



# HAWAI‘I CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

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

## **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference Call for Proposals**

*Hanohano Hawai‘i kuauli: Celebrating Collaboration and Wisdom  
across the Ecosystems of Hawai‘i*

**August 3 – 6, 2015, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo  
Hilo, Hawai‘i**

**Session & Abstract Proposal Deadline: January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015  
Revisions Deadline: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015  
Deadline for Presenters to Register: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

Welina mai to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hawai‘i Conservation Conference (HCC) on the island of Hawai‘i!

Bringing the conference back to where it began provides us the opportunity to highlight and share the numerous efforts of Hawai‘i Conservation Alliance (HCA) members and partners who are protecting the rich natural resources of Hawai‘i Island. The conference theme, “*Hanohano Hawai‘i kuauli: Celebrating Collaboration and Wisdom across the Ecosystems of Hawai‘i*,” highlights partnerships across communities and disciplines and the collaborative approaches that make them successful.

*Hanohano Hawai‘i kuauli* means “glorious is Hawai‘i with its verdant land and sea.” This concept explores how bringing together knowledge, resources and many hands and hearts advances conservation across Hawai‘i and the Pacific. Conference highlights will include presentations from exciting speakers, opportunities to learn about different places, sessions in the field, and interactions with Hawai‘i Island partners and community collaborators.

## **TRACKS**

The HCC Organizing Committee is soliciting proposals for symposia, forums, workshops, trainings and individual oral or poster presentations under the following four tracks, which align with the four strategic goals of the HCA. Integrated and transdisciplinary approaches to research, management and innovative solutions that involve community and/or cultural knowledge as a best practice are encouraged. We encourage all conservation scientists, managers, and practitioners to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations for the following tracks or for consideration in General Sessions.

### **1. Cultural Integration:**

<http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/what-we-do/our-strategy/cultural-integration>

HCA aims to incorporate Native Hawaiian perspectives into current natural resource conservation practice. With this goal in mind, we propose that collaboration across knowledge systems is foundational to conservation in Hawai‘i. We have excellent examples of partnerships across HCA that bring together community, kūpuna, researchers and managers, as well as those that bring together different organization types (e.g., nonprofit and Federal) and disciplines (e.g., geography and molecular genetics). Many of these collaborations strive to incorporate the wisdom of different approaches - such that projects combine many ways of knowing and

learning from a place, whether it is through research, personal/familial connection and kuleana, stewardship, or interaction such as hunting and fishing. Because combining, and hence valuing, knowledge from diverse sources is challenging and requires new ways of interacting, thinking, listening and working together, HCC 2015 will provide opportunities to dig into the processes behind these multi-faceted efforts.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What do successful collaborations look like when they integrate cultural values or knowledge into their practices?
- What is the result when many ways of knowing/wisdom of different approaches are brought together? Are there examples of restoration/conservation projects that incorporate different value systems and how are these different than other projects?
- What are the challenges of these efforts and how do we overcome them?

## **2. Effective Conservation and Restoration**

<http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/what-we-do/our-strategy/effective-conservation-restoration>

Modern conservation efforts in Hawai‘i are fundamentally concerned with assessing effectiveness of conservation actions, and in the past decade, have sought to create, identify, support and replicate effective programs. One feature includes increasing effectiveness by building connections across partners and leveraging resources. This team approach involves looking beyond the parameters of our chosen fields of study and expertise, and working towards inclusivity and a more comprehensive approach towards conservation and restoration. Additionally, how we measure success increasingly reflects more than numbers of plants planted, acres protected, and miles of fence constructed, but also in how the work impacts lives and communities within effectively conserved areas. This has required that people from diverse backgrounds, transcend barriers, and contribute to a greater collective wisdom regarding effective conservation or restoration of a place.

#### Guiding Questions:

- What can new research on conservation biology tell us about the protection and restoration of species and ecosystems?
- Identify a place where a transdisciplinary and/or collaborative approach could result in better stewardship and/or restoration. Who are the different players/stakeholders that need to communicate? How can we think beyond present boundaries to develop transdisciplinary conservation and restoration projects?
- What are examples of novel transdisciplinary conservation and restoration projects from across Hawai‘i, the greater Pacific Region and beyond that have led to more effective conservation? How is effectiveness measured?
- What are the lessons learned from current and past projects that strive to include empirical research, community and bio-cultural approaches?

## **3. Biosecurity and Invasive Species Management**

<http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/what-we-do/our-strategy/biosecurity>

New invasive plants, insects and pathogens enter Hawai‘i every year, often at great detriment to native species. Ensuring biosecurity and management of introduced invasive species requires effective policy, effective policy implementation, and strong community support. These intersect at many levels – from shipping containers of consumer goods to the tourism industry to best practices and preferences of Hawai‘i residents. As travel and transport across air and sea continue to expand rapidly, so do the risks to biosecurity. Effective biosecurity management that balances or enhances a viable economic future (for example, locally sourced food) while protecting native ecosystem integrity and function, requires groups from many different circles to work together. This needs to be managed by a well-defined protocol and implementation plan for terrestrial and aquatic systems to prevent the introduction of new species.

