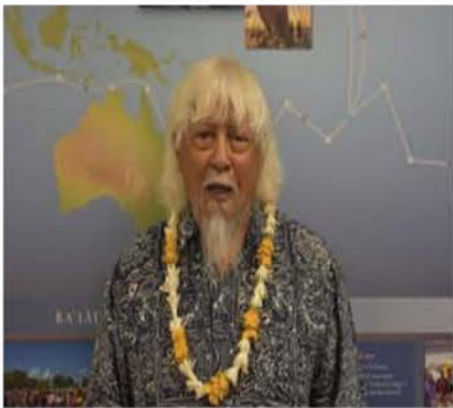


‘Aha Moananuiākea Pacific Consortium  
Ka‘iwakīloumoku Pacific Indigenous Institute

# KEALAIKAHIKI

*Illuminating Ancestral Pathways to Tahiti*

Based on Insights and Revelations from the  
He Kama Na Kahiki Symposium  
June 18, 2019, Ka‘iwakīloumoku, Kamehameha Schools



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**Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole, Kumu Hula**



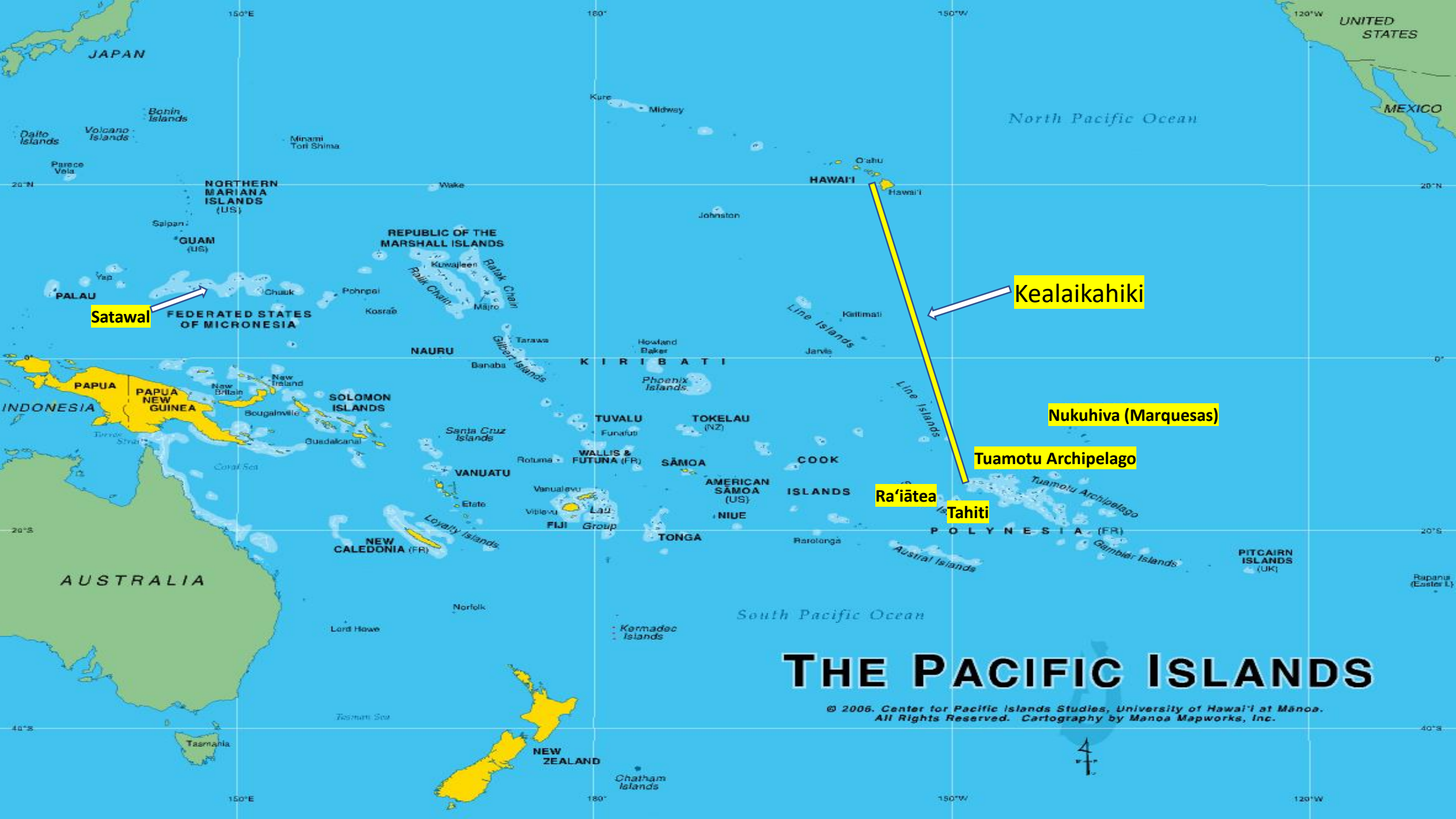
**Kaleo Trinidad, Kumu Hula, K**

## BASIC ASSUMPTION #1

**We acknowledge that “Kahiki” or “Kahiki Homeland” is a specific reference to the ancestral region that includes the Society