

Keau Kukui Ula Heiau Preservation Committee

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Annual Report ~ March 19, 2019

2018 was a year of shifting our mission in response to new information and challenges. A site visit with the Hawai'i State Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources representatives was an important point in that process. In their official reports, the representatives accorded us high marks for what we had accomplished since assuming responsibility for the heiau.

The Hui received new information and insights as a result of that meeting. It was revealed that the state-approved mitigation plan that we had been given could not be implemented because of irregularities in the condition and dimensions of the heiau when it was handed over to the HOA and Hui. The Hui must create a new mitigation plan based on this information, get state approval for the plan and implement it. While this is a huge challenge, it is also a very meaningful trust that we are undertaking. The first priority to begin this work is to get an accurate map of the site.

In addition to the intellectual work of historical research, website maintenance and development, outreach to other hui and Hawaiian language study, we continue the ongoing physical labor of caring for the heiau. That includes erasing the desecration done by the development's builder. We are close to completing the removal of the coral. The metal fencing has been removed, and four remaining posts are being used to support a ti leaf "fence" at the top of the cement stairs on the mauka side. We work with the heiau grounds crew to keep weeds under control. Two young trees - both canoe plants - given to us as ho'okupu by the Kuamo'o hui have been planted. The kukui tree is on the makai side slope near the street, and the kou is on the mauka edge. We continuously plant additional ti cuttings and water them by hand.

We are still waiting for state approval of our large interpretive sign, after which it will be installed. As we continue to make the heiau property safer for visitors, we will begin regular "talk story" programs on a quarterly basis.

We have welcomed a new volunteer and included information about her on our website. Our regular meetings are held every first Monday of the month. If you would like to volunteer to offer kokua in this most important work of preservation and education, please contact the Hui. We invite everyone to keep track of our work by visiting the heiau website, embedded in the Pualani Estates at Kona website, or go directly to the website at <http://pualaniestatesatkona.com/keaukukuiula/>.

Mahalo for your support and kokua.

Dr. K. Kealani H. Winter and R. Likeke Bumanglag, Co-chair