

Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission  
State of Hawai‘i



KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2009

JULY 2008 to JUNE 2009



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

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We at the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission truly believe in the natural, cultural and spiritual importance of Kaho‘olawe and its role in the future of the Native Hawaiian people. We are committed as its temporary caretakers to protect its precious resources for the people of Hawai‘i.

Our *Year in Review* for FY 2009, encapsulates just a fraction of the work accomplished by our dedicated commission, staff, volunteers and stewardship partners. Due to the island’s remote location and lack of infrastructure, the work is extremely challenging, however, it is also extremely rewarding to see the results of our labors literally blossom before our eyes.

Not only do we work to restore and protect Kaho‘olawe’s land and seas, we also work to heal the people that venture here. The transformative power of Kaho‘olawe is felt by all that touch its shores, explore its pristine reefs, venture up its slopes and feel the island’s pain.

During this first year of implementing our new strategic plan, we have seen significant changes in our operation, morale and working relationships with each other and other organizations. A common theme woven throughout this report and in all of our programs is “doing more with less” in this challenging fiscal climate. Through innovative partnerships and dedicated volunteers, we are able to more effectively accomplish our goals and keep on the path to healing the island.

We are fortunate to contribute to such an important and meaningful endeavor. We do this work not for the recognition or material gains, but for the satisfaction of contributing to a worthy and noble effort.

Mahalo,



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

## Table of Contents

History	2
Restoration Program	4
Ocean Program	8
Cultural Program	12
Reserve Opearations	16
Volunteer Program	20
Commissioners	24
KIRC Staff	26
Financial Report	30

*Photo Credits: Cover photo by Judy Edwards*

*Distribution: An electronic copy of this and previous annual reports are available onñline at [www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov). Paper copies are available upon request, from the KIRC, for a nominal fee for printing and postage.*

## 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.*

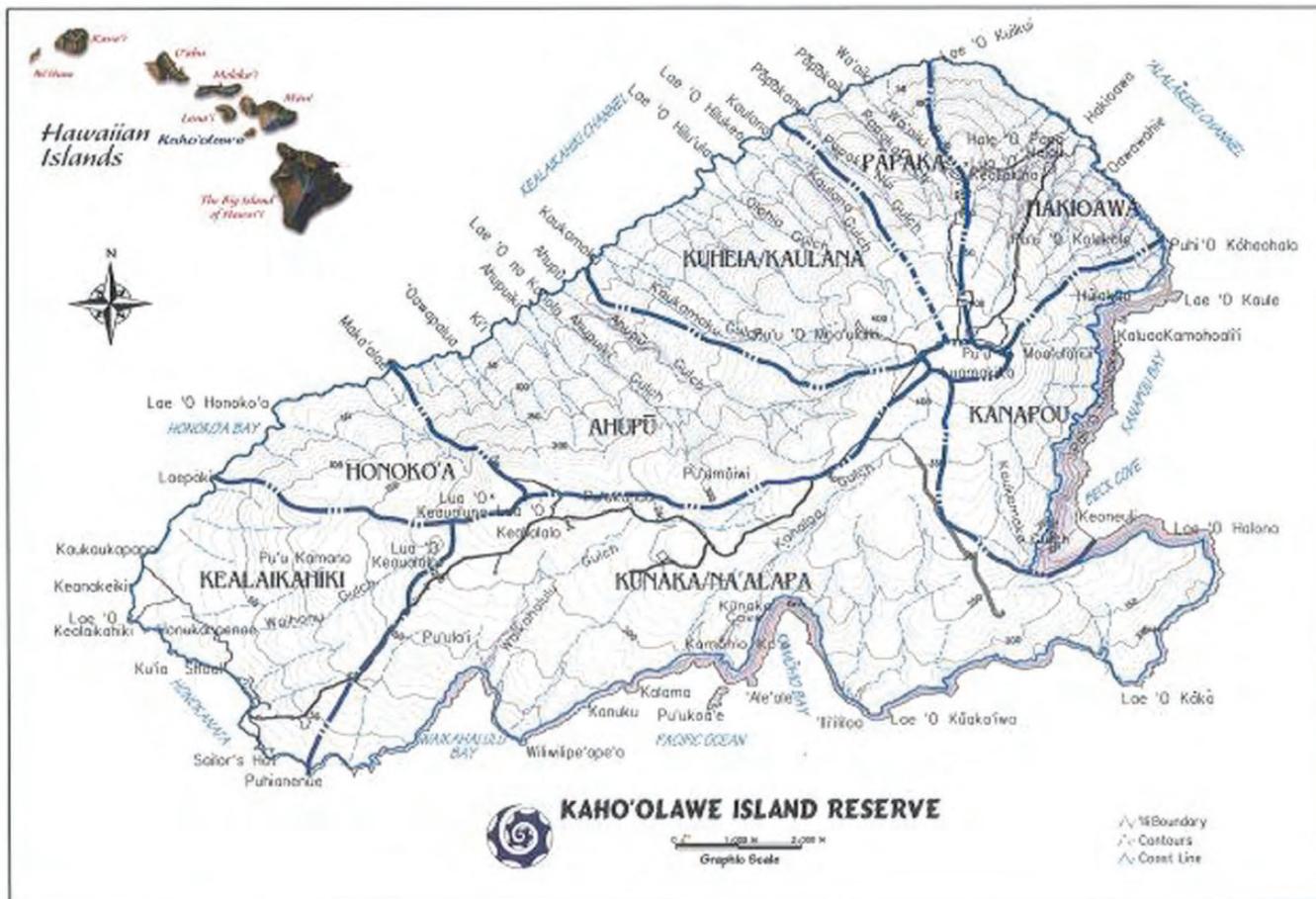
*The piko of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the islands.*

— 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 of 1,477 feet. The slopes are fissured with gulches 50 to 200 feet deep. Approximately 30 percent of the island is barren due to severe erosion. Formidable cliffs dominate the east and south coast.

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 allies of the United States as a liveñfire training area.



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

A decades-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 control over access to the island until November 2003.

A treasured resource for all of Hawaii's people, Kaho'olawe is of tremendous significance to Native Hawaiians. In recognition of the special cultural and Historic 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; education; and fishing.

In 1993, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the State of Hawai'i, under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6K, 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 growth of Native Hawaiian cultural practices through human access and interaction within the Reserve.

**WARNING!**

**Unexploded Ordnance Danger**

Entrance into Kaho'olawe Island Reserve  
Can Cause Serious Injury or Death!

UNAUTHORIZED ENTRANCE ONTO KAHO'OLAWE  
AND INTO THE WATER WITHIN TWO  
MILES OF KAHO'OLAWE IS PROHIBITED




*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) is 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 replenishment 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 of the restoration of the Reserve.



*The focus of our Faunal Restoration Project is to protect and expand native bird habitats on Kaho'olawe for species such as this koa'e 'ula or Red-Tailed Tropic Bird (Phaethon rubricauda) chick found on the off-shore islet Pu'u Koa'e.*

## STATUS REPORT

Our restoration efforts continue to focus on controlling the devastating erosion of valuable topsoil and siltation of our pristine reefs through innovative conservation methods. Severely eroded landscapes cover approximately one-third of the island. An estimated 1.9 million tons of soil are lost annually to erosion. Contributing to the difficulty of this task are the dual effects of a dry, arid climate and the presence of unexploded ordnance.

With only 25 inches of rainfall annually at the summit and perhaps less than 10 inches per year at the coast, most plants on Kaho'olawe are hardy alien species that easily outcompete the few, fragile native plant populations for water and nutrients.



*The residual risk of unexploded ordnance still present on Kaho'olawe has resulted in creative and innovative solutions to restoring the island's natural environment.*



## RESTORATION PROGRAM

In addition, the technical limitations of past unexploded ordnance clearances has created an island-wide patchwork of land use restrictions that hamper restoration activities. The combined effect has driven our restoration team to develop creative and innovative solutions to restoring the island's natural environment. This year, our Restoration Program focused on three major projects. The first, our Wetland Restoration Project funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), sought to expand wetland habitats found at Keāliialalo and Kaukaupāpapa. During the rainy winter season, open bodies of water could be found at these locations and they persist for months after the winter storms. To extend the duration of these ponds and expand their range, we have removed water-hungry alien trees, planted native wetland vegetation and installed four, 2,500-gallon water tanks for irrigation during the dry summer.

