

KAHO'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve • January 2015

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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. *Photo: Lopaka White*



OUR VISION:

Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa

The life and spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form

The *kino* (physical manifestation) of Kanaloa is restored. Forests and shrublands of native plants and other biota clothe its slopes and valleys. Pristine ocean waters and healthy reef ecosystems are the foundation that supports and surrounds the island.

Nā po'e o Hawai'i (the people of Hawai'i) care for the land in a manner, which recognizes the island and ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity. Kanaloa is a *pu'uhonua* and *wahi pana* (a place of refuge, a sacred place) where native Hawaiian cultural practices flourish.

The *piko* of Kanaloa (the navel, the center) is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the native Hawaiian lifestyle is spread throughout the islands.



OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, in which the *kino* of Kanaloa is restored, and *nā po'e o Hawai'i* care for the land.

We pledge to provide for meaningful, safe use of Kaho'olawe for the purposes of the traditional and cultural practices of the native Hawaiian people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



The upcoming 2015 legislative session (January 21 – April 23) 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 of uncontrolled goat and sheep grazing that ultimately brought the island to the brink of ecological collapse, followed by 50 years as a military weapons test range that caused unremitting environmental damage, the risks and difficulties associated with the recovery of Kaho'olawe could not have been imagined.

Through innovative programs designed to overcome A) the inherent complications of working on a remote, isolated island with minimal infrastructure, and B) the residual risks associated with remnant munitions that are still present on land and in the water surrounding the island, the KIRC has seen great success in its work. Intensive out plantings and strategically placed erosion control projects have prompted the healing of a scarred landscape that has progressively allowed a native Hawaiian ecosystem to once again flourish. As these restored areas flourish, so too does the culture.

Through vital collaborations with partners in the field and volunteer groups like the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Americorps, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and a concentrated student involvement, we have replanted 600+ acres of the hardpan, reintroduced traditional cultural practices, protected and preserved significant cultural resources and iwi of our kūpuna and developed strategic plans to oversee the future vision for Kaho'olawe as a culturally significant homeland for the people of Hawai'i. The work to restore Kaho'olawe has generated its own restorative powers to heal and energize the people that have touched its shores. These supporters have not only helped to heal the island, but also our society as a whole — sending a signal to participant communities that this work has real value.

A critical component of KIRC's successes has been the Federal appropriation that established the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.

Through this Fund, the KIRC has been able to establish an integrated culture and natural resource management system unique within the State of Hawai'i; develop and implement innovative restoration projects; set up an effective unexploded ordnance safety program that

allows for meaningful access to the Reserve. Unless we, as voters, convince our Legislature that Kaho'olawe is an important resource to the people of Hawai'i, this trust fund will be exhausted by July 2015. The 2015 legislative session is critical to the KIRC's continuation of work on and for Kaho'olawe. We will be championing a legislative package that will present short and long-term funding solutions, but we need your help to ensure its passage. Please use this newsletter to learn about how you can help get our proposed bills passed this session, maintaining access to the Reserve and continuing our kuleana as citizens.

“The work to restore Kaho'olawe has generated its own restorative powers to heal and energize the people that have touched its shores. These supporters have not only helped to heal the island, but also our society as a whole — sending a signal to participant communities that this work has real value.”

GET INVOLVED



Citizens like you are essential to good government. Unless we can work together to secure public assistance during the 2015 legislative session, restoration of and access to Kaho'olawe may be suspended indefinitely. Here are **5 ways you can help** the KIRC bills pass this year:



HOST a talk story session in your classroom, office or club to learn more about the KIRC and its programs. Contact kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov to arrange for a member of our staff to get all of your questions answered!



ENCOURAGE your friends, co-workers and relatives to support funding for Kaho'olawe. Write letters to your newspaper, call in to radio programs, or become a social media activist. *Many elected officials have Facebook and Twitter pages where they regularly post and respond to constituents.*



MEET your legislators and their assistants in person; you can have a much greater impact when you build relationships with your legislators and their staff. Remember: legislators represent you. Get to know them and share your thoughts on issues that you care about.



SUBMIT testimony online in support of our bills: Register with the Hawai'i Legislature at capitol.hawaii.gov for hearing notices (which are only given about 24-hours in advance) and look for our announcements at facebook.com/kircmaui.



