Hawai‘i’s First Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area in Hāʻena: Prospects for Native Hawaiian Self-Determination Over Ocean Resources

On August 4, 2015, Governor Ige signed into law an administrative rules package creating the Hāʻena Community-Based Subsistence Fishery Area (“CBSFA”). The journey to this historical point began almost 20 years ago when the state codified Hawai‘i Revised Statues 188-22.6, which allows the designation of CBSFAs to protect fishing practices traditionally and customarily exercised for Native Hawaiian subsistence, cultural, and religious purposes. Key players in this effort were the nonprofits Hui Makaʻāinana o Makana, formed in 1999 to advocate for the creation of the Hāʻena CBSFA, and Kuaʻāina Ulu ʻAuamo (“KUA”), which facilitated the community process to develop the Hāʻena rules. The Hāʻena CBSFA is one model for Hawai‘i communities to manage their marine resources based on localized, sustainable practices.

Come and learn about CBSFAs and fisheries management more generally from KUA Executive Director Kevin Chang, Hui Makaʻāinana o Makana President Presley Wann, and Assistant Professor Malia Akutagawa. They will share their manaʻo on the CBSFA process and politics, how the community persevered throughout this process, and what this means for other communities throughout Hawai‘i.

Presley Wann is the President of Hui Makaʻāinana o Makana a non-profit created for and governed by the lineal and other descendants of Hāʻena, Kauaʻi. The Hui cares for, perpetuates, and preserves the cultural landscape and indigenous traditions of this special area. The Hui spearheaded the effort to establish a CBSFA in Hāʻena, including the recently approved administrative rules. Presley is a respected community leader and has served in a variety of capacities, including the Kauaʻi Island Burial Council.

Kevin Chang is KUA’s Executive Director. KUA is a non-profit organization that increases the capacity of community-based resource management initiatives with a vision of ʻāina momona. KUA advances its mission through the facilitation of grassroots community driven learning networks, and also serves as a liaison to assist in the development of more equitable collaborations between communities, agencies, and larger conservation initiatives.

Malia Akutagawa is an Assistant Professor with both the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law and Hawaiiniuʻiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge. Malia coordinated the 1993 Molokaʻi Subsistence Study, which was the impetus for the Hawai‘i Legislature’s 1994 passage of Act 271 that created the CBSFA process and a successful pilot project in Moʻomomi – a traditional subsistence fishery on Molokai’s northwest shore.

*Moderated by: Shaelene Kamakaʻala, Post J.D. Fellow with Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law

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