

# KAHO‘OLAWE

KO HEMA LAMALAMA | *Newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission* | Summer 2019

## In This Issue:

Leadership + Legacy 1-2

Community Partners 3-4

Student Showcase 5-8

Program Updates 9

Mahalo + Aloha 10



Welcome to *Ko Hema Lamalama*, the newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. Uncle Harry Mitchell interpreted this name as **the southern beacon**, which served as a source of light to weary travelers voyaging beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let *Ko Hema Lamalama* aid us in sharing a source of light from Kaho‘olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai‘i nei. *Photo: Paul R. Meyer | This issue is made possible by supporters like you. Mahalo for helping us share Kaho‘olawe.*



# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
Michael K. Nāho'opi'i

In accordance with our state statutes, KIRC Commissioners serve up to two, four-year terms for a total of eight years of continuous service. This June 2019, both Commissioner Kaliko Baker and Chairperson Michele McLean will have completed eight notable years of service as KIRC Commissioners.

Commissioner Baker had spent many years on Kaho'olawe as a cultural practitioner and currently is a professor of Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. He was first appointed to the KIRC in 2011 by the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie. As one of the appointed representatives of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, Commissioner Baker lead the cultural advisory working group provided sound advice and context relating to Native Hawaiian cultural understanding of the work on Kaho'olawe and providing direction, support and guidance to the KIRC's Cultural Program.

Commissioner McLean also has a long history with Kaho'olawe as a part of KIRC's senior staff and currently is the Director of Planning for Maui County. She was appointed chairperson of the KIRC in 2011 also by the Honorable Governor Neil Abercrombie. Chairperson McLean represented the KIRC seat reserved for a Maui County official and played an important role in identifying county-based economic opportunities for KIRC's infrastructure especially in the field of alternative energy development. Additionally, her guidance and support as chairperson allowed us to make significant advancement in the funding and governance of the KIRC.

The KIRC will surely miss the support, advise and guidance that Commissioners Baker and McLean have provided over the past eight-years and we wish them well in their futures.

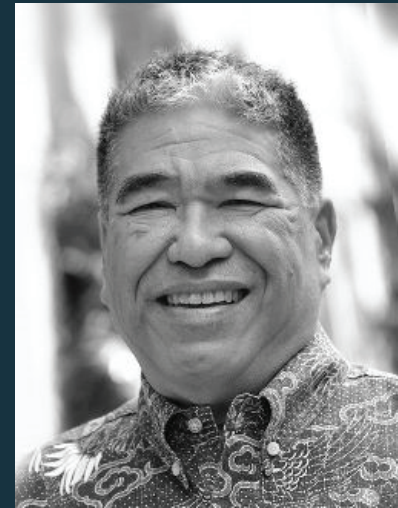


KIRC Executive Director Michael Naho'opi'i  
with Commissioners Baker and McLean.

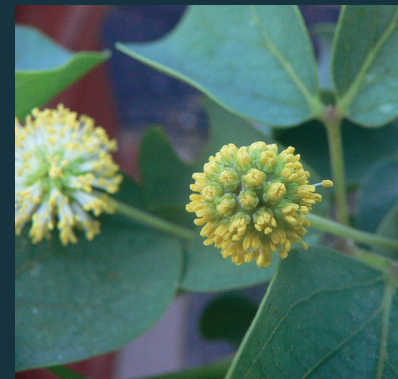
## Remembering Kurt Mitchell

It is with deep sadness that we remember a long-time supporter and friend of the KIRC, Kurt Hauoli Mitchell, AIA, NRCARB, RDI who passed away on May 31, 2019. Kurt, a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools and head of the architecture and design firm, KHMA, first became involved with the KIRC in early 2004 during the initial concepts for of our future Kīhei office building and later during the design and construction of the Hakiowa Shelter project. After working with varying inputs and over many years of planning, Kurt and his team was able to design a unique 40' by 60' all-composite structure to be built on the valley floor of Hakiowa, on the northern coast of Kaho'olawe. The building is unique as the largest, composite structure in Hawai'i built entirely by hand. The remote and equipment-inaccessible location of the build site required a unique structural design that require ingenuity and unique planning that allowed us to complete the structure in 2012.

Later, while leading RIM Architects, as its Hawai'i managing partner, Kurt continued his role guiding the KIRC by continuing the design and planning requirements for Kīhei office that transformed into an innovative Education and Operations Center to be located at our Kīhei property on Maui. Kurt had an intuitive understanding of the KIRC's needs as he had remained connected to Kaho'olawe for so many years and was able to lead his team in developing and obtaining the permits to begin construction of the KIRC's future operations hub, offices and learning and community center. Just prior to his passing, he was also leading his team to design the companion bio-secure native plant nursery that will focus on propagating native plants for our on-island restoration efforts and especially endangered and rare native plants including Palupalu o Kanaloa.



