

Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission  
State of Hawai‘i



# KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE

YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2010

JULY 2009 to JUNE 2010



*“ Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa ”  
The life and spirit of Kanaloa*

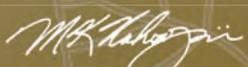
# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year marked the 20th anniversary of “Stopping the Bombing” of Kaho‘olawe. In 1990, then President George H. Bush ordered the halt of all military live-fire training on Kaho‘olawe which eventually led to the island’s return to the State of Hawai‘i. When the State of Hawai‘i accepted the return of the island of Kaho‘olawe in 1994, it accepted the responsibility “to preserve and protect a corner of their island state so that future generations can become familiar with their island’s past human and natural heritage. For many Native Hawaiians and others, Kaho‘olawe is a special place that has been sanctified by the loss of life in a struggle between traditional values and Western concepts of land use and management.” (*Restoring a Cultural Treasure*, Kaho‘olawe Island Conveyance Commission Report 1993).

Part of the vision for Kaho‘olawe is “The piko of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the island.” Today, we at the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) are at that crossroads and now stand at the precipice of our future.

We have learned, over the years, how to care for Kaho‘olawe in a manner that protects its natural resources while maintaining respect to its inherent cultural identity. We are working hard to find sustainable funding that will ensure the future protection of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve. We seek solutions that will continue our mission for future generations. But if we are unable to secure our financial future, an opportunity will be lost and we may be the last generation to experience an island immersed in the natural elements in the way our Hawaiian ancestors did.

Mahalo,



Michael K. Nāho‘opi‘i  
Executive Director  
Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission

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## Kaho‘olawe Vision Statement

*The kino of Kanaloa is restored. Forests and shrublands of native plants and other biota clothe its slopes and valleys. Pristine ocean waters and healthy reef ecosystems are the foundation that supports and surrounds the island.*

*Nā po‘e Hawai‘i care for the land in a manner which recognizes the island and ocean of Kanaloa as a living spiritual entity. Kanaloa is a pu‘uhonua and wahi pana where Native Hawaiian cultural practices flourish.*

*The piko of Kanaloa is the crossroads of past and future generations from which the Native Hawaiian lifestyle spreads throughout the islands.*

— *Developed and Adopted in 1995*

## History of Kaho‘olawe

Kaho‘olawe is the smallest of the eight main islands in the Hawaiian Archipelago, 94 miles southwest of Honolulu. Kaho‘olawe is 11 miles long, 7 miles wide and comprised of approximately 28,800 acres. The island is of volcanic origin with the highest elevation of 1,477 feet. The slopes are fissured with gulches 50 to 200 feet deep. Approximately 30 percent of the island is barren due to severe erosion. Formidable cliffs dominate the east and south coast.

From 1941 to 1994, Kaho‘olawe and its surrounding waters were under the control of the U. S. Navy (Navy). Both the island and waters of Kaho‘olawe were used by the Navy and allies of the United States as a live-fire training area.



## OUR ROLE

The first step in our comprehensive strategy for the healing of the *kino* or body of Kanaloa is the restoration of native land-based habitats and watersheds.

The applicable Strategic Objectives of the Restoration Program (Restoration Management Action Plan FY09-13) is to:

- Restore the native terrestrial ecosystem.
- Reduce threats to the native ecosystem.
- Develop an erosion control program.

Environmental restoration begins with regeneration of soils, native plant and animal life and replenishment of natural water systems. Strategies addressing erosion control, botanical and faunal restoration and the enhancement of the island's natural water systems are currently underway in the Reserve.

Kaho'olawe's geographic isolation has resulted in the absence of many - although not all - alien plant and animal pests. Once grazing animals were removed, the island began, albeit slowly, its natural recovery process. Continuing restoration efforts offer an unrivaled opportunity for people to contribute their expertise, time, and resources to this great work.

Through continuing cultural ceremonies and practices, the healing of Kaho'olawe is a spiritual renewal as well as an environmental one, and Restoration Program staff and volunteers alike understand and support the cultural and spiritual underpinnings, responsibilities and mandates of the restoration of the Reserve.



*Young seedling emerge after the winter rains from biodegradable kiawe-wood chip filled bags placed on the hard pan areas of the island.*

## STATUS REPORT

Our restoration efforts continue to focus on controlling the devastating erosion of valuable topsoil and siltation of our pristine reefs through innovative conservation methods. Severely eroded landscapes cover approximately one-third of the island. With an average of only 25 inches of rainfall annually at the summit and less than 10 inches per year at the coast, most plants on Kaho'olawe are hardy alien species that easily outcompete the few, fragile native plant populations for water and nutrients. In addition, the technical limitations of past unexploded ordnance clearances has created an island - wide patchwork of land use restrictions that hamper restoration activities. The combined effect has driven our restoration team to develop creative and innovative solutions



*The residual risk of unexploded ordnance still present on Kaho'olawe has resulted in creative and innovative solutions to restoring the island's natural environment.*



# RESTORATION PROGRAM

to restoring the island's natural environment. Last year, our program focused on three main projects: erosion control through native out plantings; expansion of unique wetland habitats; and the restoration of native seabird population.

How do you plant in areas where you can't dig? We have faced this dilemma since the end of the Navy's clean up effort. We called in experts from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other organizations to help us develop a plan. Drawing on ideas from previous efforts by the Navy, the USFWS and the DLNR, the team had to use creativity to begin a replanting effort. One of our novel approaches is the creation of "mulch bags." Volunteers fill biodegradable paper bags with mulch, place a "seed ball" in the center, and distribute the bags across the barren hard pan. As the bags breakdown, the mulch covers the seeds that eventually take root. Last year, we estimate more than 11,000 mulch bags were placed by volunteers.

Using pili grass bales has also proven to be highly effective. Seeds gathered from Kaho'olawe were sent to Moloka'i to be grown, baled and returned to Kaho'olawe, under a federally-funded, NRCS program sponsored by U. S. Senator Daniel Inouye. The bales are placed in square or "X" shapes, to shelter the fragile seedlings from the constant winds. Protected from the harsh environment, the young seedlings are able to mature and flourish. As a



*After the heavy winter rains, seeds in our mulch bags germinate and begin to take hold in the hard pan.*

secondary benefit, the bales eventually breakdown and release organic material and pili grass seeds.

At Keāliialalo, a natural crater depression, we cleared 20-acres of water-hungry invasive plants in hopes of expanding the duration and extent of an existing wetland. We installed four 2,500-gallon water storage tanks along the crater's rim allowing us to extend the wetland conditions through the dry summer months. We began out-planting of native grasses and shrubs such as a 'ali 'i, naio, ewa hinahina, kāwelu, 'āweoweo, and kāmānomano along the wetland's perimeter to reduce erosion into the crater. At Kaukaūkāpapa, a coastal depression, we improved access to the work site by extending the existing road to the project area, allowing us to remove over two-acres of kiawe brush and begin native out-planting.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

Despite projected budgetary constraints, we are determined to continue effective restoration projects and programs. Our focus for FY 2011 will be to successfully fulfill our contractual obligations with The Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Restoration Project.

At Keāliālalo we plan to clear an additional 20 acres of invasive species and plant 2,000 native grasses, herbs, trees and shrubs.

At Kaukaukāpapa we plan to plant five acres of native plants and to clear another two acres of kiawe. Brush piles that were stacked in the previous year can now be chipped with a larger wood chipper funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS). Storage tanks installed last year will be watering new seedlings and preparing them to survive the harsh summers.

We plan to expand our use of native Hawaiian food crops as part of our restoration program. We plan to plant 50 mounds of *‘uala* (sweet potato) and 50 *kalo* (taro) plants at Moaulanui, recreating some of the agricultural fields found in the island archaeological history.

The success of our mulch bag erosion control project has encouraged us to expand its application around the island and we plan to build and place more mulch bags across the hard pan.

Lastly, after years of planning and research with support from USFWS and our faunal restoration partner, Island Conservation, we will begin the process of re-establishing sea bird colonies by taking the first steps to eradicate introduced predatory species that threaten their existence.



*Wedge-tailed Shearwaters or 'ua'u kani nest predominately on isolated cliffs and offshore-islets due to cat predation. One day in the future they could occupy the whole island of Kaho'olawe.*

**Faunal Restoration:** Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) were probably first brought to Kaho'olawe during the island's ranching period from the late 1880's to just prior to World War II. After nearly a hundred years of isolation, this feral and extremely wild cat population has nearly no resemblance to the modern domesticated house cat. Today, hundreds of their offspring now stalk the coastal and inland areas in search of food. Their ravenous appetites have devastated the unprotected native sea bird populations, which once thrived in abundance on Kaho'olawe. Toxicology results show a high percentage of the feral cat population carry the potentially fatal disease call toxoplasmosis. This parasitic disease has been know to infect native birds and the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. In addition it also poses a significant health risk to pregnant women.