Our second project, the Clean Water Project and the Native Planting Project, consisted of a series of native out-plantings in an effort to reduce soil erosion along the coastline and upland watersheds. Along the Honokanai'a coast, over 2,000 native coastal seedlings were planted to hold the fragile shoreline. Along the slopes of Moa'ulanui, our restoration team expanded its upland plantings during the second phase of our partnership with the Hawaii State Department of Health, Polluted Runoff Control Program and the U. S. Geological Service (USGS). Funded by the federal Clean Water Act, this project's goal is to reduce surface water runoff generated in the Kaulana and Hakioawa watersheds through native plantings and erosion control measures. As featured on the U. S. Environmental



*Our Wetland Restoration Project seeks to expand habitats for native wetland plants such as Kohekohe (*Eleocharis erythropoda*) found in the Keāliialalo crater.*

Protection Agency website, the early results of this project have already demonstrated an observable reduction in soil erosion in the project areas.

Our last project area focused on the faunal restoration of Kaho'olawe's native seabirds. With initial funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and in partnership with Island Conservation, and others, we have begun preliminary field surveys to protect and expand seabird habitats from the coastal cliffs to the main parts of Kaho'olawe through eradication of predator animals, mice and rats. Success in this project could establish Kaho'olawe as a refuge for native bird species, such as the Nihoa Finch and Laysan Duck impacted elsewhere by global warming and rising sea levels.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2010

The restoration effort for FY 2010 will focus on meeting the objectives of our three current grant projects:

- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) Wetland Restoration Project;
- Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) Soil Erosion Control Project (Phase II); and,
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Faunal Restoration Project.

NRCS Wetland Restoration Project goals include: establishing control of an additional 20-acres of alien kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) and kīkānia (*Xanthium stumarium*) at Keāliālalo; out planting 18-acres with shrub and tree cover; installing 2,000 feet of irrigation piping and micro-irrigation to individual plants; removing an additional two-acres of kiawe brush in the wetland area at Kaukaukāpapa; and establishing water harvesting in Honokanai'a Base Camp to support coastal plantings.

We will complete our grant obligations for the DOH Soil Erosion Control Project (Phase II), by compiling and submitting a final report, while at the same time maintain the successful plantings accomplished in this project.

This year our coastal restoration projects will continue with native outplantings, however, to improve success rates, we will focus on more soil preparation in the planting areas and less on the quantity of seedling planted.

In our USFWS Faunal Restoration Project, we will continue invasive mammal surveys (track sand plots, camera transects, spotlight monitoring and mice and rat monitoring) and continue assessing the dietary components among feral cats in order to begin planning objectives, cost estimates and preliminary work plans for a future eradication program.

Lastly, we will expand our cultural planting at Moa'ulanui and at Honokanai'a by establishing 20 more planting mounds of native agricultural crops.



10,000 gallons of water storage supports the wetland restoration of Keāliālalo.

**Wetland Restoration:** This year, our Restoration Team successfully achieved their project's goals. At Keāliālalo, we were able to clear 20-acres of water-hungry invasive plants in hopes of expanding the duration and extent of the wetland conditions. We installed four (4) 2,500-gallon water storage tanks long the crater rim of Keāliālalo allowing us to extend the wetland conditions through the dry summer months. Lastly, we began native out-planting of a'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*), naio (*Myoporum sandwicensis*), ewa hinahina (*Achyranthes splendens*), kāwelu (*Eragrostis variabilis*), 'āweoweo (*Chenopodium oahuense*) and kāmanomano (*Cenchrus agrimonioides*) along the perimeter of the wetland area to stabilize erosion into the crater.

At Kaukaukāpapa, we improved access to the work site by extending the existing road system to the project area, allowing us to remove over two-acres of kiawe brush and begin native out-planting.



Before and after photographs of Kaukaukāpapa, one of the two wetland restoration work sites, after two acres of water hungry and invasive kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) were removed to make room for native wetland species.

# RESTORATION PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009

**Erosion Control:** This year, we developed an innovative planting strategy for restricted use areas of the island. These areas were only surface cleared of unexploded ordnance - digging in these areas would be unsafe. Utilizing recycled paper bags, wood chips left over from the Navy's cleanup project, compost and seeds collected on-island, we are experimenting with an innovative bag seeding method that may be effective in erosion control in these surface-only UXO cleared areas.

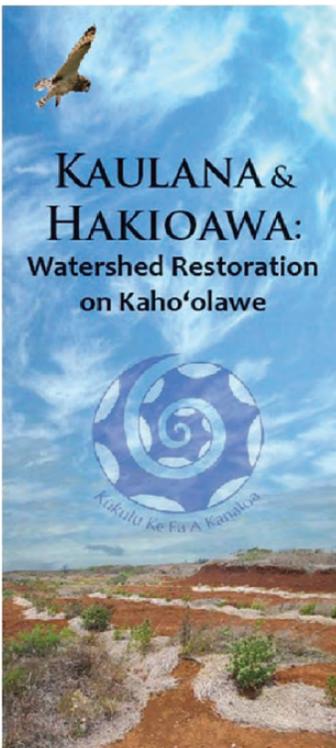


*Palupalu o Kanaloa (Kanaloa kahoolawensis), a critically endangered native species, with only two individuals in the wild and less than a dozen plants growing in various botanical gardens, is slowly making a comeback*



*Paper bags filled with seeds and woodchips offer an innovative solution to plantings in restricted land use areas.*

**Re-establishing Native Species:** After years of collecting seeds from the two remaining wild specimens of Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoolawensis*), our partnership with the National Tropical Botanical Garden and various local botanical gardens has finally resulted in multiple germinations that may signal the first signs of recovery for this very rare and endangered species.



*Soil erosion control project brochure*

**Success Story:** Funded by the Hawaii Department of Health, Clean Water Act, our Soil Erosion Control Project has already yielded positive results, in fact, the U.S. EPA has featured this project as a success story on its "Section 319 Nonpoint Source Success Stories" webpage ([http://www.epa.gov/nps/success/state/hi\\_kaho.htm](http://www.epa.gov/nps/success/state/hi_kaho.htm)).

Within the relatively short timeframe of the project, erosion pin data has already shown a significant reduction in soil erosion in the Kaulana Watershed planting areas along with soil accretion in the planted areas of Hakioawa (as compared to the unplanted regions). We are confident that results will continue to improve over time.

*Data gathered from rodent transects will help to develop and island-wide eradication program.*



**Faunal Restoration :** In an effort to better understand rodent population cycles and the factors affecting them, we have established six index line transects and two drift fence transects in different habitat types throughout the island. Transects are monitored for two consecutive nights each month and consist of live-capture mouse and rat traps spaced at regular intervals. Preliminary data (diet analysis, morphometrics, disease testing, breeding phenology and distribution) are also being gathered on feral cats (*Felis catus*), a significant predator of native wildlife and obstacle to future faunal restoration efforts.

## OUR ROLE

The KIRC plays an unique role within the main Hawaiian islands in that we manage an entire island ecosystem ó 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 its unique resources and its needs.

For these complex systems, it is our 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 that integrates ancient and modern resource management techniques.

In our unique role as caretakers of Kaho‘olawe, it is hoped that the conservation and restoration we undertake today ñ both culturally and scientifically - will one day provide for traditional and customary Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices and serve as a source for an abundance of 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 resource values will again take root, producing ever greater resources for our future.



*During their annual migration, a endangered Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) was sighted during the Ocean Program’s monthly helicopter surveys of Kaho‘olawe’s waters.*

## STATUS REPORT

Because of Kaho‘olawe’s remoteness, the island’s shores remain unaffected by the growing urbanization seen on the other major Hawaiian islands. As a result, the Reserve still attracts rare inhabitants such as ‘īlioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal), one of the world’s most endangered pinneped (seals, sea-lions and walruses). In the past eight years, there have been four documented seal pup births on Kaho‘olawe.

