



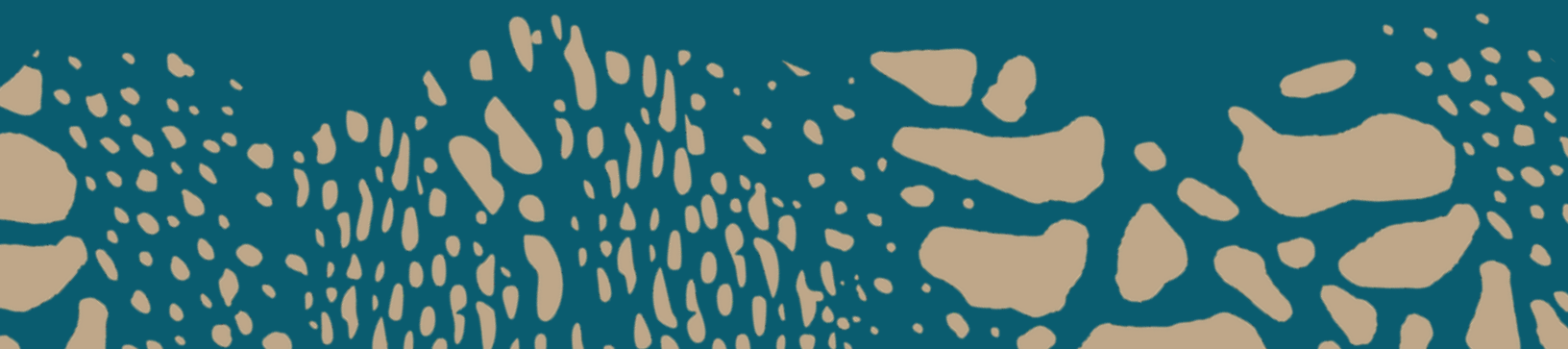
# KIPAI

IMPACT REPORT | 2022-2024



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An aerial photograph of the Honua'ula coastline. The foreground is dominated by clear, turquoise water with visible ripples. To the left, a dark, rocky shoreline is lined with lush green tropical vegetation, including palm trees. A small, sandy beach is nestled between the rocks and the water. In the middle ground, a larger area of greenery and some buildings are visible along the coast. To the right, a prominent, rounded hill with a reddish-brown, eroded top rises from the landscape. The sky is a vibrant blue with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is a beautiful representation of a tropical coastal environment.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF  
**HONUA'ULA**





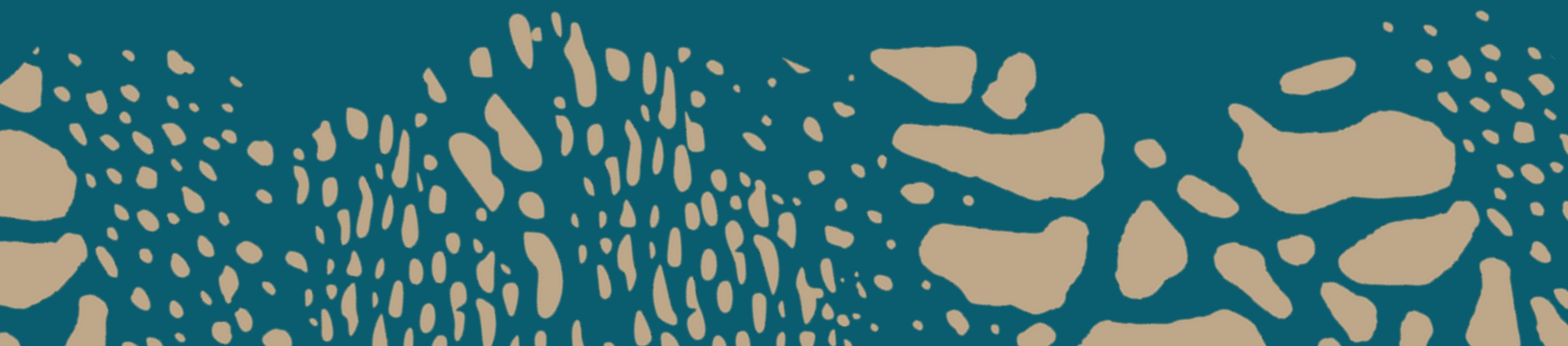
## A RESILIENT PEOPLE & PLACE HONUUA'ULA

