



KĪPĀIPĀI

IMPACT REPORT | 2025

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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 Palauea 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.



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 Makenainfo.com.



'Ōiwi refers to that which is native and foundational, and the Mākena Golf & Beach Club's '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 the historic sites and properties with a preservation mandate. 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 could include other landowners, homeowners' associations, parks, public-private partnerships, and more.

JANUARY

Empowering Skilled Preservation Site Care

Tanya Lee-Greig, po'o of 'Āina Archaeology, trained the 'Ōiwi Resources & Stewardship (ORS) team of Mākena Golf & Beach Club, many of whom are genealogical descendants of Honua'ula, in carrying out key tasks of an archaeological preservation plan.



The Young Stewards Become Skilled at Caring for Kūpuna Sites

Training included learning how to serve as cultural monitors and how to properly photograph, document, and record changes in the landscape of an archaeological site.

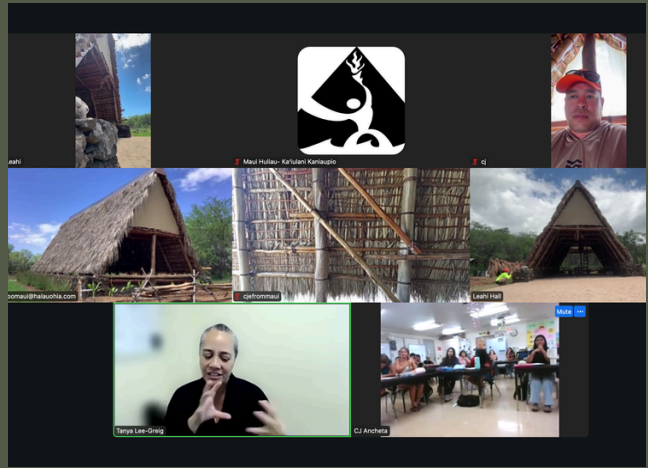


A legacy-empowering action, ORS builds confidence and expertise in the archaeological aspect of their stewardship work.

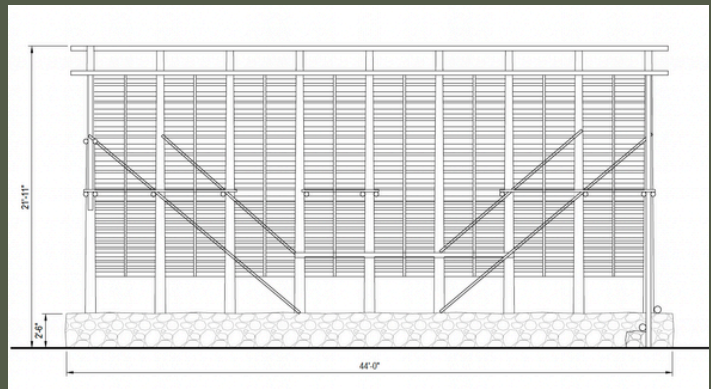
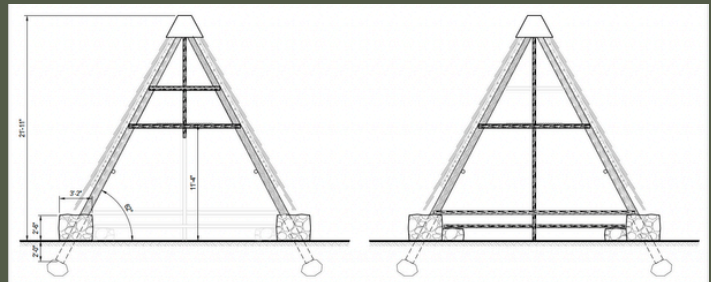
FEBRUARY

LLHS Secondary Math Class

In February, we hosted a virtual talk story with the Lahainaluna High School Secondary Math class to share 'ike about kūkulu hale (hale building) and the work done at Hale Pili. Together, we explored what “traditional” hale look like, how their dimensions and design connect to math, and the deeper cultural significance of their construction.



