

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



Wailupe Community Forest ‘Āina Haina, Wailupe, O‘ahu

Surrounded by the City and County of Honolulu’s ‘Āina Haina Nature Preserve and the State’s Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve lies a 9.5-acre privately owned property (“the Property”) that the City and County, The Trust for Public Land, the ‘Āina Haina community, and the State are working to protect and add to the ‘Āina Haina Nature Preserve. The Property is the trailhead for the beloved Wailupe Valley Trail and allows people to connect with Wailupe Valley’s rich history and resources.

‘Āina Haina is a residential community in the Wailupe ‘ili, Waikīkī ahupua‘a, and Kona moku of O‘ahu. Wailupe means “kite water” as it was one of the prescribed places to fly kites in ancient Hawai‘i. Wailupe may also be translated as “the water of Lupe,” a meaning derived from an ancient mo‘olelo about the travels of Gods Kāne and Kanaloa along the

Wai‘alae coast to Wailupe. It was here that Kāne struck the coral shelf and gathered fresh water to mix with ‘awa brought from a sacred grove in nearby Kuli‘ou‘ou. Two mo‘o (lizards) called Lupe guarded the grove from the overlooking Ko‘olau ridge.

To this day, these mo‘o and other ‘aumakua (family or personal gods or ancestors taking on the forms of animals) are represented on the Property in pōhaku ki‘a‘i (guardian stones). The area includes a wealth of cultural sites, such as ahu (altars), heiau (traditional places of Hawaiian worship), ‘auwai (irrigation channels), pōhaku lele (elevated stones), and stone walls, platforms and enclosures.

The various rock structures throughout the property are indicative of its historic religious use closely tied to Kamehameha I’s high priest Hewahewa.



Expanding the 'Āina Haina Nature Preserve

The utmost mauka portion of the Property is recognized critical habitat for the endangered O‘ahu ‘Elepaio – a species revered in Hawaiian culture as the ‘aumakua of canoe builders. The State has fenced approximately 9 acres further up the valley to protect O‘ahu ‘Elepaio and assist in native habitat restoration. Community members are involved in State O‘ahu ‘Elepaio habitat restoration efforts, advocacy for protection of the Property, and culturally appropriate care of the ancient cultural sites. The Property provides the only access to the state designated Wailupe Valley hunting area and the community and broader public regularly use the Property to gain access to Wailupe Valley for hiking, gathering of traditional plants, recreation, worship, and bird-watching. Wailupe Stream, which runs through portions of the Property, is the only un-channelized stream in East Honolulu, and likely the only stream in East Honolulu that sustains endemic stream life including ‘opae kala‘ole (native shrimp variety), and ‘o‘opu (goby fish).

The City and County of Honolulu hopes to purchase the property to preserve public access to Wailupe Valley and to allow for public education and community involvement in caring for the forest.



Funding Needs

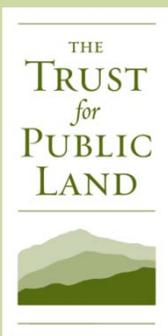
\$4,056,000 (City & County of Honolulu Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds in 2014 City Budget)

\$50,000 (Remaining funds needed from the community by December 31, 2014). Please send your tax-deductible donation as soon as possible, with “Wailupe Community Forest” in memo line to The Trust for Public Land, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813.

About The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to connect with Hawai‘i’s special natural places, and that the land-and-people connection is central to health, culture, heritage, economic wellbeing, and quality of life.

In Hawai‘i we seek to engage local residents in protecting significant community resources, including coastal lands, working lands that contribute to Hawai‘i’s self-sufficiency, and lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture. Since 1979, we have helped to conserve more than 42,000 acres on the islands of Hawai‘i, O‘ahu, Kaua‘i, Maui, and Moloka‘i.



The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

tpl.org

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