



April 19, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

Stryker Weiner & Yokota Public Relations, Inc.
Lance Aquino
Ph.: (808) 398-0657
lance@strykerweiner.com

Bishop Museum Unveils Seed Bank at Its 2024 Science & Sustainability Festival

Together with its community partners, the Native seed storage facility will help restore up to 5,000 acres of land every year

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, will unveil a new installation during its 2024 Science & Sustainability Festival.

The Bishop Museum Seed Bank is a Native seed storage facility housed in a 40-foot shipping container located on the Museum’s Great Lawn, on the Ewa-side of the Richard T. Mamiya Science Adventure Center. Donated by Terraformation, a global forest restoration company based in Hawai‘i, the Seed Bank includes everything needed to dry, process, and store up to 5 million seeds, enough to restore up to 5,000 acres of land every year.

“On any given beautiful Hawaiian day, if you look towards the Ko‘olau mountain range, it appears green and lush. Most people don’t realize that what they’re looking at are forests consisting of mostly alien species,” said Tim Gallaher, Ph.D., Bishop Museum curator of Botany. “With the help of several community partners, the Seed Bank is working on restoring our Hawaiian forests with plants native to the ecosystem, and strengthen our islands’ precious biodiversity.”

Seeds are strategically gathered for specific restoration projects and stored in the Seed Bank for only as long as needed. They’re then germinated, grown to a suitable size, and planted back into natural areas by community partners including Gill ‘Ewa Lands, Mānoa Cliff Trail Restoration Project, and Protect & Preserve Hawai‘i.

“We’ve already collected more than 31,000 seeds representing 21 Native species, and we’re just getting started,” said Nick Walvoord, Bishop Museum Seed Bank collection manager. “Additionally, the installation also presents opportunities to provide hands-on education and future public programs for our keiki and visitors.”

The Seed Bank features an outdoor deck for demonstrations and events, and the container is beautifully painted by Worldwide Walls-featured artist, Ran Noveck.

Ran is a Honolulu-based artist, designer, and muralist concentrating on fine art, murals, and community based

projects to clean and beautify communities while remembering Hawaiian traditions and culture “depicted in the art to provoke talk story.” Excited about the positive environmental impacts of the Seed Bank, Ran and the Museum’s Botany team collaborated on a mural depicting Native plants that would have grown on the Bishop Museum campus before modern alterations to the landscape were made. The mural represents a nod to the past and our collective hope for future ecosystem restoration throughout Hawai‘i.

“It’s been a lot of fun working with Ran,” said Gallaher, noting that the artist previously painted a mural of a he‘e (octopus) on the Museum’s campus. “His murals typically include his signature swooshes. In our case, we asked for the swooshes to be brownish-red. This represented Kaiwi‘ula, the land on which Bishop Museum sits.”

Gallaher and Walvoord envision the Bishop Museum Seed Bank to not only work with partners on conservation and restoration efforts throughout Hawai‘i, but also be a space where guests can learn about our islands’ precious biodiversity and the work being done to preserve it, firsthand.

“Come visit me and the Seed Bank at this Saturday’s Science & Sustainability Festival,” invited Walvoord. “Along with more than 40 other Museum and community partner booths and activities, you’ll also be able to see the various stages of the plants we care for at the Seed Bank, and how and where they’re distributed.”

Bishop Museum’s [2024 Science & Sustainability Festival](#) will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., throughout the Museum’s 15-acre campus. Admission is just \$5 for kama‘āina and military with ID; learn more at [BishopMuseum.org](#).

###

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.

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 1,200 titles and distributed over 1 million books in 72 countries worldwide.

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