

May 22, 1993

BISHOP MUSEUM



CELEBRATING A  
CENTURY OF DISCOVERY

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### MAULOLO CANOE FACT SHEET

*Mauloa* is a 26-foot coastal sailing canoe built at Honaunau under the direction of Master traditional canoe builder Mau Pialug from Satawal Island in Micronesia. Mau was the first navigator on *Hokule'a* and was brought in to teach the art of canoe building to the people of Hawai'i. After more than one year of work on the canoe, *Mauloa* will be ready to launch on May 22 at 11 a.m. at Pu'u honua O Honaunau National Park on the Big Island.

Under the leadership of Nainoa Thompson, and with an immense effort from the Big Island community, a rotating crew of volunteers started work on the canoe in February of 1992.

Bishop Estate/Kamehameha Schools donated the koa log that was felled to form the hull of the canoe. To prevent any environmental damage by felling the tree, 4,000 koa seedlings were planted to replace that one tree. Unlike *Hokule'a*, *Mauloa* is built in the ancient way, using native materials and no power tools. The main construction tool is the stone adze. The *Lauhala* sail is 110 square feet. The lashing cordage and rigging line was made from coconut-fiber sennit. The caulking used to make the canoe water-tight was made from the sap of the *Ulu*, or breadfruit tree. The pigment on the hull is from the root of the kukui nut tree, and the finish is made of kukui nut oil.

The building of *Mauloa* is a cultural research project to introduce traditional Hawaiian arts, crafts and customs to the people of today. The emphasis of this project is to recover and re-learn traditional canoe construction techniques and to preserve and perpetuate canoe construction traditions through quality education programs.

The canoe will be housed at the Hawaii Maritime Center in July and will be used for exhibition and educational purposes.

Construction of *Mauloa* is a National Park Service funded project of the Bishop Museum through its Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program and in cooperation with the Hawaii Maritime Center, Polynesian Voyaging Society and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate.

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### HAWAI'ILOA CANOE

#### FACT SHEET

- WHAT:** The *Hawai'iloa* is a 57-foot long voyaging canoe built under the direction of master canoe builder Wright Bowman Jr. The main hull is made of Sitka spruce, and other parts are made of *koa*, *hau* and *ohi'a* wood. All parts of the canoe will be lashed together with coconut fiber sennit and *hau* (hibiscus Tilliaceus) cordage. The sails are made of *lau hala*. Eight miles of rigging and lashing were used in the construction.
- WHEN** On July 24, 1993, the canoe will be blessed launched from Pier 35.  
**& WHERE:** On July 31, 1993, a community celebration will take place at Pokai Bay to honor Hawaii's voyaging heritage.
- FUTURE:** In 1995 the *Hawai'iloa* is expected to sail more than 2,000 miles from the Marquesas Island to Hawai'i. Crewmembers will be discovering and learning the open ocean route of early Polynesian explorers.

The building of the *Hawai'iloa* is a cultural research project to develop pride, skills and knowledge among people interested in perpetuating the Hawaiian Culture. The *Hawai'iloa* is cooperative project of Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture & Arts Program, the National Park Service, the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and Kamehameha Schools / Bishop Estate.

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June 15, 1993

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HAWAI'ILOA CANOE LAUNCHES INTO THE PAST  
TO SECURE THE FUTURE**

Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture & Arts Program's *Hawai'iloa* is a 57-foot long voyaging canoe built under the direction of master canoe builder **Wright Bowman Jr.** The *Hawai'iloa* is the first voyaging canoe built of traditional materials in the last 600 years in Hawai'i. The canoe will be blessed and launched on July 24, 1993 from Pier 35 on O'ahu. On July 30, the *Hawai'iloa* will be chaperoned by numerous small canoes and three larger canoes, the *Hokule'a*, the *Mauloa* and the *E'ala*, to Poka'i Bay on O'ahu for community festivities.

Wright Bowman Jr. has 20 years of experience in canoe building and repairing, and is the most active canoe builder in the state. Bowman worked weekends for 18 months with a volunteer crew of more than 30 people that included three lawyers, Honolulu's fire chief and a top officer of the Honolulu Police Department.

Considerable time was spent searching for two *koa* logs big enough for the canoe, but none was found. Instead, the SeAlaska Corporation donated nine Sitka spruce logs from Shelikof Island, Alaska. Two of the logs were 66-feet long with diameters of six to seven feet and weighed as much as 25 tons each. The spruce trees were more than 400 years old. The Native Hawaiian Culture and Arts Program led a group of Hawaiians to the Alaskan forest for a blessing ceremony before the falling. The remaining parts of the canoe are made from *koa*, *hau* and *ohi'a* wood.

(more)

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Hawai'iloa launch/page 2

Modern tools and technology were used to construct the *Hawai'iloa*. All parts of the canoe are lashed together with coconut fiber sennit, *manila* and *hau* (*hibiscus Tilliaceus*) cordage. The sails are made of *lau hala* (*Pandanus*), made by platiers from Hawai'i. Eight miles of rigging and lashing were used in the construction.

For the remainder of 1993 and 1994, the *Hawai'iloa* will go through extensive sea trials to determine seaworthiness and canoe performance. The voyaging canoe will also be used as a training ground for cultural practitioners, educators and artists. In 1995 the *Hawai'iloa* is expected to sail more than 2,000 miles from the Marquesas Islands to Hawai'i. The crew members will discover and learn the open ocean route of early Polynesian explorers that are believed to be the first settlers of Hawai'i.

The building of the *Hawai'iloa* is a cultural research project to develop pride, skills and knowledge among people interested in perpetuating the Hawaiian Culture.

The *Hawai'iloa* is cooperative project of Bishop Museum's Native Hawaiian Culture & Arts Program, The National Park Service, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate.

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