



## Archaeological survey & Hawaiian history

Learned in Kalaeloa

"We found a lot of interesting things," said Jesus, a student in the Archaeological Field Techniques class. "I think the most interesting ones were the burial, and the very large linear L-shaped structure." Jesus described in a presentation of their findings at the Kalaeloa Heritage Park, this summer.

The class is offered by the University of Hawai'i West Oahu (UHWO) in partnership with the Kalaeloa Heritage and Legacy Foundation (KHLF), since 2021, when Dr. Kirsten Vacca, Assistant Professor of Historical Archaeology at UHWO, began the collaboration to teach at the Kalaeloa Heritage Park. This field study course instructs students in actual archaeology survey methods, and contributes to the ongoing survey and preservation efforts of archaeological features in the Park.

"I took the class because I just wanted to know more about archaeology and maybe that's something that I would want to do later," said Thalia, a student in the field study team. "I think cultural preservation is very important, especially in Hawai'i," she continued. "Culture is being lost. I think it's important especially for the younger generation to have knowledge of where they are living. I was born and raised here, and I learned so much just by observing and studying all the sites here."

In their work, students surveyed various geographical and man made features to better understand the cultural and social context of the ancestral Kanaka Maoli (full-blooded Hawaiian people), that inhabited the area.

They measured and mapped, photographed, noted types of materials and observations, then entered all the information gathered in ARCGIS along with the exact locations of features such as sinkholes, mounds, and the remnants of structures to have a record of these historic sites at this point in time.

"I think through all this we've learned a greater appreciation for Hawaiian historical and societal context," said Jesus. "I grew up here. I was born and raised here," but Jesus explains that because of this hands-on class, he was better able to appreciate Hawaiian culture and history than before. "Even just doing the oli (chant) at the beginning and the mele (song) at the end, it's an appreciation. You are recording, but you are also being respectful and making sure these sites are preserved."



Dr. Kirsten Vacca and her students, Jesus, Jesiah, Thalia, Brian and Ayako.

Students strived to learn which archaeological approach best served the preservation efforts of the site, and hope to use the data collected to promote awareness and education of the history of the area.

The team offered recommendations to improve the ongoing preservation efforts, such as: Increase efforts to control the vegetation so that it does not disturb the sacred sites; standardize data to reduce variations and errors; add signage near sensitive features like burials or religious sites to prevent disturbance; and continue the current method of surveying because it is currently the least invasive on the features and land while providing useful data.

"We want to be respectful and not disturb any of it," Jesus said. "So, we think that there should be more markings for things that are important." Overall, he said, "It was a very fun class."

The data was given to the park administration to aid in the sharing of knowledge of the area.

The park is in the central southern part of the 'Ewa Plain. Predominantly limestone reef with a thin layer of soil, a great number of sinkholes formed by the limestone weathering. These sinkholes were utilized by Hawaiians as a water source and for planting.

Remnants of an ancient Hawaiian village here includes these sinkholes, that were once filled with fresh water, fragments of structures for gathering, residences and possibly storage, and a historic trail marked with stones. Some of the earliest migrations from eastern Polynesia can be seen here.

The KHLF is a non-profit Native Hawaiian organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Native Hawaiian cultural and historical sites in the Kalaeloa Heritage Park.



## Skyline

The City's long awaited rail system known as Skyline officially opened to the public with free rides July 1 through July 4.

The HCD staff got a preview in late June to see the Transit Oriented Development opportunities along the route from Halawa to Kapolei. For more information visit [www.honolulu.gov/skyline](http://www.honolulu.gov/skyline).



Photos courtesy of Kyrie Reyes





## Honored visit

With desire to strengthen the Native Hawaiian Community

On June 27, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary, and U.S. Senator Brian Schatz honored us with a visit at the HCDA He'eia Community Development District, that Kāko'o 'Ōiwi has been restoring into a working agricultural and cultural district, providing sustainably farmed fresh produce since 2006.

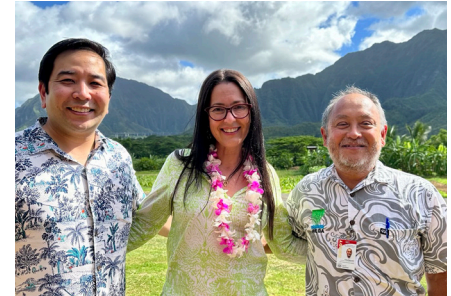
In He'eia, Kāko'o 'Ōiwi, took the distinguished visitors on a tour of the area, and then Secretary Haaland, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz, and Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs Summer Sylva met with members of the Native Hawaiian Community, federal, state and local leaders.

"Thanks to President Biden's Investing in America agenda, we are working collaboratively with the Native Hawaiian Community and our partners to protect Hawaiian Forest Birds now and for future generations," said Secretary Haaland in written comments, that also highlighted how the Biden administration's Investing in America law is strengthening the Native Hawaiian Community and investing in the science and infrastructure that support public lands and waters in Hawai'i.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment to help communities across the country tackle the climate crisis while creating good-paying jobs, addressing environmental justice, and boosting local economies," Secretary Haaland said.



Kumu Frank Kawaikapuokalani Hewett welcomed Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, and joined her for a photo with Kāko'o 'Ōiwi Board President Alice Hewett, in He'eia.



HCDA Administrative Services Officer Garett Sasaki, Assistant Secretary Shannon Estenoz, and HCDA Executive Director Craig Nakamoto

## On the calendar

### July 20 at 9:00 a.m.

A Public Presentation Hearing will be held on two development permit applications. Victoria Ward, Limited, is proposing to develop two projects: Block D is a single tower, 242-unit, residential mixed-use condominium project, and Block E is a single tower, 148-unit, residential mixed-use condominium project. A modification is requested for each of the two projects. The Modification Hearing will be on Aug. 2, and the Decision-Making Hearing on Oct. 6.

### August 2

The next HCDA Board meetings will be held following the public hearing. For more information about HCDA, the public hearings or board meetings visit <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/hcda/>.

## Preparing for climate change

with climate-resilient development

On July 5, Gov. Josh Green, M.D. signed several bills on Climate and Clean Energy, among the bills was SB1417 SD1 HD1 CD1, that requires the HCDA to consider the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and climate-resilient development in the design of buildings in the Kaka'ako and Kalaeha community development districts.

According to the bill, climate change and sea level rise pose significant, dangerous, and imminent threats to the State's social and economic well-being, public safety, nature and environment, cultural resources, property, infrastructure, and government functions and will likely have a disproportionate impact on low-income and otherwise vulnerable communities.

The climate change adaptation priority guidelines of the Hawai'i State Planning Act direct the State to prepare for the impacts of climate change, and encourages cross-jurisdictional collaboration between government and private entities and

other nongovernmental entities, to address climate change.

The legislature recognizes that the Kaka'ako district will be threatened by the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, king tides, and heavy rainfall, and the lack of drainage infrastructure in Kalaeha makes it vulnerable to heavy rainfall and other effects of climate change. As such, they concluded that it is in the State's long-term interest and would serve the highest needs of Hawai'i's people to ensure that development in Kaka'ako and Kalaeha accounts and plans for the impacts of climate change. This bill became Act 221. For more information visit [www.Capitol.Hawaii.gov](http://www.Capitol.Hawaii.gov).



Mary Alice Evans, DBEDT OPSD Acting Director, Garett Sasaki, HCDA Administrative Services Officer, Governor Josh Green, M.D. and Ryan Tam, HCDA Director of Planning and Development, who will lead the effort to obtain community and stakeholder input and promulgate rules to guide the implementation Act 221.