

KAHO`OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve ❄️❄️ Winter 2014 ❄️❄️

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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.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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



Earlier this summer, a working group including Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commissioners and staff, Office of Hawaiian Affairs staff, Aha Moku Advisory Council Chair and Executive Director, Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana members developed and initiated a process to gather critical community perspectives to develop the “Kaho`olawe: 2026”

strategic plan. Initially, the focus was to capture information from those with the greatest experience with or connection to the island.

From June — November 2013, sixteen State-wide focus group sessions were held. Meetings were hosted by the KIRC and PKO during which participants were asked to share their vision for the future of Kaho`olawe. The question posed “In the next 12 years from 2014 to 2026, what should be the ongoing and/or new functions for Kaho`olawe?” prompted participants to brainstorm on sources that could sustain these functions. Another key question posed to the group was “what will be the importance of Kaho`olawe to the Native Hawaiian governing entity?” addressing the possibility of a Sovereign Native Hawaiian Government being formed within this window of time.

The focus group sessions were vastly diverse; however, a common theme began to emerge from these meetings. It was difficult for many to identify or label what Kaho`olawe represents, but all believed that the island is unique. Unlike any other island, it is a special place and is extraordinary because of its history as an icon for the re-establishing of a Native Hawaiian identity. It is culturally and spiritually reconnecting a people to the land and sea. It offers vast educational value in the area of restoring a devastated landscape, developing a sustainable island lifestyle and expanding the body of knowledge for traditional Native Hawaiian arts and science.

The “Kaho`olawe: 2026” strategic plan working group aims to complete this initial phase by Spring 2014. Another series of group sessions will be conducted in Summer 2014 to gather feedback about the plan’s goals and to seek input for the major projects that could be accomplished in the next 12 years.

Please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/plan-strategic-2026 to share your mana`o. Your feedback is fundamental to this collaborative process. Mahalo!



Mahalo for helping us stay connected to our community!

Have a story, idea or photo to share? Email us at administrator@kahoolawe.hawaii.gov or connect with us via social media (see page 10).



Photo: Chad Trujillo

Mahalo, September — December 2013 Volunteers:
Jeff Brink • Alex Desha • Four Seasons Resorts Maui • Island Conservation • Island Pacific Academy • Kaiser High School • Mana Lane Farms • Montessori School of Maui • Dustin Palos • Queen Lili`uokalani Children’s Center Maui • Brandon Shoma • Daniel Southmayd • St. Anthony High School • State of Hawai`i Department of Land and Natural Resources Administrators and Friends • Ha`aheo Tiave • UH Maui College Marine Options Program • UH Maui College Sustainable Energy Program

For a detailed list of 2013 volunteers, please visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

THE ISLAND OF CHANGE

by Taylor Madayag, IPA Student (Kapolei, HI)

“The students and teachers, while restoring the island, had a chance to restore themselves.”

This Fall, sixteen O`ahu-based Island Pacific Academy (IPA) students participated in community service and restoration work on the island of Kaho`olawe. The students were chosen by IPA through an extensive selection process.

KIRC (Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission), the group of dedicated, hardworking people who work to preserve and protect the nature and beauty of Kaho`olawe, helped to make this trip memorable and fun. Aside from the physical work, we also had a chance to perform spiritual and mental work. The students and teachers, while restoring the island, had a chance to restore themselves. The simplicity of the island; having no phones, no connection whatsoever to the outside world, but with good food and good company, gave us a chance to appreciate the things that we have right in front of us.

IPA senior Mary Helen Gustafson said, “Going to Kaho`olawe was the opportunity of a lifetime and has changed me forever. I learned how important and rewarding it is to give back to the community and the value of working with others. It took an extensive amount of work to accomplish what our group did — removing thorny kiawe trees, feeding them into the wood

chipper to make mulch for planting new, baby trees, and helping to control soil erosion on the top of the summit — it was hard work, but very rewarding.”

Kaelyn Estenson, a junior, said, “On Kaho`olawe, I learned a lot about its history and culture that I didn’t have the chance to know or to be a part of before. My peers and I got to explore what a positive role in the community looks like, and experience ways in which human beings can positively impact the world. This was

Instead of hurrying to get to your next class, you’re worrying about these little seedlings and if they’re going to survive and grow into beautiful plants, if rain is going to come to the island. We learned about the stars and different types of plants, and stories about the ancient Hawaiians. I felt more connected with the Hawaiian culture and the land than I have ever felt before. It was amazing.”

