



KAHO'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Preparing for the future

by Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director

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.



Welina mai nei –
On Kaho'olawe, we are entering exciting times as well as our most challenging period in years.

In the past few months, commissioners and staff of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, with supportive input from public participants, have revisited our Strategic Plan and

updated it to extend into the next five years. As part of this vigorous review, we refocused our plans for the future by returning to our core beliefs, values and vision for Kaho'olawe.

We continue to see Kaho'olawe as the piko of Hawai'i – not only because of its geographic location, but also as the center of the hearts and minds of the people of Hawai'i as they work to restore its land and ocean resources. We continue see Kaho'olawe as the center of Hawaiian cultural practices, for as the people of Hawai'i work to rebuild the island's fragile ecosystems, they are also rebuilding the pride and unity of a Hawaiian nation. We continue to see Kaho'olawe as a wahi pana, a storied or sacred place, not only for its intact cultural riches that connect us to our past, but also for its contemporary role as the focal point for the resurgence of a Native Hawaiian cultural identity. We continue to see Kaho'olawe as a pu'uhonua, a place of refuge for our ancestors from the laws, or kapu of Hawaiian society, but also a refuge for our native ecosystems from past degradation and the continuing pressures of modern society.

To achieve this vision for Kaho'olawe, we have, through this process, developed a plan that both defines the strategic goals necessary to achieve our vision and provides for measurable objectives, planning and pathways to achieve those goals. To read more about our Strategic Plan and action plans, see our website at: <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov>, then click on Access/Risk Mgmt/Ops.

This coming year, our primary focus is to prepare the KIRC for the future. We have learned how to protect and restore the island; now we are preparing to continue these efforts for the next generation. We are developing sustainable funding sources that will carry our operations into the future and protect our cultural and historic sites as an investment for our children. We are developing sustainable infrastructure to reduce our dependence on resources outside of the Reserve. And, we are preparing for the day that we welcome a sovereign Hawaiian nation home.

Yes, these are exciting yet challenging times and we will need the help of many hands to make these dreams come true. The work, the dedication, the contributions each and every one of you invest today brings our collective vision for Kaho'olawe closer to the reality our children and grandchildren will experience tomorrow in that beautiful and storied place.

E lauhoe mai nā wa'a; i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina.

Everybody paddle the canoes together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.



Sea Turtles in The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve - Part II

A comprehensive, island-wide baseline assessment of Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve’s (KIR) sea turtle population has been an on-going priority project of the KIRC Ocean Resources Management Program since 2002.

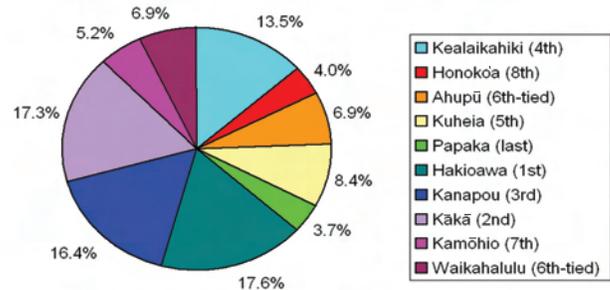
Logistical complications, including the obligatory operational restrictions within the former military bombing range and generally rough ocean conditions, required implementing multiple research techniques to secure data. For turtles at the surface or subsurface, the most consistent data collection method was by aerial survey.

Helicopters provide a “bird’s eye view” of Kaho‘olawe’s entire coastline in about an hour’s time, regardless of sea conditions. Coastline snorkel transects prove valuable in assessing population characteristics, and to “ground truth” aerial survey results. These techniques, combined with cultural insight, researching past reports and recording anecdotal and incidental sightings, yield a reliable picture of the current sea turtle population within the Reserve.

