

Who We Are:

‘Ao‘ao O Nā Loko I‘a O Maui (Association of the Fishponds of Maui) was formed in 1996 for the purpose of revitalizing the ancient royal Hawaiian fishpond, Kō‘ie‘ie located at Kalepolepo, Kihei, in the ahupua‘a of Ka‘ono‘ulu on the island of Maui.

‘Ao‘ao O Nā Loko I‘a O Maui is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose talented Board is a combination of community leaders, educators, residents, visitors and government officials who are concerned for the future of Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a and the perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture.



“Preserving Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a for future generations to enjoy.”



The kuapā (wall) of Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a.

What We Are Doing:

‘Ao‘ao O Nā Loko I‘a O Maui has dedicated itself to revitalizing Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a for educational, archaeological, cultural and recreational purposes. We feel that this fishpond is a symbol of the Hawaiian culture and history. Therefore, it must be preserved as a monument to Hawai‘i’s past and an icon for the future.

It is a cultural landmark tucked away in the growing community of Kihei, Maui where many are unaware of its significance. ‘Ao‘ao O Nā Loko I‘a O Maui is working to change this. We are working with the community, nearby condominiums and local organizations to bring the historical and cultural life back to a landmark which has been living quietly for too long.



Students reflect on the meaning of the fishpond during a school visit.



This fishpond was sacred to the ali‘i, royal chiefs and chiefesses of Hawai‘i. It was repaired and often visited by many ali‘i including Kamehameha I, III, IV and V, ‘Umi-a-Liloa and Maui’s present day Aloha Week royal court, above. As a tribute to its cultural significance and value, Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Where We Are Going:

Our goals are ambitious and very possible.....

Goal 1: Obtaining funds and permits

We must raise funds estimating over \$250,000 to support revitalization and education efforts. Also, permits must be obtained from government agencies prior to the start of physically rebuilding Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a.

Goal 2: Revitalization

We will begin reconstruction of the pond’s structure to resemble the original fishpond as accurately as possible based on information such as surveys, oral histories, literary research and expert consultations.

Goal 3: Education

Our overall goal is education. We envision the fishpond as a teaching tool for Hawai‘i’s youth, residents and visitors to learn the many aspects of the Hawaiian culture, its values and its historical accomplishments.



Our Mission Statement:

We value the importance of traditional Hawaiian fishponds. We believe in revitalizing and preserving Kō‘ie‘ie Loko I‘a for future generations to enjoy its historical, cultural, archaeological, educational and recreational purposes.

Photo: Dave Cowan

Where we're located:

Kō'ie'ie Loko I'a is located adjacent to the office site of 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui at 726 South Kihei Road, Kihei. Our office is within the Education Center of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. Kalepolepo Park and Menehune Shores are also neighboring properties of the fishpond. We invite you to visit and find your own personal reason for saving this historic cultural treasure.



Kō'ie'ie Loko I'a Lookout

How You Can Help:

We are reaching out to the general public for your help and support of our goals. You can help in several ways such as:

1. Become a member.
2. Volunteer your time and/or services.
3. Spread the word about this project with other interested friends and family.
4. Attend a Board meeting and voice your ideas.
5. Make a donation to a great cause!



Every rock brings back a piece of Hawai'i's culture.

How to Become a Member:

You can become a part of this exciting project by making either a monetary or in-kind service donation to 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui.

Members receive an annual membership and a membership card. As a member, you will also be placed on our mailing list if you wish, entitling you to our free newsletter and information on upcoming events such as fundraisers, Hawaiian cultural classes sponsored by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and much more!



Photo: Rob Phillips

Jean-Michel Cousteau and Nan Marr (L) pose with Sheila Ople (R) as they accepted honorary membership on behalf of Ocean Futures.

Honorary Members:

'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui has received generous donations from the community and private organizations. We'd like to extend our appreciation to our honorary members who have provided exceptional services to the preservation of Kō'ie'ie as of spring 2002 including Moloka'i Loko I'a, Nā Kūpuna O Maui, Ocean Futures, Pacific American Foundation and Keali'i Reichel.



President, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, takes time at the East Maui Taro Festival to show visitors a model of the fishpond and entices them to learn more about the project.

Board Members of 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui

Board of Directors:

President: Kimokeo Kapahulehua
Vice President: Joylynn Nākoa Oliveira
Treasurer: Rob Phillips
Secretary / Administrative Assistant: Sheila Ople

Members of the Board:

Gloria Adlawan	Dave Mackwell
Jacqueline Bentley	Richard McCarty
John Buck	Ruth Moss
Jean-Michel Cousteau	Maria Ka'imipono Orr
Kathy Davenport	Patty Phillips
Richard Kiligian	Diana Schulte
Richard Larson	

The Association holds its board meetings the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at 726 South Kihei Road. We welcome residents and visitors alike to join us during these public meetings.

For More Information:

Contact or visit Sheila Ople, Administrative Assistant at the office of 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui, Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Office Location

726 South Kihei Road
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'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui

Revitalizing a wall . . .
Revitalizing a culture . . .



Association of
the Fishponds
of Maui