

KAHO‘OLAWE

KO HEMA LAMALAMA | *Newsletter of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission* | Winter 2020

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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 issue is made possible by supporters like you. Mahalo for helping us share Kaho‘olawe.*

From the Director...



Executive Director
Michael K. Nāho'opī'i

The KIRC has faced many challenges this year which has forced staff to develop new priorities and procedures to keep our mission alive. The impact of the COVID-19 virus has significantly affected on-island operations and required staff to adapt new sanitation and isolation procedures. This past summer volunteer accesses were cancelled as we worked with the Base Camp staff to implement new sanitation and food service procedures that are in compliance with CDC and State guidance on COVID-19 prevention. In August of this year, we were able to successfully test these new procedures and restore volunteer access to the Honokanaia Base Camp.

Due to the new procedures, we are learning to continue our mission with new restrictions limiting our capacity to conduct restoration activities. Some of these restrictions include: reduced number of volunteers each access to maintain proper social distancing and limiting volunteer groups, as much as possible, to those from Maui County to comply with the state and county quarantine rules. In spite of these limitations, we are still making headway in developing new planting areas and planting techniques which can be accomplished with these smaller workforces. The KIRC is also looking to expand its virtual reach by holding commission meetings on-line and participating in on-line educational and outreach activities.

These new challenges as a result of COVID-19 are just another set of the continuing challenges we have faced in the healing of Kaho'olawe. We have many years of experience adapting the way we work with limited resources. For us at the KIRC, we are always striving forward no matter the challenges we face.



Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa

The mission of the KIRC is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe by providing safe, meaningful use of the Reserve for the purpose of the traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian people and undertaking the restoration of the island and it's surrounding waters.





Kilo (observation) is an essential skill on Kaho'olawe. KIRC volunteers are often brought to Sailor's Hat (*above*) to kilo and share their unique perspective on what the site can teach us. This large man-made crater is the result of three separate detonations of 500 tons of TNT (*left*) that were used to simulate the effects of a nuclear blast on the Pacific Fleet.

Photopoints allow KIRC staff to document, track and evaluate observations of natural and environmental phenomenon.





LONOIKAMAKAHIKI! LONOIKAMAKAHIKI! LONOIKAMAKAHIKI!



The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana celebrated forty years of Makahiki Ceremony on Kaho'olawe this past November. Makahiki ceremonies began in 1980 after strong negotiations with the U.S. Navy to permit access to the island for religious and cultural purposes.

Makahiki season begins with the first sighting of the constellation Makali'i (Pleiades) on the horizon at sunset. A time of rest and gratitude, wars were kapu (prohibited) and the people would gather to feast and enjoy competitive games. Lono, Hawaiian god of agriculture and fertility, was honored during the annual festival with ho'okupu (offerings), ritual and ceremony.



This year also marked thirty years of healing on Kaho'olawe. After a decades long struggle by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the loss of James Kimo Mitchell and George Jarrett Helm Jr., two of it's members, the use of Kaho'olawe as a live fire training and bombing range was officially halted on October 22, 1990 with an executive order from President George Bush.



Ahu are Hawaiian altars, shrines or cairns, built of stone for spiritual and ceremonial purposes. Most often they serve as sites for humans to offer ho'okupu to activities or gods. Ko'a are one form of ahu with a very specific function: to ask for the multiplying of something.

Ipu a Kāne, the ko'a pictured here (left) can be found on the eastern rim of Lua Makika on Kaho'olawe, and is one of three that were built in modern times specifically to request the increase of rain on Kaho'olawe. A fourth was constructed on Maui at Pu'u Mahoe in 'Ulupalakua on Maui to gather the Nāulu wind and rain and send them over to Kaho'olawe.



October brings the start of the KIRC planting season on Kaho'olawe, which is ushered in by the Kāholo Ka Lani ceremony on the Kāne moon. Practitioners from the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, supported by KIRC staff, offer oli, mele and ho'okupu at each of the rain ko'a to honor Kāne and call on the Nāulu rain cloud that originates on Maui at Honua'ula and stretches across the ocean to Kaho'olawe.

Ka Hei Hei O Nā Keiki (Orion's Belt) constellation in the sky over Honokanai'a (bottom left). Nāulu Rain Cloud extending from 'Ulupalakua on Maui towards Kaho'olawe (bottom right).

“Part of the uniqueness of Ceremony on Kaho'olawe is the opportunity to not be distracted.”

~ Hōkūlani Holt, KIRC Commissioner



VOLUNTEERS RETURN



With COVID-19 safety and sanitation protocols in place and practiced, the KIRC staff was able to welcome volunteers back to Kaho'olawe in August! Adhering to the CDC guidelines for health and safety though means the groups are smaller in number these days, but they are still mighty in their force. In the last few months, Maui-based volunteers have helped to: reintroduce thousands of native plants in mauka and makai project areas; bag and transport thousands of pounds of pōhaku (rock) to build kīpuka (oasis) on bare hardpan; collect and spread seeds from native plants currently thriving on island.

