



2. OLA I KE KAI O KANALOA Ocean Resources Management Program

Oct. 2019 to Aug. 2020

Grant Update & Review

NOAA PIRO Marine Educational Training (MET) Grant: *Marine Science Education and Training from a Hawaiian Perspective on Kaho'olawe: A Pilot Program for Maui Youth*

● The Ocean Program was awarded a \$15K mini-grant from NOAA. The grant project focuses upon providing marine science students from Maui High School specialized curriculum with the help of KIRC staff. The curriculum integrates Native Hawaiian knowledge and traditional practices into science-based approaches to marine resource conservation and management. Prior to the DOE school closures in March 2019 (due to COVID-19 precautions) program staff had conducted 5 two-day workshops with the students. The workshops included the importance of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), basic statistical analysis and underwater survey techniques. The project also includes the opportunity for 16 students (and two teachers) to access Kaho'olawe and implement the skills learned through the workshops. The grant project period was originally from Nov. 2019 to Oct. 2020. Due to many COVID-19 related challenges in finishing the project, a request for an extension until Oct. 2021 was requested.

NOAA NFWF Nets to Energy Marine Debris Removal Grant: *Removal of Derelict Fishing Gear from Keoneuli Beach in Kanapou Bay on Kaho'olawe, Hawai'i*

● This \$76K, 3-year (Sept. 2019-2022, with extension) grant project will remove a minimum of five tons of marine debris from Keoneuli during three accesses to the area. A unique aspect of this project is that we will be attempting to divert all debris from entering any landfill. Debris collected from Keoneuli will be either shipped to Oahu's H-Power (Covanta Energy) Plant to be used as fuel to power local homes and businesses, recycled with a partner that will be using plastics to create building material, or the debris will be bundled and repurposed as sediment reduction material in the mauka areas on Kaho'olawe.

On Going Projects

Coastal Restoration

● Over the reporting period of October 2019 to August 2020, Ocean Program staff and community volunteers have planted 6,365 native plants (6,150 'aki'aki, 90 milo, 75 naio, and 50 pohuehue) and removed non-native grasses in Honokanai'a and Honukanaeae. All efforts seek to reduce the sedimentation runoff that enters the nearshore ecosystem, protect the coastal region from surf/tide inundation and to re-establish a native dune system on the island.

Inspection of Vessel Grounding at Ahupū

● In Nov. 2019, a sailing vessel approximately 22 feet in length washed ashore in Ahupū Bay. Program staff along with an EOD escort inspected the vessel and the area a week later. There was no sign of reef damage or hazardous material leaching from the vessel in the area. The vessel currently remains on the shoreline.

Monk Seal Training and Certification With NOAA Personnel

● Program staff was able to conduct training on Kaho'olawe with Tracy Mercer, NOAA's Monk Seal Research Program's supervisor, in January. The two-day exercise included identification, approaching seals, bleaching and the reporting process. Through this training and our continued partnership with the program, Program staff are certified and licensed to approach and bleach the federally protected species on Kaho'olawe.



Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission

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Newly planted 'aki'aki in Honokanai'a



Volunteers from St. Anthony planting kou in Honokanai'a



Seal bleaching at Pu'u Tahiti



Vessel grounding at Ahupū



Planted 'aki'aki grass securing the beach after high surf