



Ke Kahua O Kāneiolouma in Po'ipū, South Kaua'i District

SECTOR: VII. HERITAGE RESOURCES

From ancient heiau to Buddhist missions, heritage resources symbolize Kaua'i's history, showcase our diversity, and perpetuate a unique sense of place. By protecting these resources, Kaua'i will continue to honor its history, value its Native Hawaiian heritage, and celebrate its diverse languages and cultural traditions.

Throughout Kaua'i there is an abundance of archaeological, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. Together these resources document Kaua'i's storied past, cultivate a unique sense of place, and educate new generations about their history. The Heritage Resources map highlights important historic sites, including those listed on the National Register and the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. In addition, the map shows historic cultivation areas, priority public access points, and ahupua'a and moku boundaries. In recognition that environmentally significant places are

part of our heritage, the map also includes streams, waterbodies, coral reefs, and critical habitat.

As time goes on, our heritage resources will require more consistent and comprehensive attention to ensure their survival. Innovative ways to both protect and reuse historic resources should be utilized all while identifying new resources worthy of preservation.

This section addresses Historic Buildings and Structures and Places; Wahi Pana, Cultural Sites, and Cultural Resources; and Landmarks and Scenic Resources.

1. HISTORIC BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND PLACES

Historic buildings and structures are critical to preserving Kaua'i's unique history, town character, and sense of place. It is our kuleana to ensure that each community's treasured structures are preserved and celebrated.

Objective: To preserve and enhance historic buildings, structures, and places.



1.1 Recognizing and Designating Historic Buildings and Structures

Kaua'i has approximately 60 buildings and complexes listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. From the U.S. Post Office on Rice Street to Russian Fort in Waimea, these structures are visual reminders of Kaua'i's past. Some roads and bridges, including pedestrian bridges and overpasses, also have unique features that are historically significant and contribute to a sense of place. Famous examples include the one-lane steel truss bridge at Hanalei River and Route 560 – a narrow ten mile road between Princeville and Hā'ena.

Designation requires review prior to demolition or renovation, and makes properties eligible for financial assistance such as grants and tax incentives. The lead agency for all aspects of historic preservation is DLNR's Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). SHPD maintains an inventory of known historic sites and conducts surveys to identify and document new sites. Significant sites are placed on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places where they may then be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

On the local level, the Kaua'i Historic Preservation Review Commission (KHPRC) works with landowners to recommend properties for designation. The Commission was established in 1987 to protect and

promote the County's historic resources, and maintain a County-wide inventory of historic resources. The Commission also administers the Local Certified Government program, which provides Federal assistance for historic preservation. Reviews of County permits and projects involving historic sites, structures, and districts are typically coordinated with KHPRC and SHPD.

1.2 Supporting Preservation through Standards and Incentives

In addition to the KHPRC, the County supports preservation through development standards, as well as partnerships and targeted financial assistance. Property tax assessments and the Open Space Fund are existing County mechanisms that can also incentivize preservation.

Compliance with modern building and zoning codes is often a challenge when renovating historic properties. Sensible alternatives to strict code requirements can make the difference between leaving a historic property to further deteriorate or be demolished, and allowing it to be restored and thrive with a new purpose. The historic nature of town cores can also be protected and promulgated through district-wide architectural and design standards. These ensure new development is in keeping with a town's historic character and that redevelopment occurs in a historically sensitive manner.

A. PERMITTING AND CODE CHANGES

1. Broaden the types of uses allowed in historic structures.
2. Support the reuse and renovation of historic structures through building code amendments.
3. Update and create Special Planning Areas in towns to ensure new development and redevelopment of existing sites or structures is done in a "historically sensitive" manner.

B. PLANS AND STUDIES

1. Update and maintain the inventory and management plan for historic resources.

C. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

1. Maintain the character of historic structures and bridges by implementing best management practices that adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* when rehabilitating and/or renovating historically significant buildings and structures.
2. Educate and encourage property owners to nominate structures and sites to the State and National Register of Historic Places.
3. Provide a real property tax exemption for historic properties, including commercial properties.
4. Explore utilizing the Open Space Fund for historic preservation purposes.

D. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

1. Support partnerships between the County of Kaua'i, KHPRC, the public, and various historical and archaeological organizations to preserve important historic buildings and structures that illuminate Kaua'i's history.
2. Establish a low-interest revolving loan fund for rehabilitation of historic properties.
3. Develop a County of Kaua'i standard operating procedure (SOP) for engaging with SHPD and the "Section 106" and/or "HRS 6E" processes. Implement the SOP to improve interagency coordination and communication between SHPD and the applicable County, State, and Federal agencies.

2. WAHI PANANA, CULTURAL SITES, AND RESOURCES

Wahi Pana and the resources that support cultural practices are the foundation of Kaua'i's identity. Culturally significant places and sites, once destroyed, cannot be replaced. These places and the stories behind them provide vital insight to how the ancient Hawaiians lived in harmony with the land and managed the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Objective: To recognize and protect the resources and places important to Kaua'i's history and people.



2.1 Identifying and Preserving Wahi Pana and Archeological Resources

Throughout Kaua'i there are numerous archaeological sites that document ancient Hawaiian habitation and culture. A traditional cultural property is defined as an area or place associated with the practices and beliefs of a living community. On Kaua'i these include heiau, burial sites, fishponds, taro fields, and places where multiple archaeological and historic features are located. Kaua'i has 30 archaeological sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. Large scale archeological



Pū'olo Point Salt Pans, Hanapēpē-'Ele'ele District (Photo courtesy of Malia Nobrega-Olivera)

districts, such as the Nā Pali Coast, are listed in their entirety. All registered archaeological sites are included in the Heritage Resources Map in Chapter 5.

Kaua'i has several areas eligible to be listed as Historic Districts through the National Register of Historic Places, including the Wailuanuiahoano ahupua'a and portions of the southern Olohena and Hanamā'ulu ahupua'as. Continued research and inquiry is needed to establish if other historic assets might merit designation. In addition to formally listed sites, there are hundreds of other sites that have not been documented or inventoried by SHPD. Discoveries of new cultural sites are generally triggered through the archaeological site surveys required for certain development activities.

Burial sites are also important resources. In Native Hawaiian culture, burial sites are sacred since within the iwi (skeletal remains) resides a person's mana. Therefore, the proper treatment of Native Hawaiian skeletal remains and burial goods must be ensured. SHPD has jurisdiction over the management of burial sites over 50 years old, whether they are previously identified or inadvertently discovered. When new development uncovers burials, recommendations to relocate or preserve in place any iwi are made by the Kaua'i Island Burial Council, with preference given to the wishes of the lineal descendants of the remains.

2.2 Perpetuating Cultural Practices through Restoration, Stewardship, and Education

There is a strong and growing commitment to perpetuating and spreading awareness of Native Hawaiian culture, stories, and practices. Attention and stewardship is needed to educate the community, restore structures, and preserve the legacy of wahi pana. Unfortunately, the significance of certain cultural sites is not always widely known. As a result, some sites sit unrestored and vulnerable to further damage through neglect, vandalism, and land-altering activities such as unpermitted grading. One model that could be replicated is that of Kāneiolouma – an ancient cultural complex which was restored through a stewardship agreement with the County and a community organization.

Other cultural sites still function as they did in historic times such as the salt making pans at Pū'olo Point. Important lo'i kalo, dry land field systems, and fishponds are examples of Hawaiian engineering tailored to particular ecological conditions. Protecting and restoring them is vital to the restoration of culture, Hawaiian way of life, flourishing ecosystems, and local food production.

For example, the community-stewarded lo'i of Waipā and Kē'ē connect residents to the places where many no longer can afford to reside. Other culturally significant sites, such as known burial locations, are stewarded by Native Hawaiian families without a formal agreement.

