

What is
Moananuiākea?

How are we
connected to
Moananuiākea?

How do we
continue to
build on our
Moananuiākea
connections?

Illuminating Our Ancestral Connections: Moananuiākea



Wa'a Honua

What is
Moananuiākea?

Moananuiākea is the ancestral oceanic homeland of the indigenous peoples of the Pacific.

Moananuiākea means "great expansive ocean" and is a contemporary native Hawaiian term of reference for this oceanic space.

It includes every island and continental coast touched by Pacific waters.

For these reasons the upcoming voyage of the Polynesian Voyaging Society is named "Moananuiākea."

Just how big is Moananuiākea?

Click on one of the spotlights below to find out

Fun Fact
#1

Fun Fact
#2

Fun Fact
#3

Moananuiākea

Moananuiākea is the largest feature on earth named by humans – other than the earth itself.

In comparison:



Andes Mountains = 1.3 million square miles



Amazon Rainforest = 2.6 million square miles

Sahara Desert = 3.6 million square miles



Moananuiākea = 60 million square miles

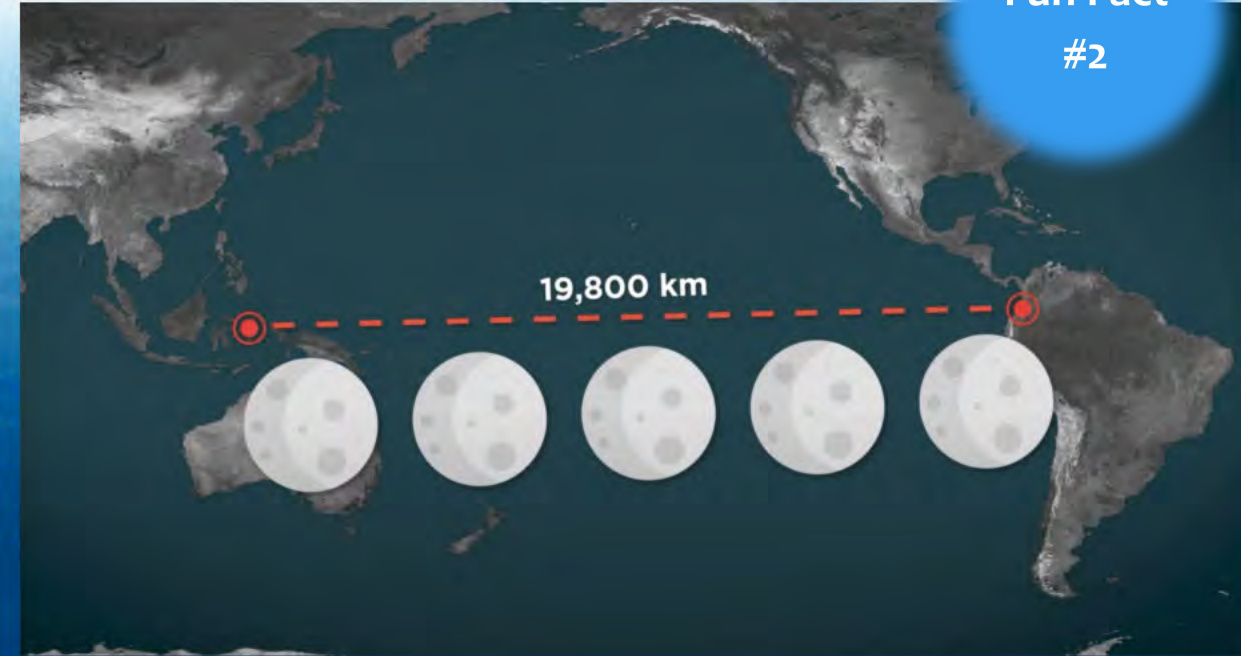


Fun Fact

#1

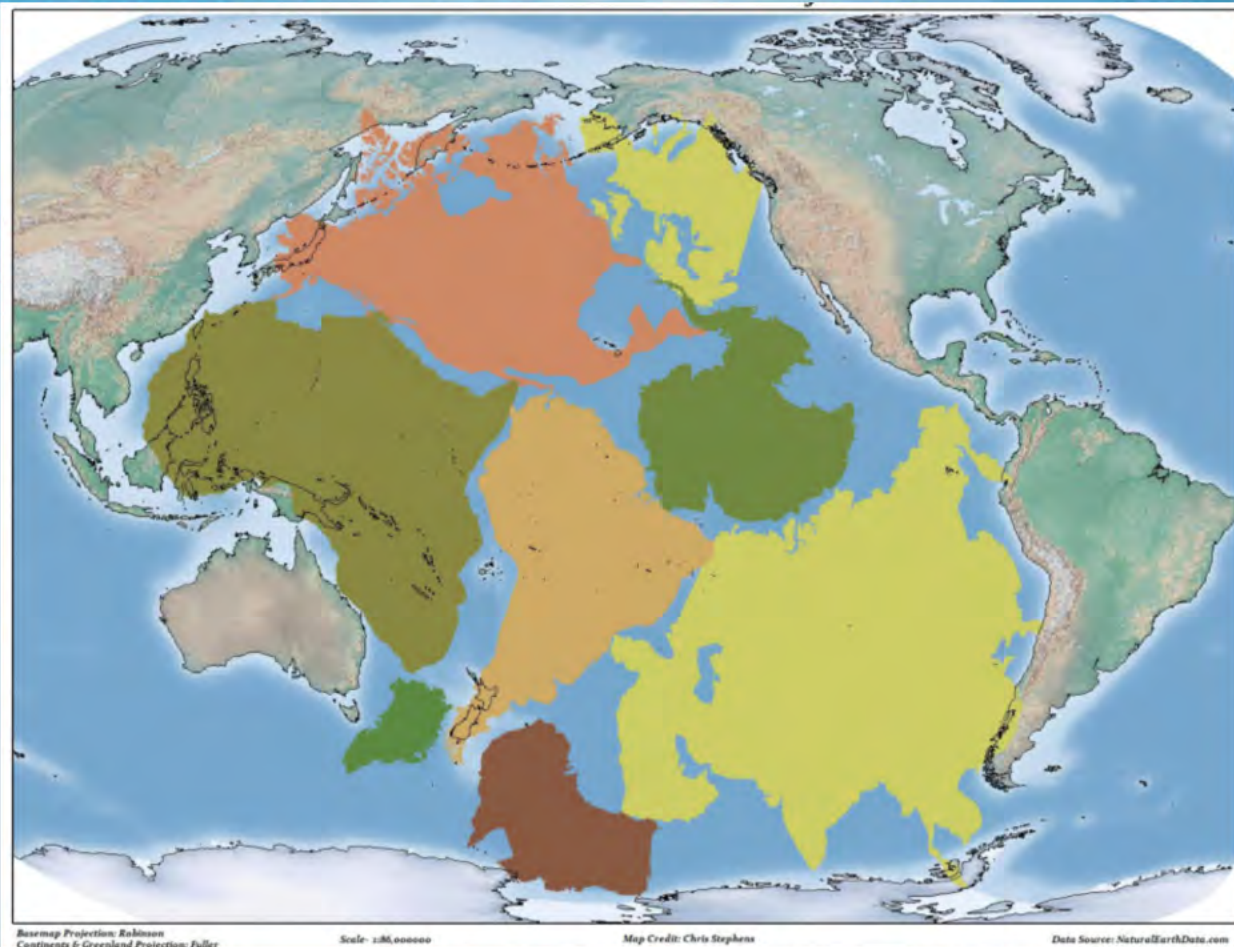
Every landmass on earth can fit into Moananuiākea with room to spare....

