



Neglected beauties become dangerous beasts

Some of the towering trees—over 125 feet tall—are now in need of removal, planted as they are in such close proximity to the dwellings below. Several of these (hoop pines) have diameters at the base in excess of five feet. Nearby is the fork in the road believed possibly to have been the place of the Queen's witness to lovers parting, inspiring her world-renown composition, "Aloha 'Oe".

The Kukapoki Heiau lies only a ten minute walk from the Queen's Bath. Certainly the Queen and other royal family members would have visited it in their pursuit of spiritual retreat. Dedicated to Lono, this heiau, built over 500 years ago, was available to the sizable ahupua'a residing in the lush upper reaches of Maunawili Valley. Here they would have brought their bountiful offerings of agricultural produce, synonymous with the verdant setting and the numerous springs continuously flowing.



Overgrown heiau site - stones highlighted.

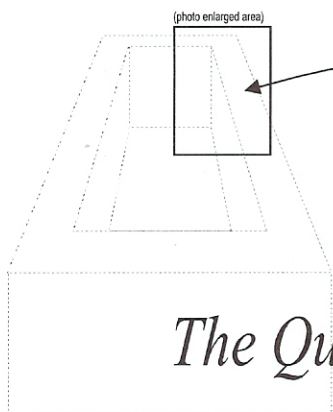
Littering the grounds of this once pristine land and royal acreage, lie the discards of diverse technologies, remnants of other lifestyles and entrepreneurial efforts. The free-standing rock walls—hundreds of feet of them—lie largely in tact, though covered by layers of overgrowth from untended plants...silent witness to the process of time and culture change.



A sign of the future; a discarded wheel

A Meaningless Picture of a Meaningful Place.

This hidden treasure remains remarkably in tact beneath the extensive overgrowth.



The Queen's Bath

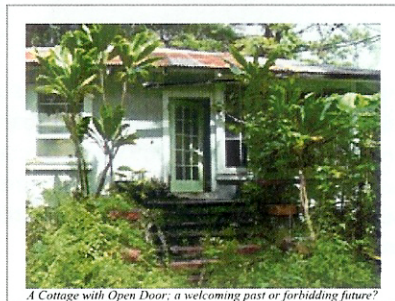


A stone ledge tops the Queen Bath

Vanishing Treasures:

The Queen's Retreat in Maunawili Valley

At the end of the royal palm processional area, stands another dwelling constructed possibly for royal guests. This house, of a single story design, has been vacant for over 15 years and lies



A Cottage with Open Door: a welcoming past or forbidding future?

in danger of vandalism and decay. Alongside it were several other buildings, now demolished or decomposed, which originally were significant in the entertainment of royal guests.

In the late 19th century, W.G. Irwin planted acres of coffee trees and constructed a mill for the processing of this crop. A waterwheel and brick roasting ovens still remain in part, symbols of a once ambitious project. The coffee trees, lying feral for over a century, have grown to some 80 feet with trunks of about 10 inches.



A sign of the past; a water wheel from coffee production

If the stones could cry out they would speak of relentless change, beginning from a simpler past when community was well known and commonly shared, treasured by all. Over time now has come the habitation by the U.S. military in training preparation for World War II activity, and more recently the filming of modern movies like Bruce Willis' "Tears of the Sun". Especially might there be messages of private ownership and land use which excludes the public from access to settings commonly treasured. The āina still preserves its stories, valuable to all, locally born or from far away, to any who can hear.

Our sincerest thanks to Dr. Paul Brennan, Maunawili Valley expert and resident, for the composition of this piece. If you would like to join in the efforts to preserve what remains, record what is vanishing and document what once was in the Queen's beloved Maunawili Valley and Retreat—please contact us for more information.