ATTEND Hearings: Testifying at the Legislature is an empowering way to influence legislation. The Legislature's website (capitol.hawaii.gov) will have information about the status of specific bills and related hearings throughout the session. (See “2014 Session Activity” for reference).

2014 SESSION ACTIVITY

Last year, KIRC bill #HB2101 reached the very last day of the legislative session, but was not heard in time for closing. It passed both the House and Senate *Hawaiian Affairs (HWN)* and *Water & Land (WAL)* Committees, but did not receive the funding release from the House *Finance (FIN)* and Senate *Ways & Means (WAM)* to authorize the funds. Following is a snapshot of the bill's advancement in order to offer readers an idea of how often your voice is needed (HINT: *at every hearing*):

DATE	ACTIVITY
Jan 21	Introduced, passes 1 st House reading
Jan 27	Passes OMH/ WAL hearing unamended
Feb 26	Passes FIN hearing with amendment
Mar 6	Received from House to Senate, passes 1 st hearing
Mar 19	Passes WTL/ HWN hearing with amendment
Mar 21	Passes WAM hearing as amended
Apr 8	Returned from Senate to House
Apr 10	House disagrees with Senate amendment
Apr 11	Received notice of disagreement
Apr 14	House & Senate conferees appointed
Apr 15	Conference committee meeting scheduled for 04-17-14
Apr 17	Conference committee meeting rescheduled for 04-21-14
Apr 21	Conference committee meeting rescheduled for 04-23-14
Apr 23	Conference committee meeting rescheduled for 04-25-14. Session closes

Follow our campaign for funding “Aloha Kaho'olawe 2015” at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov

WHY SHOULD THE STATE FUND KAHO'OLAWA? *Testimony excerpts from last year's session:*



“When the State accepted the return of Kaho'olawe from the United States in 1994, it clearly accepted the responsibility to preserve and manage the Reserve.” — Michele Chouteau McLean, Deputy Planning Director, County of Maui and KIRC Chair



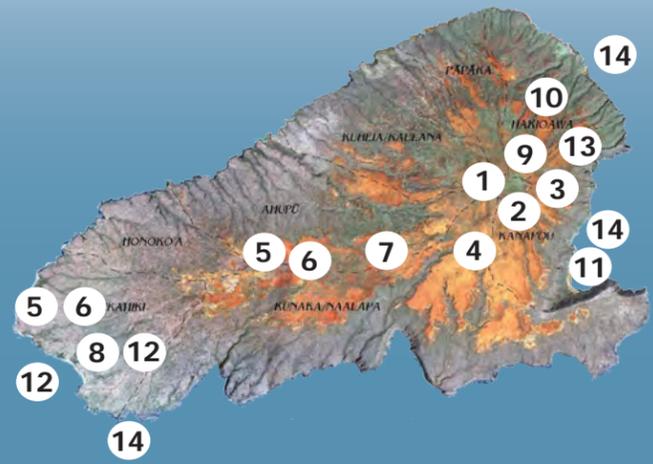
“25% of the island is still not cleared of unexploded ordnance and only 10% cleared for intensive use. This kind of situation is a barrier to economic development initiatives.” — Davis Price, Chair, Hawaiian Affairs Caucus



“It reminds us that piece by piece, little by little, we can make something pono. It remains a point of pride, a way to connect, and an inspiration and driving force in the work we do elsewhere” — Springer Kaye, Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps



“The KIRC's massive restoration program designed to revitalize the ecology and cultural history of the island will benefit all of Hawai'i's people for generations to come. The State must maintain this responsibility.” — Amy Hidges, Volunteer



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. *(Projects numbered chronologically).*

RESTORATION

The D4 (#1: 5 acres, 1998) and Lua Makika (#2: 30 acres, 1999) planting projects began during the UXO Clearance Project.

The Native Hawaiian (#4: 10 acres, 2003), Pu‘u Moiwi Bypass Road (#7: 10 acres, 2005) and South Trail planting projects (#10: 5 acres, 2008) were all subsidized by the **Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund**.

Watershed restoration projects supported by **Department of Health, Clean Water Branch** grants requiring submittal of a Nonpoint Source Assessment Report and a Management Plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency help to ensure that our global waters are not polluted. (#3: 125 acres, 2003; #9: 250 acres, 2005; #13: 108 acres, 2012, all at the Hakioawa Watershed).

