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Bishop Museum Announces Science & Sustainability Festival 2026

This year's event focuses on Makahiki Kuleana Kahakai: The Year of Our Coastal Kuleana

Honolulu, Hawai'i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai'i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, announces its annual [Science & Sustainability Festival](#) on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's Festival places special focus on [Makahiki Kuleana Kahakai: The Year of Our Coastal Kuleana](#), and also hosts the Museum's 2026 symposium, Mālama Ma'awe Iho: Fibers in Focus.

The Science & Sustainability Festival, a Bishop Museum Signature Public Program, features interactive activities for all members of the 'ohana (family), along with special presentations and exhibition highlights. Guests can learn directly from scientists, cultural practitioners, and community organizers on the frontlines of biodiversity research and conservation efforts across the Hawaiian Islands.

Highlights of the campuswide event include:

- \$5.00 online registration for kama'āina and military with ID
- The opportunity to meet and engage with Bishop Museum researchers and view animal and plant specimens from the Museum's collections
- More than 40 community partner booths including federal, state, and city agencies, as well as local conservation and sustainability groups
- Access to all of Bishop Museum's exhibitions and galleries, including [Aloha Bricks '26: Stories of Hawai'i](#) and [Ea Mai 'Eiwa: Patterns of Practice](#)
- The debut of two new additions to the Science Adventure Center, including a Marine Invasive Species display and Cave Arthropod lava tube exhibit (both on the first floor)
- J. Watumull Planetarium shows
- Special programming

"We're honored to welcome our partners and neighbors to the Science & Sustainability Festival, an annual event where science, culture, and community action unite to protect the unique biodiversity of ko Hawai'i pae 'āina ('the Hawaiian archipelago')," said Taylour Chang, Bishop Museum director of public programs

and community engagement. “This year’s Festival theme is especially poignant as we address how we can protect our coastal ecosystems and communities in light of climate change and the impactful storms we’ve experienced in recent months.”

Makahiki Kuleana Kahakai: The Year of Our Coastal Kuleana

Hawai‘i has more than 1,000 miles of tidal coastline with an incredible variety of habitats, including wetlands, dunes, beaches, tidepools, nearshore ocean waters, coral reefs, and offshore islets. These habitats are rich with life, from plants and limu (seaweed) to coastal birds, insects, fish, and coral.

As island communities, we are stewards of our shores, helping ensure our coastlines are clean, that we recreate responsibly, and that our coastal ecosystems and species can be sustained into the future. Makahiki Kuleana Kahakai: the Year of Our Coastal Kuleana celebrates our deep connections with and kuleana (responsibility) towards our tidal coastlines.

Related programming at the Science & Sustainability Festival:

- 10:30 a.m., Great Lawn Stage | *Coastal Kuleana: Storms & Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Environments and Communities*. Organized in collaboration with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), this panel will include Leah Laramie (Hawai‘i Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation Commission), Carlos Mozo (Lāhui Foundation), Jordan Lerma (Division of Aquatic Resources), Administrator James Barros (Hawai‘i Emergency Management Agency), and moderator Joshua Atwood (Department of Land and Natural Resources).
- 12:30 p.m., Great Lawn Stage | *Coastal Kuleana: Threats to Coastal Birds*. Organized in collaboration with the DLNR, this presentation discusses the most pressing threats and predators facing our coastal birds and wildlife — from the impacts of light pollution on seabird fallout. to reigniting hope for our ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian moorhen) with only 700 remaining.

Bishop Museum 2026 Symposium | Mālama Ma‘awe Iho: Fibers in Focus

Organized in partnership with Arizona State University and University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Bishop Museum’s annual symposium celebrates the natural fibers of Hawai‘i.

During the Science & Sustainability Festival, the public sessions of the Symposium will focus on three species: niu (*Cocos nucifera*), olonā (*Touchardia latifolia*), and hau (*Talipariti tiliaceum*). Found in different parts of Hawai‘i’s landscape, these plants play pivotal roles in conservation efforts for diverse ecosystems. They are also culturally significant, both in the past and in the present. This program shares a deeper understanding of the human and plant kinship, and the impacts these plants have in knowledge systems throughout Hawai‘i.

