

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Salt-making in the Ahupua‘a of Ka‘ūpūlehu

KAMUELA, Hawai‘i—October 9, 2009—Visit historical and legendary sites in the makai lands of Ka‘ūpūlehu on The Kohala Center’s learning event, Salt-making in the Ahupua‘a of Ka‘ūpūlehu, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, October 24.

See where salt makers gathered salt and fisherman fished. See petroglyphs of canoe sails, and visit Kolomu‘o, named for the girl who did not share her ‘ulu with Pele.

Ka‘ūpūlehu is one of twenty-three *ahupua‘a* (land division, uplands to sea) within the North Kona district and was traditionally and affectionately referred to as *Kekaha wai ‘ole o na Kona* (Waterless Kekaha of the Kona district) by its native residents. It was an area greatly desired by the *ali‘i* (chiefs/chiefesses) for its abundant resources. Salt-making and fishing practices made the lands and oceans of Kekaha famous. ‘*Ōpelu* and *aku* fishing, perfected by fishermen of the area, and the abundance of sea salt on the coast, provided ample sustenance for the entire North Kona district.

Mo‘olelo wahi pana (stories of sacred sites) recount that Ka‘ūpūlehu was once called *Ka‘ulupūlehu* which means “the roasting of the breadfruit.” The place name commemorates the story of how volcano goddess Pele visited the area and came upon two girls, Pāhinahina and Kolomu‘o, roasting ‘ulu. Pāhinahina shared her ‘ulu with Pele, while Kolomu‘o did not. That night Hualālai volcano erupted and the village in which the girls lived was destroyed—except for Pāhinahina’s house which was spared.

Ku‘ulei Keakealani, a lineal descendant of the three most Northern ahupua‘a of Kekaha, leads this learning event. An educator, Keakealani was born and raised in Pu‘uanahulu. For Keakealani, the entire ahupua‘a is the best “classroom” that exists. She will share stories of the landscape and the rich cultural history of the area.

Participants must be able to hike a moderate distance over a variety of terrain, including sand and ‘a‘a and *pahoehoe* lava. Hiking shoes are recommended. Be prepared for hot and/or windy conditions.

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A picnic lunch is included. Space is limited; for reservations, visit www.kohalacenter.org and click on “Programs & Events” and “Current Events” or contact The Kohala Center at info@kohalacenter.org or 808-887-6411. Cost is \$25 for The Kohala Center’s Circle of Friends; \$75 for nonmembers, which includes the event and Circle of Friends membership. To learn more about the Circle of Friends, visit www.kohalacenter.org, click on "Join Us" and "Become a Member."

The Kohala Center designed its learning events, “Cool Farms, Hot Lunches and More Food for Thought” as a way for participants to connect with one another, with cultural and scientific experts, and with Hawai‘i Island’s natural, cultural, and spiritual landscapes.

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