

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA SONG AND COLORING BOOK PROJECT

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Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to help people learn the name and important aspects of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Dedicated as a Marine National Monument in 2016 and expanded in 2016, it is the largest fully protected area in the world. This is a work in progress.

Name

The name acknowledges the union of the Hawaiian entities, Papahānaumoku (Earth Mother) and Wākea (Sky Father), who birthed the Hawaiian Islands. The name is somewhat long and takes effort to remember, especially for people who do not speak Hawaiian. The song helps people to learn and remember the name after hearing it for the first time. The catchy mele (song) was written by Patrick Ching with help from Hawaiian and scientific advisors.

Song

The Papahānaumokuākea song was recorded by Hōkū Award winning musician Kawika Kahiapo. The song utilizes a creative mix of English language, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian language) and pidgin, a blended language that is now recognized as an official language in Hawai‘i.

Content:

The information in the *mele* (song) includes the meaning of the name Papahānaumokuākea, the formation of the islands, their location, cultural importance, the plants and animals that reside there, Hōkūleʻa's journey there, and why the area is important to protect. The long version of the song has verses for each atoll in the Hawaiian archipelago including the Hawaiian names of each atoll.

Coloring Book:

The coloring book illustrates the information in the song using the lyrics of the song as its text. The ukulele chords are also included along with the lyrics. The book's cover and coloring pages are downloadable and printable now via the website. The final ten pages (atoll verses) of the song have yet to be illustrated. The song and coloring book text will be written in English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as the project progresses. Digital learning tools are also in the works.

Song and Art Usage Will Be Royalty Free to Anyone:

The song, art and text will be available to whoever wants to use it. The song would be available royalty free to any musician, musical group, person or organization and encouraged to be taken into the schools. The coloring books may be copied or downloaded by teachers or anyone at no charge. This is information to be shared and modified by those who want to teach and learn from it.

Song Video Send In

The Papahānaumokuākea song is geared for children but meant for adults as well. School teachers, hula hālau and lū'au room singers are encouraged to take the song out to the world and share videos of their groups and classes performing the song on the PAPA HĀNAUMOKUĀKEA SONG AND COLORING BOOK PROJECT Facebook Page and Website. Participants will receive thanks and a sticker for each person in the group. If Possible, they will also get a school visit or online meeting by artist/writer Patrick Ching and a chance to be on an upcoming TV show or music album.

Song Writer Patrick Ching:

Patrick Ching is a Wildlife Artist, and former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ranger who spent part of his life on the remote Hawaiian Islands now known as Papahānaumokuākea. He is also the author of award winning books such as The Hawaiian Monk Seal, Sea Turtles of Hawai'i, and Honu and Hina.