

KAHŌ'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve

Fall 2008

'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi **"Not all knowledge is learned in one school."**

Few places remain today where Hawai'i students and teachers may go to experience what it is like to be Hawaiian or where traditional Hawaiian teaching methods are incorporated into Western-based academic learning. Kaho'olawe is such a place. Kaho'olawe provides both site and purpose for a new generation of Hawaiian youth to be trained in their rights and responsibilities as stewards of the land. It provides a place for Hawaiians to restore and preserve connections to the land, to care for the sea, and to maintain a wahi pana (a sacred or storied place). In addition, Kaho'olawe is uniquely positioned to serve as a "living laboratory" in which the principles of science, mathematics, social studies, and career/technical education can be studied.

The Pacific American Foundation, through the Mālama Kaho'olawe Project, is pioneering place-based education within a Native Hawaiian context by building innovative partnerships with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, the Polynesian



St. Louis teacher Ken Goto masters the art of cleaning pili grass for thatch.

Voyaging Society, and the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Funded through a three-year federal Native Hawaiian Education Program grant, the project has developed rigorous culture- and place-based academic curricula for teachers in science, math, social studies, and language arts grades seven through 12. Since 2006, Mālama Kaho'olawe has trained nearly 100 teachers and more than 2,000 students.

Significantly, the project has increased teachers' ability and motivation to promote place-based learning in their classrooms, and enhanced their students'

engagement with learning. Teachers noted, for example, that after implementing the curriculum in their classes, they observed that students became more confident learners when they "saw" the relevance of an activity or subject to their own experience; that students were more engaged in the subject and their achievement improved; and, that students' physical or emotional well-being was positively influenced.

Teachers from throughout the state have an opportunity to be trained in this curriculum and to visit Kaho'olawe – thereby making the valuable connection from "hard copy" curriculum to on-island experiences.

Welcome to *Ko Hema Lamalama*, a newsletter declaring the news from Kaho'olawe. Uncle Harry Mitchell interpreted this name as the southern beacon, which served as a source of light to those weary travelers who voyaged beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let *Ko Hema Lamalama* aid us in sharing a source of light about the island of Kaho'olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai'i nei.

In the most recent huaka'i (or, journey, trip), over four days in early October, 35 teachers – representing 11 public schools, four private schools, and three charter schools – participated in a Saturday workshop on Maui prior to visiting Kaho'olawe from Sunday through Wednesday. Unique to this particular group was the mix of both experienced and new teachers: 41 percent had taught five years or less; 35 percent had taught for six to 10 years; and, 24 percent had been teaching for more than 10 years.

Participating teachers were universally appreciative of the curriculum training opportunity, the review and receipt of valuable educational materials and resources, and the networking with and learning from other teachers – opportunities both rich and varied.



After a lesson in pili thatching as part of their Mālama Kaho'olawe curriculum training, teachers gather in front of Hale Hālāwai in Hakioawa.

Following the huaka'i, one of the more experienced O'ahu teachers commented: "I need to thank you for the exceptional opportunity I had to experience Kaho'olawe. It was transformative. I was challenged, humbled and inspired. Not only do I have a binder full of wonderful curriculum materials, but even more impressive was the experience of being on Kaho'olawe. I am a better person and I will be a better teacher because of this experience. Mahalo a nui loa."

Are you or do you know of a middle or high school teacher in Hawai'i interested in learning more about the Mālama Kaho'olawe Project? Just visit <http://mk.thepaf.org/>.

– Anna Ah Sam, PhD
External Evaluator Pacific American Foundation



Restoration

Protecting and Restoring Kaho'olawe's Native Wildlife

Reintroduction of Rare Species

Kaho'olawe has great potential to be a sanctuary for rare wildlife species in Hawai'i. The entire Reserve is protected. Unlike the other main Hawaiian Islands, human disturbance, development and light pollution are negligible, and Kaho'olawe lacks many – but not all – of the invasive predatory species (e.g., mongoose) found elsewhere. Kaho'olawe is recognized as one of the top-ranked sites for the reintroduction and establishment of rare birds such as the Laysan Duck, nēnē (Hawaiian Goose), Laysan Finch and Nihoa Finch, but these efforts cannot begin until the island is free of introduced predators.



