

# KAHO‘OLAWE

KO HEMA LAMALAMA | *Newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission* | Winter 2023



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 voyaging beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let *Ko Hema Lamalama* aid us in sharing a source of light from Kaho‘olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai‘i nei. This publication was made possible with support from members of the Aloha Kaho‘olawe campaign.



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## Message From the Director



Executive Director  
Michael K. Nāho'opi'i

Persons accessing the island (Kaho`olawe) are exposed to a variety of hazards and risk injuries associated with the following geographic and environmental conditions: (1) geographic isolation; (2) arid landscape; (3) rough ocean conditions; (4) steep and uneven terrain; (5) no permanent source of fresh water; and (6) injuries from falling rocks." This statement found in the KIRC's Access and Risk Management Plan (ARMP) establishes the basic fact that getting to Kaho`olawe is already challenging before volunteers are able to do any of the restoration work on the island. Moving people and supplies across the channel from Maui to Kaho`olawe is a complex and difficult evolution that requires rigorous planning, dedicated and trained staff, and unique equipment.

The `Alalākeiki Channel separates the island of Maui and Kaho`olawe and is seven mile wide. Even though this is one of the narrower channels in the main Hawaiian Island, this channel is exposed to open ocean conditions that are exacerbated by the prevailing trade winds being funneled between the large mountain masses of Haleakalā and the West Mountains. The translation of `Alalākeiki means "cry like a baby", which can give you some idea on how rough this channel can be. KIRC staff must regularly cross this channel to bring volunteers, staff, supplies, equipment and food to support our on-island restoration efforts. Our primary transport to Kaho`olawe is a forty-foot landing craft that is crewed and captained by KIRC staff. Both of our boat captains have U.S. Coast Guard Captain licenses and the KIRC invests heavily in training all of our field staff in boat operations and safety procedures in order to assist as deckhands and lookouts for our regular channel crossings. When our boat is not available, due to mechanical issues or repairs, then we hope the many connections we have made over the years with friends and partner agencies can help us with transportation needs.

Since our primary vessel has been down due to mechanical issues from months, we had to depend on the help of our many friends to either help transport our people to Kaho`olawe or loan us a boat that we can operate ourselves. We want to thank our many friends and partners that have supported us through this trying period and acknowledge the skill and dedication of our staff to keep our on-island restoration efforts continuing through innovation, flexibility and a lot of hard work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "M.K. Nāho'opi'i".



## Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa



*The life & spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form*

The KIRC's logo represents the curled tentacle of the *he'e* (octopus), one of the *kinolau* (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.

*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 is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, in which the *kino* (body) of Kanaloa is restored and *nā po'e o Hawai'i* (the people of Hawai'i) care for the land.

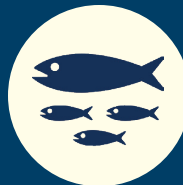
## WHAT WE DO



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



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



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



The CULTURAL Program provides for the care and protection of Kaho'olawe's cultural resources, as well as 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.



▲ KIRC staff and volunteers on a November 2023 access guide training at Honokanai'a



▲ Student Naomi Tokishi giving a ho'okupu at the Ipu a Kāne rain Ko'a





## ‘Ōhūa Vessel Experiences Mechanical Issues

‘Ōhūa is the primary means of transport between Maui and Kaho‘olawe for our staff, base camp support, volunteer workforce, materials, supplies, and equipment. In 2023, ‘Ōhūa was unavailable for the majority of the year due to a mechanical issue.

During a trip from Honokanai‘a on January 13, 2023, the ‘Ōhūa had a sudden loss of sync accompanied with vibration and grinding noises coming from the port side unit. The KIRC team had several mechanics come and help with diagnostics. Based on the recommendations from the marine diesel mechanics, the KIRC replaced the cut-loss bearing as well as the internal bearing and housing in the jet drive unit. The KIRC team also had the transmission rebuilt and replaced so the motor and jet drive unit are now functional.



▲ The KIRC's 39-foot operational vessel, ‘Ōhūa



▲ Mechanic is lowering and installing the rebuilt transmission

▼ KIRC staff Grant Thompson and Christina Wine inspecting the transmission



▼ KIRC staff Grant Thompson working with a mechanic to re-couple the port side transmission with the motor after it was rebuilt off-site





## Community Vessels Spring in to Help

Thanks to the generosity of Uncle Johnny Mac (Hualani), Kim Hum of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Koholā), Joe Foster (ʻEhukai) and the Pacific Whale Foundation, KIRC conducted *44 successful access trips* utilizing their vessels.

When the KIRC utilizes these other vessels, we do not have the ability to land the boat on the beach and easily unload the vessel so our staff must swim supplies in at Honokanaiʻa. The team incorporated the use of the base camp zodiac to help with offloading when conditions permitted. The KIRC also had to trim the loads down to make sure they were not overloading any of these smaller vessels.

We would like to thank all individuals who donated their vessels for use by the KIRC.



▲ KIRC staff utilizing the zodiac and ATVs to transport supplies and personnel back onto the Hualani vessel



▲ KIRC staff Christina Wine and Grant Thompson transporting supplies back onto the Hualani vessel



▲ KIRC staff Grant Thompson unloading fuel containers onto the Hualani vessel

▼ KIRC staff launching the National Marine Sanctuary vessel to disembark for a boat run



▼ The Hualani vessel preparing for an early morning boat run







▲ The last Kanaloa plant found on the south coast of Kahoʻolawe



▲ Wind damage to the Kanaloa hoop house in Olinda, Maui on August 8, 2023



▲ “Lele” Kanaloa plant at Maui Nui Botanical Garden in decline with leaves falling off

## AUGUST STORM AND PESTS

The nearly extinct Kanaloa plant, once widespread across the lowlands of Hawaiʻi and known only from pollen deposits found in soil cores, once again revealed itself in 1992 off the south coast of Kahoʻolawe.

Ka palupalu o Kanaloa (*the gentleness of Kanaloa*), assigning it the scientific name of *Kanaloa kahoolawensis*, in honor of Kanaloa, Hawaiian god of the deep ocean and ancestral knowledge, and Kahoʻolawe. Kahoʻolawe is the only known home of the plant in the wild and the only Pacific island that has been recognized as a physical manifestation of Kanaloa. Ka palupalu o Kanaloa was listed as critically endangered in 1999 under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and, according to a 2021 report by the Endangered Species Coalition, is one of 10 most critically endangered plants and animals in the world to be impacted by climate change.

On August 7, 2023 Hurricane Dora passed south of Hawaiʻi Island, causing 60+ mph winds on Maui. Because of the high winds, the roof of the Olinda shade house collapsed and fell on Kanaloa plants, causing broken stems.

On September 7, 2023, Lele, a Kanaloa plant showed signs of snow scale (*Unaspis citri*) infection. The Ka palupalu o Kanaloa hui applied many treatments and samples were sent to CTAHR. For two months, Lele was watered but no new growth emerged. Two other Kanaloa plants are fighting spider mites and show impacts of that damage. However the biggest pest so far has been mealy bugs.



▲ Kanaloa plant infected with snow scale (*Unaspis citri*)



# I OLA KANALOA! I ola kakou nei! LIFE TO KANALOA, life to us all!

## HOPE AND RECOVERY

Thanks to Keahi Bustamente of the Ka palupalu o Kanaloa hui, Keahi rescued some of the damaged plants after the Olinda roof collapsed, however one small plant died to the damage incurred. Even though some plants broke from the roof collapse, they are mostly ok and are recovering.

“It was so important to put the Kanaloa plants at more than one site. Especially with the Olinda fire that came so close to the nursery.” KIRC Natural Resources Specialist Jamie Bruch stated. There are twenty-one plants in propagation and are distributed between four facilities on Maui. The public can view the Kanaloa plants at Maui Nui Botanical Garden (MNBG).

Whats Next? Anna Palomino, member of Ka palupalu o Kanaloa hui stated in regards to clearing the forest away from the Olinda facility in preparation of a future storm, “We will be planting the cleared area with native species and building wind resistant buildings.”

Two Kanaloa plants (Pi’o and Papa) infected with spider mites continue to receive industry standard chemical treatments. These treatments are ongoing and effective with moderate success. The plant soil is healthy with no signs of rot or being over-saturated. The Papa Kanaloa plant is looking better and Pi’o Kanaloa plant is flushing with new growth. Once a Kanaloa plant is in stable condition, the hui will bring cuttings to O’ahu for micropropagation and growth chamber efforts.

Possibly the biggest achievement this year is that the team at MNBG discovered a “lost” Kanaloa seed from their seed bank that was collected in 2008. The Kanaloa seed was successful germinated and is the last collected seed from the now extinct wild plant. This is significant because all Kanaloa plants now come from one mother plant source. The team now has two mother plants (more genetic material) which will help curb genetic bottlenecking in the future.



▲ Papa Kanaloa plant on November 6, 2023



▲ Pi'o Kanaloa plant on November 6, 2023 showing new growth



▲ Seed from the now extinct wild Kanaloa plant





## OCEAN PROGRAM UPDATE

Thanks to the support of volunteers, the KIRC Ocean team has planted 266,000 native plants in the past 20 years the KIRC has been managing Kaho`olawe.

Flexibility is essential to survival and effectiveness on Kaho`olawe. Much of what the staff and volunteers are able to do, and the ultimate success of any project, is dictated by the environmental and ocean conditions during the scheduled access dates.

The Honokanai`a coastal wetland and adjacent inland area are specifically listed as a 'target area' to reintroduce native waterbirds. Enhancing this coastal wetland habitat will make it highly attractive to and supportive of wetland-associated migratory birds, including several species of 'high concern' under the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, namely Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*), Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and IUCN 'vulnerable' Bristle-thighed Curlew (*Numenius tahitiensis*). Individuals from each of the species listed above, as well as the Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) have all been observed utilizing the area.

The buffering capacity of coastal wetlands also protects coral reefs and other near shore marine habitats from various negative impacts such as erosion, runoff filled with sediment and excess nutrients and increased water turbidity. Providing and enhancing this habitat for listed and native species will increase ecosystem resiliency and protect against species extinctions when such species are particularly threatened by climate change.

Enhancement of the coastal wetland in the project site will involve: the removal of invasive species and the reintroduction of native plants; the construction of waterflow control devices and sediment traps along and across 1.74 acres of road, the excavation of an existing .13 acre silt pond to catch sediment. The KIRC will measure the benefits of this proposed project through wetland water retention rates observed via the live stream cameras monitoring the area, water level data loggers, terrestrial surveys during monthly accesses and water quality improvements using a Sonde, a long-term monitoring device. Pre and Post-project monitoring will include drone imaging to track vegetation changes in the project area.



▲ *KIRC Staff Dean and volunteer from Kapa Sungear clearing brush away from biochar plots in Keanakeiki*



▲ *Trained Skyline volunteers removing invasive kiawe at Honokanai`a*



▲ *Skyline volunteers planting 'aki 'aki at Honokanai`o*



## SILT POND EXCAVATION

Part of the KIRC grant project with U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program (CWC) is the excavation of the silt pond in Honokanai'a, located in the 'ili (land division) of Kealaikahiki on the southwestern end of Kaho'olawe.

A number of silt ponds were built along the main road to divert and retain the surface water runoff and to prevent it from directly entering the sea. The goal of excavating the silt pond is to increase its efficiency by increasing its ability to retain sediment and reduce the amount entering the wetland from upland runoff.

The KIRC successfully completed the excavation of the silt pond in Honokanai'a in August 2023. Three cubic yard of silt was removed and runoff was redirected from the road with sandbags.

The KIRC has improved the condition and functionality of 1.74 acres of road and .13 acres of an adjacent silt retention pond by redirecting water and excavating the silt pond. This required the KIRC's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist to sweep the area before trained staff used excavating equipment to increase the pond's depth. To further increase the pond's efficiency, the trenches that lead up to the silt pond was also hand cleared by volunteers of invasive grass and debris after a full EOD sweep. These actions have reduced the degrading impacts on the lower road areas during rain events and reduce sedimentation filling the wetland.

In the future, the KIRC will directly improve the road by constructing and deploying erosion control and water redirection devices out of natural materials. These devices will redirect the water into vegetated areas to encourage groundwater recharge and a wetland water source instead of quickly flowing into the nearby ocean.

The KIRC is continuing to remove invasive species and reintroduce native plants in the project area of Honokanai'a which covers 2.69 acres of seasonal wetlands. The KIRC is receiving funding through the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Program (CWC). This grant funding is set to expire in August of 2024 so the KIRC is currently looking for future funding to begin in December 2024.



▲ *The .13 acre silt retention pond before excavation*



▲ *The silt retention pond being excavated*



▼ *The silt retention pond after excavation*





# PROCESS + PROGRESS

## RESTORATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The KIRC's Restoration Program team works to restore and conserve the natural environment of Kaho`olawe. Over the last 20 years, approximately 231,000 native plants have been established by the restoration team on Kaho`olawe.

The KIRC's goal has been to aggressively address a 500 acre area (that contains both subsurface cleared of unexploded ordinance and areas of only surface cleared) of the Reserve's hardpan via plantings, erosion control and non-native species control. Additional goals include prevention of permanent loss of archaeological sites, fatal impacts to near-shore coral reef communities and pollution of our global waters.

The KIRC's objectives are to reduce surface water run-off, (which will reduce sedimentation entering the near-shore coastal habitats), increase ground water recharge rates and raise the water table to usable levels.

Mauka hardpan areas present both an opportunity and a challenge in the restoration and revitalization of Kaho`olawe. The blank canvas provides an area where introduced natives, once established, can form a natural kīpuka where the plants can survive, thrive and propagate. The challenge though is the lack of top soil, which means native seeds and seedlings can't be physically outplanted into the ground. To overcome this issue, the Restoration team has applied several traditional and practical approaches utilized in other dry areas for reintroducing native species into these harsh landscapes.

Thanks to the support of volunteers, the KIRC Restoration team was successful in the winter months of 2023 and 2024! Shown below, volunteers from Kapa Sungear and Skyline Conservation worked in the Hakioawa area.

▼ Skyline Conservation and Kapa Sungear volunteers removing invasive buffelgrass



▲ KIRC staff Paul Higashino explaining project goals



▲ Skyline Conservation volunteers planting newly (re)-introduced seedlings



▲ KIRC Staff Dean Tokishi and Kapa Sungear volunteer collecting ma'o seeds



▲ Skyline volunteers removing invasive kiawe





▲ KIRC staff operating a drone over the Hakioawa watershed project site



▲ Invasive buffelgrass before being covered by weed mats



Cressa showed in the middle of the 10m transect at Keanakeiki project site.

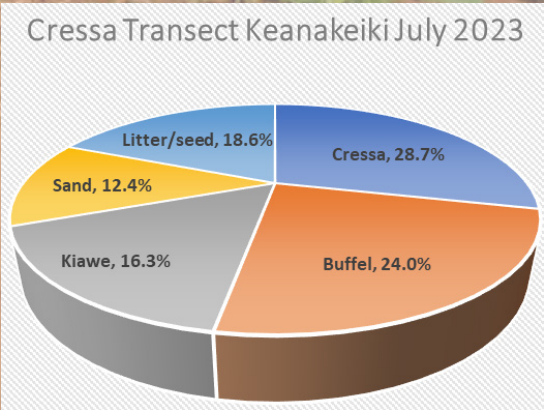
## WETLANDS UPDATE

Kahoʻolawe is home to several seasonal wetlands that support a variety of native wetland vegetation and invertebrates, as well as migratory birds. Kahoʻolawe was once home to at least eleven documented temporal wetlands. However, centuries of uncontrolled ungulate grazing and decades of bombing and live fire military training have left much of Kahoʻolawe’s native ecosystems damaged and degraded.