Fun Fact
#2

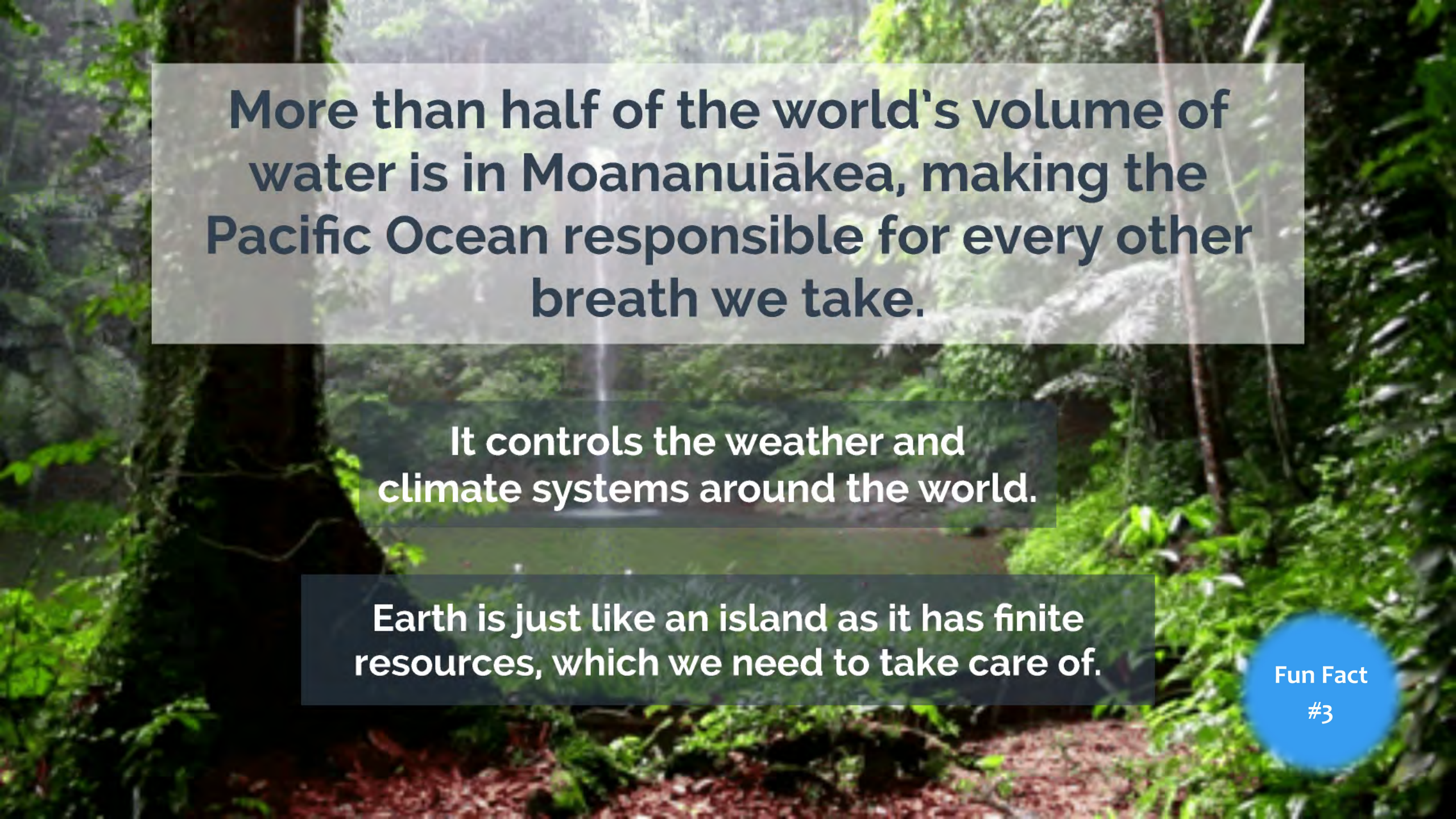


...and the longest stretch of Moananuiākea is longer than five moons placed side by side.

Graphic source: <https://nerdist.com/article/how-big-pacific-ocean-video/>



Basemap Projection: Robinson
Continents & Greenland Projection: Fuller
Scale: 1:86,000,000
Map Credit: Chris Stephens
Data Source: NaturalEarthData.com

A lush tropical forest with a waterfall in the background. The scene is filled with vibrant green foliage, including ferns and large trees. A path of reddish-brown leaves leads through the forest towards the waterfall. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

More than half of the world's volume of water is in Moananuiākea, making the Pacific Ocean responsible for every other breath we take.

