

Richard Keao Nesmith,

Mr. Nesmith was born in Waimea and raised in Kekaha (Waimea!Napali region). He also has 'ohana ties in Anahola (Kawaihau) and kāpuna in Halele'a and Napali. Mr. Nesmith was raised with strong traditions, and began helping his 'ohana preserve heiau and farm using traditional methods at an early age. His parents also instilled in him a passion for preserving historical sites and artifacts, as they frequently participated in archaeological surveys and excavations throughout Kauai. Mr. Nesmith has been continuously active in projects studying, maintaining, and restoring traditional and cultural sites. Mr. Nesmith has studied iwi preservation practices with archaeologists, kāpuna, and cultural experts from throughout Kaua'i and elsewhere, and has been personally involved in the discovery, study, curation, and reinterment of iwi kupuna. Currently, Mr. Nesmith serves as the president of Ka Pua Hipalo o Po'okā, a nonprofit organization focused on the preservation and restoration of the Po'okā Heiau complex in Halele'a. He is also a member of Nāpali Coast Ohana, which preserves and restores cultural sites of Nualolo Kai and other areas of Nāpali. and Htii Mālama o Kāneiolouma. which maintains and restores the Kāneiolouma Heiau complex in Po'ipū.