Islands, Tuamotu Archipelago, and the Marquesas Islands, and may generally refer to other closely-related island groups.**

- We acknowledge that there are other conceptions of Kahiki, such as the conception of Kahiki as mythical lands to the south, as well as all lands outside of Hawai‘i.
- We acknowledge that the French Polynesian Flag recognizes five island groups, including the Austral and Gambier Islands.





# THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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3521 km<sup>2</sup>

219 521 habitants\*

Papeete

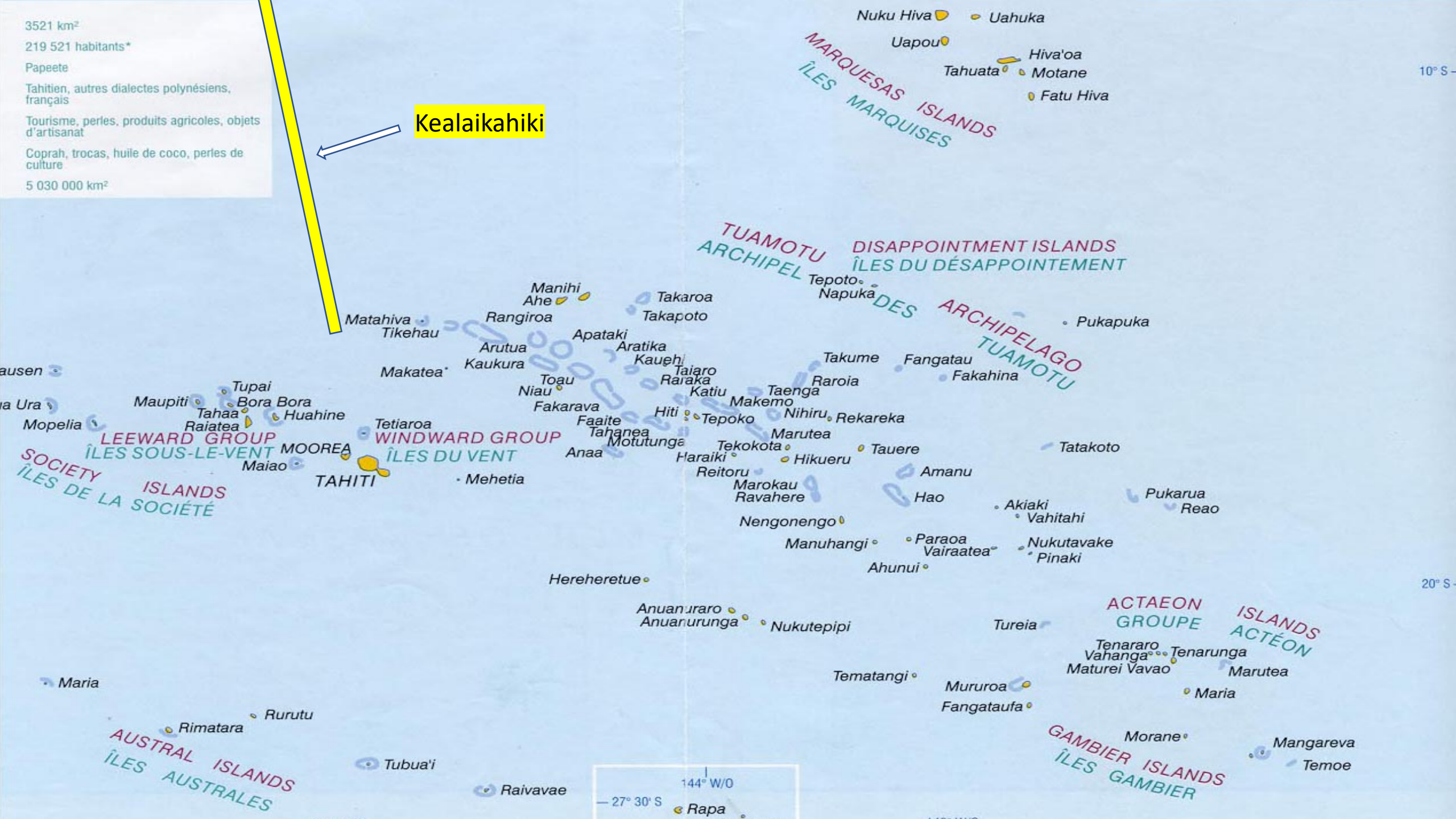
Tahitien, autres dialectes polynésiens,  
français

