

OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION
2010 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

IMPROVING COORDINATION AMONG PACIFIC ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

IMPROVING COORDINATION WITH OTHER REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IMPROVING OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

DEVELOPING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

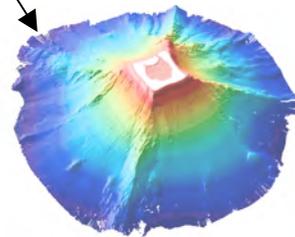
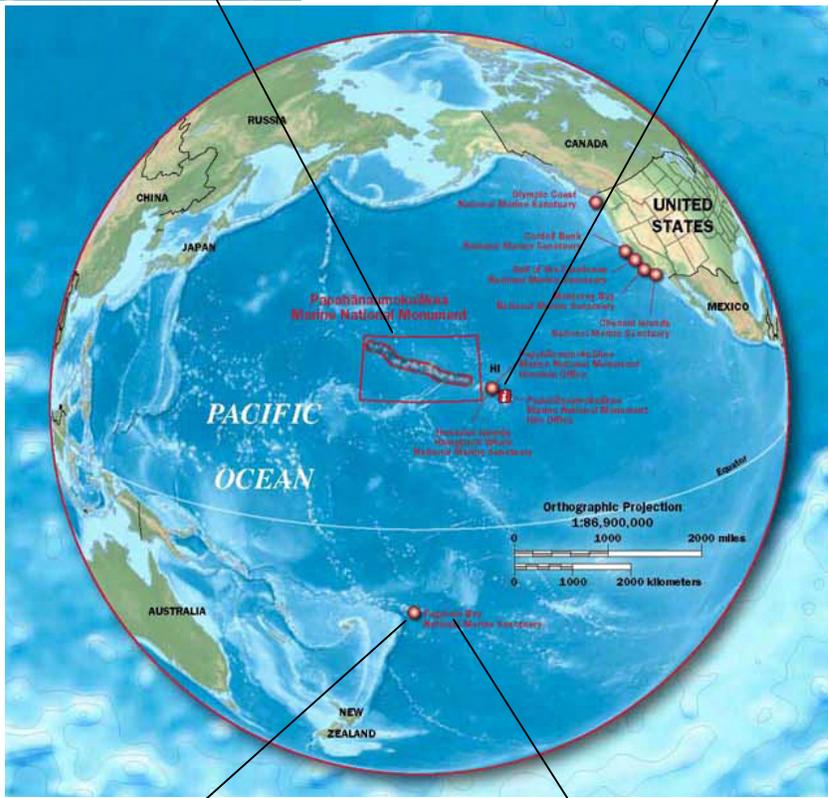
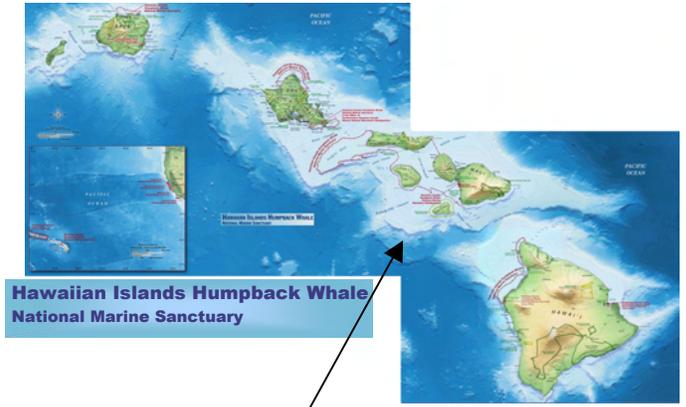
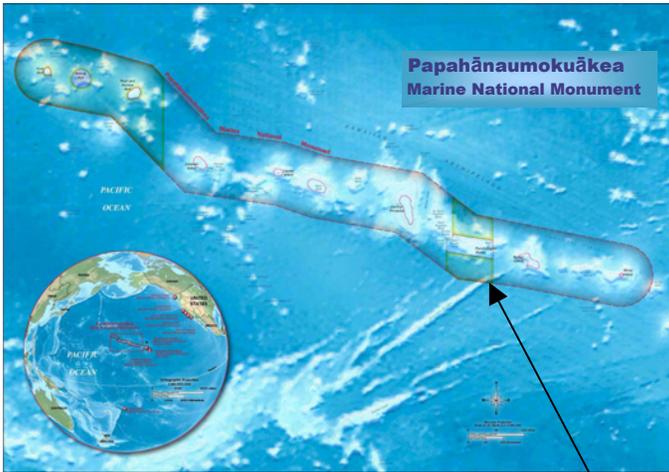
FAGATELE BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT

ROSE ATOLL PROPOSED NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY





Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Rose Atoll Marine National Proposed Sanctuary

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region

2010 Accomplishments

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Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region 2010 Accomplishments

The Pacific Island Region (PIR) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) oversees management of two sanctuaries, and one marine national monument, recently inscribed as a World Heritage Site. These South Pacific sites include both the largest and smallest in the ONMS system. Together they protect over 140,000 square miles of tropical coastal and ocean waters.

This report provides a brief review of the activities conducted by the PIR in 2010. Many of these accomplishments involved collaboration with one or more of the sites and ONMS headquarters. Others involved partners both inside and outside of the federal government.

The PIR staff engaged State, Federal, nongovernmental and academic partners in a variety of efforts that promoted understanding of marine protected areas, marine resource protection and the ONMS, and supported education and science initiatives throughout the region.



Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosted ONMS' Dive Into Education July 27 and 28. Educators from all 14 national marine sanctuaries provided 140 local teachers with educational resources and training to support ocean and climate literacy in the classroom.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Improving coordination within the Pacific Islands to better protect sanctuary resources

Supporting local scholars in the marine environmental sciences

The PIR works with the University of Hawai‘i, University of Hawai‘i Maui College, Chaminade University and other local academic institutions, to create and provide support for internships for our local island students.

PIR and University of Hawai‘i fellowship developed

The PIR’s partnership with the University of Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology provided four university students work in NOAA offices on O‘ahu and Maui. The students receive a one-year paid NOAA fellowship at a NOAA office in Hawaii, including a two-month stint in a Washington DC NOAA office. 2009-2010 interns included Brenda Asuncion, assisting the HIHWNMS, Danica Zupic, working for the NOAA Pacific Services Center, Darrin Neagoy, at the HIHWNMS Kihei office, and Kalisi Fa’anunu, with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Brenda and Danica went on to secure full-time jobs with their host agencies, underscoring the value of this program to our young island professionals.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/interns.html>



Brenda Asuncion



Danica Zupic



Kalisi Fa’anunu



Darrin Neagoy

Photos by Judy Lemus, HIMB

First Chaminade University intern

Chaminade University and the PIR, partnered to create the Clark NOAA Summer Student Internship. The internship is designed to give a Chaminade student exposure to NOAA and ONMS' programs throughout the Pacific Region. Brandi Sasaki was selected to be the first Clark NOAA Intern and worked for the PIR for eight weeks over the summer working on numerous projects. Brandi completed a variety of tasks for the region, including working with Dr. Hans Van Tilburg to develop a Maritime Heritage section for the HIHWNMS’ upcoming Management Plan Review. She also assisted PIR staff with the One NOAA Display at Honolulu Hale, and the development of a Highly Migratory Species Inventory for the Pacific Islands Region—a database that contained references to publications that covered various highly migratory species throughout the Pacific Islands Region.



Bird's eye view of the NOAA Honolulu Hale exhibit. Photo by

Honolulu Hale hosts NOAA in the Pacific

The PIR, along with Hawai'i's other NOAA agencies, co-sponsored an exhibit at the Honolulu Hale, the City and County of Honolulu's historic office building. NOAA, Waikiki Aquarium, Bishop Museum and the City and County staff, and the public attended the opening ceremony. Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hanneman gave a welcoming speech, and PIR Director Allen Tom also made remarks. In addition to displays from the NOAA offices, the exhibit featured the Waikiki

Aquarium, which will open a new exhibit this summer 2011 on the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

American Samoa Governor visits Florida Keys

PIR Regional Director Allen Tom, along with ONMS Director Dan Basta, Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FBNMS) Superintendent Gene Brighthouse, Southeast Regional

Director Billy Causey and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Acting Superintendent Sean Morton hosted American Samoa's Governor Togiola Tulafono and his wife Maryann to a tour of the Florida Keys and the sanctuary from Key Largo to Key West. The Governor described the experience as "enriching". He felt that the way ONMS embraces the various partnerships and the community was extremely valuable. The Governor has been a keen supporter of FBNMS' management plan review process, and the proposed expansion of the site.

