



KAHOʻOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE FY20 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

July 2019 — June 2020

Kahoʻolawe Island Reserve Commission
Kūkulu ke ea a Kanaloa - The life and spirit of Kanaloa



State of Hawaiʻi



ALOHA



FY20 Commissioners (from top) Chair Josh Kaakua (PKO), Mikiala Pescaia (PKO), Jonathan Ching (PKO), Saumalu Mataafa (Maui County), Vice Chair Carmen Hulu Lindsey (OHA), Hōkūlani Holt (NHO), and Suzanna Case (DLNR).

Aloha mai kākou,

Friends and ‘ohana, we are connected to each other in our interest, aloha, and care for the special ‘āina of Kaho‘olawe.

On behalf of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, I present the KIRC FY20 Year-In-Review that conveys the KIRC’s financial position, our core activities (ocean, restoration, cultural, operations, and administration programs), and the dedicated work of our staff, volunteers and partners.

FY20 marked a year of resilience. We highlight the impact and recovery of a February 2020 brush fire that consumed nearly a third of the island’s surface. Then, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us all to immediately adjust operations, community health and safety processes, and prepare to face new challenges and opportunities.

This year also marked the 30th anniversary of stopping the bombing of Kaho‘olawe, officially halted by executive order of George Bush in 1990, as well as the 40th anniversary of the consent decree between the U.S. Navy and the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana to begin conservation and allow access in 1980.

The mission of the KIRC, established in 1993, remains unchanged: to implement the vision for Kaho‘olawe, in which the kino of Kanaloa is restored, and na po‘e Hawai‘i care for the land. Looking back on 2020, I am proud of the work of the KIRC staff and our partners. We have come a long way, yet we have a long way to go. The words of Uncle Harry Kunihi Mitchell in Mele O Kaho‘olawe encourage us to be resilient and steadfast in the face of adversity: “Imua nā pua, Lanakila Kaho‘olawe!”

— Joshua Kaakua, KIRC Chair

After 34 years of service with the State of Hawai‘i, Ka‘ōnohi Lee retired in December. Ms. Lee has been with the KIRC for the last 19 years, starting as the Commission Assistant when the clean-up was still in progress. A graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kāpalama, Ka‘ōnohi earned a degree in Sociology & Psychology, but chose to work in the Administrative side of public service. Her experience and knowledge will be missed! We at the KIRC wish her all the best!



Kamehameha Schools Kumu building wattles in the DOH 4 work site above Hakioawa.

Kūkulu Ke Ea A Kanaloa



The life & spirit of Kanaloa builds and takes form

The KIRC implements the vision for Kaho'olawe by providing for the meaningful, safe use of the island to conduct traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters.



Aloha mai kākou,

Fiscal Year 2020 will be marked as a year of abrupt changes for life on Kaho'olawe. The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) looked forward to continuing its many successes from the past few years. The KIRC was successful in securing additional operating funds and in establishing the Cultural Resource Project Coordinator's position within the KIRC. In the field, staff started its

second year of the successful Native Dryland Forest Restoration project and were planning several additional restoration projects.

As the 2020 legislative session started, there was a strong possibility to establish the KIRC's new operating funds as part of its baseline funding and to increase its state supported funding, but through a combination of two major disasters that outlook significantly changed. The first occurred on February 22, 2020 when a major wildfire broke out on the western end of Kaho'olawe. Due to the intensity and extent of the fire, and due to the presence of unexploded ordnances in the uncleared areas that were burning, firefighting efforts were delayed. Initially, it seemed like most of the on-island infrastructure appeared to have been spared from the flames, but in later days the fire reversed course and destroyed our upland storage facility as well as all the materials, equipment and vehicles stored there. After six days and over 9,000 acres of Kaho'olawe having been burned, the weather eventually turned, and the fire was finally extinguished.

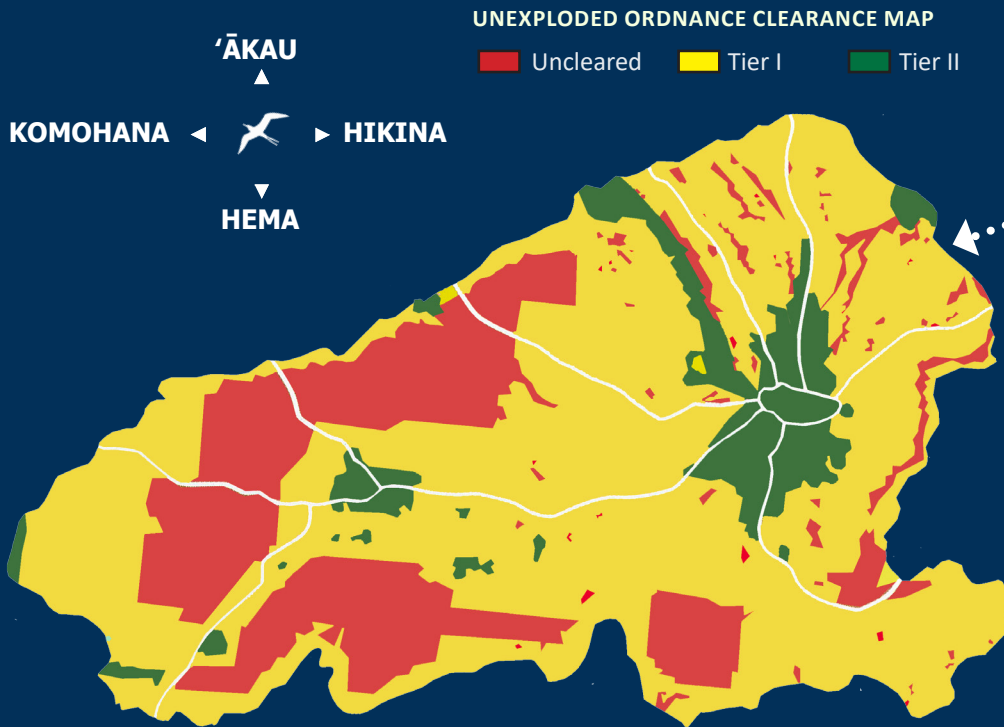
Clean up efforts began immediately and staff sought emergency funding to aid in recovery efforts. The recovery effort was then quickly shutdown as the impact of the COVID-19 virus hit Hawaii and essentially shut down all restoration and fire recovery efforts. The additional funds staff planned to pursue for expanding field operations and for fire recovery quickly disappeared as state general fund revenues sank with the state-wide shutdown and shelter in-place order.

