



# AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION HAWAI'I CHAPTER



*Celebrating 50 Years*  
**1962 - 2012**

## Preserving and Restoring Ko'olau Poko Wetlands, O'ahu



In the 1960s the O'ahu General Plan proposed a new deep draft harbor, a power plant and an industrial zone in the vicinity of He'eia Marsh and Fishpond, adjacent to Kāne'ohe Bay. In addition, the Plan showed filling of Ka'elepulu Pond and Marsh and portions of Kawainui Marsh for urban use. Kawainui was already impacted by adjacent industrial and waste disposal activities.

A new wave of environmental legislation, beginning in the 1970s, at the federal, state and local levels changed thinking about the importance of wetland areas and ponds for water quality, flood control, wildlife habitat and the preservation of cultural sites and practices.

Today, implementation of restoration plans is well underway at both He'eia and Kawainui through a combination of public, private non-profit and community-based volunteer efforts. Even at Ka'elepulu, most of which had already be filled and developed for the Enchanted Lakes subdivision by the end of the 1960s, the residents association successfully advocated for the preservation and restoration of a 5-acre remnant of the marsh.

### He'eia Marsh and Fishpond



A public-private agreement in the late 1980s led to the preservation of the marsh and the wetland. The State of Hawai'i owns the marsh, while the fishpond remains under the ownership of Kamehameha Schools, which allows use of the pond for educational programs. Not only do the marsh and historic fishpond serve as a living laboratory for environmental and cultural education, but their preservation also protects Kāne'ohe Bay from polluted runoff and serve as a habitat for waterfowl and aquatic species.

### He'eia Marsh and Fishpond



The restoration plan for Kawainui Marsh had several purposes: improvement of the flood control berm and capacity of the marsh to retain stormwater; preservation and enhancement of the wetland habitat for endangered species such as the Hawaiian Stilt; protection and rehabilitation of cultural sites, such as Ulu Po Heiau; and developing the site as a resource for recreation and cultural education.