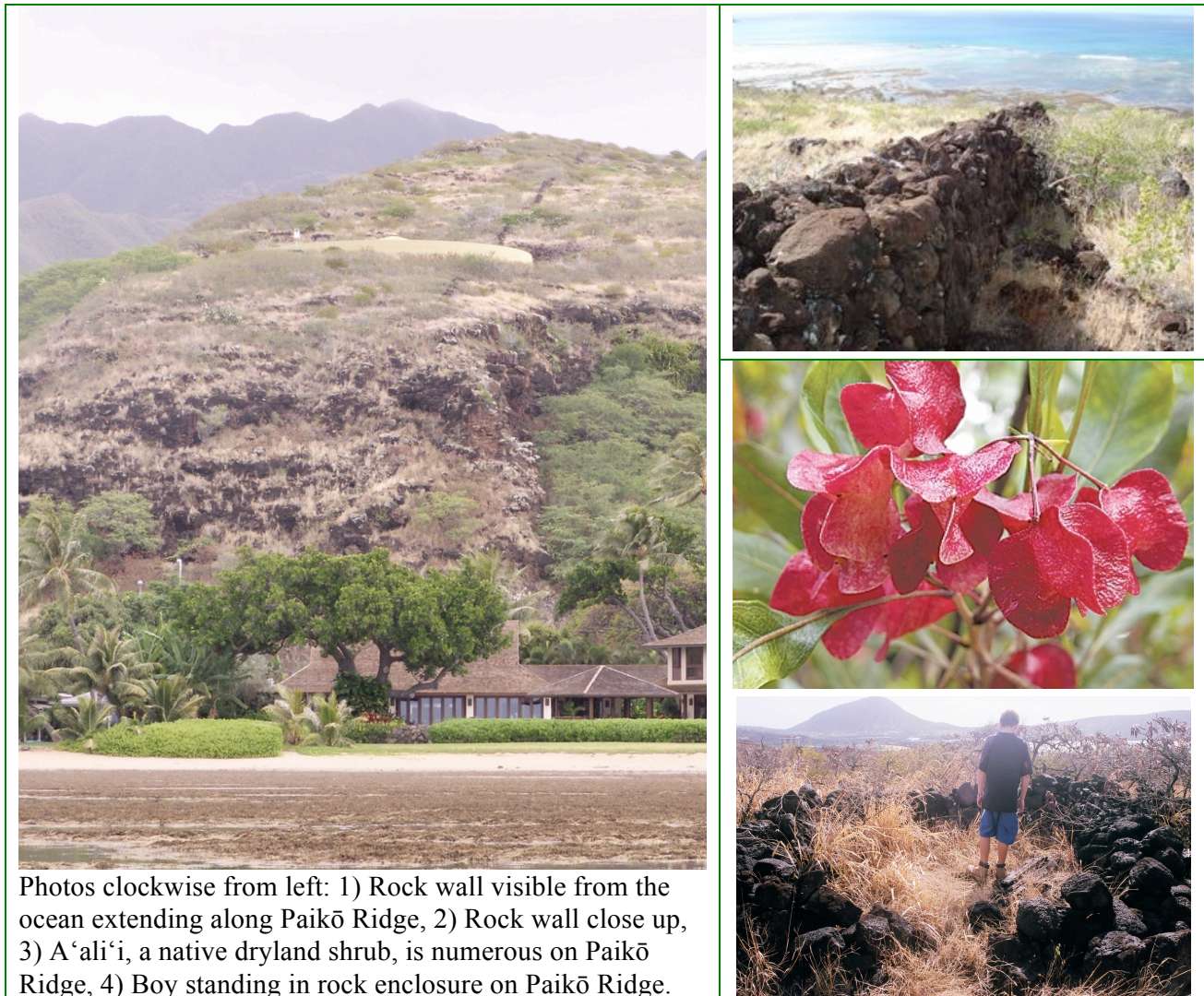


Paikō Ridge The Trust for Public Land & Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui



Photos clockwise from left: 1) Rock wall visible from the ocean extending along Paikō Ridge, 2) Rock wall close up, 3) A‘ali‘i, a native dryland shrub, is numerous on Paikō Ridge, 4) Boy standing in rock enclosure on Paikō Ridge.

Photo credit: Ann Marie Kirk and Laura Ka‘akua

The Trust for Public Land is assisting the nonprofit Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui (the “Hui”) and the Niu and Kuli‘ou‘ou communities to protect Paikō Ridge which separates Niu and Kuli‘ou‘ou valleys in East Honolulu, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i. Paikō Ridge has been slated for a luxury subdivision and is one of the only undeveloped ridges in East Honolulu. There are well preserved ancient Hawaiian cultural sites on the ridge including a long stone wall that runs the entire length of the ridge and is thought to be a fishing boundary marker or one of the last remaining moku (large land division) boundary markers. In ancient times, Paikō Ridge was called “Kalapa o mana” meaning “ridge of power”. Kuli‘ou‘ou Bluff Shelter on Paikō’s ocean cliff is where the first radio carbon dating in the Pacific was done. Aside from breathtaking views and hiking opportunities, Paikō holds vast potential for a native dryland forest community restoration project. The Hui and community members have begun to discuss possibly planting native habitat for the endangered O‘ahu ‘Elepaio, a monarch flycatcher bird known for its song which is loud, pleasant, and sounds like e-le-pai-o! Approximately half of the remaining 1,200-1,400 birds inhabit the Ko‘olau Mountain Range above Paikō Ridge. The ‘elepaio is celebrated in Hawaiian tradition as helping kālai wa‘a (canoe-builders) to select the right koa tree to use for their wa‘a (canoe). The Trust for Public Land and the Hui are discussing the purchase of the land with the landowner, and are approaching governmental agencies to identify the appropriate owner, steward and partner for this special 340-acre ridge property. The Trust for Public Land has ordered an appraisal and plans to apply for federal, state, county, and private acquisition funding.

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