



CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN FOR
THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS'

WAHIAWĀ LANDS

2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KŪKANILOKO

THE PIKO OF O'AHU

The birthing stones of Kūkaniloko are one of the most sacred sites in Hawai'i. It is the piko (center) of O'ahu where the highest-ranking ali'i (royalty) were born. These stones and the surrounding areas were places of learning for kahuna (experts), lua (martial arts), kilo (observations) and other cultural practices.

PURPOSE OF THE CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

To guide the development of 511 acres surrounding the Kūkaniloko birthing stones in a way that delivers meaningful social, ecological and economic impacts that are culturally nuanced, regenerative and that align with OHA's mission.

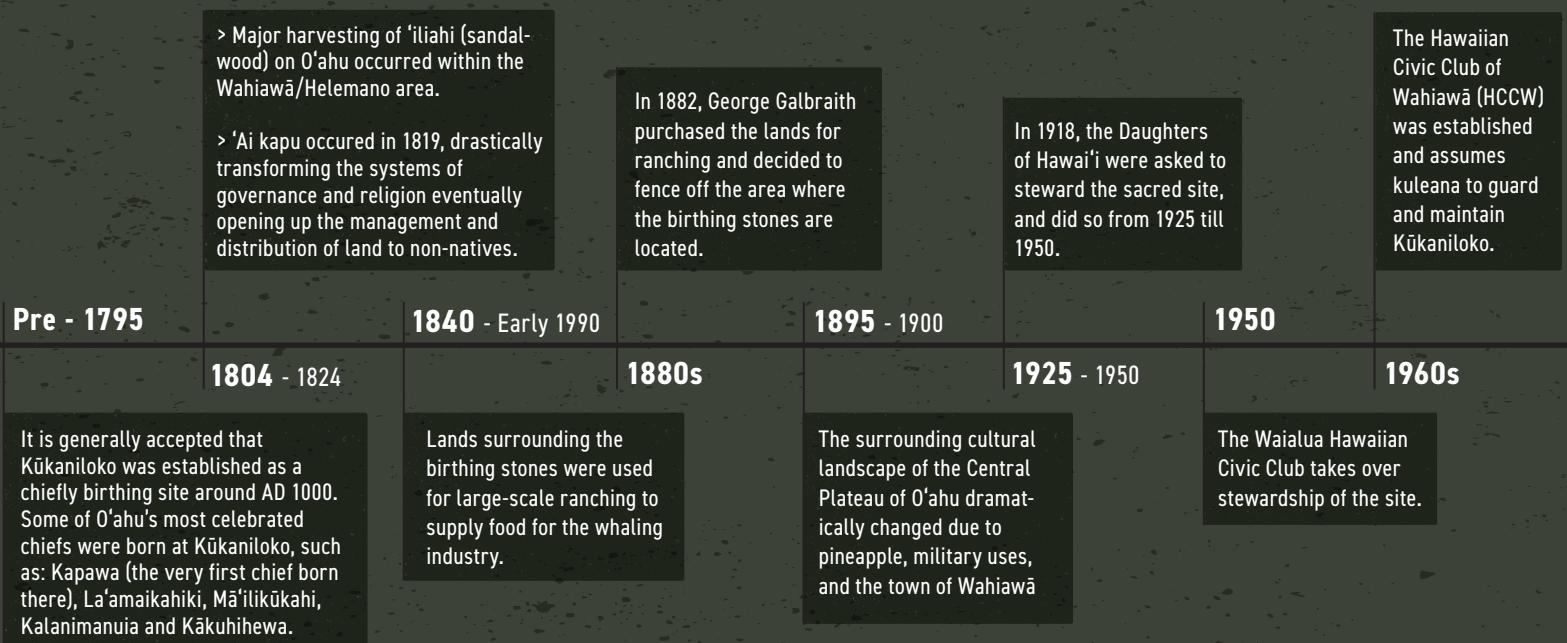
WHY OHA CREATED THIS PLAN

As one of the most sacred wahi pana (legendary place), Kūkaniloko deserves the highest degree of planning rigor. Shaping its future will require a long-term vision guided by ancestral 'ike (knowledge) of this wahi pana as well as Hawaiian resource management and land use 'ike. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) engaged in a cultural and community-driven planning process to ensure development of a plan that was responsive to the community in alignment with the purposes of acquisition, which were to protect the birthing stones, explore compatible agriculture and contribute to Hawai'i's food security.

