

Ways of the Ancestors

Number 1

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

February 2011

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Basics Revealed



Map 1
Vicinity Map and Location
of the Ala Kahakai NHT

FACTS

Location: Island of Hawaii, Hawaii

Length of trail: 175 mile corridor full of cultural and historical significance

Route: From Uluolu Point at northern tip down the west coast through three National park units and around Ka Lae (South Point) to the eastern coastal boundary of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Purpose: Established in 2000 for the preservation, protection and interpretation of traditional Native Hawaiian culture and natural resources

As of 2010: Ala Kahakai NHT is currently one of 30 Historic and Scenic Trails of the National Trails System and the only National Historic Trail in Hawaii.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Legend
Ala Kahakai NHT Corridor
Roads
Primary
Secondary
Parks
Wilderness
Priority Area for implementing the 15-year planning period

0 5 10 20 Miles



Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
7/2009



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

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA), a community partner of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, is in the process of formation. Most of the nine board members are area descendants representing their families from the districts of Kohala, Kona, Ka'u and Puna. Current board members are Dennis Hart, Alan Brown, Waimakalani Iona, Kalani Souza, Kaleo Paik, Ray Brogini, Uluwehi Ching, Gary Medina & Lily Anne Souza.

ATA's mission is to be a resource and provide assistance in the effort to build community capacity to sustainably manage

segments of the trail and to be instrumental in engaging and empowering communities at the intersection of cultural conservation, environmental stewardship and sustainable livelihoods.

ATA continues to move forward with ongoing projects. These projects include obtaining 501c3 non-profit status, working with State of Hawaii to renovate Spencer Beach park caretaker's cottage, and applying for grants to fund programs related to the youth strategy and building of community capacity. Quarterly meetings enable ATA to focus on their kuleana. Mahalo!

Memorandum of Understanding Signed

Representatives of the National Park Service, State of Hawai'i, and County of Hawai'i united in partnership as three levels of government to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail on Sunday, February 21, 2010. The MOU focused on establishing the Ala Kahakai NHT and setting forth the roles and responsibilities of each partner agency to protect and preserve the 175-mile trail corridor.

Students from Ka Papa Ola o Kawaihae (The Living Classroom of Kawaihae) opened the occasion sharing place names of Kawaihae, Hawaiian chants and hula. Many were pleased that the signing ceremony began with the youth who represent the future. Each government representative shared their thoughts and then congregated

together at the table to sign the document in front of a crowd of about 120 community members, park partners, and staff.

The primary focus of the agreement will be the implementation of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, which was designated by the U.S. Congress in 2000. The CMP, released in May 2009, establishes management guidelines needed to fulfill the preservation and public use goals that were the result of community input gathered at island-wide meetings.



"Standing Together"

Left to Right: Hawai'i County Deputy Managing Director Wally Lau, National Park Service Pacific West Region Deputy Regional Director Patty Neubacher, Ala Kahakai NHT Superintendent Aric Arakaki, State of Hawai'i Lieutenant Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr., and State of Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources Chairperson Laura Thielen

Partnership for National Trails Conference



Members of partner groups (Ala Kahakai Trail Association & E Mau Na Alahele), youth, and Ala Kahakai NHT park staff attended the National Trails Conference in Missoula, Montana during July 2009. Involvement in this national event allowed participants to learn how trails operate nationwide.

Workshops, service projects, and field trips revealed many facets of responsibilities connected with trails. This was the first year youth delegates attended the event. Our Hawaii youth and their teacher shared chants and hula with the entire conference and led an excellent youth workshop. Ala Kahakai NHT Youth: Hiilei Levenson, JD Akau, Keakealani Iona-Duncan

Coyote Magazine

ATA board member Alan Brown and trail staff were interviewed for the March 2010 issue of Coyote Magazine, a Japanese travel magazine. The article laid out the trail by segments featuring text and magnificent pictures. Now the trail is being discovered audiences in Japan! Copy of the magazine on file at the ALKA main office.

Community Focus: North Kohala

Trail staff have been attending meetings of North Kohala Community Access Group. In October 2009, Joe Carvalho and Fred Orita led a tour of significant places along the Kohala coast like Kauhola lighthouse which has since been dismantled.

ALKA continues to work with this community partner in support of their efforts for access in North Kohala. Continuing monthly discussions include identification, protection and stewardship of trails by various North Kohala groups including the Ocean Warriors, an environmental youth group.