Our Ocean Program’s comprehensive marine management program focuses on three major project areas. The first area centers on monitoring the health of the Reserve through a



*Bleach tagging by federally-trained KIRC staff allows us and other scientists to readily identify and track the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal’s (*Monachus schauinslandi*) movement around the main Hawaiian islands.*



# OCEAN PROGRAM

in-depth survey plan that covers over sixty (60) miles of coastline and extends seaward for two miles. Coastal hikes observe intertidal resources, diving and snorkeling transects monitor the near-shore fish and algae populations and monthly helicopter surveys detect large aquatic wildlife and identify any major threats to the Reserve. Through these surveys, we are able to track the distribution and population density of key indicator marine species and therefore develop a picture of the overall health of the Reserve. Some of the key indicator species include protected and endangered species, limpets ('opihi), a majority of harvested fish species (near-shore, bottom and pelagic), coral health (bleaching, disease and sedimentation), sea birds, sharks and stingrays.

Our marine monitoring projects are also a key component of our Restoration Programs efforts in reducing soil erosion across the island. Monitoring near-shore turbidity as well as overall siltation along the reefs helps determine the effectiveness of upland conservation efforts and identifies any major erosion areas.

We manage our fish populations through a two-part fishery management project. First is our boater registration that identifies registered ocean users and promotes our sustainable fishery management guidelines. In conjunction with boating registration is an enforcement component that regularly patrols for unauthorized users and tracks trespassers from interception within the Reserve's restricted waters all the way through to criminal conviction. Complementing our sustainable fishery management is an outreach component that regularly



*The combined effects of geography and currents cause the acute accumulation of marine debris at Kanapou Bay.*

includes print and radio media exposure as well as personal contact with the public, through boating club meetings and at the local fishing supply stores. The effort educates the public on the rules of the Reserve waters and the importance of protecting Kaho'olawe's fisheries for future generations.

Lastly, our Ocean Program focuses on the restoration of the aquatic environment through the removal of marine debris from the island's shores. Due to the geographic location of Kaho'olawe and how the prominent currents move around the island, Kaho'olawe is a sink area for marine debris to accumulate. This threatens not only our reefs, which become snagged by nets and rope, but also the marine life that ingests debris or become entangled. We regularly remove tons of derelict fishing gear, nets and plastics from the shoreline of Kaho'olawe.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2010

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.

We plan to continue underwater surveys of the near shore/coastal resources of the Reserve utilizing monitoring techniques that are standardized among other marine management agencies with the goal that data can be compared to other areas. This information will give us a measuring tool to compare the areas that may be managed with different methods and therefore result in different successes or challenges.

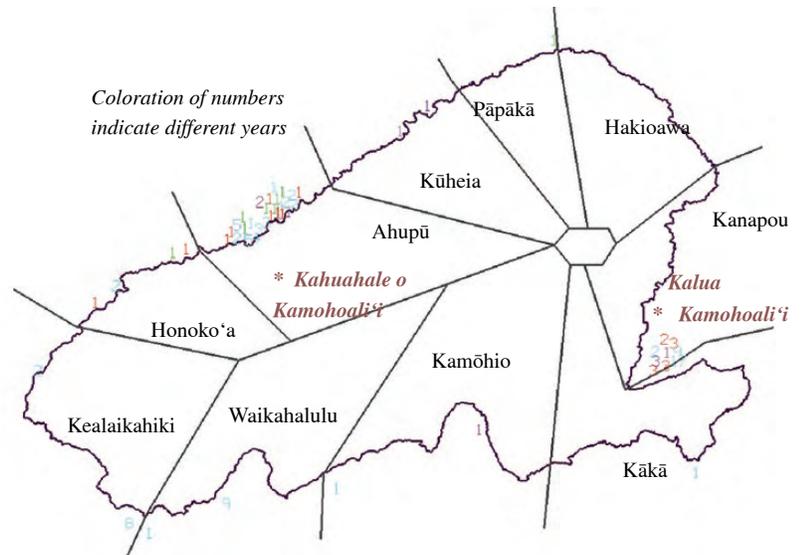
We also intend to develop traditional Native Hawaiian marine observations, consolidate these data with scientific observations, and identify and remove threats to the health of the Reserve including marine debris and invasive species.

As we expand and clarify guidelines for traditional subsistence fishing, we will also identify and validate appropriate fishing practices and standardize procedures.

Regular review of catch reports and monitoring data will help us evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of our ocean management program, allowing us to become more self-reliant in conducting marine research by expanding our capacity in scientific diving and vessel operations.

In FY 2010, we will evaluate the potential threat of invasive aquatic algae and non-native fish. If the threat is severe enough to threaten the health of the Reserve, we will develop appropriate removal programs to combat the threat.

Finally, we will expand our partnerships with other agencies to help advance our program goals with support in areas of funding, expertise and networking.



Number of shark sightings as observed during regular aerial surveys over a six-year period shows major clusters at Kanapou and Ahupū 'ili.

**Merging Knowledge:** A key goal from this past year was the merger of traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge and scientific observation. As part of our regular aerial surveys, our Apex Predator Study noted the location, number and types of large predatory fish, mostly sharks but also including large jacks (*ulu*). With six-years worth of data, our Ocean Program was able to identify a growing apex predator population around the island's shores indicating the improving health of Kaho'olawe's marine environment as well as unique habitat trends for the island's shark population.

The majority of the Reserve's shark sightings seem to cluster around two locations on the island, both associated with oral traditions relating to the native Hawaiian shark god, Kamohoali'i. Legends tell of an underwater home of Kamohoali'i (*Kalua o Kamohoali'i*) along the cliffs of Kanapou, while other stories tell of an upland dwelling above Ahupū Bay (*Kahuahale o Kamohoali'i*).

Our survey data also indicates a peak in shark sightings during the summer months (66%) that coincides with most shark species' mating season. A second rise in sightings during the spring months as well as more multiple and group sightings coincides with the breeding season. The findings of our study supports the notion that Kaho'olawe has the potential to be a source population of coastal shark species for adjacent islands. This convergence of scientific observation and oral tradition is a major tenant of our draft Cultural Use Plan, and demonstrates an example of our efforts to merge scientific and traditional knowledge.

# OCEAN PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009



*KIRC Ocean Resources staff conducting underwater reef survey.*

**Bottom Fish Monitoring:** Throughout the State of Hawaii, bottom fish populations have been devastated by commercial overfishing which has forced seasonal statewide closures on traditional fishing grounds. Our bottom fish monitoring program provides us with information regarding the diversity, population density, and habitats of our bottom fish stock. Our previous monitoring program consisted of tracking a limited number of acoustically tagged fish, which provided us with very sparse information.

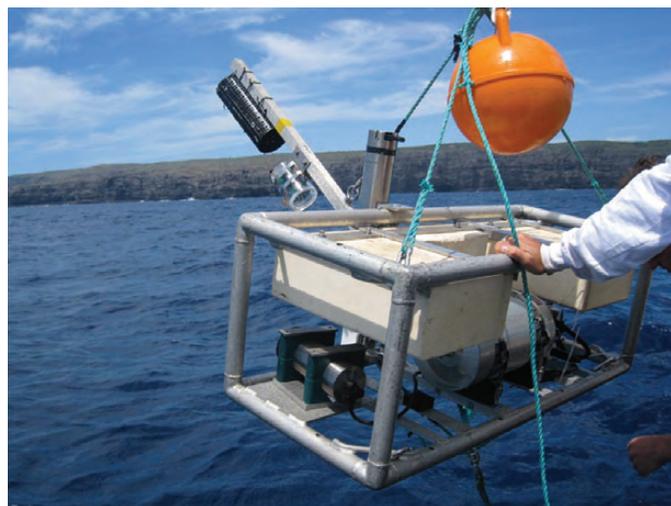
This year, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i, we were able to utilize a new deep water video system that increased our sampling abilities. The baited stereo cameras provided images that allowed us to determine fish densities, and the stereoscopic view aided us in determining individual fish size and biomass. This study will help establish baseline data to help manage the Reserve, and will provide comparative data to help manage the recovery of statewide bottom fish populations.



