



Aug. 3, 2023

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Bishop Museum Celebrates Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea With Welo Ka Hae Hawai‘i Event

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum](#) celebrated Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea, Sovereignty Restoration Day, with its Welo Ka Hae Hawai‘i event on Monday, July 31, 2023. The event featured Ka Hae Hawai‘i, the raising of the Hawaiian Flag, as well as mele (Hawaiian chants, songs, or poems) by Paula Fuga along with Uncle Jerome Koko and Hanale Ka‘anapu of The Mākaha Sons.

“Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea is a beloved celebration for many Bishop Museum staff, and we’re pleased to host the first of what will be an annual event at the Museum,” said Taylour Chang, Bishop Museum director of public programs and community events. “Our goal is to continue presenting the Museum as a place where gatherings such as this can be had, and to pay tribute to the legacy of our kūpuna and our ali‘i. In this way, we honor our living culture.”

Established on July 31, 1843 by King Kamehameha III, Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea marks the return of political power to the Hawaiian Kingdom after the British unlawfully seized control earlier that year. Throughout the 19th century, Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea was celebrated annually with great pride as a Hawaiian national holiday. In 2022, the State of Hawai‘i designated July 31 as a special day of observance.

“In our collections, we have the source materials that represent what Hawai‘i’s ali‘i stood for and represented in their lifetimes,” shared Chang. “It’s our responsibility to honor history and celebrate the lives and work of our ali‘i through these observances.”

The Museum's event was a collaborative effort with Kumu Imaikalani Winchester and the organizers of the annual Lā Ho'ihō'i Ea celebration at Thomas Square Park, which was held on the previous day.

The Museum is planning another Hawaiian national holiday event, Lā Kū'oko'a, the Independence Day of the Hawaiian Kingdom, in the fall. Information on this and other Bishop Museum events can be found at BishopMuseum.org/Events.

[Photos](#) for media use (please credit "Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum").

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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.

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 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 BishopMuseum.org, follow @BishopMuseum on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), become a fan of Bishop Museum on [Facebook](#), 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 1200 titles and distributed over 1,000,000 books in 72 countries worldwide.

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