Adversity and unique challenges have always been a part of Kaho'olawe's history. Overcoming difficulty is part of the KIRC's DNA and as we approached the end of fiscal year, staff developed many new procedures to reopen our on-island operations. The next few years are going to be exceedingly challenging as we slowly recover from the impact of COVID-19 including one of the biggest economic recessions in our current history while still recovering from the impact of the February 2020 wildfire. It will be rough going for the next few years. The KIRC's priorities will be to continue restoration efforts and keep the island open for limited public access. We will need much help and support from our friends to make it through these trying times. We will be reaching out to all of our current and past volunteers to help us continue our mission of I Ola Kanaloa, life to Kanaloa-Kaho'olawe.

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

KIRC Natural Resource Specialist James Bruch flying a drone over DOH 4.

ABOUT



17
years managing Kaho'olawe restoration

14,703
volunteers escorted & trained on-island

53
tons of marine debris removed

473,218
native plants (re) introduced

Kaho'olawe is the smallest of the eight main islands in the Hawaiian Archipelago. Eleven miles long, seven miles wide and comprised of 28,800 acres, the island is of volcanic origin with the highest elevation at 1,477 feet. Its slopes are fissured with gulches 50 to 200 feet deep and formidable cliffs dominate the east and south coast. Approximately 30% of the island is barren due to severe erosion.

Following 200 years of uncontrolled grazing, Kaho'olawe and its surrounding waters were under the control of the U.S. Navy from 1941 to 1994, and were used as a live-fire training area. Despite clearance efforts, unexploded ordnance (UXO) is still present and continues to pose a threat to the safety of anyone accessing the island or its waters.

A decades-long struggle by the people of Hawai'i, particularly the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (PKO), succeeded in stopping the bombing of Kaho'olawe and helped to spark the rebirth and spread of Native Hawaiian culture and values. A 1993 act of Congress conveyed Kaho'olawe back to the State of Hawai'i, but allowed the Navy to retain control of the island through 2003 while it conducted a 10-year cleanup of UXO.

A treasured resource for all of Hawai'i's people, Kaho'olawe is of tremendous significance to the Native Hawaiian people. In recognition of the special cultural and historic status of Kaho'olawe, the island and the waters within 2 nautical miles of its shores were designated by the State of Hawai'i as the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve in 1993, to allow for the preservation of traditional Native Hawaiian cultural, spiritual and subsistence purposes, rights and practices.

In 1994, the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was established by the State of Hawai'i, under the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 6K, to manage Kaho'olawe, its surrounding waters, and its resources, in trust for the general public and for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.

The mission of the KIRC is to provide safe, meaningful use of Kaho'olawe for traditional and cultural practices of the Native Hawaiian people, and to undertake the restoration of the island and its waters.



Native plants on irrigation in the CIP work area.

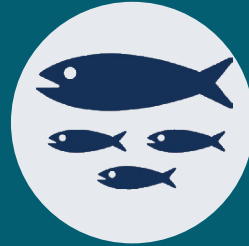
CORE PROGRAMS



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



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



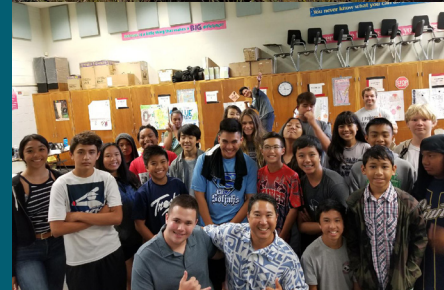
The **OCEAN** Program manages marine resources within the Reserve, fostering ancestral knowledge while integrating both ancient and modern resource management techniques.



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



The **ADMINISTRATION** Program supports all KIRC programs while also managing volunteers, GIS mapping, community outreach, library, archive and collections management, fund development, finance and human resources.



Images, from top: Logistics Specialist, Grant Thompson, setting a mooring in Honokanai`a; Maui Ocean Center volunteers laying sandbags at the Pökāneloa Stone; marine debris found during a reef survey; Ka Ipu a Kāne rain ko`a; Ocean Program Manager, Dean Tokishi, with students from the Maui Police Department Summer Leadership Institute.

View of Moa`ula Iki.

“Being Hawaiian and being up at Moa’ula Iki, it brings you to this realization moment that this is my culture and this is what I have to perpetuate. In taking my time to be out there and to be with Kanaloa, and respect him, I was able to reflect upon the things I can do in my community to benefit my culture and benefit my land.”