Many say that the island and the people changed them. Science teacher Michelle Bradley said, “Our trip to Kaho`olawe affirmed that what we do at IPA is making a difference. Our students gave of themselves to better a damaged island without complaining or backing down. This trip to the “Island of Change” was life-changing to each of us in our own way and brought us closer together as a community.”

The students had the chance to get to know each other better without the restrictions of age and grade level; which all kind of faded away when we arrived on the island. The trip taught us what it is like to do something for people other than ourselves, how to give back to the community through selfless acts, and how to connect with the `aina.



The group striking a pose on Kaho`olawe. Photo: Boz Schurr

a very powerful experience for me and I thank the KIRC staff for helping us to make the best of our time on the island.”

Freshman, Shaina Duran said, “This experience was truly breath-taking. Kaho`olawe to me is a place to learn and reflect. It teaches you sacrifice. We were giving up our phones, computers and games to come and help heal the island.

QUESTION FOR ACCESS VOLUNTEERS: How would you describe your experience in 3 words?



MARK HICKS
Four Seasons Resort
Maui, Kihei
moving, epic, spiritual



KATIE ERSBAK
Dep’t of Land & Nat’l
Resources, Honolulu
unique, eye-opening,
educational



RYAN CHANG
Honolulu
Labor, learning,
leashed-up



KODIE SOLIS-KALANI
Kamehameha Schools
Hawaii, Hilo
Fulfilling, revelation,
aloha



MICHELLE BRADLEY
Island Pacific
Academy, Kapolei
Life changingly
awesome

RESTORATION PROGRAM



Seabirds at Pu`u Koa`e: "Hill of the Tropic Bird"

"So that's where all the birds stay", exclaimed a member of the Kaho`olawe Island Faunal Restoration Working Group (KIFRWG) during an evening survey at Pu`u Koa`e. They stood in the dark on the bobbing deck of the `Ohua. With the aid of infrared and night vision binoculars, the sight was reminiscent of swarming bees on a honey comb. Hundreds of seabirds were silhouetted against the night sky, busily calling and searching for their mates and accompanying burrows.

Pu`u Koa`e (pictured here) roughly translates to "Hill of the Tropic Bird". Isolated from the main island of Kaho`olawe and an area known for breeding seabirds, Pu`u Koa`e is free from predators such as feral cats and rodents.

Between the months of April and November, Hawaiian seabirds seek refuge here to nest and raise their chicks. This is a particularly vulnerable time for seabirds; nesting in shallow burrows and announcing their location with their calls as they return each night from sea unintentionally identifies them to predators, like the invasive and highly intelligent feral cat. (Visit a Hawaiian seabird colony at night and you will be forever touched by the beautiful yet haunting sounds of the birds calling to their mates and chicks).

On the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve, there are many habitat-rich areas for seabirds to dwell, but these places are eerily quiet. The only seabirds found on land-based surveys typically are carcasses that have been unquestionably killed by feral cats. Archeological evidence from Kaho`olawe's firepits suggests that the Nene (*Branta sandvicensis*), `Ou (*Bulwerii bulwerii*), `Ake`ake (*Oceanodroma castro*), Koa`e Kea (*Phaethon lepturus*) and `Ua`u (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) all called Kaho`olawe home during the time of Hawaiian settlement. If the invasive feral cat

is removed from the natural habitat, these birds will again thrive on Kaho`olawe.

The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission was recently awarded a one million-dollar challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to eradicate feral cats, rats and mice. The grant project will involve multiple national conservation and restoration agencies who will work together to raise an additional one million dollars. The Kaho`olawe Island Faunal Restoration Working Group charter will serve as an outline for the forthcoming NFWF Steering Committee to help guide fundraising and management actions.

The Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission is charged with healing the kino of Kanaloa (restoring the environment of Kaho`olawe). As part of this responsibility, KIRC develops strategies for the environmental restoration of the Reserve, specifically addressing the issue of damaging, invasive mammals. This working group will review options for mitigating the impacts of these mammals on Kaho`olawe and develop recommendations that follow the



Photo: Andrew Wright

relevant guiding operating principles of Ho`ola Hou I Ke Kino O Kanaloa, the Kaho`olawe Environmental Restoration Plan: `ike pāpālua (guided by a vision with deeper insight into the quality of the environment); traditional ecological knowledge; systematic and connective approach; strategic restoration; observing and listening to the `āina; community and native Hawaiian involvement; and integrated research and action.

