

Our Kīhei

Our kīhei is a **mantle of accomplishment** that indicates you have accepted your kuleana to the college and to your community.

The **knot** that fastens the kīhei is our **collective acknowledgement** that you have completed this stage of your academic journey.

Scholars who earn this kīhei represent **excellence** at Leeward Community College.

In traditional times, the Kīhei was used as a garment worn over one shoulder and tied in a knot.



Our Kīhei

There are 4 elements in the design:

- 2 refer to **wahi pana**, or storied places
 - Mt. Ka'ala
 - Waiawa, Pu'uloa
- 2 refer to **akua**, ancestral deities
 - 'Iwa bird, a favorite of goddess Kaiona
 - Ka'ahupāhau, shark guardian, Pu'uloa

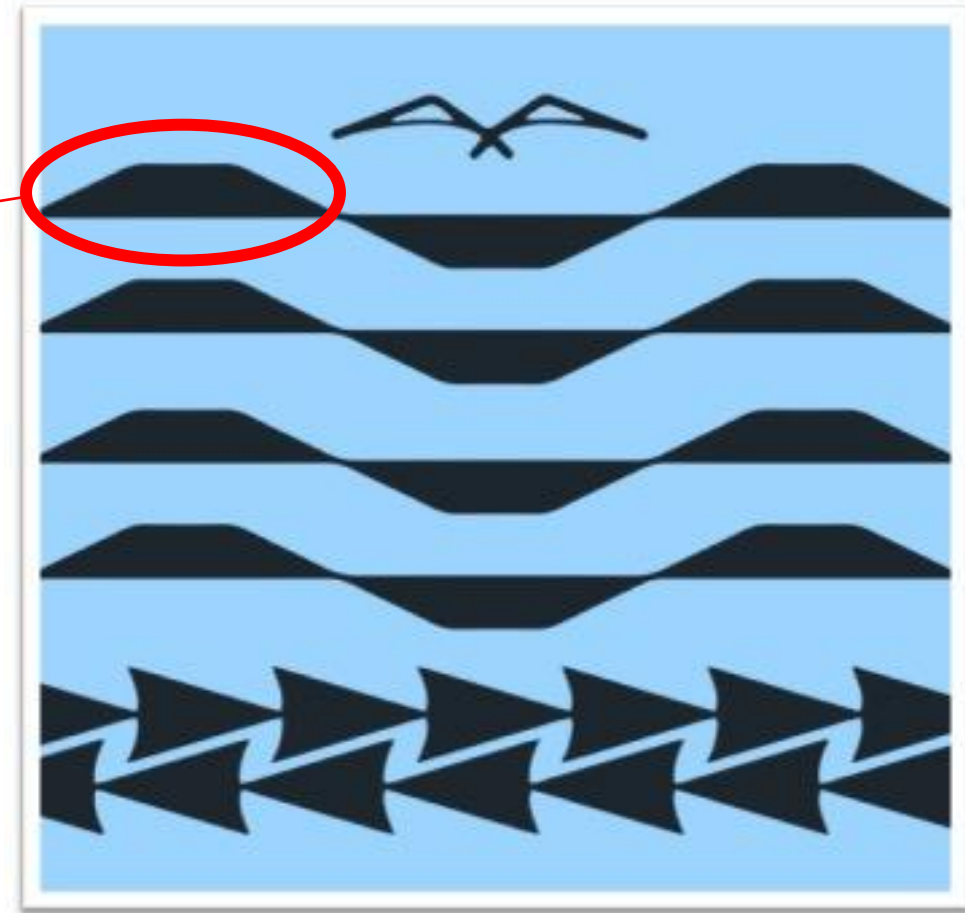
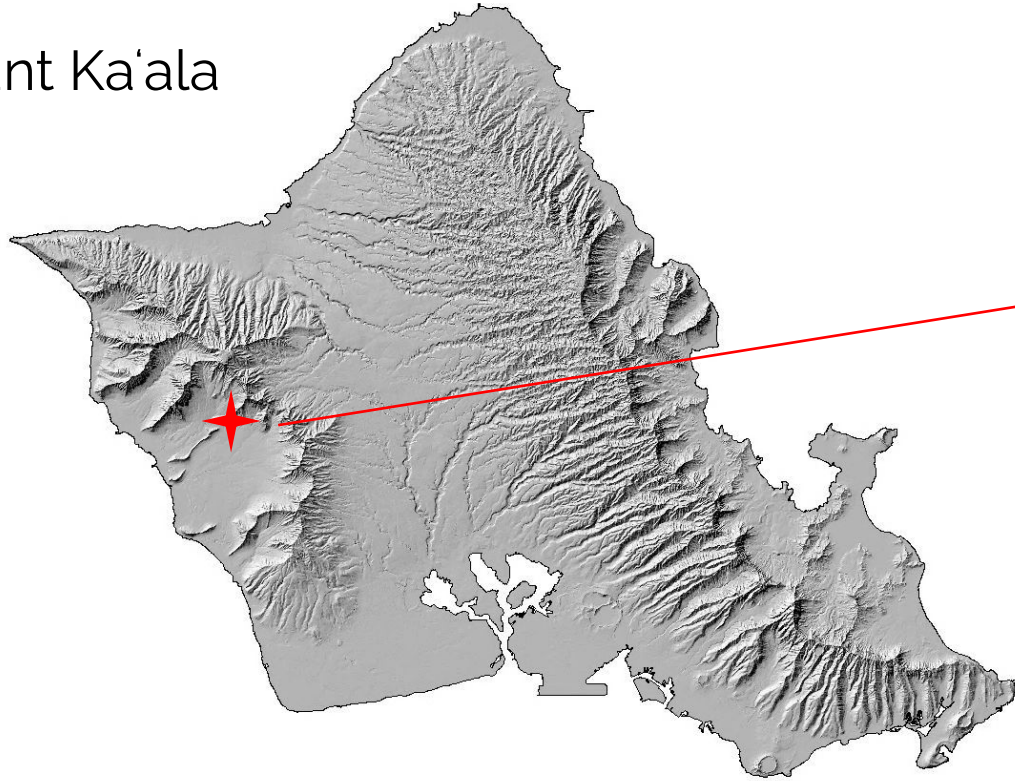
Each of these elements is uniquely connected to our college.



