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KAWAINUI  
*Member  
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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Pacific West Region

*Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui*

*Fostering public awareness and understanding of the natural, historical, cultural, and scenic resources of Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh and environs to ensure the long-term protection, restoration and stewardship of the area.*

Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui is a network of conservation, native Hawaiian, educational, and community organizations who came together in 2004 to assist with planning the future of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex. The organizations comprising Ho'olaulima are working with the State and the community on the restoration, interpretation, and stewardship of the marsh complex and the many significant natural and cultural resources that comprise this complex.

*Planning the Future of Kawainui-Hāmākua*

The Kailua community successfully stopped urban development around Kawainui Marsh in the 1960s and 1970s. A community plan in 1982 sought to preserve Kawainui as a unique wetland with a rich cultural history.

The significance of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex was recognized in 2005 when it was designated a wetland of international importance by the Ramsar Convention based on both its natural and cultural values. The site is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a significant cultural and archaeological resource.

In 1994, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) drafted a Master Plan for Kawainui with community input. An update of this master plan will be taking place in 2011-2013. Public ideas and concerns will be sought during this planning effort.

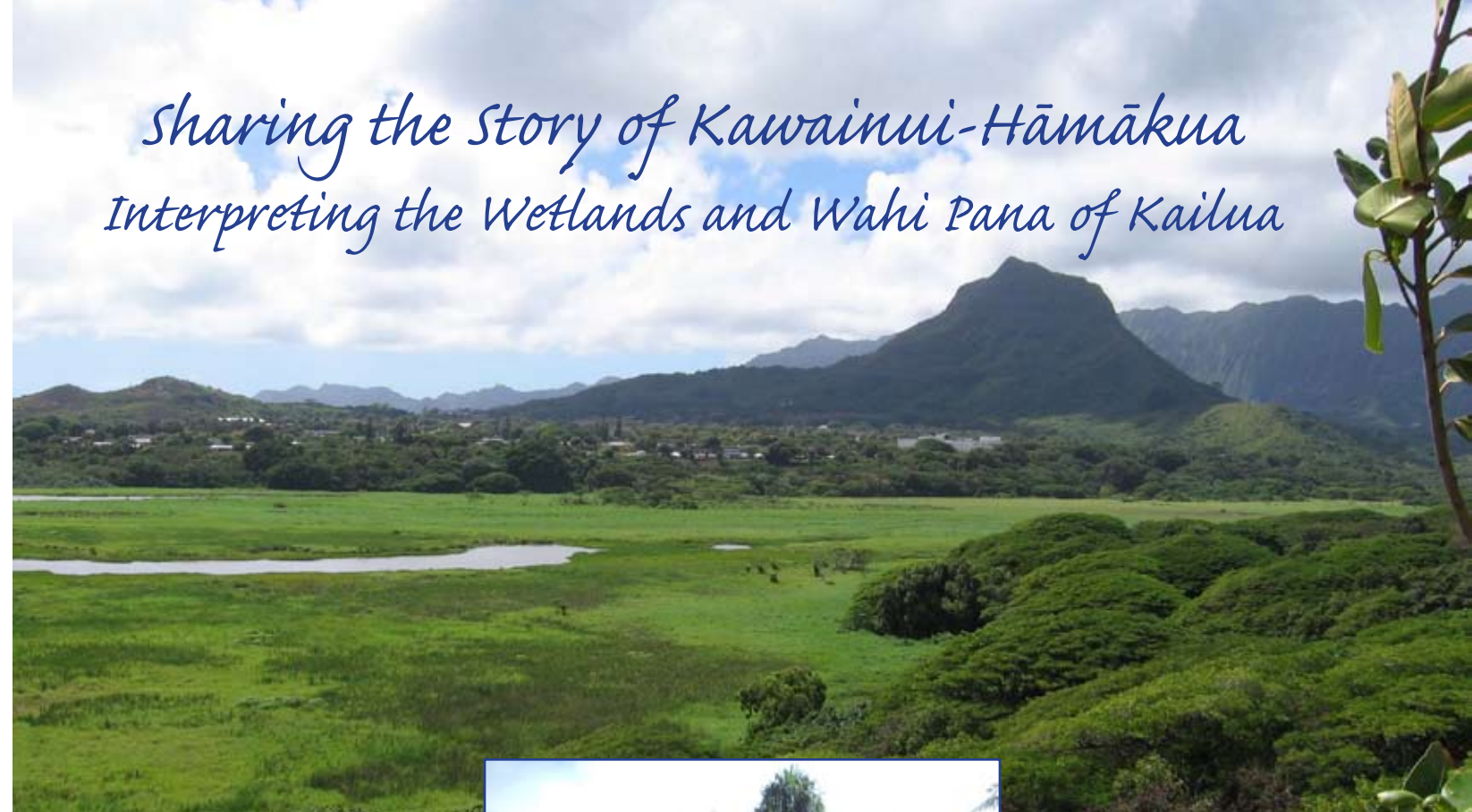
To address the interpretive opportunities of Kawainui and Hāmākua as part of the larger planning effort, Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui has been inventorying the resources, developing the interpretive themes, and considering interpretive devices and programs that best share these themes and resources. With public input, the goal is to identify preferred interpretive opportunities. Aspects of this interpretive program can then be incorporated into the Master Plan Update.

