

KAHO'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve • Summer Solstice 2014

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We Need Your Help



Welcome to *Ko Hema Lamalama*, a newsletter declaring 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 by Cory Yap. Volunteers gather at Honokanai'a Base Camp to enjoy sunset after long days of restoration work.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Twenty Years with the KIRC

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



Current Executive Director Mike Nāho'opi'i & former Executive Director Keoni Fairbanks gather ho'okupu for the conveyance ceremony at Palauea Beach (1994).

On May 7, 1994, I stood amongst hundreds of people on the sands of Maui's Palauea Beach awaiting a ceremony that would mark the beginning of a new era in Hawai'i's history: after fifty years of using the island of Kaho'olawe as a bombing and weapons range, the United States Navy was relinquishing control and returning it to the State of Hawai'i. This day would mark the culmination of a grassroots movement to stop the bombing; a movement that began with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana in 1976. Kaho'olawe would now return to the people of Hawai'i and a ten-year cleanup of the island would commence.

My companions and I stood out that day; while the majority of attendees wore shorts and t-shirts, with some groups in traditional attire with malo

and kikepa, we were dressed in our Navy dress white uniforms. At that time, I was the Navy's Officer-in-Charge of Kaho'olawe; responsible for managing Kaho'olawe on behalf of the United States Navy. Twenty years later, I am the Executive Director of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission; responsible for managing Kaho'olawe on the behalf of the State of Hawai'i.

Many things have changed in these twenty years, the most dramatic (for me) being the "greening" of the island. Back then, most of Kaho'olawe's surface area was colored red and brown due to desolate, dry hardpan or thorny kiawe scrublands; results of soil lost from wind and rain erosion. The Navy's eradication of goats just prior to the turnover, (introduced to Kaho'olawe by Maui Chief Kahekili as a gift from British Captain Vancouver in 1778,) allowed struggling plants to gain a foothold on the island while native plantings over the years have increasingly diversified the ecosystem. Today, there are fields of 'a'ali'i, a native hardwood shrub blooming across the hardpan. Native pili grass is found growing in ravines alongside the road. Seabirds and monk seals can be seen regularly along the shoreline.

Unexploded ordnance cleared during the 10-year Navy cleanup has opened up areas for cultivation: hardpan areas that were once covered in bomb fragments are now clean of the razor sharp metal shards, trails can now be walked that once required escort by military bomb disposal experts and selected fields can be planted without fear of explosions. Roads that once took hours to traverse have been improved to cut travel time in half. A modern, permanent shelter has been built in Hakioawa while the Honokanai'a Base Camp is being rebuilt to eliminate the need for fossil fuel.

These improvements, spanning twenty years, were funded by the initial investment of the federal government upon the KIRC's inception. It is my hope that the next twenty years bring even *more* growth to Kaho'olawe, but this will not be possible without a funding commitment by the State of Hawai'i. In this issue, you will read about the challenges we now face in light of the 2014 legislative session (p. 9). In order to continue our work, we will need to come together as a community to encourage Hawai'i to fund Kaho'olawe. Together, we can secure a future for this symbol of hope.

The Hawai'i State Legislature created the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) in 1993 to manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve while it is held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.

The Hawai'i Revised Statutes sets forth the composition of the KIRC, with members from each of the following: One selected by the Governor of Hawai'i from lists submitted by Native Hawaiian organizations, one as a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawai'i, a representative of the County of Maui, a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, and two members selected by the Governor from a list submitted by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

Commissioners

Michele Chouteau McLean, Chairperson
Amber Nāmaka Whitehead, Vice-Chair
William J. Aila, Jr.
Noa Emmett Aluli
C. Kaliko Baker
Hōkūlani Holt
Colette Y. Machado

The KIRC staff is organized into three branches: Executive, Programs & Operations and Administration:

Executive

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director
Kelly McHugh, Public Information Specialist
Anela Evans, Volunteer Coordinator

Programs & Operations

Dean Tokishi, Ocean Resources Specialist III
Jennifer Vander Veur, Ocean Resources Specialist II
Paul Higashino, Natural Resources Specialist V
Lyman Abbott, Natural Resources Specialist III
Jamie Bruch, Natural Resources Specialist III
Lopaka White, Natural Resources Specialist II
Bart Maybee, UXO Safety Specialist
Charlie Lindsey, Maintenance and Vessel Specialist
Grant Thompson, KIR Specialist III
Kui Gapero, Cultural Resources Project Coordinator

