

*Mālama honua:
Bridging traditional knowledge and
modern science through observation*

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May 16, 2018

11:00 a.m. – Pacific Forum

In June 2017, *Hōkūle'a*—a traditional Hawaiian voyaging canoe—completed a three-year voyage around the world sharing the message of *mālama honua* (translated as “to care for island Earth”). The voyage bridged traditional knowledge and modern science to communicate the changing conditions of our islands and oceans. The *ōlelo no'ēau* (Hawaiian proverb), *ka wā ma mua, ka wā ma hope* (“time in front, time in back”) describes the value of looking to the past to solve current and future dilemmas. Inspired by this *ōlelo no'ēau* and *Hōkūle'a* the Coastal Geology Group's research investigates a former sea-level event known as the mid-Holocene highstand. Analysis of island sediment and fossil reef cores improves understandings of the implications of sea-level change upon island stability. Our research calls upon the importance of understanding an islands sea-level history to interpret island habitability during initial colonization and into the future.



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