It is through partnerships that we will restore native seabird colonies on Kaho'olawe. In addition to federal partners such as USFWS, we are working closely with Island Conservation, a non-profit organization committed to removing invasive species from island habitats. The first step will be to develop an operational and management plan. A feasibility study to examine the various methodologies and cost factors to eradicate invasive mammals from Kaho'olawe has been completed.



*Motion sensor cameras are used to track and monitor the nocturnal hunting patterns of Kaho'olawe's invasive feral cat population.*

# RESTORATION PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010

**Rediscovery of new species:** Life is abundant on Kaho‘olawe especially when it is not expected. During the past rainy seasons, a living fossil was rediscovered in the ephemeral pools of our wetland restoration work sites. This inch-long horse shoe crab-like crustacean was found swimming in a muddy pool of water at Keāliialalo. From the genus Triops, this ancient species also known as the “dinosaur shrimp” is not commonly seen in Hawai‘i.



Ken Wood of the National Tropical Botanical Garden hand waters Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoowlawensis*), a critically endangered native species, found only on a remote islet off of Kaho‘olawe.

**Traditional Food Crops:** The Restoration Program has planted Native Hawaiian traditional food crops such as ‘uala (sweet potato) and dry land kalo (taro). Not only do these plants establish a valuable ground cover to reduce surface erosion, they also help to supplement our food supplies on island. As part of our sustainable living objective, we are combining restoration projects, native out planting and sustainable infrastructures and operations to form an integrated management plan that support our goals at many levels and across many programs.



Native varieties of ‘uala (sweet potato) are now part of our native out plantings. Located along the rim of Moaulanui crater, these patches are being grown in areas that, according to archaeological records, were once traditional Native Hawaiian agricultural lands.



This ancient “dinosaur shrimp” was discovered in the muddy pools of Keāliialalo. Scientist have theorized that the eggs of this shrimp can remain dormant for years in lake beds waiting for the winter rains.

**Re-establishing Native Species:** This summer’s extreme drought conditions severely stressed the last wild specimen of Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoowlawensis*) making it susceptible to predation by mice and other rodents. A concerted effort to hand water and monitor this remotely located plant allowed it to survive and release a new flush of leaves at the end of the summer. Seeds from this plant were collected, planted and the survivors flourishing in specialized off-island nurseries, ensuring the future viability of this rare and special plant.



Seedlings of Palupalu o Kanaloa (*Kanaloa kahoowlawensis*), flourish in off-island nurseries. With regular watering and protection from insect and rodent predation, this plant can achieve a robust stature. We are developing a species recovery plan to make certain a sufficient number of specimens and established colonies are develop to ensure the species’ recovery and return to Kaho‘olawe.

## OUR ROLE

The KIRC plays an unique role within the main Hawaiian islands in that we manage an entire island ecosystem - in addition to land-based habitat and watersheds, we also manage Kaho'olawe's surrounding coastal waters.

Extending two nautical miles from the island's shoreline, and comprising 80-plus square miles of ocean, all marine resource management is the responsibility of the KIRC's Ocean Program.

As with each of the islands within the Hawaiian archipelago, Kaho'olawe's marine environment is rich in its shoreline diversity: from sheer cliffs that fall sharply into the deep waters along its southern coast, to the fringing reef that slopes out along the northern and western leeward sides, to the extensive sandy beach at Honokanai'a - each individual marine ecosystem has unique resources and its needs.

For these complex systems, it is our Ocean Program's mission to develop and implement a comprehensive ocean resource management regime that emphasizes ancestral and traditional knowledge - a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment - and integrates ancient and modern resource management techniques.

In our unique role as caretakers of Kaho'olawe, it is hoped that the conservation and restoration we undertake today - both culturally and scientifically - will one day provide for traditional and customary Native Hawaiian cultural and spiritual practices and serve as a source for an abundance of educational opportunities.

It is our vision that through careful and cooperative stewardship - traditional Hawaiian values of resource care and management (mālama) blended with contemporary marine science - Kaho'olawe will become a living conduit between past and future generations of Hawaii's people, where traditional resource values will again take root, producing ever greater resources for our future.



*Due to a combination of location, prevailing winds and currents, Kanapou Bay on Kaho'olawe's western shore is a large collection point for marine debris.*

## STATUS REPORT

Our Ocean Program's comprehensive marine management program focuses on three major project areas: removing marine debris and restoring the aquatic environment; monitoring the health and populations of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve's marine species; and expanding partnerships with other organizations to accomplish top-notch research.

Northeast trade winds, prevailing currents and their funneling effects have choked the five-mile Kanapou Bay, in particular, the five-acre Keoneuli Beach, with tons of derelict fishing gear, nets, plastics and other debris from the Pacific Ocean. The trash threatens coral reefs and has ruined the habitat for endangered and threatened marine life including 'Īioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal), honu and honu'ea (green and hawksbill sea turtle), koholā (humpback whale), and seabirds such as



*The remote location of Kanapou Bay requires that all marine debris is gathered into large cargo nets and airlifted via helicopters to disposal on Maui and O'ahu.*



‘ua‘u and ‘a‘o (Hawaiian Dark-rumped Petrel and Newell’s Shearwater). These marine creatures, along with *manō* (sharks) and other apex predators, fish, dolphins, rays, and other seabirds, can ingest and become entangled in marine debris.

With funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the KIRC is finally able to clean up the marine debris at Kanapou and make efforts to keep it that way over the course of 18 months. We will match NOAA’s funding with volunteer and staff resources to undertake the enormous and on-going project. Not only are the debris items taken out of the marine environment where they cause damage, but several items are reused and recycled whenever possible. This project provides an important educational lesson for all directly involved and for those who will learn about the marine environment through KIRC presentations and our website.

Our Ocean Program has developed integrated survey methodologies using helicopters, our vessel the ‘*Ōhūa*, and shoreline-based studies to monitor the many marine species that inhabit the waters of the Reserve. Through our comprehensive marine management program we monitor the general health of the Reserve’s waters and its diverse inhabitants, with particular attention to threaten and endangered species.

We are very concerned about the neighboring ecological pressures of Hawaii’s human population upon the Reserve’s fish stocks. A recent review of near shore and trolling fish catch data produced two summary reports,



*KIRC staff divers teaming with divers from The Nature Conservancy conduct marine transects of the over 80 square miles of ocean under KIRC’s management.*

giving us a baseline for catch per unit effort (CPUE) and targeted species and numbers. These initial reports serve as a “measuring stick” that future fishery resource data can be compared with and sound fishery management decisions can be based.

To accomplish more scientific surveys with our limited resources, we partnered with The Nature Conservancy to access 28 benthic stations and 44 fish stations while SCUBA diving. Results revealed that overall fish biomass in the Reserve is one of the highest in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) and that coral coverage is about 38% higher in the Reserve than any other MHI.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

Our continuing mission is to keep the marine resources of the Reserve in a state of sustainable health for a future sovereign Native Hawaiian entity and future generations that will inherit those resources. We believe this can only be done through proper management and community support.

As with all KIRC programs, we will be downsizing our operations to extend the life of our trust fund. As a result, we will be evermore dependent on partnerships and volunteers.

We plan to complete the cleanup at Kanapou Bay in FY 2011, which was made possible by a federal grant from NOAA. The goal of this project is to thoroughly remove the accumulated debris through five or more large cleanup events and, then maintain the clean condition of the bay with regular smaller maintenance trips.

It will be critical to work in concert with our stewardship partners to establish priorities and incorporate cultural awareness and sensitivity in every aspect of our program. We feel fortunate to have their expertise and guidance as we move forward.

In addition, we intend to strengthen and expand our relationships with The Nature Conservancy, DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources, NOAA, the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, the University of Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and the UH Undersea Research Laboratory. We do this in order to leverage our limited manpower and resources to protect this unique and extraordinary marine environment.

And, as always, we will draw on our capable, dependable volunteers to assist with these efforts.



*KIRC recognizes the following aquatic life: Cetacea (whales, dolphins and porpoises); Carnivora (seals and sea lions); Testudines (sea turtles) and Chondrichthyes (sharks and rays) as Kinolau of Kanaloa, whose remains are afforded special consideration.*

**Marine Mammals within the Reserve:** During aerial surveys or boat surveys of the Reserve, it is not unusual to find marine mammals in distress or even deceased along the shore. Perhaps our greatest achievement last year was the enlightenment of staff and the guidelines that were developed in dealing with these situations.

To Native Hawaiians, marine mammals are considered a kinolau or body form of the Native Hawaiian deity, Kanaloa. As part of the KIRC's unique mission to integrate science and Native Hawaiian traditions, we were in a dilemma on how to balance the needs of scientific research on the remains of the deceased animal with the cultural values of traditional Native Hawaiian practitioners.

As a result, our Ocean and Cultural staff along with representatives from NOAA and in consultation with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners were able to forge a working agreement for the treatment of marine mammal remains found within the Reserve. This working agreement later formed the basis for a KIRC Policy adopted by our commissioners for the protection of marine mammals within the Reserve whether found dead, entangled or in distress.



