

Ways of the Ancestors

Number 2

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

June 2011

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Accomplishments

- North Kohala: *North Kohala Community Access Group*: Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (ALKA) has been attending monthly meeting for over a year. This group and the Ocean Warriors youth group are working on trails near the lighthouse and other areas of Kohala. Kaiholena property recently purchased by the County of Hawaii is in Kohala area.
- South Kohala: *Kailapa Community Association*: Ala Kahakai has met with Diane & Maha Kanealii as well as other community members. ATA Board members Waimakalani Iona and Alan Brown have represented Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) at Kailapa meeting. *Friends of Ohai'ula*: Analu Silva is interested in partnering with ATA on PIKO project at Spencer Beach Park. The project will renovate the caretaker's cottage for community use.
- North Kona: *Hui Aloha Kiholo*: Kiholo Bay clean up and potluck occurred in 2010. ATA members and friends are always encouraged to attend. *Makani Hou o Kaloko-Honokohau*: ALKA continues to be involved in Makani Hou as they move forward with projects such as the Cultural Live In Center. ATA board member Ulu Ching is on their board. Meetings continue with Kaloko-Honokohau NHP about the Kaloko fishpond project which was initiated by Ala Kahakai. Support of ALKA to recent fishpond conference on Molokai and Hawaii island meetings between fishpond people.
- South Kona: *Community groups*: Groups continue with community trail clearing.
- Ka'u: Malama Honuapo 2010 festival attended by ALKA staff.
- Islandwide: *Na Ala Hele Advisory Committee*: ALKA attends meetings. Mauka/makai trails at Kohanaiki, Kaloko and Honokohau and other trails could be submitted in the future as connector trails to NPS and be included under ALKA.
- ATA Strategic Plan 2011-2013 plots the near future of ATA. The plan defines goals, projects and focus of the work ATA seeks to accomplish with communities along the trail corridor. Highlights for 2011 include a gathering of all family and community groups interested and/or already preserving and protecting the trail.

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

For more information, contact:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
73-4786 Kanalani St., Ste #14
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Phone (808) 326-6012
www.nps.gov/alka



Ala Kahakai Trail Association Board

Ala Kahakai Trail Association works in close partnership with Ala Kahakai NHT in the management of the trail with the goal of preserving a trail network and associated sites as places of cultural conservation. ATA board members live in different places in Hawaii but have familial ties and connections to the Ala Kahakai NHT on Hawaii island. They are the vision keepers and leaders of trail and serve to unite the community and to build positive, broad-based support for the shared vision and goals stated in the trail's Comprehensive Management Plan.

BOARD MEMBER
Alan Lowrey Brown



Occupation(s) Self employed.

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest:

Land owner on Kohala coast near trail corridor - Keawaiki

Skills/ Experience Related to the Board:

Served on other community boards.



BOARD MEMBER
Linda Kaleookalani Paik



Occupation(s) Accounting Director

Skills/Expertise/Experience related to trail interest:

The Ala Kahakai is more than a passing interest for me for as a descendent of many generations who lived around part of the trail, it is my responsibility to preserve and protect the integrity, purpose and use of the trail in part and in its entirety. I have walked upon part of the trail that my dad, his mother, her parents and their parents walked and in so doing continue the connection to the area. Through these generational ties, I have historical and cultural wisdom specific to the segment of the Trail I have chosen as my responsibility.

Skills/ Experience Related to the Board:

I bring to the Ala Kahakai Trail Association expertise in fiscal management, many years of experience serving on Boards in an executive capacity, experience in strategic planning focusing on short and long term goals, know many genealogical ties to portions of the Trail and know the history and traditions of the area I have chosen as well as other areas along the Kona coast.

Partnerships: National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea grant creates more partnership opportunities

In May 2011, nineteen national parks received grants from the National Park Foundation to support interactive and engaging projects that will strengthen Americans' connection with their national parks. Ala Kahakai NHT is one of the recipients. "Sense of Place: Music and Talk Story", small scale informal music events will be launched in three communities along the trail.

"It is an honor to receive this grant because it fulfills the dreams of those who want to share their stories and songs." said Aric Arakaki, Superintendent of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail program.