It controls the weather and climate systems around the world.

Earth is just like an island as it has finite resources, which we need to take care of.

**Fun Fact
#3**

**How are we connected
to Moananuiākea?**

Like a 3-ply braid, there are three lineages that form an inseverable cord of 'aha, connecting us to our rich and profound wayfinding heritage.

**Austronesian
Heritage**
6,000 years

**Kealaikahiki:
Tahiti - Hawai'i**
1,000 years

**Mau Piailug
and the
Polynesian
Voyaging Society**
50 years



Austronesian is a language family whose very ancient roots are found in the aboriginal languages of Taiwan, known as Formosan.

Polynesian languages (Tahitian, Hawaiian, Māori, etc.) are the very youngest in the Austronesian family.

This oceanic heritage is defined by shared linguistic traits and maritime technology that originated in the vicinity of Taiwan some 6,000 years ago and marks the profound human dispersal that resulted in the peopling of the vast Pacific including Hawai'i.



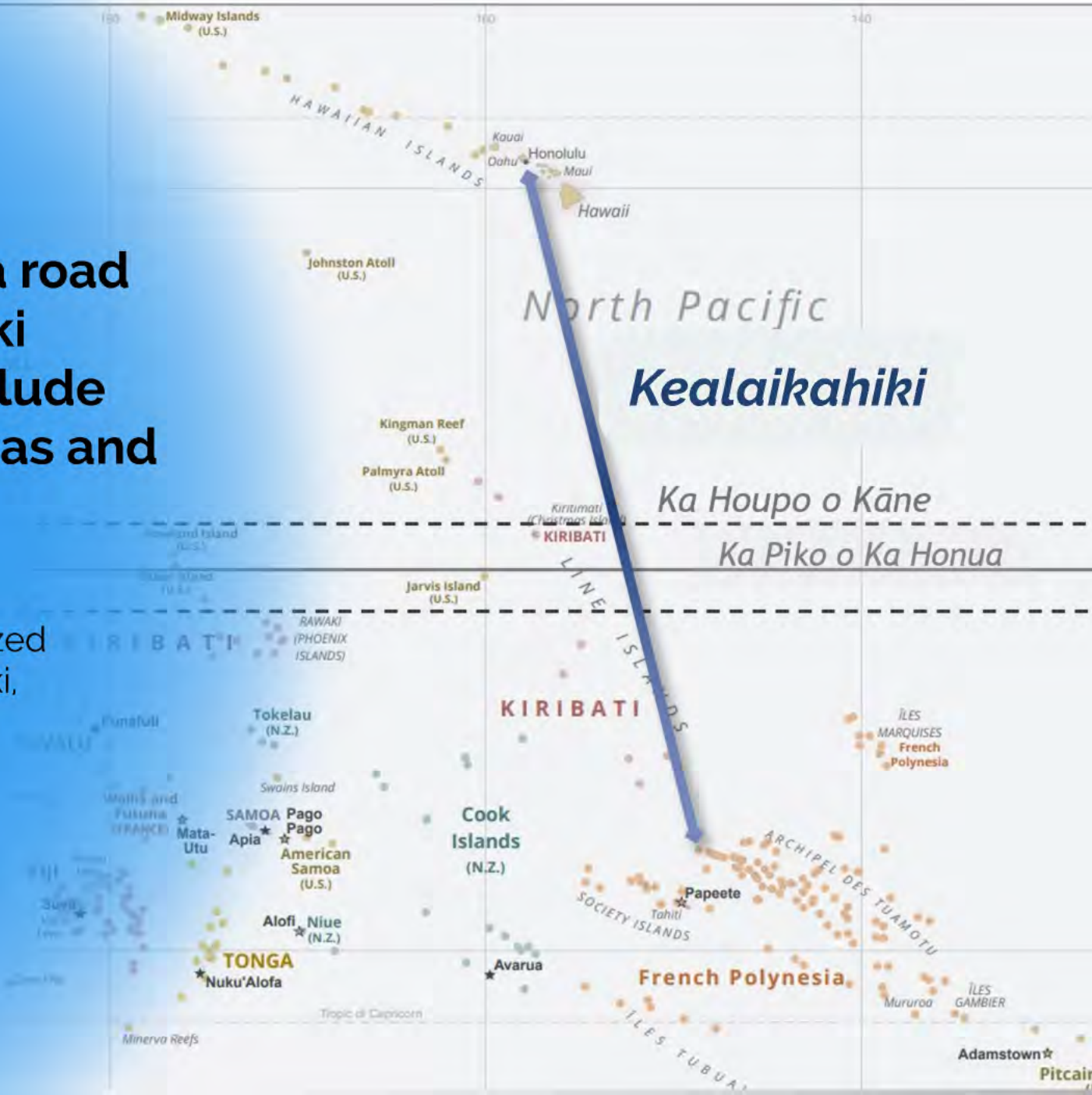
Click here for a PDF on Austronesians: <https://shorturl.at/bdnq3>



