



# Friends of Haleakalā National Park

~ WINTER/SPRING 2021-2022 • P.O. BOX 322 • MAKAWAO HI • 96768 • WWW.FHNP.ORG ~

## THE ROCKY SEAT OF POWER



**T**he largest archeological feature within the boundaries of Haleakalā National Park defies human access.

Until recently, scarcely anyone is known to have visited the place since the early 1920s when the site was first studied by the Bishop Museum archeologist Kenneth Emory and by his friend and colleague, the Native Hawaiian scholar Thomas Maunupau. (Emory did make a return visit in 1961.) Preservation through inaccessibility may not have been the number-one priority of those who built this precarious stacked-stone structure sometime before or after the year A.D. 1600. But its remote location has certainly kept it from being trampled into obscurity.

This site is a heiau (a place of worship or shrine) named Keahuamanono. Although it is certainly not the largest of such pre-contact constructions on Maui, it deserves some kind of award for being the closest to impossible. This platform was built of stones brought to site and fitted to the thin rim of the Crater's southern wall, elevation about 8,400 feet. Its width is roughly 56 feet, and it juts from the Crater rim about 26 feet as the surrounding mountainside drops steeply on each side. It was built to look outward, not inward. It is clearly an observation post set at the highest possible point above the ahupua'a (major land division) called Nu'u in the moku (subdivision) of Kaupō.

A HEIAU.  
NAMED  
KEAHUAMANONO

Its builders even included a “chair” fashioned from two unbearably heavy stones that were transported somehow up the mountainside—a flat slab of ‘a‘a lava stone for the seat, and an unusual triangular stone that forms the back. From here one can observe the entire Kaupō District of leeward Haleakalā, also any unusual activity on the sea-channel fronting Hawai‘i Island. One can pinpoint the swing of sunrises between the vernal and autumnal equinoxes, and one can study the waning phases of the moon and the rising of constellations, both of which determine the timekeeping and calendars essential to the rhythm of native life. One can study the stars.

The name Keahuamanono, according to one interpretation, means “the altar place of the waning moon.”

Why has this place become news here at the end of AD 2021? Because a new detailed study of this heiau recently appeared in the prestigious *Journal of Field Archaeology*. Its co-author, sharing the research and scholarly writing duties, is Kirstin Vacca of U.H. West O‘ahu. The scientist, who instituted the study, is Rachel Hodara Nelson, Archeologist and Cultural Resources Program Manager for Haleakalā National Park.

Hodara Nelson earned her BA in anthropological sciences from Stanford University and picked up her masters in Sheffield, England. A Hawai‘i girl who spent most of her youth on Maui, she returned to the Islands and worked for three years in commercial archeology—helping construction projects not obliterate the past in their rush to excavate. “When I saw there was a job opportunity to work at HNP, I was excited. I wanted to work on the preservation side of things.”

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## THE ROCKY SEAT OF POWER

Continued from cover

And Keahuamanono gave her the chance to engage in science, to follow in the tradition of Emory but with new tools and practices, and most of all to walk very, very carefully. She said, “It’s difficult to explain how hard it is to walk off trail in ‘a‘a cinders,” getting astounded by the views while calculating each footstep. She and Vacca, along with horticulturist Michelle Osgood and Hodara Nelson’s husband Mark, began their careful walk at the top of Keonehe‘ehe‘e (Sliding Sands) Trail, and the journey took most of a day. They slept in the open for two nights under the heavy realism of the sky, catching peripheral glimpses of camera flashes back at the summit. A helicopter from the Park brought in equipment suited to contemporary study methods, particularly an alidade and a plane table to calculate distances and to measure without trampling the heiau.

She designed her methodology, as stated in the published paper, to

avoid the invasive practices of old-style archeology (excavating, plundering, taking souvenirs). Her other guiding principle involved placing her data in the context of native culture, beliefs, and broader practices. (In other words, don’t guess what the Hawaiians were thinking. Find out.) One example of this, which might surprise anyone who has driven the apparently barren

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“back side” of Haleakalā is this: in A.D. 1600 this Kaupō region was forested. And with the forests came rainfall. And that vast, now seemingly empty tract supported large populations of people who later abandoned

their depaupered homelands. Any ali‘i who sat in that mountaintop chair had a lot to behold.