Tourisme, perles, produits agricoles, objets  
d'artisanat

Coprah, trocas, huile de coco, perles de  
culture

5 030 000 km<sup>2</sup>

Kealaikahiki



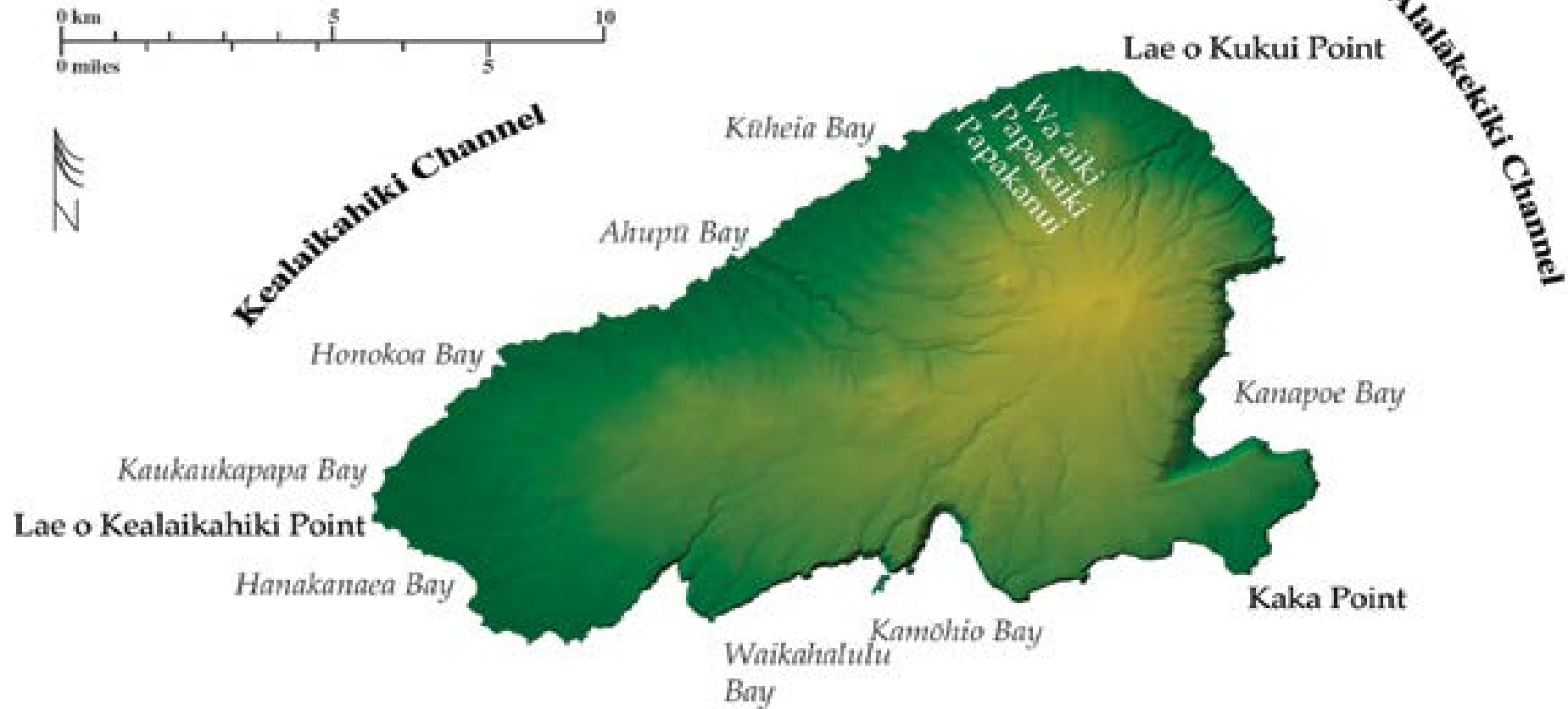
## BASIC ASSUMPTION #2

**Kealaikahiki can be viewed as an ancestral sea road that forms a heritage corridor connecting Hawai'i and the Kahiki Homeland.**

- We acknowledge the significance of Kaho'olawe (Kanaloa) as an important ancestral marker for the Kealaikahiki pathway. The 'ili, the point, and the channel known as Kealaikahiki, as well as the island of Kaho'olawe itself, constitute these markers.
- Kealaikahiki is a corridor with multiple access points ("onramps and offramps"), as well as optimal times and conditions for traveling.



# Kahoolawe







Kealaikahiki Point, Kahoʻolawe  
Photo Courtesy: Douglas Peebles





**Va'a Fa'afaite  
lands on Kaho'olawe**



## BASIC ASSUMPTION #3

**The royal genealogy of Princess Bernice Pauahi can be traced back to the ancient chiefly lineages of Kahiki homeland and beyond.**

- The genealogical lines of Ulu and Nanaulu, from whom Pauahi descends, can also be found in the chiefly genealogies in the Kahiki Homeland and beyond.