Administration

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Carmela Noneza, GIS/LAN Specialist
David DeMark, Administrative Specialist III
Mei Mailou-Santos, Administrative Specialist II
Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator



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TWO DAYS IN APRIL

Reflections on Vision, Commitment and Shared Kuleana

by Stanton Enomoto



Ten years ago, on April 9, 2004, we watched the U.S. Navy and their contractors lower the colors at Honokanai'a and exchange well-wishes before boarding their helicopter back to Maui. As it lifted off and the rotor noise faded, the Navy's decade-long cleanup on Kaho'olawe came to a quiet end.

As the fanfare of the wind and waves greeted us at and beyond Kealaikahiki, the sun set on a 63-year era of U.S. military occupation and control of the island. The transition of Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawai'i was complete.

At Kealialalo, on April 10, the sun rose through clouds over Moa'ulanui — dawning a new period for the KIRC. As the coast from Ki'i to Wa'aiki became illuminated, the kuleana to manage and advance Kaho'olawe as a wahi pana and pu'uhonua took hold. Restoration, research and cultural stewardship activities could now be implemented in-full, and without interference.

In 2004, I had the privilege of serving as the KIRC's Acting Executive Director and oversaw the ending of the cleanup and turnover to State control. Although I left the KIRC later that year, I have maintained volunteer involvement to help and to learn from the island. So, I was especially gratified in April when I was given the opportunity to observe the 10-year anniversary of the Navy-KIRC turnover on Kaho'olawe.

Joining a KIRC volunteer access trip with former Commissioner Burt Sakata led by KIRC Restoration Ecologist Paul Higashino, we relived our experiences from those two days in 2004. We watched the sunset at Honokanai'a

on April 9 and the sunrise at Kealialalo on April 10. We traveled to different parts of the island and labored with the volunteers on erosion control and native planting projects.

We reminisced about past experiences, assessed their meaning in today's context and sought some future insight. During our return across the 'Alalakeiki Channel, with the island receding amid the waves, I was awestruck by the historical resolve to the vision for

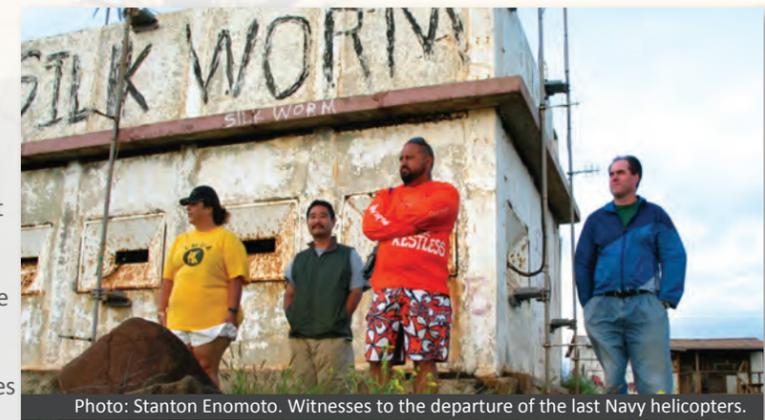


Photo: Stanton Enomoto. Witnesses to the departure of the last Navy helicopters.

Kaho'olawe and reminded of the necessity to remain steadfast to restoring the kino of Kanaloa.

Beginning with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana's landing in 1976 to protest the military's use of the island, advancing the vision led to the end of the bombing, conveyance to the State, funding for the cleanup, and restoration of the island. During this time, many people and organizations came and went, multiple challenges and obstacles arose, and negotiations and compromises were undertaken. Still, the shared outcomes for Kaho'olawe as a sacred and Hawaiian place were consistently advocated.

In the years ahead, Kaho'olawe and all of Hawai'i will be faced with many issues. Protecting cultural and natural resources, preserving traditions and practices, mitigating and adapting to global warming, and establishing and engaging a new Native Hawaiian governing entity are but a few examples. Compounding these issues is a socio-economic environment of escalating operational costs, bureaucratic constraints, conflicting or divergent ideals, and increased competition for declining resources.

