

**Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**  
SPECIAL OCEAN USE Permit Application

**NOTE:** *This Permit Application (and associated Instructions) are to propose activities to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Co-Trustees are required to determine that issuing the requested permit is compatible with the findings of Presidential Proclamation 8031. Within this Application, provide all information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument).*

**ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Any or all of the information within this application may be posted to the Monument website informing the public on projects proposed to occur in the Monument.
- In addition to the permit application, the Applicant must either download the Monument Compliance Information Sheet from the Monument website OR request a hard copy from the Monument Permit Coordinator (contact information below). The Monument Compliance Information Sheet must be submitted to the Monument Permit Coordinator after initial application consultation.
- Issuance of a Monument permit is dependent upon the completion and review of the application and Compliance Information Sheet.

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED**

Send Permit Applications to:  
NOAA/Inouye Regional Center  
NOS/ONMS/PMNM/Attn: Permit Coordinator  
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818  
nwhipermit@noaa.gov  
PHONE: (808) 725-5800      FAX: (808) 455-3093

**SUBMITTAL VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED. FOR ADDITIONAL SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS, SEE THE LAST PAGE.**

## **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Permit Application Cover Sheet**

This Permit Application Cover Sheet is intended to provide summary information and status to the public on permit applications for activities proposed to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. While a permit application has been received, it has not been fully reviewed nor approved by the Monument Management Board to date. The Monument permit process also ensures that all environmental reviews are conducted prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.

### **Summary Information**

**Applicant Name:** Blane Benevedes and Koa Matsuoka

**Affiliation:** Self

**Permit Category:** Special Ocean Use

**Proposed Activity Dates:** June 26th to July 7th

**Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane):** Vessel (Covered under K. Kikilo'i's permit application)

**Proposed Locations:** Nihoa and Mokumanamana

**Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit:** 2

**Estimated number of days in the Monument:** approximately 14 days

**Description of proposed activities:** (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would...  
capture video and digital still images to document the natural and cultural resources (animals, plants, landscapes, and cultural sites) of Nihoa, Mokumanamana, and the waters of Papahānaumokuākea leading up to Mokumanamana to raise community awareness of the place from Hawaiian perspectives. We will be utilizing traditional storytelling through metaphor to connect communities to these places in a rarely-done way.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ....  
capture video and digital still images at Nihoa, Mokumanamana, and surrounding waters to potentially develop into a documentary, photo book, and/or digital gallery. We will also need to support and observe appropriate cultural and biological protocols to enter these spaces and capture our images.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by ...

promoting PMNM through the production and dissemination of products (photos, video, other educational materials, posters, cards, etc.) that will connect people to the place. We will provide high-quality media to the Monument agencies that can be utilized for their outreach and educational needs. We also plan to present our methods and stories in various education settings (galleries, conferences, classrooms, etc.).

**Other information or background:**

Both applicants have been employed by Monument agencies and have worked in the Monument. Both applicants will be accessing the Monument through a Native Hawaiian Practices Permit (Kikiloi). Blane Benevedes has served at the ONMS PMNM office as the Native Hawaiian Program Specialist, tasked with caring for the Monument's cultural and natural resources. Koa Matsuoka has been a member of the NMFS monk seal program as a field team member, caring for the natural resources of Papahānaumokuākea. We are both students and practitioners of subsets of the Hawaiian culture, and will be traveling to the Monument under Kikiloi's permit in strict observance of the cultural and biological protocols for Nihoa, Mokumanamana, and their surrounding seas.