The Commission will formally review all recommendations and decide on a course of action that best fits their strategic policies. Visit us at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov for developing details.

OCEAN PROGRAM



Here: ʻopihi makaiaūli, Below: ʻopihi kōʻele (left), ʻopihi makaiaūli and ʻopihi ʻālinalina (right)

ʻOpihi are small limpets living in the intertidal region that are culturally important and have a significant role in the intertidal community. Hawaiians use ʻopihi as a food resource, for tools, and as a feature in numerous moʻolelo (traditional Hawaiian stories). In the past, the ʻopihi of Kahoʻolawe were described as being so large that beef could be cooked in the empty shells,

and men could pull themselves up the cliff by holding onto them. "Goat meat could be boiled in ʻopihi shells and the twenty-five cents worth of beef bought in Lahaina could be cooked entirely in the ʻopihi shells of that locality, not

the ʻopihi dived for but that which clung to the sea cliffs." — A.D. Kahalelio

ʻOpihi populations around Kahoʻolawe are closely monitored due to their cultural and ecological significance. The KIRC Ocean Program accomplishes this monitoring through a collaborative effort with many different agencies, including the Division of Aquatic Resources, the Nature Conservancy, Hawaiʻi Fish Trust, Haleakalā National Park, University of Texas A&M and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA). Together, we utilize a standardized methodology to help complete site surveys — a collaboration that allows for large areas of the coastline to be quickly surveyed, comparable data to be acquired, and inclusivity with our community in monitoring and managing ʻopihi stocks.

In August 2013, with the help from

these partners, we were able to survey all ʻopihi sites and learn a new rapid assessment technique. These skilled volunteers counted all three species of ʻopihi on Kahoʻolawe, as well as other invertebrates within the survey area, providing information on population size, size distributions, associations/ competition with other invertebrates and more.

These three species of ʻopihi occupy different areas of the intertidal region and are faced with different environmental

conditions. They have slightly different physiology, and can be impacted differently by harvesting pressure. Highest on the shore lives the ʻopihi makaiaūli, or blackfoot ʻopihi, which generally has a tall shell with even ridges and can become very weathered over time. Next along the water's edge on the crustose coralline algae you can find the ʻopihi ʻālinalina or

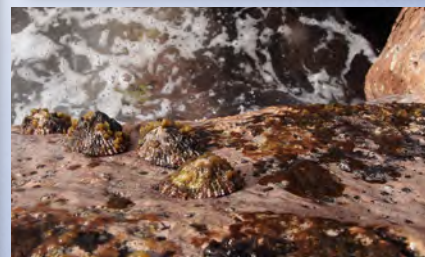
the yellow foot ʻopihi. These ʻopihi have an oval shaped shell which is generally wearing a cap of limu (seaweed), with irregular ridges that extend past the edge of the shell. Below the waves you

can find the final species, the ʻopihi kōʻele or the giant ʻopihi. Kōʻele are the largest of the three species, have a lower profile and more rounded shell and can be found at the water's edge to about 5 feet below the surface.

ʻOpihi continue to have an important role in the Hawaiian culture. With the help of these strong collaborations, we will help ensure the populations survive and thrive for generations to come.



Photo: Chad Trujillo



KIRC OPERATIONS & 2014 GOALS

ONE STEP CLOSER TO GREEN



KIRC is pleased to announce the successful completion of its Base Camp Photovoltaic Energy project — a critical step in the long-term goal of converting all Kaho`olawe operations to green energy.

A \$25,000 grant from the County of Maui, Office of Economic Development (January 2013) funded the project while a remarkable collaboration with the University of Hawai`i Maui College helped to realize the vision.

While receiving training in photovoltaic systems design at UH Maui College, KIRC Resource Conservation Specialist Lyman Abbott developed working relationships with UHMC Professors Stuart Zinner and Carlton Atay.