Our Kīhei

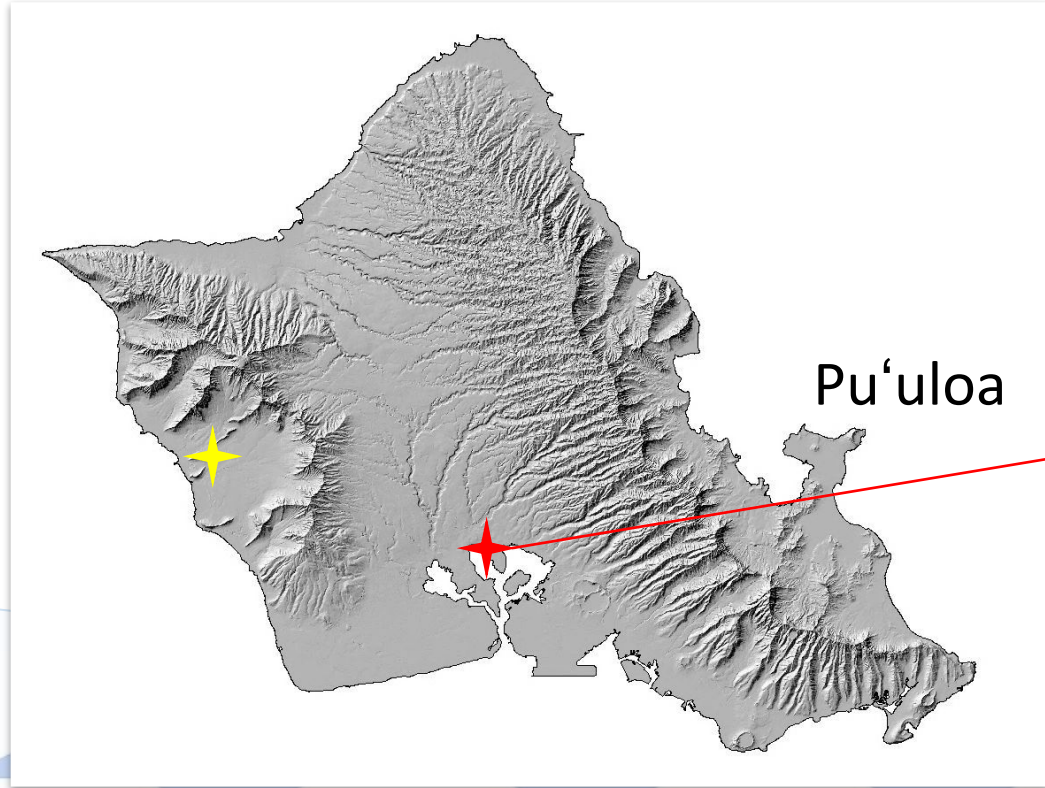
Wahi Pana

Mount Ka'ala



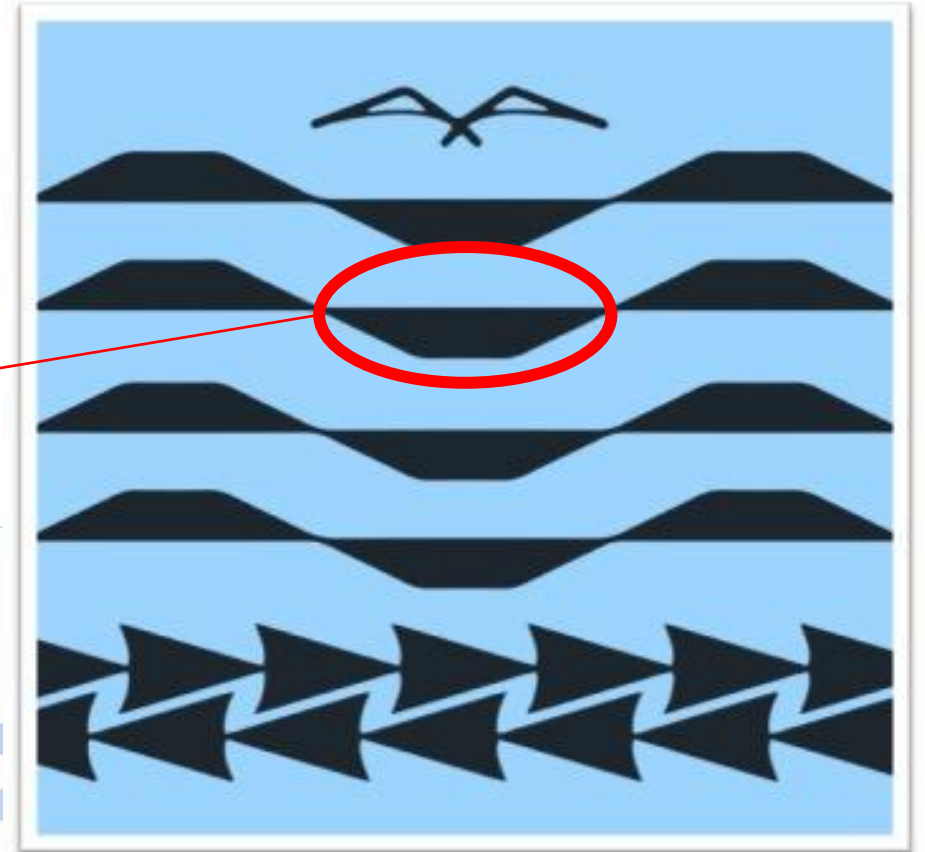
Mount Ka'ala is located on the west side in the ahupua'a of Wai'anae and is the highest point on O'ahu. Our college has a satellite campus called Wai'anae Moku in the adjacent ahupua'a of Lualualei.