Another revelation, perhaps: Haleakalā National Park employees do an awful lot more than chase wandering hikers back onto the trails. They conduct innovative projects in science, education, cultural preservation, and environmental restoration. Like Rachel Hodara Nelson, they make our lives livelier.

## ROSE FREITAS THE COLOR OF LOVE

In 1950, when she was just finishing high school, Rose Cambra moved with her family to Makawao. They were relocating from Pu‘unēnē, near the HC&S Sugar Mill, in Central Maui where her father had worked for the plantation. Now she was living “Upcountry,” a world of ranches and farms. Pretty soon a handsome young cowboy named Raymond Freitas started coming around, just being friendly.

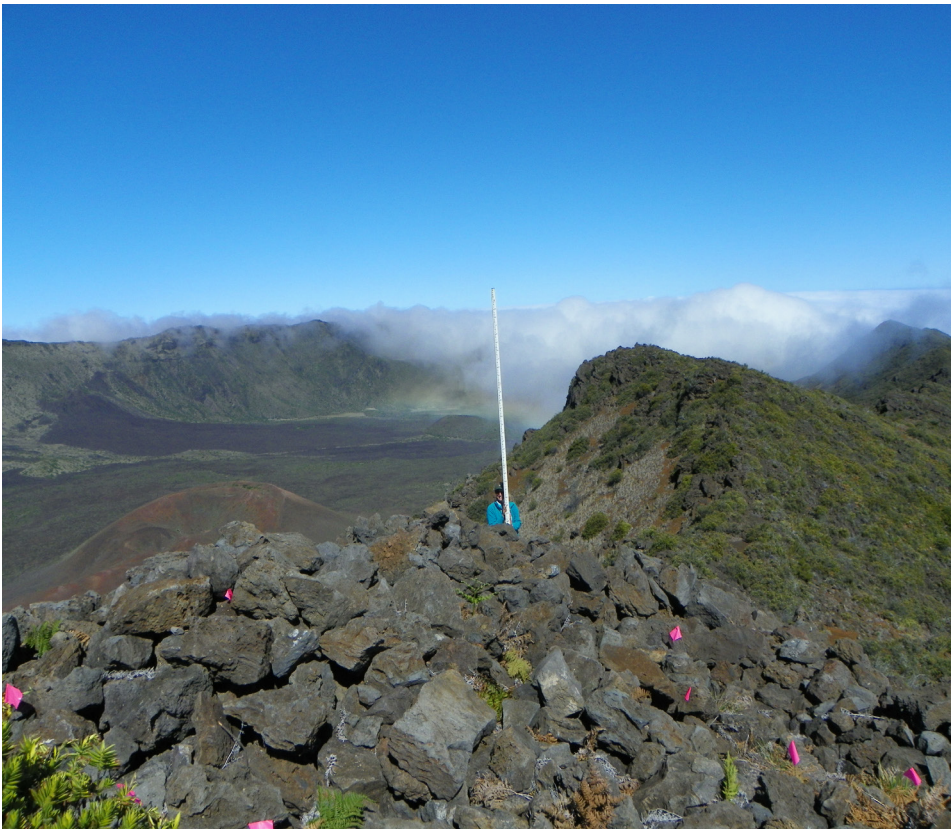
“He was a Crater boy,” said Rose recently, “a hunter and a volunteer. He went in first time when he was five years old! He camped in a cave!”

They went together on horseback through Haleakalā Crater, she for the first time, and her life changed. “When we crossed the Rainbow Bridge—look, what a beautiful sight. I could see way off, see cinder cones in the distance. When we passed Pele’s Paint Pot, I just couldn’t believe what I was seeing. Mother Nature’s beauty. I just fell in love.”