“We were very excited about this collaborative opportunity for students to get hands-on experience with off-the-grid photovoltaic systems, while also developing a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Hawaiian cultural

values associated with Kaho`olawe,” states Zinner. “Students from both our 193V Internship in Sustainable Technology class and Engineering Technology and Electronic & Computer Engineering Technology programs participated. The support and leadership of Brian Lampshire from Rising Sun Solar was a tremendous asset, as well as the contributions of electrician Daniel Wine and his son Eddie.”

Working alongside Abbott, Zinner, Atay, and Rising Sun Solar and Electric, the class assembled and tested the system on campus, disassembled, packed and shipped it to Kaho`olawe, and then reassembled and installed it at base camp in Honokanai`a.

The two main Base Camp berthing huts powered by this project house approximately 1,000 staff and volunteers annually. An annual 15.5 ton-reduction in CO2 emissions into the atmosphere, or 310 tons over the life of the photovoltaic system, will be achieved — significantly

reducing the KIRC’s carbon footprint.

“For the past three 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,” explains KIRC Executive Director Michael Nāho`opi`i, “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. Our vision is to create a completely renewable energy power grid on Kaho`olawe utilizing wind and solar energy. This project is a critical starting point in this direction. We are proud to partner with the next generation, who will become the new stewards of Kaho`olawe, as we make this vision a reality!”

Read more about KIRC’s developing collaboration with University of Hawai`i Maui College on page 7.

LEGISLATIVE GOALS FOR 2014

On December 11, 2013, KIRC Commissioners voted in a comprehensive three-part legislative package for the 2014 legislative session. You can support these legislative initiatives by providing testimony either in person or on-line when these bills come up for hearings. Learn more about KIRC legislative initiatives at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov.

1. CONVEYANCE TAX: KIRC proposes a portion of Conveyance Tax revenues to be used to supplement the Kaho`olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund for the long-term rehabilitation and maintenance of the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve. Currently this work is financed through grant awards and a percentage of the 1993 U.S. Navy cleanup budget, which is anticipated to be exhausted by the end of FY2016. Conveyance Tax is a progressive deed transfer tax applied to all transfers of real property. The balance is then transferred into the State’s general fund. Current recipients of conveyance tax funding include the Natural Area Reserves, Legacy Lands and Affordable Housing.

2. ASSET FORFEITURE BILL: This bill authorizes the KIRC to use asset forfeiture or seizure of property in the event of a crime within the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve. The sheer volume and last-minute negotiations of bills heard last session (2013) caused

the bill to stall before its final committee vote and presentation on the House Floor. Through ongoing communications with the Maui boating community, the bill has been amended to serve the best interests of everyone. We hope for a hearing and vote this session.

3. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: KIRC requests Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding to develop a sustainable energy and infrastructure system for Kaho`olawe. This request entails major infrastructure changes to the island that will sustainably expand access for the people of Hawai`i. In support of creating the first energy independent island in Hawai`i, the largest portion of this request will support a stand-alone, battery storage photovoltaic energy system for Kaho`olawe that will reduce — and eventually eliminate — the need for fossil fuels on-island.

PROTECT KAHO‘OLAWE ‘OHANA



STUDENT VOICES

The year 2026 commemorates 50 years since the Native Hawaiians and the people of Hawai‘i fought for the return of Kaho‘olawe. In preparation for this milestone anniversary, a consortium of stewardship organizations are creating a strategic plan for the Reserve from 2014 — 2026. To date, more than a dozen focus group sessions have been hosted throughout the State by the “Kaho‘olawe: 2026” Working Group.

In November, 2 focus group sessions were conducted on O‘ahu geared towards student voices and perspectives. This student-driven effort to collect stories about Kaho‘olawe was designed to further the work of the Working Group. These excerpts were submitted to the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to aid in this research:

Recently, we had the privilege to participate in a focus group to envision what the future of Kaho‘olawe might be through a process that explored our own personal relationships and experiences with the Island and each other. During the different stages of the focus group discussions and activities, we all learned many things and got to know people; some people we already knew, but we got to know them better. We really enjoyed starting with “Guts on the Table”, where we shared deeply of ourselves; as the day progressed, we worked with one partner exclusively and shared much of our thoughts and ideas with them. At the end of the day, we shared everything we had built based on our partners’ visions and ideas, and they shared what they interpreted and learned from us. “I learned more about myself through someone else’s eyes.” — Baylee J.