Clockwise from top:

- ▶ *Volunteers outplanting native species in the mauka (left) and coastal (right) restoration projects.*
- ▶ *Volunteer helping to spread 'a'ali'i seed collected on island in the kīpuka built mauka in the dryland forest project site.*
- ▶ *Volunteer spreading hau, naio and milo seeds collected in base camp in the stream bed in Honokanai'a.*
- ▶ *Volunteers collecting and bagging pōhaku used for building kīpuka.*
- ▶ *Volunteers collecting seed from around the KIRC water catchment on Kaho'olawe.*
- ▶ *Volunteers laying out pōhaku in the natural indentations on the hardpan where water will flow naturally during times of rain.*
- ▶ *Volunteer and KIRC staff collecting 'a'ali'i seed pods.*





PROGRAM UPDATES



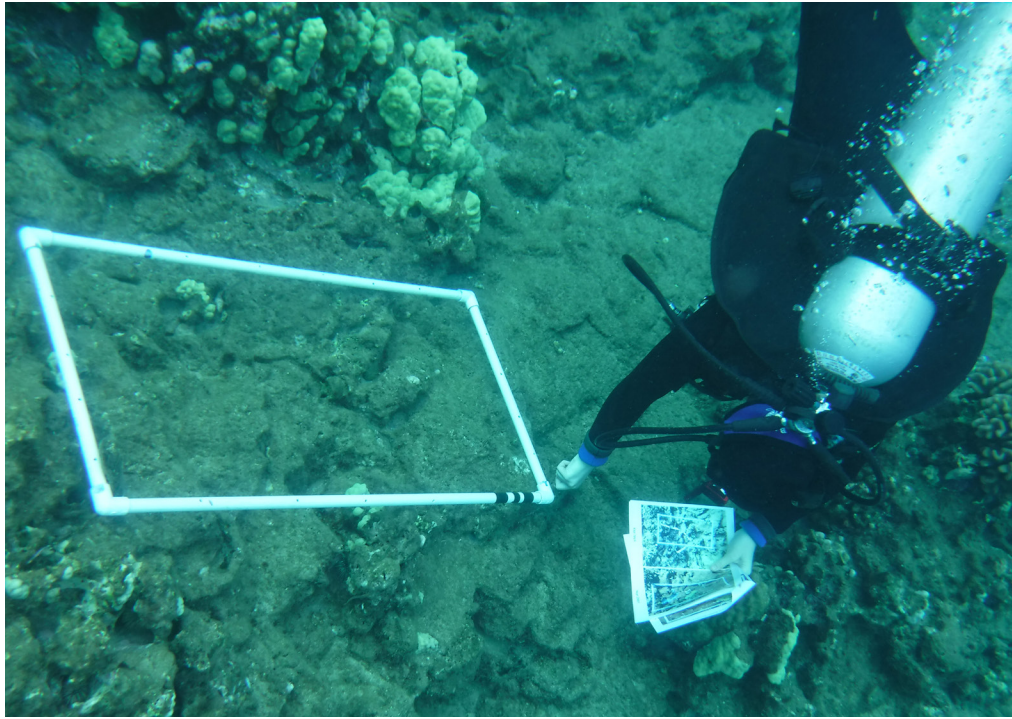
With staff and volunteer numbers limited by COVID-19 safety guidelines, the Restoration Program has continued to use the pōhaku (rock) mound kīpuka method for mauka outplantings. Restoration Program Manager, Paul Higashino chooses natural indentations where wai (fresh water) will collect and flow during ho'olio (wet season), nourishing the native plants.




The KIRC partnered with KUPU as a host site for the KUPU 'Āina Corps (KAC) program, a initiative funded by the CARES Act that provided temporary employment for those who have been furloughed or are unemployed due to COVID-19.



Logistics Specialist Grant Thompson setting a sediment trap in Honokanai'a bay (below). Ocean Resource Specialist Courtney Kerr conducting coral transects in Honokanai'a (right).



 The KIRC Ocean staff recently installed sediment traps and conducted a reef survey in Honokanai'a before heading into ho'olio (wet) season, when heavy rains can carry large sediment loads from mauka to makai. Results from the survey will be used to assess current coral and fish populations, and also serve as a baseline for any seasonal change.



The KIRC Ocean Program has begun experimenting with new erosion control methods along the coastal beaches in Kealaikahiki, utilizing natural materials in the area, such as pōhaku (rock) and kiawe logs.



Mahalo to our current Members and Donors!

Individual donations are critical to the KIRC’s efforts to protect, restore and preserve Kaho‘olawe.
Consider becoming a member today!

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Aloha Kaho'olawe

Aloha Kaho'olawe 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.

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

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.

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For Benefactors and Patrons, please choose one of the gifts from below, and indicate your **preferred** size and color (1st come, 1st served):

- Hat (one size fits most)
 - Camo Orange Camo Green
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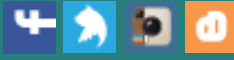
The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) is a 170(c)1 government nonprofit, authorized per IRS Publication 557, to receive tax-deductible contributions to programs that serve a public purpose. Donors should always consult with their tax advisors before claiming any tax-deductible charitable contributions.



Over a decade ago, KIRC staff observed this mass of 'iwa birds taking flight from Molokini. Early this year, KIRC staff spotted a large flock of 'iwa circling overhead while aboard the 'Ōhua. Ocean Program Manager Dean Tokishi captured the crew's observation in the photo on the previous page! How many you can find?



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Ko Hema Lamalama is designed and edited by Maggie Pulver, KIRC Public Information Specialist.

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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 'Ohana*: **Joshua Kaakua** (UH, College of Engineering)
 - Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana*: **Jonathan Ching** (Land and Property Manager, Office of Hawaiian Affairs)
 - Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana*: **Michelle Miki'ala Pescaia** (Interpretive Park Ranger, Kalaupapa National Historic Park)
 - County of Maui: Saumalu Mataafa (Executive Assistant, Department of Management, County of Maui)**
 - Department of Land & Natural Resources*: **Suzanne Case** (Chairperson, Department of Land & Natural Resources)
 - Native Hawaiian Organization*: **Hökūlani Holt** (Director, Ka Hikina O Ka Lā & Coordinator, Hawai'i Papa O Ke Ao, UHMC)
 - Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)*: **Carmen Hulu Lindsey** (Trustee, OHA)
- Michael K. Nāho'opi'i, Executive Director

