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**HAWAII'S NEWS LEADER.**

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Marlene Among/Christopher Conybeare  
(808) 955-7878 Hawaii Public Television

HOKULE'A SAILS ON A VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1985

Hawaii's double-hulled canoe, Hōkūle'a will sail on a VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY to eight island groups throughout the central and western Pacific. This was announced by Myron B. Thompson, President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, a non-profit organization in Hawaii.

The Hōkūle'a embarks on this two year VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY this July, when she travels to the Tuamotus. The subsequent legs of the journey will be to: Tahiti, Raiatea, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and the Marquesas.

"MORE"

Hokule'a/Add two

This coming voyage is complex and ambitious. The voyage to Tahiti and back is 6,000 miles. The VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY is 16,000 miles. On a straight line, this would be two-thirds the way around earth. The first two voyages of Hōkūle'a were each of two months duration. This voyage will be approximately twenty-seven months duration, and will require the training of over sixty-five crew members.

Together, the canoe, the navigator Nainoa Thompson, the captain Gordon Piianaia, the nucleus of trained crew will replicate the essentials of Polynesian voyaging. The voyage will dramatize the true dimensions achieved in ocean voyaging by ancient Polynesians.

The goals of the VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY include:

- \* To awaken pride and understanding in the golden age of Polynesian voyaging
- \* To form or expand relationships with Polynesian islanders
- \* To invite participation in a gathering of Pacific canoes in Honolulu Harbor
- \* To navigate widely in many directions, without instruments, through widely varying sea and weather conditions

"MORE"

Hokule'a/Add three

- \* To document the wayfinding process of the navigator and the performance of the canoe

The overall budget for this two year project, including operation, documentation and educational programs, is one million dollars (\$1,000,000). The Polynesian Voyaging Society has already reached their half way goal with pledges from the Hawaii Maritime Center, the 1984 Hawaii State Legislature, Alexander Gerbode Foundation and individual contributions.

Additional fund-raising projects are in active planning stages.

POLYNESIA  
VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU /

Packet —

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Advance  
Delegation

Voyage of Rediscovery  
Hōkūleʻa '85-'87



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

### SAIL PLAN

#### I. HAWAII TO COOKS

PRE-HAWAII DEPARTURE CREW IN MAUI 6/25/85  
1 DAY CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

	<u>Leg</u>	<u>Crew size</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Sail time</u>	<u>Rest</u>	<u>Weather Wait</u>
A.	Haw-Tuamotus Arrive 7/31	12	7/01/85	30 days	1	1 day
B.	Tua-Tahiti Arrive 8/4	12	8/02/85	2 days		

CANOE LAYOVER 8/04/85 to 8/25/85  
CREW DEPART TAHITI FOR HONOLULU 8/06/85  
CREW CHANGE

#### II. TAHITI TO COOKS

DEPARTURE CREW IN TAHITI 8/21/85  
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 2 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

A.	Ta-Raiatea Arrive 8/27	12	8/25/85	2 days	1	1 day
B.	Rai-Cooks Arrive 9/15/85	12	8/29/85	12 days	4	2 days

HAUL OUT CANOE AND SECURE IN RAROTONGA - LAYOVER 9/15/85 - 11/18/85

CREW RETURNS HOME 2 DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL 9/17/85

#### III. COOKS - NEW ZEALAND

CREW RETURNS TO COOKS 11/12/85 TO PREPARE CANOE FOR 11/18/85 DEPARTURE

2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

A.	Cooks - N.Z. Arrive 12/12/85	12	11/18/85	24 days		
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HAUL OUT CANOE AND SECURE UNTIL 4/86; CREW RETURNS TO HAWAII 12/15/85

#### IV. NEW ZEALAND - SAMOA - SUBJECT TO WEATHER AND SAFETY CAPABILITIES OF THE ESCORT BOAT

INSTRUMENT CREW RETURNS TO NEW ZEALAND 4/09/86 FOR 4/15/86 DEPARTURE  
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

	<u>Leg</u>	<u>Crew size</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Sail time</u>	<u>Rest</u>	<u>Weather Wait</u>
A.	N.Z. - Fiji Arrive 5/02/86	12	4/15/86	17 days	2	4 days
B.	Fiji - Samoa Arrive 5/18/86	12	5/08/86	10 days		

CREW CHANGE. CREW LEAVING SAMOA, SECURE HOKULE'A, RETURN TO HAWAII 5/20/86

NON-INSTRUMENT CREW RETURNS 6/07/86 FOR 6/14/86 DEPARTURE  
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

#### V. SAMOA - COOKS

A.	Samoa - Cooks Arrive 7/19/86	12	6/14/86	35 days		
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CREW CHANGE - CREW LEAVING COOKS SECURE CANOE AND LEAVE 7/21/86

#### VI. COOKS - RAIATEA

CREW RETURNS TO COOKS 8/01/86 FOR 8/07/86 DEPARTURE  
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

A.	Cooks - Raiatea Arrive 9/02/86	12	8/07/86	25 days		
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CREW RETURNS TO HAWAII 9/04/86. CANOE IS TURNED OVER TO A TAHITIAN CREW WHICH WILL SAIL THE HOKULE'A TO PAPEETE FOR HAUL OUT, REPAIR AND LAYOVER FROM SEPTEMBER, 1986 TO APRIL 22, 1987.

