

Kanaka Maoli Economies of Abundance: Rethinking Settler Governance

Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems (ECSC) Committee

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The Abe family, from Niigata and Fukushima



to Pā'ia, Maui

My father taught me that we have the right to challenge the law if it is unjust.



Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963”:

One may well ask, “How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?” The answer is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: There are just laws and there are unjust laws. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. **Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws.”**

- unjust laws legalized the scalping of American Indians, slavery, segregation, the internment of Japanese Americans
- the Civil Rights Movement was based on challenging unjust laws**

In 1976, my mother and stepfather moved us into a new subdivision in Pukalani;
Charlie Maxwell from the Maui Island Burial Council stood for iwi kupuna disturbed
by that development



Protect Kaho‘olawe Aloha ‘Āina. Photo by Franco Salmoiraghi

Hawaiians were fighting for something that the rest of us were not.

They were standing for the laws of the elements, the laws of the akua, against the human laws that legalized the bombing of an island



Nālani and Pualani Kanaka‘ole bring Makahiki ceremonies back to Kaho‘olawe

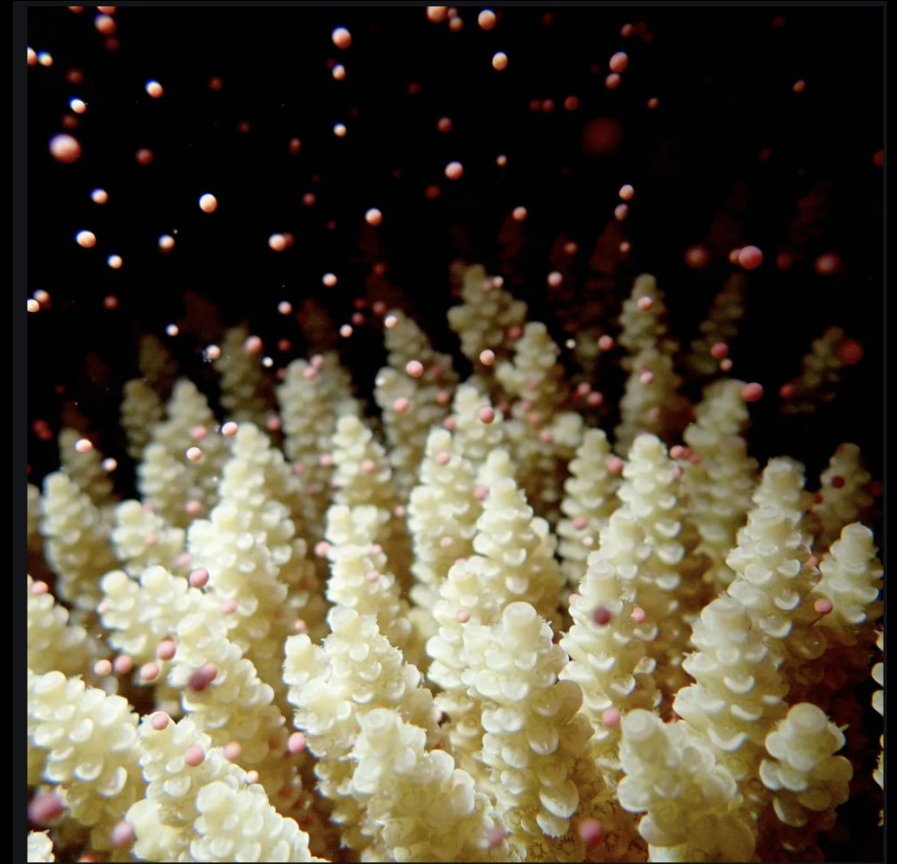
The Kanaka‘ole legacy:
teaching us the laws of the elements



“If you know your akua, if you are pili to your akua, if you have aloha for your akua and understand their functions, you will know how to work with them and how to respond to them. . . .When we know our akua, we can call their names and activate them and ourselves”

—Noelani Puniwai, Hawaiian studies professor specializing in natural resources management

- There are 400,000 akua or what Pualani Kanahele translates as elemental forms and natural processes
- Huihui Mossman-Kanahele: Hinalua‘iko‘a (Hina who vomits or produces coral) is the process of coral spawning with Kuke‘āpua, the rising motion of coral gametes
- Pilina (relationships, connectedness) is key, such as that between Kāne, the fresh waters that run underground, and Kanaloa, the deep consciousness of the ocean



*Kīho ‘iho ‘i Kānāwai:
Restoring Kānāwai for
Island Stewardship* is a
key document available
online outlining a
stewardship plan for
caring for the 21
horizontal realms of
islands.

It was directed by
Pualani Kanaka‘ole
Kanahele, the Edith
Kanaka‘ole Foundation
and the Honuiaiākea
experts.

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Restoring Kānāwai for Island Stewardship**

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Kānāwai a ke akua, the laws of the elements. These are the fundamental four.

The first four, are the Kumu Kānāwai, the fundamental ecological laws of volcanic islands in order to maintain a state of Uli or perfect balance. These are the kānāwai that are not negotiable or may not be compromised. The other are Māuli Kānāwai or the kānāwai that restore health and wellbeing. At some point the Māuli kānāwai will change as the island consciousness, behaviors and values begin to move, or take root.

