

# Historic Timeline



- 1778** – Captain James Cook observes Ka'ula
- 1909** - President Theodore Roosevelt sets aside all but two (Midway and Ka'ula) of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a wildlife sanctuary
- 1920** - Non-Hawaiians land on Ka'ula for first time
- 1924** - Ka'ula is set aside as a U.S. Lighthouse Reservation, Department of Commerce
- 1925** - Archeological sites are discovered that prove Hawaiians visited Ka'ula
- 1932** - Automatic gaslight installed and first survey of the islet's flora and fauna
- 1939** - Lighthouse Service integrated into the U.S. Coast Guard
- 1947** - Lighthouse shut down
- 1952** - The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps begin using Ka'ula for target practice (from air and sea)
- 1960** - Residents of Kaua'i begin to voice their opposition
- 1961** - Kaua'i Board of Supervisors asks the Navy to stop bombing; request denied
- 1965** - Jurisdiction of Ka'ula transferred to the Navy in name of national security

During night of October 5<sup>th</sup> 1965, two Navy pilots en route to Vietnam were “confused” and dropped eight 250-pound bombs on Ni'ihau, 32 miles from intended target (Ka'ula). No one is injured.

- 1969 -** The National Environmental Policy Act is passed. NEPA requires environmental effects of all federal activities be studied and filed
- 1971 -** President Nixon requests environmental surveys be conducted on Ka'ula
- 1976 -** The Navy states Ka'ula is used primarily for training exercises that involve dropping large aerial bombs (500+ lbs.) and that the islet is a secondary target to Kaho'olawe and necessary for national defense
- 1978 -** **Ka'ula declared a Hawaii State Bird Sanctuary. The Navy claims they were not consulted on the decision.**

Hawai'i scientists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service file complaints that the Navy's practice bombing on Ka'ula is in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Scientists who visited the islet testify that the Navy is bombing outside designated target area (southeast portion of the islet). "Bombs were hitting all over the island; many were missing the island and landing in the water."

- 1980 -** The Navy lets fishermen fish around Ka'ula Friday through Sunday. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service denies the Navy's request for a special use permit to allow accidental destruction of birds, eggs, or nests on Ka'ula. The Navy appeals claiming it had "compelling justification" for using Ka'ula. The Service then issued a special permit for a 2-year field study of Ka'ula to be conducted to allow the Service to better assess the situation.

At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Navy suspended use of live ordinance on Ka'ula between Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> for the safety of the endangered humpback whales that migrate through the area.

Civilian files complaint alleging military bombing is destroying nesting sooty terns, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

- 1984 -** The Department of Land and Natural Resources charges the Navy with violating Hawai'i State Bird Sanctuary Regulations
- 1999 -** Memorandum of Understanding established between the Department of Defense and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for ecosystem based management of fish, wildlife and plant resources on military lands
- 2001 -** Executive Order states that federal agencies are responsible for protecting migratory birds and their resources within federal lands

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Pacific Missile Range Facility states the Navy will work to manage and protect migratory seabirds