We believe that interpretation can be used to heighten awareness and understanding, and develop better stewardship of the Kawainui-Hāmākua area. Through the interpretive planning process, we are exploring all the possibilities and look forward to hearing the public's thoughts and ideas on the opportunities for interpreting Kawainui-Hāmākua. Participation by the community will lead to informed decision-making and a greater awareness of both the challenges and opportunities. We look forward to hearing from you.

*For more information & updates:*  
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*Sharing the story of Kawainui-Hāmākua  
Interpreting the Wetlands and Wahi Pana of Kailua*



*Help us identify the interpretive opportunities for sharing the history and resources of Kawainui and Hāmākua Marsh with residents and visitors.*

Interpretation connects people and places by sharing important themes or messages. The aim of interpretation is to inspire, to connect us to the resources of a place, and enhance the stewardship of these resources.

Ho'olaulima Iā Kawainui, a network of organizations with an interest in Kawainui-Hāmākua, is seeking public input on what kind of interpretive devices and programs the community would like to see at this wetland and *wahi pana* (special cultural place).

- This flyer will introduce you to:
- the natural, cultural, and historic resources of the Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh,
  - the range of interpretive opportunities available, and
  - how you can get involved.



*Community Meetings*

Public meetings will be held in September and October 2011 at various locations in the Kailua *ahupua'a*. You are invited to attend a meeting, learn more about Kawainui-Hāmākua, and share your thoughts on the future of this special place.

• **Maunawili - Pōhakupu - Kūkanono Communities**

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7:00pm  
Trinity Church, 875 Auloa Road

• **Keolu - Enchanted Lake**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 10:00am  
Enchanted Lake Elementary School, 770 Keolu Drive

• **Kailua - Coconut Grove**

Date & site to be announced

• **Kalāheo - Kainalu - Aikahi**

Date & site to be announced

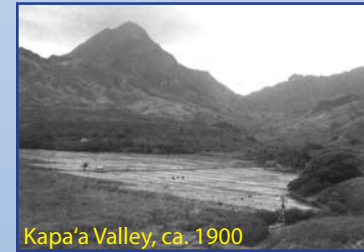
• **Lanikai**

Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:00pm  
Lanikai Park, A'alapapa Drive

## A Brief History of Kawainui

The Kawainui-Hāmākua Marsh Complex is the largest extant wetland in Hawai'i with a explosive geological past, significant natural resources, and a cultural history that spans over 1,000 years. Situated in the center of the former Ko'olau volcano, Kawainui was once an embayment as the waters of Kailua Bay extended far inland. Over time, a sand bar formed across Kailua Bay converting the waters to a lagoon that collected the freshwater from the Maunawili watershed. A forest of *loulou* palms grew on the banks of the lagoon and up into the valleys.

