

VII. HERITAGE RESOURCES

Natural and historic landmarks give a place its unique character. They are fundamental to our sense of place, and our community's cultural identity. Heritage resources symbolize our diversity, strengthen our shared values, and help perpetuate strong aloha spirit that unites the Island. They are also a constant visual reminder of the reverence and respect that Kaua'i's residents have for the legacy of their ancestors.

Kaua'i is a community that honors its Native Hawaiian heritage, values historic places, and is shaped by its diverse languages and cultural traditions. These heritage resources help cement our attachments to Kaua'i and our sense of belonging to the community over generations. We do not live in a time detached from earlier eras; we are part of an ongoing multi-generational community with responsibilities to both prior and future generations. Many individuals and organizations help care for historic and cultural resources, often on a volunteer basis. These efforts honor and preserve the past, and ensure that future generations can learn from this history.

Planning is by nature forward-thinking, but it needs to be rooted in the past. This General Plan Update will guide the next 20 years of Kaua'i's development, but that guidance needs to stem from an understanding and appreciation of how our island has developed, and how historic features have shaped our lives. A significant part of Kaua'i's future depends upon protecting and preserving its past. Kaua'i's heritage resources are not under any imminent threat, but do require more consistent and comprehensive attention to ensure their long-term survival. In addition, we should consider new and innovative ways to protect some of our historic resources, while honoring and preserving their character and using them in ways consistent with their original purpose. Also, we should try to identify additional heritage resources worthy of protection and preservation. Kaua'i's heritage resources are not static. History is constantly evolving as new insights, discoveries, and meanings emerge over time.

The actions in this sector address historic buildings, **and** structures, **and places**; cultural sites and resources; and landmarks and **scenic other visual** resources, **and biological resources**. While these **three four** categories have certain distinct characteristics and management approaches, they should be viewed as a whole in terms of how they shape our understanding and appreciation for Kaua'i. There are also some General Planning approaches that can be used for all three. Heritage Resource Maps that show the locations of these resources on the island are included at the end of this section and in Chapter 5.

Using Existing County Authority to Protect Heritage Resources

The Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Building Code, and other existing County

planning and administrative mechanisms can be used in various ways to help preserve and protect heritage resources. There are opportunities to revise existing policies, procedures, and rules to accomplish this goal.

Financing Heritage Resource Protection and Preservation

Property Tax Assessments and the Open Space Fund are existing County mechanisms that could be used in different ways to help finance heritage resource protection. Other possibilities include establishing new low-interest revolving loan programs.

Strengthening Community Roles in Heritage Resource Preservation

Community-based efforts and organizations play significant roles in heritage resource protection and preservation. More attention should be given to heritage resources in community planning processes, and non-profit groups should be encouraged and enabled to do more to identify, protect, and preserve them. Community involvement is a cornerstone to effective and durable protection of heritage resources.

A. Historic Buildings, ~~and~~ Structures, and Places

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

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. These designations require reviews prior to demolition or inappropriate renovation, and make them eligible for financial assistance such as grants, tax incentives, or other forms. The area encompassing the Wailuā ahupua'a and portions of southern Olohena and Hanamā'ulu ahupua'a were identified as eligible to be listed as Historic Districts through the National Registry of Historic Places. Continued research and inquiry is needed to establish if other historic assets might merit similar designations. Efforts to preserve Kaua'i's historic buildings and structures depends a great deal on the work of Kaua'i's Historic Preservation Review Commission, established in 1986. Their work helped Kaua'i become a Certified Local Government in 2014 under the National Historic Preservation Act (1966). This enables Kaua'i to set standards for historic preservation and helps the County increase their eligibility for Federal funding for historic properties.

Kauai also has places important in its history. Two such places, located in the Hanapepe-Eleele area, are Ai Puaa and the 1924 Filipino Strike site.