Sustaining the vision for Kaho'olawe can be a means to address these challenges, but it requires a focus similar to that which led to the 2004 transition, when individuals and organizations united to end the bombing and to clean the island.

Today, similar unification in collective impact is needed

in order to achieve the goals of renewing our relationship to place, teaching us to live sustainably, increasing our cultural knowledge, and realizing our identity as Hawaiians and people of these islands. By aligning activities on-island to these goals and by sharing kuleana to achieve them, Kaho'olawe can fulfill its role in the pae 'āina as the piko of Kanaloa from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads.



Contributor's note: Stanton worked for the KIRC from 1995 to 2004. He is currently employed by the U.S. National Park Service and works on cultural resource and climate change issues in Hawai'i and the Pacific. His remarks are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of the KIRC or National Park Service.



For 14 years, Boston-native Daniel Southmayd has become an integral part of the Wailuku, Maui community. As a devoted volunteer, motivated spirit and brilliant pastry chef of his co-owned *Catering from Soup to Nuts, Inc. & Vineyard Food Company* (cateringfromsoupnuts.com), which shares proceeds with a new community-based nonprofit each month, the KIRC has been enormously fortunate to work alongside Daniel for the past year. From joining volunteer accesses on-island as a restoration worker and/ or chef to promoting our Hui Kāpehe internship program or Kihei Boat House property cleanup days here on Maui, Daniel's exemplary support has made a profound impact on the effectiveness and reach of the KIRC.

Why did you initially volunteer for the KIRC?

My friend Dustin Palos, (who is now in the KIRC's Hui Kāpehe internship program), was invited to join a volunteer access with Cultural Resources Project Coordinator Kui Gapero last summer due to his extensive knowledge of native plants. Dustin asked Kui if he could bring a friend along, and so I joined him.

Why do you continue to volunteer?

Volunteering on Kaho'olawe has become one of the most fulfilling things I do with my life. Kaho'olawe is, to me, a physical manifestation of what happened to the kanaka maoli — land being taken away and used for purposes it was never intended; purposes destructive to the 'aina and to the culture. Restoring Kaho'olawe means restoring the culture to the people. The most immediate gratification comes from seeing groups of volunteers who go out to Kaho'olawe bond with one another and, more importantly, reconnect with their culture. It is deeply affecting, and it never fails to move me in profound ways. Every experience and group is different. The work is hard, the climate is harsh, but the rewards are many and exhilarating.

Why is it important to volunteer for this cause?

Kaho'olawe is, in my opinion, one of the most valuable educational tools Hawai'i has, and its well-being has been ignored for too long. At this time, funding is dwindling, and volunteering is critical to keeping this important work going.

What has been one of your favorite memories throughout this journey?

There are far too many to mention here! I have a new favorite after every volunteer access, and every person or place I've encountered on Kaho'olawe has his/her/its own mo'olelo in my life. There are still plenty of memories to be made, and I hope they will continue to add up for a long time to come.

Anything else you would like to share with us?

Please come to the community cleanup days at Kihei Boat Ramp (4th Saturday of every month from 8 AM – 12 PM). Do what you can. Get involved. Be the change. Never give up hope for a better future for all of us and the amazing place we live in.

Mahalo 2014 Volunteers:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| First Hawaiian Bank | Office of Hawaiian Affairs |
| Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua | Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center – Ko'olau Poko Unit |
| Kamehameha Schools Kapālana | Saint Louis School |
| Kamehameha Schools Kea'au | Seabury High School |
| Kula Kaiapuni 'O Kekaulike | University of Hawai'i Maui College Hawaiian Studies |
| KUPU | University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law 'Ahahui O Hawai'i |
| Lahainaluna High School | Volcano Charter School |
| Leeward Community College | Wai'anae High School |
| Makaha Hawaiian Civic Club | |
| Maui Nui Botanical Gardens | |
| Montessori School of Maui | |

For a detailed list of volunteers and/ or a volunteer application packet, please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer

Please contact the KIRC at administrator@kahoolawe.hawaii.gov with information regarding any errors or omissions.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



(January) A growing number of volunteers have joined us on the 4th Saturday of every month to help create a native plant nursery, traditional hale and walking trail at our Kihei Boat House property. Ultimately, these *Kāko'o iā Kaho'olawe* community cleanup days will set the stage for the development of a Kaho'olawe cultural center which will house displays, classrooms, office space and more.



