



‘ŌLELO NO‘EAU

‘O ka ‘ōlelo ke ka‘ā
o ka mauili.

*Language is the fiber
that binds us to our
cultural identity.*

In celebration of Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, we invite you all to learn how ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is one of many elements embedded in ‘Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) knowledge systems, values, and practices. These support ‘Ōiwi communities in creating adaptive biocultural resource management across Hawai‘i Pae‘Āina (Hawaiian Archipelago) including Papahānaumokuākea.

A Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner sounds the pū (conch shell trumpet) to announce the arrival of the traditional voyaging canoe, *Hikianalia*, at Nihoa Island.
Image: Jamie Makasobe

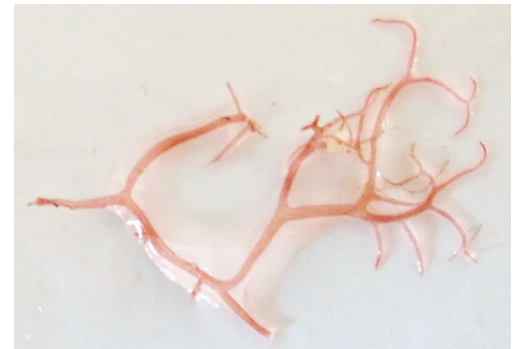
Scientists Name New Species After Papahānaumokuākea Educator Yumi Yasutake



Image: NOAA

Last November, a team of scientists (including research ecologist Randy Kosaki) published the scientific description of a new species of red algae from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). The new alga, *Calliblepharis yasutakei*, was named after widely respected marine educator and scientist Yumi Yasutake, who passed away in 2021 at the age of 41. Yasutake worked for many years at PMNM’s Mokupāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo, Hawai‘i, where he was fond of teaching students how to make

beautiful presses of seaweeds from local beaches. It is thus fitting that a new species of algae from PMNM will bear his name in perpetuity. The new species of algae, *Calliblepharis yasutakei*, was discovered by scientists using technical closed-circuit rebreathers to dive to extreme depths in excess



Fresh specimen of *Calliblepharis yasutakei*. Image: Monica Paiano, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

of 300 feet. These deep coral reefs, or Mesophotic Coral Ecosystems, are virtually unexplored, and host a wealth of undiscovered biodiversity. The full scientific paper was published in the journal *Phytotaxa*.

Anyone can visit Papahānaumokuākea now on Google Arts & Culture site!

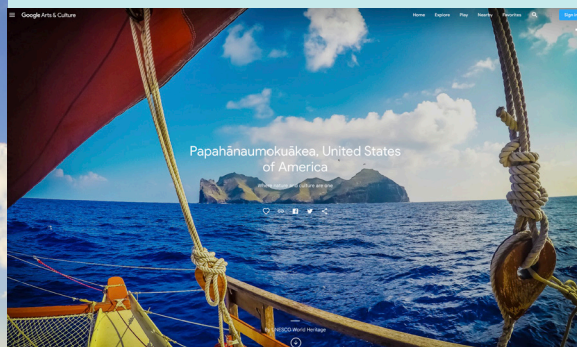


Image: Brad Ka‘aleleo Wong/OHA and Google Arts and Culture

Papahānaumokuākea is the latest World Heritage site online exhibit on Google Arts & Culture. The virtual site tour

features the treasures, stories, and cultural knowledge of the Monument. Papahānaumokuākea staff worked with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to bring the Monument’s cultural and natural treasures directly into everyone’s home, increasing awareness about the need for the Monument’s safeguarding and conservation.

[Visit today](#) to experience the sights and sounds of the Monument, through videos, photos, maps, recordings, and interviews!

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language) Interwoven into Community Engagement and Culturally-Grounded Resources focused on the Kai Lipo (deep-sea ecosystems)

‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is foundational to ‘Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) worldview, knowledge systems, and practices. Honoring Indigenous knowledge systems is best accomplished through increasing ‘Ōiwi engagement and participation to learn from and care for Papahānaumokuākea as a biocultural seascape. As we celebrate Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language month), we feature a Hawaiian language resource page on the Ocean Exploration Trust *Nautilus* website, shining light on the many products grown from the diverse, equitable, and inclusive partnership between the Papahānaumokuākea Cultural Working Group, Ocean Exploration Trust, and NOAA PMNM. Through these partnerships, the expeditions in Papahānaumokuākea were given names through a Hawaiian naming process, resources were created sharing examples of Hawaiian words for ocean science terminology, and outreach to local schools and kula kaiapuni (Hawaiian Language immersion schools) continues to grow.

These collective efforts transform ocean science towards equally valuing Indigenous Knowledge, Perspectives, and Practices to weave knowledge systems and care for these places.



Images: Ocean Exploration Trust

We perpetuate living relationships with these corals by creating names born of knowledge systems from kūpuna (ancestors). These knowledge systems house the first record of the natural environment through massive repositories of oral traditions linking the genealogies of lands, oceans, and sources of sustenance with kānaka (people).
Image: Chris Kelley/NOAA/HURL

Calling all Teachers!