Revising Building and Zoning Codes to Support Preservation

The County can help to preserve historic buildings, **and** structures, **and places** through land use and building regulations, as well as partnerships and targeted financial assistance. Compliance with modern building and zoning codes is often a challenge when renovating historic properties. Sensible alternatives to strict code and permit requirements can make the difference between leaving an historic property to further deteriorate, be demolished, or allowing it to be restored and thrive with a new purpose.

1. PERMITTING ACTIONS AND CODE CHANGES

- a. Amend the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (CZO) to broaden the type of uses that may be allowed in an historic structure **or in a historic place**.
- b. Support renovation of historic structures through building code
- c. Provide a real property tax exemption for historic properties, including commercial properties.

2. PLANS AND STUDIES

- a. Ensure the inventory of historic resources is accurate and current.
- b. Update the 1990 County of Kaua'i Historic Resources Inventory and Management Plan.
- c. Explore the utilization of the Open Space Fund to be used for historic preservation purposes.

3. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

- a. Preserve important historic buildings, **and** structures, **and places** that illuminate Kaua'i's history.
- b. Use existing regulations, programs, and authorities to help preserve historic buildings, **structures, and places**.
- c. Establish a low-interest revolving loan fund for rehabilitation of historic properties.

4. PROJECTS

- a. Maintain the character of historic structures and bridges.

B. Cultural Sites and Resources

Archaeological resources help current and future generations to discover, honor, respect, and appreciate the ancestral societies who lived upon the same land. They provide vital insight to how our ancestors organized their settlements and activities and used natural resources to sustain their lives. This wisdom is often carried forward and incorporated into modern ways of life, particularly in our management and use of natural resources.

Stewardship of Cultural Sites

Kaua'i has thirty archaeological sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. These include the Haina Archaeological Complex, Heiau in Kihe, Kukui, and Wailuā, and the Wahiawa Petroglyphs. Native Hawaiian burial sites have been discovered in different locations, and more are likely unknown at this time. Kahua O Kāneiolouma, a cultural site in Po'ipū containing the remnants of an ancient Hawaiian village from the 1400's, serves as a model for archaeological resource protection. The 13-acre complex is under County jurisdiction but managed by locally-based organization Hui Mālama O Kāneiolouma, through a formal Stewardship Agreement. This group plays the lead role in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the complex and its future use as an educational center.

Much of Kaua'i has not been surveyed for archaeological resources. Discoveries are generally triggered by development activities. Requirements and standards for conducting archaeological site surveys are administered by the State's Historic Preservation Division, a branch of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Absent other purposes for conducting archaeological surveys, most future discoveries will likely depend on the amount and locations of proposed new development.

Honoring Traditional Cultural Places and Practices

Native Hawaiian traditional cultural places and practices are the foundation of Kaua'i's cultural identity. Over recent decades renewed interest in Hawaiian values and cultures has manifested itself in language, place names, art, fashion, music and dance, food, sports and recreation, and other aspects of daily life on Kaua'i. There is a strong and growing commitment to deepening awareness and knowledge of Native Hawaiian culture and tradition, and perpetuating its imprint upon how Kaua'i residents live, work, and shape their future existence on the island. The preservation, protection, and enhancement of traditional cultural places and practices enables this commitment to be realized.

Kaua'i residents also celebrate and honor other cultural places and practices associated with their history. Kaua'i's plantation era history is recognized through events such as the Kōloa Plantation Days Celebration. The General Plan Policies uphold the County's commitment to honor Native Hawaiian rights.

1. PERMITTING ACTIONS AND CODE CHANGES

- a. Preserve, **stabilize, and/or and** restore important archaeological and cultural sites, and maintain customary access to these sites.
- b. Create natural, landscaped buffers between archaeological sites and adjacent uses.
- c. In the case of development where known burials exist, ensure Kaua'i Island Burial Council recommendations are adhered to.

2. PLANS AND STUDIES

- a. Acknowledge the importance of archaeological sites and wahi pana during the Community Planning Process.

3. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

- a. Work with State Historic Preservation Division to educate landowners about the historic preservation review process.
- b. Promote County and community partnerships to preserve and raise awareness about traditional cultural places.

C. Landmarks and **Scenic-Other Distinctive Visual** Resources

Visual resources of high quality or distinctiveness define Kauai's sense of place for residents and visitors alike. These resources include landscapes like the Na Pali Coast, geologic and physiographic features like the Koloa cones and craters, water bodies like Wailua Falls, ecological resources such as reef fishes and corals as well as the summer flowering of wiliwili groves, cultural and historical places such as the Hanalei taro loi and Hanapepe Town center, architectural and landscaped areas such as Hanapepe Soto Zen Temple and the Tree Tunnel, open space such as the expansive coffee fields that separate Hanapepe-Eleele from Kalaheo and the small ag field across the highway from Kukui Grove Shopping Center that provides relief from the urban scene, and vantage points such as the high bluffs at Mahaulepu that provides views of migratory humpback whales. These distinctive visual resources can be large scale to diminutive, stationary to flowing, permanent to seasonal and even ephemeral, highly visible to cryptic, and natural to man-made. Preserving views of scenic landscapes and distinctive visual resources itself is vital to sustaining Kauai's uniqueness and identity.

Some of these visual resources are of such stature that they are

considered landmarks. Waimea Canyon and Hanalei Bay are two such landmarks.

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

Other less known landmarks are no less important to defining our sense of place, particularly for the communities near them. For example, Crater Hill is an important coastal landform near Kīlauea Town; **the Hanalei River ridge defines the scenic views of Hanalei from the area's beaches, parks, water, and pier;** while Hā'upu Ridge frames the Līhu'e District and divides it from the South Kaua'i District. Landforms such as Kālepa Ridge and Kilohana Crater have similar framing qualities and help define and characterize nearby communities as distinct settlement areas.

Community-Based Efforts Strengthen Awareness and Preservation

Many landmarks are prominent in Native Hawaiian history and olelo, and awareness of them is fundamental to understanding and appreciating Kaua'i. One way of raising awareness is the Kaua'i Nui Kuapapa program, a joint effort between County government and community leaders to inform residents and visitors about the genealogy of Kaua'i. The project uses a combination of physical signage and online information to convey the history and unique features of Kaua'i's five major districts or moku, and the estimated fifty-four traditional ahupua'a within them that define the Native Hawaiian land management units that run from the mountains to the sea. The ability for people to better know about the historical significance of individual areas on Kaua'i helps instill a sense of pride and curiosity about Native Hawaiian culture within specific place-based contexts.

Preserving Kaua'i's Traditional Identity

Preserving views **and distinctive visual resources** 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 and **other visual scenic** resources is perhaps the most important aspect of maintaining the historic essence of Kaua'i over time, regardless of population growth, development, and other changes that will occur.

The County's ability to preserve landmarks and **other visual 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 and scenic resources must rely first and foremost on zoning and permitting regulations.

1. PERMITTING ACTIONS AND CODE CHANGES

- a. 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 and landmarks in the siting of new development.
- b. **Consider Use** regulatory tools such as zoning overlays or corridors to preserve views from roads or public places to the ocean, **from public places and the ocean to important landmarks**, and from the mauka to makai.
- c. **Use regulatory tools to protect distinctive visual resources.**

2. PLANS AND STUDIES

- a. Identify key landmarks and **other distinctive visual scenic** resources through community plans. See Figure 5-8, Island Heritage Resource Map.
- b. **Prepare and regularly update a County of Kauai visual resources inventory with management options through a technical working group, including knowledgeable individuals, NGOs, and government workers.**

3. PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

- a. Support the Hawai'i Scenic Byway Program.
- b. Support the **County of Kaua'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Fund** Commission in identifying and acquiring priority open space areas.

4. PROJECTS

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

D. Biological Resources

Native Plant Communities

Stream Life

Marine Life

Rare and Endangered Species