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

**Ocean Program Staffing:** New to the Ocean Program this year is Jennifer VanderVeur (Ocean Resources Specialist). While supporting the Ocean Program, Jennifer is also working on a graduate degree from Victoria University of Wellington, studying the behavior and ecology of two species of intertidal gastropods. Jennifer received an undergraduate degree from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) in Marine Science and Conservation Biology and is qualified as a scientific diver through UHH's Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) program.

Jennifer brings to the Ocean Program a strong cultural appreciation as well as comprehensive statistical analysis ability. With her strengths supplementing the talents of the rest of our staff, the Ocean Program looks to enhance the sustainable management and cultural and scientific understanding of the Reserve's resources.



*Underwater stereoscopic cameras provide us with three-dimensional images of bottom fish species that aid in managing Kaho'olawe's and state-wide bottom fish resources.*

**Boating Registration:** This year we introduced a boating registration program that includes a registration decal, allowing us to quickly identify authorized boaters within the Reserve. Fishing within the Reserve is restricted to trolling outside of 30 fathoms during select weekends. Registered boaters submit liability waiver as well as agree to all Reserve rules and restrictions. Registered boaters also agree to submit catch reports that helps in our fishery management effort.

Unauthorized fishing vessels are intercepted, cited and prosecuted in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and the County of Maui Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.

## 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 the KIRC staff and its programs.

Working closely with the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources’ State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), we oversee the preservation of Kaho‘olawe’s burial sites as well as 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 access and use of the Reserve. Since many of these undertakings are large-scale endeavors, our role focuses on project and resource management to assist our 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, visitors, volunteers, contractors, and employees to the resources fundamental to the KIRC’s cultural mandate.



*The traditional Hawaiian sailing canoe, Hökule‘a visited the island, crewed by members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, and KIRC staff. (photo by Lopaka White)*

## STATUS REPORT

On March 18, 1981, based upon an island-wide archaeological survey implemented as a result of the *Aluli v. Brown* consent decree, the entire island of Kaho‘olawe was listed on the National Register for Historical Places and designated the “Kaho‘olawe Archaeological District.” The District contains 544 recorded archaeological/historic sites and more than 2,400 features. Traditionally and still today, Kaho‘olawe is considered a sacred and spiritual place associated with Kanaloa, the Hawaiian deity of the ocean.



*The Kaho‘olawe Archaeological District contains 544 historic and archeological sites and 2,400 features. This adze or traditional stone tool, found on the surface of the island, is threatened by erosion and weather.*



This year, our Cultural Program focused on three key areas. The first, and the greatest priority, is the protection of the island's cultural resources. The artifact remains of our Native Hawaiian ancestors are still intact, but are continually threatened by the effects of weather and erosion. Working from a priority list assembled from past archaeological surveys, we developed and implemented two site restoration plans to preserve our most threatened cultural sites. The physical work for the first site was completed while necessary materials were staged to begin work on the second. Also, through our partnership project, Mālama Kaho'olawe, with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), Pacific American Foundation (PAF) and Cultural Surveys Hawai'i, we were able to convene an on-island archaeological field practicum that not only developed the preservation plans for the following year's work projects, but trained Native Hawaiian participants with the tools and techniques to help preserve their cultural past.

Secondly, our Cultural Program continues to support and provide for the traditional cultural use of the island. In partnership with the PKO, several sections of the circum-island Alaloa trail have been completed. The base was laid for a ceremonial platform to commemorate the 20th anniversary of bombing being stopped on Kaho'olawe, an event that will occur on October 22, 2010. Both projects required the close coordination of PKO project leaders and KIRC logistics. Additionally, we continue to work closely with a variety of community organizations, such as *Nā Pua No'eau*, that bring students to learn about the historical, cultural and political significance



*Students from Nā Pua No'eau use the red dirt of the island as an ancient dye for their traditional native Hawaiian clothing.*

of the island, and the Polynesian Voyaging Society's sailing canoe *Hōkule'a* that included crew members from both the PKO and KIRC staff.

Lastly, our Cultural Program works closely with traditional cultural practitioners, in regular meetings with our Cultural Advisory Working Group, to integrate a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective to all our programs. Next year, our Cultural Program will be focusing on approving and implementing the Cultural Use Plan developed for Kaho'olawe by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation. This plan will provide the foundation for managing the future of the island with a traditional Native Hawaiian cultural perspective.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2010

Our focus for FY 2010 is to continue the long-term cultural projects we have established in the previous year. As we work closely with our partner stewardship organizations and various other community groups, we seek to continue the healing of Kanaloa through the revival of cultural practices and traditions. Listed below are projects we have set out to accomplish during the next fiscal year:

- The restoration and stabilization of significant cultural and archaeological sites remain, a top priority. We plan to complete the second burial site restoration project on the slopes of Moa‘ulanui and begin planning the preservation of two significant cultural sites: Ka Piko a Wākea and pōhaku Kāneloa,
- Our second goal this year is to complete the construction of a *mua*, or stone platform, in Honokanai‘a to mark the 20th anniversary of the cessation of bombing on Kaho‘olawe,
- Continue the growth of the Alaloa Project (circum-island trail). With deft coordination between staff and volunteers, we seek to locate the ‘ili boundaries, (traditional land division boundaries) and extend the trail northwards from Keanakeiki to the end of the Kealaikahiki district,
- We will have completed our Mālama Kaho‘olawe educational program work, but seek to continue the education of our Native Hawaiian youth through on-island experiences that work hand-in-hand with teachers utilizing the Malama Kaho‘olawe curriculum in the classroom, and
- Finally, we will finalize, adopt, and implement the Kaho‘olawe Cultural Use Plan.



*Leading northward from Kealaikahiki, volunteers line the pathway to Keanakeiki with stones gathered along the trail .*

**Alaloa Construction:** Our Alaloa Project is a long-term effort to build a circum-island trail linking the island’s traditional ‘ili boundaries. By connecting these ancient land divisions, we seek to unify the island in purpose and through cultural practices. This year, with the effort of many volunteers, we began this daunting construction project. Working from Kealaikahiki, moving boulders and clearing kiawe trees and shrubs, we have constructed a trail lined by stone and coral extending 2 km southwards back towards Honokanai‘a and 1 km northwards towards the beach of Keanakeiki. Along the northern tip of the island, another 1 km of trail was built from Hakioawa towards Lae ‘o Kuikui to the north. Of the eight ‘ili boundaries around the island, we have located and marked two within the last year. Our goal for the upcoming year is to locate and mark the other six boundaries while establish the route along the north coast of the island.



*Volunteers use the Alaloa heading southwards from Kealaikahiki back to Honokanai‘a.*

# CULTURAL PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009



*KIRC staff instructing middle & secondary school teachers in a marine education workshop at Keanakeiki. These Mālama Kaho'olawe teachers will bring the lessons learned on this beach back to classrooms around the state.*

**Cultural Site Restoration:** The rich, intact cultural history of the island is vulnerable to the effects of weather and erosion. The most threatened are the remains of our 'iwi kūpuna (ancient burials) that can become exposed in high erosion areas. The re-interment process requires not only specific cultural protocol to be followed, but also rigorous mapping and documentation to meet applicable historic preservation laws. This year we were able to complete the required documentation for two re-interment sites and completed the field work for one of these sites. Through our Mālama Kaho'olawe Project we were able to hold a series of archaeological training sessions and a field school that, in conjunction with completing the documentation for our next group of cultural site stabilization projects, also provided staff and volunteers with the necessary skills for us to continue this effort ourselves in the future.



*A new stone platform or mua, will also be named Kahualele, is just taking form on the bluff above Honokanai'a.*

**Educational Development:** To improve the educational achievement of Native Hawaiian youth and adults, the KIRC established the Mālama Kaho'olawe Project. The Project is an innovative partnership between the Pacific American Foundation, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the KIRC and was developed to create and implement a culture- and place-based academic curricula, grounded in Native Hawaiian culture and values, incorporating mathematics, science and other core academic subjects while utilizing the unique resources of Kaho'olawe. The Project, in its third and final year of Federal funding, brought 157 teachers to the island and was used by over 500 students in public, private and charter school classrooms across the State. In addition to the middle & secondary school curricula, a vocation education component trained over 68 post-secondary school candidates in unexploded ordnance safety and archaeological techniques and mapping.



