



# Environmental Justice Achievement Award

*Indigenous Organization*



## Anahola Homesteaders Council



Site of the 20-acre property designated for reuse under Project Faith.



Project Faith is a local project to convert a brownfield site into a multipurpose community center.

**EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the **Anahola Homesteaders Council (AHC)** for its work to improve environmental quality for the community of Anahola in Kauai.**

AHC's efforts focus on improving the water quality of Anahola rivers and streams, addressing the needs for proper solid waste management, and creating economic betterment for Native Hawaiians by creating a community center. AHC's primary goals include enhancing health, social, and economic well-being; creating jobs; and offering interpretation opportunities. AHC focuses on empowering Native Hawaiian villagers through collaborative partnerships, community involvement, and environmental protection in the Anahola community in Kauai.

AHC has also initiated an effort called Project Imua, which allows Native Hawaiians to actively participate in conducting environmental research in its own backyard to address water quality and environmental health issues. Community residents participate with government agencies to test and sample their streams, and create community awareness through innovative environmental research. AHC also paired with another non-profit organization to take bacteria samples, and worked with a local lab on sample analyses. The effort also resulted in a community water research paper, a community video, and student science projects.

Another important AHC project is Project Faith, a plan to build a community center that will include a learning establishment for youth and adults and create jobs for the Anahola community. This community center is located on a former brownfield site and illegal dumping area, cleaned up with AHC support.

