

WEB APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Statement of Purpose

The Wright Elemakule Bowman Apprenticeship Program teaches the skills, history, and art of restoring, maintaining, and building traditional Hawaiian Canoes. This Program is a commitment on the part of the Friends of Hokule'a and Hawai'iloa, whose Board of Directors, instructors, staff, students, and generous supporters share the common values of preserving this icon of the traditional maritime heritage of Hawai'i.

Our Programs includes:

- Canoe building apprenticeships for at-risk youth
- Canoe repair and maintenance classes for the general public, and
- Community and family canoe building projects, both local and national.

Basic Woodworking

A Course of Instruction Leading to the Development of
Skills Peculiar to the Woodworking Trade

Participants will learn how to safely and efficiently use and care for tools of the trade, to include hand tools, powered portable hand tools and installed woodworking machinery. The course of instruction will cover material selection (type of wood, etc.), fastening modes, (screws, wood joints, etc.), finishing techniques (from surface preparation to finishing), and the use of jigs, templates, and machine accessories.

Canoe Repair and Restoration

A Course of Instruction Leading to the Application of
Woodworking Skills to the Repair and Restoration of Koa Canoes and
Of Canoes Constructed from other Woods Customarily Used in their Construction

Instruction will cover the use of special jigs in patching operations, and the use of special cutters and such to carve and shape the patches. Instruction in canoe restoration will be based on historical references to the extent feasible and include the cultural aspects related to the task.

Canoe Building

A Course of Applying Woodworking Skills to the Construction of Traditional Hawaiian Canoes

Working under the direction and guidance of expert canoe builders, the participant will learn to lay out a cutting and trimming schedule that will maximize use of the log and facilitate conversion of the log into the traditional Hawaiian canoe, observing the cultural protocols in the process. He will learn to use special tools and implements to hew the log into its rough shape, to hollow out the log, and to shape the log into its final configuration. He will learn to shape `iako (cross beam), the ama (float), and the covering pieces (manu) at the bow and stern of the canoe. Lastly, he will learn to rig the component parts to make the canoe seaworthy and suitable for its intended use.

Maintenance

Primary Mission: The Care and Maintenance of the Hawaiian Double-Hulled Voyaging Canoe

Realizing that this type of canoe would require skilled and dedicated craftsmen to care for them, Wright Bowman, Jr., before his untimely passing, organized a group of dedicated people, both skilled and unskilled, into what was to become "The Friends of Hokule`a and Hawai`iloa", a tax exempt non-profit organization. Today the group provides maintenance and restoration support to Hawaii's growing fleet of double-hulled voyaging canoes, as well as consultation to canoe organizations both locally and nationally. These canoes continue to play a significant role in educating our people in the critical task of caring for our environment and the preservation of our culture.

Shepherds to Our Forests

Hawaii's forests constitute a valuable resource vital to our economy and the wellness of our land. Within these forests we find hardwoods found nowhere else in the world. In the early 1800's *Acacia Koa*, whose lumber is prized for canoe building and fine furniture, grew in dense forests covering tens of thousands of acres. Today, these forests have dwindled in size and the prized koa tree of canoe building dimensions are difficult to find. As users of this lumber in canoe building and repair it is the obligation of the Friends of Hokulea & Hawaiiloa to participate in perseveration efforts and renewal projects to insure its survival for future generations.

By: Jerome Ongies, 20 March 2009