

KAHO'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve

Spring 2009

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.

Cultural significance of seabirds*

by Christina E. Donehower, Ph.D.

KIRC Natural Resources Specialist

Seabirds played an important role in the daily lives of ancient Hawaiians. Observations of their flight paths and behaviors could predict weather, locate schools of fish, or indicate the proximity of land when navigating. Some seabirds provided food through their meat and eggs, while others provided feathers for *kāhili* (feather standards), *'ahu 'ula* (feather capes), and lei. Many expressions and legends also featured seabirds.

NAVIGATION

Traditionally important as guides to Polynesian seafarers were the *manu-o-kū* (White Tern) and *noio* (Black Noddy). These head out to sea at sunrise to feed for the day but return to land each night, so their flight paths are like compass bearings for canoe navigators seeking landfall. The presence of *noio*, with its known general range of 40 miles, and *manu-o- kū*, 120 miles, also indicates the proximity of land.

WEATHER

Many Hawaiian proverbs suggest that seabirds are good indicators of weather patterns. Among them: *Lele ka 'iwa, mālie kai ko'o* - When the frigatebird (*'iwa*) flies out to sea, the rough sea will grow calm (Pukui 1983, No. 1979); and, *Ua ho 'i ka noio 'au kai i uka, ke 'ino nei ka moana* - The seafaring noddy tern has returned to land, for a storm rages at sea (Pukui 1983, No. 2787).

FEATHERWORK

While not commonly used, some seabird feathers were incorporated into *kāhili*, *'ahu 'ula*, and lei featherwork. Among them, the greenish-black, iridescent feathers of the *'iwa* (Great Frigatebird) and the white feathers and red or white tail streamers of *koa'e* (tropicbirds) were prized.

EXPRESSIONS

Seabirds also appear in Hawaiian expressions: *Ka manu ka 'upu halo 'alo o ka moana* - The albatross that observes the ocean (said of a careful observer) (Pukui 1983, No.1479); *Ka 'iwa alai maka* - The frigatebird that fascinates the eye (an attractive person) (Pukui and Elbert 1986); and, *He 'iwa ho'o'haehae nāulu* - An *'iwa* that teases the rain clouds (refers to a beautiful maiden or handsome youth who rouses jealousy in others) (Pukui 1983, No. 645).



'Ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed Shearwater)

FOOD

'Ua'u (Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel) chicks were harvested from burrows and considered a delicacy reserved for *ali'i*; adult birds were captured in nets or by lighting

fires along flight paths to disorient and ground birds; and, the recent discovery of archeological "platforms" on Pu'u Koa'e suggests that subsistence harvesting of seabirds may have occurred on Kaho'olawe.

PROVERBS & FISHING



'Ā (Brown Booby)

Among Hawaiian proverbs that tell how seabirds reveal fish to the careful observer is this simple, but elegant truth: *Pōhai ka manu maluna, he i'a ko lalo* - When the birds circle above, there are fish below (Pukui 1983, No. 2667).

Polynesian fishermen were able to locate – and even identify – schools

of fish by paying attention to the feeding habits and behaviors of the local seabirds. For example: *aku* (bonito)

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Hale Hālāwai at Hakioawa

News from the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana

The first Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) community *huaka‘i* of 2009 focused on the thatching of our Hale Hālāwai *kaupoku ‘iole* (ridgepole). The pili grass had to be extra long to extend from one side of the roof and bend over to cover the top of the *kaupoku ‘iole*.

In August 2008 PKO members, with the support of Moloka‘i ‘Ohana, harvested the longer pili grass, grown at Mahana, Moloka‘i by the Plant Materials Center of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) especially for Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. Pili grass grows longer during the summer when there are more daylight hours. Additionally, NRCS grows the pili grass for the KIRC Restoration Program and forms the pili grass into bales.