"With this project, we will bring people together at gatherings that celebrate the past, present, and future of each community and allow us to appreciate and continue to nurture our unique culture."

A new consulting partnership with Hui Kuapa (Friends of the Future) enabled efficient and timely discussion of elements needed for producing such an event. Their expertise strengthened a solid, well-thought out project proposal. Danny Akaka, Jr. of Hui Kuapa comes with over 14 years of experience with Music and Talk Story and has always wanted to take Talk Story "on the road."

The project will provide venues for people to recollect, experience and connect through music and talk story about each place's particular characteristics, lifestyles and people. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association and Hui Kuapa will provide supportive services to community-based groups to build their creative capacities. The events will be located on the west side of Hawaii island and invite youth through elders to participate. Updates and details will be posted on the trail's website www.nps.gov/alka. Kailapa Community Association is the first to step forward to host an event.

National Historic and Scenic Trails Conference



PHOTO: Parade of Trails lineup
2009 Trails conference
Missoula, MT

Ala Kahakai Trail Association and Ala Kahakai NHT are waiting to hear if the Partnership for the National Trails System will be choosing Hawaii as the site of the 2013 National Historic and Scenic Trails conference.

Every two years, PNTS hosts a conference that attracts about 400 trail people from all over the USA including the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Alaska and Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail from Hawaii. Various events, meetings and sessions are held to share and highlight best management practices for trails and their trail partners. Nine Hawaii delegates attended and participated in the 2009 conference in Missoula, MT.

In May 2011, Kaleo Paik (ATA) and Rick Gmirkin (ALKA) attended the Trails conference in Abingdon, VA. The Overmountain Victory Trail, celebrating its 200th anniversary, hosted the event and promised it would be unforgettable. The Hawaii delegation shared their aloha and even walked in the annual Damascus Days parade.

UPDATE: Ala Kahakai NHT youth delegate, Jessip D. Akau, enrolled in and attended University of Montana at Missoula after visiting the campus during the 2009 Trails conference.

Community Focus: Kailapa Community Association

Kailapa Community Association is a non-profit community organization in Kawaihae, district of Kohala, that supports Kailapa homestead community by preserving and promoting Hawaiian culture and lifestyle. Since Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (ALKA) has worked with this association, it has moved forward with great enthusiasm and energy under the leadership of President Diane Kanealii. Both partners have kept in contact by attending each other's meetings.

One of the first collaborative projects was a survey and GPS mapping of the archeological and historic features at the future site for cluster mailboxes, a playground and a resource center phase I. ALKA provided professional assistance for this project.

In 2011, University of Hawaii Hilo intern Uilani Macabio asked KCA if she could do a class project to identify and map cultural resources on the makai portion of the homestead.

ALKA staff together with a mixed group of UH Hilo students, Kailapa community members, and others participated in the March 5th workday. ALKA community archeologist Rick Gmirkin continues to help with review and wrap up of the detailed aspects of this project.



Survey at Kailapa

More recently, the Association dedicated a new subdivision entrance sign. During planning stages, ALKA interpreter Ida Hanohano brought in an artist to discuss the design and best materials for the sign. From creation to installation, many community members willingly offered services, equipment and materials. About 40 people attended the ceremony. All leis and decorations were

gathered within the boundaries of the Kailapa ahupua'a.

Families like the Malani ohana not only did a stew and rice fundraiser to supplement donations for the entrance sign. They also hosted a sleep over for the UH Hilo interns so they could continue their work at Lapakahi State Historical Park after their day at Kailapa.

Future collaborations will include a ground breaking ceremony for the community center, a talk story music event as well as other community-requested and community-led projects. Pending Kailapa's open invitation, ALKA looks forward to a mutual partnership that will expand in support of this community's efforts in the identification, protection and stewardship of trails.

For more information about Kailapa Community Association: Diane Kanealii, President kanealii@ilhawaii.net



American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® Saturday, June 4, 2011

This year's event theme is "Made with Natural Ingredients". National Parks, E Mau Na Ala Hele, and Friends of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park will be hosting various events around National Trails Day.

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