Honua'ula is known for its excellent fishing grounds and resilient Hawaiian settlements. The people who call Honua'ula home are respected as hard workers, toiling in the sun and wind to grow what they can from the dry kula land and traveling great distances to gather what they lack. This perspective is documented in an 'ōlelo no'eau, or Hawaiian proverb, that says:

**Honua'ula kua la'ola'o.**  
Callous-backed Honua'ula.

*Said of the people of Honua'ula, Maui, who are hard workers. The loads they carry often cause calluses on their backs.*

'Ōlelo No'eau #1059





# LAND DIVISIONS & PLACE NAMES HISTORY OF MĀKENA



Mākena is a smaller land section found in the ahupua'a, a traditional Hawaiian land division, of Pāpa'anui.

The most detailed historical maps name 20 ahupua'a in the moku (district) of Honua'ula. From north to south, they are: Paeahu, Palauea, Keauhou, Kalihi, Waipao, Pāpa'anui, Kā'eo, Maluaka, Mo'oiki (fronting the islet of Molokini), Mohopilo, Mo'oloa, Mo'omuku, Onau, Kanahena, Kualapa, Kalihi, Papaka Kai, Kaunuahane, Kalo'i, and Kanaio. Kaho'olawe is also a part of Honua'ula Moku.



# ANCESTRAL ADAPTATION

# WAVES OF CHANGE

## *The Arrival of Western Vessels & 19th Century Cultural Change*

The arrival of Western vessels brought about tremendous cultural change along the Honua'ula shoreline and mauka areas, yet the 'ōiwi of the area remained actively involved.

## *Mahele 'Āina: The Division of Land*

The Māhele 'Āina shifted Hawai'i to a Western land tenure system. However, this shift toward a new model remains grounded in a Hawaiian worldview. Rather than dividing the land into separate blocks, the model preserves the ahupua'a system, with natural boundaries stretching from the mountain to the ocean.

## *Commercial Agriculture in Honua'ula*

Traditional agriculture became commercialized to build an industrial economy. 'Āpuakēhau was the Hawaiian government landing, and the development of Makee Landing marked this transition to commercialism. Makee would eventually become what we refer to now as Mākena Landing.





# THE HAWAIIAN COWBOY

## INTRODUCTION OF PANIOLO



From the end of the 19th century and well into the 20th century, ranching grew in prominence in Honua'ula. While ranching is an introduced cultural activity, it would secure a unique space within the Hawaiian framework and introduce the Hawaiian cowboy, also known as paniolo. The word paniolo is derived from a Hawaiianized version of the word español. Mexican vaqueros taught Hawaiians how to herd, rope, and process cattle, and how to ride and utilize horses.



Soon after, paniolo developed their own spin on ranching techniques. They integrated familiar Hawaiian practices such as weaving, lei-making, and leather printing.

In the late 1800s, Mākena Bay became a booming port for shipping cattle on barges to market. Paniolo would rope and swim the cows out to sea. The cow pen, of which only the rock walls remain, was used to organize cattle in the branding process.



