

IMPROVE EDUCATION  
 PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
 ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES  
 ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES  
 MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR  
 MAUI ISLANDS  
 NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

## Youth Alliance @ Ko`ie`ie Fishpond



### To assist with the Ko`ie`ie Fishpond Restoration Project spearheaded by `Ao`ao O Na Loko I`a O Maui

Youth Alliance members joined 14 other community volunteers on April 24th, under the direction of Vene Chun, for a community workday.

Kalepolepo Fishpond, known by its older name Ko`ie`ie Loko I`a, is an ancient Hawaiian fishpond estimated to have been built between 1400–1500 AD. It is one of the last remaining Native Hawaiian fishponds along South Maui's coastline.

The fishpond is located in Kalepolepo Park in Kihei, next to the NOAA Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Education Center at 726 South Kihei Road.

In 1996, the `Ao`ao O Na Loko I`a O Maui (Association of the Fishponds of Maui) began renovating Ko`ie`ie Fishpond, working closely with the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The day began with Vene Chun offering a *pule & oli* for protection to *Akua* and *aumakua*. He described where he began working on the wall in 2007, and how we each put our *mana* into every rock and pebble placed in re-building the wall.

Alliance members learned how fishponds tied into the economy and land management system of ancient Hawaii. After the session members enjoyed a lively discussion about the similarities and differences between Maui Nui's ancient and modern economies. And Ko`ie`ie Fishpond survived yet another test of Mother Nature, withstanding last February's tsunami. Maui TV News was able to record remarkable footage of the tsunami flowing into and ebbing out of Ko`ie`ie Fishpond. To view go to: <http://www.mauiTVnews.com/breaking-archive-02-25-3-4-10.htm#tsunami>

For further information visit: [www.mauiifishpond.com](http://www.mauiifishpond.com)

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 Each month during the academic year high school participants from across Maui Nui gather to explore key components of our community.

This behind-the-scenes look is accompanied by projects and activities that give participants a greater understanding of how our community works. Guided by the Focus Maui Nui vision, values and key strategies for action, Youth Alliance members are empowered with the skills and experiences to truly become leaders for change.

"It is important to understand how ancient Hawaiians were connected to the 'aina, and that they visualized themselves as part of their surroundings – rather than just consumers of it."

~Amanda Matsuda  
 Freshman,  
 Lahainaluna High School

### MAHALO

`Ao`ao O Na Loko I`a  
 O Maui

Joylynn Paman  
 Vene Chun

Maui TV News  
 Jeff King

County of Maui



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT [www.FocusMauiNui.com](http://www.FocusMauiNui.com) or CALL 808.270.6801