



KAHO'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

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.

Kanapou Clean-up 2006

By: Kūhea Paracuelles

On Saturday, September 26th, twenty-six KIRC staff and volunteers gathered at Kaho'olawe's Kanapou Bay to collect and extract more than five tons of marine debris. The event was held in conjunction with the statewide "Get the Drift and Bag It!" and the International Coastal Clean-up, both of which are held annually. Kalani Dapitan and Bill George from Maui's Community Work Day Program were on hand to assist with preparations for the big day as well as picking up the myriad of debris, including plastic bottles and baskets, footwear, and derelict fishing gear.

Every item collected during the clean-up was catalogued by the NOAA Marine Debris Program. Coordinator Carey Morishige has led the data collection for the Kanapou Clean-up for the past five years. She has witnessed the negative impacts of marine debris on Hawai'i's beaches and marine life firsthand and recognizes that few places can compare to Kanapou in terms of the amount of trash that the currents bring in each year.



Derelict nets

The KIRC leads the annual Kanapou Clean-up each September with participation from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), Community Work Day, and others. Unlike most other beach clean-ups, the KIRC staff has to commit to careful planning for transporting the manpower needed for the job. The vertical to near vertical cliffs surrounding Kanapou Bay allow only two ways to access Kanapou, by boat or by helicopter. Most of the group accessed the beach via KIRC's vessel, the Hākilo. Captain Lindsey and his crew did an excellent job of getting staff and volunteers to and from the boat safely, while Pacific Helicopters provided air transportation for others.



Kanapou Bay before the clean-up



KIRC staff and volunteers picking up trash

The presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on Kaho'olawe presents unique challenges, unlike other beach clean-ups around the State. The beach and waters of Kanapou needed to be swept for UXO prior to the clean-up to make sure that the area was safe for staff and volunteers to access. On the day of the clean-up, one last sweep was made by KIRC UXO Specialist Jim Leonard and volunteers Kai Chung and Herbert Ordonez, both of whom worked on the UXO clearance project, which ended in 2003. They supervised the group to ensure that the debris was being removed carefully and safely.

Overall, it turned out to be another successful clean-up, thanks to the many hands that made it possible. A special mahalo goes to Costco Wholesale, Maui Soda & Ice Works, Frito Lay of Hawai'i, Ka'ōnohi Lee, and Mei Mailou-Santos who donated food and drink items for all of the staff and volunteers that day. The KIRC also wishes to extend its appreciation to all of the volunteers who gave their time and energy to the clean-up. Mahalo nui loa!



Kanapou Bay after the clean-up



Ocean Resources

'OPIHI MONITORING BY: DEAN TOKISHI

Limpets, or 'opihi in Hawaiian, are a highly sought after and valued delicacy by the people of Hawai'i. They also play an important role in maintaining the health and balance of the marine coastal ecosystem. 'Opihi feed by grazing on the limu (algae) that grows on the rocky coastline. Healthy 'opihi stocks help to control unwanted limu blooms as well as help prevent certain other marine species from overpopulating. However, the State's 'opihi resources have been severely over harvested, making it very challenging to monitor their population.



Ocean Resources Specialist Koa Kukea-Shultz collecting valuable 'opihi data using a photo-quadrat.

Three endemic 'opihi are found within the Reserve: The 'opihi makaiaūli (black-foot); the 'opihi 'alinalina (yellow-foot); and, the 'opihi ko'ele (giant). All three inhabit different parts of the tidal level, creating surveying challenges due to water conditions such as waves and tide changes. By implementing the use of a photo-quadrat and a global positioning system (GPS), staff members are able to collect data in hard to reach areas quickly and safely. The photo data can then be analyzed on a computer to measure any size and recruitment changes. In the near future the Ocean Resources Program hopes to incorporate 'opihi tagging into the monitoring program. By tagging 'opihi using non-invasive methods, staff will be able to determine growth rates as well as any migration patterns. This valuable information can lead to proactive management of 'opihi and ensure that this valuable resource will be around for generations to come!



'Opihi makaiaūli co-existing with hā'uke'uke

Work is being done by the Ocean Resources Program to gain further understanding of the variability of 'opihi abundance and distribution within the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve (Reserve). This is important for understanding the significance of the Reserve and the possible role it may be playing in helping to re-stock neighboring Hawaiian islands with 'opihi.



Restoration

FAUNAL RESTORATION: THE FEASIBILITY OF RESTORING KAHO'OLAWE AVIFAUNA BY: JAMIE BRUCH

In January of 2006, a pair of Mōli or Laysan Albatross were seen flying over Lae o Kealaikahiki. The restoration volunteers were awed by these majestic seabirds as they were flying over to the group to get a better look. What were they doing there? Were they looking for a place to nest?