## **Section A - Applicant Information**

### **1. Applicant**

Name (last, first, middle initial): Blane Benevedes/Koa Matsuoka

Title: Cultural Practitioners

#### **1a. Intended field Principal Investigator (See instructions for more information):**

#### **2. Mailing address (street/P.O. box, city, state, country, zip):**

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For students, major professor's name, telephone and email address:

#### **3. Affiliation (institution/agency/organization directly related to the proposed project):**

Self

#### **4. Additional persons to be covered by permit. List all personnel roles and names (if known at time of application) here (e.g. John Doe, Research Diver; Jane Doe, Field Technician):**

N/A

**Section B: Project Information**

**5a. Project location(s):**

- |  |  |   |                                     |
|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nihoa Island                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Necker Island (Mokumanamana) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land-based | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shallow water | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Frigate Shoals                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardner Pinnacles                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maro Reef                               |  |   |                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laysan Island                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lisianski Island, Neva Shoal            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl and Hermes Atoll                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Midway Atoll                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kure Atoll                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Land-based            | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                                   |  |   |                                     |

**Ocean Based**

Remaining ashore on any island or atoll (with the exception of Midway & Kure Atolls and Field Camp staff on other islands/atolls) between sunset and sunrise.

NOTE: There is a fee schedule for people visiting Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge via vessel and aircraft.

Location Description:

Nihoa and Mokumanamana (and surrounding waters in transit).

**5b. Check all applicable regulated activities proposed to be conducted in the Monument:**

- Removing, moving, taking, harvesting, possessing, injuring, disturbing, or damaging any living or nonliving Monument resource
- Drilling into, dredging, or otherwise altering the submerged lands other than by anchoring a vessel; or constructing, placing, or abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on the submerged lands
- Anchoring a vessel
- Deserting a vessel aground, at anchor, or adrift
- Discharging or depositing any material or matter into the Monument
- Touching coral, living or dead
- Possessing fishing gear except when stowed and not available for immediate use during passage without interruption through the Monument
- Attracting any living Monument resource
- Sustenance fishing (Federal waters only, outside of Special Preservation Areas, Ecological Reserves and Special Management Areas)
- Subsistence fishing (State waters only)
- Swimming, snorkeling, or closed or open circuit SCUBA diving within any Special Preservation Area or Midway Atoll Special Management Area

**6. Purpose/Need/Scope *State purpose of proposed activities:***

The proposed activities are intended to strengthen communal, national, and international connection to these sacred sites through the power of digital media and appropriate traditional methodology. We will be documenting the access and research being conducted by Kikiloi and his team of cultural practitioners. We will also be capturing video and digital still images to document the natural and cultural resources (animals, plants, landscapes, and cultural sites) of Nihoa, Mokumanamana, and the waters of Papahānaumokuākea leading up to Mokumanamana to raise community awareness of these sites from Hawaiian perspectives. The goal is to bring people to the place in a new and creative way.

\*Considering the purpose of the proposed activities, do you intend to film / photograph federally protected species?    Yes  No

For a list of terrestrial species protected under the Endangered Species Act visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

For a list of marine species protected under the Endangered Species Act visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/>

For information about species protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act visit:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

**7. Answer the Findings below by providing information that you believe will assist the Co-Trustees in determining how your proposed activities are compatible with the conservation and management of the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the Monument:**

The Findings are as follows:

a. How can the activity be conducted with adequate safeguards for the cultural, natural and historic resources and ecological integrity of the Monument?

All work is being conducted by former employees of the Monument who have been trained in natural-cultural resource protection methods. All permitted individuals will be accompanied by a Monument-appointed resource monitor at all times and adhere to all Monument best management practices. We will also attend a cultural and permit briefing. We will not be operating near any known maritime heritage sites. If any cultural sites are observed, their locations will be provided to the Monument. We will be with Dr. Kekuēwa Kikiloi, a world authority on the cultural and archaeological significance of Nihoa and Mokumanamana. We will practice a non-intrusive style of photography that is geared toward leaving the resources in-tact. As for access to the island, we will be adhering to the Best Management Practices For Activities on Nihoa (Person-use) as articulated under Kikiloi's permit. We will follow the permit parameters and quarantine

