



Waipā students enjoy an archaeological dig, and (at left) package *poi*.



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– NEIL HANNAHS

KS legacy lands encompass 63 miles of ocean frontage, historic fishponds, 100 miles of streams, tropical and dryland forests, lava fields and watersheds, with some areas containing endangered endemic animal and plant species.

The philosophy behind projects like Waipā is to use these richly endowed natural resources as an emotionally appealing environment for teaching and learning science, social studies, math, Hawaiian culture, conservation, leadership and interpersonal skills.

“It’s invigorating and rewarding for teachers and students to get outside the classroom and learn academics in living systems,” Hannahs said. “And while our beneficiaries learn, KS lands increase in educational, social, economic and cultural value through their efforts to improve soil and water quality, eradicate harmful alien species, and propagate and harvest beneficial species for food, medicine, clothing, arts and crafts.”

Other ‘Āina Ulu projects include the He’eia Fishpond restoration in Windward O’ahu; Kawailoa Ahupua’a oppportunities in conjunction with Waialua High School; Ka’ū Forestry Education Center on Hawai’i; the Keawanui Aquaculture Education Center on Moloka’i and more than a dozen other projects currently being planned.

Hannahs said these types of programs offer a myriad of benefits. “‘Āina Ulu is a way to use KS legacy lands as a means to educate more Hawaiian children, actively engage them in their culture and history, instill in them a sense of pride in their heritage and connect them to their communities in a meaningful way.”



‘Āina Ulu Programs Coordinator Neil Hannahs (right) discusses a cleanup of He’eia with Jim Bassett of Kamehameha’s Land Assets Division.