



J. STEPHEN ATHENS, PH.D.
IARII Gen. Manager, IA Manager, Sr. Archaeologist
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J. Stephen Athens is Senior Archaeologist at International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc. (IARII) and International Archaeology, LLC (IA). He was Contract Manager of Honolulu's Bishop Museum for two years, managed his own consulting firm for four years, and has served as IARII's General Manager since 1986 and IA Manager since 2014. With over 40 years of archaeological experience, Dr. Athens has been conducting investigations in the Pacific region for 37 years. For 35 years Dr. Athens has been intensively involved in project management (including quality control oversight and review of submittals) and regional research issues. He has managed hundreds of archaeological projects in Hawai'i and Guam where his role was to ensure the highest quality performance possible. He has extensive field and research experience in Hawai'i, Micronesia, Ecuador (highlands and Amazon), American Sāmoa, and other Pacific islands. Dr. Athens' areas of expertise concern the origin and development of chiefdoms, development of agriculture in the northern Andes, and paleoenvironmental investigations (including studies of 30+ Hawaiian fishponds) in the tropical Pacific.

Education

Ph.D. (1978) and M.A. (1973), Anthropology, University of New Mexico
B.A., Economics, Colorado College, 1968

Professional Positions

IA Manager/Senior Archaeologist, International Archaeology, LLC, Honolulu, 2014-present
IARII General Manager/Senior Archaeologist, IARII, Honolulu, 1986-present
Affiliate Faculty, University of Hawai'i-Mānoa, Honolulu, 1988-present
Cultural Resource Management Consultant, 1982-1986
Contract Archaeology Manager, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, 1980-1982
Staff Archaeologist, Pacific Studies Institute, Pohnpei, 1979-1980

General Archaeological Experience Summary

Principal Investigator, over 140 projects in Hawai'i, 10 projects in American Sāmoa
Principal Investigator, over 50 projects in Micronesia
Project Director, over 20 projects in Micronesia, 55 projects in Hawai'i
37 years of active research in the Pacific Region; over 40 years of archaeological experience

Selected Pacific Archaeological Experience

Honolulu Airport Runway Safety Areas, CIA and Coring, 2013
Jinapsan Mapping, Guam, 2012
Pagan, Sarigan (2008) and Alamagan (2014), Northern Mariana Islands; survey, testing, GPS/GIS
Ukumehame Uplands, *heiau* mapping and testing, Maui, 2002
Iroquois Pt. Naval Housing, subsurface survey, O'ahu, 2000
MPRC, Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i Island, intensive survey and testing, 1987
Lelu, Utwa, and Tafunsak Circumferential Road and Wastewater Projects: intensive surveys and testing, Kosrae, 1982, 1989

Selected Pacific Paleoenvironmental Studies

French Polynesia, Mo'orea, Maupiti, and Rai'atea, 2011, 2015
Saipan - Lake Susupe, 2002; Palau - Babeldaob Island Wetlands, 1996, 2000
Kosrae, FSM - all island swamps, 1988, 1989; beach strand, 1993; Pohnpei, 2002
Guam - Tipalao Bay, Orote Peninsula, 1992; Sasa Valley, 1998; Ylig River, 2009
O'ahu - Fort Shafter Flats, 1989, 1995; Kawainui Marsh, 1990; Ukoa Pond, 1991;
Ka'au Crater, 1992; Upper Maunawili Valley, 1992; downtown Honolulu (2 projects),
1993; Hamakua Marsh, 1993; Kapunahala Marsh, 1994; Pearl Harbor (21 cores), 1995;
Hickam Fishpond, 2012; Honolulu Airport RSA, 2012
Kaho'olawe - craters, uplands, and Kanapou Bay, 1991-1992
Hawai'i Island - KAHŌ 'Aimakapā, 2005; PUHO, 1999, 2012; Maui - Kō'ie'ie Fishpond, 2002



Ability to Carry Research to Completion

Completed over 100 technical research reports (as primary author); published 70+ articles in scholarly journals and books.

Relevant Projects

Principal Investigator and Project Director, Ylig River Wetland Coring and Paleoenvironmental Study, Guam (2009): Recovered 15.2 meter core dating from about 8250 cal. BP to present. Pollen analysis indicated a highly diverse forested landscape prior to the advent of humans on Guam. Investigations included background research and write-up of technical report. *Client: Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., Tamuning, Guam.*

Co-Principal Investigator for overall project, and Project Director for paleoenvironmental research, Archaeological Inventory Survey of Babeldoab Road Alignment, Republic of Palau (1996, 2000): Recovered 20 paleoenvironmental cores from lakes and wetland around Babeldoab Island and made other field observations. The cores documented prehuman forested conditions, followed by development of interior savannas with the advent of humans; The investigations included background research and write-up of a technical report. *Client: U.S. Army Engineer District, Honolulu.*

