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# **Hā'ena State Park Master Plan**

## **Executive Summary**

Hā'ena, the storied place at the far northwestern corner of Kaua'i's beautiful North Shore, is also home to one of the State of Hawai'i's busiest state parks, Hā'ena State Park. This master plan encapsulates the work of many hands over many years. Kūpuna, cultural experts, leadership from Hui Maka'āinana o Makana (Hui), the non-profit group with a curatorship agreement with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of State Parks (State Parks) for portions of Hā'ena State Park, community leaders, historians, engineers, archaeologists, and scientists all pulled together to help State Parks and their planners develop a long-range plan for the 66-acre park and its ongoing management. The plan has gone through many iterations over the years and at the heart of it is the desire of the community to protect the wahi pana and wahi kapu (culturally significant areas) of Hā'ena, along with its natural and scenic resources, for the generations yet to come. It is an ancestral home and dynamic community resource, rich with actively tended lo'i and an ancient hula complex, natural habitats, ocean recreation, and the trailhead to the increasingly popular and world-renowned Kalalau Trail. At one of the early Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) meetings, Charles "Chipper" Wichman inspired the group with the following 'ōlelo no'eau (proverb) from Mary Kawena Pukui:

Hana a lau, a lau ke aho,  
a laila loa'a ka i'a kāpapa o ka moana.

*Make four hundred times, four hundred fish lines  
Before planning to go after the fighting fish of the sea.  
(Be well-prepared for a big project. Envision success, inspire others to see the goal,  
support the preparation of skills and resources.)*

Building upon the previous efforts to prepare a draft master plan in 2001, which included extensive input from the Hā'ena community, the proposed master plan integrates the wishes of the community today and incorporates updated technical studies. It recommends minimal physical improvements to the park in order to maintain the natural beauty and openness of the area. Only a few new structures are proposed including a Welcome Hale that is envisioned as an open traditional Hawaiian hale and located near the improved main parking lot. Interpretive and informational signage will be posted at the hale and two new restrooms for men and women near the main parking lot will provide a second set of facilities to reduce wastewater flows at the existing Kē'ē comfort station, which has sensitive cultural sites nearby. The latest proven green wastewater treatment technologies should be installed and the effluent treated so it can be reused wherever possible.

The current overflow parking area will serve as the main parking lot and be resurfaced with permeable paving. Portions of it will be shifted slightly makai to avoid a rockfall hazard zone. According to the rockfall hazard study completed for the park in 2013 by AECOM (Appendix H), several areas along the existing highway are predicted to be within a Class A (high estimated potential) and Class B (medium estimated potential) rockfall hazard zone. After considering costly and undesirable engineering solutions that would deface Ka Pali 'Ōahi o Makana, the

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MPAC together with Hui leadership, recommended that all visitor facilities be located outside of the estimated rockfall hazard zones to the extent possible. This includes the main parking lot, new entry turnaround and shuttle stop, and a new pedestrian-only path that connects the main parking lot with Kē‘ē Beach through the lo‘i. The new pedestrian path follows along the first berm of the lo‘i system closest to the highway and is proposed to be slightly elevated so as not to impact the berm or any of the historic resources. The new path will provide visitors with a unique view of Makana, a famous mountain peak, as well as views of the restored wetlands, loko, and lo‘i as they continue to the iconic Kē‘ē Beach.

The main parking lot is envisioned to be flexible with a maximum of 100 striped stalls. The overall size of the main parking lot could be adjusted to support visitor use of third-party shuttles to the park, or the County's proposed North Shore shuttle should it be established, with the goal of right-sizing the parking lot. The idea is to accommodate local demand, complement shuttle volume, and minimize parking impacts outside of the park. In addition, the main parking lot could be separated into a fee-paying lot and non-fee paying lot by moveable bollards and cordons so the parking can be adaptively managed on an as-needed basis to support the varying numbers in either group parking at the park on any given day and even throughout the day. A smaller special access parking lot will be located at Kē‘ē in the existing paved areas. These stalls will be reserved for ADA accessibility, the lifeguards, park staff, the Hula Complex, and other cultural practices. It will also be accessible for emergencies as well as safety and rescue operations.

Other elements of the plan include reestablishing the area makai of the Kalalau trailhead and encompassing Ka Ulu a Paoa Heiau and the former Allerton property as a Hula Complex, recognizing the extreme significance of this ancient wahi kapu to hula practitioners worldwide. In addition, a Cultural Gathering Place will be created inland of Ka‘īlio Point with a traditional hale and Hālau Wa‘a, where educational and community programs could be staged, including overnight stays.

The plan also supports the continued restoration of the Agricultural Complex and encourages restoration of the varied historic, cultural, and natural resources throughout the park. It prioritizes the restoration of the dune complex as a potential first effort, recognizing the multiple benefits of ecological restoration, beach protection, and caring for the ancestors whose bones lay interred in the sand dunes. The plan also encourages green building design, integrated water use, reuse, and rainwater catchment, and renewable energy throughout the park.

