

Ahupua`a o Hakipu`u

The *ahupua`a* of *Hakipu`u* (Broken Hill) is located at the northern end of Kane`ohe Bay, with the *ahupua`a* of Waikane to its south and the *ahupua`a* of Kualoa to its east. Its valley depth (and Kualoa too) is not as much as the rest of the *ahupua`a* of Ko'olaupoko, due to a mountainous ridge which branches off of the Ko'olau mountain range and juts out to the east. This ridge, named *Mo`okapu o Hāloa* (Sacred section of Hāloa), forms the northernmost boundary of Ko'olaupoko, and is a natural dividing line which separates this region from Ko'olauloa to the north. *Mo`okapu o Hāloa* maintains an enormous height of its own, with the highest peak of *Kānehoalani* (sacred companion of the god *Kāne*) standing at approximately 1900 feet above sea level. [A *mo`olelo* of how this high peak got its name states that the god *Kāne* commanded *Kānehoalani*, an *ali`i* (chief), to perform a sacrifice on a "mountain top." When he asked *Kāne* where he should go to find the proper mountain for the sacrifice, the god replied, "Go east until you reach a sharp-peaked hill jutting into the ocean." He went, along with his son and his servant, and traveled east until they reached Kualoa and saw such a mountain as was described by the god *Kāne*. They climbed its summit and performed the necessary sacrifice there, and so it bears the name of this *ali`i*.] Two of the slightly-lower peaks are named after his son, *Kūpuluhulu*, and his servant, *Pili Lua Nu`u*. It is said that on the day of summer solstice, the ridgeline of *Mo`okapu o Hāloa* points directly to the east.

Haki pu`u is noted for its dense vegetation on both the coastal regions as well as the *mauka* uplands. It contains one sizeable *kahawai* (stream) in the lowlands, which is fed by two *kahawai* from the upper regions of the *ahupua`a*. *Haki pu`u* also contains a *lepo pohō* (swamp) and an array of little ridges and valleys along the western and southern boundaries of the *ahupua`a*. Aptly named, it is clearly evident that *Haki pu`u*, or "broken hill," refers to the jagged ridge top of *Mo`okapu o Hāloa*.

A *mo`olelo* regarding the significance of *Haki pu`u* and its long-lasting sacredness has been spoken of countless times, being passed down from generation to generation. *Paliuli*, a "legendary paradise of plenty" with many proclaimed sites throughout the islands, was said to have existed in the *mauka* regions of *Haki pu`u*. In addition, the legendary and historic navigator *Kaha`i a Ho`okamali`i* was said to have landed on the beach here, on his return trip from Tahiti. He is credited for bringing and planting the first *ulu* (breadfruit) tree, in this *ahupua`a*. (The *ulu* tree embodies *mana*, or spiritual power, in the food plant form, and said to be a blessing to all people.) Because of *Kaha`i's* courage and persistence, and his bravery to take daring voyages, all sailing vessels which pass by *Kualoa* and *Haki pu`u* lower their sails as they go by, out of respect and honor to *Kaha`i* and his residence at *Haki pu`u*. Even Kamehameha I, after conquering O`ahu in 1795, observed this tradition and paid respect to *Kaha`i*. The history of *Kaha`i* and *Haki pu`u* and its significance to native Hawaiians continues even until the present day, as sailing vessels still lower their sails in honor of *Kaha`i*. In addition, the legacy of this important *ahupua`a* was revisited when, on March 8, 1975, a 62-foot double-hulled voyaging canoe slid down a coconut log ramp into the calm waters of Kane`ohe Bay, at *Haki pu`u*. The *wa`a* was aptly named *Hokule`a* (Star of Gladness) after "Arcturus," the brightest star in the northern sky. As recent as November 2005, the *Hokule`a* has been brought back to its birthplace at *Haki pu`u* as a token of remembrance to this sacred land.

One important feature on the coast of this *ahupua`a* is *Mōli'i Loko l`a* (Mōli'i Fishpond). It is said to have been constructed by *menehune* (small people with super-human strength) over the period of a single night. *Mōli'i Loko l`a* encompasses an area of approximately 124 acres and its seawall is 4000 feet long. It was once a single *loko l`a*, but now is divided into two. The *Mōli'i Loko l`a* and another one, the *Huilua Loko l`a* in Kahana, are said to be connected by an underground passage that was built by a *mano*, or shark, who used it to visit both *loko l`a*.

Written records show that old *lo`i* (taro fields) were once prevalent in the swampy flats *makai* (seaward) of the present Kamehameha Highway, in the vicinity of *Mōli'i Loko l`a*. As many as a dozen *lo`i* were still being cultivated along the *Haki pu`u* stream in the *makai* zone, with about an equal number in the *mauka* regions as recent as 1935. *Lo`i* in this area received its water from two sources, *Haki pu`u* stream and *Kailau* Spring (which was located on the hillside above the *loko l`a*).