We strive to connect our local students to Papahānaumokuākea - building relationships, inspiration, and career pathways. Join us for free field trips to Mokupāpapa Discovery Center (request your visit at <https://goo.gl/Ylbv2s>), or contact our O‘ahu Outreach and Education Coordinator at malia.evans@noaa.gov. Find more resources on our [Education Page](#).



Image: NOAA

E Ola Ka 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. The Hawaiian Language Shall Live.



Come celebrate Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Hawaiian Language Month as we highlight the importance of Hawaiian language and perspectives throughout February with social media posts ([Instagram](#)/[Facebook](#)). We will also host a webinar on February 16th entitled "Pilina, Indigenous Literacy, and 'Āina

Momona: Healthy and Thriving Communities of People and Place" by Pelika Andrade, founder and Executive Director of Na Maka Onaona, a Hawai'i based non-profit and an Extension Agent for the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. The presentation will introduce participants to a philosophy and pathway of 'Āina Momona: thriving and productive communities. On behalf of Nā Maka Onaona and many partnerships, Pelika will introduce two tools that address how relationships and the growing awareness of indigenous literacy can support our engagements and understandings of ourselves,

our communities, and the world around us. This is a collective journey to help guide, inform, and advise the decisions and contributions we collectively make to support the ability of our people, places, and akua (natural world) to thrive. Register [here](#).



Images: Na Maka Onaona

Bishop Museum Highlights Lalo as a Biocultural Seascape of Papahānaumokuākea

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum announces a new exhibit in its Richard T. Mamiya Science Adventure Center, Lalo: Science and Conservation in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Funded by and in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NOAA, "Lalo," also known as French Frigate Shoals, showcases the natural and cultural history, and importance,

of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

The exhibit presents Lalo through biocultural lens, honoring the genealogical relationships of Kānaka 'Ōiwi (Native Hawaiian) to Lalo, and the diverse research and management activities learning from and caring for Lalo today. Management agencies and partners are addressing threats and climate change impacts using innovative solutions inclusive of

'Ōiwi access, engagement, and practice.

Lalo is a partially submerged atoll 500 miles northwest of Honolulu in PMNM. Lalo is also known as Kānemiloha'i (the name also given to Pele's brother) and Mokupāpapa ("islets with low-lying reefs"); Lalo means "downward or leeward." It is closely associated with the direction of Pō, the primordial realm of darkness from which all life was created and returns to after death.

Features of the "Lalo" exhibit include: "The Ongoing Legacy of Coral Reef Exploration," "The Lalo Plastic Story," and a celebration of scientists who have done groundbreaking work in the Monument.

The exhibit is located underneath the volcano in the Science Adventure Center, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Bishop Museum Lalo Exhibit.
Image: Bishop Museum

Meet The Staff

Alyssa Miller



What is your role and how long have you worked at PMNM?

I have served as a policy and planning specialist for ONMS-PMNM for the past eleven years.

What is your background prior to working at PMNM?

I am a graduate of Cal Poly Humboldt and UH Mānoa, where I studied natural resource planning and interpretation,

alternative technology engineering, urban and regional planning, and geography. While at UH I worked as an environmental policy reviewer at the East-West Center, and as an environmental planner on coastal projects, including the state non-point source water pollution plan, and watershed plans. I then worked with several local community nonprofits on a variety of place-based conservation and restoration initiatives. I have also worked in video production.

What are you working on now?

Mostly on sanctuary designation and World Heritage reporting. I also co-produce a monthly television show on OC 16 about environmental stewardship. Papahānaumokuākea has been featured in some episodes.

What do you enjoy about working at PMNM?

Papahānaumokuākea is truly special. As a World Heritage site, PMNM is recognized as a national and international treasure. It's highly rewarding and inspiring work helping to mālama such a place. I also enjoy the collaborative work environment, and the extraordinary staff who work for the monument.

What is your hope for PMNM over the coming year?

To move sanctuary designation towards the finish line. I also hope we can regain the momentum for research and monitoring that was lost during the pandemic. You can't effectively manage what you don't understand, and much more research is needed to understand the vast cultural and natural seascape of Papahānaumokuākea. Similarly, people are more inclined to care about a place if they have a connection to it, so we need to communicate knowledge widely and share it in new and innovative ways.

Image above: NOAA

Considering National Marine Sanctuary Designation for Papahānaumokuākea

The process to consider designating marine portions of the Monument as a national marine sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act is moving forward.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, along with co-management partners, is now working on a series of documents to include a draft sanctuary management plan, draft environmental impact statement, and proposed sanctuary regulations. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is also working closely with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council, the Papahānaumokuākea Native Hawaiian Cultural Working Group, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. These draft documents will be available to the public later this year.

For more information about the process, visit the [Monument website](#).

The Designation Timeline



Connect with Us    [papahanaumokuakea.gov](https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov)

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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96818 | Phone: 808-725-5800

Mokupāpapa Discovery Center
76 Kamehameha Avenue
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone: 808-498-4709

Papahānaumokuākea is co-managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Hawai'i, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This newsletter highlights some of the initiatives of the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partners.