

# *Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā*

Established November 10, 1960

Chartered April 16, 1966



## “BASIC PROTOCOL AT HAWAIIAN SACRED PLACES”

by Phyllis Coochie Cayan

**RESPECT: Unconditional love handed down from generation to generation, forever.**

- **hō‘ihi**.....being respectful and reverent
- **aloha ‘āina**.....love of the land
- **mālama ‘āina**.....care of the land
- **ke kahu o ka ‘āina**.....land stewardship
- **kuleana**.....personal responsibility
- **lōkāhi**.....being in harmony with the land

These are reminders of what is expected when visiting sacred sites or places of Hawai‘i.

- **noi aku** (ask or seek permission) to enter the sacred place
  - **mahalo aku** (give thanks) for the privilege of entering the sacred place
1. Know that all life forms **seen and unseen** are sacred.
  2. Maintain an attitude of **‘ihi** (respect) with little or no talking. Silence is usually the best behavior to practice at sacred places.
  3. Include in your silent prayers **mahalo aku** (before and after) and remember to apologize for any shortcomings you may have caused to the sacred place.
  4. **Ho‘okupu** (offerings) or **makana** (gifts) are not required as your **pule** (prayers), **mele** (songs), **oli** (chants) or **hula** are an offering in itself. Most **ho‘okupu** (offerings) are brought during more formalized ceremonies. If there is no **kahu** (caretaker) for the sacred place, the **ho‘okupu** (offerings) or **makana** (gifts) often accumulate and litter the site rather than be an enhancement of respect.
  5. Do not sit, climb, or stand on the stones or structures that are a part of sacred places.
  6. Do not litter, damage, or disturb any part of a sacred place. Do not leave money.
  7. **As a basic rule:** If you are unsure, then please don’t do it.

Mahalo as you help us to protect, preserve and perpetuate our Nation, ko Hawai‘i paeaina.

*“e kūka‘awe i nā kapu o Kūkaniloko no ka mea aloha nō ho‘i kākou ia lākou i nā kau a kau...”*  
“to guard the kapu of Kūkaniloko because we love them for all time...”