

Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission
State of Hawai‘i



KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2011

JULY 2010 to JUNE 2011



*“ Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa ”
The life and spirit of Kanaloa*

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hawai'i Revised Statutes §6K-9, specifies that "the resources and waters of Kaho'olawe shall be held in trust as part of the public land trust; provided that the State shall transfer management and control of the island and its waters to the sovereign native Hawaiian entity upon its recognition by the United States and the State of Hawai'i.

This past year, the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie signed into law Act 195, creating the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission. "This is an important step for the future of Native Hawaiian self-determination and the ability for Native Hawaiians to decide their own future," stated Governor Abercrombie on the day he announced he was seeking applicants for the five-member commission. "This Commission will put together the roll of qualified and interested Native Hawaiians who want to help determine the course of Hawaii's indigenous people."

This act brings us that much closer to the eventual transfer of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve to a Native Hawaiian entity. In preparation for that day, KIRC continues to restore and protect the natural and cultural resources of the island. Thus Kaho'olawe, as envisioned in the motto "Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa" will be a cultural learning center where traditional cultural practices of the Hawaiian people can flourish in union with the natural environment and resources of our past.

Mahalo,



Michael K. Nāho'opi'i
Executive Director
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

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Kaho'olawe Vision Statement

The kino of Kanaloa is restored. Forests and shrublands of native plants and other biota clothe its slopes and valleys. Pristine ocean waters and healthy reef ecosystems are the foundation that supports and surrounds the island.

Nā po'e Hawai'i care for the land in a manner which recognizes the island and ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity. Kanaloa is a pu'uhonua and wahi pana where Native Hawaiian cultural practices flourish.

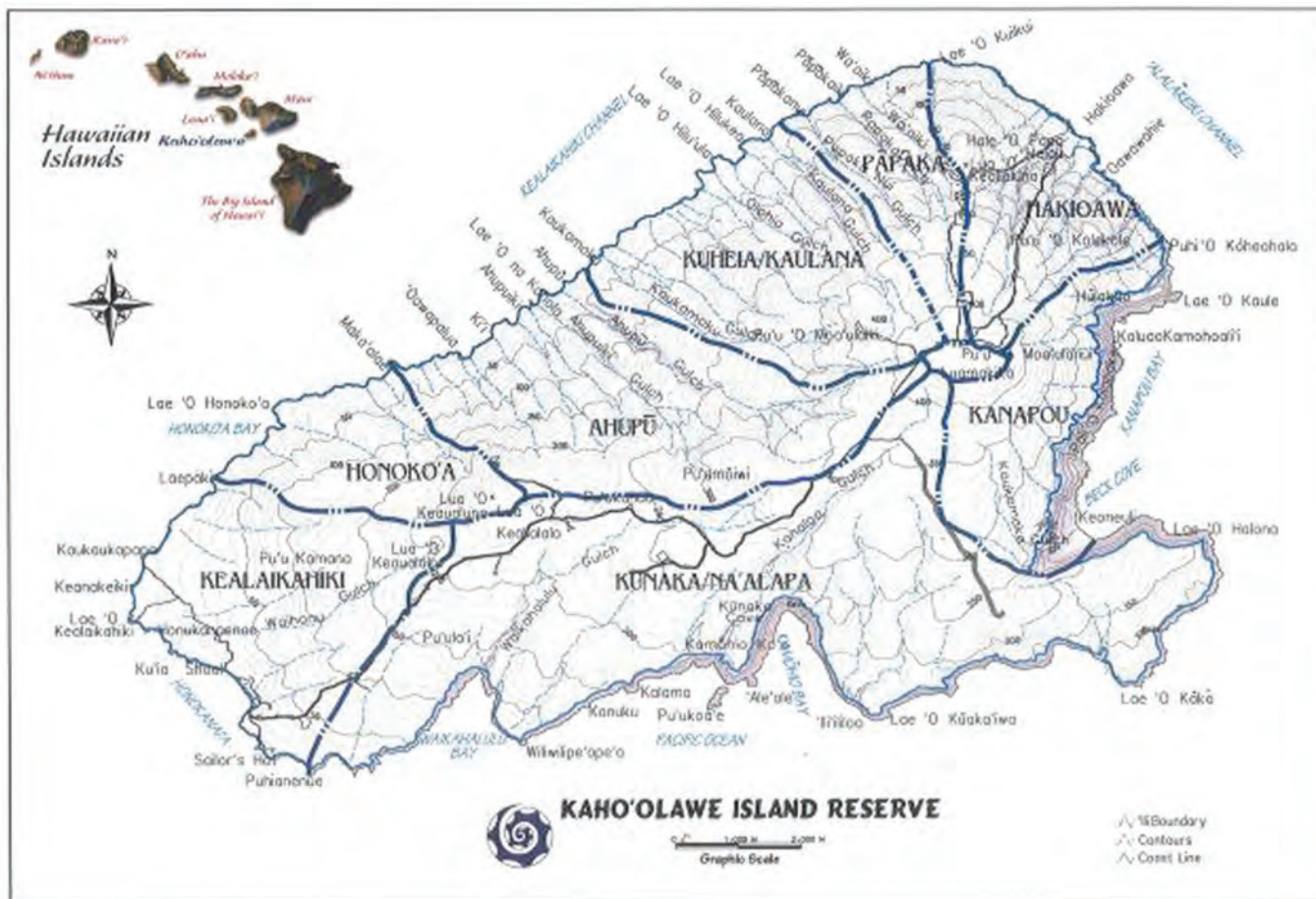
The piko of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the islands.

— Developed and Adopted in 1995

History of Kaho'olawe

Kaho'olawe is the smallest of the eight main islands in the Hawaiian Archipelago, 94 miles southwest of Honolulu. Kaho'olawe is 11 miles long, 7 miles wide and comprised of approximately 28,800 acres. The island is of volcanic origin with the highest elevation at 1,477 feet. The slopes are fissured with gulches 50 to 200 feet deep. Approximately 30% of the island is barren due to severe erosion. Formidable cliffs dominate the east and south coasts.

From 1941 to 1994, Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters were under the control of the U. S. Navy (Navy). Both the island and waters of Kaho'olawe were used by the Navy and United States' allies as a live-fire training area.



Despite recent clearance efforts, unexploded ordnance (UXO) are still present on the island and continue to pose a threat to the safety of anyone accessing it or its waters.

Decade-long struggle by the people of Hawai'i, particularly the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), succeeded in stopping the bombing of Kaho'olawe and helped to spark the rebirth and spread of Native Hawaiian culture and values. An act of Congress in 1994 conveyed the island back to the State of Hawai'i, although the Navy - responsible for a ten-year cleanup of UXO on Kaho'olawe - retained access control until November 2003.

A treasured resource for all of Hawai'i's people, Kaho'olawe is of tremendous significance to Native Hawaiians. In recognition of the special cultural and historical status of Kaho'olawe, the island and the waters within two nautical miles of its shores were designated by the State of Hawai'i as the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve (Reserve).

The Reserve, composed of undeveloped rugged shoreline, arid landscape and expansive cliffs, was established for the preservation of traditional Native Hawaiian cultural, spiritual and subsistence purposes, rights and practices, including: preservation of Kaho'olawe's archaeological, historical, and environmental resources; rehabilitation, revegetation, habitat restoration and preservation; and education.

In 1993, Act 340 was passed by the Hawai'i State Legislature which established the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6K. Today the KIRC's mandate is to manage Kaho'olawe, its surrounding waters, and its resources, in trust for the general public and for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.

The KIRC gives dimension to its purpose within its Vision Statement, which calls not only for the Reserve's environmental restoration, but also for the restoration and perpetuation of traditional and Native Hawaiian cultural practices through human access and interaction within the Reserve.



Access and use of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve is managed by the State of Hawai'i, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Unauthorized entry into the Reserve is strictly prohibited and is enforced pursuant to applicable provisions of the law.

OUR ROLE

The first step in our comprehensive strategy for the healing of the *kino* or body of Kanaloa is the restoration of native land-based habitats and watersheds.

The applicable Strategic Objectives of the Restoration Program (Restoration Management Action Plan FY09-13) are to:

- Restore the native terrestrial ecosystem
- Reduce threats to the native ecosystem
- Develop an erosion control program

Environmental restoration begins with regeneration of soils, native plant and animal life and re-establishment of natural water systems. Strategies addressing erosion control, botanical and faunal restoration and the enhancement of the island's natural water systems are currently underway in the Reserve.

Kaho'olawe's geographic isolation has resulted in the absence of many - although not all - alien plant and animal pests. Once grazing animals were removed, the island began, albeit slowly, its natural recovery process. Continuing restoration efforts offer an unrivaled opportunity for people to contribute their expertise, time, and resources to this great work.

Through continuing cultural ceremonies and practices, the healing of Kaho'olawe is a spiritual renewal as well as an environmental one, and Restoration Program staff and volunteers alike understand and support the cultural and spiritual underpinnings, responsibilities and mandates for the restoration of the Reserve.