standards (purchasing new "off-the-shelf clothing" and pertinent camera gear, and freezing all relevant equipment for the proper duration). We will be working in pairs beyond the campsite and landing and will combine our permit with the other field activities covered under Kikiloi's permit at all times (unless given approval by Kikiloi and the resource monitor). We are cultural practitioners and understand the value of cultural resources, and will defer to our cultural liaison at all times when interacting with the resources. We hold equal regard to biological resources, as they are cultural resources, and will defer to the designated FWS biological resource monitor when in the Refuge. We will stick to safe routes designated by the FWS resource monitor when traversing the island -following the footsteps of the person in front of us. Per the capturing of wildlife images, we will keep a FWS minimum buffer of 33 feet when observing nests and individual birds; a minimum distance of 150 feet when observing individual adult monk seals; and a minimum distance of 300 feet from mother and pup pairs. If we observe humpback whales while in transit, we will keep the FWS minimum 100-yard distance from them, as well. We will also stay 50 yards away from other marine mammals, if applicable. All animal observations and image capturing will not span beyond 30 minutes per individual. We will do most of our wildlife captures by using telephoto zoom lenses to ensure proper distance. If we are approached by wildlife, we will slowly remove ourselves from the situation. So not to alarm the natural and cultural resources of the island, we will attempt to visually blend in with our surroundings within reason and move carefully from place to place.

b. How will the activity be conducted in a manner compatible with the management direction of this proclamation, considering the extent to which the conduct of the activity may diminish or enhance Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity, any indirect, secondary, or cumulative effects of the activity, and the duration of such effects? Monument regulations and best management practices will be followed (as described above). The activity directly supports Monument Management Plan (MMP) Constituency Building and Outreach Action Plan (Strategy CBO-3): ...enhance opportunities for long-term engagement over the life of the plan (MMP Vol. 1, p 271, 2008).

c. Is there a practicable alternative to conducting the activity within the Monument? If not, explain why your activities must be conducted in the Monument.

No, the islands of Nihoa and Mokumanamana are unique natural-cultural sites that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. We must conduct our activities in the Monument because the stories found in these places stem from these places, and these unique landscapes possess wildlife not found elsewhere in the world.

d. How does the end value of the activity outweigh its adverse impacts on Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity?

No adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed activities and our following of FWS and PMNM BMPs. We will not be collecting samples or manipulating the environment in any way (aside from footsteps in coordinated spaces directed by our resource monitor). The proposed activities will benefit the Monument through increased exposure to the Native Hawaiian and greater community from pictures and media.

e. Explain how the duration of the activity is no longer than necessary to achieve its stated purpose.

These activities will be in conjunction with separately permitted activities, and the applicants will remain in the Monument for the duration of the other permittee's cultural practice and knowledge acquisition. The length of time is determined by the other permit. The requested timeframe is enough to document and capture what we hope to convey- the importance of this special place.

f. Provide information demonstrating that you are qualified to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct.

We have been previously employed by the Monument and have photographed and videoed other islands in the Monument without disrupting their natural-cultural resources. We have over 10 years of digital photo and video experience shooting locations all over Hawai'i and abroad, and many years of experience as cultural practitioners.

g. Provide information demonstrating that you have adequate financial resources available to conduct and complete the activity and mitigate any potential impacts resulting from its conduct.

The access will be permitted under separate permitted activities that are funded by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. We do not plan to manipulate, extract, or negatively affect the wildlife, land, and sea scapes that we capture on film and video, and will follow FWS and PMNM BMPs when in the Refuge and in transit through Monument waters.

h. Explain how your methods and procedures are appropriate to achieve the proposed activity's goals in relation to their impacts to Monument cultural, natural and historic resources, qualities, and ecological integrity.

We will be perpetuating the traditional method of storytelling through a modern medium; intend to only take video and photo without any manipulation of the Monument; observe all FWS and PMNM best management practices; adhere to federal and state regulations on safe distances for protected species (see above); and disseminate the information and images gathered to the Native Hawaiian and greater communities.

i. Has your vessel been outfitted with a mobile transceiver unit approved by OLE and complies with the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 8031?

We will be accessing the Monument on the vessel Makani 'Olu, separately permitted under Dr. K. Kikiloi. The Makani 'Olu will be outfitted with an approved OLE and Presidential Proclamation 8031 compliant mobile transceiver unit.

j. Demonstrate that there are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

There are no other factors that would make the issuance of a permit for the activity inappropriate.

