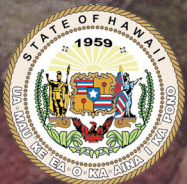
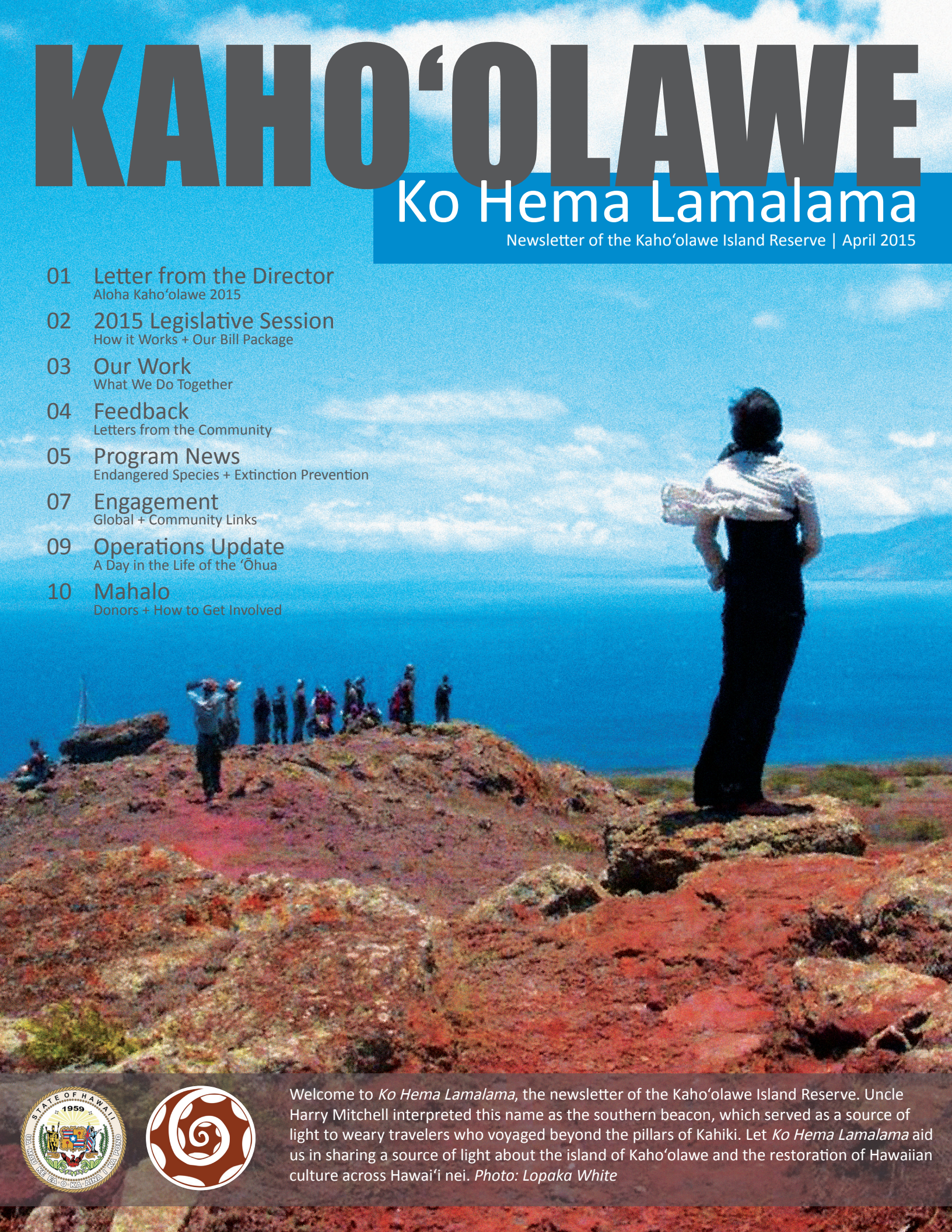


# KAHO'OLAWE

## Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve | April 2015

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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 who voyaged beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let *Ko Hema Lamalama* aid us in sharing a source of light about the island of Kaho'olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai'i nei. *Photo: Lopaka White*





**Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa**  
The life and spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form

*Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa*, the motto of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, makes use of two *kaona* (double meanings). Kanaloa is the Hawaiian god of the ocean, foundation of the earth and an ancient name for Kaho'olawe; *Ea* means "breath" and also "sovereignty." The translation, "The life and spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form," reminds us of our mission.

The mission of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, in which the *kino o Kanaloa* is restored, and *nā po'e o Hawai'i* care for the land.

The KIRC's logo represents the curled tentacle of the *he'e* (octopus), one of the *kino lau*, or body forms, of the god Kanaloa. It also represents the curled shoot of the *hapu'u* fern, symbolizing *kūkulu*, or the beginning of a life force.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Michael K. Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director



2015 began with wild gusting winds that wreaked havoc across the state, but has now settled into its regular tropical trades — and so goes the 2015 Legislative Session.

The legislature opened this year with a flurry of activity as a new

Governor took the reins, and many familiar faces in both the legislature and the administration have been replaced by new ones.

During hearings for the KIRC's funding bills in our Aloha Kaho'olawe 2015 legislative campaign, more than 80 individual testimonies were submitted in the first few weeks. But, like the Makahiki season, the legislative session is four months long — and we will need everyone's support throughout the whole process.

We encourage you to continue to follow our news updates and to continue to submit testimony as our bills make their way through their many hearings. Even after the 2015 legislative session ends in May, we will still need your support in order to ensure the Governor signs these bills into law.

One person in particular we will miss during this

critical legislative session is our representative for the 13th District in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives — and one of our all-time strongest supporters, Representative Diane "Mele" Carroll.

Representative Carroll stepped down just after the opening of this year's legislative session in order to focus on her health. As a previous chair of the legislative Hawaiian Caucus, she was able to organize a group of State Representatives and Senators for an on-island briefing of Kaho'olawe in 2009. This trip enabled the KIRC staff and commissioners to share their knowledge, heart and sweat equity from years of work with our decision-makers.

Over the years, Mele had been one of our greatest champions, introducing legislation that strengthens our ability to manage the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve and to establish sustainable funding for its future. One of her last acts prior to stepping down this year was to introduce a bill seeking a permanent funding source for Kaho'olawe.

Sadly, Mele lost her battle with cancer and passed away on February 18, 2015. The KIRC and staff send our deepest condolences to those that she left behind. Aloha 'oe, Mele. Mahalo nui for your dedication to Kaho'olawe and the Hawaiian people.

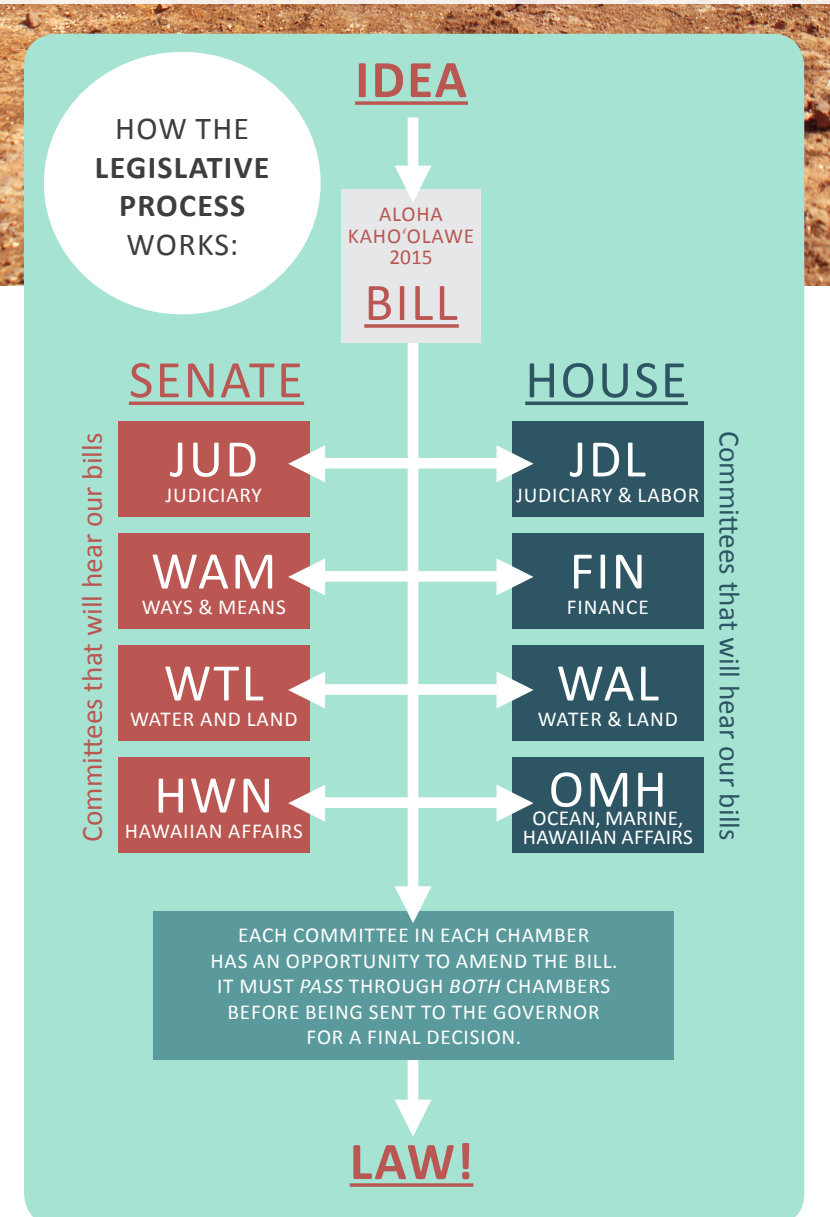


In preparation for this year's legislative session, Maui Mayor Alan Arakawa and staff visited the Reserve in January. "After all that it has been through, we can't abandon Kaho'olawe," Arakawa said. "The KIRC's annual budget is less than \$3 million; they manage and are steadily restoring an entire island reserve — a former bombing range with 45 square miles of land and 90 square miles of ocean — for less than \$3 million per year. This has to be one of the most efficient government agencies in the state. This would all be for nothing if the KIRC cannot continue its work. We as a county and state have a responsibility to help restore it."

## ALOHA KAHO'OLAWE 2015

Currently, 6 bills are being introduced by the KIRC during the 2015 Legislative Session. Visit [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov) to access the fine print and to learn about *how to get involved*.

- 1** **SB867: Sponsored by Kalani English**  
Allocates a portion of the state conveyance tax to replenish the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.
- 2** **HB1235: Sponsored by Mele Carroll**  
Requires a 7.5% of the conveyance tax revenues collected each fiscal year to be paid into the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund for the long-term rehabilitation and maintenance of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.
- 3** **SB897: Sponsored by Kalani English**  
Appropriates funds for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for the management, restoration, and preservation of the Kaho'olawe island reserve.
- 4** **HB438: Sponsored by Ryan Yamane**  
Appropriates funds to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission for restoration and preservation projects.
- 5** **SB470: Sponsored by Gil Keith-Agaran**  
Clarifies that property or natural resources used or taken in violation of laws applicable to the Kaho'olawe island reserve shall be subject to forfeiture.
- 6** **HB1480: Sponsored by Kaniela Ing**  
Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects for the benefit of the eleventh representative district, \$500,000 for plans and designs for the Kihei Education and Operations Center.



Volunteers take a moment at Moa'ulaiki, the second highest peak on Kaho'olawe - still a significant site for cultural practice. Photo: Chad Trujillo



Mahalo for your dedicated service to Kaho'olawe  
Representative Mele Carroll (1964 - 2015)





## WHAT WE DO



The **OCEAN** Program manages marine resources within the Reserve, fostering ancestral knowledge while integrating both ancient and modern resource management techniques.



The **RESTORATION** Program restores native, land-based habitats and watersheds through innovative strategies addressing erosion control, botanical and faunal restoration, and enhancement of the island's natural water systems.



The **CULTURAL** Program provides for the care and protection of Kaho'olawe's cultural resources and the expansion of meaningful cultural use of the island.



The **ADMINISTRATION** Program supports all KIRC programs while also managing volunteers, GIS mapping, community outreach, library, archive and collections management, fund development, finance and human resources.



The **OPERATIONS** Program provides transport, maintenance, manpower, and overall safety within the Reserve.

## The restoration of Kaho'olawe is a community effort...

Kaho'olawe is for all of us: students, teachers, researchers, botanists, biologists, mechanics, carpenters, cultural practitioners, families and more — from all walks of life. Together, we are embarking on the largest restoration effort on the planet.

With no harbors, piers, paved roads, a water source or power grid; a dwindling Trust Fund; the clear presence of unexploded ordnance; and a limited staff, the kuleana to restore, preserve, protect and provide access to Kaho'olawe is dependent upon the physical, emotional, intellectual and financial support of a much larger community.

### Mahalo to the following groups for your invaluable guidance and financial support of our current grant projects:

- **Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Water Branch**, helping us to reduce the amount of sediment entering coastal waters via erosion control, native plantings and improved water quality.
- **Alu Like, Inc.**, sponsors of Hui Kāpehe, our paid college internship program for Native Hawaiians (see page 8).
- **Maui County Office of Economic Development**, guiding us toward our goal of converting all Kaho'olawe operations to green energy.
- **Native Hawaiian Museum Services, Institute of Museum and Library Services** and the **Hawai'i Council for the Humanities**, offering the tools to create a Virtual Museum Pilot Program.
- **Hawai'i Community Foundation Community Restoration Partnership Program**, funding ocean and coastal land restoration at Honokanai'a Bay.
- **Maui County Product Enrichment Program**, supporting our Hō'ola iā Kaho'olawe Event Series (see page 8).

Please visit [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer) for a list of recent restoration, ocean and cultural access volunteers.

### It's Time for the State Legislature to Support KIRC

By UH Law student Jordan Inafuku

For decades, the U.S. Navy dropped or fired “nearly every type of conventional ordnance used by the U.S. military and its allies”<sup>1</sup> on Kaho'olawe, destroying environmental resources and desecrating hundreds of cultural sites. During its demotion from a cultural focal point for Native Hawaiians to a bomb training target for the United States, Kaho'olawe lost its ability to retain its 'āina. Today, the island loses 5,200 tons of soil per day due to wind and rain erosion.

The KIRC's monumental task of restoring Kaho'olawe becomes more difficult with increasingly limited funds. The federally-granted trust fund of \$44 million, dispensed between 1995 and 2004, will be completely gone after this fiscal year. Its depletion is not unexpected; the Trust Fund was meant to provide program support for “the short term” with the expectation that state revenues would follow “to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds.”<sup>2</sup> To date, however, the State has not contributed regular funding for KIRC. But with KIRC's restoration efforts in jeopardy, the State must help support the KIRC and its contributions to the restoration of Hawai'i's land, culture, and people.

KIRC's work is the epitome of the DLNR's mission to “enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources.” While KIRC develops innovative ways to control erosion, restore plant life, and manage ocean resources, it also preserves thousands of cultural and historical sites and provides a space to both learn and practice Hawaiian culture. Importantly, while restoring Kaho'olawe, KIRC also restores people's spirits. With each access, KIRC provides a new perspective on the responsibility to improve Hawai'i.

With incredibly dedicated staff and volunteers, KIRC has managed to do this with a stripped-down budget, dated equipment, and minimal State support. Using discarded phone books, recycled plates, and old sheets to control erosion, KIRC has demonstrated its resourcefulness to continue restoration despite limited finances. But the task is akin to putting out a forest fire with a squirt gun...and the squirt gun is running low on water.

The State must help KIRC by offering financial support. Because Kaho'olawe is part of the public lands trust, KIRC's work fulfills the State's trust duties under state constitutional and statutory law to preserve Kaho'olawe for its beneficiaries, the people of Hawai'i. Accordingly, funding is necessary, not only to continue KIRC's mission, but to fulfill the State's legal duty to its people.

Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa. Now is the time for the State to support KIRC and its mission to restore both Hawai'i's land and its people.

1. Kaho'olawe Environmental Restoration Plan  
2. Restoring a Cultural Treasure



My experiences on Kaho'olawe let me see nature and humanity at its purest. Everyone and everything has its flaws, but the sheer magnificence of how they overcome those flaws and the parts of them that are just utterly beautiful make up one, perfect whole. That island made me realize this, and now I look at everything differently.

— Keely Thompson, Age 13  
Punahou School (Honolulu, HI)

I know that things may be uncertain with your funding in the future, but your impact on the students at my school is something that can never be doubted. When we returned from the trip, a few of them talked about their experience with the teachers. One comment that stood out to me was when Polina told everyone, “Before this trip I didn't care about anything. Now I care about restoring Kaho'olawe.”

The love you all have for Kaho'olawe, and the passion you have to teach others about the island are contagious. You all have helped change our students' lives, and they see you as role models. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to help you. I hope to take more groups to help you for years and years to come.

— Todd Otake  
Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter Schools (Waimea, HI)





## THE GENTLENESS OF KANALOA

A Team of Science Superheroes Saving an Endangered Species

This February, a consortium of endangered species experts representing the National Tropical Botanical Garden, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, the Plant Extinction Prevention Program, Ho‘olawa Farms and the Harold L. Lyon Arboretum gathered at the KIRC’s Maui headquarters — each party to a memorandum of understanding geared to recover the endangered **Kapalupalu o Kanaloa** (*Kanaloa kahoowlawensis*).

Focused on what is widely known as the “rarest plant in the world,” the *Kapalupalu o Kanaloa* (translation: the gentleness of Kanaloa) management team meets annually to discuss lab findings, propagation efforts and plans to prevent extinction of this critically endangered species.

It was during a 1992 biological survey of the island led by Sam ‘Olu Gon III of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i that the plant was first discovered on the cliffs of ‘Ale ‘ale, (a steep-sided seastack near the islet of Pu‘ukoa‘e), by botanists Ken Wood and Steve Perlman of the National Tropical Botanical Garden. Representing a new genus to scientific records—a rare occurrence in modern botany— it is rendered the only of its kind in the wild, and now listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Pollen studies indicate it may have been a dominant species on Kaua‘i, ‘Oahu, and possibly Maui until 800 years ago.

As Gon relates, “When Steve and Ken first brought *Kanaloa* to scientists at the Bishop Museum, there was puzzlement, which grew and grew as more and more experts were called in to

examine the specimen. Finally, having stumped local and regional botanists, it went to the world expert on the family in New York, and was recognized as not only a new species, but a new genus of endemic Hawaiian plant! Who would have expected such a find on Kaho‘olawe? Nobody, that’s who!”

Propagation efforts including cross-pollination, grafting, air layering and more began soon after a mandated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan was completed in 1999. In accordance with *ex-situ* recommendations stated in the plan, the KIRC collaborated

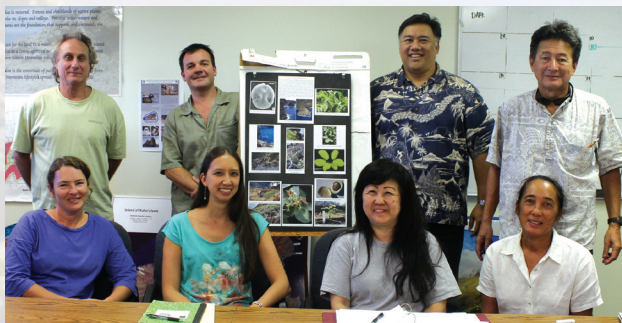
with endangered species experts to exchange pollen specimens and other genetic material for plant tissue culture propagation. Today, two specimens grown from seed of the wild plant live in propagation facilities on Maui: Ho‘olawa Farms (Haiku) and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (Kahului).

Annual propagation reviews like these are held in order to ensure that once plant stock has increased to a significant number, out-planting will occur on Kaho‘olawe — with the goal of preventing the extinction of this symbolic plant.

Wood recalls, “*Kanaloa* was discovered during the equinox of spring — and clearly symbolizes growth and renewal for Kaho‘olawe. On that morning my attention was drawn to ‘Ale‘ale seastack by a mother humpback whale and her newborn calf playfully splashing in the clear waters of Kamōhio Bay. It was as if the universe was conspiring to have us discover the *Kanaloa*”.

Survival of *Kapalupalu o Kanaloa* is threatened by climate change conditions such as high winds, landslides, drought and fire. While these random events simply cannot be prevented, motivating local propagation facilities will help to preserve this critically endangered native Hawaiian plant. Only diligence and a constant effort to propagate plants will help bring this endangered plant back into the ecosystems it once inhabited.

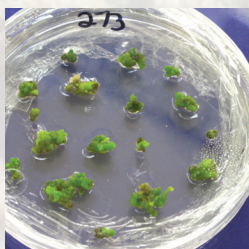
**Call to action:** We are currently seeking donations to continue work on this important project. If you or someone you know has an interest, please contact [kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov](mailto:kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov).



Standing: Hank Oppenheimer (Plant Extinction Prevention Program), James Bruch, Mike Nāho‘opi‘i and Paul Higashino (KIRC). Seated: Tamara Sherrill (Maui Nui Botanical Gardens), Marian Chau (Lyon Arboretum), Cindy Enomoto (Lyon Arboretum), Anna Palamino (Ho‘olawa Farms)



*Kanaloa kahoowlawensis* (Image: Lyon Arboretum)



Left: *Kapalupalu o Kanaloa* propagules being grown in the “in vitro” environment at the Lyon Arboretum Micropropagation Lab.

Right: Cultivated plants are carefully managed for insects, fungal disease and other threats such as hurricanes.



## A PLAN TO RESTORE SEABIRDS ON KAHO‘OLAWE

Developing Partnerships, Renewing Connections

This June the KIRC will complete phase I of the Kaho‘olawe Island Seabird Restoration Project, an 18-month strategic planning process to develop a project team and the enabling conditions to remove invasive vertebrates from Kaho‘olawe — with a larger vision to restore the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve as a vibrant ecosystem filled with native Hawaiian species.

“A fundamental mission of the KIRC is to protect and restore the island’s natural and ocean resources, to promote awareness of and participation in traditional Native Hawaiian cultural activities and practices,” says KIRC Executive Director Mike Nāho‘opi‘i, “This project will not only aid in the protection of culturally-important plants, animals, and landscapes that further our cultural learning and community engagement efforts — but also tap the KIRC into a world-wide conversation about the impact of this work on our global ecosystem.”

In late 2013, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), a non-governmental organization chartered by Congress, awarded the project a grant that pulled local, statewide and national conservation champions together to draft a comprehensive business plan that will soon be presented for public discussion. Representatives including William J. Aila Jr., formerly of the Hawai‘i Department of

Land and Natural Resources, Sam ‘Olu Gon III of the Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i, Hōkūlani Holt-Padilla, representing the Maui Community and the KIRC Commissioners, Tom Matsuda & Christina Bauske Zimmerman of the Hawaiian Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch, Barry Stieglitz of the Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Leimomi Wheeler of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and Jennifer Higashino & Brand Phillips of the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office joined partnering grantees KIRC and extinction prevention experts Island Conservation (IC) during quarterly meetings to chart financial, social and biological issues associated with the removal of invasive vertebrate predators to restore seabirds on Kaho‘olawe.

“The Hawaiian archipelago accounts for only 0.2 percent of the U.S. land area but is home to nearly 75 percent of recorded extinctions in the United States,” says IC Program Manager Alex Wegmann, PhD “Kaho‘olawe Island provides an unprecedented opportunity to protect Hawaiian species and preserve Hawaiian cultural practices tied to native plants, animals, and ecosystems.”

The Kaho‘olawe Island Seabird Restoration Project business plan operates on the guiding principal of *Pilina ‘Āina* (renewing connections) combining traditional Hawaiian knowledge with modern science to achieve this goal.

### Cultural Significance

Restoring seabirds and other native wildlife will significantly advance opportunities for participation in and awareness of traditional Native Hawaiian cultural practices. For example, observations of the flight paths and behaviors of certain seabirds may be used to predict weather, to reveal schools of fish, and to locate islands when navigating. Seabirds historically provided food through their meat and eggs, or feathers for kähili (feather standards), ‘ahu ‘ula (feather capes), and lei. Many expressions and legends also referenced seabirds.

Pōhai ka manu maluna, he i‘a ko lalo  
When the birds circle above,  
there are fish below  
[Hawaiian Proverb, M. K. Pukui 1983, No. 2667]

### Reintroduction of Rare Species

As a federally protected Reserve, Kaho‘olawe has great potential to be a sanctuary for rare wildlife species in Hawai‘i. Unlike the other main Hawaiian Islands, human disturbance, development, and light pollution are negligible, and Kaho‘olawe lacks many (but not all) of the invasive, predatory species (e.g., mongoose) found elsewhere. Kaho‘olawe is recognized as one of the top-ranked sites for the reintroduction and establishment of rare birds such as the Laysan Duck, Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose), Laysan Finch, and Nihoa Finch, but these efforts cannot begin until the island is free of introduced predators.



Pictured: A red-tailed tropicbird or koa‘e ula (*Phaethon rubricauda*) after which the Kaho‘olawe islet is named. Photos: James Bruch.



## U.S. / RUSSIA CULTURAL EXCHANGE

*“The spirit of the people in the Altai Republic of Russia and their connection to place is virtually identical to those that have a connection to Kaho’olawe. They are part of the land, mountains, and rivers. The whole environment contributes to their identity in a reciprocal relationship; they are part of the land and the land is part of them. This is the same on Kaho’olawe.” —Stanton Enomoto, National Park Service*

This January the KIRC was joined on-island by members of the **Altai Assistance Project** and **Gorno-Altai State University** for an access led by KIRC advisor & **U.S. National Park Service’s Climate Change Cultural Adaptation Coordinator Stanton Enomoto.**

During a former visit to the Altai Republic, Enomoto was part of a 2012 cultural exchange grant program of San Francisco, CA-based nonprofit **Pacific Environment.** One of only three invitees, Pacific Environment selected him as a National Park Service representative to exchange best practices for addressing climate change across international indigenous communities.

“The grant supports professional and cultural exchanges between managers of protected areas that work with indigenous communities and who deal with climate change,” remarks Enomoto, “After describing the work I do for the Park Service on climate change and my past experience on Kaho’olawe with the KIRC, I was invited to join the trip to Altai.”

During the exchange, Enomoto learned of a documentary project by filmmaker Toby McLeod. The four-part series, entitled **Standing on Sacred Ground**, tells the story of eight unique indigenous cultures resisting external threats to their lands prompted by globalization, industrialization and consumerism. Coincidentally, the Kaho’olawe Island Reserve and the Altai Republic of Russia were featured as two of the eight sites.

“Emmett [Aluli, KIRC Commissioner and

‘Ohana representative] had just returned from the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Jeju, South Korea as a guest of the director and arranged for us all to meet. It was a great moment of unison, especially having just returned from this remote, culturally, geographically, biologically diverse area at the crossroads of Kazakhstan, Mongolia, China and Russia — which could not be more different than Hawai’i — all of a sudden having all of these relationships budding from Kaho’olawe.”

The second phase of the exchange took place this January, as Enomoto and KIRC staff invited the Altai Assistance Project and Gorno-Altai State University to participate in a cultural access to Kaho’olawe.

“In Soviet times, it was illegal to speak the language. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the people had a real resurgence of finding their culture,” explains Altai Assistance Project member Susie Becker, “ We formed this nonprofit in 2003 to work with the remaining population of Altai to protect sacred sites and set up cultural exchanges throughout the Republic.”

The Altai Assistance Project protects nature in Altai by assisting their partners’ efforts to strengthen conservation measures, effectively manage public access and to create strategies for ongoing protection of sensitive areas.

When asked about the exchange on Kaho’olawe, Natalia Iurkova of the Gorno-Altai State University remarked, “[on Kaho’olawe,] we learned about how to give



a new life to the places where our ancestors once lived — a place that was significant to them. Even being so isolated from the other islands, people are still trying to take care of these places. By having them work the land, they are sharing ownership of the responsibility to protect it.”

“As managers of similar protected areas, I believe this exchange project provides the KIRC and National Park Service an opportunity to share and learn from each other,” says Enomoto. “Through this experience, we are learning about the successes and challenges of visitor access, cultural practices, managing liability, protecting resources, adapting to climate change and many other facets of resource management.”

Enomoto continues, “It’s been an incredible experience to meet people from such a faraway place that share similar perspectives on protection of sacred places. On Kaho’olawe, implementation of the I Ola Kanaloa plan [a collaborative vision for Kaho’olawe through 2026] will require many hands from many places that understand the value of aloha ‘āina. The people we’ve met from Altai understand this and hopefully, the dialog and sharing will continue to grow in the years ahead.”

## HŌ’OLA IĀ KAHO’OLAWĒ

Developed through a 2015 grant partnership with the County of Maui Product Enrichment Program (CPEP), new opportunities are available at our Kihei, Maui Boat House property — the future site of the Kaho’olawe Education and Operations Center — to Hō’ola iā (revitalize) Kaho’olawe! [Pick a date and email \[kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov\]\(mailto:kmchugh@kirc.hawaii.gov\) to confirm your participation.](#)

### Kāko’o iā Kaho’olawe Work Days

Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 19, 2015  
Make an active contribution to the restoration of Kaho’olawe by working on the walking trail and native plant nursery to propagate plants for Kaho’olawe. Complimentary lunch is included for volunteers as program experts share knowledge of Kaho’olawe restoration techniques and Hawaiian history. (8 AM - 12 PM)

### Mahina’ai Nights

May 3, Jun 2, Jul 31, Aug 29, Sep 27, Oct 27, Nov 25, Dec 19, 2015  
Join a torch lit guided tour of our walking trail while learning about Kaho’olawe. Then, gather in the KIRC’s Kalamalama traditional hale, where historical artifacts from Kaho’olawe will be on display, to enjoy live entertainment provided by University of Hawai’i Maui College’s Institute of Hawaiian Music. Vendors will be on site to provide non-alcoholic beverages and appetizers for purchase. (6 - 8 PM)

## TEA & TALK STORY

KIRC Executive Director Mike Nāho’opi’i joined designer Nake’u Awai at Na Mea Hawai’i / Native Books in Honolulu for a recent “Tea & Talk Story” session. These public events invite Hawaiian guests to talk about the work they are doing in the community to perpetuate the culture while encouraging others to do the same.



## HUI KĀPEHE: HOW HAS IT IMPACTED YOU?



BRANDON SPEELMAN

“Hui Kāpehe helped me figure out my academic path by offering me direct experience in computer technology and Geographic Information Systems. I’ve changed my major from Liberal Arts to Electronic Computer Engineering Technology (ECET), and was also able to get First Aid and CPR certifications as well as Kaho’olawe Access Guide Training.”



DESTINY MAHAULU

“Hui Kāpehe impacts me every day, even if I’m not on island. By remembering the people that I have encountered and the work that we have accomplished together, I feel that I change a little bit more. I don’t know where I would be without having joined this program, and to be honest, I don’t want to know.”



BOIESIE BURDETT

“Sixty days prior to the training trip, my wife of forty years fell asleep and didn’t wake up. She was my biggest supporter and advocate of becoming a native gardener. I didn’t think of gardening for a long time — until this opportunity came along. It is as if my wife is guiding me and saying to me “keep gardening” and “do your gardening in a bigger garden this time – KAHŌ’OLAWĒ!”



MAKANA MARTIN

“Hui Kāpehe helped me gain technical training and hands on experience as I pursue degrees in environmental studies and marine biology. I feel that Kaho’olawe has always called me to serve and that Hui Kāpehe was an opportunity for me to do that, while gaining the skills and knowledge to reach my goals.”



HONESTY KAULIA

“This internship has opened my eyes to nature, conservation, malama ‘āina and to not take anything for granted; skills and training that will benefit me in life. Everyone who chooses to call Hawai’i home should get involved. We should preserve Kaho’olawe as Hawai’i’s largest educational center. The island has so much to offer, share and educate to its visitors and volunteers.”



Iurkova, Becker and Enomoto at the Pu’u ‘O Moa’ula Iki’ rain ko’a

A paid college internship program preparing Native Hawaiians to be competitive in the workplace through rigorous and culturally-appropriate career and technical education program, **Hui Kāpehe** offers hands-on experience in the KIRC’s Ocean, Restoration, Cultural, Operations and Administration programs. Apply today at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/opportunities](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/opportunities).

## OCEAN PROGRAM OUTREACH

In a recently completed grant project funded by NOAA’s Restoration Center Marine Debris Program, the KIRC removed 10 tons of marine debris from the Kaho’olawe Island Reserve. Through outreach and education sessions focused on the benefits of reducing plastics from our everyday lives, students like these have begun to repurpose debris for school art projects — a powerful lesson about environmental footprints and collaboration. (Pictured: the talented Zoe Ribucan, Iao Preschool)





## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE 'OHUA

The landing craft, 'Ōhua, a 39-foot aluminum vessel, is the KIRC's sole means of transport to Kaho'olawe. Designed and built in 2007, it carries all cargo, volunteers, staff, equipment and supplies to and from island. Here, Operations team member Grant Thompson offers a *day in the life*, from his perspective:



It's still dark at 6:30 AM as the boat crew arrives at the Kihei Boat House site to prepare. Routine inspections of the vessel are carried out and the decks are prepped to load cargo. Today's mission: staff rotation and volunteer transport. Cargo is food for the week, drinking water, live plants, volunteer luggage and mechanical and electrical supplies.

Pallets of cargo are loaded and forklifted to the gunnel for the crew to box and secure to the deck. The radio crackles to life; it's the first communication with the island and everyone stops to listen. We all know there is bad weather on the way and we want to know the beach conditions. Our day will be structured around how easy it will be to land, if at all possible. Word is there's a two to three foot swell on shore, but there are intervals which may give us the opportunities we need. The team on Kaho'olawe are urging us to leave as early as possible because the tide is on the rise and we know the morning calm won't hold long.

The manifest is set at 29 people, some 7,200 lbs, plus an estimated 1,000 lbs in personal equipment, 800 lbs in water, 2,500 lbs in food and additional equipment. We're heavily loaded. Factors such as fuel consumption, vessel engineering and the necessary crew capable of assisting in the surf if the captain deems it unsafe to land and therefore necessary to swim the volunteers ashore are taken into account.

As predicted, it's a day of mixed blessings: waves on the beach mean a south swell with short intervals — a day for everyone to be vigilant. We can go in to shore to off-load but we need to be quick taking advantage of the lull between sets of waves. We've positioned a beach observer and a boat observer, both watching the waves and communicating with the captain, while he is focused directly on the shoreline and the people disembarking. For staff and volunteers alike adrenaline is running high to get everyone disembarked in a controlled manner and get them safely to the beach.

Cargo goes off next with a 6 x 6 ATV climbing the ramp to come aboard. A bin of food and other camp supplies are loaded and secured in the vehicle. The Captain makes his fifth approach; we touch the beach careful not to get stuck on the sand bar. Finally, on the sixth approach, we are able to collect a few boarding passengers for the return trip. It's been a good day, our final hurdle is the 'Alalākeiki ("crying baby") Channel that separates Kaho'olawe and Maui: A convergence zone of wind and swells which we must negotiate. This whole operation requires a team, and over time we have developed a solid group of individuals who understand this environment.

## UPDATE

Last month, the Operations team took 'Ōhua "offline" for a required 3,000-hour service on the inboard diesel engines and jet drives. On the whole, the engines are said to be in good condition despite consistent large loads and rough ocean conditions. The vessel is well suited to the loads, some days moving two ATV's (6 x 6 wheel drive all terrain vehicles, used to move equipment either too heavy or dangerous to lift by hand), other days diesel fuel. The KIRC transports 1,000

gallons of diesel fuel at a time, (two bladders of 500 gallons each), for which we have created our own ship-to-shore pumping system. We have been running this fueling operation for 5 years without incident — a credit to those running the vessel.

Next up for the Operations team: a collaboration with DOBAR (Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation) who need help servicing swim area buoys and harbor

navigation markers in Maui County, as well as assistance with wave and current analysis subsurface science stations near Reserve waters. Until then, the 'Ōhua is cleared for ongoing in-house operations with Restoration and Ocean teams doing sediment analysis, SCUBA operations to recover sediment traps for study and safely transporting staff, volunteers and cargo critical to the restoration of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve.

## DONOR FORM

Send with your donation to 811 Kolu Street, Suite 201, Wailuku, HI 96793.

### SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name and/ or Company: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please make payable to: Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund*

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*The KIRC is a 170(c)(1), 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.*

You can also make a one-time or monthly donation through the Hawaiian Way Fund at: <https://hawaiianwayfund.dntly.com/campaign/1543#/donate>

## MAHALO

Commissioners and staff of the KIRC wish to recognize our recent sponsors for helping to preserve the special heritage of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve:

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 Bart Maybee, UXO Safety Specialist  
 Charlie Lindsey, Maintenance & Vessel Specialist  
 Grant Thompson, KIR Specialist III

## GET INVOLVED

-  Visit [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov) for FREE teaching materials, chants, historic documents and more.
-  Complete a volunteer application packet at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/volunteer) to join us on-island.
-  Contact us at (808) 243-5020 to make an appointment in our public-access library.
-  Make a charitable donation to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund.
-  Apply for a paid internship through Hui Kāpehe at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/huikapehe.shtml](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/huikapehe.shtml)
-  Request a field trip at our Boat House site or to request a guest speaker for your office, classroom or other gathering, (all islands).
-  Make a contribution of new or used equipment to support the KIRC mission (wish list at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations)).
-  Testify! The 2015 Legislative Session runs through April. Look for announcements at [facebook.com/kircmaui](https://www.facebook.com/kircmaui) + register at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) for hearing notices.
-  Sign up & share our e-news communications (<http://bit.ly/16a4cwj>), read our blog ([kircblog.blogspot.com](http://kircblog.blogspot.com)), or connect with us on Facebook (KIRCMAUI), Twitter (KIRCMAUI), Instagram (@KIRCKAHOOLAWE).





Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission  
 811 Kolu Street, Suite #201, Wailuku, HI 96793  
 Tel: (808) 243-5020 | Fax: (808) 243-5885  
 Email: administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov  
 Web: kahoowlawe.hawaii.gov



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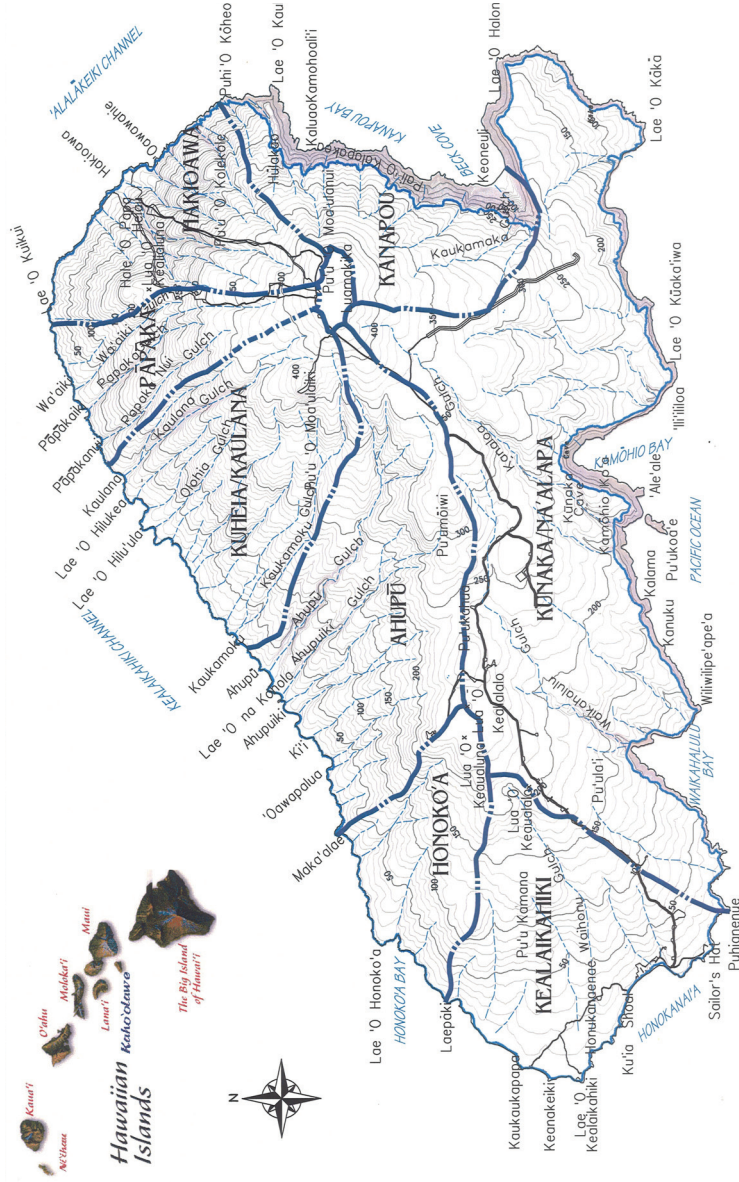
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## ABOUT THE KIRC

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1993 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 of eighteen.

## ABOUT THE RESERVE

Decimated of its natural environment through years of over foraging and military bombing, an estimated 1.9 million tons of soil is lost annually on Kaho'olawe to erosion. Severely eroded landscapes cover one-third of the island, with runoff choking the Reserve's pristine reefs and significantly impacting the ocean ecosystem. The Reserve's inventory of 3,000 historic sites and features - all part of the National Register of Historic Places - are in constant need of protection from these damaging circumstances. Despite an extensive, 10-year cleanup by the Navy, unexploded ordnance litter one-third of the island plus all surrounding waters, leaving areas off-limits and life-threatening.



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