~ Mehana, KIRC volunteer



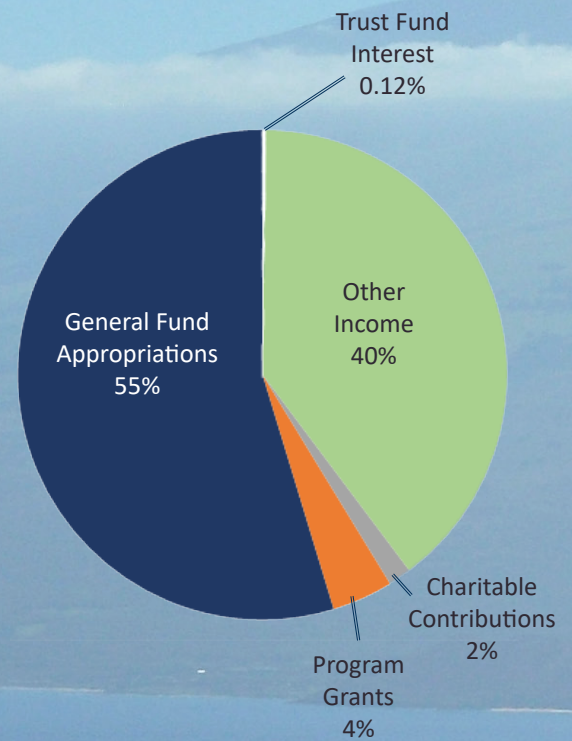
FUNDING

In 1993, 11% of the U.S. Navy’s \$400M federal unexploded ordnance clean-up budget was allocated to the newly established Kaho’olawe Island Reserve Commission by the Hawai’i State Legislature. This one time \$44M allowance became the Kaho’olawe Rehabilitation Trust Fund, earmarked to carry out long-term environmental restoration, archaeological and educational activities on Kaho’olawe while held in trust for a future Native Hawaiian sovereign entity.

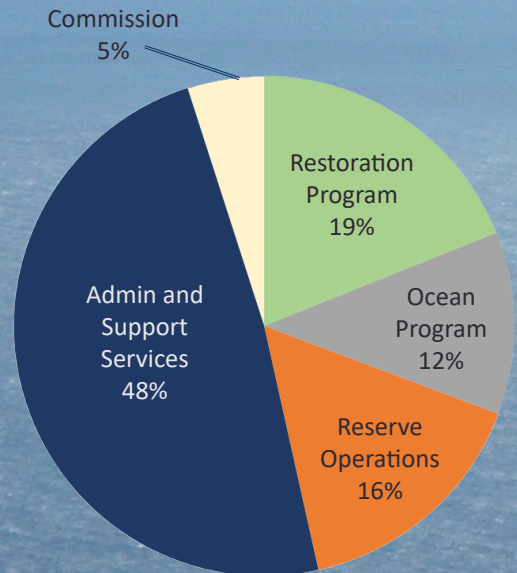
Though the Fund seemed considerable, it was not substantial enough to establish an endowment for the long-term restoration of the island. In 2014, the KIRC partnered with the Protect Kaho’olawe ‘Ohana and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to publish *I Ola Kanaloa!*, a collaborative plan for the Kaho’olawe Island Reserve through 2026. With refined goals and objectives, the KIRC presented a self-sustainability financial plan to the Hawai’i State Legislator in 2016.

Supported by an *Aloha Kaho’olawe* campaign, which called for memberships, shared information and public testimony to affirm the KIRC’s restoration and access programs, the State authorized permanent funding for KIRC staff and additional CIP funding for KIRC operations in 2018. Even with state funding though, the KIRC still relies on funds raised through donations, grants and memberships.

SUPPORT & REVENUE



OPERATING EXPENSES



STATE FUNDED PROJECTS

GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

	STATE FUNDED PROJECTS	GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS
TITLE	DRYLAND FOREST RESTORATION	KAHO’OLAWE LIVING LIBRARY EXPANSION
SOURCE	Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Funding	Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
DURATION	2 years (FY19 & FY20)	3 years (FY19, FY20, FY21)
AMOUNT	\$1.5M	\$75,000

SUPPORT & REVENUE	FY18	FY19	FY20
General Fund Appropriations	\$1,308,370	\$1,227,677	\$1,104,258
Program Grants	\$189,177	\$83,465	\$81,435
Charitable Contributions	\$13,012	\$22,015	\$30,743
Other Income	\$40,320	\$64,752	\$800,000
Interest on Trust Fund	\$1,845	\$3,958	\$2,438
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,552,724	\$1,401,867	\$2,018,873

OPERATING EXPENSES	FY18	FY19	FY20
Commission	\$45,357	\$57,806	\$53,756
Admin & Support Services	\$455,319	\$466,784	\$526,192
Reserve Operations	\$513,762	\$401,506	\$171,211
Ocean Program	\$114,221	\$113,309	\$128,015
Restoration Program	\$189,272	\$235,353	\$205,156
Cultural Program	\$145,628	\$52,996	\$0*
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,510,781	\$1,327,754	\$1,084,331

TRUST FUND BALANCE	FY18	FY19	FY20
Beginning Balance	\$415,048	\$504,212	\$578,324
Support & Revenue	\$1,552,724	\$1,401,867	\$2,018,873
Operating Expenses	\$1,463,558	\$1,327,754	\$1,084,331
Ending Balance	\$504,212	\$578,324	\$1,512,867

*The KIRC Cultural Resources Project Coordinator position was vacant during FY20.



40%
INCREASE
IN CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS

In November 2019, Bayer's Monsanto pleaded guilty to spraying, transporting and storing a banned pesticide at research facilities on Maui and Moloka'i. As part of the settlement, Monsanto agreed to make \$4 million in community service payments to local government. The KIRC was one of five state agencies to receive a \$800,000 lump sum.

"Your mind is set free on Kaho'olawe. Totally free, and that's what I believe in. I believe in freedom and this is where I found it .

~ Rae Kamai, KIRC volunteer

MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL IN KANAPOU

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

27 months (FY19, FY20, FY21)

\$76,025

MARINE SCIENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FROM A HAWAIIAN PERSPECTIVE ON KAHO'OLAWE

NOAA MET Mini-Grant Program

2 years (FY20, FY21)

\$15,000



MIN

The KIRC vessel Ōhua at the Kīhei boat ramp.



