

Kaho'olawe Bombing: The Movement that Cannot be Silenced

Group Website

Senior Division

Process Paper Word Count: 445

When first introduced to this theme, we weren't quite sure what topic to choose. We were interested in the Kaho'olawe bombing because it was a local topic that applies to us today and many restoration efforts were put into place. The more we researched about it, the easier it became to connect it to the theme of crossing frontiers. Kaho'olawe was constantly bombed, and the people on the islands next to it were tired of the destruction of the Hawaiian island. They crossed the frontier and began the movement to restore the island, changing it from an island in ruin to an island on its way toward restoration.

This year was our first year participating in NHD and we didn't exactly know how to start. We began with our school's libguide which helped us get ahold of reliable sources online. We also went to the library to look at books, and our school had a bunch of archives on the Kaho'olawe bombing from the past, so we also looked through that. Our most valuable source was our interview with Walter Ritte since he experienced it first hand and was a part of the restore Kaho'olawe movement. We originally thought that this topic was more black and white, but through our research we learned that there was a lot more to the bombing, and our eyes were opened to what it was actually like.

We chose a website since it would be easiest to work on together and we could work separately and see each other's updates. It was hard to decide on which information to include because of the limited word count, but we chose information that had a lot to do with legacy and impact. Some problems we faced were navigating how to use the website builder and finding primary sources.

The protests following the start of the bombing on Kaho'olawe began because of how the bombing impacted the Native Hawaiians spiritually, emotionally, and patriotically. When the Hawaiians protested the bombings, they crossed a new frontier that would help restore

Kaho'olawe to its historical and cultural significance, and unmask the Hawaiians' voices forevermore.

The bombing is important because it demonstrates how the Native Hawaiian people stood up for their land, their aina. They have been colonized by whites and have been enslaved. But this was the final straw when the bombing commenced because the island was their sacred site which held a lot of cultural historical importance. By standing up for Kaho'olawe, they were able to restore it, and are continuing to do so today. Overall, the Hawaiians were able to restore what they believed in after being walked all over in the past.