MCC and HPU *haumana* with their *kumu* help re-bundle pili grass

During spring break, from Sunday, March 22 and through Saturday, March 29, 2009, the ‘Ohana hosted six groups in two back-to-back *huaka‘i*. These included Mālama Kaho‘olawe curriculum teachers; Maui Community College

(MCC) *haumana* (students) of Kumu Kaleikoa Kaewo; Wai‘anae High School *haumana*; Hawai‘i Pacific University (HPU) anthropology *haumana* of Dr. Lynette Cruz; UH Mānoa Law School *haumana*; and Moloka‘i ‘Ohana.



MCC *haumana*, Pomai and Kahala, assist Craig Neff in thatching the *kaupoku ‘iole*

Participants helped to re-bundle the pili, thatch the *kaupoku ‘iole* and set stone for the *kahua* (foundation). By the end of the *huaka‘i* only one foot of the *kaupoku ‘iole* remained to be thatched.

During the May and June *huaka‘i*, participants will be able to complete the

thatching of the *kaupoku ‘iole*, dismantle the ‘*oloke‘a* (scaffolding), and then focus on completing the *kahua*. We hope to be able to report on the completion of our Hale Hālāwai later this year.

Mahalo a nui loa to everyone who has helped to grow and gather all of the materials, transport them to Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe, and participate in the construction of our Hale Hālāwai!



Completing the thatching, the *kahua* and dismantling the ‘*oloke‘a* for our Hale Hālāwai will be the focus of work for the May and June *huaka‘i*.

Seabirds - continued from page 1

could be found where *noio* birds gathered to feed on *pīhā* (herring), *nehu pala* (anchovy) and the other small fishes driven to the surface by the predatory *aku*. Behaviorally, when in large flocks and unaccompanied by other birds, ‘*ā* (boobies) may be following a fast-moving school of ‘*ahi* (yellow-fin tuna) or *aku*, or a pod of *nai‘a* (porpoise). And, the presence of ‘*iwa* above the ‘*ā* is a sign of good fishing, but an indication of bad weather on the way.

LEGENDS



‘*Iwa*, or Great Frigate Bird, in flight

In the legend of Niho‘oleki, *noio* are guardians of a *pā* (pearl shell lure). The legend of ‘*iwa* recounts the activities of a smart thief named ‘*iwa*, and like the main character in this story, ‘*iwa* birds are known for thievery, or stealing food from other birds.

This brief cultural inventory of seabird lore is far from complete. If you know of other examples that you would like to share, or for a partial listing of seabird literature citations, please contact Christina Donehower at: cdonehower@kirc.hawaii.gov or c/o the KIRC mailing address (see back page).

*Besides indigenous plantings, the KIRC is actively pursuing the faunal – seabird, turtle, and monk seal – restoration of the island of Kaho‘olawe, an activity hampered by the presence of invasive mice, rats, and feral cats (the latter feeding on birds, their eggs, and sea turtle hatchlings, destroying their habitat in the process). Work proceeds slowly, but promises the rehabilitation of severely strained native species and the hope of reestablishing a future nurturing environment for their reproductive safety and growth on Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe

All photos by F. and K. Starr, used by permission, are examples of seabirds often sighted from Kaho‘olawe, but none of the photos was taken on the island.

Kaho‘olawe in the News

E aloha mai ...



The KIRC welcomes Grant Specialist **Jackie Harp** to our Administration program. A long time Maui resident, Jackie’s career in management and development within the non-profit sector has included grant writing and consulting services to non-profit agencies. She served 15 years as the executive director of Maui

United Way, the director for development for Hale Makua’s capital campaign, and as executive director of the Maui Memorial Medical Center’s newly established foundation. In addition, Jackie is a certified trainer for VITEC, Maui Community College, and a presenter for Kaunoa Senior Center. Active in the community, Jackie serves on the board of ‘Iao Parkside, is an active member of the Maui Orchid Society, and paddles with the Maui Canoe Club. Her family members all reside on Maui with the exception of a son who lives in Japan.

