He keiki aloha nā mea kanu.
Plants are like beloved children; with nourishment, care and love, they flourish.

Keanakamanō Garden of Native Plants is located at the entrance to Kamehameha Schools Kapālama and features more than 100 types of native Hawaiian plants. The māla (garden) is an ideal location for outdoor classrooms, personal reflection and inspiration, lā'au lapa'au (Hawaiian herbal medicine) workshops, service learning projects, makahiki celebrations, and much more.
History of Keanakamanō
The area surrounding the Kapālama Campus Main Gate was traditionally referred to as Keanakamanō, literally meaning “the cave of the shark.” Traditions recall a large underground cave system located in the valley which extended in two directions; ma uka (inland) and ma kai (seaward). The ma uka branch led inland to a sacred pool and the ma kai branch extended to Pu‘u‘uola, the area now known as Pearl Harbor. The legendary sharks of Pu‘u‘uola would frequent the area, thus giving the cave and the land associated with it the name Keanakamanō.

Creating Keanakamanō
An archaeological survey in the area around Keanakamanō discovered a large terrace. This is believed to have served as a kahua (foundation, base or platform) where people might have gathered for various reasons. A set of four lower terraces were also found. These lower terraces helped to inspire the creation of a native Hawaiian plant garden.
In January 2006, Kamehameha Schools began to restore the site with the guidance of Billy Fields of Kona, a master in the art of uhauhumu pōhaku (dry stack stone masonry). Through this collaboration, the site was re-established as a cultural and educational space reflecting a sense of aloha and respect for the land, the culture, and the community. Faculty, staff, and students also had the opportunity to learn the art of uhauhumu pōhaku from Fields and even helped to build part of the exterior wall ma uka of the kahua.

Today, with the help of these many hands and hearts, Keanakamanō has become a welcoming place where native plants thrive and Hawaiian culture is fostered and supported.

Come, enjoy and learn about the native plants flourishing at beautiful Keanakamanō!

Reminder - Keanakamanō does not have restroom or parking facilities so please plan accordingly.

Etiquette When Visiting Keanakamanō
The site at Keanakamanō is a place of aloha. To ensure its longevity and meaningfulness as a symbol of Hawaiian identity and pride, please be aware of the following:

1. Good thoughts and kind words are always appreciated.

2. Stay on the gravel paths or grassy areas. Deviating may cause harm to the plants or take you to areas being prepared for other uses.

3. To ensure that the stone walls and foundations will be intact for generations to come, please do not remove or otherwise attempt to loosen stones. Some of the structures are remnants of ancestral and archaeological sites.

4. Please do not leave anything at the site. If you happen to see ‘ōpala, please help by taking it with you and discarding it upon departure.

5. At this time, there is no eating allowed at the site.

6. Oli, ho‘okupu, and rituals of greeting are neither required nor expected at the site. The area is noa (free from kapu - spiritual restrictions); there is no one in residence. However, should visitors feel inspired to offer spontaneous Hawaiian expressions it will be respected and appreciated by all, as is our custom.