

Ways of the Ancestors

Number 3

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

April 2013

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Highlights

- NORTH KOHALA: North Kohala Community Access Group (NKCAG) and Kohala Lihikai co-hosted Na Mo`olelo me Kanikapila o Kohala, a Music and Talk Story event, in October 2012. Last June, Ala Kahakai staff shared an info table with them at Kohala's Kamehameha Day celebration.
- SOUTH KOHALA: Kailapa Community Association did their second annual Music and Talk Story. A successful community planned Malama Aina event brought over 100 volunteers to clean, inventory, and care for Kailapa's makai parcel. Involved with South Kohala Conservation Action Plan with the Nature Conservancy & community groups. Moving forward with South Kohala Gateway project.
- NORTH KONA: Hui Aloha Kiholo families and friends gathered to share stories of the place. Participation in Hui Aloha Kiholo service work days. Makani Hou o Kaloko-Honokohau continues their work on projects for the Cultural Live in Center in Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park.
- SOUTH KONA: Community groups continue with trail clearing. KUPA (Kama`aina United to Protect Aina) hosted an educational opelu fishing gathering of community in Hookena under Music and Talk Story event. Roy Santana imparted his opihi knowledge during the event.
- ISLANDWIDE: Ala Kahakai staff regularly attends meetings of Na Ala Hele advisory committee, Na Pe`a youth canoe sailing program under Nakoa Foundation has started canoe related activities on blue/ocean trails. Huaka`i with Kanu o ka Aina high school students who explored the trails between Kawaihae and Ka Lae Mano.

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Ways of the Ancestors
a communication tool
to keep communities informed
about Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board



*Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board members at Kaiholena, North Kohala
Left to right: Aric Arakaki, M. Kalani Souza, Alan Brown, Kaleo Paik, Ray Broggini,
Waimakalani Iona, Dennis Hart, Ulu Ching. Not in picture: Lily Anne Souza*

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) board continues to move forward with making the trail real and personal for all communities located along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail corridor. Board members are community representatives that work at, plan for and fulfill the organization's vision, strategies and goals. Their support promotes and advances the implementation of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail's Comprehensive Management Plan.

Recent accomplishments

- Obtained 501(c) (3) non-profit organization status.
- Preservation effort: Kaiholena parcel purchase in North Kohala through the Land Legacy Conservation Program fund in partnership with Trust for Public Lands.
- Oversight of South Kohala Gateway project. This project will establish the adjoining land of Pu`ukohola Heiau NHS and Spencer Beach Park (County of Hawaii) as a gateway for the section of the trail between Kawaihae and Puako on the northern end of Ala Kahakai NHT.
- Continued development of media related tools for Trail Association: Final ATA logo designed website and brochure being developed.
- Participation in conferences and workshops: National Scenic and Historic Trails conference in Abingdon, VA; Forum on Partner Historic Trail Associations on Health and Sustainability in Albuquerque, NM; Hike to the Hill in Washington, DC; State of Hawaii Historic Preservation Day in Honolulu & National Historic Trails Workshop.
- ATA is engaged in partnerships to create an educational youth program with Nakoa Foundation, NOAA, Na Pe`a and PRIMO.
- Co-sponsor and participants in Music and Talk Story events for two years in a row at five communities: Kailapa in Kawaihae (2 years), Kona, Honaunau North Kohala, Kiholo and Hookena.
- Continued work on personal time in numerous communities and multiple venues sharing the vision and mission of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.
- Quarterly meetings to engage in, formulate and strategize movement to accomplishment of goals, strategies and work of Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board Profiles

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association board members have deep connections to districts across the island of Hawaii. They are diverse, talented, and committed to “make it work” on the trail. Each person commits to quarterly meetings to discuss, brainstorm and create opportunities for success and excellence. They continue their ATA work within their communities and outreach to many more during their daily lives.

