



Mākāhā (sluice gate) at Waikalua Loko Iʻa 1. Kāneʻohe Elementary students in front of Waikalua mural 2. Makai side of fishpond on kuapā facing Heʻeʻia Ahupuaʻa 3.

# Waikalua Fishponds Complex

## Protection of a Traditional Hawaiian Fishpond

Waikalua Loko Iʻa Complex is located in the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe, moku of Koʻolaupoko, on the mokupuni of Oʻahu. The 17.11-acre property contains two fish ponds; Waikalua and Keana loko iʻa. In the days of old Hawaiʻi, the ahupuaʻa of Kāneʻohe flourished with productive loʻi kalo (taro patches) fed by the waters of Kāwā and Kāneʻohe streams. The waters flowed from the streams through ʻauwai (ditches) into the loʻi and into the loko iʻa (fishponds). One of the loko iʻa benefitting from the downstream flow of water is Waikalua Loko Fishpond (the larger of the two fishponds) which is a loko kuapā—a type of fishpond that is unique to the Hawaiian Islands.

Waikalua was one of the first Hawaiian fishponds to be stewarded for contemporary use, and inspired groundbreaking curriculum that taught core subjects in the context of traditional fishpond practices. Multiple fishponds once lined Kaneohe Bay, and now Waikalua and Keana are the only remaining fishponds in the Kāneʻohe ahupuaʻa. The non-profit Pacific American Foundation stewards Waikalua. PAF's removal of invasive species, water quality monitoring, and propagation native fish and limu affects the ecosystem beyond the walls of the fishpond. The fishponds serve as a runoff filtration system which directly improves the water quality of Kāneʻohe Bay. Waikalua has been targeted for development for years and the conservation easement will permanently prohibit development and subdivision, and ensure community access.



HAWAII LAND TRUST

### Land Protection Strategy

Conservation Easement co-held by Hawaiʻi Land Trust and the City & County of Honolulu. The land is owned & stewarded by nonprofit Pacific American Foundation.

### Conservation Values

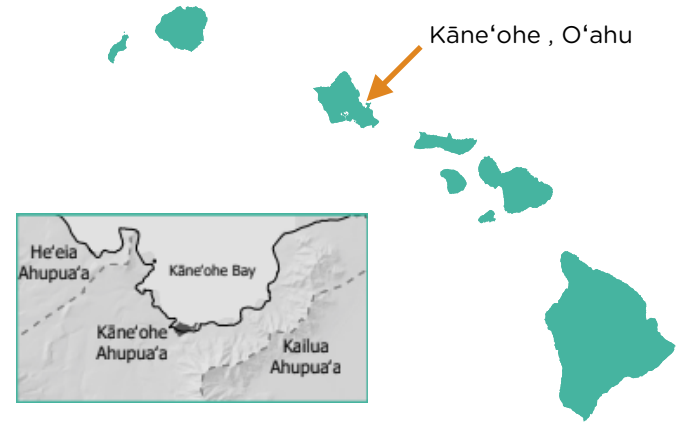
Ecological and cultural preservation; native wetland species habitat; traditional agriculture & cultural practice; education; coastal access

### Land Features

Two ancient Hawaiian fishponds; Native wetland bird habitat; Open space; Scenic views; Aquaculture

Size 17.11 Acres





Map Key

- Easement Boundary
- Oahu Major Roads
- Streams

### Public Benefit

Pacific American Foundation’s community programs involve and educate thousands of volunteers and students from various communities across Hawai‘i. The programs teach the history of ancient fishponds’ roles in the ahupua‘a system and how that translates to modern day ecology, while at the same time instilling the Hawaiian values of working together. Given the uncertain times and the COVID-19 pandemic, classroom learning has become increasingly difficult. Accounting for the need of social distancing, schools are looking to alternative teaching spaces, from online platforms to open air spaces. Now more than ever, there is a necessity to maintain this space as an outdoor classroom.

### Long-Term Goals

- Restoration of Keana Fishpond
- Return connection of Kāwā Stream to Waikalua Fishpond
- Two functioning fishponds providing fish to community

After diligently caring for and restoring Waikalua for 20 years, Pacific American Foundation secured ownership of Waikalua Fishpond in 2019, and now hopes to permanently safeguard Waikalua by granting Hawai‘i Land Trust and the City & County a conservation easement over the property. With the protection of a conservation easement and funding support from the City Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund, Waikalua will always connect O‘ahu to its abundant past and help us plan for a sustainable future.

### Get Involved!

[Herb Lee, Jr.](#)  
Executive Director,  
Pacific American Foundation  
[herblee@thepaf.org](mailto:herblee@thepaf.org)

[Shaelene Kamakaala](#)  
Director of ‘Āina Protection,  
Hawai‘i Land Trust  
808-940-0639 | [shae@hilt.org](mailto:shae@hilt.org)

[Pacific American Foundation](#) is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to revitalize the Waikalua Loko fishpond, and provide educational and stewardship opportunities for students, parents, educators, community, business and civic organizations that reflect and integrate core Hawaiian values.

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