The 511 acres surrounding the birthing stones (OHA's Wahiawā Lands) are currently overgrown with invasive species and its soil is degraded as a result of decades of pineapple monoculture. To restore and holistically manage these Wahiawā Lands, OHA worked closely with community members and subject matter experts to come up with a plan that would honor this wahi pana and its history.

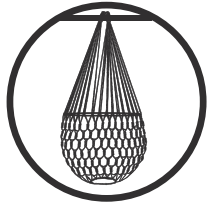
KŪKANILOKO TIMELINE

Quick History of Significant Events



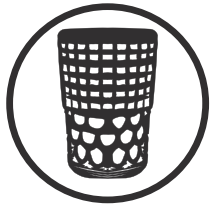
VALUES

The values ho'omana, ho'ona'auao and ho'oulu 'āina were created in collaboration with the Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā (HCCW), long-term stewards of the birthing stones. These values served as a filter for the planning process and continue to be the foundation for further development and implementation of this plan. Bullets listed below refer to the overarching actions associated with each value.



HO'OMANA: *Protection/Sanctification*

- › Protecting the birthing stones through stewardship training, security, implementation of a Preservation Plan, establishing site buffer zones;
- › Enabling traditional and customary practices/protocol; and
- › Managing access to the site.



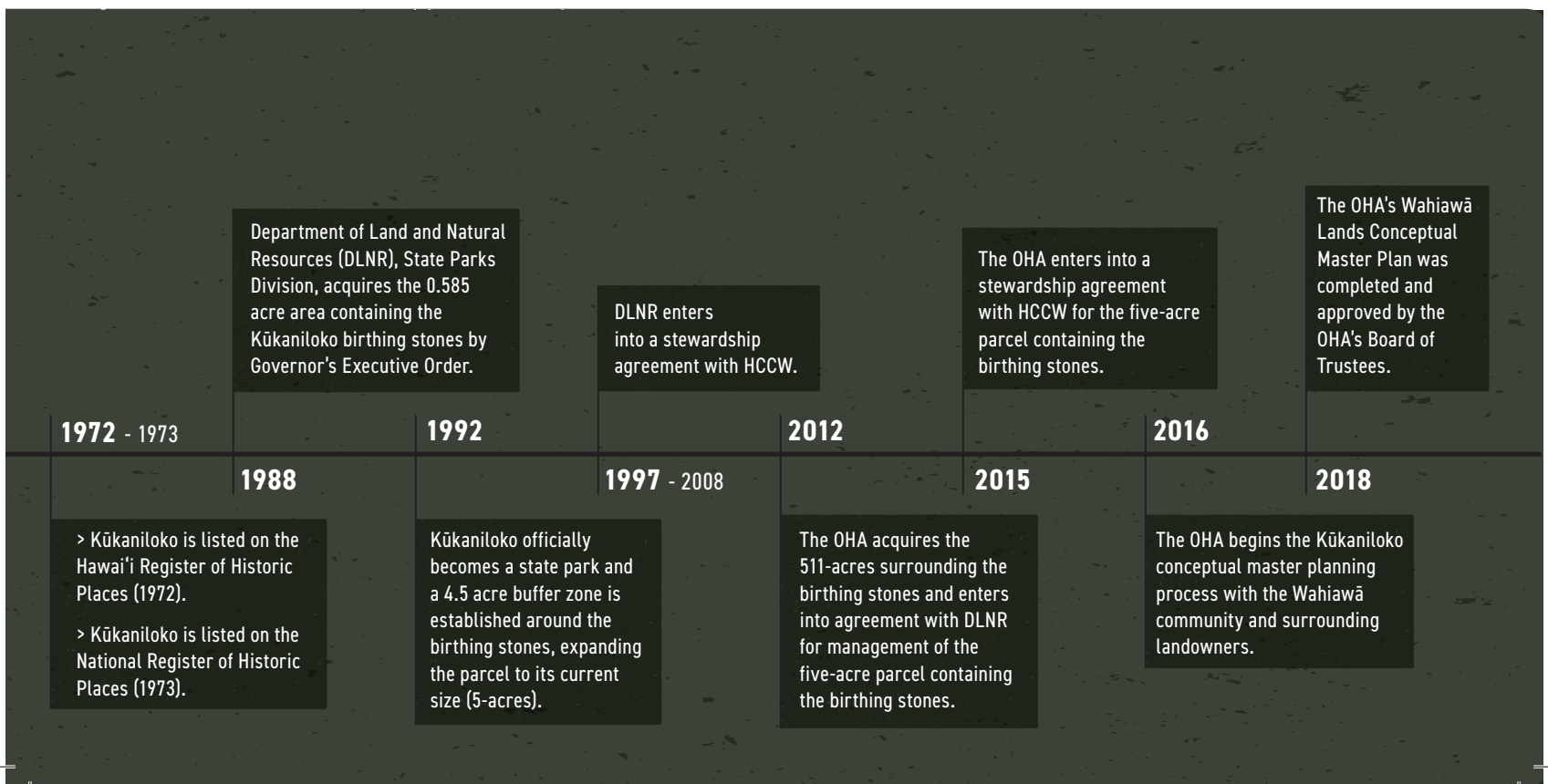
HO'ONA'AUAO: *Education/Connection*

- › Implement kūpuna to keiki engagement through cultural and agricultural education programs;
- › Grow and regenerate resources through community-based stewardship; and
- › Establish places for individuals to reconnect with 'āina and reinforce self-worth.



HO'OULU 'ĀINA: *Agriculture, Ecological Rehabilitation & Soil Remediation*

- › Establish "Eco-Cultural Ag" - culturally informed ecological and agricultural practices;
- › Remediate the soil in order to grow culturally appropriate agriculture;
- › Remove invasive species to restore the native forest; and
- › Contribute to Hawai'i's food sovereignty through various methods (agroforestry to high-tech agriculture).



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROCESS

2.5-YEAR PLANNING PROCESS

The OHA recognized that the planning process required a thorough understanding of the place and the people who interact with it. The following represents the community outreach process that took place to explore the various visions the OHA's beneficiaries and community members have for the site.

PHASE 1: PRE-PLANNING

THOUGHT LEADER INTERVIEWS

- › Hawaiian community leaders were consulted to include their vision and considerations for the Conceptual Master Plan. The Thought Leaders provided comments on managing access, perpetuating culture, cultural education, and protecting the place for current and future generations.

PHASE 2: START OF CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLANNING

WORKING GROUP FORMED

- › 10 working group members - with expertise in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Hawaiian culture, environmental and property law - were selected through a public process to represent diverse communities and contribute to the development of the Kūkaniloko Conceptual Master Plan.