Kumu Kānāwai

Ho‘okikī Kānāwai- the edict of continuum. Forces of nature in cooperation for continuity & flow so that magma moves, water runs, rains fall, air & ocean currents unobstructed & ferns kupu, and the island body persists~It is the law of continuum

He kua‘ā Kānāwai-the edict of the gestating landscapes. Signs in the landscape where creation is occurring like hot spots, marshes, steaming areas, wisdom sharers, coral heads, ma‘ukele~It is the law of the burning back

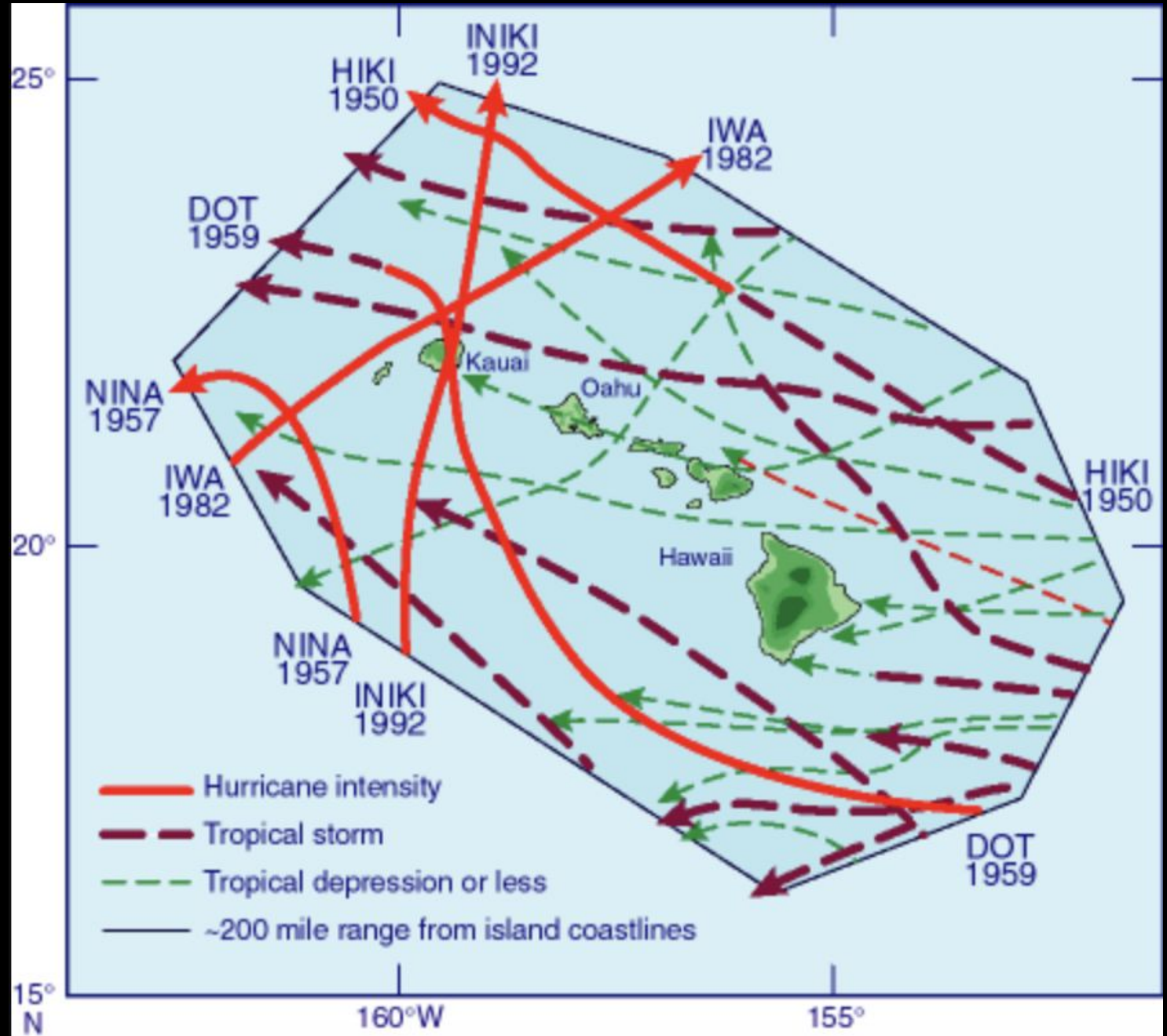
He kai‘okia Kānāwai-the edict of natural boundaries. Natural boundaries and pathways are delineated by lava flow & rivers, rivers & valleys, ocean & land, kū & hina, height & depth~It is the law of natural boundaries

He kīho‘iho‘i Kānāwai-the edict of regeneration. Greening of a new flow by Hi‘iaka, restoration of landscapes, when allowed the opportunity-land, ocean & kanaka return to health~It is the law of regeneration

From *Kīho 'iho 'i*
Kānāwai

The pilina of Kāne and
Kanaloa:

Hurricanes pass north or
south of Hawai'i due to
Kane's cold waters that
cool the warm ocean
waters of Kanaloa on the
perimeters of the islands.



The Laws of the Elements vs. the Laws of Humans

Capital fears abundance. —David Lloyd

Abundance promises the just redistribution of resources that feed.

Capitalist economies of scarcity are organized around growing markets.

-Example: the iPhone

Kanaka maoli circular economies of abundance are organized around growing food.