ONMS Dives into Education in American Samoa

With support from the PIR, the first ever ONMS Education Coordinators' meeting was held in Pago Pago, American Samoa. In addition to the staff meeting, sanctuary educators hosted a Dive Into Education program for 140 American Samoan teachers. The sanctuary educators participated in other activities that week including a cultural workshop that featured discussions between cultural leaders from Washington State, Hawaii and Samoa.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Fagatele Bay celebrates its Preserve America status and a new vessel, the Manumā

The PIR assisted the Territory of American Samoa in their successful application to become a Preserve America community and the designation ceremony was held in August, making the entire Territory a Preserve America Community (a first for the Preserve America program). Communities interested in becoming Preserve America Communities can find out more on <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/overview.html>

During the same week that FBNMS celebrated its Preserve America status, the site dedicated a vessel that had originally plied the waters of Lake Huron at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Now half a world away, the vessel was renamed the *Manuma*, the Samoan name for the white-tailed tropicbird. The dedication was part of a week-long series of events including the certification of American Samoa as a Preserve America Community, the ONMS Education Coordinators meeting (see below).



Governor Togiola Tulafono and ONMS Director Dan Basta stand in front of the R/V Manuma as they display the Preserve America certificate naming American Samoa as a Preserve America Community

PIR staff changes

Allen Tom was Acting Superintendent for HIHWNMS until the selection of Dr. Malia Chow as the site's Superintendent in early 2011.

The PIR welcomed Micki Ream as the new Regional Education and Outreach Specialist. Micki was an Office of Education Graduate Sciences Intern and transferred to the PIR upon her graduation from Stanford University.

PIR loses valued partner and friend, Dr. Isabella Abbott

Dr. Isabella Kauakea Aiona Abbott passed away in October, a huge loss to not only the PIR, but to Hawaii. Dr. Abbott was the first native Hawaiian woman to earn a PhD in science, and until her death at 91 she continued to be an active researcher and expert on central-Pacific algal taxonomy. She served on the advisory council for PMNM. In 2009, the PIR, along with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Bishop Museum helped to celebrate Dr. Abbott's 90th birthday.



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

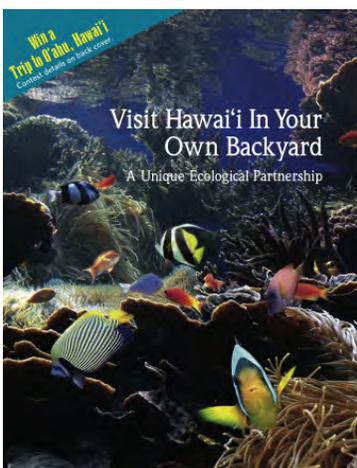
Improving coordination with regional organizations to better protect sanctuary resources

PIR assists CNMI with conservation and heritage projects

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands received an earmark for marine conservation projects, and the PIR assisted the territory in developing the plans for the funding. The PIR is also administering the grant, which will be used for workshops related to new marine protected area development, education and outreach projects, and to evaluate the possible restoration of the historic Garapan lighthouse.

American Samoa's Swain's Island

The PIR staff have been working with the Jennings family, owners of Swain's Island, a small atoll that is part of American Samoa, to document the island's cultural and maritime heritage. The PIR conducted oral interviews with family members for the possible development of products featuring the island's maritime heritage. The family members from Swains are interested in FNBMS' ongoing management plan review process and are considering inclusion of Swain's Island into FBNMS. In 2011, Jean-Michel Cousteau will visit Swain's Atoll along with ONMS and the Jennings family.



West Coast and Hawai'i Aquaria partnership developed

The PIR supported a new trans-Pacific partnership between the University of Hawai'i's Waikiki Aquarium and the Seattle Aquarium. The new partnership began with an event in Seattle, and was marked with the giveaway of a free trip to Hawai'i. The event drew a large crowd of visitors and not only celebrated the new partnership, but also featured a number of new exhibits. PIR co-sponsored the production of the brochure (see left) announcing the contest for the trip to Hawai'i.

