



Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve -- Winter Solstice 2014

Letter from the Director

by Michael K. Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



The upcoming 2015 legislative session will be the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission's most important in its 21-year history.

In this time span, the KIRC has led the restoration of the island of Kaho'olawe on behalf of both the State and the people of Hawai'i, oversaw the Navy's decade-long unexploded ordnance cleanup project in order to ensure meaningful and reasonably safe areas for future inhabitants, and developed long-term plans for

the best use and management of Reserve lands and waters.

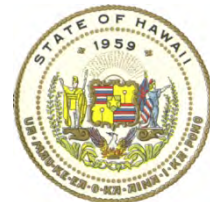
Since the 2004 departure of the U.S. Navy and concurrent transfer of the Reserve's access management from Federal to State hands, the KIRC has focused on healing centuries of environmental damage. Subjected to 200 years... [READ MORE.](#)



Ocean Program News

Malama ko Hawai'i ia Kanaloa

(Hawai'i's people care for Kanaloa. Hawai'i's people are cared for through



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Kanaloa)

Through funding provided by NOAA's Restoration Center Marine Debris Program, the KIRC has begun the process of removing 10+ tons of marine debris from the coastal environment... [READ MORE ON PAGE 6.](#)



Restoration Program News

A Cumulative Overview of our Work

Since the 2004 departure of the U.S. Navy and concurrent official transfer of the Reserve's access management to the State, the KIRC has made enormous strides relative to the considerable challenge assigned, thanks to a strong network of volunteers and grant supporters... Scroll to [PAGE 3](#) for a cumulative overview of our restoration work and [PAGE 5](#) to learn about the Program's latest grant award.



Cultural Program News

Kaho'olawe Culture at Kihei Site

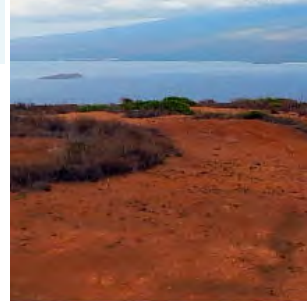
Through the support of the Atherton Family Foundation, Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA), Hawai'i Community Foundation, Alu Like, Inc., Kihei Charter School, Kāko'o iā Kaho'olawe volunteers and more, the KIRC will unveil a walking trail, native plant nursery and traditional hale in January 2015. A new Maui County Product Enrichment Program grant will sponsor the forthcoming Mahina'ai Nights program at the property, featuring monthly torch lit guided tours & entertainment... Scroll to [PAGE 5 and 6](#) for PROGRAM NEWS.

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 held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. The KIRC has

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I OLA KANALOA!

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RECENT PRESS:

Civil Beat "Promised Land"
Series: 1 of 3
2 of 3
3 of 3

KIRC receives Coral Reef
Task Force award

Kaho'olawe Is For All Of Us:
The Bailey House Museum
Photography Exhibit

Photo Exhibit to Highlight
20 Yr Anniversary of
Kaho'olawe's Return

Kaho'olawe 2026 Working
Group

Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
Commission Receives
Nearly \$50,000

pledged to provide for the meaningful and safe use of Kaho'olawe for the purpose of the traditional and cultural practices of the native Hawaiian people and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters. Its mission is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe Island in which the kino (body) of Kaho'olawe is restored and na poe o Hawai'i (the people of Hawai'i) care for the land. The organization is managed by a seven-member Commission and a committed staff of 18.

About the Reserve

Decimated of its natural environment through years of over foraging and military bombing, an estimated 1.9 million tons of soil is lost annually on Kaho'olawe to erosion. Severely eroded landscapes cover one-third of the island, with runoff choking the Reserve's pristine reefs and significantly impacting the ocean ecosystem. The Reserve's inventory of 3,000 historic sites and features - all part of the National Register of Historic Places - are in constant need of protection from these damaging circumstances. Despite an extensive, 10-year cleanup by the Navy, unexploded ordnance litter one-third of the island plus all surrounding waters, leaving areas off-limits and life-threatening.