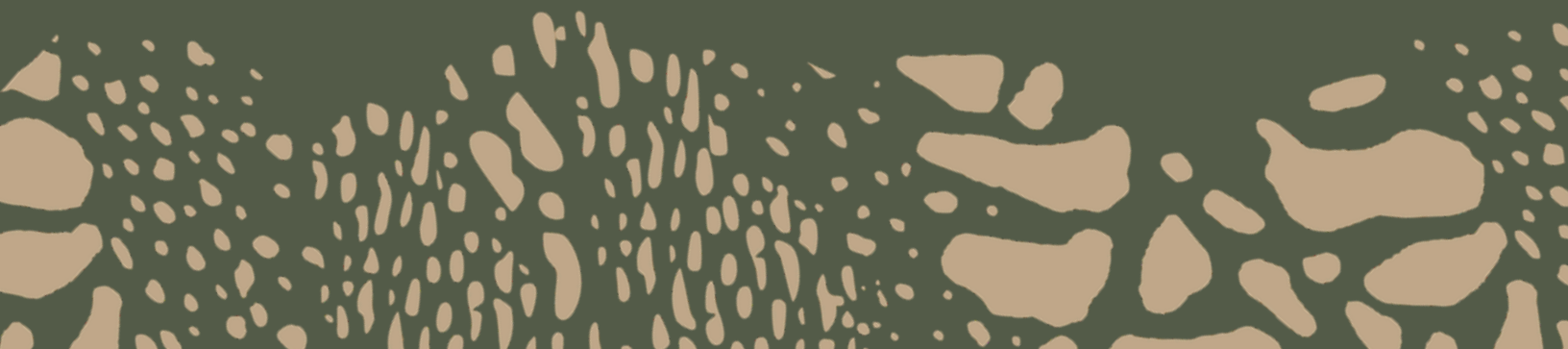
LEARNING FROM HISTORY

# CARING FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGY



There have been well over 50 archaeological studies completed within Mākena. By teaching the extensive history of this 'āina, including agriculture, fishing, and ceremonial traditions, as well as the impacts of Western trade, commercial agriculture, and Christianity, we are better equipped to understand and thus care for the historic sites and resources we find in this landscape.

Today, the Mākena Golf & Beach Club's 'Ōiwi Resources & Stewardship Team, along with Kīpaipai Maui, invites community participation in the sustained care of these sites.







ABOUT US

# KĪPAIPAI

Honua'ula has long been known for it's hardy people who worked skillfully to promote life in this leeward landscape. We see this in Honua'ula archaeology. We maintain this connection today through Kīpaipai.

Created in 2022, Kīpaipai is an archaeology training program that empowers family and community members with training on the historic preservation process and the opportunity to apply this knowledge through active care of preservation areas within their moku (district).

**The program takes the next step in preservation plans, offering reconnection with wahi kūpuna and ensuring the longevity of these special sites and places.**

The seed of this archaeological program was Ho'opai, a 2019 field-training program for those interested in becoming archaeologists. It has since bloomed into Kīpaipai, dedicated to community programming that reconnects people and place, kānaka and 'āina, starting in Honua'ula.



# Our Mission

To empower and support descendants with lineal and genealogical ties to Honua'ula to tell the stories and to care for the preserved archaeological sites from Palaua to 'Āhihi and from 'Ulupalakua to Kaho'olawe.

# Our Partners



'Āina Archaeology offers a unique alternative to standard cultural resource management in Hawai'i. Founded in fulfillment of a kuleana to care for Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources, we integrate traditional epistemologies with advanced scientific technologies to deliver innovative, values-driven solutions. Our commitment to excellence and creative approaches supports a wide range of historic preservation needs. Learn more at [ainaarch.com](http://ainaarch.com).



Mākena has long been a cultural and historical focal point of South Maui. From early pre-contact settlements through the plantation and paniolo eras, and into the rise of tourism after World War II, Mākena and the surrounding lands of Honua'ula have sustained resilient families for generations. Grounded in enduring Hawaiian practices of living in balance with the natural world, we honor the deep connection these families share with Mākena and embrace our shared responsibility to care for this cherished land and ocean. Learn more at [Mākenainfo.com](http://Mākenainfo.com).



'Ōiwi refers to that which is native and foundational, and the Mākena Golf & Beach Club 'Ōiwi Resources & Stewardship (ORS) team embodies this meaning through their care for Mākena's natural cycles and cultural resources. Grounded in a Hawaiian worldview specific to Mākena and Honua'ula and guided by 'ike kūpuna, they carry generations of knowledge about the land, seasons, celestial movements, winds, oceans, and ecological rhythms of this leeward landscape. Through daily practice informed by both ancestral wisdom and contemporary expertise, ORS strengthens the relationship between 'āina and kānaka, fostering a resilient and thriving Honua'ula ecosystem.



# Our Goals



## Elevate 'Ike Kūpuna

He lālā wau no ke kumu. Elevate the place-based expertise in genealogical and lineal descendants.

## Build Kaiāulu Capacity

There have been well over 50 archaeological studies completed with Mākena. By teaching the extensive history of this 'āina, including agriculture, fishing, and ceremonial traditions, as well as the impacts of Western trade, commercial agriculture, and Christianity, we are better equipped to understand the historic sites and resources we find in this landscape.



## Restore Pilina

Archaeological Preservation Plans (APPs) outline how to best maintain historic sites and properties with preservation mandates. APPs are public documents kept with the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). These plans provide a way to restore connectivity among wahi pana, the 'ohana of the region, and those who are protective of these spaces.



## Foster Partnerships

Through collaboration and partnership with other entities in the Honua'ula region, we can build cohesive, consistent, and representative care for our wahi kūpuna and historic resources. Partnerships can include other landowners, homeowners' associations, parks, public-private partnerships, and more.





