Traditional and local ecological knowledge systems (TEK) are recognized for their potential to foster resilience to climate change. A better understanding of how TEK and other factors relate to social resilience over time is paramount to adaptation planning. This talk centers on an interdisciplinary case-study of Kaʻūpōlehu (Hawai‘i Island), in a region subject to unpredictable climatic events and that has withstood major social-ecological changes, to address these questions: What strategies have allowed for social resilience and adaptation over time? What is the role of TEK in resilience? What does this teach us about climate change adaptation? We show that TEK has historically played an important role in strategies recognized to promote resilience, and those strategies continue to be important even as the context has changed. The particular details of TEK may be less relevant to resilience than the process of maintaining it; therefore, adaptation planning should support the capacity to develop and transmit knowledge and practices over time.

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