Waikiki Aquarium projects

The Waikiki Aquarium dedicated a new mobile touch tank for education and outreach provided by the PIR through a \$10,000 grant. Also in collaboration with the PIR, the Waikiki Aquarium will be opening a new exhibit opening this summer that will feature the natural history of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. For more information about the Waikiki Aquarium, visit:

<http://www.waquarium.org/northwestern-hawaiian-islands.html>

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>



NOAA Regional Coordination

NOAA has a strong presence in the Pacific Islands Region. The Pacific Regional Executive Board (PREB) is made up of the directors and deputy's from each of the NOAA line offices and currently provides a forum to identify opportunities for collaboration and integration, and enhance regional outreach, communication, and understanding across programs. Regional Director Allen Tom has been a member of the PREB since its inception in 2006 and LT Kelley Sage is the current vice-chair. The PIR's participation in PREB has elevated the standing of ONMS within the region among our sister NOAA agencies and opened the door for increased integration and collaboration. One of PREB's accomplishments is their education and outreach arm, the Pacific Regional Outreach Group, or PROG. Naomi McIntosh represents the PIR on the PROG. In addition, LT Kelley Sage sits on the Regional Coordination Team, which works to enhance the Region's ability to fulfill the expanded Regional Collaboration responsibilities related to implementing NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan's Integrated Services Objective and meet the needs of NOAA's stakeholders in the Region.

Regional partnerships “expand our reach”

The PIR continues to nurture agreements with organizations throughout the region. Official Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) are the vehicles that begin the process of cooperation and collaboration. The PIR has MOAs with the following organizations:

University of Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology

The PIR manages an MOA with Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology. This critical MOA supports research in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (see separate article).

Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i

The PIR, through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i, manages administrative funds for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Kohala Center

The PIR works with The Kohala Center to support education and outreach programs on the Big Island such as the protection of Kahalu‘u Bay.

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center and Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park

The PIR partners with the Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) and the University of Hawai‘i's ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center to develop educational programs for the Big Island.

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park

The PIR and HAVO have their own agreement to develop outreach products and to provide cross training for HAVO and ONMS staff.

University of Hawai‘i Maui College

This partnership seeks to develop innovative programs, including student internships, fellowship programs, sharing staff, volunteers, guest lectures, and facilities.

Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Tri-Isle provides services and administrative support needed to assist the PIR in conducting outreach, research, monitoring and education projects.

American Samoa Government

Through an agreement between the PIR and the American Samoa Government, ONMS is funding a major renovation of the Convention Center housing the sanctuary’s offices, and will also add a visitor center for the site.

Waikiki Aquarium

PIR provides staff support, and assists other Aquarium projects, and the Aquarium in turn, supports PIR goals of marine resource conservation.

University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant Program

A new partner with the PIR, Sea Grant will work to coordinate efforts with the PIR to further goals for a healthy ocean.

University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

The PIR and UH Hilo are working to establish a framework for collaborations that span research, education and community outreach.

Several other MOAs are in process and will include these new partners:

The Nature Conservancy

University of Hawai‘i Marine Option Program

These MOAs broaden the PIR’s maritime, education, research and outreach efforts by synergizing the combined strengths of the partners and the region.

HIMB and PIR continue research and education partnership

The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology entered into an agreement with the PIR in 2005, and this fruitful partnership continues to support outstanding cutting-edge research in the Pacific. Studies include biological connectivity research in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, ecosystem monitoring, coral health assessment, and geospatial technology and data analysis. In addition, education and outreach programs (some of them already documented in this report) extend the knowledge to the schools and community. Finally, the entire program was analyzed and recommendations were made to improve the partnership, including plans to develop a full evaluation of the partnership.

