



Providing Community Access to Kaho'olawe Through Virtual Resources

BACKGROUND

The proposed project seeks support to develop and pilot several digital and virtual reality tools that can provide safe and meaningful access to Reserve, including continuous live-streaming video from Kaho'olawe, monthly 360 video access updates, and a Kaho'olawe Virtual Reality (VR) Huaka'i. These tools have the potential to serve as models for other natural museum spaces that hope to maintain or expand public access beyond a physical means to individuals both in Hawai'i and around the world.

DELIVERABLES

- Sharing of live stream video from Kaho'olawe on the KIRC website and social media posts
- Sharing of monthly 360 photo and video updates on the KIRC YouTube Channel and social media platforms
- Documentation of at least 50 archaeological and historic sites and features with 360-degree photography and videography
- Documentation of at least 50 site features and narratives through videography and oral records
- Development of a web-based interactive augmented and virtual reality experience published as a Virtual Reality Expedition through Google Earth for Education and made available on the KIRC website
- Promotion of the Kaho'olawe Live Stream Cameras and VR Huaka'i through the KIRC's print and online social media outlets
- Monitoring website traffic related to the live stream and VR Huaka'i content
- Evaluating user engagement and experience through focus group interview and feedback surveys

AWARD AMOUNT: \$98,230

FUNDER: IMLS Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provides \$83,280 in contractual costs for the communications on island
- Funds will be used to acquire updated recording equipment for documentation

FINANCIAL UPDATE

SPENT
\$0

BILLED
\$0

RECEIVED
\$0

PROJECT UPDATE: July 2021 – February 2022

Maggie, the project coordinator, worked with partners from the Pacific American Foundation during the July 2021 access to capture 360 footage using drone technology for use in the development of the VR Huaka'i. Significant areas of capture included the KIRC Honokanai'a Base Camp, Honokanai'a Beach, Keanakeiki and



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Kealialalo Wetlands, Moa'ula Iki, Moa'ula Nui, Ipu a Kane rain koa, Kealaikahiki, and Sailor's Hat. That footage is still being processed to form the 360 videos. The project coordinator also began drafting the list of the 50 sites that will be surveyed and documented, based on accessibility and time, and has put together a Google Maps version of the huaka'i that will serve as a draft and guide for the final production. The project coordinator is working with the GIS/LAN Specialist to design the landing page for the project that will eventually be added to the KIRC website. The team is also working on a schedule for documenting the remaining sites during the April, May, and July accesses in 2022.



Figure 1. Aerial View of the Star Compass at Kealaikahiki



Figure 2. Panoramic View of LZ1



Figure 3. Panoramic View of Base Camp at Night