



Cultural Resources from  
where I Live

# Cultural Resources

## USDA Definition of Cultural Resources

- “NRCS is committed to ensuring productive lands and watersheds are in harmony with a healthy environment, which includes cultural resources. Cultural resources are nonrenewable and often yield unique information about past societies and environments with implications for modern issues.”
- Cultural Resources are evidence of past human activity.. These include sites, districts, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.
- Native Hawaiians are not a nonrenewable society of the past and we continue to thrive while holding fast to our cultural connections and are willing participants on addressing the implications for modern issues relating to Climate Change.
- This presentation will primarily deal with the authors views on contemporary Cultural Resources.

## Ho’okena Beach



# Connecting People to Resources to Culture and to Practices

## Department of Land and Natural Resources

### Mission Statement

- “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.”



## Commission of Water Resources

### Our Motto

- The motto “Ke Kahuwai Pono” exemplifies the Commission on Water Resource Management and its’ responsibility in protecting the water resources of Hawaii, recognizing that the waters of the State are held in trust for the benefit of the citizens of the State. In the Hawaiian language, *wai* is “water”, *kahu* means “guardian, caretaker”, and *pono* stands for “proper, righteous.” Together, these words translate to “the trustee who oversees the rightful sharing of water.” It is with this conviction that the Commissioners, Deputy Director, and staff strive to ensure the availability of freshwater for generations to come.

# Impacts of Climate Change on Resources Related to Native Hawaiian Cultural Practices

## Cultural Practices and Traditions

“ Agriculture and Fishing were the two main professions always passed on by the grandparents to the boys – and at the same time they taught them that thievery and idleness are disgraceful”

\* Kamakau in “The works of the people of old”.

Ōpelu fishing canoe



Lo'i Kalo



# Rising Sea Levels and Ocean Temperatures



Ho'okena Beach Village and Beach Park



Annual Canoe Ono Tournament

# Sea Level Rise, Greater Storm Frequency and Intensity

1-22-2015



# Sea Level Rise, Greater Storm Frequency and Intensity

- Ho'okena village is 12 inches above sea level. Sea Level Rise will displace the entire village.
- Higher levels of rainfall entering the ocean via streams, surface run off and underground passages will further impact near shore resources.
- The rise in the near shore water table will accelerate seepage of sewage from cesspools and septic systems resulting in the further degradation of near shores resources.
- Lower or inconsistent rainfall will affect freshwater aquifers and potential growth toward achieving food sovereignty.



Limu Manauea and Nohomahe \* By Malia Heimuli



# Traditional 'Ōpelu Fishing

- 'Ōpelu fishing is seasonal.
- Subject to ocean currents and temperatures.
- Warmer ocean temperatures and acidification affect timing and productivity of traditional fishing grounds.
- Storms and high surf inhibit fishermen's ability to access fishing grounds.
- Food Sovereignty.



# From the Forrest

Teaching 'ōp'io to prepare  
bait for netting Opelu.

Vegetables are sourced from  
the uplands.

Families handing down  
knowledge to the next  
generation.





Napua on the Ala Kahakai

# Impacts of Climate Change on Native Hawaiian Resource Based Cultural Practices

- Climate Change will disrupt traditional fishing and farming practices. More difficulty with access and availability of ocean resources as near costal environments are affected by water temperatures and Acidification. Change in rainfall patterns.
- Climate change will lead to a shift in how resources are managed.
- Native Hawaiian Cultural Resources are tied to Practices which are guided by values. They are inseparable.
- Cultural resources are tied to cultural beliefs, ambitions and practices in the view of this Native Hawaiian.