

Illuminating Our Ancestral Connections: **Kealaikahiki**

What is
Kealaikahiki?

How does
Kealaikahiki
connect us?

Where can I
explore these
connections?

What is *Kealaikahiki*?

***Kealaikahiki* (the path to Kahiki/ Tahiti) is an ancestral “sea road” that forms a heritage corridor connecting Hawai‘i and the Kahiki Homeland.**

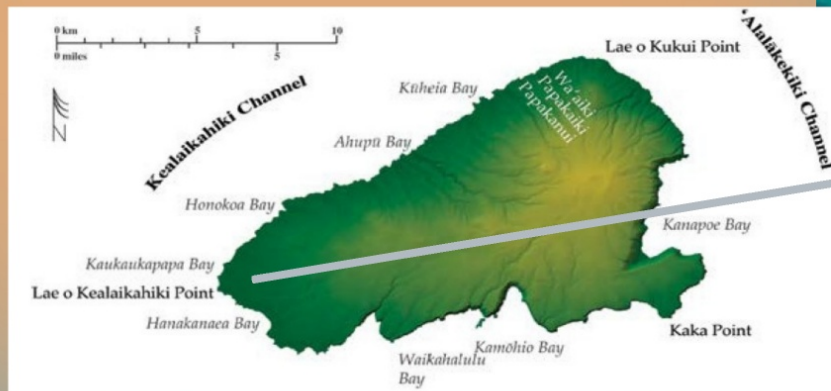
This corridor has multiple access points, similar to on-ramps and off-ramps, with optimal times and conditions for sailing.

Click on one of the location spotlights to learn more.



Situated on the Hawai'i side of the heritage corridor is the island of Kaho'olawe.

Kealaikahiki is the name of the channel on the northwest side of the island, as well as the point on its southwestern tip — and both directly align with the Kealaikahiki sea road.



Kealaikahiki Point, Kaho'olawe
Photo: Courtesy of Douglas Peebles

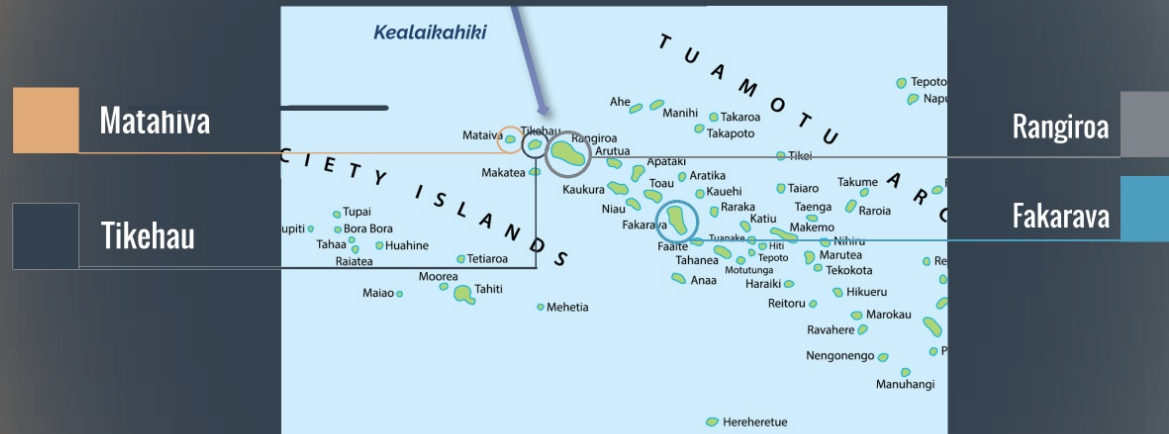
Kahiki is a traditional reference to the regional homeland of the Hawaiian people.

The *Kahiki Homeland* includes the Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, and the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia, and may generally refer to other closely-related island groups as well.

Click on the location spotlight to learn more.



Contemporary voyagers have described for decades how the Hōkūle'a is consistently drawn into the same pocket of islands, seemingly beyond the control of the navigators and crew.



This conspicuous cluster of atolls is referred to as *Pae Tuamotu* – it includes Matahiva, Tikehau, and Rangiroa, with other culturally significant islands like Fakarava in very close proximity.

**How does *Kealaikahiki*
connect us?**

Hawai'i - Tahiti Connections

Connections between Hawai'i and Tahiti are reflected in a variety of ways:

Stories &
Songs



Language



Royal
Lineages



Click on one of the topics to learn more.