An 'ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed Shearwater) peers from its nest burrow. Hawaiian seabirds are vulnerable to introduced predators like rats and feral cats. Photo by K. and F. Starr

Seabirds on Kaho'olawe

Currently, the few seabirds nesting on Kaho'olawe are found along the southern cliffs and on nearby islets – presumably because these sites are less accessible to introduced predators. In recent surveys, koa'e 'ula (Red-tailed Tropicbird), 'ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed Shearwater), 'ā (Brown Booby) and noio (Black Noddy) were among the most commonly detected species.



Koa'e 'ula (Red-tailed Tropicbird) chick
Photo by K. and F. Starr

Cultural Significance of Seabirds

Re-establishing seabirds and other native wildlife would significantly advance opportunities for participation in and awareness of traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices. For example, observations of the flight paths and behaviors of certain seabirds were used to predict weather, to reveal schools of fish and to locate islands when navigating. Some seabirds provided food through their meat and eggs, and others provided feathers for kāhili (feather standards), 'ahu 'ula (feather capes) and lei. Many expressions and legends also referenced seabirds.

Pōhai ka manu maluna, he i'a ko lalo.

When the birds circle above, there are fish below.

'Ōlelo No'eau, M. K. Pukui 1983, No. 2667



The sea cliffs and offshore islets are home to Kaho'olawe's nesting seabirds. Pu'u Koa'e is shown above.

Introduced Predators in Hawai'i

Feral cats and rodents are among the most significant predators of native seabirds and landbirds and are also known to take hatchling sea turtles. On Kaho'olawe, the presence of introduced predators, particularly feral cats, is perhaps the greatest threat to ground-nesting seabirds. Through surveys and monitoring, the KIRC is working to develop an abatement plan for all introduced mammals, including feral cats, Polynesian rats, and house mice, to enable protection and restoration of native wildlife.

For more information, please contact Christina Donehower at cdonehower@kirc.hawaii.gov.



Volunteer Program

Kaho'olawe continues to heal, thanks to all the hard work of our volunteers. They have all made a noticeable difference in the healing of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe through this summer's restoration work, clearing invasive species, improving roads, cleaning and organizing Kahua Kauhale (Base Camp), and monitoring our ocean resources. Mahalo to everyone for your tireless efforts!

July 1 – September 30, 2008 Volunteers

Shane Aldolfo	Jake Tiller
Chris Bird	Alena Ornellas
Pono Cordero-Ho'opai	Tom Savidge
Don Domingo	Jan Savidge
Julie Duck	<u>Youth Conservation Corps</u>
Albert Espaniola	YCC Maui B
Ruby Hammond	YCC Big Island B
Hana Kū Pono	YCC Kaua'i B
I Kona Mau Lima	YCC O'ahu B
Jonn Kim	YCC O'ahu C
Nā Pua No'eau, Maui	YCC O'ahu D

Mahalo piha!

The KIRC would also like to send a special mahalo a nui loa to our volunteers for their kōkua at the Native Hawaiian Convention. The KIRC displayed an educational booth at the September 30-October 2 event sponsored by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Mahalo to **Rike Weiss, Val Loh, Peter Krape, Melanie Soares, Ron Kawakami, Arlene Buchholz, Ka'imiloa Dahang, Denise Aruga, Adriane Abe-Nishimura, Kerry Yen, Kawehi Leong, and Sandy Mitani** for sharing your experiences with and knowledge about Kaho'olawe with everyone at the convention!

Office volunteers wanted

Got a few hours a month to spare? We could sure use help in the office – with filing, expanding the KIRC archive and research library, and/or with bulk mailings. Just give us a call at 808-243-5020 on Maui and ask for Jackson or Ellen. We'll happily welcome you aboard!

KIRC Wish List*

New or used, it doesn't matter as long as it works.

For our Cultural Program we're looking for a large flat screen TV, a CD player, and a computer with speakers for our Kahua Kauhale (Base Camp) classroom education center on Kaho'olawe. The Cultural Program also needs a DVD/VHS player/recorder to convert old educational VHS tapes to disc to preserve them for classroom use and archiving. Mahalo!

*Note: the KIRC is a 170(c)(1) government agency authorized per IRS Publication 557 to receive tax-deductible contributions to its public purpose programs.



KŪKULU KE EA A KANALOA

KAHO'OLAWE REHABILITATION TRUST FUND

Contributions of money or property to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund may be deducted as charitable contributions in computing taxable income so long as those donations are used exclusively for public purposes.*

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<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Education, Admin Center & Museum Building Program	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:	\$ _____

Please make check payable to the
Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund

and mail, with this form, to
811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793
Telephone (808) 243-5020 Fax (808) 243-5885

'Ae! I'd like to receive the KIRC newsletter, *Ko Hema Lamalama*, by e-mail and help reduce the Trust's printing, postage and handling expenses.

