

Ka waiwai o ka Lāhui: Aia i hea ka wai o Kāne? Water and Native Hawaiian Health

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Presenter Disclosures

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(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

"No relationships to disclose"

I 'auhe'e o Ka'uiki I ka wai'ole.

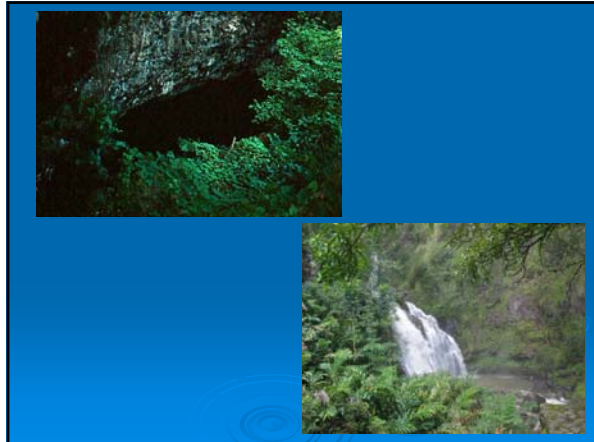
Ka`uiki was defeated for the lack of water.

Pukui 1997



Learning objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of traditional Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) knowledge and practices relating to water.
- Describe the relationship between water and Kanaka Maoli health.



Traditional conceptions of water

- Kāne and Kanaloa
 - duality
 - Kāne
 - Fresh water
 - Tapped fresh water streams
 - Forests
 - Northern edge of the ecliptic
 - East
 - Kanaloa
 - Oceans
 - Found fresh water streams
 - Southern edge of the ecliptic
 - West

Types of wai

- Wai – external vegetation/water caught in vegetation = 5 types (wai apo, wai hua, wai puolo, wai hili and waikoolihilihi)
- Wai – internal/juice/coconut water/sap/tears/amniotic fluid = 5 types (wai, waikoolihilihi and lapa wai)
- Wai – atmospheric/heavy fog/mist = 1 type (uhi wai)
- Wai – subterranean/cave/water oozing from precipice/deep basin water = 2 types (wai hi and moanaliha)
- Wai – surface water/spring/stream/pool/lava or water flow, etc = 13 types (puna wai, wai hu, wai kai, wai ahu, wai aka, kanawai, wai kaha, wai ko, wai lele, waiholomoku, muliwai, muliwaiopele, muliwai olena)
- Wai – spirit = 1 (Wailua)
- Wai – place with water = 7 places (place names on Hawai'i Island including grain in stone) Waiapele, Waiiau, Kawaihae, Wai pohaku
- Wai – Who? What? Who are you? = generations of who are you? 'Ohana



Water and health

- Health of animate and inanimate world intimately linked through genealogy
- Preserving stream flows and water quality
 - Endemic and indigenous flora and fauna
 - Traditional agriculture and aquaculture
 - Reef ecosystems
- Water as traditional medicine

Water in lā'au lapa'au

- Cave water
 - Used in life or death situations
- Stream/river water
 - Ceremony
 - For use as a foundation with herbs, minerals or ocean medicine
- Morning dew from high elevations
 - Collected from leaves in imu
 - To drink with medicine or by itself
- Spring water
 - Mixed with herbs, minerals, ocean medicine
 - Can be from fresh water springs found offshore

Stream fauna



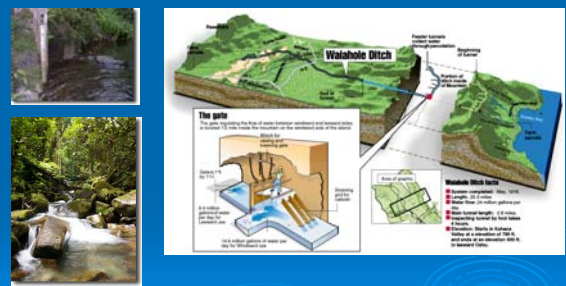
Traditional agriculture and aquaculture



Ka waiwai: water as contested terrain

- Water has been at center of political economy
 - Traditional and customary uses
 - Plantations
 - Development
- Litigation
 - Waters are a public trust
 - Waiāhole Ditch – State water resource trust
 - East Maui kalo farmers

Waiāhole/Waikāne Nā Wai 'Ehā



Conclusions

- Extraordinary range of knowledge and practices relating to both wai and kai in traditional culture
- Water was, is, and will be central to health of Kānaka Maoli

Recommendations

- Integrate concepts of kapu system and mana into EA/EIS process
- Incorporate culturally appropriate health impact assessment into the EA/EIS process
- Assemble IRB for physical science and environmental projects, similar to existing health IRB

References

- Pukui MK. 'Olelo Noe'au: Hawaiian Proverbs and Poetical Sayings. Honolulu, HI: Bishop Museum Press, 1997.
- <http://nhlchi.org/highlights2.htm>
- Lā'au lapa'au training under Po'okela Papa Auwae
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