



Loko Ea Queen's Residence

Loko Ea Queen's Residence, located in Hale'iwa, Kawailoa, Waialua, O'ahu, was once part of Queen Lili'uokalani's beloved Waialua home and believed to be the site of the Queen's bath. The property sits along the bank of the renowned Loko Ea Fishpond which is part of the larger 'Uko'a-Loko Ea Fishpond Wetland Complex and the third largest wetland on O'ahu. Trust for Public Land (TPL) is partnering with Mālama Loko Ea Foundation (MLEF) and the Waialua community to protect Loko Ea Queen's Residence in honor of the Queen and as a critical community access to restore and steward Loko Ea Fishpond.

Honoring Hawai'i's Queen

After the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, and Queen Lili'uokalani's release from prison in 1896, the Queen sought refuge at her Waialua residence rowing up Anahulu Stream, fishing, and riding horseback. The Queen enjoyed picnics of fish cooked over hot coals, bread, butter, and poi. She spent summers enjoying her favorite swimming hole which bordered the western edge of the fishpond, marked by a grove of hau trees.

Known as the "royal pond" many ali'i (chiefs) including Kakuhihewa, Ka'ahumanu, and Lili'uokalani, held exclusive rights to Loko Ea in the 19th century. One historic account described the abundance of fish 'Uko'a and Loko Ea being in the thousands and the fish measuring three feet long.



The “Poi Bowl” of O‘ahu

Waialua (two waters) was known for its extensive lo‘i kalo (taro fields) and lovingly called "poi bowl". Kawailoa ahupua‘a was famed for its abundant agricultural lands and royal fishponds. Native Hawaiian fishpond systems are some of Hawai‘i’s most threatened cultural resources. They are a testament to Hawaiian innovation in aquaculture, engineering, hydrology, and biology. Protecting Loko Ea and its surrounding landscape is part of a larger movement to restore Hawai‘i’s remaining fishponds and revive traditional aquaculture for food security.

Preventing development of the Loko Ea Queen’s Residence property would maintain water quality and prevent runoff, pollution, and erosion into the fishpond and out into Waialua Bay. Loko Ea is a 12-acre loko pu‘uone (brackish water fishpond formed by a sand dune along the shore) that supports a food-rich estuary ecosystem. Loko Ea is a nursery for spawning and juvenile fish that restock the Bay’s fishery. Endangered birds feed, nest, and take refuge in the fishpond including the endangered ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian moorhen) and ae‘o (Hawaiian stilt).

Critical Community Access to Loko Ea

Once acquired, TPL will transfer the 1.1-acre property to Mālama Loko Ea Foundation (MLEF), a Native Hawaiian nonprofit that partners with the community to lovingly restore Loko Ea and its wetland ecosystem back to health. While MLEF has licensed and stewarded Loko Ea Fishpond for 14 years, the fishpond is technically landlocked without any legal access.

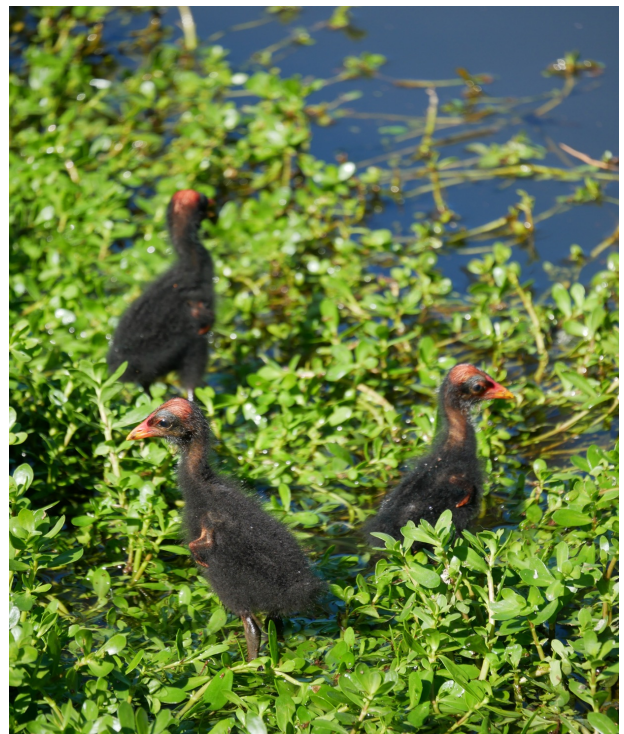
If Loko Ea Queen’s Residence is protected, MLEF will finally have legal access to the fishpond allowing it to expand its transformational ‘āina based educational programs and fishpond restoration, hosting thousands of students and volunteers at the fishpond every year. The City & County of Honolulu will hold a Conservation Easement over the property, protecting it in perpetuity.

Conservation acquisition funding

- \$750K State Legacy Land Conservation Program (*pending*)
- \$750K City & County of Honolulu, Clean Water and Natural Lands Program (*pending*)

About Trust for Public Land

Since 1979, Trust for Public Land has conserved over 77,000 acres throughout Hawai‘i. Through our land protection efforts we partner with local communities to safeguard the lands and resources that are special to them. Our Aloha ‘Āina Program protects lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture and returns these lands to Native Hawaiian stewardship.



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