



# KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

## YEAR IN REVIEW

**FY 2013**

JULY 2012 to JUNE 2013



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

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are fast approaching a defining moment for the future of Kaho‘olawe. A dream, started by a handful of men and women in 1976 - now shared by the thousands that have touched its shore, seen its slopes and shared its stories - will either wither on the vine or flourish into the next phase of the island’s existence.

The 1993 Federal appropriation that funded the return of Kaho‘olawe to the people of Hawai‘i and launched a restoration effort of epic proportion was never intended to be the sole source of funding for the long-term management and care of the island. The appropriated funding was meant to allow the State to begin the environmental restoration of the island’s devastated landscape and to provide for safe and meaningful use of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve.

This past year, Kaho‘olawe supporters organized public focus group sessions across the State to engage, inform and encourage people to share in the vision, and to become a part of the island’s future. It is only through the shared strength of the people of Hawai‘i that the dream for Kaho‘olawe will be realized.

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.*

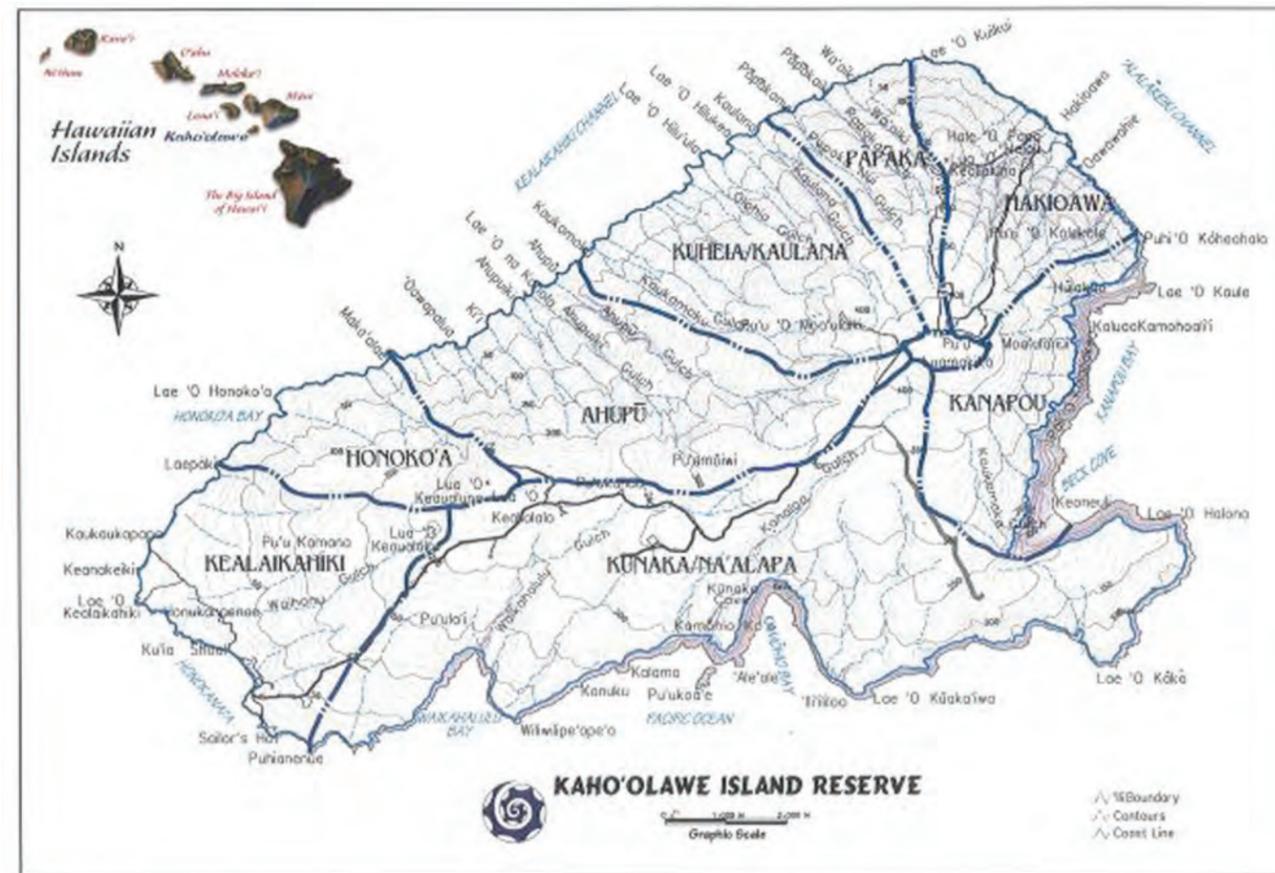
*The piko of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the islands.*

— 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; education; and fishing.

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 FY 2009– 2013) are as follows:

- 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, (which occupied the island for nearly 200 years), 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 the incorporation of cultural ceremonies and practices, the healing of Kaho'olawe is both a spiritual and environmental renewal. Restoration Program staff and volunteers alike understand and support the cultural and spiritual underpinnings, responsibilities and mandates for the restoration of the Reserve.



# RESTORATION PROGRAM

By removing water-hungry alien species from the natural, coastal depression at Kaukaupapa, we were able to create a wetland habitat that will provide the natural environment for reintroduced native plants and birds.

## STATUS REPORT

This past year, the Restoration Program completed a project to restore wetland habitats while embarking on two new projects; reducing erosion run-off in the Hakioawa Watershed and restoring coastal habitats in Honokanai'a Bay.

The Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) funded Wetland Restoration Projects sought to improve wetland habitats in two natural depressions located at Keālihalalo and Kaukaupapa. Beginning in 2007, work at both project areas consisted of removing alien vegetation- especially water-hungry species such as kiawe- native out-plantings, and installation of irrigation and water collection systems. The project cleared a

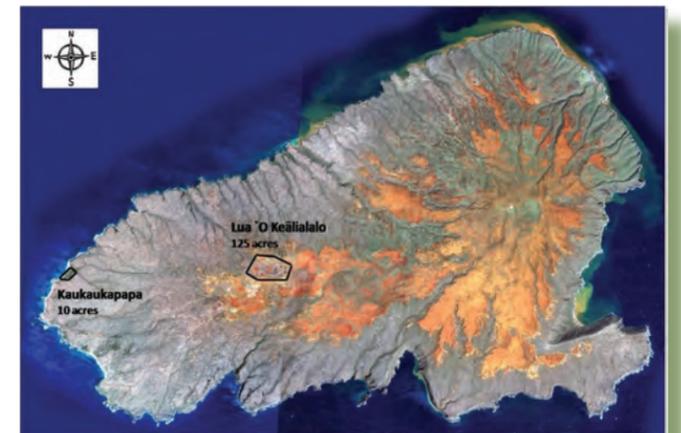


Kaukaupapa's wetland forms a coastal buffer that allows siltation to settle prior to the water entering the sea.

total of 55 acres of kiawe and invasive Cocklebur and Sour Bush through grueling, labor intensive work cutting, hauling, and chipping thorny kiawe (*Prosopis pallida*) trees and monotonous, backbreaking drudgery to dig burrs out from the mudflats. Over 7,000 native seedlings were planted in the cleared areas. The newly restored wetland habitats created natural ephemeral ponds that will slow surface run-off and promote recharging of the groundwater aquifer. This will extend the growing season for native plantings, thus enhancing success and attracting native upland bird species through either natural discovery or planned re-introduction.