#### VII. TAHITI - HAWAII

CREW RETURNS TO PAPEETE BY APRIL 10, 1987 FOR APRIL 18 DEPARTURE  
4 DAYS CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

A.	Ta - Mar Arrive 4/30/87	12	4/18/87	12 days	2	2
B.	Mar - Haw Arrive 5/26/87	12	5/04/87	22		

# Hawaii Report

The Honolulu Advertiser  
Tuesday, February 5, 1985 A-1

## Hokule'a

### 2-year voyage to retrace Polynesian routes

By Bob Krauss  
Advertiser Columnist

The double-hulled canoe, Hokule'a, will sail in July on a 16,000-mile, two-year voyage deep into the South Pacific as far as New Zealand, the Polynesian Voyaging Society announced yesterday.

Her itinerary includes the Tuamotus, Tahiti, Raiatea, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and the Marquesas.

Bishop Estate trustee Myron "Pinky" Thompson, president of the society, said the 60-foot canoe will retrace most of the migration routes of the ancient Polynesians as they fanned out into the Pacific.

He said Gordon Pii'anafa will be captain of the canoe and the vessel's non-instrument navigator will be his son, Nainoa Thompson, who has navigated Hokule'a to Tahiti and back without instruments, relying primarily on the stars to find his way.

An escort vessel will be in contact with Hokule'a on this expedition to ensure the safety of the

crew, Myron Thompson said. But the escort will not give the navigator his position.

"Going to sea in this canoe is experimental," said Nainoa Thompson. "The whole trip is a risk."

He said navigation this time will be more difficult than the Tahiti trip.

"The strategy for targeting landfalls will be different for every leg," he said.

Nainoa Thompson explained that, while his star compass remains the same anywhere in the Pacific, "We are researching land stars for different islands. We are studying that now at the Bishop Museum Planetarium."

He said this voyage would not be possible if he and other crew members had not learned from the two previous trips to Tahiti. Old Polynesian chants are of little help, he said.

"We don't know what the ancient Polynesians did," said Nainoa Thompson. "The ancient chants are indecipherable when it comes to navigation techniques."

Will Kyselka, planetarium lecturer, said Thompson's non-instrument navigation techniques probably parallel those of the old Polynesians, but "we'll never know."

Myron Thompson said the budget for this voyage is \$1 million of which half has been pledged by the Hawaii Maritime Center, the 1984 Legislature, the Alexander Gerbode Foundation and individual contributors. A fund-raising concert will be held at the Aloha Tower on March 17, he said.

Eight different 12-member crews will man the vessel.

"Whether all our goals will be possible remains to be tested in the course of the voyage," said Myron Thompson. "We are compressing many centuries in the course of the voyage."

"The voyage from Samoa to the Cooks to Raiatea to the Marquesas is especially perplexing. It is a voyage into a prevailing west wind. Where the ancients might have waited for years for the right sailing conditions, we cannot."

"The estimated sail times are only that — estimates."



Nainoa Thompson  
"The whole trip is a risk"

*Le Président*

( ( GOUVERNEMENT  
DE LA  
POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE  
NM/mms

N° C43 / Pr

PAPEETE, LE 4 MARS 1985

To His Excellency George R. ARIYOSHI  
Governor of Hawaii State  
- Honolulu -

Dear Mr. Governor,

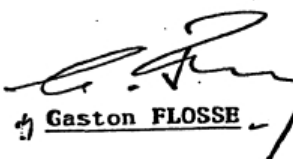
I wish to thank you for the letter you wrote  
me on January 24th, 1985, concerning the glorious event:  
The Third Voyage of Hokule'a.

I am consulting with my minister of Education  
and Culture Jacques TEHEIURA and will soon let you  
know how we polynesians can provide a part of this  
historic voyage.

With my best wishes in your endeavour,

Sincerely yours,

GOVERNEMENT  
DE LA  
POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE  
LE PRÉSIDENT

  
Gaston FLOSSE



Prime Minister  
Rarotonga Cook Islands

6 February 1985

His Excellency Governor George R Ariyoshi  
Honolulu  
HAWAII

*My dear Governor,*

My Government and I applaud the Voyage of Rediscovery of the Hokule'a.

Without doubt this venture will be of great historic significance. On behalf of the Cook Islands, we are honoured to be part of this making of history.

We look forward to welcoming the Hokule'a and voyagers into Cook Islands waters and to our country.

I have arranged with our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to write you informing of requirements for the voyagers to enter the Cook Islands, and have been assured these will be minimal.