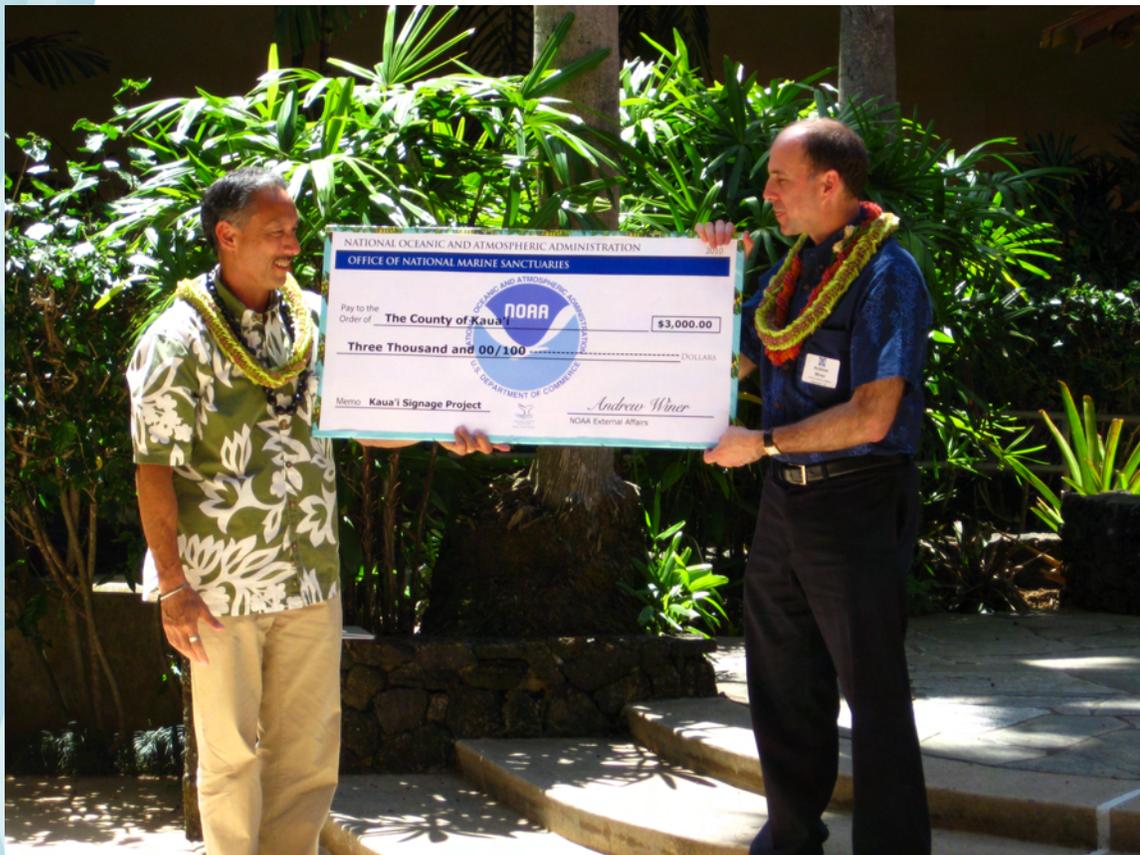
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance conference support

The PIR and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) have been members of the Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance for several years. This group brings together the diverse environmental government and non-government organizations of Hawai‘i. Each year, they host a large conference that draws not only Hawai‘i’s environmentalists, but also those from the mainland and other countries. In 2010, the region supported the travel for Governor of American Samoa, Togiola Tulafono, who was the keynote speaker at the annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference.

PIR assists County of Kaua‘i with funds for new signage

The County of Kaua‘i received assistance for the purchase of new outreach signage for the Menehune Fishpond. The Menehune Fishpond is one of Kaua‘i’s important historic sites, and a popular visitor destination. Two interpretive signs at the fishpond that were vandalized will be replaced, providing a better visitor experience, and promoting the fishpond’s importance as an ancient aquaculture site. NOAA and PIR logos will be displayed on the new signs, and signs will be posted on the PIR website.



County of Kaua‘i officials accept a “check” from the PIR for new signage.

Improving ONMS management effectiveness in the Pacific Island

Regionalization is a way to improve administrative efficiency for far-flung sites. Indeed, in many ways we achieve that through the delegation of formerly headquarters-only duties such as approvals for travel or time and attendance, and for coordination and approval of the sites' annual operating plans and long-term planning. Perhaps more importantly, the regional office coordinates and runs many value-added programs, leaving the sites free to focus on their *kuleana* (responsibilities).

Pacific Regional Center

NOAA continues to move forward with the consolidation of most of its Oahu offices into a shared facility on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, the NOAA Pacific Regional Center (PRC). The PIR staff, along with PMNM and HIHW staff, are fully engaged in this multi-year planning and design process. The PIR staff serves as the primary POC for ONMS during design and planning for the NOAA Pacific Regional Center (PRC) and along with PMNM and HIHWS staff they sit on various working groups concerning exhibits, facilities management, architectural layout, storage, operations, and cost models. The PIR staff represented regional interests and diligently worked to ensure that our shared requirements for space and facilities will be met. The construction of PRC began in October 2010 and current plans have the Hawaii Kai office moving to the completed facility in 2013, occupying much of the first floor of Building 175.



Artist's rendering of Pacific Regional Center.

