



# KAHO'OLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**



# INTRODUCTION TO A KAHO'OLAWE ACCESS

- Access begins at orientation. All participants **MUST** attend an orientation to participate on access.
  - Orientation helps to ensure the safety of participants, as well as a safe and healthy living environment while on Kaho'olawe.
  - All who go to Kaho'olawe should understand that the appearance of environment is rugged and the ecosystem is extremely fragile.
  - Orientation also aims at mitigating further human impact to Kaho'olawe.
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# PURPOSE OF ORIENTATION

- Notify participants of the potential hazards and risks of a Kaho‘olawe access.
  - Ensure compliance with KIRC access control and safety program.
  - Ensure protection of cultural and natural resources.
  - Ensure that participants maintain focus and awareness.
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# TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- KIRC Vision & Mission; who we are and what we do.
- Brief history of island.
- Safety
- Access forms and permit fees
- Basic Island Rules
- 'Ukana - what to bring and how to pack
- Natural and cultural resource protection
- Protocols
- Common questions



# VISION OF THE KIRC

The Kino of Kanaloa is restored. Forests and shrub lands of native plants and other biota clothe its slopes and valleys. Pristine ocean waters and healthy reef ecosystems are the foundation that supports and surrounds the island.

Nā Po'e Hawai'i care for the land in a manner which recognizes the island and the ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity. Kanaloa is a pu'uhonua and wahi pana where Native Hawaiian cultural practices flourish.

The pike of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the islands.





## MISSION OF THE KIRC

Our mission is to implement the vision for Kaho‘olawe, in which the kino of Kanaloa is restored, and nā po‘e Hawai‘i care for the land.

We pledge to provide for meaningful, safe use of Kaho‘olawe for the purposes of the traditional and cultural practices of the native Hawaiian people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its surrounding waters.

# ABOUT THE KIRC

- The KIRC is a division of the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
- Tasked with holding the island of Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters in trust, until a sovereign Hawaiian entity is established and recognized by the U.S. Federal Government





## KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

- In historical land divisions, the entire island is designated an 'ahupua'a of Honua'ula, Maui.
- Land area of Kaho'olawe is 45 square miles, or 28,800 acres.
- Kaho'olawe is 11 miles long by 7 miles wide.
- The Reserve includes the surrounding waters two miles seaward from Kaho'olawe's shores.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE

The KIRC facilitates restoration and re-vegetation of Kaho‘olawe and its surrounding waters through three main programs.

1. Restoration Program
2. Cultural Resource Program
3. Marine Resource Management Program



# HISTORY OF KAHO'OLAWE

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Circa 400 A.D. Polynesians settle the Hawaiian archipelago. The earliest carbon dating for a Hawaiian presence on Kaho'olawe dates back to 1027.

1150 - 1400 Kaho'olawe figures prominently in voyages between Hawai'i and the islands of Southern Polynesia.

1600 By this period in time, a thriving Hawaiian community is established on Kaho'olawe.

1778 - 1779 Kalani'ōpu'u and his warriors from Hawai'i-Island invade Kaho'olawe in the battle of Kamokuhī. This unsuccessful attempt to take Maui from the rule of Kahekili II leaves Kaho'olawe pillaged and barren.

1793 Goats are introduced to Kaho'olawe. Kahekili is given a herd as a gift from Captain Vancouver.

1826 A penal colony is established on Kaho'olawe. Male convicts are banished to Kaho'olawe.

1848 The Hawaiian Government institutes the Māhele. Kaho'olawe is distinguished as Crown lands.

1858 - 1941 The Hawaiian government issues ranching leases for the island, commencing in 1858. Throughout the ranching period, the uncontrolled grazing of cattle, sheep, and goats has a serious impact on the environment of the island. This resulted in a substantial loss of soil through accelerated erosion. By the late 1890s, there are 900 cattle and 15,000 sheep.

1910 Kaho'olawe is declared a National Forest Reserve. Efforts of reforestation begin. Foresters plant kiawe (mesquite) because of its resiliency in dry conditions.

