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Nā Mamo O Mūʻolea

VISION

Mūʻolea is a community gathering place where family and friends actively restore and mālama, educate, gather and relax together. It is a place that feeds and heals our minds, bodies and spirit - a place where Hawaiian cultural values are alive and old Hawai‘i is enjoyed.

VALUES

We live and promote these values in our work to protect Mūʻolea for current and future generations:

• Give thanks and give back – we mahalo Mūʻolea and lend a hand to help
• Hana lima – we reach our goals through hard work, resourcefulness, and involvement
• Hilinaʻi – we lean on, rely on, and trust in one another as a community of caring
• Kuleana - it is our privilege and responsibility to care for this land of our ancestors and aliʻi
• Mahele – we share freely with one another as individuals, families and a community
• Mālama ka ʻāina – this is our highest calling, to preserve, protect, and maintain Mūʻolea
• Take only what you need – in this way we will always have enough

WHO WE ARE

Nā Mamo O Mūʻolea (NMOM): We are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed in 2006 to protect and manage the cultural and natural resources of Mūʻolea. In 2004, the community organized to purchase nearly 70 acres of coastal land in the Mūʻolea ahupuaʻa. Collaboration between the County of Maui, The Trust for Public Lands, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State of Hawaiʻi, and the community made the purchase possible. Today, the undeveloped parcel makai of Hāna Highway is owned by the County of Maui and managed by our all-volunteer community group.

The mission of NMOM is to perpetuate traditional ahupuaʻa management of the Mūʻolea ahupuaʻa and to restore and maintain the area’s natural, cultural, scenic, historic and marine resources for the benefit, education and enjoyment of our community and future generations.

Consistent with the purposes for which the land and shoreline were protected, NMOM seeks to protect resources as well as the traditional subsistence uses and those values and practices that care for resources for present and future generations.

By caring for Mūʻolea, it can remain a place where families focus on traditional values, share knowledge and moʻolelo. By practicing cultural leadership and keeping cultural practices in use, Mūʻolea can serve as a model and voice for Hawaiians in the communities of Mūʻolea, Koali, Hāna and others in East Maui and beyond. We take care to respect and listen to one another so that Mūʻolea can be cared for as a healthy gathering place that is a source of life and inspiration for our community.

While NMOM recognizes the need for money for operations, our focus is primarily on people, health of resources, joyful work, Hawaiian culture and pono values. Explicitly stated, it is not our mission to raise large amounts of money, as we strongly believe that through the guidance of Mūʻolea ʻohana, community involvement, support and hard work, we can restore Mūʻolea to abundance so that both culture and the resources thrive for countless generations to come.

Cover Photo Credits:
Top Left (Grove): Emily Fielding • Top Center (Boys): Manuel Mejia
Bottom: Claudia Kalaola • Table of Contents: Claudia Kalaola

Hawaiian chiefess Analea Keohokālole (1816 – 1869), mother of King David Kalākaua, Queen Lydia Liliʻuokalani, Miriam Likelike and William Leleiohoku, owned the land at Mūʻolea in the mid-1890s.
OUR PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The ahupua’a of Mūʻolea is located on the rugged and spectacular Hāna Coast, in the moku of Hāna, approximately halfway between Hāna Town and Kīpahulu. Mūʻolea is known for its unique cultural and natural resources. King David Kāllka na maintained a summer home here, and legendary Maui King Kahekili chose the uplands of Mūʻolea as the place to rest and recover his strength following his successful re-conquest of Hāna in the late 1700s. Mūʻolea hosts an abundance of Hawaiian sites – heiau, fishing shrines and stonewalls.

The peninsula is home to endangered native plant species, an ancient Hawaiian coconut grove, and an extensive and unique tide pool complex. The near-shore waters, coral reef and intertidal ecosystems of Mūʻolea are rich in Hawaiian ocean life. Fish, crustaceans, corals, ‘opihī and limu flourish here. The local Hawaiian community knows Mūʻolea for its valuable fishing and gathering grounds that have sustained their families for centuries, as well as a place of rest and relaxation. It is also known for the Limu Make O Hāna, the deadly, poisonous zooxanthid organism found only at Mūʻolea. Used at one time to poison the tips of spears and ensure the death of enemies, its location is fiercely protected by tradition to be strictly off limits to all.