We celebrated with 'ōpio the many skilled functions our kūpuna honed as engineers, architects, and builders of place. And how we live this today, applying precise knowledge to create structures that are sustainable, functional, practical, and aligned with their environment. Mahalo to the kumu and haumāna of LLHS for their interest in learning and keeping this knowledge alive.





EIA KA HALE, UA KŪ I MAULIOLA
*Behold the house, a house
 because of the Giver of Life*

MARCH

What's Old is New: Hale Pili Transfer

On March 21, we gathered in Mākena for a blessing and community feast marking the transition of Hale Pili from the malu of the builder to the care of its stewards. The construction of Hale Pili has been a journey of connection and continuity—uniting kānaka and ‘āina, Honua‘ula and Kanaloa, tradition and innovation, past and future.

Guided by Kuhikuhi Pu‘uone Francis Palani Sinenci and supported by the Mākena ‘Ōiwi Resources and Stewardship Team, **the hale carries forward living ancestral practices rooted in the genealogical families and next generation stewards of Mākena.**



SEPTEMBER

Pilina 'Āina: Seed & Plant Workshop

September marked the launch of the first gathering in our free three-part community series, Pilina 'Āina. We began with a Seed & Plant Workshop focused on strengthening pilina (connection) with 'āina (land; that which feeds) in the Honua'ula moku.



In a hands-on session, participants were introduced to:

- 'Ākulikuli, pā'ūohi'iaka, wiliwili, ma'o, and pōhinahina
- Plant propagation and caretaking practices
- Practical methods for starting seedlings and cuttings, including air-layering
- How plantings restore, preserve, and honor the unique function of preservation sites



DECEMBER

Pilina 'Āina: Planting Workshop

Past and present efforts coming together in the active care of archaeology in Mākena today

The second gathering in the community series, offering an opportunity to plant native species propagated during the first workshop.

These plants were carefully selected to be place-based and site-appropriate for both the archaeological site and restoration efforts within Mākena preservation areas.



Participants learned how pioneer species such as pā'ūohi'iaka and 'ākulikuli both help prepare the soil for 'āweoweo seeds and support ongoing efforts to suppress invasive grasses by spreading native seeds.

The workshop included visits to other preservation sites, where participants observed plantings from previous seasons.



MEDIA COVERAGE

In the News



**Traditional hālau wa'a blessed in
Mākena, honoring Hawaiian
cultural practices**

Maui Now
March 27, 2025

[READ ARTICLE](#)



**Traditional structure on Maui
honors generational families of
Mākena**

Hawai'i Public Radio
March 27, 2025

[READ ARTICLE](#)



**Pilina 'Āina: seed & plant workshop
launches community event series
in Honua'ula**

Maui Now
September 11, 2025

[READ ARTICLE](#)



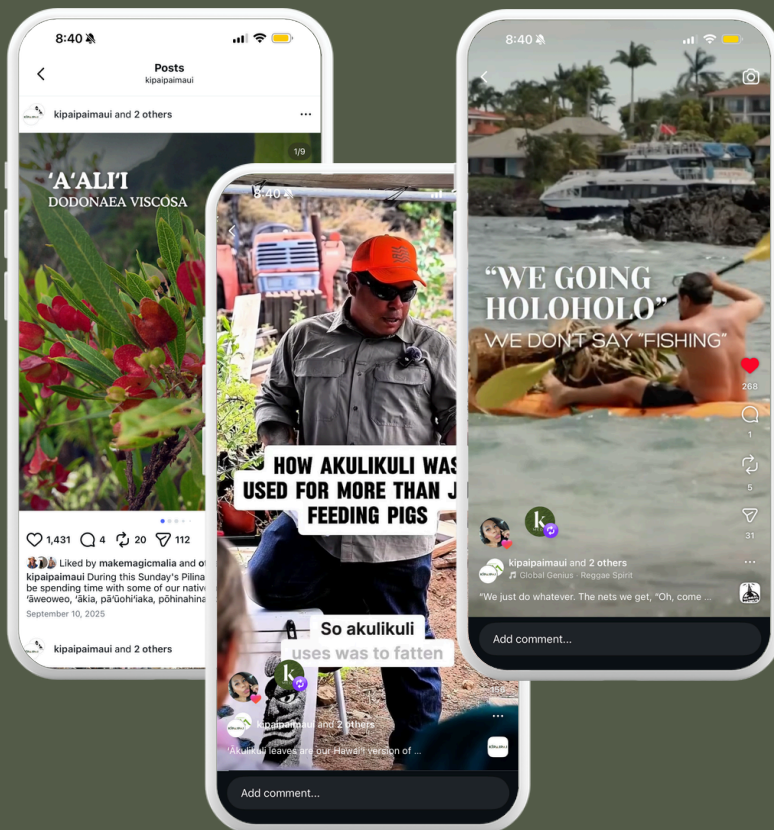
**Pilina 'Āina: Community invited to
plant place-based native species
in Mākena**