BOARD MEMBER
Ray Brogini



Occupation(s) Family Practitioner. Musician

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest:

Preservation of local historical practice and land/shoreline management.
Dedication to community self-governance.
Environmentalism.
Small family farmer.
Renewable energy practitioner and advocate
Musician, violinist

Skills/ Experience Related to the Board:

Previous member – Board member of Primary Care Associates of Redwood Empire, Santa Rosa, CA (Medical).
“Well-being” committees on various hospital staffs
Local CERT team member

BOARD MEMBER
Moana Uluwehi Ching



Occupation(s) Education Program Specialist – University of Hawaii at Hilo Office of Research

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest: Development and implementation of undergraduate education programs mainly in environmental fields (research, management, and education & outreach). Connecting science and community, especially with Hawaii’s youth. Establishing partnerships between organizations

Comments: My passions stem from my upbringing in a Hawaiian household that dedicated/dedicating their lives to the betterment of Hawaiian people and all of the natural and cultural resources we are spiritually, physically, and emotionally connected to. Many of our people possess similar values as I, and our passions are manifested in many different ways through the tireless work we undertake in our communities. The commonality between us all is our love and dedication to Hawaii, both people and place. *E nihi ka hele.* King David Kalakaua

Partnerships Kiholo-Puakō Trail project

On October 15, 2006, a major 6.7 earthquake followed by a 6.0 aftershock caused severe damage to many archaeological sites in west Hawai'i including the historic Kiholo-Puakō Trail in Pu'uānāhulu. This trail, an *alanui aupuni* or government road (also known as the "King's Trail"), is on both the Hawai'i State and National Registers of Historic Places and represents one of the finest examples of trails constructed by the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Today, the Kiholo-Puakō trail is still actively used for recreation and cultural purposes, so the damaged sections pose significant safety concerns to the public.



An earthquake-damaged section of Kiholo-Puakō Trail,
one of two proposed rehabilitation areas.

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (NHT), in partnership with Hawai'i Division of State Parks, Na Ala Hele, Historic Preservation, and community members is planning to rehabilitate two damaged sections of the trail starting this summer. This partnership project will allow NPS Hawaiian Legacy Program stone masons and archeologists, State Parks staff and other partners to rehabilitate this important cultural resource under Secretary of the Interior standards. The project will involve using the original trail materials to reset retaining walls using traditional *hapai pohaku* (dry stacked masonry) techniques and will rehabilitate the eroding trail tread. Because the trail segments are elevated causeways, the rehabilitation process will include the use of OSHA-approved *olokea*, a traditional Hawaiian ladder system. *Olokea* were recently used successfully in rehabilitating the earthquake damage at Pu'ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site and Lapakahi State Historical Park.

We will be scheduling consultation meetings with cultural and lineal descendants and holding a series of archaeological documentation and *hapai pohaku* workshops during the course of the project, and invite you to join us. If you would like to participate or have comments, questions or concerns with the project, please contact Rick Gmirkin (rick_gmirkin@nps.gov or 808-430-5213) or Mandy Johnson-Campbell (amanda_johnson@nps.gov or 808-333-4996).

Partnerships Kiholo-Puakō Trail project (continued)



Mike Vitousek, State Historic Preservation Division; Uilani Macabio, Hui Aloha Kiholo; Aric Arakaki & Rick Gmirkin, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail; Clem Chang, State Na Ala Hele Trail and Access; Jenny Mitchell, Hui Aloha Kiholo; Luisa Castro, State Parks; Nelson Ayers, State Na Ala Hele Trail and Access; Sara Dolan, Shane Rumsey, & Adam Johnson, Pu`uhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park; William Akima, Jr., Pu`ukohola Heiau National Historic Site; Alan Carpenter & Tracy Tam Sing, State Parks; and Sean Naleimaile, State Historic Preservation Division stand together as partners near Kiholo-Puako Trail project site. NPS photo.

Community Focus: Hui Aloha Kiholo

Hui Aloha Kiholo took a step in strengthen the bond with Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail recently. They chose to co-host, with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, a Music and Talk Story event in their community. Four community members led the sharing of stories and places names of their homes.



According to their website, this group “was created as a response to the growing number of important issues and concerns occurring in and around Kīholo Bay. These include the many recent changes along the greater West Hawaii coastline, the designation of Kīholo Bay as a State Park Reserve, and an expressed desire among the community to work together to care for Kīholo... We decided to bring together into one Hui all those who are linked to Kīholo for cultural, community, ecological, sustenance, and spiritual reasons in an effort to steward Kīholo in perpetuity.”