She and Raymond fell in love, too. One night in Palikū Cabin, he pulled a pair of engagement rings from his back pocket and pledged his troth. After their wedding in 1952 they honeymooned in that same cabin. A terrible storm moved in—“the worst I ever saw in my life”—that even reconfigured the Crater’s walls. But they were safe and alone. This was a colossal introduction to their life together and their shared devotion to the wilderness of Haleakalā.

“We would haul supplies to the cabins with a mule. We hauled kerosene in five-gallon cans, everything, lamp wicks, wood. We chopped wood and brought in much much more than we needed, a supply for everyone to use who might come. I cleaned Hosmer Grove grounds, toilets, main office. I oiled all the furniture, washed and patched all the linens, blankets, pillow slips for all the cabins.”

At the same time, her husband



put his hunting skills to good use by helping to eradicate the Park's number-one

"NOW  
IT'S ALL  
MEMORIES."

environmental plague—feral goats that scrambled unchecked over the steep terrain gobbling the native flora. Between 1958 and 1993 (when perimeter fencing was finally completed) the Park eliminated some 17,000 goats. Significant credit for that goes to Raymond Freitas. He tracked and shot them, of course, until firearms were outlawed in the Park. After that he would rope them, tie them behind his saddle, and ride them down the mountain. "We sold them to the Filipinos for ten dollars each," said Rose.

"We helped take care of the nēnē when they were re-introduced. We were there all the time, any chance we had. Two hundred days a year. We'd get to the cabin ten o'clock at night. Concentrated on cleaning the windows, the stove. I painted the walls in Palikū. I gave my hundred percent to the Crater for 67 years."

Not that Rose Freitas wasn't giving her hundred percent on the outside of the Crater also. She and Raymond managed Freitas Ranch in Makawao, and she worked as both a seamstress and a nurse. For over thirty years she was a leader of the Maui All-Girls Rodeo and the Junior Boys and Girls Rodeo. She became Hawai'i's first All-Around Cowgirl. She won over 140 buckles, ribbons, and trophies for her horsemanship in categories such as Steer Undecorating, Dally Team Roping, Reining, Key Hole Racing, Goat Tying, Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, Flag Racing, Break-away Roping, Ribbon Roping, Team Penning, and Steer Dobbng, and she was a World Championship Qualified barrel racer from 1996 to 2004 in her sixties and early seventies. She is the first person from Hawai'i to be selected for the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas. "Now it's all memories," she said recently, raw sadness in her voice.



Raymond suffered a catastrophic stroke, lingered for a time, then passed in 2010. Rose herself has lost much of her mobility to a stroke. It grieves her that she can no longer mount a horse. She'll turn ninety in June. She used to go to two bible study classes every Wednesday. Now, unable to move much physically, she writes poems and stories on lined tablets. The words come streaming forth. Her mind is keen, her enthusiasm as big as a child's.

People such as this don't wear out. They never slow down. They race 'em right to the end.

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*In May 2021 Rose Freitas wrote a long poem describing and praising the Maui landscape now protected as a national park. Here is an excerpt.*

For years Rose Freitas made her own fabulous costumes to wear in the annual 4th of July Makawao Rodeo Parade. Shown here is her Annie Oakley rendition. "Red is the color of love," she said.

### HALEAKALĀ—O—HALEAKALĀ

Suddenly you bestow dazzling sunshine  
So bright upon us.  
We have marveled at many of these glorious sunrises  
Casting warmth over us,  
Tossing a series of hues  
From the deepest of vivid reds and dripping gold.  
You spread your spiritual energy upon us  
With your panoramic views  
illuminated by the rays of the sun.

You surround us now  
With your many dazzling cinders  
Of purple, blue, black, gray, red, yellow, and orange  
Magically blending together.  
Now with our horses' hooves pressing through,  
Shifting these gorgeous colors astrew.  
Here come your rainbows calling,  
Eye-level with the clouds.  
Suddenly we approach  
Two gorgeous māmane trees kissing  
Above, forming an arch overhead.  
Passing under them, Raymond and I  
each stop our horses.  
Holding hands,  
We hug and kiss from within our saddles.  
They became our kissing trees forevermore.

