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**Bishop Museum Announces Series of Public Programs
Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana**

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, is proud to partner with the [Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana](#) (PKO) to host a series of presentations in honor of PKO’s 50th Anniversary and a recommitment to Aloha ‘Āina (love and care for the land).

Guided by the ‘ōlelo no‘eau (traditional proverbs and wise sayings) from the Kuloloio ‘ohana — “La‘a, Ma‘a, Pa‘a” — the Museum invites the community to gather for three talk story sessions that explore the ways in which Kaho‘olawe teaches us how to consecrate, sustain, and solidify our relationship to ‘āina. The three presentations lead into a culminating concert on Bishop Museum’s Great Lawn celebrating the release of the “50 Years of Aloha ‘Āina” music album. The concert will feature artists and musicians who have created mele inspired by Kaho‘olawe, such as Keahi Pi‘i‘ōhi‘a, Pōki‘i Seto, Kilion Young, Ka‘ikena Scanlan, Kimié Miner, and Ikaakamai Nahu‘ewai.

“It is an honor for the Museum to celebrate 50 years of Aloha ‘Āina with the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana,” said Taylour Chang, Bishop Museum director of public programs and community engagement. “We are excited to see the celebrations activate the entire Museum campus throughout the next three months, to include talk story sessions, live music on the Great Lawn, a silent auction, educational booths for all ages, ‘Ahahui o Nā Kauka health screenings, and a new exhibit display. *Kanaloa ka La ‘a o Kohemālamalama: Unconquerable is the Divinity of Kohemālamalama*, co-curated by Curator of Archaeology Dr. Pūlama Lima and the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, is a new display on the third floor of Hawaiian Hall and serves as an important evolution of the Museum’s honoring of the living legacy that is Kaho‘olawe. Please join us as we all collectively recommitment to Aloha ‘Āina into the next 50 years and beyond.”

La‘a: Consecration of Aloha ‘Āina in ‘Aha

- Thursday, September 24, 2026
- 5–8 p.m.
- Hawaiian Hall | Kai Ākea
- Free admission

Making La‘a is the first step in any successful kanaka (Hawaiian) endeavor. Appealing to the akua (gods)

and kūpuna (ancestors) is essential to all major tasks that a kanaka takes. Because they are our sources of mana (strength), we recognize that it is only with their support and aloha that our tasks will be meaningfully fulfilled. Our panel explores the mo‘olelo (story) of making and being la‘a (sacred) on Kaho‘olawe. We will also trace how the spirit of la‘a has branched out to inspire an aloha ‘āina that places its faith in our akua across our pae moku (archipelago).

This program celebrates the opening of *Kanaloa ka La‘a o Kohemālamalama: Unconquerable is the Divinity of Kohemālamalama*, a new Treasure Case display on the third floor of Hawaiian Hall, that illustrates the continuity of la‘a (sanctity) and its kapu (sacred commands) on Kanaloa, Kohemālamalama, Kaho‘olawe.

Panelists include:

- Luana Busby-Neff
- Kaliko Baker
- Huihui Kanahēle Mossman and Kalā Mossman
- Moderated by Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala

Light food and drink provided by Auntie Tammy Smith from Hale Kealoha.

Ma‘a: Establishing our Pilina to Kanaloa

- Thursday, October 22, 2026
- 6-8 p.m.
- Hawaiian Hall | Kai Ākea
- Free admission

Rooted in the understanding that we are called to be ma‘a (accustomed) to this new position as kōnaka in service of our ‘āina and akua, this panel brings together long-standing Kua (backbone) of the ‘Ohana to reflect on how pilina (connection), kuleana (responsibility), and embodied practice shape our identity and responsibilities today. Panelists will share how repeated, intentional engagement with Kanaloa cultivates a grounded, generational commitment to stewardship and balance. Together, they consider how service becomes a way of being — one that restores connection, strengthens community, and aligns us with the forces that sustain life.

Panelists include:

- CJ Elizares
- Momi Wheeler
- ‘Ānela Evans
- Moderated by Arianne Chock.

Pa‘a: Kanaloa kōnaka i Kanaloa: Ea a‘e ka ‘Ohana

- Thursday, November 12, 2026
- 6–8 p.m.
- Hawaiian Hall | Kai Ākea
- Free admission

Kanaloa, in addition to being an akua, also means to be unconquerable and immovable. In keeping with the motto of PKO’s 50th anniversary, this panel discusses how becoming ma‘a (accustomed) to what is la‘a (sacred) is what makes us pa‘a (solid) as a lāhui (people). This longstanding belief of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana is the kahua (foundation) upon which we discuss the question, “What does

Kohemālamalama enable us to do and become as a lāhui? How do we extend the mana of Kanaloa to affirm our ea (independence) today?"

Panelists include:

- Kaulu Lu‘uwai
- Craig Neff
- Davis Price
- Moderated by Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala

50 Years of Aloha ‘Āina Concert and Celebration: La‘a, Ma‘a, Pa‘a!

- Friday, November 13, 2026
- 5-9 p.m.
- Great Lawn, Campuswide event

The “La‘a, Ma‘a, Pa‘a” presentations lead into a culminating celebration on the Museum’s Great Lawn, a gathering that recommits us to the essential value and ethic of aloha ‘āina. The ‘Ohana and the Museum are excited to convene many of our aloha ‘āina partner organizations meeting the challenges facing aloha ‘āina today. Partners include organizations protecting Hawai‘i’s public lands facing expiring military leases.

Featured artists include Keahi Pi‘i‘ōhi‘a, Pōki‘i Seto, Kilon Young, Ka‘ikena Scanlan, Kimié Miner and Ikaakamai Nahu‘ewai, all of whom are featured on the ‘Ohana’s “50 Years of Aloha ‘Āina” music album that champions the time-honored message of aloha ‘āina for the generations to come.

Proceeds from the concert will go directly to the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana:

- \$35.00 General Adults (18+)
- \$10.00 ‘Ōpio (Ages 11-17)
- \$10.00 Kūpuna (65 years and older)
- FREE for Keiki (Ages 10 and below)

“Our Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana calls upon everyone who feels drawn to the message of Aloha ‘Āina, whether or not you have been to Kaho‘olawe, to come out and celebrate the 50th anniversary with us!” said Kaipulaumakaniolono Keala. “And if you have been to the island, this event will be a time to reconnect and share memories. We look forward to seeing our Lāhui there!”

Additional details and ticket information for these public programs can be found on the Museum’s website, BishopMuseum.org/PKO.

Bishop Museum expresses its appreciation for the Atherton Family Foundation, Hawaiian Airlines, and Kamehameha Schools Kaiāulu for their support of these programs.

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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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/NewsRoom).