Hōkūleʻa welcomed in Mauritius

BY DR. RICHARD KELLEY

Our ‘ohana in Mauritius has been having some excitement recently. They’ve been hosting the crews of the voyaging canoe Hōkūleʻa and its companion vessel, the Gershon II.

Bitsy Kelley, Outrigger’s vice president for corporate communications, joined General Manager Pieter van der Hoeven and the staff of Outrigger Mauritius Beach Resort in making sure everyone was comfortable after their arduous 3,500-mile voyage from Bali.

It had been 29 days since crewmembers had slept in a bed that was not moving with the sea, let alone in the kind of deluxe accommodations offered at the Resort. To the clean sheets and fresh towels, add haircuts and massage treatments, and it has been like a waking dream for these hardy sailors!

Nainoa Thompson, pwo (master) navigator and president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, said, “Mauritius is a strategic port of call for the Worldwide Voyage, as it sets us up for the next great challenge – sailing to Madagascar and Cape Town, South Africa. The stop in Mauritius will bring relief to a crew that just sailed across the Indian Ocean.”

Thompson added, “We’re thankful that Mauritius allows us to set up for this next leg, and that it also introduces us to a place that is so environmentally and culturally rich. We are grateful to Outrigger Resorts for supporting our voyage and partnering with us while our crew gets in a bit of relaxation.”

During their time in Mauritius, Hōkūleʻa and Gershon II crewmembers are not only relaxing, but also reaching out to the community, offering education on traditional Polynesian non-instrument wayfinding and building relationships with the local marine conservation community.

Bitsy did a great job of summarizing the Hōkūleʻa visit in an interview on KHON, Channel 2, Honolulu. She also appeared on KITV, Channel 4. 1

The Hōkūleʻa and Gershon II are scheduled to depart for Madagascar and Cape Town as soon as the weather permits.

The voyage to Mauritius marked another successful leg in Hōkūleʻa’s current circumnavigation of the globe, Mālama Honua. In Hawaiian, that means “caring for...”
Hōkūle'a ... << From 1

our Earth.” The voyage began in 2013 and will continue through 2017. It is focused on learning to protect cultural and environmental resources; bridging traditional and new technologies to live sustainably; and sharing, learning, creating global relationships and discovering the wonders of the precious planet we call home. 

Outrigger is proud to be a major sponsor of this memorable journey.

1 - For the KHON and KITV news clips featuring Bitsy Kelley, visit:

2 - For more information on Mālama Honua, the Hokulea and the Polynesian Voyaging Society, visit:
http://www.hokulea.com
http://www.hokulea.com/worldwide-voyage/
http://www.hokulea.com/track-the-voyage/
http://www.hokulea.com/education-at-sea/polynesian-navigation/

3 - For information about Exploratorium, a fascinating San Francisco science museum where one can learn on-line more about the science behind the celestial navigation systems developed by early Polynesian navigators.
http://www.exploratorium.edu/
http://www.exploratorium.edu/media/index.php?cmd=browse&project=87&program=00009244&type=podcast

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Bitsy and Shari Villarosa, US Ambassador

Bitsy summarizes Hōkūle’a’s visit for KHON and KTV