I take this opportunity to assure that every assistance will be given to the voyagers upon their arrival to the Cook Islands.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Thomas Davis KBE  
PRIME MINISTER



Prime Minister  
Wellington  
New Zealand

25 February 1985

Hon George R Ariyoshi  
Governor  
Executive Chambers  
Honolulu  
HAWAII

Dear Governor

I read with interest your letter of 24 January about the planned voyage through the South Pacific by the Hawaiian sailing canoe Hokule'a. Such a voyage should arouse considerable interest in New Zealand.

The canoe is of course most welcome to visit New Zealand, and I am sure that all New Zealanders will wish the venture every success.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely

David Lange



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
SUVA, FIJI

TEL. NO. 211-210

TELEX : 2342 HONBRO FJ

OUR REF. NO. IM/G/1

YOUR REF. NO.

18 March 1985

His Excellency George R Ariyoshi  
Governor  
Executive Chambers  
Honolulu  
HAWAII

Dear Governor

Thank you for your letter dated 24th  
January 1985 addressed to the Prime Minister of Fiji  
which has been passed on to me for reply.

Permission is hereby granted for the  
Hokule'a to enter Fiji during the "Voyage of Rediscovery  
of the Hokule'a" and I look forward to Mr Thompson's  
visit who will be briefed on procedures for facilitating  
official formalities.

I do not foresee any difficulties during  
Hokule'a's proposed passage through Fiji waters and  
I can assure you that every possible effort will be  
made to keep entry formalities to the minimum.

With best wishes from Fiji.

(Peter Howard)  
Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs



*Office of the Prime Minister  
Apia, Western Samoa*

11 February 1985

H.E. Mr George R. Ariyoshi,  
The Governor,  
State of Hawaii,  
Executive Chambers,  
Honolulu,  
Hawaii,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

My dear Governor,

Thank you for your letter of 24 January concerning the proposed Voyage of Rediscovery of the Hokule'a.

The project of "Rediscovery" appeals very much to me and needless to say, I look forward with pleasure to the inclusion of Western Samoa in this historic voyage. The voyagers will be more than welcomed to enter our territorial waters in the course of their voyage and I look forward to making official contact with Mr Thompson, Coordinator of the project.

With warm personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Tofilau Eti Alesana)  
PRIME MINISTER



**TERRITORY OF AMERICAN SAMOA**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
FAGATOGO 96799

**A. P. LUTALI**  
GOVERNOR  
**ENI F HUNKIN JR.**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 15, 1985

(684) 633-4116

Serial: 335

The Honorable George R. Ariyoshi  
Governor of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ariyoshi:

Thank you for your letter dated January 24, 1985, apprising me of the Voyage of Rediscovery of the Hokule'a.

I remember the journey that the Hokule'a made in 1976. It was an event that was much celebrated, not only by the people of Hawaii, but also the people of Polynesia.

This third venture by the Hokule'a to steer a course to link Tonga, Fiji, French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, New Zealand, American Samoa and Western Samoa will provide further evidence that not only were the early Polynesians courageous and practical in navigation by nature, but that the Peoples of Polynesia are infact one of the same.

I am happy to inform you that this proposed voyage by the Hokule'a has my full support and that I shall contact the appropriate authorities of the government to be aware of its arrival. Please have Mr. Thompson contact Ms. Lydia Faleafine of my office, Special Projects Coordinator, for any assistance he may require.

Please relay my best wishes to the crew of the Hokule'a.

Again, thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

*A. P. Lutali*  
A. P. LUTALI  
Governor

cc: Director, Port Administration

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

For more information: Sharon R. Weiner  
(808) [REDACTED]

Eileen Mortenson  
(808) [REDACTED]

Release date: June 1985

Title: HOKULE'A EMBARKS ON VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

HONOLULU, HI--The Hokule'a, a 60-foot, double-hulled replica of an ancient Polynesian voyaging canoe, which made an historic round-trip voyage to Tahiti in 1976, will embark on a more challenging and ambitious voyage to eight island groups in Polynesia without the aid of navigational equipment. The two-year, 16,000 mile voyage -- compared to the two-month, 6,000 mile round trip to Tahiti -- will focus on scientific, cultural and educational goals as it attempts to retrace the migratory routes of the early Polynesians.

The 27-month "Voyage of Rediscovery" voyage will consist of nine separate legs: Hawaii to Tahiti; Tahiti to the Cook Islands; the Cooks to New Zealand; New Zealand to Fiji; Fiji to Samoa; Samoa to the Cooks; the Cooks to Raiatea (and Tahiti); Tahiti to the Marquesas; and Marquesas to Hawaii. The Hokule'a will depart from Oahu for Maui June 15-17, and should begin its voyage into

- more -



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

## Hokule'a Embarks on Voyage of Rediscovery

Add Two

Although this will be the third voyage of the Hokule'a, it is far from routine. The goal of the 1976 and 1980 voyages was to determine if it is possible to sail from Hawaii to Tahiti without using a sextant or other instruments of navigation. The voyages' success proved it is possible to navigate 3,000 miles of open ocean using only the methods of the ancient wayfinders.

The 1985-1987 voyage will test the wayfinder's ability to guide the canoe to many different landfalls. It will also test the canoe's performance under a variety of more difficult sailing conditions. The design of the Hokule'a is ancient, to ensure that it will perform like its Polynesian predecessors. Most of the materials used to build the canoe, however, are modern.