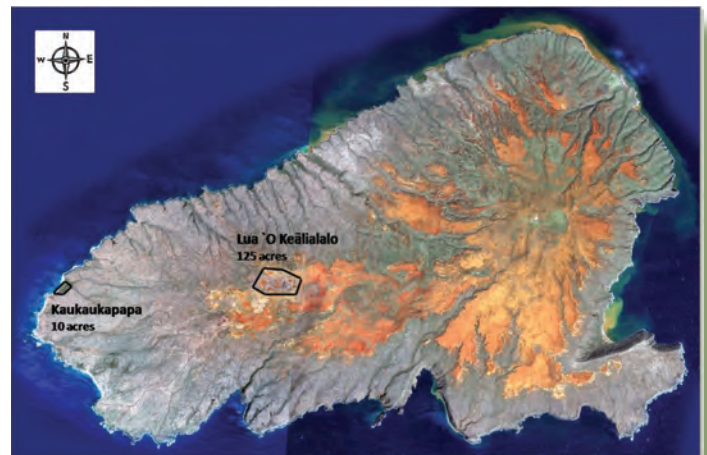


After the rainy season, standing water could be found up to three months after the last rainfall once water hungry alien species were removed from Keāliialalo Crater. This wetland habitat will provide the ecological niches for reintroduced native plants and birds.

STATUS REPORT

This past year, the Restoration Program has focused on Wetland Restoration Projects at Keāliialalo and Kaukaupapa. Funded by a five year grant from the Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS), the goals of these projects are the creation of native bird wetland habitats on Kaho'olawe and to reduce ocean siltation. Restoration Program Staff is working towards creating an oasis in the middle of a desert through the efforts of many hardworking volunteers.

Water is the life blood of Kaho'olawe. With an average of only 25 inches of rainfall annually at the summit and less than



The two wetland habitat restoration projects are located in different environmental settings. Keāliialalo Crater is the drainage basin for the middle section of the island, while Kaukaupapa is a coastal drainage area for the north-western section.

RESTORATION PROGRAM

10 inches per year on the coast, most plants on Kaho‘olawe are invasive alien species that easily outcompete the few fragile native plant populations for water and nutrients. This year’s focus at Keāliialalo, a natural crater depression, and Kaukaikapapa, a coastal depression, has been the removal of water-hungry kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) from the project area. This fast growing invasive species has only been in Hawai‘i for a hundred years, but has come to dominate the dry leeward landscape of all main Hawaiian islands.

Forty-two acres of kiawe brush have been cut at Keāliialalo. The stumps were treated to prevent regrowth, promote water retention, and to encourage the growth of native species. An additional 6 acres at Kaukaikapapa have been cleared to date. Other alien species such as koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and kikania (*Xanthium strumarium*) have also been removed to reduce competition with the native plantings. It is grueling, labor intensive work to cut and haul out the thorny kiawe trees and monotonous, backbreaking drudgery to dig kikania burrs out from the mudflats. Restoration staff and volunteers have made great progress in restoring two wetland areas.

Both project sites are large drainage basins that have significant influence on localized erosion and restoration processes. At Keāliialalo, the restored wetland will be able to slow surface-water runoff and promote recharging of the aquifer, extend the growing season for native plants into the dry summers and to attract native upland bird species either through natural discovery or planned re-introduction. The northwestern corner of the island drains into Kaukaikapapa. The re-establishment of a wetland



Kaukaikapapa’s wetland forms a coastal buffer that allows siltation to settle prior to the water entering the sea.

habitat at this location will create a natural settling pond where surface-water runoff can be retained long enough to deposit its silt prior to entering the ocean.

Restoration efforts continue to focus on controlling the devastating erosion of valuable topsoil and siltation of the pristine reefs through pioneer conservation methods. Innovative plantings are proving successful on the barren hardpan that was only surface-cleared of unexploded ordnance. New native dry land forest trees are being planted and are becoming established in past planting project areas. Lastly, great headway has been made in the faunal restoration. Significant achievements have been made in ridding Kaho‘olawe of predatory mammals and protecting the native bird population.

OUR GOALS FOR FY 2012

The focus for FY 2012 will be to successfully fulfill our contractual obligations with The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Restoration Project. The project areas Keāliialalo and Kaukaikapapa are two natural depressions that could be restored to improve wetland habitats on Kaho‘olawe. Work at both project areas consist of removing alien vegetation, especially water-hungry species such as kiawe, native out plantings, and the installation of irrigation systems or water collection systems.

At Keāliialalo we plan to lay out an irrigation system to deliver water to the 100 acre work site. Micro-irrigation to water this area annually is critical to ensure an 85% survival rate for all plantings. Twenty acres will be planted with ground cover, shrubs and tree species. Alien species control will consist mainly of tree and shrub removal.

At Kaukaikapapa we plan to clear two acres of kiawe and to plant native ground cover, shrubs and trees.

The goal for the Faunal Restoration Project is to restore native seabird populations on Kaho‘olawe. The focus so far has been on the eradication of alien species on-island. In collaboration with Island Conservation, a non-profit organization specializing in island-based habitat restoration, an operation plan for cat eradication will be completed this year and will allow for development for Environmental Assessment for the project as well as a document to seek funding for field implementation.

We plan to expand the native dryland forest with out planting of plants donated either from volunteer groups or grants. Incidental planting will be done in previous work areas on the northern slopes of Moa‘ulanui to further enhance the area. Alien weed control will be done in the planting areas and along the roadways to prevent further spread of aggressive non-native species. Volunteers will be utilized to implement low cost, new, and innovative techniques to slow down erosion across the island. On-island recyclable products will be used to accomplish the task.



'A'ali'i seedlings are planted in holes drilled by a powered auger along the edges of Keāliialalo wetlands. A combination of compost, fertilizer and lime are added to recharge the barren, nutrient poor soil.

Native Plantings: This past year, native plantings have been in three main areas. Over 2,000 native shrubs and trees were planted within 25 acres of the sloping crater walls of the Keāliialalo Wetland Project Area. One of the project's objectives is to help stabilize the crater's sloping hillside surrounding the wetland habitat to reduce surface erosion and siltation into the wetland. Native ground cover vegetation such as kāwelu (*Eragrostis variabilis*), kāmanomano (*Cenchrus agrimonoides*), ahu 'awa (*Cyperus javanicus*) and 'ūlei (*Osteomeles anthyliidifolia*) were planted to increase water infiltration and reduce surface runoff while native trees and shrubs such as 'a'ali'i (*Dodonea viscosa*), naio (*Myoprum sandwicensis*), halapepe (*Pleomele aurea*) and 'āweoweo (*Chenopium oahuense*) provide a protective canopy and promote groundcover growth where introduced.

Previously established planting sites on the slopes of Moa‘ulanui were also planted. As these areas are successfully established, additional plantings between the rows are added. The last planting area was in Lua Makika Crater where a series of native trees have been successfully established.



Large native trees such as koi'i'e (*Acacia koaia*) and 'Ōhia lehua (*Metrosideros polymorpha*) have been successfully established in Lua Makika crater.

RESTORATION PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011

Innovative Plantings: The barren, exposed hardpan is remnant subsoil after the fertile topsoil has eroded away. This sterile layer not only lacks organic material and nutrients, but is also capped with an impervious layer that prevents water infiltration and seedlings to sprout.

Drawing on ideas from previous restoration efforts, staff developed creative replanting methods. Using pili grass bales has proven to be highly effective in replanting on the hardpan. Seeds gathered from plants on Kaho‘olawe were sent to Moloka‘i to be grown, baled and returned to Kaho‘olawe, under a federally-funded, NRCS program sponsored by U. S. Senator Daniel Inouye. The bales are placed in square or “X” shapes to shelter the fragile seedlings from the constant winds and to collect windborne soil. Protected from the harsh environment, the young seedlings are able to mature and flourish. As a secondary benefit, the bales eventually decompose and release organic material and pili grass seeds.

Lastly, the novel mulch bag planting on the hardpan has proven successful. Biodegradable paper bags are filled with woodchips, mulch and seeds. Volunteers fill biodegradable paper bags with mulch, place a “seed ball” in the center, and place the bags across the barren hardpan. As the bags breakdown, the mulch and windblown soil cover the seeds that eventually take root.



Restoration staff monitoring and documenting feral cat tracks to determine the population size and range of these invasive predators. A detailed analysis of their behavior will aid in their removal and help protect native seabirds.

Restoration of a rare native species: With only one viable specimen of this extremely rare plant left in the wild, Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoowawensis*) is successfully making a comeback at off-island nurseries. Seeds collected from the last known plant found only on the sheer cliffs of the off-shore sea stack, ‘Ale‘ale, have successfully been cultivated and flourish under controlled conditions. This year, Restoration staff worked to develop a species recovery plan with all current and potential growers. The goal of this plan is to assure the survival of this critically endangered native plant and to protect its cultural importance.



With 65% of the island only surface cleared of unexploded ordnances, Restoration Program Staff developed more innovative ways to generate and collect soil on the barren hardpan that allows planting without digging.

Faunal Restoration: During feral cat surveys, cat kills of ‘auku‘u (Black-crowned night heron, *Nycticorax hoactli*) and pueo (Hawaiian short-eared owl, *Asio falmmeus sandwichensis*) near the Honokanai‘a Base Camp have been recorded. However, since the inception of the trapping of these introduced feral predators there have been increased sightings of native seabirds. In collaboration with Island Conservation Inc., our faunal restoration partner, a detailed management plan describing the complete removal of introduced feral predators from Kaho‘olawe was developed. This document is the first step in creating the largest predator- free island in Hawai‘i.