Snorkel transects from 2002 to 2005 revealed that KIR turtles were most commonly found swimming individually in clear, shallow-water coral reef habitats at a depth of one to six meters and between five and 20m from shore. Turtle “clusters” were typically associated with floating debris lines in deeper water along the eastern coast. Besides one juvenile and one adult female hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), all were greens (*Chelonia mydas*) with no evidence of fibropapillomatosis, a tumor-forming disease. The data also showed immature turtles comprised the majority.

Use of photo-identification techniques in comparing facial and flipper patterns yielded the strongest example of site fidelity in one individual re-sighted three times at Hakioawa, with an 815-day interval between the first and

Turtle Sighting Distributions by Sector (51 Aerial Circumnavigations, n=347).



last sightings. Most commonly, turtles were seen swimming as opposed to resting or foraging. Foraging on turf algae was observed, as the extent of macroalgae within the KIR is limited.

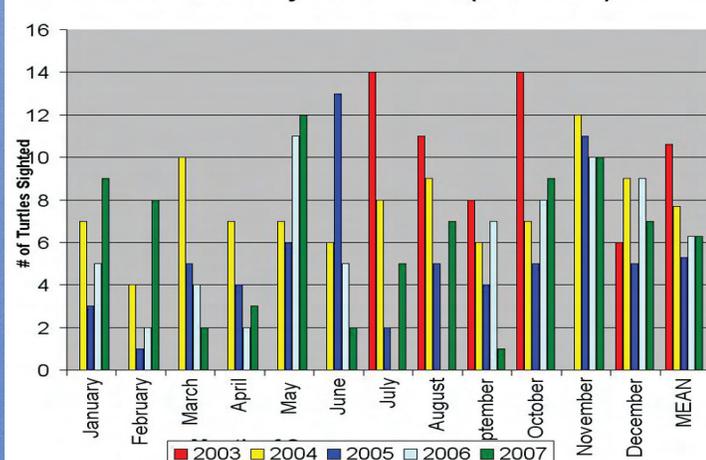
Nineteen aerial surveys along Kaho‘olawe’s north coast, from Honokanai‘a to Hakioawa, averaged 2.3 turtles per ~20-minute survey; 51 monthly aerial surveys, conducted from 2003 through 2007, averaged 6.8 turtles per ~60-minute circumnavigation. Relative distribution by ‘ili (traditional land-use management division, usually a subsection of an ahupua‘a) analysis showed highest turtle abundances in the Hakioawa ‘ili, followed closely by Kākā, Kanapou, and Kealaikahiki. Annual population averages did not increase from 2003 to 2007; monthly counts were highest in November and May, lowest in February and April, with no significant seasonal proliferation or distribution trends detected.

Analysis of this study’s findings estimate that fewer than 500 turtles populate the KIR which is an insignificant contribution to the extant population of Hawaiian sea turtles. This small population could be due to past military activities, high apex predator pressure, herbivorous fish pressure on forage species, an influx of sedimentation on the coral reef ecosystem, ocean currents, and/or Kaho‘olawe’s geographic location.

Continuation of standardized aerial, in-water, vessel and shore-based research surveys by the KIRC Ocean Resources Management Program is critical both for comparable analyses and long-term monitoring. Looking to the future: with successful restoration and management techniques, the KIR has the potential to host a healthy population of sea turtles capable of thriving in a natural, non-human stressed environment. Today’s majority juvenile turtle population may also signify a new usage pattern, potentially leading to higher numbers in the future especially in the absence of fibropapillomatosis that inflicts sea turtles throughout all principal Hawaiian Islands.

For more information, or to read Cheryl King’s 208 page Master’s thesis, please contact cking@kirc.hawaii.gov.

Standardized Monthly Circumnavigation Aerial Survey Turtle Totals (2003-2007)



Maika'i i ka hana, Uncle Bobby!