1918 Kaho'olawe withdrawn from forest reserve and leased to Angus MacPhee. In 1920, MacPhee joins with H.A. Baldwin to form the Kaho'olawe Ranch Company.

May 1941 The U.S. army signs a sublease with the Kaho'olawe Ranch company acquiring bombing rights to the Southern portion of Kaho'olawe for a fee of one dollar per year.

# OAHU BOMBED BY JAPANESE PLANES

SIX KNOWN DEAD, 21 INJURED, AT EMERGENCY HOSPITAL

Attack Made On Island's

CIVILIANS ORDERED OFF STREETS  
The army has ordered that all civilians stay off the streets and highways and not use tele- phones.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS IN ACTION  
First indications of the raid came shortly be- fore 8 this morning when anti-aircraft guns around Pearl Harbor began sending up a thun-

Hundreds See City Bombed

## DECEMBER 1941

December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor is attacked by Japanese forces.

December 8, 1941 The U.S. declared war on Japan. President Franklin D. Roosevelt institutes Marshall Law in Hawai'i. The U.S. Navy takes over the island of Kaho'olawe to use for weapons training and testing.

1942 - 1945 Kaho'olawe's southern and eastern cliffs serve as targets for torpedo bomb testing; its west end beaches used as rehearsal landings for invasions of Tarawa, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima

1953 President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially transferred title of Kaho'olawe to the U.S. Navy with the provision that it be returned to the then-Territory of Hawai'i in a condition suitable for human habitation when no longer needed by the military



# OPERATION SAILOR HAT

1965 The U.S. Navy conducted a series of three tests employing a large amount of non-nuclear explosives. The tests utilized conventional TNT to simulate the effects of a nuclear blast upon offshore vessels, seismological data, underwater acoustics (SONAR), radio communications, cratering, air blast effects, cloud growth, fireball generation, and electromagnetic data gathering. Each "Sailor Hat" test consisted of a dome-stacked 500-Ton charge of TNT high explosive.

The crater left by the blasts is called "Sailor's Hat," and holds an anchialine, brackish water pool that has since been adapted as a habitat by endemic 'Ōpae'ula.



# JANUARY 4, 1976 THE FIRST LANDING

A group of nine people successfully stage the first of many occupations on the island of Kaho'olawe to protest the U.S. Navy's continued use of the island.

The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana is formed shortly thereafter. They file a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Secretary of the Navy (Aluli et al vs. Brown), accusing the military of violating laws pertaining to environmental protection, historic preservation, and freedom of religion.





**MARCH 7, 1977**

George Helm and Kimo Mitchell were lost at sea in the waters off of Kaho'olawe during one of many on going occupations of Kaho'olawe by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

As a result of their loss of life, media attention around and awareness of the Kaho'olawe struggle grew. Thus, the U.S. Federal court ordered the Navy to conduct an environmental impact statement and supply an inventory of the historic sites on the island.

# HISTORY OF KAHO'OLAWE

1980 The U.S. Navy and the 'Ohana settle *Aluli et al vs. Brown* by signing a Consent Decree allowing the "Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana regular access to Kaho'olawe for religious, cultural, educations, and restoration activities."

1981 The Documentation of more than 540 traditional sites resulted in the entire island being placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1982 The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana conducts the first Makahiki ceremonies since the 1800s on Kaho'olawe.

1990 President Bush issues a memorandum temporarily halting the bombing; Congress established the Kaho'olawe Island Conveyance Commission, "to study and recommend terms and conditions for returning Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i."

1992 A healing ceremony was held on Kaho'olawe to hasten its return to the people of Hawai'i. The following year, Congress voted to end military use of the island and authorized \$400 million to clear the island of ordnance. The State of Hawai'i designated Kaho'olawe as a natural and cultural reserve. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is created to plan for the island's future.