Ongoing activities by this community group consist of camping management, native planting project, trail maintenance work, fishpond & auwai restoration, fish camp and work days. Their focus and vision is one that could be useful and applicable to the many segments along the 175 mile trail corridor of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

For more information about Hui Aloha Kiholo, visit their website: www.hualohakiholo.org.
phone: (808) 960-2195
email: hualohakiholo@hawaii.rr.com

Youth Programs Kanu o ka `Āina huaka`i



Students view south Kohala coastline at Kaunaoa Bay.

Kanu o ka Aina New Century Public Charter School in Waimea on the island of Hawaii had an *Aloha `Āina* (love of the land) *huaka`i* (journey) along Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.



The long, hot trek across shoreline trails on lava.

Their *huaka`i* led them on steps towards youth involvement and stewardship on Hawaii's only national trail. Their trek took them on a 26 mile hike from Kawaihae to Ka Lae Mano. During the trip, descendant members of host communities presented stories specific to each place where their families continue to live and steward the land and ocean as their ancestors did. These shared cultural and historical stories with future generations are part of the added educational value of the trail making it a 175 mile long "living classroom" in which students can experience education in the outdoor setting.

Youth Programs Na Pe`a



Na Pe'a canoes waiting to come ashore.

The first day of the 2012 annual Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park's Children's Cultural Festival was more than the usual opening ceremonies for 260+ fourth graders. Three canoes followed the blue water ocean trails of Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail to arrive and join in the ceremony. Perhaps with this real visual, a child onshore would be inspired to someday want to travel on an ocean trail by canoe like ancestors of the past.



Rigging the canoe is part of the learning.

Two smaller opelu canoes were sailed by four young people from Kona who brought *ho`okupu* (gifts). An *oli* (chant) composed by one of the youth was presented when Kinikini, the larger canoe, was ready. Kinikini was carrying the *kupuna* (elders) – Dennis Hart, Ala Kahakai Trail Association; Fred Cachola, Makani Hou o Kaloko-Honokohau; Aric Arakaki, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail; and Kalani Nakoa, Nakoa Foundation.

This marked the official introduction of *Na Pe`a* (The Sails) Hawaiian canoe sailing program for youth. *Na Pe`a* (The Sails), a collaboration between Nakoa Foundation and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, brings together two components that represent and honor lifestyles of Hawaii. The future of this program could enable restoration of opelu fisheries and provide a means of transportation for shoreline trail management.

Hike the Hill (Trails Advocacy Week) 2013

The annual Hike the Hill (Trails Advocacy Week) is a joint effort by the American Hiking Society and the Partnership for National Trails System held in Washington, DC during the first week of February. Ala Kahakai NHT staff and Trail Association board member, Kalani Souza, attended the event and were able to meet representatives from other trails and agencies. A session with National Park Service Director John Jarvis, visits with Hawaii legislators and discussions with other trails and trail partners widened the network of partnerships and connections beyond Hawaii's shores.



Hike the Hill group does the shaka sign. (ALKA staff Nahaku Kalei on the far left)

Science on the Trail

Lisa Marrack is a marine ecologist who was born and raised on the Big Island. She worked for nine years at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park on a wide range of natural resource projects including on coral reef health assessments, water quality monitoring, anchialine pool investigations, and sea turtle monitoring. She is currently a PhD Candidate at UC Berkeley studying anchialine pools along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail where she is investigating the potential combined effects of land use, introduced species, and sea level rise on these ecosystems. She hopes that this information will be used to protect anchialine pool habitats into the future.

Anchialine pools are incredible natural and cultural resources but are not well known, even by people born and raised in Hawaii. The arid Kona Coast contains the highest concentrations of anchialine pools in Hawaii. Recent studies on this unique habitat and its fauna have revealed fascinating information about how this brackish ecosystem is able to flourish in the arid basalt flows along the Kona Coast. Knowledge of anchialine pool ecology will contribute to conservation strategies developed to help pool ecosystems be resilient in the face of multiple stressors such as introduced species and sea level rise.



American Hiking Society's
National Trails Day®
Saturday, June 1, 2013

National Parks and community groups
will be hosting events around National Trails Day.

Check our website www.nps.gov/alka in May
for event information and links to associated websites.