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**Bishop Museum to Celebrate 50 Years of Aloha ‘Āina
With the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana**

As a proud partner of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, the Museum plans a series of presentations in honor of their 50th Anniversary and a recommitment to Aloha ‘Āina.

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, reaffirmed at its recent [Welo Ka Hae Hawai‘i – Celebrating Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea event](#) its proud partnership with the [Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana](#) (PKO). The Museum further announced a [series of events](#) in honor of PKO’s 50th Anniversary and a recommitment to Aloha ‘Āina (love and care for the land).

In an act of bold defiance against U.S. military might, George Helm, Emmett Aluli, Kimo Aluli, Kawaipuna Prejean, Walter Ritte, Ian Lind, Ellen Miles, Steve Morse, and Karla Villalba made landfall on the ravaged Hawaiian island of Kaho‘olawe on January 4, 1976. They were determined to draw national attention to the illegal role the United States played in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, and to protest U.S. military control and destruction of Hawaiian national lands. Their courage and heroism created the catalyst for the formation of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana and the birth of the modern Aloha ‘Āina Movement.

In conjunction with the maiden voyages of [Hōkūle‘a](#) in 1976, the value and practice of aloha ‘āina forwarded by the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana fundamentally changed the perception of what it means to be Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian).

“In 2026, the 50th Anniversary of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana is a time to celebrate and activate around their accomplishments,” said Brandon Bunag, Ed.D., Bishop Museum vice president of public programs and interim director of education. “These include stopping all military use of the island; refocusing the lives who call Hawai‘i home around the singular importance of our kuleana (responsibility) to aloha ‘āina; and, revitalizing the Makahiki and other ceremonies honoring Kānaka ‘Ōiwi akua (Hawaiian deities).”

“Kaho‘olawe is more than an island,” Bunag shared. “It is a living treasure and a place of healing, education, transformation, restoration, and ancestral connection. We honor the commitment of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana members through a half century of unwavering aloha ‘āina.”

Guided by the ‘ōlelo no‘eau (traditional proverbs and wise sayings) from the Kuloloio ‘ohana — “La‘a, Ma‘a, Pa‘a” — the community will gather at Bishop Museum 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 to a culminating event on the Museum’s Great Lawn, a festival recommitting to the essential value and ethic of aloha ‘āina. The ‘Ohana and the Museum are excited to convene many of their partner organizations looking to meet the challenges facing aloha ‘āina today, notably the imminent Military Leases of Hawai‘i’s public lands. Lending a voice to the modern movements are Keahi Pi‘i‘ōhi‘a, Pōki‘i Seto, Kiona Young, Ka‘ikena Scanlan, Kimi Miner, Ikaakamai, Kekuhi Kanahele, and Kaumakaiwa Kanaka‘ole, 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.”

“The ‘Ohana is honored to be hosted by Bishop Museum and excited to put out a kāhea to celebrate and recommit to aloha ‘āina.” said Kaipu Keala, a kua of the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana. “We want everyone who has ever been to Kaho‘olawe to join the festivities to galvanize the next generation of aloha ‘āina movements. Share your mo‘olelo of Kanaloa, help us sustain the legacy of Kohemālamalama — not pau yet!”

Initial details of the three presentations and concert are provided below. The celebrations will also feature a new Treasure Case installation on the third floor of Hawaiian Hall, *Kanaloa Ka La‘a o Kohemālamalama: Unconquerable is the Divinity of Kohemālamalama*, which commemorates 50 years of PKO ceremony on Kaho‘olawe. Additional details and ticket information can be found on Museum’s event webpage, BishopMuseum.org/PKO.

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

- Thursday, September 24, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.
- Hawaiian Hall | Kai Ākea
- Free admission

Ma‘a: Establishing our Pilina to Kanaloa

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

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

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

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

- Friday, November 13, 2026 | 5-9 p.m.
- Great Lawn, Campus-wide event
- \$35.00 Adults | \$10.00 Kupuna (65+) | \$10 Keiki (11-17) | Free for Keiki 10 and below

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

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

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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.