A great place for koholā



*Koholā breaching off Honoko‘a.
Photo by Cheryl King*

Sponsored by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, *koholā* (Humpback whale) counts are conducted between 8 a.m. and 12 noon, on the last Saturday of every January, February, and March.

Notable in the sanctuary count conducted on January 30 of this year was that Kaho‘olawe sightings – at 14 whales per 15-minute survey interval – was the highest in the statewide count that month.

The KICC Reports online ...

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered an end to live-fire military training on Kaho‘olawe. His action, followed by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for FY91 established the **Kaho‘olawe Island Conveyance**

Commission (KICC) to recommend terms and conditions for the US government’s conveyance of Kaho‘olawe to the State of Hawai‘i .

A number of consultant reports were received by the KICC during their deliberations, and all of these reports are now available on-line, as part of the KIRC’s effort to archive historic documents, studies, articles (and soon, film and video footage) relating to Kaho‘olawe and to make this data publically accessible through an on-line “virtual library.”

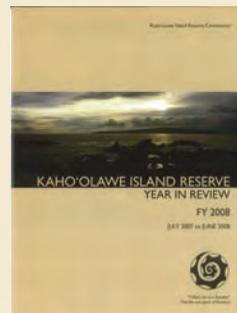
Included among the 17 posted KICC Reports are such documents as The Comprehensive Legal Research Memorandum; Paleobotanical Investigations; Preservation of Historical Resources on Kaho‘olawe; Kaho‘olawe GIS; A Local History of Kaho‘olawe; The Petroglyphs of Kaho‘olawe; and, ten more.

The KICC Reports are available for viewing and/or downloading at <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/legal.shtml>.

More online outreach ...

Two other recent publications of the KIRC have been uploaded to the KIRC website – the ***Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Strategic Plan 2009-2013*** and the ***Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Year in Review FY 2008***.

“Our job is to restore the island and its waters and to increase the culturally appropriate, safe use of the Reserve toward the fulfillment of the vision for Kaho‘olawe,” said KIRC Executive Director **Mike Nāho‘opi‘i**. “Our updated strategic plan for the Reserve outlines the goals we must achieve in the next five years in order to fulfill that vision.”



*Year in Review
FY 2008*



*KIRC Strategic
Plan*

Nāho‘opi‘i went on to add, “We see Kaho‘olawe as the *piko* (navel, center) of Hawai‘i, not only in its geographic location, but as central to the hearts and minds of the people of Hawai‘i who work to restore its slopes, rebuild its ecosystems, and perpetuate the health of its surrounding waters. Our *Year in Review for FY 2008* – and those reports to follow – provides a snapshot of our work on Kaho‘olawe, and allows us to mark and measure our progress in this historically and culturally critical endeavor.”

Both documents are available for downloading on the KIRC website. For hard copies, please send your check or money order, in the amount of \$4 for the *Strategic Plan 2009-2013* and/or \$10 for the *Year in Review 2008*, to The Kaho‘olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, 811 Kolu St., Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793. Be sure to include your return address.

Kaho'olawe in the News

Mālama Kaho'olawe teacher summer workshop

The Pacific American Foundation's (PAF) summer teacher training workshop dates and locations are confirmed. In continuing collaboration with the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, PAF's "Mālama Kaho'olawe: A workshop for Grades 7-12 Educators" summer series includes: June 15-18 at Honokanai'a Kauhale (Base Camp) on Kaho'olawe; on Kaua'i June 25 at Frear Center, Island School; and July 13-16 on Kaho'olawe at Honokanai'a Kauhale again.

Mālama Kaho'olawe training utilizes Hawaiian cultural practices in the teaching of modern core academics – math and sciences. For more registration details, log on to <http://mk.thepaf.org>.

