Eia Hawai‘i Lecture Series
A monthly lecture series aimed at developing a Hawaiian worldview at UHH

Resource Management through the Wahi Kupuna Internship Program

Wednesday December 5
12:30 PM-2:00 PM | UCB 127

Momi Wheeler- O Ke Kahua Mamua, Mahope Ke Kukulu:
Developing a strong foundation of Native Hawaiian cultural resource stewards for the betterment of our lāhui

This presentation will showcase our holistic training model used throughout the Wahi Kupuna Internship Program that weaves together different sources of 'ike kupuna (ethnohistoric, ethnographic, archaeological) to develop a stronger pilina to our places and communities. Thus, through revitalizing our stories and histories, reclaiming our kuleana to our sacred spaces, and restoring our cultural sites and our connections to these places we are empowering our people and transforming the field of cultural resource management in Hawai‘i for the betterment of our lāhui.

Māhealani Villacorte- Documenting Salt Pans in Ke‘ei, Kona

Pa‘akai is an irreplaceable resource that is utilized for various purposes. Our kūpuna recognize the great value of this natural resource both in its liquid and crystalized form. During the 2018 Wahi Kupuna Internship, we documented over 70 salt pans in Ke‘ei, consisting of the Kāheka (modified natural pāhoehoe basins) and Hāhāpa‘akai (portable salt pans) variety. Documenting and preserving pa‘akai pans are vital towards reviving pa‘akai collecting practices today.

Candace Wharton- Bringing Life Back to the Ala: Utilizing the appropriate wayside plants to encourage engagement with the ala

My project looks at the current wayside plants found along the Ala Loa and various mauka-makai ala (trails) in the ahupua‘a of Ke‘ei 1 and Ke‘ei 2 in South Kona, Hawai‘i. Wayside plants are found directly along the edges of roadways, pathways, and trails, directly impacting the cultural and natural environment that they grow in. Through understanding this relationship between plants and people, one is able to restore the trails and their surrounding environment. Restoring wayside plants are part of the process of restoring trails and other cultural sites across Hawai‘i

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