Seedlings of Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoowawensis*) flourish in off-island nurseries. With regular watering and protection from insects and rodent predation, this plant can achieve a robust stature.

OUR ROLE

The KIRC plays an unique role within the main Hawaiian islands in that we manage an entire island ecosystem - in addition to land-based habitat and watersheds, we also manage Kaho‘olawe’s surrounding coastal waters.

Extending two nautical miles from the island’s shoreline, and comprising 80-plus square miles of ocean, all marine resource management is the responsibility of the KIRC’s Ocean Program.

As with each of the islands within the Hawaiian archipelago, Kaho‘olawe’s marine environment is rich in its shoreline diversity: from sheer cliffs that fall sharply into the deep waters along its southern coast, to the fringing reef that slopes out along the northern and western leeward sides, to the extensive sandy beach at Honokanai ‘a - each individual marine ecosystem has unique resources and its own particular needs.

For these complex systems, it is the Ocean Program’s mission to develop and implement a comprehensive ocean resource management regime that emphasizes ancestral and traditional knowledge - a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment - and integrates ancient and modern resource management techniques.

In our unique role as caretakers of Kaho‘olawe, it is hoped that the conservation and restoration strategies we undertake today - integrating both cultural and scientific method - will one day provide for traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices and serve as a source for abundant educational opportunities.

It is our vision that through careful and cooperative stewardship - traditional Hawaiian values of resource care and management (mālama) blended with contemporary marine science - Kaho‘olawe will become a living conduit between past and future generations of Hawaii’s people, where traditional values will again take root, producing ever greater resources for Hawaii’s future.



KIRC staff and volunteers using heavy equipment to remove large pieces of marine debris embedded on the shoreline of Kanapou Bay, a remotely located bay on the island’s eastern shore.

STATUS REPORT

This past year, the Ocean Program’s largest project was the complete removal of marine debris at Kanapou Bay. The Ocean Program was able to successfully remove 31 tons of marine debris from the remote shoreline of Kanapou. This work was made possible through funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the many hands of dedicated staff and volunteers. For the first time the natural beauty of this beach was revealed.

The combined funneling effects of the northeast trade winds and prevailing currents choked the five-miles of shoreline of Kanapou Bay, in particular the five-acre Keoneuli Beach,



Over a ton of marine debris is removed in each “sling load” or cargo net load



with tons of derelict fishing gear, nets, plastics and other debris from the Pacific Ocean. This trash threatens the island's coral reefs and is dangerous to endangered and threatened marine life that can ingest the plastic pieces or become entangled in derelict nets.

Working over a period of eighteen months, ten trips, including daytrips and multi-night campouts, were made to Kanapou where KIRC staff and volunteers collected and removed tons of discarded nets, plastic fishing gear and other marine debris. Crews consolidated the debris into large cargo nets that were airlifted off the beach and taken to Maui and trucked to the Central Maui Landfill for disposal.

Not all of the marine debris was taken to the landfill. About 6.5 tons of trash was recycled and sent to Switzerland to help create new art. Funded by the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich, Switzerland's leading design and visual communications museum, a 40-foot transport container was shipped to Maui for the KIRC to fill with marine debris. This castoff material will be used by Swiss artists to create an international marine debris art exhibit that will tour across Europe. An additional 15 tons of derelict fishing nets were recycled on Kaho'olawe as erosion control devices by the Restoration Program. Air lifted to the gully heads located above Kanapou Bay, the nets are being used to dissipate surface water runoff from the large plains above Kanapou and as check dams to educe silt running into Kanapou Bay. Lastly, a ton of



The natural beauty of Keoneuli Beach is finally revealed after 60-tons of marine debris is removed.

glass bottles, florescent light bulbs, plastic bottles and aluminum cans were sorted from the trash piles and sent to recycling centers on Maui.

In addition to the marine debris project, Ocean Program Staff also monitored the health of Kaho'olawe's marine environment by conducting 10 circle-island aerial surveys and several in-water ocean surveys and near shore transects. Staff is continuously tracking the overall health of the Reserve's waters by using indicator species to assess health, interaction with alien species, over-harvesting of fish stock and the presence of marine pollutants.

OUR GOALS FOR FY 2012

Our continuing mission is to keep the marine resources of the Reserve in a state of sustainable health for a future sovereign Native Hawaiian entity and future generations that will inherit those resources. We believe this can only be done through proper management and community support.

In FY 2012, we plan to complete the cleanup at Kanapou Bay, which was made possible by a federal grant from NOAA. The goal of this project is to thoroughly remove the accumulated debris during five or more large cleanup events and, then maintain the clean condition of the bay with regular, smaller maintenance trips.

In FY 2011, we were invited to participate as members of the Maui Marine Conservation Action Planning Group, an effort sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and funded by NOAA. This coalition of marine scientists, conservationists and government representatives is working to develop marine conservation action plans for three state marine reserves in Maui County; Kahekili, Molokini and Kaho‘olawe. In 2012, we plan to implement the recommendations developed as part of this planning initiative to better protect Kaho‘olawe’s marine resources.

Lastly, the first step in protecting Kaho‘olawe’s marine environment is better understanding the island unique aquatic habitat. In FY 2012, the Ocean Program is committed to conduct detailed and regular surveys of the island’s marine resources. In the upcoming year, we will focus our attention on the Kealaikahiki ‘ili. Located adjacent to the Honoknani’a Base Camp, we will conduct monthly surveys that will increase and deepen the understanding of the marine resources in this region of the island and their relationship to the cultural resources of the area.



*In-water surveys of Kaho‘olawe’s marine environment reveals the unique creatures that inhabit the island’s waters. Ocean staff documented the presence of a rarely seen and timid whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*).*

Protecting the Rare and Endangered: The waters of Kaho‘olawe are home to many rare and endangered species. The endangered Hawaiian monk seal is present on island year-round with an average of 2 seals sighted on each aerial survey and a maximum of 4 seals seen in one day. The prohibition of commercial activities and strictly controlled access and use of the Reserve makes it an ideal refuge for some of Hawaii’s more rare and endangered marine life. However, many of the rich marine resources around Kaho‘olawe have yet to be documented and it is the goal of the Ocean Program to provide a comprehensive assessment of the current marine resources.



*The extremely rare and endangered Hawaiian monk seal (*Monachus schauinsland*) make regular appearances on the quiet and remote shoreline of Kaho‘olawe.*

OCEAN PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011

Managing Ocean Resources: With a severely eroded landscape covering one-third of the island, surface runoff siltation is the primary threat to the Reserve's near shore coral reefs. Key indicators of near shore reef health are certain species of coastal invertebrates. Near shore reef tells us two things; (1) the impact of surface runoff on marine environment, (2) the effectiveness of our land-based restoration efforts.



Unauthorized fishing vessels are quickly intercepted and cited. The enforcement program follows all violations through the court system to ensure conviction.

Maui Marine Conservation Action Planning

(MMCAP): Sponsored by the Nature Conservancy with funding from NOAA, the MMCAP is a consortium of State of Hawai'i, Maui-based marine reserve managers that are working together to develop ocean management strategies that will impact the health and survival of Maui's marine resources. The three participating Maui-based marine reserves are Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area (KHFMA) located in Ka'anapali, the Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District and the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. Even though each of the three marine reserve differs in location, size and ecosystem quality, they share many of the same threats and restrictions.

Utilizing a peer-review process that includes not only the State managers from DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources and Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation but also researchers from the University of Hawai'i, conservation specialists from the Nature Conservancy and kupuna fishermen from the Honua'ula district of Maui, the consortium's goal is to develop conservation action plans that will address priority threats and resource health at each site.



Ocean staff monitoring near shore invertebrates through regular coastal transects

Fishery Management: Fishing within the Reserve is restricted to trolling outside of 30 fathoms during select weekends each month. We established a Boating Registration Program that helps to monitor and regulate fishing within the Reserve. Registered boaters submit a liability waiver, agree to abide by all Reserve rules and restrictions, and agree to submit catch reports that help with fishery management efforts.

Unauthorized fishing vessels are intercepted, cited and prosecuted in partnership with the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and the County of Maui Office of the Prosecuting Attorney. This past legislative session, Staff worked with legislative supporters, to help introduce a bill that would authorize asset forfeiture as a penalty in enforcing the fishery management program. By strengthening enforcement we seek to protect the one last thriving and unspoiled marine environment for the future of Hawai'i.



Participants from the Maui Marine Conservation Action Planning group conducted a site visit to the Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District to gather firsthand knowledge of the site's marine management threats and concerns.

OUR ROLE

The Cultural Program is responsible for the care and protection of Kaho‘olawe’s cultural resources - including archaeological and historic remnants of the island’s early inhabitants - and for expanding the meaningful cultural use of the island.

In addition, the Cultural Program plays a major role in integrating a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into the daily operations of KIRC programs.

As the number one priority of the Cultural Program, the Commission fulfills the *kuleana* or responsibility to serve as the Burial Council for the island of Kaho‘olawe, overseeing all aspects of protecting and preserving the remains of our *kupuna* or ancestors. Working closely with the DLNR State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), we oversee the preservation of all significant archaeological, historic and cultural sites through a committed incorporation of applicable federal and state historic preservation laws and Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

We are expanding the meaningful cultural use of the island by developing Native Hawaiian cultural projects that augment cultural accesses and use of the Reserve. Since many of these undertakings are large-scale endeavors, our role focuses on project and resource management to assist the volunteers and partnering stewardship organizations who work hard to accomplish the important work of these projects.