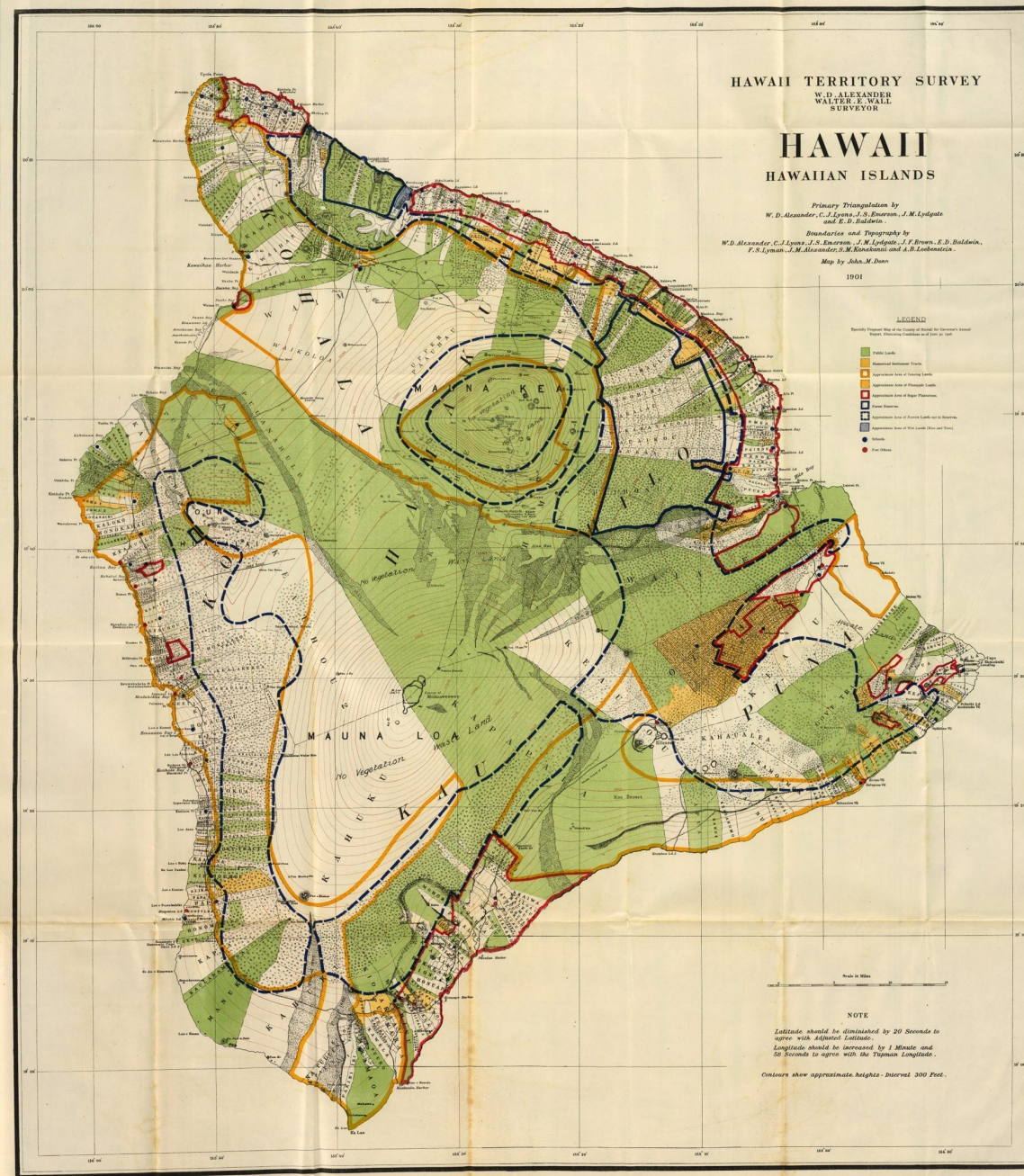
“Aloha ‘Āina Circular Economy” (Beamer)

We created regenerative agricultural and aquaculture systems that were aligned with and took advantage of ecosystem niches to produce food in abundance for generations. We innovated lo‘i systems, developed new varieties of ancestral plants to push the limits of production, and utilizing the power of the tides, we farmed algae to feed herbivorous fish.

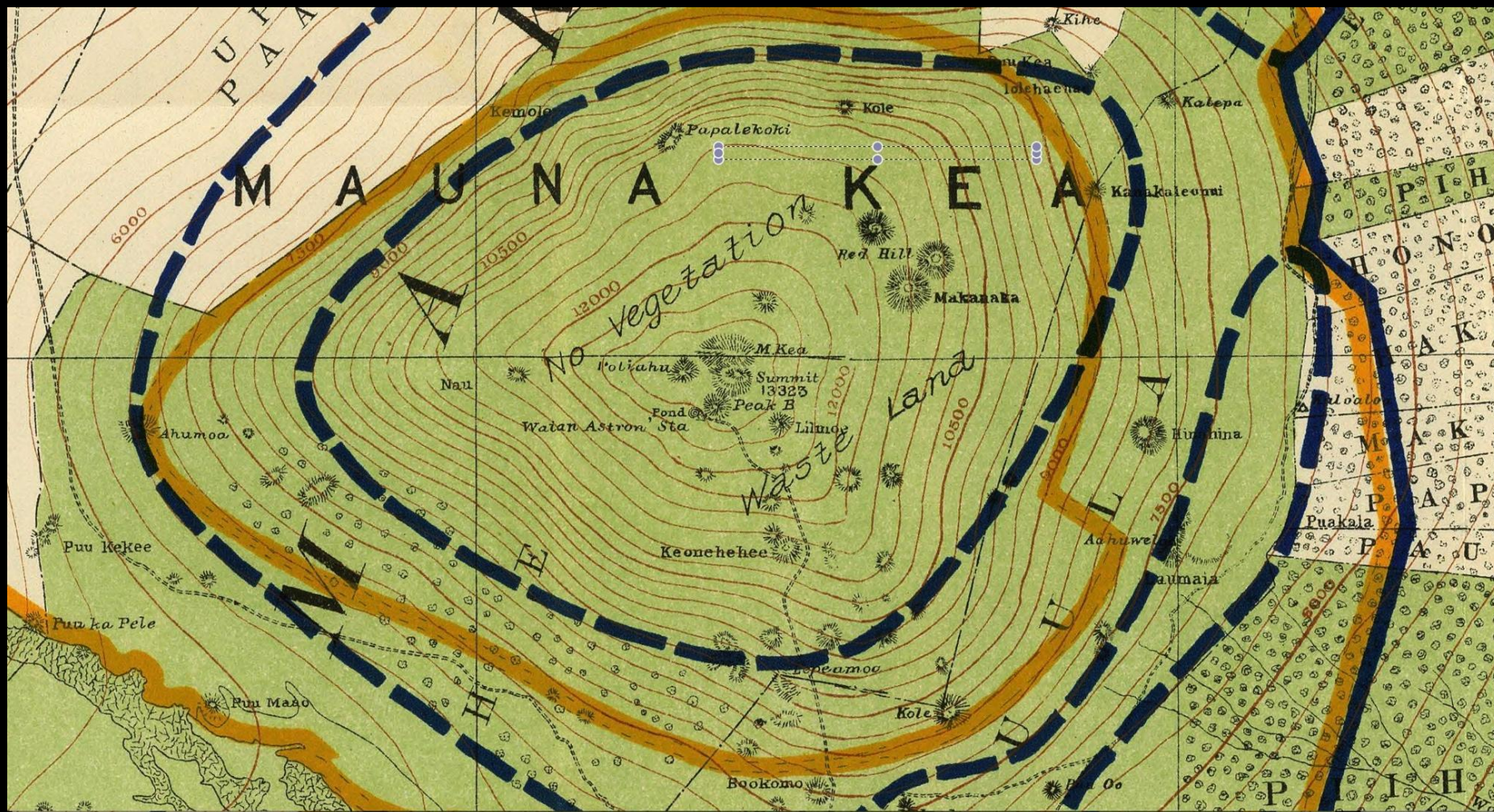
A circular economy (CE) seeks to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. An aloha ‘āina circular economy should be based on a give, take, regenerate model.

