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World Class Sand Sculptors Create Living Seascape at O'ahu's Kahana Bay

(Honolulu, HI) Three days of moving, digging and sculpting sand has resulted in an enormous sand sculpture at O'ahu's Ahupua'a O Kahana State Park that not only depicts man and nature working in harmony, but also furthers the shared messages of Na Kama Kai and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Papahānaumokuākea is the largest single conservation area in the U.S., the only UNESCO World Heritage site in the nation inscribed for both natural and cultural values, and a leader in large-scale marine protected area management and conservation. Nā Kama Kai is a community-based, grassroots organization dedicated to empowering young people by creating, conducting and supporting ocean-based programs, specifically targeting ocean awareness and safety in order to increase the capacity of youth in the community through cultural and environmental education.

Duane DeSoto, the Founder and President of Nā Kama Kai, said his love for the ocean and appreciation of the waterman lifestyle nurtured his dream to give back to his community with the establishment of Nā Kama Kai. Papahānaumokuākea partnered with the organization because it was looking for hands-on, culturally-based educational and outreach opportunities that integrate culture, community, research and conservation messaging. The partnership between Na Kama Kai and the Monument is a natural.

Oakland-based sand sculptor Kirk Rademaker recruited professional sand sculptors for the Nā Kama Kai project; all are well-known on the international sand sculpting circuit. Rademaker himself has been the creative brains behind dozens of sculptures across North America and Europe. Other artists included Kimmo Frosti, the principal of the Finnish company, *Frostiart*, which creates both ice and sand sculptures around the world, and Sandis Kondrats and Sue McGrew of *sandissue*.

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Frosti and Kondrats just collaborated on ice sculptures at the World Ice Art Championships in Fairbanks, Alaska. It is the largest annual ice art competition in the world now in its 22nd year. DeSoto said, "Not only did the sculptors, especially those who were recently in Alaska, enjoy the warm change in weather, they are as committed as we are in helping spread the messages of care for the environment, ocean conservation, living in harmony with both land and sea and personal responsibility; to our young people."

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(Photographs, b-roll and interviews are available by request)

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