*Bleach tagging by federally-trained KIRC staff allows us and other scientist to readily identify and track the critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal.*

# OCEAN PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010



*Ocean staff cross training with the Operations staff on boat operations to assist in our twice weekly supply and personnel runs to Kaho'olawe.*

**Boating Registration Program :** Fishing within the Reserve is restricted to trolling outside of 30 fathoms during select weekends each month. We have established a Boating Registration Program that helps us monitor and regulate fishing within the Reserve.

Registered boaters submit a liability waiver and agree to abide by all Reserve rules and restrictions. Registered boaters also agree to submit catch reports that helps in our fishery management effort. In calendar year 2010, ninety-seven boaters have registered their vessels with the KIRC and have a highly visible KIRC emblem affixed near their State registration numbers.

Unauthorized fishing vessels are intercepted, cited and prosecuted in partnership with the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and the County of Maui Office of the Prosecuting Attorney.



*Students from Nā Pua No'eau work with Ocean staff to conduct a marine transect of limpiti or 'opihī (*Cellana* sp.) as part of field learning experience.*

**Vessel Support:** As part of our consolidation and cost savings initiatives, our Ocean staff has been training with Operations to help assist as boat crew on our regular logistic runs to Kaho'olawe. To make the most of our staff's time on the water, we are combining our twice weekly personnel and supply boat runs to Kaho'olawe with our ocean patrols of the Reserve. Aboard the 'Ōhua, our Ocean staff not only help fill in our staffing shortfalls, but also are able to utilize these supply runs as ocean patrols. During these supply runs, the 'Ōhua regularly deviates from its normal route to document 'Īlioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal) sightings on Kaho'olawe's western beaches or to intercept a boat that is violating our established fishing rules.



*Unauthorized fishing vessels are quickly intercepted and cited. Our enforcement program follows all violations through the court system to ensure conviction.*

**Educational Outreach:** One of the goals of our Ocean Staff is to train the next generation of leaders that will care for the lands and waters of Hawai'i. To achieve this goal, our Ocean staff regularly works with youth groups either on Kaho'olawe or off-island as they conduct frequent lectures and workshops. On-island, they integrate classroom curriculum with field research to help demonstrate and re-enforce scientific principles that are memorable learning experiences that students that will remember for a life-time.

Students worked with our Ocean Staff in conducting coastal invertebrate transects along the Kealahiki coastline as well as near-shore marine transects and fish counts at Honoko'a Bay. Off-island, Ocean Staff are frequent participant of our outreach program, conducting presentation and talks about the fascinating marine life surrounding Kaho'olawe. Our Ocean Staff hopes to inspire the future leaders and ocean managers of Hawai'i to recognize the value and benefit of having knowledge in both cultural and scientific education.

## OUR ROLE

The Cultural Program is responsible for the care and protection of Kaho‘olawe’s cultural resources - including archaeological and historic remnants of the island’s early inhabitants - and for expanding the meaningful cultural use of the island.

In addition, the Cultural Program plays a major role in integrating a Native Hawaiian cultural perspective into the daily operations of the KIRC staff and its programs.

As the number one priority of the Cultural Program, our Commission fulfills the *kuleana* or responsibility as the Burial Council for the island of Kaho‘olawe, overseeing all aspects of protecting and preserving the remains of our *kupuna* or ancestors. Working closely with the DLNR State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), we oversee the preservation of all significant archaeological, historic and cultural sites through a committed incorporation of applicable federal and state historic preservation laws and Native Hawaiian cultural practices.

We are expanding the meaningful cultural use of the island by developing Native Hawaiian cultural projects that augment cultural accesses and use of the Reserve. Since many of these undertakings are large-scale endeavors, our role focuses on project and resource management to assist our volunteers and partnering stewardship organizations who work hard to accomplish the important work of these projects.

Finally, we facilitate the cultural uses of the Reserve by providing a central point of contact for all cultural and educational visits and by establishing the cultural perspective used to orient all Reserve users, visitors, volunteers, contractors, and employees to the resources fundamental to the KIRC’s cultural mandate.



*“Aia ka apuwai ma Moaulaiki” A natural stone depression near the summit of Moaulaiki is filled with water from a recent rain. Observations and correlation to Native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge form the core of our Culture Plan.*

## STATUS REPORT

On March 18, 1981, based upon an island-wide archaeological survey implemented as a result of the *Aluli v. Brown* consent decree, the entire island of Kaho‘olawe was listed on the National Register for Historical Places and designated the “Kaho‘olawe Archaeological District.” The District contains 544 recorded archaeological/historic sites and more than 2,400 features. Traditionally and continuing to the present time, Kaho‘olawe is considered a sacred and spiritual place associated with *Kanaloa*, the Hawaiian deity of the ocean.



*The Kāneloa stone, located in the upper right of this photograph, is perched on the edge of an eroded gully, is threatened to be lost through erosion.*



This year, our focus is to continue the long-term cultural projects that were started in the previous year. As we work closely with our stewardship partners and various community organizations, we seek to continue the healing of Kanaloa through the revitalization of Native Hawai'i cultural practices and traditions.

During the past year, we finalized and approved our cultural plan for Kaho'olawe, "*Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa*". This document becomes the guiding framework for our Cultural Program and allows for the deeper cultural understanding of our Cultural Program's three areas of focus.

For the near-term, our greatest struggles will be the protection of our cultural resources from the ravages of time and erosion. Many of the cultural remains of the island's past inhabitants are exposed on the barren hardpan and subject to surface water run-off. One such feature known as "*Pōhaku Kāneloa*" is a large, flat disc-shaped stone located in the southeast section of the island. Covered in petroglyphs and cupules (man-made depressions) along its perimeter it is significant for the alignment of its cupules and seasonal changes of the rising sun. The stone, teetering on edge of a nearby gully is threatened to be lost into the gully due to erosion. Our Cultural Program Staff, with the help of volunteer archaeologists and cultural practitioners are developing plans to save this significant relic. We hope in this next year to have our restoration plans approved and implemented.

As our volunteers help restore the barren landscape, they are also helping to restore other Native Hawaiian practices.



*On the summit of Moaulanui, KIRC Volunteers learned a Hawaiian oli or chant to begin the day and greet the sun rising out of the Alenuihāhā Channel.*

Our Cultural Program works with our staff and other Hawaiian cultural practitioners to help integrate a Native Hawaiian perspective into all of our programs. Our volunteers not only learn about the island but also something of the people who once inhabited this sacred place.

Our Cultural Program continues to support community projects that expands the meaningful cultural use of the island. Working with the community volunteers to build an "*Alaloa*" or long road, circumnavigating the island, we hope to expand the cultural use of the island by expanding our presence into the remote corners of Kaho'olawe. Lastly, this year marks the 20th Anniversary of "Stopping the Bombing" on Kaho'olawe. A year-long series of events is planned to culminate with a gathering on *Kahualele*, a ceremonial platform, at Honokanai'a in October 2011.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

Our focus for FY 2011 is to continue to work closely with our partner stewardship organizations and various other community groups, and to continue the healing of Kanaloa through the revival of cultural practices and traditions. Listed below are continuing projects we have set out to accomplish during the next fiscal year:

- The restoration and stabilization of significant cultural and archaeological sites remain a top priority. We plan to complete the second burial site restoration project on the slopes of Moa'ulanui and begin planning the preservation of two significant cultural sites: Ka Piko a Wākea and Pōhaku Kāneloa,
- Our second goal this year is to complete the construction of a *mua*, or stone platform, in Honokanai'a to mark the 20th anniversary of the cessation of bombing on Kaho'olawe;
- Continue the growth of the Alaloa Project (circum-island trail). With deft coordination between staff and volunteers, we seek to locate the 'ili boundaries, (traditional land division boundaries) and extend the trail northwards from Keanakeiki to the end of the Kealaikahiki district;
- We will continue to implement the Kaho'olawe Cultural Use Plan.



*Measurements are made and alignments are documented as cultural practitioners glean traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge that has been documented within the Pōhaku Kāneloa stone.*

**Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa:** This Native Hawaiian cultural plan, written by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation (EKF) establishes the foundation for the re-introduction of cultural practitioners to the island of Kaho'olawe. Through a systematic process of organizing spiritual, mental and physical knowledge gathered through observation and in-depth study of the various cycles of life and creation on Kaho'olawe, the cultural practitioner becomes connected to the island and eventually an expert. It is through the study of the diminutive that the Hawaiian world view emerges to the Native Hawaiian practitioner. This year, with the EKF, we have focused on developing cultural observations and practices relating to solar observations and the various alignments they form in relationship to Kaho'olawe. Trainers from the EKF worked with KIRC staff, Commissioners and cultural practitioners to demonstrate the methodology used in the development of the cultural plan and the observation of celestial events.



