“BASIC PROTOCOL AT HAWAIIAN SACRED PLACES”
by Phyllis Coochie Cayan

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

- hōʻihi..........................being respectful and reverent
- aloha ʻāina......................love of the land
- mālama ʻāina....................care of the land
- ke kahu o ka ʻāina..........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 Hawaiʻi.

- 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 ʻihi (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. Hoʻokupu (offerings) or makana (gifts) are not required as your pule (prayers), mele (songs), oli (chants) or hula are an offering in itself. Most hoʻokupu (offerings) are brought during more formalized ceremonies. If there is no kahu (caretaker) for the sacred place, the hoʻokupu (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 Hawaiʻi paeaina.

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