

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference  
Call for Abstracts**

**'Auamo Kuleana – Amplifying Strength Through Balance  
July 30th-August 1st, 2024**

**Timeline**

**Official Release:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Begin Accepting Abstract Submissions:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Session & Abstract Proposal Deadline:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

**Accepted Abstract Notice:** April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Revision Deadline:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Deadline for Presenters to Register:** July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference will be held in person from July 30<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> 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 linked for Hawaiian biocultural resources and recognize that Hawai‘i benefits from 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. There are 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.

We are accepting oral presentations, symposium, and forum delivered in English and in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian Language). During the submission process, please indicate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i or other bilingual session requests by checking the box labeled “‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian Language) or other bilingual sessions” in the abstract submission form.

**CONFERENCE THEME**

**'Auamo Kuleana – Amplifying Strength Through Balance**

‘Auamo kuleana is a widely used call to action that evokes the image of the ‘auamo, a pole used for carrying heavy loads that balances and distributes weight upon the shoulders. The phrase reminds us that kuleana to our environment is both a collective privilege and an individual responsibility; that there is urgent need for us to embrace and move forward with both; and that we are engaged in multi-generational work. Importantly, we must remain mindful of our limits and well-being, while also creating balance for future generations to act from a place of strength and abundance. This kuleana is not for any one person to bear. We carry this load collectively – and the work shapes us as individuals and as a community.

## CONFERENCE TRACKS

### 1. **Building Resilience in our Native Species and Habitats**

Hawai‘i is an epicenter of both biodiversity and species imperilment, where conservation-reliant species are facing various threats that cannot be eliminated, but only managed and continuing species-specific management efforts may be needed for a very long time. This track invites proposals that reflect on past lessons learned and application to management of these critical species into the future:

- Addressing extinction threat and low likelihood of “recovery” for listed species
- Managing conservation reliant species and habitats
- Loss of native species
- Large scale and permanent impacts of climate change
- Native species translocations
- Showcasing bright spots in management of these species and areas

### 2. **Perpetuating Conservation Success**

Hawai‘i faces many long-standing conservation issues from the past that are extremely difficult to reverse. We have also achieved conservation successes as a result of long term efforts. We invite proposals that explore research, tools, and stewardship approaches that highlight the evolution of understanding to address conservation needs and maintain what we have worked so hard to achieve. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Urgent needs and opportunities in terrestrial, aquatic, and marine biosecurity
- Species resilience
- Proven conservation tools and strategies
- Implementing large-scale projects to address global and local threats

- Addressing established invasive species: management, eradication, adaptation
- Wildfire prevention, mitigation, and planning
- Competition for limited resources, especially in times of increasing need
- Innovative policy solutions
- Techniques to better manage urban and high traffic ecosystems

### **3. Boosting Collective and Individual Strength Through Collaborative Solutions**

Recognizing the need to build and maintain meaningful partnerships and foster new innovative collaborations to address our conservation needs of the future, this track encourages presentations that foster communication and exchange within the conservation community across various sectors, which include, but are not limited to:

- Building and sustaining partnerships in conservation
- Working across boundaries, interdisciplinary, cross-sector collaborations and approaches
- Diversified funding strategies and innovative sustainable financing mechanisms
- Growing an inclusive culture of conservation across sectors
- Connecting action to policy

### **4. New Technologies and Approaches in Conservation Research and Management**

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

- Tackling challenging emerging issues such as species translocation and assisted colonization, genetic modification, permanent phase shifts etc
- New and emerging tools
- Improvements in propagation techniques
- New findings in phylogenetics and taxonomic groupings
- Conservation genetics applications and innovations
- Cutting edge surveillance and monitoring technologies

### **5. Amplifying Capacity for Conservation**

Engaging youth and emerging professional and providing them with the training and tools needed to become the future conservation leaders in the field is a priority. With a growing interest in conservation of natural resources this track will explore innovative conservation

capacity building and educational programs that advance the conservation workforce of the future.

- Building and illuminating conservation career pathways
- Knowledge exchange across generations for familial and institutional succession planning
- Innovative capacity, education, training programs
- Individual and collective kuleana in conservation

## **6. Community-Led and Culturally Grounded Conservation**

Conservation work in Hawai‘i benefits from values derived 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 to increase our conservation success. This track will focus on both the foundations of community based and culturally integrated conservation, as well as examples of innovations. Session proposals may include, but are not limited to

- Community co-management of biocultural resources
- Harmony of collective balance between communities and the places they manage
- Strengthening biocultural foundations in conservation
- Indigenous languages in conservation practice
- Cultural values and practice in contemporary resource management
- Indigenous approaches to science and resource stewardship