*Students during the Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa, KIRC cultural plan training make observation of the sun and environment conditions of Kaho'olawe.*

# CULTURAL PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010



*Rain ahu or alter located along the rim of Moaulanui and on Maui at Pu'u Mahoe are used to open the planting season on Kaho'olawe.*

**Expanding the Cultural Use:** An *Alaloa* or “long road” was the traditional means of travel in pre-contact Hawai'i. This road was used not only to move people from one community to another, but to move ideas and knowledge from one area to another. Working with our stewardship partners, our goal is to create a circum-island trail that will allow us not just access to the more remote parts of the island, but to allow the freedom of movement to explore and learn more about the rarely explored section of the Reserve.

In the past year, we have focused on building the western portion of the trail from Honokanai'a to Kaukukāpapa. In the next phase, we will focus on marking the *'ili* boundaries or traditional land division boundaries and blazing routes to each boundary marker. The last phase will include clearing vegetation and brush from the trail and building a pathway through these areas.



*A new stone platform or mua, that will also be named Kahualele, is just taking form on the bluff above Honokanai'a.*

**Integration of a Native Hawaiian Cultural Perspective:** Working closely with Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, our Cultural Program Staff works to infuse and merge the traditional Native Hawaiian ancestral knowledge and practices with the KIRC's programs, especially in the area of restoration and ocean management. Working with our Restoration Program Staff, we have created a holistic approach to ecological restoration that not only includes native out-plantings and habitat restoration, but also acknowledges the associated cultural practices. Working with our Ocean Program Staff, we were able to forge a working agreement between Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, federal agencies and the scientific community regarding the treatment of marine mammal remains within the Reserve.



*Volunteers help build a circum-island trail that will expand our cultural use of the island.*

**Kahualele Construction:** On October 22, 2010, we marked the 20th anniversary of “Stopping the Bombing” on Kaho'olawe and began the “Year of Kanaloa”. This year-long, state-wide, community lead celebration remembers the individuals and organizations that made this achievement possible.

The culminating event will be a gathering at Honokanai'a on a newly built ceremonial platform or mua to be named *Kahualele*. In 1992, another stone platform or mua, also named *Kahualele* was dedicated in Hakioawa to mark the beginning of a new era where Hawaii's leaders made commitments to return Kaho'olawe to the people of Hawai'i. This second mua brings full closure to this period of island history.

## OUR ROLE

The long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe’s natural and cultural resources is supported through environmentally sustainable and culturally appropriate infrastructure and logistics. Our group responsibilities are to:

- Provide safe and reliable transport of material, equipment, and people between Kaho‘olawe and Maui to support restoration projects;
- Provide healthy and sound temporary overnight accommodations at our on-island facility for our staff, volunteers and visitors;
- Economically maintain and repair all facilities, equipment, machinery and vehicles used by our field teams, and;
- Provide general support and manpower, where needed, to ensure the timely and safe completion of our projects.

In addition to infrastructure and logistics, we are responsible for overall safety within the Reserve. This includes Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) safety maintained through regular UXO sweeps, providing UXO escorts when required, and developing UXO training and orientation guidelines for everyone who enters the Reserve.



*Three years ago, fuel was brought to the island by expensive helicopter transports. Today, we are able to transport fuel more economically via ocean transport. In the future, we hope to increase safety and reduce cost by transporting fuel in bulk.*

## STATUS REPORT

Our Reserve Operations exist to support the logistical needs of our programs. Whether transporting equipment and supplies to Kaho‘olawe, repairing machinery needed for our restoration projects, or ensuring the safety of all visitors to Kaho‘olawe, the work of our Reserve Operations is diverse and extremely important.

Starting in FY 2009 and continuing into FY 2010, sustainability was the guiding principle in revamping our Reserve Operations Program. We completed the first “green renovation” of a



*Transporting fuel in heavy-gauge rubber bladders will reduce the number of supply runs to Kaho‘olawe, improve efficiency and create a safer operation.*



military-era berthing hut, significantly reducing energy demands while greatly improving comfort for our volunteers. Our waste segregation and on-island composting has considerably reduced the amount of solid waste we have to ship off-island. Lastly, after two years of operating the 'Ōhua in the channel between Maui and Kaho'olawe, we have perfected our beach landing techniques and have established an excellent record.

During the last year, our Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Safety Program has conducted training for six more Access Guide Trainees resulting in a total of 22 Access Guides that have been certified to lead groups on Kaho'olawe.

In a continuing effort to reduce our supply runs to Kaho'olawe, we have embarked on a program to move fuel to the island more efficiently and safely. Working and training closely with the U. S. Coast Guard, we have developed a procedure to use large fuel bladders to transport and pump fuel from an offshore mooring, similar to how fuel is offloaded on O'ahu. In anticipation to our first fuel run, we have performed many practice runs with the fuel bladders and all the associated safety equipment that will make this procedure a more efficient and safer method to transport fuel to Kaho'olawe.

Our eventual goal is to be completely independent of off-island supplies, especially fossil fuels. Our vision is to create a completely renewable energy power grid on Kaho'olawe utilizing wind and solar energy. We will be seeking Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding from the State Legislature to make this dream a reality.



*On-island infrastructure is constantly under threat from the force of erosion.*

Reserve Operations is our largest and most diverse program within the KIRC. As such it will be the program most affected by our uncertain funding future. Most of our future budget reductions will be through considerable cutbacks in Reserve Operations.

Preparing for less future funding, we will be reducing volunteer accesses starting FY 2012 in order to extend our trust fund. Through a combination of reducing the number of monthly volunteer restoration trips, lowering the cap on volunteer numbers per trip and a longer range and more rigid planning schedule, we are hoping to reduce overall operation cost by an additional 25%. This funding level will allow us to maintain a presences on Kaho'olawe and to continue our restoration program and management of the Reserve, but will also afford us very little reserve funding if unforeseen events occur. It is dire that a sustainable funding source be established within the next three years before all current funding has been exhausted.

## OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

If we are not successful in securing a sustainable funding source in the next few years, we will be using FY 2011 as a year to develop, test and implement a significant reduction of our volunteer program and associated on-island operations. In an effort to extend the life of the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, we are planning to make severe future cuts in Reserve Operations and all programs areas. We will use this upcoming year to determine the least detrimental ways to slash our operational budget, but at the same time maintain security and safety on Kaho'olawe and within its surrounding waters.

We are determined to keep the restoration of Kaho'olawe's natural environment as our primary focus, but we will have to develop new means to continue with significantly less resources. We, as a State agency, are also obligated to protect the island and its surrounding waters for future generations. Lastly, we feel it is necessary to involve the people of Hawai'i in the healing of this devastated landscape. It is only through individual personal experiences on Kaho'olawe will the commitment and dedication of past stewards be remembered and sustained.

If we are successful in establishing the funding, our biggest project for the next two years will be the construction of the Hakioawa Kitchen Hale and continuing the "green" renovation of our Honokanai'a Base Camp.

After five years of planning our Hakioawa Kitchen Hale, we were able to secure State Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding in FY10 to build this simple but very important structure that will support the continuing cultural use of the island. The funding was not previously released, but we will advocate for its release this upcoming year.

Our FY 2011 CIP request is to complete the "green" renovation of the Honokanai'a Base Camp by continuing our building renovations, reducing overall energy consumption and converting to all renewable energy sources.



*Photo-voltaic panels are used to power the pumps for our irrigation system. Even though they have proven to very effective, the initial investment was considerable.*

**Sustainable Energy :** One of our largest operational cost is the transportation, storage and conversion of fossil fuel into useable energy for on-island operations. This process includes the purchasing of diesel and gasoline fuel on Maui, the transportation by KIRC vessels to Kaho'olawe, the on-island storage at our base camp fuel farm, and the operation and maintenance of a diesel generator and electrical distribution system in Honokanai'a. Not only is this process expensive, but the diesel generators produce waste by-products that must be disposed of properly from the island.

For the past three years, we have worked to reduce our energy needs as the precursor to convert our entire electrical system to renewable energy sources. Many of our smaller, on-island infrastructure is already powered by either solar or wind, but these are mostly located in the remote areas of the island. In order to convert our main electrical grid to alternative energy, we will be seeking Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding from the State to accomplish our goal of becoming the first island completely energy self-sufficient.



*With regular wind conditions on the upper slopes of Kaho'olawe, small residential wind turbines combined with photo-voltaic panels may be the solution to our energy needs.*

## RESERVE OPERATIONS ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010



*KIRC staff and volunteers complete the installation of water storage tanks that will collect the infrequent rainfall on island.*

**Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) :** Most of our Honokanai‘a Base Camp building repairs and remodeling were completed through the hard work of volunteer carpenters. They have dedicated a considerable amount of their personal time to complete our “green” renovation of our berthing hut, the installation of rain gutters throughout the camp and the rebuilding of our storage building and new composting toilet.

