



*KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA*  
**KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

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## Press Release

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

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### **KIRC Receives Federal Grant in Support of Kaho‘olawe Marine Debris Cleanup Project**

Earlier this month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program announced that the KIRC was one of only eleven groups across the country to receive a portion of a near-\$1M grant to remove derelict fishing nets, litter, lumber, tires and other harmful marine debris from shorelines and coastal waters.

This grant will enable the KIRC to lead five Volunteer Accesses to Kaho‘olawe in its goal to remove 10 tons of marine debris from the shoreline. Over the 18-month project period, the KIRC will be conducting public outreach events to help inform the community on the negative effects caused by marine debris and derelict fishing gear on the marine environment.

“Marine debris plagues coastlines all over the country, and these communities have the expertise and motivation to address it,” said Nancy Wallace, Marine Debris Program director. “We are proud to support them as they work to mitigate impacts and address the damage marine debris has caused.”

Grantees were selected from a pool of 46 applications submitted by non-governmental organizations, tribes, academia and local government agencies. The combined request from all applications totaled nearly \$5 million, demonstrating the widespread need to address marine debris across the country. With this program, NOAA has funded 76 marine debris removal projects and removed more than 3,800 metric tons of marine debris from our oceans and Great Lakes since 2006. The KIRC will receive \$100,530.

KIRC Executive Director Michael Nāho‘opi‘i remarks, “The Department of Health, U.S. EPA and Clean Water Act funding to the KIRC and the hundreds of volunteers that have donated their time and energy to this project have been instrumental to furthering our mission to protect, preserve and restore the Reserve’s historical, archaeological and environmental resources. With their support, the Commission has broken new ground in developing innovative solutions to overcome physical and logistical challenges that no other State agency or organization in Hawai‘i has faced in an endeavor that is for the future of Hawai‘i and its people.”

For information on how to volunteer for this program with the KIRC, please visit  
<http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer.shtml>

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund in support of this project, 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).

For a complete list of grant recipients, visit [http://www.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130904\\_marinedebris.html](http://www.noaa.gov/stories2013/20130904_marinedebris.html)

### **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](http://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](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations) or call us at (808) 243-5020.**