Kurt Hauoli Mitchell.



Palupalu o Kanaloa plant (left) and flowers (right).

## Norma Wong Remembers 25th Anniversary of Kaho`olawe's Return



On February 29, 2019, I was invited to attend a special presentation at the Chozen-ji Dojo located at the back of Kalihi Valley on Oahu. Speaking that night was a longtime friend, whose place in Kaho`olawe's history began in the nineteen eighties. Norma Wong, a graduate of Kamehameha Schools, served as the State Representative for Waimanalo, a partner in a policy research and planning firm, served eight years as the Director of the Office of State Planning during the Waihee Administration, and the Hawaii corporate and government relations director for a D.C. based law firm. Today, Norma is an instructor with the Institute of Zen Studies and offers training for people who are interested in the application of Zen principles in their work and life and is the 86th generation Zen Master of the Chozen-ji Dojo. As this year is the 25th anniversary of the return of Kaho`olawe to the State of Hawaii, Norma was asked to reflect on those times and on the movement that made this event happen.

As Norma explained to us in attendance, her first discussions about Kaho`olawe were during a meeting with John Waihee in early nineteen eighties at the Chozen-Ji dojo. The conversation was regarding Kaho`olawe and he disclosed that he had decided to run for Lieutenant Governor under Governor George Ariyoshi. Norma then said to us "... if you plan to run for LG, then you are expected to run for a higher office after, Governor or

Congress." So, she and labor attorney Alvin Shim, another Chozen-Ji dojo member, were asked by Waihee to help develop a plan to regain Hawaiian lands that were taken by the Federal Government, especially Kaho`olawe. In the nineteen seventies, Waihee was part of the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana legal defense team and wanted to push forward the return of Kaho`olawe. According to Norma, Waihee had an idea that was "a pono approach to make this happen that was not a frontal attack against the Federal Government." He had a long-term vision that needed a plan of action.

Waihee became the 4th Governor of Hawaii in 1986 during a time when the military was trying to find a way to bring the cold war to a close. Norma said "He began looking at civilians requesting the release of military installation not needed for cold war training while the military wanted to retain these lands for possible future training." In 1990, Senator Spark Matsunaga passed away in office, therefore opening one of the two U.S. Senate seats for Hawaii. According to a reflection by Former Congresswomen Pat Saiki on the death of President George H.W. Bush, she said "President Bush personally asked me to run for the U.S. Senate and offered his help to assist the race. I made a special request before accepting the offer – I asked him to use his influence to reverse the policy initiated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt allowing Kaho`olawe to be used for bombing practice during RIMPAC exercises. Recognizing the concerns of our people, President Bush did just that and ordered the cessation of the bombing." (News Release from Hawaii Republican Party, December 1, 2018).

Norma then goes on "when there is a disruption, there are opportunities. One needs the courage to take advantage of these opportunities". Governor Waihee appoints Congressman Daniel Akaka to serve as interim U.S. Senator until the November special election. Akaka's new position made him the favorite to hold onto the seat in the fall. The move by President Bush to stop the bombing on Kaho`olawe could, as Norma puts it "be interpreted to draw the Hawaiian votes away from Akaka and give Saiki the advantage in the upcoming election." On October 22, 1990, President George Bush issues a Memorandum to the Secretary of Defense to put a temporary halt to all bombing and munitions training on the island. Following this action, Senators Akaka and Inouye introduce Senate Bill 3088 to establish the Kaho`olawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) in November 1990 and provide funding necessary to study the island and recommend the terms and conditions for the island's return to the State. In November of the same year, Daniel K. Akaka was elected to complete the remaining four years of Matsunaga's unexpired term, defeating Congresswomen Pat Saiki with 53 percent of the vote.

On March 31, 1993, the KICC submitted their final report to Congress. "Never before have Native Hawaiians and other residents of the state had the opportunity to contemplate the return of the island to state control, recommend uses of the island that comply with state and local rather than federal needs, and plan a future for the island based on cultural and historic values." (Executive Summary, KICC Report 1993). The KICC recommended the "island of Kaho`olawe shall be returned to the State of Hawaii as expeditious a manner as possible through special legislation..." (Recommendation 1.1, KICC Final Report 1993). Norma then goes on to say that while the KICC report was making its rounds in Congress, two legislative specialists Dennis J. Dwyer and Neil Thomas Proto of DC law firm Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand began drafting a unique statutory scheme at the behest of the State of Hawaii for the conveyance of Kaho`olawe back to the State. This legislation was later introduced by Senator Inouye and passed as Title X to the 1994 Defense Appropriations Act (Public Law 103-139, 107 Stat.1418). The measure directed the United States, through the Secretary of the Navy to convey and return Kaho`olawe Island and surrounding waters. The measure also authorized \$400,000,000 to be appropriated to implement restoration and remediation activities.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## Hawaiian Sailing Canoe Association Visits Kaho'olawe for the First Time