An escort boat will follow the Hokule'a to collect data on the performance of the canoe and its navigator. Thompson's wayfinding methods will be carefully documented. He will be interviewed twice each day. His position estimates and his feelings about their accuracy due to weather or sea conditions, will be tape recorded. The escort boat will also keep a log of the canoe's actual position, and it will monitor ocean currents, wind speeds, barometric readings, etc. Scientists will later try to account for differences between where Thompson thought the Hokule'a was, and where it actually was, by reviewing sea and weather conditions, and Thompson's thoughts at the time, and integrating the data with his position estimates.

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# **Hokule'a Embarks on Voyage of Rediscovery**

## **Add One**

the past from Maui June 22-24, 1985, weather permitting. It should arrive in New Zealand by mid-December, where it will wait out the hurricane season before beginning the return trip to Hawaii sometime in April 1986.

One of the primary goals of the voyage is to retrieve information, from chants and legends of modern Polynesia, and to infer, from data collected during the voyage, how the early Polynesians were able to colonize an area of the Pacific Ocean twice the size of the continental United States -- approximately 10,000,000,000 square miles -- without using navigational instruments.

The voyage of the Hokule'a is an example of "experimental anthropology." The art of building and sailing these canoes has been lost and this voyage will test the performance of the canoe and its navigator against what is known from chants and legends.

The Hokule'a will use no instruments of navigation on its 16,000 mile voyage unless there is an emergency. Instead, its navigator, Nainoa Thompson, will use the ancient Polynesian art of "Wayfinding" to guide the canoe, relying on his knowledge of ocean currents, wind patterns, stars, ocean swells, cloud patterns and the habits of sea and land birds.

- more -

## Hokule'a Embarks on Voyage of Rediscovery

### Add Three

In addition to the wayfinding experiment and the other scientific goals of studying the canoe's sailing ability and testing theories about Polynesian migration, the voyage has educational and cultural goals.

The documentary crew has been trained to be sensitive to the cultures of the islanders they visit. They will carefully document the lifestyles of modern Polynesians and record the interaction between the crew of the Hokule'a and the Polynesian islanders.

Information derived from this voyage will be used in schools to give the children of Hawaii and Polynesia a better understanding of their ancestors.

The Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California at Berkeley, and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu are producing joint exhibits on Polynesian voyaging using information from all four Hokule'a voyages, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visitors to the museums will be able to trace the progress of this voyage of the Hokule'a while viewing materials from the 1976 and 1980 voyages. A portable exhibit is planned for schools and community groups throughout Polynesia and the United States.

- more -

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**Hokule'a Embarks on Voyage of Rediscovery**

**Add Four**

It is hoped that this voyage will bring the people of Polynesia closer together through an understanding of their common heritage and the "Golden Age" of Polynesian voyaging.

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Material for this news release has been taken from Re-learning a Vanishing Art by Ben R. Finney, Bernard J. Kilonsky, Stephen Somsen and Edward D. Stroup; and from interviews with Dr. Edward D. Stroup and Will Kyselka of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

## Goals Of The 1985-1987 Voyage Of The Hokule'a

The goals for this voyage of the Hokule'a are all closely related to its primary task of gathering information about how the early Polynesians were able to colonize islands scattered across such vast distances of open ocean. The voyage attempts to reconstruct and test what is partially known about the Polynesians from chants and legends. The mission of this voyage involves scientific, cultural and educational objectives.

### Science

There are two basic scientific goals for this voyage: to carefully document the performance of the Hokule'a under a variety of sea and weather conditions; and to study the Polynesian method of navigation without instruments by comparing the navigator's estimates of where the canoe is to its actual position and determining what factors may have led to any discrepancies between the two. A fully instrumented escort boat will follow the Hokule'a and record the sea and weather conditions, however, no navigational information will be passed on the Hokule'a. The scientific data will later be analyzed to test the validity of present migration theories and to determine what the Polynesians would have had to have known to colonize the islands of Polynesia.

- more -



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

Goals Of The 1985-1987 Voyage Of The Hokule'a  
Page Two

Cultural

The Hokule'a is a symbol of Polynesian heritage. It is both a catalyst and inspiration to modern Polynesians who lost the art of navigating without instruments, once so familiar to their ancestors.

It had been more than 800 years since the last "Wa'a Kaulua," or Polynesian voyaging canoe, made the voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti prior to the voyage of the Hokule'a in 1976. That voyage was greeted with great enthusiasm by Polynesians who were quick to recognize its significance. This voyage, with its ambitious goal of retracing the migration routes of early Polynesians and covering 16,000 miles, has already received a great deal of attention in Polynesia. An advance delegation which visited the nations where the Hokule'a will make landfalls reports that they were warmly received by the governments of those nations and that preparations are underway to greet the Hokule'a when it arrives. Thus, one of the primary cultural goals of this voyage, to form or expand our relationships with Polynesian Islanders is well on its way to being achieved.