Our Kīhei



Pu'uloa

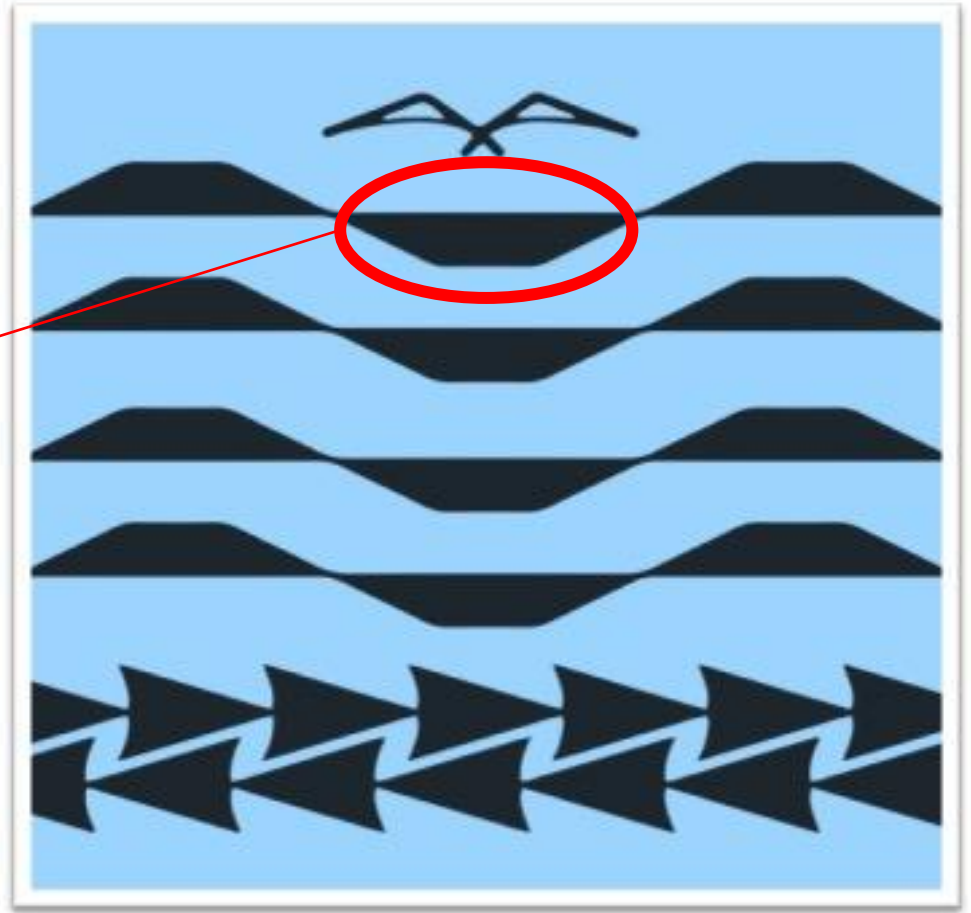
