

Kū Holo Mau—Sail On, Sail Always, Sail Forever: 2007 Voyage to Micronesia

By Nainoa Thompson (prepared with the assistance of Kathy Thompson and Dennis Kawaharada of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, and PREL's Ormond Hammond, PhD)



Photo by Kāʻiulani Murphy

this voyage. *Hōkūleʻa* will escort *Maisu* to several islands in Micronesia on the way to its new home there.

The name of the voyage, “Kū Holo Mau—Sail On, Sail Always, Sail Forever,” was given to Nā Kālai Waʻa by Pua Kanakaʻole for the building of *Maisu* and its voyage to its new home in Micronesia. The name emphasizes the impor-

perpetuating our voyaging and navigation traditions for future generations by continuing to sail.

The voyage will be an extraordinary opportunity to bring together Polynesian and Micronesian sailors and students of navigation to continue the process of learning voyaging and traditional navigation. The voyage will be a learning platform for a school of navigation, which is necessary to preserve, perpetuate, and relearn the great body of navigational knowledge and skill that our ancestors possessed.

We are all looking forward to meeting and working with the people of Micronesia in a way that allows us to thank them for keeping Pacific island voyaging traditions alive. At the same time, we want to build strong relationships with other Pacific Islanders who share our common heritage of deep-sea voyaging, as a means to maintain our identity and pride in Oceania.

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Education Opportunities

Educators and students can read more about the 2007 voyage to Micronesia at a Kū Holo Mau webpage (<http://pvs.hawaii.org/2007voyage/2007micronesia.html>). Once the voyage is underway (January–March), the progress of the voyage can be followed via a blog (<http://pvshawaii.squarespace.com/>) on which the voyagers will share text and photos featuring what makes navigating canoes, and our island homes at sea, special and unique. The crew will also share discoveries about the places they visit.

We invite everyone along the canoe route to share at the voyaging blog what is special, valuable, and unique in the cultural and natural environments of their home islands. We also want to hear about what communities are doing, or can do, to perpetuate our cultural and environmental uniqueness, so that future generations can experience and enjoy what we do. The voyage will be an opportunity for members of the Pacific islands community to share ideas about who we are, what we value, and what we can do to preserve and protect what we value.

For more information about navigating in the Pacific, see the 1996 Pacific Region Educational Laboratory publication *Reading the wind: Navigation and the environment in the Pacific. A teacher's guide.*

This year is the 30th anniversary of the first voyage of the double-hulled canoe *Hōkūleʻa*. When she sailed from Hawaiʻi to Tahiti and back, it marked the first time in 600 years that a Polynesian voyaging canoe had sailed that route. Since then, *Hōkūleʻa* has completed a number of other voyages throughout Polynesia; the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska; and, most recently, in 2004, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

We are now planning a voyage to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) in 2007 to honor and thank Mau Piailug. Mau was *Hōkūleʻa*'s first navigator to Tahiti in 1976 and has been our teacher and guide ever since in the process of relearning traditional navigation. The 2007 voyage to his home island of Satawal in Yap, FSM, also allows us to honor the Micronesian seafaring and cultural heritage for giving us the opportunity, here in Hawaiʻi, to learn and grow over the past three decades.

A new voyaging canoe named *Maisu* will be completed for Mau under the leadership of Nā Kālai Waʻa Moku o Hawaiʻi, a partner with the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) on