—Dr. Kamana Beamer

1901 Territorial
Survey
Map of
Hawai'i Island



Detail of 1901 Territorial Survey Map labelling Mauna a Wākea a “WASTELAND”



The Astronomy Precinct sites entirely above the Waimea Aquifer, which has a sustainable yield of roughly 13 million gallons a day.

—*TMT EIS*, Volume 1, p. 3-116

The Astronomy Precinct, and, therefore, the TMT Observatory site and Batch Plant Staging Area site, is located entirely above the Waimea Aquifer (Figure 3-30), which has a sustainable yield of roughly 13 million gallons a day.

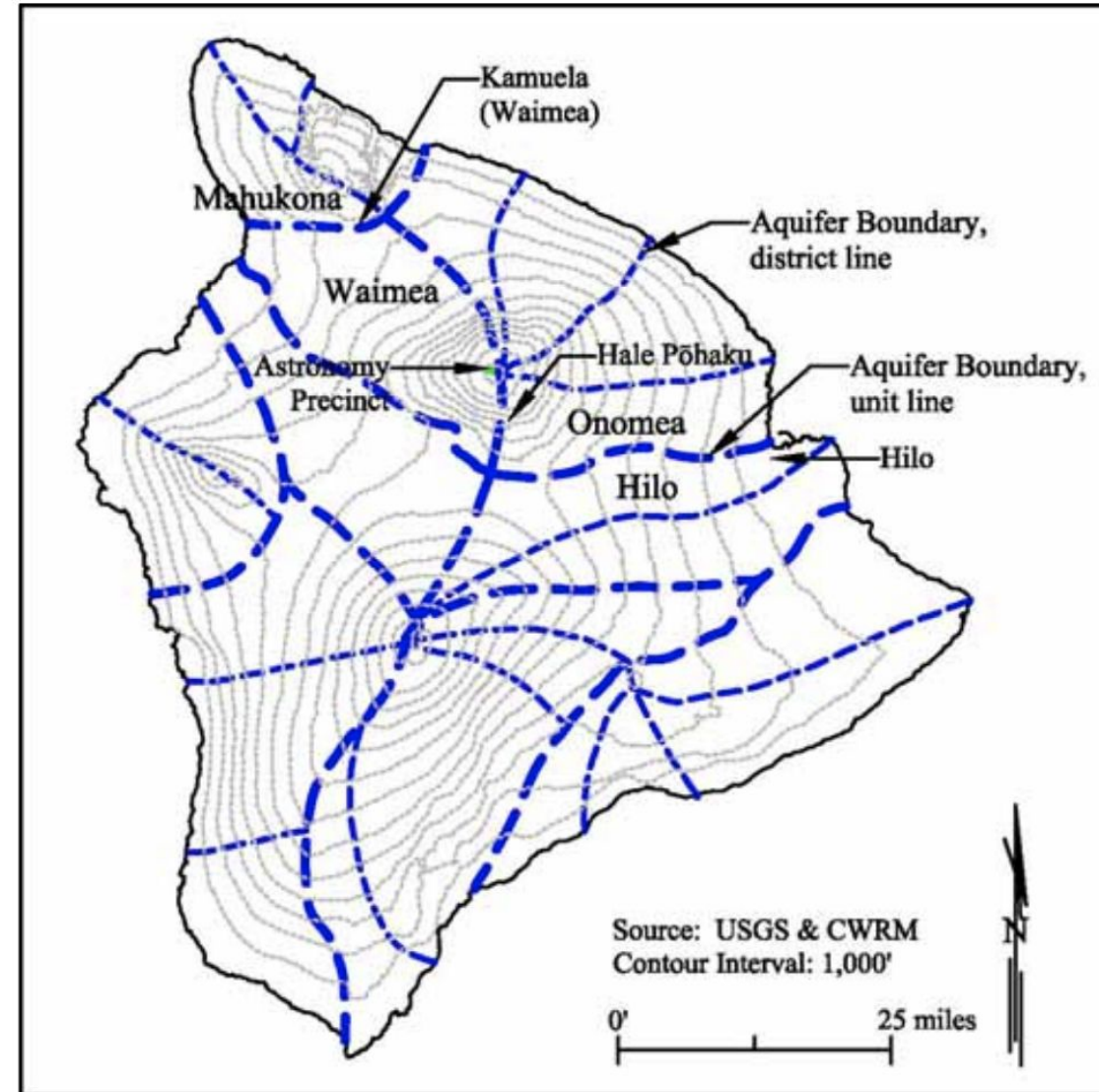


Figure 3-30: Groundwater Aquifers on the Island of Hawai'i

The Waters of Mauna a Wākea.

The hydrology expert for the University of Hawai‘i stated that he does not know where the groundwater is.

The Kanaka Maoli practitioner, Ku‘ulei Kanahele, explained that the entire mountain is a water container.