Wetland restoration projects supported by **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** grants at **Keāliialalo** (#5: 100 acres, 2005) and **Kaukaukapapa** (#6: 10 acres, 2005) help effect migratory patterns of birds, local climate, floral & faunal populations, water-quality improvement and flood attenuation.

The wetland restoration project at Honokanai‘a (#8: 3 acres, 2005), subsidized by the **Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund**, helped set the stage for the 2012 HCF/ NOAA project.

31 tons of marine debris were removed from Kanapou Bay through a grant made by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center Marine Debris Program**. (#11: 2010).

This coastal restoration project at Honokanai‘a (#12: 6.3 acres of land + 37.5 acres of ocean, 2012) was granted through **Hawai‘i Community Foundation’s Community Restoration Partnership**, funded by the **U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center** (NOAA RC).

A continuation of the 2010 project, a combined 10 tons of marine debris were removed from Kanapou Bay, ‘Oawawahie and Puhianenu through continued funding by the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center Marine Debris Program** (#14: 2013).



INNOVATION

OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY: Through aerial surveys, tag and release exercises, a permitted trolling program and more, the KIRC’s Ocean Team works with global partners in the field to expand the knowledge of the Reserve’s marine environment and support academic research.

OCEAN RESERVE MONITORING: The Ocean Program’s rigorous protected species monitoring program targets the Reserve’s population of large marine animals for distress, entanglement or death, including monk seals, dolphins, whales and turtles. Key projects work to catalogue the unique marine mollusk population of Kaho‘olawe and compare the Reserve’s ‘opihi population with that of statewide partners.

FAUNAL RESTORATION: Guided by a coalition of local, statewide and national conservation champions, the Kaho‘olawe Island Seabird Restoration Project focuses on restoring the Reserve’s native fauna. Current funding by the **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)**, a non-governmental organization chartered by Congress, is supporting the project team and enabling conditions to remove invasive vertebrates from Kaho‘olawe — with a larger vision to restore the Reserve as a vibrant ecosystem filled with native Hawaiian species.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: For the past four years, the KIRC has worked to reduce energy needs on Kaho‘olawe as a precursor to converting Base Camp’s entire electrical system to renewable energy sources. Many of KIRC’s smaller, on-island infrastructures are already powered by either solar or wind, but these infrastructures are mostly located in remote areas of the island. With current grant support by the **County of Maui** and impending **State Capitol Improvement Project** funding, our vision is to create a completely renewable energy power grid on Kaho‘olawe utilizing wind and solar energy.

The KIRC staff maintains the cultural essence of Kaho‘olawe by adhering to the ‘Aha Pawalu, a protocol book written by the Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation specifically for the KIRC. The book details sixteen chants and nine protocols, basic information that the KIRC staff recognizes and acknowledges as guidelines for proper cultural behavior.

Photos: Lopaka White



This October, the KIRC presented **He Moku Poina 'Ole** (*An Island Not Forgotten and/ or The Island Does Not Forget*), an exhibition of historical photographs, at the Maui Historical Society/ Bailey House Museum.*

Curated under the guidance of former KIRC Cultural Coordinator and current Commissioner Hōkūlani Holt and expertly installed by acclaimed Maui artist and former Schaefer International Gallery Director Darrell Orwig, the exhibition featured 20 pieces selected from the KIRC's complete collection, which includes the 1996 Bishop Museum exhibition *Ke Aloha Kūpa'a I Ka Āina - Steadfast Love for the Land* (Honolulu, HI), the 2002 Smithsonian Institution's *Kaho'olawe: Rebirth of a Sacred Hawaiian Island* (Washington, D.C.) and the KIRC's archive of 6,000+ photographs.

Through this program, the KIRC was able to enhance its mission of restoring, protecting, preserving and providing access to Kaho'olawe - reaching the same number of participants in its October run as a full year of volunteer accesses to island. (More than 1,200 individuals participated in this 3-week event, with 200+ attending the opening reception, 226 school children scheduling free educational sessions with KIRC staff and 793 museum patrons viewing the exhibition).

