

Ways of the Ancestors

Number 4

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

February 2014

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail 2013 Highlights

- NORTH KOHALA: Ala Kahakai have staffed information table at events such as Kohala's 2013 Kamehameha Day celebration with a new activity "put your feet on the trail". The community are invited to trace their feet, add their family names and what they as people do on trails. Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board and staff visited Kaiholena with community members to talk about future possibilities.
- SOUTH KOHALA: ALKA is involved with South Kohala Conservation Action Plan along with the Nature Conservancy & community groups. Continuing to move forward with Kohala Hema (South Kohala) Trails project between Kawaihae and Puako by contacting families and groups interested in this section of trail.
- NORTH KONA: Cooperative effort of State Na Ala Hele Trails, State Parks, Hui Aloha Kiholo and National Park Service on the Kiholo-Puako Trail stabilization project. Participation in community cleanup days at Kiholo and fish camp with Hui Aloha Kiholo families and friends included making a hukilau net. The net was tested out at Kona Village as a tool for a fish survey. Ongoing attendance at meeting of Makani Hou o Kaloko-Honokohau. Na Pe`a, a youth canoe sailing program with Nakoa Foundation, started up this school year canoe and marine management activities on blue water trails.
- SOUTH KONA: Community groups continue trail cleanups. KUPA (Kama`aina United to Protect Aina) and Ho`okena community welcomed the voyaging canoe, Hokule`a, to their shores in July. A visit by Senator Brian Schatz in April opened the discussion of the ahupua`a of Kauleoli, just south of the boundary of Pu`uhonua o Honaunau NHP
- ISLANDWIDE: Ala Kahakai staff regularly attends meetings of Na Ala Hele advisory committee and other community groups.

Table of Contents

Ala Kahakai NHT 2013 Highlight	1
Meet Ala Kahakai Trail Association & Board	2-3
Partnerships - Kiholo-Puako Trail Ceremony Kiholo-Puako Trail Project	4
Youth Initiatives & Programs	5
Halau Ku Mana	
Na Pe`a update	
Statewide Student Council	
Community Partnership: Hookena, Trail Revitalization Day	6

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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 pound kalo into poi.

Left photo: Waimakalani Iona hands on.

Middle photo (L to R): Kalani Souza facing Nahaku Kalei & Rick Gmirkin with teacher, Ka`uhane Heloca.

Right photo: Alan Brown - almost done.

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) board meets every three months to take care of the business of the trail. This group of dedicated volunteers represents families along the length of the trail and they have close ties to the places they are connected to. The many talents and experiences of each board member contribute to a well-rounded group. From time to time, they participate in cultural activities such as poi pounding as a way to share before their meetings.

Updates:

- Recently, ATA had a redesign of their logo. This design can be adapted to a wide variety of color combinations and use choices. The logo was designed by Sig Zane and his son, Kuha'o.



- A website is being developed for the Trail Association. It will be a companion website and linked to Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail's main National Park Service page. Please check back for the link to their website.
- The Kohala Hema (South Kohala) Trails project, which is overseen by ATA, continues moving forward. Outreach to families and residents has begun and will expand to the broader community along the "first 15 miles" of the trail between Kawaihae and Anaehoomalu Bay. This project highlights the trail already known as Ala Kahakai Trail under Na Ala Hele State of Hawaii Trail & Access Program.

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
Dennis Hart



Occupation(s) Retired Medical Assistant

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest:

Formed a volunteer crew nine years ago to clean trails. Crew varies in size from 5-30. Numerous miles have been cleaned in South Kona. Attend meetings and research laws pertaining to trails.

Comments:

Following the laws that have been put before us is important and has to be adhered to by everyone.

We have experienced beautiful feelings from working on the trails. We remember our ancestors and also have taught students who have become involved and given us powerful feedback about their work.

By opening these trails, descendants, shoreline fisherman, hikers and even modern triathletes are thanking us for making trails accessible to this part of our history.

BOARD MEMBER
Waimakalani Iona



Occupation(s) Kapa Wai Designs & Various Cultural Projects

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest:

Kanu o ka ‘Aina Charter School * Kukulu Kumuhana (Honaunau & Ka’u) * Ka Papa Ola o Kawaihae * Ka ‘Ohana o Kaluaokalani (Keolonahihi)
Ka one o ku’u ‘ohana (Place of my ‘ohana):
* Kohala * Holualoa - Keolonahihi * Pahoehoe * Punalu’u, Ka’u

Comments:

I am blessed and honored to sit on the Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board for the past 6 years. As a kamali'i of this moku, my kupuna (generations before me) sustained their life along this ala kahakai. They fished, gathered and lived along these shores and used this path to connect within their(s) and other ahupua'a. For me, the journey down this ala (path) is not only a physical connection to the 'aina but also connects our 3 piko – past, present and future. My kuleana is to kokua so all kamali'i of this place can make that same connection.

