

KAHO‘OLAWE

KO HEMA LAMALAMA | *Newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission* | Spring 2020

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Leadership + Legacy

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Welcome to *Ko Hema Lamalama*, the newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. Uncle Harry Mitchell interpreted this name as **the southern beacon**, which served as a source of light to weary travelers voyaging beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let *Ko Hema Lamalama* aid us in sharing a source of light from Kaho‘olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai‘i nei. *Photo Credit: Kelly McHugh-White*
This issue is made possible by supporters like you. Mahalo for helping us share Kaho‘olawe.

From the Director...



Executive Director
Michael K. Nāho'opi'i

The beginning of 2020 saw significant losses for Kaho'olawe as the island suffered a devastating wildfire and the passing of a longtime leader and spiritual advisor for both the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the KIRC.

The February 2020 wildfire began on Saturday the 22nd and burned approximately 9,000 acres of scrub grass on Kaho'olawe over six days. Initially, we were lucky that the fire swept passed the Honokanai'a Base Camp with little damage to the camp's infrastructure.

Unfortunately though, with a change in weather the fire reversed course and burned our upland storage facility, built during the Navy Cleanup Project in the early 2000s and commonly referred to as LZ Squid, which housed the majority of the KIRC's Restoration Program's tools, equipment and supplies.

The loss was significant and will set our restoration efforts back as we try to replace the materials and equipment needed to continue our planting projects. WE are grateful for the many generous donors who contributed to our Kōkua Kaho'olawe Fire Relief Campaign. We were also receiving positive support from the Legislature to help fund our recovery efforts, but with the advent of the COVID-19 crisis in Hawaii, we know our needs will have to take a backseat to the Statewide recovery efforts.

February also brought the passing of longtime Kaho'olawe kupuna and Native Hawaiian leader Leslie "Uncle Les" Aipu Aipalena Kuloloio. Uncle Les made a significant impact to the healing of Kaho'olawe and both the KIRC and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana remember him in a special feature in this newsletter.

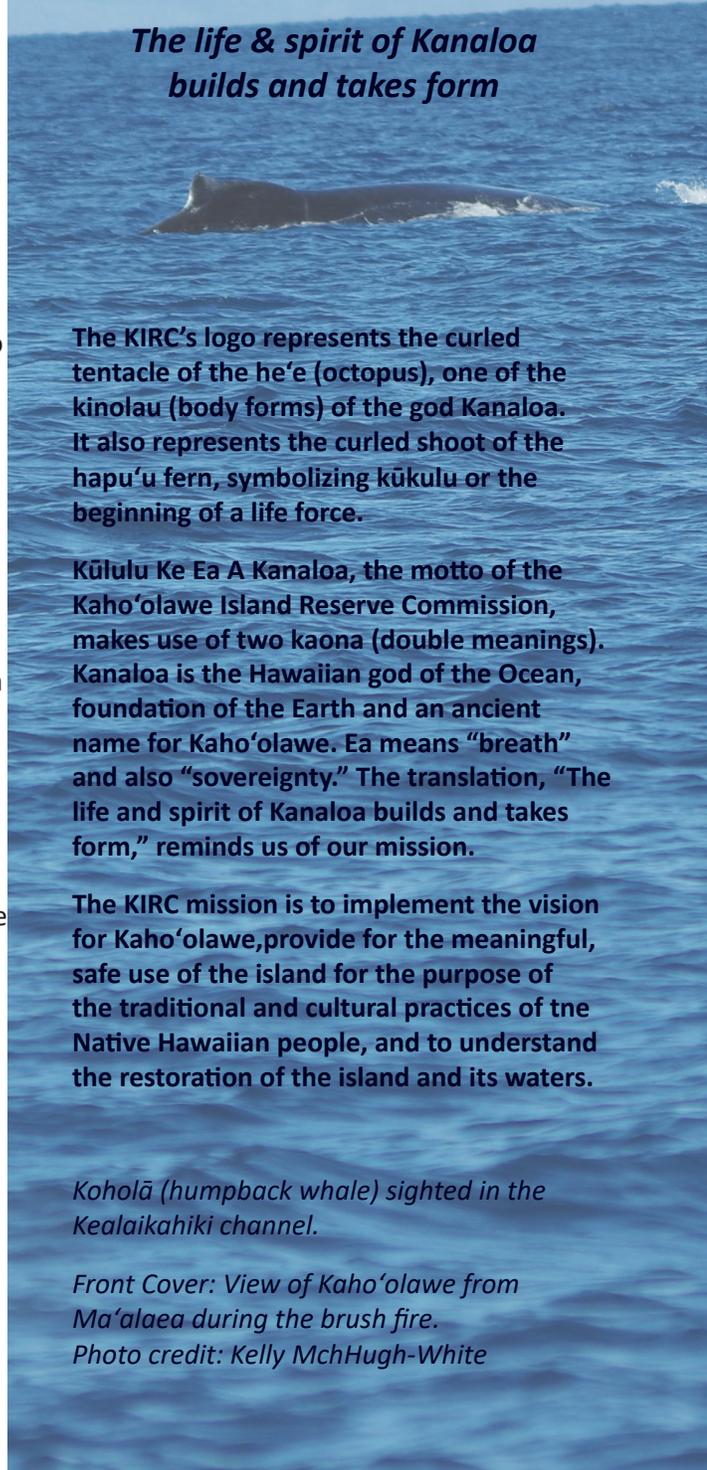
My memories of Uncle Les began as a Kamehameha high school student in 1981 where he and Uncle Harry Mitchell led the first children's group allowed on the island by the Navy. We hiked from Hakioawa to Kanapou on the first day and then to Pu'u Moiwi the next. Even today, I am amazed at how far we hiked. He showed us the many cultural sites that he and archaeologist Pat McCoy had mapped as part of the Navy's consent decree requirement to document the cultural resources of Kaho'olawe. Years later, when I returned to Kaho'olawe, I got to spend a lot of time with Uncle Les either meeting with the Navy, working on the cleanup project or sharing awa on the mua in Hakioawa. The last time I saw Uncle Les was just last year when he asked to return to Kaho'olawe with a few of his grandchildren so he could share with them his stories of Kaho'olawe. We will all miss Uncle Les's council and especially his unique way of sharing with us his thought provoking advice. Aloha, Uncle Les.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.K. Nāho'opi'i".

Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa



*The life & spirit of Kanaloa
builds and takes form*



The KIRC's logo represents the curled tentacle of the he'e (octopus), one of the kinolau (body forms) of the god Kanaloa. It also represents the curled shoot of the hapu'u fern, symbolizing kūkulu or the beginning of a life force.

Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa, the motto of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, makes use of two kaona (double meanings). Kanaloa is the Hawaiian god of the Ocean, foundation of the Earth and an ancient name for Kaho'olawe. Ea means "breath" and also "sovereignty." The translation, "The life and spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form," reminds us of our mission.

The KIRC mission is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, provide for the meaningful, safe use of the island for the purpose of the traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian people, and to understand the restoration of the island and its waters.

Koholā (humpback whale) sighted in the Kealaikahiki channel.

Front Cover: View of Kaho'olawe from Ma'alaea during the brush fire.

Photo credit: Kelly MchHugh-White

Remembering Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio

Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio, one of the first kupuna on Maui to support the efforts of the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻŌhana to stop the bombing of Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe, passed away on February 29, 2020. Affectionally known as “Uncle Les”, he, his family and extended the Kūkahiko ʻŌhana worked steadfastly to stop the bombing and military use of the island of Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe, and to restore the island and its cultural and natural resources.

The following extract was published on March 4, 2020 in The Maui News by Staff Writer Melissa Tanji in memory of Uncle Les:

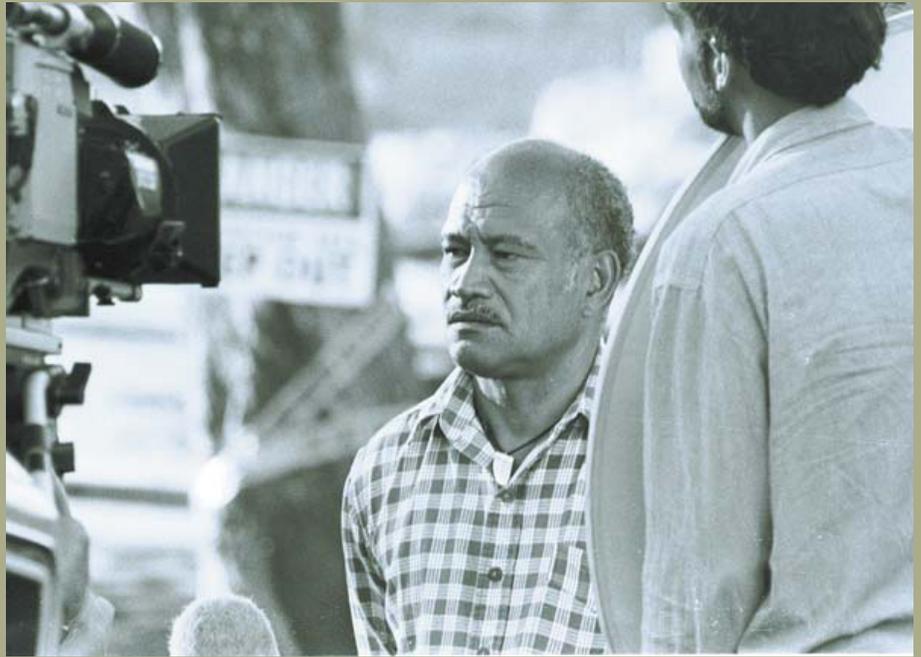


Photo courtesy of The Maui News.

Kuloloio was born Oct. 23, 1940, at Paia Hospital. He grew up in Skill Village, also known as Hawaiian Camp next to Paia Gym; Hamakuapoko and Hamakualoa; as well as in Makena, his family said.

He was a graduate of St. Anthony High School, where he played on a championship football team. He was also a black belt student of the late aikido teacher, Shinichi Suzuki.

Kuloloio served in the Army and was stationed in Italy, Iceland and other places in Europe.

When Kuloloio returned to Maui, he became a fisherman and a security guard for the shows of the late Loyal Garner and Don Ho. He also worked in production at The Maui News and in his later years assisted with Native Hawaiian cultural practices and teachings.

This included serving as a cultural adviser for Maui Lani Partners, which has encountered court battles over burials in its Central Maui developments. Leiane Paci, a partner with Maui Lani, said in an email Tuesday afternoon that Kuloloio’s work in culture and education took him all over the world but “his heart always guided him back to the sea.”

“He taught many children and adults about the ocean, its powerful currents and its creatures. He was a symbol of strength in overcoming the struggle of understanding what it means to be Hawaiian,” she said.

“He taught us that bridging the past and the present takes generational knowledge and compromise to succeed,” she added. “We suffered a great loss this week, and we will dearly miss Uncle Les’ big smile and impromptu musical entertainment, but his passion and knowledge continues to bloom in the many lives he touched.”

Kuloloio is survived by his three children, son, Manuel Wayne Makahiapo DeCosta Kuloloio (Cessna Zablan); two daughters, Francille Leina’ala DeCosta Vedder (Garrett Vedder) and Kekane Mana’opiliiaoe Kuloloio (Joshua Ponce); sister, Comfort Moana Sado; six grandchildren and partner, Helen Strang.

“His history with Kahoʻolawe spans a lifetime. He has seen and experienced Kahoʻolawe’s geological transformation and how it has transformed people from a political, cultural and spiritual standpoint. I was very blessed to spend time with Uncle Les on an access in November 2018 where he shared his ʻike, passion and aloha. Some say that Uncle Les spoke in riddles, but if you listened carefully there are nuggets of wisdoms there. You just have to take the time to see and feel how everything is connected. The memories and stories he shared are priceless and ones I will cherish and pass on. His mana and aloha will forever be imprinted on Kahoʻolawe in the hearts of those he has touched.”

