



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOĀ

KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Governor appoints Holt as new interim Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commissioner

The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of interim commissioner Hōkūlani Holt, Cultural Programs Director at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, Kumu Hula for Pa‘u‘o Hi‘iaka, Hawaiian language and culture lecturer at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College and former KIRC Culture & Education Manager.

Governor Neil Abercrombie made the appointment, which is still subject to state Senate confirmation. Holt, who also serves as President of Kauahea Inc., Vice-President of Lalakea Foundation and on committees of the Hawaii Visitor and Convention Bureau, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate and the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, has participated as a consultant in numerous studies and plans for restoration of the island’s cultural and natural resources.

“We are so pleased to welcome Auntie Hōkū,” remarks KIRC Executive Director Michael Nāho‘opi‘i. “This is an important period of transition for the KIRC, as we work with our community to develop a strategic plan for Kaho‘olawe: 2026, which will commemorate 50 years since the Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai‘i fought for the return of Kaho‘olawe – and – as we launch a new fund development action plan in response to the diminishing trust fund while working to cultivate partners in our restoration efforts.”

"This is great news!" adds Commission Chair Michele McLean, "Hōkūlani is an ideal choice. Her experience and mana‘o will be extremely valuable to Kaho‘olawe and the Commission, and I am grateful that she is able to join us at this critical time."

Holt’s relationship with Kaho‘olawe began as an advocate during the movement to stop the Navy bombing practice on the island. She has a long history with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) and was hired by the KIRC as the cultural coordinator in 1997, tasked with designing a cultural orientation program for all workers involved with the island cleanup project, where she remained until 2001.

“It will be a great challenge but also a great pleasure,” states Holt, “I am very happy to be on the Commission at this time”

Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 6K sets forth the composition of the KIRC, comprising of seven commissioners: 1) selected by the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i from lists submitted by Native Hawaiian organizations (Hōkūlani Holt), 2) a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (Colette

Y. Machado), 3) the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawai'i (William J. Aila, Jr.), 4) a representative of the County of Maui (Michele McLean), 5) a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (Amber Namaka Whitehead), and 6) and 7) are selected by the Governor from a list submitted by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (Christopher M. Kaliko Baker and Noa Emmett Aluli). The Chair of the KIRC is selected from these 7 members by the Governor (Michele McLean).

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. The KIRC 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.

Administratively attached to the Hawai'i State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the KIRC receives limited federal funds designated for State responsibilities in its effort towards the preservation, protection, and rehabilitation of the land, surrounding waters and culture of Kaho'olawe. The vast majority of the funds required to carry out these efforts are raised through grants from foundations, corporate sponsors and government agencies as well as charitable contributions from individuals. **To make a donation to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations or call us at (808) 243-5020.**