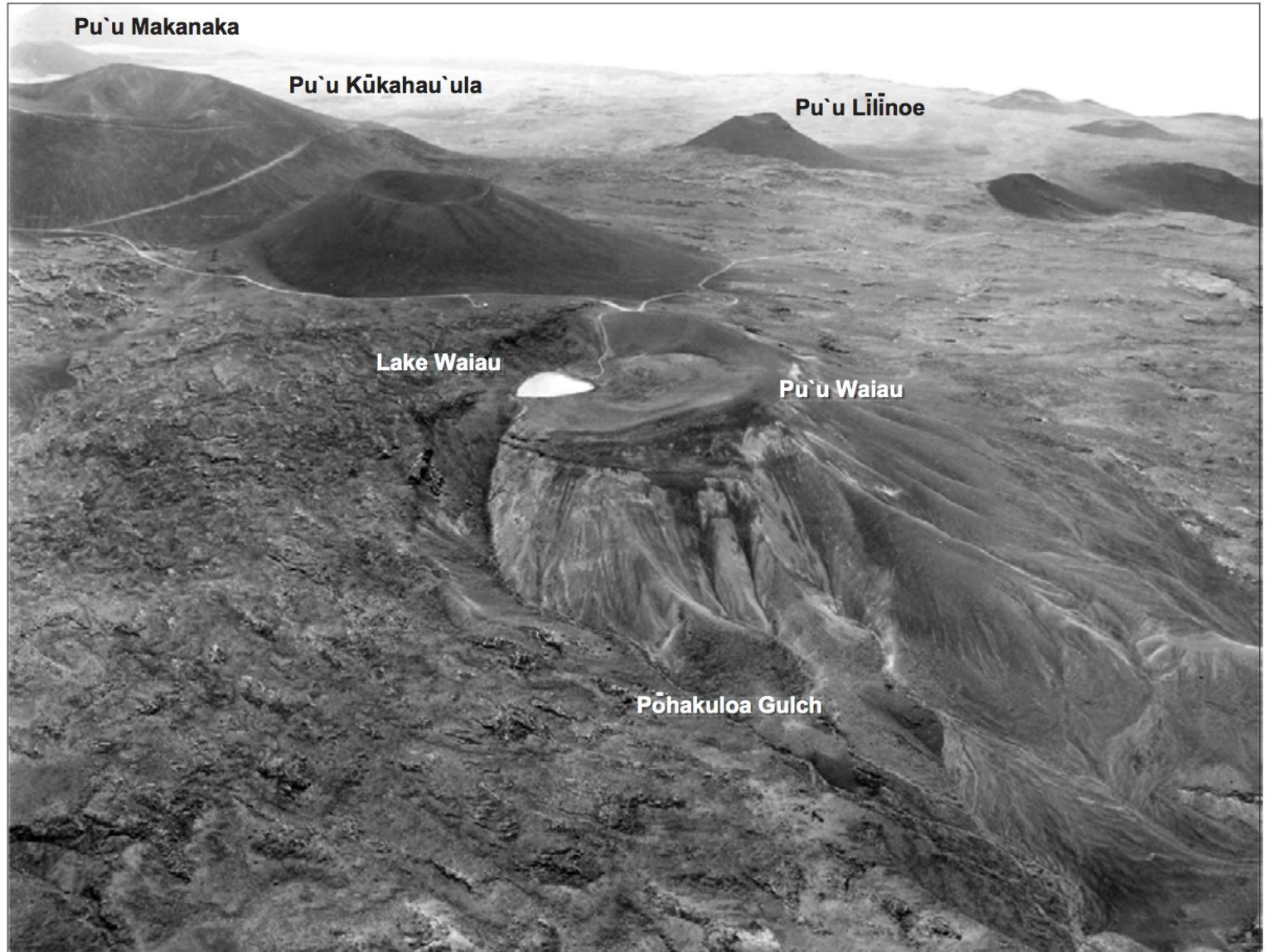
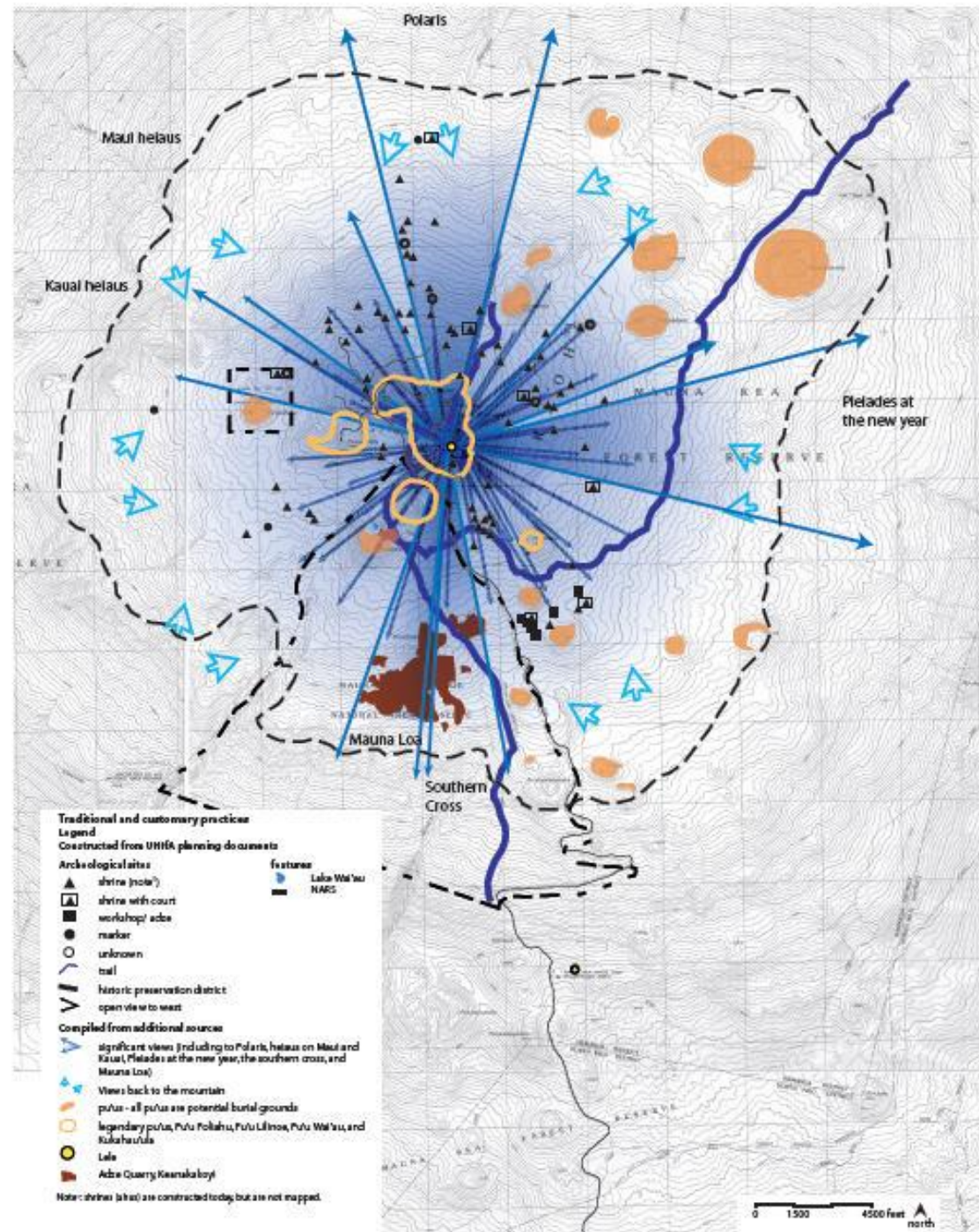


