

Amazing Ahupua‘a

Join us for an adventure-filled week of exploring the ahupua‘a, a traditional Hawaiian land division extending from the uka (uplands) into the kai (sea). In Makiki Valley, part of the Waikīkī Ahupua‘a, we’ll encounter native and introduced plants utilized by Hawaiians, a restored lo‘i (taro patch), and many ancient rock terraces once used for growing food. On our trip to the ahupua‘a of Moanalua, we’ll learn about the area’s rich hula history and search for native aquatic life in Moanalua stream. We’ll work hard when we visit the Kahana Ahupua‘a, pulling weeds in a lo ‘i kalo and collecting marine debris near a loko i‘a (fishpond). For a view of the entire Waikīkī Ahupua‘a, we’ll spend a day hiking to Pu‘u ‘Ualaka‘a (Roudtop). All week long, we’ll play Hawaiian games, make nature crafts, and find ways to take care of the land and sea. We’ll even have a special visit from author Karlin Gray, who will share a story that highlights the beauty and significance of all living things. In everything we do, we’ll practice laulima (teamwork), aloha (respect, compassion), and mālama ‘āina (caring for the land) – important values for a sustainable way of life in the past that can guide us in living sustainably today.

Schedule:

Day 1 - Introduction to the Ahupua‘a – Discoveries in Makiki Valley: The week begins with an introduction to concept of the ahupua‘a followed by an exploration of Makiki Valley as we discover plants used for food, medicine, and clothing, rock terraces used for cultivation, and caves used for shelter. Along the way, we’ll search for insects in the forest and aquatic life in the stream.

Day 2 - Culture and Environment – Field Trip to Moanalua Ahupua‘a: A day in Kamananui Valley in search of petroglyph rocks along the trail and ‘o‘opu (goby fish) in the freshwater stream. **Please wear hiking shoes and clothes that can get muddy; bring rain jacket (or trash bag), extra clothes, a towel, and a plastic bag for muddy shoes. Bus leaves at 9:00am!*

Day 3 - Work and Play, Hawaiian Style: Today we’ll play a variety of Hawaiian games, make Hawaiian crafts, and explore the nearby meadow to catch grasshoppers. Author Karlin Gray will visit the Center to share her book *The Extraordinary Ordinary Moth*.

Day 4 - Exploring Taro Patches & Fish Ponds – Field Trip to Kahana Ahupua‘a: A day of giving back to the land and sea in Kahana Valley. As we work in a taro patch and clean the beach at Huilua Fishpond, we’ll observe the wise use of both ocean and freshwater resources in the ahupua‘a and see first-hand how healthy land supports a healthy sea. *Bus leaves at 9:00am!*

Day 5 - Lessons from the Past – All-Day Hike to Pu‘u ‘Ualaka‘a: To conclude the week, we’ll hike to Pu‘u ‘Ualaka‘a State Park for a view of the entire Waikīkī Ahupua‘a. Along the hike, we’ll learn about the importance of a healthy forest for perpetuating Polynesian voyaging traditions. The day ends with a canoe-building craft as a reminder of the lessons we can learn from the past to live more sustainably in the present and future.