



Project Summary

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Geophysical Investigation for the Location of a Historic Heiau, Kawaihae, Hawaii

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Objectives: The purpose of this investigation was to delineate the location of a buried heiau using non-intrusive geophysical methods.

Summary: A geophysical investigation was conducted at the US National Park Service Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site, Kawaihae, Hawaii. A heiau is a massive stone structure used as a temple by the ancient Hawaiians. Magnetic, electromagnetic and ground penetrating radar geophysical surveys were employed in this effort. The surveys were conducted both on and offshore. The interpretation of the survey results indicated seven anomalous areas for the land site and five anomalous areas for the offshore site. The interpreted anomalies signify areas where the heiau might be located. Confirmation of the heiaus existence would require detailed studies such as excavating or the placement of exploration borings. For more information on geophysical site investigation, contact [Dr. Mike Sharp](#) (CEERD-GG) at 601-634-3787 or email sharpm@wes.army.mil or [Mr. José L. Llopis](#) (CEERD-GG) at (601) 634-3164 or email llopisj@wes.army.mil.



Kawaihae historic heiau, Hawaii



Location of heiau geophysical investigation