Fresh water from Kanewai spring forms a muliwai, or estuary, that feeds the near-shore reef. The near constant sweep of tradewind-driven waves and sea spray nourishes the extensive tidepool complexes. Kanewai is known for the traditional fishing practice of building manini hale, a house of rocks that would attract the fish so they could be easily caught. Both the estuary and the tidepools provide important protection and nursery habitat for many juvenile reef fish. These fishing grounds were traditionally managed as part of the ahupua’a, a political unit extending from the high mountains into the deep sea. Expertly managed under traditional systems, the sea sustained the people of Mūʻolea for generations. During the last century, the abundance of marine resources in Mūʻolea was maintained by ‘ohana who had responsibility over certain areas and who maintained clear communications and respect about resource use within the ahupua’a; this system, however, has changed in the last 25 years.

Map on Right: The area under management is largely in the ahupua’a of Mūʻolea, between Alaalaula and Papahawahawa streams, extending out to the 60-meter depth line. Map by Roxie Sylva

The tidepools of Mūʻolea provide a nursery area for manini and other reef fish. Photo by Claudia Kalaola
PARTICIPATORY PLANNING PROCESS

We recognized the need to develop a roadmap for us to care for the land and sea of Mūʻolea. We wanted to bring our collective ideas together, many of which we have been working on since 2004, share them in the community, and be strategic with our efforts. In developing this plan, we invited all board members, their alternates, our ‘ohana, neighbors, partners, and anyone interested in our work. We met in two all-day meetings in 2012 at Kanewai, under the Milo tree. This plan also incorporates our marine plan that we used from 2008-2012. Through our efforts to implement this plan, we strive to build a model of community-based management in East Maui.

WHAT WE WANT TO MĀLAMA

Our management efforts focus on: 1. People, 2. Kai (ocean), 3. Wai (fresh water), 4. Culture, 5. ʻĀina (land), and 6. Governance. These are described below:

People: We recognize our physical, spiritual and historical connection to the ʻāina of Mūʻolea. To foster our connection, we emphasize youth involvement and responsibility, educational opportunities, and understanding our relationships and genealogy in this area.

Kai: Mūʻolea is our icebox. It’s where we go for sustenance and we want it to always be well stocked for our present and future generations. We strive to manage our resources and relationship to the sea as our kūpuna did in the past. We focus on returning our favorite species to abundance: moi, aholohole, manini, kole, uhu, ‘u‘u and ‘ula on the reef; ‘ōpīhi, ʻa‘ama, and limu kohu on the shore; and pāpae ‘i kua loa (kona crab) in the sandy channels. These species were chosen as important food sources for present and future generations. The actions in this plan were based on our work and learning from our 2009 “Mūʻolea 2-Year Marine Resources Action Plan”.

Wai: The fresh waters of Mūʻolea are revered. At Kanewai, a fresh water spring flows into the sea, creating a nursery for fish. Alaalalua Stream flows year round from the summit of Haleakalā into Kauakiu Bay, and is known for the Wailena waterfall. Powerful Papahawahawa Stream flows only during heavy rains, from the native forests Waihō‘i Valley above.

Culture: We seek to deepen our understanding, appreciation and respect for the Hawaiian cultural resources of Mūʻolea, past and present. To that end, we strive to learn more about the physical history such as the heiau at Papahawahawa, the whereabouts of King Kalākaua’s summer home, as well as the spoken traditions of place names, moʻolelo, and the legacy of our aliʻi.

ʻĀina: Mūʻolea’s natural resources include rare coastal native plants, ancient niu, lauhala and milo groves, and māla (gardens). In the pasture lands above Kauakiu Bay, managed cattle grazing and mechanical mowing are essential to keeping weeds in check. We maintain a boundary fence to keep out wild cattle, and maintain gathering areas, cultural sites, footpaths and roads by mowing and trimming vegetation.
Native plant survey team and the endangered native grass Ischaemum byrone. It is scattered in coastal sites on East Maui (and other islands) including some offshore islets. Photo by Claudia Kalaola

Governance: Our board attends monthly meetings in the County Council Service’s Hāna office since our non-profit was formed. We have and will continue to work with the county and the state to develop the tools needed to empower our board and community to effectively manage resources and activities in the area.