Touring trash



Ocean Program's Cheryl King meets mounds of trash

KIRC staffers enrolled in a day-long County of Maui program – Tour de Trash – operated by the county's recycling division to tour waste and recycling facilities throughout Maui Island. As the KIRC expands its migration to alternative energy, composting, and recycling capacities on-island, staffers sought to pick

up techniques and tips that might be implemented on Kaho'olawe.

Besides returning to the office somewhat downhearted at the sheer amount of trash one island can create, all reported a great learning experience and lots of ideas to aid on-island capabilities.

Stewardship honor to KIRC



Seattle's Best Coffee staffer Michael Guerrero (right) presents its Community Stewardship award to the KIRC.

In salute of Earth Month 2009, **Seattle's Best Coffee** – at Border's in the Maui Marketplace – honored the KIRC with its Community Stewardship Award for "taking steps to protect the community and the planet." Presented by Seattle's Best staffer **Michael Gurrerero** to Executive Director Mike Nāho'opi'i and KIRC staff, the award brought with it a lovely contribution of most delicious coffee to the monthly KIRC staff meeting.

Hawaiian Caucus Day



Kaho'olawe Rep. Mele Carroll (l) visits with KIRC GIS Specialist Carmela Noneza at KIRC's Hawaiian Caucus Day display.

At the request of Hawaiian Caucus Co-Chair and Kaho'olawe Representative **Mele Carroll**, KIRC again hosted a display at the 2009 Hawaiian Caucus Day celebration at the State Capitol. A number of legislators, legislative staffers and members of the public stopped by even as hundreds of participants sought to set a world poi pounding record in the Atrium.

Earth Day ... and more ...

A long list of public events found KIRC staff making presentations and hosting displays at the 2009 Nāhelehele Dry Forest Symposium in Kailua-Kona, the first More Fish in the Sea ocean celebration, the Rotary Club of Kihei Sunrise, the Society of Professional Engineers-Maui Chapter, Soroptimist International of Maui, and Earth Day at Maui Nui Botanical Garden.



Deputy Director Michele McLean and Volunteer Coordinator Jackson Bauer at Society of Professional Engineers presentation



Ocean Resources' Dean Tokishi discusses KIRC's ocean program with visitor to the More Fish in the Sea celebration at Maui Community College.

Volunteer Program

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, Kanaloa Kaho'olawe continues to heal. Day after day, month after month, noticeable improvements in the health of this *wahi pana* appear: expanding planted areas, clearing invasive species, improving roads, cleaning and organizing Honokanai'a Kauhale (Base Camp), and monitoring our precious ocean resources. Mahalo to all for your aloha and tireless efforts.

January 1 – March 31, 2009 Volunteers

Tyler Amaral	Wesley Kahakua
Samuel Aruch	Kaimiana Kahiau
Justine Bartow-Funk	Elise Kerr
Rose Bautista	MiQe Klemme
Hans Becker	Barbara Kossow
Anadebi Bhaurick	Stefan Kropidowski
Ben Blakemore	Brad Kurokawa
Kalena Blakemore	Raymond Lam
Kalai Blakemore	Annabelle Lewis
Sheila Cadaoas	Heather Lewis
Paulette Cainglit	Charles Lovatt
Laurine Carvalho	Katherine Lovatt
Anna Cayir	Jonathan Malette
Mary Ann Ciuffini	Elizabeth Marcil
Bob Coble	Helene Meehl
Robert Coble	Lisa Miyashiro
Valerie Corcoran	Gunnar Nashlund
Susan Dale	Mike Oexner
Kevin Donmoyer	Pā Ku'i a Lua
Julie Duck	Richard Palakiko
Judy Edwards	Kūhea Paracuelles
James Eitel	Cynthia Punihaole
Makaio English	Christopher Quiseng
Leanna Even	Waylon Rich
Daniel Farrow	Kate Rogers
Lori-Ann Flores	Serena Seal
Samuel Foote	Delbert Smith
David Foote	Maia Smith
Jacob Freeman	Jason Stein
David Gangan	Jace Sundvor
Rebekah Garrison	Jeff Taylor
Laura Hopkins	Kori Todd
Richard Howard	Walter Tominaga
Janice Howard	Jake Videen
Jocelyn Hurley	Sara Weese
Paul Jamison	

