

An archaeological *kuleana*: engaging pasts and futures at Hawaiian monuments

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The social and cultural implications of archaeological practice in the Hawaiian archipelago are both exceedingly broad and irrevocably dynamic. Focusing on the Kohala peninsula of the island of Hawai'i, this paper examines multiple trajectories of archaeological studies and their impacts by tracing the scholarly treatment of monumental architecture. As subjects of great popular and academic appeal to diverse and numerous interest groups, the monuments – and correlative landscapes – of Kohala comprise a backdrop to complex ancient, historic, and contemporary layers of concern, authority, claim, and ownership. With varying merit, the role of archaeology and archaeologists have been of central importance to ongoing social valuations of such places in the modern era – even as their extant material constructions persist to punctuate time and culture(s) alike. Considering the continued focus of archaeologists on monuments, explicitly framing a more diachronic and broadened perspective with which to engage Hawai'i's prehistoric architecture may (1) present new potential to develop and incorporate anthropological responsibilities and rights in the study of the past, (2) engender archaeological practices that realize better collaboration and engagement with Native Hawaiians and local communities, and (3) thereby honor a *kuleana* of our own per the material record – a responsibility to advance knowledge and appreciation of the human past, and potential for the human future, through the development of archaeological endeavors no matter where in the world we may enjoy the privilege of working.

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