- This same Ulu/‘Uru is held to be a direct ancestor of the progenitor of the Pomare Dynasty, also named ‘Uru (per S. Percy Smith’s comments on Teuira Henry’s essay regarding the Pomare Dynasty, 1893).



# Kamehameha & Pomare Dynasties (Nanaulu – Ulu)



## BASIC ASSUMPTION #4

**A wealth of traditional mo'olelo and mele constitute historical records that reflect our connection to the Kahiki Homeland.**

- For the purposes of this symposium, the mo'olelo of Mo'ikeha, Pele, Pa'ao and Pili were highlighted as migratory, voyaging mo'olelo.
- Kamahualele's chant "Eia Hawai'i" of the Mo'ikeha tradition lends one of its lines as the symposium theme, "He kama na kahiki," Hawai'i is a child of Tahiti.



# EIA HAWAI'I

## *He Kama Na Tahiti*

Eia Hawai'i he moku, he kanaka

*Behold Hawai'i, an island, a man*

He kanaka Hawai'i ē, he kanaka Hawai'i

*Hawai'i is a man*

He kama na Tahiti

*A child of Tahiti*

He pua ali'i mai Kapa'ahu

*A sacred offspring from Kapa'ahu*

Mai Moa'ulanuiākea Kanaloa

*From Moa'ulanuiākea Kanaloa*

Kamahualele

*12<sup>th</sup> century astronomer, navigator,  
and hānai son of Chief Moikeha*





