



# MĀLAMA HONUA WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

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## HONORS AND RECOGNIZES THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY ON ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF HŌKŪLEʻA

The Pacific Ocean connects thousands of islands and related cultures. More than 6,000 years ago, the world's largest ocean became the stage for one of the greatest feats in human history. Early Pacific seafarers journeyed beyond the shores of home to explore more than 10 million square miles of ocean, well before Europeans ventured across the smaller Atlantic. These intrepid wayfinders used stars, winds, waves, birds and other patterns observed in nature to chart their courses.

In the 1970s, artist and author Herb Kāne dreamed of building a double-hulled sailing canoe for the first time in centuries. The idea brought together people of diverse backgrounds and professions to form the **POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY**, founded in 1973 by Herb Kāne, Ben Finney and Tommy Holmes.

On March 8, 1975, the **POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY** launched its first voyaging canoes, or waʻa kaulua, the **HŌKŪLEʻA**, from the sacred shores of Hakipuʻu in Kāneʻohe Bay on the Island of Oʻahu.

Mau Piailug bravely shared his knowledge of wayfinding with people outside of his family, island and Micronesia. The successful arrival of **HŌKŪLEʻA** in Tahiti in 1976 via traditional, non-instrument navigation marked a renewal of traditional voyaging and wayfinding, and her safe return home by an equally dedicated crew has inspired generations to be proud of their Pacific heritage and to continue to seek inclusive island wisdom of sustainability, responsibility and mutual respect and caring.

**HŌKŪLEʻA** continues to bring people together from all walks of life, she represents a design shared by the people of Hawaiʻi, the Pacific and the world to perpetuate and protect our most cherished values and places from disappearing. The winds of her crew's mentors and ancestors have carried her more than 150,000 nautical miles throughout the Pacific Ocean during the past 40 years.

Forty years from her first splash into the sea, with navigators who are using the same traditional knowledge and techniques that steered their ancestors before them, **HŌKŪLEʻA** will continue to voyage beyond the Pacific on her Mālama Honua voyage, to include approximately 47,000 nautical miles, 85 ports and 26 nations. The voyage, which began in Hawaiʻi in 2013 and will continue through 2017, seeks to engage all of Island Earth – practicing how to live sustainably while sharing Polynesian culture, learning from the past and from each other, creating global relationships, and discovering the wonders of this precious place we call home.

It is with great pleasure that the Senate of the Twenty-Eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaiʻi, Regular Session of 2015, recognizes and honors the **POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY** on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the voyaging canoe, **HŌKŪLEʻA**, the members of the first crews who sailed her from Hawaiʻi to Tahiti and back in 1976, the many volunteers and employees who supported her many sails over the past 40 years, and the University of Hawaiʻi's Honolulu Community College and its Marine Education and Training Center, which have helped to house and care for her. We also extend our best wishes for the safety and success in their journey on their Mālama Honua, the Worldwide Voyage.



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