Our next construction project, the Honokanai‘a sustainable energy conversion and Hakioawa kitchen facility, will probably be beyond the expertise and capacity of our all volunteer crew and will be dependant upon us receiving State CIP funding. We will always seek the participation of volunteers to reduce our project’s labor cost, but the extent of these future project may require a dedicated full-time workforce. Both of these future infrastructure projects contribute to our long-term vision for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve; “to be the model of sustainable island living.”



*In a constant battle against corrosion, KIRC staff use a fixed boat washing station combined with hand washing to remove salt residue from our equipment.*

**Rain Harvesting:** With less than 25-inches of rain on the upper slope of Kaho‘olawe and about half that along the shoreline, every drop of water is precious to the restoration efforts on-island. From past experience, our restoration team has shown that irrigation during the early phases of out-planting significantly improves the survival rate of native plants on Kaho‘olawe.

To collect more irrigation water, we are using every available flat surface to gather the infrequent rainfall. Staff and a dedicated crew of volunteers mounted rain gutters on most of our buildings in and around the Honokanai‘a Base Camp and installed storage tanks to hold the water until it can be moved to our restoration planting areas.



*Our dedicated crew of volunteer carpenters work to transform a former military camp into an “island village”.*

**Kihei Boathouse Operations:** Our Kihei Boathouse is the main point of departure for all transportation services between Kaho‘olawe and Maui. In the last three years, we have shifted the main mode of transportation to Kaho‘olawe from costly helicopters to more efficient, KIRC-operated boat services. We have developed a unique operation transporting people, supplies and equipment and achieved a strong safety record with twice weekly runs to the island. This year, our focus was to develop a regular and consistent maintenance program for our boats and vehicles. Our unique use of all-terrain vehicles and a beach landing craft to shuttle goods and supplies to Kaho‘olawe is innovative, but the constant salt-water environment is harmful to our equipment. It is only through a concerted and rigorous regime of cleaning, inspections, and maintenance will we be able to continue this operation.

## OUR ROLE

Restoration of Kaho‘olawe is a monumental endeavor, one that far exceeds the available funding and staffing of the KIRC. It is an effort that will require thousands of hands over several generations to accomplish. To best leverage available funds, while making the most productive use of the staffing, restoration of Kaho‘olawe will depend upon the charitable work of thousands of volunteers.

The volunteer program provides not only strong backs to till the soil for the replanting of indigenous flora on the barren and windswept slopes of Kaho‘olawe, but also scientific experts who will expand our staff’s technical knowledge and abilities in managing the Reserve’s resources.

Our role is to ensure that we maintain a large, available pool of volunteers; match the skill and labor requirements of each project to the capability of our volunteers; and ensure safe and meaningful experiences to enhance our volunteers’ appreciation of Kaho‘olawe.

The Volunteer Program’s responsibilities involve all aspects of volunteer participation including:

- Pre-trip orientations to prepare the volunteers with safety precautions, general trip and project briefing to instill an appreciation of the historical and cultural significance of Kaho‘olawe;
- Coordinating all pre-trip paperwork requirements, including liability waivers and emergency contact information;
- Scheduling volunteers in conjunction with program needs and coordinating the respective supporting elements;
- Functioning as the point-of-contact and liaison between volunteers, programs, agencies, and KIRC staff; and
- Maintaining volunteer records and preparing volunteer-related data, statistics, reports and mailing lists.



*The heavy work of restoring Kaho‘olawe falls on the many shoulders of our devoted volunteers.*

## STATUS REPORT

It is only through our Volunteer Program that we are able to make the transformational changes that will bring about the restoration of Kaho‘olawe.

We brought less volunteers this fiscal year than prior years due to the completion of the Restoration Program’s Department of Health, Clean Water Act grant and its associated financial support. Even with reduced funding, we still were able to bring 960 volunteers this year. On a typical trip each volunteer contributes approximately 25 hours of service. Volunteers enter the Reserve by a “Right of Entry” permit that standardizes the process to gain entry to the Reserve and provides the framework



*Volunteers’ labor hours account for a majority of project grants’ in-kind funding matches.*



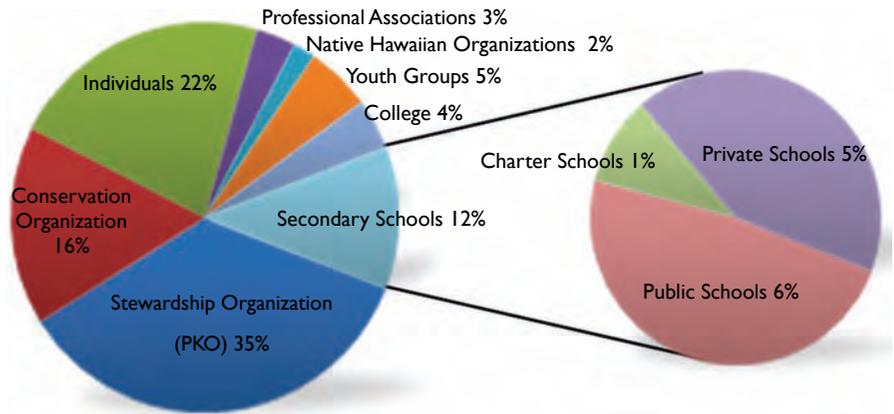
# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

to share the cost of supporting our volunteers. In its second year of implementation, we collected \$43,069 in permit fees, reducing the KIRC’s overall cost to transport and house volunteers during their work trip. Volunteers also enter the Reserve with our Stewardship Organization Partners supporting joint KIRC and Stewardship Organization projects.

Most of our volunteers work with our Restoration Program, but we also continue to call for carpenters and others with specialized construction skills. In FY 2009, we undertook the remodeling of one of our berthing huts with an all volunteer labor force that we estimate saved us over \$20,000 in construction costs. In FY 2010, we completed the interior and finish work for this project as well as rebuilt many of the aging structures in the Honokanai ‘a Base Camp.

The majority of our volunteers are part of an organized group (usually about 10-20 participants in size) from different segments of Hawaii’s local population. The largest were from our Stewardship Partner, the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (35%). Individual volunteers made up a more sizable portion of this year’s participants. Also this year, more secondary school groups participated on volunteer accesses as they increased from 4% to 12%.

Our volunteers come from dispersed locations throughout Hawai‘i. A new trend this year has been more Maui (45%) residents have participated in our



FY 2010 volunteers by source.

volunteer program than Oahu (35%) residents. The remaining (20%) volunteers came from the other neighbor islands and from the mainland and abroad.(2%)

We developed a volunteer evaluation program that gathers key demographics data as well as measures program effectiveness to better understand the needs of our volunteers and to institute future program improvements. We are developing and will soon implement, an on-island volunteer curriculum, an offshoot of our Mālama Kaho‘olawe Program to improve the meaningful volunteer experience on Kaho‘olawe. This formalized curriculum will provide our staff with the template, training aids and background to better communicate the mission, goals and objectives of the KIRC, and provides the framework to educate volunteers on the history, culture and importance of the Reserve.

# OUR GOALS FOR FY 2011

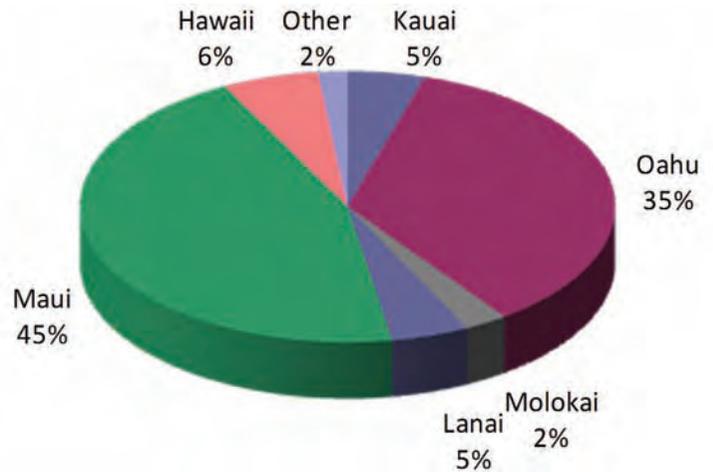
Our continuing goal is to run the volunteer program more efficiently and to achieve even greater results from our invaluable volunteer resource base. While we will require fewer volunteers in FY 2010 due to fewer grant funded projects, the number of requests to volunteer that we receive from the community continues to increase.

The focus for FY 2011 (Volunteer Development Action Plan FY09-13) is improving the administration of the volunteer program, streamlining the registration process, simplifying the access request procedures and reducing administrative turnaround time.