Becoming part of this process was harder for some of us because of a lack of personally experiencing the Kaho‘olawe journey; however, it was interesting to hear about other people’s experiences, and soon everyone was sharing ideas of what is important and special about Kaho‘olawe. “It was interesting to hear someone’s experiences of Kaho‘olawe even though they have never been there.” — Joey C.

We learned what others think about Kaho‘olawe and shared our thoughts on the island and our relationship to it; we learned deep things about ourselves and others; and we learned a unique history of Kaho‘olawe through everyone’s different experiences. It was very moving to hear about what others hold sacred and the deep emotion that people feel when they talk about the Island. “When another group member said: *You see the sunrise every day but on Kaho‘olawe it is different because it hasn’t changed for hundreds of years*’ I felt it too.” — Kailee R.

Our groups were made up of high school and college students, teachers and other education professionals, a mother and daughter, cultural practitioners and experts on Kaho‘olawe, and a local government official. It was cool to see how our alumni could participate in this process too, through Google Hangout video-conferencing. It showed us that people near and far can experience and contribute to the future of Kaho‘olawe.

We are grateful for being involved in this process to continue the healing and restoration of Kaho‘olawe, and to envision the future of the sacred and beautiful island.

CULTURE PROGRAM

HUI KĀPEHE

Earlier this year, the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission announced a \$302,837 grant awarded through Alu Like, Inc.'s Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program. Designed to "develop and establish programs that prepare Native Hawaiians to be a competitive force in the workplace through completion of rigorous and culturally appropriate career and technical education programs", KIRC created the Hui Kāpehe Program.

In partnership with UH Maui College, the Hui Kāpehe Program offers paid work-related experience, community service learning, and job shadowing opportunities related to career and technical education (CTE) focusing on sustainability and Hawaiian culture. Sixty college students of Native Hawaiian descent will be accepted for intensive internships in one of KIRC's core program areas: Operations, Ocean, Restoration, Culture and Administration. Program goals are to:

1. expand Native Hawaiian students' career opportunities in career and technical education programs;
2. produce graduates who value the importance of being productive, contributing citizens in their communities and society at large;
3. provide students with industry standard experience that will boost the students' marketability and employability in training related areas.

Hui Kāpehe applications are now being accepted. Interested candidates may apply for a paid internship in one or more of the KIRC program areas shown below. Please visit us online at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/HuiKapehe.shtml for further information and eligibility criteria.

"KIRC's mission is to protect the natural and cultural resources of Kaho`olawe and to restore its damaged environment for the people of Hawaii, eventually for a recognized sovereign Native Hawaiian entity as illustrated in the State of Hawai'i statute that created KIRC: HRS 6K. By targeting students of Native Hawaiian descent, we strive to motivate and prepare the next generation to carry forth this kuleana (responsibility) and to be inspired to continue this work." — KIRC Executive Director Michael Nāho`opi`i

"The Obama Administration is committed to strengthening the nation's skilled workforce and expanding innovative training options," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said. "The skills students learn through these programs will prepare them to succeed in college and careers in Hawaii and contribute to a strong economy and our global competitiveness." — U.S. Secretary of Education

"This critical education funding demonstrates our nation's commitment to the Native Hawaiian community. These career and technical education programs will help empower Native Hawaiian students with the skills they need to succeed professionally during these difficult economic times. Our state's economy as a whole benefits when dedicated men and women can access quality jobs and greater opportunities." — Hawai'i State Senator Mazie K. Hirono



OPERATIONS

Provides transport, accommodations, maintenance, manpower, and overall safety within the reserve.



OCEAN

Fosters the conservation of marine resources within the Reserve emphasizing ancestral and traditional knowledge and integrating ancient and modern resource management techniques



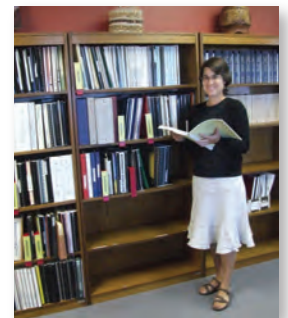
RESTORATION

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



CULTURE

Responsible for the care and protection of Kaho`olawe's cultural resources and the expansion of meaningful, cultural use of the island.