The first new project, administered by the State Department of Health, Clean Water Branch (DOH) and funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), aims to reduce excessive sedimentation in the Hakioawa Watershed by restoring native ecosystems. The 108-acre project site, located on the upper slopes of the Hakioawa valley, is characterized by exposed, unfertile hardpan and severe gullying with predominately alien dry land vegetation. This two-year project's goal is to improve downstream water quality by reducing surface water run-off through: removing non-native vegetation; planting 20,000 native grasses, shrubs and trees; installing irrigation piping from the Luamakika water catchments; and installing erosion control features such as swales, wattles and check dams made with geotextiles and pili grass.

The second project, funded by Hawai'i Community Foundation in partnership with the National Oceanic and



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

Atmospheric Administration (HCF/NOAA), aims to restore 6.3 acres of coastal land at Honokanai'a Bay, including a wetland, native sand dunes and eight significant cultural sites. The project also includes the control of non-native fish predators in over 37.5 acres of coral reef. The project goal is to restore the native ecosystem of Honokanai'a while honoring the cultural, spiritual and biological connections between land and water. Ultimately, this project as a whole is a unique, cultural patrimony; preserving a native cultural heritage, which promotes a better understanding of the past and the connection between land and ocean.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2014

The focus for FY 2014 will be to successfully fulfill our contractual obligations with the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Clean Water Branch. The project area is 108 acres in the priority watershed of Hakioawa. The overall goal of the project is to reduce sediment loading in the near shore waters adjacent to this watershed. This will be achieved by building rock mounds along the contour of the slopes that will catch soil from the prevailing winds, planting native dryland species into the new soil and installing drip irrigation from the water catchment system. This year the goal is to build 1,000 rock mounds, plant over 6,000 native seedlings/seeds and install irrigation in 1/3 of the project area.

Another major project is the coastal restoration of Honokanai'a Bay, funded by NOAA in partnership with the Hawai'i Community Foundation. This project features 6.3 acres of coast land and 37.5 acres of coral reef. The project goals for this year are to install drip irrigation, remove invasive kiawe (*Prosopis padillia*) and plant approximately 600 native seedlings that include 'aki'aki (*Sporobolus virginicus*), naupaka kahakai (*Scaevola sp.*) and pohinahina (*Vitex rotunifolia*). With the assistance of the Ocean Program, the Restoration Program will remove invasive non-native predator species from the nearby reef.

Native seedlings will also be planted on the southern slopes of Moaulanui. In this large hardpan area, surface water run-off threatens numerous archaeological features with damage caused by erosion. The goal is to establish 600 rock/mulch mounds on this slope to slow down the ravaging flow of water.

The Faunal Restoration Project focuses on restoring native seabird populations on Kaho'olawe. The focus thus far has been the eradication of the alien predators on-island. Restoration staff has been working with Island Conservation in this effort, a nonprofit organization specializing in island-based habitat restoration. The operations plan for alien predator eradication was completed in FY 2013, which will now allow for the development of both an environmental assessment of the project and guidelines for funding field implementation.

# SUMMARY OF RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

**1993**   **1994**   **1995**   **1996**   **1997**   **1998**   **1999**   **2000**   **2001**   **2002**   **2003**   **2004**   **2005**   **2006**   **2007**   **2008**   **2009**   **2010**   **2011**   **2012**   **2013**   **2014**   **2016**

**★** Navy return Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i

**DOH Clean Water Grant I** (2000-2002)

**Luamakika Planting Project** (2000-2002)

**Native Hawaiian Planting Areas** (2001-2003)

**DOH I** (2004-2005)

**Honokanai'a Wetland Project** (2004-2005)

**DOH II** (2006-2008)

**Pu'u Moiwi By Pass Road Planting Project** (2006-2008)

**South Trail Planting Project** (2009-2011)

**NRCS Wetland Restoration Project** (2012-2013)

**DOH Clean Water Grant III** (2014-2016)

**DOH Clean Water Grant II** (2004-2005)

**DOH Clean Water Grant III** (2014-2016)

**D4 Planting Project** (2006-2008)

**South Trail Planting Project** (2009-2011)

**NRCS Wetland Restoration Project** (2012-2013)

**DOH Clean Water Grant II**  
250 acres / 61,000 plants  
A follow-on to the previously funded DOH, Clean Water Branch grant to expanding the native grass and shrub plantings along the northern slopes of Moaulanui in the Hakioawa and Kaulana watersheds of the island. erosion monitoring devices.

**DOH Clean Water Grant III**  
108 acres / 61,000 plants  
A follow-on to the previously funded DOH, Clean Water Branch grant to expanding the native grass and shrub plantings along the northern slopes of Moaulanui in the Hakioawa and Kaulana watersheds of the island.

**D4 Planting Project**  
5 acres / 10,000 plants  
Started during the Navy's UXO cleanup. Native dry land shrubs and grasses were planted in areas recently cleared by the Navy. Limited irrigation was provided by portable 600 gallon water trailers.

**South Trail Planting Project**  
10 acres / Seeds Only  
Innovative methods to plant in hardpan areas that were only surface cleared of unexploded ordnances. Wind barrier consisting of mulch mounds, grass bales, recycled paper product and surplus dishware were utilized to collect windblown soil for native plants.

**Luamakika Planting Project**  
30 acres / 10,000 plants  
The Luamakika planting project was the second area released by the Navy to the KIRC for restoration efforts. This project consisted of native shrubs planting along the floor of the Luamakika crater. This project utilized irrigation water from the recently installed rain catchment system.

**Native Hawaiian Planting**  
10 acres / Erosion control and seed broadcast only  
Utilized a 1980 native planting area located the southeastern plains of Kaho'olawe. Bales of native grasses were arranged to catch windblown soil and native seeds downwind of established planting.

**Faunal Restoration**  
Island-wide Partnership with Island Conservation and other agencies to create seabird nesting habitats on the main portion of Kaho'olawe. Includes invasive predator and rodent eradication.

**NRCS Wetland Restoration Project**  
55 acres / 7,000 plants  
NRCS funded project removed invasive plant species, established water tanks and irrigation line, and native plants in order to re-establish a coastal wetland habitats in the Keāliialo and Kaukaikapapa work area.

**Pu'u Moiwi By Pass Road Planting Project**  
10 acres / Seeds Only  
Innovative methods to plant in hardpan areas that were only surface cleared of unexploded ordnances. Wind barrier consisting of mulch mounds, grass bales, recycled paper product and surplus dishware were utilized to collect windblown soil for native plants.

**DOH Clean Water Grant I**  
125 acres / 10,000 plants  
Funded by a DOH Clean Water Branch grant to prevent non-point pollution of the ocean. Implemented 12 Best Management Practices to prevent soil run-off including; native shrub and grass planting, erosion control barriers and installation of erosion monitoring devices.

**HCF/NOAA Coastal Restoration Project**  
6.3 acres / 10,000 plants  
This project includes coastal native plant and coral reef restoration through native out planting and invasive fish removal

**Honokanai'a Wetland Restoration Project**  
3 acres / 1,000 plants  
This project removed invasive plant species and planted native wetland plants to restore a wetland habitat located in Honokanai'a.

## OUR ROLE

The KIRC plays a unique role, managing an entire island ecosystem within the main Hawaiian Islands –in addition to land-based habitat and watersheds, KIRC also manages 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 reefs that slope out along the northern and western leeward sides, to the extensive sandy beach at Honokanai‘a – each individual marine ecosystem contain unique resources and needs.

For these complex systems, it is the Ocean Program’s mission to develop and implement a comprehensive ocean resource management regimen that integrates ancient and modern resource management techniques by incorporating ancestral and traditional knowledge with modern scientific principles.

In our unique role as caretakers of Kaho‘olawe, it is hoped that the conservation and restoration undertaken today – both culturally and scientifically – will one day provide for traditional and customary Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices and be a source for an abundance of educational opportunities.