Project Manager and Principal Investigator/Project Director, Fishpond Coring and Paleoenvironmental Study, South Kona, Hawai'i Island (2011). Recovered 15 cores from fishponds at Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau National Historical Park. The cores documented prehuman native forest conditions as well as changes that occurred following the advent of humans to the island. A chronology was established for settlement and fishpond use at Pu'uhonua. The investigations included background research and write-up of a technical report. *Client: National Park Service, Honolulu.*

Project Manager and Principal Investigator, Update of MCB Hawaii ICRMP, Kaneohe, Hawai'i (2009-2014). Managed and administered update of plan that covers eight facilities on two islands, integrating cultural resource program requirement with ongoing mission activities and other installation planning documents. A key component of the project was the development of a cultural resources GIS geodatabase compatible with the Marine Corps GeoFidelis GIS system. This included integration of an extensive documentary literature, including map locations of known sites and previous archaeological surveys. This project involved numerous difficulties, including a major task order change to include GIS, but was ultimately successful in generating an approved ICRMP. *Client: U.S. Navy, Honolulu.*

Project Manager and Principal Investigator, FEMA Permanent Housing Program, Phase I, American Sāmoa (2011-2012): Managed and administered archaeological monitoring, data recovery excavations, laboratory analyses, and report production for multiple locations across Tutuila Island. Archaeological deposits investigated during the project span approximately 2,500 years of Sāmoan history. *Client: Federal Emergency Management Agency.*

Principal Investigator and Project Director, Hacienda Zuleta Mounds, Northern Highlands, Ecuador (2005, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015): Remote sensing of selected mounds (resistivity, magnetometer, and ground penetrating radar); high resolution topographic mapping of site with drone; ground truthing test excavations, aerial excavation of large mound house floor; preparation of interpretive brochure; of mound site. *Client: none (IARII initiated research with support from Hacienda Zuleta and permit from Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, Quito).*



Project Manager, Principal Investigator, Mariana Islands Projects for EIS for U.S. Marines Relocation from Okinawa to Guam (2008): Besides co-managing (with David Welch) 12 different projects, including several on Guam, Dr. Athens conducted archaeological surveys on Saipan and the remote and uninhabited islands of Sarigan and Pagan; preparation of work plans, letter reports, and draft and final reports. *Client: TEC Joint Venture Inc., for U.S. Navy, Honolulu.*

Project Manager and Principal Investigator, Waimea-Kawaihae Bypass Road, Hawai'i Island (2007). Managed and administered archaeological inventory-level survey, detailed mapping, GPS recording, excavation, laboratory analyses, and report production. Project involved surveying approximately 1,550 acres and recording 1,350 archaeological features, extending from the coast of Kawaihae to upper Lālāmilo. *Client: EKNA Services, Inc.*

Project Manager and Principal Investigator, Pu'u Lani Subdivision Phase II, Pu'u Anahulu, Hawai'i Island (2002, 2005, 2007): Test excavations, subsurface testing for burials, preparation of supplemental inventory survey report; management of process for obtaining approval of burial treatment plan. *Client: Newell Bohnett and John Zabriskie (separately for different aspects of project), Hawai'i.*

Principal Investigator, Project Director, MPRC Inventory Survey, Pohakuloa Training Area, Hawai'i Island (1987): Managed project, directed 9-week field effort, and served as lead report author. Project area involved work in a remote 1,800-acre heavily vegetated upland area without road or trail access. Project principally concerned systematic transect surveying to locate lava tube caves and sinkholes, to check them for archaeological remains, and to perform test excavations. The project produced a wealth of data concerning upland land-use history and prehistoric Hawaiian bird hunting practices primarily related to feather collecting. *Client: U.S. Army Engineer District, Pacific Ocean Division, Honolulu.*

Selected Academic Journal/Book Publications (most publications have companion technical reports prepared by JSA)

Hawai'i

Athens, J. Stephen

2009 *Rattus exulans* and the catastrophic disappearance of Hawai'i's native lowland forest. *Biological Invasions* 11(7):1489-1501.

1997 Hawaiian native lowland vegetation in prehistory. In *Historical Ecology in the Pacific Islands*, ed. by Patrick V. Kirch and Terry L. Hunt, pp. 248-270. Yale University Press, Connecticut.

Athens, J. Stephen, Michael W. Kaschko, and Helen James

1991 Prehistoric bird hunters: high altitude resource exploitation on Hawai'i Island. *Bishop Museum Occasional Papers* 31:63-84.

Athens, J. Stephen, Timothy M. Rieth, and Thomas S. Dye

2014 A paleoenvironmental and archaeological model-based age estimate for the colonization of Hawai'i. *American Antiquity* 79:144-155.

Athens, J. Stephen, H. David Tuggle, Jerome V. Ward, and David Welch

2002 Vegetation change, avifaunal extinctions, and Polynesian impacts in prehistoric Hawai'i. *Archaeology in Oceania* 37:57-78.