A person wearing a blue cap and a light-colored shirt is bent over, working in a field. The background shows trees and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

RECONNECTING 'ĀINA & KĀNAKA

# HUAKA'I 'OHANA & TRAINING

Kīpaipai led four huaka'i focused on archaeological preservation, site stewardship skills, and place-based learning to empower and reconnect cultural and lineal descendants of Honua'ula to this place.

This supports their ability to ensure preservation for various wahi pana in Honua'ula is carried out appropriately, while maintaining their pilina – connection – to these precious spaces.





## TRAINING SITE

# Cow Pen, Mākena Bay

The training took place at the historic Cow Pen at Mākena Landing, a site selected specifically because it allows participants to learn about and apply real preservation measures outlined in its Archaeological Preservation Plan (APP).



The Cow Pen reflects the late 19th–early 20th century ranching history of Honuaʻula and the emergence of the Hawaiian cowboy, or paniolo, a tradition influenced by Mexican vaqueros. ʻUlupalakua Ranch used the pen to corral, brand, and prepare cattle before they were shipped from Mākena Bay, which later became a major port for cattle exports.

APPs, maintained by the State Historic Preservation Division, guide the care and long-term protection of sites like this. Through Kīpaipai, participants documented site conditions, assessed impacts, and practiced preservation actions consistent with the APP, while supporting ongoing community and skilled citizen–archaeologist monitoring of this wahi.





AUGUST 2022

## Huaka'i 'Ohana #1

The first Kīpaipai huaka'i welcomed a handful of Honua'ula descendants to Mākena Bay. Before the formal training began, Uncle Merton Kekiwi, Uncle Wendell Wong, and Uncle Ashford DeLima took time to share about life growing up, working, and living in Honua'ula.

We learned from Uncle Merton and Uncle Wendell about paniolo history and classic Hawaiian cowboy ways, and from Aunty Ka'ōnohi DeLima Lee about how things have changed over time.







## The archaeological experience included:

- Clearing overgrown vegetation from the Cow Pen to allow a clearer view of the landscape and its features.
- Using a 2015 site map, the group examined the area and recorded observations of any changes to the landscape and rock walls since the last mapping.
- Participants were taught how to read and interpret the map, take site photographs, and use tools such as measuring tapes and north arrows to ensure accurate documentation and easy reference.
- Participants then formally record their findings in an official Site Inspection Report, including recommendations for the proper preservation of the area, taking into account changes in conditions since 2015.



The Site Inspection Reports produced during this huaka'i are available in digital StoryMap format and can be viewed online through the Kīpaipai Maui Digital Library.

Visit the Digital Library at [kipaipaimaui.org/library/](http://kipaipaimaui.org/library/)



DECEMBER 2022

## Huaka'i 'Ohana #2

The second Kīpaipai huaka'i focused on foundational mapping concepts and geometric principles.

Participants learned and practiced essential mapping skills, including measuring distances and bearings using scales and compasses. Accurate mapping and measurement techniques are critical for documenting sites and monitoring changes over time. The group also learned the distinction between true north and magnetic north and their importance in site documentation.







MARCH 2023

## Huaka'i 'Ohana #3

The third huaka'i 'ohana emphasized the development of kilo, or close-observational skills, focusing on the natural elements and environment surrounding an archaeological site in Mākena.

After visiting places where kūpuna thrived in Honua'ula, participants had the opportunity to see and physically engage with several artifacts and cultural materials originating from Mākena.





JULY 2023

## Huaka'i 'Ohana #4

The fourth and final huaka'i 'ohana brought together the largest gathering of lineal and genealogical descendants of Honua'ula.

Participants came together to learn about and reconnect with another archaeological site in Mākena. The group explored additional Mākena artifacts and reflected on an often- overlooked cultural resource in Honua'ula: shade.

In this leeward climate, the intense sun and heat make trees—and the shade they provide—an essential and highly valued resource for families in Honua'ula.



The huaka'i concluded with a group photograph beneath a mango tree that has offered this vital shade for generations and will continue to do so within its designated preservation area.







WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING FORTH LIFE

# LAULIMA DAYS

Laulima Days are invitations to the community to join in the work as we restore the cultural disciplines, native plants, and families of this place.