By bringing these works to life after more than a decade since their last public appearance, the hope was to bring life to Kaho'olawe — in the hearts and minds of those visiting the exhibition.

In addition to the artists, we would like to thank the Institute of Hawaiian Music, UH Maui College; Maui Historical Society/ Bailey House Museum; Maui Printing Company; Tim Garcia; Kevin Gavagan; Hōkūlani Holt; Darrell Orwig; Brian Sato & Haleakala Distillers; Kris Walsh & Anheuser Busch; and Four Seasons Resort Maui.



Ka'ōnohi Lee, Aulani Tatsuka, Carmela Noneza, Kekai Robinson open the reception at the Maui Historical Society/ Bailey House Museum (Top left image by Franco Salmoiraghi).



This Fall, KIRC staff attended a number of networking and professional development conferences, including the National Indian Education Association's 45th Annual Conference and the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014. *Pictured: Natural Resources Specialist Jamie Bruch representing the KIRC at the Four Seasons Resort Maui's Live Well Fair this October.*



The KIRC's "Building Community to Restore Honokanai'a" project recently received grant funding through Hawai'i Community Foundation's Community Restoration Partnership program. 40+ acres of land & sea will be addressed through this project in 2015, engaging 600+ volunteers. *Pictured: Natural Resources Specialist Lopaka White educating a volunteer group on-island.*

**Many photographs from He Moku Poina 'Ole were sourced from a 1992-1994 project of Community Development Pacific which sought to create a visual record of Kaho'olawe as its use by the United States military was ending and restoration by the people commenced. The nonprofit invited Wayne Levin, Franco Salmoiraghi, David Ulrich, and Rowland Reeve to photograph Kaho'olawe based on the excellence of their work, their ongoing commitment to Hawai'i, and their complementary photographic styles. Other images included in He Moku Poina 'Ole, such as that of Margo Berdeshevsky, document important moments in the ongoing movement to revive the life of the island.*



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 the **Kumuhehu Walking Trail, Hale Ho'oulu Mea Kanu**, and **Kalamalama** 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.



Through grant support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program, we are currently developing the **KIRC Virtual Museum** pilot program. This community-informed project will present a collection of searchable images and documents on the web for academic, professional and personal development. Help us curate the collection by responding to our survey at <http://conta.cc/1s19bGW>. *Pictured: Commission Coordinator Terri Gavagan.*



This September, the KIRC was recognized by the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force with an award highlighting the "significant work and efforts that the KIRC and its volunteers have made in the areas of restoration to the island of Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters." Established in 1998 by Presidential Executive Order to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems, the group meets biannually. *Pictured: Ocean Resources Specialist Dean Tokishi with DLNR Chair and KIRC Commissioner William Aila.*



MĀLAMA KO HAWAI'I IĀ KANALOA (*Hawai'i's people care for Kanaloa. Hawai'i's people are cared for through 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 surrounding the island of Kaho'olawe/ Kanaloa. Only with the help of statewide volunteers can this goal be met. Debris removal will directly benefit the marine environment by reducing the threat of entanglement and ingestion as well as providing habitat restoration for all marine species. A secondary benefit will occur as selected types debris are strategically placed in gullies and ravines on-island to reduce the amount of sedimentation run off entering the waters around the island. Through this grant we will also be able to conduct outreach and education sessions with community members on the effects marine debris has upon our environment and the benefits of reducing plastics from our everyday lives. Volunteers will have a first-hand look at how everyday items like toothbrushes to straws to deodorant sticks and everything in between finds its way into the ocean and onto our shores and the impact it can have on even one of the most remote islands in the state. Thus, *Mālama ko Hawai'i iā Kanaloa.*



UXO Safety Specialist Bart Maybee prepares marine debris for removal by helicopter at Kanapou Bay.



To say the least, **Vernon Wong** is a dedicated KIRC volunteer. He donates his own time on Kaho'olawe while also educating, organizing and encouraging his friends and colleagues to support the KIRC's efforts (as evidenced by the pair of newsletters pictured here from his workplace). After a volunteer access on Kaho'olawe with the Pacific Century Fellows program, he became a great advocate for us by organizing rotary groups and leading teams of colleagues and clients from First Hawaiian Bank's Wealth Management Group. Vernon's infectious enthusiasm has opened the door for many new members of our community to support the work and many challenges that come with restoring Kaho'olawe.