– Carmela Noneza, KIRC GIS/LAN Specialist

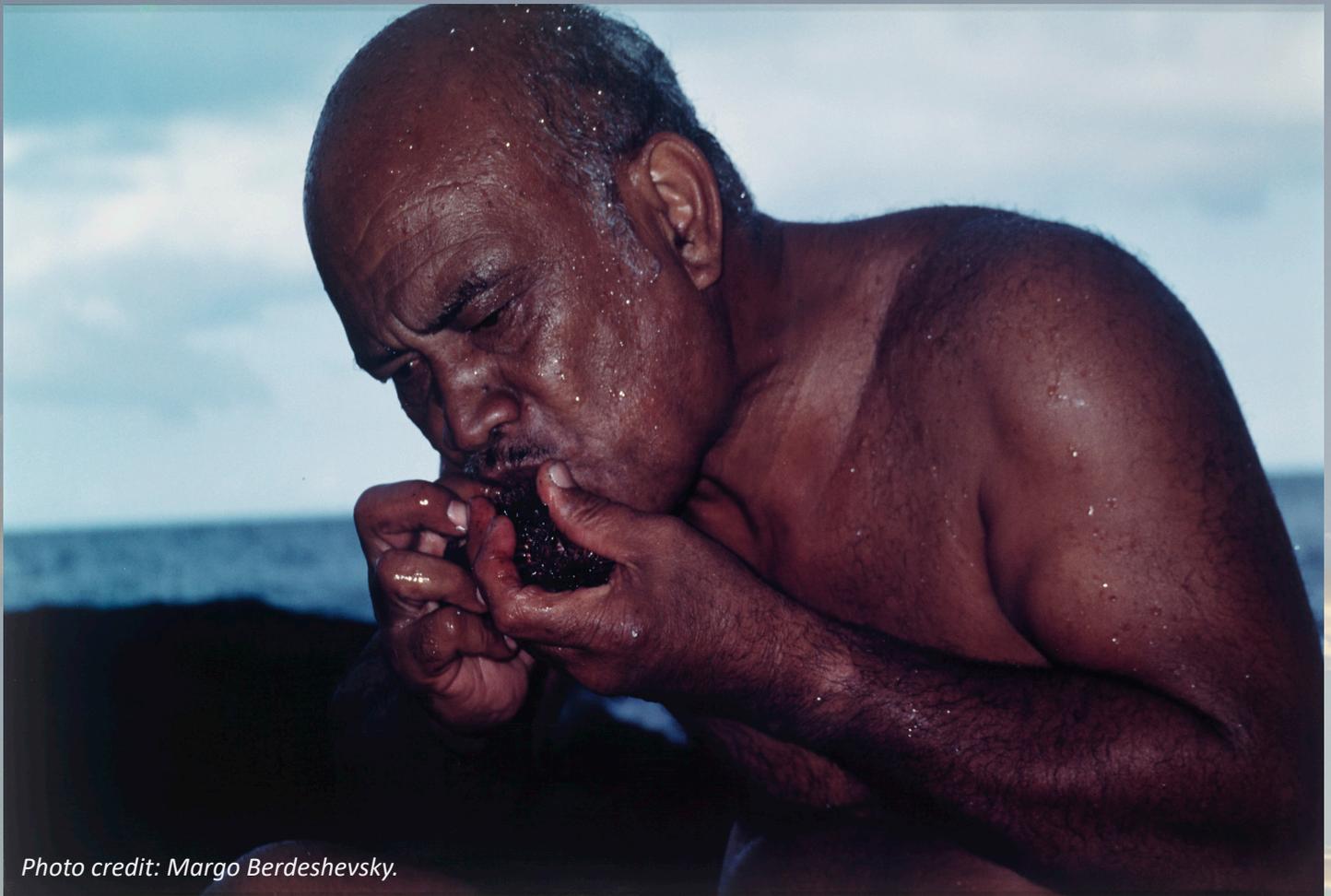


Photo credit: Margo Berdeshevsky.

Hali'a Aloha iā 'Anakala Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio

'Auwe, 'ūwe, 'auwe
 'Auhea 'oe e ku'u hoa o Kanaloa Kaho'olawe?
 Nā Mo'o Kū'ula i'a o Kanaloa i ke kai
 o ka mo'okū'auhau Kuloloī'a
 Ua 'imi iā 'oe ma Hakioawa
 Kahi o nā ko'a ma ke ala loa
 Holoholo ma nā kaheka lehulehu a Ku'iku'i
 Aia nā hā'uke'uke, 'opihi, 'a'ama, loli,
 wana a limu
 Ho'omana'o 'ia ka 'ono