NEIGHBORING LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT

- › Key neighboring landowners were engaged to discuss any plans, priorities or issues that might impact the Conceptual Master Plan. Wahiawā landowners and tenants surrounding the OHA's 511-acres were invited to a meeting to share the Conceptual Master Plan timeline and process, build relationships and gather feedback.

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

- › The community was introduced to the project and the planning team, and were asked to give their mana'o on the identified values. This helped the Working Group to further define the values.

KUMUPA'A FOUNDATION & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- › The Working Group developed the Kumupa'a foundation to stand upon for further development and a set of guiding principles to serve as the filter for the planning process. The actions that shall occur on the site will be guided by the values described previously (ho'omana, ho'ona'auao and ho'oulu 'āina).

CASE STUDIES

- › Case studies and research were shared with the Working Group. The purpose of the exercise was to provide a range of local and global examples of existing and proposed projects to generate ideas for landscaping and supporting infrastructure appropriate for the 511-acre property surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones Site.

PHASE 3: MID-PLANNING

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- › Brainstorming workshops were conducted on what kind of programming should take place on the property and what physical elements and infrastructure were needed. Four major categories emerged: cultural landscape, vegetation, education and revenue generation. The Working Group further broke down the categories which became the priorities for the plan.

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

- › The civic groups and larger community reconvened for a recap of the first round of community engagement and an update from the Working Group. The larger group broke into three stations to give their comments and feedback on the four major program categories developed by the Working Group.

PHASE 4: MASTER PLAN

COMMUNITY MEETING #3

- › The final opportunity for the community to review and comment on the OHA's Conceptual Master Plan recommendations before the plan would be presented to the OHA's Board of Trustees. The comments and outcomes from this meeting helped to reinforce the process and direction developed by the Working Group.

VISION STATEMENT DEVELOPED

- › The Working Group and community members produced a guiding charter for the site that was envisioned to be implemented over the next 100 years. The outcomes from this discussion are best represented by this vision statement:

Kūkaniloko Ka'ānani'au is an ecosystem of connectivity between our 'āina and people. The piko for the lāhui and a wahi kapu to honor O'ahu's royal lineage, Kūkaniloko will inspire and educate future 'ōiwi leaders to ho'omana, ho'ona'auao and ho'oulu 'āina.

