

KAHŌ'OLAWE

Ko Hema Lamalama

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve

Fall 2005

Welcome to Ko Hema Lamalama, a newsletter declaring the news from Kaho'olawe. Uncle Harry Mitchell interpreted this name as the southern beacon, which served as a source of light to those 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.

ACCESS PLANNED FOR RESTORATION AND MAKAHIKI

The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, working in collaboration with the KIRC, will access Kaho'olawe in Fall 2005 to continue the work of restoring the cultural and natural resources of the island. The work will include the KIRC beach clean up of Keoneuli at Kanapou and renovating the hale hālāwai in Hakioawa.

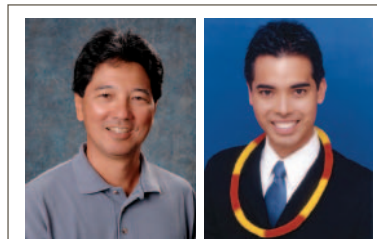
From September 14 -18, 2005, Kaua'i Community College Hawaiian Studies students, as well as faculty with Ke Kula Ni'ihau O Kekaha will work with members of the United Methodist Church on Kaho'olawe projects. Ethnic Studies students from UH Mānoa, students from Hawai'i Community College and Lahainaluna High School will participate in access from October 13-16, 2005. In addition to work projects, the group will join the KIRC staff in ceremonies to welcome the rains of Kane and Kanaloa to give life to the young plantings of native species planted by the KIRC revegetation team and their volunteers.

The Makahiki season dedicated to Lono opens on Kaho'olawe with ceremonies beginning November 17 and continues through November 20, 2005. Ceremonies to close the Makahiki season will be conducted from January 12-15, 2006. Native Hawaiian religious practitioners are welcome to join the ceremonies. For more information consult the PKO website at www.kahoolawe.org.

ARAKAWA, WAIHE'E CONFIRMED AS NEW KIRC COMMISSIONERS

On April 26, 2005, Milton Arakawa and John D. Waihe'e IV were unanimously approved by the State Senate to serve as new commissioners on the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). The Senate also approved the reappointment of Dr. Noa Emmett Aluli to the KIRC.

Arakawa is currently Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Management for Maui County. His background includes service in the County of Maui, the City and County of Honolulu, and the State of Hawai'i. "His background as a director, project manager, legislative analyst, and many years as a planner will serve the KIRC well," said Dr. Aluli, Chairperson of the KIRC.



Milton Arakawa and John D. Waihe'e IV

Arakawa has prior experience working on Kaho'olawe issues, having served as one of the early consultants for Maui County on the development of a Kaho'olawe Island Community Plan. Aluli said that Arakawa's knowledge and experience in state government and understanding of county affairs will allow him to effectively represent the county's perspective in assisting the KIRC in the management of the Reserve.

The third commissioner approved was John D. Waihe'e IV, currently serving as a Trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Since becoming a trustee at OHA in the year 2000, he has been Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Committee on Policy and Planning, and Chairman of the Committee on Program Management.

Aluli said that Waihe'e's experience and responsibilities at OHA will help lead the KIRC in the fulfillment of its strategic plans. "Recognized in 2004 by Pacific Magazine as a Valuable Community Leader of the Pacific," Aluli said, "Mr. Waihe'e will bring his leadership experience and fresh outlook on the issues and responsibilities that face the KIRC presently and in the future."



<< In 2004, 75 volunteers collected and bagged nearly 8 tons of trash from the shores of Keoneuli at Kanapou Bay, Kaho'olawe. The next clean up is slated this Fall.



Ocean Resources

BOTTOMFISH RESEARCH DEMONSTRATES KAHO‘OLAWE’S ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS

The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) announced receipt of *Detection and Documentation of Bottomfish Spillover from the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve*, a report analyzing the results of the bottomfish-tagging project it funded in 2004. The report was prepared by the Hawai‘i Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL) team from the School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology at the University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, which conducted the first-of-its-kind research on bottomfish in conjunction with the KIRC Ocean Resource Management program.

The report examined to what degree there is movement of bottomfish between the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve waters and adjacent open fishing areas. The findings strongly supported the contention that the Reserve waters, which are off-limits to fishing and commercial activities, function as a sanctuary for bottomfish, a collection of species that have become increasingly scarce in Hawaiian waters because of overfishing.



Five acoustic tracking arrays were deployed at varying depths approaching 600 feet. Array positions were determined from navigational software using digitized NOAA bathymetric charts. Each array utilized a bottom weight and anchor, a tension line, and an acoustic receiver located approximately 15 feet above the bottom. When the five acoustic receiver arrays were recovered, the data from each receiver was downloaded to a computer and hourly position data was plotted.

According to project director and HURL marine biologist, Dr. Christopher Kelley, “Our data provide strong evidence of tagged fish moving out of the Reserve waters into adjacent fishing areas. More than half of the acoustically-tagged fish for which a long-time series of signal receptions were generated show movement patterns across the Reserve boundary. Overall we can say that a notable percentage of bottomfish were in the open fishing area with sufficient frequency that they could be open to collection by fishermen.”

Sol Kaho‘ohalahala, executive director of KIRC, observed, “These findings reinforce several beliefs we have about the way in which the Reserve should be managed. The use of *kapu*, the traditional practice of restricting use of a resource to conserve and protect it, has proven effective in increasing the Reserve’s bottomfish population. When the population grows to the point that fish begin leaving Reserve waters to feed in surrounding areas, it indicates the Reserve is helping to restore the marine ecosystem inside and outside of the Reserve boundary. We hope this approach to resource conservation will be an example for preservation efforts elsewhere in Hawai‘i.”