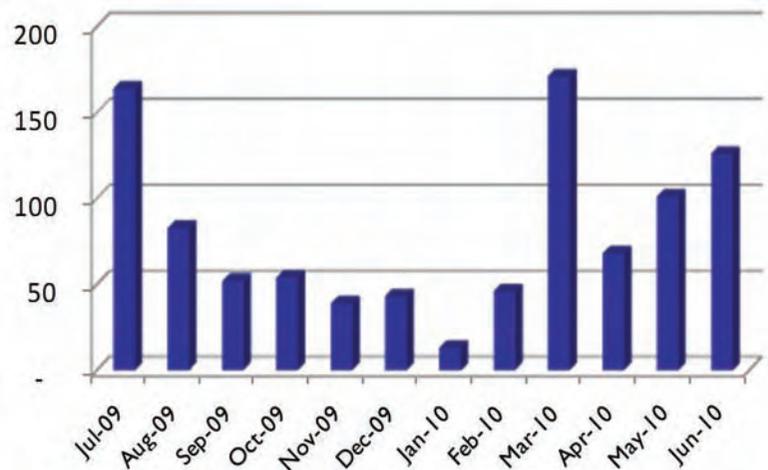
Structurally we are in the process of transforming the volunteer application and registration process to a web-based, on-line system. Once we have completed our web development and testing (all being completed with donated help from a volunteer), we hope to have the entire volunteer process digitized and all forms and waivers completed on-line. This paperless system will significantly reduce the administrative labor needed to file, collate and collect all volunteer waivers, registration documents, permit fees and emergency information.

Our current waitlist for volunteer access is approximately two-years long. In FY 2011, we will be working to clear this wait list and afford a wide range of volunteer groups to visit Kaho'olawe. With a revised schedule plan, we should have longer lead times for our volunteer group assignments. This will allow our volunteer groups more time to prepare, but at the same time we would like to be more forceful with our volunteer groups meeting critical preparation timelines. We will also be assigning standby groups for the same volunteer trip. If the primary volunteer group does not make all the mandatory preparation checkpoints, then the standby group will take over the volunteer trip. This will reduce the number of volunteer groups that drop out at the last minute and waste a volunteer trip that others have been waiting years to take.

Volunteers by Island, FY 2010

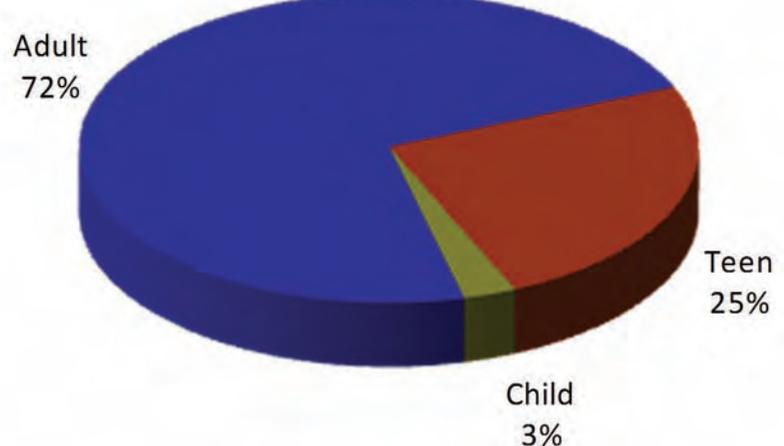


Volunteers Number by Month, FY 2010



The peak in March represents additional accesses that occur on Kaho'olawe during the school spring breaks. The high number of volunteers during the summer months are due to our support of the Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps and the many young people that are dedicating their lives to protecting Hawaii's natural resources.

Volunteers by Age, FY 2010



The majority of our volunteers are adults, but one in three of our volunteers are middle and high school students.

# VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010

**Volunteer Labor's Worth:** A total of 960 individuals volunteered their services to Kaho'olawe in FY 2010. With each volunteer working approximately 40 hours per trip, this equates to 38,400 man-hours of service or \$777,600 of labor donated to our many on-island projects (Based upon [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)'s valuation of volunteer labor at \$20.25 per hour).



*Native Hawaiian elders traveling to Kaho'olawe. For many of them, it will be their first time on Kaho'olawe and an experience of a life time.*



*Volunteers contributed \$770,600 worth of labor in FY 2010.*

**Community Support:** In November 2009, as part of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Club's annual convention on Maui, the KIRC and PKO co-sponsored a volunteer access for conference participants to bring Native Hawaiian *kupuna* or elders back to Kaho'olawe. The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allowed them to connect with the island and share their cultural knowledge with the participants of different generations.



Bulla Eleneke

Pono Cordero-Ho'opai

Ku'ulei Hanohano

MiQe Klemme

Mali'o Kodis and DJ Panas

Amanda McAllister and Poema Pescaia

Tashja Tong

**Internships:** This year, many young people decided to commit a significant portion of their life to the restoration of Kaho'olawe. Coming from a variety of volunteer organizations such as AmeriCorps and Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps Programs, our interns served either a three-month summer internship or a year-long commitment. Spending the majority of their time on Kaho'olawe supporting the restoration effort, our interns gain valuable first hand experience understanding the practicability and challenges of environmental restoration. The time spent with us had made a marked change in their understanding and appreciation of Hawaii's natural environment.

# RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION

## Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §6K-6

The general administration of the island reserve shall rest with the commission. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission:

- 1) Shall establish criteria, policies, and controls for permissible uses within the island reserve;
- 2) Shall approve all contracts for services and rules pertaining to the island reserve;
- 3) Shall provide advice to the governor, the department, and other departments and agencies on any matter relating to the island reserve;
- 4) Shall provide advice to the office of planning and the department of the attorney general on any matter relating to the federal conveyance of Kaho‘olawe;
- 5) May enter into curator or stewardship agreements with appropriate Hawaiian cultural and spiritual community organizations for the perpetuation of native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence customs, beliefs, and practices for the purposes stated in section 6K-3;
- 6) Shall carry out those powers and duties otherwise conferred upon the board of land and natural resources and the land use commission with regard to dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve. All powers and duties of the board of land and natural resources and the land use commission concerning dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve are transferred to the commission;
- 7) Shall carry out those powers and duties concerning the island reserve otherwise conferred upon the county of Maui by chapter 205A. The powers and duties of the county of Maui and its agencies concerning coastal zone dispositions and approvals pertaining to the island reserve are transferred to the commission;
- 8) Shall carry out those powers and duties concerning the island reserve otherwise conferred upon the island burial councils and the department with regard to proper treatment of burial sites and human skeletal remains found in the island reserve;
- 9) Shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 91 that are necessary for the purposes of this chapter and shall maintain a record of its proceedings and actions;
- 10) May delegate to the executive director or employees of the commission, by formal commission action, such power and authority vested in the commission by this chapter as the commission deems reasonable and proper for the effective administration of this chapter; and
- 11) May solicit and accept grants, donations, and contributions for deposit into the Kaho‘olawe rehabilitation trust fund to support the purposes of this chapter.



*Commissioners Colette Machado, Craig Neff, Nāmaka Whitehead, Emmett Aluli and Kai‘ulani Murphy stand in one of our Restoration Program’s native out-plantings fields on the northern slope of Pu‘u Moaulanui.*

## COMMISSIONER REPORT

FY 2010 was a transition year for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commissioners. At the beginning of 2010, Commissioner Charles Burrow reached his mandatory term limit of eight-years. Replacing him and representing Native Hawaiian Organizations was Kai‘ulani Murphy from the Polynesian Voyaging Society. At the end of the fiscal year June 2010, our long-time serving KIRC Chairperson Emmett Aluli also reached his mandatory term limit and was replaced by Commissioner Davianna McGregor, representing the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. The Commission selected as its new



*Commissioner Milton Arakawa, representing Maui County, with in-coming Commissioner Kai‘ulani Murphy, representing Native Hawaiian Organizations.*



*Incoming Commissioner Davianna McGregor, representing the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, speaks on camera during our media day on Kaho'olawe marking the 20th Anniversary of "Stopping the Bombing".*

chairperson, Commission Craig Neff and Commissioner Nāmaka Whitehead as vice-chairperson. Governor Lingle later approved the selection and appointed Commissioner Neff as chairperson of the KIRC.

At the end of calendar year 2010 and after the November 2010 elections, new Department of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson William J. Aila Jr. was added to the commission starting December 2010 upon the departure of Laura Thielen from public service. Also departing in January 2011 was Maui County Representative, Commissioner Milton Arakawa. Mayor Alan Arakawa selected newly appointed Deputy Planning Director Michele McLean (former KIRC Deputy Director), as his replacement.

During FY 2010, the Commission held eleven public meetings. Four were held on Maui, six were held in Honolulu and one limited meetings on Kaho'olawe. The Commission reviewed and approved the KIRC Executive Policy Manual as a management tool designed to codify KIRC statutes, rules and policies. The Commission also held public meetings to review and approved the KIRC Cultural Plan, "*Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa*", setting the cultural foundation for all of KIRC's programs. Lastly, the Commission began the planning process for a long-term strategic plan for Kaho'olawe thereby establishing a generational vision that extends beyond the currently approved five-year strategic plan.