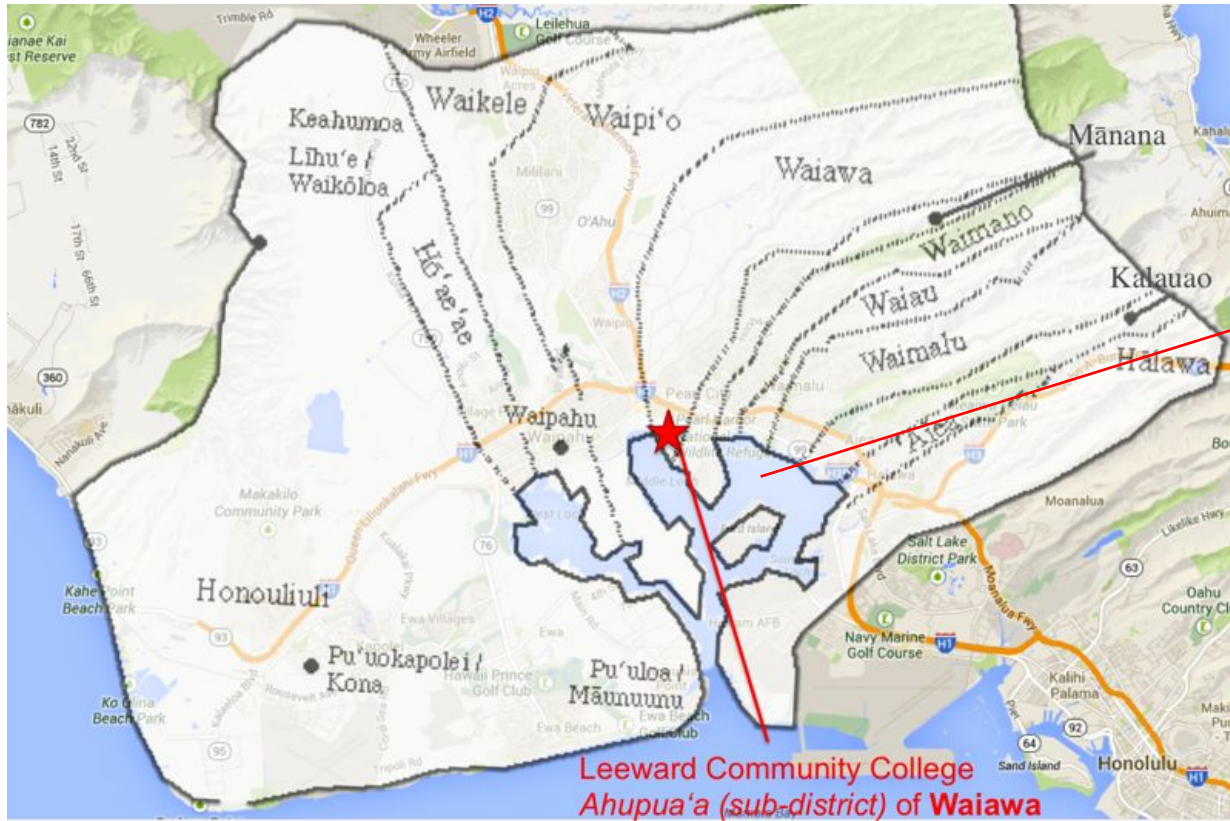
Wahi Pana



