



## INTRODUCTION

**M**oanalua provides a unique opportunity for students in urban Honolulu to truly connect to the cultural traditions that have been passed down through the generations. The history of this ahupua'a (land division) comes alive through oli (chants) and mo'olelo (stories) that form the foundation for this unit of study.

The investigation of this ahupua'a is well-suited for integrating standards across a range of subject areas. The unit begins with literacy standards as students explore mo'olelo and oli. Social studies, science and math benchmarks are achieved as the students investigate the geography of the ahupua'a and human impact on the forest and water. The unit culminates in student-designed proposals for restoring native plants in their immediate environment. The project offers students valuable practice in synthesizing information and collaborating with others. Sharing with others as an ongoing process of learning and teaching is an important cultural pathway in Hawaiian culture.

The essential question for the unit is: *How has our ahupua'a changed over time and what can we do to mālama 'āina today?* In the course of the unit, students explore this question through *mo'olelo* (legends), models, maps, group projects and a field study.

### Assessment

The Unit Map that follows in this Introduction lays out the Hawai'i DOE standards, the Common Core standards, and the Nā Honua Mauli Ola (Hawaiian Guidelines) on which the lessons are designed. The first page of the Unit Map suggests a pre-assessment to administer at the beginning of the unit. This will provide a baseline for the unit summative assessment, which is described in the Learning Log and in Lesson 5, the culminating activity. The rubrics provided with the unit are designed to assess students' culminating projects.

The lessons in the unit provide sequential steps to enable the students to successfully complete the culminating projects. The Learning Log pages provided with each lesson serve as a formative assessment. They are designed to be combined into a journal that documents students' learning as they progress through the unit.

### Unit Overview

**In Lesson 1, Mo'olelo of Moanalua,** students envision characters, setting and events in oral traditions of Moanalua. They illustrate specific details in these texts and tell stories or perform *oli* (chants) from memory.

In **Lesson 2, Our Ahupua'a**, Students draw and label a map of their ahupua'a showing key geographic features that provided resources for people in old Hawai'i. Students create cut-outs of important plants that Hawaiians gathered or grew and place them in the appropriate sections (ma uka and kula) of the ahupua'a.

In **Lesson 3, Ma Uka - Ma Kai Connection**, Students create, observe and analyze a model of the traditional Hawaiian irrigation system for growing kalo (taro) and draw insights and conclusions about water use in old Hawai'i and today.

Students investigate native Hawaiian plants and alien invaders (weeds) in their schoolyard in **Lesson 4, Schoolyard to Forest**. Groups of students gather data about alien plants on their school grounds to help them understand how invasive species spread. This activity prepares them for their hike into Kamananui Valley where they will see how invasive plants affect the forest.

**Lesson 5, Giving Back to the 'Āina**, Students go to Kamananui Valley to document changes and help to restore native plants. They gather information in the valley to use in their ahupua'a final "newspaper" and to use in group presentations to the school community. Student presentations include a summary of learning as well as proposals for native Hawaiian plantings to mālama 'āina at school.

## Unit Resources

The CD that accompanies this unit includes two PowerPoint presentations. The first, *Moanalua Ahupua'a*, which is designed to accompany lesson 2, provides aerial views of the ahupua'a from the ocean to the mountain summit. The second presentation, *Ma Uka - Ma Kai Connection*, provides old photographs of Moanalua to contrast with present-day land and water use. The DVD provided with this unit tells the story of Moanalua through ancient chants and hula that have been passed down through the generations.

All of materials are designed with the intent of raising awareness about our relationship to the 'āina. The 'āina--that which nourishes--encompasses the land, the streams, the ocean and the heavens. Exploring how our actions affect the place where we live engages students in a multidisciplinary journey that strengthens their reading, writing, science inquiry, social studies and math skills. Giving back to that place in a meaningful way is the true expression of aloha 'āina.

