

Accomplishments of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana

Cultural Practices and Ceremonies



- The Makahiki rains of Lono season is celebrated as an annual ceremony. Participants call upon the god Lono for his rains that soften the earth to receive the plants that will revive Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe. A new generation has been trained to carry on this responsibility.



- An annual first rains and planting ceremony was established with the support of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) to call the rains of the god Kāne to raise the water table of the island.



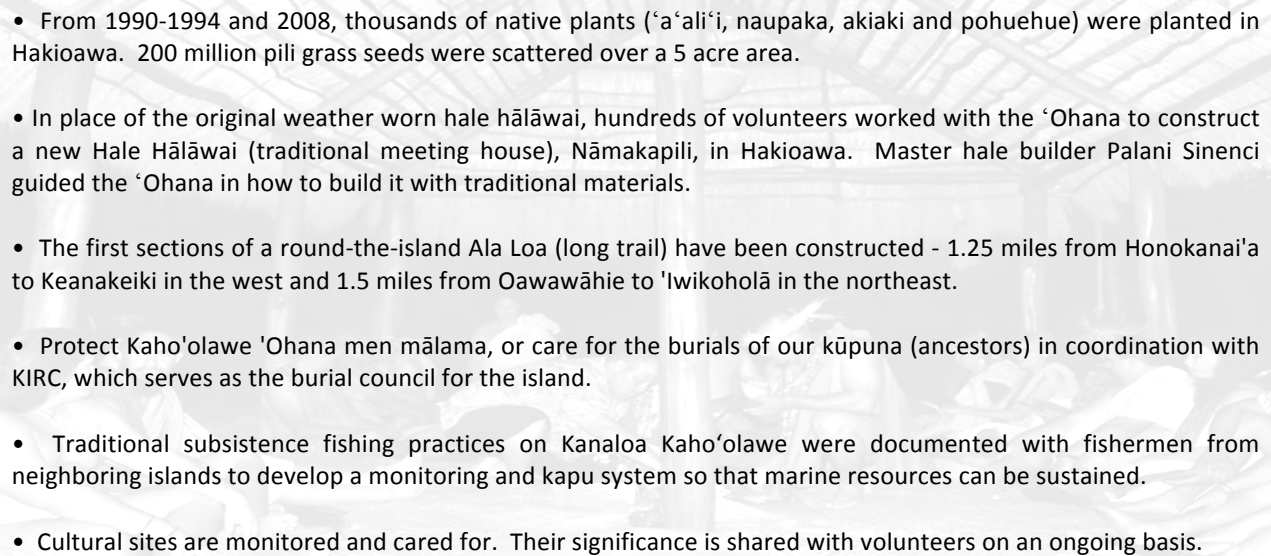
- Mua Ha'i Kūpuna (monument), Kahualele was dedicated in August 1992 at Hakioawa in the northeast. In an 'awa ceremony on the mua, major decision makers, including Senator Daniel Inouye, Governor John Waihe'e, then Congressman Neil Abercrombie and trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs made commitments to do all in their power to protect Kaho‘olawe from further abuse and restore the island to the people of Hawai'i. A new mua will be dedicated on October 22, 2011 at Honokanai'a in the west.