This past May, in partnership with the KIRC and thanks to the support of Auwahi Wind, Hawaiian Sailing Canoe Association (HSCA) was able to provide 6 sailing canoes and two escort vessels access to Kaho'olawe, carrying a total of 54 participants. The canoes included Kekaha and Kamalii o Ke Kai of O'ahu, Tui Tonga and Kamakani Eleu of Kaua'i, and Aukaiomai and Kahiau of Maui. While on island the group visited several significant sites, including Sailor's Hat, Pu'u 'O Moa'ula Iki and the star compass at Kealaikahiki. They also supported the Restoration team collecting pōhaku for use in the DOH project site and working up mauka planting native species on the southern slopes of Pu'u 'O Moa'ula Nui.

The experience was 6 years in the making, starting off as an idea baby of Lopaka White, KIRC staff member, HSCA member, and long time paddler, who first brought the suggestion to the HSCA leadership in 2013. "The wa'a is at the center of Hawaiian culture. Canoe people have a unique perspective of and way to connect to Kanaloa and Kaho'olawe. Any time we can bring wa'a (canoes) to Kaho'olawe, we should. It's something we should normalize as a practice," remarks White. He went on to say, "although HSCA first began in 1986 and had sailed past Kaho'olawe many times, the canoes never had the chance to actually land on the island. So for them to have the opportunity to do this is something truly significant."



*(Starting from the top and going counter clockwise) HSCA canoes arriving in Honokanai'a; KIRC Ocean Program manager, Dean Tokishi sharing some historical information with HSCA group; HSCA and Auwahi Wind participants in KIRC base camp; . HSCA fleet leaving Honokanai'a; HSCA fleet sailing away from Kaho'olawe; KIRC Operations and Vessel Maintenance Specialist Lopaka White in "the Deuce" with HSCA participants; KIRC Public Information Specialist Maggie Pulver and the Deuce flat tire.*



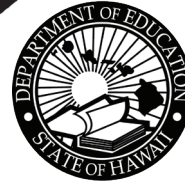


# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## Students Use Their Math Skills to Support Kaho'olawe

Thanks to a collaboration between the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the KIRC, this year's iTeach Conference, sponsored by the Hawai'i Department of Education Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design in partnership with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, featured a special full day event called *808 Math: Island Style Math Challenge*.

The event brought together twenty-nine middle schools students from 9 schools, including 8 schools on O'ahu and one from Hawai'i Island. The challenge was centered around Kaho'olawe and asked students to share their expertise in mathematics in designing a solution for an actual problem that the PKO and KIRC are currently trying to solve.



### THE CHALLENGE:

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) needs your help! They want to cover an additional 3500 acres of the island with vegetation. Can it be done? Given the current rainfall patterns, water catchment system, and types of vegetation requested to be planted on Kaho'olawe, how long will it take to meet that goal and how can you improve the current system to achieve that goal even faster?



### From Desiree, iTeach Conference student attendee from Central Middle School:

"It was a great opportunity to learn more about Kaho'olawe and the problems that the island is facing. Not only that, but it taught us how to collaborate and sue team work to solve that problem."

### From Joseph Manfre, HI State Math Education Specialist and one of the coordinators of the Math Challenge:

"Our HIDEOE State Math Team strives to create meaningful mathematical learning experiences for our students, so when it comes to real world applications, there is connection to both place and culture. Where student work not only positively impacts their own individual growth, but that of their community and Hawai'i as a whole. That is what this day was able to accomplish for our students. Students engaged in a prompt centered around Kaho'olawe, and performed rigorous math for a purposeful cause. Mahalo PKO and KIRC for welcoming us to explore and problem solve around such a sacred place. This experience allowed all involved to grow, and sparked a desire to explore more opportunities that connect both place and culture with mathematics."



After being given a brief introduction on the geology and history of Kaho'olawe, as well as background information on the current conditions and restoration efforts on the island (top left), students were grouped together in pods at different stations (top right) and worked on developing potential solutions to the posed challenge (bottom right), which were then showcased to everyone attending the event.