On June 27, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commissioners and staff saluted the commitment, passion and dedication that **Robert Joseph "Uncle Bobby" Lu'uwai** has brought to the rebirth of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

Uncle Bobby's pilialoha (loving relationship) with and for Kaho'olawe began while he was still a young man from the ahupua'a of Honua'ula, where he learned from his father the intimacies of the ocean, fishing techniques and associated cultural practices surrounding Kaho'olawe. Asked in 1985 by Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana leader **Davianna McGregor** to transport students and PKO volunteers to the island, Uncle Bobby has, since that time, been a mainstay in establishing safety and ocean resource management protocols for both the PKO and the KIRC. In 2000, he was asked to represent the PKO on the Commission, where he served with distinction on vital subcommittees exploring stewardship, culture, capital improvement projects, and access and risk management – providing insight, leadership and valuable suggestions to KIRC's efforts all along the way.

Although his second term on the Commission has come to an end, Uncle Bobby's work with Kaho'olawe is not over. He will continue to serve, consult, advise and support – with dignity and dedication – the rebirth and healing of Kanaloa. In a proclamation recognizing his outstanding contributions to the mission and vision of the KIRC, the Commission commended Uncle Bobby's dedication to the restoration of the kino of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and the preservation, protection and practice of its Native Hawaiian cultural heritage for generations to come.

Attention Teachers:

The Pacific American Foundation in partnership with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and the Polynesian Voyage Society will offer:

Mālama Kaho'olawe **A workshop for Grades 7-12 Educators** **Where & When: Maui October 4 and** **Kaho'olawe October 5-8, 2008**

The workshop will provide a teacher's guide with standards-based lesson plans and an opportunity to go to Kaho'olawe with the PKO to learn first-hand about the island. Grade level units will include Life Science, Earth Science, Social Studies and Biology – each unit with emphasized values including mālama (to care for), 'ike (knowledge), kuleana (responsibility) and aloha 'āina (love of the land).

The workshops are limited to 40 teachers and there is a \$20 registration fee. To register (and for more dates and details) log on to www.thepaf.org and download the registration form and mail it with your registration fee to: Pacific American Foundation, 629 Kailua Road – Room 207, Kailua, HI 96734.



Kumu and Haumana on Mālama Kaho'olawe access
Photo by Kylee Omo

Kaho'olawe – Past, Present & Future

News from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

THE 2008 ALOHA 'ĀINA AWARD, presented by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, honored **Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.** and the **Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation** for their service and commitment to the spirit of Kaho'olawe.



Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahahele and Noa Emmett Aluli
Photo by K.K. Birnie

Leading every effort to raise public awareness about the spiritual, cultural, historical and natural significance of the island since the January 1976 first landing, Aluli has guided the 'Ohana in stopping the bombing (1990), securing the island's return to the people of Hawai'i (1993), through a decade-long ordnance clean-up (1994-2004), and in establishing Kanaloa as a living and healthy wahi pana (storied place) and pu'uhonua (refuge) for the exercise of Hawaiian cultural practices in perpetuity. To this day, Aluli continues to promote and broadly apply the lessons of Kaho'olawe throughout the islands.

From the time Aunty **Edith Kanaka'ole** personally told a group of passionate people from all islands to unite and call themselves the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation has committed generations of its family to the establishment, maintenance and perpetuation of the cultural and religious practices of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. **Parley Kanaka'ole**, his sisters **Pualani Kanaka'ole Kanahahele**, **Ulunui Garmon** and **Nālanī Kanaka'ole** along with Pua's late husband **Edward Kanahahele** – all of the second generation of the Kanaka'ole 'Ohana – developed the mana'o of stewardship and cultural protocols of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and trained the practitioners who today pass on their knowledge. **Kekuhi Kanahahele**, **Taupo Tangaro (Kaipo Frias)**, and **'Ahiēna Kanahahele** mark the third Kanaka'ole generation and **Lopaka Kaumaka'iwa** begins the fourth generation to bring their family's wisdom and teachings to today's generation of Kaho'olawe practitioners.

