

Brief description of He'eia

In ancient times, this site was called Ka Lae O Ke Alohi, the point of shimmering light. An elevated peninsula (55') overlooking Kaneohe Bay. This is sacred ground, the site of an ancient Hawaiian Heiau, Kalae'ula'ula.

The heiau was destroyed during the 1800's, but the essence of this special place remains and endures.

The He'eia fishpond (see picture), "Loko I'a O He'eia", can be seen from the point. A cultural artifact, the fishpond is a living testimony to the unique engineering capabilities of early Hawaiians. Using gravity flow, the pond receives the algae rich effluent from the taro patches.

The park serves as the Friends' natural and cultural classroom. Within the park and a one-half mile radius, one can study a mountain stream, wetland, fishpond, coral reef, and historic site.



CONTACT INFORMATION



THE FRIENDS OF HE'EIA

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INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE



The Friends of He'eia is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster a sense of stewardship and appreciation for the natural environment.

The goals of the Friends of He'eia are parallel with the State's goals of protecting and preserving the natural resources of Hawaii.

The Friends also improve the environment through programs that monitor water quality, remove alien vegetation and restore habitat.

Our Mission

The Purpose of the Friends of He'eia State Park is to provide the children and the community with educational and interpretive programs to help them better understand the valuable natural and cultural resources of the Koolaupoko area and Kaneohe Bay.

We do this through interpretive programs in the Environmental Sciences. Teaching classes in marine biology, botany and Hawaiian studies, it is our purpose to encourage youth to consider careers in science.

We also hope to rekindle interest in ancient practices of the Hawaiians to offer solutions for modern day problems occurring in the areas of land and water management. By creating opportunities for students and adults to have positive experiences in nature, the Friends hope to personally involve the residents in helping to take care of their community.

Finally, we believe that through these programs we can help to create an environmentally literate society that will begin to address the increasing threats to our natural environment.

Conservation and rehabilitation of the He'eia ahupua'a or watershed is our long range vision. This watershed is comprised of two valleys that once were a model of sound resource management and sustainability. Hawaiians developed bountiful fisheries and used surface water to irrigate productive taro farms.

What we do

- Offer environmental educational programs for students of all ages
- Offer teacher training workshops
- Offer Hawaiian story telling for preschoolers
- Facilitate an after school program focusing on ethno-botany, marine science and habitat restoration
- Perform water quality testing in a collaboration with higher education
- Offer science related student internships
- Run a stream restoration project in order to eventually restore the natural habitat
- Network with international scientists
- Offer educational community service opportunities
- Sponsor litter clean-up days, family days, festivals, fairs, art shows and much more
- Offer educational Holo Holo senior tours
- Offer reef exploration tours using glass bottom kayaks
- Provide guided tours and educational displays
- Offer Fishpond education through a collaborative effort with Kamehameha Schools
- Host and/or facilitate seminars, classes and lecture series in a variety of subjects; canoe building, Lomilomi, Hula, Hawaiian values, Hawaiian cooking, Hawaiian language and more
- Offer a gift shop
- Banquet hall rentals
- Facilitate an open market each Sunday
- Offer authentic Hawaiian wedding ceremonies
- Landscape and maintain park grounds
- Maintain a Hawaiian garden
- Provide tables/mats for picnics
- Facilitate local church group services
- Work with local groups and organizations on various projects (KamaAina Kids, Boy Scouts, Kaneohe canoe club, art groups, square dance clubs etc.)

Membership

We would like to invite you to join our Ohana and become a member of the Friends of He'eia. Your contributions and membership fees will not only help us to continue our efforts in caring for Kaneohe Bay but your help also assist us to operate our educational and cultural programs for the community. Through our community education in marine biology, ethno botany, Hawaiian culture, and historic preservation we are developing a unique resource and learning center.

As a FRIEND you will receive discounts on hall rentals and purchases in the gift shop. You will also receive a quarterly newsletter, invitations to seminars, member's activities and much more!

We hope you will support our efforts and become a FRIEND!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Annual Membership Fees:

\$500 Corporate

\$50 Family

\$25 Individual

\$10 Senior

\$5 Student

I would like to donate:

I would like to volunteer, my area of interest is:

