

# SOUTHERN BEACON

Ko Hema Lamalama - Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

Welcome to Southern Beacon, a newsletter signaling news from Kaho'olawe. The name "Ko Hema Lamalama," according to the late Uncle Harry Kūnihi Mitchell, was one of several ancient names for Kaho'olawe. It described the island's use as a navigational aid, or shining beacon, for long distance voyagers returning to Hawai'i. Today, the vision of a fully restored Kaho'olawe serves as a guiding light to the revitalization of Native Hawaiian culture across the Islands.

## NAVY STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR KAHO'OLAWE ORDNANCE

When the Navy transferred access of Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i on November 11, 2003 and departed the island, it had not been entirely cleared of ordnance.

An estimated one-third of the island is yet to be cleared and it is not uncommon to find new ordnance. In the recently approved Procedural Agreement between the Navy and the State, the Navy is mandated to conduct regular interval clearance and removal of newly discovered ordnance as required under Title X.

There are two clearance response methods. If ordnance is found on the surface where human access occurs, a "prompt response" requiring immediate action is carried out to ensure safety. If ordnance is discovered in an area not frequented by humans, a "deferred response" is used until sufficient ordnance is accumulated for a response team effort. The deferred response permits the Navy to efficiently utilize its resources.

The KIRC also helps the ordnance response team with on-island assistance. However, the response team provides its own transportation to and from the island and is responsible for safe storage and transport of any explosives needed for the response. The Navy also covers the cost of removal, which comes from money in the Trust Fund. When the fund is exhausted, the Navy will draw funds from other programs.

## KEONI FAIRBANKS RETIRES - LED THE KIRC FOR 10 YEARS

Executive Director Keoni Fairbanks retired in May after serving at the helm of the KIRC for 10 years. Keoni's prior involvement with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and his knowledge of Kaho'olawe proved instrumental as he oversaw the U.S. Navy's conveyance of the island back to the State of Hawai'i, the Navy's subsequent \$400 million cleanup of unexploded ordnance from the island, and the turnover of access control to the KIRC.

Keoni accepted the post in 1994, becoming the KIRC's sole employee. Through his leadership and vision, he built a staff of 25 specialists in environmental restoration, ocean management,



Keoni Fairbanks

safety, planning, education, and historic preservation while maintaining a consistent emphasis on Native Hawaiian cultural values.

Keoni was actively engaged in the preparation of key documents that are now the foundation for the KIRC's activities on-island. Those include the

Land Use Plan, Environmental Restoration Plan, Ocean Management Plan, and Access & Risk Management Plan.

In recognition of Keoni's dedication and accomplishments, the Commission passed a resolution in his honor on May 14, 2004 that was signed by all current and former Commissioners. A copy of the resolution can be viewed at the KIRC website.

The Commission and staff extend their sincerest gratitude and mahalo to Keoni for his tireless efforts and commitment to Kaho'olawe and offer well wishes in his new career, "Active Retirement".

E HO'OMAIKA'I ME KE MAHALO PAU 'OLE!

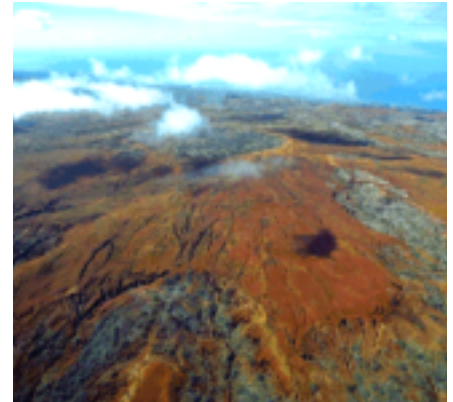
Please check the KIRC website at  
[kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov)  
for more information.



## MOA'ULANUI WATERSHED PROJECT APPROACHING HALFWAY POINT

The Watershed Restoration Project at Moa'ulanui, funded by the Department of Health, continues to evolve. Native plants are flourishing from the heavy rains that fell on the island this winter. Over 5,000 hours of volunteer time have been recorded and many acres of the project site have been restored with erosion control devices. Native trees such as Lama, Koai'a, 'Ōhi'a, and Milo will be introduced into the dry forest ecosystem.