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA, ANSWER THE ADDITIONAL THREE FINDINGS BELOW:

- k. Explain how your activity will directly benefit the conservation and management of the Monument.

The permit will provide Monument agencies with up-to-date, high-resolution imagery that can be used for education and outreach materials. The permit will allow Native Hawaiian access to the Monument and provide for Special Ocean Use (as mandated by the Presidential Proclamation 8031). The permit will introduce potential new audiences to the natural-cultural resources of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

- l. Explain how the purpose of your activity is for research or education related to the resources or qualities of the Monument.

The art and function of storytelling is vested in education and research. Through the dissemination of our work, we hope that others will be inspired to be actively engaged in conservation and research endeavors in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and their backyards.

- m. Does the activity involve the use of a commercial passenger vessel (defined as a vessel that carries individuals who have paid for such carriage)?

No. We plan to sail on SV Makani Olu, a non-commercial vessel of the Merimed Foundation chartered under separately-permitted activity.

FOR SPECIAL OCEAN USE ACTIVITIES WITHIN MIDWAY ATOLL SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA, ANSWER THE ADDITIONAL TWO FINDINGS BELOW:

- n. Explain how your activity will further the conservation and management of the Monument.

- o. How is your activity compatible with the purposes for which the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was designated?

**NOTE: If this is a first time Special Ocean Use activity, it will be subject to a pilot project and will be restricted in duration. Special Ocean Use activities proposed outside the Midway Atoll Special Management Area will require public notice of the application and an opportunity to provide comments is given at least 30 days prior to issuing the permit.**

#### **8. Procedures/Methods:**

We are capturing images and video on land and sea of the natural and cultural resources of the Monument and the participants activities on such. The activities to be conducted by cultural practitioners are being outlined in the permit of Dr. Kekuewa Kikilo. We will utilize pule and cultural practice as we work and enter various land and seascapes (snorkeling), or encounter specific wildlife and other natural phenomena.

We plan to show our work in various spaces (galleries, conferences, university lectures, school visits, etc.) and produce photo books, posters, and stand-alone prints, as well as video pieces.

**9. Provide proof of general liability insurance, or indicate that you will be posting an equivalent bond against claims arising out of activities conducted under the permit:**

We are actively seeking an insurance plan and will provide proof upon receipt.

**10. If applicable, describe how you are collaborating with others in any way to reduce duplicative activities in the Monument or elsewhere?**

There are no collaborations planned on this time aside from the relationship that we have built with Kikiloi and his party. However, we are open to the possibility of partnering with the Monument and Monument-related organizations and individuals who may be interested in our work under the permit.

**11. List all specialized gear and materials to be used in this activity:**

Canon Mark III 5D DSLR (2; DSLR cameras); GoPros; iPhone 5; tripods; Pelican case; external audio equipment that will be plugged in to DSLR cameras.

**12. List all Hazardous Materials you propose to take to and use within the Monument:**

None

**13. Describe any fixed installations and instrumentation proposed to be set in the Monument:**

None

**14. List all Applicants' publications directly related to the proposed project:**

N/A

With knowledge of the penalties for false or incomplete statements, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1001, and for perjury, as provided by 18 U.S.C. 1621, I hereby certify to the best of my abilities under penalty of perjury of that the information I have provided on this application form is true and correct. I agree that the Co-Trustees may post this application in its entirety on the Internet. I understand that the Co-Trustees will consider deleting all information that I have identified as “confidential” prior to posting the application.

---

Signature

Date

**SEND ONE SIGNED APPLICATION VIA MAIL TO THE MONUMENT OFFICE  
BELOW:**

NOAA/Inouye Regional Center  
NOS/ONMS/PMNM/Attn: Permit Coordinator  
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818  
FAX: (808) 455-3093

**DID YOU INCLUDE THESE?**

- Applicant CV/Resume/Biography
- Intended field Principal Investigator CV/Resume/Biography
- Electronic and Hard Copy of Application with Signature
- Statement of information you wish to be kept confidential
- Material Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Materials