OUR CHALLENGES

We identified six priority challenges to be addressed at Mūʻolea. Two are related to resource management:
1) Overharvest of marine resources
2) Alien plant control

Four are related to governance and our ability and authority to manage the area:
1) Limited amount of volunteer time to dedicate to the project
2) Need to educate community about our efforts
3) Lack of enforceable rules for ocean resource use
4) Need for County lease

OUR ACTIONS

Building on all that we have learned about our community, history, environment, problems and priorities, we developed goals, objectives and strategic actions to address challenges, reduce threats and improve resources and relationships. We recognize that our planned actions need to be adaptive to opportunities, changing circumstances, and our capacity to implement. Therefore, we will use this plan as overarching guidance to set priorities and review progress on an annual basis.

Goal 1: Fulfill our kuleana to bring back resources and keep Mūʻolea the way it is for future generations.

Objective 1.1: Involve youth in efforts to document local knowledge, genealogies, and history of Mūʻolea annually.

Strategic Actions:
- a) Lead a traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and oral history workshop.
- b) Sponsor a genealogy workshop.
- c) Sponsor a traditional land tenure workshop.
- d) Conduct archival research into the history of the area, including Kalākaua’s house, the heiau at Papahawahawa and Kanewai, Kahekili’s time here, and other significant cultural sites, and moʻolelo (e.g. the shark man).
- e) Collect and archive photographs.

Objective 1.2: Restore and maintain the Mūʻolea landscape per 10-year restoration plan.

Strategic Actions:
- a) Create and implement a restoration plan that includes:
  - Pastoral health and management
  - Trails and roads
  - Green house on site for restoration of coastal native plants and trees
  - Community garden
  - Fresh running water to the site

Strategic Areas of Focus for Mūʻolea

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<td>Youth involvement and responsibility</td>
<td>Abundant reef fish</td>
<td>Clean water from springs and streams and native stream life</td>
<td>Traditional place names, oral histories, and moʻolelo</td>
<td>Coastal native plants</td>
<td>Agreements that support what we do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational opportunities</td>
<td>Abundant ʻopīhi and limu</td>
<td>Kanewai</td>
<td>Heiau at Papahawahawa</td>
<td>Manage livestock and pasture</td>
<td>DLNR rules protecting gathering by ʻohana</td>
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<td>Connection and relationship to ʻāina</td>
<td>Traditional fishing knowledge</td>
<td>Alaalaula</td>
<td>Kalākaua’s home, rock walls</td>
<td>Niu, lauhala, and milo groves</td>
<td>Access and use policies</td>
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<td>Genealogy and relationships</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Papahawahawa</td>
<td>Research connection to aliʻi</td>
<td>Māla (gardens), greenhouse</td>
<td>Strong board, involved community</td>
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Appendix 4A
- Restoration of *māla*, *lauhala*, and *niu* grove

b) Conduct a community process to officially give the rare grass *Ischaemum byrone* a Hawaiian name.

Objective 1.3: Proactively ensure the quality and quantity of surface and sub-surface fresh water flow to Mūʻolea is maintained at current levels.

**Strategic Actions:**

a) Involve community in learning about and protecting our fresh water sources.

b) Increase involvement and dialogue with East Maui Watershed Partnership about *mauka* forest restoration activities (could incorporate other East Maui communities as well).

c) Regarding Alaalula stream, Papahawahawa stream, and Kanewai spring: stay informed about all land-based activities (e.g. adjacent construction, road work, soil-moving, well-drilling, permit applications) that may impair these waters, and seek neighborhood and agency cooperation to prevent damage.

d) Keep abreast of county and state permit applications (e.g. well-construction, grading).

**Goal 2: Re-establish and perpetuate traditional practices for pono and sustainable resource management and replenishment.**

Objective 2.1: 'Opihi abundance is doubled in two years, and is enjoyed for local home use.

**Strategic actions:**

a) Conduct ‘opīhi monitoring.

b) Establish a voluntary ‘opīhi “rest area” to understand the effects on the ‘opīhi population.

c) Install signage and other outreach on ‘opīhi pono practices and the ‘opīhi rest area.

d) Propose local rules through the state administrative rule making process.

Objective 2.2: Nurture native limu.

**Strategic actions:**

a) Hold an Annual Hāna Limu Festival to honor and perpetuate native limu and their traditional uses.

b) Hold an annual youth *limu* planting day, and adopt a limu patch.