1994 The U.S. Navy officially transferred title to Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i to be held in trust until the formation and recognition of a sovereign Hawaiian nation



# HISTORY OF KAHO'OLAWE

2003 Transfer of access control was returned from the U.S. Navy to the State of Hawai'i in a November 11, 2003 ceremony at 'Iōlani Palace.

2004 The U.S. Navy ended the Kaho'olawe UXO Clearance Project. At its completion, 75% of the island was surface cleared of UXO. Of this area, 10%, or 2,647 acres, was additionally cleared to a depth of 4 feet. 25% of the island was not cleared and unescorted access to these areas remain unsafe.

2013 The State of Hawai'i conducted an audit of the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Findings indicated that 13% of the island was restored in 18 years with an expenditure of \$51 million. It was recommended that the KIRC create a comprehensive and measurable plan for the island that included areas to be restored, scope of work, estimated costs, and timeframes for completion. The audit also urged the KIRC to focus on fundraising.





# UXO SAFETY

- Kaho'olawe was used as a military training range for nearly 50 years.
- Areas of free roam are limited. Stay within areas prescribed by KIRC Staff.
- UXO safety program and procedures are in place for everyone's protection. Be aware of clearance markers and stay within designated boundaries.
- Access Guides and/or KIRC staff are required when leaving camp
- **IF YOU DIDN'T DROP IT, DON'T PICK IT UP**





## UXO SAFETY TIPS

- Be mindful and aware that you are on an island that has been used as a firing/bombing range for nearly 50 years.
- Do not touch anything that looks like metal.
- If you find a UXO or anything that looks suspicious, mark the area and notify a KIRC staff member
- It is advised that volunteers do not utilize cell phones in the field.

# 'ŌHUA SAFETY

- 'Ōhua, the KIRC landing craft, transports people, food, water, fuel, and other goods to Kaho'olawe.
- Pay attention to the captain and crew — follow instructions at all times and be aware of your surroundings.
- Upon arrival to Kaho'olawe, the Captain will determine whether or not a beach landing is possible. On rare occasions, passengers may have to swim to shore. Passengers should be dressed ready to get wet.
- Be aware of operations occurring on the beach. Stay well out of the way of moving vehicles. Chaperones should keep watch on children at all time while in and around the boat.
- Be ready to help. When forming a chain to pass bags and gear from the boat to the shore or vice versa, the most efficient way is to stand in a staggered line facing inward (towards each other).
- Keep in mind there are no lifeguards on duty.
- Be mindful of ocean conditions and never turn your back on the ocean.
- When 'Ōhua is on shore, stay away from the front of the boat. Always approach and disembark from the side — most often the Starboard side of the vessel.



# VOLUNTEER EXPECTATIONS

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1. In signing the KIRC waivers and Volunteer Agreement, each volunteer accepts personal responsibility for his/her own behavior and agrees to abide by the KIRC codes of conduct and state law and behave accordingly.
2. A chaperone/group leader/advisor is required with all youth groups. The chaperone is fully responsible for the behavior and actions of the group.
3. Inappropriate action by any volunteer may be grounds for immediate removal from Kaho'olawe at the expense of the individual, organization, school or agency he/she represents.
4. When returning to Base Camp after the workday, free time may be spent within an area prescribed by the KIRC in and around the Base Camp. Swimming is not allowed without KIRC supervision. An orientation will occur prior to swimming so that all may enjoy a safe experience.
5. Respect natural resources.
  - Everything from the land and sea remains on the island.
  - Assist in preventing the introduction of animals, fish or plants.
  - All natural resources are to be left in their natural state.
  - Protected marine mammals are to be avoided (turtles, seals).
  - DO NOT destroy, deface or remove any natural resource.
6. Respect cultural areas and practices.
  - Culturally responsible and respectful conduct by all personnel is expected.
  - All archaeological, historical, cultural and religious objects are to remain on Kaho'olawe.
  - Known historical, cultural or religiously sensitive sites shall be avoided.
  - Cultural activities occurring on Kaho'olawe shall not be interfered with.
  - All archaeological, historical, cultural and religious sites and areas shall be left in their natural state.
  - DO NOT destroy, deface or remove any cultural feature.
7. **NO FISHING OR REMOVAL OF ORGANISMS MAY OCCUR.** Ethics policies applicable to paid staff within KIRC apply equally to volunteers. Ethics are defined by the State Ethics Code, Chapter 84, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS).

# PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Know your limits and advise KIRC staff of any restrictions. Disclose any physical limitations on your Emergency Information Form.
- Drink water all day. The winds and arid conditions of Kaho‘olawe can dehydrate a person quickly. Heat exhaustion, dehydration, and heat stroke are serious concerns.
- Be aware of conditions around you. Be conscious of moving vehicles, power tools in use, heavy machinery and equipment being operated.
- Volunteers with asthma or allergies must have their medication(s) with them at all times. Volunteers who experience anaphylactic symptoms to bee stings must bring their own Epi-pen.
- Volunteer are advised to use protective gear at all times — a hat, sunglasses, a long-sleeved shirt, sunscreen, and a neck gator or bandana to protect the nose and mouth.





# WHAT TO EXPECT

- Climate is hot and dry; expect dust, wind and limited shade. facilities in the field are limited. Be able to work in the hot sun all day. The work is hard but the company is good.
- Come to work. Teamwork is essential for a successful work trip. Remember that Kaho'olawe was used as a bombing range; activities on island are limited due to the continuing presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO). Transport to and from the island and/or work may be delayed due to logistics coordination, safety or weather conditions.
- Come with patience and a sense of humor. Meals are provided from dinner on Tuesday through breakfast on Friday. You will need to bring a lunch for the first day. Drinking water is provided; bring your own reusable water bottle (at least 18-20 ounce capacity)



# WHAT TO PACK

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- Swim Clothes
- Plastic bags (3-mil contractor cleanup bags) (4)
- Sturdy hiking boots (shoes that provide ankle protection)
- Long pants (2)
- T-shirts or long-sleeved shirts for field work (3-4). No tank tops for field work.
- Jacket or sweatshirt (1)
- Underwear and Socks (4-5 pairs)
- Personal toiletries (shampoo, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.) Bring only enough for four nights.
- Towel
- Sleep Clothes
- After work clothes (shorts, t-shirt, tank top, slippers)
- Medication, contact solution, eyeglasses
- Gloves
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Water bottle (at least 20 ounces)
- Hat
- Lunch for 1st day (no drink)
- Camera
- Flashlight

# WHAT NOT TO PACK

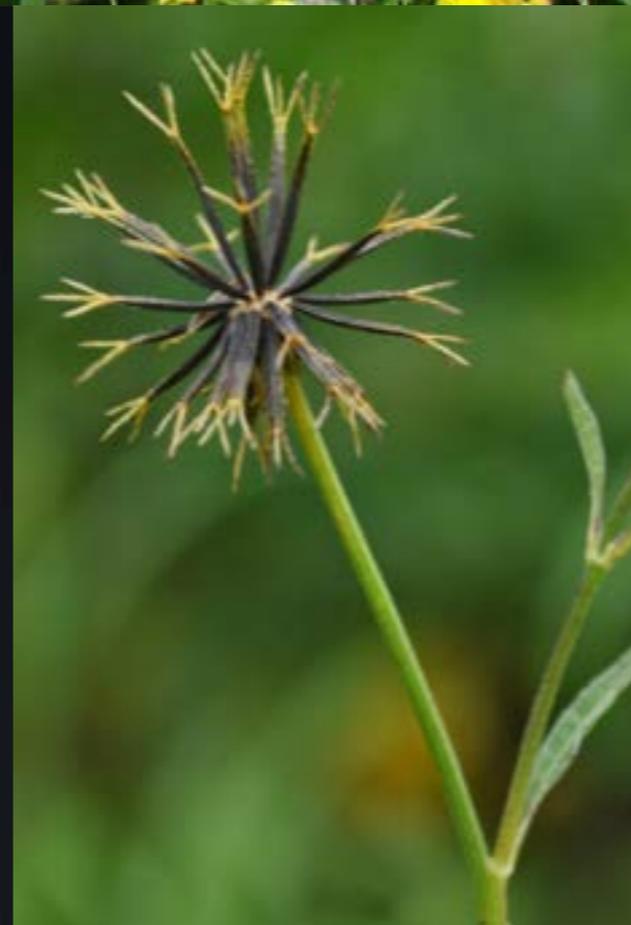
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- Bedding — sheets, blankets, and pillows will be provided for you.
- Fishing is not allowed on a KIRC access, unless otherwise advised by the KIRC Executive Director. Do not bring any kind of fishing equipment.
- Do not pack your gear in a rolling suitcase, hard suitcase, or large, framed backpack. Any type of rigid bags are not allowed. A small duffel bag should suffice. Please keep your gear limited to 10 lbs.
- Please do not come with a bad attitude.