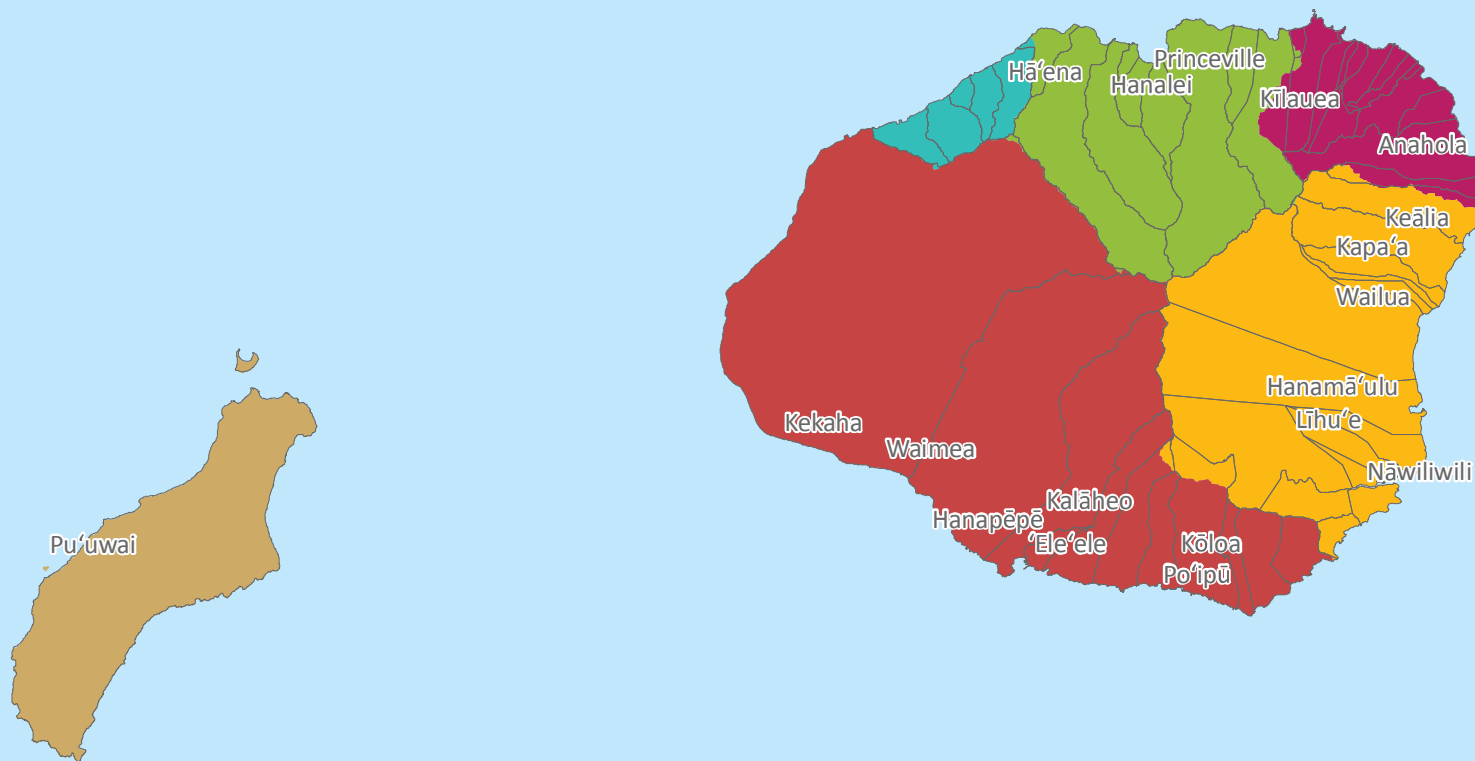
Residents also celebrate the ethnic diversity and cultural practices associated with Kaua'i's modern history. Kaua'i's plantation era and the legacy of migrant workers is recognized through events such as the Kōloa Plantation Days Celebration.

2.3 Raising Awareness of Place Names and Land Divisions

The ability of people to recognize the significance of wahi pana helps instill a sense of pride and curiosity about Native Hawaiian culture and history. Awareness of the original names and the stories behind them connect people to the island's history and culture. The Kaua'i Nui Kuapapa program is a joint effort between the County and community to raise public awareness of significant place names and historic land divisions. The names, history, and unique features of Kaua'i's six moku and 54 ahupua'a are conveyed through signage and online information. The boundaries are shown in Figure 3-18.

