

Kukui Heiau - Lae Nani

Kukui Heiau, is an ancient Hawaiian temple, and a renowned wahi pana, legendary sacred place. Kukui Heiau is located at Ka Lae Ala Kukui, the promontory kukui tree path at the northern ocean front point of Wailua Bay. It is a key feature of Lae Nani Resort, and sits partially on County, State and Private lands. Kukui Heiau was built nearly 500 years ago and once stood 230 feet long. Very few of the original features can still be seen. The Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places recognizes it as a healing heiau. Through oral tradition, it is mentioned that Polynesian navigators would use this heiau as a reference point for travelling to and from Kaua'i. Kukui nut candles and signal fires were lit, while the silvery leaves of the kukui trees reflected the glimmer of the fire to guide navigator's canoes safely to shore.

Being a sacred place, a heiau has many kapu, taboos. Please be respectful and observant of the following rules:

1. Treat the heiau as a sacred space.
2. It's illegal and culturally prohibited to remove rocks from Hawaiian heiau protected under state regulations like [Haw. Code R. § 13-126-34](#) (prohibiting disturbance of geological features)
3. Do not walk on, or move any rocks (pōhaku). This undermines the integrity of the structure.
4. Native birds nest here. Mahalo for helping protect them by not feeding cats or encouraging them to remain near the heiau.
5. Offerings of any physical kind (food, notes, stacked rocks) are forbidden.
6. A prayer, quiet meditation, respect from your spiritual essence (mana) are great offerings.
7. Any commercial activity, weddings, exercise classes, or other owner/guest ceremonies are forbidden within the heiau.
8. In the Hawaiian spirit of Aloha, please treat the heiau with respect as a haven of beauty and serenity.