Matavai

Pape'ete

Fa'a'a

Puna'auia

Mt. Orohena

**TAHITI NUI**

Taravao

Tautira

**TAHITI ITI**

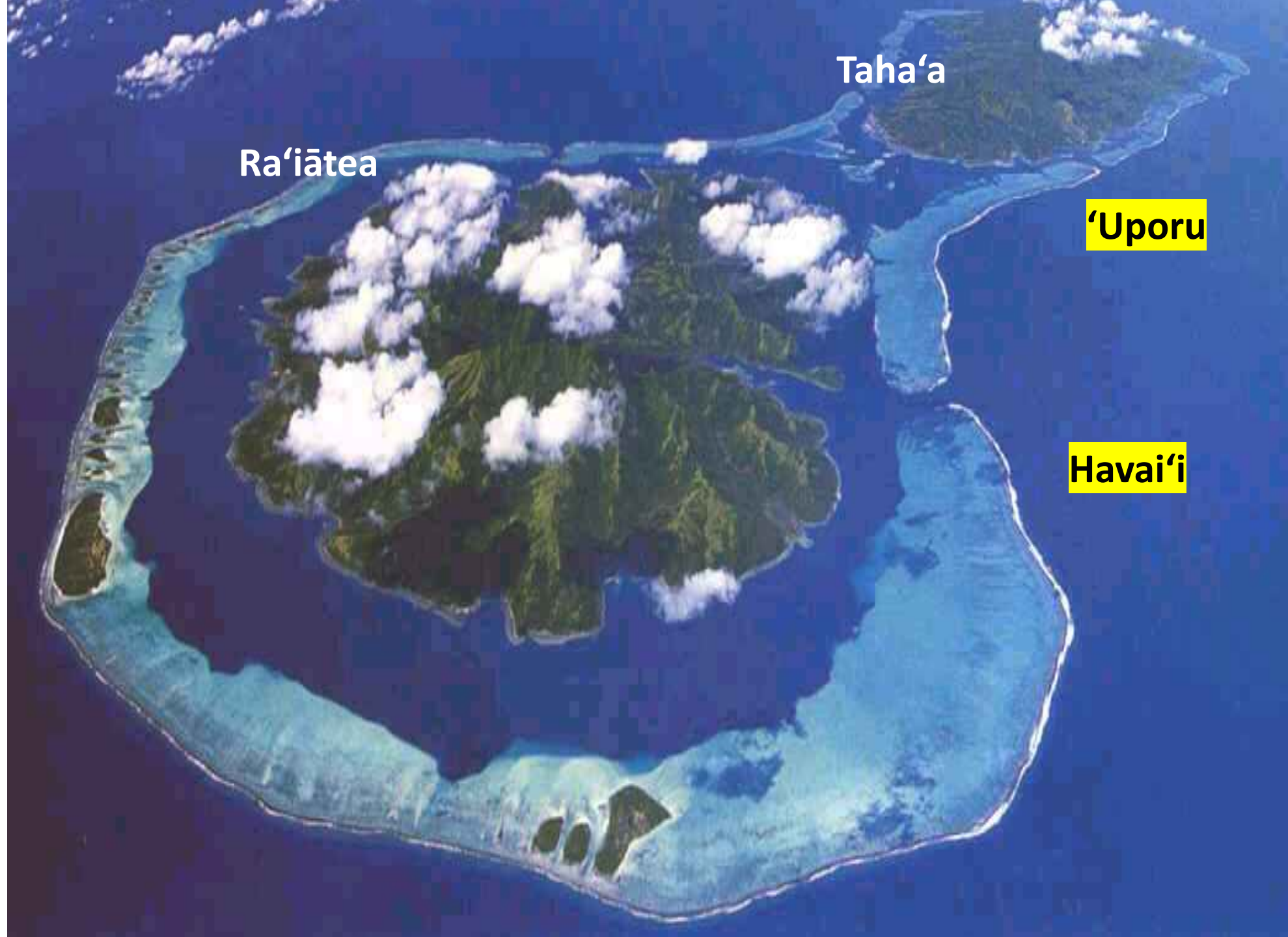
Teahupo'o



## BASIC ASSUMPTION #5

We acknowledge Marae Taputapuātea at Opoa, Raʻiātea as a sacred religious site of paramount importance, and a highly significant center of ancestral navigation and voyaging for Hawaiians and others associated with the Kahiki Homeland.

- We acknowledge the heʻe/feʻe (octopus) as a metaphor for Raʻiātea being the center of the cultural alliance of island groups which are touched by its radiating tentacles (cf. Teuira Henry, Ancient Tahiti; Te Rangi Hiroa [Sir Peter Buck], Vikings of the Sunrise; Ministry of Culture, Gov. of French Polynesia, UNESCO World Heritage Site Designation 2017).
- We further acknowledge the importance of ceremonies and protocols observed on the occasion of voyaging, and on special pilgrimages in contemporary times; and we affirm the practice of offering and exchanging pōhaku at Marae Taputapuātea.