- 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Atherton Hālau

City Nature Challenge Social

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an annual event where cities around the world compete to document biodiversity on iNaturalist to bring communities together to celebrate and learn about nature, capture a yearly ‘snapshot’ of biodiversity, and promote community science.

Following this year’s CNC on O‘ahu, Bishop Museum will host a social gathering for CNC participants, nature nerds, and anyone who wants to learn more about biodiversity, to connect in person and share

stories over food, drink, fun activities, and a special presentation.

- 3-5 p.m. in the Gulab & Indru Watumull Atrium, Hawaiian Hall Complex

A full list of community partners participating in the Science & Sustainability Festival can be found below. For more information including a full schedule of activities and presentations, and to purchase tickets, please visit BishopMuseum.org/SSF26.

Mahalo nui loa to the Atherton Family Foundation for their generous support of this year's Science & Sustainability Festival.

Science & Sustainability 2026 Community Partners

Aloha Tree Alliance
American Bird Conservancy
Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Conservation Dogs of Hawai'i
DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources
DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife
DLNR Division of State Parks, Lē'ahi | Diamond Head State Monument
Friends of Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Hawai'i Audubon Society
Hawai'i Electric Vehicle Association
Hawai'i Energy
Hawai'i Nature Center
Hawai'i State Climate Commission
Hawai'i State Energy Office
Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization
Hawai'i Wildlife Center
Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Honua Scholars
HPU Center for Marine Debris Research
Ka Lāhui Hawai'i and O'ahu Water Protectors
Ka Po'e Lawai'a
Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project
Know Your Rights
Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership
Lyon Arboretum
Mālama Kai Foundation
Mālama Maunalua
Moanalua Gardens Foundation
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
O'ahu Plant Extinction Prevention Program
Ocean Music Action
Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System
Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project
Pop-Up Lab for STEM
Punahou School, Climate Future Forum

Storm Water Hawai‘i
Sustainable Coastlines Hawai‘i
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Worm Lab
University of Hawai‘i Sea Grant College Program
Wai‘anae Mountains Watershed Partnership
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History:

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum’s mission is to inspire our community and visitors through the exploration, celebration, and perpetuation of the extraordinary history, culture, and environment of Hawai‘i and the Pacific. The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in memory of his wife Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a royal descendant of King Kamehameha I. Today, the Museum thrives as an educational center for the community and is widely regarded as the world’s premier institution for Hawaiian and Pacific content.

Bishop Museum’s vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over 2 million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and 1 million photographs, films, works of art, audio recordings, and manuscripts. These collections tell the stories of the cultures and biodiversity of Hawai‘i and the Pacific as well as the proud legacy of scholarly research spanning 130 years.

Bishop Museum proudly serves more than 200,000 visitors each year, including 20,000 children on school visits. Guests are encouraged to pre-plan their trip to #HawaiiisMuseum with its [free digital guide](#), available through Bloomberg Connects.

To learn more about the Museum’s research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit BishopMuseum.org, follow @BishopMuseum on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), visit Bishop Museum’s [YouTube](#) channel, or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Bishop Museum is proud to be an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, and welcomes applicants from the military, veterans, and those with disabilities. Learn about careers at Bishop Museum at BishopMuseum.org/Careers and on its [LinkedIn](#) page.

[Bishop Museum Press](#) is Hawai‘i’s oldest book publisher and one of the first scholarly publishers in the Western Hemisphere, and has published over 1,200 titles and distributed over 1 million books in 72 countries worldwide. Bishop Museum hosts a restaurant and gift shop on campus, [Tūtū's Place by Highway Inn](#) and [Shop Pacifica by Nā Mea Hawai‘i](#).

Past news releases can be viewed and downloaded at BishopMuseum.org/NewsRoom.