



Fact Sheet

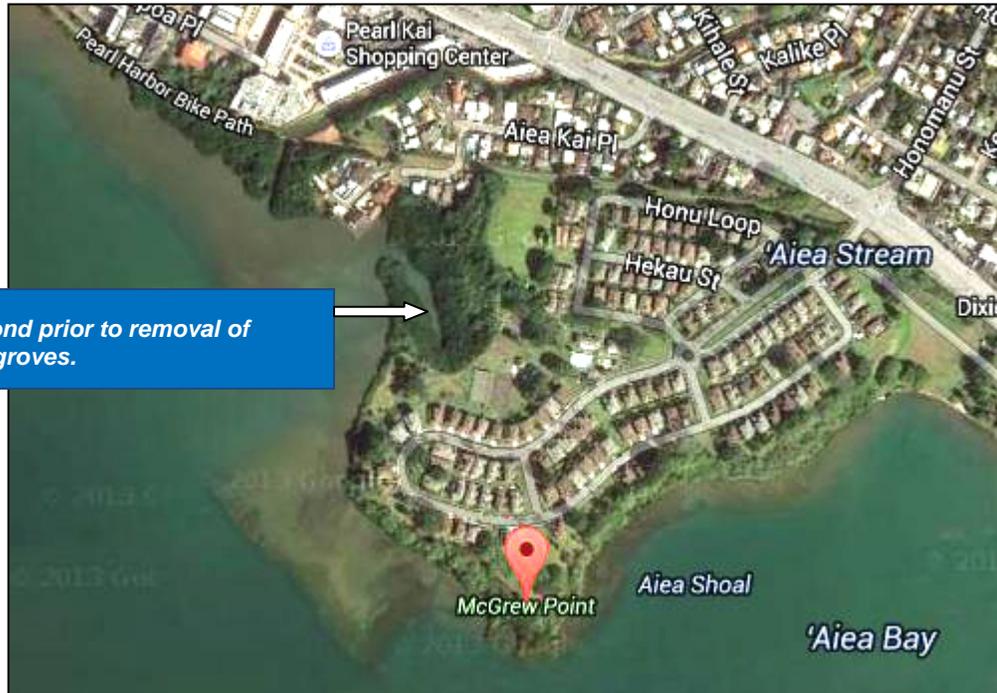


Loko Pa`aiiau Fishpond McGrew Point Housing, Oahu, Hawaii

May 2015

The Loko Pa`aiiau Fishpond is located at McGrew Point Navy housing, Oahu, Hawaii. It is one of only three fishponds out of an original 22 in the Pearl Harbor area which are still relatively intact. The Loko Pa`aiiau Fishpond is the most accessible.

Fishponds were used by the ancient Hawaiians to farm fish using areas around the shoreline to enclose a feeding area for fish.



Loko Pa`aiiau Fishpond prior to removal of mangroves.

On Sept. 29, 2014, the Navy invited members of local Hawaiian civic clubs and Aiea community members to join them for a ceremony to begin



work on restoring the historic Loko Pa`aiiau Fishpond. Shad Kane, Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner, officiated the blessing and provided dozens of attendees with a lesson in the history of the Native Hawaiians from the area of Aiea and McGrew Point. Several members of Hawaiian civic clubs presented traditional Hawaiian offerings called ho`okupu as part of the ceremony.

Pono Pacific, a local Hawaii contractor, spent six months to complete the first phase of the project, which was to clear the mangrove trees obstructing the pond. Due to the

archaeological sensitivity of the site, workers cleared the dense mangrove by hand. In addition, during the clearing process, archeologists and cultural monitors were present to ensure that the pond walls were not impacted.



On May 13, 2015, the Navy met with representatives from Native Hawaiian civic clubs and the Aiea community to observe and discuss the progress of the ancient fishpond restoration at McGrew Point. After a traditional blessing, participants took a tour of the Pearl Harbor fishpond observing the progress of restoration efforts.

The next phase will be to formulate a preservation and restoration plan, which will include long and short term goals for the use and restoration of the fishpond.

History/Background

Historical and archaeological studies reveal that more than 20 ancient Hawaiian fishponds once lined the shores of Pearl Harbor. Core samples indicate that many of Pearl Harbor's fishponds were in use sometime after the 1400s. Others were constructed between the 16th and late 19th centuries.

Unknown elsewhere in Polynesia, shoreline fishponds made of rock or coral walls are considered to be a highly-effective food production invention of the native Hawaiian people. At one time, an estimated 360 fishponds across the chain of the Hawaiian Islands produced a projected million kilograms of fish each year, mostly for the use of the chiefs and their various entourages.

The fish species cultivated were likely mullet (ama`ama) and milkfish (awa). Immature fish were collected and put into the pond. The walls intentionally let the water flow in and out. As the fish grew, they were held in place behind a sluice gate known as a makaha, made of closely spaced stakes. The makaha allowed the water to rise and fall with the tides while it kept out the larger predators. Once grown, the fish were harvested.

Two of Pearl Harbor's fishponds remain visible today. The rest generally were filled by agricultural development in the area in the early 1900s, predominantly for sugar cane cultivation. Loko Oki`oki`olepe, near the entrance to West Loch on the west side of the entrance channel, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The pond wall, approximately 1,000 feet long, 4 feet high and 6.5 feet wide, is made of coral chunks and remains relatively intact. It encloses approximately six acres.

A remnant from Loko Pa`aiou, given a date of between 1327 and 1473 AD based on plant pollen found in sediment core samples, can be seen on the west side of McGrew Point. Two ponds, Loko Kunana and Loko Muliwai, were filled, creating Kuahua Peninsula to the south of where Halawa Stream enters Pearl Harbor.

The largest pond, Loko Hanaloa, on Waipio Peninsula, emptied into West Loch and covered more than 200 acres. Other smaller ponds were in front of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam's Boutiki store, at the head of Merry Loch under today's Ward Field, and at the head of Quarry Loch under today's Millican Field.

(Note: Most of the historical information above comes from Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program, Project No. 1729, "Ancient Hawaiian Fishponds of Pearl Harbor: Archaeological Studies on U.S. Navy Lands, Hawaii" by the International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., July 2000, edited by J. Stephen Athens with contributions by Athens, Blinn, Buck, Christen, Cowie, Dye, Murakami and Ward.)

Goal of Restoration

The main focus on restoring the fishpond is to educate local keiki and military families on how ancient Hawaiians built these ponds and to improve relations between the Navy and the community. The Navy is complying with procedures outline in its 2008 Oahu Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan which fulfills federal and state law to preserve and protect cultural resources.

General Timeline

Sept. 26, 2013	Contract awarded to Pono Pacific to remove mangroves at five locations around Pearl Harbor.
Sept. 29, 2015	Ceremony held to begin work on restoring the historic Loko Pa`aiiu Fishpond.
October 2014 – May 2015	Mangrove removal actions at various locations around Pearl Harbor, including McGrew Point.
May 13, 2015	Visit to Loko Pa`aiiu Fishpond to observe mangrove removal results.
TBD	Pono Pacific to remove mangroves at one more location.
TBD	Formulate a preservation and restoration plan, which will include long and short term goals for the use and restoration of the fishpond.

For more information, contact Denise Emsley, Public Affairs Officer, NAVFAC Hawaii, (808) 471-7300, or denise.emsley@navy.mil.

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