Hawai'i Public Radio
December 3, 2025

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Social Media Outreach & Education

Social media continues to play a key role in building awareness and visibility for Kīpaipai. Each post still generated strong engagement and impressions, demonstrating continued interest and support from our online community. Video content paired with place-based imagery continues to resonate most with our audience, serving as an effective tool for storytelling, education, and keeping Honua'ula visible and present in the minds of our community. Social media also served as an important platform for promoting our Pilina 'Āina event series. In addition to inviting participation, posts provided post-event reflections that shared the stories, 'ike, and mana'o that emerged from each gathering, while highlighting how participants are strengthening their pilina with Honua'ula.



4,722

FOLLOWERS

57

POSTS

168,555

IMPRESSIONS

7,754

ENGAGEMENTS

76,019

VIDEO VIEWS

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 trees and palm trees. A small, sandy beach is visible in the middle ground. In the background, a large, rounded hill with a reddish-brown top rises above the greenery. The sky is a deep blue with scattered white clouds. The text "A BRIEF HISTORY OF HONUA'ULA" is overlaid in the upper left quadrant.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF
HONUA'ULA



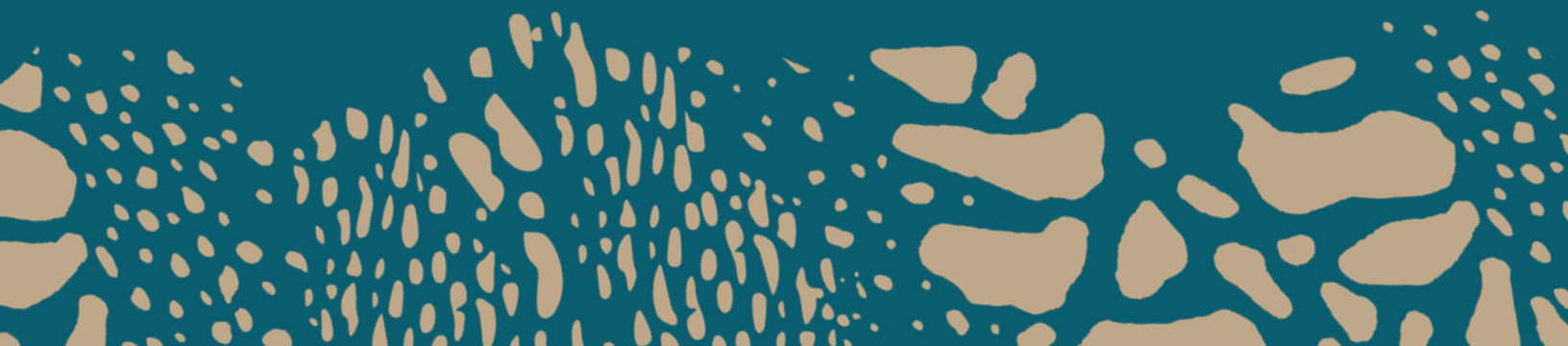
A BRIEF HISTORY OF HONUUA'ULA

Honua'ula is known for its excellent fishing grounds and for small but strong 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'omoku, 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, the movement into this new model is still rooted in a Hawaiian worldview that connects. Rather than blocks of land, there is a retention of the ahupua'a system and natural boundary lines 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 cows while branding them.

LEARNING FROM HISTORY

CARING FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGY



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 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.



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