



News Release

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NOAA Preserve America Grant Opens Window to the Past

(Honolulu, HI) Prior to the 1820's and 1830's native Hawaiians passed down stories, songs, and cultural traditions orally from generation to generation. Beginning in 1834, the discussions and news began to be chronicled in over 100 different Hawaiian language newspapers which ran for over 114 years and produced nearly one million letter-sized pages of text.

In an effort to make this invaluable resource available and accessible to the general public, NOAA's [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region](#) (ONMS/PIR) awarded [NOAA Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding](#) (PAIFF) to the Hawaiian language organization [Awaiaulu](#) in partnership with the [University of Hawai'i Sea Grant Program](#) in 2015. Specifically, 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), focused on newspaper articles that highlighted weather and climate change in Hawai'i.

With support from PAIFF, Hawai'i Sea Grant developed a [website](#) which displays the original Hawaiian newspaper article and also the English language transcription. At this time there is no other academic resource available to the public which includes both the Hawaiian language text and the English transcription. Support of this online Hawaiian newspaper article archive led in part to the establishment of the new [Institute of Hawaiian Language Research and Translation](#).

Dr. Puakea Nogelmeier, professor at the University of Hawai'i's Hawai'i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge, commented "As part of a growing effort to reconnect historical knowledge, *Ka Wā Ma Mua, Ka Wā Ma Hope* provides an important bridge, introducing the extensive Hawaiian-language repository to researchers and scholars in many new fields. The new research that this kind of access will inspire will make knowledge and experience from the past into new tools to use as we plan for the present and future."

The project was a collaboration among ONMS/PIR, Hawai'i Sea Grant, the [National Weather Service](#), the [Pacific Risk Management Ohana](#), 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 [Awaiaulu](#). Funding was also provided, in part, by the [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#).

The PAIFF, now in its 12th 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 Hawai'i Sea Grant and the Hawaiian newspaper translation project visit <http://seagrants.oest.hawaii.edu/>

To learn more about the NOAA Preserve America Initiative please visit 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 since 1968.