Ua 'imi iā 'oe mai Ku'iku'i a Kūhe'eia
 a Ki'i me Honoko'a
 Kū mai nā nai'a 'ōlali
 Hei! Hei! Hei! kou kāhea
 Kilo mai Keālia (Maui) a Keāliāluna
 a Keāliālalo (Kaho'olawe)
 'Ike makai nā 'enenu, moano, a ka limu 'ele'ele
 Nāna i ka 'ohua,
 ka hūpē o nā koholā
 Papakī nā malolo i ke kai uli
 Hali'a Aloha iā Tutu Moloa
 Ka wahine lawai'a o Kaho'olawe

*Lament, cry, sorrow
 Where are you, our dear companion of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe?
 Of the lineage of priests of the fishing shrines of Kanaloa
 in the Sea of the Kuloloī'a Lineage
 We searched for you at Hakioawa
 Place of many fishing shrines along the around-the-island path
 Walking along the many tidepools toward Ku'iku'i
 There are the hā'uke'uke, 'opihi, 'a'ama, loli,
 wana with seaweed
 We remember their delicious taste*

*We search for you from Ku'iku'i to Kūhe'eia
 And Ki'i and Honoko'a
 A pod of shiny dolphins appear, gliding through the water
 Hei! hei! Hei! is your call
 You mark the line from Keālia (Maui) to Keāliāluna
 and Keāliālalo (Kaho'olawe)
 You spot the 'enenu, moano, and 'ele'ele seaweed
 And see the ball of manini,
 from the mucus of the humpback whale
 The flying fish skim over the deep ocean
 We fondly recall Tutu Moloa
 The fisherwoman of Kaho'olawe*

Ua 'imi iā 'oe ma Hanakanai'a
Aia i hea kou mau meheu?
Ma luna o Pualele i holo ai a puni 'o Kanapou
'Ohaehae mai ka makani
Holo i ka ma'awe ala o Kamohoali'i
Maka'ala! Nā manō!
Pae ma Keoneuli

Nānā ma'ō iā Keone'ōio
Kai uli i ka pō'ai'ai kumu akule
Aia paha 'oe ma ke Ala Nui o Makena?
Kani ka pele – haipule paha ma Keawala'i?
Kanikapila paha me ka 'ohana Kūkahiko
ma ke kai A'awa?
Hui paha me ka 'ohana o Kaho'olawe
i kou lānai ma Ma'alo?
E 'ima ana iā 'oe ma Pa'uwela i Puniawa
A i ka malu o Honokahua, i ke kai holu

'Olapa ka uila, lū mai ka hau i ka piko o Haleakalā
Ua hala i ke ahiahi
Nāpo'o ka lā i Kahikimoe
He hali'a aloha iā 'oe i ke kau a kau
Holo me mākou ma luna o Pualele i'Alalākeiki
a me Kealaikahiki
Hoe me mākou i ke ka'apuni o Kaho'olawe
Kau ka haili aloha iā 'oe i ka honi 'ala limu kala
o Molokini
Ho'olono i kou 'a'a –
E mau ke aloha 'āina
La'a, ma'a, pa'a!

E 'ike 'ia 'oe he 'iwa iolana i ka maka o ke ao
I laila nō 'oe, ua kau i ka Nu'uhiwalani
Me Kūnihi, Auntie Alice
a me Keau
Nā mo'o o nā papa 'ohana kai kaulana o Honua'ula
Nā puhi niho wakawaka o Kanaloa
'O Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio
Lamalama nā mana'o hālana pū
i nā 'aumakua

E ola nā iwi
Lele wale ka mana'o
Lele i ke kai o Kuloloi'a ma Māmala
Lele i ka lewa
'Āmama, ua noa

*We searched for you at Hanakanai'a
Where are your footprints?
Aboard Pualele, we sail around to Kanapou
The wind blows from all directions
We follow on the faint track of Kamohoali'i
Watch out! The sharks!
We go ashore at Keoneuli*

*Looking across to Keone'ōio
The swirling akule ball darkens the ocean
Perhaps you are on the King's Trail at Makena?
The bell rings, are you conducting service at Keawala'i?
Are you playing music with Kūkahiko relatives
at A'awa Bay?
Are you meeting with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
on your lānai on Ma'alo St?
We will search for you at Pa'uwela along Puniawa Bay
And in the calm of Honokahua, overlooking the swaying sea.*