K.I.R.C.
STATE OF HAWAII

RESERVE OPERATIONS



CORE RESPONSIBILITIES:

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



ŌHUA

38-FT LANDING CRAFT
PAYLOAD CAPACITY: 15,000-lb
PASSENGER CAPACITY: 28
RUNS PER MONTH (FY20): 5



HONOKANAI`A BASE CAMP

(STATS FOR FY20)
WATER MADE THROUGH
REVERSE OSMOSIS: 38,000-gal
MEALS SERVED: 3,900 plates
PROPANE CONSUMED: 300-gal
(IN MEAL PREPARATION)
DIESEL BURNED: 420-gal
(BY GENERATOR)





625
COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEERS

Kamehameha Schools Kumu dying fabric in the lepo on Kaho'olawe.

AOTEAROA



5

KAUAI



24

MAUI NUI



185

O'AHU



305

HAWAII



104

CONTINENT



3

FY20 VOLUNTEER GROUPS AND PARTNERS

- ATC Makena
- Aloha 'Aina Innovation Academy
- Dawson
- Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)
- Hawaiian Canoe Club
- Hawai'i Trail and Mountain Club
- Hui Nalu Canoe Club
- Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows
- Kamehameha Schools Kumu Cohort
- Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)
- Maui Jim Wahine Paddlers

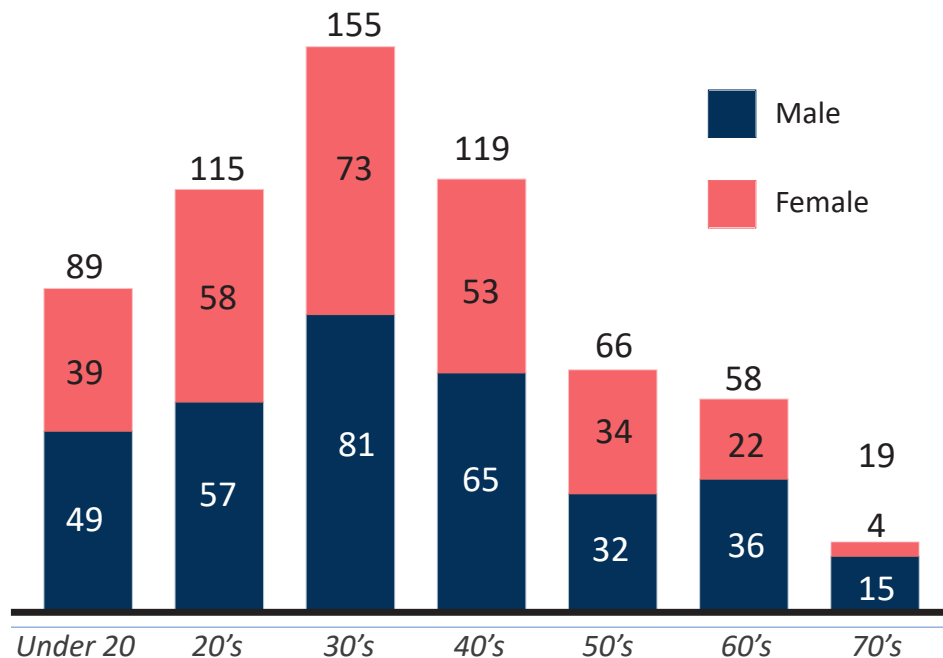
- Maui Ocean Center
- Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project (MNSRP)
- Na Koa (National Guard)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- Native Nursery, LLC
- Papio
- Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
- Pueo Program
- St. Anthony's School
- Team Kaua'i



VOLUNTEER WORKFORCE

The KIRC has been tasked with a monumental endeavor that has and will continue to require thousands of hands over several generations to accomplish. By partnering with community groups, school groups, professional organizations, conservation agencies, foundations and public outlets, the KIRC is able to fulfill its mission of providing safe and meaningful access to the public, to foster a culture of stewardship and conservation for Kaho'olawe and for all of Hawai'i's cultural and natural resources.

To date, more than 14,000 volunteers have been welcomed, trained and safely engaged in the restoration and revitalization of hundreds of acres of Kaho'olawe's wetlands, watersheds and reefs. Countless others have actively participated in education and outreach efforts both on and off-island, inspiring residents and visitors about the important history, culture and ecology offered by the Reserve.



"I learned a lot. I will use this `ike by sharing it and bringing awareness to the story of Kaho'olawe so it can be prevented elsewhere."

~ Kamehameha Schools Kumu

KIRC Volunteers passing sandbags to build kipuka in the CIP work area.

FACING THE FIRE

Image of the KIRC "Squid" storage facility prior to the February 2020 fire.



More than

9,000 acres burned

resulting in over

\$1,300,000 in damages and losses.



In February, a fire of unknown origin broke out in Kealaikahiki on the southwest end of Kaho'olawe. Unfortunately, due to the danger posed by the presence of unexploded ordnance, firefighting crews were unable to actively fight the fire on the ground or by air. The fire burned for 6 straight days and consumed nearly a third of the island's surface before the weather turned and brought rain to extinguish the flames.

Although the KIRC's Honokanai`a Base Camp located on the southwestern end of the island was spared by the fire, the KIRC's upland field storage area, commonly known as LZ Squid, suffered the complete loss of several storage structures, along with all of the equipment, supplies and materials stored in these buildings (pictured). The KIRC also lost several motor vehicles, pieces of construction equipment, and all-terrain vehicles used to maintain the island infrastructure and carry out restoration efforts. The total amount in damages was estimated at over \$1.3 million.



**1 Commercial
Chipper
\$20,000**



**6 Crew Cab
UTV's
\$105,000**



**2 Jetskis, Trailers
and Equipment
\$75,000**

COPING WITH COVID



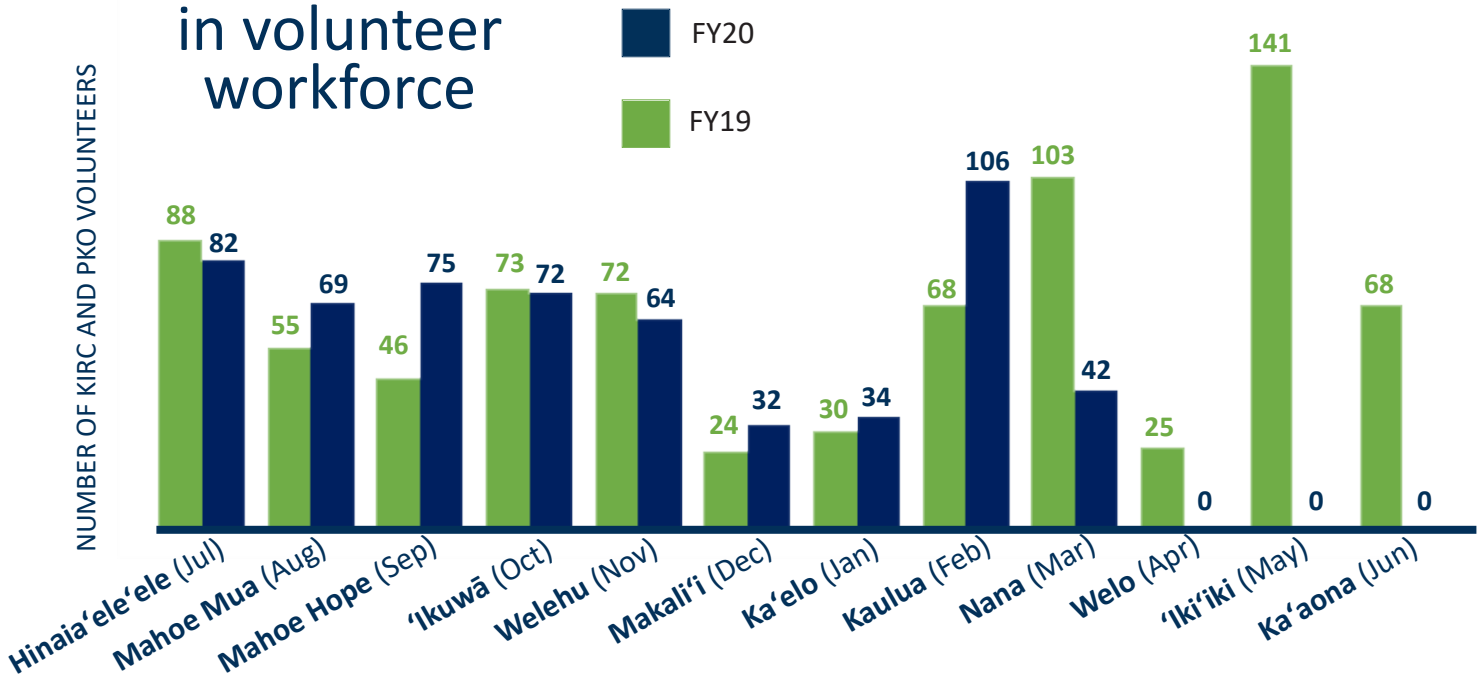
The KIRC was able to continue our essential services by allowing remote telecommuting for all personnel and holding all staff and commission meetings online, as well as implementing health, safety and sanitation protocols and procedures at all KIRC facilities on Maui and Kaho'olawe.