Athens, J. Stephen, and Jerome V. Ward

- 1993 Environmental change and prehistoric Polynesian settlement in Hawai'i. *Asian Perspectives* 32(2):205-223.

Athens, J. Stephen, Jerome V. Ward, and Dean W. Blinn

- 2007 Vegetation history of Laysan Island, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. *Pacific Science* 61(1):17-37.

Carson, Mike, and J. Stephen Athens

- 2007 Integration of coastal geomorphology, mythology, and archaeological evidence at Kualoa Beach, windward O'ahu, Hawaiian Islands. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 2:24-43.

Rieth, Timothy, and J. Stephen Athens

- 2013 Suggested best practices for the application of radiocarbon dating to Hawaiian archaeology. *Hawaiian Archaeology* 13:3-29.

Micronesia

Athens, J. Stephen

- 2014 Archaeology of the Eastern Caroline Islands, Micronesia. In, *The Oxford Handbook of Prehistoric Oceania*, ed. by Ethan Cochrane and Terry Hunt, on-line pages 1-16. DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199925070.013.-13. Oxford University Press USA, New York.
- 2011 Latte Period Occupation on Pagan and Sarigan, Northern Mariana Islands. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 6:314-330.
- 2007 Prehistoric population growth on Kosrae, Eastern Caroline Islands. In *The Growth and Collapse of Pacific Island Societies: Archaeological and Demographic Perspectives*, ed. by Patrick V. Kirch and Jean-Louis Rallu, pp. 257-277. University of Hawaii Press, Honolulu.
- 2007 The rise of the Saudeleur: dating the Nan Madol chiefdom, Pohnpei. In *Vastly Ingenious: The Archaeology of Pacific Material Culture*, ed. by Atholl Anderson, Kaye Green, and Foss Leach, pp. 191-208. Otago University Press, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- 1990 Nan Madol pottery, Pohnpei. *Micronesica*, Supplement 2:17-32.
- 1990 Kosrae pottery, clay, and early settlement. *Micronesica*, Supplement 2:171-186.

Athens, J. Stephen, and Janelle Stevenson

- 2012 Pohnpei Coring Records: the Natural Distribution of *Cyrtosperma chamissonis*. *Journal of Pacific Archaeology* 3(1):35-48.

Athens, J. Stephen, and Jerome V. Ward

- 2006 *Holocene paleoenvironment of Saipan: analysis of a core from Lake Susupe*. Micronesian Archaeological Survey, Report No. 35. Div. of Hist. Preservation, DCCA, CNMI, Saipan.
- 1999 The Late Quaternary of the Western Amazon: Climate, Vegetation, and Humans. *Antiquity* 73:287-302.

Dickinson, William R., and J. Stephen Athens

- 2007 Holocene Paleoshoreline and Paleoenvironmental History of Palau: Implications for Human Settlement. *Journal of Island and Coastal Archaeology* 2:175-196.



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Ecuador

Athens, J. Stephen

- 1992 Ethnicity and adaptation: the Late Period-Cara occupation in northern highland Ecuador. In *Resources, Power, and Interregional Interaction*, ed. by Edward M. Schortman and Patricia A. Urban, pp. 193-219. Plenum Press, New York.
- 1999 Volcanism and archaeology in the Northern Highlands of Ecuador. In *Actividad Volcanica y Pueblos Precolombinos en el Ecuador*, ed. by Patricia A. Mothes, pp.157-189. Abya-Yala Press, Quito.
- 2003 Inventory of earthen mound sites, northern highland Ecuador. Final project report for H. John Heinz III Fund Grant Program for Latin American Archaeology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador.
- 2010 *El Sitio Tola de la Hacienda Zuleta: Investigaciones Geofísicas 2005 y 2009*. Reporte preparado para el Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, Quito, Ecuador. International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu (107 pp; CD available).
- 2012 *El Sitio Tola de la Hacienda Zuleta: Investigaciones 2010*. Reporte preparado para el Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, Quito, Ecuador. International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu (60 pp.; CD available).

Athens, J. Stephen, and Jerome V. Ward

- 1999 The Late Quaternary of the western Amazon: climate, vegetation, and humans. *Antiquity* 73:287-302.

Athens, J. Stephen, Alex Morrison, and Mark Willis

- 2015 *Los Sitios con Tolas de la Hacienda Zuleta y de Cochasquí: Investigaciones 2013*. Reporte preparado para el Instituto Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, Quito, Ecuador. International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu (60 pp.; CD available).

Athens, J. Stephen, Jerome V. Ward, Deborah M. Pearsall, Karol Chandler-Ezell, Dean W. Blinn, and Alex E. Morrison

- 2016 Early prehistoric maize in northern highland Ecuador. *Latin American Antiquity* (in press).