DECEMBER 2023 & MARCH 2024

# Native Plant Restoration

Over two workdays in Pāpa'anui, we focused on the regeneration and restoration of native plants and stories.



We celebrated the place-based knowledge of Honua'ula's fishermen and farmers. CJ Elizares shared 'ike on the characteristics and traditional uses of each species we planted, while Uncle Eddie Boy Chang, the oldest living farmer and fisherman of place, led a rich talk story on the history of Pāpa'anui and life in Mākena.





DECEMBER 2023 & MARCH 2024

# Native Plant Restoration

Together, we participated in this living story by planting more than **400** natives across **15** species endemic to Honua'ula including pili (*Heteropogon contortus*), maiapilo (*Capparis sandwichiana*), 'ākulikuli (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*), and more.

Two days of restoring designated archaeological preservation areas, watering them with story and sweat, bringing the preservation plan full circle.





MAY 17-18, 2024

# Hale Building

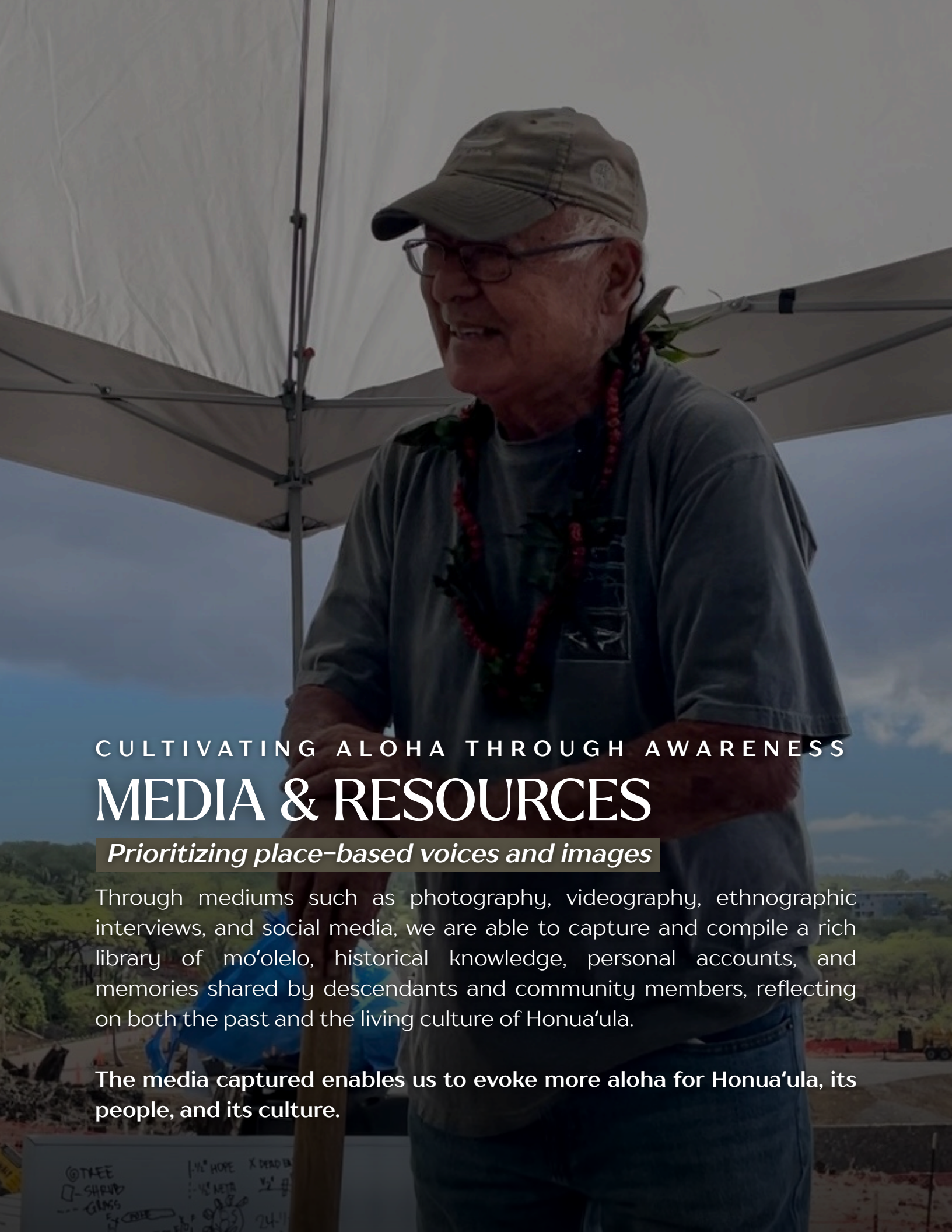
Kīpaipai Maui assisted the Mākena 'Ōiwi Resources & Stewardship team in its efforts to construct Hale Pili, a new hālau wa'a in Waipao, Honua'ula. The building of the hale was guided by Kuhikuhi Pu'uone (Master Indigenous Architect), Francis Palani Sinenci, and the haumāna (students) of his traditional school, Hālau Hale Kuhikuhi, a program of Hōlani Hāna. The workdays were supported by 'Āina Archaeology.