Part of the vision is that through careful and cooperative stewardship – using traditional Hawaiian values for resource 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 the future.



*Honokanai‘a Bay, located on the western end of the island is the center of KIRC operations on Kaho‘olawe. The white sandy beach is normally calm, but south swells can cause large waves to form in the bay.*

## STATUS REPORT

In FY 2013, the Ocean Program was focused on documenting the quality of the marine environment of Honokanai‘a Bay. Located on the western end of Kaho‘olawe, Honokanai‘a is the Reserve’s operations center, which is currently staged at a restored Navy base camp. Starting this fiscal year, our Honokanai‘a Coastal Restoration Project aims to restore 6.3 acres of coastland including wetlands, native sand dunes, significant cultural sites and 37.5 acres of coral reef. The shoreline is severely eroded and native plants have been replaced with kiawe trees and invasive grasses. Native marine fish are being threatened by an increase in three invasive fish



*Volunteers working with Ocean staff help document and inventory the fish population of Honokanai‘a.*

populations (roi, ta‘ape and to‘au). This project is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Hawai‘i Community Foundation (HCF),

The goal of this project seeks to remove invasive fish and improve water clarity through coastal rehabilitation. In preparation for the restoration work, the Ocean Program has been conducting a series of in-water transects across Honokanai‘a Bay in order to establish a baseline to measure removal and restoration activities. Ocean staff has already documented the high presence of invasive predator fish populations that are beginning to affect our native fish stocks. Additionally, the Ocean Program has implemented a fish tagging program for commonly harvested species such as ‘aholehole and moi in order to better understand the distribution, migration and growth patterns of these important fishery management species.

The Ocean Program is also conducting a series of marine sediment studies in support of the Restoration Program’s Hakioawa Watershed Project. By installing and regularly monitoring off-shore sediment traps, a documented reduction in sediment loading is projected downstream of the project site.

Protecting the fishery resources of the Reserve remains a primary function of the Ocean Program. This year, boating education classes were implemented as part of the KIRC’s vessel registration program. Working closely with the Maui trolling community, it is hoped that this educational approach will create more responsible and



*Funding from Ocean Conservancy helped our Ocean Program to conduct follow-up beach cleanups at Kanapou Bay and to document evidence of Japanese Tsunami debris reaching Kaho‘olawe’s shores.*

responsive fishermen to help us maintain sustainable fish stocks within the Reserve.

Lastly, the impact of marine debris on ocean resources is further intensified as debris from the 2011 Japanese Tsunami reaches the shores of Kaho‘olawe. This year, through the assistance of marine debris experts from the University of Hawaii, there is documented evidence of Japanese Tsunami debris on Kaho‘olawe. Just in the past two years we have removed over 31-tons of marine debris from Kanapou Bay (located on the east coast). In a subsequent grant from NOAA we are seeking to remove any newly accumulated debris from Kanapou as well as two additional beaches on Kaho‘olawe.

# SUMMARY OF OCEAN PROGRAMS

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2014

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

The first step in protecting the marine environment of Kaho'olawe is to better understand the island's unique aquatic habitat. In FY 2014, we are committed to conducting detailed and regular surveys of the island's marine resources, focusing on the 'ili of Kealaikahiki, (located adjacent to the Honokanai'a Base Camp) and conducting monthly surveys to increase and deepen an understanding of the marine resources in this region of the island, as well as their relationship to the area's cultural resources.

In FY 2014, the coastal debris removal project will be expanded to include Puhianenu (located along the southwestern shore) and Oawawahie (northeastern shore).

In the upcoming year, the Ocean Program will be heavily involved in supporting the Restoration Program's land-based projects. In Hakioawa, the KIRC will measure the effectiveness of erosion control projects by regularly installing and retrieving sediment tubes located down-current from the Hakioawa watershed. In Honokanai'a, the Ocean Program will establish the bay's marine ecosystem baseline measurements and continue to improve the health of the reef through regular underwater transects and shoreline surveys. Additionally, 500 pounds of invasive predator fish such as roi (*Cephalopholis argus*), ta'ape (*Lutjanus kasmira*) and to'au (*Lutjanus fulvus*) will be removed.

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2016

◆ HAR 13-260 Fishing Rules Established

### OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

Projects to protect and manage the sustainable harvest of the Reserve's marine resources.

#### Bottomfish Assessment Project

*Southern Shorelines*

Use of robotic cameras with baited chum bags to attract and document bottomfish species located 700' or deeper.



#### Helu I'a/ Apex Fish Tagging

*Island-wide*

Catch, tag and release of apex species and popular fished species to document the home range, growth rate spillover and reproductive cycles.

#### Permitted Trolling

*All Reserve Waters*

Permit system to register and track authorized trolling vessels within the Reserve waters. Permitted trollers abide by Reserve rules on time, location and species restrictions as well as submit regular catch reports.



### OCEAN RESTORATION PROJECTS

Projects focused on restoring or improving the marine environment and resources of the Reserve.

#### Multiple Marine Debris Removal Projects

*Kanapou and other areas*

Multiple cleanup projects to remove marine debris from the shores of Kaho'olawe. The primary focus has been the coastline at Kanapou Bay. Over 50 tons of trashed removed to date, well as submit regular catch reports.



#### HCF/NOAA Coastal Restoration Project

*Honokanai'a*

Improve Honokanai'a coastal habitat through removal of alien invasive marine predators and invasive marine algae.

Kaho'olawe operations transfer to the State

Underwater Baseline Surveys

Bottomfish Spillover Tracking Project

Bottomfish Assessment Project

Deepwater Habitat Explorations

Multi-beam Sonar Benthic Mapping

### MARINE RESEARCH

Projects seeking to expand the knowledge of the Reserve's marine environment or supporting academic research.

#### Deepwater Habitat Exploration

Combination of sonar mapping, manned submersibles and remotely operated vehicles (ROV) used to map deepwater benthic habitats for bottom fish stocks around Kaho'olawe. Project also observed and tracked bottomfish movement to confirm spillover to from Kaho'olawe to Maui.

#### Multi-beam Sonar Benthic Mapping

*Southern coastlines*

Large scale towed sonar array used to perform detail mapping of deep water habitats.

#### Aerial Surveys

*Island-wide*

Regular airborne surveys used to identify and document changes and threats to the Reserve as well as to provide an overall assessment of Reserve.



#### Invasive Limu Monitoring

*Island-wide*

Regular monitoring of the Reserve's coastline and during in-water surveys as an early warning of invasive algae species entering into Kaho'olawe's coral reefs.

Protected Species Monitoring

Aerial Surveys

Invasive Limu Monitoring

Marine Mollusk Cataloging Project

'Opihi (Limpet) Surveys

Helu I'a/Apex Fish Tagging Project

Permitted Trolling Program

Multiple Marine Debris Removal Projects

HCF/NOAA Coastal Restoration Project

### OCEAN RESERVE MONITORING

Surveys of the Reserve's marine environment in order to determine health of the marine resources or identify threats to the Reserve.

#### Protected Species Monitoring

*Island-wide*

Monitoring the Reserve's population of large marine animals for distress, entanglement or death including monk seals, dolphins, whales and turtles.



#### Marine Mollusk Catalog

*Island-wide*

Identifying and cataloging the unique marine mollusk population of Kaho'olawe.



#### 'Opihi Surveys

*Island-wide*

Collaborative working group of 'opihi specialists within the state to monitor Kaho'olawe's 'opihi species and compare to statewide populations.