Finally, we facilitate the cultural uses of the Reserve by providing a central point of contact for all cultural and educational visits and by establishing the cultural perspective used to orient all Reserve users, volunteers, contractors, and employees to the resources fundamental to the KIRC’s cultural mandate.



Cultural Practitioners make celestial observations of the sun from key vantage point on Kaho‘olawe during the equinox and solstice as part of the KIRC-approved Cultural Plan, “Kūkulu Ke Ea a Kanaloa”.

STATUS REPORT

One of the Cultural Program’s greatest struggles is the protection of the island’s cultural resources from the ravages of time and erosion. Many of the cultural remains of the island’s past inhabitants are exposed on the barren hardpan and subject to surface water run-off and wind erosion.

One such unique and threatened archaeological feature is a large, flat disc-shaped stone located in the southeast section of the island. Documented in State historic preservation records as Site 110 feature BU1, this stone is relatively flat and rests on a natural pedestal. When tapped, it resonates with a bell-like ring.



Man-made depressions or cupules and numerous petroglyphs make the Kanaloa stone unique.



CULTURAL PROGRAM

Covered in petroglyphs (approximately 12 features plus four lines) as well as a row of 32 cupules (man-made depressions) along its perimeter it is significant for the alignment of its cupules to seasonal changes of the rising sun. The stone, teetering on the edge of a nearby gully, threatens to be lost into the gully due to erosion. The Cultural Program Staff, with the help of volunteer archaeologists and cultural practitioners, are developing plans to save this significant relic. We hope, in this next year, to have the restoration plans approved and implemented.

The focus of the Cultural Program is threefold; the protection and preservation of the island’s cultural and historic resources; providing for appropriate cultural use of the island; and integrating a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into KIRC’s operations and practices.

For the past two years, we have been working with our stewardship partner, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, to expand the cultural use of the island. Under the volunteer leadership of PKO project manager, Syd Kawahakui, and volunteers from both the KIRC and PKO, the *Alaloa* or “long trail” is being cleared of kiawe trees, mowed of waist-high grass and edged with marking stones to create a circle-island trail along Kaho‘olawe’s shoreline. Over the next five years, this project’s goal is to complete the northern half of the trail from Honokanai‘a to Hakioawa. We hope to expand the cultural use of the island by expanding our presence into the remote corners of Kaho‘olawe.



Volunteer work crews from our stewardship partner help blaze a path around the perimeter of the island, thus expanding the cultural use of the island .

The Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation continues to lead the training efforts needed to implement the KIRC–approved Cultural Plan, “*Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa*”. The current focus of the training has been the observation of the solar cycles on the island during the summer and winter solstice, *Ala Polohiwa a Kane/Kanaloa* and the equinoxes, *Piko o Wākea*.

Lastly, as volunteers help restore the barren landscape, they are also helping to restore Native Hawaiian practices. The Cultural Program works with staff and other Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to help integrate a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into all of the programs. Volunteers not only learn about the island but also learn something of the people who once inhabited this sacred place.

OUR GOALS FOR FY 2012

The focus for FY 2012 is to continue to work closely with our partner stewardship organizations and various other community groups, promote the healing of Kanaloa through the revival of cultural practices and traditions. Listed below are continuing projects we have set out to accomplish during the next fiscal year:

- Restoration and stabilization of significant cultural and archaeological sites remain a top priority have been completed. Burial site stabilization projects are being monitored regularly for the effects of weather and erosion;
- The focus is now shifted to stabilization of cultural sites, especially the Pōhaku Kāneloa located along the Kaneloa gulch. Site monitoring has already been established. Documentation of the site's cultural significance has begun. A site stabilization plan will be developed for the Commission's approval;
- Continuation of construction of the Alaloa (circle-island trail). With deft coordination between staff and stewardship organization volunteers, we seek to locate the 'ili boundaries, (traditional land division boundaries) and connect the trails along the north coast of the island from Kaukukapapa to Hakioawa;
- The Kaho'olawe Cultural Use Plan continued implementation through regular observations during key celestial events and the creation of a database to document and retrieve these observations for future study.



Measurements are made and alignments are documented as cultural practitioners glean traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge that has been documented within the Pōhaku Kāneloa.

Pōkāneloa: This exceptional boulder is balanced precariously on a pedestal along the edge of an eroding gulch in the southeastern quadrant of the island. When struck, this stone produces a clear-bell like tone. It is distinctive because of the proliferation of cupules along the perimeter of the stone and numerous petroglyphs on its top surface. Through regular study of this site, a unique relationship between the shadow of a stick held vertically along lines etched in the stone and the cupules has been observed.

To protect this unique resource, a plan to relocate this stone to a more stable location has been developed. The first phase in developing this plan has been to document the stone's unique celestial alignments, quantify the erosion forces acting at its base, and gather expert and public opinions on its restoration. This information will form the basis of a site restoration plan to protect the site.



The application of modern technology, such as time-lapse photography, provides a unique tool for the cultural practitioner to interpret and understand the interplay of nature and cultural practices.

CULTURAL PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011

Integration of a Native Hawaiian Cultural Perspective:

Working closely with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, one of the goals of the Cultural Program is to infuse and merge the traditional Native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge and practices with the KIRC's programs, especially to the benefit of restoration volunteers. A group of very energetic and dedicated Native Hawaiian interns have stepped up to expand the Native Hawaiian cultural activities on island. Having grown up with strong kua'āina backgrounds, the interns have taken the lead in sharing the traditional Native Hawaiian practices they learned growing up through these areas.



As a living cultural learning center, the island of Kaho'olawe allows native Hawaiians a place to learn about being Hawaiian by experiencing the intimate connection among the land, the sea and their cultural practices.

Alaloa Construction: An *Alaloa* or “long road” was the traditional means of travel in pre-contact Hawai‘i. This road was used not only to move people from one community to another, but to move ideas and knowledge from one area to another. Working with stewardship partners, the goal is to create a circle-island trail that will allow not just access to the more remote parts of the island, but to allow the freedom of movement to explore and learn more about the rarely explored sections of the Reserve. In the past year, we have focused on building the western portion of the trail from Honokanai‘a to Kaukaikapapa. In the next phase, the ‘ili boundaries or traditional land division boundaries will be marked and routes blazed to each boundary marker. The last phase will include clearing vegetation and brush from the trail and building a pathway through these areas.



KIRC Restoration Intern Pono Cordero-Ho'opai sharing his knowledge of traditional Native Hawaiian practices by teaching volunteers how to ku'i pa'i'ai.



Volunteers help build a circle-island trail that will expand cultural use of the island.

OUR ROLE

The long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural and cultural resources is supported through environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate infrastructure. Our responsibilities are to:

- Provide safe and reliable transport of material, equipment, and people between Kaho'olawe and Maui to support restoration projects;
- Provide healthy and sound overnight accommodations on-island for staff, volunteers and visitors;
- Economically maintain and repair all facilities, equipment, machinery and vehicles used by field teams, and;
- Provide general support and manpower, where needed, to ensure the timely and safe completion of projects.

In addition, we are responsible for overall safety within the Reserve. This includes detecting Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), provide UXO escorts when required, and developing UXO training and orientation guidelines for everyone who enters the Reserve.



Volunteers on Kaho'olawe arrive via the 40-foot landing craft, the 'Ōhua. Even though living in an island bound State, for many, this is their first experience on a boat on the high seas.

STATUS REPORT

Kaho'olawe is a remote island with minimal infrastructure and little development. It is the mission of the Reserve Operations Program to facilitate the success of the Restoration, Ocean and Cultural Programs by providing for their logistical needs. Whether transporting equipment and supplies to Kaho'olawe, repairing machinery needed for restoration projects, or ensuring the safety of all visitors to Kaho'olawe, the work of the Reserve Operations Program is diverse and extremely important.



The main supply line between Kaho'olawe and Maui is aboard the KIRC landing craft, 'Ōhua. The State of Hawai'i vessel makes regular runs to the island transporting not only passengers, but food, fuel, materials and supplies. The landing craft is also able to carry small vehicles and light trucks.



The ability to significantly restore and protect Kaho‘olawe’s natural and cultural resources is inherently dependant upon our long term ability to live and work on the island. At the heart of the Reserve Operations Program is Base Camp operations at Honokanai‘a. Base Camp operations provides clean and secure accommodations, healthy and appetizing meals, and safe and dependable transportation for the volunteer workforce. Additionally, the Base Camp operations provide the necessary infrastructure and repair facilities to achieve vital and lasting changes for Kaho‘olawe’s environment to the benefit of a future native Hawaiian nation.

Even though Base Camp Management operations is the KIRC’s single largest expenditure, it is a necessity that allows for safe and meaningful change on Kaho‘olawe. Once the ability to operate Base Camp is lost, the ability to make major, large scale changes to the island is also lost. Because of budgetary constraints, major changes for Honokanai‘a Base Camp operations have been implemented to reduce operational costs, while maintaining the unique skill set of the base camp operations. Partial closures of the base camp began on July 1, 2012.

