

# Illuminating Our Ancestral Connections:

# Kealaikahiki

What is  
*Kealaikahiki*?

How does  
*Kealaikahiki*  
connect us?

Where can I  
explore these  
connections?



*Wa'a Honua*

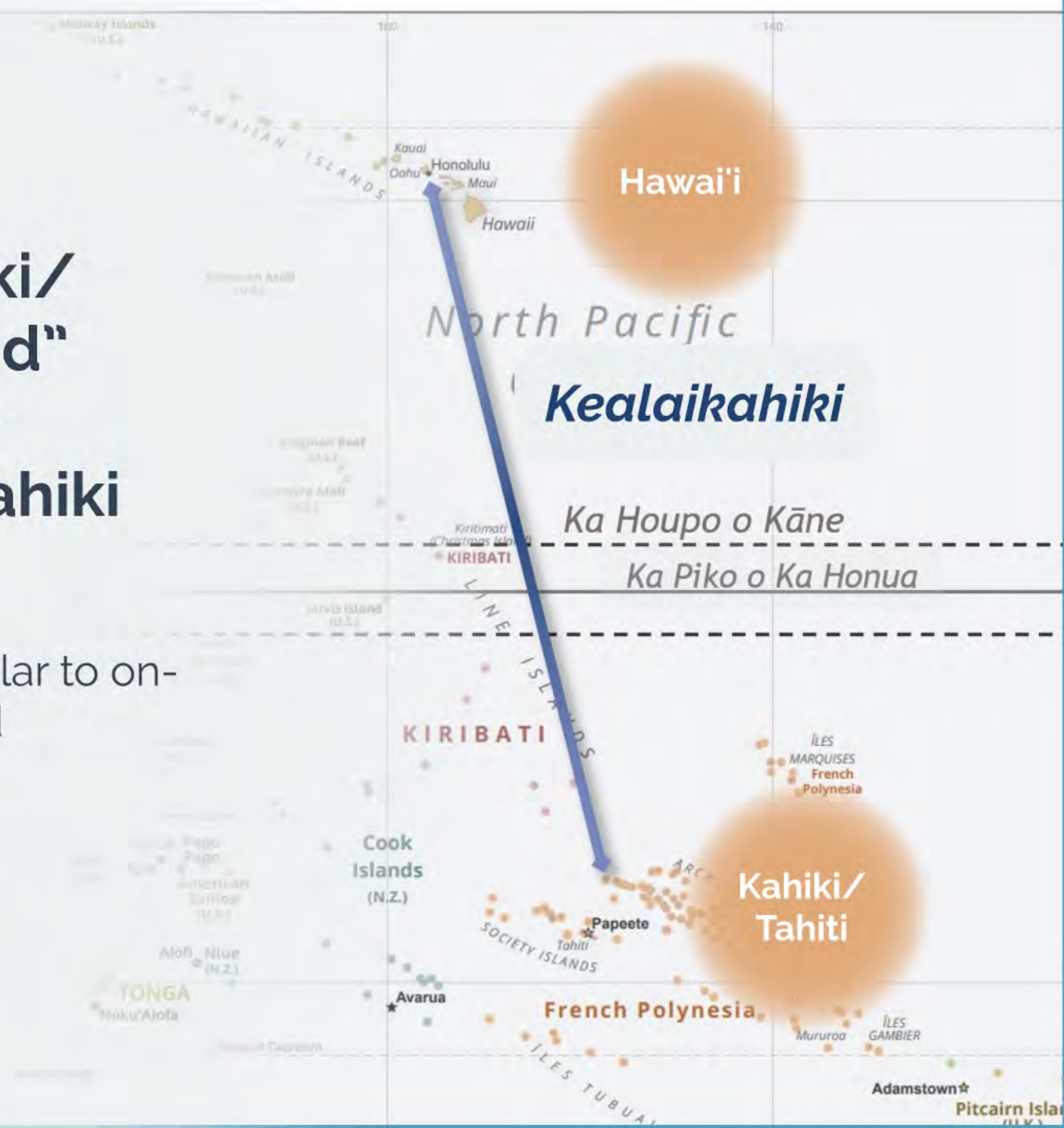
**What is**  
***Kealaikahiki?***



***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.

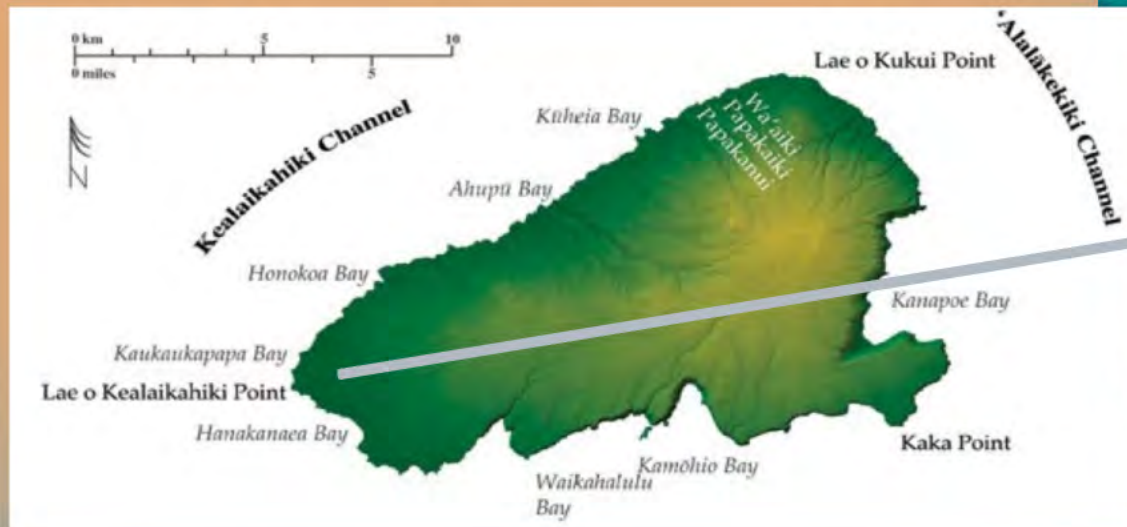
Click on one of the location spotlights to learn more.





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'iukeha, 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)***

Copyright Herb K. Kane, LLC



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'iwakīloumoku  
Pacific  
Indigenous  
Institute**

**Holomoana**

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

**Bishop  
Museum**

## MOANANUIĀKEA

The vast Pacific Ocean is the largest feature on earth named by humans other than the earth itself.

[BACK TO MOANANUIĀKEA](#)



### 'AHA MOANANUIĀKEA EDUCATION VISION

The Pacific, the ancestral home of the Hawaiian people, is a strategic oceanic region of influence and impact that serves as a global educational canvas for the highest levels of learning to generate real-world solutions guided by indigenous wisdom.

To realize this vision, the 'Aha Moananuiākea consortium has established ten cultural partnerships that connect Hawai'i and the following Pacific regions: French Polynesia, Aotearoa, Alaska, and Taiwan.



[Consortium Overview](#)

[Partnership Details](#)

[Guiding Elders](#)

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



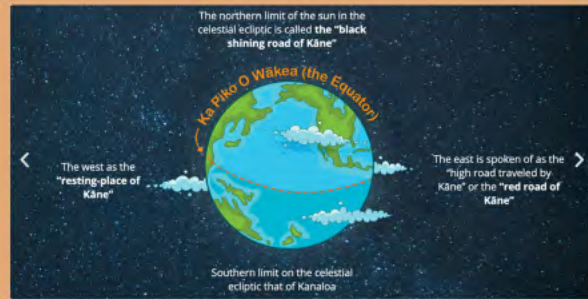
Explore diverse cultural perspectives from contemporary voices around the Pacific

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



Holomoana is a Native Hawaiian **place of learning for voyagers** of the world. Developed by Kamehameha Schools for teachers and students, Holomoana is **dedicated to the perpetuation of the voyaging legacy** of our ancestors.

