

Hōkūle‘a Voyaging Trail

“If I have courage, it is because I have faith in the knowledge of my ancestors.”

Mau Piailug, Pwo (Master) Navigator



The Hōkūle‘a Voyaging Trail (behind you) was created to honor and recognize voyaging and the traditional non-instrument method of navigation called “wayfinding” that used information in the heavens and other clues in nature to navigate vast distances of open ocean. The ancient Polynesians used this complex navigational system to voyage to islands throughout the Pacific including to and from the Hawaiian Islands. Navigators were revered as highly as chiefs for their special knowledge, which was taught to them from a very young age through oral tradition.



Photo provided by Polynesian Voyaging Society and ‘Ōiwi TV
Photographer: Bryson Hoe

The construction and 1975 launching of the traditional double-hulled canoe, Hōkūle‘a (Star of Gladness) marked a rebirth in Hawai‘i of this ancient art and helped fuel the renaissance of Native Hawaiian culture, language and arts taking place at that time. More wa‘a (canoes) were built in the years that followed as a new generation learned traditional wayfinding from Pwo (Master) navigators including Mau Piailug, one of only a handful of practitioners in Polynesia still alive during that time and able to share their knowledge.

Through the years, Hōkūle‘a spread its message of hope and inspiration as it explored the Pacific Ocean and the deeper spiritual meaning of “voyaging”. In May 2014, she set sail with her sister ship, Hikianalia, for her most ambitious voyage to date; a three-year circumnavigation of Earth. The voyage made real a dream of Myron “Pinky” Thompson, visionary leader for more than two decades of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, to embark on a worldwide voyage that would inspire and unite cultures around the world to mālama honua (care for our island earth). To learn more, visit www.hokulea.com.

As you walk the trail, look for the petroglyphs created by artist Kauila Clark that honor the tradition of voyaging. An information kiosk with more details is located along the trail.



**HAWAIIAN STAR
COMPASS**



WA‘A



ALAKA‘I



E‘ALA



HŌKŪLE‘A



MAU PIALUG



HAWAI‘I LOA



MAKALI‘I



HIKIANALIA



MO‘IKEHA