# COMMUNITY PARTNERS



## KIRC Ocean Program Teams Up with Pōmaika'i Elementary School

In August of 2017, the KIRC Ocean Program was one of seven NOAA Bay Watershed Educational Training (B-WET) grant recipients in Hawai'i. Through this grant, the Ocean staff was able to partner with Pōmaika'i Elementary school and provide 4th grade educators with first-hand field experiences on Kaho'olawe. While on island, teachers developed a deeper understanding of how to manage and protect a complete watershed system using methods that are integrated with Hawaiian cultural stewardship practices based on the ahupua'a system of mauka to makai relationships.

The field experiences served as a source of inspiration for a series of lesson plans that integrated Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM), and aligned to Hawai'i Department of Education standards. Back on Maui, the Ocean Program staff worked with the Pōmaika'i educators to develop, enrich and implement the curriculum, covering subject matter from Hawaiian history to ecology to alternative energy to music composition.

The B-WET partnership impacted more than 200 students over the last two years, providing them with a broad spectrum of learning around a single focal point: Kaho'olawe. The program inspired works of art, music and drama that students were able to share with the school, KIRC staff and greater Maui community.



“For the last 20 years, Kanaloa has given me so many incredible opportunities. I have been able to detect and remove bombs from Kaho'olawe, plant native vegetation on the island to stop erosion and reduce runoff from entering the surrounding waters, and conduct fish and reef surveys within the marine Reserve. Even with all that experience, working with the students, teachers and administration of Pōmaika'i Elementary School over the last 2 years, through this B-WET grant, has been some of the most fulfilling and rewarding work I have ever been privileged to do for Kanaloa. To see the affection and passion that I carry for Kaho'olawe shared and expressed by the island's future caretakers and community leaders makes my heart swell with gratification.”

~ Dean Tokishi, Ocean Program Manager

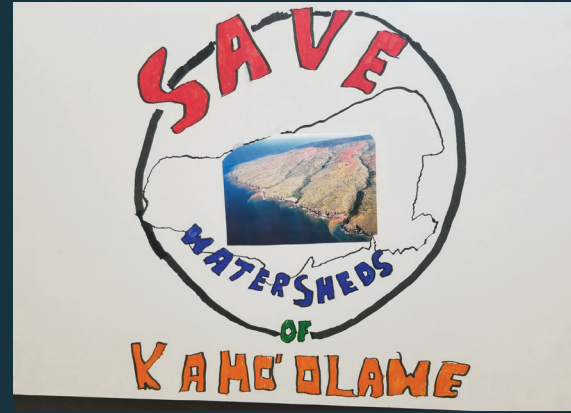
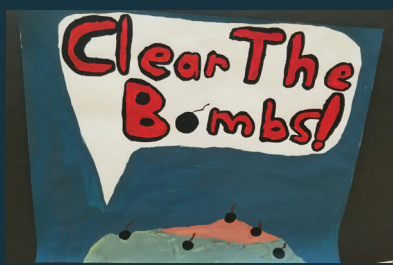
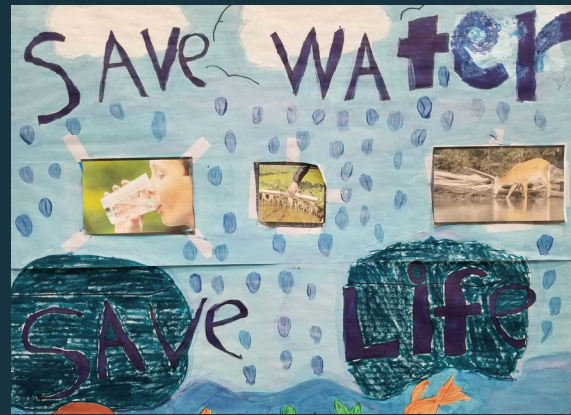
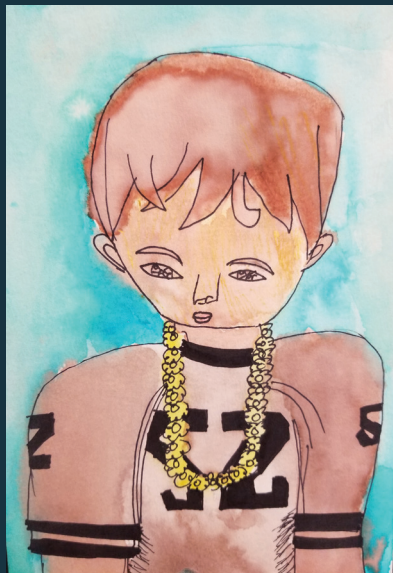
*During field experiences, teachers from Pōmaika'i Elementary worked in Honokanai'a (top right) planting 'aki 'aki grass (top middle right), built wattles and out-planted native seedlings up mauka (bottom right) and visited the kupuna wiliwili tree (bottom middle right) which was the leading star of the student end-of-year performance.*

*Scan this QR code to view the stop motion animation video produced by the 4th grade students at Pomaika'i Elementary School!*





# STUDENT SHOWCASE



Fourth grade students at Pōmaika'i Elementary created works of art inspired by their work with the KIRC Ocean Program staff, including a stop motion animation video that tells the story of Kaho'olawe from their perspective (below) and a series of paintings and drawings (above) which included (starting from the top left and going clockwise) renderings of KIRC Restoration Program manager Paul Higashino and Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member Kimo Mitchell, informational posters, and portraits of the wildlife that inhabit the Reserve.