## 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.

The Commission fulfills the kuleana (responsibility) of the Burial Council for the island of Kaho‘olawe; overseeing all aspects of protecting and preserving *iwi kūpuna* or ancestors. Working closely with the DLNR State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), the Commission oversees 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 uses of the island by developing Native Hawaiian cultural projects with a broad range of volunteers and community groups; augmenting cultural accesses and use of the Reserve. Many of these undertakings are large-scale, long-term endeavors requiring the KIRC’s project and resource management to assist 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. All Reserve users, visitors, volunteers, contractors, and employees are oriented with an established cultural perspective of the resources fundamental to the KIRC’s cultural mandate.

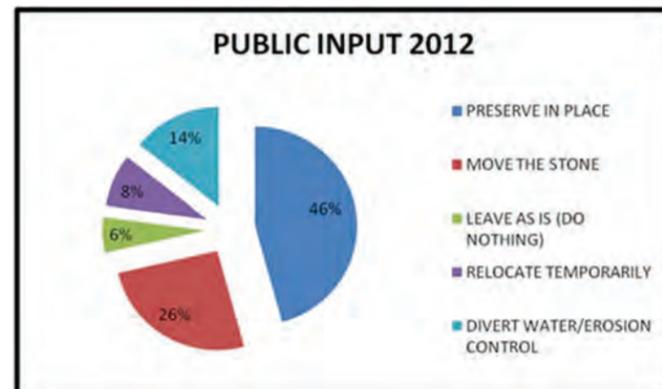


## CULTURAL PROGRAM

Rock “C”-shapes are built in Luamakika to grow native food crops as part of a feasibility study of sustainable island living on Kaho‘olawe.

## STATUS REPORT

This year, the focus of the Cultural Program was the development of a treatment plan for a unique and threatened archaeological feature, a large, flat disc-shaped stone located in the southeast section of the island. Documented in State historic preservation records as Site 110 feature BU, this stone is relatively flat and rest on a natural pedestal. When tapped, it resonates with a bell-like ring. 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 with seasonal changes of the rising sun. On February 19, 2010, the Commission approved the “The Cultural Use Plan: “*Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa*””. One of the recommendations of this plan



Results of public consultation hearings regarding the treatment plan for Site 110 feature BU.

is to preserve and stabilize this stone also known as “Kāneloa” in place until accurate placement can be calculated. In the development of the treatment plan, the KIRC initiated a series of public consultation meetings on O‘ahu, Maui and Hawai‘i Island in order to garner public input regarding the treatment and protection of this archaeological feature. The results of these public sessions are illustrated in the included table. Subsequently, at the May 3, 2013 Commission meeting, staff was given direction and a process for moving forward with the work to stabilize and preserve this site.

Also this year, new projects to evaluate sustainable island living on Kaho‘olawe were implemented. The ‘Ai Pono project investigates the feasibility of creating sustainable food sources for long-term island habitation. The first phase of this project consisted of the construction of rock-walled, elevated planting beds within the Honokanai‘a Base Camp utilizing roof-top rainwater to irrigate ‘uala maoli (native sweet potato) growing in these beds.

The KIRC staff has been working closely with the Bailey House Museum in Wailuku, Maui to return the Kaho‘olawe Collection to the KIRC. The Navy deposited these artifacts and material at the Bailey House Museum for long-term curation. Upon the return of Kaho‘olawe to the State of Hawai‘i, the KIRC became fiscally responsible for the collection. Since then, the KIRC has developed its own in-house collection and has



A portable display of Kaho‘olawe artifacts and photographs, produced by Bailey House Museum, is used to educate the public on the unique cultural heritage of Kaho‘olawe..

taken possession of a portion of the collection. The Bailey House Museum built a traveling collection that is used to educate and inform the public about Kaho‘olawe’s unique cultural history. An agreement was made to allow joint use of this traveling collection.

Lastly, as our volunteers help restore the island’s barren landscape, they are also helping to restore Native Hawaiian practices. The Cultural Program works with other staff and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners to help integrate a cultural perspective into all programs. Volunteers learn about the island as well as something of the people who initially inhabited this sacred place.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2014

Our focus for FY 2014 is to continue to work closely with stewardship organizations and various community groups to continue the healing of Kanaloa through the revival of cultural practices and traditions. Listed below are FY 2014 projects:

Complete the treatment plan for the Pōkāneoloa (Historical Site 110 Feature BU) for Commission approval and subsequently, State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) approval. In parallel to the development and approval process, work will continue on construction and installation of swales, wattles and plantings to reduce upslope surface water run-off, thereby reducing erosion in the neighboring gully.

For some people, the Kīhei Boathouse is the only physical connection made with the island. Funding is being sought to develop cultural projects at this property, which will include a native dryland garden, a cultural-heritage trail through the property and a traditional structure to conduct on-site education programs.

This year will include the implementation of the Huli Ku'una 'Ike: Lawai'a Project. Fishpond experts will help archaeologists study remnant rock walls found in Honoko'a Bay that could be evidence of ancient fishponds on Kaho'olawe. The area may also be re-purposed as a modern fishpond or fish trap to provide a sustainable protein source for on-island inhabitants.

The Alaloa Project (circum-island trail) will be continued in FY 2014. Through deft coordination between staff and stewardship organization volunteers, the 'ili boundaries (traditional land division boundaries) will be established and connect the trails along the north coast of the island from Kaukaupapa to Hakioawa.

# SUMMARY OF CULTURAL PROGRAM

## Culture Training for Navy Cleanup

KIRC initiates and mandates all Navy staff and contract workers on the UXO Cleanup Project must attend cultural sensitivity training prior to working on Kaho'olawe.



## Palauea Conveyance Ceremony



In a ceremony hosted by the KIRC and attended by hundreds, the Navy returns Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i at Palauea, Maui.

by hundreds, the Navy returns Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i at Palauea, Maui.

## Archaeological Site Protection for Restoration Projects

The majority of the KIRC's restoration projects are located in the vicinity of numerous archaeological sites and features. Site protection plans are developed and implemented for each restoration project.



## Gathering of Canoes

The first gathering of traditional sailing canoes to Honokanai'a

The many voyaging crews came to develop a perpetual connection to Kaho'olawe and especially to Kealaikahiki.

## Mālama Kaho'olawe Curriculum

A place-base and culture-base secondary school STEM curriculum that features Kaho'olawe as an integral focus in expanding native hawaiian education in science and math.



## Kaneloa Site Protection Plan

A large, significant archaeological feature is threatened by erosion. KIRC staff is working to implement a site protection plan that would save this cultural artifact for future study and cultural use.



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2014

2016

## Cultural Monitors for Navy Cleanup



Integrated into the Navy's Model Cleanup process were

KIRC cultural monitors and staff that oversaw the protect of the island's natural and cultural resources.

## Annual Inspections of Known Burials

To protect the island's cultural resources, known burial sites are annually monitored for effects of erosion and exposure.

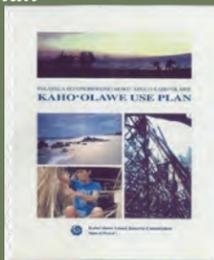


## Palapala 'Aelike Stewardship Agreement

Mutual agreement between stewardship organizations and the KIRC to cooperate on programs and projects that protects and enhances Kaho'olawe.

## Kaho'olawe Use Plan

Developed by the KIRC to provide an overall vision for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve and to identify appropriate uses and specific activities consistent with that vision.



## Construction of Rain Ko'a

As a cultural companion to Kaho'olawe's environmental restoration, a new native Hawaiian ceremonial practice was introduced to honor Kane and call for rain on Kaho'olawe. Rain ko'a were build several years before ceremonies started.