*Participants in the Mālama Kaho'olawe Project adult vocational training program learned valuable skills to care for Kaho'olawe, such as archaeological mapping and unexploded ordnance safety.*

**Kahualele Construction:** On October 22, 2010, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the bombing stopping on Kaho'olawe. In 1992, a stone platform or *mua*, named *Kahualele* was dedicated in Hakioawa to mark the beginning of a new era where Hawaii's leaders made commitments to return Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawai'i. A second *mua*, a mirror image to the first will be built on the opposite side of the island and will commemorate the end of military use of the island and herald a new era as the promise of Native Hawaiian sovereignty. This second site was selected by Parley Kanaka'ole after the first *Kahualele* was built in Hakioawa. This year we have made serious inroads in establishing the foundation of this structure and stockpiling building material from the nearby shore for upcoming work. Under the oversight of PKO member Attwood Makanani, volunteers will be working hard to complete this effort in time to mark the celebration.

## OUR ROLE

The long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe’s natural and cultural resources is supported through environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate infrastructure and logistics. Our group 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 temporary overnight accommodations at our on-island facility for our staff, volunteers and visitors;
- Economically maintain and repair all facilities, equipment, machinery and vehicles used by our field teams;
- Provide general support and manpower, where needed, to ensure the timely and safe completion of our projects.

In addition to infrastructure and logistics, we are responsible for overall safety within the Reserve. This includes Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) safety maintained through regular UXO sweeps, providing UXO escorts when required, and developing UXO training and orientation guidelines for everyone who enters the Reserve.



*The recently renovated berthing hut, built with volunteer labor and in partnership with the University of Hawai‘i School of Architecture, is a model of sustainability that can significantly reduce electrical use on island..*

## STATUS REPORT

Our Reserve Operations exist to support the logistical needs of our programs. Whether transporting equipment and supplies to Kaho‘olawe, repairing machinery needed for our restoration projects, or ensuring the safety of all visitors to Kaho‘olawe, the work of our Reserve Operations is diverse and extremely important.

Starting this year, our primary means of transporting all of our equipment and personnel has shifted from costly helicopters to our two, KIRC- operated vessels *Hākilo*, a 30-foot, aluminum dive boat and *‘Ōhua*, a 40-foot aluminum landing craft. The



*The ‘Ōhua, landing machinery, supplies and people on the sands of Honokanai‘a.*



workhorse of our fleet, *‘Ōhua* is capable of carrying up to 40 passengers or five tons of cargo on each trip. *‘Ōhua* is also able to land on the beaches of Kaho‘olawe and allows up to a full-size pickup truck to drive on and off the boat.

We made significant renovations to our facilities on Kaho‘olawe and Maui this year. The vision for our Honokanai‘a camp and maintenance facility is to create an “island village” which began with the long-awaited “green” renovation of one of our camp buildings. A military-era berthing hut was transformed into a green, island-style building that significantly reduced its energy needs. Consolidating our berthing and storage areas has greatly improved the efficiency of the previous military layout and the removal of tons of scrap metal and waste from the on-island “bone yard” has significantly reduced the clutter of the camp. On Maui, we expanded our Kīhei boathouse to accommodate the *‘Ōhua* thereby increasing the usability of the site.

Sustainability was the key guiding principle in revamping our Reserve Operations this year. We now separate all on-island trash into food scraps, paper/cardboard, recyclable bottles and cans, and other waste. Food scraps are now composted, with the ultimate goal of utilizing the homemade compost for our native plantings; biodegradable paper and cardboard are either added to the compost mix or used for on-island erosion control projects; recyclable bottles and cans are redeemed back on Maui; and only the remaining waste is transported back to Maui for disposal. To further reduce



*Located in Kīhei, Maui, our boathouse and future location of our operation and education center is the first stop for most supplies and people bound for to Kaho‘olawe.*

solid waste, we have eliminated individual-serving waterbottles for staff and volunteers; instead, we now use refillable 5-gallon jugs and each person is required to bring their own personnel water bottle. This has resulted in a moderate cost savings but a dramatic change in solid waste disposal.

We significantly improved on-island safety with the expansion of our “KIRC Base” radio support from a workday-only schedule to round-the-clock coverage. We developed and implemented a detailed but easy to use “Code Red” flowchart that simplified emergency medical response actions and decisions. Lastly, we significantly increased our unexploded ordnance (UXO) safety program with 29 staff and PKO trainees completing our UXO identification and safety Access Guide Training Program.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2010

In FY 2010, our focus is to redefine how we will support the long-term restoration and monitoring work on-island and in the Reserve's waters.

Our biggest project for the next two years will be the construction of the Hakioawa Kitchen Hale. After five years of planning, we were able to secure State funding to build this simple but very important structure that will support the continuing cultural use of the island.

We will continue the "green" renovation of our Honokanai'a camp by continuing our building renovation of other existing camp structures with the goal of reducing overall energy consumption. We plan to add rain gutters and a catchment to our camp buildings, allowing us to begin the cultural landscaping of Honokanai'a, with Native Hawaiian plants

We will continue reducing our camp's energy needs by installing a pilot photovoltaic system to partially offset our diesel generator. Additionally, we plan to install a smaller, more efficient generator to further reduce fuel consumption. Finally, we plan to change our fuel delivery method allowing the 'Ōhua to carry a larger fuel payload, thereby greatly reducing the number of supply trips to Kaho'olawe.

The last of our camp cleanup tasks, started in FY 2009, is the removal of used oil from the island. This year we completed the necessary registration and permitting and will be removing the numerous barrels of used oil left on the island.

Lastly, after two years of continuous use, the 'Ōhua will be entering a long awaited dry dock so that we can make necessary improvements and repairs, as well as a complete inspection of all critical components.



*The newly renovated berthing hut in the forefront compared to the pre-existing military style building in the background.*

**Capital Improvements:** Our featured accomplishment this year has been the green renovation of one of our camp buildings. Through the initiative of University of Hawai'i School of Architecture student Corey Boss, an old military-era berthing hut was transformed into a green island-style building. Thanks to a large team of skilled and dedicated volunteer carpenters, air conditioning units were made obsolete by installing floor-to-ceiling louvered windows, ceiling fans and eave extensions; electric lighting is now rarely needed with the addition of skylights and large windows; and new gathering areas were created on the front and back lanai.

We have finally completed our planning process for the Hakioawa Kitchen Project. With a final drawing and artist's rendering, we were able to develop a design that features composite materials and a simplified and open construction. With the support of our State Legislature we were able to secure Capital Improvement Project funding to begin construction in FY 2010.



*Computer rendering of the proposed pavilion and kitchen facility to replace the years of tarps used at Hakioawa.*

# RESERVE OPERATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009



*Our dedicated Zapata staff brought an expanded list of services and capabilities to more efficiently support Reserve Operations*

**UXO Safety:** A critical component for Reserve Operations is ensuring the safety of all visitors to Kaho‘olawe. This year we significantly expanded our unexploded ordnance (UXO) safety program by reviving Access Guide Training, providing both KIRC staff and our stewardship organization partners with an in-depth training program including UXO identification, UXO safety procedures, operations of UXO detector equipment, group management and emergency procedures. Twenty-nine students completed the classroom and field phase of the program while eleven KIRC staff and thirteen PKO volunteers completed the practical examination and were awarded Access Guide Certificates.



*PKO volunteers receiving their Access Guide Certificates.*

**Transportation:** FY 2009 was our first full year of using our landing craft, ‘Ōhua, instead of helicopters for the transportation of personnel and cargo between Maui and Kaho‘olawe. The costs savings are estimated to be approximately 70% from the two previous fiscal years (we spent \$515,000 in 2007 and \$464,000 in 2008 on helicopter transportation, and just \$146,000 in 2009 on vessel operations).

Although the ocean presents different conditions every day, we have developed successful safe operating procedures for beach landings at Honokanai‘a.