By scheduling on-island operations to alternating “open” and “dark” weeks, a one-third cost reduction is anticipated as we reduce the pace of restoring Kaho‘olawe. As we reduce the number of volunteers, base camp support is also reduced; less equipment



The Honokanai‘a Base Camp, located on the southwestern shores of Kaho‘olawe consist of approximately 22 building and serves as the hub for the volunteer restoration program.

repairs, food, transportation and labor needs are also reduced at a cost. With less volunteers, the restoration work will take longer. Staff believes that this is the best solution for the economic downturn being suffered by the State of Hawai‘i while still moving forward with our primary mission to implement the vision of Kaho‘olawe.

OUR GOALS FOR FY 2012

With Reserve Operations being the largest single program expense and without funding support from the State of Hawai'i for the long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe there will be drastic reductions in operations for FY 2012. Partial closure of base camp operations was a compromise in an effort to maintain 24-hour presence and to retain the unique skill set and capabilities in the management of base camp and to extend the life of the rehabilitation trust fund. During partial shutdowns, we will reduce staffing and transport to the island thereby placing the camp into a "dark" status. During these dark weeks, we will restrict volunteers and field operations to reduce expenditures. This will save us money in the short term, but in the long-term it will slow down the restoration efforts of the KIRC.

We are determined to keep the restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural environment as the primary focus, but we will have to develop new means to continue with significantly fewer resources. As a State agency, the KIRC is also obligated to protect the island and its surrounding waters for future generations. Lastly, it is necessary to involve the people of Hawai'i in the healing of this devastated landscape. It is only through individual personal experiences on Kaho'olawe will the commitment and dedication of past stewards be remembered and sustained.

On a positive note, this past year, \$400,000 Capital Improvement Project funding for the building of the Hakioawa Hale was released. After five years of planning and two years of requesting the CIP funding, construction of this volunteer shelter in Hakioawa has finally begun. In FY 2012, final construction drawing should be finalized and a contractor selected to start construction in FY 2013.



KIRC Staff perform regular underwater work including repairs to moorings and anchors, cleaning sea water intake lines and removing debris from the reef.

Supporting Infrastructure: The limited infrastructure that is found on Kaho'olawe is maintained by the KIRC and its contractors. This infrastructure is key in supporting program field work. The on-island infrastructure starts with a 22-building base camp at Honokanai'a. In addition to facilities to house and feed volunteer crews, there also is a fully functioning repair facility that maintains the collection of military trucks and all-terrain vehicles. Additionally, we are able to repair and maintain a wide selection of heavy-equipment and construction machinery used to build and repair over 20 miles of improved roads on Kaho'olawe. Lastly, the on-island infrastructure includes an electrical power generator for base camp facilities, fuel storage for on-island vehicles, and an electrical generator and a potable water system that uses a reverse osmosis plant to generate fresh water from the ocean.



Maintaining the fleet of surplus military trucks, heavy construction equipment and modern all-terrain vehicles requires a dedicated and resourceful crew of experienced mechanics.

RESERVE OPERATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011

Supporting Logistics: Transporting materials, equipment and personnel is one of the chief functions of the Operations Program. In order to accomplish this mission, the Operations Program maintains a variety of heavy equipment, vessels and vehicles in working conditions and ready to respond to the field program's needs.

The primary transportation to and from Kaho'olawe is the 40-foot landing craft, the 'Ōhua. With a top speed of 40-knots, the boat is able to safely transport over 30 people including and/or two fully loaded all-terrain vehicles. When needed, two, 500 gallon fuel bladders and an offshore pumping rig allows us to quickly and safely transport fuel to the base camp. The secondary vessel, the Hākilo can also transport up to 15 people, but is used primarily as a diving platform in support of the ocean management program.



Our dining facilities produces healthy and delicious meals on a very economical budget.

Supporting Safety: The Operations Program is also responsible for managing safety programs including both industrial and explosive safety programs. Since the field programs are working on a remote island location with limited transportation, the industrial health and safety programs include provisions for medical emergencies and natural disaster preparedness. As an additional enhancement, the safety program is maintaining a vital communications link to the island.

The explosive safety program is a necessity deriving from Kaho'olawe's past as a military weapons range. The core of the explosive safety program is its unique Access Guide Training and Qualification Program for all escorts on Kaho'olawe. This program focuses on UXO identification, group management, explosive safety and emergency response procedures.



Primary transportation to Kaho'olawe is the 40-foot landing craft 'Ōhua.

Supporting Volunteers: The volunteers are housed and cared for at Honokanai'a Base Camp. With bed space for up to 50 volunteers, the berthing facilities have been partially upgraded to improve ventilation and habitability while reducing energy consumption. The base camp facilities were designed to meet OSHA's requirements for a temporary labor camp, therefore the base camp includes such support functions as heated shower facilities, sanitation disposal, and a dedicated medical treatment facility. Additionally, as a treat for the dedicated and hard working volunteers, the dining facilities provide crews with healthy and nourishing meals that are not only delicious, but very economical.



Explosive safety containment areas store any safety-to-move unexploded ordnance until it is ready to demolition. The program was recently inspected by the Naval Ordnance Safety and Support Activity (NOSSA), who were very impressed with the safety procedures and training programs.

OUR ROLE

Restoration of Kaho'olawe is a monumental endeavor, one that far exceeds the available funding and staffing of the KIRC. It is an effort that will require thousands of hands over several generations to accomplish. Ultimately, the restoration of Kaho'olawe will depend upon the charitable work of thousands of volunteers who will provide the best match for the available funds.

The volunteer program provides not only strong backs to till the soil for the replanting of indigenous flora on the barren and windswept slopes of Kaho'olawe, but also scientific experts who will expand staff's technical knowledge and abilities in managing the Reserve's resources.

Our role is to ensure that we maintain a large, available pool of volunteers; match the skill and labor requirements of each project to the capability of the volunteers; and ensure safe and meaningful experiences to enhance the volunteers' appreciation of Kaho'olawe.

The Volunteer Program's responsibilities involve all aspects of volunteer participation including:

- Pre-trip orientations to inform the volunteers of safety precautions, and give them general trip and project briefing to instill an appreciation of the historical and cultural significance of Kaho'olawe;
- Coordination of all pre-trip paperwork requirements, including liability waivers and emergency contact information;
- Scheduling of volunteers in conjunction with program needs and coordination of supporting activities;
- Serving as the point-of-contact and liaison between volunteers, programs, agencies, and KIRC staff; and
- Maintaining volunteer records and preparing volunteer-related, statistics, reports and mailing lists.



Volunteers assist KIRC staff in the never ending battle against erosion. In addition to native planting that helps cover the open hard pan of the island, volunteers help maintain the infrastructure so that we can move people, equipment and materials across the island.

STATUS REPORT

The Volunteer Program is a critical component in the protection and restoration of the island of Kaho'olawe. The effort to restore Kaho'olawe's ravaged landscape is a endeavor that far exceeds the capacity of just one State Agency or group, but will require long-term dedication of the people of Hawai'i to accomplish.

In FY 2011, 1,124 people volunteered on Kaho'olawe, this is an increase of 17% from the previous year. Volunteers are



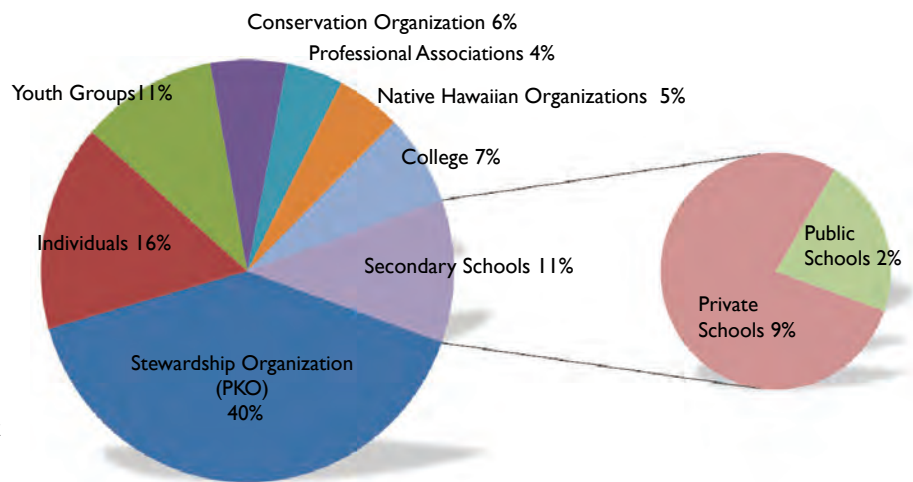
After a long day in the sun, wind and constant dust of Kaho'olawe's hard pan, volunteers are able to wash off the grime and relax at the end of the day at Honokanai'a Bay.



VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

able to gain access through one of two programs. The first is the volunteer access program sponsored by the KIRC to Honokanai‘a Base Camp on the western end of Kaho‘olawe and the second is a volunteer program hosted by the stewardship organization, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to Hakioawa on the northern end of Kaho‘olawe. More volunteer opportunities were opened this fiscal year as the Ocean Program began working on the large-scale beach cleanup at Kanapou Bay as part of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Marine Debris Removal Grant. Volunteers, under the supervision of Ocean Program staff, helped remove over 31 tons of marine debris across a five-mile stretch of beach on the eastern end of Kaho‘olawe. Most of this work was accomplished during a series of overnight or two-night campouts on the remote beach site.