*Lightning flashes, snow falls on the summit of Haleakalā
You pass into the evening
As the sun set toward Kahikimoe
We will fondly remember you from season to season
You will sail with us on board Pualele across the Alalākeiki
and Kealaikahiki Channels
You will paddle with us when we circuit Kaho'olawe
Smelling the fragrance of limu kala at Molokini will stir
memories of you
We hear your challenge to us -
Always strive to love and protect the land!
Hold our culture sacred, gain experience, stand firm!*

*We will see you as the 'iwa soar in the face of the clouds
There you are, placed in the highest heaven
With Uncle Harry Mitchell, Auntie Alice Kuloloio
and Uncle Charlie Keau
Progeny of the famous fishing families of Honua'ula
The fierce warriors of Kanaloa
Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio
Our thoughts are enlightened with hope
in our ancestral guardians*

*Long live your generations
Our thoughts take flight
Fly to the sea of Kuloloi'a at Honolulu harbor
Fly into the sky
It is complete, you are free*

The above Oli Kanikau Hali'a Aloha was composed by Davianna Pōmaika'i McGregor, Noa Emmett Aluli, Craig Neff, Luana Busby-Neff, Lopaka Aiwohi and Burt Sakata. The Oli recalls unforgettable moments with Uncle Les on the island and acknowledges how his memory will live on whenever the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana travels to, on and around the island of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe.

FEBRUARY FIRE

On February 22, 2020, a large brush fire began on the western end of the island of Kaho`olawe. Unfortunately, due to the danger posed by the presence of unexploded ordnance, firefighting crews were unable to actively fight the fire on the ground or by air. The terrain on the western end of Kaho`olawe consist of invasive non-native grasses and kiawe shrublands. The highly, fire-susceptible, non-native grasses greatly contributed to the extent and intensity of the Kaho`olawe fire.

The KIRC's Honokanai`a Base Camp, located on the southwestern end of the island was spared by the fire, but the KIRC's upland field storage area, commonly known as LZ Squid, suffered the complete loss of several storage structures, along with all of the equipment, supplies and materials stored in these buildings. The KIRC also lost several motor vehicles, pieces of construction equipment, and all-terrain vehicles used to maintain the island infrastructure and carry out restoration efforts.

After six days the weather turned, and rain began to extinguish the fire. The Kaho`olawe fire burned about 9,000 acres or about one third of the island of Kaho`olawe. The KIRC now begins the long road to recovery and restoring its ability to conduct effective and long-term ecological restoration efforts on Kaho`olawe.

Burnt surface of Kaho`olawe.



Fleet of pickup trucks (left) and old military vehicles (right) lost to the fire.

"I feel like a part of my hale burned down. Despite the feelings of sadness there are memories. Fond and funny memories of people like Alan Decoite (Cowboy) who designed and spearheaded that project that we called "Alan Town". And I think of Kiki, Lopaka and all of the others that help to build it. I remember Restoration staff and volunteers working to organize things and Paul's many reiterations in staff meetings on keeping it organized. I also remember having volunteers believe it was a Saloon where KIRC staff would go and unwind at night (I only did that once), and the stories others have made up too.

I feel transformation of place names over time is reflection of where people's mindsets are at during a particular time and space. During the course of the history of Kaho`olawe the names of the LZs have changed from the earlier "scavenger like" military names such as LZ Turkey, Buzzard, Eagle and Seagull to names that are pili to a place and it's characteristics such LZ Quail, Squid, Hakioawa, and Kanapou. In name alone LZ Squid reflects the changes of people's perspective. LZ Squid was our work hub and a reflection of our work as organization along with the help of many, many volunteers."

— Carmela Noneza, KIRC GIS/LAN Specialist

▼ *Reminents of the jetskis (left), chipper (middle) and all-terrain vehicles (right) destroyed at LZ Squid.*



“The first thing I felt as I flew over the island was fear that Base Camp, which is vital to operations on Kaho`olawe was damaged. That fear gave way to relief once we got to the island and saw that none of the critical infrastructure had suffered any damage. That relief was short lived though. The following day the fire jumped the main road and back burned into LZ Squid, destroying everything. Walking around the devastation was a real punch in the gut and a reminder how lucky and blessed we are to still have Base Camp.”

– Eric Brundage, KIRC Base Camp Manager



Remnants of the storage facility at LZ Squid.

