



PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA  
Marine National Monument

**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2013

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**Uncle Mac Poepoe to Receive 2013 Umu Kai Award**

(Kaunakakai, Moloka'i) On January 24, the 2013 Umu Kai Award will be presented to Uncle Mac Poepoe for a lifetime of conservation management along Moloka'i's northern coast. The presentation will coincide with *E Molo Nā Ka'i o Nā Kai Molo*, a public lecture on ocean awareness and conservation at the Kūlana 'Ōiwi Kauhale in Kaunakakai, Moloka'i, organized by Ka Makahiki Moloka'i.

The Umu Kai Award, established by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region, is presented to a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner who "invokes the spirit of traditional fishing practices and management while adapting to modern fishing environments," says Keoni Kuoha, Native Hawaiian Program Coordinator for Papahānaumokuākea.

The award, named after the traditional Hawaiian practice of enhancing fish habitat, honors the legacy of the late Uncle Eddie Kaanaana, a Native Hawaiian cultural treasure who was the first recipient of the award in 2008.

Other past recipients of the Umu Kai Award include Hawaiian Navigator and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Kamehameha Schools Nainoa Thompson, Department of Land and Natural Resources Chair William 'Ailā, and Mahina Paishon-Duarte, the principal of Hālau Kū Mana Public Charter School in Mākīkī, O'ahu.

A fisherman, educator, Vietnam veteran, and conservationist, Uncle Mac has inspired generations of natural resource managers throughout the State of Hawai'i. Through partnerships with organizations like the Castle Foundation, Nā Pua No'eau, the National Park Service, and the University of Hawai'i, Uncle Mac has developed resource materials, programs and curriculum that have in many ways set the standard for small-scale conservation management today.

For instance, his data collection and creation of the *2008 Pono Fishing Calendar* – a localized guide on the lifecycles of fish and other natural resources of Mo'omomi, Moloka'i – has inspired communities on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i to develop similar calendars for their designated areas and to adopt many other aspects of Uncle Mac's conservation model.



