“Hokule’a has rewritten our Hawaiian history in a way that has restored our culture, heritage and ancestry.”
This month marks the 30th anniversary of the historic Hawaii-Tahiti sail of the Hokule‘a, which completed the 6,000-mile roundtrip journey on July 26, 1976. Maui Pi‘aili navigated the canoe to Tahiti without western instruments, using only ancient wayfinding methods. Hokule‘a has since completed 10 long-distance voyages. Six of the major ones are charted below.

Commemorating Hokule‘a’s Historic 1976 Journey

Friday, July 7, 2006

Voyages Spanning 30 Years

SHINING STAR

Hokule‘a is named after the star Hokule‘a, which passes directly over the Big Island. Hokule‘a means the “Star of Intelligence” in Hawaiian. The canoe has been influenced by breathtaking ways of navigating that have been passed down through generations.

Crossing the Vast Pacific

Hokule‘a navigators are a rarity of ancient elements to sail great distances across the Pacific. Here are some favorite navigational techniques:

- **Navigation tools**: Sextant, GPS, and the sun compass.
- **Rain尺**: Used to determine the direction and distance of the canoe.
- **Dipper**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Star maps**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Water temperature**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Wind**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **River**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Sea**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Mountain**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.
- **Local knowledge**: Used to determine the distance of the canoe.

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Commodore Captain, 1775-1776

Captain James Cook was a British naval officer and explorer who served as commodore of the second voyage of the HMS Resolution and the HMS Discovery, which he led on a mission to chart the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Cook was killed by Hawaiian natives in 1779, but his voyages significantly advanced the study of the Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants.

Cook Island voyaging canoe canoe famous celebration.

Cook Island voyaging canoe canoe famous celebration.

Hokule‘a and the Polynesian Voyaging Society have been inspired by the voyaging traditions of Captain James Cook. Their voyages have helped to bring attention to the importance of preserving ancient navigational techniques.

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Thousands of students have learned about the Hokule‘a’s role in contemporary navigation practices through the Polynesian Voyaging Society. The society’s work is an inspiration to all those interested in preserving and celebrating ancient maritime traditions.

The Polynesian Voyaging Society has been a leader in the revitalization of Hawaiian maritime culture, and its work has had a significant impact on the preservation of Hawaiian knowledge and traditions.

Hokule‘a, a 121-foot double-hulled voyaging canoe, has been used to explore and teach about Polynesian maritime traditions.