Ka Holo Wa‘a - Fall 2016

Ka Holo Wa‘a is a service-learning program that introduces students to the many facets of the wa‘a (canoe) and voyaging

The wa‘a is an integral part of our island existence. It is both a physical and spiritual representation that connects today’s Native Hawaiians to their ancestors, who first sailed to the islands hundreds of generations ago.

Yet, the wa‘a also represents the cultural connections that Native Hawaiians have with other Oceanic peoples. In this sense the wa‘a is the link that binds Pacific Island communities to each other, in the past and today.

If not for the guidance of people such as Master Navigator Mau Piallug of Satawal (Yap State of the Federated States of Micronesia), traditional sailing and wayfinding practices in Hawai‘i would not have been revived. Fortunately, through reconnecting with other Pacific islanders the wa‘a has again become an integral part of the Native communities and of Hawai‘i in general.

By introducing 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 Oceanic communities, but also as a guide that helps people reach their destinations.

PROGRAM DETAILS
The Ka Holo Wa‘a (KHW) program is administered by the UHM College of Social Sciences’ Program for Civic Engagement (PCE) and the Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy (KVA).

While building a wa‘a under the leadership of master carver Junior Coleman, trained by Mau Piallug, and working with larger canoes such as Kānehūnāmoku (a 29 foot double-hulled, traditional coastal sailing vessel), college students, K-12 students, and local Pacific and Hawaiian communities are introduced to the traditions and the skills of the wa‘a – as well as to its importance as both a symbol and a practical example of sustainable living, as embraced by the university system through its support for the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle‘a, the first double-hulled voyaging wa‘a built in our time.

Students from the UH system will conduct a minimum of 25 hours of service learning. They will meet on selected weekend- and weekdays throughout the semester and learn about parts and functions of the canoe, along with seamanship and traditional sailing and navigational skills.

KHW has several special projects for the Fall semester, including continuing the “Connecting Oceanic Pathways: Walking the Stick of Our Ancestors” project through helping the Pālolo Valley Homes community with building a wa‘a, a hālau wa‘a (canoe house), and creating canoe plant gardens.

SCHEDULE
Additional activities and details be found in the KHW calendar:
http://servicelearning.socialsciences.hawaii.edu/calendar/events.html

Common activities for all participants are underlined.
- September 15, Thursday, 3:30-5pm: Orientation in Dean Hall room 5-6, UH Mānoa Campus
- Monday and Tuesday afternoons (1-4pm) and by appointment: build the Pālolo Wa‘a (working first at Lyon Arboretum in Mānoa and from November at Pālolo Housing, 2195 Ahe Street)
- In groups TBA and by individual arrangement: work at the KVA Canoe Plant Garden - He Wa‘a He Moku, He Moku He Wa‘a, 47-292 Ahaolelo Road (Marimed upland Campus), Kaneohe 96744
- Thursday afternoons, work with different age groups at the Pālolo Plantation preparing garden, wa‘a, and sailing club
- Mokaua Island activity hosting Ka‘imuki High School 9th Grade Academy – date and details to be announced (tentatively 11/15)
- Late November: Sailing (pending weather) and reflection

TO GET STARTED
- Register for service learning here:
http://goo.gl/forms/JenPO960NnkZNwhf1
- Print, sign, and submit the service-learning waiver and release form, which can be downloaded from:
- Email us at csssl@hawaii.edu (subject line: “KHW”) to let us know about your interests, skills, and goals for participation
- Attend the orientation session in Dean Hall room 5/6, UH Mānoa

PROGRAM LEADERS AND SPONSORS
Program leaders: Kat Lobendahn (PCE), with Junior Coleman (PCE), and Loyal Kekahuna-Baisa (KVA).
Faculty leaders: Bonnie Kahape‘a-Tanner (KVA), Ulla Hasager (PCE), and Willy Kauai (NHSS)

Other support: Dahlia Asuega, Darienne Dey, Kala Duncan, Kyle Kajihiro, Joakim Peter, Kāmō‘i Sausen, Kanaloa Schrader, Mahealani Treaster,

Sponsors: UHM College of Social Sciences, including ACCESS and Department of Ethnic Studies; the Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy; Lyon Arboretum; the Marimed Foundation; Pālolo Tenants Association; the PAPA Student Organization; the Student Activity and Program Fee Board (SAPFB); and private donors

CONTACT INFORMATION: Kat Lobendahn, Program for Civic Engagement, College of Social Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Email: csssl@hawaii.edu, ph. 808 956 0655. Office: ACCESS, Dean Hall 5/6, UH Mānoa Campus. Direct link to the KHW calendar:
https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=hawaii.edu_hq49kc83d12id7ppuglffll18uk%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=Pacific/Honolulu KHWfa16b

Kānehūnāmoku