**Base Camp Operations:** Starting in FY 2009, our new base camp management contractor, Zapata, brings a smaller and more efficient workforce that is saving us 13% over our previous contractor. With a smaller workforce, our base camp contractor is still able to provide a high quality of service. Zapata’s flexibility has resulted in expanding services to include engine repairs and maintenance on our two diesel engine boat and Maui-based vehicles.

Other camp improvements include the replacement of all electric water heaters with solar power, installation of rain gutters on the industrial side of camp to provide wash water for the workshops and repairs to the camp boardwalks.



*KIRC staff and PKO volunteers participating in our Access Guide Training Program, increasing the safety of all visitors to the island.*



*Significant cost savings were realized this year as we shifted to ocean-based transportation.*

## 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. To best leverage available funds, while making the most productive use of the staffing, restoration of Kaho'olawe will depend upon the charitable work of thousands of volunteers.

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 our 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 our volunteers; and ensure safe and meaningful experiences to enhance our volunteers' appreciation of Kaho'olawe.

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

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



*The heavy work of restoring Kaho'olawe falls on the many shoulders of our devoted volunteers.*

## STATUS REPORT

It is only through our Volunteer Program that we are able to make the transformational changes that will bring about the restoration of Kaho'olawe.

A total of 1,242 individuals volunteered their services to Kaho'olawe in FY 2009. On a typical trip each volunteer contributes approximately 40 hours of service. New this year, our commission approved and implemented a "Right of Entry" permit that standardizes the process to gain entry to the Reserve and provides the framework to share the cost of supporting our volunteers. In its first year of implementation, we collected \$31,800 in permit fees, reducing the KIRC's overall cost to transport and house volunteers during their work trip.



*Volunteers' labor hours account for a majority of project grants' in-kind funding matches.*

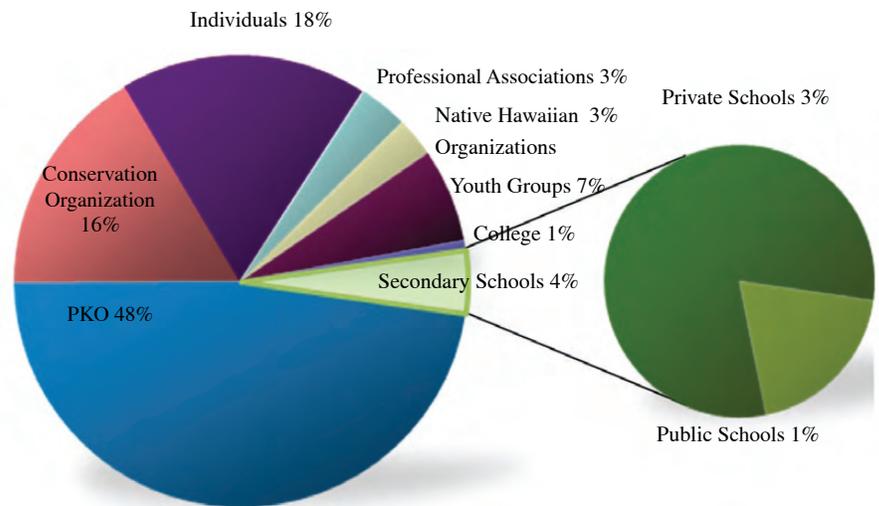


# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Most of our volunteers work with our restoration program, but this year we made a special call for carpenters and others with construction skills. In FY 2009, we undertook the remodeling of one of our berthing huts with all volunteer labor that we estimate saved us over \$20,000 in construction costs.

Most of our volunteers (82%) are part of an organized group (usually about 10-20 participants) from different segments of Hawai'i's local population. The largest were from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (48%), and other conservation organizations. The remaining 18% of our volunteers were not part of a group, but were truly individuals coming to Kaho'olawe to lend a hand.

Our volunteers come from dispersed locations throughout Hawai'i. The greatest percentage (40%) of our volunteers were from O'ahu. The second largest group (29%) came from Maui. Because of their close proximity, this is our most valuable source of volunteers, for we can rely on a steady flow of Maui volunteers and other additional support when needed. The remaining (31%) volunteers came from the other neighbor islands with less than 1% coming from the mainland and abroad.



FY 2009 volunteers by source.

To better understand the needs of our volunteers, we developed an evaluation program that gathers key demographics data as well as measures program effectiveness to institute future program improvements. To improve the meaningful volunteer experience on Kaho'olawe, we are developing and will soon implement, an on-island volunteer curriculum, an offshoot of our Mālama Kaho'olawe Program. This formalized curriculum will provide our staff with the template, training aids and background to better communicate the mission, goals and objective of the KIRC, and provides the framework to educate volunteers on the history, culture and importance of the Reserve.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2010

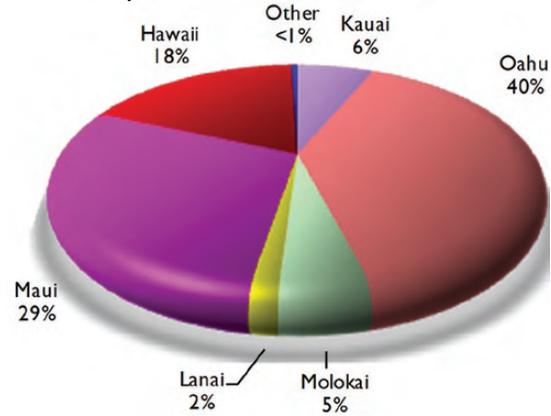
Our continuing goal is to run the volunteer program more efficiently and to achieve even greater results from our invaluable volunteer resource base. While we will require fewer volunteers in FY 2010 due to fewer grant funded projects, the number of requests to volunteer that we receive from the community continues to rise.

The focus for FY 2010 (Volunteer Development Action Plan FY09-13) is improving the administration of the volunteer program, streamlining the registration process, simplifying the access request procedures and reducing administrative turnaround time.

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 our 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.

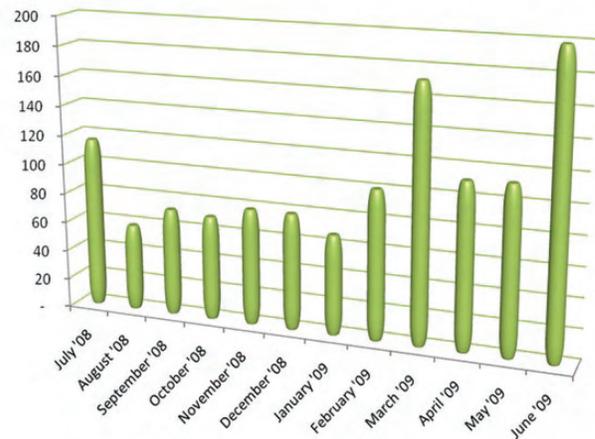
In FY 2009, we had our first review of our long running safety orientation program. The review was extremely positive, and based upon this first set of comments, we made changes to increase the safety aspects of the orientation and to update the presentation for our new ocean based transportation. In FY 2010, we intend to further automate the orientation process by developing multi-media and/or web-based presentations that allow us to better communicate with our volunteers.

FY 2009 Volunteers by Island



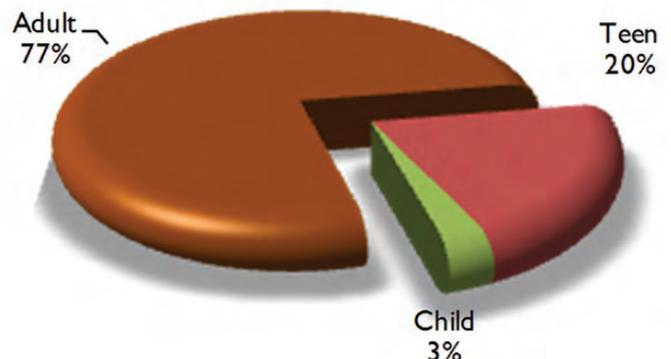
In FY 2009, the majority of our volunteers came from O'ahu and Maui.