# BIO-SECURITY

- Inspect gear and equipment before going into the field. Field pests include weed seeds and insects. Clods of dirt or mud often mask these hitchhikers. Clean footwear, socks, pant legs, jackets, rain gear, foodstuffs, tools, packs or other containers with a hose, brush, rag or knife edge.
- Thoroughly wash and dry all swim clothes and gear. Dip snorkel and fins in a light bleach solution. Invasive algae is just as dangerous as terrestrial weeds



# THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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## DAY 1

Your group arrives at Kahului Airport and prepares for curbside pickup by 7am. A KIRC staff member will meet your group at the airport for transport to Kihei Boat Ramp, where the 'Ohua is standing by for departure. Volunteers board the 'Ohua and shortly after the vessel commences its hour-long journey across the 'Alalakeiki channel. Upon arrival at Honokanai'a, staff and crew unload passengers and supplies. Volunteers are given time to settle in and then receive an on-island safety briefing. After lunch, the group may leave camp to visit and learn about historical sites and/or prepare for tomorrow's work project. In the late afternoon, the group returns to camp to enjoy leisure time, bathe, and have dinner. Evening activities may consist of educational presentations by staff.

## DAY 2

Rise and shine before breakfast at 6am. After breakfast, the group loads up into vehicles and is transported to the project site. A typical work day can include cultivating native plants such as a'ali'i, aweoweo, and naio. Volunteers may also assist in laying irrigation lines, installing erosion control check dams, chipping invasive kiawe, watering existing plantings, and filling burlap sacks with dirt to repair roads. Other projects may include construction on the Ala Loa, or circle-island walking trail. Lunch is enjoyed in the field. After lunch, staff may choose to continue with work or visit some of the islands cultural sites and historical features, weather- and workflow-permitting. Volunteers may choose to offer ho'okupu of fresh spring water, oli, hula, or other appropriate gifts to significant cultural sites. After pau hana, the group will return to camp and enjoy leisure time until dinner.

## DAY 3 AND 4

Breakfast at 6am. Staff and volunteers will continue the work project begun on Day 02. After lunch in the field, the group will wrap up the week's work project. Preparations will be made for tomorrow's departure, including cleaning and maintenance around camp. After dinner, staff will lead the group in learning the departure protocol.

## DAY 5

Breakfast will be served at 6am or earlier. After breakfast, the group will finish up cleaning camp and prepare for departure from Kaho'olawe. When 'Ohua arrives at Honokanai'a, volunteers may assist in loading the boat. After 'ukana is loaded, passengers will board the vessel for the return journey. Once back at Kihei Boat Ramp, volunteers help in unload and wash down the boat. Alas, volunteers will be transported to Kahului Airport to await their flight home, taking with them memories of their once-in-a-lifetime Kaho'olawe experience!

\*All logistics may be subject to change.

