

# KAHO'OLawe

KO HEMA LAMALAMA | *Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission | Summer 2025*



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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. *This issue is made possible by supporters like you. Mahalo for helping us share Kaho'olawe.*

# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Executive Director  
Michael K. Nāho'opī'i

*The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve is one of Hawai'i's most unique protected places—an area where both the land and the surrounding two miles of ocean are managed together under one agency, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). This unified approach has guided our work since the State established the Commission in 1993 to lead the cleanup, management, and long-term restoration of the Reserve following decades of military use.*

*Our mandate under HRS Chapter 6K ensures that all management decisions consider the island and its nearshore waters as one interconnected ecosystem. This has allowed us to build restoration strategies that address upland erosion alongside coastal health, and cultural preservation alongside habitat recovery. It is an approach rooted in both science and ancestral Hawaiian knowledge, and it is central to Kaho'olawe's ongoing healing.*

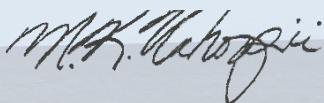
*This past year, our collective efforts received meaningful global recognition. In June, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve was honored with a Gold-level Blue Park Award, placing Kaho'olawe among a small number of marine protected areas worldwide acknowledged for exceptional conservation effectiveness. While the accompanying newsletter article provides a detailed overview of the award, I want to emphasize what this recognition signifies for our community.*

*The Blue Park Award affirms that the work happening on Kaho'olawe—driven by practitioners, volunteers, cultural leaders, partner organizations, and supporters—meets a global standard of excellence. It acknowledges that our integrated land-sea management model is not only working, but serving as an example of how thoughtful stewardship can restore damaged places and protect them for the future.*

*Kaho'olawe has long been a symbol of resilience, healing, and commitment. Achieving this honor was not the result of a single year of work, but the product of decades of dedication from many hands and hearts. It recognizes the efforts of those who fought to stop the bombing, those who guided the cleanup, those who continue to mālama the land and waters, and those who support our restoration work today.*

*As we look ahead, this award motivates us to continue elevating our stewardship, strengthening our monitoring and restoration programs, and expanding community opportunities to connect with Kaho'olawe. The island continues to teach us about patience, responsibility, and the deep relationship between people and place.*

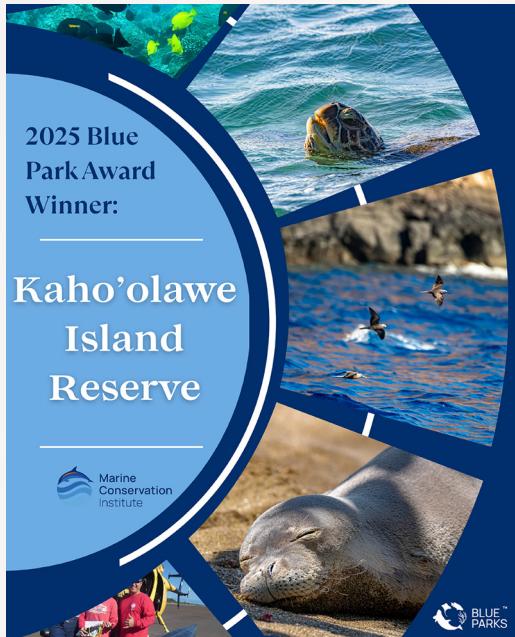
*Mahalo nui for your steadfast support of the KIRC and for being part of Kaho'olawe's ongoing story of restoration and renewal. This achievement belongs to all of us.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael K. Nāho'opī'i".

# BLUE PARK AWARD



## Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Earns Prestigious Blue Park Award at the UN Ocean Conference for Outstanding Conservation Value



June 2025 — Kaho'olawe Island Reserve won the prestigious gold-level Blue Park Award for exceptional marine biodiversity conservation at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference held on June 12th in Nice, France. This award marks the second site in Hawai'i ever to receive this prestigious global recognition. Among thousands of marine protected areas worldwide, Kaho'olawe now stands as one of only 34 Blue Parks — a symbol of excellence in marine biodiversity protection. Kaho'olawe Island Reserve joins a growing network of Blue Parks around the global ocean that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectiveness. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve is the second Blue Park awarded in the state of Hawai'i, following Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in 2017, and the third in the United States overall.

Since its launch in 2017, the Blue Parks initiative has recognized outstanding marine protected areas around the world that span more than 3.5 million square kilometers of ocean across 23 countries. Each Blue Park is thoroughly evaluated by an international panel of esteemed marine scientists to ensure it represents one of the most effective examples of marine life protection globally. Kaho'olawe Island Reserve is characterized by

unique reef flats and serves as a crucial sanctuary for many fish species, exhibiting the highest fish biomass in the main Hawaiian Islands. The protected waters host a remarkably diverse array of marine life, including manō (sharks), nai'a (dolphins), hāhālua (manta rays), koholā (humpback whales), 'iloholoikauaua (monk seals), honu (turtles), and manu kai (seabirds). "The Blue Parks initiative highlights that the quality of protection, not quantity alone, is critical to achieve biodiversity conservation and restore ocean health. Blue Parks are incredible models of success, and the teams of ocean champions behind these efforts inspire us all." - Dr. Lance Morgan, President of Marine Conservation Institute

The Blue Park Awards were established by Marine Conservation Institute in 2017 to recognize marine protected areas that meet science-based standards for effective conservation. Blue Parks safeguard biodiversity, promote ecosystem resilience, and protect the natural beauty of our ocean for future generations. The Marine Conservation Institute was founded in 1996, Marine Conservation Institute is a U.S.-based nonprofit working globally to secure strong protection for at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. Through scientific research, policy advocacy, and initiatives like the Blue Parks and Marine Protection Atlas (MPAtlas.org), the organization works to ensure that ocean protection is both meaningful and lasting.

# OCEAN PROGRAM



Volunteers from Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua (KPHLL) on Honokanai'a Beach

Volunteers removing buffelgrass in Honokanai'a wetland



## KIRC's Ocean Program Secures Additional \$110,000 for Wetlands Restoration on Kaho'olawe

This past June, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) Ocean Program was awarded an additional \$110,000 through the County of Maui's Green Grants Program. This is in addition to the August 2024 awarded amount of \$174,470. This brings the total funding for the Honokanai'a and Honukanaenae Wetlands Restoration Project to \$284,470. The project, aimed at restoring wetlands and stabilizing the sand dunes on Kaho'olawe, is scheduled for completion by June 30, 2026.

With this new round of funding, the KIRC will replace three utility task vehicles (UTVs) currently slated for decommissioning—ensuring safer and more efficient transportation for fieldwork teams.

Additionally, the funding will support the purchase and installation of rain catchment systems at the project base camp, where limited rainfall and water scarcity present ongoing challenges for staff and volunteers. Gutters will be installed on camp structures to reduce runoff and catch rainwater, creating a more sustainable water source to support planting and irrigation efforts.

### Summer Volunteer Highlights

Over the summer, volunteers from the Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy (KVA), Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana), Maui High School Pacific Asian Affairs Council (PAAC), Holopuni Hawaiian Voyage, Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua (KPHLL), and B.Cajudoy Films joined restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe. Their contributions included: removing invasive buffelgrass, planting native species such as 'aki'aki and 'ākulikuli, conducting essential road repairs, and measuring beach slope change.

In June, 12 members of KPHLL and six members from B. Cajudoy Films participated in the planting of 1,000 akiaki grass on the beach



Volunteers rolling out a weed cloth



Volunteers from Maui High School PAAC on Honokanai'a Beach

Volunteers repairing roads and distributing gravel





A volunteer helping KIRC staff measure plant growth



Volunteers repairing roads and distributing gravel

Volunteers planting 'ākulikuli on Honokanai'a Beach



KIRC staff and volunteer measuring slope change on Honokanai'a beach

dune of Honukanaenae and the placement of about 6'x 60' of weed cloth over invasive buffelgrass. In August, 42 volunteers from Holopuni Hawaiian Voyage 2025 planted 328 'aki'aki in Honokanai'a. Later in August, students and faculty from Maui High School PAAC planted 900 'aki'aki and 100 'ākulikuli in Honokanai'a. The groups also conducted weed removal buffelgrass throughout the Honokanai'a wetland using picks and shovels. The student volunteers also securely placed an approximately 4' x 60' area of weed cloth to shade out and solarize buffelgrass bordering the Honokanai'a wetland area. By installing the weed cloth, this allows adjacent native 'aki'aki grass to naturally reclaim the space.

In the summer months, road repairs were also made along the Kuamo'o (K-1) route into Honokanai'a to help minimize sediment runoff into nearby coastal waters—a crucial step in protecting nearshore ecosystems. In addition, to support long-term environmental monitoring, KIRC staff installed a temperature data logger to track fluctuations in water temperature that may affect coral health in the restoration area.

In total, 60 volunteers outplanted 3,000 native plants from June to August on Honokanai'a and Honukanaenae beach!

### Looking Ahead

Building on the momentum of recent accomplishments and recognition—such as the prestigious Blue Park Award—the Ocean Program aims to leverage these successes to secure future funding for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. Efforts will continue at Honokanai'a and Honukanaenae to enhance wetlands and further stabilize the sand dunes along Kealaikahiki 'ili.



Volunteers from Maui High School PAAC at KIRC's base camp

# RESTORATION PROGRAM



Volunteers from Ka Ipu Kukui planting 'aki'aki in Wailuna



KIRC's Paul Higashino watering native 'aki'aki in Wailuna

## KIRC's Restoration Program Receives Notice of Award for Keālialalo Wetlands Restoration

This past August, the KIRC's Restoration Program received a notice of award from the Department of Environmental Management for \$113,051. This award is part of Maui County's Sustainability Grant Program. The Sustainability Grants Program is administered by the County of Maui Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Environmental Programming Section (EP). The programs mission is to fund environmental initiatives that strive to build a sustainable community where projects are encouraged to focus or be led by traditional Hawaiian practices.

The notice of award came from the KIRC's submitted application for a wetland's restoration project titled "Keālialalo Wetlands Restoration". This project will enhance approximately 20 acres of upland wetland habitat in Lua 'O Keālialalo on Kaho'olawe by removing alien invasive species through physical, mechanical, and chemical means and then revegetating the area with native plant species.

### Volunteer Highlights

Volunteers from Ka Ipu Kukui, Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua (KPHLL), Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana ('Ohana), and the Mina Group joined restoration efforts on Kaho'olawe. Their contributions included out planting 3,000 natives, invasive species removal, seed collection, mua construction, and firebreak maintenance.

Volunteers from Ka Ipu Kukui collected native ma'o - Hawaiian cotton - seeds and conducted plantings in Wailuna. In May, KIRC staff supported the 'Ohana's access in their continued construction of the mua that plans to be dedicated for the upcoming 50th anniversary of the first landings on Kaho'olawe in January 2026.

In August, Vincent Mina and Ricky Apuna worked with KIRC's Paul Higashino and Jamie Bruch to develop and implement strategies



Volunteers from Ka Ipu Kukui collecting ma'o seeds



A newly planted native 'aki'aki in Wailuna



Volunteers from Ka Ipu Kukui in Wailuna

KIRC's contractor Peter Akoni briefing 'Ohana members and volunteers regarding construction safety on the mua in Honokanai'a



Leaves from 'a'ali'i, hau, and koai'a



A leaf mold on half-cooked white rice



Kaho'olawe 2#  
IMO2 8/21/25

The finished culture of microbes

Volunteers from Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua after soil dying clothing



utilizing Kaho'olawe specific cultured microorganisms to add to existing native plants and enhancing microbial diversity. The goal is to continue building resilience within the plant roots against the harsh environment found on Kaho'olawe. So far, the team has cultured enough microorganisms to mix up to 1000 gallons of microbial inoculant. The team applied microbial soil drenching methods using indigenous microorganisms on Kaho'olawe by gathering 'a'ali'i, hau, and koai'a leaf litter on Kaho'olawe to create a culture of micro-organisms. Shown in the images to the left include the leaf molds, half-cooked white rice (where microbes grew and resembled cotton candy), and the finished culture jar that was stabilized with brown sugar.

The Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa working group met twice this summer to discuss the health of the 15 Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa plants and the transplanting of four of them. On July 8th, crews from DLNR Forestry and Olinda Rare Plant Facility came together to transplant the largest Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa from a 4" X 4" redwood box into a 6" X 6" accoya charred wood box. Retired master builder Tom Weierhauser worked alongside with Chane Miller to construct the new planter box.

### Looking Ahead

The Restoration Program is waiting on the notice to proceed from the Department of Health - Restoration of Kamōhio Watershed grant project and DEM's Keālialalo Wetlands Restoration grant project to begin work on both grant projects.

DOFAW and Mina Group volunteers maintaining firebreaks around the solar photovoltaic panels



Volunteers from Ka Pā Hula O Ka Lei Lehua soil dying clothing



# HOLOPUNI VOYAGE

## 2025 Holopuni Hawaiian Voyage Sails to Kaho'olawe



On August 11, 2025 - the KIRC along with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana welcomed the 2025 Holopuni Hawaiian Voyage to the shores of Honokanai'a, Kaho'olawe. The voyage, accomplished through the Holopuni International Sailing Canoe Association (HISCA), celebrates and preserves the traditions of Hawaiian sailing and honors the spirit of Polynesian voyaging. This inter-island journey spanned Maui-Kaho'olawe-Maui-Moloka'i-O'ahu-Kaua'i, with Kaho'olawe being the voyagers first landing. The KIRC hosted for one night - 12 sailing canoe teams encompassing 42 voyagers from across the Hawaiian Islands, Aotearoa (New Zealand), and Tahiti.

While on Kaho'olawe, the voyagers took part in restoring the wetland and sand dunes on Honokanai'a beach. KIRC's Lopaka White demonstrated how to plant native 'aki'aki grass and ākulikuli, a succulent ground cover. These plantings were funded by KIRC's Green Grant with the Maui County Environmental Protection & Sustainability Department.

Nick Beck, Hawaii Waterman Hall of Fame and founder of Holopuni Canoes stated, "I felt this was going to be extremely important as our Holopuni Voyage first visit." Although Beck was not able to make it on this leg of the voyage, but he stated "Everyone that I spoke with after the first leg of the voyage stated that this was the most significant visit we set up for this voyage. This was the highlight for many. People's lives are changing!" Beck also encouraged each voyager to bring from their homeland a pohaku, a rock or stone that carries personal, cultural, or ancestral significance. This was a request from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. These rocks or pohaku, were offered to the site where a heiau (ancient temple) is being rebuilt. Having pohaku from other islands in the Polynesian chain is particularly significant, as a symbol of the unification of all Pacific islands. Later that evening, each participant came forward recounting their story of their pohaku to everyone in the ceremony. A quartz crystal from Norway, home of another seafaring people, was presented by one of the Holopuni voyagers. Historically used by Vikings, this type of flat-shaped crystal helped seafarers locate the sun through thick fog. By holding the disc up to the sky suddenly they could see the bright shining circle of the sun.



Top to bottom: Lopaka White of KIRC awaiting canoes to land on Honokanai'a Beach. Canoe landing on Honokanai'a Beach. Uncle Kelvin Ho of the 'Ohana speaking with voyagers after landing.

Each pohaku was received and collected by Kelvin Ho of the 'Ohana. Uncle Kelvin's role in this huaka'i was to serve as a link or bridge between the 'Ohana wa'a and the vision that 'Ohana and the KIRC are holding and implementing for Kaho'olawe.

#### **Reflection from Uncle Kelvin Ho of the 'Ohana**

"George, Uncle Harry, Emmett, and Papa Mau emphasized the importance of this sacred place being shared with the Lahui as part of its healing and the healing of a people. I believe the hard and intense work KIRC has done with restoration and PKO's unwavering commitment to upholding, cultivating, and vibrantly practicing the ceremonial and spiritual rituals work together to prepare the space for continued cultural awakening and flowering.

There is a long history of voyaging canoes bringing pohaku to sacred places and has been part of the recent revival on Kaho'olawe. It was a very fitting way for the crews to connect their home places and family with the sacredness of Kanaloa. The practice brings mana across the channels on the wings of the wind to give life. The gesture weaves the stories of their families into the ongoing legacy of this sacred places. I felt it was especially important to offer the crews from Aotearoa and Tahiti a way to deepen their connection this way. This added a very tangible sense of unity to a diverse group. The timing of the journey with the completion work on the Mua dovetailed well. These pohaku will be used to complete a vision held by our elders by a rising group of masons and setters. It is akin to providing material for skilled artists to create with. The fact that the material was collected and delivered reverently by leading watermen and women gives deeper meaning and purpose for the Mua as well.

It was an honor to receive these to pass on to the setters, it reminds me that even being a small link in this hale- hale line is very powerful and connects us with something greater. All of this was done in a spirit of remembrance and gratitude of this who came before. To further the vision of healing Kaho'olawe so that the myriad of cultural arts of a people will grow and bear seed. Getting to share this experience with those you love, who you know will resonate deeply with it was special. These moments of cultural practice, connection, and kuleana reflect the spirit of aloha 'āina and voyaging traditions that continue to bind our Pacific 'ohana. We are humbled to witness and support the rising of this generation of navigators, cultural practitioners, and protectors of our islands.

Mahalo for having us be part of this voyage and to witness the next generation of navigators, leaders, and stewards of our oceans and islands." - Kelvin Ho, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana



Top: Voyagers planting on Honokanai'a Beach. Bottom: Two voyagers sharing stories on their pohaku before giving them to Uncle Kelvin of the 'Ohana.



#### *Reflection from Captain Dave Parmenter, Holopuni Holomua*

*"Each of us with Holomua are filled with tremendous gratitude for being able to visit Kaho'olawe. To approach the fabled island with awe and humility and beach a Hawaiian sailing canoe upon its shore was certainly the highlight of our entire lives spent in and around the world's oceans. And to see the love and reverence with which the island is nurtured and cared for by each of the KIRC staff was beyond chicken-skin. Arriving and departing via sailing canoe was instantly apparent why Kaho'olawe has been so important to Hawaiian/Polynesian voyaging. Having struggled with the flukey and temperamental winds of leeward Maui and the confluence of channels there, one can readily grasp what an ideal jumping-off point Honokanai'a would have been, and why it was referred to as 'the road to Tahiti.'*

*I think we all pushed off the sand in the morning with renewed respect for those who came before us, those voyagers of centuries ago with much greater seafaring knowledge but far less safety margins. Being able to visit Kaho'olawe as our first stop certainly put all the other places we landed upon in perspective. It was humbling, instructive, soul-stirring, and awakening.*

# COMMUNITY & CULTURE

*Aloha 'ia ka 'Āina 'o Kaho'olawe (Beloved is the Land of Kaho'olawe)  
Honoring George Helm - A Mele By The Blackburn 'Ohana*



In 2021, 11 year old Teirina Maliu Kaiahua Blackburn, a student at Samuel E. Kalama Intermediate School and the Hawaiian immersion program at Kula Kaiapuni o Kalama, wrote a mele in Papa 'Ekolu (3rd grade) at Pā'ia Elementary School as part of a homework assignment given by Kumu Kaleialoha Kaniaupio-Crozier. The keiki were asked to research the importance of malama 'āina (caring for the land.) They concentrated on one individual in particular, a Native Hawaiian aloha 'āina activist, musician, and one of the "Kaho'olawe Nine" who helped form the Protect Kahoolawe 'Ohana, George Helm.

As part of the project, Teirina learned about Helm and his fight to protect Kaho'olawe, leading her to write a mele in honor of Helm and the island of Kaho'olawe. Together with her father, musician Ikaika Blackburn, they worked together on putting an 'ea to it, a melody line, and composed a final mele.

"As one of the prominent Hawaiian's of that time who was steadfast on his stance for Hawaiian cultural and environmental values, Teirina penned this mele based on her generation's continuing to perpetuate that of our people, to call out, to stand proud, and to be the voice of this generation for Kaho'olawe. This song expresses love, reverence, and a call to protect the island of Kaho'olawe, which still holds such a cultural and spiritual significance today for our lāhui." said mother Shelley.

Teirina was then chosen by her Kumu, Kamaka Kukona to represent their hālau at this year's Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition on July 24th, 2025 as their soloist to perform a hula choreographed by Kamaka. However, leading up to Teirina's performance, it was important to Kamaka and the Blackburn 'ohana that she visit the island she would be honoring in her hula. "It was important for us that Teirina set foot on the 'āina (land) where many will go a lifetime,





never setting foot on. We wanted to insure that we represented this mele well and to do so, that Teirina truly understood what she wrote about and more so what she's dancing about." said Ikaika. Teirina's mother Shelley Blackburn said, "Kumu Kamaka taught the hula to Teirina and it was our desire for her to dance it on the "one" (sands) of Kaho'olawe. To not only see or hear about the island, but to feel the island and bring her mele to life, through the wind, the land, the smells, the sight, the ocean's wake and to be truly encapsulated by the beauty of Kaho'olawe.

On July 3rd 2025, the KIRC welcomed the Blackburn 'ohana aboard our vessel, the 'Ohua, for a very special huaka'i. The 'ohana aboard included mother Shelley Blackburn, father Ikaika Blackburn, Teirina Maliu Kaiahua Blackburn, brother Kamaehu Blackburn, and Kumu Kamaka Kukona.

"It was truly a privilege and honor that we got to experience the beauty of Kaho'olawe. For our 'ohana, it was a very special huaka'i (trip) that we will never forget. Even though the time there was short, it was memorable and purposeful. We got to enjoy that time as an 'ohana, watch our daughter and her Kumu connect over oli and hula, and be connected to an 'Āina that our people have and continue to mālama. Ke Akua has been so pivotal in all of this. For our home, we will praise him. He continues to be the center of all we do and create the perfect timing with every part of this journey that we're on." said Ikaika.

Mahalo to the Blackburn 'ohana for sharing this meaningful moment—where hula, oli, and 'āina came together on Kaho'olawe.

## KIRC Welcomes New Commissioner

### Jensen Kalamala'iki'eki'eokalani Chock - Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana

Kalama Chock has been a steady volunteer for Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe for 26 years, first as a high school then university student, 'Ohana kua (leader), a teacher bringing students and colleagues, working on the island's Ala Loa (circumnavigational pathway) and Makahiki Mo'o Lono (cultural practitioner), Ka Pā Hula o Ka Lei Lehua student and most importantly as makua (parent) bringing and training his (3) keiki to Aloha 'Āina. His commitment brought the authoring of children's book, Restoring the Dry Forest of Kaho'olawe/E Ola ka Nahele Waiāea o Kaho'olawe," with Kamehameha Schools Publishing, about the work of the many hands that are healing and transforming this sacred place into what it should be—a rich, thriving ecosystem.

The 'Ohana nominated Mr. Chock as Commissioner with goals to 1. Maintain the 'Ohana's position as the principal steward of Kaho'olawe, empowering the 'Ohana in its ho'omana and hana kaulike endeavors in every way possible. 2. Ensure the KIRC is well funded and is equipped to properly steward Kaho'olawe. 3. Advocate for 'Ohana's partnership activities such as completion of the Ala Loa, ceremonies (Makahiki, Ipu a Kāne, etc.) and the completion of the Honokanai'a Mua, as stated in the Palapala 'Aelike Kahu'aina.



Jensen Kalamala'iki'eki'eokalani Chock  
Term Dates: July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028

# BEHIND THE SCENES



## DAWSON: The Backbone of KIRC's Base Camp Operations

Every safe access, working vehicle, drop of potable water, and powered light relies on a small but incredibly skilled team holding the operational KIRC base camp together. That team is DAWSON.

As the contracted base camp operator, DAWSON plays a central, indispensable role in ensuring that KIRC's restoration mission can take place safely and effectively. Their work is both broad and deep, encompassing everything from heavy equipment maintenance to environmental compliance. Much of it happens quietly, long before a volunteer group arrives or after everyone has gone home, but its impact is felt in every part of Kaho'olawe fieldwork.

### *Keeping Kaho'olawe Moving: Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance*

Kaho'olawe's landscape is rugged with long stretches of uneven terrain. Getting across the island safely requires reliable vehicles and equipment, and DAWSON's team ensures exactly that.

Their mechanics service a wide range of gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles used daily by KIRC staff and volunteers. This includes utility terrain vehicles (UTVs), light trucks, former military vehicles adapted for island use, and heavy equipment essential for restoration activities. The team also maintains smaller but equally vital tools such as chain-saws, string trimmers, portable augers, chippers, and generators—equipment used extensively for planting, clearing, erosion control, and general field operations.

Because conditions on the island are so harsh—salt air, dust, and constant vibration—maintenance cannot simply be occasional. DAWSON performs routine, preventive, and special repairs year-round. Their work not only keeps equipment running, but also ensures safety for all who rely on it during fieldwork.





### ***Powering Base Camp: Solar, Fuel, and Backup Systems***

KIRC's base camp runs almost entirely off-grid. Its infrastructure must withstand intense sun, high winds, and exposure to the elements. DAWSON is responsible for operating, maintaining, and repairing the camp's solar power generation system, including infrastructure, control units, and backup generators.

Whenever volunteers arrive to a well-lit dining hall, outlets for charging gear, a functioning kitchen, or powered water systems, it is because DAWSON has kept the energy system running efficiently and safely.

Their team also manages the island's fuel storage and distribution systems. This includes monitoring fuel quality and ensuring that diesel, gasoline, and other fuels are safely stored and ready for use by vehicles, generators, and vessels. These responsibilities are essential not only for operational reliability but for environmental protection in such a sensitive ecosystem.

### ***Ensuring Safe Water for Camp & Operations***

Water is one of the island's most precious and carefully managed resources. DAWSON operates and maintains the Reverse Osmosis (RO) de-salination system at base camp, which converts sea water into potable water used for drinking, cooking, equipment cleaning, and daily camp needs.

Their duties include monitoring water quality and performing treatment to ensure it remains safe and compliant with health standards. With limited rainfall and no natural freshwater sources, the RO system is foundational to KIRC's ability to host field teams for extended periods. DAWSON's attention to this system ensures every person at camp has access to clean, reliable drinking water.

### ***Maintaining Base Camp Facilities & Infrastructure***

Base camp itself requires continuous upkeep. DAWSON handles routine repairs and maintenance across the camp's facilities, including structural, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems.

Their work keeps buildings functional, safe, and aligned with facility standards—from repairing water lines and electrical components to addressing structural needs caused by weather and wear. They also assemble and install equipment, furnishings, and materials for renovations or new construction projects.

Base camp is often the first impression volunteers and partners have of Kaho'olawe. DAWSON monitors the overall appearance of all grounds and facilities, addressing areas that require attention and ensuring that camp remains a clean, efficient, and welcoming place to work.

### ***An Indispensable Partner in Restoration***

DAWSON is the backbone of the KIRC's fieldwork and supports every aspect of restoration, volunteer engagement, cultural access, and island stewardship. Their expertise ensures that Kaho'olawe remains accessible, safe, and equipped for the vital work of healing and restoring the island. Without them, the extensive on-island programs that KIRC hosts throughout the year simply could not take place.



# KŌKUA KAHŌ'OLAWE

**MAHALO to our current Members and Donors!**

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## WHAT DOES MY KIRC MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT?



Safety, transport and on-island operations



Research, monitoring and ocean programs



Planting, erosion control and restoration efforts



Preservation and protection of cultural resources



Access, education and community involvement

# DONATE TODAY

## ALOHA KAHO'OLawe

**Aloha Kaho'olawe** is a campaign to support restoration and access. We invite participation via membership, 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.

**Benefits Include:**

**Annual Family Membership to Maui Ocean Center (valued at \$290)**

**Annual Individual Membership to Maui Ocean Center (valued at \$129)**

**KIRC Logo T-Shirt or Card Set (while supplies last)**

**Subscription to Ko Hema Lamalama**

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Subscription to Ko Hema Lamalama	✓	✓	✓
KIRC Logo Sticker	✓	✓	✓
KIRC Virtual Tour QR Sticker	✓	✓	✓



Front of T-Shirt (in Blue)



Back of T-Shirt (In Orange)



The Kaho'olawe Exhibit at Maui Ocean Center



A set of 5 greeting cards



Ko Hema Lamalama Newsletters



Stickers

## MEMBER FORM

Send this completed form with your donation to:

**Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**

**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:**

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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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**Web:** kahoolawe.hawaii.gov



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

This Ko Hema Lamalama publication has been funded by an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant.

## 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:

## COMMISSIONERS

*Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana: Michelle Miki'a Pescia (Interpretive Park Ranger, Kalauanana National Historic Park)*

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana: Faith Kahale Saito (Native Hawaiian Counselor)  
Kukui Hawaiian Center, University College, Honolulu Community College)

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana: J. Kalama Chock ('Ölelo Hawai'i Instructor, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

*County of Maui: Saumalu Mataafa (Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Community Development, and responsible for the preparation of the draft resolution).*

*Department of Land & Natural Resources; Dawn N.S. Chang (Chairperson, Human Concerns, County of Maui)*

*Native Hawaiian Organization: Benton Keali'i Pang (President, O'ahu Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs)*

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA): Justin Keoni Soto  
Michael K. Nāhoʻonī, KIRB Executive Director*

**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE**

Map showing the topography and features of Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve. The map includes labels for the island's ridges, the Pacific Ocean, and various coastal and inland locations. A legend in the top right corner identifies symbols for Boundary, Contours, and Lines. A scale bar indicates distances up to 10,000 meters. A compass rose is located in the bottom left corner. A small inset map in the bottom left shows the location of Kahoʻolawe relative to the other Hawaiian Islands (Oahu, Maui, Lanai, Maui).

Boundary  
Contours  
Coast Line