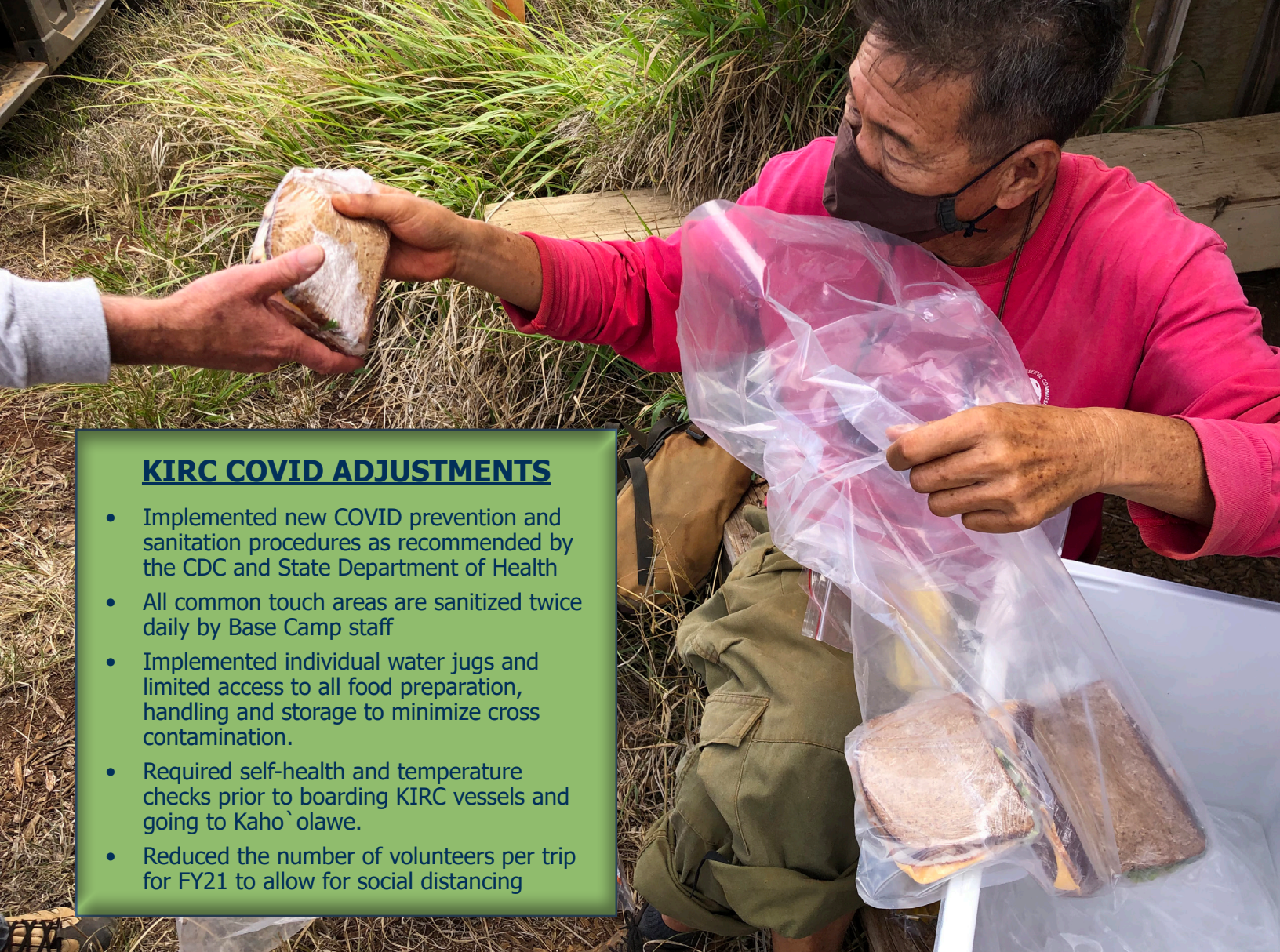


FY19 vs. **FY20**
 783 volunteers vs. 625 volunteers

20%
 REDUCTION
 in volunteer
 workforce

Beginning in April 2020, all Kaho'olawe volunteer accesses were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The KIRC staff used this pause to develop and test safety and sanitation protocols and procedures that will allow the KIRC volunteer program to resume in early FY21 in compliance with recommendations from the CDC and Hawai'i State Department of Health.





KIRC COVID ADJUSTMENTS

- Implemented new COVID prevention and sanitation procedures as recommended by the CDC and State Department of Health
- All common touch areas are sanitized twice daily by Base Camp staff
- Implemented individual water jugs and limited access to all food preparation, handling and storage to minimize cross contamination.
- Required self-health and temperature checks prior to boarding KIRC vessels and going to Kaho`olawe.
- Reduced the number of volunteers per trip for FY21 to allow for social distancing

Images, clockwise from top right: Kanaloa Working Group Zoom meeting; Restoration Manager, Paul Higashino, attending the Kanaloa Working Group meeting via Zoom from the KIRC conference room; Paul Higashino, KIRC COVID lunch officer, handing out field lunches; KIRC staff wearing face masks and following sanitation and social distancing protocols on Kaho`olawe.



DRYLAND FOREST RESTORATION PROJECT



FY20 PROGRESS

- ☑ 9,500 native plants outplanted in mauka project areas along irrigation lines; in rivulets, wadis and kīpuka; in and around vegetated hummocks
- ☑ 13 native plant species outplanted in mauka project areas, including wiliwili, kāwelu, pili, ‘ewa hinahina, koai‘e, kulu‘i, ‘āweoweo, ‘ohe makai, a‘ali‘i, ‘uki‘uki, u‘ulei, ‘ōhai, kāmanomano
- ☑ Use of reabsorbed water crystals for planting without irrigation
- ☑ Construction of soil erosion control features in bare hardpan areas and around the Pökāneloa Stone
- ☑ Management and removal of invasive weeds along Kuamo‘o Road and in the Pökāneloa area
- ☑ On-going documentation and monitoring of project progress and forest growth to comply with historic preservation and environmental requirements



Images, clockwise from top: Outplanted natural wadi and check dam; volunteers watering previously planted kīpuka; Maui Ocean Center Volunteers filling sand bags for use in erosion control; volunteers seeding newly built kīpuka in the CIP work area.

BACKGROUND

In FY18, the KIRC was appropriated CIP funding from the State for the Kaho'olawe Native Dryland Forest Project, which allowed for the significant expansion of our current irrigation system, ultimately extending our reach into new hardpan areas in the Kamōhio Watershed, where new dryland forest planting areas could be established. This project, with its dedicated funding, manpower and supplies, has provided a large leap forward in the re-greening of the island – KIRC'S main priority in the collaborative *I Ola Kanaloa* plan through 2026.



“If you even just spend a day out here, it’s going to affect you in the right way. You’re going to feel good about what you’ve done. When you get home, if you keep that energy and that spirit going and give back at home, you know that good things are going to come.”

~ Jason Dameron, KIRC volunteer



WHAT'S NEXT?

In FY21, the KIRC Restoration team will continue the expansion of plantings into the Kamōhio Watershed area, working in areas where soil has been caught by erosion control devices and in natural wadis. The KIRC staff will also continue to monitor and document previously established planting sites, tracking plant survival rates in natural rivulets and vegetated kīpuka.

WATERSHED RESTORATION

Since 2003, the State of Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), Clean Water Branch has been supporting the KIRC's watershed restoration projects with grant money it receives from Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Section 319 provides financial support to designated state and tribal agencies to implement management projects in areas with approved watershed-based plans. Two watersheds on Kaho'olawe, Kaulana and Hakoawa, have approved Watershed Plans that meet the EPA's nine minimum requirements.

FY20 ACTIVITIES

- ☑ Constructed 7 additional gabions above Hakoawa
- ☑ Collected 'ōhai, pā'ū o hi'iaka and naio seed for propagation at Native Nursery on Maui
- ☑ Developed a watershed-based plan for Kamōhio that meets EPA requirements
- ☑ Added native seed to previously constructed soil corridors in Hakoawa



"People care. People want to mālama Kaho'olawe and mālama Kanaloa. They want to protect it and preserve it for themselves, their children, their grandchildren, and the next seven generations."

~ KIRC volunteer



WHAT'S NEXT?