## On-Island Culture/Education Center

Conversion of existing on-island, ex-Navy facilities for new purposes. Office trailers reconfigured to create an education center for on-island training programs and a on-site museum for the storage and display of island.



## Ala Loa Construction Project



A partnership project with the PKO to build a coastal circum-island trail that will provide access to remote areas of the island and allow for a greater cultural use.

## 'Ai Pono Project

Developing traditional Hawaiian food crops as both on-island subsistence food source and a ground cover for restoration.

## Volunteer Program Cultural Education

Expanding the cultural experience of our volunteers by exposure to traditional Native Hawaiian practices.



## Kūkulu Ke 'Ea A Kanaloa, Culture Use Plan

Development of the guiding document that establishes a pathway for the development of a cultural practitioner on Kaho'olawe.



## OUR ROLE

Through the KIRC's Operations Program, the long-term restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural and cultural resources is supported through environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate infrastructure and logistics. The Operations core responsibilities are as follows:

- Provide safe and reliable transport of material, equipment, and people between Kaho'olawe and Maui to support restoration projects;
- Provide healthy and sustainable accommodations at the on-island facility 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 all 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.



*The forty by sixty foot, polycarbonate Hakioawa Hale will provide much needed permanent shelter for on-island groups for many years to come.*

## STATUS REPORT

In FY 2013, the Operations Program finished a significant engineering and construction feat by completing the Hakioawa Hale Project. Located in a remote and unimproved valley on Kaho'olawe's north coast it is regularly used by on-island volunteers and stewardship partners as a home-base for cultural and restoration work projects. For years this campsite relied upon ropes and tarps to provide shelter from the elements. The project team overcame limited site access, minimal existing infrastructure and relative inaccessibility to heavy equipment to build a 40' by 60' polycarbonate shed roof that could withstand



*Hakioawa's remote location and the inability to bring heavy machinery to the worksite forced our build team to rely on manpower to erect and complete the Hakioawa Hale Project.*

the extreme weather and wind conditions regularly occurring on Kaho'olawe with minimal long-term maintenance requirements.

Composite beams, concrete, tools and equipment were transported via helicopter into Hakioawa and hand-assembled in place by contractors GSI Pacific, Inc. and Environet Inc. To reduce construction costs and expedite the project, work crews, State inspectors and KIRC staff camped at the jobsite in Hakioawa. From groundbreaking to final inspection, the structure was completed and ready for occupancy in four weeks. According to DLNR engineers, this was one of the most well-managed and coordinated projects they have ever worked on. The structure will be used as a permanent base camp for stewardship organizations and volunteers working on the restoration of Kaho'olawe.

This project was made possible through the State of Hawai'i Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Fund. On behalf of the Commission and future users of this Hale, we extend our deepest appreciation to legislators, Senator J. Kalani English, Representative Mele Carroll and all of our legislative supporters for securing the funds to see this project through.

FY 2013 also marks the fourth year of operations for the KIRC vessel, 'Ohua. Prior to FY 2008, movement of personnel, equipment and supplies to and from Kaho'olawe was done by small helicopters. The shift



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

from air to sea transport significantly reduced the annual transportation costs. An estimated \$350,000 per year in transportation costs, or \$1.4 million over the life of the 'Ohua, has been saved and reallocated to KIRC programs.

The unique training and capabilities of the Operations Program staff have been a benefit to the greater Maui community. The KIRC's Unexploded Ordnance and Safety Specialist has assisted the Maui Police department in identifying dangerous items found on Maui, while the 'Ohua and its crew have proven to be invaluable in assisting other divisions of the DLNR to install critical safety swim markers on Maui.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2014

With the completion of the Hakioawa Hale Project, we will be seeking support for a new Capitol Improvement Project (CIP) for Kaho'olawe. The request will be to implement "Sustainable Honokanai'a Base Camp Improvements". This will include converting the existing petroleum-based electrical grid to a battery backup, photovoltaic and wind-powered system that will eliminate the need for large quantities of petroleum fuels to be transported and stored on Kaho'olawe. The next component of this CIP plan will implement energy savings by reconfiguring the remaining berthing facilities to incorporate the energy efficiencies achieved in the Hut 10 Conversion Project while replacing antiquated electrical equipment, (e.g. refrigeration and water production plant), with modern, energy-efficient equipment.

Another consideration in FY 2014 is continuing the maintenance of the communications systems installed in 1997 versus replacing them with modern technology. These systems include a microwave link between Lanai and Kaho'olawe that provides internet connectivity and voice communications, UHF radio relays and limited cellular phone connections. At the time of installation, operations were not heavily dependent on the internet. Today, however, many of our project management systems, procurement and ordering systems depend on real-time, high-speed connectivity. The advent of high-speed cellular data has also changed the way most people function, with voice communication replaced by text messaging in many cases. Kaho'olawe's future will embrace this change in technology and the shift in digital communications. This may translate into re-examining the communications systems on-island and cultivating partnerships to facilitate installation and provision of modern communication coverage on-island.

Lastly, numerous buildings, roads and water catchments need major rehabilitation for continued use into the next decade. These on-island facilities are suffering the ravages of ocean air corrosion and wind damage. The environmental conditions on Kaho'olawe are harsh and extreme. Many of our facilities were built in the 1980's with their only major repair or upgrades done in the late 1990's

# SUMMARY OF RESERVE OPERATIONS



**Base Camp Management**  
After the Navy's departure from Kaho'olawe, the KIRC assumed operations and maintenance of the former 28-building facilities and began a green renovation that significantly reduced on-island energy consumption and reconfigured the former military camp to house volunteers and support the restoration of Kaho'olawe.

**Hākilo**  
The KIRC began operating the 30-foot aluminum Almar dive boat capable of speeds up to 33 knots, primarily supporting our Ocean Program's management and enforcement efforts. It provides the ideal platform for patrolling the more than 90 square-miles of ocean and approximately 30 miles of coastline under KIRC's management.

**Luamakika Water Catchment**



On-island rainwater collection system consisting of two, half-acre collection panels and three large storage tanks with a half-million gallon storage capacity. Used primarily for irrigation water, this system has significantly improved the survival rate of our restoration projects.

**Access and Risk Management Plan**



KIRC develops the foundation of conducting safe and meaningful use of Kaho'olawe through a series of policies and procedures that manages the residual risk of Kaho'olawe's remaining unexploded ordnance as well as the inherent dangers of operating in a remote and wilderness location.

**Solar Hot Water Installation**  
In partnership with Maui Community College, students designed and converted the domestic electric hot-water system at Honokanai'a into a solar hot-water system that significantly reduced our electrical generation.



**Kihei Boat House**  
The KIRC maintain and houses our ocean operations from an eight-acre parcel located adjacent to the Kihei Small Boat Ramp on Maui. Our boathouse is the center of the KIRC's logistics operation where regular shipments of food, plants and equipment are received and prepared for the transport to Kaho'olawe.



**Navy UXO cleanup and island access control**

**K-1 Road Repairs**  
Utilizing FEMA funding, first major repair of the K-1 Road system since its construction during the Navy's Cleanup Project.



**'Ohua**  
The KIRC began operating the 40-foot aluminum landing craft with a front loading ramp, is capable of carrying up to 40 passengers or five tons of cargo. The 'Ohua is also able to land on beaches at Kaho'olawe and allows up to a full size pickup drive off the boat. The 'Ohua became our primary means of transporting personnel, supplies and equipment to the island as we shifted from costly helicopters to more efficient KIRC-operated boat services.

**Access Guide Training Program**  
A KIRC safety program developed to train and provide unexploded ordnance and safety escorts to support island users. An initial class of twelve Access Guides were trained in 2003, additional classes were not held until 2008, where annual classes have generated a total of forty-four trained Access Guides by 2013.