Why did you initially volunteer for the KIRC? I was able to make my first trip to Kaho'olawe in 2006 with a group from the Nature Conservancy who invited some of us who went through the Pacific Century Fellows program. I enjoy everything about our native Hawaiian culture and I had always wanted to visit Kaho'olawe to learn more about this special, uninhabited place.

Why do you continue to volunteer? I continue to volunteer because Kaho'olawe is so special and it needs our care, love and support. The island is very spiritually and culturally significant. It is so sad and disheartening that it had to go through so much pain and neglect. Once you have experienced the spirit of the island, you feel a sense of responsibility to help restore and *malama* the island.

Why is it important to volunteer for this cause? I volunteer for this cause because Hawai'i is my home. With the growing population and development throughout the state, it is important to keep Kaho'olawe pure and simple. My wife and I are both 4th generation in Hawai'i, our kids being 5th generation. We need to restore and preserve Kaho'olawe for future generations to be able to come to a place that's pure and undeveloped and learn about the history, culture and spirit.

What has been one of your favorite memories throughout this journey? My favorite memories from my volunteer trips have revolved around the spiritual experience and building a relationship with my co-volunteers and the island. So many chicken skin experiences shared with family and good friends. I always enjoy the landing in Honokanai'a Bay. The boats' engines shut down and as we drift in, we ask for permission to enter with the *Oli Kahea* and receive a chant back from those on shore. Everything else is silent except for the winds and the ocean. Chicken skin. Walking up *Moa'ula Iki* in silence, with the mist, taking in the entire island and feeling the wind and spirit. Chicken skin.

Is there a message that you would like to share with the public regarding Kaho'olawe? My message is to keep the funding going for restoration and the volunteer programs. Kaho'olawe is such an important island for education and for preserving our native culture. We need to take responsibility to preserve this island for future generations. The Legislature and federal government need to understand the responsibility and importance of keeping these programs going. My volunteer trips and experiences on Kaho'olawe have helped me to change my perspectives and priorities and I am better off for it.



MAHALO VOLUNTEERS (July — December 2014)

DLNR Staff • Four Seasons Resort Maui • Hawaiian Canoe Club Kane • Hawai'i Nature Center Staff & 'Ohana • Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps • Hawaiian Islands Restoration • Ke Olu Makani O Mauna Loa • Kamehameha Schools Kapālama • Laupahoehoe Public Charter School • Pacific Century Fellows • Queen Lili'uokalani Childrens' Center Maui, Ko'olau Poko/ Lāna'i Unit • UH Mānoa Richardson School of Law 'Ahahui O Hawai'i • Zapata & KIRC 'Ohana

For a detailed list, please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer. Please contact the KIRC at administrator@kahoolawe.hawaii.gov with information regarding any errors or omissions.



Cashman sisters, Ulu and Pili'alo'ha being awarded their KIRC Access Guide Certificate after completing all their training requirements.

When I was first asked to attend Access Guide Training, I was hesitant because of the role I was being asked to play by those whom I trusted most. Whether or not I passed the training, I had just been told that this could be my chosen path to *Aloha 'Āina* on Kaho'olawe. As one flips the coin of responsibility and privilege, my own *Ala Loa* was changing just as I am.

Access Guide Training was a trip of many firsts. It was a striking chance to see the pleasant clash of polar opposites. The classroom became a melting pot of learning about the dangerous and the safe, along with the past and the future.

I learned about the very thing that could kill me: UXO (unexploded ordnance). Learning to identify UXO was like learning a foreign language. But, when we were put on the spot in the field surrounded by live UXO's, it became hard to focus on identification. How could you not think about all the suffering that a single UXO could do to the land, a person, and a people? I would make sure the future generations would know the story.

I am very thankful to Mike (Executive Director), Bart (UXO Safety Specialist), and Grant (Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Specialist III) who took the time to establish a foundation of safety while being open to an equal playing field of ages and personalities. Thank you to the KIRC staff for being open and helping in the preparation of Access Guide Training. *Mahalo* most of all to those who have supported me through Access Guide Training and continue to support me. — **Pili'alo'hamauloa Cashman**

At first I wasn't sure if becoming an Access Guide was something that I was worthy of - but I am committed to do anything for the *lāhui* and Kaho'olawe.