Mōli over Kealaikahiki

Currently, the most productive seabird nesting grounds on Kaho'olawe are Pu'u Koa'e and 'Ale'ale. Every year 'u'au kani (wedge tailed shearwater), koa'e 'ula (red-tailed tropic bird), koa'e kea (white-tailed tropic bird) use the sea stacks to nest and breed. There are also records of 'ou (bulwers petrel), and the 'u'au (dark-rumped petrel) nesting on these sea stacks.



'U'au kani like this one breed on Pu'u Koa'e

Since Pu'u Koa'e is detached from the main island of Kaho'olawe, it is free of mammalian predators such as cats and rats and provides the birds with a safe place to hatch eggs. It is planned in 2007 to begin a feasibility study on Kaho'olawe on how to remove predators in order to enhance the seabird population across the entire

island. With the loss of habitat on other Hawaiian Islands Kaho'olawe, a pu'u honua, presents a unique opportunity for harboring native birds. Seabirds can also enrich the soil from their guano, adding nutrients to help 'heal' the land and making it more productive for plants. If alien predators can be removed from Kaho'olawe, nēnē and other Hawaiian land birds can be re-introduced. As the Restoration program works to restore the island with native plants, we know that is only part of the process; the next step is to begin faunal restoration of the island.



Culture

KĀHOLO KA LANI; PLANTING CEREMONY BY: KAPONO'AI MOLITAU

“Uē ka lani, naue ka hōnua,
ne'e ka hōnua, ōla'i ka
hōnua, ho'ola ka hōnua.”

The heavens weep, the earth moves, the earth shifts, the earth splits, the earth lives. How fitting is such a saying to acknowledge the many hō'ailona that have unfolded itself to all those who have witnessed and participated in this year's Kāhōlo Ka Lani



Rain Ko'a

Planting Ceremony at Moa'ulanui and Pu'u Mahoe on the slopes of Haleakalā. This year's planting ceremony at Moa'ulanui called for the Nāulu rains to come and bring the waters of life to the land of Kaho'olawe and bless all the mea kanu that were planted. The ceremonies held at Pu'u Mahoe were to call the Nāulu rains and send them from Ulupalakua across to Kaho'olawe.

All those who participated brought waiola from their ahupua'a to offer as ho'okupu as well as other offerings of hula, oli, and mea kanu. The kūpuna that were beckoned surely arrived in all forms. From the soothing makani that came from Alenui-hāhā to the melodies of chant from O'ahu a lua to the pa'akai from Hanapepe Kaua'i, the ho'okupu were a blessing and just a beginning of what was to unfold. Our day on Moa'ulanui and Pu'u Mahoe brought together many participants that share in the values of calling our kūpuna and the mana of cultural protocol. Participants from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, 'Īlio'ulaokalani, Hālau Mōhala Ilima, Pua Ali'i Ilima, Nā Hanona Kūlike 'O Pi'ilani, Nā Koa Kau I Ka Meheu O Nā Kūpuna, Pā Ku'i A Lua, Living Indigenous Forest Ecosystem (LIFE), and 'Ohana Kai'aokamaliele helped bridge the Nāulu clouds from Ulupalakua to Moa'ulanui with the correct mindset and pule.

As our day ended with the planting and 'aha 'aina, everyone noticed the thick billowing cloud formation making its way to Kaho'olawe. As our cultural practitioners returned to Maui via the Trilogy we all witnessed the cloud fall upon Kaho'olawe and shower our kūpuna with the “waters of life.” It was a profound hō'ailona and everyone agreed our kūpuna heeded our kāhea and responded. Not to be outdone, our hōnua (earth) responded with her hō'ailona of 'ami kūkū that shook the ground we walked on and reminded us all that she is still here. Those who felt our earth move were all reminded that the spiritual essence that connects us to our kūpuna is that of pule. The rains that followed and showered Kaho'olawe gave meaning and substance to the importance of cultural protocol and relevance to our kūpuna.

Kūkulu Ke Ea a Kanaloa!

Volunteer Program

BY: JACKSON BAUER

Kaho'olawe's healing process has grown to another level, thanks to all the hard work of our volunteers this past Summer. Native grasses and shrubs were planted on the slopes of Pu'u Moa'ulanui in the headwaters of Kaulana stream which entailed the weekly process of laying irrigation lines, digging thousands of holes, checking and re-checking previous plantings, and constructing pili erosion barriers have all made a noticeable difference in the healing of Kanaloa. In addition to all the restoration work, our volunteers played an integral role in improving roads, re-constructing the road to Kūheia, painting the storage facility at LZ Squid, cleaning Kanapou beach of marine debris (and keeping us safe), and monitoring our ocean resources. Mahalo to everyone for your tireless efforts!