Traditional stories, or mo'olelo, provide a wealth of ancestral accounts of two-way voyaging between Hawai'i and Tahiti.

- Mo'ikeha, Pele, Pa'ao, and Pili are chiefly voyagers whose epic journeys and legendary feats have been recounted for generations through story, song, and dance.
- Sailing northward after departing Kahiki, navigator-priest Kamahualele sees the southeastern coastline of Hawai'i Island and offers a compelling mele that is now a classic in Hawaiian literature, *Eia Hawai'i*. The opening lines proclaim:

Eia Hawai'i, he moku, he kanaka
Behold Hawai'i, an island, a man

He kanaka Hawai'i ē, he kanaka Hawai'i
Hawai'i is a man!

He kama na Kahiki
A child of Tahiti



Eia Hawai'i (Behold Hawai'i)

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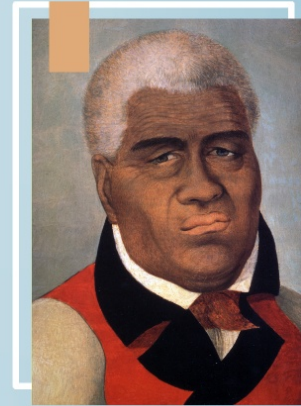
Ancestral place names
conspicuously recur throughout
Polynesia, serving as markers along
an oceanic road map.

- Savai'i/Havai'i/Hawaiki/Hawai'i
- Vava'u/Vevau/Wawau
- 'Uporu/Kuporu/'Ūpolu
- Tonga/To'a/Kona
- Fiji/Viti/Tahiti/Kahiki

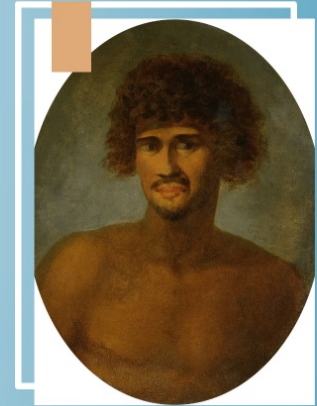


The royal families of Hawai'i and Tahiti share common ancestors originating from the Ulu/Nanaulu chiefly lines. In the 19th century, the Kamehameha and Pōmare Dynasties corresponded with each other expressing mutual support as Polynesian allies and royal counterparts.

Today, that relationship continues through a cultural-educational partnership established in a declaration signed by Kamehameha Schools and heirs of the royal Pōmare family.



Kamehameha I



Pōmare I



Bernice Pauahi Bishop



Aimata Pōmare IV
Vahine-o-Punuateraitua

**Where can I explore these
connections?**

Ka'iwakīlōumoku
Pacific
Indigenous
Institute

Holomoana

**Continue exploring the
Hawai'i-Tahiti connection
with these resources:**

Bishop
Museum



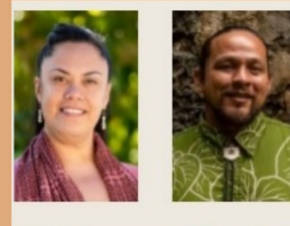
The 'Aha Moananuiākea Pacific Consortium encompasses Kamehameha Schools, Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), Bishop Museum, and the University of Hawaii System, and is led and organized by Kamehameha Schools' Ho'okahua Cultural Vibrancy Group, based at the Ka'iwakiloumoku Hawaiian Cultural Center.

The consortium's purpose is to honor the ancestral oceanic home of Native Hawaiians – Moananuiākea – where profound human achievements have taken place for millennia.



FRENCH POLYNESIA

Learn more about the cultural partnerships of French Polynesia



Explore diverse cultural perspectives from contemporary voices around the Pacific

<https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/moananuiakea>

Learn more about Ka Houpo o Kāne, also known as the Doldrums or Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)



Explore the modern methods of non-instrument navigation, based on Pacific traditions



<https://www.ksbe.edu/digital/holomoana/kumu/>

<https://blogs.ksbe.edu/holomoana/>



HOLOMOANA

LESSONS & ACTIVITIES

For further exploration, [visit the holomoana site](#), a Native Hawaiian place of learning for voyagers of the world

Holomoana Lessons and Activities

Curious about ways to incorporate wayfinding into your own curriculum? These resources might help. Search for lesson plans, digital activities, worksheets, videos and more.









