

**2021 Hawai'i Conservation Conference
Call for Abstracts**

*Kūlia i ka huliau
Striving for change*

Mid/Late July TBD - Virtual

Timeline

Official Release: November 23rd, 2020

Begin Accepting Abstract Submissions: December 1st, 2020

Session & Abstract Proposal Deadline: February 19th, 2021

Accepted Abstract Notice: Early April 2021

Revision Deadline: Early May 2021

Deadline for Presenters to Register: June 2021

The 2021 Conservation Conference will be held in July of 2021 hosted by the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (Alliance). This conference will share cutting-edge science research from the field as well as innovative tools and approaches for addressing critical island conservation issues with a special focus on research and management presentations that affect the natural resources upon which Hawai'i depends. We welcome presentations on work done directly for Hawaiian biocultural resources and also recognize that Hawaii depends, in part, on global knowledge that can be applied locally. The Conference is intended to support and strengthen exchange and relationships between managers and researchers working collaboratively for improved conservation outcomes. In order to better reflect the goals of the Conference, the Alliance has updated our abstract evaluation criteria and there are now two evaluation categories for conservation research and conservation management presentations. Please review these criteria carefully and be prepared to select the category that best fits your work.

CONFERENCE THEME

Kūlia i ka huliau -- Striving for change

Transforming the future of biodiversity

Transforming the way we do conservation

Transforming the way we live and interact with our environment

Kūlia i ka Huliau (loosely translating to *strive at the turning point*) speaks to the demand of our current times that we work collaboratively to forge a new Hawai‘i. The pandemic has marked a turning point, forcing a rethink of how we should live and work in our special place. And we have already been facing swift and dramatic changes to our ecosystems with profound impacts on biodiversity and human wellbeing. Now is the time to strive to affect changes that could be forged lest we revert to a comfortable “business as usual” that has proven unsustainable and prone to disruption. It clearly showed us how tenuous and vulnerable our externally-facing visitor economy is. It also showed us the benefits of a lighter human footprint on our living resources, and how we should consciously rework to minimize our impacts as well as take action to protect and strengthen the resilience of our life-sustaining lands and waters.

1. Cultural Values and Practice in Conservation

In times of change conservation work benefits from values from many worldviews and cultural connections to the places we work. As such there is also a wealth of knowledge tied to the history and people of these places upon which to draw from in order to increase our conservation success. This track will focus on both the foundations of culturally integrated conservation, as well as examples of cultural innovations to conservation. Sessions proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- Decolonizing conservation
- Rebuilding and growing biocultural foundations in conservation
- Indigenous languages in conservation practice
- Cultural values and practice in contemporary resource management
- Growing an inclusive culture of conservation across sectors
- Indigenous approaches to science and resource stewardship

2. Capacity in Conservation

The urgent need to meet new challenges and adapt to rapidly changing conditions requires sufficient and appropriate human, technological, institutional, and financial resources to conduct effective resource stewardship. Engaging youth and young professionals and providing them with the training and tools needed to become conservation leaders is a priority. Additionally, we recognize the need to build and maintain meaningful partnerships and to foster communication and exchange within the conservation community and across sectors. With growing interest and

demand for conservation as well as increasing pressure on natural systems, we encourage submissions that address 21st century conservation capacity needs, programs, and opportunities which may include, but are not limited to:

- Building and illuminating conservation career pathways
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer
- Working across boundaries, interdisciplinary, cross-sector collaborations and approaches
- Innovative sustainable financing mechanisms
- Community co-management of biocultural resources
- Collaborative thinking and problem-solving
- Resilience in the face of loss; mourning and persevering in the conservation community
- Building and sustaining partnerships in conservation

3. Global and Regional Change & Challenges

Collective human impact on the natural environment is recognized as profound and extremely difficult to reverse. Many of the conservation threats within Hawai‘i are driven by global processes and may require both local and global solutions. We invite proposals that explore the research, tools, and stewardship approaches that address challenges facing the biocultural resources in Hawai‘i that may include, but are not limited to:

- Making global impact with place-based, time-limited projects
- Implementing large-scale projects to address global and local threats
- Nature-based solutions for climate change and its impacts
- Tackling challenging emerging issues such as species translocation and assisted colonization, genetic modification, permanent phase shifts etc.
- Managing natural resources in the context of uncertainty
- Urgent needs and opportunities in terrestrial, aquatic, and marine biosecurity
- Addressing established invasive species: management, eradication, adaptation
- New and spreading diseases impacting rare and abundant native species
- We welcome abstracts for work that may not be solely focused in Hawai‘i, but that makes a strong and clear link to conservation research and practice within the archipelago

4. Putting Research into Management Practice

Research efforts in natural resources science broadly defined provide information on species biology, ecology at species and ecosystem levels, ecosystem processes and services, and the socioeconomic and socioecological context of human relationships with the natural world. This knowledge base underlies all of our conservation efforts, and provides managers and legislators

with the best available knowledge and skills to take actions and formalize policies. Similarly, management needs frequently define the direction of research, and presentations of managers are a vital context for conservation efforts. We welcome symposia, forums, and workshops that facilitate matchmaking between applied conservation managers and researchers. This track may include, but are not limited to:

- Successful scaling up of effective restoration
- Highlighting how current research informs day-to-day conservation
- Revisiting and growing proven methods
- Social science applications in conservation
- Regenerative agroforestry and integrative agriculture advancing conservation objectives
- Conservation impact assessment and evaluation
- Tools and approaches to empower and enable community leadership in conservation
- Sessions that bring together researchers and managers to increase effective co-production of knowledge that leads to improved conservation outcomes

5. New Technologies in Conservation Research and Management

This track will explore the latest emerging research, application of innovative conservation techniques, and studies that demonstrate development of novel technology or application of technology to address conservation issues. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Cutting edge surveillance and monitoring technologies
- Drones and other autonomous vehicles in research and management
- Conservation genetics application and innovations
- Novel eradication techniques
- Social science applications in conservation
- Engaging the public in novel citizen science research

6. Place-based Conservation

This track is intended to create space for thinking about conservation grounded in Place, and is meant to bring together individuals who may work in what are usually presented as different fields or approaches, but who are unified by their work in Place. As such, we are inviting abstracts for sessions that string together different components to convey system-level conservation in a particular place. Session abstracts should identify the geographic parameters of its focus – it could be an ahupua‘a, a moku, a watershed, a district, or an island (the geographic scope should be more specific than an entire country or state). Abstracts in this session are

expected to be primarily symposia or forums. Individual oral or poster presentations will not be considered in this track.