The first of two consecutive workdays was dedicated to building the paepae, or foundation walls, using a dry-stacked rock wall technique and modern concrete reinforcement. The second day was focused on the building of the oloke'a, or the inner scaffolding of the hale.







## CULTIVATING ALOHA THROUGH AWARENESS MEDIA & RESOURCES

### *Prioritizing place-based voices and images*

Through mediums such as photography, videography, ethnographic interviews, and social media, we are able to capture and compile a rich library of mo'olelo, historical knowledge, personal accounts, and memories shared by descendants and community members, reflecting on both the past and the living culture of Honua'ula.

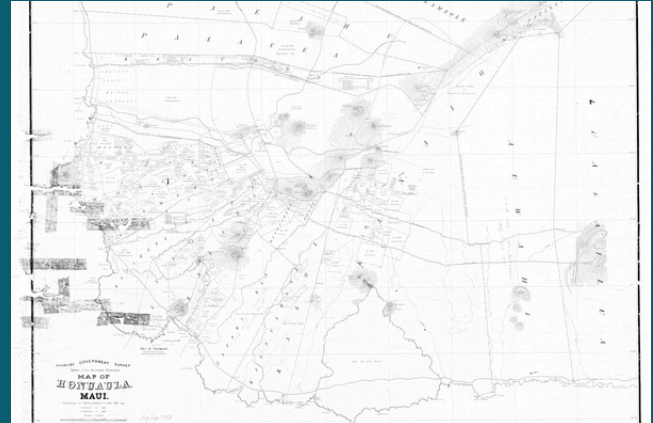
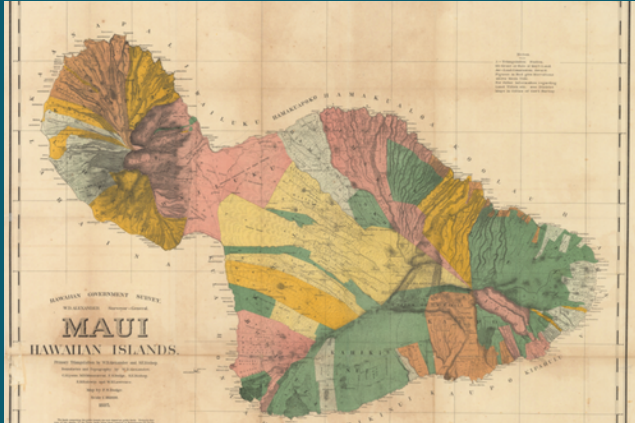
**The media captured enables us to evoke more aloha for Honua'ula, its people, and its culture.**



# Digital Library



Our digital library gathers archaeological reports, historic maps, and preservation plans into a thoughtfully curated collection for the lineal and cultural descendants who took part in our huaka'i 'ohana, and is open to the wider community to explore and deepen their understanding of the history, culture, and records of Honua'ula Moku.



# Cow Pen Signage



A sign was installed at Mākena Bay to share the history of the Cow Pen, which sits makai of the current comfort station. This sign offers visitors to Mākena Landing: a chance to connect with the bay's rich paniolo past, learn an 'ōlelo no'ēau of the area, listen to cherished stories from Honua'ula descendants about the living culture in this special place, and an invitation on how to aloha the area.





# Ka Leo o Ka 'Āina: *Voices of Honua'ula*



The Ka Leo o Ka 'Āina: Voices of Honua'ula video series was produced in partnership with Pilina Media, 'Āina Archaeology, and Mākena Golf & Beach Club. Community members who have called Honua'ula home for generations share intimately about the steadfast lifestyle of this Moku. The series is available to watch on 'Āina Archaeology's YouTube channel.





