

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

Pilina Maui Ola - Connections that Offer Resilience and Hope

Mid/Late July TBD

Timeline

Official Release: November 29th, 2021

Begin Accepting Abstract Submissions: December 6th, 2021

Session & Abstract Proposal Deadline: February 25th, 2022

Accepted Abstract Notice: April 18th, 2022

Revision Deadline: May 16th, 2022

Deadline for Presenters to Register: June 6th, 2022

The 29th annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference will be held in July of 2022 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 within the Hawaiian archipelago across all ecosystems, directly for Hawaiian biocultural resources and recognize that Hawai‘i depends, in part, on global knowledge that can be applied locally. The Conference is intended to support and strengthen exchange and relationships between managers, researchers, environmental educators, community members, cultural practitioners, scientists, and policy makers working collaboratively for improved conservation outcomes. 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.

Call to Action: We ask all authors to challenge themselves to see how their work fits in and enhances conservation in Hawai‘i through the tracks listed below.

CONFERENCE THEME

Pilina Maui Ola - Connections that Offer Resilience and Hope

In Hawai‘i, pilina or connections with place and with the living elements of the world around us, are the foundations of maui ola, our mutual well-being. For Kanaka ‘Ōiwi (Hawaiians), the connections are ancestral, and for all of us in conservation, the aloha we form in the places we work are the basis for both our own dedication as well as the partnerships we build to address the challenges we face. On land and sea, forging and enhancing those connections offers an opportunity to deepen our individual and collective resilience, and the ways we perceive and experience maui ola - all dimensions of well-being. We will share stories of success and hope to inspire pilina between people, communities, and place that lead to the innovations needed to address the challenges of conservation in a world undergoing unprecedented transformations.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

1. Celebrating Successes and Stories of Hope

Conservation work faces many challenges, but there have been many important success stories. This track will celebrate conservation success stories and accomplishments made by individuals, communities, or organizations. This track will include:

- Showcasing bright spots in conservation
- Highlighting under-appreciated species and systems
- Rediscovery of species previously thought extinct in native systems
- Community-lead conservation
- Hawai‘i as a global conservation leader

2. Science and Native Intelligence: Optimizing Conservation Through Multiple Ways of Knowing

Our conservation approaches, methods, and work today are guided by values from many world views and cultural connections. As such, there is also a wealth of knowledge tied to the history and people of places upon which to draw from in order to increase our conservation success. This track will focus on the foundations of science and native intelligence and the ways in which

conservation work can be enhanced through multiple ways of knowing. Sessions proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- Building knowledge & understanding of our native species and ecosystems
- Past, present, and future biocultural conservation; change over time
- Rebuilding and growing bicultural foundations in conservation
- Blending cultural values and practices in contemporary resource management
- Growing an inclusive culture of conservation across sectors
- Indigenous approaches to science and resource stewardship

3. **Connecting Actions and Outcomes**

Research efforts in natural resources science broadly defined provide Hawai‘i with 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 our conservation efforts and provides managers and legislators with the confidence to take actions and formalize policies. This track highlights how current research connects action to outcomes that inform our day-to-day conservation, emerging technologies, as well as broader resource management and policy.

- Connecting action to outcomes
- Connecting action to policy
- Monitoring for improved decision making

4. **Innovation in Conservation**

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

- Cutting edge surveillance and monitoring technologies
- Innovations in funding sources for conservation research
- 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 community science research

5. Big Challenges and Hard Conversations

Hawai‘i faces large conservation threats from climate change, invasive species, and critical institutional needs that threaten extinction of our endemic and native species. Some of these challenges have become the proverbial elephants in the room that are sometimes set aside due to the complexity and difficulty of the problems and solutions. This track acknowledges that we must have the hard conversations and face the critical needs to solve these impacts. Topics that could fit in this track include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of native species
- Addressing extinction threat and low likelihood of “recovery” for listed species
- Large scale and permanent impacts of climate change
- Competition for limited resources, especially in times of increasing of climate adaptation needs
- Native species translocation
- Increasing frequency and intensity of coral bleaching impacts on nearshore ecosystems
- Genetic modification of native and non-native species for conservation outcomes
- Culling of invasive mammals

6. Connecting Knowledge Transfer, Capacity Building, and Collaborative Approaches

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:

- Sharing knowledge across disciplines and sectors
- Knowledge exchange across generations for familial and institutional succession planning
- Innovative and expanding environmental education
- Capacity, education, training
- Integration of programs and disciplines

7. Dimensions of Adaptation and Resilience

Maintaining the wellbeing of ecosystems to changes requires the ability to adjust, recover, and prepare to successfully address current and future disturbances and changes. In this track, we recognize that we must foster and grow resilience and adaptive capacity within our integrated natural and human systems. This track will focus on various aspects of both adaptation and resilience which may include, but not limited to:

- Ecological dimensions of adaptation and resilience
- Human dimensions in conservation
- Caring for ourselves, each other, and the environment (self-care, collaboration, human dimensions)
- Moving towards adaptation (resistance, resilience, and transformation)