



was not called Enchanted Lake, chances are you are going to tell us we're crazy. Well it's true; long ago Lanikai was called Ka'ōhao and Enchanted Lake was called Ka'elepulu. Names were changed for different reasons like making a place sound more desirable to settlers and difficulty of pronunciation.

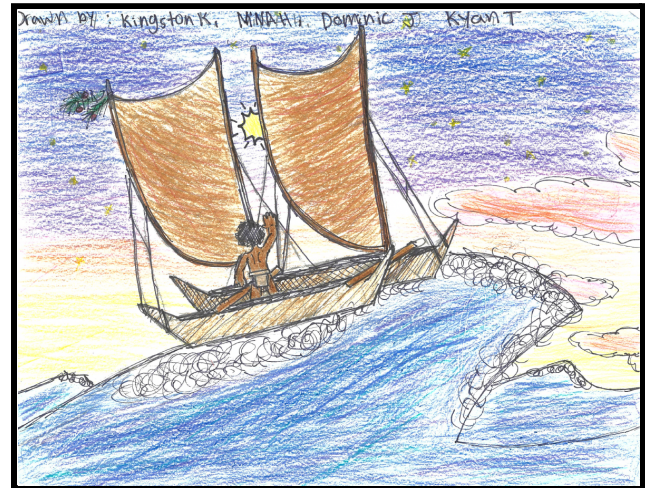
Land developers of Ka'elepulu and Ka'ōhao renamed these places to sell homes and make the location sound more pleasing. Ka'elepulu was renamed Enchanted Lake and Ka'ōhao was renamed Lanikai. This is a problem because the land developers probably were not interested in learning the meaning of the 'āina.

Additionally, people also renamed places to make it easier for them to pronounce. Hawaiians viewed 'āina as kūpuna because just like kūpuna, the 'āina feeds us, helps us, raises us, and cares for us. If someone came into your home and changed your kupuna's name without permission to something that had no meaning and meant nothing, how would that make you feel? This would make us feel sad because the name could have been given by someone special, it could've had an important meaning, and it might have had history behind it. The Hawaiian language was slowly disappearing because of American colonization, and by using these place names we are keeping the Hawaiian language and culture alive.

So what can we do about it? Let's learn more about the place names in this very location. We could take Ka'elepulu, Kapakapa and Kaulu as examples. Ka'elepulu is our school and a place where kids go to learn! It is also a park, a pond and an 'ili, which is a land division. Ka'elepulu refers to "the moist blackness" of the pond. If the name is broken into word parts, ka'ele means "canoe hull" and pulu means "wet," so we wonder if another interpretation of this could be combined to "wet canoe hull." Unfortunately, like many other Hawaiian place names, the mo'olelo of Ka'elepulu has been forgotten, so this is our connection!

Kapakapa, an 'ili, the land on which our school is located, is the name of a navigational star and is next door to the 'ili Kaulu. We are unsure of how Kapakapa got its name, but we know it was done purposefully because in the second grader's retelling of the mo'olelo of Kaulu, this known navigator navigates using the Kapakapa star. He uses this star to travel to Kahiki, bringing back lepo 'ai (edible mud), an additional source of food for this area.

Between these three place names, we can create a connection: a wet canoe hull (Ka'elepulu), which holds a navigator (Kaulu) on it, traveling using a navigational star (Kapakapa)!



In conclusion, Hawaiian place names are unique and special, so we must call the 'āina by their original Hawaiian names, otherwise they'll lose their identity, history, and mo'olelo. As Hawai'i's keiki, we can help the 'āina by giving it the respect that it deserves because it feeds us, teaches us, and gives us a place we call home.

As students at Ka'elepulu, we can use original Hawaiian names to navigate change by using the original Hawaiian place names more often, teaching other students and adults how to pronounce the words correctly, and sharing their meaning. Our school cares about the future of this community and preserving its identity and mo'olelo.

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