

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATION**

### **HE ALI‘I KA ‘ĀINA; HE KAUWĀ KE KANAKA (THE LAND IS CHIEF; MAN ITS SERVANT); TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE KONOHIKI**

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In traditional Hawaiian society, the konohiki were a specialized class of chiefs appointed by the Ali‘i Nui (high chiefs) to steward their lands, water and human resources. Their self-sustaining and holistic methods of land and resource stewardship became known as the *Konohiki System*. The System’s principles were governed by the ancient Hawaiian kapu religion and based on cultural values of *Mālama ‘Āina* – the deep familial ties and reciprocal stewardship between the ‘Āina (land and environment), the Akua (deities) and kanaka (man).

To date, the konohiki’s history remains fragmented, insufficient and lacking the Hawaiian perspective. This thesis is the first comprehensive, focused study on the konohiki utilizing a wide range of Hawaiian-language primary sources mainly from 19<sup>th</sup> century Hawaiian-language newspapers published in 1834-1948 and the 1848 Māhele land records. These sources uncover invaluable cultural and ancestral knowledge, and provide new information that changes the complex, and often misunderstood historiography of the konohiki.