Field Sites: Grade 4

Mokaua Island and Fishpond

Field Site Partner: Kai Makana
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Kai Makana Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing volunteer, in-kind, and financial support for marine wildlife conservation and education. Kai Makana is committed to supporting the residents of Mokaua Island to restore and revitalize a once vibrant fishing community. Plans are currently underway to remove non-native plants such as the kiawe and mangrove trees and re-vegetate with native plants. Plans also include restoration of Mokaua fishpond. The 'auwaikai (irrigation) system is still in tact and fish swim freely within the confines of the fishpond. Residents are moving to a more sustainable lifestyle that will allow them to become less dependent on fossil fuels and more dependent on the food and fish they produce on island. Kai Makana and the Mokaua Fishermen’s Association are partnering in the restoration of Mokaua fishing village in an effort to preserve this educational and cultural resource in perpetuity.

General Agenda
8:15 a.m. Arrive at the Sand Island Canoe Hālau
8:30 a.m. Briefing on paddling techniques, waiver forms signed
8:45 a.m. Paddle to Mokaua Island (approximately: 10-minute paddle)
9:00 a.m. Welcome and overview of area from residents
9:15 a.m. Divide into learning hui (stations). Rotate approximately every half hour.

Hui #1...Life in the Pond – Students will learn about the different marine life that live in Mokaua fishpond. They will sift through limu (seaweed) and collect 'opae (shrimp) and crabs to observe in a petri dish. They will also have a chance to see the marine life that live in the fishpond by observing their movements in an aquarium.

Hui #2...Ahupua'a of Kalihi – Students will learn about the ahupua'a of Kalihi and the tiny islands that once dotted the Kalihi basin where Ke'ehi Lagoon now sits. They will have a chance to build models of the ahupua'a, using sand and natural materials. And observe the flow of water as it moves from the mountains to the sea.

Hui #3...Malama Mokaua – Students will have an opportunity to participate in a stewardship project. There are a number of projects occurring on island such as removal of invasive plants, re-vegetating with natives, and rebuilding the fishpond wall.

10:45 a.m. Clean up and Aloha
11:00 a.m. Paddle to Sand Island
11:15 a.m. Ua pau