## KIRC COMMISSIONERS

Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 6K established the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission to provide oversight, control and management of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve. By statute, the Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Governor provided that:

- One member shall be a member of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;
- Two members shall be appointed from a list provided by the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana;
- One member shall be a trustee or representative of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs;
- One member shall be a county official appointed from a list provided by the Mayor of the county of Maui;
- One member shall be the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and
- One member shall be appointed from a list provided by Native Hawaiian Organizations.

# STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

## FY 2009 to FY 2013

1. Increase the size and sustainability of the trust fund by raising funds through grants, partnerships, and contributions from corporations and private individuals, entering into appropriate strategic alignments and operating agreements that generate revenue without commercial activity on island, and to manage the organization's budget in a manner that protects the trust.
2. To develop and implement a culturally appropriate five-year plan to assess and stabilize cultural sites, archaeological sites, and burials sites, and provide for appropriate access and cultural practices.
3. To develop and maintain appropriate and sustainable infrastructure to provide and maintain an on-island presence for the purpose of managing and protecting the Reserve.
4. To systematically restore the natural resources of the Reserve, including the island and its surrounding waters.
5. To create a five-year written plan to expand the volunteer base and relationships with individuals and organizations in concert with PKO, for the purposes of cultural, natural, and marine resource restoration and other Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices.
6. To develop and implement a measurable education and communication program to deepen understanding for the children and people of Hawai'i and the world of the natural, cultural, historical and, spiritual significance of Kaho'olawe and to aid in the fund development process.
7. To establish a written and measurable enforcement program and network to protect Kaho'olawe and its waters from illegal, inappropriate, and unsafe use.
8. To prepare for the transition of Kaho'olawe to a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.



## KIRC STAFF

*KIRC Ocean Program Staff*

## STATUS REPORT

KIRC staff provides the daily management, operation, and administration functions necessary to protect and maintain the Reserve. Additionally, staff supports the Commissioners by undertaking detailed research, documentation and planning essential to keeping our Commissioners informed, thereby allowing them to focus on the strategic direction of the Reserve.

As a state commission, and placed administratively under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), we are reliant upon the department for a portion of our administrative, fiscal, and personnel support functions. All other functions required to operate the Reserve are conducted from our Wailuku, Maui office.



*Restoration Manager Paul Higashino being interviewed by television news crew.*



This year we pushed further on our philosophy of “doing more with less.” We increased staff cross-training, including a safety stand-down and field training in order to improve staff flexibility and technical skills and to standardize critical emergency response and safety procedures. We encourage cross-utilization of our staff across all programs with a emphasis on traditional Hawaiian cultural perspective woven into our daily operations.

The hard work and dedication of our interns were key to the success of our volunteer program. Without their help in augmenting our over-worked, but dedicated field staff we would not have been able to accommodate the number of volunteers that participated in the Restoration Program.

Our highest Strategic Goal is to increase the size and sustainability of our Trust Fund in order to continue our work into the future. We focused on developing strategic partnerships with Federal and other State agencies to share limited resources. We were successful in developing a federal funding requests, but it occurred in the year that Congress wiped out all non-budgeted requests. We researched and wrote numerous grant applications seeking limited funding dollars in a difficult economy. Lastly, we continued to improve the way we worked to become even more efficient and fiscally responsible.

Though small in number, with flexibility and dedication, our staff continues to accomplish its work and provides the services of a much larger organization.

## Grant Applications for FY 2010

### Currently awarded grants

- 1) Wetland Restoration (NRCS) \$380,400
- 2) Coastal Debris Cleanup (NOAA) \$100,000
- 3) Faunal Restoration (USFWS) \$10,450
- 4) Native Plant Seedlings (Hawaiian Electric Co.) \$5,000
- 5) Native plant Seedlings (Maui County) \$5,000
- 6) Restoration Chipper (USFWS) \$20,000

### Grants awaiting award notification

- 1) B-WET Mālama Kaho‘olawe (NOAA) \$96,000

### Grants submitted in FY 2010 and not awarded

- 1) Proposal for Pilot Project Funding (HCRI) \$1,500,000
- 2) Environmental Education (EPA) \$45,500
- 3) Seabird & Rare Plant Restoration (Cooke Foundation) \$15,000
- 4) Seabird & Rare Plant Restoration (Atherton Foundation) \$15,000
- 5) Education Assistance (A&B) \$10,000
- 6) Education Assistance (Weinberg Foundation) \$10,000
- 7) Education Assistance (Bank of Hawaii) \$10,000
- 8) Education Assistance (First Hawaiian Bank) \$10,000

# STAFF ORGANIZATION

KIRC staff is organized into three branches: Executive, Programs and Operations, and Administration.

The FY 2009 restructuring reduced multiple layers of reporting and consolidated functional area management under three managers: the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Administrative Officer, with each program area, in turn, managed by a Program Manager.

KIRC staff effective beginning of FY 2010:

## *Executive*

Michael Nāho‘opi‘i, Executive Director  
Rowena Somerville, Deputy Attorney General  
Bart Maybee, UXO Safety Specialist  
F. Kahale Saito, Cultural Project Coordinator

## *Programs and Operations*

Michele McLean, Deputy Director  
Dean Tokishi, Ocean Program Manager  
Cheryl King, Ocean Specialist  
Jennifer Vander Veur, Ocean Specialist  
Paul Higashino, Restoration Program Manager  
Lyman Abbott, Restoration Specialist  
Jamie Bruch, Restoration Specialist  
Lopaka White, Restoration Specialist  
Tina Keko‘olani, Access Specialist  
Charlie Lindsey, Vessel Manager  
Keone Laepa‘a, Logistics Specialist  
Grant Thompson, KIR Specialist

## *Administration*

Ka‘ōnohi Lee, Administrative Officer  
Carmela Noneza, GIS/LAN Specialist  
David DeMark, Administrative Specialist  
Mei Mailou Santos, Administrative Specialist



*Staff members in red educating our volunteers on the importance of the numerous native Hawaiian cultural remains scattered across the island and the need to protect them.*

**Emphasis on Safety:** Our volunteers' time on Kaho‘olawe is spent not only working to restore the island's natural environment, but also learning to be good stewards of the land and its cultural remains.

As part of the volunteer experience on Kaho‘olawe, our staff educates visitors on the island's unique and exceptional resources. The core function of our staff is the protection, preservation and restoration of the Reserve's resources. From the rare and endangered plants and wildlife, the pristine coral reefs, to the ever present cultural remains of our native Hawaiian ancestors, our staff is trained and dedicated to their protection. This passion for the land, ocean and past are infused into all aspects of our work and is reflected in work of our volunteers as they apply the stewardship lessons they learned on Kaho‘olawe to their home communities.



*KIRC staff educating volunteers on our various restoration processes including seed-filled mud balls used to plant in the limited-accessible areas of the island.*

# KIRC STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY 2010

**Emphasis on Preparedness:** Working on Kaho'olawe presents its own unique shares of hazards. From the remote and rugged terrain, the lack of major infrastructure, to the remnant unexploded ordnance, our staff needs to be prepared for any and all emergencies. For this reason we spend a considerable amount of time, planning, preparing and training for emergency responses. Field staff are regularly trained on first aid and CPR as well as unexploded ordnance recognition and avoidance. This training and preparedness was most evident as staff and stewardship organization participants evacuated to an inland shelter during the February 2010 tsunami warning.