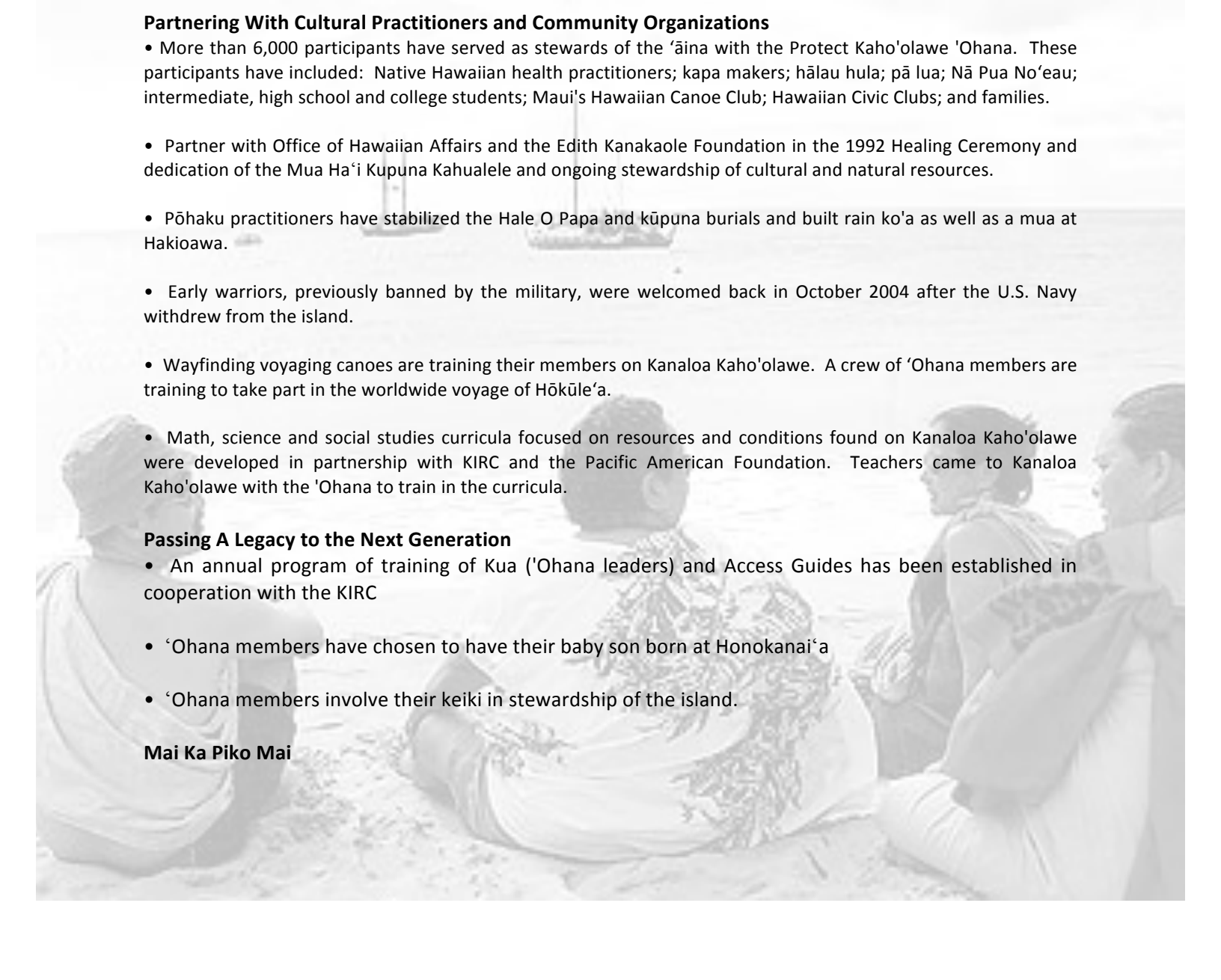
- Kahua Kuhike'e, a navigator training platform was constructed at Kealaikahiki (western point of the island which means the pathway to Tahiti) to re-establish Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe as a traditional center for training in celestial navigation. The family of voyaging canoes have re-connected with the navigating tradition of Kanaloa, the Hawaiian god of the ocean for whom the island was originally named.

Kahu 'Āina (Stewardship)

- A collaborative working relationship of the 'Ohana and the KIRC under a Palapala 'Aelike, or Stewardship Agreement, is enhancing the restoration of the island.
- From 1990 - 1994 a surface water catchment and water tank, called Wailuna, was installed on a ridge above Hakioawa. Gully and erosion control measures were installed. A drip irrigation system was installed for native plants in Hakioawa. In 2008, a 1600 square foot water catchment was constructed in Hakioawa and the Wailuna water tank relined to provide irrigation for native plants. The historic well is flushed out and monitored throughout the year.

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- From 1990-1994 and 2008, thousands of native plants (‘a‘ali‘i, naupaka, akiaki and pohuehue) were planted in Hakioawa. 200 million pili grass seeds were scattered over a 5 acre area.
 - In place of the original weather worn hale hālāwai, hundreds of volunteers worked with the ‘Ohana to construct a new Hale Hālāwai (traditional meeting house), Nāmakapili, in Hakioawa. Master hale builder Palani Sinenci guided the ‘Ohana in how to build it with traditional materials.
 - The first sections of a round-the-island Ala Loa (long trail) have been constructed - 1.25 miles from Honokanai‘a to Keanakeiki in the west and 1.5 miles from Oawawāhie to 'Iwikoholā in the northeast.
 - Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana men mālama, or care for the burials of our kūpuna (ancestors) in coordination with KIRC, which serves as the burial council for the island.
 - Traditional subsistence fishing practices on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe were documented with fishermen from neighboring islands to develop a monitoring and kapu system so that marine resources can be sustained.
 - Cultural sites are monitored and cared for. Their significance is shared with volunteers on an ongoing basis.