ADMINISTRATION

GIS mapping and web development; marketing, graphic design and educational outreach; library, archive and collections management; fund development, public relations; finance and human resources; the Volunteer Program and more.

HUI KĀPEHE APPLICATION

HUI KĀPEHE PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled

Failure to complete all sections may disqualify your application.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION:

UH I.D. #: _____ EFC #: _____

Name: LAST _____ FIRST _____

Email: _____

Male ___ Female ___ // Full-time student ___ Part-time student ___

Permanent mailing address:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

Address While Attending UH Maui College:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell: _____

hawaii.edu e-mail address: _____

For Official Use Only:

___APP ___NHA ___TRANS ___ UH Pic. I.D.

2. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Hawai'i Resident (Y / N): _____

If No, State of Residence: _____

___ Single ___ Married ___ Divorced ___ Widowed

Children(Y/N): ___ No. & Ages: _____

Ethnicity (check all that apply):

___ White

___ Black or African American

___ Asian

___ American Indian or Alaska Native

___ Native Hawaiian

___ Other Pacific Islander

___ Refuse to answer

Other _____

3. EDUCATION STATUS:

Last School Attended or Currently Attending: _____

Highest Level of Education Completed? _____

Are you the first in your family to attend post secondary school or college (Y / N): ___

Which of these did you receive? ___ H.S. Diploma ___ GED ___ Neither

What high school did you attend for 12th grade? _____

Major: (No abbreviations please) _____

Degree being sought: _____

Expected date of graduation: _____

I attest that all of the information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide supporting documents and further verification upon request.

X _____

Signature and Date

Mahalo for applying for the Spring 2014 Hui Kāpehe Program. Please be sure that you have filled in all sections. Supporting documents will be required upon acceptance. QUESTIONS? Contact Kuiokalani Gapero, Cultural Resources Project Coordinator at huikapehe@kirc.hawaii.gov

Mail this page and supporting documents to:
Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission at 811 Kolu St. Suite 201 Wailuku, HI 96793 or email to: huikapehe@kirc.hawaii.gov

For Official Use Only:

Received date: _____

Staff: _____

Indiv. Interv. Completed: _____

NEW COMMISSIONER, OLD FRIEND



Following the September 2013 appointment as Interim Commissioner by Governor Neil Abercrombie, Hōkūlani Holt was officially sworn in on December 11, 2013 at the KIRC commissioners meeting on O'ahu (pictured above with Mike Nāho`opi`i).

Holt's involvement with the island of Kaho`olawe began in 1979. Along with her halau, she joined Reserve accesses with the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana (PKO) each month for five years to prepare meals for those working to restore the land, perpetuate the culture and stop the weapons training on Kaho`olawe. "Our mission was simple then: stop the bombing."

More than 30 years later, (just 10 after the transfer of control of access to the island of Kaho`olawe from the U.S. Navy to the State of Hawai'i), Holt has experienced a growing community of Kaho`olawe stewardship organizations work to see how, why and for whom that mission will evolve — the impetus for the current "Kaho`olawe: 2026" strategic planning process. How, as a community, do we see the future of Kaho`olawe?

"When the bombing stopped (in 1990), it was a surreal moment. Plans needed to be made on how to move forward, but the politics of Kaho`olawe were not a large focus of mine. I was accustomed to being part of the support system." Holt joined the newly formed Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (1993) as its first Cultural Coordinator. Tasked with designing a cultural orientation program for every worker involved with

the island cleanup project (1994 – 2004), she recalls feeling "very supported" by archeologists and explosive ordinance detection workers. "Many of them were very conscious of what they were doing - blowing up holes in this 'place.' They were considerate, thoughtful, and wanted to do what was right to fix it."

Upon her appointment as Cultural Programs Director for the Maui Arts & Cultural Center in 2001, Holt continued to participate as a consultant in numerous studies and plans for restoration of the island's cultural and natural resources. Working with various Kaho`olawe stewardship organizations, she has identified a strong consortium of roles

"If you see Hawai`i as part of you, then that island is part of you. It's not outside of you, it is part of you."

and experiences that each can contribute to building a strong future for the Reserve. "If we focus on the things that each can do and to highlight the benefits for both the individual as well as the community, we will reach the people by working together as a whole."