(February) KIRC staff were invited to Honolulu-based Punahou School to "judge" projects by the 7th grade student body presenting solutions to Kaho'olawe's greatest challenges. From exercise videos designed to prepare volunteers for the physical demands of working on-island to sharing proceeds of gelato sales, with flavors like *Hakioawa Guava* and *Red Velvet Run-Off*, the 6-months each devoted to their projects set the stage for years of potential!



(March) Nonprofit youth film organization *Maui Huliau Foundation* filmmakers joined us on Kaho'olawe to learn about our sustainable energy initiative. You can access the final piece, which was premiered at the 4th annual Huliau Youth Environmental Film Festival, at mauihuliaufoundation.org



(April) Wailuku, Maui-based Vineyard Food Company hosted *Spring Time Table d'hôte Dinner: A Benefit for Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission*, offering an excellent opportunity to connect with our community about current and upcoming KIRC projects. Mahalo nui loa to Daniel, Ralph, Dustin and the rest of the VFC crew!



(May) KIRC staff were honored to be invited to Washington, D.C. to exchange best practices at the U.S Department of Education with fellow grantees of the Native American Career and Technical Education Program, Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program, and Tribally Controlled Postsecondary Career and Technical Institutions grant Program.



(June) Joined by 60 kumu from the State Department of Education Hawaiian Studies Kupuna Program, the KIRC participated in a Kaho'olawe Island Reserve voyage led by cultural practitioner Leslie "Uncle Les" Kuloloio. Part of an annual Hawaiian Studies conference organized by public elementary school teachers from across the islands, teachers learned about significant places in the Reserve, current grant initiatives and ways to preserve and sustain the Kaho'olawe ecosystem.

Photo: Cory Yap



Last Fall, the restoration team welcomed intern **Eddie Wine** through a unique collaboration with KUPU Hawai'i's Youth Conservation Corps (HYCC).

Born and raised in Wailuku, Maui, Eddie graduated from Baldwin High School in 2006 and earned a BA in Marine Science from UH Hilo in 2012.

During his 10-month term with the KIRC, Eddie not only contributed greatly to the preservation and restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural resources, but he also brought a great attitude and magnetic work ethic to each project that he was a part of.

Mahalo nui loa, Eddie!



(Left) Ocean program volunteer with his catch. (Right) A (non-native) Roi gets caught stealing his lunch, a (native) 'Upāpalu in the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. Through the support of the Hawai'i Community Foundation/ NOAA Community Restoration Partnership, the KIRC has successfully removed nearly 700 pounds of non-native fish from the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve – 200 pounds over what we projected for the 2-year project.

Three near shore species of non-native fish are found within the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, all of which were introduced to Hawaiian waters during the 1950's: Roi (*Cephalopholis argus*), To'au (*Lutjanus fulvus*) and Ta'ape (*Lutjanus kasmira*).

Brought in as a near shore game fish resource from other south Pacific Islands, (Moorea and the Marquesas), the future ecological impacts that these fish would impress upon the reef were unfortunately not of concern at that time.

Today, these fish are considered invasive to Hawai'i's marine environment due to the increased competition and predation effects that they impart upon the native and endemic fish populations here.

Through a grant made possible by the **Hawai'i Community Foundation**, the KIRC has begun a process of involving local communities in the removal of Roi, To'au and Ta'ape from the reefs of Kaho'olawe - and - offering educational resources about their effect on native fish assemblage.

In correlation with removal efforts,

Ocean staff is conducting gut analysis of these fish to A) better understand their spawning cycles, B) make culling efforts more effective and C) determine what predation effects they are having upon native marine life.

Support of this project has come from a wide range of community members, from concerned local fishermen to UH Maui marine science students conducting research with the KIRC. Together, we hope to convey the message that today's actions can and will directly affect our environment *now* and the environment inherited by *future* generations.