My main goal for becoming an Access Guide is to support the effort towards the completion of the *Ala Loa*. Being given such a big responsibility was heavy, but knowing that the few supporting me to attend training believed that I could do this, I needed to believe in myself. And I do.

Despite my age, I focused my energy on representing the next generation that those before me can rely on to follow through and to prepare both my generation of leaders and those that will follow. This was the beginning of my *kuleana* to Kaho'olawe and the *lāhui*.

Mahalo to Mike, Bart, and Grant for their patience and willingness to instill safety in us while on Kaho'olawe. Most of all, mahalo to them for viewing all members as equals. Despite individual ages and the amount of time each spent on Kaho'olawe, they instilled that *safety* is number one. Mahalo to the KIRC staff, to all of my classmates for their *kōkua*, laughs and life long memories and to all of the individuals that continue to support and believe in my desire to be a part of Kaho'olawe. Most importantly, *mahalo piha Kanaloa. Amama ua noa...* — **Uluwehiokapulapulaikaakea Cashman**

10 WAYS TO CONNECT



Visit our website at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov for FREE teaching materials, classroom resources, videos, chants, historic documents and more.



Complete a volunteer application packet at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer and join us on-island. Volunteer for an extended period of time to qualify for Access Guide Training.



Contact us at (808) 243-5020 to make an appointment in our public-access library, located at our Wailuku (Maui) headquarters.



Call the same number to request a field trip at our Kihei (Maui) Boat House site or to request a guest speaker for your office, classroom or other gathering (all islands).



Make a contribution of new or used equipment to support the KIRC mission (wish list at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations)



Testify! The 2015 Legislative Session runs from January to April. Look for our announcements at [facebook.com/kircmaui](https://www.facebook.com/kircmaui) and be sure to register with the Hawai'i Legislature at capitol.hawaii.gov as hearing notices are only given about 24-hours in advance. (see p.2)



Make a donation to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund (see p.10)



Apply for a paid internship through Hui Kāpehe at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/huikaapehe.shtml



Invite the KIRC to participate in your community event.



Sign up & share our e-news communications (<http://bit.ly/16a4cwj>) or connect with us on Facebook (KIRCMAUI), Twitter (KIRCMAUI), Instagram (@KIRCKAHOOLAWE) and eBlogger (kircblog.blogspot.com).



The Kanaloa kahoowaleensis plant (pictured) is used to symbolize the Kaho'olawe 2026 strategic plan. A critically endangered species, the plant grows on the cliffs of 'Ale'ale Pu'ukoa'e on a sea stack off the coast of Kaho'olawe. It is the only of its kind found in the wild.

January 6, 2026 will mark 50 years since the first occupation of Kaho'olawe and the start of the movement to "Stop the Bombing" of the island and for "Aloha 'Āina". What will we have accomplished for the island by then? This is the key question for the **Kanaloa 2026 Working Group** as it designs the 2014-2026 strategic plan: *I Ola Kanaloa (life to Kanaloa)*.

The working group, which formed in 2013, is comprised of representatives of the **Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)**, the **Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana)**, and the **Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)**. In Summer/ Fall 2013, discussions were held with 14 focus groups on every island (except Kaua'i). There were more than 200 participants and the strategic plan for programs and projects through 2026 were designed from the information gathered. The draft plan was taken out to all of the islands (except Lana'i) for discussion from August through November 2014 and it is accessible online at iolakanaloa.org.

Organized around 4 core themes the plan is visionary and robust, with 8 program areas and 32 projects. The approach is to cultivate new partners to pool resources to collectively do what is best for the island and to anticipate the transition of the management of the island to the sovereign Native Hawaiian entity, as provided under HRS 6-K.

The unfolding of the plan is likened to the five phases of native plants maturing and flourishing: *kupu* - germination in 2014; *lau* - leafing from 2015 to 2017; *loa* - lengthening from 2018 to 2020; *ao* - becoming self-sufficient from 2021 to 2023 and *mu'o* - budding from 2024 to 2026. This growth will be organized around the elevation and recognition of the island as a sacred place where Native Hawaiian arts and practices can be mastered. It also envisions the island's infrastructure as self-sufficient and independent of fossil fuels and the ongoing restoration and preservation of the island's natural and cultural resources.

