

For Immediate Release

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Preserving the history of Kahalu`u

KAMUELA, Hawai`i—August 7, 2008—History of Kahalu`u and Keauhou and life stories of kūpuna who lived there are being recorded and shared thanks to a Preserve America Grant awarded to The Kohala Center.

The ahupua`a of Kahalu`u and Keauhou are sacred to Hawaiians and the grant awarded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recognizes efforts to preserve their special significance.

“The Kohala Center was awarded the \$16,000 Preserve America Grant for the Kahalu`u Bay preservation effort. The work involves documenting and sharing historical and cultural information about Kahalu`u Bay, restoring the Hawaiian sense of respect for this ancient gathering place and its natural resources, and for teaching and reinforcing respectful behavior on the part of visitors to protect the bay's precious coastal environment,” said Allen Tom, National Marine Sanctuaries program coordinator.

Grant monies go to co-produce a cultural brochure on the ahupua`a of Kahalu`u and Keauhou and to capture on DVD the area's history and life stories of kupauna.

The DVD features kūpuna Mitchell Fujisaka and Allen Wall sharing their stories with ethnographer Kepa Maly. Maly gives additional background on the ahupua`a gleaned from old Hawaiian language newspapers.

“It has been a dream of mine to present our kūpuna on video and to share their life history,” said Cindi Punihaole, public outreach and volunteer coordinator with The Kohala Center, which manages the Kahalu`u Bay Project. “In this way we are able to continue the heritage of our Hawaiian culture. An important part of our work at The Kohala Center is to understand the culture. If you understand the culture you can understand the environment. We are about understanding what was in the past in order to understand where to go. Kūpuna guide us to restore the beach and bay at Kahalu`u in a rightful and respectful way—the *pono* way for our children.”

Preserving the history of Kahalu`u

Page 2

When completed later next month, the DVD will be available from The Kohala Center. It will be shown via Web cast at the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort and on The Kohala Center website (www.kohalacenter.org).

The full-color brochure, *Ho`iho`i Kūlana Wahi Pana* (Restoring Sacred Places), shares the special cultural significance and the wealth of little known sites both sacred and life giving of Kahalu`u and Keauhou. The brochure was produced in part through the Preserve America Grant and through a partnership with the Outrigger Keauhou Resort, The Kohala Center and National Marine Sanctuaries Program-Pacific Islands Region.

Available at The Kohala Center office and the Outrigger Keauhou Beach Hotel, the brochure is also downloadable as a resource at NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries website (<http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>).

One of a number of applicants submitting a proposal for the grants, The Kohala Center was the only grantee this year from Hawai`i. The Kohala Center has a strong partnership with the Pacific Islands Region of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and a successful history of managing federal, state and other types of grants and awards.

In 2006 The Kohala Center received a \$50,000 grant from NOAA for the Kahalu`u Bay Project to begin the ReefTeach program, which shows beachgoers how to enjoy the popular bay without damaging the delicate coral reef and its inhabitants.

The Kohala Center is an independent, not-for-profit center for research and education *about* and *for* environment. By respectfully engaging Hawai`i Island as the world's most vibrant classroom and laboratory for humanity, The Kohala Center builds teaching and research programs that enhance island environments, serve island communities, and advance the work of the academy. The Kohala Center operates in partnership with local, national, and international research and educational institutions. Among its current project partners are Hawai`i Community College, the Edith Kanaka`ole Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Kamehameha Schools, the University of Hawai`i, Brown University, Cornell University, the Redlands Institute, the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, among many others.

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