CONCEPTUAL GOAL DEVELOPMENT & IDENTIFICATION OF PHYSICAL NEEDS

- › Goals were developed for each value (ho'omana, ho'ona'auao and ho'oulu 'āina) and infrastructural needs were also identified for each goal (i.e. outdoor classrooms, gardens, etc).

PROGRAMMATIC OUTCOMES

The community outreach outcomes that rose to the top as priorities are best represented by the following guiding themes:



INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

The types of programming that will take place at Kūkaniloko can be categorized by Ho'omana (preservation plan, protocol, access management), Ho'ona'auao (kūpuna engagement, community-based stewardship, cultural workshops), and Ho'oulu 'Āina (soil remediation, agriculture, native forest restoration). When braided together like strands of olonā cordage, these three categories fortify connectivity between our people and this place.



EDUCATION CONTINUUM

Like most Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians understood that human life cycles are relatively short and information gained needs to be transmitted to future generations to understand lessons learned over time. This concept will be perpetuated through educational and engagement programs at Kūkaniloko. Generationally integrated education supports a traditional model of reciprocal learning that will help grow people, place, food, environment and natural/cultural resources.



HUB & SPOKE

Kūkaniloko will become a hub to connect other similar efforts on O'ahu and across the pae 'āina. It will bridge movements and leverage resources and initiatives to implement meaningful action for the lāhui. People will come to Kūkaniloko to gain knowledge and experience, then take 'ike back to their moku, ahupua'a, and 'ili to educate and expand its reach. This Hub & Spoke model aligns with the site's geological position, historic use and significance.



VEGETATION CONTINUUM

The vegetation continuum considers the full spectrum of vegetation planting strategies: native forest to high-tech agriculture. By creating a diverse ecosystem, the watershed will be restored through the restoration of native trees, which will feed the understory below and ultimately feed the lāhui. Kūkaniloko will grow food, people and other things that will serve the needs of the 'āina and kānaka. Healthy lands; healthy people.

These programmatic outcomes have infrastructural requirements, thus, the following development projects were proposed:





WELINA ZONE

WELCOME PAVILION

The welcome pavilion aligns with the values ho'omana and ho'ona'auao and is part of the access management strategies to protect the birthing stones. As recommended by the Working Group, the welcome pavillion would be the home base from which community stewards and security operate. At the welcome pavilion, visitors can be educated about the place and how to behave while visiting.

PIKO ZONE

INTERPRETIVE CENTER & AMPHITHEATER

The interpretive center aligns with the values ho'omana and ho'ona'auao and will be the gathering place for education, training and launa (socializing). It will also provide alternative experiences of the birthing stones, which will enable continued and accurate interpretation of the site without visiting the stones.

KUPU ZONE

GREENHOUSE & NURSERY

The greenhouse aligns with the value, ho'oulu 'aina and will produce plants for the reforestation efforts that will take place on the property as part of the vegetation continuum. It will also serve as the "high-tech" agriculture component of the continuum, which is the use of best-science agricultural methodologies available to date.

CULTURAL NODES

Along the walking and vehicle pathways one can connect further to Hawaiian culture, knowledge and practices. These cultural nodes will serve multiple functions for educational purposes to enlighten future generations of leaders.

VEGETATION CONTINUUM

The vegetation continuum is a spectrum of vegetation ranging from native flora, resource crops, food crops and highly modified, technological agricultural systems that will be established throughout the property.

- Visitor Center
Community Center
Multipurpose Hale
- Security/Maintenance
- Greenhouse
- Vehicle Path
- Walking Path
- Suggested delineation of space
- Native Reforestation
- Semi-Managed Forest
- Agro-Forestry
- Demonstration Plots & High-Tech Agriculture
- Water Storage Tank
- Proposed Access
- Existing Access

This is a conceptual map of the proposed development projects. Specific location and scale of each element will be determined in the design phase of each project.



KŪKANILOKO WILL BECOME A PLACE WHERE...

- » The legacies of the ali'i born and trained there are carried on by future generations who will be educated to become leaders in their communities;
- » Kūpuna, mākua and keiki can come together to learn and perpetuate Hawaiian culture;
- » Beneficiaries and community members can gather to celebrate the rich cultural history of their home; and
- » Natural and cultural resources are restored and continue to flourish through a holistic regenerative system that is supported by community stewardship and the economic and social opportunities articulated in the plan.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES ON THE
PLANNING PROCESS**

www.oha.org/aina/kukaniloko