KA HOLO WAʻA Service-Learning Program (KHW) -- SPRING 2015

KHW introduces college students to the many facets of the waʻa (canoe). For Native Hawaiians, the waʻa is an integral part life in these islands. It is both a physical and a spiritual representation that connects Native Hawaiians to their ancestors, who first sailed to the islands hundreds of generations ago. Yet, the waʻa also represents the cultural connections that Native Hawaiians have with many other Oceanic communities. In this sense the waʻa is the link that binds Pacific Islander communities to each other, historically but also contemporarily. If not for the guidance of other communities and people of Oceania -- such as Master Navigator Mau Piailug of Satawal, Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia -- the revitalization of traditional sailing and wayfinding practices in Hawaiʻi would be lost today. Fortunately, through the re-connection with other Pacific Islanders the waʻa has again become an integral part of the Native communities and Hawaiʻi in general. By introducing college students to the practice of traditional wayfinding, the intent of this program is to perpetuate the tradition of the canoe as a link that connects Oceania, but also as a guide that helps people reach their destinations.

PROGRAM DETAILS
Students will be introduced to the traditions of the waʻa through Kānehūnāmoku, a replica of a 25 foot double-hulled, traditional coastal sailing vessel. Through a collaboration between the Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy (KVA) and the UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences’ Program for Civic Engagement (PCE), up to 20 service-learning students from the UH system will conduct 25 hours of service learning. Students will meet on selected Saturdays and weekdays throughout the academic semester to learn about the numerous parts and functions of the canoe, along with traditional sailing and navigational skills. In turn, they will help teach and host groups of primarily Pacific Islander students from K-12 schools and families from selected low-income communities. Although a specific location has yet to be determined, the sailing components of the program will take place in Kāne‘ohe Bay, which will serve as the program’s laboratory. Kat will send out detailed information during the week leading up to specific activities. In the month of March, the program will be held in conjunction with the annual Honolulu City and County annual Canoe Festival at Kualoa Park.

SCHEDULE
To get started: Email Kat at csssl@hawaii.edu with the subject line “KHW 2015” and attend an introduction and initial training on Feb 06: 2pm-4pm Dean Hall room 5-6, UH Mānoa campus
Make-up training (if you missed 2/6): 2/13 1:30-3:30pm same place - or set up a meeting with Kat.

Feb 14: Workday (drydock with Hawaiʻi ʻiloa at METC) 9-2 pm
(Once you register with Kat, she will send you additional information)

Mar 07: Wa’a Festival at Kualoa 9am - 4pm

Mar 15: Mokauea 9am-1pm


Apr 04: TBD

Apr 25: Sailing (pending weather)

Ka Holo Waʻa daily program leaders: Kat Lobendahn (PCE) and Loyal Kekahuna-Baisa (KVA)
Ka Holo Waʻa faculty leaders: Bonnie Kahapea-Tanner (KVA) and Dr. Ulla Hasager (PCE)
Additional faculty and student support: Dr. Willy Kauai, Joakim Peter, Kanaloa Schrader (PCE)