Past Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana Journeys
Since November 1984 the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana has hosted a range of communities from Hawaiʻi, the Pacific, and around the world:
- Public and private intermediate and high school students, home and charter school students, and college and university students
- Hālau hula, kapa beaters, wood workers, navigators, fishermen, stone workers, Hawaiian language speakers and canoe paddlers.

Mission of the Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana
To perpetuate Aloha ʻĀina throughout our islands through cultural, educational, and spiritual activities that heal and revitalize the cultural and natural resources on Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe.

Protect Kahoʻolawe ʻOhana as Kahuʻāina
In our work to heal Kahoʻolawe, we strengthen our relationship with the land and pay respect to our spirits of the land. On our own islands, we work to protect the natural and cultural resources of our ancestral lands.

Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe
In recognition of Kaho'olawe as a sacred body form of Kanaloa, Hawaiian god of the ocean Hawaiian ancestors named the island Kohemālamalama O Kanaloa. It was a center for training navigators in celestial way finding across the vast Pacific, these navigational practices are still occurring today.

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Background

Protect Kahoʻolawe ‘Ohana
Founded in 1976, the Protect Kahoʻolawe ‘Ohana (‘Ohana) spearheaded the grassroots movement to stop the bombing of the island of Kahoʻolawe by the U.S. Navy.

- Through the efforts of the community and the ‘Ohana, the bombing of Kahoʻolawe was successfully stopped in 1990.
- For 37 years and ongoing, the ‘Ohana provides stewardship of the island’s cultural and natural resources and ‘iwi kūpuna through work and ceremonies.
- The ‘Ohana has safely involved more than 15,000 community participants from all islands and backgrounds in cultural and educational stewardship ha‘a‘a‘i.
- In 1993, the Hawai‘i Legislature established the island of Kahoʻolawe as a cultural reserve and trust for the sovereign Hawaiian nation. The island of Kahoʻolawe is managed separately from other state lands by the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) for eventual transfer to the sovereign Hawaiian governing entity.

Ongoing

Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe Educational Center
The sacred, environmental and cultural resources of Kahoʻolawe provide unique ha‘a‘a‘i opportunities for many (right).

Ka ‘Ai a Kanaloa
To manage the ocean resources of Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe, the ‘Ohana organizes beach and shoreline clean-ups (above) and check dams for erosion control (below). In addition, the ‘Ohana also monitors and eradicates land and ocean based invasive species while identifying key indicators of reef health.

Legislative Goals

1. Confirmation of ‘Ohana nominees Nāmaka Whitehead and Christopher Kaliko Baker, both appointed by Governor Abercrombie, to the Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission.

2. The federal trust monies for the restoration of Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe will run out at the end of 2013-2015 biennium. The ‘Ohana advocates for the provision of State of Hawai‘i resources to manage Kanaloa Kahoʻolawe during the transition to the sovereign entity as envisioned in Act 195, through the Kana‘iolowalu Roll Commission, and other community efforts.


4. Support Aloha ‘Āina initiatives throughout Hawai‘i