Another cultural goal is to carefully record the lifestyles of modern Polynesians and the interaction between the crew of the Hokule'a and the people they visit.

- more -

Goals Of The 1985-1987 Voyage Of The Hokule'a  
Page Three

In addition, the scientific goals of the voyage have cultural implications. They will awaken a renewed pride in the achievements of the early Polynesians.

Education

Some of the crew of the Hokule'a have been trained to give seminars on the purpose of their voyage at the various landfalls they visit. Some materials from the previous voyages are already being used to teach geography in Tahitian schools.

Information gathered on this and the previous voyages also will be disseminated through schools in Hawaii and the nations of Polynesia. Curriculum guides and children's books will be produced and distributed to South Pacific school districts and to Hawaii's schools.

Articles will also be published in scientific journals and general readership publications including New Zealand's Journal of Polynesian Society. Hawaii Public Television is producing a documentary of the 1985-1987 voyage.

In addition, the Lawrence Hall of Science at University of California at Berkeley and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu are producing joint exhibits on Polynesian voyaging based on all four Hokule'a voyages, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. By 1986 the exhibit plan will be available for distribution to other museums across the country and there are plans for a portable exhibit to be taken to the schools of Polynesia.

- more -

Goals Of The 1985-1987 Voyage Of The Hokule'a  
Page Four

The overall budget for this two year project, including operation, documentation and educational programs, is \$1,000,000. Funds have been provided by the Hawaii Maritime Center, the State of Hawaii, Alexander Gerbode Foundation and many individual and corporate contributions. "We are still seeking more funds because we have not reached our total goal," Thompson said.

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# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

## "WAYFINDING: NON-INSTRUMENT NAVIGATION"

The early Polynesians had no written language, no charts, no sextants or other instruments for navigation. Yet, they were able to colonize islands scattered across an area of the Pacific Ocean twice the size of the continental United States (approx. 10,000,000 sq. mi.), often sailing for weeks at a time with only their intimate understanding of the environment to guide them.

Navigation without instruments requires intense concentration and a thorough knowledge of wind patterns, ocean swells, stars, cloud patterns and the habits of seabirds. To guide the canoe, the navigator makes a mental picture of the sail plan for the voyage, taking into account the different ocean currents and wind patterns along the way, and the course heading he'll need to follow on the various segments of the voyage. He then guides the canoe by aiming its prow toward the rising or setting point on the horizon of the star(s) he's learned will give him the correct bearing.

The need for concentration and constant observation means the navigator can only take short cat naps during the voyage. "You can tell who the navigator is," says Nainoa Thompson who guided

- more -



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

"Wayfinding: Non-Instrument Navigation"  
Page Two

the Hokule'a on its round trip to Tahiti in 1980, "he's the one with the red eyes!" Thompson will also be the navigator for this two-year voyage of the Hokule'a.

Navigators must be able to determine direction, even when its cloudy; keep track of their position en route and make any necessary course changes; and know what clues to look for when approaching a landfall.

Many years of patient apprenticeship are required for a pupil to learn the art of wayfinding. Understandably, navigating without instruments, once widespread in Polynesia, has almost vanished.

To find a navigator for the first voyage of the Hokule'a, organizers had to go to the remote atolls of the Caroline Islands in Micronesia, one of the few places wayfinding still survives. Mau Piailug, a wayfinder from Satawal Island in the Carolines, guided the Hokule'a on its 1976 voyage to Tahiti. He says that even in the Carolines, traditional navigation is being replaced by charts, compasses and sextants.

Thompson spent several months studying with Piailug after the 1976 voyage to Tahiti. He learned enough to guide the Hokule'a to Tahiti and back in 1980, but says he still has much to learn.

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"Wayfinding: Non-Instrument Navigation"  
Page Three

One technique of wayfinding Thompson has found difficult to learn is the use of an etak, or reference island. The navigator does not picture his course from a "God's eye view" of the Pacific, rather he uses an island he knows lies over the horizon in a certain direction as a reference and visualizes his progress in terms of his bearing to that island. As the bearing changes, the navigator uses different points on his "star compass" to mark the location of the island and determine his approximate position.

Because Thompson has to rely more on the stars to guide the Hokule'a than a wayfinder like Piailug who can determine his direction by reading ocean swell patterns, Thompson developed techniques of his own.

Thompson spent many nights studying the stars, searching to discover patterns and relationships which could help him determine direction as accurately as possible. Thompson eventually developed his own system of wayfinding which is a combination of the old techniques and a few of his own.

Thompson's system differs from the traditional method in that he doesn't use the star compass of the Caroline Islands, but his own "compass" which divides the sky into 32 equal parts. Thompson also developed a method for determining latitude by using pairs of stars. Stars which rise at the same time at one latitude will rise at different times at another latitude. By learning these differences Thompson is able to judge the canoe's latitude with remarkable precision.