***Kealaikahiki* is the traditional sea road connecting Hawai'i and the Kahiki homeland (archipelagos that include the Societies, Tuamotu, Marquesas and other regional island groups).**

Kealaikahiki forms a heritage corridor memorialized in migration stories of Mo'ikeha and La'amaikahiki, Pele and Kamohoali'i, and many other seafaring chiefs dating back about 1,000 years ago.

Click here to learn more: <http://shorturl.at/ms029>





Mau Piailug, master of traditional navigation from Satawal, navigated Hōkūle'a from Hawai'i to Tahiti in 1976.

Today, Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, one of his students, continues his legacy which has spurred the revitalization of traditional navigation and voyaging throughout the contemporary Pacific.

Click the link to see "Papa Mau the Wayfinder" a documentary on Mau Piailug's legacy:
<https://shorturl.at/CQR07>

The **Polynesian Voyaging Society** was created to bring together people of diverse backgrounds and professions for one purpose: to learn to rebuild a traditional sailing vessel to prove that the Polynesian people sailed with intention and understood their connection to the ocean and the land.

Since its inception in the 1970's, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and their wa'a kaulua (double-hulled canoes) continue to bring the peoples of Moananuiākea together.

Click the link to visit the Polynesian Voyaging Society's website: <https://www.hokulea.com/>



**How do we continue to
build on our
Moananuiākea
connections?**

**Cultural
Exchange**

**Pacific
Conversations**

**Pacific
Regions**

Voyaging

Cultural Exchange

The *'Aha Moananuiākea Pacific Consortium* envisions a vibrant network of cultural exchanges, both virtual and in-person, connecting learners and professionals among our partnerships. The possibilities for these exchanges are endless.

In 2021, the inaugural Ho'okele Honua Pacific Unity Virtual Summit gathered more than 200 individuals from across the globe. The virtual summit was coordinated across multiple timezones and four languages with our partners representing Taiwan, Aotearoa, Micronesia, French Polynesia, Alaska, and Rapa Nui. Watch our 2021 and 2022 summits below!

For more information, contact us at kaiwa@ksbe.edu

Ho'okele Honua Summit 2021: <https://shorturl.at/LTW56>

Ho'okele Honua Summit 2022: <https://shorturl.at/qsX16>



Virtual Cultural Exchange, Alaska-Hawai'i: Rocky Mountain Highschool and Kamehameha Schools Kapālama (April 2021)

Here is a video link to our very first Virtual Cultural Exchange:

<https://youtu.be/NboXapwMyGk>



Micronesia (Yap and Chuuk) Cultural Exchange: Yap Catholic School, Xavier Highschool, and KS Kapālama (April 2022)

Here is a video link to our Cultural Exchange:

<https://shorturl.at/hnrx8>

Pacific Regions

Click on the links to learn more about each region.