2014 TROLLING SCHEDULE:

Access to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve waters is highly restricted due to the continued presence of unexploded ordnance, as well as for the protection of marine resources within the Reserve. However, during two scheduled weekends each month, limited trolling is allowed in Reserve waters deeper than 30 fathoms **for vessels permitted by the KIRC**. Registered vessels are required to file a catch report with the KIRC any time they fish in the Reserve, whether fish are caught or not. To register with the KIRC, or for more information, visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov

JUL: 12 -13; 26 -27 • AUG: 09 -10; 23 -24 • SEP: 06 -07; 20 -21
OCT: 04 -05; 18 -19 • NOV: 01 -02; 15 -16 • DEC: 06 -07; 20 -21



Map: Catch report areas



'Ohai (*Sesbania tomentosum*) grows from a rock mulch mound. Photo: Lyman Abbott

The Restoration team has seen successful continuation of its 2-year grant project administered by the **Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH), Clean Water Branch, Polluted Runoff Control Program** and funded by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**.

The 108-acre *Reducing Excessive Sedimentation in the Hakioawa Watershed of Kaho'olawe by Restoring Native Ecosystems* project is located along the South Trail that leads from the summit of the island (1,477 ft.) down to Hakioawa Bay; a work area classified as "Tier I," or surface-cleared only. The site is characterized by exposed, unfertile hardpan and severe gullying with predominantly alien dry land vegetation. Due to challenges and limitations posed by unexploded ordnance (UXO) present in the Tier I clearance area, a new technique has been utilized: vegetating rock mulch mounds with native plants on top of the hardpan.

The 2-year project goal is to improve downstream water quality by reducing surface water run-off through A) removing non-



Restoration staff demonstrate hardpan planting technique to volunteers. Photo: Cory Yap

native vegetation, B) planting 20,000 native grasses, shrubs and trees, C) installing irrigation piping from the KIRC's water catchments and D) installing erosion control features such as swales, wattles and check dams made with geotextiles and pili grass.



Rock mound detail at DOH grant site

To date, over 1,300 rock mulch mounds have been constructed by staff and volunteers using rocks, native soil, kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) chips and soil amendments, and out planted with over 13,000 native plants. Strategically placed along contours, they have been irrigated using rain catchment water from a 128,000 gallon tank in Luamakika. Wattles, swales and check dams made with geotextiles and burlap bags have been installed as *Non-Point*

Source (NPS) Management Measures, which capture sediment during rains.

Monitoring this project's progress includes measuring changes in native vegetation cover and density, baseline photopoints, soil erosion rates and near ocean sediment deposition. (Please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/restoration for updates).

MAI MAKĀ'U I KA HANA, MAKĀ'U I KA MOLOĀ

Hui Kāpehe

This Spring, the KIRC accepted over 20 interns into its Hui Kāpehe Program. Participants are receiving hands-on training while gaining work-related experience, community service learning, and job shadowing opportunities in one or more of the KIRC's core programs (Operations, Administration, Ocean, Restoration and Culture) — all of which are related to career and technical education (CTE) with a focus on sustainability and Hawaiian culture. Kāpehe will receive various industry-recognized certifications to increase their marketability in the workforce. Please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/huikapehe.shtml for further information and eligibility criteria.

Kāko'o iā Kaho'olawe

Through grants received from the Hawai'i Community Foundation and Hawai'i Tourism Authority, a call to the community has been made in order to collaboratively create an interactive trail and resource center at the KIRC's Kihei Boat House property. The trail will highlight restoration projects done on Kaho'olawe showcasing some of the techniques and plants used in our efforts. Volunteer work days offer an opportunity for those unable to make it out to the island but still wish to be a part of the KIRC's restoration efforts. Join us every fourth Saturday from 8 AM - 12 PM at the KIRC's Kihei property adjacent to the Kihei Small Boat Ramp. *Reminders are always posted at [facebook.com/KircMaui](https://www.facebook.com/KircMaui)*

Kaho'olawe 'ai kūpala

A recent initiative to plant sustainable food crops within KIRC's Base Camp in Honokanai'a has proven to be a great success. 'Uala (sweet potato) was planted in order to provide an alternative to starches brought in via KIRC's ocean vessel, the 'Ōhua. With the continued grant support of the Atherton Family Foundation, we have expanded this 'Ai Pono Program to the KIRC's Kihei property in order to increase our crops and to create an educational opportunity for the community on sustainable planting techniques.