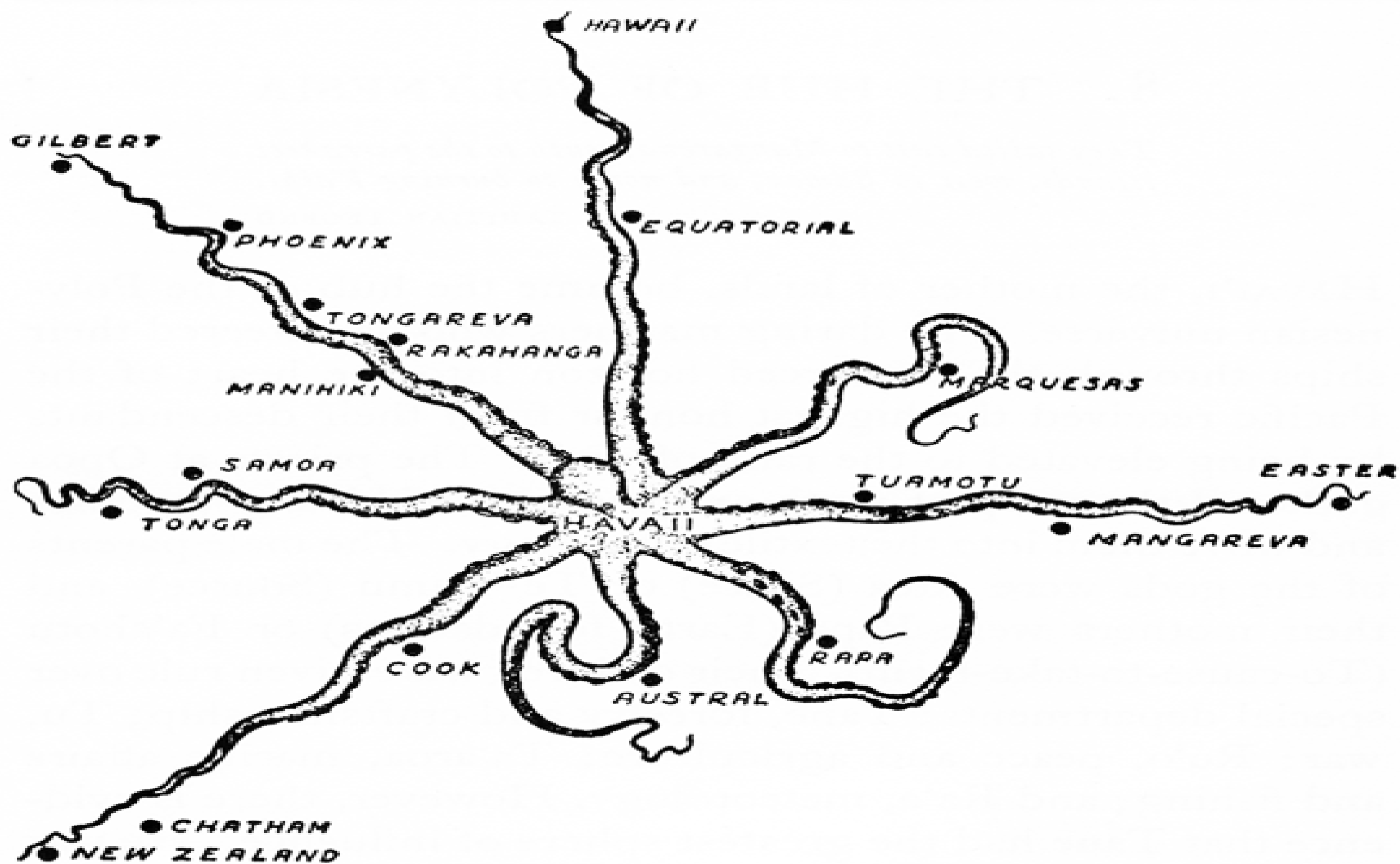
Ra'iātea

Taha'a

'Uporu

Havai'i









## KEALAIAHIKI

The word Kealaiahiki, translated as "the path to Tahiti," is the name of the ocean channel that separates Kaho'olawe and Lana'i. Traditionally, Kealaiahiki served as the sailing corridor that connected Hawai'i with the islands of Tahiti, the Tuamotu Archipelago, the Marquesas and other islands in the Pacific. According to Hawaiian historian, David Malo, Kealaiahiki was the name of a chief who departed for Tahiti from the westernmost point of Kaho'olawe island.