In FY 2011, we initiated post-volunteer trip evaluations to gain valuable feedback about the program, accommodations and services. Additionally, the anonymous surveys gathered more individual statistics to allow us to better understand who were the volunteers. Based upon these surveys, a typical volunteer is a female high school or college student (56% women and 53% between the ages of 13 to 22) of Native Hawaiian ancestry (54% Native Hawaiian).



FY 2011 volunteers by source.

A typical trip with the KIRC is four days long and begins with volunteers, approximately 20 per trip, arriving early Monday morning at the Kahului Airport on Maui. After being shuttled to the Kīhei Boathouse, or for Maui-based groups, meeting us in Kīhei, we begin loading the ‘Ōhūa, the forty-foot landing craft for the ride across the ‘A‘alakeiki Channel to Honokanai‘a, Kaho‘olawe. A typical workday starts early in the morning as we try to get the work done before the heat of day. Volunteer projects vary depending on the season and program needs but usually involve native out plantings during the winter or erosion control and invasive plant removal during the summer. Time is also spent visiting and learning about the important sites and features of Kaho‘olawe as well as its history and natural and cultural resources. Overall, volunteers return home touched by what they have seen and experienced on Kaho‘olawe

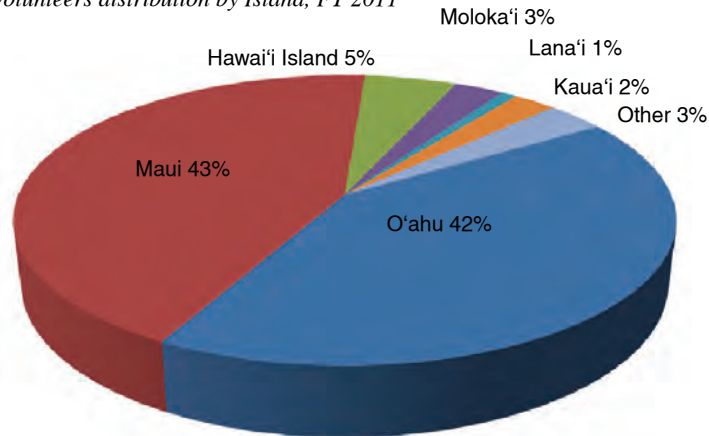
OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

Our continuing goal is to run the volunteer program more efficiently and to achieve even greater results from our invaluable volunteer resource base. While we will need fewer volunteers in FY 2012 due to fewer grant-funded projects, the number of requests to volunteer that we receive from the community continues to increase.

In FY 2012, we will be implementing partial closures of base camp operations in order to reduce operating cost, therefore reducing the number of weeks that the base camp will be able to house volunteers. In order to manage the larger number of volunteer requests and the reduction in volunteer opportunities, we will be implementing a long-range scheduling system that will allow us to better allocate the limited resources across a broader time period and thereby best utilizing all of the opportunities.

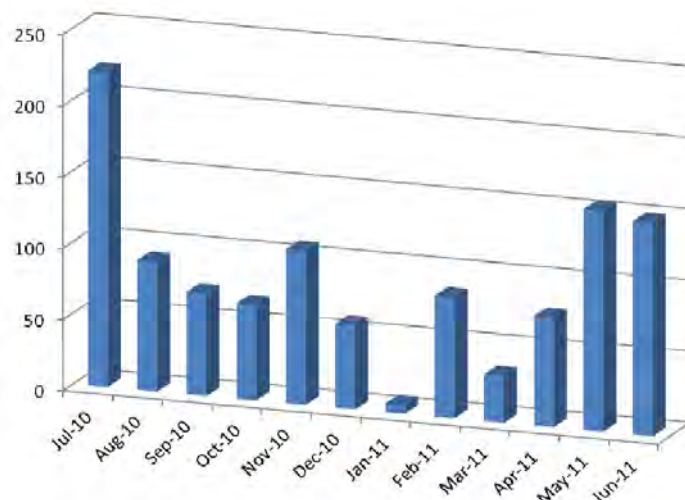
Structurally, we are in the process of transforming the volunteer application and registration process to a web-based, on-line system. Once we have completed web development and testing (all being completed with donated help from a volunteer), we hope to have the entire volunteer process digitized and all forms and waivers completed on-line. This paperless system will significantly reduce the administrative labor needed to file, collate and collect all volunteer waivers, registration documents, permit fees and emergency information.

Volunteers distribution by Island, FY 2011



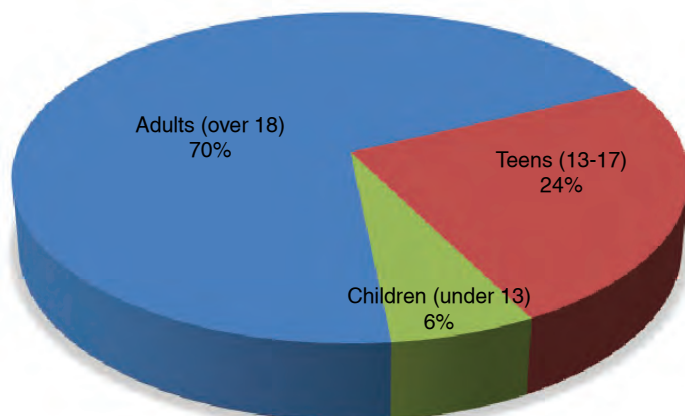
In FY 2011, the majority of the volunteers came from O'ahu and Maui.

Volunteer distribution by month, FY 2011



The high number of volunteers during the summer months is due to our support of the Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps and of the many young people that are dedicating their lives to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources.

Volunteer distribution by age, FY 2011



The majority of the volunteers are adults, but a third of the volunteers are under the age of 18.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011

Community Support: Community organizations volunteer to share their greatest asset, their time, with the KIRC by helping to restore and protect Kaho‘olawe’s natural and cultural resources for future generations.



Volunteers settle in for the long and painstaking task of extracting particles of plastic from the beaches of Kaho‘olawe. These small plastic pieces wash up on shore and are ingested by marine animals.



During their free time on island, volunteers are able to capture and express their experience by various art mediums.

Volunteer Labor’s Worth: A total of 1,124 individuals volunteered their services to Kaho‘olawe in FY 2011. With each volunteer working approximately 40 hours per trip, this equates to 44,960 man-hours or \$979,678 of labor donated to the many on-island projects (Based upon www.independentsector.org’s valuation of volunteer labor at \$21.79 per hour).



Attending this year’s legislative access were members and staffers of the State Legislature. (from left to right): Melissa Sakuda (staffer for Representative Danny Coffman), Representative Faye Hanohano, Senator Pohai Ryan, Lauren Easley (staffer for Senator Brickwood Galuteria), Representative Chris Lee, and Representative Jessica Wooley.

Legislative Support: Our biggest supporters are also our state’s leaders. Annually, interested members of the State Legislature and their staff make the trip to Kaho‘olawe to learn more about our unique mandate and the extreme conditions of working on a remote island, which used to serve as a bombing range.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

Hawai'i Revised Statutes §6K-6

The general administration of the island reserve shall rest with the commission. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission:

- 1) Shall establish criteria, policies, and controls for permissible uses within the island reserve;
- 2) Shall approve all contracts for services and rules pertaining to the island reserve;
- 3) Shall provide advice to the governor, the department, and other departments and agencies on any matter relating to the island reserve;
- 4) Shall provide advice to the office of planning and the department of the attorney general on any matter relating to the federal conveyance of Kaho'olawe;
- 5) May enter into curator or stewardship agreements with appropriate Hawaiian cultural and spiritual community organizations for the perpetuation of native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence customs, beliefs, and practices for the purposes stated in section 6K-3;
- 6) Shall carry out those powers and duties otherwise conferred upon the board of land and natural resources and the land use commission with regard to dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve. All powers and duties of the board of land and natural resources and the land use commission concerning dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve are transferred to the commission;
- 7) Shall carry out those powers and duties concerning the island reserve otherwise conferred upon the county of Maui by chapter 205A. The powers and duties of the county of Maui and its agencies concerning coastal zone dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve are transferred to the commission;
- 8) Shall carry out those powers and duties concerning the island reserve otherwise conferred upon the island burial councils and the department with regard to proper treatment of burial sites and human skeletal remains found in the island reserve;
- 9) Shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 that are necessary for the purposes of this chapter and shall maintain a record of its proceedings and actions;
- 10) May delegate to the executive director or employees of the commission, by formal commission action, such power and authority vested in the commission by this chapter as the commission deems reasonable and proper for the effective administration of this chapter; and
- 11) May solicit and accept grants, donations, and contributions for deposit into the Kaho'olawe rehabilitation trust fund to support the purposes of this chapter.



Front row) Commissioners Nāmaka Whitehead and Michele McLean ; (Back row) Commissioners Ka'ulani Murphy, William Aila, C. Kaliko Baker and Executive Director Michael Nāho'opi'i.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

There were many changes in the Commission's composition during FY 2011. With the change in administration at the State and County level, new government representatives were appointed to the Commission. DLNR Chairperson William Aila replaced outgoing DLNR Chairperson Laura Thielen and Maui County Deputy Planning Director Michele McLean replaced outgoing Maui County Public Works Director Milton Arakawa. The Honorable Governor Abercrombie also appointed Michele McLean as KIRC Chairperson. Departing



Executive Director Michael Nāho'opi'i swears in new Commissioners C. Kaliko Baker and Michele McLean.