“LZ Squid was a landing zone area used to re-fuel the intra-island helicopters that provided logistical support during the cleanup project. The idea for a building there came about in the years after the cleanup project. The KIRC needed one location to consolidate and store all the leftover supplies and equipment.

The facilities at LZ Squid were built using volunteer carpenters and a lot of the materials that were leftover from the cleanup. The main building was designed by Jeff Coleman, the lead volunteer carpenter, and Alan Decoite, a.k.a. “cowboy”, who was the lead on the KIRC side. Other characters of note that were heavily involved included Paul the surfer dude from Ukumehame, Uncle Mikey from Wahikuli, and Kiki Hee who has been involved with Kaho`olawe since her hana baddah days.

Over the years, LZ Squid served us well. It was our base camp away from base camp; a place to get a little peace and quiet while loading up our stuff for the week or to hide from the wind for a minute after a long day in the field.

I haven't been back there yet so I tend to forget that it's not even there anymore. As I write this though, I remind myself of this place and I am sad. I can still hear the wind gusting through the windows and the rattling barn door in the back, the chattering birds who made their nests in all the little crevices, the creaky container door that refused to ever shut all the way, and the sound of the raging ocean to the south. ”

– Lopaka White, KIRC Operations Specialist



Map showing the area burned by the fire.

“The phrase, ‘KIRC Base, Dean; please show myself going to LZ Squid’ was transmitted often over the KIRC airwaves. What this meant for me was knowing I was most likely going there to get the water that was harvested from the roof of Squid. This water (wai), or life, is what we used for all of our plantings in Honokanai`a that established the ‘Aki`aki, Naio, Milo, Pohuehue and Ohelokai and in return helped to protect Kanaloa the island from high threatening surf event and helped protect Kanaloa the ocean from heavy sedimentation runoff. Thank you Lopaka, Cowboy, Kiki, Jeff and every volunteer that helped build and contribute to the memories of LZ Squid.”

– Dean Tokishi, KIRC Ocean Program Manager



Remnants of the water catchment tanks destroyed at LZ Squid.



Fire line in the KIRC Honokanai`a Base Camp.

PROJECT PROGRESS



In January, KIRC Ocean staff participated in a training with Tracy Mercer from the Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program (HMSRP) to be able to conduct research and enhancement activities on Hawaiian monk seals on Kaho'olawe. The training, and any research conducted by the KIRC Ocean team over the next few years, falls under the National Marine Fisheries Service Permit #22677, which is a requirement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972) and the Endangered Species Act (1973) for anyone trying to carry out research or enhancement activities designed to recover the endangered Hawaiian monk seals.



NOAA HMSRP Supervisor Tracy Mercer and KIRC Ocean Resource Specialist Dean Tokishi applying a bleach mark to a resting seal, an activity permitted under NMFS Permit #22677.



Tracy Mercer, NOAA Monk Seal Research Program Supervisor and KIRC Ocean Resource Specialist Courtney Kerr documenting a monk seal hauled out in Kealaikahiki.



Three of the Hawaiian Monk Seals sighted and documented in the 'ili of Kealaikahiki in January 2020 (above). Tracy Mercer documenting a resting seal (right).

Hawaiian Monk Seals Sighted on Kaho'olawe in January 2020

Seal	Sex, Maturity	Born on...	Born in...
RG34	Male, Sub-adult	Kaho'olawe	2015
RK66	Male, Adult	Kaho'olawe	2011
RW12	Male, Adult	Moloka'i	2008
RL82	Male, Juvenile	Lana'i	2019
Y6FD	Male, Adult	French Frigate Shoals	2012
Unknown	Female, Juvenile	Unknown	Unknown

Six individual seals were sighted and photographed on Kaho'olawe during the training (see table below). All of the males had tags and were identified in the HMSRP Hawaiian Monk Seal Tag database. The female sighted was a juvenile and did not have a tag. Four of the males were born in Maui Nui. Y6FD, who was born in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands in 2012, hadn't been seen since 2014!