# LOGISTICS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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On the day of mobilization to Kaho‘olawe, you should ensure that you are ready for pickup at Kahului Airport (OGG) at precisely 7am (unless otherwise informed by a KIRC staff member). In order to do so, your flight should be scheduled to arrive into Kahului by at least 6:40am, allotting ample time to disembark from your aircraft, gather your belongings and luggage, etc. Please book your flight accommodations accordingly. If you are arriving from a departure city other than Honolulu (HNL), it is recommended that you arrive the evening before. Airfare, hotel, and accommodations for the duration of your time on Maui is at your own expense.

KIRC will provide transportation from Kahului Airport (OGG) directly to the Kīhei Boat Launch Facility on your day of mobilization to Kaho‘olawe, and from the Kīhei Boat Launch Facility directly to the Kahului Airport (OGG) on your day of extraction. The KIRC will not accommodate any requests for additional stops between the airport and the boat launch facility. On the extraction day, please be aware that we cannot provide a precise time of return to Kīhei Boat Ramp facility. There are many factors that may delay ‘Ōhua’s return to Kīhei, such as ocean and weather conditions, time it may take to load and unload cargo in Honokanai‘a, etc. A channel crossing may take as little as 45 minutes on a day with ideal, flat ocean conditions, or as long as three hours on days with rough and bumpy ocean conditions. The KIRC recommends that volunteers book flight accommodations after 4:30pm (unless otherwise informed by a KIRC staff member). In the event of an early return to the boat ramp, your group may be dropped off at the airport well ahead of your scheduled flight. Please anticipate accordingly.

If you do not require transportation to and from Kahului Airport (OGG), please meet at the KIRC Boathouse, located at 2780 South Kīhei Road, no later than 7:15am (unless otherwise informed by a KIRC staff member). You may enter the Boathouse property from the Kīhei Boat Launch Facility parking lot. Limited parking is available within the KIRC Boathouse facility and will be at the owner and driver’s risk.

# LOGISTICS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Please note that your Kaho‘olawe access will involve intensive manual labor. Conditions on Kaho‘olawe are often arid and extreme. Work days are long and sometimes harsh and potentially dangerous, as we will be engaged in work outdoors and exposed to the elements. The scope of volunteer work may include planting a variety of native plants, weeding and removing invasive species, mitigating erosion, performing maintenance at base camp, aiding in meal preparation, cooking and kitchen duties, as well as a range of other tasks to be determined by the KIRC staff.

Also note that any of the information and logistics described in this presentation and in other distribution materials may be subject to change, at any time, for any reason. Furthermore, in the event of torrential weather and/or unforeseen circumstances, the KIRC reserves the right to cancel and/or modify logistics for an access at any time, for any reason, at which time all efforts will be made to reschedule. Please be patient and flexible during your time with the KIRC.

# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In the event of an emergency occurring at home while you are on Kaho‘olawe, you may leave the following information in case your ‘ohana needs to contact you:

- Between the hours of 6:30am - 5:00pm, the KIRC office in Wailuku, Maui may be contacted at (808) 243-5020
- Outside of office hours, the KIRC Base Camp in Honokanai‘a may be contacted at (808) 270-2781

Cellular phone service is extremely limited on Kaho‘olawe. Thus, the phone numbers listed above will be the most effective methods of communication.

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# OLI KĀHEA

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He haki nu‘anu‘a nei kai

Indeed a rough and crashing sea

‘O awa ana i uka

A bitter cold from the uplands

Pehea e hiki aku ai

How is it that one lands

‘O ka leo

It is the voice

Mai pa‘a i ka leo

Don't hold back the voice

# MAHALO IĀ 'OUKOU

Please return your forms as soon as possible. Minors must have them signed by a parent or legal guardian. Please complete forms thoroughly, **WEIGHT and AGE ARE REQUIRED.**

Access permit fees, made payable to,  
“Kaho‘olawe Trust Fund”

Mail or fax forms to:  
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission  
811 Kolu St., Suite 201  
Wailuku, HI 96793

FAX: (808) 243-5855

Any questions or concerns, contact [aevans@kirc.hawaii.gov](mailto:aevans@kirc.hawaii.gov)

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