- more -

**"Wayfinding: Non-Instrument Navigation"**  
**Page Four**

The 1980 voyage of the Hokule'a was a demanding test for an untried navigator, but Thompson proved up to the task. The voyage was a continuation of his education and a great confidence builder. Piailug accompanied Thompson on the voyage, but did not intervene in the navigation of the canoe. Thompson did, however, seek Piailug's advice on difficult problems such as how to read direction from a complicated swell pattern and how to predict wind shifts from cloud formations.

The 1985-1987 Voyage of Rediscovery will be an even more demanding test of Thompson's newly acquired skills as a wayfinder.

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Attribution - Material for this release was borrowed from:  
Re-learning a Vanishing Art by Ben R. Finney, Bernard J. Kilonosky, Stephen Somsen and Edward D. Stroup; and from interviews with Dr. Stroup and Will Kyselka of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu.

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

## Hokule'a Rebuilt For Its 1985-1987 Voyage Of Rediscovery

When the Hokule'a departs this month on its two-year voyage throughout Polynesia, it will have many new and redesigned parts.

The Hokule'a has undergone a complete renovation since its 1980 voyage to Tahiti. Weather-worn planks and lashings have been replaced. The canoe has new sails, masts and spars, and bilge pumps have been added for safety.

Approximately three miles of cord were used to make the new deck lashings and rig for the sails. On the recommendation of Mau Piailug, who navigated the Hokule'a on its first trip to Tahiti in 1976, the deck lashings have been counter-sunk so they won't chafe the crew members bare feet.

New sails, masts and spars were designed for this voyage because the canoe will encounter a variety of wind conditions it didn't have to contend with on the Tahitian voyages. The Hokule'a will be making difficult upwind tacks on several legs of its 1985-1987 voyage.

- more -



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

Hokule'a Rebuilt For Its 1985-1987 Voyage Of Rediscovery  
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Despite these changes, designers have tried to make the Hokule'a an authentic reproduction of an ancient Polynesian voyaging canoe. For example, although the spars are very heavy, no blocks or winches have been installed to ease the raising and lowering of the sail rig.

One modern convenience has been added, however, for safety reasons. Bilge pumps were installed on the Hokule'a so that the hatches don't have to be left open for had bailing. In rough seas, hand bailing with the hatches open invites disaster.

The renovations to the Hokule'a have not detracted from its objective of being an accurate recreation of an ancient Polynesian voyaging canoe. The design of the Hokule'a is as close as possible to the design of the canoes which were used to colonize Polynesia.

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# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

## SAIL PLAN

### I. HAWAII TO TAHITI

PRE-HAWAII DEPARTURE CREW IN MAUI 6/20/85  
1 DAY CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

	<u>Leg</u>	<u>Crew size</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Sail time</u>	<u>Rest</u>	<u>Weather Wait</u>
A.	Haw-Tuamotus Arrive 7/26	12	6/25/85	30 days	1	1 day
B.	Tua-Tahiti Arrive 7/30	12	8/02/85	2 days		

CANOE LAYOVER 8/04/85 to 8/25/85  
CREW DEPART TAHITI FOR HONOLULU 8/06/85  
CREW CHANGE

### II. TAHITI TO COOKS

DEPARTURE CREW IN TAHITI 8/21/85  
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 2 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER

A.	Ta-Raiatea Arrive 8/27	12	8/25/85	2 days	1	1 day
B.	Rai-Cooks Arrive 9/15/85	12	8/29/85	12 days	4	2 days

HAUL OUT CANOE AND SECURE IN RAROTONGA - LAYOVER 9/15/85 - 11/18/85

CREW RETURNS HOME 2 DAYS AFTER ARRIVAL 9/17/85



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

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	<u>Leg</u>	<u>Crew size</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Sail time</u>	<u>Rest</u>	<u>Weather Wait</u>
<b>III. COOKS - NEW ZEALAND</b>						
CREW RETURNS TO COOKS 11/12/85 TO PREPARE CANOE FOR 11/18/85 DEPARTURE						
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER						
A.	Cooks - N.Z.	12	11/18/85	24 days		
	Arrive 12/12/85					
HAUL OUT CANOE AND SECURE UNTIL 4/86; CREW RETURNS TO HAWAII 12/15/85						
<b>IV. NEW ZEALAND - SAMOA - SUBJECT TO WEATHER AND SAFETY CAPABILITIES OF THE ESCORT BOAT</b>						
INSTRUMENT CREW RETURNS TO NEW ZEALAND 4/09/86 FOR 4/15/86 DEPARTURE						
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER						
A.	N.Z. - Fiji	12	4/15/86	17 days	2	4 days
	Arrive 5/02/86					
B.	Fiji - Samoa	12	5/08/86	10 days		
	Arrive 5/18/86					
CREW CHANGE. CREW LEAVING SAMOA, SECURE HOKULE'A, RETURN TO HAWAII 5/20/86						
NON-INSTRUMENT CREW RETURNS 6/07/86 FOR 6/14/86 DEPARTURE						
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER						
<b>V. SAMOA - COOKS</b>						
A.	Samoa - Cooks	12	6/14/86	35 days		
	Arrive 7/19/86					
CREW CHANGE - CREW LEAVING COOKS SECURE CANOE AND LEAVE 7/21/86						
<b>VI. COOKS - RAIATEA</b>						
CREW RETURNS TO COOKS 8/01/86 FOR 8/07/86 DEPARTURE						
2 DAYS CANOE PREP - 4 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER						
A.	Cooks - Raiatea	12	8/07/86	25 days		
	Arrive 9/02/86					
CREW RETURNS TO HAWAII 9/04/86. CANOE IS TURNED OVER TO A TAHITIAN CREW WHICH WILL SAIL THE HOKULE'A TO PAPEETE FOR HAUL OUT, REPAIR AND LAYOVER FROM SEPTEMBER, 1986 TO APRIL 22, 1987.						
<b>VII. TAHITI - HAWAII</b>						
CREW RETURNS TO PAPEETE BY APRIL 10, 1987 FOR APRIL 18 DEPARTURE						
4 DAYS CANOE PREP - 5 DAYS WAIT FOR WEATHER						
A.	Ta - Mar	12	4/18/87	12 days	2	2
	Arrive 4/30/87					
B.	Mar - Haw	12	5/04/87	22		
	Arrive 5/26/87					