2.4 Protecting Kuleana Lands

Prior to 1850, kuleana were "plots of land given, by the governing ali'i of an area, to an 'ohana or an individual as their responsibility without right of ownership."⁴⁷ When land was privatized in 1850, less than one percent of all lands in Hawai'i were awarded to Hawaiian maka'āinana families who lived on and tended the land. Extensive information was recorded about these parcels including family and place names, and information on surroundings, hydrology, and cultivation. These lands are house sites, taro patches, and some fishponds or salt pans, and often contain 'iwi. Lands where Hawaiian families continue to care for and live on lands in the same areas as their ancestors are increasingly rare. Tax and land use regimes impeding families from keeping their ancestral lands should be revisited and revised accordingly.



- Kona
- Puna
- Ko'olau
- Halele'a
- Nāpali
- Ni'ihau

Ahupua'a Boundaries

A. PERMITTING AND CODE CHANGES

1. Preserve, restore, and maintain customary access to important archaeological and cultural sites.
2. Create natural, landscaped buffers between archaeological sites and adjacent uses.
3. In the case of development where burials are known to exist, ensure an Archaeological Inventory Study (AIS) is prepared and Kaua'i Island Burial Council recommendations are adhered to before final approvals are given.
4. Require developers to provide archaeological and cultural assessments prior to clearing or development of land in areas of historical significance.
5. Promote, encourage, and require the correct use of traditional place names.
6. Establish archaeological districts where high concentrations of sites exist.
7. Encourage restoration, management, and practitioner access for significant cultural sites on private land, as allowed by law.
8. Encourage the restoration, management, and use of Kaua'i's fishponds and lo'i kalo.
9. Preserve Māhā'ulepū, a wahi pana, where scenic landmarks, natural resources, archaeological sites (including Waiopili Heiau), and burials

are found along with subsistence fishing and gathering, agriculture, research and education, and recreation.

10. Movement of kuleana lands through the subdivision process is inconsistent with their intrinsic cultural and historic value and negatively impacts traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights and practices, which are protected by the Hawai'i State Constitution. Prior to any decision, any movement requires proper due diligence to ensure any historic value relating to the kuleana's past land use is identified and protected to the fullest extent possible consistent with Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, the Ka Pa'akai test, and HRS Chapter 6E. In addition, proper notice must be afforded to the State Office of Hawaiian Affairs and beneficiaries and heirs of the kuleana at issue before any movement is approved.

B. PLANS AND STUDIES

1. Inventory and acknowledge the importance of archaeological sites and wahi pana during community planning processes.
2. Create an inventory of kuleana lands and describe their vulnerability to sale and development.
3. Create a county-level tax break for ancestral family lands that do not qualify for kuleana tax breaks



Historic Hanapēpē Swinging Bridge, Hanapēpē-'Ele'ele District

for situations such as hanai (adoption), families without birth and death certificates, and other circumstances.

C. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

1. Promote the diversity of stories and sites on Kaua'i, including those related to Native Hawaiian history and mythology, migrant worker history, and modern history.
2. Establish historical trails, markers, and events that draw attention to the history of Kaua'i.
3. Through stewardship agreements, ensure proper management and interpretation of significant cultural resources and sites.
4. Achieve permanent preservation of highly significant cultural landscapes where multiple heritage and ecological values are located.

D. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

1. Work with the State Historic Preservation Division and KHPRC to educate landowners about the historic preservation review process.
2. Promote County and community partnerships to preserve and raise awareness about traditional cultural places.
3. Increase community awareness and stewardship of Kaua'i's historic and cultural resources.

4. Enhance the Hawaiian sense of place by promoting understanding of moku and ahupua'a land divisions. Recognize and preserve the unique natural and cultural characteristics of each moku and ahupua'a.
5. Seek to create community managed subsistence areas, also known as kīpuka, in every ahupua'a, in the tradition of kīpuka at Kē'e and Waipā.
6. Commence a collaborative planning effort to explore options that would make it possible to preserve the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources of Māhā'ulepū and to sustain the special experiences of this place.
7. During the "Section 106" and "HRS 6E" review processes, utilize cultural practitioners and community authorities on historic preservation to serve an advisory function and provide guidance on heritage and cultural issues.
8. Implement tax breaks and support programs to prevent foreclosures on kuleana lands caused by failure to pay taxes.