Objective 2.3: Increase target reef fish abundance by 25% in five years and 50% in 10 years.

**Strategic actions:**

a) Conduct reef and reef fish monitoring to measure our effectiveness.

b) Sponsor a local Hāna invasive fish tournament that includes youth. Utilize the captured audience to express key messages about *pono* fishing practices. Conduct the tournament and announce winners during Aloha Week festivities.

c) Design and install signage and conduct other outreach at events, educating more about specific fish (to adopt values of preservation).

d) Establish a *pono* fisherman program, including record keeping project for seasonal reproductive information.

e) Produce a seasonal calendar for Mūʻolea.

f) Propose local rules through the state administrative rule making process.

g) Build information kiosk at Mūʻolea to share and learn about seasonality of fish spawning and other topics (see Objective 2.4).

h) Encourage ‘ohana to teach youth *pono* fishing and traditional practices through fishing.

i) Develop and utilize tidepool surveys as a way to involve youth in assessing marine life.

Objective 2.4: Raise awareness, exchange knowledge, foster dialogue about traditional uses and knowledge, and increase community awareness of Nā Mamo O Mūʻolea as an organization.

**Strategic actions:**

a) Hold a workshop(s) to increase dialogue about traditional fishing knowledge and to help define *ahu pua‘a* management.

b) Conduct cultural and educational festival (see Objective 2.2).

c) Continue to involve NMOM board members and their families and youth in all projects (applies to all objectives).
Appendix 4A

The community gathered to set free a rare beaked, juvenile stranded whale. Photo by Claudia Kalaola

Cultural surveys: Mūʻolea contains an abundance of archaeological sites, including Kawaloa Heiau near Papahawahaha Stream which is listed in the State of Hawaiʻi Inventory of Historic Places. In 2007, NMOM received a small grant from Maui County to begin an archaeological survey of Mūʻolea. Under the guidance of Dr. Thomas Dye of Honolulu, we dug several test pits in prominent locations around Mūʻolea, looking for traces of Kalâkaua’s house site and evidence of pre-Western contact, Hawaiian habitation and usage. We gathered charcoal samples for radio-carbon dating in these test pits among the many crumbling stone walls of the agricultural terraces, fishing shrines, and ancient dwelling sites on the property. Dr. Dye’s intriguing report on the archaeology of Mūʻolea asks more questions than it answered, and re-affirms the vast extent of the archaeological record that remains to be uncovered in Mūʻolea. An especially important site is the undocumented heiau at Kanewai, which was noted in 2006 by esteemed Pacific archaeologist Dr. Patrick Vinton Kirsch as being of particular significance.

Native plants: In collaboration with Patti Welton and Bill Haus, botanists from Haleakalā National Park, we conducted a native plant survey of Mūʻolea in 2006. We found many coastal species, and one native grass sedge so rare, it has no known Hawaiian name. We plan to help this rare grass and other species flourish, and to establish a Hawaiian name (see photo on page 6).

Hāna Youth Center children enjoy learning about ‘opihi and limu at Mūʻolea. Photo by Manuel Mejia

‘Opihi surveys: ‘Opihi is one of the most important foods from the sea for our community. To increase our understanding of how to increase the abundance of ‘opihi at Mūʻolea, we helped create the ‘Opihi Partnership and standardized monitoring methods for ‘opihi in 2008. Since then, we have been conducting annual summer surveys at Mūʻolea in collaboration with TNC. All are welcome to join. We have also shared these methods with the Kaʻūpulehu community on Hawaiʻi Island, and sent representatives from our community to monitor ‘opihi in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

Reef surveys: Ensuring the abundance of our reef resources is a priority for us. In 2009-2010 we collaborated with TNC’s...
monitoring team to survey our reef and reef fish. This information about the abundance and types of reef fish and corals provides a baseline that we can compare to in the future, as well as to compare to descriptions of how it was in the past.

WAYS YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

Join us for our monthly board meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the County Council Room at Hāna School at 5pm. You can also join in brush clearing, ‘opīhi monitoring each summer, the Annual Hāna Limu Festival each November, and help spread the word about the Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott Memorial Scholarship for Hāna youth.

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MAHALO

Nā Mamo O Mūʻolea thanks all community members who supported the creation of this plan and The Nature Conservancy and NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program for the support that made this possible.