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

BOX 19000-A / HONOLULU / HAWAII 96819

## POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

### Crew Members

#### First Leg Of 1985-87 Voyage

Hawaii to Tahiti

#### Nainoa Thompson, Navigator

Nainoa has participated in the 1976, 1978 and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a. He was the navigator in the 1980 voyage and will play the same role in the 1985-87 voyage. Nainoa lives in Honolulu.

#### Mau Piailug, Advisor

Mau has participated in the 1976 and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a. He will have the role as advisor to Nainoa Thompson and Shorty Bertlemann in the 1985-87 voyage. Mau is from the island of Satawal.

#### Shorty Bertlemann, Captain

Shorty has participated in the 1976, 1978 and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a as a crew member. He has studied with Mau along with Nainoa on the 1976 and 1980 voyages. Shorty lives in Kamuela and is a contractor by trade.

#### Buddy McGuire, Second Watch Captain

Buddy has participated in the 1978, and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a as a crew member. Buddy is a labor and industrial relations consultant, and will serve as the official spokesperson for the crew and the canoe. Buddy lives in Honolulu.

#### Tava Taupu, Third Watch Captain

Tava has participated in the 1976, 1978 and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a as a crew member. Tava lives in Kona and works for the Kona Village Resort. He is originally from the Marquesas.

- more -



VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

Crew Members  
Page Two

Tai Crouch, Crew Member

Tai is an educator and teaches at Punahou School. This will be his first long distance trip on the Hokule'a. Tai will be documenting Nainoa on this first leg of the voyage.

James Shizuru, Crew Member and Canoe Maintenance Advisor

James is a licensed contractor by trade. This will be his first long-distance voyage on Hokule'a. James was responsible for coordinating the refurbishing work on Hokule'a for this 1985-87 voyage. He will also maintain the role of canoe maintenance advisor.

Dennis Chun, Crew Member

Dennis is an educator, and teaches at Kamehameha Schools. This will be his first long distance trip on the Hokule'a.

Clay Bertlemann, Crew Member

Clay is a rancher on Kamuela. This will be his first long-distance trip on the Hokule'a.

Thomas Piaailuq, Crew Member

Thomas is from the island of Satawal. This will be his first voyage on the Hokule'a.

Dr. Larry Magnussen, Crew Member and Ship's Physician

Dr. Magnussen is from the island of Kauai and will serve as Hokule'a's physician. This will be his first long-distance voyage on the Hokule'a.

Harry Ho, Crew Member and Supply Advisor

Harry has participated in the 1978 and 1980 voyages of the Hokule'a. He is an architect by trade, and will be responsible for supplying and loading Hokule'a with the proper equipment, gear, food, etc.

February 2, 1985

The winds of the Pacific will once again fill the sails of our double-hulled sailing canoe, Hokule'a.

Please join us at a news conference when we announce for the first time the details of the two year VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY.

When: Monday, February 4, 1985  
Time: 2:00 P.M.  
Place: Pier 19, beside Hokule'a

If you have any questions, please call Marlene Among at Hawaii Public Television (955-7878).

Sincerely,

Myron B. Thompson  
President

STATEMENT BY MYRON B. THOMPSON  
PRESIDENT, POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

YOU CAN SEE WE'RE GETTING READY FOR A LONG SAIL.

WE'VE FOUND THE CANOE IS IN REMARKABLY GOOD SHAPE, WHICH IS A TRIBUTE TO HER ORIGINAL DESIGNERS AND BUILDERS. BUT WE'RE COMPLETELY OVERHAULING HER FOR WHAT WE'RE CALLING THE VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY.

OUR TWO SUCCESSFUL VOYAGES TO AND FROM TAHITI TOOK NO MORE THAN SEVERAL MONTHS. THIS COMING VOYAGE WILL TAKE OVER TWO YEARS.

PAST VOYAGES WERE ABOUT 6,000 MILES. THIS VOYAGE WILL BE OVER 16,000 MILES.