NĀ LIMA O KA 'ĀINA: PLACE-BASED STEWARDSHIP LIVES

## Mauka: 'Ulupalakua Ranch

There has and will always be a mauka-makai connection.

Our team spent time in the mauka regions of Honua'ula in 'Ulupalakua, capturing stories of paniolo and place from the 'Ulupalakua Ranch team, including longtime and new ranching stewards.

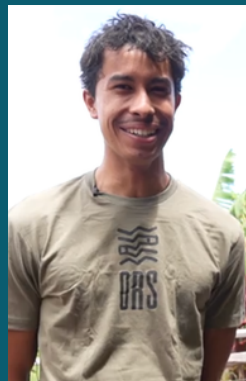
Maintaining these mauka-to-makai connections is vital to our collective survival, to telling the full story of Honua'ula. We honor the sustaining relationships that endure and assure the continuum of Makena and 'Ulupalakua families caring for 'āina and each other.



## Makai: ORS Crew

The 'Ōiwi Resources & Stewardship (ORS) team at Mākena Golf & Beach Club is a group of skilled individuals dedicated to protecting and nurturing Mākena's natural cycles and cultural resources.

At the time of these interviews, more than half of the ORS team were lineal descendants of Honua'ula, carrying forward a deep, generational connection to the land. Through their voices, we captured what it means to continue the hardworking legacy of this place, reflected in the 'ōlelo no'ēau Honua'ula kua la'ola'o. Ola! Life, health, and well-being continue.



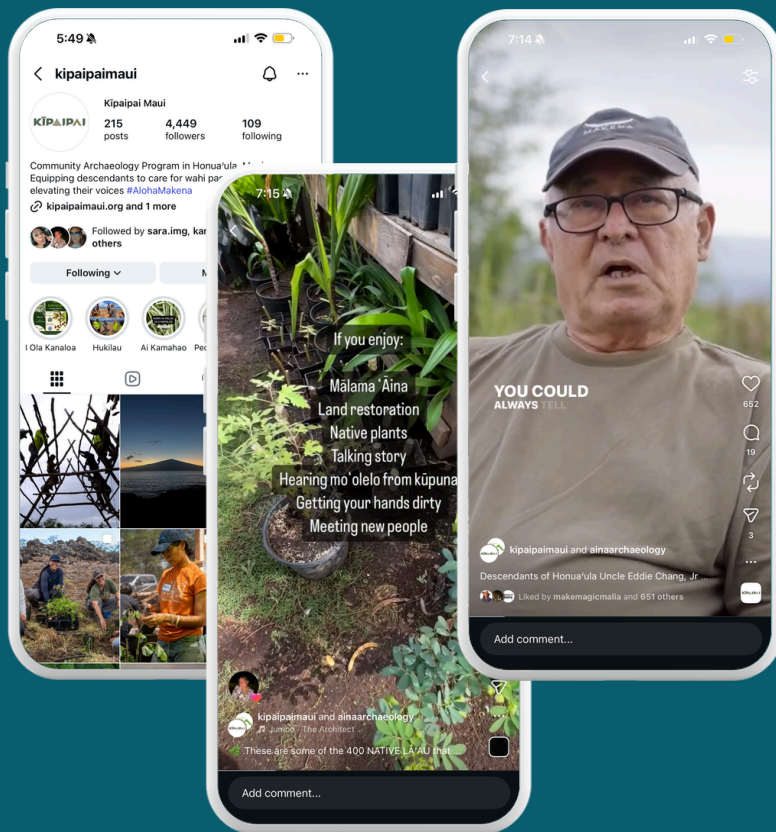


# Social Media Outreach & Education

To raise awareness of the program and educate the community about Honua'ula's culture and history, we have used social media as a key outreach tool.

Since the program's inception, social media has been critical in amplifying and enhancing its impact—not only among direct program participants but also across the broader community.

We have seen a growing interest in the stories of place-based preservation work, along with an increased desire from the community to get involved and participate in aloha, in reciprocity, with Mākena's ecosystem and preservation sites. By sharing a variety of content—including imagery, graphics, and, most notably, short-form video—we have reached thousands of people each year and significantly increased awareness of Kīpaipai.



4,226

FOLLOWERS

473

POSTS

567,883

IMPRESSIONS

40,606

ENGAGEMENTS

620,920

VIDEO VIEWS





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