**Hakioawa Hale Project**  
A 40-foot by 60-foot composite structure located in the remote valley of Hakioawa was built to house ad support stewardship volunteers as they support the many KIRC-sponsored programs along the island northeastern portions of the island.



**Photovoltaic Pilot Project**  
A pilot project funded by Maui County grant, a two-kilowatt photovoltaic system was built to take a portion of the Honokanai'a Base Camp off the existing diesel-electric grid, thereby demonstrating the feasibility to built and operative a self-sustaining base camp.



**Sustainable Living Infrastructure**  
Designed as a UH Architecture School student's project, the KIRC reconfigure and modified an existing Butler building in Honokanai'a as a model to develop sustainable, low-energy demand housing for Kaho'olawe. Built entirely by volunteer labor, this project kicked off the current redesign of Honokanai'a Base Camp.



**Composting Toilets Installation**  
Expanded the meaningful use of the island by installing an additional five Clivus-Multrum composting toilets as the first steps towards the creation of new oversight camp sites at Kealaikahiki and Luamakika.



## 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 staffing, restoration of Kaho‘olawe depends upon the charitable work of thousands of inspired 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 expertise to expand technical knowledge in managing Reserve resources.

The role of the Volunteer Program is to ensure a large, available pool of volunteers; match the skill and labor requirements of each project to the capability of volunteers; and ensure safe and meaningful experiences to enhance volunteers’ appreciation of Kaho‘olawe. 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.



*Hawai‘i Youth Conservation Corps volunteers are dedicated hard-working students that explore the fields of conservation and environmental restoration as a career.*

## STATUS REPORT

The Volunteer Program is a critical component in the protection and restoration of Kaho‘olawe. The effort to restore Kaho‘olawe’s ravaged landscape is an endeavor that far exceeds the capacity of a single State Agency or group, requiring long-term dedication of the people of Hawai‘i.

In FY 2011, a partial shutdown of our on-island facilities was implemented in an effort to reduce the annual cost of Base Camp operations. In order to achieve savings, the number of weekly volunteer accesses to Kaho‘olawe were reduced, which

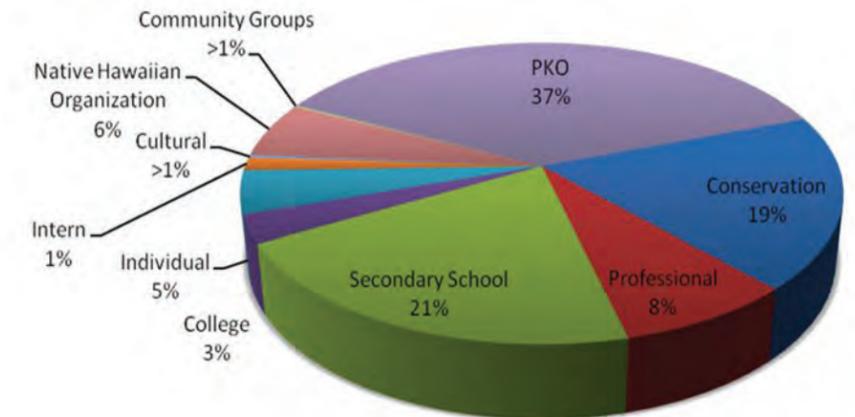


*The work on-island is hard and the days are long, but KIRC volunteers always find time to have fun and enjoy time with new friends.*

corresponded to a reduction of manpower. In FY 2013, we implemented four new grant-funded projects that required an increase in volunteer labor. We were able to increase our volunteer workforce by adding weekend volunteer accesses with minimal additional costs.

In FY 2013, 1,064 volunteers were hosted on Kaho‘olawe, an increase of 14% from the previous year. Through an Access Permit system, volunteers in FY 2013 helped to contribute \$60,041 to the cost of transportation, housing and meals— an increase of 21% from the previous year.

Volunteer work projects in FY 2013 included two Restoration Program projects, an Ocean Program project and a new Cultural Program project. In the first, volunteers helped reduce surface water run-off in the critical watershed of Hakioawa with native plantings and surface water diversions. Volunteers planted native coastal seedlings in the second project as they help restore coastal wetlands in Honokanai‘a Bay. Ocean Program volunteers worked to remove marine debris along Kaho‘olawe’s shoreline while Cultural Program volunteers helped develop a sustainable living



*FY 2013 volunteers by source.*

model on Kaho‘olawe by establishing native food crops in gardens throughout the Honokanai‘a Base Camp and at Luamakika.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive more requests to volunteer than available opportunities. For years there has been a 2+ year waitlist that discouraged many potential volunteers. In FY 2014, one of the priorities for the Volunteer Coordinator is to reduce the waitlist backlog and to expand the volunteer experience. The KIRC will be integrating a formalized on-island educational curriculum to enhance the volunteer experience and to educate our volunteers on ways to support the restoration of Kaho‘olawe beyond their departure from its shores.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2014

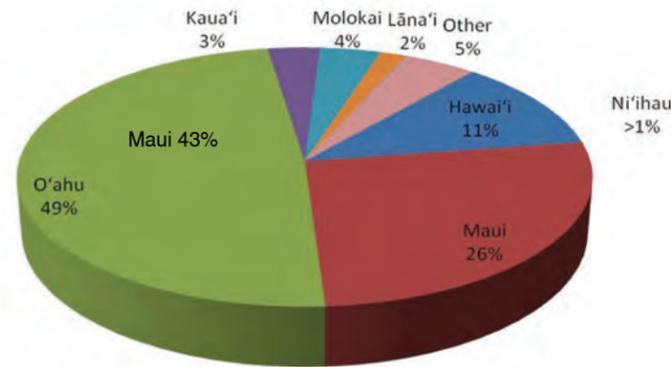
The continuing goal of the Volunteer Program is to increase logistical efficiency and to achieve even greater results from our invaluable volunteer resource base.

One FY 2014 goal for the Volunteer Program is to reduce volunteer waitlist backlog. The current wait time to participate in a KIRC access is 2+ years. The KIRC aims to reduce this figure by 50% through the implementation of a long-range planning schedule that assigns on-island work projects six to nine months in advance.

Secondly, the Volunteer Program will implement a standardized educational program featuring field-related activities and evening learning sessions in order to enhance the on-island experience. The goal of the program is to educate volunteers about the underlying principles of restoration projects and how they can implement these principles in their own communities. The program will include a staff training component on the science and theories used by all core KIRC programs.

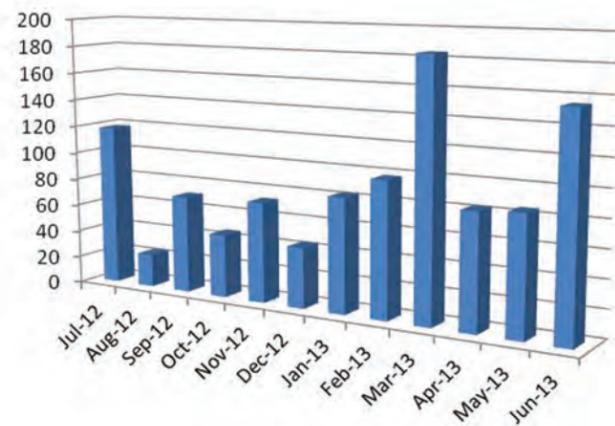
Structurally, the Volunteer Program is in the process of transforming the application and registration process to a web-based, secure online system. Once we have completed web development and testing, (to be completed with donated help from volunteers and staff), the aim is to have the entire registration and application process digitized with all forms and waivers completed online. This paperless system will significantly reduce administrative time spent filing, collating and collecting volunteer waivers, registration documents, permit fees and emergency information.

