

Pu'uhonua o Wailupe



A place of refuge for Iwi Kūpuna



Submitted by Pu'uhonua o Wailupe for Resolution 26-151
Committee on Zoning & Planning | June 25, 2026

Presented by Healani Sonoda-Pale on June 25, 2026

Committee on Zoning & Planning Meeting, Resolution 26-151

MISC. COM. 265(26)
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Who Are We?



Pu‘uhonua o Wailupe is the cultural steward of 2.9 acres identified as TMK (1) 3-6-023:006, CPRs 0001–0008, located at Wiliwilinui Ridge in Wailupe, O‘ahu.

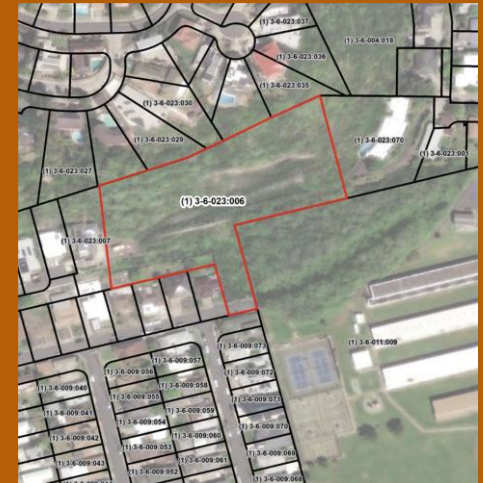
Our organization was formed on February 12, 2022, after community members halted heavy machinery activities that threatened known burial sites on the property. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit comprised of Wailupe lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, and environmental advocates dedicated to protecting iwi kūpuna and cultural resources.

Pu‘uhonua o Wailupe is also recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) and has participated in cultural consultations for government projects in Wailupe and surrounding areas.

www.puuhonuaowailupe.org

Location

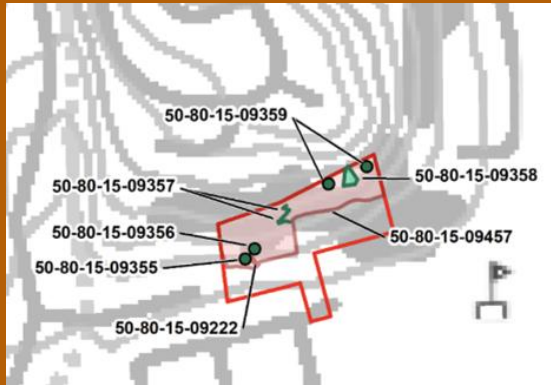
Pu'uhonua o Wailupe is located on a 2.9 acres parcel identified as TMK (1) 3-6-023:006, CPRs 0001-0008 within the ahupua'a of Waikīkī, Kona District, on the island of O'ahu. The address is 5203 Keikilani Circle Honolulu, HI 96813.



Cultural Sites

There are a total of 6 traditional Hawaiian burials and cultural sites registered with the State Historic Preservation Division which constitute a cultural landscape (Site 50-80-15-09457) on the parcel. All human remains were preserved in place.

Because of additional known burial caves and archaeological features adjacent to the parcel on Wiliwilinui ridge and the many historical accounts of burials being found on this area of the ridge we suspect there may be more burials on the parcel.



Young Boys Accidentally Uncover Ancient Hawaiian Burial Cave



Partnerships

Pu'uhonua o Wailupe and OHA submitted a joint application to the Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission on September 16, 2025, to acquire a conservation easement over the property. Under the proposal, the City and County of Honolulu would hold the conservation easement, while title to the property would be held by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO) and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, would serve as the cultural steward of the site.



Holds Conservation Easement

Title Holder & Land Manager



Archaeological Services

Cultural Stewardship



Acquisition Purpose & Price

Purpose: The proposed acquisition will preserve a historically and culturally significant landscape, protect open space and natural resources, support conservation efforts that reduce erosion and runoff, and provide opportunities for public education about the cultural and historical importance of Wailupe. It fulfills multiple purposes of the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund as set forth in Charter Section 9-204.2.

Price: The purchase price of the conservation easement shall not exceed the fair market value established by an new independent appraisal commissioned by the City and County of Honolulu and the amount is capped at \$7 million.