The goal of the coastal and upland wetlands restoration project, funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) U.S Small Grants program, is to enhance two of Kahoʻolawe’s seasonal wetlands. This is being accomplished by the removal of invasive species like buffelgrass, kiawe, and koa haole. The KIRC team and volunteers are also reintroducing native plants and grass like ‘aki ‘aki, kāwelu, ‘āweoweo, pili, pā’u o hi’iaka, ‘ewa hinahina, kāmanomano and many more.

The Restoration team also installed a vegetation plot in Keanakeiki to monitor cressa growth. Cressa, (makihi) is a native plant indigenous to Kahoʻolawe. The Restoration team observed a 10m transect of cressa shown below with the pink ribbon marking. Results shown below show cressa growth to be 28.7% followed by invasive buffelgrass and kiawe.

The Coastal and Upland Wetland Restoration project is slated to run through October 2024.





# COMMUNITY + CONNECTION

## Restoration on Kaho'olawe

A personal reflection ~ Part 2

by Becca Kesler

*The next morning, I awoke to the sound of rain on the metal bunk house roof. Even half asleep, I knew this was a blessing on this usually dry island. At breakfast we were informed that muddy roads up to the summit meant our original plan to plant seedlings up there would need to be postponed. Instead, we would head to the quarry to fill sandbags with gravel and use them to fill gullies in the road.*

*At the quarry, as the group stepped out of the jeeps, Dean approached me and I felt like I was taken under his wing. Maybe he sensed my age; at 68 I'm no longer able to do physical work like I once did. He picked up a shovel and asked me to hold the bag open as he filled it with gravel from the pile. Five scoops later, I tied it off. He moved it to the side to be loaded into the truck later. Back and forth we went, filling, tying, stacking. As we worked, we chatted comfortably about ourselves. We shared what fills our lives back on Oahu and what had drawn us to Kaho'olawe. Once again, I found myself recounting the story of "The Beauty of Mauna Kea," Hawaiian music, and the ways it helped me understand that the land has a life, has a spirit, is a being.*

*After our day of work, a swim in the ocean, and dinner, dusk turned to night and the musicians gathered with their instruments on the porch. They sat in a circle and began playing. One would take the lead, then others joined in. Though I don't play, I felt welcomed in the circle. A day of working together meant that I was starting to build relationships and was feeling like less of an outsider. I even tried to sing along, if I knew the words. When it was Dean's turn to lead, he said, "Becca, I wanted to make sure we played this one for you, because of our conversation earlier today." And he began plucking the gentle notes of "The Beauty of Mauna Kea." At that moment, Dean really brought me into the circle. When the song was finished, others asked why he had played this particular song. I explained what I had meant to me when I first heard it in California. Suddenly Walter lit up. "I spent the first 35 years of my life in California. Later, we have to talk!"*

*The following night, as the music began again, I asked Walter if he wanted to talk about California. We scooted our chairs to the side, so as not to interfere with the music. We shared stories of places we both knew and what our childhood lives entailed. Then we talked about how each of us had moved to Hawaii and what that meant. We discovered that we were also connected by his Uncle Moe Keale. We marveled at the common ground between us.*

*On the third day, we were able to go up mauka. First, we went to the rain koa where gifts of wai were offered. I had not been able to bring any, but that did not make me an outsider. Those making offerings stood near the ahu, the rest of us stood back and were told just to stand in support. My body and mind were deeply present. We looked over to Maui, while Brutus chanted calling for the cloud bridge to form.*

*While there I learned that Kaho'olawe is actually in the moku of Honua'ula which extends from Maui. Then we turned to Lana'i where there is another koa. The connection between these islands is strong. At Moa'ula Iki, we visited the bell rock that was once used to communicate between kahuna on Kaho'olawe and Lana'i. There is so much that was once known that is only partially understood today.*

*Next we drove down to one of the wide, dusty, red dirt scars that we had seen on the boat ride over. Our work was to take hundreds of seedlings, all native plants, grown in the ecosystem of Maui Nui, and see if we could help them take root, and start to heal these wounds. After fifty years of the island being used for target practice, even with the military's clean up efforts, one never knows what danger may be just under the surface, which means it is not safe to dig holes for the plants. So we worked in small teams of two or three, on an alternative planting method, each person doing different steps in the process. The first step is to take the seedlings and lay them on the top of the hard pan. On their roots, we added "dry water," gel crystals that will continue to release moisture for weeks, even with no rain. On top of that we put soil, topped it with small rocks to keep it all in place, and last, we gently poured water we had hauled up with us. In my mind I offered a blessing as the water was poured. Were others also adding silent thoughts?*

*At the end of some hot, dry hours of work, we stood pondering how many of our seedlings will be able to survive, send down roots, and hold firm. One never knows, but that is the hope and faith that has gone into this entire restoration project. At the site, we could see some plants, put there by others before us, that were surviving against the odds. There were also those that didn't make it. Yet, we continue. Slowly, slowly, the island is supporting more life. Slowly, slowly healing of the scars is taking place. The buried shrapnel will never be removed. Like people, this island has wounds. We all carry past hurts and injuries, and yet, we go on living, even thriving. I was so grateful to be part of this process for Kaho'olawe, for myself.*



KIRC Volunteer, Becca Kesler, and Maggie Pulver



*After a long, bumpy, joyful jeep ride from the other side of the island, we were back in camp. We would all head back to Maui the next morning. Everything we had used over the last three days needed to be put away. Maggie turned to me and said, "Could you just be the one to watch Francis? That way I can focus on what I need to do without worrying." I was delighted. This, I felt, was the best use of my talents. As I observed him play in the parked jeeps, stroll the dirt roads, and dodge the bustling "uncles," I was moved to see him so familiar and happy in this place. Earlier Maggie had told me of a young mother, Cami, who came often to the island. She would bring her four children with her because she held the conviction that if the island was to be healed, it needed to have children on it. She had deep wisdom about children and the role they play in healing and wholeness.*

*On our final morning, we were all on the beach. We had chanted for Kanaloa to release us back to our other lives and islands. We were in a line from beach to water's edge and we had passed all the backpacks, duffle bags, instruments, food stuffs, and rubbish onto the boat and now it was time to board and head back to Kihei. When it was my turn, I waded through the shallow sea water to the ramp coming off the bow of the boat. When I stepped up with my right foot, the sandal on my left foot stuck in the sand. It pulled off and I tipped and fell sideways. Before I knew what was happening, I was horizontal in the water, bobbing up and down unable to get my footing. Jayten, a few people behind me in line, with the vigilance of his water safety training, shouted, "Pick her up!" Instantly, I felt hands on my arm and under me, scooping me up and righting me. "Are you okay?" everyone called out. Thankfully, I was not hurt. The boat and I had not collided. I was just soaked, and a little embarrassed. With a sigh of relief, multiple hands were extended to me, and my next attempt to board was a success. As we rode back to Maui, I looked gratefully at all the people I had come to know over the four days together.*

*Getting back to Oahu, still had some challenges, though. I received a text message from the airline that my return flight had been canceled. I was instructed to contact an agent at the airport for a new flight assignment. When I expressed my dismay out loud, I quickly discovered that musicians are familiar with inter-island travel and the ways of the airlines. Suddenly, I was part of the pack. We all approached the first class agents together and navigated our ticket changes. When it turned out that we all had several hours now to spend at the Kahului airport, we found our way to the airport bar. We sat around the table, ate, drank, laughed, and marveled at what Kaho'olawe had just given us.*

*I write this back at home in Honolulu, back to the routines of my regular life. But now, filled with gratitude, I have a variation on my beloved song. It goes like this, "My friends and I have sometimes roamed the trails of Kanaloa. I could be forgotten and one hundred miles away and still I would recall the beauty of Kaho'olawe." Music, work, beauty, wisdom, children, and the 'āina. They all brought people together and opened our hearts.*

*KIRC Volunteer, Becca Kesler, sitting in kilo (observation) at Moa'ula Iki*





# ADMINISTRATION

## We are happy to announce the addition of one new member to the KIRC team!



### Ashley Razo

#### Public Information Specialist

Ashley is the latest staff member to join the KIRC as the Public Information Specialist. She earned her BS in Business Administration from University of Illinois in 2013. She has a background in field marketing management and reporting with the Interpublic Group and KIND Snacks in Chicago. One of her biggest accomplishments was staffing and training a field staff of 45 on brand initiatives and guidelines.