Fagatele Bay Management Plan Review

FBMS continues their management plan review process begun in 2009. PIR staff Hans Van Tilburg and Jonathan Martinez have been assisting in writing parts of the draft management plan. FBNMS continues to evaluate additional sites that will expand the sanctuary on Tutuila and perhaps other islands. Rose Atoll Marine National Monument is also being considered as an additional sanctuary unit. For more information about FBNMS' management plan review process, go to: http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov/html/management_plan.html

HIHWNMS Management Plan Review

HIHWNMS began moving forward with their management plan review process and PIR Regional Director Allen Tom, while acting as HIHWNMS' superintendent, kicked their process into high gear. Scoping meetings were held on all main Hawaiian Islands, and comments were collected from the public. The HIHWNMS staff continues to process all comments and prepare for the next phase of their management plan review.

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Supporting PIR dive operations

The PIR's Dr. Hans Van Tilburg acts as the region's unit diving supervisor, training, testing and overseeing all ONMS divers in the insular Pacific. He also oversees and certifies non-NOAA divers who dive from NOAA ships and assists in dive planning for ONMS research cruises, another crucial task to coordinate with the sites.

Coordinating NOAA vessel use

PIR staff serve as the liaison between the ONMS and the NOAA research vessels so vital to the three regional sites' science and education programs. PIR staff are responsible for regional program coordination in the fleet allocation process with the Fleet Working Group representative, OAR, NMFS, and other regional research partners. LT Kelley Sage is responsible for compiling and submitting ship time requests, reviewing draft allocation plans, and providing input and guidance to sailing schedules. PIR staff also provides assist logistical support for the sites' ship and small boat operations.



R/V Hi'ialakai

In 2010 NOAA Ship *Hi'ialakai* visited American Samoa where FBNMS conducted education and outreach programs for local students. In addition, the *Hi'ialakai* sailed to Rose Atoll and Swains Island - both being considered as possible sanctuary expansion sites in FBNMS' management plan review.

General administrative support for the region

The PIR provides administrative support for the three sites in the region. In addition, the PIR staff help fill in where sites lack adequate staff. For example, our smallest site, FBNMS, has not had dedicated administrative staff. The PIR staff handle FBNMS' travel, time and attendance, contracting and fiscal accounting, as well as other services that the site may require—and at no additional cost to the site's budget.

PIR staff receive NOAA Bronze Star

LT Kelley Sage, PIR's operations coordinator, along with FBNMS' Kevin Grant and HIHWNMS' LTJG Ben LaCour, were honored with the NOAA Bronze Star for their efforts following the 2009 tsunami that devastated the coastline of Tutuila, the main island in American Samoa. All assisted with the post-tsunami survey and cleanup efforts under challenging conditions.

Special Initiatives



Old Lahaina Courthouse, Maui

courthouse feature themes on Hawaiian cultural, historical and natural history, with sanctuary information well integrated within the exhibits. Renovations have begun, and the restoration will be completed in 2011. For more information, go to <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/lahaina.html>.

PIR developing new visitor center in Lahaina

The PIR embarked on an exciting project to develop a new visitors center in Lahaina, Maui. The center will occupy space in the Old Lahaina Courthouse a popular tourist destination prominently located in downtown Lahaina. Partners in the ambitious project include the Lahaina Restoration Foundation, NOAA Fisheries, and the Lahaina Town Action Committee.

Exhibits planned for the two-story

New consolidated discovery center planned for Kaua'i

The PIR moved the planning forward for a new regional environmental center to be located in Lihue, Kaua'i, with the cooperation of Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) staff. In addition to providing a large public and office facility, the center would be located near the harbor, and may provide boat access for research and education. A public meeting was conducted to engage interested Kaua'i citizens in the planning process, and a draft plan incorporating their comments and suggestions will be completed early in 2011. The new center will mark an important partnership between federal, state and county agencies, and will provide the public with a marine and coastal learning center.



Ms. Puanani Burgess facilitates Kaua'i Discovery Center workshop

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>

Marine archaeology project on the Big Island

The PIR was awarded an ONMS Maritime Heritage min-grant to conduct a remote field survey of the wreck of the *SS Maui*, an inter-island steam ship lost off the island of Hawai‘i in 1917. The joint University of Hawai‘i/NOAA survey team led by the PIR’s Dr. Hans Van Tilburg also conducted monitoring surveys of the local inshore patrol vessel YP-183 (former Japanese sampan *Fuji Maru*) and the local steam vessel *SS Kauai*, both sites initially mapped in 1997 by Hans and the University of Hawai‘i’s Marine Option Program. The team worked closely with fourteen Middle and High School students (non-divers) from the West Hawai‘i Explorations Academy, the state’s first public charter school. The WHEA students assisted in the shore side survey and compiled background historical information for the site interpretation. Several public presentations were held as part of the island activities



