

February 26, 2025
Agenda Item IV.B

To: KIRC Commissioners

From: Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i, Executive Director

Subject: Request by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to approve access dates and activities for 2025.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Pursuant to HAR §13-261-13 and Section 8 of the Palapala ‘Aelike Kahu‘āina, approve the proposed access dates and activities for the 2025 calendar year requested by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) as KIRC approved and authorized activities.

BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:

At the July 13, 2012 Stewardship Working Group meeting and as reported at the August 10, 2012 Commission meeting, the KIRC and PKO have agreed to use the following terminology:

- **Authorized Activities** – Activities permitted within the Reserve as specified in HRS 6K.
- **Stewardship Agreement Authorized Activities** – Activities approved in the Stewardship Agreement Section 2.
- **KIRC Approved and Authorized Activities** – Activities that have been formally approved by Commission action taken at a duly noticed public meeting as meeting the criteria of Section 8 of the Stewardship Agreement.

As approved at the February 16, 2012 Commission meeting and amended at the December 17, 2012 and February 16, 2017 Commission meetings, the following table is a summary of “KIRC Approved and Authorized Activities.” Continued approval of these activities is contingent upon satisfactory compliance with the coordination and reporting requirements as specified.

The Palapala ‘Aelike Kahu‘āina signed on June 13, 2019 amended Section 8 so that “volunteers acting in a KIRC approved capacity may be regarded as volunteers under chapter 90 HRS. The Department of the Attorney General has the sole authority to determine whether volunteers will receive representation from the Department of the Attorney General for purposes of chapter 662 HRS. Persons conducting only religious and spiritual activities, including but not limited to those listed in Section 6 of this agreement, might not be deemed volunteers for the purposes of Chapter 90, HRS, as each determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.”

There was no request for any changes to the list of KIRC Approved and Authorized Activities.

Table 1: KIRC Approved and Authorized Activities

Activity Name	Activity Description	Coordination Requirements	Reporting Requirements
PKO Revegetation Projects	Includes Native planting, Invasive weed management,	KIRC staff will provide project for the PKO to	Report after each access documenting observations,

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Activity Name	Activity Description	Coordination Requirements	Reporting Requirements
	erosion control, Hakioawa well maintenance	complete consistent with the Restoration Program	activities, finding, results and any other relevant information.
Ka 'Ai a Kanaloa - Marine Debris Cleanup	Collecting, sorting, counting and bagging of beach rubbish	Coordination between KIRC Ocean staff and PKO	See above
Ka 'Ai a Kanaloa - Marine Monitoring	Monitor and document fish and reef conditions	Coordination between KIRC Ocean staff and PKO for a list of project and monitoring sites	See above
Archaeological/Culture Site Mapping, Restoration and Stewardship	Map, stabilize, dedicate, re-dedicate and use cultural, religious and historic sites	Activities consistent with the CUP, comply with HRS 6E and applicable HAR. Projects involving construction or erecting new sites require prior Commission approval. Spiritual and religious activities as proposed activities under the Stewardship Agreement are denied.	See above
Practice of Hawaiian Arts and Science	Implementation through observations, recording, documenting and reporting training of cultural practitioners through the CUP	Activities consistent with CUP. Requires coordination with KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator.	Report after each access documenting observations, information gathered, training conducted, and any other relevant information
Ala Loa	Surveying, flagging, identifying UXO and arch sites, clearing brush with mechanical equipment, power, and hand tools, moving rock to create paths, building/rebuilding ahu sites	KIRC staff will provide site-specific UXO and safety procedures that the PKO must follow. Requires coordination with KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator.	Report after each access documenting their progress, data points (GPS) for surveying, flagging, and identifying UXO.
Trail Stabilization	Evaluate, repair, build, stabilize, align trails, steps, install trail markers/steps and erosion control measures & identify UXO & arch sites, clearing brush with mechanical equipment, power and hand tools, moving rocks to create paths	KIRC staff will provide site-specific UXO and safety procedures that the PKO must follow. Requires coordination with KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator.	Report after each access documenting their progress, data points (GPS) for surveying, flagging, and identifying UXO.
Hakioawa Hale/Halau Building	Survey, evaluate shore-side site, and prepare materials re-purposed from Hale Halawai	Requires coordination with KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator.	Report after each access documenting their progress

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Activity Name	Activity Description	Coordination Requirements	Reporting Requirements
Kilohoku and Kilo Pae Honua	Worldly and Celestial Observations (approved 12/17/12)		Report after each access documenting their progress
Hakioawa facilities and infrastructure maintenance	Maintenance of Hakioawa camp sites and trails. Repairs to Hakioawa Hale and other built facilities in Hakioawa	Repairs and maintenance to Hakioawa Hale made with prior approval and coordination of KIRC	Report any repairs necessary or made to Hakioawa Hale

Section 9 of the Stewardship Agreement specifies that “access dates and list of activities for the upcoming year shall be submitted prior to the December meeting.”

PKO Access Coordinator Kylee Mar submitted the following dates and corresponding activities for 2025.