PARTNERSHIPS

Kiholo-Puakō Trail Ceremony

A group of 50+ area descendants, trail partners, community members side by side with the staff of state and county agency partners, Ala Kahakai Trail Association board members, and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail staff gathered on Monday June 17, 2013. Under the noon sun with Mauna Kea in the background, a ceremony led by Kuulei Keakealani with her family standing with her brought those in attendance together to focus on the task at hand. Restoration of Kiholo-Puako trail will stabilize damage that was caused by the 2006 earthquake. One of the challenges for the project was its hot, dry location in the Kaniku lava fields of Waikoloa.



Through the course of the summer project, there were consultation meetings with cultural and lineal descendants and a series of archaeological documentation and *hapai pohaku* workshops.

Kiholo-Puakō Trail Project Invitations



Olokea (traditional ladder system) spans worksite of Kiholo Puako trail.

Continuing the legacy of building and caring for trails practiced in this area for generations by the families of Pu`uanahulu and Pu`uwa`awa`a, damaged sections of the Kiholo-Puako Trail were repaired during the summer months of 2013. The damage to the trail section between Kiholo and Puako was caused by the earthquake of 2006. This work is being done through a partnership between Hawaii State Na Ala Hele Trail Access Program, State Parks, Hui Aloha Kiholo and the National Park Service with many community volunteers. This trail is one of many in the network of ancient and historic trails that make up Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail.

Invitations were extended for visits to the Kiholo-Puako Trail stabilization project worksite. It gave community an opportunity to learn about Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, traditional stone wall construction and ladder systems, archeology, Hawaiian culture and the associated responsibilities of caring for the land. Participation by four generations of family groups, various schools, youth and community members was reinforced when all of them added their *mana* to the walls and to the collaborations so the all could ... *Rise to the Top*.

YOUTH INITIATIVE AND PROGRAMS

Oahu's Halau Ku Mana guided by Hawaii's Kanu o ka Aina



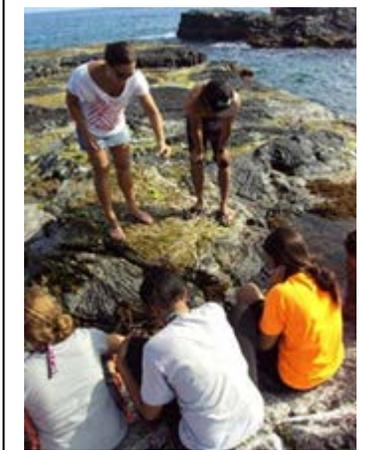
Kanu students early morning hike to Kiholo with hula implements.

The `ike (knowledge) gained by students of Kanu o Ka Aina Public Charter School (PCS) while on their *huaka`i* on Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail in October 2012 was shared with Halau Ku Mana, an Oahu PCS, during a May 2013 visit to the Big Island. Opening protocol and a gathering at The Nature Conservancy Kiholo site was followed by students doing three mini service projects.

In the place where the story of the shark god of the Kiholo area occurred, Kanu

students practiced the hula that they would be performing in the school's hula drama. Part of their costumes, hau fiber, gathered during the service project, was washed and prepared in the traditional way... in the ocean.

Then the students hiked from Kiholo to Ka Lae Mano. Along the way, stories were told, places explored and salt was gathered. The next morning, ALKA staff, Nahaku Kalei, taught about the life along the shoreline. Mahalo for the visit.



With Nahaku Kalei, Halau Ku Mana students explore opihi.

Na Pe`a program started up in 2013



Na Pe`a (The Sails), a youth canoe sailing program, started up in the 2013-2014 school year. This collaboration between Nakoa Foundation and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail brings together students with traditional Hawaiian canoe culture. The goal is to build a foundation of skills that would equip students to move "up" to larger, deep ocean voyaging canoes. Students in the 7th grade with close connections to the Keauhou area were selected for the year-long pilot program.

The future of this program would eventually facilitate restoration of *opelu ko`a* (fisheries) in Hawaii and provide a means of transportation for shoreline management of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail along the west coast of Hawaii island. It also provides a venue for marine science studies using canoes as modes of transportation.

