



Aloha 'Āina

Okakopa.Nowemapa 2011 Cultural Resources Management Program Status Update

E Alu Pu

On September 29th–October 2nd, Culture Program staff Kahale Saito and intern CJ Elizares participated in this year's E Alu Pu that was hosted by the Waipā and Limahuli communities on Kaua'i. A brief background of the organization follows:

"E Alu Pū has met 11 times and reached 25 communities with gatherings covering the following topics: (1) traditional knowledge collection that links youth with kūpuna, (2) the Makai Watch community stewardship program, (3) community-based marine resources management planning, (4) traditional Hawaiian biological resources monitoring methods, and more."



There were 22 communities represented from Kalapana, Hawai'i to Hā'ena, Kaua'i. Every community shared the progress and challenges that they each faced in terms of management, and utilization of traditional methodologies and knowledge systems to help achieve community goals. Federal and State officials were present as well to share how they collaboratively work with the needs of community. All participants were able to interact with the communities of Waipā and Limahuli, as they shared some of the mo'olelo of the place and some of their current projects. Overall, it was a good learning experience to see how different communities are managing their area, and the collaborative work between Native Hawaiians, community members, as well as federal, state, and private agencies to best manage their 'āina.

Aia i hea ka wai a Kāne?

On October 8th, the annual Opening of the Rain and Planting Ceremony was held at Pu'u Mahoe and Moa'ulanui to entice the rains of Kāne to bless the 'āina of Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe. Commissioner Whitehead and 5 PKO representatives led the Kaho'olawe ceremony, as Culture Program staff Kahale Saito and PKO representative Syd Kawahakui with 13 others representing KIRC staff, KIRC interns, Ho'olawa Farms, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, and PKO members help to support the Pu'u Mahoe ceremony. The ceremony was a success as both ends received rain during or after the ceremony. On behalf of the KIRC and PKO planning hui, we would like to extend our mahalo to everyone who supported this ceremony through providing ho'okupu, ceremonial preparation, and participation.

E Kāne i ka wai ola!



20th Anniversary of Stopping the Bombing

On October 21st-23rd 27 members of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and 2 KIRC staff gathered in Hakioawa to commemorate the 20th anniversary of stopping the bombing of Kaho‘olawe. A ceremony was held on the Mua Ha‘i Kūpuna to acknowledge this event and to signify the continued commitment of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana towards healing the island as their role as kahu ‘āina.



Opening of the Makahiki Ceremony

On November 9th-13th 49 participants from Hawai‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i gathered to open the Makahiki ceremonies in Hakioawa and Moa‘ulaiki for Kanaloa-Kaho‘olawe. All ceremonies were successful, as the group proceeded on to open the Makahiki games consisting of haka moa, ulumaika, kukini race and many others. The Makahiki season will continue through the month of February when the closing ceremonies will commence from February 4th- 8th.

LONOIKAMAKAHIKI! LONOIKAMAKAHIKI! LONOIKAMAKAHIKI!



Conservation Action Plan with The Nature Conservancy

On November 15th-17th Culture Program staff continued to participate in the Nature Conservancy’s planning process Conservation Action Plan. This has been a very interesting and informative process. Three groups, Kahikili, Molokini, and Kaho‘olawe, are simultaneously creating action plans for their specific area. Although ocean management is the focus, the group has been able to weave cultural components into the plans which would support the KIRC’s overall mission. The next planning workshop will be on Kaho‘olawe from January 23-26.

Tahitian Canoe Faafaite Departs From Traditional Launching Site on Kaho‘olawe

By Kim Ku‘ulei Birnie of The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana

(Honokanai‘a, Kaho‘olawe). Shortly after 10 AM on Sunday, October 30, the Faafaite, the Polynesian voyaging canoe from Tahiti, departed the Hawaiian Islands from a point on Kaho‘olawe named Kealaikahiki, *pathway to Tahiti*. This is the first time a canoe has departed for Tahiti this way in more than 750 years. The Faafaite is one of the 7 voyaging canoes that arrived in June with the Pacific Voyagers fleet. It spent two days on the sacred island of Kaho‘olawe before embarking on its final leg home to Tahiti Sunday from the place named by the ancients to send Polynesians to their homeland.

“It was important for us to come to this island,” said Faafaite captain Teva Plichart. “To the place our ancestors studied wayfaring, to the where our tūpuna, *ancestors*, launched from, from the place named *path to Tahiti*.”

Ke-ala-i-kahiki, or *pathway to Tahiti*, is the southwest point of Kaho‘olawe that juts out, enabling seafarers studying the waters in Hawai‘i to observe both due north and south on the ocean horizons.

“Kealaikahiki is where the Kalohi, ‘Au‘au and Pailolo channels join with the ‘Alalākeiki, pouring into the Kealaikahiki channel. Pushing off from Lae o Kealaikahiki in a canoe is like pulling onto the freeway,” exclaimed Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana founder Noa Emmett Aluli. “It’s a straight shot to Tahiti from here.” The waka, wa‘a, canoe, arrived on Kaho‘olawe at daybreak Friday, greeted by members of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, and joined by others from the Hawaiian voyaging community.

The crew wanted to visit the island that is so historically and culturally significant in the training of navigators.

At the island's summit, Moa'ulanui, the group of 34 greeted the rising sun, and in the storytelling, noted similarities to places and practices. The island of Kaho'olawe, sometimes called Kanaloa, is a physical manifestation, *kinolau*, of the Hawaiian deity Kanaloa. Another kinolau is a whale, whose design just happens to grace each side of the Faafaite's hull. It is a nod to Dieter Pullman, the German benefactor of the seven Pacific voyaging canoes, who was moved to environmental action by an up-close-and-personal encounter he had with a whale. It also represents the many Maohi, indigenous Tahiti, families that claim the koholā, or whale, as their spiritual guardians.

At Moa'ulaiki, the voyagers saw where navigators engaged in the early phases of their traditional training, studying the stars and their movements, also benefitting from a panoramic view of 5 islands, surrounding channels, clouds and currents. Moa'ula was a chief from Tahiti who came up to Hawai'i. There are places named Moaula in Hawai'i, in Tahiti, and throughout other Polynesian Islands.

The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana hosted a ceremony for the voyagers at Kealaikahiki. Moved by the significance of this historic event where, in October 2004, master navigator Mau Piailug directed representatives from all the Hawaiian canoes to launch from Kealaikahiki before heading south. The last time this occurred was in the 1250s.

"We've sent our canoes to Tahiti many times. We've been waiting for one from Tahiti to come visit us," said 'Ohana member Craig Neff on the significance of the occasion.

The name Faafaite means *reconciliation*. This visit to Kaho'olawe is a reconciliation between Hawaiians and Tahitians. In fact, three Hawaiian voyagers—early voyager Snake Ah Hee, master navigator Chad Kalepa Babayan, and navigator Shantell Ching DeSilva—are joining the Tahitians in this final leg, expected to last 15 days.

Faafaite captain Teva Plichart explains, "The name describes our mission to protect the ocean and our environment, reconciling nature and humanity. But as we Maohi revive voyaging, we are reconciling ourselves with our spirit and culture."