HE KA'APUNI. On June 29, 'Ohana members joined 91 paddlers from the **Hawaiian Canoe Club** in launching four canoes, accompanied by escort boats, on a huaka'i (voyage) from Mākena to Honokanai'a for a planned ka'apuni (circumnavigation) of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. By July 2, the ka'apuni was completed, perpetuating the link between Maui Nui and Kanaloa Kaho'olawe and extending the tradition of canoe paddling as the primary means of transportation between and around our islands.

While at Honokanai'a, huaka'i participants, KIRC staff and volunteers from the Kaua'i, Maui and Moloka'i **Youth Conservation Corps** cleared a trail between Kealaikahiki and Honokanai'a. Photos of the ka'apuni may be viewed at http://community.webshots.com/user/tim_lara.

NĀ HUAKA'I. Participants in 'Ohana huaka'i have included organizations, families, and especially school groups. Among the latter have been architecture and engineering students from **UH-Mānoa**, Hawaiian language immersion high schoolers from **Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenue (Pālolo)**, **Nā Pua No'eau (Moloka'i)**, **Hawai'i Academy of Arts & Sciences (Puna)**, **Mililani High School**, and **Kamehameha Schools'** summer science program. A delightful essay about the experiences of **Punahou** haumana appears online at www.punahou.edu/cf_news/view.cfm?newsid=109.

For more information about the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, visit www.kahoolawe.org.

– Aloha 'Āina.



Introspective & Photo by Guy Sibilla

My feet have kissed the beach of Kaho'olawe's Hakiōawa Bay. I have felt Kaho'olawe in its cool, forgiving morning surf when the waves carried my pilikia away so that I might live the day unencumbered. I floated on the rapturous liquid fingers of an ocean so grand it knows neither its own length nor its breadth. Along the reef, I swam above the colors of the rainbow as fish joined me in the joy of semi-levitation. Further out to sea, the swells carried pregnant whales to their migratory birthing waters 17,000 miles from where they began their journey.

These are life-giving waters.

As one might imagine, there is no luxury of waste on Kaho'olawe. In exchange for all of the things we discovered we didn't need, we were given the luxury of time. If Kaho'olawe taught us anything, it was that life is long. It is short only if you choose to live your life that way.

Volunteer Program

Mahalo a nui loa to all the wonderful volunteers who labored in the good work of restoring native grasses and shrubs on the slopes of Pu'u Moa'ulanui in the headwaters of Hakioawa valley. Mahalo also to those who helped lay irrigation lines, dug holes for the seedlings, constructed pili grass erosion barriers, worked at improving the roadways and monitored our ocean resources. Each and every one of you has made a difference in the healing of Kanaloa.

April 1 – June 30, 2008 Volunteers

Jean Abbott	Nancy Halley	Jamie Quinones
Ethan Abbott	Ruby Hammond	Matthew Ramsey
Eric Abbott	Eric Hay	Victor Regidor
Megan Abbott	Kiki Hee	Jolyne Rego
Susan Arnett	Clyde Higa	Thomas Savidge
January Asbury	Ryce Higa	Janice Savidge
Joseph Au	Hidemi Hiraga	Natalie Savona
Byron Baker	Torben Hjorting	Leona Seto-Mook
Pamela Benjasrichai	Kim Kalama	Carlton Smith
William Bennett	Wendel Kam	Janice Spencer
Christopher Bird	Ronette Kawakamai	Roy Spencer
Corey Boss	Denise Kekuna	Jennie Stewart
Ronald Boyd	Peter Krape	Roxanne Stewart
Jennifer Brittin	Helene Kuaana	Kanai Tagle
Erin Brittin	Kanekoa Kukea Shultz	Solomon Tamanaha
Sarah Charlesworth	Walle Landenberger	Jason Tiller
Norma Clothier	Terrance Lind	Robert Toonen
Chyna Colorado	Fred Litte	Jason Ward
Eric Conklin	Rebekah Luke	Kerry Yen
Jerry Cook	Brendan Maier	Patrick Young
Pono Cordero-Ho'opai	Atwood Makanani	
Faylene Duarte	Fred Merrill	
Julie Duck	Teri Mister	
Claire Duvachelle	John Mitchell	
Peter Dyck	Mason Miyamoto	
Judy Edwards	Lee Moikeha	
Legario Eharis	Carey Morishige	
Jan Espere	Alena Ornellas	
Emily Fielding	Patricia Oshiro	
Steve Frayer	Leighton Pahukula	
James Fulton	David Pfeifer	
Ronald Goings	Bill Poff	
Herman Goldman	Richard Pojos	
Sean Goodnow	Walter Pu	
Hālau Lōkahi	Gary Puniwai	

