

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PACIFIC

HAWAI'I

A film titled *Hawai'i A Voice For Sovereignty* explores the culture and spirituality of the native Hawaiian people and their connection to the land. It was first privately screened at the Nation's Capitol for politicians, authors, and members of the Hawaiian Community. The intention of filmmaker Catherine Bauknights' documentary being shown in Washington was to honor the legacy of Queen Liliuokalani who devoted her life to furthering the cause of Hawaiian rights in both Hawai'i and Washington D.C.

Since the successful Washington screening there has been world-wide coverage resulting in unprecedented requests from the public to have the film premiere in Hawai'i. Bauknights requested that the documentary be screened at the Maui Film Festival, and looks forward to being back in the homeland and sharing the documentary that contains rare interviews with Native Hawaiians. Other interviews are with Professor Kay Haunani-Trask, Senator J. Kalani English, Grammy nominee Willie K, Clifford Nae'ole, and other Hawaiian leaders, who take us into rarely seen ancient lifestyles where spirituality, culture, and care for the land form a sacred bond between humankind and the natural world. By bridging their ancient knowledge with wisdom and modern technologies such as wind, solar, and wave energy and agricultural land systems, they move towards a goal of sustainability. The film's soundtrack includes traditional Hawaiian music from some of the premier performers in the islands today. For more information, see: www.catherinebauknight.com

JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ISLANDS, CHILE

The massive 8.8 earthquake that devastated parts of Chile on February 27, 2010 also generated huge waves along the Chilean coastline and outward to the Juan Fernández Islands, 600 km off the coast. But the 639 residents of the island's only village, Juan Bautista, were not warned about the pending disaster. The village is located at the end of a deep circular bay that served to "funnel" the waves inland, wiping out the church, school, cemetery, administration buildings, etc. Nothing was left but mud, planks, and broken glass. Most residents managed to run inland and uphill but many didn't make it before the waves hit. A pilot who flew over the ruined village reported that everything had "just disappeared." News of casualties has been slow in coming; at least five people were confirmed dead and many others were reported missing. Rapanui islanders are collecting funds and materials to send to residents of Juan Fernández.

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES own the last remaining healthy tuna stocks in the world and manage an area of some 30 million square kilometers, supported by the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). FFA members are calling for tighter controls on fishing, and proposing measures to control illegal fishing such as putting independent observers on fish-

ing vessels and by increasing the surveillance of the ocean by pooling equipment. Ideas presented to the 6th Regular Session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) include ways to control illegal fishing; changes to ensure prosecutions and penalties for illegal vessels; amend measures making swordfish conservation more effective; and reduce the fishing of big-eye tuna.

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UPCOMING CONFERENCE: "EARLY MAN AND THE OCEAN 2010: SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF OCEAN VOYAGES" will be held September 23rd-26th, 2010 at Bygdøyenes, Oslo, Norway. Conference: 23rd-24th, September 2010. Film festival: 23rd-26th September, 2010. Contact Reidar Solsvik. <www.kon-tiki.no>

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGAROA

THE GREAT RAPA NUI ECLIPSE OF 2010

William Liller, Viña del Mar

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, ON JULY 11 OF THIS YEAR, in Hanga Roa at exactly 8 minutes and 30 seconds past two in the afternoon local time, the new moon will totally block out the sun, at least the intensely bright disk that we see in the daylight. Seconds later the rest of the island will also be plunged into darkness, and for the next 4 minutes and 41 seconds, all that will be seen is the delicate outer solar atmosphere, the corona, and possibly a few tiny rose-colored clouds known as prominences suspended over the sun's surface. This is already being called one of the most exotic total solar eclipses in recent memory.

The shadow cast by the moon will first touch the Earth's surface far to the west near Tonga almost two hours earlier and then sweep rapidly eastward finally leaving the Earth over the southern tip of South America just north of the Chilean city of Punta Arenas some forty minutes after passing Rapa Nui. Moving rapidly across the South Pacific, totality will avoid all significant land masses except for a sparsely-populated island, Mangaia, in the Cook Islands and a few low-lying atolls in the Tuamotu group. But the shadow will completely engulf Rapa Nui. There the elliptically-shaped shadow measuring 249 kilometers from north to south, will be zipping along at around 50 kilometers per minute. A person standing atop Maunga Poike on the eastern end of the island would see the on-rushing shadow cover the entire island in a little under a half minute.

Much has been written about the impact of total solar eclipses, even on modern day man. The psychological effect of watching the steadily encroaching moon finally and totally blot out the source of virtually all our light and energy is immense, and never forgotten. However, if you think you'd like to go, be forewarned: The Island's weather prospects are only so-so. The average July cloud amount in Rapa Nui is 56%,