# STUDENT SHOWCASE

Ke aloha iā kākou e nā mea heluhelu, 'o au 'o Aheone Kanamu, he kama'āina no Pā'ia, a he pukana ha'aheo nō ho'i o Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Maui. No ka'ū Pāhana O'o, ua koho au e alaka'i i kekahi huaka'i aloha 'āina e kōkua a mālama i ka mo'omeheu o Hawai'i ma Kaho'olawe. He mea nui kēia 'āina ia'ū no ka mea, he pilina ko ko'ū 'ohana mai ka wā i paio 'ia ai kona ho'ihō'i 'ia e ka pū'ālikoa o 'Amelika. I ko'ū wā hoe wa'a ma ke kula waena, ua pōmaika'i nō au i ka holo 'ana i laila me ka hālau wa'a 'o Hawaiian Canoe Club.

'A'ohe o'ū kanalua i ke koho 'ana i kēia kumuhana nui i loko nō o ka ho'omākaukau nui no kēia 'ano huaka'i. 'O ke noi kāko'o 'oe, o ka ho'oulu kālā 'oe, 'o ka ho'opa'a pono 'ana i nā lāli'i 'oe. 'A'ole nō he ma'alahi no kahi 'ōpiopio! Ua a'o au i nā 'ano mea like 'ole no ka 'auamo 'ana i ke 'ano o ia kuleana nui. Ua a'o mai au i ke ahonui, ke kuleana, a me ka hana laulima. A, pēlā pū nō ho'i nā hoa kula i hele mai. He hui kaiapuni mākou āpau mai ke kula ki'eki'e 'o Kekaulike a me Lāhainaluna. He mea nui ia'ū ka hiki i nā mea hele 'ole ma mua ke 'ikemaka i ka nani o kēia mokupuni. A, he mea nui ia'ū ka pā 'ia ana o ko lākou na'au e ka mana o ka 'āina. He 'āina ola nō!

I loko nō o nā lā 'elima a mākou i noho ai, he ho'okahi lā hou aku 'oiai ua 'ōkaikai ke kai, ua hana nui mākou ma ka 'ili 'o Hakioawa a me ka 'ili 'o Kunaka/Na'alapa. 'O ka mea nui ke kanu 'ana i nā meakanu 'ōiwi no ka nui o ka 'a'ai lepo. Ua a'o mai mākou i ka ho'ohana 'ana i nā kumuwaiwai ma ka 'āina e like me nā pōhaku, ke kīpulu, a me ka wai ua. 'O ka 'ōhai ka mea e hāli'i nui ana ma Hakioawa, he nani i ku'ū maka.

'O ke kipa 'ana i nā wahi pana like 'ole ma laila he mea punahele o'ū no ka mea he mau wahi ko'iko'i nō lākou i ko kākou mau kūpuna. Ma nā mo'olelo o ia mau wahi pana e 'ike 'ia ai ke akamai o kāhiko. Me 'ole o ko'ū 'ike mua, ua hā'awi mai ko'ū makuakāne ia'ū kahi ipu no ka wai e ho'okupu ai. A, wahi a 'Anakalā Paul, 'o ka Ipu a Kāne ka inoa o ia ahu ua. Ua kupaianaha nō ka lā mua a me nā lā āpau o ia pule piha o ko mākou huaka'i aloha 'āina!

I kēia manawa, e holomua ana au ma ke kulanui e 'imi mau ka na'auao a lilo paha i Kumu Kaiapuni. Na ka'ū mau Kumu Kaiapuni āpau me ka'ū 'ohana Kaiapuni i ho'olana mai kēia. He 'i'ini nui ko'ū e hana me ko ke KIRC i kekahi lā. A, 'ike au e mau ana ka pilina me Kaho'olawe. No laila, e like ho'i me ka'ū Kumu, malia paha e hiki ana ia'ū ke lawe i ka'ū po'e haumāna i Kaho'olawe i ka wā e hiki mai ana. Wae aku i ka lani! Mahalo!