## HOW CAN I GO THERE?

Our members tell us that this is the number-one question. After they extol the sensational experience of Haleakalā National Park, their friends of course want it, too. In these COVID-beset days, what are the rules?

### Here's a tidy rundown suitable for posting on the refrigerator.

- The Summit District, including its trails, is open every day 24 hours. (But, see below: Sunrise Viewing.) The Kīpahulu District opens at 9 am; there's no entry after 4:30 pm, and gates are locked at 5.
- Visitors pay to enter the national park: \$30 for each private vehicle (no more than fourteen passengers). Motorcycles: \$15. Pay with credit card. (Applies to Kīpahulu, too.) The non-transferable pass is good for three days. An attractive option is the \$55 Annual Pass, which will also get you into the Volcanoes Park on Hawai'i Island.
- Masks are required in all buildings, crowded outdoor spaces, and enclosed transportation, regardless of vaccination status. The Summit Visitor Center continues to provide interpretive services. Kīpahulu District offers daily programs at 11 am and 2 pm. Restrooms are accessible at both sites.
- **Wilderness camping:** Reservations cost \$8-9 per night, are not refundable, and are required (no walk-ups). There are two sites in the Crater, at Hōlua and Palikū. Each has four individual campsites and one group site, one pit toilet, and a spigot for non-potable water at the adjacent cabin. **Driveup Camping:** at Hosmer Grove costs \$5 per night. Maximum stay of three nights per 30-day period for all camping. For more information visit <https://www.nps.gov/hale/planyourvisit/camping.htm>
- **Cabins:** Each of the three cabins within the Crater can be reserved for \$75 per night. Cabins are equipped with a wood stove and a propane stove, lockers containing three logs and some propane (no guarantee on that) (BYO lighter), bunkbeds with mattresses, a table, and chairs. Reservations for campsites and cabins are released daily, for dates six months in advance.
- Sunrise Viewing at the Summit (3-7am) is restricted to vehicles with reservations. These can be booked 60 days in advance at Recreation.gov. The reservation-holder (with the pass and ID) must be present or else the vehicle will be turned away. Fee is \$1 in addition to the park entry cost, to be paid by credit card at the park entrance.

**recreation.gov**  
**(for all reservations) hotline:**  
**1-877-444-6777**

Remind your friends that they won't be able to buy gas, that temperatures can drop below freezing, and that high elevation comes with less oxygen and more solar radiation. There's no WIFI in the park. Most cellphones operate at the summit; reception is spotty in Kīpahulu.

## Wear your love of Haleakalā Crater!



Friends board member Maggie Sutrov has created this beautiful design for our new logowear, available now on our website. All proceeds benefit the Park and its mission. Visit [www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org).

## A DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

is the most direct and easiest way to give your aloha and protection to this astounding natural treasure.

In your name, we volunteer in myriad ways to assist with the national park's work in conservation, education, and historical and scientific research. We are your way to keep in touch with the charisma of this great mountain.

WE PUT YOUR PASSION INTO ACTION

We thank every one of you for joining this effort with a monetary gesture. In particular, we want to mention by name the donors who made the most impact in 2021.

### DONORS OF \$100 OR MORE:

John Toshio Araki, *Makawao HI*  
 Meredith Berman, *Providence RI*  
 Lisa Bork, *Dallas TX*

Sheri Buller, *Arbor Vitae WI*  
 Eva C. & Thomas De Maria, *Seattle WA*  
 John W. & Susan Pepper Dubendorff, *Sound Beach NY*  
 Keith Eshelman, *Marina Del Rey CA*  
 Patricia Gallagher, *Austin TX*  
 Mayank Jain, *Crawfordsville IN*  
 William Kuchenthal, *San Antonio TX*  
 Manuel Kūlōloio, *Waipahu HI*  
 Anna Lam, *Castro Valley CA*  
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 Jennifer & Merelyn Clark Oakes, *Arlington VA*  
 Diane & Mark Parnes, *Kihei HI*  
 James Peterson, *Bessemer MI*  
 Carol & Randy Franke Ravano, *Seattle WA*  
 Francesca Sartore, *Giubiasco Ticino Switzerland*  
 Zach & Anna Sherwood Stednick, *Seattle WA*  
 Jeff Vawrinek, *Dallas TX*  
 Tim Williams, *Pukalani HI*