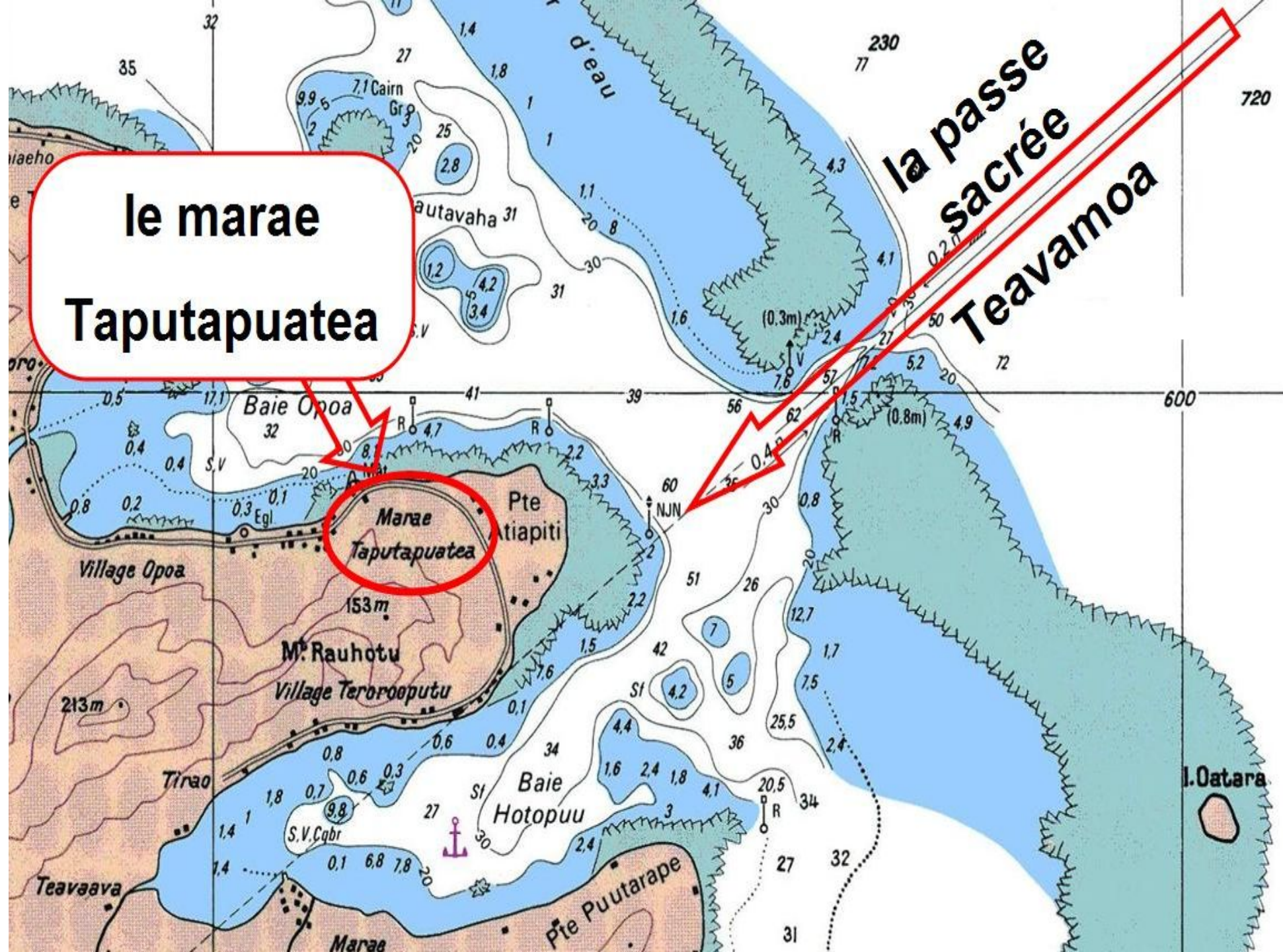
# Teavamo'a Pass





**le marae  
Taputapuatea**

**la passe  
sacrée  
Teavamoa**



## Teavamo'a Pass















Taputapuātea, 'Ōpoa







# Pōhaku / Pahu

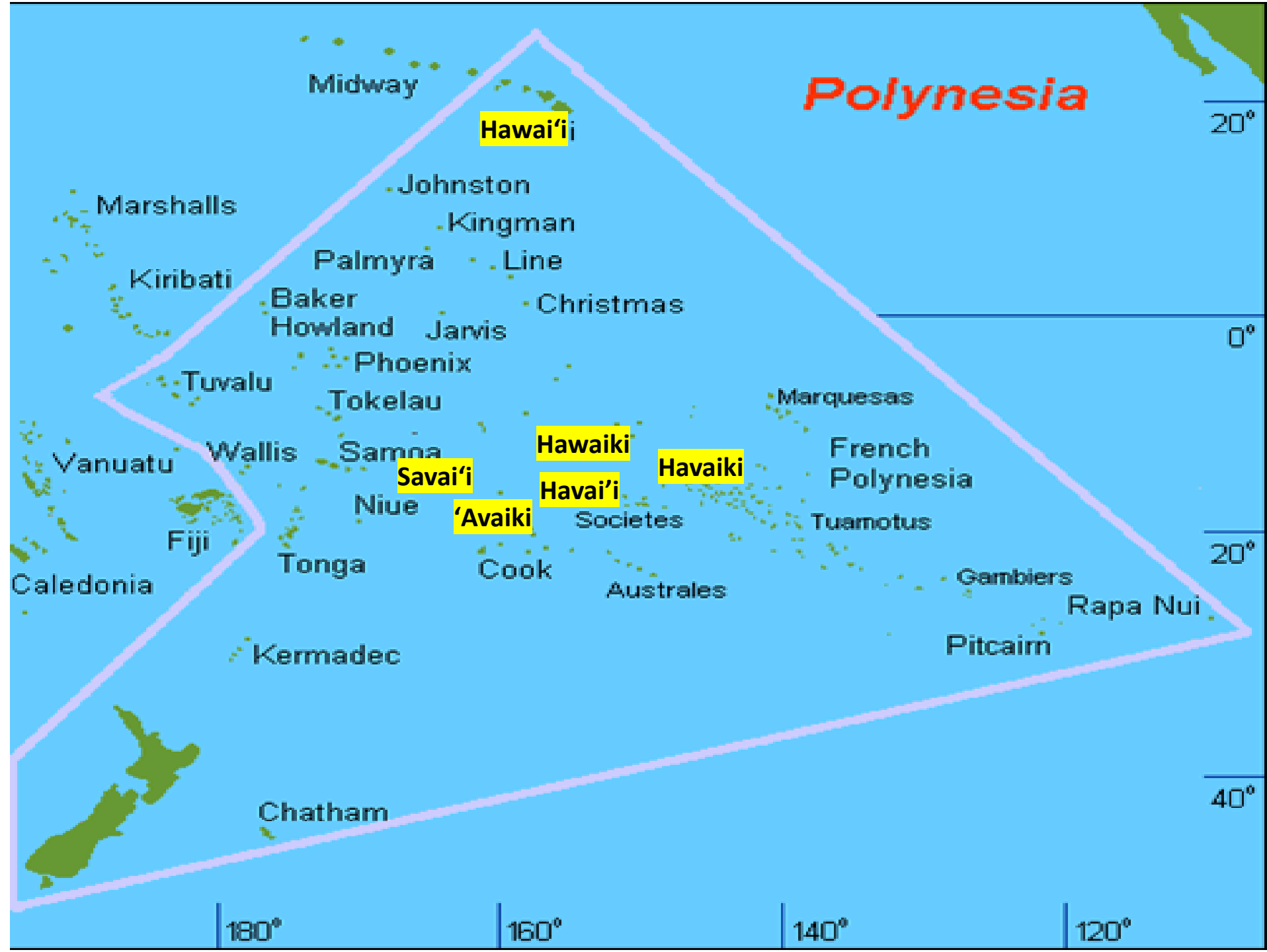
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## BASIC ASSUMPTION #6

**We acknowledge ancestral place names and their conspicuous recurrence throughout Polynesia over centuries serving as markers along an oceanic road map**

- Havai'i/Hawaiki/Savai'i
- Vava'u, Wawau, Vevau
- 'Uporu/Kuporu
- Tonga/Kona
- Ta'ū/Ka'ū
- Olosenga/Orohena/Olohena
- Tahiti/Kahiki/Fiji
- Taputapuātea/Kapukapuākea





## **BASIC ASSUMPTION #7**

**We recognize a shared linguistic, cultural, genetic, and maritime heritage among speakers of Austronesian languages that originated in the ancient region known today as Taiwan, and which through profound human dispersal (by means of traditional wayfinding technology), spanned more than half the distance around the world from Madagascar to Rapa Nui, and from Aotearoa to Hawai'i.**

MAP 1. *Major Divisions of Austronesian Languages*