~ Aheone Kanamu

*King Kekaulike High School and Kula Kaiapuni Program, Class of 2019*



*Aheone Kanamu planting natives (top left); students from Kekaulike and Lāhainaluna High Schools learning from KIRC Restoration Manager Paul Higashino (top right) and offering chant at the rain ko'a (bottom left); the gourd offered as ho'okupu at the rain ko'a (bottom right). Photo credits: Paul Meyer.*

'O Kaho'olawe kahi e ao ai ka na'au o ka haumāna e 'imi nei i ka na'auao. Aloha pumehana kākou! 'O wau nō 'o Kapolei Kiili, he Kumu Kaiapuni no 14 mau makahiki ma waena o ke kula 'o Pā'ia a me ke kula 'o Kekaulike. He kama ha'aheo nō au o nei mokupuni 'o Maui. Eia nō māua 'o ka'ū haumāna kaiapuni e kākau nei i wahi mana'o no 'oukou. Nui ko māua mahalo iā 'oukou āpau e ko Hawai'i, nā mea e mālama mau 'ana i ke ea a Kanaloa.

No laila e ka mea heluhelu, e like ho'i me ka'ū haumana 'o Aheone, pēlā pū ka ikaika o ko'ū aloha iā Kaho'olawe. Mai ko'ū wā 'ōpio, ua holo mua au i laila me ka papahana 'o Nā Pua No'eau ma lalo 'o 'Anakē Hōkūlani Holt. Ma Hakioawa mākou i noho mua ai. Ma ia manawa nō o ko'ū ola, ua pā mai ku'ū na'au a he ho'ā nō ho'i i ko'ū mauli ola Hawai'i me ka ikaika. Nui loa ko'ū ho'i 'ana i Kaho'olawe ma ko'ū wā 'ōpio. He hāli'ali'a aloha nō ka'ū mau hana āpau ma laila. 'O ka pōmaika'i loa, 'o ia nō ka'ū hana pū 'ana me 'Anakē Hōkūlani lāua 'o 'Anakala Paul Higashino ma ke 'ano he limahana kāko'o ma ke ke'ena. Ua kāko'o au ma kekahi huaka'i no ko 'Anakē Kalei Nu'uhiwa 'imi noi'i me Kupuna David Kawika Ka'alakea. 'Oiai e holo ana māua 'o Kupuna ma ka helikopa, ho'omana'o au i ko māua ho'opa'a lima kekahi i kekahi ma muli o ka ma'a 'ole o ka māmā o ka lele helikopa 'ana.

'A'ole au i mana'o, e lilo ana au i Kumu Kaiapuni ma ko'ū wā 'ōpio a pēia pū ma ko'ū wā hele kulanui. Eia na'e, ma hope o ka noho ana ma ia 'ano kūlana, he 14 mau makahiki, ua hiki aku kēia i ka hilina'i piha na ko'ū mau kūpuna e ho'okele mai nei ia'ū ma kēia au nei. Palena 'ole ku'ū mahalo a aloha i ko'ū kaiāulu 'o Maui Nui a Kama no ka hānai kūpono 'ana mai ia'ū. He lālā au no ku'ū mau kumu. He mamo aloha nō au no ku'ū 'āina hānau.

I ola ka 'ōlelo Hawai'i, i ola ke kanaka Hawai'i, i ola ka mana o kākou nā pulapula o nei 'āina aloha ē. Aloha iā 'oukou!

~ Kapolei Kiili, Kumu, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program



*'Ōhai in bloom (left) and Kumu Kapolei Kiili holding an 'ōhai seed pod (right).*



# STUDENT SHOWCASE



Aloha everyone, my name is Aheone Kanamau, a resident of Pā'ia and a proud graduate of Maui's Kula Kaiapuni Program. For my Senior Project, I chose to lead a volunteer access trip as a way to care for and preserve the cultural heritage of Hawai'i on Kaho'olawe. This island is significant to me because of my family's connection and activism during the period of its return from the U.S. Military. As a young middle schooler who paddled with Hawaiian Canoe Club, I also traveled a lot to Kaho'olawe and thus my connection grew stronger.

I did not have any doubt in my mind about choosing a topic like this for my senior project despite the amount of work I would have to do for a trip like this. For example, gathering participants, fundraising, and solidifying all the details to make this trip successful. Definitely not an easy feat for a growing teenager! I learned a lot about all the work that is required for caring for this island. Through my senior project



experience, I learned patience, responsibility, and working with others. My classmates who came on this trip also learned these invaluable lessons. We were a group of Kaiapuni students from Kekaulike and Lāhainaluna. It was important to me to invite students who had never gone to the island before because I wanted them to witness its beauty. And, I also wanted them to experience the island's mana, or power. It is indeed a living island.