Divers recording measurements from some of the diagnostic artifacts on the wreck of the SS Maui. (Photo NOAA ONMS by Jeff Kuwabara)

PIR and West Coast Region collaborate on trans-Pacific project

The PIR and the West Coast Region are collaborating on a trans-oceanic project that looks at the migratory patterns of the black-footed albatross—which feeds off the waters of northern California and breeds in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The project will not only provide analysis of data collected from tagged birds, but will use the information to develop educational and outreach programs that will be used both in Hawai‘i and in California schools, and will be on the web. Data analysis is slated for completion in May, and the educational programs will be developed and available by the end of September.



**ACTION PLAN FOR THE KALAUHA'IHAI
(LUCAS SPRING) FISHPOND RESTORATION
PROJECT**

NOAA'S OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
FACILITY PROGRAMMING AND CONSULTING,
PAUL AND POLLE ARCHITECTS AND LEUNG ENTERPRISE
FINAL - AUG 2010



PIR works with local groups to preserve east O'ahu fishpond

The PIR, along with PMNM and DC staff hosted a Lucas Spring community workshop attended by over 40 participants. The community event was open to the public and was facilitated by ONMS to assist the community in developing a plan for a native Hawaiian fishpond (one of the last remaining) in East O'ahu's Maunalua Bay. A final plan (see photo at left) was published in May, and was instrumental in helping to prevent the property that the fishpond adjoins from being sold by the state of Hawai'i. To download the plan, go to:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/kalauhahia.html>

PIR partners with Whole Foods on Maui

The PIR embarked on a unique partnership with the new Whole Foods store in Kahului, Maui. Whole Foods sponsors monthly talks at Kihei Learning Center, and HIHWNMS provides information tables at the store during events held there.



HIHW Maui Coordinator Patty Miller instructs some young shoppers at Whole Foods

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>



Looking ahead to 2011

NOAA Preserve America Initiative Funding

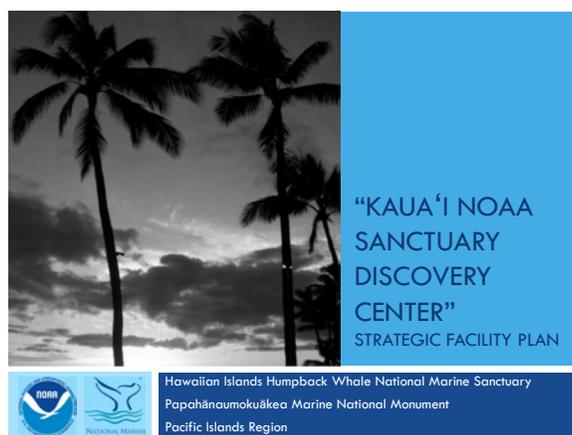
The PIR will support historic preservation and community heritage throughout the region by working with community partners to identify projects for NOAA's Preserve America Initiative funding. In 2010, the PIR, in collaboration with the County of Kaua'i, developed a proposal to utilize display space at the Lihue Airport to showcase NOAA's offices and achievements on Kaua'i. For more information about Preserve America, go to <http://preserveamerica.noaa.gov/>

Management Plan Reviews

The PIR continues to assist the two sites currently involved in management plan reviews, FBNMS and HIHWNMS. PIR's Hans Van Tilburg and Jon Martinez are preparing sections on maritime heritage and coral reef ecology for both sites, and Micki Ream has been drafted to help write sections of the draft plan. PIR Regional Director Allen Tom will also remain involved with both sites' management plan review processes.

Regional Visitor Centers

The PIR remains actively involved in the completion of the Lahaina Visitor Center, and the continuation of the planning process for the Kauai regional environmental complex. Late in 2011, the Lahaina Visitor Center Phase 1 will be completed, and an opening held. Both projects are instrumental in the region's plans for consolidated learning centers throughout the Hawaiian Islands. In addition, FBNMS' plans to complete their visitor center, another piece in this regional vision.



<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pacific.html>



Dr. Kelly Gleason of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument surveys a ginger jar at the site of the wreck of the *Two Brothers* a whaling ship that sank in 1823 at French Frigate Shoals
Photo: Greg McFall for NOAA



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