Boy Scout Troop 181, Nu'uano
 Boy Scout Troop 35, Mānoa
 Derek Arthur Painting Company
 O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
 Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise
 Seabury Hall Winter Program



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.**

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name: _____
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 City: _____ State: ____ Zip _____
 Day Phone: _____
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'Ae! I'd like to kōkua! Please direct my tax-deductible sponsorship contribution to the following program(s):

	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wherever the need is greatest</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Native Hawaiian Cultural Program</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ocean Resource Program</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Restoration Program</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reserve Operations Program</i>	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reserve Education, Admin Center & Museum Building Program</i>	\$ _____
<i>Total Enclosed:</i>	\$ _____

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.*

KO HEMA LAMALAMA
A newsletter of the Kaho'olawe
Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)

Phone: (808) 243-5020
Fax: (808) 243-5885
Email: administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov
Web: kahoolawe.hawaii.gov

KIRC Wish List*

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

The Honokanai'a Kauhale (Base Camp) is looking for some "gently used" furniture to replace the hut furniture (sofas/chairs) currently falling apart; a portable projection screen for use in outreach/education programs (\$140 new); and, gardener's knee pads, 15 pairs (\$9-20 new) for volunteer planters are current KIRC wishes.

**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.*



Mahalo a nui loa ...

To KIRC Commissioner **Milton Arakawa** of Wailuku, Maui for his kind contribution to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust; to former KIRC staffer **Stephen Fulton** of Makawao, Maui for his very generous donation to the Reserve Ops program; and, from Kapa'a, Kaua'i, mahalo piha to **Danita Aiu** for her kind contribution.

Mahalo piha to Wish List contributors ...

Very special mahalo a nui loa to **Maui Economic Opportunity's AmeriCorps Environmental Internship Program** and Program Coordinator **Donna Borge** for the donation of a Compaq computer system for our Native Hawaiian Cultural Program classroom education center at Honokanai'a Kauhale (Base Camp).

Mahalo to the **Rotary Club of Honolulu Sunrise** for their donations including a hand-made guest book, "lele" miniature, "Lost" board game, and the Sony CD/DVD Player for the Honokanai'a Kauhale (Base Camp) as well as individual cash contributions from Rotarians **Daniel Dung, Susan Sakamoto, Libby Lee-Hobbs, and Carla Fukumoto & Vernon Wong** (Vernon's second contribution).

And to **Maia Smith** and **Craig Hockmeyer** of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts for their contribution of a set of computer speakers also for the Honokanai'a Kauhale education center.

Ho'omana'o Mau – Lasting Remembrance

Mahalo piha to **Hannibal Starbuck** for his most generous gift to the KIRC Restoration Program in memory of his late father **Peter Starbuck** and for whom he wrote "Mālama i ka 'āina." And, mahalo also to **Michael Snyder** of Hawaiian Energy & Technology, Ha'ikū, Maui for his gift on behalf of **Victor Reyes**.

Mahalo to KIRC Staff – 100%

In a KIRC 100% staff participation fund drive, **Alan DeCoite, Bart Maybee, Carmela Noneza, Capt. Charlie Lindsey, Cheryl King, Christina Donehower, David DeMark, Dean & Nichole Tokishi, Ellen Pelissero, Grant Thompson, Jackie Harp, Jamie Bruch, Jackson Bauer, Jen Vander Veur, Ka'ōnohi Lee, Keone Laepa'a, Lopaka White, Lyman Abbott, Mei Mailou-Santos, Michele McLean, Mike Nāho'opi'i, Nicole McMullen, Paul Higashino, Rowena Somerville, and Tina Keko'olani**, contributed a total of \$1,365.00 to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust.

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