July 1 – September 30 Volunteers

Aha Hui Malama i ka Lokahi	Bart Maybee
Lopaka Aiwohi	Jordan Molina
Shane Basques	Erin Moreland
Karen Beck	Carey Morishige
Kamuela Binkie	Karla Marotte
Eddie Cashmen	Guy Hanohano Naehu
Kai Chung	Albert Kam Napier
Jeff Coleman	Craig Neff
Kalani Dapitan	David Nishimura
Nicole Duranleau	Kylee Omo
Tanya Ferreira	Herbert Ordonez
Ellen Floyd	Pā Ku'i a Lua
Makalani Franco-Francis	Nicholas Panetta
Bill George	Alvin Parker
Girl's Court	Marcia Pasqua
Hakipu'u Charter School	Sarah Perry
Charles Hudson	Leah Peterson
Megan Juran	Rick Phleger
Ilima Kahula	Manon Grace Pretre
Alex Kinimaka	Sheila Sarhangi
Cheryl King	Ikaika Soares
Gail Klevens	Russell Sparks
LilyAnn Kuakini	Martin Strom
Johnathan Lindsey	Andy Taira
Attwood Makanani	Kanai Teagle
Puanani Marple	

Youth Conservation Corps – Hawai'i Island
Youth Conservation Corps - Kaua'i
Youth Conservation Corps - O'ahu
Kamehameha Schools Explorations Staff

Outreach Events

By Carmela Noneza

There are many organizations in the State of Hawai'i that promote cultural awareness of Hawai'i and its people. Part of the KIRC's Outreach Program is to work with these organizations to educate the public about the island of Kaho'olawe. September and October have been filled with various outreach events, spanning across four different islands; Hawai'i Island, O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i. Regardless of the location, venue, or audience the KIRC's primary focus was on education and cultural awareness as it relates to Kaho'olawe.

Hawai'i Island - Kona Outdoor Circle

The Kona Outdoor Circle is a community based volunteer organization whose mission is to keep Kona clean, green and beautiful by protecting, preserving and enhancing the environment for generations to come. It holds educational sessions on a regular basis to educate the community about the Hawaiian Culture.

The KIRC participated in a two-day session, September 22-23, at the Kona Outdoor Circle's Educational Center in Kailua-Kona.

Executive Director Sol Kaho'ohalahala's evening presentation was titled "Kaho'olawe's Sustainability: Moving forward means looking back". The presentation was a reflection on past achievements of the Hawaiian people, the efforts to move forward, and to prepare for future challenges. Kaho'olawe is a remote locale and demands innovative planning to become self-sustainable and self-reliant. The KIRC is committed to exploring and considering all renewable resources. Sol also challenged the audience to explore and consider such possibilities for Hawai'i Nei.



Paul Higashino explains the kipuka strategy at the Kona Outdoor Circle

During the morning session of the second day, Natural Resources Specialist Paul Higashino, talked about the restoration strategies being implemented currently on Kaho'olawe. He conducted a "hands-on" kipuka demonstration where attendees assisted in building a kipuka.

That afternoon, Natural Resources Specialist Derek Mar's "Na Wahi Pana O Kaho'olawe" session Saturday afternoon took the audience on a virtual tour of Kaho'olawe. He stopped at and shared a story of each 'ili or land district.



Attendees at the Kona Outdoor Circle examining the traits of the pili seeds

O'ahu - Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) Conference

KIRC Commissioners and staff attended the 5th annual CNHA conference from September 27-29. The conference is one of the largest events held in the islands on Hawaiian Issues. CNHA provides support services to agencies and organizations focused primarily on Native Hawaiian communities in Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Executive Director Sol Kaho'ohalahala was asked to participate as a presenter. His presentation was titled "Connected to Kaho'olawe - Forging Our Future Together". It focused upon our kūpuna's knowledge of the elements which bridges the gap between the past, present and future for renewable and self-sustaining resources today and in the future.

The KIRC also set up an informational booth in the vendor ballroom. The kipuka strategy was displayed as well as various photos of the island of Kaho'olawe.



Kipuka display at the CNHA Convention

Maui - Aloha Festivals Lahaina Town Ho'olaule'a Block Party

On October 7, 2006 the first annual Aloha Festivals Lahaina Town Ho'olaule'a Block Party was held. Front Street was blocked off to host this event. The Aloha Festival is a celebration that showcases Hawai'i's rich cultural diversity. A wide variety of entertainment and music and of course good food was in abundance. The KIRC set up an informational booth as well as a kipuka display.

Kaua'i - Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Hawaiiiana Festival

From October 20th to 22nd, the 13th Annual Hawaiiiana Festival was underway at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i Resort and Spa in Po'ipū. This 3-day event was centered on teaching the customs, crafts, and culture of Hawaii. As part of the festival the 200-year-old Kaumu'ali'i mahiole (feathered helmet) and cape was on display at the Grand Hyatt Kaua'i. Executive Director Sol Kaho'ohalahala was a panelist on "Sovereignty...Past, present and future". The KIRC setup an informational booth and displayed various photos of the island of Kaho'olawe. Mahalo to Michael Vogan of Chicago, Illinois for his generous donation at this event.