East Maui Watershed Partnership
 Kamehameha Schools - Maui
 Kawaihona Charter School
 Kua'ana Student Services (UH)
 Lahainaluna High School Boarders
 Maui Community College Hawaiian Studies
 Montessori School 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders
 Queen Lili'uokalanai Children's Center
 Sierra Club Mokuloa Group
 Volcano School of Arts and Sciences
 Youth Conservation Corps Big Island Team A
 Youth Conservation Corps O'ahu Team A



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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 E-mail Address: _____

'Ae! I'd like to kōkua! Please direct my tax-deductible sponsorship contribution to the following program(s):

	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Wherever the need is greatest	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian Cultural Program	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Resource Program	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Restoration Program	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Operations Program	\$ _____
<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.

KO HEMA LAMALAMA
A newsletter of the Kaho'olawe
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In July the KIRC Resource Library moved from the conference room to the lobby of the KIRC office. The move gives staff and visitors researching Kaho'olawe better access to materials. **Nicole McMullen**, Commission Coordinator, inventoried and organized approximately 400 books and reports and is now in the process of cataloging new acquisitions and making the library catalog computer-searchable. Visitors may access the library free of charge.



MAHALO A NUI LOA

Mahalo piha to Mr. **James Shingle** of Waikiki, O'ahu for his most generous contribution to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, dedicated to wherever the need is greatest. Very special mahalo also to the **Ethan Abbot Family** of Honolulu, O'ahu for their most generous contribution to the KIRC's Ocean Resources and Restoration programs.

Mahalo a nui loa to our contributors from Hawai'i Island: to **Nao S. Wenkam** and Dr. **David Rizor** of the **Volcano School of Arts and Sciences**, to **Diane Ware** (also from Volcano) – and to **Howard Kantner** of Captain Cook, for their very generous contribution to KIRC's cultural, ocean, restoration and reserve operations programs.

Mahalo to volunteer **Leona Seto-Mook** of **LSM Consultants LLC**, of Honolulu, O'ahu, another donor from the **Kamehameha Alumni Class of 1971**, who sent in a much-appreciated cash donation. Imua Kamehameha '71!

From the Valley Isle, mahalo to **Tina Keko'olani** and **Bart Maybee** of Ha'ikū, Maui for their kind contribution of blank sweatshirts and pants that will soon be transformed into a fundraiser for the Rehabilitation Trust Fund; to **Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii** of Makawao for her contribution dedicated to wherever the need is greatest; and, to Librarian **Ramona Ho** and her assistant **Nani Harman** of **Kamehameha Schools-Maui** for their most recent donation of books on Native Hawaiian plants to the KIRC library.

And again, our sincere gratitude to the principals of **Maui Printing Company** for their continued support of the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.



KS Alumni Class of 1971, supporters of the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund on their April access. L-R (front) Gary Puniwai, Pat "Rabbit" Young, Janice Spencer, Victor Regidor, Roy Spencer; (middle) Wendel Kam, Leona Seto-Mook, Kim Kalama; (back) Joe Au, Lee "Kalei" Moikeha, Jan Gunder-son Espere, Denise Kekuna, Claire Duvauchelle, Leighton Pahakula, Solomon Tamanaha and Kerry Yen.

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