In the five days that we stayed, an extra day than originally anticipated because of the rough ocean conditions, we worked in Hakioawa and Kunaka/Na'alapa. Our biggest task was planting native trees to help with the erosion. We learned to use the resources on the island like the rocks, the soil, and the rain water to do plantings. The 'ōhai plant is doing well in Hakioawa and it was beautiful to see it's successful spreading.

Visiting the different sites of cultural importance was my favorite part of the trip because these places were significant to our ancestors. It is through the stories that we learned how intelligent our ancestors truly are. For my trip, my dad gave me a small gourd to hold the water that I had collected as an offering to the island. I didn't know it at the time, but the rain shrine where we took this offering, according to Uncle Paul is called, The Gourd of Kane, which is exactly what I had brought as an offering. This first day of our trip was amazing along with the whole week that we stayed!

At this time, my plan is to go to college to further my education a potentially become a Kumu Kaiapuni. My Kaiapuni teachers and my Kaiapuni family have definitely inspired me. I have a strong desire to work with or for the KIRC one day. And, I know that my connection to Kaho'olawe will stay strong. So perhaps, just like my Kumu, I will one day be able to take my own students to Kaho'olawe in the future. Only the heavens know! Thank you!

~ Aheone Kanamau

*King Kekaulike High School and Kula Kaiapuni Program, Class of 2019*



Kaho'olawe is a place that inspires the heart and soul for the seeker of knowledge and wisdom. Warmest aloha everyone, my name is Kapolei Kiili, a Hawaiian Language Immersion Program (HLIP) teacher for 14 years combined at Pā'ia and Kekaulike. I am also a proud resident of Maui. My student and I are humbled to share this piece with all of you. We are also very appreciative to all of Hawai'i, and the ones who continue to care for the life of Kanaloa.

So, dear reader, just like my student Aheone, my own love for Kaho'olawe developed in my youth. I was fortunate to first access the island with the Nā Pua No'eau program led by Aunty Hōkūlani Holt. We camped in Hakioawa. And, during this period of my life, my travels to the island had not only ignited my identity as a Native Hawaiian child, but continued to grow my desire to learn more of my cultural heritage. All of my time and experiences there are treasured memories. One of these include being an intern with Aunty Hōkūlani Holt and Uncle Paul Higashino helping in the office. I also remember being privileged to accompany Aunty Kalei Nu'uhiwa on a research trip with Kupuna David Kāwika Ka'alakea. When we were on the helicopter ride together, I remember holding onto his hand tightly because it was my first time experiencing a helicopter ride.

I never imagined becoming a Kaiapuni teacher in my youth and even throughout my undergraduate studies. But, after being in this space for 14 years, I have come to trust that my path has been guided by my ancestors. I am absolutely grateful for being born and raised in Maui and for the beautiful people who invested in me in my youth. I am a product of their rearing. And, a proud product of my birthplace and community.

So that our language, our people, and our ancestral strength continues to thrive, let us continue restoring the ea of Kanaloa. Aloha to you all!

~ Kapolei Kiili, Teacher, Hawaiian Language Immersion Program



# PROGRAM UPDATES



In May, participants on the Protect Kaho`olawe `Ohana volunteer access sighted a Pueo fledgling (*above*) in the `ili of Hakioawa. This is the first recorded sighting of a nest on Kaho`olawe in recent history. Little is known about the breeding habits of Pueo. Nests are constructed by females and made of simple scrapes in the ground lined with grasses and feather down. The bird was relatively large and would likely be leaving the nest soon, so to find it was truly a gift.



In June, the KIRC vessel `O`hua got some much needed TLC (*above*), including oil changes, filter service and trailer repairs. Regular maintenance and repair are essential to keeping `O`hua running. Mahalo to our Operations Program staff for their awesome efforts to keep the vessel in good shape, which allows the KIRC to provide safe and meaningful access to Kaho`olawe for staff and volunteers.



KIRC Ocean Program staff was able to snap this shot of one of two `Ilioholoikaua, or Hawaiian Monk Seals, sighted at Honokanai`a beach in May (*above*). The coastline of Kaho`olawe is a perfect refuge for these endangered animals who come ashore to rest and give birth. If you see a seal at your local beach, remember to keep your distance (at least 100 feet!) and report your sighting to the Marine Mammal Response Network.

