecting, thanks to our kuleana. Rebuilding these connections is a vital part of what happens at Pā'aiau...Hawaiian hands on their kuleana lands.

Restoration Work

- Of the greatest importance is the spiritual restoration of place and people at this site - by Hawaiian cultural protocol, practice and inter-generational learning.
- The Navy has helped clear the site of mangrove but is taking on a supportive role in the restoration while the Hawaiian civic club and kupuna take the lead. A Naval archeologist co-created the management plan of the area and this is an important step forward in addressing the cultural trauma and displacement of the past.
- Loko i'a (fishponds) represent another feat of engineering. Dry stacked pōhaku (rocks) were built with an understanding of waves/tides/currents and have lasted 500 years!
- Removing invasive vegetation that persists requires extensive and sustained effort. Both native and culturally important plants are being outplanted throughout the site.

Site Features

- There is a stone altar or ahu built with corners oriented with the 4 cardinal directions - this is the site of important protocol for all visitors.
- The loko i'a (fishpond) is accessible from all directions with safe talking pathways (those requiring wheelchair access will need to work with the site kia'i as the path was created with stepping stones).
- Hale - in the process of being built.
- The loko i'a is on Navy housing - (google map McGrew Loop and look for playground) - providing easy access for buses/cars.
 - Covered greeting area with picnic tables by parking area
 - Restrooms within short walking distance at housing-community center

Video Resources:

- **'Ewa 'Āina Education Initiative Virtual Training, an introduction to Loko I'a Pā'aiau**
Mana`o shared by Kehaulani Lum during a 'Ewa 'Āina Education Initiative Virtual training session and posted on Vimeo and available via the following URL: <https://vimeo.com/466974680> (From Start - 16:36)
- **Hokule'a returning to Pu'uloa and connecting to Loko I'a Pā'aiau** as part of the mahalo portion of the Mālama Honua historical voyage...600 years after voyaging had stopped and profoundly important event for the Hawaiian people and all who live here. Available via the following URL:
<http://www.hokulea.com/paaiau-loko-ia/>

