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Community building event to revitalize Kaho'olawe

May 3, 2015

The Maui News

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The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission will present Mahina'ai Night from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday at its Kihei boathouse property, an 8-acre parcel designated in 2002 as the future site of a Kaho'olawe Learning Center. This event is free and open to the public.

Mahina'ai Night will be the first in a series of full-moon events geared to raise awareness of and access to Kahoolawe. It will include a guided tour of the KIRC's new walking trail, live music by UH-Maui College's Institute of Hawaiian Music, food vendors, and the opportunity to talk story with experts in Kahoolawe history, restoration and culture. This program is made possible by a new grant made through the Maui County Product Enrichment Program.

"Our Kihei site is the first point of contact for all community volunteers accessing Kahoolawe, as it is where our vessel - the 'Ohua, the primary means of Kahoolawe transport - is housed," said KIRC Executive Director Mike Naho'opi'i. "Cultivating the area responds to a strong demand for information and shared experiences for those that cannot commit to the four-day volunteer restoration access trips on-island. We see this as an important step in strengthening understanding of and connection to Kahoolawe for all residents and visitors."

Attendees are asked to park at the Kihei Boat Ramp and follow signs for the Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission to its boathouse site at 2780 S. Kihei Road. RSVPs are requested, but not required, at facebook.com/KircMaui/events or administrator@kahoolawe.hawaii.gov.

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