Figure 2.7. Aerial View of Lake Waiau and Surrounding Landscape.

*Map of Selected
Traditional View Planes
at Mauna a Wākea
(2011),*

by Kealoha Pisciotta,
based on the star
knowledge of her aunt,
Kamakahukilani von
Oelhoffen, her Oniha
family, and her own
kilo hōkū (star
practices).

Image courtesy of Kealoha
Pisciotta.



Map no. 159, "Waianae, Schofield Barracks," in the Land Study Bureau's *Detailed Land Classification: Island of Oahu* (1972), on which the petition area in Wai'anāe has been outlined.

The map shows that E ratings for unirrigated lands become B ratings when irrigated.



Cascading Restorative Effects

Just as a small increment of harm like a 2-degree Celsius increase in global temperatures is causing the melting of glaciers, sea level rise, the acidification of the oceans, the extinction of species,

a small increment of restoration has cascading revitalizing effects, such as the return of Native fish, plants, birds, ecosystems, and most importantly, water.

Hale o Meheanu,
He'eia Fishpond



Burning of the mangroves at a community workday



Cascading restorative effects at Hale o Meheanu

Kīpūkai



‘Ahu‘awa



Ae‘o



Auku‘u



‘Alae ‘ula



‘Ākulikuli



Two purposes of environmental law:

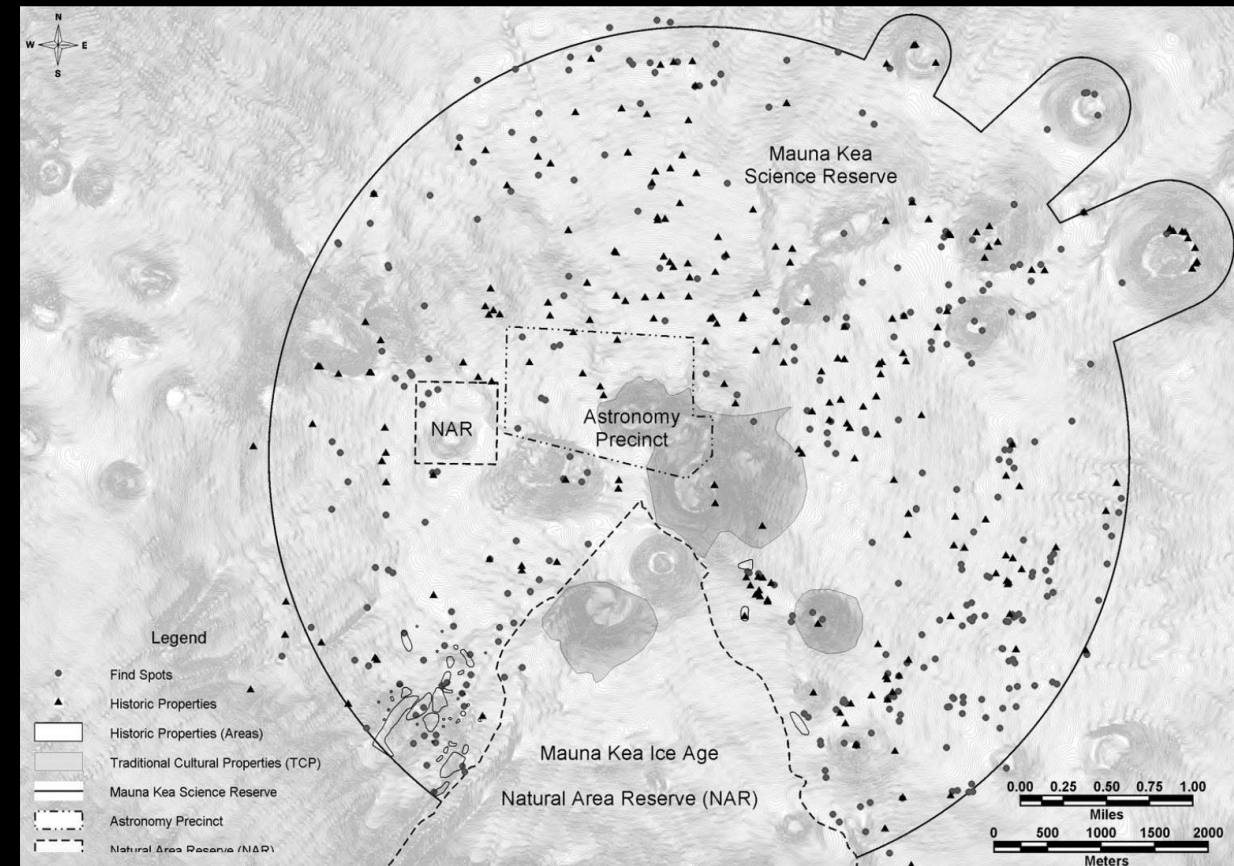
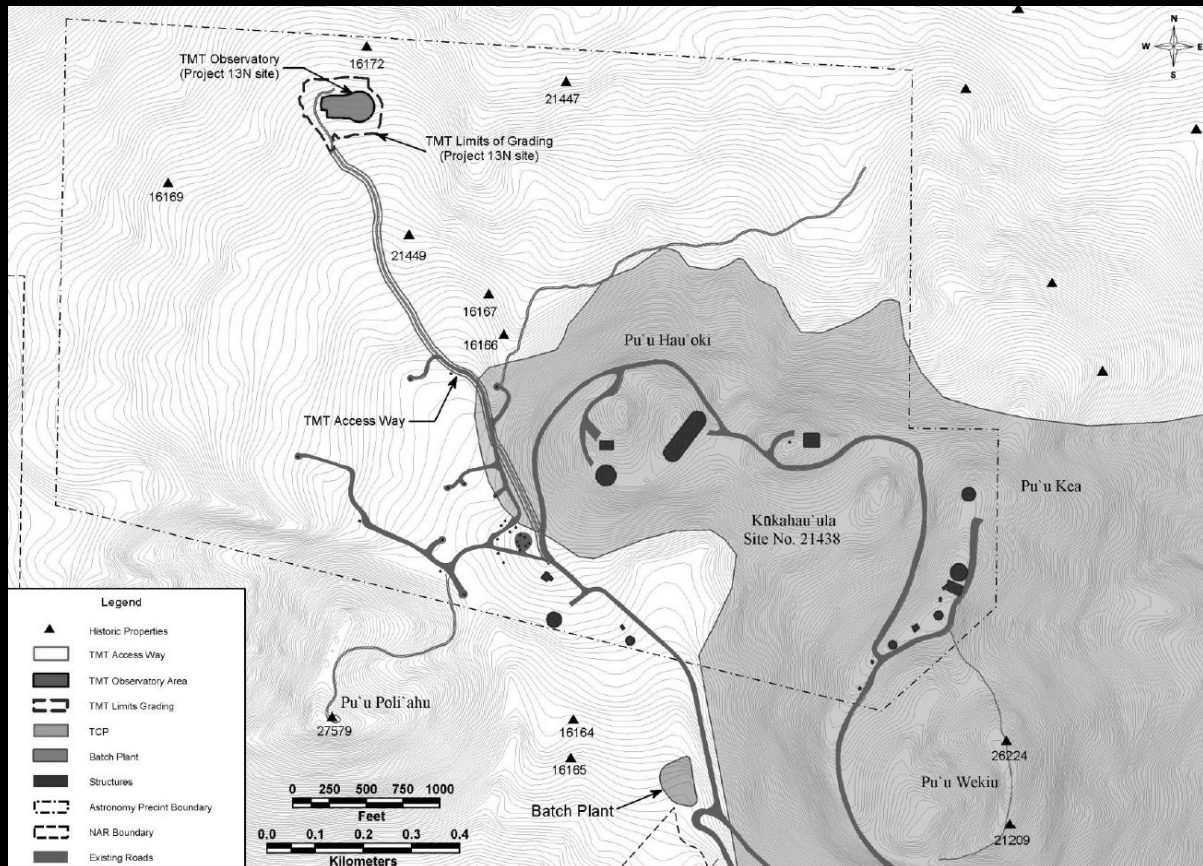
- 1) To protect what is left
- 2) To repair what is damaged