PAST VOYAGES DEALT WITH THE ONE ANCIENT VOYAGING ROUTE TO TAHITI. ON THIS VOYAGE WE HOPE TO RETRACE MOST OF THE ANCIENT VOYAGES WHICH DESPERSED THE POLYNESIANS ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

WE WILL TRACE THE ROUTE FROM CENTRAL POLYNESIA TO NEW ZEALAND.

WE WILL TRACE THE ROUTE FROM WESTERN TO CENTRAL TO EASTERN POLYNESIA.

WE WILL COME HOME FROM THE MARQUESAS, THE POINT OF ORIGIN OF OUR FIRST HAWAIIAN ANCESTORS SOME 14 OR 15 CENTURIES AGO.

FROM PAST VOYAGES WE KNOW OUR ANCESTORS SAILED WITH PURPOSE AND WITH EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THEIR ENVIRONMENT. WE HAVE REPLICATED THE CANOE, AND WE HAVE A TRAINED CREW AND A TRAINED NONINSTRUMENT NAVIGATOR, OR WAYFINDER. THIS COM-

STATEMENT OF MYRON B. THOMPSON  
PAGE 2

BINATION OF CANOE, CREW, AND WAYFINDER AFFORDS US THE RARE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FROM "WHENCE WE HAVE COME."

NOW WE LOOK TO THE DISTANT BOUNDARIES OF POLYNESIA. THE WESTERN JAMES COOK NOTED THIS WAS "THE MOST EXTENSIVE NATION ON EARTH," SHARING A COMMON LANGUAGE AND COMMON HERITAGE.

WE ARE SEEKING TO LEARN HOW AND WHY THIS CAME TO BE.

OUR EFFORT MESHED CLOSELY WITH A MAJOR SCIENTIFIC EXHIBIT BEING ORGANIZED JOINTLY BY BISHOP MUSEUM AND THE LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. (REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT PROJECT ARE HERE TODAY.)

WE ARE RECEIVING MAJOR SUPPORT FROM THE HAWAII MARITIME CENTER, AND WE WILL BE COOPERATING WITH THEIR EFFORT TO CREATE A MAJOR MARITIME CENTER IN HONOLULU HARBOR.

THE OVERALL VOYAGE BUDGET IS A MILLION DOLLARS. OVER HALF OF IT HAS BEEN RAISED, BUT A MAJOR PORTION REMAINS TO BE RAISED. WE NEED KOKUA AND SUPPORT TO REALIZE THIS DREAM.

THANK YOU.....AND PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Marlene Among  
(808) 955-7878 Hawaii Public Television

HOKULE'A SAILS ON A VOYAGE OF REDISCOVERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 1985

Hawaii's double-hulled canoe, Hokule'a will sail on a Voyage of Rediscovery to eight island groups throughout the central and western Pacific. This was announced today by Myron B. Thompson, President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, a non-profit organization.

The Hokule'a embarks on this two year Voyage of Rediscovery this July, when she travels to the Tuamotus. The subsequent legs of the journey will be to: Tahiti, Raiatea, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Fiji, Samoa and the Marquesas.

"MORE"

Hokule'a/Add two

This coming voyage is complex and ambitious. The voyage to Tahiti and back is 6,000 miles. The Voyage of Rediscovery is 16,000 miles. On a straight line, this would be two-thirds the way around earth. The first two voyages of Hokule'a were each of two months duration. This voyage will be approximately twenty-seven months duration, and will require the training of over sixty-five crew members.

Together, the canoe, the navigator Nainoa Thompson, the captain Gordon Piianaia, the nucleus of trained crew will replicate the essentials of Polynesian voyaging. The voyage will dramatize the true dimensions achieved in ocean voyaging by ancient Polynesians.

The goals of the Voyage of Rediscovery include:

To awaken pride and understanding in the golden age of Polynesian voyaging

To form or expand relationships with Polynesian islanders

To invite participation in a gathering of Pacific canoes in Honolulu Harbor

To navigate widely in many directions, without instruments, through widely varying sea and weather conditions

To document the wayfinding process of the navigator and the performance of the canoe

"MORE"

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Hokule'a/Add three

The overall budget for this two year project, including operation, documentation and educational programs, is one million dollars (\$1,000,000). The Polynesian Voyaging Society has already reached their half way goal with pledges from the Hawaii Maritime Center, the 1984 Hawaii State Legislature, Alexander Gerbode Foundation and individual contributions.

To help raise the balance of the budget, a Benefit Concert will be held at Aloha Tower, Piers 9 and 10 on Sunday, March 17th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Additional fund-raising projects are in active planning stages.

Hokule'a/Add three

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To help raise the balance of the budget, a Benefit Concert will be held at Aloha Tower, Piers 9 and 10 on Sunday, March 17th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tickets can be purchased at any Funway Ticket Outlet, Continental Airlines Ticket Office on Fort Street Mall, Reyn's Ala Moana and Kahala Mall or call Marlene Among at 955-7878. Tickets are \$10.00 and children twelve years of age and under are free. Your donation is tax-deductible.