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**Endangered Snails Transferred to Bishop Museum's
Pūpū Ola: Kāhuli Captive Rearing Research Center**

Endodonta christenseni, the last known surviving member of its genus,
will be on public view at the 2025 Kāhuli Festival

Honolulu, Hawai‘i — [Bishop Museum](#), the State of Hawai‘i Museum of Natural and Cultural History, recently welcomed Hawaiian land snails believed to be the last known surviving representatives of its genus. Named *Endodonta christenseni* by Bishop Museum curators Dr. Norine Yeung and Dr. Kenneth Hayes and their colleagues in 2020, the tiny snail was discovered by the Museum’s first Curator of Mollusks, C. Montague Cooke Jr., during the Tanager Expedition* in 1924. Nearly a century later on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, its descendants arrived at Bishop Museum’s Pūpū Ola: Kāhuli Captive Rearing Research Center (located in the Richard T. Mamiya Science Adventure Center).

*The Tanager Expedition was a series of five biological surveys in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands between 1923-1924.

“Once, 11 species of *Endodonta* lived across the Hawaiian Islands, part of a larger family of as many as 200 species. All but this one species are now gone,” said Dr. Yeung. “Along with a single surviving relative in the main Hawaiian Islands, *Cookeconcha hystricella*, these two species represent our last chance to save the ancient lineages of native land snails in Hawai‘i.”

Endodonta christenseni was undescribed for almost 100 years after its discovery until Bishop Museum curators formally named the species, placing it on a path to conservation, as well as alerted the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Snail Extinction Prevention Program (DNLR SEPP).

Through the continued partnership between DNLR SEPP and Bishop Museum, the *Endodonta christenseni* are secured at Pūpū Ola, where they will be protected, studied, and bred to increase their numbers, eventually to be released back into the wild. **The public will be able to view these rare snails for the first time during Bishop Museum’s 4th Annual [Kāhuli Festival](#) on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025.**

“These snails embody both fragility and resilience,” said Dr. Yeung. “From Cooke’s discovery in 1924 to our team’s work today, Bishop Museum has been at the heart of their story. Their survival reminds us that entire

evolutionary lineages, millions of years in the making, are at stake. Through Pūpū Ola and our partnership with DLNR SEPP, we are building a safety net for Hawaiian land snails to ensure their stories endure for many generations.”

About Bishop Museum’s effort to save Hawai‘i’s native land snails

Hawaiian land snails are one of the most threatened groups of animals on Earth. Bishop Museum houses the largest collection of Hawaiian land snails in the world, preserving specimens, DNA, and tissues from thousands of species, many of which are extinct. Pūpū Ola provides the living complement to these collections, a center where rare species are actively cared for and where the people of Hawai‘i can reconnect with them directly.

About the Kāhuli Festival

Now in its fourth year, the Kāhuli Festival is a Bishop Museum Signature Public Program that brings together research and conservation partners, cultural practitioners, artists, and the community to learn about, celebrate, and reconnect with the rich biocultural heritage of our Hawaiian islands. The 2025 Festival’s theme focuses on renewing and restoring cultural connections for conservation, and acknowledges the resilience of our Hawaiian land snails in an everchanging landscape.

The campus-wide Festival offers cultural workshops and activities; talks by cultural practitioners, authors, researchers, and conservationists; family friendly activity booths hosted by community partners; captive rearing exhibits featuring live endangered and rare snails from Bishop Museum’s Hawaiian Land Snail Conservation Program and the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Snail Extinction Prevention Program; art exhibits featuring local artists; food and beverages on the Museum’s Great Lawn; music, and more.

Kāhuli Festival 2025: Ke Kani Nei Ka Pūpū

- Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025
- 3-9 p.m.
- Throughout the Bishop Museum campus
- Reduced \$10.00 admission for kama‘āina and military

Bishop Museum invites members of the news media to visit our campus, or bring our Festival to their news rooms, for interview opportunities with Museum researchers and cultural practitioners. Live snails, scientific specimens, and cultural objects are also available for in-studio and other interview segments. Please contact Lance Aquino via the information above.

This year, the Kāhuli Festival will also be held on Hawai‘i Island (Oct. 18) and on Maui (Oct. 22). More information can be found at BishopMuseum.org/Kahuli.

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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.

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.

Past news releases can be viewed and downloaded at [BishopMuseum.org/NewsRoom](https://www.bishopmuseum.org/NewsRoom).