

Pledge To Our Keiki

From our elders we have learned we are part of the environment, not above it. The life, lands, and waters are more than just our surroundings, they are our family.

From our children we will learn that Hawai'i is not inherited from our ancestors but borrowed from our future generations.

So when you are welcomed here, you become part of this 'ohana that is responsible for us and our island home too. Just as we, nā keiki o ka 'āina, the children of Hawai'i, pledge to care for these islands, we ask that you make this pledge to us:

For a rare and endangered place, where a destructive foreign species is introduced every day...I will bring only what is invited and be mindful of where I explore.

May my respect for the 'āina of Hawai'i guide each step I take within this community.

For an island community that defines wealth not by what is kept, but what is shared...I will give my respect and leave what is not mine to take.

May sharing in the abundant gifts of community be the source of fulfillment during my time on the island, liberating me from the transactional and extractive practices of the dominant and colonial culture.

For an indigenous culture that has evolved with these islands, both unique and intertwined in their existence...I will experience sacred places and practices with a bowed head and open heart.

May my reverence for sacred places open me to the experience of the sacred in this community, in our lives, and in the places we call home.

For this birthplace of aloha that typically welcomes more visitors than has residents...I will live aloha, tread lightly amongst this beauty and make it cleaner than I found it.

May I encounter the profound environmental impact of our collective presence on the island and ground myself in ways of being that are inclusive of place and the protection of the natural world.

For a Hawaiian people whose ancestors sailed here using only the stars to guide them in search of islands to sustain them...I will learn from your legacy and support your ongoing voyage toward sustainability.

May I be a resource to the community, understanding that I am an ally and play a role in this venture!