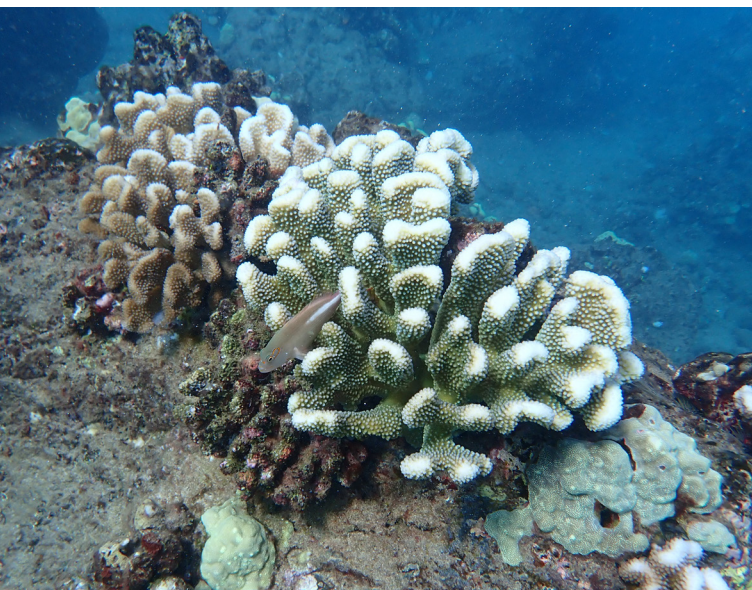
The DOH awarded the KIRC a one-year grant to continue with operations and maintenance in the Hakoawa project site in 2021. The proposed plan involves planting and an additional 5,000 native grasses, shrubs and trees in the project site, and maintaining previously constructed soil erosion control features.

The KIRC Restoration team will be finalizing and submitting a *watershed-based plan* for Kamōhio to the DOH. If approved, the plan will make restoration projects in the area eligible for future 319 funding.

Images, from top: Volunteers building a rock gabion in a natural rivulet; volunteers with completed check dam; volunteers with completed wattle.

KEALAIKAHIKI COASTAL RESTORATION

Since 2005, the KIRC has been working to restore and enhance the coastal wetland and native sand dune systems in the 'ili of Kealaikahiki. Over the last 15 years, the KIRC Restoration and Ocean teams have outplanted more than 25,000 drought-resistant grasses and shrubs in Honokanai'a, Honokanaenae, Keanakeiki, and Kaukukapapa. Ultimately, the project aims to mitigate the future effects of climate change.



FY20 ACTIVITIES

- ☑ Outplanting native grasses and shrubs with KIRC volunteers and Kanu Wa'a participants
- ☑ Development of a mobile field watering system
- ☑ Development and use of innovative planting techniques and strategies to improve survival rates
- ☑ Systematic removal of invasive buffleggrass
- ☑ Using physical dune stabilization techniques to mitigate wind erosion
- ☑ Monitoring and documentation of the use of the area by Hawaiian monk seals
- ☑ Monitoring of near shore sedimentation and water quality
- ☑ Monitoring and evaluation of the Honokanai'a coral reef ecosystems



WHAT'S NEXT?

The KIRC Ocean Program staff will continue to work in Honokanai'a and Honokanaenae through FY21, expanding into new project planting sites while continuing to monitor and maintain previously enhanced coastal areas. The team will continue to install and monitor erosion control features that will help to mitigate wind erosion and build up the dune structures for future plantings.

A small grant from the Cooke Foundation will allow the Ocean team to purchase 10,000 grasses and shrubs for outplanting in the upcoming year.

6,840

Native grasses and shrubs outplanted in Honokanaī'a and Honokanaenae



6,650
'Aki'aki



90
Milo



50
Naio



50
Pōhuehue

Opposite page: Ocean Program Manager Dean Tokishi planting Milo (top) and setting a sediment trap (middle) in Honokanaī'a; bleached cauliflower coral documented during a near-shore reef survey.

Below, clockwise from top left: Mobile field watering system being used for coastal plantings; volunteers outplanting 'aki`aki; KIRC field staff lost in a Polaris full of recently removed invasive buffleggrass; Kanu Wa`a volunteers outplanting 'aki`aki.



HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL RESEARCH PROJECT

“It’s great when we can find organizations like KIRC that we can partner with to help support monk seal research and conservation. We would love to be able to spend more time across the main Hawaiian islands doing monk seal work, especially places like Kaho`olawe, but that’s just not feasible. So its extremely helpful when we can train our partners so that they can collect monk seal information for us. The information that the Ocean Team collects on Kaho`olawe is very valuable, and without it, we would otherwise have no idea of the monk seal usage of Kaho`olawe. There are a few seals that are only ever seen on Kaho`olawe.”

~ Tracy Mercer, NOAA Research Biologist
with the Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program

Furthest known distance
traveled by a seal:

650 MILES

Most seals observed
in one day:

6 SEALS

Average number of seals
observed in one day:

2.5 SEALS



Since 2001, the KIRC has partnered with the NOAA Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program (HMSRP) to monitor,

track and tag the endangered monk seals on Kaho'olawe. The Hawaiian monk seal is one of NOAA Fisheries' "Species in the Spotlight," an initiative to save the most highly at risk marine species. Their population is endangered with only about 1,400 seals left in the world (NOAA 2018). As a result, the life of every seal has an impact on the species' survival.

Compared to other main Hawaiian Islands, human presence is minimal in the Reserve, so the island and its waters provide an ideal refuge for monk seals residing in the main Hawaiian Islands. Kaho'olawe has the potential to be a stronghold for the species and serve as a model for research and enhancement.



The work on Kaho'olawe falls under the National Marine Fisheries Service Permit #22677, which is a requirement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972) and the Endangered Species Act (1973) for anyone trying to carry out research or enhancement activities designed to recover the endangered Hawaiian monk seals.

One of the seals documented in the Reserve in FY20 had a yellow tag, signifying the animal was first observed on French Frigate Shoal in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and traveled at least 650 miles to get to the shores of Kaho'olawe.



