

Calls to Action

Throughout this report we have explored a variety of “Ways Forward” within the priority areas of building community capacity, knowledge cultivation and stewardship, restoration of wahi kūpuna, and mālama iwi kūpuna. As the KC, we are proposing 16 Calls to Action that will help our collective further carry out our kuleana of stewarding wahi kūpuna. The steps outlined in these Calls to Action are primarily short-term goals, such as forming working groups to assist in refining and outlining next steps needed to take within each Call to Action. And while much needs to be done to truly reshape the historic preservation and CRM system in Hawai‘i, we recognize that many of these Calls to Action are just the initial steps in long term processes. The kuleana of Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship is a kākou effort, where each and every one of us has a contribution to be made. If you would like to support any of these initiatives, please contact the Kali‘uokapa‘akai Collective (info@kaliuokapaakai.org).

Kani ka pū at Hakioawa, Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe - Photo: Huliauapa‘a





Overarching Calls to Action

Endorse the Kali'uokapa'akai Collective Report

This report represents a compilation of quantitative and qualitative data collected by the KC from 2018-2021. Our intention is that this report will strengthen a shared baseline of understanding to not only inform our individual responses but to enable more strategic collaborations that maximize the collective impact for our communities. If you support any of the information presented in this first of its kind report, we encourage you to endorse the report at www.kaliuokapaakai.org, either as an organization or an individual, and that you share this information with community members, nonprofit organizations, government agencies, legislators, and/or private businesses that might benefit from reading it.

Adopt Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship Terminology

The management of historic and cultural sites has long been associated with the term Cultural Resource Management (CRM). However, as has been explored in this report, CRM as an industry does not reflect the full breadth and depth of the stewardship of wahi kūpuna. Thus, the KC is calling for the adoption of the term “Wahi Kūpuna Stewardship” (WKS), as it better reflects the process of caring for and protecting wahi kūpuna, the kuleana it entails, and the broad range of individuals involved in this endeavor.

Create Best Management Practices

An overarching need for all four of the Focus Areas in this report is to develop Best Management Practices (BMP) and resources to inform, clarify, and create consistency around specific WKS processes and areas of concern. Each of the Focus Areas should have specific BMPs created around the unique needs of those topic areas. The KC plans to establish working groups for each of the Focus Areas, which will analyze existing BMPs from national and international groups that work with cultural heritage as well as BMPs from related fields. The BMPs drafted by the Focus Area working groups should also be designed to target the different stakeholders that are involved with these practices, including the Native Hawaiian community, CRM professionals, landowners, and government agencies.

Assess the Feasibility of a Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Office (NHHPO)

Similar to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) in federally recognized American Indian tribes in the continental United States, a Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Office (NHHPO) could help to alleviate some of the SHPDs workload. The process of creating a NHHPO would differ somewhat from a THPO, as THPOs are only run by federally recognized tribes. Many steps would need to occur to establish this office, but first and foremost, would be to determine if and how to legally establish a NHHPO in Hawai'i. Another important early step would be to conduct an assessment of THPOs, and other international indigenous preservation and heritage management agencies, to understand the function and responsibilities of these offices. Concurrently, conducting more research and assessments in Hawai'i with multiple stakeholders on the needs, goals, and pathways of creating this office needs to be carried out. This information would help determine what roles and responsibilities would fall under a NHHPO. After gathering this information, a report that outlines the findings and recommendations should be presented and discussed with all relevant parties to determine the appropriate next steps in this process.

Focus Areas Calls to Action

Building Community Capacity

Create a WKS Advisory Council

It has become evident that a neutral party needs to be established to facilitate communication and collaboration between landowners, government agencies, and local communities. Members of the KC have expressed interest and support in creating a neutral body to serve as an advisory council to work with various stakeholders. This council would be made of KC members from different sectors/expertise and islands/communities and would be steered by a set of operating guidelines established by the Collective. Our goal is to launch this council in 2021 and to secure funding to support any associated expenses. Eventually, as a long-term goal, the councils authority should be formalized in the HRS Chapter 6E historic preservation rules.



WKS training through the Wahi Kūpuna Internship Program - Photo: Huliouapa'a

Build a Living Inventory of Wahi Kūpuna Stewards

Currently, there is no comprehensive database that inventories Hawai'i's stewardship groups, and provides valuable information on the work they do, where, and with whom. Such an inventory is beneficial for connecting government agencies, resource managers, and CRM firms to community groups to facilitate meaningful engagement and consultation. It would also help to connect *kia'i* doing similar work in their respective communities. The KC has had initial discussions with the University of Hawai'i, Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo to develop this living inventory, and plans to continue to work with these entities to fulfill this goal. Through surveys, interviews, and *hālāwai* with different stewardship groups, important information, themes, gaps, opportunities, and challenges can be identified and highlighted to paint a clearer picture of the current landscape, and garner support for the collective needs of wahi kūpuna stewards throughout Hawai'i.

Create a Common Application for Community-Based Traditional and Customary Stewardship

A common application for community-based traditional and customary stewardship would benefit both community members and landowners by facilitating genuine relationships and trust. As a first step in this process, the KC would work with landowners and govern-

ment entities to research the types of existing agreements that are currently being used to support community access and stewardship of wahi kūpuna (e.g. Curatorship Agreements, Memorandums of Agreements, Right of Entrees, and Cooperative Agreements). From here, it can better determine what works, what doesn't, and what needs to be improved. A common application form can then be developed, shared, and eventually approved by the entities that would utilize it. Lastly, the KC would work with landowners and agencies to launch and distribute the application template to community organizations.