Volunteers distribution by Island, FY 2013



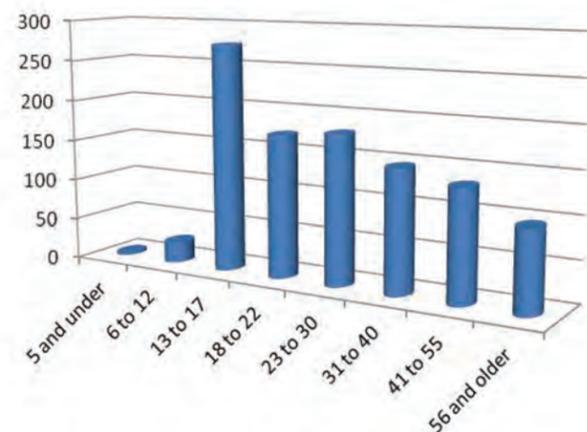
In FY 2013, the majority of the volunteers came from O'ahu and Maui.

Volunteer distribution by month, FY 2013



Summer and spring break are the busiest times of the year as students are readily available to participate in our restoration, ocean management and cultural on-island programs.

Volunteer distribution by age, FY 2013



A large proportion of our volunteers are high school and university students between the ages of 13 to 22 (42%). This is a result of the dedication and efforts of many supporting teachers that integrate Kaho'olawe into their classroom curriculum.

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2013

**Volunteer Labor Worth:** A total of 1,064 individuals volunteered their services to Kaho'olawe in FY 2013. With each volunteer working approximately 40 hours per trip, this equates to 42,560 man-hours of service or \$927,382 of labor donated to our many on-island projects (Based upon www.independentsector.org's valuation of volunteer labor at \$21.79 per hour).



The boat ride to Kaho'olawe is just the first of many experiences that countless numbers of Hawaii's youth will encounter for the first time as part of their journey.

**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, former bombing range, island.



Attending this year's legislative access were members of the State Legislature. (from left to right): Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Representative Faye Hanohano, Senator Michelle Kidani, and Senator Gilbert Kahele.



KIRC staff and many long-time volunteers receive advanced training to help escort and ensure volunteer safety while on Kaho'olawe. Nine new access guide candidates were trained this year. Seven completed the training requirements to be certified as a KIRC Access Guide. The remaining two candidates are still in the process of completing their training requirements.

## 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.



(From left to right) Commissioners C. Kaliko Baker, Ph.D, Michele McLean and Nāmaka Whitehead with Executive Director Michael Nāho'opi'i. Commissioners Baker and Whitehead were confirmed by the Senate to a second term on the Commission.

## COMMISSIONER REPORT

At the beginning of FY 2013, Commissioners Ka'iulani Murphy and Nāmaka Whitehead completed their first four-year term as KIRC Commissioners. Commissioner Whitehead extended to a second term while, due to commitments to the Hokule'a Worldwide Sail, Commissioner Murphy was not able to extend her appointment. Commissioner C. Kaliko Baker, an interim appointee in FY 2012, was confirmed for a full term by the Senate. Hōkūlani Holt was appointed to the Commission in early FY 2014 to represent Native Hawaiian Organizations.

During FY 2013, six public meetings were held, five in Honolulu and one on Maui. The Commission reviewed and approved a series of research requests to conduct underwater topographical mapping in the Reserve and specimen collection



Executive Director Michael Nāho'opi'i swears in Commissioner Emmett Aluli, M.D.



Commissioners gather for a meeting in Honolulu. From left to right) Commissioners Ka'iulani Murphy, William Aila and Collette Machado.

requests for moths and marine mammals critically impacted due to underwater acoustic sonar testing done during the 2012 RIMPAC Exercises.

The Commission put forth two proposals at the 2013 Legislative Session. The first proposed asset forfeiture provisions in the KIRC statutes to strengthen resource protection enforcement capabilities. The second proposed to make permanent the KIRC's procurement exemption for food and fuel. Only the KIRC's procurement exemption was signed into law.

This year, the Commission formed a Strategic Planning Working Group to develop a Kaho'olawe master plan for

the next twelve years. This Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe: 2026 Plan will examine possibilities for Kaho'olawe fifty-years after the occupation by the people of Hawai'i and describes the critical steps needed to achieve them. Commissioners Aluli and Whitehead were appointed to the Working Group along with representatives of the KIRC's staff, the PKO, OHA and 'Aha Moku Advisory Council. The Working Group will conduct a series of focus group sessions across the State in early FY 2014 and report their findings by 2015.

## 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/future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.



*Underwater transects are important research tools used by the Ocean Program staff to assess the health of Kaho'olawe's reef system.*

## STATUS REPORT

The KIRC staff is responsible for the daily management, operation, and administration functions necessary to protect and maintain the Reserve. Additionally, staff supports the Commission by undertaking the detailed research, documentation and planning that is essential to keeping them informed, thereby allowing the focus to remain 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



*KIRC staff members from various programs cooperatively work together to help crew our vessels and help bring supplies and equipment to Kaho'olawe.*

necessary to operate the Reserve are conducted from the Wailuku, Maui office.

The KIRC staff are some of the State's hardest working and most dedicated employees. With only eighteen employees, the KIRC manages one of the State's largest reserve areas and is responsible for the functions of at least five other divisions within DLNR. Additionally, the KIRC serves as Kaho'olawe's local board of water supply, electric company, public works department, telephone and radio communications provider and inter-island shipping.

In order to achieve all of the above functions, the KIRC staff is not only trained and responsible for their primary job descriptions, but go above and beyond to assist one another to safely and swiftly respond to the demands of managing an entire island. This is achieved through staff cross-training, including field training and periodic safety stand-downs. This ensures staff flexibility, technical skills and standardizes critical emergency response and safety procedures. KIRC management highly encourages the cross-utilization of its staff throughout all programs while emphasizing a traditional native Hawaiian cultural perspective woven into the daily operations.

In FY 2013, KIRC staff welcomed new members. They included Kuiokalani Gapero (Cultural Resources Project Coordinator), Kelly McHugh (Public Information Specialist) and Anela Evans (Volunteer Coordinator). Staff departures this year include Cheryl King (Ocean Resources Specialist), Daniela Maldini (Public Information Specialist) and Tina Keko'olani (Access Specialist).

## Grant Applications for FY 2013

### Currently awarded grants

- 1) Coastal Debris Cleanup (NOAA) \$100,000
- 2) Pollution Run-off Control III (DOH) \$204,187
- 3) Coastal Restoration (HCF/NOAA) \$ 79,637
- 4) 'Ai Pono (Atherton Foundation) \$46,860 and (HCF/ Alice Single Gift) \$3,000
- 5) Honokanai'a PV System (Maui County) \$25,000
- 6) GIS Mapping Software (ESRI) \$100,000
- 7) Tsunami Debris Removal (NOAA) \$4,000

### Grants submitted in FY 2013 and not awarded

- 1) Faunal Restoration (NFWF) \$131,352 (Pending Award for FY 2014)
- 2) Hui Kāpehe Internships (NHEA) \$302,837 (Pending award for FY 2014)
- 3) Kihei Boathouse Cultural Trail and Gardens (HTA) \$64,700 (Pending partial award for FY 2014)
- 4) Bailey House Museum Joint Events (HTA) \$37,720
- 5) Climate Change Cooperative (PICC) \$83,400

# STAFF ORGANIZATION

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

KIRC staff for FY 2014:

### Executive

Michael Nāho‘opi‘i Executive Director  
 Kelly McHugh, Public Information Specialist  
 Anela Evans, Volunteer Coordinator

### Programs and Operations

Dean Tokishi, Ocean Program Manager  
 Jennifer Vander Veur, Ocean Specialist  
 Paul Higashino, Restoration Program Manager  
 Lyman Abbott, Restoration Specialist  
 Jamie Bruch, Restoration Specialist  
 Lopaka White, Restoration Specialist  
 Bart Maybee, UXO Safety Specialist  
 Charlie Lindsey, Maintenance/ Vessel Operator  
 Grant Thompson, KIR Specialist  
 Kui Gapero, Cultural Resources Project Coordinator

### Administration

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



Ocean Resource Specialist Jennifer Vander Veur conducts a survey of Kaho‘olawe’s reef system.