Volunteer Numbers per Month, FY09



The peak in March represents additional accesses that occur on Kaho'olawe during the school spring breaks. The high number of volunteers during the summer months are due to our support of the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps and the many young people that are dedicating their lives to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources.

FY 2009 Volunteers by Age



The majority of our volunteers are adults, but one in five of our volunteers are middle and high school students.

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009

**Volunteer Labor's Worth:** A total of 1,242 individuals volunteered their services to Kaho'olawe in FY 2009. With each volunteer working approximately 40 hours per trip, this equates to 42,480 manhours of service or \$860,220 of labor donated to our many on-island projects (Based upon [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)'s valuation of volunteer labor at \$20.25 per hour).



*Volunteer carpenters installing our green renovations to one of our camp buildings.*

**Legislative Support:** Members of the State Legislature have regularly visited Kaho'olawe to better understand our unique challenges and Kaho'olawe's significant place in Hawai'i's future. Only through the continuing support of our Congressional Delegates and State Legislators will we be able to secure the future of our work to protect and restore the resources of the Reserve for the Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.



*Summer Interns Arianna Feinberg and Natasha Tong*



*Ocean Program Intern Tyler Hassig*



*AmeriCorps Intern Stephanie Wood*



*Volunteers contributed \$860,220 worth of labor in FY 2009.*

**Berthing hut remodeled:** Our green renovation construction projects were accomplished by skilled volunteer labor. Our call for carpenters and other tradecrafts was answered by many skilled and energetic volunteers that each lends a helping hand to the restoration of Kaho'olawe.



*Visiting State Legislators learned more about the mission of the KIRC and the unique challenges we face. From left to right, Senator Russel Kokobun, KIRC ED Michael Nāho'opi'i, Senator Kalani English, Representative Mele Carroll, Senator Brickwood Galuteria, and Senator Michelle Kidani.*

**Internships:** This year we were lucky to be assigned three interns from the AmeriCorps and Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps Programs as well as one volunteer intern, all of whom made valuable contributions to the restoration of Kaho'olawe. Our four interns, one who was with us for a full year and three during the summer, worked with our field staff and gained valuable first hand experience understanding the practicality and challenges of environmental restoration. The time spent with us has made a marked change in their understanding and appreciation of Hawai'i's natural environment.

# RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

## Hawaii Revised Statues §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 his chapter.



*Commissioner John Waihe'e IV receiving a KIRC resolution for his service on the commission. Front Two Rows: Deputy Attorney General Rowena Sommerville; Commissioners Charles Burrows, Milton Arakawa, John Waihe'e IV, Emmett Aluli, and Nāmaka Whitehead; KIRC staff members Michele McLean, Kahale Saito, and Ka'ōnohi Lee. Back Row: KIRC Executive Director Michael Nāho'opi'i and Commissioner Craig Neff.*

## COMMISSIONER REPORT

At the beginning of FY 2009, we welcomed new Commissioner Amber Nāmaka Whitehead (PKO), an ecologist with the Kamehameha Schools, replacing out-going Commissioner Robert Lu'uwai (PKO), while at the end of the year we saw the departure of OHA Trustee John Waihe'e IV. Replacing Commissioner Waihe'e in FY 2010 is OHA Trustee Colette Machado, who in the past represented the PKO on the



*In-coming KIRC Commissioner, OHA Trustee Colette Machado receives her oath of office as she replaces OHA Trustee John Waihe'e IV as the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Representative to the KIRC.*



Commission and previously held the position of Commission Chairperson.

In FY 2009, the Commissioners held eight public meetings, five in Honolulu, three in Wailuku, and one limited meeting on Kaho'olawe. In this fiscal year, our Commissioners finalized the eight Strategic Action Plans that are companion documents to the FY 2009 to FY 2013 Strategic Plan; approved a major revision to the Stewardship Agreement between the KIRC and PKO; and finalized the long running Hakioawa Kitchen design.

Additionally, Commissioners approved a comprehensive permit system that standardized the process for granting access and program approvals. Integral to the permit system is a fee structure that finally allows the KIRC to begin recovering costs for the services it provides to the public.

The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Task Force met regularly, laying the foundations for a Honokanai'a Master Plan that will eventually lead to the sustainable and renewable modernization of the camp. In addition, with thoughtful consideration and an in-depth review, the Commission weighed the pros and cons of an Army Corps of Engineers' proposal to conduct a harbor development study for Kaho'olawe. Eventually, the Task Force considered it in the best interest of the Reserve not to move forward.

Finally, recognizing the difficult economic conditions of the State of Hawai'i, Commissioners oversaw an over 30%

reduction in our operating budget from FY 2008 to FY2010 with a corresponding reorganization and consolidation of staff.

## 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

# 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 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 staff photographing unexploded ordnance remnants during Unexploded Ordnance Access Guide training.*

## STATUS REPORT

KIRC staff provides 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 inform our Commissioners, thereby allowing them to focus on the strategic direction of the Reserve.

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



*KIRC staff members preparing 'alaea to dye their kihei.*



We are a unique organization charged with a unique mission and staffed by unique individuals. Nearly half (43%) of our 20-person staff hold undergraduate college degrees; nearly one-fourth (22%) have completed graduate studies. More than one-third have previously worked on the Navy's Kaho'olawe UXO Clearance Project and brought to the KIRC valuable training, work experience and institutional knowledge associated with Kaho'olawe.

This year we focused on "doing more with less". We increased staff cross-training, including a two-week 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 our staff across all programs with a emphasis on traditional Hawaiian cultural perspective woven into our daily operations.

Our highest Strategic Goal is to increase the size and sustainability of our 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 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, our staff continues to accomplish its work and provides the services of a much larger organization.

## Grant Applications for FY 2009

### Currently awarded grants

- 1) Clean Water Act Section 319 (HiDOH) \$1,500,000
- 2) Wetland Restoration (NRCS) \$380,400
- 3) Faunal Restoration (USFWS) \$10,450
- 4) Native Plant Seedlings (Hawaiian Electric Co.) \$5,000
- 5) Mālama Kaho'olawe Educ. (USDOE/PAF) \$ 72,500

### Grants awaiting award notification

- 1) Marine Debris Cleanup (NOAA) \$163,643
- 2) Seabird & Rare Plants (Atherton Foundation) \$15,000
- 3) Environmental Education (EPA) \$45,511

### Grants submitted in FY 2009 and not awarded

- 1) Clean Water Act Phase III (HiDOH) \$1,490,000
- 2) Coastal Habitats Rest. (NOAA ARRA ) \$2,208,762
- 3) Coastal Wetland & Habitat Rest. (USFWS) \$1,409,166
- 4) Marine Debris Cleanup (NFWF) \$24,728
- 5) Coastal Habitats Seabirds (USFWS) \$133,261
- 6) Rare Plant Monitoring (NFWF) \$15,700
- 7) Education Assistance (A&B) \$10,000
- 8) Education Assistance (First Hawaiian Bank) \$10,000

# STAFF ORGANIZATION

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

The FY 2009 restructuring reduced multiple layers of reporting and consolidated functional area management under three managers: the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Administrative Officer, with each program area, in turn, managed by a Program Manager.

KIRC staff effective beginning of FY 2010:

## *Executive*

Michael Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director  
Rowena Somerville, Deputy Attorney General  
Bart Maybee, UXO Safety Specialist  
F. Kahale Saito, Cultural Project Coordinator

## *Programs and Operations*

Michele McLean, Deputy Director  
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, Vessel Manager  
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



*KIRC staff and our stewardship organization partners training together to ensure the safety of our visitors.*

**Emphasis on Safety:** Improving safety throughout our operations was a high priority this year. Early in the year, we conducted a safety review identifying specific areas that needed improvement. This became the basis for our refinement of the “Code Red” or medical emergency procedures, re-implementing UXO safety and Access Guide training, and conducting on-island, boating and ocean training. We held First Aid and CPR refresher training for our staff, allowing us to render aid until more critical care is available. Our remote location also lead to a complete review of our on-island helicopter landing pads with the local medical ambulance service, and we received daytime approval on all our upland landing sites and partial nighttime approval at Honokanai'a.