Cultural Program

The KIRC's Cultural Program is responsible for the care and protection of Kaho'olawe's cultural resources and the expansion of meaningful cultural use of the island. Volunteers with both the KIRC and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana help make this a reality. Many of our volunteers wish to contribute their time for different reasons — all walk away with different results. All of the hands that go into the work on the island contribute to the bigger picture. Being that Kaho'olawe falls within the moku (district) of Honua'ula, Maui, we understand that hard work is what it takes to receive great results:

Honua'ula kua la'ola'o.
Callous-backed Honua'ula.

Said of the people of Honua'ula, Maui, who were hard workers. The loads they carried often caused calluses on their backs.



Hui Kāpehe interns work for their PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certification at Makena Landing



Community cleanup day volunteers pose at the Kihei Boat House property after a morning of working on the trail



'Uala thriving at Base Camp in Honokanai'a



KIRC & PKO volunteers meet up for a lunch break at "LZ1"

10 WAYS TO CONNECT!

1. Visit our website at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov for **FREE teaching materials**, classroom resources, videos, chants, historic documents and more.
2. Complete a **volunteer** application packet at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer and join us on-island.
3. Contact us at (808) 243-5020 to make an appointment in our public-access **library**, located at our Wailuku (Maui) headquarters.
4. 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).
5. Make a contribution of new or used **equipment** to support the KIRC mission (wish list at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations).
6. Invite the KIRC to participate in your **community event**.
7. 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
8. Apply for a paid **internship** through Hui Kāpehe at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/huikapehe.shtml
9. Help spread the word! Download a copy of the **2013 Year in Review** at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/plans for a comprehensive overview of the KIRC's activities over the past 20 years.
10. Make a **donation** to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund (*details on p. 10*)



THERE'S NO CRYING IN HULA

During a recent restoration access with volunteers of Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua, we rose at 4:30 AM to make way for the summit of Pu'u Moa'ulanui. Led by Kumu Hula Snowbird Puananiopaoakalani Bento, the group greeted the sun rising over Haleakalā with a chant learned throughout the week, bringing with it a much needed rain.

"After our chant, I invited the young ones to sit by me and talk story for a while," remarks Snowbird, "As I reflected on the week that I spent on Kaho'olawe, I thought of my haumana, Kui, who stood at this very spot with me just a few mornings prior with his wahine and keiki. I spoke to the youth about the idea of legacy. Kui had lost his father earlier in the year, who instilled in him his love of Kaho'olawe. Now here he was, standing at Moa'ulanui, sharing that legacy with his own children. When children see what we have passion for — when we can really show them — we *ingrain* responsibility. This is the *best* way to teach a child.

"It was at this moment that I realized that I was teaching the *future teachers* of our people. I always say '*there's no crying in hula*' but at that moment, I could not help myself. This was my *a-ha* moment."

MAHALO FY14 DONORS:

Commissioners and staff of the KIRC wish to recognize our FY14 sponsors for helping to preserve the special heritage of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Alu Like, Inc. | Oceana Francis | Earl Neller |
| Atherton Family Foundation | Hawai'i Community Foundation | Mia Nissen |
| Carmen Ching | Hawai'i Tourism Authority | Joan Pedro |
| Catering from Soup to Nuts Inc. / Vineyard Food Company | Calvin Ichinose | E.J. Pelissero |
| County of Maui, Office of Economic Development | Manuheali'i Inc. | Seabury Hall |
| Ashford DeLima | Montessori School of Maui | State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Clean Water Branch |
| Esri | Maui Printing Company | Jonathan & Milada Tichy |
| Four Seasons Resort Maui at Wailea | National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | Wren & Nancy Wescoatt |
| "Friends of DLNR" | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | |

BACKGROUND:

In 1993, 11% of the U.S. Navy's \$400M clean-up budget was allocated to the newly established Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (the KIRC) by the Hawai'i State Legislature. This one-time allowance became the **Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund**, earmarked to carry out long-term environmental restoration, archaeological and educational activities on the Reserve while held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. All activities were designed to carry out the terms and conditions of the MOU between the State and the Navy regarding the island's return.