Upon her move to Maui, she started her search to find more meaningful work. She made a career shift and completed a 2019 permaculture internship in Haiku Maui. This was the beginning of her journey learning and working in tropical agriculture and animal husbandry. She has since been working in coffee farming upcountry in Maui since 2019. Her experience in field marketing and farmers markets has prepared her with working and educating the public at large.

Ashley's time on Kaho'olawe as a volunteer impacted her view on the islands as a whole and how to educate her own community on conservation and restoration. She is honored to be part of the KIRC, their restoration initiatives and to further grow the KIRC's impact.



## Congratulations and a Farewell to Maggie Pulver

The KIRC's previous Public Information Specialist, Maggie Pulver has accepted a new role with the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Maggie made an incredible impact in her 5 year period with the KIRC. She has been a longtime volunteer on Kaho'olawe, with her first access with the KIRC in 2011. Her accomplishments were wide and big; encompassing public, financial and restorative impact. She connected at risk Maui youth to Kaho'olawe through Nalu Studies student accesses and reintroduced an estimated 1,000 native plants to Kanaloa. She secured funding from new federal sources, focusing on wetland restoration and expanded access to the reserve through partnerships with local businesses. Lastly, Maggie provided training and professional development to employees at local businesses who engaged directly with locals and visitors.

Maggie will be greatly missed and the KIRC wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

*"I will continue to serve as I can from the volunteer side for life"*  
-Maggie Pulver





KAKO'O KAHO'OLawe

Kako'o Kahoolawe is a campaign to support restoration and access. We invite participation via membership, partnerships and legislative support. By building consensus that there is value in the historical, cultural, ecological and community building resources shared through Kaho'olawe, we aim to share this special place now and for generations to come.

Want to see your name listed here? Fill out the form on the left and send it to our office in Wailuku or visit our website to donate online!

Benefits Include	Patron	Benefactor	Sustainer
Kaho'olawe Card Set	✓		
VIP access to Maui Ocean Center	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Tee or Hat (while supplies last)	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Sticker (while supplies last)	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to Ko Hema Lamalama	✓	✓	✓
e-News Enrollment	✓	✓	✓
Mahalo	✓	✓	✓

Individual donations are critical to the KIRC's efforts to protect, restore and preserve Kaho'olawe.

Consider becoming a member today!

Send this completed form with your donation to: 811 Kolu Street, Suite 201 | Wailuku, HI 96793.

Checks may be made payable to Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. You can also give online at [kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml](http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/donations.shtml).

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name and/ or company

Address

E-mail

Phone

GIFT TYPE:

- ☐ PATRON (\$500 & up)  
☐ BENEFACTOR (\$100-\$499)  
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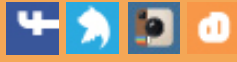
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## ABOUT THE KIRC

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1994 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 specializing in five core programs: Ocean, Restoration, Culture, Operations and Administration.

## COMMISSIONERS

*Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana:* **Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia** (Interpretive Park Ranger, Kalaupapa National Historic Park)

*Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana:* **Faith Kahale Saito** (Native Hawaiian Counselor, Hulili Ke Kukui Hawaiian Center, University College, Honolulu Community College)

*Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ōhana:* **Ānela Evans** (ʻIke Hawai'i Faculty, Punahou School) *County of Maui:* **Saumalu Mataafa** (Deputy Director, Department of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui)

*Department of Land & Natural Resources:* **Dawn N.S. Chang** (Chairperson, Department of Land & Natural Resources)

*Native Hawaiian Organization:* **Benton Keali'i Pang** (President, O'ahu Council, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs)

*Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA):* **Justin Keoni Souza** (Trustee, OHA)

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

Cover photo: KIRC staff Lopaka White, Grant Thompson and Christina Wine repairing the KIRC boat truck.

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