Culture



PROTECTION FOR AT-RISK CULTURAL SITES

The KIRC continues to battle with soil erosion and other natural processes that are threatening historic sites and properties. Due to the effects of severe erosion, and resultant loss of sites, protection is needed. Site protection measures consist of site stabilization and other forms of mitigation.

Site monitoring provides an accurate and up-to-date foundation and ensures that significant cultural sites receive attention before they are irretrievably lost. Through ongoing monitoring, endangered sites can be identified and stabilized.

Site stabilization is an integral part of historic preservation, for it is necessary in order to ensure preservation in situ. Forms of stabilization include erosion control such as constructing check dams and swales in runoff channels and gulleys, hummock stabilization with pili grass bales and geotextile material coverings, and site restoration by structural means.

In addition to stabilization, mitigation activities may include collecting and relocating visual surface artifacts, and recording exposed cultural features, such as deposits and materials. Reducing soil erosion, performing site stabilization, and other field activities are processes that often require mitigation.

The work of the KIRC Restoration Program is a means of stopping current site loss. A two-year Watershed Restoration project to restore a 1km area around the summit of Moa'ulanui will end soon, and a five-year project will begin in September 2005. These projects are consistent with programs and practices that have been recommended for Kaho'olawe and are being implemented to mitigate the effects of erosion to historic properties.

Kaho'olawe's ancient sites serve as a physical link to the past. The KIRC is responsible for ensuring that the island's cultural and historic properties are protected and preserved for future generations.



Restoration

TAKING CARE OF OUR HALE HĀLĀWAI

The hale hālāwai in Hakioawa has been compared to a feeble and aged aunt with an aching, bent back and fractured limbs. The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana is gathering together to help our aunt heal and feel young again.

Built around 25 years ago with 'ohi'a logs from Hawai'i island, hala from Waianapanapa, Maui and ulalena grass from Peahi, Maui and Kapapala, Hawai'i, the hale is now in serious need of repair and renovation.



While it is primarily a meetinghouse for kukakuka discussions, the hale hālāwai has been used for on-island workshops, preparation for makahiki ceremonies, and sleeping during rainy weather. Its renovation will enable it to serve all of these

purposes for access participants into the future.

Longtime 'Ohana leader Craig Neff is the catalyst for this long-term renovation project and he stresses that from start to finish, it needs to be a "kakou thing," that is, an 'ohana and KIRC and community and "everybody" effort. Kuahui project members have already gathered on Hawai'i island and stripped the 30 foot 'ohi'a logs for the primary posts and smaller 'ohi'a for purlins, ready for shipment to Maui and on to Kaho'olawe.

A big mahalo to Young Brothers Tug and Barge who is providing free shipping to transport the logs from Hilo to Kahului. This generosity is very important to the overall success of the project.

Francis Palani Sinenci of Hana, Maui is the skilled builder of traditional Hawai'ian hale who is guiding the project and sharing his mana'o and expertise.

Access to Kaho'olawe throughout the rest of 2005 and all of 2006 will focus on repairing and rebuilding the hale hālāwai. This project also offers an opportunity for KIRC staff, Protect Kaho'olawe 'ohana members, and the access participants to acquire the skills needed to build traditional hale which will eventually be put up at other sites on the island – at Kūheia, Honokanai'a, Kealaikahiki, Keanakeiki, Honoko'a, Ahupū, and Moa'ula.



KIRC COMMISSIONER COLETTE MACHADO STEPS DOWN

On June 21, the commissioners and staff of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission honored Commissioner Colette Yvette Pi'ipi'i Machado, the longest-serving member of the Commission, at her final Commission meeting.

Commission Chair Emmett Aluli spoke for the entire commission, saying, "We extend our heartfelt aloha nui loa and mahalo nui loa to Colette. We count on her to continue providing wisdom and support and we look forward to drawing on her wealth of experience and her expert mana'o in the future."

Commissioner Machado served on the Commission continuously since 1994, first on behalf of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO) and then as a representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Commissioner Machado's involvement with the protection and restoration of Kaho'olawe began more than 25 years ago as a member of the original Kaho'olawe activist group Hui Ala Loa on Moloka'i and continued with the PKO and the KIRC. Machado was instrumental in the negotiation and implementation of a court-ordered consent decree

that was signed by the U.S. Navy and the PKO in 1980 under which the U.S. Navy limited ordnance delivery training to one-third of the island and suspended bombing for 10 days of each month to allow PKO access, clear surface ordnance, begin soil conservation and reforestation. Chair Aluli noted, "Colette is a descendant of the Pahapu line of warriors loyal to High Chief Kahekili of Maui and exemplifies their unwavering strength in the face of adversity and passionate dedication to Maui and the islands and waters surrounding it."

KIRC Executive Director Sol Kaho'ohalahala stated, "Part of Colette's legacy with the Commission will be the dissemination of the Kaho'olawe curriculum in all the schools of Hawai'i, public and private, from kindergarten through 12th Grade; and the creation of public educational materials promoting awareness of the importance of Kaho'olawe through newsletters, videos, DVDs, and the KIRC website."

KO HEMA LAMALAMA –
A newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC)

KIRC
811 Kolu Street, #201
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793-1457
Phone: (808) 243-5020
Fax: (808) 243-5885
Email: administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov
Web: kahoolawe.hawaii.gov

KIRC COMMISSIONERS
Noa Emmett Aluli, M.D.,
Chairperson
Burt H. Sakata
Vice-Chairperson
Milton Arakawa
Charles P.M.K. Burrows, Ed.D.
Robert J. Lu'uwai
John D. Waihe'e IV
Peter T. Young

Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala
Executive Director



Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission
811 Kolu Street, #201
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793