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KS engages community in restoring North Shore fishpond

Loko Ea Fishpond in the moku (region) of Waialua was once a bountiful source of fish for the ruling ali'i of O'ahu. Today the seven-acre pond owned by Kamehameha Schools serves as an outdoor classroom for education and a catalyst for community collaboration. KS senior land asset manager **Kalani Fronda** has engaged community members - from keiki to kūpuna - in restoring the fishpond to its former glory.



For the first time ever, KS Ho'omaka'ika'i Explorations students helped restore the historic Loko Ea Fishpond. You can help too at monthly workdays coordinated by KS' Land Assets Division.

“Loko Ea was a place that fed our people physically and spiritually,” said Kalani. “Therefore, the restoration of Loko Ea is more than just restoring this pond. We are restoring the ano (spirit) of this place by reconnecting people back to a place that fed their families for many years. Also with so many other resources that Loko Ea offers, it is also being restored to a place that serves as a classroom for young and old. It's very exciting to see the progress.”

This year, for the first time ever, over 1,600 fifth-grade students from KS' Ho'omaka'ika'i Explorations summer boarding program will visit Loko Ea. Here they will spend a day building a rock wall, removing non-native marine life like tilapia, and learning about the long and rich history of this fishpond. Through learning about ancient Hawaiian systems of aquaculture and land stewardship, keiki have the opportunity to connect modern-day experiences and needs to their heritage and cultural traditions.

Want to learn more?

Community work days: Join Kalani and other community members in restoring Loko Ea to a productive, functioning fishpond. Workdays are held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of each month at the site located behind Jameson's restaurant in Hale'iwa Town. The history of the pond will be shared. Food & drinks are provided. Please contact Kalani at 523-6244 or kafronda@ksbe.edu if you have any questions or would like to participate.

Hale'iwa Arts Festival tours: KS will be conducting walking tours and an “open house” of the fishpond and its surrounding area during the 12th Annual Hale'iwa Arts Festival on **July 18 and 19**. “Loko Ea” is the theme of this year's event. E hele mai! Come join the festivities! If you purchase a Loko Ea event poster, a portion of the sales will go back to the restoration work at Loko Ea.

The Loko Ea Fishpond restoration is one of seven catalyst projects included in KS' North Shore Plan which calls for a reinvigoration of KS' land assets in the North Shore area. Other key segments of the plan address commercial, agricultural, educational, residential, sustainability and alternative energy initiatives.

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Students remove non-native marine life like tilapia from the pond.



KS senior land asset manager Kalani Fronda demonstrates proper wall-building technique.



Kalani says that volunteers are not only restoring the ancient fishpond, but the spirit of the North Shore Community as well.