# Become A FRIEND OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK

*This nonprofit organization, directed by a volunteer board, serves as your agent in the good work of protecting an earthly treasure.*

## OUR MISSION IS TO HELP THE PARK ACHIEVE ITS GOALS:

- to preserve the mountain’s ecosystems;
- to ally with Hawaiian cultural and spiritual understanding;
- to leave the mountain unimpaired for the enlightenment of future generations.

**If you, too, have fallen under the spell of Haleakalā, know this: We put your passion into action.**

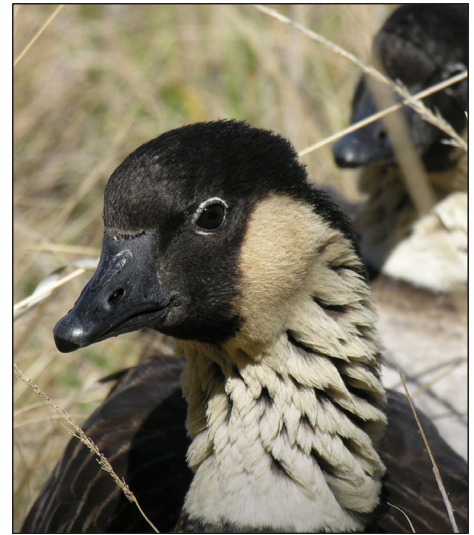
## RENEW YOUR FRIENDSHIP

To become a member, simply donate as little as \$30. Memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. Any donations that arrive during the 4th quarter of the year hold good through the entirety of the next. They are tax-deductible.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOES THIS:

- sets up opportunities for you to engage with the Park as a volunteer.
- informs you of new developments at the Park, and of its history.
- provides funding for projects recommended by Park staff.
- creates a bridge between the Park and the public.
- advocates for the Park in public settings.

"WE PROMOTE, PROTECT, AND IMPROVE HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK."



## Adopt a Nēnē\*

We prefer that phrase over “donate to FHNP.” It is

much more to-the-point. And it allows us to recognize your membership with a gift that tells you “mahalo” (thanks).

- \$30 — NĒNĒ ADOPTION PAPERS AND PICTURE POSTCARD**
- \$50 — THE ABOVE, AND A POSTCARD PACK**
- \$100 OR MORE — THE ABOVE AND A MATTED 5X7 NĒNĒ PHOTO**

If you want, we will skip the mahalo gifts and put your entire donation to the cause of preservation. For that, just check the “waive gifts” box in the form below.

*\* The nēnē, or Hawaiian goose, is a magnificent native bird that has been rescued from extinction at Haleakalā National Park.*

**Mail the form below with your check, or use a credit card at [fhnp.org](http://fhnp.org)**

I want to become a Friend of Haleakalā.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Waive gifts

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payable to: Friends of Haleakalā National Park**  
**Mail to: Friends of Haleakalā,**  
**P.O. BOX 322, Makawao HI 96768**





## WHAT HAPPENS ON A SERVICE TRIP?

The answer to that question varies as much as the Haleakalā terrain. But one example might give the flavor of such an outing.

This comes from FHNP board member Laura Miller. Last October 8-10 she and five other volunteers trekked out to Kīpahulu District, the park's extension to sea level at the remotest eastern part of the island. Their mission? To unchoke a rock wall.

As Robert Frost famously wrote: "Something there is that doesn't love a wall." In this case that "something" was a thicket of invasive canegrass, a landscape-hogging giant whose lacerating stalks lock tight together. Once the plants are cut to the soil line, regular mowing keeps them at bay, but getting to ground level requires aggression and sweat. This crew had begun clearing this wall on a previous trip and now intended to finish the job.