The DOH project will be halfway through its mission this September, with its greatest challenge to come. The use of a 600-gallon hydromulcher, now on island, will assist in restoring the most severely eroded area in the project site. Native grasses, pili and kamanomano, will be introduced to the extremely barren and sterile terrain. With water and windbreaks, it is hoped that these harshest of areas will soon be supporting native grasslands that will help reduce soil erosion.



Moa'ulanui Watershed

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION ON KAHO'OLAWE: A NEW BEGINNING

By Tanya Lee Greig and Hal Hammatt

The cultural and historic importance of Kaho'olawe has been emphasized from the earliest days of protest in the 1970's and continues as a major factor in planning for future uses of the island. This has led archaeologists to play a major role in the Kaho'olawe Ordnance Clearance Project.

During the Clearance project, archaeologists from Cultural Surveys Hawai'i, acting as subcontractors to the Parsons-UXB Joint Venture, have:

- Performed a systematic archaeological survey over the entire 29,000-acre island.
- Relocated and recorded approximately 2,400 archaeological features and discovered and documented nearly 600 new features.
- Monitored all clearance activities in and around the archaeological features to ensure minimal land disturbance and proper protection of site areas.



Honokanai'a Koa



More than 600 archeological features have been identified on Kaho'olawe.

- Implemented procedures based on previous experimental results, and provided recommendations and assistance in constructing protective barriers for ordnance detonation near archaeological sites.
- Provided input into a GIS database that contains comprehensive location information and documentation of all archaeological sites on the island.

When the clearance project ended on April 9, a new life for Kaho'olawe had only begun. The archaeologists' efforts have made a great contribution for the preservation and future use of the island: Kaho'olawe is the only major island in the Pacific that has been systematically, archaeologically surveyed from coast to coast. There is now an inventory totaling nearly 3,000 historic properties on the island.

The creation of a comprehensive and user-friendly electronic database of these properties provides a

unique planning and land management tool. Site maps, descriptions, and photographs are retrievable by grid, site, and geographic area.

The island retains an intact and unique record of all phases of the Hawaiian past from the adze maker's workshop at Pu'umoiwi to the fisherman's camp at Kealaikahiki, from the *heiau* at Hakioawa to the *paniolo* bunkhouse at Kuheia. These resources will provide education and inspiration for many generations, and there are many people to thank for their part in making this happen.



### DONATIONS TO SUPPORT KAHO'OLAWE

The KIRC greatly appreciates your support and generosity. Persons interested in helping to restore Kaho'olawe may make their donations payable to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. [HRS Chapter 6K-6(11)]

Mail to:

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



## BRIDGING ORAL CULTURAL TRADITIONS WITH MODERN FISHING TECHNOLOGY

The KIRC Ocean Resource Management Program is currently conducting an apex fish-tagging project. This non-lethal tag and release program will help in the monitoring and understanding of fish growth rates, migratory patterns, and possible “spill over” effects the Reserve may have on neighboring waters.

Currently it is unknown where Kaho’olawe’s fish population migrates, if it migrates at all. The tagging project will track where fish are caught to see if Kaho’olawe is replenishing the aquatic resources in waters off nearby islands and helping to sustain other location populations.

The project is also used to look at connections between past and present cultural knowledge. Oral tradition tells that certain waters of Kaho’olawe are filled with healthy

marine life. The tagging project is used to prove or disprove these oral assertions, and will hopefully find data that supports this past cultural knowledge.

Modern science shows that a high number of predatory species indicates a healthy, vast ecosystem of lower food chain species. The tagging project is targeting sites with large amounts of shark, *ulua*, and other species that reside at the top of the food chain. Monitoring the health and number of predators will help determine whether the entire ecosystem is healthy and also provide insight into whether the KIRC is doing its job in keeping the aquatic resources in the Reserve healthy as a marine protected area.

Cultural and “grassroots” information were used as a starting point for biological investigation. It is hoped that scientific evidence will bridge the gap between two different approaches to the same knowledge in better understanding and protecting our marine resources.



Setting Lines for Ulua



Measuring Ulua



Tagging Ulua



## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BOATERS AND FISHERMEN

The KIRC, in coordination with the DLNR Division of Ocean and Boating Recreation, will soon begin to send informational cards regarding access to the waters around Kaho’olawe to boaters who register or renew the registration for their boats. This information will show the boundaries of the Reserve’s danger (Zone B) and no-entry (Zone A) zones, as well as remind boaters that boating is prohibited in both zones except during periods of open waters. Currently, fishermen are allowed to troll in Zone B only during two designated open waters weekends every month.

There are over 15,000 boat owners statewide. It is expected that the cards will be mailed beginning in the fall. Please check the KIRC website for more information.

## KALĀKAUA’S VISIT TO KAHO’OLAWÉ

In its history, Kaho’olawe has been used for many purposes. At various times it served as a school for navigation, a cattle ranch, and, for a short period, a men’s prison. The island has also been used as a fishing village, a bombing range, and has even been visited by Hawaiian royalty.



King David Kalakaua

In 1875 King David Kalākaua visited Kaho’olawe under the advice of his religious advisors. The kahunā instructed Kalākaua to travel to Kaho’olawe to perform a ceremonial cleansing that would deal with a spiritually dangerous condition existing within the Hawaiian Kingdom. Kalākaua and his entourage were transported from Lahaina aboard the ship Kilauea. They disembarked at Honokoa, a small, protected cove on the northwest coast of the island, and home to a tiny fishing village. After having breakfast and receiving offerings from the fishermen, they mounted their horses and made the pilgrimage upland to *Pu’u O ‘Ulapu’u* (Pu’u O Moa’ulaiki). Pu’u Moa’ulaiki is the small *pu’u*, or remnant volcanic cinder cone that stands atop the summit of Kaho’olawe. From this *pu’u*, on which stands an assembly of *ahu* (altars) that served and continues to serve as cosmological and navigational aids for the kahunā, there is a panoramic view of Kaho’olawe, the ocean that surrounds it, and the islands Lāna’i, Moloka’i, Maui, and Hawai’i.



kahoolawe.hawaii.gov



## KIRC MAINTAINS LIMITED KAHO'OLAWE ACCESS

In November 2003, the U.S. Navy turned over control of access to Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i, and the KIRC assumed responsibility for allowing people to visit the island for cultural and restoration purposes.

The KIRC established an interim policy on access that states that until the U.S. Navy completes its cleanup activities and demobilizes from the island—and until the KIRC completes its preparations for safely managing the Reserve and implements its plans and processes—access to the island, its waters, and resources shall be restricted and limited to:

- KIRC Commissioners, staff, contractors, volunteers, and resource persons
- Specific events that the Commission deems consistent with the laws and rules for the Reserve
- Entities who have regularly accessed the Reserve such as the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
- Fishing by trolling in Zone B of the Reserve (waters deeper than 30 fathoms) on two weekends per month.

Restriction on access shall remain in effect until the Commission determines to its satisfaction that preparations have been adequately accomplished and implemented. A copy of the full policy is available at: [www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov).

About 500 people volunteered with the KIRC last year and assisted in re-vegetation, natural resource management, and cultural site stabilization projects. Persons interested in volunteering may contact the KIRC office on Maui at (808) 243-5020.

Additionally, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana conducts monthly accesses to Kaho'olawe for cultural, environmental, and educational purposes. These accesses are typically four days in duration and provide an opportunity to experience the Hawaiian way of life expressed as "Aloha 'Aina." Persons interested in participating may contact Davianna McGregor at (808) 956-7068 or Kim Birnie at (808) 383-1651. More information can be obtained from their website at [www.kahoolawe.org](http://www.kahoolawe.org)

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KIRC  
811 Kolu Street, #201  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
Email: [administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov](mailto:administrator@kirc.hawaii.gov)  
Web: [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov)

KIRC COMMISSIONERS  
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Colette Y. Machado  
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Gilbert Coloma-Agaran  
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Burt Sakata

Keoni Fairbanks  
Executive Director

Stanton K. Enomoto,  
Acting Executive Director



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