



## HAWAI'I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

*A Partnership Dedicated to Environmental Stewardship, Community Engagement, and Conservation Capacity*

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

*Our process has been revamped - please read carefully to be well-prepared*

#### **E A'e A Ulu - Restore & Regenerate**

*2025 Hawai'i Conservation Conference – 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary*

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>-July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

#### **Timeline**

**Accepting Abstract Submissions:** October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Abstract Outcome Notification:** April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Revision Deadline:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference will be held in person from July 22<sup>nd</sup> through July 24<sup>th</sup> hosted by the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance. We welcome presentations on work done within the Hawaiian archipelago across all native ecosystems, directly with biocultural resources and recognize that Hawai'i depends, in part, on global knowledge that can be applied locally. Abstracts should address how the work is directly relevant for native biodiversity, biocultural conservation, restoration, 'āina based management, native species and/or native ecosystems in Hawai'i and the Pacific region.

Our conference goals are to share novel 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 and native species ecosystems upon which Hawai'i depends. Through this conference, the Alliance will showcase biocultural resource management that support and strengthen exchange and relationships between managers, researchers, environmental educators, community members, cultural practitioners, scientists, and policymakers working collaboratively for improved conservation outcomes in Hawai'i.

A 2-part evaluation criterion will be used to assess all abstract submissions that fall in line with our conference goals and the yearly conference theme. We strongly advise reviewing the Call for Abstracts, [Abstract Submission Formats](#), and [Evaluation Criteria](#) documents when preparing your abstract submission. **Over the years, our conference has become more competitive where there are more abstract submissions than we are able to accept into the conference program. Given the high volume of submissions and limited space abstract submissions may be rejected, require revisions, merge similar content or require a change in presentation format type.** Please review all criteria carefully and be prepared to select a format that best fits your work.

**Call to Action:** We ask all authors to challenge themselves to make a direct connection on how their work enhances biocultural conservation in Hawai‘i and Pacific regions through the tracks listed below as well as conference goals, current conference theme with alignment to Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance vision, mission, and goals. We are accepting oral presentations, symposiums, forums, and ‘Aha 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.

**Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Vision:**

The people, lands, and seas of Hawai‘i are thriving, cared for by generations of stewards steered by excellent science and Hawaiian values and practice.

**Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Mission Statement:**

The Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance's mission is to conserve and restore native ecosystems and the unique biocultural diversity of our islands through collaborative action and unified leadership.

**Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance Goals:**

- Native ecosystems are healthy, native species thrive, and ecosystem services are valued and protected.
- Conservation in Hawai‘i is grounded in and guided by Hawaiian knowledge, values, and practices.
- Strong reciprocal connections across our biocultural resources and communities of place and practice are established and widespread.
- Responses to existing and emerging threats to native species and ecosystems are robust, well-coordinated, and effective.
- There is robust leadership and capacity across generations to conserve and restore biocultural resources.

**CONFERENCE THEME**

**E A‘e a Ulu: Restore & Regenerate**

**Narrative:** When we seek to restore ecosystems and species integrity, whether replanting forests or coral reefs, one sign of success comes when our initial efforts lead to natural regeneration and growth without our intervention. Our actions to conserve and restore native ecosystems and the unique biocultural diversity of our islands enable the restoration of ecosystem functions and viable habitats for the native plants and animals that are the foundation of our identity and well-being.

Our 2025 HCC theme echoes a chant to Hi‘iaka, the gentle younger sister of Pele, a goddess of restoration embodied by the greening of new lava flows after the fiery actions of Pele. ‘O Hi‘iaka kā ke kāula, Nāna i hele a a‘e a ulu- Hi‘iaka is indeed the seer, wherever she goes things sprout

and grow. This natural edict of regeneration, the Kīho‘iho‘i Kānāwai, reminds us that when given the opportunity, land, ocean, and people can return to health. Our actions from mountaintops to ocean depths, from agencies to local communities, from researchers to natural resource managers to educators and policymakers, from the individual to the collective, all contribute to strengthening the life of our lands and seas, and our relationship with our places and each other. E a‘e a ulu pū -- Let us restore and regenerate together! When ‘āina is restored, we are all restored.

## **CONFERENCE TRACKS**

### **1. Restoration and Regeneration of Our Native Species and Habitat**

Hawai‘i is an epicenter of species imperilment, where conservation-reliant species are facing various threats that cannot be eliminated, but only control management and continuing species-specific management efforts may be needed for a very long time. Testing innovative solution-based practices to restore and regenerate critical species for perpetuation of future generations. This track will explore research, tools, best practice methods, and successful regeneration and restoration methods:

- a. Enabling conditions that restore and regenerate ecosystems
- b. Intentional and direct regeneration (e.g. propagation)
- c. Species translocation and assisted colonization, genetic modification, permanent phase shifts etc.
- d. Improvements in propagation techniques
- e. New findings in phylogenetics and taxonomic groupings
- f. Conservation genetics applications and innovations
- g. Novel surveillance and monitoring technologies
- h. New research that targets restoration and opportunities in terrestrial, aquatic, and marine biosecurity
- i. Novelty Best Practice (BP) methods that have shown to restore and address established invasive species: management, eradication, adaptation
- j. Innovative policy solutions
- k. Techniques to better manage urban and high trafficked ecosystems

### **2. Restoration of Ahupua‘a**

This track invites content organized around specific ahupua‘a and/or moku. Research and management projects that address needs in ahupua‘a restoration focusing on community and culturally centered efforts that bridge terrestrial and marine stewardship, conservation, and restoration. Identifying pathways that enable support systems and holistic approaches to advance cross-sector community collaboration practice. This track will identify but not limited to pathways to advance community and culturally centered restoration efforts in present-day contexts, improved environmental outcomes, shared models of practice, and strengthened partnerships between all involved, stewardship, conservation, resource management, and community-based practitioners:

- a. Sustainable finance, revenue generation, and value(s) add

- b. Government partnerships and collaborations
- c. Information and data management, storage, and sharing
- d. Connecting with diverse sectors and user groups to advance restoration
- e. Connecting ma uka (terrestrial) and ma kai (marine) restoration efforts
- f. Legacy planning

**3. Collaboration Across Sectors**

Recognizing the need to build and maintain meaningful partnerships across multi-organizational sectors to enhance new innovative and collective 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:

- a. Building and sustaining partnerships in conservation with multiple organizations
- b. Working across boundaries, interdisciplinary, cross-sector collaborations, and approaches
- c. Diversified funding strategies and innovative sustainable financing mechanisms
- d. Growing an inclusive culture of conservation across sectors
- e. Connecting action to policy and solutions

**4. Building Capacity within the Practice (Field) of Conservation**

This track will explore innovative conservation capacity building and educational programs that advance the conservation workforce of the future:

- a. Building and highlighting conservation career pathways for interns, students, and emerging professionals
- b. Knowledge exchange across generations for familial and institutional succession planning
- c. Innovative capacity, education, and training programs
- d. Target the youth to build kuleana through conservation related activities and jobs to inspire the future generation workforce

**5. Collaborative Community-Based and Culturally Grounded Management**

This track will focus on the foundations of community-based and culturally integrated conservation and examples of innovations. Session proposals may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Community co-management of biocultural resources
- b. Rebuilding and growing biocultural foundations in conservation
- c. Indigenous languages in conservation practice
- d. Cultural values and practice in contemporary resource management
- e. Indigenous approaches to science and resource stewardship

**All accepted presentation participants must be paid registrants for the 2025 Conference. This includes moderators, facilitators, and speakers, even if you are scheduled to present on the public afternoon portion. There are no presenter registration discounts.**