### Guiding Questions:

- How do we balance ideal biosecurity measures with the reality of the current volume of travel and transport, as well as our capacity to inspect goods or enforce regulations?
- How can we strengthen State and County capacity, resources, and legislation to improve biosecurity? How can existing biosecurity and invasive species partnerships be intensified to meet this challenge?
- What are the biosecurity success stories, here and across the world, of the past 10 years and what lessons were learned?

### **4. Building Capacity:**

<http://www.hawaiiconservation.org/what-we-do/our-strategy/building-capacity>

Today's conservation efforts require new skills, tools and approaches – from native species propagation and genetics, to remote sensing and GIS, to biocontrol and social sciences. Diverse training and education efforts are essential to ensuring that our next generation of leaders is equipped with the skills necessary to build partnerships, collaborate successfully, and consider solutions that combine different sources of information and approaches. In addition, foundational training and skills, such as knowledge of terrestrial and marine island ecosystems or biology of rare and imperiled organisms, remains crucial. Model youth programs and other innovative knowledge transfer activities are encouraged to submit under this track.

### Guiding Questions:

- What models of educational approaches/philosophies, internships, mentorship, or other capacity building strategies exist that focus on developing transdisciplinary thinkers?
- What lessons have projects or organizations learned from building this capacity?
- What role can or should science play in a person's training?

## **SUBMISSION PROCESS**

**Session & Abstract Proposal Deadline:** January 23, 2015

*\*ALL abstracts, including those that are part of a symposium or forum, are due by January 23, 2015.*

**Revisions Deadline:** April 1, 2015

*\*Authors must complete requests for abstract revisions by this deadline in order to be accepted into the conference.*

**Deadline for Presenters to Register:** June 1, 2015

*\*ALL presenters are required to register for the conference. Only presenters with accepted abstracts that are registered by June 1, 2015, will be considered for inclusion in the program book.*

Session proposals and abstracts must be submitted online. The submission form will be available by November 1, 2014.

## **FORMAT DESCRIPTIONS**

**Oral and Poster Presentations:** *Formal, individual presentations on various conservation topics will be scheduled in general sessions depending on the specific "Track" in which it was submitted and the thematic content. The abstract submission form requires the selection of preferred presentation format (oral or poster) and whether you are submitting your abstract as an individual or part of an organized symposium. The review committee may suggest that you change your proposed format depending on the novelty, relationship to theme, available time in the program, and whether or not the content has been previously presented. All oral and poster presenters must be registered participants.*

## **1. Oral presentation:**

15-minute individual presentations (12-minute talk, 2 minutes Q&A, 1 minute for transition time)  
All oral presentations will be scheduled in 2-hour blocks.

## **2. Poster presentation:**

This is a visual presentation that showcases your work to attendees throughout the entire conference. Posters are particularly useful as a way to present quantitative research. More than one participant may author a poster, but at least one of the primary authors must be in attendance to discuss the poster at the Poster Reception on August 5, 2015

## **3. Symposium:**

A formal moderated session with 5-6 presentations organized around a topic or theme; individual presentation time is limited to 15 minutes; moderator introduces presenters and conducts Q&A at end of session. Time limit: 2 hours per session. Abstracts for each presenter are required and due January 23, 2015, along with a complete session agenda. All presenters and moderators must be registered participants.

## **4. Forum:**

A less formal, more interactive session, a forum can be a panel, a roundtable session, or another structured format involving a variety of innovative facilitation methods. The moderator or facilitator guides presenters and the audience through a variety of participatory techniques. Time limit: 2 hours per session, with a minimum of 30 minutes of audience participation. Forum submissions require true audience participation that consists of more than a question and answer session. Detailed information on how the audience will be engaged is required. We encourage creativity. Abstracts for each presenter are not required unless requested by the forum organizer/chair. All presenters, facilitators and/or moderators must be registered participants.

**HCC Workshops and Trainings:** *Organizations and practitioners are welcome to conduct trainings or workshops before or following the conference. The host organization(s) is responsible for organizing and supporting all aspects of their training or workshop. The HCA can contribute minimal logistical support. Please contact us for details about this opportunity.*

## **5. Workshop:**

An interactive, highly facilitated, “hands on” session that minimizes formal presentations and emphasizes the application of information and/or technology. Active audience participation and innovative facilitation methods are encouraged. To register, one cohesive workshop abstract is required that describes engagement technique used by the person(s) facilitating the workshop. Hawai‘i-based workshop facilitators must be registered participants.

## **6. Training:**

Organizations have the opportunity to host capacity-building trainings and activities that focus on specific skills transfer to conservation practitioners, teachers, etc. or a time to engage a specific audience in a particular topic related to the conference theme. A description that explains training goals and target audience is required. Hawai‘i-based training facilitators must be registered conference participants.