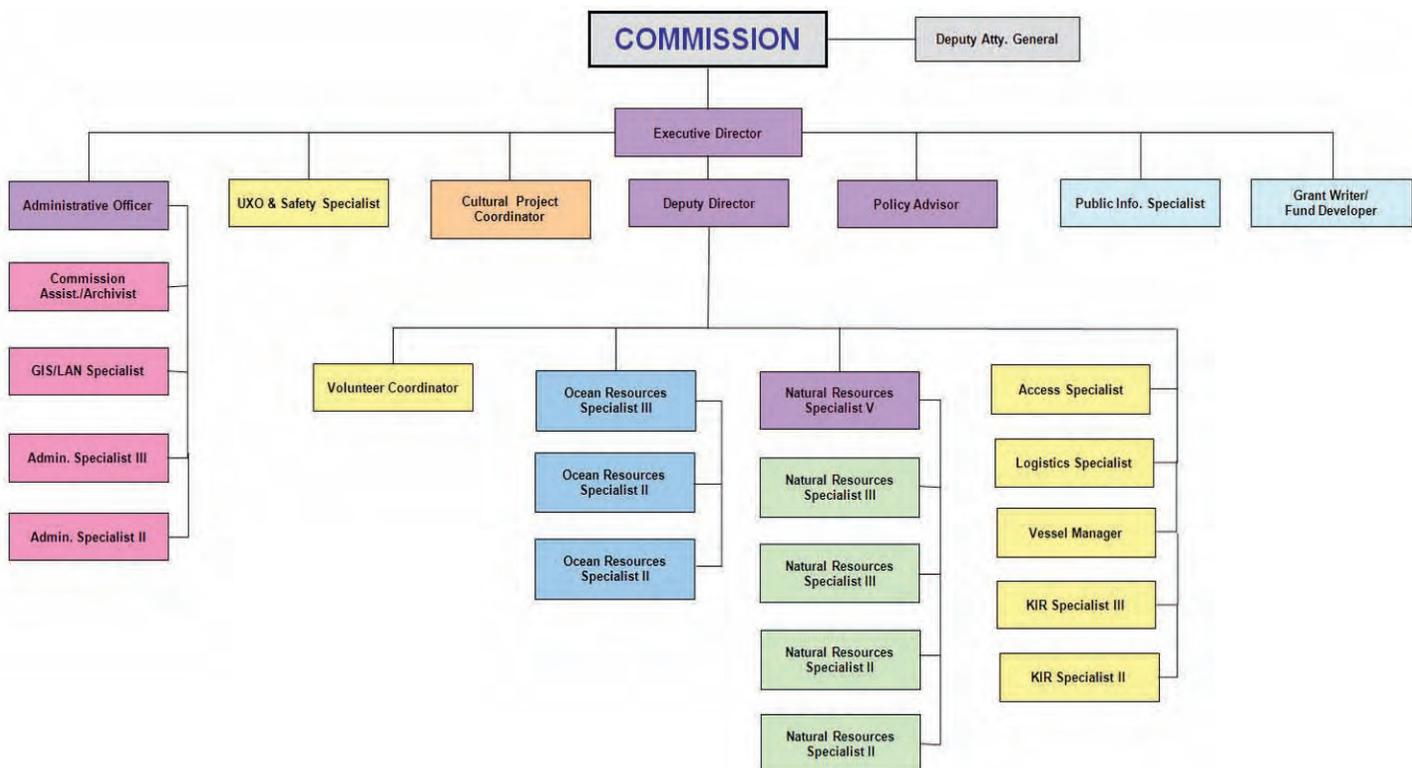


Staff learning the proper methods to move an injured person as part of our regular first aid emergency training.



Ocean Program staff participating in a community outreach event, gaining support for our on-island programs.

**Emphasis on Community Outreach:** Communicating our mission and vision to our family of supporters and garnering public support is an important function of our staff. We are regularly involved in community events to educate the public about our programs. We participate in community-based and governmental working groups to encourage broad community participation in our programs and we regularly publish reports and literature to communicate our work to our large network of supporters.



## KAHO‘OLAWE REHABILITATION TRUST FUND

The majority of the KIRC’s funding is from a limited trust fund established in 1994 during the federal cleanup of Kaho‘olawe. This federal appropriation, totaling \$45 million over a period of several years, even though considerable, was not substantial enough to establish a sustainable endowment for the long-term restoration of Kaho‘olawe.

This has resulted in KIRC seeking the support of many outside sources to help keep the mission alive. In addition to our dependence on the trust fund, we also apply for Federal, State, and County grants, charitable contributions and, since FY 2009, we have developed a fee-based permit system that allows us to recover some of the costs of protecting and restoring Kaho‘olawe.

Hawaii Revised Statutes §6K-9.5

(a) There is created in the state treasury a trust fund to be designated as the Kaho‘olawe rehabilitation trust fund to be administered by the department with the prior approval of the commission. Subject to Public Law 103-139, and this chapter:

- (1) All moneys received from the federal government for the rehabilitation and environmental restoration of the island of Kaho‘olawe or other purposes consistent with this chapter;
- (2) Any moneys appropriated by the legislature to the trust fund;
- (3) Any moneys received from grants, donations, or the proceeds from contributions; and
- (4) The interest or return on investments earned from moneys in the trust fund, shall be deposited in the trust fund and shall be used to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

(b) The commission may use moneys in the trust fund to carry out the purposes of this chapter, including hiring employees, specialists, and consultants necessary to complete projects related to the purposes of this chapter.

(c) Moneys deposited into or appropriated to the trust fund shall remain available until they are obligated or until the trust fund is terminated.



*Indicators of an ecosystem being restored. Koa butterflies (Udara blackburni) are not known to be found on Kaho‘olawe. These two were sighted on island among the planted stands of planted ‘a‘ali‘i (Dodonaea viscosa)*

## STATUS REPORT

As stated in the Federally-mandated Kaho‘olawe Island Conveyance Commission (KICC) final report to Congress in 1993, “in the short term, federal funds will provide the bulk of the program support for specific soil conservation projects and related activities. In the longer term, however, state revenues will be needed to continue and enhance those activities initiated with federal funds.” For the past 16 years, the initial Federal funding has allowed the KIRC to establish many of its innovative programs that emphasize ancestral and traditional knowledge, provide a cultural approach of respect and connectivity to the environment, and integrate ancient and modern resource management techniques.

We continue to seek grant opportunities and to develop diverse means of revenue generation, but with the statutory prohibition on commercial activities within the Reserve, we are limited in our ability to raise funds. This past year, with the help of our supporters in the State Legislature and U.S. Congress, we have been exploring different revenue sources in order to continue our innovative restoration program. So far we have not been able to secure a permanent funding stream, but we will continue seeking alternative solutions. Without secure future funding, we will again be reducing our operations in the next fiscal year in order to extend the life of the trust fund. We will shrink our operations to the minimal core functions that still allow basic environmental restoration, meaningful safe access to the island for a limited number of volunteers, and the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the island and its waters. We are at the point where the state needs to realize the obligation it undertook when they accepted the island back.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

**SIMPLIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b> <sup>1</sup>	Program Grants	1,232.3	379.9	114.4
	Charitable Contributions	2.8	6.4	12.3
	Other Income		44.5	48.9
	Interest on Trust Fund	1,067.7	360.5	211.2
Total Support and Revenue		\$ 2,302.8	\$ 791.3	\$ 386.9

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b> <sup>2</sup>	Commission	294.0	124.7	111.6
	Administration and Support Services	1,097.0	1,149.6	747.5
	Reserve Operations	3,429.7	2,276.9	1,769.6
	Ocean Program	419.5	296.4	241.3
	Restoration Program	211.6	588.6	441.3
	Culture and Education Program	126.5	68.7	106.3
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 5,578.3	\$ 4,504.8	\$ 3,417.5

<i>(for fiscal year ending June 30th in thousands)</i>		FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>TRUST FUND BALANCE</b>	Beginning Balance	23,493.8	20,218.4	16,504.9
	Support and Revenue	2,302.8	791.3	386.9
	Operating Expenses	5,578.3	4,504.8	3,417.5
	Ending Balance	\$ 20,218.4	\$ 16,504.9	\$ 13,474.3

Note 1: Program Grants for FY 2010 included funding from the Hawai'i Department of Health, Clean Water Act; Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Pacific American Foundation. Other Income includes receipts from our fee-based permits for boating registration and access to the Reserve, revenue generated from sales and court-mandated restitution fees.

Note 2: Commission expenses include Commissioner travel and expenses and support from the State Attorney General. Administration and Support Services include costs of maintaining the Wailuku Office, Executive and Administrative staffing, Outreach and Fund Development and all environmental and infrastructure planning. Reserve Operations include all costs of maintaining and supporting the Kihei site, Kaho'olawe-based facilities and infrastructure, including transportation, safety and volunteer coordination. Programs includes management, labor, materials, equipment and other costs to support specific programs.

## DONATING TO THE TRUST FUND

Help support the healing of Kaho'olawe by making a monetary contribution to the Kaho'olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund. Visit our website at: [www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov](http://www.kahoolawe.hawaii.gov) for sponsorship information or mail your donation directly to the address on the back of this report.

You can also make a contribution of new or used equipment to support your favorite program. Download our KIRC Wish List to see what equipment is needed by your favorite program.

Lastly, you can also make a one-time or monthly donation or establish an employer partnership through the Hawaiian Way Fund at [www.hawaiianwayfund.org](http://www.hawaiianwayfund.org), Donor Designation No. 130.

The KIRC is a 170(c)(1), a government agency authorized per IRS Publication 557 to receive tax-deductible contributions to its public purpose programs - such as Cultural, Ocean Resources, Restoration, Reserve Operations and the Reserve Education, Admin Center & Museum Building Program. As with all contributions, donors should always consult with their tax advisors before claiming any tax-deductible charitable contributions.

THE MISSION OF  
THE KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION

*Our mission is to implement the vision for Kaho'olawe, in which the kino  
of Kanaloa is restored and nā po'e Hawai'i care for the land.*

*We pledge to provide for the meaningful, safe use of Kaho'olawe for the  
purposes of the traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian  
people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters.*

*Established 1993*



**KAHO'OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**  
(as of December 31, 2010)

Craig Neff, *Chairperson*  
Amber Nāmaka Whitehead, *Vice-Chairperson*  
William J. Aila, Jr.  
Colette Y. Machado  
Davianna McGregor  
Milton M. Arakawa, A.I.C.P.  
Ka'iulani Murphy

Michael K. Nāho'opi'i  
*Executive Director*

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