



## Many Peoples, One Ocean

The Legacy: Since 1976, *Hōkūleʻa* has completed ten successful voyages and is recognized today as a major catalyst for cultural renewal throughout the Pacific and a symbol of the richness of Hawaiian culture and a seafaring heritage that links the peoples and cultures of Polynesia and the Pacific together as ʻohana.

1973: The Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) was founded to research how Polynesian seafarers discovered and settled nearly every inhabitable island in the Pacific Ocean before European explorers arrived in the 16th century. Some scholars had argued that the Polynesians drifted to these islands by accident. PVS set out to show that a voyaging canoe of Polynesian design could be navigated without instruments over the long, open ocean migration routes of Polynesia. The founders of PVS were anthropologist Dr. Ben Finney, artist Herb Kāne, and writer Tommy Holmes.

1975: *Hōkūleʻa*, a replica of an ancient voyage canoe, was launched at Hakipuʻu-Kualoa, on Kāneʻohe Bay. Herb Kane and Kenneth Emory were the designers of the canoe.

1976: *Hōkūleʻa* completed her first voyage to the Tuamotus and Tahiti, sailing 2,500 miles in 33 days. Her navigator was Micronesian master Mau Piailug, from the island of Satawal.

1980: *Hōkūleʻa* completed a second voyage to Tahiti and back. Her navigator was Nainoa Thompson, one of Mau's students and the first Hawaiian to navigate a voyaging canoe in the traditional way in more than 600 years.

1985-87: On the Voyage of Rediscovery, *Hōkūleʻa* sailed more than 16,000 miles of traditional migratory routes visiting Tahiti, the Cook Islands, Aotearoa, Tonga, Sāmoa, and Rangiroa. This voyage to Aotearoa, the westernmost outpost of Polynesia, then back to Hawaiʻi demonstrated that it was possible for traditional canoes to sail east by taking advantage of seasonal wind shifts.

The voyages of *Hōkūleʻa* inspired pride among Polynesians in their history and heritage and ignited a revival of traditional canoe building, sailing, and navigation across Polynesia.

1992: *Hōkūleʻa* returned to the Cook Islands via Tahiti for the Sixth Pacific Arts Festival in Rarotonga. Canoes from Aotearoa, the Cook Islands, Tahiti, Majuro, New Caledonia, and Papua New Guinea participated in the festival, and new navigators were trained for a pan-Polynesian voyage from the Marquesas Islands to Hawaiʻi in 1995. A satellite link between *Hōkūleʻa* and the NASA space shuttle Columbia allowed schoolchildren in Hawaiʻi to discuss the importance of exploration with voyagers on the ocean and voyagers

in space.

1990-1993: A second Hawaiian voyaging canoe, *Hawai'iloa*, was built under the leadership of Wright Bowman, Jr. Two Sitka spruce logs were donated by the native peoples of Southeast Alaska, since no koa logs large enough could be found in Hawai'i's forests. Drift logs from the Pacific Northwest were a traditional source of wood for canoe hulls.

1995: Six Polynesian canoes – *Hōkūle'a*, *Hawai'iloa*, and *Makali'i* from Hawai'i, *Te 'Aurere* from Aotearoa, and *Takitumu* and *Te 'Au Tonga* from Rarotonga – gathered on the island of Nukuhiva in the Marquesas and sailed together to Hawai'i to symbolize the revival of Polynesian voyaging and the unity of cultures of these far-flung islands that together form one of the largest nations on earth.

Within days of arriving in Hawai'i, *Hōkūle'a* and *Hawai'iloa* were shipped to Seattle. *Hōkūle'a* sailed south along the West Coast to share her mana with thousands of Hawaiians living in Portland, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Long Beach, and San Diego. *Hawai'iloa* sailed north to Alaska to thank the native peoples of Southeast for their gift of spruce trees and to share the mana of the canoe, stopping at native villages in British Columbia and at Ketchikan, Hollis, Wrangell, Kake, Angoon, Sitka, Huna, Haines, and Juneau.

1999: *Hōkūle'a* completed an amazing, improbable 19-day, 1,450-mile voyage from Mangareva to Rapanui, the most remote and isolated island in Polynesia, thus closing the Polynesian Triangle by reaching its easternmost outpost and reconnecting the people of Rapanui with their Polynesian cousins. On this voyage, *Hōkūle'a* also visited the six major islands of the Marquesas and Pitcairn.

2004: *Hōkūle'a* sailed west to Papahānaumokuākea (the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands), which extends 1,200 miles from Kaua'i to Kure and includes Nihoa, Mokumanamana, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacle, Maro Reef, Laysan, Lisianski, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, and Midway. This voyage brought attention to the cultural and marine resources of these small and mainly uninhabited islands and raised awareness about the importance of taking care of our islands and ocean resources.

2007: *Hōkūle'a* accompanied the voyaging canoe *Alingano Maisu* to Sawatal. Maisu was a gift for Micronesian navigator Mau Piailug, for his achievements and teachings that made the revival of traditional navigation possible throughout the Pacific and created a family of Pacific voyagers.

Under the leadership of Clay Bertelmann and Nā Kalai Wa'a Moku o Hawai'i, at Mau's request, *Maisu* was built to enable Mau's 'ohana to perpetuate his centuries old voyaging traditions in his native islands.

On Satawal, Mau initiated five Hawaiians and eleven Micronesians into pwo – a rank of master navigator – for their knowledge, achievements, and ability to serve their people. The five Hawaiians were Chad Baybayan, Shorty Bertelmann, Bruce Blankenfeld, Chadd Paishon, and Nainoa Thompson.

After visiting Majuro, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Satawal, Woleai, Ulithi, Yap, and Palau, *Hōkūle'a* sailed on to Japan to celebrate over 125 years of historical connections and intercultural exchanges that began with the visit of King David Kalākaua with Emperor Meiji in Yokohama in 1881.

During this visit, Kalākaua asked Meiji to send Japanese immigrant workers to his

kingdom and in 1885, government-sponsored immigrants began to arrive. In honor of the contributions of the immigrants and their descendants to Hawai'i, *Hōkūle'a* stopped at the prefectures that sent the most immigrants, including Okinawa, Kumamoto, Fukuoka, Yamaguchi, and Hiroshima.

*Hōkūle'a* also connected with the global peace movements centered in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, where the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in World War II; and brought healing to the families of Uwajima who had lost fathers and sons in tragic sinking of Ehime Maru, the taking care of our islands and ocean resources.

2009-2015: *Hōkūle'a* plans to circumnavigate the globe to inspire its people to navigate our canoe/island Earth toward a healthy and sustainable future for everyone. The core message is to mālama (care for) our natural environment, children and all humankind.

To learn more about the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the voyages of *Hōkūle'a*, visit these sites:

PVS Weblog at <http://pvshawaii.squarespace.com>

PVS Education and Archive website at <http://pvs.hawaii.org>

*Hōkūle'a*'s Worldwide Voyage at <http://www.hokuleawwv.org/about-voyage/worldwide-voyage>