This follows Ho‘okikī Kānāwai, the edict of continuum

Distributional archaeology recognizes complexes instead of individual sites

Makes the difference between a 10-page Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) and a 150-page CIA for sites

Map of altars and shrines on Mauna Kea

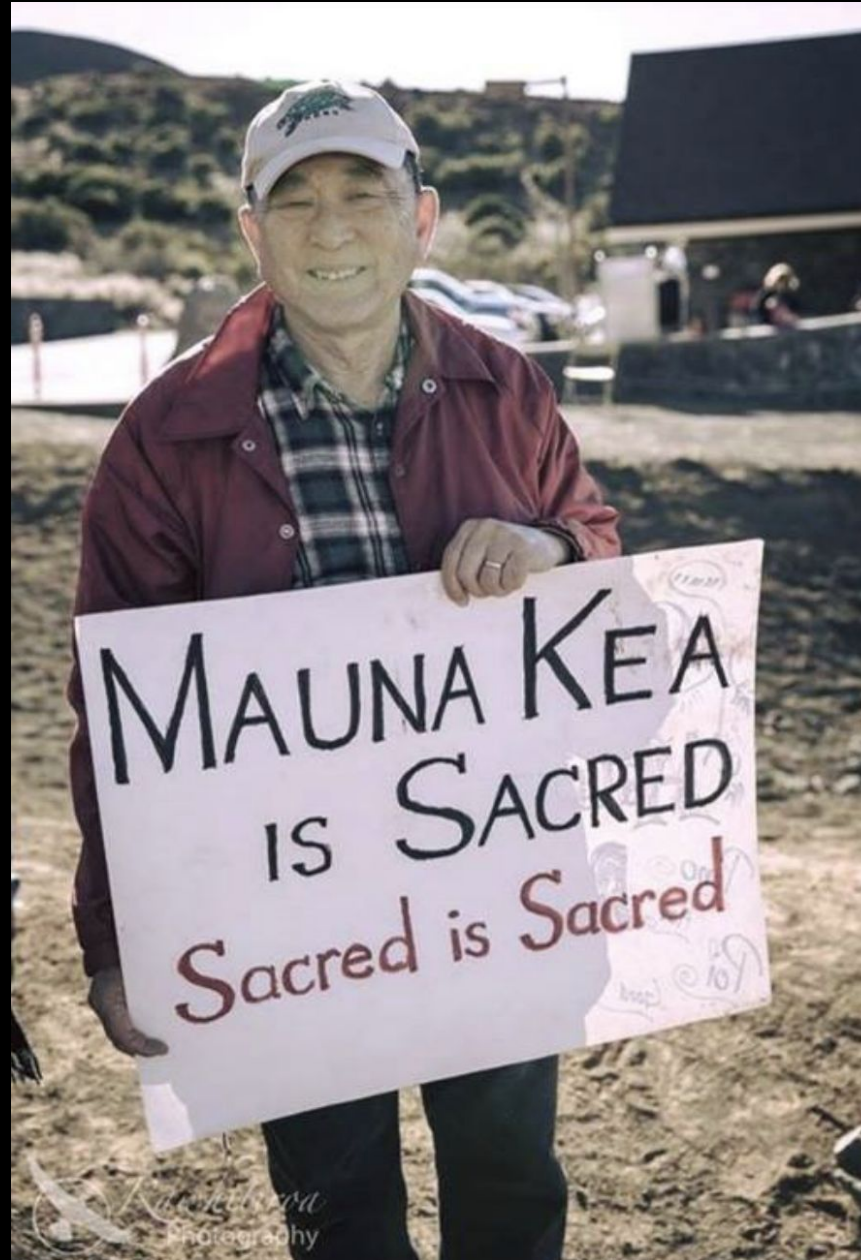


Asian Allies

Gwen Kim



Ronald Fujiyoshi



Steve Tayama



What's at stake in an analysis of settler colonialism and a foregrounding of an 'Ōiwi knowledge base?

- Definition of settler colonialism: a constellation of the colonial ideologies and practices of all settlers, including Asian settlers, who currently support the U.S. settler state or U.S. occupation.
- Working against global climate change means recognizing the problems posed by capitalism and Asian settler colonialism and the solutions posed by Indigenous peoples based on their ancestral knowledges, including Kanaka Maoli 'ike kupuna (ancestral knowledges)

Asian Settler Colonialism:

Settler: Where Kanaka Maoli are genealogically descended from Papahānaumoku, the foundation who births islands, those of us who are not Kanaka Maoli are settlers whose ancestral lands lie elsewhere.

Settlers have kuleana to the lands that they occupy and to the lāhui (collective) of Native peoples. Our kuleana as settlers is to stand for the lands and waters that raise us, loving these lands and waters without having to claim them.

Snapshot of Asian Settler Political Power in Hawai‘i

TABLE 1. SNAPSHOT OF POLITICAL POWER IN HAWAI‘I, 2015

	Percentage of Population (Census) ¹	Percentage of Population (DOH) ²	Legislature Senate ³	Legislature: House	2008 Dept of Ed (Admin) ⁴	2008 Dept of Ed (Faculty)
Hawaiian	20%	23%	16%	14%	14%	10%
White	23%	21%	24%	12%	20%	27%
Japanese	22%	22%	32%	47%	45%	34%
Filipino	24%	16%	20%	12%	4%	6%
Chinese	14%	*	12%	12%	5%	5%
Okinawan ⁵	0.4%	*	12%	6%	*	*
Korean	3%	*	8%	2%	2%	1%
African American	3%	*	0%	2%	0%	0.5%
Pacific Islander	2%	*	8%	6%		
Other	*	18%	*	*	2%	10%

Data for the Hawai‘i Department of Education compiled by the Certificated Transaction Unit for the DOE

On July 10, 2019, Governor Ige announced that they would be transporting construction machinery to the summit of Mauna Kea.

On July 12, my brother Dean Saranillio and I were on Mauna Kea with the first 40 protectors.

Honolulu Star-Advertiser reporter Tim Hurley asked me why I was on Mauna Kea when I am not Hawaiian.

I was on Mauna Kea because I believe the mountain is sacred.

I was on Mauna Kea to protect the water.

‘O Mauna a Wākea ku‘u mauna.

Mauna a Wākea is my beloved mountain.



(3) 5,000 gallon underground storage tanks, one for domestic waste storage and one for chemical waste storage

5,000 gallons = 18 tons

To be emptied when the tank is at 2,000 gallons (7 tons)