Indigenous Taiwan

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



Aotearoa

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



French Polynesia

<https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/french-polynesia>



Alaska

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



Rapa Nui

<https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/rapa-nui>



Micronesia

<https://kaiwakiloumoku.ksbe.edu/micronesia-learn-more-about>

Navigation and Voyaging

Holomoana

Wa'a Honua



Holomoana

Holomoana is a Native Hawaiian place of learning for voyagers of the world.

As part of KS Digital, Holomoana includes a wide variety of educational resources centered around voyaging for students and teachers created by the Kamehameha Schools. So click on the link below and let's dive in!

Click the link below to visit the Holomoana website:
<https://blogs.ksbe.edu/holomoana/>



A screenshot of the Holomoana website homepage. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the Kamehameha Schools logo and the text "KS Digital" and "Kame Resources". Below this is a white header with the "HOLOMOANA" logo and the tagline "A Native Hawaiian Place of Learning for Voyagers of the World". To the right of the logo are four menu items: "HO'OKELE SAIL PLAN", "MO'OKŪ'AUHAU LINEAGE", "HĀLAU WA'A CREW TRAINING", and "MO'OMANA'O LOG BOOK". The main content area features a large image of a voyaging canoe on the water with mountains in the background. Below the image, there is a section titled "Explore Holomoana for Your Own Personal and Education Use" with a paragraph of text and a button labeled "VISIT HO'OKELE SAIL PLAN". To the right of the text is a smaller image of a crowd gathered around a boat, with the caption "1976 Arrival in Tahiti" below it.

Wa'a Honua

The Wa'a Honua website seeks to inspire new generations of navigators by celebrating wayfinding in the Pacific as a means to mālama Honua (care for the earth).

A rich content library and voyage dashboard make the Wa'a Honua website a valuable resource for all. Kau ka pe'a, holo ka wa'a!

Click the link below to visit the Wa'a Honua website:
<https://waahonua.com/>

Wa'a Honua

Why We Sail | Wayfinding | Discover Content | Voyage Dashboard

INSPIRING NAVIGATORS OF THE FUTURE

FEATURED STORY:
Balancing the Canoe

Search ... All Categories All Tags RESET

Balancing the Canoe
Pwo Navigator Nainoa Thompson and Hōkūle'a Captain Lehua Kamalu describe trusting the natural world and...
[Read More](#)

Vigilance and the Gift of Voyaging – Bruce Blankenfeld
Pwo Navigator and Captain Bruce Blankenfeld describes the different aspects of crewing Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia...
[Read More](#)

Taputapuātea – Linking Our Past and Our Future
Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia sailed to Marae Taputapuātea on the island of Raiātea on May 17...
[Read More](#)

Hōkūle'a in Tahiti – Then and Now
The arrival of Hōkūle'a in Pape'ete, Tahiti, in May 2022 echoes the first arrival of...
[Read More](#)

Hikianalia – Bruce Blankenfeld
Pwo Navigator and Captain Bruce Blankenfeld describes the critical role of Hikianalia, the escort vessel...
[Read More](#)

Learning Our Earth - Cycles of Life
As co-conveners of the May 2022 Blue Climate Summit in Tahiti, Pwo Navigator Nainoa Thompson...
[Read More](#)



KEALAIKAHIKI
<https://shorturl.at/mvKN6>



ALASKA NATIVE CANOE LEGACY
<https://shorturl.at/AWY35>



TAPUTAPUĀTEA
<https://shorturl.at/AFY45>



INDIGENOUS TAIWAN
<https://shorturl.at/aDFLN>



RAPA NUI
<https://shorturl.at/ciL78>



PACIFIC INGENUITY - MICRONESIA
<https://shorturl.at/KQRT1>



NGĀTI RUAWĀHIA Pt.1 <https://shorturl.at/CHSX3>
NGĀTI RUAWĀHIA Pt.2 <https://shorturl.at/h1NY6>

Pacific Conversations

Learn more about Moananuiākea through the web series Pacific Conversations.

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