

Affiliated Ali'i

Historically, chiefs who took up residency in Kahalu`u became ruling chiefs over Hawai`i Island. Therefore many ali`i have been affiliated with the land surrounding Hāpaiali`i.

One of the very first ali`i mentioned is an infamous chief named Kalaunui`ōhua. Through malevolent methods he acquired every island except Kaua`i. Kalaunui`ōhua could not defeat the pious Kaua`i chief Kūkona. All the islands acquired by Kalaunui`ōhua became Kūkona`s. Because Kūkona was not a greedy man he released and restored each island kingdoms to the original chiefs saving Hawai`i Island for himself.

The next chief who took up a part time residence in Kahalu`u was `Umiāloa who reigned as the chief of Hawai`i Island in the 14th century. `Umi is credited as the first ali`i to commission the partial construction of Hāpaiali`i.

Nearly a century later, Lonoikamakahiki held his court and residence in the area. It is reported that at the birth of Lonoikamakahiki, his navel was cut near Hāpaiali`i. Lonoikamakahiki is credited to have begun the annual makahiki ceremonies and games which were held first in Kahalu`u.

Later on in time, it is reported that both Kalani`ōpu`u and Kamehameha continued the tradition by conducting their annual makahiki ceremonies & rituals in Kahalu`u.

The Future of Hāpaiali`i

As we continue to utilize Hāpaiali`i as an educational source, more information will be gleaned about how Hawaiians understood their universe. Hāpaiali`i continues to elevate the descendants of those who once lived, played and prayed in Kahalu`u. The restoration of the sites in Kahalu`u has also become the restoration of a community and of traditions long forgotten. The stones have been placed, the foundation has been reset, the community is returning and recommitting to learn and maintain the traditions.

The Keauhou-Kahalu`u Educational Group will continue to provide experiential curriculum for learners and are also committed to re-establishing Kahalu`u as a place that elevates the Hawaiian consciousness to its full potential.

E ola mau ka hā
loa o Kahalu`u!
E ola!

*(Let the ancestral essence of Kahalu`u live!
Live!)*



Northern upright

Hāpaiali`i

Kamehameha Schools
Keauhou-Kahalu`u Educational Group

Hāpaiali`i - To Elevate Royalty



A brief compilation of information
regarding the site Hāpaiali`i
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History, Restoration, Function, Education

History

There isn't a lot of accessible information regarding Hāpaiali'i and its history. Hand written records by scholars such as David Malo, Desha, Poepoe & David Kalākaua explain that the Kahalu'u, area where Hāpaiali'i is located, was a very prominent area for the aristocratic society. The ali'i and kāhuna utilized Kahalu'u as a special place for ceremonies, learning, recreating, and residing.

A hand written map by Henry Kekahuna describes Hāpaiali'i as a residence and also that the platform had been constructed by a Maui engineer (Kahuna Kuhikuhipu'uone) named Ma'a.

In 1906, an archaeologist named J.F. G. Stokes, recorded the size of Hāpaiali'i to be 150 feet by 100 feet. In 1952, nearly fifty years later after two tsunamis changed the Kahalu'u seascape, a Hawaiian archaeologist named Henry Kekahuna conducts ethnographic and archaeological studies of the area. He reported that Hāpaiali'i was 143 feet by 100 feet and included valuable information about Hāpaiali'i and the surrounding sites in Kahalu'u. During the restoration of Hāpaiali'i in 2007, the original wall alignment recorded in 1906 was discovered and the Hāpaiali'i was restored back to its original size of 150 feet by 100 feet.

The original stones had been replaced and Hāpaiali'i stands as it had been constructed during the time Ma'a.

The Function of Hāpaiali'i

Hawaiians placed uprights on or around heiau for various reasons. These markers were sometimes used to track the seasonal or daily movements of celestial activities or events. It became apparent immediately after the reconstruction of Hāpaiali'i that uprights were going to be necessary to assist learners with understanding how traditional tracking of the movement of the sun, moon and certain stars occurred.



There are significant uprights on each of Hāpaiali'i's walls marking the four cardinal points. Each upright represents various celestial movements. The five prominent uprights on Hāpaiali'i's western wall track the annual movement of the sun while standing on the viewing marker. The furthest southern upright marks the area where the sun will set during the winter solstice. The central upright marks both the Spring & Fall equinoxes and the



furthest northern upright marks the area where the sun will set during the summer solstice. Hāpaiali'i served as an ancient calendar by tracking the horizontal movement of the sun annually. The uprights also track the bi-annual movement of the moon and the nightly and seasonal movement of the stars. Hawaiians utilized the movement of the sun, moon and stars to keep track of their time.

The southern, eastern and northern walls have only a single upright placed upon each wall. These single uprights represent the cardinal points to assist learners with learning wind directions, ocean current activities and other weather pattern phenomenon. Hāpaiali'i also serves as a tool for observers to learn the environmental function and patterns of the Kahalu'u area.

Other Names & Function for Hāpaiali'i

The following are names that have been mentioned in Hawaiian stories that may be other names for Hāpaiali'i. 1) Kalāke'e; 2) Nu'ekū; 3) Kī'iholo; & Kī'inoho.

Functions: 1) Residence for ali'i; 2) Residence for Kahuna; 3) Calendar & 4) Observation Platform