The work party assembled in Kula at Harold Rice Memorial Park, 11 am on Friday. Driving the leeward route, the team reached the Park baseyard at about 1:00. Maintenance staffer Nakaula Park was waiting for them. Turns out that Nakaula's own grandfather had built the wall. He was glad to show them his success in keeping the canegrass out of their previous clearing. And they went to work.

Laura Miller's report: "We made headway of about twenty feet

on clearing the wall. Rain began to pick up that night." They bunked in the ranger's cabin, where they wrangled with a leaky sink. "Saturday, we returned to the work and were able to finish the wall to the end, which curves towards the ocean. Very rainy, but grateful for cloud cover during strenuous work." That afternoon, "pretty soaked," they retreated to the cabin and stayed under cover the rest of the day, happy to have completed their mission.

"Sunday spent hiking. Packed our belongings, swept cabin, turned off propane tanks, left water under the sink turned off. Left the VIP campsite around 12 pm with park tools to be returned. The volunteers were very motivated and proud of accomplishing the goal of clearing the entire wall! Another successful service trip with the Friends and the Park."

The rewards outweigh the toil on service trips.

## A DAY FOR THE BABIES

SERVICE AT THE NURSERY

Consider giving a day to the little green keiki who stand for Haleakalā's future. On the first Tuesday of each month FHNP offers one-day service trips to the Park's plant nursery.

Volunteers can spend a day at the Summit caring for rare endemic starters that will flourish someday in their native habitat. The work will involve transplanting, weeding, pot-washing, perhaps even out-planting. You can drive right to the site. You'll need to bring your own water, lunch, and gloves; if working outdoors, sturdy shoes, hat, and sunscreen. Contact Mary at 572-1584 to reserve a spot.

## SERVICE TRIPS IN THE YEAR AHEAD

The rugged sensation of hiking into the national park at Haleakalā is one thing—a mind-opening, heart-pounding experience. But to make the journey on a mission of service, that’s something richer. You become engaged. You join.

These missions involve long, physically challenging days hiking and climbing both on and off trail, mostly at high altitudes. You’ll discover the Park in areas you may have never visited and leave it better than before you came. In addition to your adventurous spirit, you’ll need to bring your own work boots, weeding gloves, appropriate clothing, water, and food.

Start by choosing a service trip from the list below, then register and get approved by the trip leader. For this, and for further information, email either [andy@fhnp.org](mailto:andy@fhnp.org) or [matt@fhnp.org](mailto:matt@fhnp.org).

You need to know that the FHNP has worked with the National Park System (NPS) to design pro-

cedures for “COVID-aware” service trips. Group size will be kept to ten or fewer. Participants must be free from symptoms. They cannot have traveled or been near anyone with COVID in the fourteen days prior to the trip. Paperwork, done on-line, includes the NPS’s volunteer agreement and an acknowledgement of COVID-aware job hazards. Essentially, volunteers need to be responsible for their own hygiene, wear a mask except when exercising, keep socially distant, and not share tools.

In 2022 the NPS will only allow a small number of service trips. Of the visitor

cabins, only Kapalaoa is available, on Sunday - Thursday. Trips to Hōlua Ranger Shelter will be a mix of tent and ranger cabin occupancy. The allowed occupation in the cabins will likely change in the future if COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

## MULTI-DAY SERVICE TRIP SCHEDULE

### 2022 Dates

Jan 21-23	Hōlua Ranger Shelter	TBD
Feb 19-21	Hōlua Ranger Shelter	TBD
Mar 22-24	Kapalaoa	TBD
Apr 15-17	Kīpahulu	TBD
May 29-June 1	Palikū Patrol	TBD
June 10-12	Hōlua Ranger Shelter	TBD
July 2-5	Palikū Patrol	TBD
Aug 19-21	Hōlua Ranger Shelter	TBD
Sep 3-6	Palikū Patrol	TBD
Oct 7-9	Hōlua Ranger Shelter	TBD
Nov 11-13	Kīpahulu	TBD
Dec 13-15	Kapalaoa	TBD





*Friends of*  
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