



SANTA'S IN TOWN

Youth share their wishes in ASL with a Deaf Santa provided by Kapi'olani CC.
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VOICE

♦ EAST O'AHU COMMUNITY NEWS ♦

A PUBLICATION OF **MidWeek** AN EDITION OF **Star Advertiser**



INSPIRING WOMEN

Rosie the Riveters visit students at Sacred Hearts Academy and La Pietra.
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A community ceremony was held on Nov. 9 at Kā'eleloi Place in Kuli'ou'ou Valley to celebrate safeguarding Paikō Ridge from development. In attendance were (from left) Pohai Olomua, secretary, Kupa'aina o Kuli'ou'ou; Butch Correa, kūpuna; Angela Correa-Pei, vice president, Kupa'aina; Keolani Noa, kūpuna and chanter; Kala'e Correa, conch blower; Waipākawiwo'ole Parker, president, Kupa'aina; and Stramer Reeves, treasurer, Kupa'aina.

PHOTO COURTESY WAIPĀKAWIWO'OLE PARKER

Ridgeline Protected In Perpetuity

BY ALLYSON PANG

Facing Maunalua Bay is one of the last undeveloped ridges in East O'ahu — and it will now remain that way in perpetuity thanks to nonprofits Kupa'aina o Kuli'ou'ou and Livable Maunalua Hui.

Kalapa o Maua Ridge (commonly known as Paikō Ridge) separates Niu Valley and Kuli'ou'ou Valley. Kuli'ou'ou Valley is possibly one of the first inhabited areas on O'ahu dating back more than 900 years, according to the book *Hawaiian Archaeology: O'ahu Excavations*.

The area became a point of contention in 2016 due to the Hoku'e'i Cluster Development, a proposal by Chicago-based private landowner LevRed Investors LLC to build 19 homes on Paikō Ridge.

Community members started grassroots movement Protect Kuli'ou'ou (now Kupa'aina o Kuli'ou'ou) to oppose the project due to erosion and landslide concerns.

Recently, Kupa'aina gained ownership of the last 3.5 acres, which is valued at \$1.7 million, on Paikō Ridge. A conservation easement protects it from future development.

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Paikō Ridge Saved From Development

FROM PAGE 1

The remaining approximate 335 acres is conservation land the under ownership of Livable Maunaloa Hui.

For Waipākawiwo'ole Parker, this means finally preserving the land that his family — the Reeves 'ohana — have lived on and been the caretakers of for more than a century.

Parker remembers when Kuli'ou'ou was just a small community with a dairy farm and the road ended at Kuli'ou'ou Park.

"We've been generationally raised with a profound sense of kuleana for the 'āina," says Parker who is the president of Kupa'āina. "(Passed down) from my great grandmother all the way

to my kids, is ... (that) you take care of the valley and the ocean."

Protecting Paikō Ridge's cultural and ecological significance is what sparked Parker and his cousins, Angela Correa-Pei and Stramer Reeves, to start Kupa'āina.

"There is a huge history with Kuli'ou'ou that a lot of people don't know," Parker says.

Being untouched, Paikō Ridge's upper forests are home to 'elepaio (monarch flycatcher), 'apapane and 'amakihi honeycreepers, kāhuli (native land snails), pulelehua (Kamehameha Butterfly) and native palms like loulu.

Native Hawaiian cooking terraces and cooking pits, caves with 'iwi and one of

the last known stone moku boundaries on O'ahu are also found there.

Parker says the development would have been a "dangerous build" due to the unstable Lualualei vertisols, or clay soil.

The area's preservation helps with erosion control and watershed protection, according to a City & County press release.

"Caring for the 'āina is more than just a responsibility; it is a legacy passed down from generation to generation and from leader to leader," states Council Chair Tommy Waters in the press release. "Preserving Paikō Ridge honors the history of this special place and ensures future generations

will continue to benefit from open space, clean water and healthy watersheds."

Despite the many years of negotiations to finally protect the land, Parker laughs and says it's like "a big monkey off the back."

"It takes a very long time to draft a conservation easement and ... when it finally all happened, we were all high-fiving, big hugs, on the verge of tears almost," he says. "Kūpuna can look down and finally smile on us, and then be like, 'OK, good. You guys are doing what you're supposed to do.'"

To learn more about Kupa'āina and the history of Kuli'ou'ou, visit kuliou-ou.org.



Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi (center), Council Chair Tommy Waters (fifth from right), Department of Housing and Land Management director Kevin Auger (second from right) and Board of Water Supply chief engineer Ernie Lau (back row, first on the left) were joined by representatives from Livable Maunaloa Hui and Kupa'āina o Kuli'ou'ou on Nov. 6 at Honolulu Hale to celebrate the completed protection of Paikō Ridge from development. PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL CHAIR TOMMY WATERS



Kupa'āina o Kuli'ou'ou president and longtime Kuli'ou'ou resident Waipākawiwo'ole Parker speaks at Honolulu Hale. PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL CHAIR TOMMY WATERS



A view of the bottom of Paikō Ridge overlooking the Kuli'ou'ou neighborhood. PHOTO COURTESY WAIPĀKAWIWO'OLE PARKER

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY PHOTOS

Photos should be in good taste, sharp focus and depict community life. No scenery pictures, please. Include a description of the photo, the names of all the people in the photo, your name and phone number. Send photos to apang@midweek.com or call 808-529-4735.

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