## **Norma Wong Remembers 25th Anniversary of Kaho`olawe's Return, (continued from p.2)**

The KICC also had recommendations for the State, "the State of Hawaii shall pass legislation that guarantees in perpetuity the use and management of Kaho`olawe and its surrounding waters exclusively for the study and practice of traditional and contemporary native Hawaiian culture; for the study and preservation of archaeological and historical sites, structures and remains, for soil conservation and plant reforestation and revegetation activities, and for the enhancement and study of native plant and animal habitats and communities." (Recommendation 2.1, KICC Final Report 1993). Additionally, the KICC recommended that "a new body within state government must be established, whose sole purpose is the administration and management of Kaho`olawe Island, its surrounding waters and its diverse resources." (Recommendation 2.2, KICC Final Report 1993). Concurrently, the State introduced legislation based upon these recommendations that passed as Act 340, SLH 1993 establishing Chapter 6K of the Hawaii Revised Statutes and creating the Kaho`olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC).



Title X required that within 180 days the State and the Navy must reach specific agreements regarding the conveyance; cleanup; protection of historic, cultural and religious sites and artifacts; access; regulatory framework; public participation; and long-term UXO response. According to Norma, "since this was occurring during the last year of Waihee's term in office, he wanted to make sure that all the agreements were completed and that there was nothing left to challenge after he left office." Norma then spoke about how the State and the Navy were able to negotiate and resolve these many challenging agreements by "connecting to the person across the table, never giving an excuse to walk away, and anticipating the Navy's concerns with solutions." In the end, all agreements were reached within the 180-day limit and on May 6, 1994 the island of Kaho`olawe and surrounding waters, taken by the federal government under martial law in 1941 and executive order in 1953 was return to the State of Hawaii at a signing ceremony at Palaua Beach on the south Maui shore.



**Aloha Kaho'olawe** is a campaign to support Kaho'olawe restoration and access. Through this initiative, we invite participation via membership donations, partnerships and legislative support. By building consensus that there is value in the historical, cultural, ecological and community building resources shared through Kaho'olawe, we aim to share this special place now and for generations to come.

**Individual donations are critical to our efforts to protect, restore and preserve the ocean and land of this important cultural reserve.**

If you have been impacted by Kaho'olawe — as a volunteer, friend, teacher, student, researcher or other community or family member, we invite you to join today.

## GIVING LEVELS & BENEFITS:

Benefits Include	Patron	Benefactor	Sustainer
Kaho'olawe Card Set	✓		
VIP access to Maui Ocean Center	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Tee or Hat ( <i>while supplies last</i> )	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Sticker ( <i>while supplies last</i> )	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to Ko Hema Lamalama	✓	✓	✓
e-News Enrollment	✓	✓	✓
Mahalo and Membership Card	✓	✓	✓

## MAHALO TO ALL OF OUR CURRENT MEMBERS!

### PATRONS (\$500 and up)

ATC Makena Management Services Corp  
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### Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa



*The life & spirit of Kanaloa  
builds and takes form*

Send this completed form with your donation to:  
**811 Kolu Street, Suite 201 | Wailuku, HI 96793.**

Checks may be made payable to Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. You can also give online at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml).

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name and/ or company

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For Benefactors and Patrons, please choose one of the gifts from below, and indicate your **preferred** size and color (1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served):

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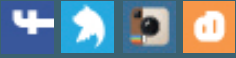
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*The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is a 170(c)1 government nonprofit, authorized per IRS Publication 557, to receive tax-deductible contributions to programs that serve a public purpose. Donors should always consult with their tax advisors before claiming any tax-deductible charitable contributions.*





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Download our FREE mobile app: **KAHOOLAWE ISLAND GUIDE**

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## ABOUT THE KIRC

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1994 to manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve while held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity. The KIRC has pledged to provide for the meaningful and safe use of Kaho'olawe for the purpose of the traditional and cultural practices of the native Hawaiian people and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters. Its mission is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe Island in which the *kino* (body) of Kaho'olawe is restored and *nā po'e o Hawai'i* (the people of Hawai'i) care for the land. The organization is managed by a seven-member Commission and a committed staff specializing in five core programs: Ocean, Restoration, Culture, Operations and Administration.

## COMMISSIONERS

- Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana*: Joshua Kaakua, Chairperson (UH, College of Engineering)  
 County of Maui: Saumalu Mataafa (Research and Policy Analyst, County of Maui)  
 Department of Land & Natural Resources: Suzanne Case (Chairperson, Department of Land & Natural Resources)  
 Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana: Jonathan Ching (Land and Property Manager, Office of Hawaiian Affairs)  
 Native Hawaiian Organization: Hökūlani Holt (Director, Ka Hikina O Ka La & Coordinator, Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao, UHMC)  
 Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA): Carmen H, Chairperson ulu Lindsey (Trustee, OHA)  
 Michael K. Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director