Statewide Hawaiian Public Charter Schools Student Council

Students from Kauai to Hawaii gathered for a week in Kohala to create a statewide student council for Hawaiian focused Public Charter Schools (PCS). This youth initiative was fueled by a desire to connect schools to each other to share what they are doing and the similar projects they support. Over ten years ago, the idea of a united "Na Lei Naauao" was envisioned by Ku Kahakalau, former director of Kanu o Ka Aina, as a hui (group) of students joined by a similar mission to learn the Hawaiian culture. The students chose the name, Ke Ea Hawaii. Hosted by Nani Svendsen at her *aina* near Keokea Beach Park, the students enjoyed and worked hard on the land as they worked towards creating the first statewide PCS student council.

Students view Mauna Kea from Kanu o Ka Aina Waimea campus



Community Focus: KUPA at Ho`okena (Kama`aina United to Protect the Aina)



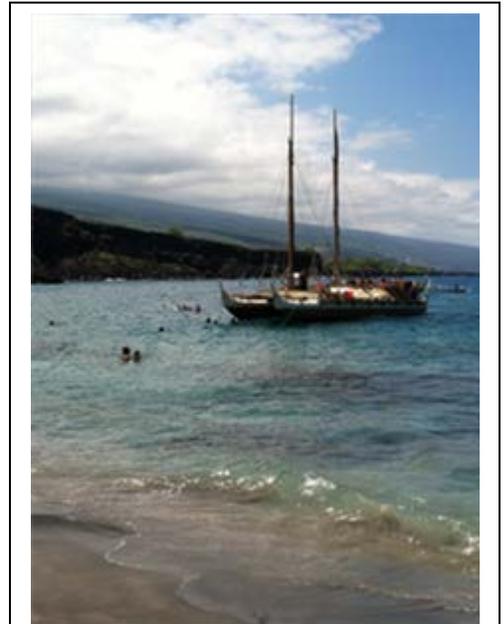
Opelu canoes at Hookena beach

The small village of Ho`okena continues to show the strength of their community especially over the last year with a renewed involvement with Ala Kahakai NHT. In December of 2012, they hosted a Music and Talk Story. Their choice was to focus on their youth by telling the stories of the long standing tradition of opelu fishing and letting them participate with hands on learning. With the young people on board, they were taken out on the ocean by the kupuna of the area and were put to work. Lucky visitors who happened by were allowed to observe the same activities from the canoes that were launched into the bay throughout the morning. The harvest was shared with anyone who wanted to try fresh opelu. Besides the community displays of historic photos of Hookena and opelu fishing, Roy Santana presented a talk about the opihī research he has done

over many years. The community prepared lunch and fed over 80 people and wrapped up with small kanikapila.

Just this past July, KUPA hosted a well-known “home grown” celebrity. The voyaging canoe, Hokule`a, stopped for a day at Ho`okena and was greeted by over 100 people who came together to host the canoe as she made her journey up the west coast of Hawaii island. After a welcoming, the crew enjoyed lunch and then did a walking tour of the area. The highlight for many people at the beach was the chance to swim out to Hokule`a to meet her before she starts her worldwide journey in 2014.

Mahalo to all the members of KUPA and the community of Hookena for continuing to share the same aloha and hospitality known throughout Hawaii and especially in the small fishing villages that still exist today. To Clarence and Nellie Medeiros, Charlie Young, Damien and Girlie Kennison and all their ohana and friends, mahalo nui loa.



Community enjoys Hokulea

Trail Revitalization Day

E Mau Na Ala Hele commemorated Trail Revitalization Day with a hike in the Waikoloa area on Saturday October 19, 2013. The route is from Queen Shops in Waikoloa south along the ala loa/Mamalahoā trail included a stop to survey the recently stabilized causeways. After turning makai, hikers stopped for lunch at Kapalaoa bay. For more information about other events sponsored by E Mau Na Alahele, contact Keith Wallis through their link on www.emaunalahale.org

This event is in celebration of La Ho`ala Ala Hele “Day to Awaken Trails” and commemorates the Highways Act of 1892, one of the last acts of the Kingdom of Hawai`i. The year before the overthrow of Queen Liliu`okalani, her government declared that all roads, trails, paths, etc. then in public use were the property of government in perpetuity and therefore available to all people. This law was kept during the six years of the “Republic of Hawai`i” that replaced the Kingdom, through the 60 years of the Territory of Hawai`i that followed the Republic, and from the time of Statehood in 1959 to today.