Partnering With Cultural Practitioners and Community Organizations

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- More than 6,000 participants have served as stewards of the ‘āina with the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana. These participants have included: Native Hawaiian health practitioners; kapa makers; hālau hula; pā lua; Nā Pua No‘eau; intermediate, high school and college students; Maui's Hawaiian Canoe Club; Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and families.
 - Partner with Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Edith Kanakaole Foundation in the 1992 Healing Ceremony and dedication of the Mua Ha‘i Kupuna Kahualele and ongoing stewardship of cultural and natural resources.
 - Pōhaku practitioners have stabilized the Hale O Papa and kūpuna burials and built rain ko'a as well as a mua at Hakioawa.
 - Early warriors, previously banned by the military, were welcomed back in October 2004 after the U.S. Navy withdrew from the island.
 - Wayfinding voyaging canoes are training their members on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. A crew of ‘Ohana members are training to take part in the worldwide voyage of Hōkūle‘a.
 - Math, science and social studies curricula focused on resources and conditions found on Kanaloa Kaho'olawe were developed in partnership with KIRC and the Pacific American Foundation. Teachers came to Kanaloa Kaho'olawe with the 'Ohana to train in the curricula.

Passing A Legacy to the Next Generation

- An annual program of training of Kua ('Ohana leaders) and Access Guides has been established in cooperation with the KIRC
- ‘Ohana members have chosen to have their baby son born at Honokanai‘a
- ‘Ohana members involve their keiki in stewardship of the island.

Mai Ka Piko Mai

Kanaloa Kaho'olawe has inspired Makahiki ceremonies and aloha 'āina (stewardship) practices throughout our islands. The island has changed the lives of many who hold positions of influence in the Hawaiian community.

The Dawn of A New Era For Kanaloa Kaho'olawe

Under Hawai'i law, the State of Hawai'i holds Kaho'olawe in trust for eventual transfer to the sovereign Hawaiian entity when it is re-established and recognized by the federal and state governments. Passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act (Akaka Bill) will lay the foundation for this transition process and eventual transfer.

October 22, 2010 to October 22, 2011 will be the Year of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe. The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, in conjunction with the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, will engage in a strategic planning process that will seek broad community input to envision the future of the island.

The centerpiece of the strategic plan is the Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa cultural plan developed by the Edith Kanakaole Foundation. (see <http://kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/access.shtml>)

The plan recommends re-establishing Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a sacred island and center for learning the indigenous scientific and cultural knowledge of Hawaiian ancestors. For example, Kanaloa Kaho'olawe was a center for observing the seasonal and annual paths of the sun, moon and stars in developing the solar and lunar calendars. It was also a center for training navigators in wayfinding across the Pacific. By immersing oneself in the natural elements on the island, one can experience the universe as our Hawaiian ancestors did and gain insight into the wisdom which our ancestors passed down to us in the island's cultural sites, oli and mo'olelo.

Additional Mana'o (Ideas)

- Establish Kanaloa Kaho'olawe as a Pu'uhonua for cultural and natural resources and for indigenous Hawaiian knowledge, practices and learning.
- Clear and stabilize more cultural sites in Hakioawa. Protect and utilize key sites across the island that play a role in the observation of the equinoxes and solstices.
- Finish construction of the Ala Loa (island circuit trail) completely around the Island.
- Assure that the island is in excellent condition for transfer to the sovereign Hawaiian entity - with a sustainable energy source; recognized enforcement of marine resources and an infrastructure for the restoration of the 'āina
- Continue the stewardship of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana as Kahu 'Āina (stewards and caretakers of the land)

Mele O Kaho'olawe: by Uncle Harry Mitchell

Aloha ku'u moku o Kaho'olawe
Mai kinohi kou inoa o Kanaloa
Kohemālamalama
Lau kanaka 'ole
Hiki mai nā pua
E ho'omalū mai

Alu like kākou Lāhui Hawai'i
Mai ka lā hiki mai, i ka lā kau a'e
Kūpa'a a hahai ho'ikaika nā kānaka
Kau li'i mākou
Nui ke aloha no ka 'āina

*Hanohano nā pua o Hui Ala Loa
No ke kauhōlo me Ke aupuni
Pa'apū ka mana'o
No ka pono o ka 'āina
Imua nā pua
Lanakila Kaho'olawe

*Repeat with first line as:
Hanohano nā pua o Hawai'i Nei

I love my island Kaho'olawe
Your original name was Kanaloa
You are the southern beacon
Barren and without a population
Until you were invaded by nine young men
Who granted you peace

Let us band together the Hawaiian Nation
From sun up to sun down
Stand together, follow, be strong young people
We are but a few in number
But our love for the land is unlimited

Popular are the young people of Hui Ala Loa
For the civil strife they cause against the Government
Together in one thought
For righteousness for the land
Forward young people and bring
Salvation/Victory to Kaho'olawe

Popular are the young people of Hawai'i Nei