Holt also believes that by strengthening our education and outreach efforts, we can "help (Kaho`olawe) be the best that it can be. If the groundswell from the people can occur than the legislature has to listen. And yet the legislature is the people - so if they don't know, what can we do?"

"This is an important period of transition for the KIRC, as we work with our community to develop a strategic plan for 'Kaho`olawe: 2026' and launch a new fund development action plan in response to the diminishing trust fund," remarks KIRC Executive Director

Michael Nāho`opi`i, "We are so pleased to welcome Aunty Hōkū as we prepare for the coming year's critical legislative session. Her knowledge and experience are invaluable to our work"

"To me, it seems like we have a unique opportunity to have a whole island be the "I wish" place," remarks Holt. "I still believe, as I did in the early years, that Kaho`olawe provides a unique space and place for learning Hawaiian cultural behaviors, beyond the archaeological and environmental. One of the reasons in the early years I kept going back every month is because it is a place where everyone is equal; everyone gets dirty the same way, sleeps the same way, eats the same way — it doesn't matter what you are on the other side of the ocean. When you come, you come for the PLACE - and I think that that is still important. In traditional Hawaiian culture, the farmer had very few tools- he had his 2 feet, his 2 hands and his o'o, and he fed thousands of people. I still hold that as something important in my mind; that as humans we bring ourselves - us - to the benefit of the greater good. Our intelligence, our physicalities, our talents and creativity are what is needed for the greater good."

"For all of these years, I think my hopes and wishes have not changed much because they are still for the life of that island. If you see Hawai'i as part of you, then that island is part of you. It's not outside of you, it is part of you. I don't think much has changed with my view that it is our responsibility to help it be the best that it can be. Just as a mother hopes for her children, you help them grow and be the best that they can be. I guide them in what I feel to be the right values and behaviors, but I also know that they have other kupuna DNA in them, and I want only the good for them to occur, so I see that for Kaho`olawe. We need to help the island be the best that it can be- and what is helpful for the community as a whole is for it to be fruitful; to have the plants growing, to have more people able to make that connection with the island, to guide and teach so that people can appreciate the island for what it is- not what they want to make it into. And what it is, is part of our homeland."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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, we advance Hawaiian heritage for generations to come. To this end, we offer the following opportunities for those wishing to help perpetuate these preservation efforts:

1

VOLUNTEER: In the healing process for Kaho`olawe, the KIRC relies on volunteers to get the job done. Through our Restoration, Ocean, and Cultural programs and the supporting Operations program, there are many varied volunteer opportunities that you can participate in, both on-island and in our Wailuku, Maui office. Visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer to download a volunteer application packet.

2

EDUCATE: Visit our website at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov for FREE teaching materials, classroom resources, videos, chants, historic documents and more. Contact us at (808) 243-5020 to make an appointment in our public-access library, located at our Wailuku headquarters. Outreach activities connected to the programs outlined below are offered year-round. Contact Kelly McHugh, Public Information Specialist at kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov for details.

3

COMMUNICATE: By sharing stories about Kaho`olawe, forwarding our e-news communications (<http://bit.ly/16a4cwJ>), inviting the KIRC to present at your community event or simply connecting with us through social media, (Facebook: KIRCMAUI, Twitter: KIRCMAUI, Instagram: @KIRCKAHOOLAWE), you ensure that our work is reaching new community members and maintaining relevancy with our current community. These relationships are invaluable to fulfilling our mission.

4

DONATE: Make a contribution of new or used equipment to support the KIRC mission (wish list at <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml>) or make a monetary gift by sponsoring one of the programs below.

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.

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`e `ula, and literally hundreds of fish species.

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.

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.

2 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: \$ _____

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.



Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
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Executive Director

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.

Catering from Soup to Nuts Inc.	The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
County of Maui Office of Economic Development	The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
The Department of Health (DOH) Clean Water Branch (CWB)	Earl Neller
Hawai'i Community Foundation	EJ Pelissero
Hawai'i Tourism Authority	
Maui Printing Company	

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 it is held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. Administratively attached to the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the KIRC receives limited federal funds designated for State responsibilities in its effort towards the preservation, protection, and rehabilitation of the land, surrounding waters and culture of Kaho'olawe. The KIRC Cultural Program integrates a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into all programs and activities. The organization is managed by a seven-member Commission and a committed staff.

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