Table 2: PKO Access and Activities Request for 2024

Month	Dates	Notes
February 2025	February 20 – 23	Ala Loa (Hakioawa)
March 2025	March 16 – 19 March 19 – 22 March 27 – 30	Spring Break (Hakioawa) Spring Break (Hakioawa) Ala Loa (Ahupu)
April 2025	April 10 – 13 April 24 – 27	Hakioawa Ala Loa (Ahupu)
May 2025	May 9 – 12 May 22 – 26	Honokanai’a (Mua Project) Hakioawa
June 2025	June 6 – 9 June 19 – 22	Honokanai’a (Mua Project with KIRC) Hakioawa
July 2025	June 29 – July 2 July 10 – 13	Hawaiian Canoe Club (Honokanai’a) Hakioawa
August 2025	August 7 – 10 August 15 – 18	Hakioawa Honokanai’a (Mua Project with KIRC)
September 2025	September 12 – 15	Honokanai’a (Mua Project)
October 2025	October 9 – 12 October 17 – 20	Hakioawa Kaholokalani (Honokanai’a)
November 2025	November 26 – 30	Opening Makahiki (Hakioawa)
December 2025		
January 2026	January 16- 19	Makahiki Prep (Honokanai’a)

Month	Dates	Notes
February 2026	February 11 – 16	Closing Makahiki (Hakioawa to Honokanai‘a)

METHODS & DISCUSSION:

The attached PKO Huaka‘i schedule was forwarded to the KIRC for approval. Additional dates for Ala Loa and other projects may be submitted later and administratively approved by the KIRC Executive Director.

The activities listed in the PKO request (Table 1) are consistent with approved and authorized activities (Table 1).


LEGAL AUTHORITY:


Pursuant HRS §6K-6(1), the KIRC shall establish criteria, policies, and controls for permissible uses within the island reserve.

Pursuant HRS §6K-6(5), the KIRC may enter into curator or stewardship agreements with appropriate Hawaiian organizations such as the ‘Ohana.

Pursuant to HAR §13-261-13, the KIRC will allow activities for the preservation and practice of all rights customarily and traditionally exercised by native Hawaiians for cultural and subsistence purposes; allow activities which are educational, and which relate to native Hawaiian cultural practices or to the natural or cultural resources of The Reserve.

	Ka Mahina Haole	Days of the Week	Huaka'i Dates (# of days)	Location(s): "Based-out-of/additional support"			Notes
				Hakioawa	Honokanai'a	Ala Loa	
	January 2025	Friday - Monday (Lā'aupau - 'Olekūlua)	Jan. 17 - 20 (4 days)		X		Ho'omākaukau Makahiki
	February	Wednesday - Monday (Hoku - 'Olekūkahi)	Feb. 12 - 17 (6 days)	X	X		Panina Makahiki
		Thursday - Sunday ('Olepau - Kāloakūlua)	Feb 20 - 23			Hakioawa trails	Ala Loa
	March						
		Sunday - Wednesday (Lā'aukūkahi - 'Olekūkahi)	March 16 - 19	X			
		Wednesday - Saturday ('Olekūkahi - 'Olepau)	March 19 - 22	X			
		Thursday - Sunday (Lono - Hilo)	March 27-30			Ahupu	Ala Loa
	April	Thursday - Sunday (Hua - Māhealani)	April 10 - 13	X			
		Thursday - Sunday (Kāloapau - Muku)	April 24 - 27			Ahupu	Ala Loa
	May	Friday - Monday (_ - _)	May 9 - 12	X	Honokanai'a w/ KIRC 'Ohua, huts, meals		Honokanai'a Mua (15-20 ppl) (Maka to assess and develop workplan w/Craig) [1]
		Thursday - Monday (Kāloakūlua - Muku)	May 22 - 26 (5 days)	X			
	June		June 6 - 9 &/or 9-12		Honokanai'a w/ KIRC 'Ohua, huts, meals		KIRC Community Access w/PKO leader for Mua Honokanai'a work
		Thursday - Sunday (Kāloakūkahi - Kāne)	June 19 - 22 + Community Hakioawa	X			

	Ka Mahina Haole	Days of the Week	Huaka'i Dates (# of days)	Location(s): "Based-out-of/additional support"			Notes
				Hakioawa	Honokanai'a	Ala Loa	
	July	Sunday - Wednesday	June 29 - July 2 HCC Mua Honokanai'a		Honokanai'a		Hawaiian Canoe Club; Ka'apuni + Mua work project 'Ohua available (6/30-7/3) for 12 ppl, KIRC will supply, water, access to grill and menu partnership
		Thursday - Sunday (Hoku - Lā'aukūlua)	July 10 -13 Kua Training	X			Kua Training
	August	Thursday - Sunday (Hua - Māhealani)	August 7 - 10	X			
		Friday - Monday	August 15-18		Honokanai'a		Mua Honokanai'a work
	September	Friday - Monday (Lono - Hilo)	September 12 - 15 + Community Honokanai'a		Honokanai'a w/ KIRC 'Ohua, huts, meals		Artists Huaka'i w/ Mua work project (15-20 ppl)
		Thursday - Sunday (Lā'aukūlua - 'Olekūlua)	October 9 - 12	X			
	October	Friday - Monday (Kāloapau - Muku)	October 17 - 20 Honokanai'a		X		Aha Ka Ipu A Kāne
		Wednesday - Sunday (Kūpau - 'Olepau)	November 26 - 30 (5 days)	X			Wehena Makahiki
	November						
	December						
	January 2026	Friday - Monday (Lono to Muku)	Jan. 16 - 19 (4 days)		X		Ho'omākaukau Makahiki

	Ka Mahina Haole	Days of the Week	Huaka'i Dates (# of days)	Location(s): "Based-out-of/additional support"			Notes
				Hakioawa	Honokanai'a	Ala Loa	
	February 2026	Wednesday - Monday (Kaloakūlua - Maui)	Feb. 11 - 16 (6 days)	X	X		Panina Makahiki