The existing historic state highway that runs through the park is also recommended to be transferred from the State Department of Transportation to State Parks so that it may be closed to general through traffic and State Parks can shift the bulk of visitor traffic and parking outside of a potential rockfall hazard zone.

There are five key management recommendations proposed in the master plan. They include the establishment of a Cultural Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee, both of whom will be consulted on all aspects of park management and proposed improvements; and the implementation of adaptive management principles with regards to all management issues at the park. The third is the proposed reduction in the number of visitors entering the park during peak hours to an average of 900 per day. This number is an initial target and subject to change based on feedback from the community and impacts to the natural and cultural environments. However, it is an important starting point to help reduce the impacts that have been affecting the

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park and quality of experience for park users. With the advent of social media, the popularity of Kalalau Trail draws hundreds of day hikers to the park. Therefore, the visitor limit includes those day hikers, but does not include overnight campers or hunters with valid permits, members of the Hui, cemetery caretakers, kūpuna who have cultural or ancestral ties to the area, or attendees at special educational or cultural events such as volunteer workdays or events at the Hula Complex. The other key management recommendations include required staff and volunteer education and the provision of visitor orientation materials prior to park entry.

Together, these policies will allow cultural and community advisory groups to advise State Parks on proposed management policies and improvements at the park and will encourage visitors to plan ahead and gain a better understanding of the park's varied resources prior to arrival. The Master Plan acknowledges that park access and operations will be ever-evolving and will likely change over time as new policies are implemented. However, the goal is to study the impacts of these proposed policies and to adjust them as appropriate to improve the long-term management of the park and visitor satisfaction via adaptive management. State Parks greatly appreciates the community's input and feedback in developing this master plan and is dedicated to working together to restore and preserve this wahi pana that is Hā'ena State Park.

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## Ka Poli Laua‘e Ka‘u Aloha

Ka poli laua‘e ka‘u aloha  
A Makana ho‘i e hi‘i mai nei

*I love the laua‘e covered bosom  
Held in the embrace of Makana*

Hi‘ipoi ‘ia e ka Waiama‘u  
Ka makani kaulana o ka ‘āina!

*Fondly tended to by the Waiama‘u,  
The famous wind of the land*

Ua like a like me Kanaloa  
Me ka wai aniani o Kapala‘e  
Ma‘ema‘e ia pua o ka hinahina  
Ia lei makahehi a ka malihini

*Exactly like Kanaloa’s  
Is the crystal-clear water of Kapala‘e  
Attractive is the blossom of the hinahina  
The lei admired by visitors*

‘I‘ini ka mana‘o e ‘ike aku  
I ka poli kapu o Lohi‘au ipo,

*There is a desire to see  
The sacred bosom of the beloved Lohi‘au*

Ku‘u ipo i ke kai o Kē‘ē  
Kai hāwanawana hone i ka poli

*My sweetheart of the sea of Kē‘ē  
The sea whose soft whispering thrills the heart*

Poli o Kiloe ka‘u ‘ano‘i ai,  
Ho‘opulu ‘ia nei e kēhu kai

*The bosom of Kiloe, I am very fond of,  
Is moistened by the spray of the sea*

‘Akahi ho‘i au a ‘ike maka,  
Nā kupa kaulana o ka ‘āina

*It is the first time I’ve seen for myself  
The famous natives of the land*

Ha‘ina ‘ia mai ana ka puana  
‘O ka lihilihi o ka poli laua‘e

*Tell the refrain, the story is told  
Land of the laua‘e covered bosom [of Makana]*

*Mana‘o: This mele was composed by Wahinekeouli Pa ca. 1907. It is a tribute to the famous mountain of Makana and the wahi pana or storied places of Hā‘ena, Kaua‘i. Wahinekeouli Pa was born and raised in Kalalau, Kaua‘i. Along with her husband, Hanohano Pa they made their home ma kai of Mount Makana just across of Wai a Kanaloa Cave. She was a master chanter and haku mele (composer) of chants – most of which were written for Hā‘ena, Nāpali and Kilauea on Kaua‘i’s north shore. Ka Poli Laua‘e Ka‘u Aloha provides us with important perspectives of Hā‘ena’s natural resources and landscapes that remain cherished and sacred to Native Hawaiian families of that place today!*

This chant comes from the repertoire of mele oli and mele hula – chants and dances that have been entrusted to the lineage of Kaipuwai. It is being taught specifically to perpetuate the native scholarship of formal hula training that is carefully imparted to the haumāna of this hālau hula. The choreography and interpretation of this chant remains the intellectual property of Hālau Palaihiwa O Kaipuwai. It may not be taught or performed for any reasons other than those stated here, without obtaining prior permission from its Kumu Hula.