COMMISSIONERS



Commissioners meeting in Honolulu at the beginning of 2011. (from l to r) Commissioners Nāmaka Whitehead, Craig Neff, Davianna McGregor, Ka'iulani Murphy, William Aila and Collette Machado.

from the KIRC this past year were PKO Representatives Craig Neff and Davianna McGregor. PKO Representatives C. Kaliko Baker was appoint by Governor Abercrombie as one of their replacements.

During FY 2011, the Commission held eight public meeting. Seven were held in Honolulu and one on Maui. During the year, the Commission reviewed and approved a series of research request to conduct underwater topographic mapping in the Reserve and hydrographic studies searching for underground water reserves to researches seeking evidence of ancient tsunamis.

During the 2011 Legislative Session , the Commission put forth two proposals. The first requested a portion of the

Conveyance tax to fund the restoration of Kaho'olawe. This request is consistent with the existing uses of the conveyance tax to fund the Legacy Land and the Natural Area Reserve Programs. The second request was to include asset forfeiture provisions in the KIRC statutes to strengthen resource protection enforcement capabilities. The legislature put forth legislations to change the composition and oversight of the Commission. All provisions did not pass this legislative session.

KIRC COMMISSIONERS

Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 6K established the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to provide oversight, control and management of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. By statute, the Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor provided that:

- One member shall be a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;
- Two members shall be appointed from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;
- One member shall be a trustee or representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- One member shall be a county official appointed from a list provided by the Mayor of the county of Maui;
- One member shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and
- One member shall be appointed from a list provided by Native Hawaiian Organizations.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

FY 2009 to FY 2013

1. Increase the size and sustainability of the trust fund by raising funds through grants, partnerships, and contributions from corporations and private individuals, entering into appropriate strategic alignments and operating agreements that generate revenue without commercial activity on island, and to manage the organization's budget in a manner that protects the trust.
2. To develop and implement a culturally appropriate five-year plan to assess and stabilize cultural sites, archaeological sites, and burials sites, and provide for appropriate access and cultural practices.
3. To develop and maintain appropriate and sustainable infrastructure to provide and maintain an on-island presence for the purpose of managing and protecting the Reserve.
4. To systematically restore the natural resources of the Reserve, including the island and its surrounding waters.
5. To create a five-year written plan to expand the volunteer base and relationships with individuals and organizations in concert with PKO, for the purposes of cultural, natural, and marine resource restoration and other Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.
6. To develop and implement a measurable education and communication program to deepen understanding for the children and people of Hawai'i and the world of the natural, cultural, historical and, spiritual significance of Kaho'olawe and to aid in the fund development process.
7. To establish a written and measurable enforcement program and network to protect Kaho'olawe and its waters from illegal, inappropriate, and unsafe use.
8. To prepare for the transition of Kaho'olawe to a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.

KIRC STAFF

KIRC Restoration Program Staff

STATUS REPORT

KIRC staff provide for the daily management, operation, and administration functions necessary to protect and maintain the Reserve. Additionally, staff supports the Commissioners by undertaking detailed research, documentation and planning essential to keeping the Commissioners informed, thereby allowing them to focus on the strategic direction of the Reserve.

As a state commission, and placed administratively under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), we are reliant upon the department for a portion of the administrative, fiscal, and personnel support functions. All other functions required to operate the Reserve are conducted from the Wailuku, Maui office.



Staff members conduct measurements to study the effects of erosion on the barren landscape.



This year we pushed further on the philosophy of “doing more with less.” We increased staff cross-training, including a safety stand-down and field training in order to improve staff flexibility and technical skills and to standardize critical emergency response and safety procedures. We encourage cross-utilization of staff across all programs with a emphasis on traditional Hawaiian cultural perspective woven into daily operations.

The hard work and dedication of the interns were key to the success of the volunteer program. Without their help in augmenting over-worked, but dedicated field staff we would not have been able to accommodate the number of volunteers that participated in the Restoration Program.

The highest Strategic Goal is to increase the size and sustainability of the Trust Fund in order to continue our work into the future. We focused on developing strategic partnerships with Federal and other State agencies to share limited resources. We were successful in developing a federal funding requests, but it occurred in the year that Congress wiped out all non-budgeted requests. We researched and wrote numerous grant applications seeking limited funding dollars in a difficult economy. Lastly, we continued to improve the way we worked to become even more efficient and fiscally responsible.

Though small in number, with flexibility and dedication, staff continues to accomplish its work and provides the services of a much larger organization.

Grant Applications for FY 2011

Currently awarded grants

- 1) Wetland Restoration (NRCS) \$380,400
- 2) Coastal Debris Cleanup (NOAA) \$100,000
- 3) Faunal Restoration (USFWS) \$10,450
- 4) Native Plant Seedlings (Hawaiian Electric Co.) \$5,000
- 5) Native plant Seedlings (Maui County) \$5,000

Grants submitted in FY 2010 and not awarded

- 1) B-WET Mālama Kaho‘olawe (NOAA) \$96,000
- 2) Pollution Run-off Control III (DOH) \$147,960
- 3) Feral Cat Control (PICCC) \$28,703
- 4) Endangered Species Conservation (DOI) \$45,000
- 5) Invasive Roi Removal (HCF/NOAA) \$ 79,637
- 6) Kanaloa Konahiki Training (NOAA/NMFS) \$103,766
- 7) Coastal Debris Cleanup II (NOAA) \$100,000

STAFF ORGANIZATION

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

In FY 2011, we reduced the KIRC staff to create a small and leaner organization that focused on the core needs of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. We consolidated multiple positions and reduced a layer of management.

KIRC staff in FY 2011:

Executive

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director
F. Kahale Saito, Cultural Project Coordinator
Scott Broadbent, Public Information Specialist

Programs and Operations

Bart Maybee, UXO Safety/Operations Manager
Dean Tokishi, Ocean Program Manager
Cheryl King, Ocean Specialist
Jennifer Vander Veur, Ocean Specialist
Paul Higashino, Restoration Program Manager
Lyman Abbott, Restoration Specialist
Jamie Bruch, Restoration Specialist
Lopaka White, Restoration Specialist
Tina Keko'olani, Access Specialist
Charlie Lindsey, Maintenance and Vessel Specialist
Keone Laepa'a, Logistics Specialist
Grant Thompson, KIR Specialist

Administration

Ka'ōnohi Lee, Administrative Officer
Carmela Noneza, GIS/LAN Specialist
David DeMark, Administrative Specialist
Mei Mailou Santos, Administrative Specialist
Terri Gavagan, Commission Coordinator



Staff members not only teach about stewardship, but also get first hand experience caring for Kaho'olawe.



Restoration Manager Paul Higashino explains one of the restoration projects to Intern Poema Pescaia.



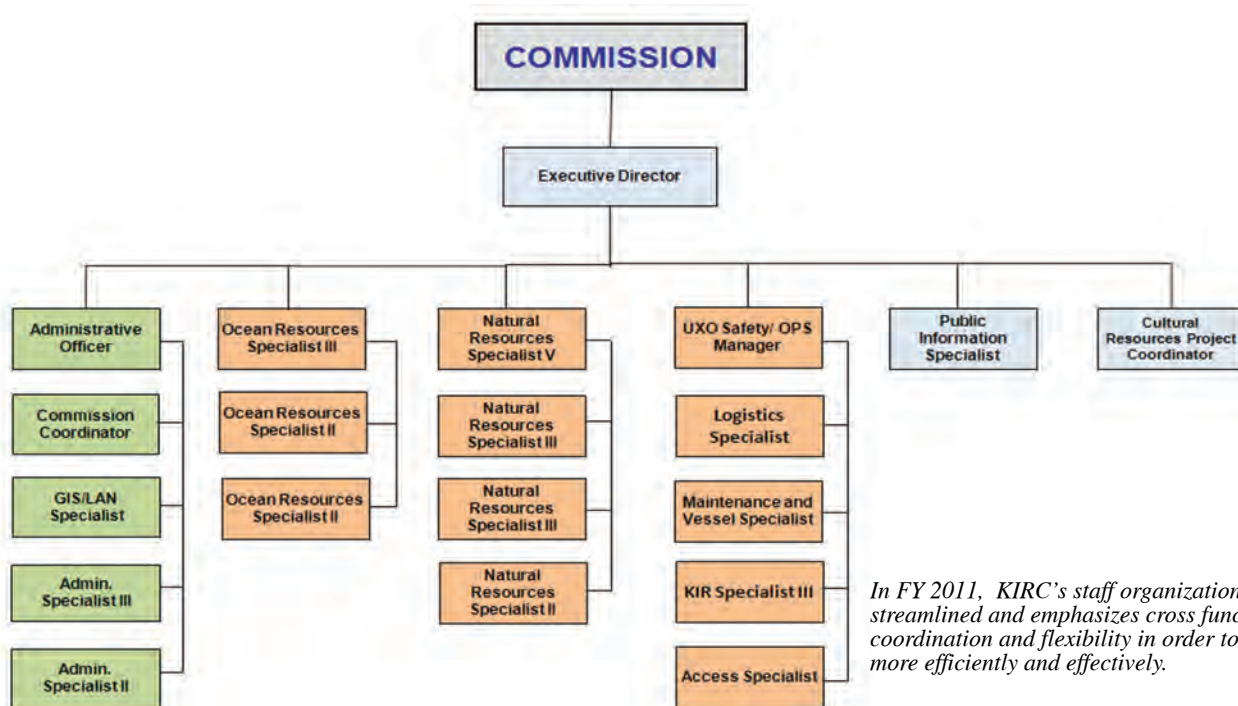
Staff members use their skills in creative and innovative ways to educate the public about stewardship on Kaho'olawe.