*First Aid and CPR refresher training is necessary since critical ambulatory care could be more than a hour away on Kaho'olawe.*

# KIRC STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2009

**Emphasis on Accomplishments:** This year, we focused on making achievable and sustainable progress in meeting our overall Strategic Goals. Our Strategic Action Plans were developed to provide a roadmap of distinct tasks that build upon each other to support an overall Strategic Objective. Some of our staff accomplishments this year included the opening of our reference library located at our Wailuku office, implementing a project-based cost management system, development of fee-based permits, laying the ground work for an Executive Policy Manual and establishing new sources of revenue.

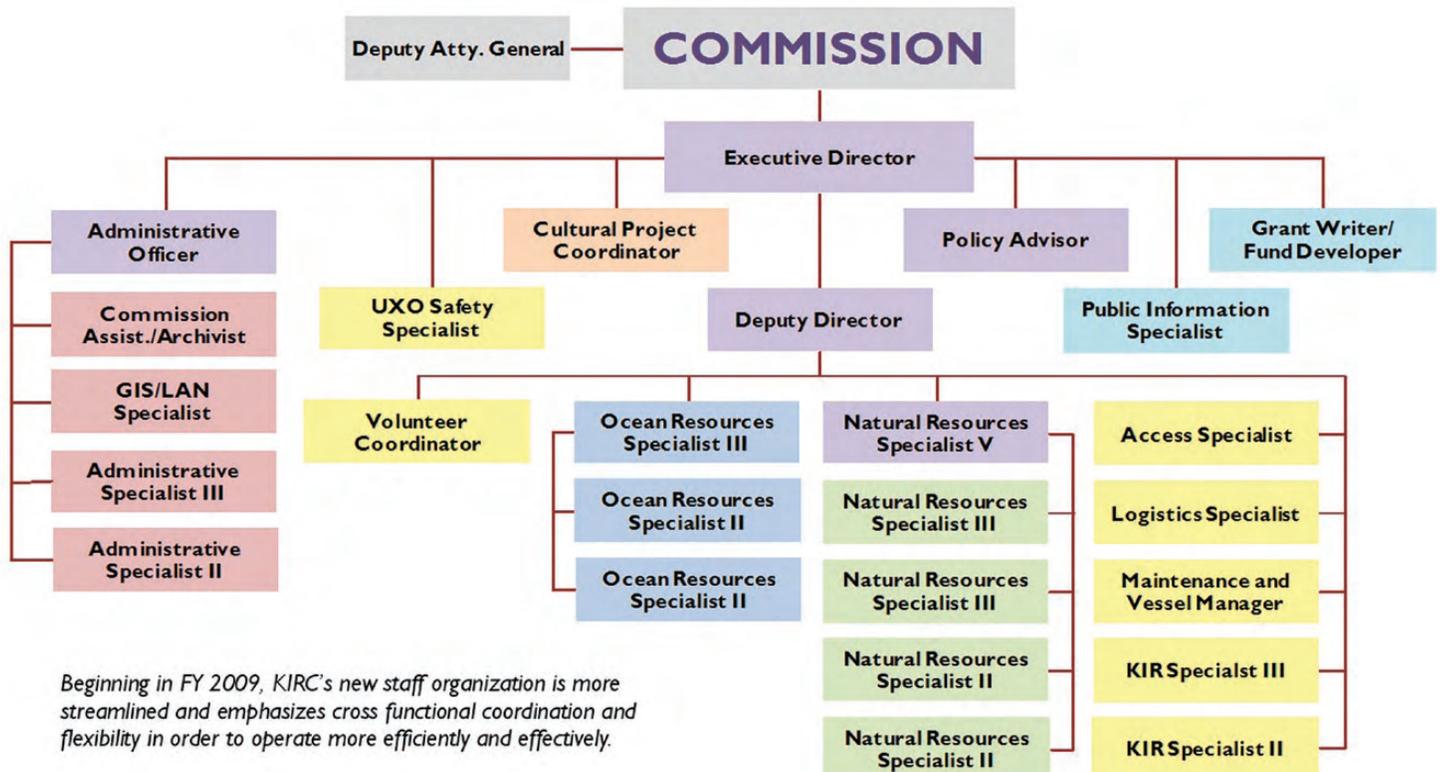


Our newly opened library collection of Kaho'olawe records, documents and research put together and categorized by our Commission Coordinator/Archivist.



Restoration and Ocean Program staff at the annual Hawaii Conservation Conference, the State's largest gathering of conservationists and land managers

**Emphasis on Partnership:** Developing and cultivating partnerships will be a key factor in meeting our Strategic Goals. This year we cultivated our existing partnerships with federal agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Services and Natural Resources Conservation Service for our restoration program, and we developed new partnerships in our Faunal Restoration Working Group with Island Conservation, State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Maui County Mayor's Office.



Beginning in FY 2009, KIRC's new 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 \$45 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.



*The view from Pu‘u Moa‘ulaiki affords an uninterrupted view of most of the main Hawaiian islands and the channels in between.*

## STATUS REPORT

Foreseeing the economic downturn that hit Hawai‘i in FY 2009, we began taking a hard look at budget reducing opportunities, economization and partnerships in an effort to “do more with less”. This year, we saw a decrease in program grant income as we had completed a NOAA-sponsored grant the previous year and were approaching the end of a Hawai‘i Department of Health, Clean Water Act grant. We were awarded and began two significant grants with NRCS and USFWS, but at a much lower funding level than the previous years. A significant decrease in interest earned on the trust fund was due to the drastic drop in interest rates felt by all endowment-based organizations.

In FY 2009, we implemented several key initiatives to better manage and conserve our trust fund. We employed project-based accounting and monthly budget variance analysis that dramatically improved spending control throughout the year and reduced our prior year spending by \$1.3 million. We established internal spending goals for each project that resulted in ending the fiscal year \$600,000 under budget. We developed new revenue sources by requiring fee-based permits for on-island access, boating registration and enforcement restitution that generated \$44,500 in six months in FY 2009. Lastly, we conducted an in-depth analysis of our greatest expenditures and redesigned operations to significantly reduce the depletion of the trust fund while still maintaining a high level of service.

Our trend for the upcoming FY 2010 is to continue to focus on our core mission while developing innovative and efficient ways to keep the restoration going.



## SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>	
		FY 2008	FY 2009
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b> <sup>1</sup>	Program Grants	\$ 1,232.3	\$ 379.9
	Charitable Contributions	\$ 2.8	\$ 6.4
	Other Income		\$ 44.5
	Interest on Trust Fund	\$ 1,067.7	\$ 360.5
	<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,302.8</b>	<b>\$ 791.3</b>
		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>	
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b> <sup>2</sup>	Commission	\$ 297.4	\$ 118.8
	Administration and Support Services	\$ 1,109.6	\$ 1,099.5
	Reserve Operations	\$ 3,469.1	\$ 2,177.8
	Ocean Program	\$ 424.3	\$ 287.7
	Restoration Program	\$ 214.0	\$ 564.3
	Culture and Education Program	\$ 128.0	\$ 66.8
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,642.4</b>	<b>\$ 4,314.9</b>
		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>	
<b>TRUST FUND BALANCE</b>	Beginning Balance	\$ 22,905.8	\$ 19,566.2
	Support and Revenue	\$ 2,302.8	\$ 791.3
	Operating Expenses	\$ 5,642.4	\$ 4,314.9
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 19,566.2</b>	<b>\$ 16,504.9</b>

Note 1: Program Grants for FY 2009 included funding from the Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Water Act; Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Pacific American Foundation. Other Income includes receipts from our 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 and support from the State Attorney General. 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](http://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 our 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](http://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**

Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D., *Chairperson*  
Craig Neff, *Vice-Chairperson*  
Milton M. Arakawa, A.I.C.P.  
Charles P.M.K. Burrows, Ed.D.  
Laura H. Thielen  
Collette Machado  
Amber Nāmaka Whitehead

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i  
*Executive Director*

811 Kolu Street, Suite 201  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Telephone: 808-243-5020  
Facsimile: 808-243-5885

Email: [administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov](mailto:administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov)  
Website: [www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov)