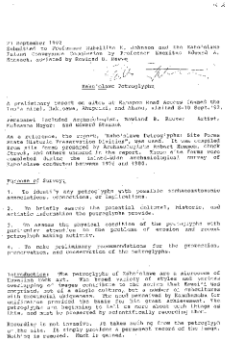# CULTURAL PROGRAM UPDATE
10 AUG 2012

POKANELOA

Professor Emeritus Edward A. Stasack, assisted by Rowland B. Reeve, surveyed various sites around Kahoolawe, one of those sites being Pokaneloa (Loaa site). One of the purposes of this survey was to identify any petroglyphs with possible archaeo-astronomic associations, connections, or implications. They also made a recommendation for the protection, preservation, and conservation of the petroglyphs.

"A boulder found at the Kanapou Road Access… not previously reported or recorded may have an archaeo-astronomic function. It merits further investigation… The cupules on this boulder are very interesting… These could have a relationship to moon cycles or to retrograde planetary movements." – **Stasack, Reeve (unpublished mss. 1992).**

Their report was submitted to Professor Rubellite K. Johnson and the Kahoolawe Island Conveyance Commission in September of 1992.

Based on their recommendation of further investigation, another expedition followed a year later in 1993.

"The Loaa stone supports a very special group of petroglyphs which must be preserved. The boulder is balanced somewhat precariously on a pedestal on the edge of a fast-eroding gulch, and is in danger of falling. It may, in fact, have shifted considerably already. Efforts should be made to stabilize this site before it is too late." – **Lee and Stasack (1993)***.

The Edith Kanakaole Foundation has determined that the stone…

"reveals time, space, and seasons of Kane and Kanaloa, an earthly reflection of the sky. The area has a lot of mana; it reacts to the time, the space and season when the sun of Kane and Kanaloa meet in the sky." **(Kanahele et al., 2009:6).**

The fact that so many studies pertaining to Pokaneloa have been done, it denotes that there is so much more is unknown. Lee and Stasack said it best, *"Efforts should be made to stablize this site before it is too late."* They also noted that the stone may have already shifted from its original position. Due to erosion a decision must be made swiftly.

CULTURAL PROGRAM UPDATE
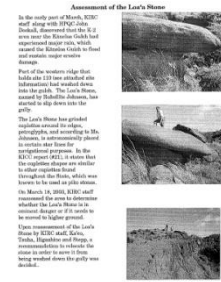# 10 AUG 2012

<u>CURRENT STATUS</u>

There are a few critical pieces of data that are still needed before accurate mitigation procedures can be developed:

- An accurate weight needs to be determined
- Cost for erosion control
- Cost for transport of stone and other materials

Decisions were made that the stone must be moved.

"On March 18, 2003, KIRC staff reassessed the area to determine whether the Loaa Stone is in eminent danger or if it needs to be moved to higher ground.

Upon reassessment of the Loaa Stone by KIRC staff, Kaeo, Tsuha, Higashino and Stepp, <u>a recommendation to relocate the stone in order to save it from being washed down the gully was decided... </u>"

"It was also decided during this training that Pōkaneloa would need to be moved. A site treatment plan needs to be developed. Saito has spoken with Kelly Ueoka from Cultural Surveys. She has agreed to help and has been in contact with Theresa Donham." - **Commission Meeting Minutes October 28, 2010 Page 8 of 12.**

"It was observed that Pōkāneloa has shifted significantly and it is recommended that Pōkāneloa be moved in order to stabilize the area and then return it to its present location because the full context of the stone is unknown and we don't know what would be lost if it was moved permanently." - **Commission Meeting Minutes November 30, 2010 Page 16 of 17**

Since the decisions were made already, that leaves two options, Helicopter or JCB. The Executive Director and I went on island to get some final measurements of the stone in order to make an educated guess of its approximate weight. Our conclusions and an updated status report will be presented at the Commission meeting on August 10, 2012.

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