Create More WKS Educational Resources and Training Opportunities

In order to build community capacity for the stewardship of wahi kūpuna, more resources and training opportunities need to be created for community members, students, CRM professionals, and even landowners and developers. As a short-term action, the KC plans to survey and gather data in order to determine the needs of the different stakeholders groups. After gathering this information, the KC can develop grant proposals to secure funding to create these much-needed resources and training opportunities.

Knowledge Cultivation and Stewardship

Create a Wahi Kūpuna Data Inventory

Currently, there is no existing all-encompassing inventory of wahi kūpuna data (maps, reports, etc.). Current inventories have gaps, are solely compliance based, or are created in pockets. A holistic wahi kūpuna inventory would be beneficial to all stakeholders in helping to promote proactive stewardship of wahi kūpuna. As a first step toward creating this inventory, the KC plans to create working groups to envision what this database would look like, and what information should be included. The working group should be made up of land managers, researchers, archivists, GIS specialists, native language speakers, community members, and practitioners so multiple perspectives can shape the next steps.

Establish a Code of Conduct for Digital-Online 'Ike Hawai'i

In order to protect 'ike Hawai'i and wahi kūpuna during this digital age, it is essential that a living Code of Conduct (CoC) is developed. In order to do so, the KC plans to create a working group, which will be made up of representatives from various fields and organizations. The working group will aim to identify how different industry sectors (planners, government, CRM firms) use digital 'ike Hawai'i. The working group will also establish limitations, misuses, and benefits of digital 'ike Hawai'i and begin to craft a CoC for how 'ike Hawai'i is used in formal situations. From here, in order for the CoC to be effective, it would need recognition and endorsement from government agencies, private CRM firms, repositories, and land managers.

Restoring Wahi Kūpuna

Create a Cultural Area Reserve Designation

While natural resources have benefited from the protection of Natural Area Reserves, there is no established process for creating Cultural Area Reserves (CARs) in Hawai'i. As a first step toward establishing a CARs designation, the KC plans to create a working group to define what a CAR would look like while outlining the qualifications for such a designation, and the rules and regulations around CARs. Support on the state level would then be needed to establish a CAR designation and develop a process for giving various wahi kūpuna that designation.

Streamline the Historic Preservation Process for Restoration Projects

The Ho'āla Loko I'a review process and guidebook have been helpful for the restoration and stewardship of loko i'a. However, a streamlined review process and guidebook are also needed for the restoration of other wahi kūpuna such as lo'i, agricultural field systems, and heiau. In order to move toward a streamlined review process, the KC plans to establish a working group with representatives from government entities, community organizations, cultural practitioners and CRM firms. The working group would be tasked with identifying various activities associated with the different stages of restoration and stewardship. The working group could then create a tiered review process, that can be easily outlined through a simplified application process and guidebook.

Provide Tax Incentives for Landowners who Actively Preserve and Provide Access to Wahi Kūpuna

Tax incentives need to be created to help encourage landowners to preserve wahi kūpuna and allow access to community members for restoration and cultural reuse. The KC plans to establish a working group to look at currently existing tax incentives pertaining to land use. The working group will include KC members, community members, landowners, and nonprofit/organization representatives. The group will also work to increase public attention on the lack of tax incentives for stewardship of wahi kūpuna.

Mālama Iwi Kūpuna

Convene a Think Tank Focused on Creating Solutions to Issues Surrounding the Care of Iwi Kūpuna

As highlighted in this report, the issues pertaining to the care of iwi kūpuna are numerous and complex. In order to support community members, organizations, and government agencies involved in the care of iwi kūpuna a gathering (such as a Think Tank) of multiple stakeholders, should be organized to focus solely on this crucial topic. A working group made up of community members, cultural practitioners, state officials, and nonprofits should be convened to identify key areas that need to be addressed at the Think Tank. The KC can then look to secure funding for this Think Tank and for the work that



Photo: Kai Markell

results, including creating a summary report to document and explore issues discussed at the gathering.

Empower Community and Island Burial Council Members Through Educational Resources and Training

Building community capacity has been a major topic of discussion in this report and especially crucial for community members and Island Burial Council Members working to protect iwi kūpuna. The KC plans to create a working group to identify areas of greatest need in terms of educational resources and training. The working group should collaborate with other organizations (such as the OHA), institutions (such as the Richardson School of Law), and IBC members to plan out and execute these training opportunities.

Support Efforts to Strengthen the Burial Sites Program's Ability to Protect Iwi Kūpuna

It has become increasingly evident that the current historic preservation system limits the Burial Sites Program's ability to protect iwi kūpuna (OHA letter to SHPD re Controversy at Kaua'ula, Lāhainā, Maui and Related Concerns Regarding the State Historic Preservation Division Statutory Compliance, dated Nov. 11, 2020). In the short term, the KC plans to support the ongoing efforts to establish a Burial Sites Working Group to study the mismanagement by SHPD and to develop a report with findings and recommendations to the 2022 Legislature regarding proposed improvements. Depending on the outcomes and findings of this report, a long-term goal could be to propose moving the Burial Sites Program under the jurisdiction of the OHA or eventually, a newly established Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Office, as noted above.