Scenic view in Anahola, East Kaua'i District

3. LANDMARKS AND SCENIC RESOURCES

Certain views and landmarks define Kauaʻi's sense of place for residents and visitors alike. The majestic peaks of Waiʻaleʻale and Kawaikini, the dramatic ruggedness of Waimea Canyon, and the lushness of the Alakaʻi Swamp are examples of land formations that are inspiring and uplifting to experience. Preserving views of scenic landscapes is vital to sustaining Kauaʻi's uniqueness and identity.

Objective: To preserve important landmarks and protect scenic resources.



3.1 Preserving Scenic Views and Landforms

Landforms and ocean views define our sense of space, particularly for the communities near them. For example, Nihokū (Crater Hill) is an important coastal landform near Kīlauea Town, while Hāʻupu Ridge frames the Līhuʻe District and divides it from the South Kauaʻi District. Landforms such as Kālepa Ridge and Kilohana Crater have similar framing qualities and help define and characterize nearby communities as distinct settlement areas.

Many landforms serve as landmarks and are prominent in Native Hawaiian history and ʻōlelo. Awareness of them is fundamental to understanding and appreciating Kauaʻi's history. Preserving mountain and ocean views does not simply entail preventing them from being totally obscured, but also means not disrupting their integrity and "intactness" with structures or other features that detract from their beauty and continuity. Preservation of landmarks, scenic resources, and heritage places is perhaps the most important aspect of maintaining the historic essence of Kauaʻi over time, regardless of population growth, development, and other changes that will occur.

The County's ability to preserve landmarks and scenic resources depends primarily on its zoning policies and abilities to acquire land for conservation. Since public

funds to acquire land are limited, future preservation of landmarks, scenic resources, and heritage places must rely first and foremost on zoning and permitting regulations.

3.2 Maintaining the Integrity of Scenic Routes

Scenic views along roadways are abundant on Kauaʻi. Kauaʻi already has one Federally recognized scenic byway, which runs through Kōloa in South Kauaʻi. Scenic byways do not just have scenic qualities, but are also recognized for their intrinsic archeological, cultural, historic, natural, and recreational features. Community Plans for each District provide an opportunity to identify specific roadways and features worthy of recognition and protection.

3.3 Protecting Exceptional Trees

Exceptional trees and groves of trees are another resource important to preserving Kauaʻi's rural character, intrinsic beauty, history, and culture. The County's Arborist Committee has designated 23 trees as "exceptional trees" on Kauaʻi. The State's Exceptional Tree Act (Act 105) protects designated trees from improper trimming and unnecessary removal. Private property owners are provided a tax credit to offset the costs associated with tree maintenance.

A. PERMITTING AND CODE CHANGES

1. Prepare amendments to the CZO, Special Management Area Rules, and the Subdivision Ordinance to provide specific criteria and guidelines for evaluating and protecting scenic views, view planes, and landmarks in the siting of new development.
2. Consider regulatory tools such as zoning overlays or corridors to preserve views from roads or public places to the ocean, and to and from mauka to makai.

B. PLANS AND STUDIES

1. Identify key landmarks, exceptional trees, and scenic resources through Community Plans.
2. Develop an inventory of scenic resources/views, view planes, visual resources, and key landmarks through joint collaboration of the Kauaʻi Historic Preservation Review Commission and the Open Space Commission.

3. Support creation and implementation of corridor plans for historic and scenic roadways.

C. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

1. Support Kaua'i Nui Kuapapa and other efforts to spread awareness of Kaua'i's original place names.
2. Support implementation of the corridor management plan for the Holo Holo Kōloa Scenic Byway.

D. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

1. Support the Hawai'i Scenic Byways Program.
2. Support the Kaua'i Open Space Commission in identifying and acquiring priority open space areas.