KIRC STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2011



KIRC Interns : Kalei Opio Guth, C. J. Elizares, Natashja Tong, Pono Cordero-Ho'opai and Poema Pescaia volunteered as interns to learn more about Kaho'olawe and the unique work that is done here everyday.

Internships: This year, many young people decided to commit a significant portion of their life to the restoration of Kaho'olawe. Coming from a variety of volunteer organizations such as AmeriCorps and Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps Programs, the interns served either a three-month summer internship or a year-long commitment. Spending a majority of their time on Kaho'olawe supporting the restoration effort, the interns gain valuable first hand experience understanding the practicability and challenges of environmental restoration. Their time spent with the KIRC has resulted in a marked change in their understanding and appreciation of Hawaii's natural environment.



In FY 2011, KIRC's staff organization is more streamlined and emphasizes cross functional coordination and flexibility in order to operate more efficiently and effectively.

KAHO‘OLAWE REHABILITATION TRUST FUND

The majority of the KIRC’s funding is from a limited trust fund established in 1994 during the federal cleanup of Kaho‘olawe. This federal appropriation, totaling \$44 million over a period of several years, even though considerable, was not substantial enough to establish a sustainable endowment for the long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe.

This has resulted in KIRC seeking the support of many outside sources to help keep the mission alive. In addition to our dependence on the trust fund, we also apply for Federal, State, and County grants, charitable contributions and, since FY 2009, we have developed a fee-based permit system that allows us to recover some of the costs of protecting and restoring Kaho‘olawe.

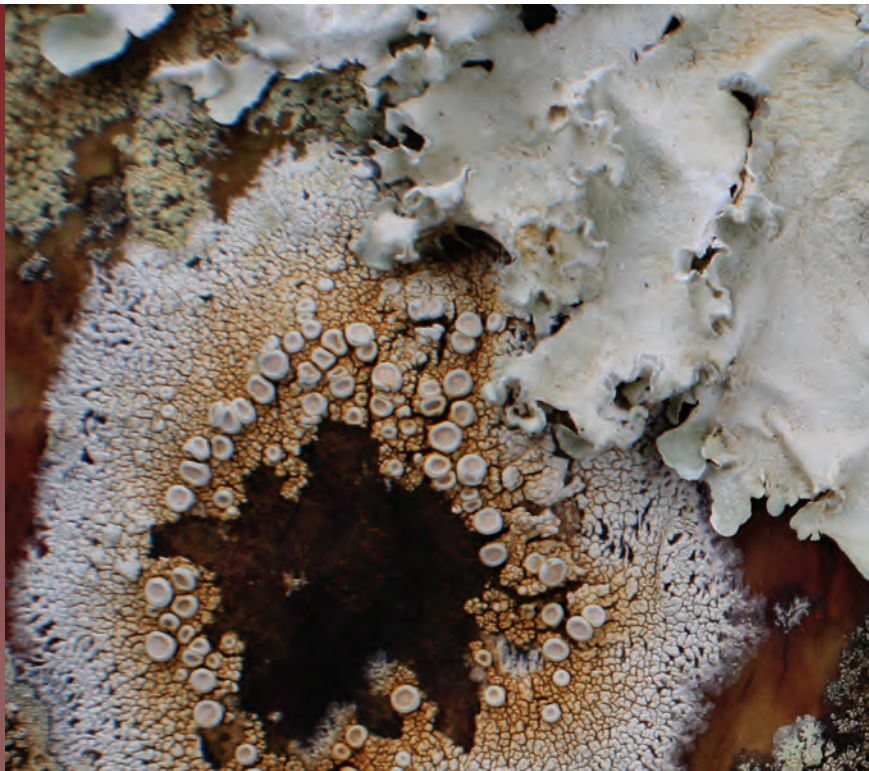
Hawaii Revised Statutes §6K-9.5

(a) There is created in the state treasury a trust fund to be designated as the Kaho‘olawe rehabilitation trust fund to be administered by the department with the prior approval of the commission. Subject to Public Law 103-139, and this chapter:

- (1) All moneys received from the federal government for the rehabilitation and environmental restoration of the island of Kaho‘olawe or other purposes consistent with this chapter;
- (2) Any moneys appropriated by the legislature to the trust fund;
- (3) Any moneys received from grants, donations, or the proceeds from contributions; and
- (4) The interest or return on investments earned from moneys in the trust fund, shall be deposited in the trust fund and shall be used to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

(b) The commission may use moneys in the trust fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including hiring employees, specialists, and consultants necessary to complete projects related to the purposes of this chapter.

(c) Moneys deposited into or appropriated to the trust fund shall remain available until they are obligated or until the trust fund is terminated.



Some of the first colonizers on Kaho‘olawe are the unique symbioses of a fungus and an algae a life form more commonly known as a lichen. This composite organism represents the union of two distinct life forms cooperatively working together.

STATUS REPORT

As stated in the Federally-mandated Kaho‘olawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) final report to Congress in 1993, “in the short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program support for specific soil conservation projects and related activities. In the longer term, however, state revenues will be needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds.” For the past 16 years, the initial Federal funding has allowed the KIRC to establish many of its innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge, provide a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment, and integrate ancient and modern resource management techniques.

We continue to seek grant opportunities and to develop diverse means of revenue generation, but with the statutory prohibition on commercial activities within the Reserve, we are limited in our ability to raise funds. This past year, with the help of supporters in the State Legislature and U.S. Congress, we have been exploring different revenue sources in order to continue the innovative restoration program. So far we have not been able to secure a permanent funding stream, but we will continue seeking alternative solutions. Without secure future funding, we will again be reducing operations in the next fiscal year in order to extend the life of the trust fund. We will shrink operations to the minimal core functions that still allow basic environmental restoration, meaningful safe access to the island for a limited number of volunteers, and the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the island and its waters. We are at the point where the state needs to realize the obligation it undertook when they accepted the island back.



FINANCIAL REPORT

SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
SUPPORT AND REVENUE 1	Program Grants	379.9	114.4	81.1
	Charitable Contributions	6.4	12.3	3.1
	Other Income	44.5	48.9	53.6
	Interest on Trust Fund	360.5	211.2	239.0
	Total Support and Revenue	\$ 791.3	\$ 386.9	\$ 386.9

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
OPERATING EXPENSES²	Commission	124.7	111.6	55.7
	Administration and Support Services	1,149.6	747.5	700.2
	Reserve Operations	2,279.9	1,769.6	1,543.0
	Ocean Program	296.4	241.3	236.8
	Restoration Program	588.6	441.3	434.1
	Culture and Education Program	68.7	106.3	77.9
	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 4,507.9	\$ 3,417.6	\$ 3,047.7

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
TRUST FUND BALANCE	Beginning Balance	20,218.4	16,504.9	13,474.3
	Support and Revenue	791.3	386.9	376.8
	Operating Expenses	4,504.8	3,417.5	3,122.1
	Ending Balance	\$ 16,504.9	\$ 13,474.3	\$ 10,729.0

Note 1: Program Grants for FY 2011 included funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Other Income includes receipts from the fee-based permits for boating registration and access to the Reserve, revenue generated from sales and court-mandated restitution fees.

Note 2: Commission expenses include Commissioner travel and expenses. Administration and Support Services include costs of maintaining the Wailuku Office, Executive and Administrative staffing, Outreach and Fund Development and all environmental and infrastructure planning. Reserve Operations include all costs of maintaining and supporting the Kihei site, Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure, including transportation, safety and volunteer coordination. Programs includes management, labor, materials, equipment and other costs to support specific programs.

DONATING TO THE TRUST FUND

Help support the healing of Kaho'olawe by making a monetary contribution to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Visit our website at: www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov for sponsorship information or mail your donation directly to the address on the back of this report.

You can also make a contribution of new or used equipment to support your favorite program. Download the KIRC Wish List to see what equipment is needed by your favorite program.

Lastly, you can also make a one-time or monthly donation or establish an employer partnership through the Hawaiian Way Fund at www.hawaiianwayfund.org, Donor Designation No. 130.

The KIRC is a 170(c)(1), a government agency authorized per IRS Publication 557 to receive tax-deductible contributions to its public purpose programs - such as Cultural, Ocean Resources, Restoration, Reserve Operations and the Reserve Education, Admin Center & Museum Building Program. As with all contributions, donors should always consult with their tax advisors before claiming any tax-deductible charitable contributions.

THE MISSION OF
THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

*Our mission is to implement the vision for Kaho‘olawe, in which the kino
of Kanaloa is restored and nā po‘e Hawai‘i care for the land.
We pledge to provide for the meaningful, safe use of Kaho‘olawe for the
purposes of the traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian
people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters.*

Established 1993



KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

Michele McLean, , *Chairperson*
Amber Nāmaka Whitehead, *Vice-Chairperson*
William J. Aila Jr.
Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.
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