Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE: Hawaii	
COUNTY:	
Honolulu	1 7 17 1
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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INVENTOR	TI - NUMINATION	FURM	FOR NPS US	EONLY	1
(Type all entries	s – complete applicabl	la sactions)	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	1
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COMMON:			79		1
Keaiwa Heiau			61111	8	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			1 1	X	1
		•		X Y	
2. LOCATION			1 1/2 /2	多 二	1
STREET AND NUMBER:			4 300		
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3. CLASSIFICATION		I to I HOHOT	uru		
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Site 🔀 Structure	☐ Private	☐ In Process	Unoccupied	Restricted	
☐ Object	☐ Both	Being Considered	Preservation work		
			in progress	□ No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or M	More as Appropriate)				1
Agricultural G	overnment 🔀 Park	.	Transportation	Comments]
☐ Commercial ☐ In	dustrial Priv	ate Residence	Other (Specify)		
☐ Educational ☐ Mi	ilitary 🗌 Reli	gious			
Entertainment Mo	useum Scien	ntific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			-		1
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State of Hawaii					STATE
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	TING SURVEYS				<u> </u>
TITLE OF SURVEY:				ADA	2 m Z
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RE	qoing \Box	Federal Stat	e County	Local	
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			رن ا	٠	F	1	X Alter	ed	Unaltered			☐ Moved	Original Site	
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Surrounded by groves of Norfolk and Australian pines, Keaiwa Heian is located on Aiea Heights overlooking Pearl Harbor. Within a state park and forest reserve area, the site is accessible by roads leading to within about 40' of the structure. Adjacent to the structure itself is a small herb garden containing several of the trees and herbs used by the medical practitioners, kahuna lapa'au, of ancient Hawaii.

Keaiwa Heiau was once a medical school, a temple for the gods who guided the kahuna lapa'au amd a gateway guarding the medicinal herbs used in treating illness and disease among the Hawaiians. The structure was first adequately described in 1933 by McAllister:

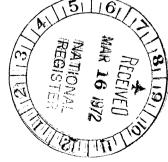
"A small rectangular structure, 100 feet by 160 feet, of one terrace with low surrounding walls. The only definite feature within the inclosure is a short low stone wall running parallel with the sides. The walls average about 4 feet in height and about 5 feet wide and are evenly faced with one-foot stones with a rubble fill. A small outer step or terrace on the southwest corner may have formerly have been an entrance. Since the surrounding area was once under cultivation, any adjoining features were obliterated. The slope west of the heiau must have eroded very rapidly after being plowed, for that wall has almost completely destroyed by the large amount of soil that has washed over and into the heiau. The great number of loose stones lying on the whole of the west end would indicate former platforms or terraces. The heiau faces south, overlooking Puuloa. Thrum notes that it was erected in the time of Kakuhihewa with Keaiwa for priest."

McAllister's ground plan and perspective sketch are included on a continuation sheet. As he indicates, there seems to have been some reduction of the original scope of the heiau and there are reports that some of the stones were removed for road building in World War II by military personnel. Still, there remains enough of the structure for a clear picture of the nature of the site. In 1951 the heiau was cleared of hau and other brush but no reconstruction was undertakien and the site remains essentially as described by McAllister. On November 15, 1951 Keaiwa Heiau was rededicated in traditional ceremonies led by Kahuna Lapa'au Kamakaokalanikapiliokomoku and two other direct descendants of Hawaii's highest chiefs. Present as honored guests were representatives of modern medicine, then meeting in Hawaii for the Pan-Pacific Surgical Congress.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	X 18th Century	20th Century
5th Century	17th Century	19th Century	x precontac
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applical	ble and Known)		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	XX Education	Political	Urban Planning
XXP rehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	XX Other (Specify)
Historic	Industry	losophy	Medicine
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art Art	Architecture	X Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Militory	Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

Hawaii stands alone as the only group within Polynesia to step beyond superstitios treatment of disease and illness; the only place where heiau lapa'au, temples of healing, were constructed and where kahuna lapa'au, master craftsmen in the healing arts, were trained to administer to the needs of the people. Often this process took twenty years as the young novices followed daily the activities of the kahuna lapa'au. Selected for their kind and gentle dispositions, the novices were sent to live with the kahuna and learn by example and teaching the more than 300 herbs useful in treating the varied ills of the populace. Identification, method of selection, preparation of the medication, the chants to be used each step of the way ... all these had to be learned before the young novice could be considered competent to treat on his own. Following this portion of training, some were sent on to other centers for advanced training in diagnosis and specialized treatments. (Larsen 1951)

While two other heiau lapa'au are located on Oahu, they are relatively unknown and inaccessible. Keaiwa's location within a State Park makes it accessible to the general public and should provide opportunity for more extensive interpretation than is now offered. While there is little that is structurally unique about this heiau as compared to others on this island, it is significant as the single representative of its functional class now available to the public. With the small herb garden adjacent, the structure provides a nucleus for presenting the story of Hawaii's singular achievment in the field of medical arts in the Pacific.



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7. MAJU	JK BIBLIUGKAFF	HICAL REFERENCE	

McALLISTER, J. GILBERT

1933 Archaeology of Oahu. Bernice P. Bishop Museum Bulletin 104. Honolulu Hawaii. Published by the Museum. 1971 New York, Kraus Reprint Co.

LARSEN, NILS P., M.D.

1951 Rededication of the Healing Heaiu Keaiwa. Reprinted from the 1951 Annual Report of the Hawaiian Historical Society.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA								
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11. FORM PREPARED BY								
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12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	ON	T		ATIONA	L REGIST	ER VERI	CATIO	
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As the designated State Liaison Officer for	r the Na-							
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89-665), I hereby nominate this property for			Nationa	l Registe	er.			
in the National Register and certify that it			1		.,	1		
evaluated according to the criteria and pro-		-		Park 2	\Y \	1.0.		
forth by the National Park Service. The re	commended	-	- Jake an attle					
level of significance of this nomination is:			Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					
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