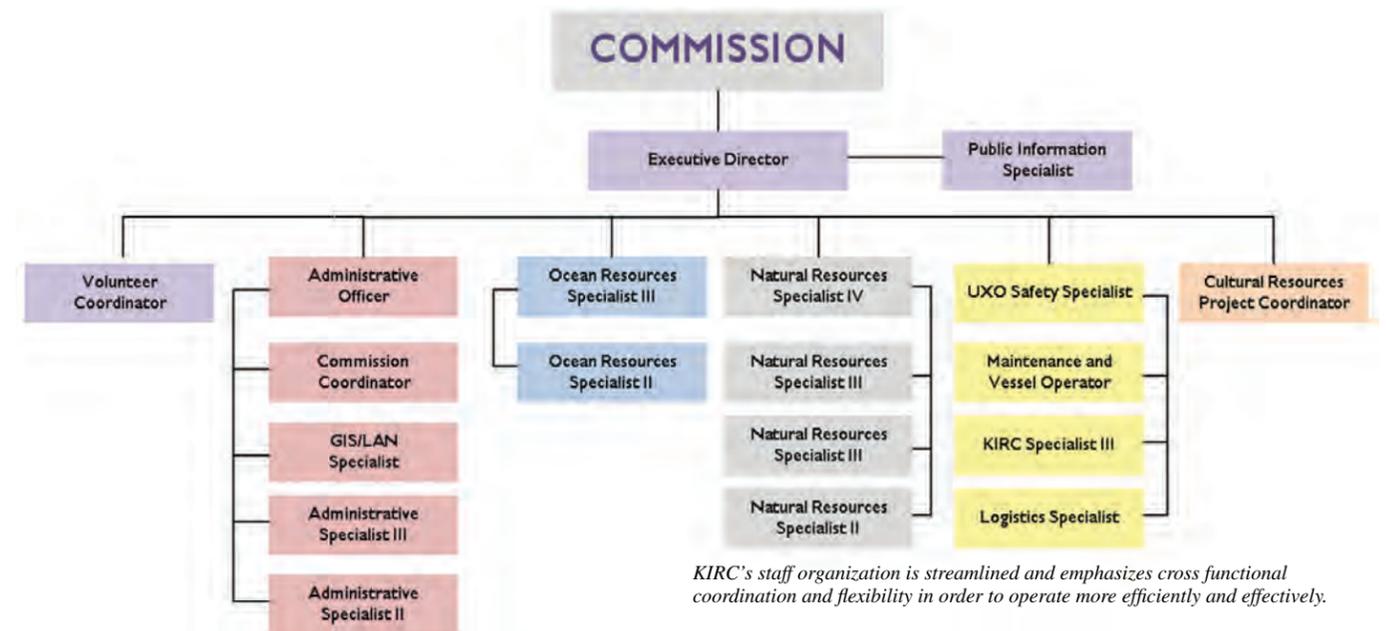
Cultural Resources Project Coordinator Kuiokalani Gapero receives his KIRC Access Guide certificate after successfully completed the training requirements.



KIRC’s Administrative Staff (from left to right): Mei Mailou-Santos, David DeMark, Terri Gavagan, Carmela Noneza, and Ka‘ōnohi Lee.



Some of KIRC’s staff at the Kihei Boathouse after a boat run to Kaho‘olawe (kneeling, left to right) : Grant Thompson, Dean Tokishi, Jamie Bruch. (standing, left to right): Charlie Lindsey, Anela Evans, Michael Nāho‘opi‘i, Jennifer Vander Veur, Kelly McHugh, Lyman Abbott, Paul Higashino, Lopaka White.



KIRC’s staff organization is streamlined and emphasizes cross functional coordination and flexibility in order to operate more efficiently and effectively.

**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 Hawaii‘i Youth Conservation Corps Programs, our 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, our 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.

## 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.



*Kaho‘olawe’s wiliwili was able to survive the state-wide wasp infestation by remaining dormant during the most threatening times, then bursting forth with life once the threat has gone away.*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATUS REPORT

Our current expenditures are based upon the most efficient methods for continuing the restoration of Kaho‘olawe, maintaining a physical presence on-island and providing for safe and meaningful public use of the Reserve. Without any State or outside support, our current projection shows that FY 2016 will be the last year we will be able to continue our mission and keep Kaho‘olawe accessible to the public (a date confirmed by the State Auditor in the 2013 Legislative audit). In addition to this finding, the auditors cited that the KIRC did not have a comprehensive cost and time estimate for the complete restoration of Kaho‘olawe and recommended that the KIRC and the people of Hawai‘i need to “realign its vision of the Kaho‘olawe of tomorrow to the fiscal realities of today.”

Kaho‘olawe has always been a place where the impossible has become achievable. In 1976, it was impossible for nine men and women, who landed in protest to the bombing of the island, to dream that one day the United States Navy would return Kaho‘olawe back to the people of Hawai‘i, or that an entire island would be set aside for indigenous traditional culture practices. Without this long-term vision, the people of Hawai‘i would never have progressed beyond its plantation roots to a Pacific-region leader.

The KIRC’s focus in the near term is the completion of the Kaho‘olawe: 2026 Strategic Plan, a vision not just for the KIRC, but for all of Hawai‘i. We hope to mobilize our supporters including donors, non-profit organizations and the State and Federal governments to help realize this vision.

## SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b> <sup>1</sup>	Program Grants	81.1	93.2	14.7
	Charitable Contributions	3.1	2.0	3.3
	Other Income	53.6	55.7	62.6
	Interest on Trust Fund	239.0	54.3	19.5
	<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 376.8</b>	<b>\$ 205.3</b>	<b>\$ 100.0</b>

		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b> <sup>2</sup>	Commission	55.7	28.5	54.3
	Administration and Support Services	700.2	635.9	677.4
	Reserve Operations	1543.0	1,498.7	1,390.2
	Ocean Program	236.8	273.2	156.6
	Restoration Program	434.1	304.4	315.2
	Culture and Education Program	77.9	50.3	74.8
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3047.7</b>	<b>\$ 2791.0</b>	<b>\$ 2668.5</b>	

		<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		
		FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>TRUST FUND BALANCE</b>	Beginning Balance	13,474.3	10,729.0	8,143.3
	Support and Revenue	376.8	205.3	100.0
	Operating Expenses	3,122.1	2,791.0	2,668.5
	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 10,729.0</b>	<b>\$ 8143.3</b>	<b>\$ 5574.8</b>

Note 1: Program Grants for FY 2013 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 our fee-based permits for boating registration and access to the Reserve and revenue generated from merchandise sales.

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](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 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](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

Michele McLean, *Chairperson*  
Amber Nāmaka Whitehead, *Vice-Chairperson*  
William J. Aila Jr.  
Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.  
C. Kaliko Baker  
Hökūlani Holt  
Colette Y. Machado

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