Military exercises at Hanakanai'a, 1993. Courtesy Franco Salmoiraghi

During the development of the KIRC's second strategic plan in 2008, it was identified that this fund would be exhausted by FY2011/12. The KIRC re-engineered management, restoration and staffing, enabling operations to extend an additional 5 years. While this streamlined approach offered a viable solution to maintain current operations, it left zero funding for any future improvements or critical unforeseen events.

The KIRC has since worked diligently to establish a permanent funding source to allow for the continued restoration of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, recently proposing a Molokini use fee to the Legislature and significantly expanding grant programs - but - these charitable contributions are severely limited to funding *direct* project costs rather than critical infrastructure improvements needed to enable access to Kaho'olawe. It has become clear that Kaho'olawe operations can only be sufficiently funded by State sources.

WHAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR?

In recent years, the KIRC identified the Conveyance Tax as its most viable funding source, with current beneficiaries including programs with similar objectives as the KIRC and past legislation identifying Conveyance Tax revenue to be used to promote open space and environmental restoration. The KIRC saw much support this legislative session with the presentation of its Conveyance Tax bills, reaching the very last day of session. In the end, we passed both the House and Senate Hawaiian Affairs and Water & Land Committees, but did not receive the funding release from the House Finance and Senate Ways & Means to authorize the funds.



Volunteers enter Honokanai'a Beach beneath Kaho'olawe's post-Navy base camp. Courtesy Franco Salmoiraghi.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The KIRC has sufficient funds to meet its obligations both fiscally (grants obligations) and programmatically for FY2015 (July 2014 to June 2015). At the end of FY2015, we will not have enough in the Trust Fund to afford another year of operations; we will not be able to sustain on-island operations and will have to shut down on-island volunteer programs and the KIRC's Honokanai'a Base Camp. Program fund development and grassroots fundraising will continue.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We plan to keep the Reserve open for FY2015 and to continue all projects for which we are currently receiving funding. We will re-introduce the Conveyance Tax bill next session with the message that it's "do or die" for Kaho'olawe operations. We are approaching the DLNR administration about general funding in the State budget and a general fund appropriation request. We must now develop contingency plans to A) transfer portions of KIRC's responsibilities to other state agencies and/ or B) to completely shut down Reserve operations, prohibiting public access for all restoration, archaeological, educational and cultural activities.

Kaho'olawe still remains a responsibility and obligation of the State. If the KIRC does not have sufficient funding to fulfill those obligations, another state agency may have to be assigned those obligations. We look now to foundation, corporate and individual giving programs (p. 10) to fulfill our kuleana.



Courtesy Gadling



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.**

1. NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL PROGRAM

Your sponsorship supports archeological surveys – more than 3,000 historic sites and features identified to date; the exercise of traditional native Hawaiian cultural protocols, ceremonial practices and rites such as the annual planting ceremony, marking of solstices; care for iwi kūpuna; and collaborative cultural programs with Department of Education for high school and college students and curriculum development opportunities for teachers.

2. OCEAN RESOURCE PROGRAM

Your sponsorship fosters the conservation of marine resources within the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. Initiatives include coral reef monitoring, fish tagging and replenishment, and habitat monitoring for the health and proliferation of resident marine life including manō (shark), nai'a (dolphin), 'Ilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian Monk seal), honu (sea turtles), koholā (whale), seabirds such as 'iwa and koa'é 'ula, and literally hundreds of fish species.

3. RESTORATION PROGRAM

Your sponsorship underwrites the revegetation of Kaho'olawe with native species of trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbs; invasive species removal; the creation of a "seed bank" enabling a native plant community; controlling erosion and sediment run-off and expanding the island's rain catchment system to increase storage capability to supply continuing and future irrigation needs.

4. 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.

5. 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.

TWO WAYS TO DONATE

1. Contribute online! Make a one-time or monthly donation or establish an employer partnership through the Hawaiian Way Fund at hawaiianwayfund.org (Donor Designation #130).

2. Complete "Sponsor Information" below, indicating how your tax-deductible contribution should be directed, and send with your donation to 811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793.

SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Day Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

'Ae! I'd like to kōkua! Please direct my tax-deductible sponsorship contribution to (choose one):

The following program(s): _____

Wherever the need is greatest

Total enclosed (circle one): \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Other amount: \$ _____

Please make payable to: **Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund**

___ '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.*

