



BISHOP MUSEUM

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Bishop Museum Appoints Jillian Swift as Museum's New Archaeologist

Honolulu, Hawai'i – Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum has hired Jillian Swift as the museum's new archaeologist. Swift joins the museum with more than a decade of archaeological research and experience in Hawai'i and the Pacific. In her new post, Swift will build an environmental archaeology research program focused on seeking new discoveries from the museum's legacy collections, and initiating new community-engaged field projects in Hawai'i and elsewhere in Polynesia.

Prior to joining Bishop Museum, Swift held a postdoctoral research position within the Department of Archaeology at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany. There, she applied cutting-edge methods in archaeological science to the study of human-environment interactions in the Pacific. Her work examined human land use patterns across three Polynesian islands using an unusual source: isotopically-reconstructed Pacific rat diet. This research incorporated analysis of Pacific rats from excavations on Tikopia Island, which are now housed in the museum's archaeology collections. In addition, Swift has conducted extensive field research in Hawai'i and the Pacific with Dr. Patrick Kirch – professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and a member of Bishop Museum's Board of Directors. Swift's field work has taken her to the Gambier Islands in French Polynesia; as well as Honouliuli, O'ahu; Leeward Kohala on the Island of Hawai'i; and Kahikinui and Kaupō on Maui. These latter two regions of Maui are the feature of Kirch's most recent book on the island's ancient temple system, "Heiau, 'Āina, Lani."

Swift holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley. She also completed a B.A. in Anthropology at New York University.

"We are thrilled to have Jillian join the Bishop Museum 'ohana," said Melanie Ide, president & CEO of Bishop Museum. "Her knowledge, approach, and expertise in Pacific and Hawaiian archaeology will lead to further integration and collaboration between our community's research efforts, and significantly

contribute to our mission of exploring, understanding, and ultimately perpetuating our island culture and environment.”

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About Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum:

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. Its vast collections of more than 25 million objects and specimens represent nine disciplines and include more than 22 million biological specimens, over two million cultural objects, 115,000 historical publications, and one 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. To learn more about the Museum’s research, collections, exhibits, and programs, visit www.bishopmuseum.org, follow @BishopMuseum on Twitter and Instagram, become a fan of Bishop Museum on Facebook, visit Bishop Museum’s YouTube channel at [youtube.com/user/BishopMuseum](https://www.youtube.com/user/BishopMuseum), or call (808) 847-3511. Bishop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.