With the arrival of Hawaiian settlers, the 450-acre lagoon was used for the raising of fish. The *loulou* forest was cleared to plant *lo'i kalo* (taro fields) along the streams and around the edges of the pond. As *ali'i* inhabited the shoreline of Kailua Bay, three large *heiau* were constructed, including Ulupō and Pahukini. By A.D. 1600, the Kailua *ahupua'a* was an *'aina momona* (rich land) with political and religious importance. With Western Contact, *lo'i kalo* were converted to rice and soon after, the lands around the marsh shifted to pasture and ranching use. Today, Kawainui is a *wahi pana* (storied place of cultural importance) and a wildlife sanctuary for migratory and waterbirds.



Kapa'a Valley, ca. 1900



Rice in Maunawili, ca 1930



Ulupō Heiau, ca. 1930



Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine



Kawainui from Pali, ca. 1900  
Bishop Museum Archives

## Goals for Kawainui-Hāmākua

1. Promote preservation, restoration, and stewardship of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the marsh in balance with public visitation.
2. Orient visitors to the educational and recreational opportunities, and the resources of the marsh through interpretive programs, devices, and facilities.
3. Create an awareness, understanding, and conservation ethic for the Kailua watershed and the natural resources of the marsh.
4. Develop and promote a respect and understanding for the cultural history and perpetuation of the traditional values and practices.



## What Can Interpretation Do?

- Provide an orientation to Kawainui and Hāmākua Marsh where resources, facilities, access routes, and programs are found over a large area.
- Promote a sense of place and maintain open space that enhances the setting of the Kawainui and Hāmākua Marsh within the Kailua *ahupua'a*.
- Share the interpretive themes and messages by allowing visitors to "visualize" the *ahupua'a* system, the evolution of the marsh, and the movement of water through the watershed.
- Create an awareness, understanding, and respect for the marsh, its resources, and its natural and cultural history.
- Foster stewardship on the part of residents and visitors that translates into preservation and protection of the marsh and its resources for future generations.
- Protect resources by creating a buffer for a viewing opportunity that does not impact or damage the resource.

## Interpretive Opportunities

### Visitor Center & Interpretive Shelter

Visitor centers and shelters provide housing for exhibits and displays that can help visitors visualize a natural process such as the creation of the marsh. They provide orientation to a place, the resources and the opportunities. May incorporate support facilities, such as restrooms and parking.

### Lookouts & Viewing Platforms

Lookouts and viewing platforms designate an area for the viewing of resources and scenery while protecting nearby resources. Commonly used at cultural sites and wildlife sanctuaries where sensitive resources are present. Lookouts facilitate viewing of resources within a natural landscape.



### Interpretive Trails & Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits and brochures are designed to accompany self-guided hikes and walking tours. Interpretation can be provided at trailheads, as well as along the trail. Trails define a route which can minimize impacts to the resources.

### Service Learning & Interpretive Programs

Hands-on activities include demonstrations and service learning projects. This active form of interpretation promotes learning by doing. Some programs are currently available.



## Did you know?

- Kawainui means the great freshwater.
- Kawainui-Hāmākua is home to Hauwahine, the guardian *mo'ō*.
- Kawainui is within the former caldera of the Ko'olau volcano and the rocks at Nā Pōhaku O Hauwahine are remnants of the lava that flowed into this caldera.
- Kawainui-Hāmākua is a wetland of international importance.



## Interpretive Resources

### Wai (Water)

Water enters Kawainui by streams from Maunawili and Kapa'a Valleys, springs along the Kūkanono slope, rainfall, and run-off. The levee causes water to collect in the marsh where it reaches depths of 60 feet.

### Waterbirds & Wetland Plants

Kawainui-Hāmākua is home to Hawai'i's 4 endangered waterbirds and several native marsh plants, including the *neke* fern and *'uki* (sawgrass). Restoration seeks to remove invasive plants, open water areas, and improve habitat for the native flora and fauna.



### Geology & Natural Landmarks

Kawainui sits in the caldera of the Ko'olau volcano. Erosional remnants of the former volcano include Olomana, Ulumawao Ridge, and the hills around Kailua town.

### Cultural Sites: Heiau and Lo'i Kalo

Found around Kawainui are the terraced rock walls of former housesites and *lo'i kalo*, grinding stones for finishing stone adzes, and 3 large *heiau* (Ulupō, Pahukini, and Holomakani).