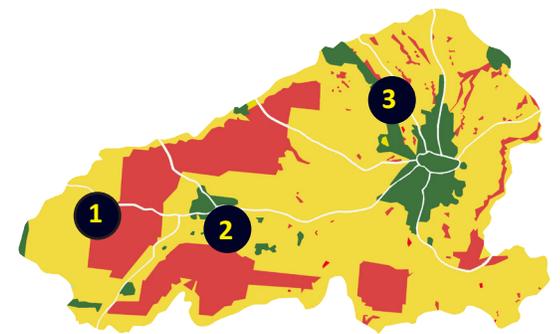
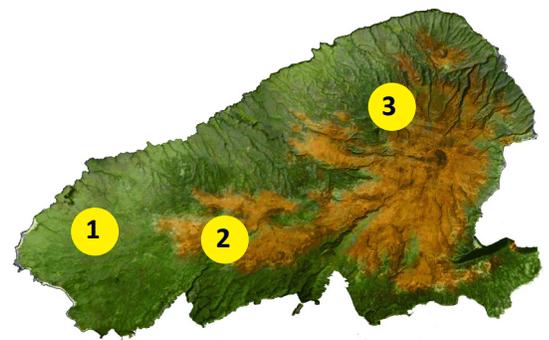


National Park Service representatives conducting a survey on Kaho'olawe in January.



The KIRC Restoration staff partnered with the U.S. Forest Service in January, as part of the Nationwide Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, to conduct the first ever FIA survey on Kaho'olawe.

The FIA program, which has been in operation since 1930, serves as a continuous forest census, providing an comprehensive inventory and analysis assessment of America's forests. The program projects how forests are likely to appear in the near future, based on a variety of characteristics.



UXO and fragments discovered in a Tier I level clearance area by the Restoration staff in the FIA survey plot site ② near Kealialalo.

Areas in three different watersheds (① Lae Paki, ② Waikahalulu, and ③ Kaukamoku) were surveyed, and specific plot locations were chosen from areas that had either surface or subsurface clearance (see above maps).

Despite an extensive clean-up effort, nearly 30% of Kaho'olawe's surface remains uncleared of unexploded ordnance (UXO), which are represented in red in the above map. Yellow identifies areas that were surface cleared, while green indicates areas that were subsurface cleared to a depth of four feet.

MAHALO NUI

TO OUR CURRENT MEMBERS AND DONORS

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Benton Pang
Amy Smith
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Katherine Steinberg
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Julia Willams
Kaleo Wright

5 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED



Access our FREE online resources including the *Mālama Kaho’olawe* curricula (grades 7-12), *Living Library* and *Kaho’olawe Island Guide* mobile app.



Schedule an appointment in our office library or visit our e-news, blog, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram outlets, (links on back cover).



Make a tax-deductible donation to support Kaho’olawe or make a contribution of new or used equipment. Wish list at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml.



Volunteer with KIRC at the Maui Ocean Center or schedule a group work day at our Kīhei site and share your love for Kaho’olawe with others!



Request a KIRC speaker for your club or classroom, and/or testify! The Legislative Session lasts from Jan - May; register at capitol.hawaii.gov for hearing notices.

Aloha Kaho'olawe

Individual donations are critical to our efforts to protect, restore and preserve the ocean and land of this important cultural reserve. Aloha Kaho'olawe is a campaign to support restoration and access. We invite participation via membership donations, partnerships and legislative support. By building consensus that there is value in the historical, cultural, ecological and community building resources shared through Kaho'olawe, we aim to share this special place now and for generations to come.

Send this completed form with your donation to:
811 Kolu Street, Suite 201 | Wailuku, HI 96793.

Checks may be made payable to Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. You can also give online at kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name and/ or company

Address

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- PATRON (\$500 & up)
- BENEFACTOR (\$100-\$499)
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- OTHER _____

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- Hat (one size fits most)
 - Camo Orange Camo Green Teal
 - Blue Green
- Shirt
 - M L XL
 - Blue Orange

Comments:

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

Benefits Include	Giving Level		
	Patron	Benefactor	Sustainer
Kaho'olawe Card Set	✓		
VIP access to Maui Ocean Center	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Tee or Hat (while supplies last)	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Sticker (while supplies last)	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to Ko Hema Lamalama	✓	✓	✓
e-News Enrollment	✓	✓	✓
Mahalo	✓	✓	✓

Native Ma'o flourishing on Kaho'olawe with KIRC Ocean Resource Manager Dean Tokishi and Haleakalā in the background.

