



News Release

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NOAA Awards Preserve America Funding for Hawaiian Language Newspaper Translation

(Honolulu, HI) NOAA's [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) (ONMS) [Pacific Islands Region](#) (PIR), in collaboration with the [University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program](#) (UH Sea Grant), received [NOAA Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding](#) (PAIFF) to support the translation of Hawaiian language newspaper articles that highlight weather and climate change in Hawai'i.

The project, *Ka Wā Ma Mua, Ka Wā Ma Hope* (Using the Past to Inform the Future: English Translation of Hawaiian Language Newspaper Accounts of Unusual Weather Events), teams the PIR and UH Sea Grant with two other NOAA programs, the [National Weather Service](#) and the [Pacific Risk Management Ohana](#), and the [University of Hawai'i's Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge](#), the [University of Hawai'i Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research](#), and the Hawaiian language organization [Awaiaulu](#).

In an effort to make this invaluable resource available and accessible to the general public, UH Sea Grant is developing a website which will display the original Hawaiian newspaper article and also the English language transcription. These initial selected articles are focused on fisheries and indications of changing climate in the islands. At this time there is no other repository of information available to the public which includes both the Hawaiian language text and the English transcription.

Dr. Darren Okimoto of UH Sea Grant said "On behalf of the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to our NOAA partners and the NOAA Preserve America Initiative for recognizing the importance of the Hawaiian language newspaper archive and how information from this virtually untapped resource can be used to inform current day management decisions. We are excited to continue our efforts with Awaiaulu in developing the next generation of translators as well as making these newspaper articles available to the public through a searchable website."

Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, of Hawai'i inuiākea and Awaiaulu commented, "As part of a growing effort to provide access to historical knowledge, *Ka Wā Ma Mua, Ka Wā Ma Hope* is a significant project. It embodies the linkages that allow researchers to investigate the extensive Hawaiian-language repository and to incorporate data from that source into our understanding of the past and our planning for the present and future. Mahalo to Sea Grant and to all who are working to support the development and use of this resource"

Bill Thomas, Senior Lead for NOAA's Office of Coastal Management added "It was the presentation at the Rising Voices 2 last year in Colorado by the US Geological Survey and the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy on historic Lakota climate records that spawned the idea of

tying it in to what Hawaiian translations efforts have been doing for the past several years. Thanks to all who were involved, this is very exciting!”

The PAIIF, now in its 11th year, supports strategies that represent current and emerging issues facing our nation and NOAA, including climate change and adaptation, cultural engagement and historical ecology, all themes embodied in this project.

For more information about UH Sea Grant and the Hawaiian newspaper translation project visit <http://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/>

To learn more about the NOAA Preserve America Initiative check out preserveamerica.noaa.gov.

For more information about PIR visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>.

On the Web:

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <https://noaa.sanctuaries.gov>

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The University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program is part of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s prestigious School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology. It supports an innovative program of research, education and extension services directed to the improved understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine resources of the state, region and nation. Science serving Hawai‘i and the Pacific for over 45 years.