- A roughly 6,000 square foot exterior equipment area on the north side of the support building (Figure 2-7) will include two electrical transformers and electrical service switchboards; three 5,000-gallon underground storage tanks – one for water storage, one for domestic waste storage, and one double-walled for chemical waste storage; two 25,000-gallon underground storage tanks for water storage as part of the fire suppression system; and one double-walled 2,000-gallon above-ground storage tank for diesel fuel to power the emergency generator. This equipment was either in the parking area or inside the support building in the previous design in the Draft EIS.

From the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Thirty Meter Telescope, Vol 1*

In general, the Project will add a limited increment to the current level of cumulative impact. Therefore, those resources that have been substantially, significantly, and adversely impacted by past and present actions would continue to have a substantial, significant, and adverse impact with the addition of the Project. For those resources that have been impacted to a less than significant degree by past and present actions, the Project would not tip the balance from a less than significant level to a significant level and the less than significant level of cumulative impact would continue.

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Michael Wilson points to the ways the Hawai‘i Supreme Court majority opinion on the TMT is “fraught with illogic,” authorizing a dangerous new “degradation principle.”

Wilson rightly argues, “The degradation principle dilutes or reverses the foundational dual objectives of environmental law—namely, to conserve what exists (or is left) and to repair environmental damage.”³⁴

Concluding remarks:

- consider how the *Kīho 'iho 'i Kānāwai: Restoring Kānāwai for Island Stewardship* can be implemented to care for the 21 horizontal realms of the islands;
- consider that progress does not always necessitate expansion and growth: that degrowth is actually another option when we have limited resources;
- support restoration projects because just as a small increment of harm like a 2 degree Celsius increase in temperature ripples out, so does a small increment of restoration have cascading restorative effects for all of us
- Kānaka Maoli have stewarded land in Hawai'i for thousands of years. The restoration of the health of Hawai'i depends on that stewardship, which includes the cases Kānaka Maoli are winning in courts to reclaim stewardship of their kuleana lands

ESCS Committee

From: Candace Fujikane <fujikane@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 1:39 AM
To: ESCS Committee
Subject: Candace Fujikane ESCS powerpoint

You don't often get email from fujikane@hawaii.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha mai kākou,
Here is my powerpoint for the talk this morning at 9am.
If you have any problems, you can call me a (808) 393-5234.
Thank you!

 [_Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems \(ESCS...](#)



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