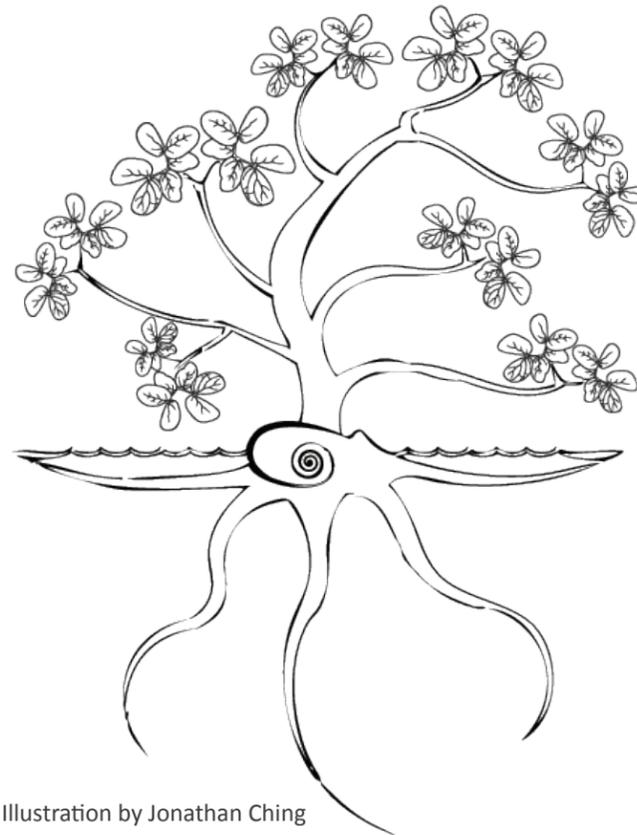


Illustration by Jonathan Ching

The 4 core themes highlight the primary relationships that are sustained through the island: (1) *Pilina'āina* - Honoring the natural environment and revitalizing cultural relationships through Kanaloa Kaho'olawe; (2) *Paepae Ola* - Cultivating and utilizing the resources of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe in a responsible and sustainable manner; (3) *'Ike Kūhohonu* - Refining, mastering and expanding Hawaiian skills and practices nurtured by Kanaloa Kaho'olawe; and (4) *Kūkulu Ke Ea* - Affirming the sacredness of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a foundation for the Hawaiian nation.

Update submitted by Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor, PhD, Professor of Ethnic Studies, University of Hawai'i, Manoa and 'Ohana *I Ola Kanaloa* representative

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission is dedicated to the rebirth, restoration and flourishing of Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters. With each small success in cultural, environmental and marine restoration, the KIRC advances Hawaiian heritage for generations to come. A donation to any of the following programs will help make a difference by perpetuating these efforts.

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Your sponsorship provides for the care and protection of Kaho'olawe's cultural resources and the expansion of meaningful, cultural use of the island.

OCEAN PROGRAM

Your sponsorship protects marine resources within the Reserve, fostering ancestral knowledge while integrating ancient and modern resource management techniques.

RESTORATION PROGRAM

Your sponsorship helps restore native, land-based habitats and watersheds through innovative strategies addressing erosion control, botanical and faunal restoration, and enhancement of the island's natural water systems.

RESERVE OPERATIONS PROGRAM

Your sponsorship advances work currently underway in transitioning island work and storage sites from dependence on expensive fossil fuels to energy self-sufficiency through the purchase and implementation of alternative energy solutions including solar and wind energy technologies.

RESERVE EDUCATION & MUSEUM BUILDING PROGRAM

Your sponsorship advances the long-awaited Kihei center to house permanent historical, cultural and scientific information and displays, provide classrooms for educational programs office space for the Reserve's administrative and operations staff, and more.

DONOR FORM

Choose how you would like to donate:

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

MAHALO

Commissioners and staff of the KIRC wish to recognize our recent sponsors for helping to preserve the special heritage of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve:

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Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
811 Kolu Street, #201
Wailuku, Hawaii'i 96793

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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 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 nā po'e o Hawai'i'i (the people of Hawai'i'i) care for the land. The organization is managed by a seven-member Commission and a committed staff of eighteen.

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.