Mahalo to the Kona Outdoor Circle and Joanne Kahanamoku Sterling, Robin Danner of CNHA, Makalapua of the Aloha Festivals Lahaina, and to Stella Burgess of Grand Hyatt Kaua'i for inviting the KIRC to participate in their cultural and educational events.



Huaka'i participants work on hale halawai's new 10 x 20' frame, Hakioawa. (Noa Emmett Aluli)



Huaka'i participants work on sanding frame of hale halawai, Hakioawa. (Jayme Takahashi)



New 10 x 20' hale halawai frame, Hakioawa (Noa Emmett Aluli)



Gerard Akaka and Camille Kalama passing pōhaku intended for mauka site restoration. (Derek Ferrar, OHA)

Kaho'olawe Healing in 2006

Submitted by: The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

More than 500 community participants visited Kaho'olawe with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana in 2006 participating in ceremonies, cleaning beaches, rebuilding a traditional hale, collecting 'ili'ili, clearing trails, and engaging in other projects to heal Kaho'olawe, as well as themselves. Students and adults, groups, organizations and individuals are among the 2006 visitors.

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana keeps working in 2007

Activities planned for the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana's 2007 huaka'i, the dates of which can be found at www.kahoolawe.org, will include Makahiki and other ceremonies, and several work projects on Kaho'olawe in 2007:

- Developing the Alaloe, a trail that circles the perimeter of the island,
- Establishing safe a trail between Kuhe'eia and Pu'u Moa'ulaiki,
- Maintaining safe pathways around Hakioawa,
- Refurbishing the Wailuna catchment tank to irrigate new Hakioawa plantings;
- Restoring the hale halawai, a meeting house made of traditional materials.

Hale Halawai update

Monthly work on the hale halawai continues. The original 14 x 28' hale was dismantled. A new 10 x 20' frame was erected on the footprint of the old hale. Pōhaku have been gathered, and donated pili grass was harvested in Ho'olehua. Next steps include lashing the framework, setting the kahua (foundation) and thatching the pili roof.

Mahalo nui to Group 70 International for its generous grant for materials. Thanks to USDA Plant Materials Center on Moloka'i for donating the pili grass, and to Punana Leo o Moloka'i, particularly Manuwai Peters, for pili harvesting kōkua. Warm mahalo for Palani Sinenci's continued guidance, KIRC's encouragement, and all the 'Ohana members and huaka'i participants who've come to kōkua.

Ho'onoho

As we continually reflect upon the kūpuna wisdom that guided our early days, we remind ourselves that our work on island is for the future Hawaiian sovereign entity. The 'Ohana remains committed to the establishment of a permanent presence on Kaho'olawe. The dedication and pili'aloa that goes in to our work on the hale is our way to ho'onoho, take up residence, on Kaho'olawe. The revitalization of the Hale Halawai then strengthens the 'Ohana's legacy as hoa'āina, our role as kahu'āina.

Aloha 'āina

KO HEMA LAMALAMA
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*'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai;
pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana.*

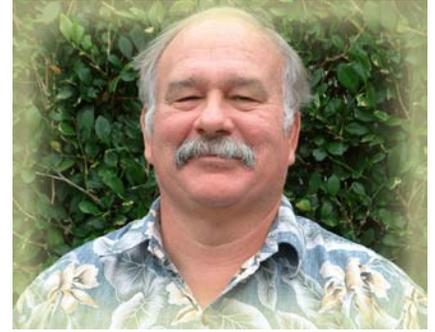
*Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped;
such is a family relationship.*

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! ~ the KIRC 'Ohana



In Memory of Jim Leonard

The KIRC is deeply saddened by the loss of Mr. Jim Leonard on Thanksgiving morning. Jim joined the KIRC staff as its Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Specialist and Safety Officer a year ago and was mainly involved in overseeing the detection and removal of UXO on the island of Kaho'olawe and training KIRC staff in Adult First Aid & CPR and UXO recognition.



"Jim is a part of our KIRC 'ohana. We will always remember that his work and contribution during his time with us has helped to advance our mission to restore Kanaloa. He has played an important role in insuring our health and safety on Kaho'olawe. I am especially thankful for his willingness to learn and to embrace the culture and spirit of Hawai'i nei. Aloha oe, e Jim".... Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala, Executive Director.

"Jim will be remembered for his efforts to ensure the health and safety of our KIRC 'ohana, which include all of our volunteers. He bonded with the island and our staff through the work on interim clearance of newly discovered UXO."
- Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D., Chairperson.

The KIRC extends its heartfelt condolences to the Leonard family and wishes them well in this time of sorrow.

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