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 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.

Subscribe to Get Updates  
Get the latest information on the Moananuiākea Voyage, and Holomoana Lessons & Activities.

Search filters: Type, Grade, Subject, and a RESET button.

Resource cards for 'Lesson Plans' and 'Cardinal Points' are visible.

Kamehameha Schools Kumu Resources

# HOLOMOANA

A Native Hawaiian Place of Learning for Voyagers of the World

HO'ŌKELE SAIL PLAN | MO'OKŪ'AUHAU LINEAGE | HĀLAU WA'A CREW TRAINING | MO'OMANA'O LOG BOOK

**Activity: Acting Out the Sun Rising and Setting**

**Cardinal Points for Early Learners**

**Make Your Own Sun Track Model**

**Sailing Home Overview**

**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 wave, 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.

Quote: "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





# Exhibits & Programs

Back To Homepage

For more than 130 years we have brought Hawai'i to the world and the world to Hawai'i.

Bishop Museum was established in 1889 to preserve and share the natural and cultural history of Hawai'i and the Pacific. Today, Bishop Museum houses and cares for over 25 million historical, cultural, and natural treasures.

Each item in the collection has its own, special story to tell. These 25 million stories trace the history and cultures of the peoples of Hawai'i and the Pacific, and help us to understand our unique island universe.

## On View

Hawai'i Triennial 2022

HT22

Learn More

Campus Murals

Learn More

Tatau: Marks of Polynesia

Learn More

Two Hawaiian Olympic Champions

Learn More

**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

Holoholo: Transportation and Voyaging

K-8th

Sign Up

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/>



# Illuminating Our Ancestral Connections:

# Kealaikahiki

What is  
*Kealaikahiki*?

How does  
*Kealaikahiki*  
connect us?

Where can I  
explore these  
connections?



Waia Honua