Pu'uloa also known as Awalau O Pu'uloa by the elders, is an estuary now referred to as Pearl Harbor. According to the Kamehameha Schools 'Ewa 'Āina Inventory: "*Over the generations...*"
Click here to learn more: [Waiawa, Pu'uloa](#)

Our Kīhei

Wahi Pana

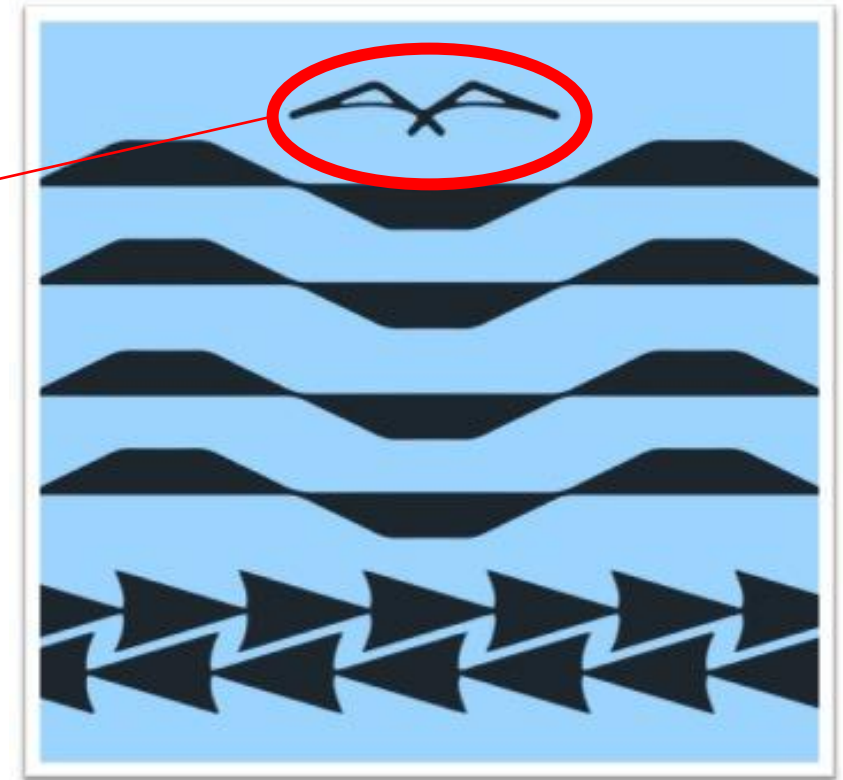


Waiawa, Pu'uloa



Our Kīhei

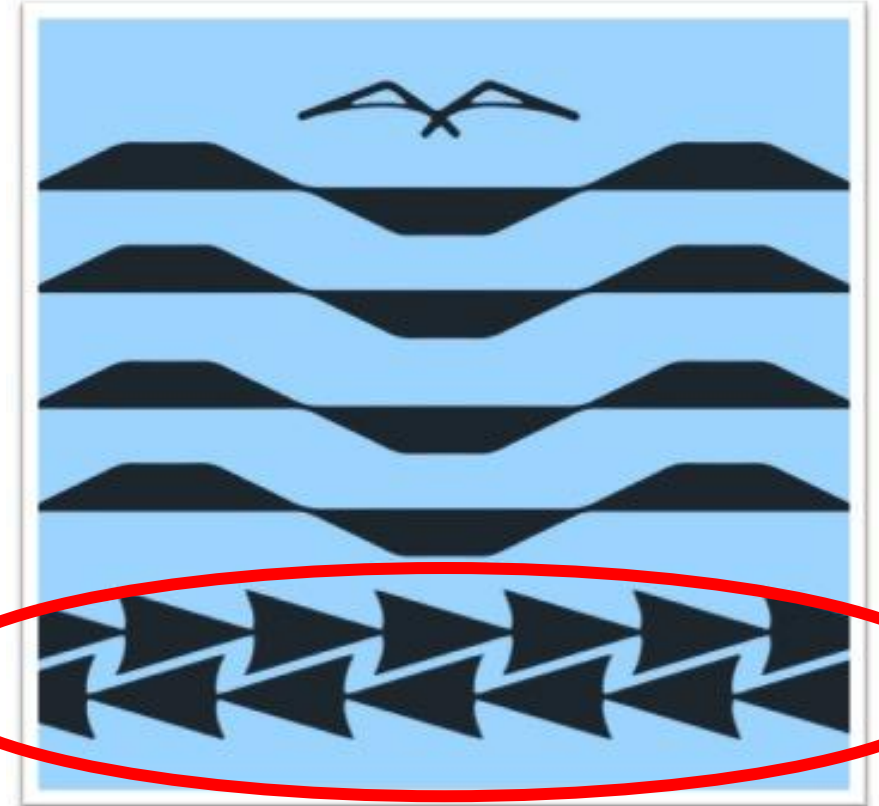
Akua, Kaiona



A favorite of the goddess Kaiona who lived on the Wai'anae Coast at Ka'ala, the 'Iwa or frigate bird could soar for weeks on wind currents poised aloft attracting attention that fascinated the eye. Kaiona was believed to be a benevolent relative of Pele, the volcano goddess. Kaiona helped lost travellers by sending her pet birds, especially her favorite 'iwa to guide them home.

Our Kīhei

Akua



Alahula Pu'uloa, he alahēle na Ka'ahupāhau
"Everywhere in Pu'uloa is the trail of Ka'ahupāhau. Said of a person who goes everywhere, looking, peering, seeing all, ... Ka'ahupāhau is the shark goddess of Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor) who guarded the people from being molested by sharks. She moved about, constantly watching." (*Ōlelo No'eau*, Pukui #105)