** The KIRC is a 170(c)(1), authorized, per IRS Publication 557, to receive tax-deductible contributions to programs, such as those listed above, that serve a public purpose. Donors should always consult with their tax advisors before claiming any tax-deductible charitable contributions.*

Kaho‘olawe in the News

E komo mai ...



A hearty welcome to Commissioner **Amber Nāmaka Whitehead**, representing the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana on the Commission.

A 1997 graduate of the Kamehameha Schools (KS), Commissioner Whitehead earned bachelors degrees in both Hawaiian studies and botany from the University of

Hawai‘i at Mānoa in 2002 and is currently enrolled there as a doctoral student in the Botany Department’s Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology Program.

Concurrently, she is employed as the ecologist for the KS Land Assets Division, responsible for the stewardship management of the natural resources on approximately 360,000 acres of KS lands on the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i.

An active member of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana for more than 14 years, Commissioner Whitehead has progressively assumed increasing responsibilities with the ‘Ohana. Trained and knowledgeable in Native Hawaiian traditional customs and practices, so closely entwined with the restoration of the cultural resources of Kaho‘olawe, in 2004 she undertook intensive Access Guide training which included the identification of unexploded ordnance as well as safety procedures to provide for the safe experience of Kaho‘olawe visitors.

Commissioner Whitehead represents a younger generation of Native Hawaiians who are beginning to assume the mantle of leadership of the ‘Ohana and the KIRC. She lives in Pāpā, South Kona, on Hawai‘i Island.



Commissioners’ site visit

KIRC Commissioners took time this summer for a hands-on status update of field, ocean and cultural restoration sites on Kaho‘olawe. Shown in the photo above, from left to right, they are: Vice Chair **Craig Neff**, Chair **Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.**, **Amber Nāmaka Whitehead**, **Laura H. Thielen**, **John D. Waihe‘e IV**, **Milton Arakawa** and **Charles P.M.K. “Doc” Burrows**.

Haele mai e ‘Ōhua ...



‘Ōhua unloading on the beach at Honokana‘a

The KIRC took a giant step forward in operational sustainability with the arrival of our 39-foot, twin Cummins 490HP turbo diesel, the ‘Ōhua, landing craft/cargo vessel “Capable of transporting a 10,000-pound payload of personnel and supplies, the ‘Ōhua provides exceptional savings both in fossil fuel usage and KIRC expense,”

said Captain **Charlie Lindsey**. For example, transporting and offloading 20 passengers and staff one-way between Maui and Kaho‘olawe costs the KIRC about \$300 per trip, vs. \$3,400 by helicopter. An average month of helicopter service could cost up to \$90,000; today ‘Ōhua’s monthly operations run about \$3,600.

Kihei trail project



KIRC staff and volunteers adding top soil for the trail

Members of the KIRC staff, headed by Deputy Director **Michele McLean**, partnered with the **Hawai‘i Tourism Authority** and **Hoaloha ‘Āina** to install an interpretive sign and improve the South Maui Coastal Heritage walking trail along the Kihei

coastline. The path borders the KIRC Boat House property, next door to the Kihei boat ramp, and faces the Island of Kaho‘olawe. Staffers sweltered in the autumn sun and froze in the winter rains – removing keawe stumps and rubbish, adding soil amendments and mulch and finally replanting with native species and establishing a coral-lined footpath. To connect passersby with the island, a lava rock display was mounted, describing early navigation techniques using the Star Compass and explaining the Kaho‘olawe connection, via Kealaikahiki, to the long voyages of ancient times.



Completed trail



Star Compass sign

Kaho'olawe in the News

Monk seal born at Kaho'olawe

Our Ocean Program's **Cheryl King** reported that Kaho'olawe welcomed a brand new monk seal pup in late June at the same location as two earlier pupping events (2003 and 2005) and it is likely that they shared the same mother seal. KIRC worked with the **NOAA Monk Seal Research Group** to organize a tagging effort when the pup weaned in July.

"We ask for your kōkua in not going anywhere near the mother and pup," King said, "in that the nursing and bonding time is critical. Should the mother be disturbed, she might tragically abandon the pup. We want this mom to feel completely safe so she'll return to pup again in the future."