GRANT PROJECT UPDATES



KAHO'OLAWE LIVING LIBRARY EXPANSION

Since 2014, the KIRC has received support through the Native Hawaiian Museum Services Program of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to further the KIRC mission of providing safe and meaningful access to Kaho'olawe through the development and creation of tools that provide virtual access to the Reserve. Designed in collaboration with cultural and library science consultants, the Kaho'olawe Living Library features an online archive of historical, archaeological and geographical images, documents and videos. In FY19, a third IMLS grant was awarded to further expand the Living Library to allow for collaborations and to include special collections. IMLS recently awarded the KIRC a one-year extension to allow project activities to continue through 2021.



KANAPOU MARINE DEBRIS CLEAN-UP

The KIRC was awarded a 2-year grant (\$76,025) through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Fishing For Energy program that will focus on the removal of derelict fishing gear and other marine debris from Kanapou Beach on Kaho'olawe. Kanapou is under the constant threat posed by marine debris due to prevailing currents and their funneling effect. The project aims to conduct three separate clean-up events with volunteers supporting the removal efforts. Unfortunately, the suspension of volunteer accesses due to COVID-19 meant having to cancel the FY20 clean-up activities and reschedule them for FY21. The KIRC was recently awarded an extension that will extend the project timeline through 2022.



MARINE SCIENCE AND EDUCATION FROM A HAWAIIAN PERSPECTIVE

The KIRC Ocean program staff was awarded a NOAA MET mini-grant to work with marine science teachers from Maui High School to develop a high school science curriculum which focuses on integrating Native Hawaiian knowledge and traditional practices into science-based approaches to marine resource conservation and management. The team spent much of FY20 with students on campus, conducting workshops, labs and field activities, preparing them for a volunteer access trip to Kaho'olawe in the spring. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the student accesses being canceled and rescheduled for the 20-21 school year. NOAA approved an extension that will carry the project through 2021.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“Did you clean up all of the bombs?”

The United States Navy is forever responsible for removing all unexploded ordnance (bombs) from the land and waters of Kaho‘olawe — and the liability associated with its presence. The KIRC remains committed to that position and relies on the Federal Government to fulfill their obligation. Upon the 2004 completion of the Navy’s cleanup, approximately 75% of the surface of the island was swept of ordnance with only 10% cleared down to the depth of four feet (see page 3). Areas that have not been cleared remain “DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE NOT SAFE.” As formally agreed by the Navy and State, the Navy will return to dispose of any new unexploded ordnance (UXO) found in cleared areas. The KIRC has made regular requests to our congressional delegation for federal funds for the Navy to complete their obligation.

“Why don’t you take more people?”

The KIRC’s work on Kaho‘olawe is critically dependent upon its volunteers. We strive to make the most of our limited volunteer opportunities, but we are primarily restricted by available funding, safety and weather conditions. The number of requests we receive to go to Kaho‘olawe far exceeds our ability to take everyone, therefore we ask for your patience and understanding.

“What do you do out there?”

In addition to a variety of projects to restore Kaho‘olawe’s devastated landscape, protect its critical natural and cultural resources, and make vital improvements to the island’s infrastructure, we are developing an integrated *mauka to makai* resource management system that balances the technical aspects of modern conservation principles with a traditional cultural perspective.

“Can I fish over there?”

Trolling is permitted on two scheduled weekends each month in waters deeper than 30 fathoms (180 feet). No other fishing, ocean recreation or activities are allowed within the Reserve. (Visit kahoolawe.hawaii.gov/announce to download a Trolling Right of Entry Registration Packet). The rules governing Reserve waters are enforced by the State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE), the KIRC and the U.S. Coast Guard. Any person violating these rules is guilty of a petty misdemeanor and shall be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for up to 30 days. The KIRC may also assess administrative fines of up to \$10,000 per offense.

“How can I help?”

Pick your favorite way/s to connect with us (social media, newsletter, email list) to learn about work days and community events at our Kīhei Boat House site; join the Kaho‘olawe volunteer waitlist; invite the KIRC to your space as a (free) speaker; read/learn about/ share our online library and learning materials; testify at one or more legislative hearings; create a Kaho‘olawe-inspired work of art to be shared; become a member; enroll as an intern; or let us know your own idea.



MAHALO

to our FY20 Aloha Kaho'olawe Members and Donors!

Individual donations are critical to our efforts to protect, restore and preserve the ocean and land of this important cultural reserve. If you have been impacted by Kaho'olawe — as a volunteer, friend, teacher, student, researcher or other community or family member, we invite you to join today.

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ALOHA KAHO'OLAWE

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

Benefits Include	Patron	Benefactor	Sustainer
Kaho'olawe Card Set	✓		
KIRC Logo Tee / Hat	✓	✓	
KIRC Logo Sticker	✓	✓	✓
Ko Hema Lamalama Subscription	✓	✓	✓
e-News Enrollment	✓	✓	✓
Mahalo	✓	✓	✓

**While supplies last*

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

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

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name and/ or company

Address

E-mail

Phone

Comments:

GIFT TYPE:

- PATRON (\$500 & up)
- BENEFACTOR (\$100-\$499)
- SUSTAINER (\$50-\$99 | \$25 with student ID)
- SUPPORTER (OTHER) _____

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

- Hat (one size fits most)
 - Camo Orange Camo Green Teal
 - Blue Green
- Shirt
 - M L XL
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View of the February Fire on Kaho'olawe from Maui.



Kūkulu ke ea a kanaloa - The life and spirit of Kanaloa

Logo and motto of the KIRC, symbolizing the he'e, or octopus form of the god Kanaloa and the kupu o ka 'āina, or re-greening of the island.



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Download our free mobile app: ***Kaho'olawe Island Guide***

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Report design by Maggie Pulver