Kamehameha Schools



A Native Hawaiian Place of Learning for Voyagers of the World

HŌ'ŌKELE
SAIL PLAN

MO'ŌKŪ AUHAU
LINEAGE

HĀLAU WĀ'A
CREW TRAINING

MO'OMANA'O
LOG BOOK

[Kali Resources](#)





“I have laid the stick that connects people together. Now it is up to you, your generation and the generations to come, to build upon that stick.”
- Mau Piailug

Explore Holomoana for Your Own Personal and Education Use

Moananuiākea, the vast Pacific universe, was first explored and settled by our kūpuna, our ancestors, who were among the greatest navigators on earth.

Holomoana is dedicated to the perpetuation of their voyaging legacy. As we learn about the rising and setting of stars, the currents of wind and waves, the stories of past voyages, and the basic skills required of all crew members, we are reminded of the reasons we sail: to serve the needs of the community, bring honor to all who have sailed before us, and prepare the way for those who will follow in our wake.



Activity

Acting Out the Sun Rising and Setting

Use a globe to act out the sun rising and setting.

[GET IT](#)

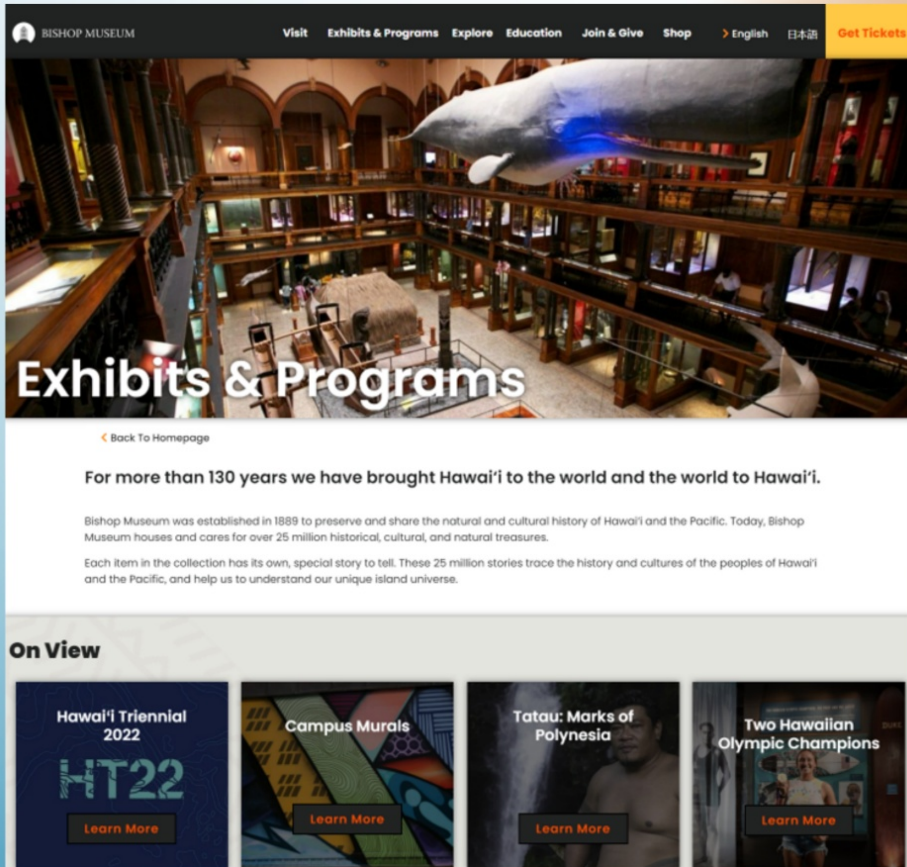
Cardinal Points for Early Learners



Make Your Own Sun Track Model



Sailing Home Overview



Bishop Museum is the largest museum in Hawai'i and the **premier natural and cultural history institution** in the Pacific, offering visitors in-person and virtual opportunities to explore the extraordinary **history, culture, and environment of Hawai'i and the Pacific.**



Learn how the peoples of Oceania are diverse, yet deeply connected, at Pacific Hall



Sign up for a virtual field trip where students work together to help construct a model canoe and imagine life as a crew of ocean travelers

<https://www.bishopmuseum.org/>

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