Only 88 Monk seals are known to exist in the main Hawaiian Islands (~1100 in the NWHI), so Kaho'olawe has helped increase that population to 89! "Sadly, this species is declining at about 5 percent per year, so every seal counts," King said.



Kaho'olawe in the media



KHNL NBC News 8 anchor and meteorologist Paul Drewes and cameraman Martin Salazar

Key to understanding and recognizing the importance of the restoration, conservation and protection of the natural resources of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe is enhanced public awareness of the island's unique cultural heritage, its role in Hawaii's history, and its future as a wahi pana (sacred or storied place) – a place where Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practices will remain alive in perpetuity.

In the past few months public awareness of Kaho'olawe has been greatly assisted by **Honolulu Advertiser** Maui Bureau Chief **Christie Wilson's** three-part, front page story. The feature focused on the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund's need for a permanent funding source; that the island is healing but it will take time; and, how Kaho'olawe sparked a cultural

awakening in KIRC Executive Director **Mike Nāho'opi'i**. You can view these articles online, beginning at: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080518/NEWS11/805180380/-1/BACKISSUES>.

Then in August, **KHNL NBC News 8** meteorologist **Paul Drewes** and cameraman **Martin Salazar** developed a five-segment Kaho'olawe series as part of their KHNL/NOAA-partnered "Earth and Sea Project". All five segments are available online at <http://www.khnl.com/Global/category.asp?C=124375>. Program air dates were August 6, 13, 23, 28 and September 3, 2008.

KIRC certifies Access Guides

Because safety remains the top priority for on-island visitors and staff, the KIRC has reestablished an Access Guide Training Program – a rigorous, week-long curriculum designed to prepare individuals to assume the responsibilities and duties of Access Guides.

Access Guides are responsible for – at a minimum – site-specific safety briefings, appropriate protocol, coordination with KIRC operations, natural and cultural resource protection and avoidance, UXO recognition and avoidance, the reporting of hazardous conditions including safety or access violations, first aid and/or response to medical emergencies, and access group management and scheduling.

From the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, ho'maika'i 'ana to **Tom Brennon, Anela Evans, Kaipō Like, Kahale Saito** and **Momi Wheeler**. And, from the KIRC staff, ho'maika'i 'ana to **Jackson Bauer, Christina Donehower** and **Lopaka White**.



Mike Nāho'opi'i presents PKO's Momi Wheeler with her Access Guide certification.



KIRC's Christina Donehower is presented with her Access Guide certification.

KO HEMA LAMALAMA
A newsletter of the Kaho'olawe
Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)
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Web: kahoolawe.hawaii.gov

Attention Teachers ...

The next great Mālama Kaho'olawe Teachers' Workshop for Grades 7-12 educators – a partnership among the Pacific American Foundation, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission – will be held March 21-24, 2009 and include a Maui-based day-long workshop plus a three-day huaka'i (trip, journey) to Kaho'olawe. Space is limited and a \$20 registration fee is required. To register, and for even more dates and details, log on to www.thepaf.org.



Mahalo to our sponsors ...

Mahalo a nui loa to **Godwin** and **Deborah Pelissero** of Santa Barbara, California for their generous and unrestricted contribution to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

E Aloha mai ...

The KIRC welcomes Ocean Resources Specialist II **Jennifer Vander Veur** to our Ocean Program. A trained scientific diver, Jen holds bachelors degrees in both marine science and conservation biology. Currently working on her master's in marine biology from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, Jen is studying the behavior and ecology of two species of intertidal gastropods (mollusks), research that will provide a model for designing marine reserves that consider connectivity between populations. Previously, Jen worked on ocean-related monitoring and stewardship projects with West Hawai'i Aquarium Project, the Cape Kumukahi Foundation within the Wai 'Opae Marine Life Conservation District, and as an aquatic invasive species monitoring specialist on Hawai'i Island.



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Amber Nāmaka Whitehead
Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director



We also welcome Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Specialist II **Grant Thompson** to our Reserve operations team. Born in Durban, South Africa, Grant moved to O'ahu in 2003 to work aboard the SSV Makani Olu sailing program for at-risk youth. Since moving to Maui, Grant has volunteered for fishpond, sand dune and Hawaiian Stilt wetland restoration projects and is currently assisting in the maintenance of a dozen lo'i (irrigated terraces, especially for taro farming) on Maui's west side. Besides his background in the marine industry and aquatic rescue, Grant brings an abiding interest in native tree reforestation and invasive species removal and control to his work with the KIRC.



Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
811 Kolu Street, #201
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