



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALO A

## KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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# Press Release

**Date: December 30, 2013  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KIRC Receives Two State Grants in Support of Cultural Programming in South Maui**

***Nana ka maka, hoolohe ka pepeiao, paa ka waha – observe with the eyes, listen with the ears, keep quiet. Our kupuna or even makua will now have a place to tell their stories to people who will listen because i ulu no ka lala i ke kumu – without our ancestors we would not be here.***

The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is proud to announce *two* state grants through a partnership between the Hawaii Community Foundation and the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

The “Hale Hooulu Mea Kanu and Kalamalama: Building Bridges Between Kahoolawe and Kihei” project granted through the “Kūkulu Ola: Living Hawaiian Culture” grant program will prepare an 8-acre parcel of land in Kihei for the KIRC’s forthcoming Kaho‘olawe Cultural Center. Set aside by Governor Linda Lingle in 2002 for KIRC’s future use as an office/information center, boat house/storage facility, and native Hawaiian plant nursery (reference Executive Order No. 3963, executed February 19, 2002), the area will see a native plant nursery and traditional hale for educational programs by year’s end.

The purpose of the Hawaii Community Foundation/ Hawaii Tourism Authority’s “Kukulu Ola: Living Hawaiian Culture” program is to seek community-based programs that enhance, strengthen, and perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and community. The “Hale Hooulu Mea Kanu and Kalamalama: Building Bridges Between Kahoolawe and Kihei” project will play a significant role in the context of Hawaiian culture and the community; encouraging community members to first learn and then educate others about the preservation, protection, restoration and culture of Kaho‘olawe.

“Hawaiian Culture has always been preserved and maintained through the many stories passed down from generation to generation,” says KIRC Executive Director - Michael Nāho‘opi‘i, “the Hale Hooulu Mea Kanu and Kalamalama will tell these stories.”

The KIRC’s “Kumeheu” trail project will be funded through the Hawaii Community Foundation/ Hawaii Tourism Authority’s “Natural Resources” grant program, which supports projects that help to improve both the visitor experience and resident enjoyment of Hawaii’s natural resources, while also ensuring that the heart of Hawaii’s resources are protected, respected, and perpetuated. “Kumeheu” will design a walking trail with native plants and interpretive educational experience about Kahoolawe on the same 8-acre Kihei property, thereby providing visitors with a unique glimpse of ancient Hawaii and with an understanding about Kahoolawe today.

“The south Maui coast is a natural resource, as is Kaho‘olawe,” remarks Cultural Resources Project Coordinator Kuiokalani Gaperu, “This project will enhance public access to this natural coastal resource in an environmentally friendly and respectful manner while adding to the understanding of the natural resources of Kaho‘olawe – in turn - assisting in their protection, restoration and perpetuation.”

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund in support of these projects, send your contribution to the KIRC at 811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku HI 96793 or give online at [hawaiianwayfund.org](http://hawaiianwayfund.org) (donor designation #130). Every dollar makes a difference.

### **About the KIRC**

The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the Hawai‘i State Legislature in 1993 to manage the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve while it is held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. The KIRC establishes policies and usage of the island and its surrounding waters through comprehensive restoration and monitoring programs. Its Cultural Program integrates a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into all programs and activities. The organization is managed by a seven-member Commission and a committed staff. For more information, call (808) 243.5020 or visit [www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov).

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