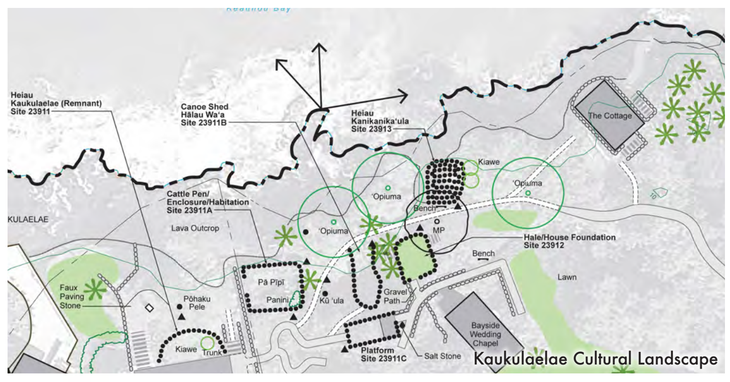
KEAUHOU BAY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESMMENT

Dedication of birth stone of Kauikeaouli,1914

Birth Stone of Kauikeaouli, 2016



Kaukulaelae Cultural Landscape

Ku'ula Stone at Kaukulaelae

Panorama of Kaukulaelae Cultural Landscape

Kamehameha Schools
HHF Planners

Keauhou Bay is a small bay along the North Kona Coast, well known as the birth site of Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha III, a former king of Hawai'i significant for his lineage and for his support in governance and education of the Hawaiian people during the early 19th century. People from all over the state continue to travel to Kauikeaouli's birthplace to pay homage to the former ali'i. Keauhou Bay is also a popular tourist destination, functioning as a point of departure for many ocean-related activities. These two sometimes divergent uses—heritage use and commercial recreation use—are often challenging to manage within such a confined natural area as at Keauhou Bay.

The Keauhou Bay Cultural Landscape Assessment (CLA) documents the evolution of the physical and cultural landscape on portions of Kamehameha Schools' lands along Keauhou Bay. A cultural landscape is defined by the National Park Service as a "geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife and domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." This holistic approach provides a firm foundation for developing historic preservation priorities for Kamehameha Schools as they consider and establish management strategies for their lands at Keauhou Bay.

The jury selected the Keauhou Bay Cultural Landscape Assessment as the winner of the Cultural/Historic Preservation Award. The project documents the cultural landscapes on lands owned by Kamehameha Schools along Keauhou Bay. It highlights the historical and cultural significance of Keauhou Bay as an indigenous cultural landscape, drawing attention to surviving landscape features such as 'Ahu'ula Cliff and Kaopā Spring, and portions of several archaeological sites that elevate its cultural character. The project nurtures a rich educational experience by encouraging preservation of the land as a living landscape where cultural practices can continue to thrive. The project draws on a wealth of materials such as historical maps, field surveys, and talk story with kūpuna who have intimate knowledge of the area. The project also identifies historically significant landscape features (prehistory -1946) that can inform the management and preservation of culturally significant lands such as the Keauhou Bay. The jury commends the project for its quality of research, analysis, and effective use of a cultural landscape approach.

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