KAUNĀMANO Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship Plan

Developing a Resource Management Plan to Steward Ancestral Places

Protecting Kaunāmano

Kaunāmano is an ahupua'a (land division) in the district of Ka'ū. After the closure of Ka'u Agribusiness in 1996, the makai lands were sold to a developer who proposed a 47-lot subdivision. In 2021, coastal Kaunāmano was saved from the threat of development through the work of the Ka'ū community, along with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) and The Trust for Public Lands (TPL), who secured a State Legacy Land Conservation Program Grant Award. This award, along with funding from the County of Hawai'i's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (PONC) allowed for the purchase of a large portion of coastal Kaunāmano. As a result, 1,363 acres of intact bio-cultural landscape makai (seaward) of Highway 11, the Ka'ū Scenic Byway, is now preserved in perpetuity under a conservation easement held by the County.





A **conservation easement** is a tool, often coupled with public funds from the State's Land Legacy or the County PONC programs, which cedes development rights in order to protect important biological, cultural, and geographical resources. In the case of Kaunāmano it is a significant storied place in Hawaiian traditions, a biocultural landscape with incredibly well-preserved resources including two ancient Hawaiian villages (Pā'ula and Paukū), one which was inhabited into the 1920s with its archaeological features predominantly intact. Within Kaunāmano makai are caves that provide a unique anchialine habitat for native 'opae, and over 3-miles of remote rocky coastline, home to a diversity of native plants, fish, marine mammals, sea and shore birds, and coastal marine life.

Hawai'i County PONC funds can support the following goals at Kaunāmano

- Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas & sites;
- Protection of natural resources, including buffer zones;
- Preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas, natural beauty & agricultural lands;
- Protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality & water supply; &
- Public outdoor recreation & education, including access to beaches & mountains.

Part of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association's conservation commitment to Kaunāmano is developing a Stewardship Plan for this important bio-cultural landscape.

Nohopapa Hawai'i is working with ATA to develop the Kaunāmano Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship Plan in collaboration with community input and culturalhistorical research to inform recommendations and considerations for the sustained protection and continued stewardship of Kaunāmano makai.

TIMELINE Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship Plan

January - March 2024

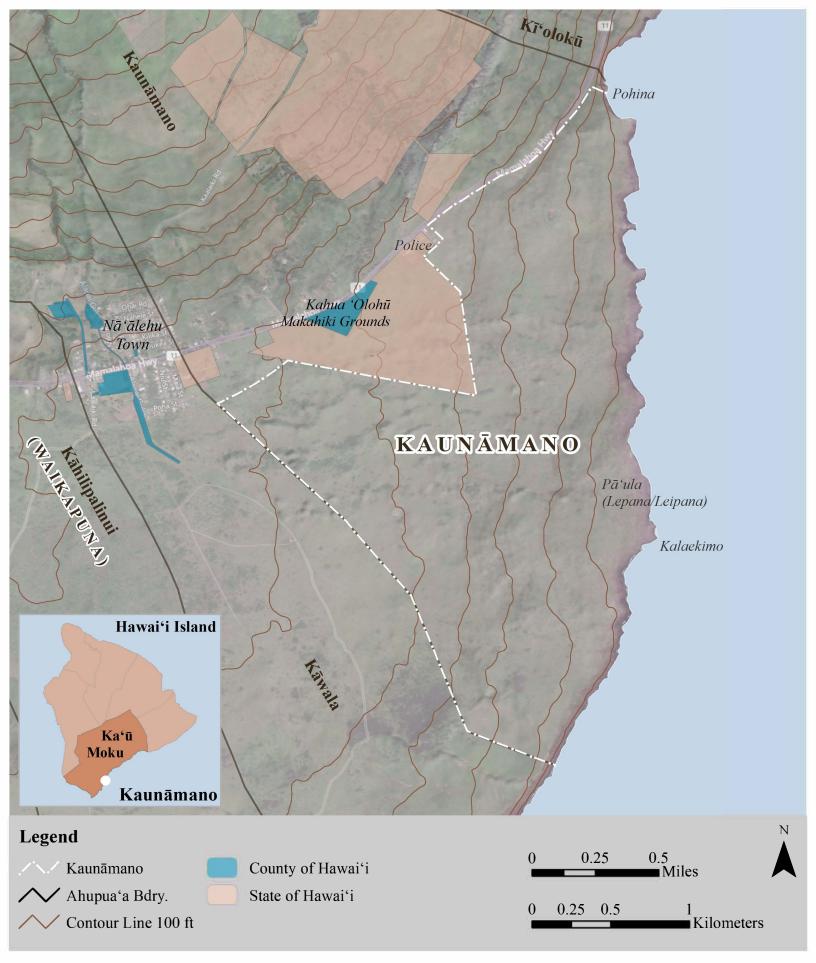
April - July 2024

August - November 2024









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