



HAWAIIAN
COUNCIL

2026 NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONVENTION



PRESENTED BY

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A MEDICINE COMPANY

July 20 - 22, 2026
Neal S. Blaisdell Center
Honolulu, Hawai'i



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2026 NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONVENTION

Aloha kākou,

On behalf of Hawaiian Council, it is my great honor to welcome you to the 2026 Native Hawaiian Convention.

Mahalo to everyone who has traveled from across Hawai'i and beyond to join us. For us, this week is more than a conference—it is a ho'iho'i, a return, to our home. This gathering is an opportunity for our lāhui to reconnect, celebrate how far we've come, and shape the future we will build together.

This year holds special significance as we celebrate 25 years of Hawaiian Council and 50 years of the Hawaiian Renaissance. These milestones remind us of what is possible when we as Native Hawaiians come together with purpose and determination. For a quarter of a century, Hawaiian Council has worked to strengthen our communities through culture, education, housing, workforce development, disaster recovery, and economic opportunity—all guided by one simple belief: **when Native Hawaiians thrive, Hawai'i thrives.**

While we have much to celebrate, our work is far from over. The challenges before us demand bold leadership, innovation, and collaboration. The future of our lāhui will not be shaped by one organization or one leader, but by all of us working together.

I encourage you to make the most of this week: attend the sessions, ask questions, challenge ideas, and build new relationships. The conversations you have between sessions, in the lounges, and around the table, have the power to become partnerships, inspire action, and shape Hawai'i's future.

As we celebrate the past 25 years, let us also look boldly toward the next quarter-century. Together, we have the opportunity to build a Hawai'i where our culture flourishes, our communities prosper, and our next generation leads with confidence.

Mahalo to our sponsors, partners, volunteers, cultural practitioners, and each of you for believing in this work.

Welcome home.

Eō ka lāhui, and enjoy the Convention!



Kūhiō Lewis
Chief Executive Officer, Hawaiian Council



Kūhiō Lewis

Chief Executive Officer
Hawaiian Council

2026 HAWAIIAN COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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About the Neal S. Blaisdell Center

Centrally located between downtown Honolulu and Waikīkī, the **Neal S. Blaisdell Center** occupies an entire city block at Ward Avenue and King Street. Originally called the Honolulu International Center when it opened in 1964, it was renamed after Honolulu Mayor Neal S. Blaisdell who oversaw its development as a multi-purpose entertainment and convention venue.

Today, the center boasts a 50,000-square-foot arena, a concert hall, exhibition halls, meeting rooms, and landscaped outdoor spaces, including its famous brackish ponds that are home to a wide variety of fish. Concerts, sporting events, expositions, graduations, and community celebrations continue to attract residents and visitors to the entertainment center.

The land beneath the Blaisdell Center lies within the **‘Īli Lele** (a subsection of an ahupua‘a) **of Kewalo**. In earlier times, this area was shaped by *pūnāwai* (freshwater springs), *lepo pohō* (marshy ground), *loko ‘ia* (fish ponds), and very little dry land.

2026 NATIVE HAWAIIAN CONVENTION



PRESENTED BY



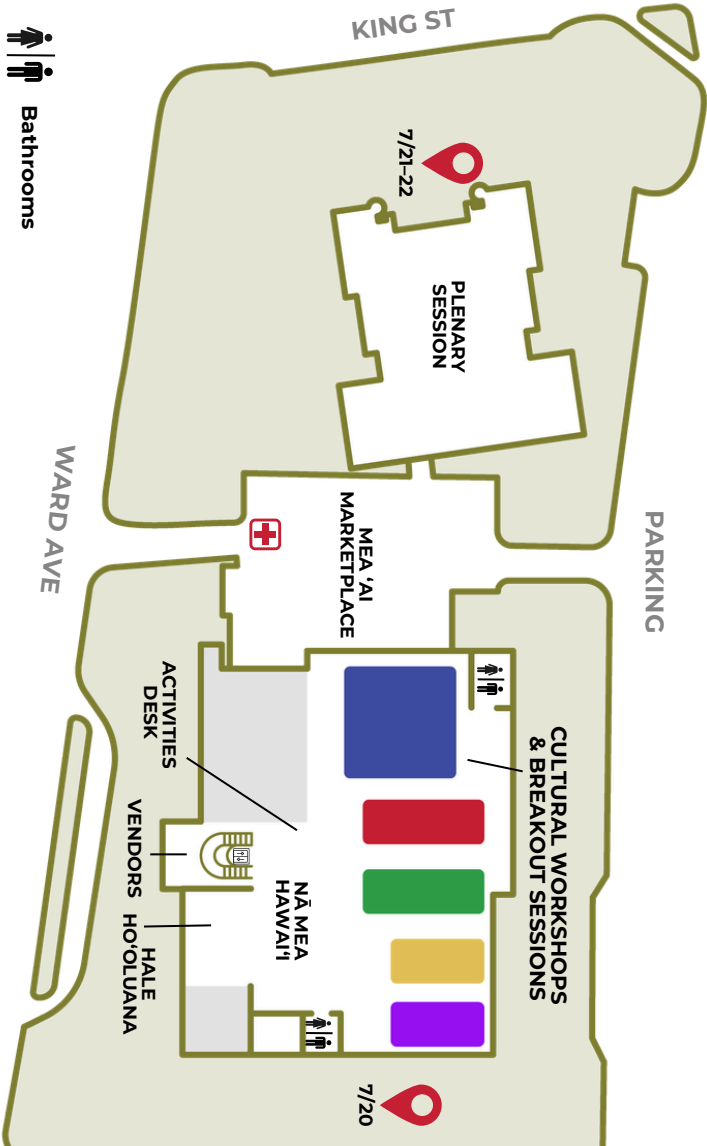
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VIEW THE AGENDA ONLINE
hawaiiancouncil.org/2026-convention-agenda/

CONVENTION MAP



Registration

*Registration will be outside Exhibition Hall on Monday, 7/20, and outside the Concert Hall on Tuesday & Wednesday, 7/21-22.



First Aid

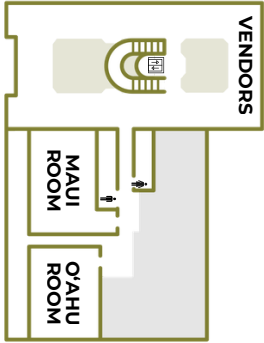


Elevator



Bathrooms

SECOND FLOOR



Breakout Section 1
Polu | Channel 1



Breakout Section 2
'Ula'ula | Channel 2



Breakout Section 3
'Oma'oma'o | Channel 3



Breakout Section 4
Melemele | Channel 4



Breakout Section 5
Poni | Channel 5

MEA 'AI MARKETPLACE

OPEN 11AM-2PM

Come hungry and stay awhile at Mea 'Ai Marketplace, where fresh food, live music, and good company come together. All of our vendors source at least 50% of their ingredients within Hawai'i nei: **that means grown and harvested right here in our island communities.** Every plate celebrates the flavors of our home while supporting the local mahi'ai, ranchers, and producers who mālama 'āina and make it all possible. Gather with us, savor something 'ono, and enjoy live music!

FEATURING:

REMIXX
Kainalu Poke
Kaimana
Kale's Hale
Kapakahi Grindz
and more!

HOW TO USE HEADPHONES

All five breakout sections in the Exhibition Hall use silent-audio headphones. Each section is assigned to its own broadcast channel that matches its section number, so Section 1 broadcasts on Channel 1, Section 2 on Channel 2, and so on through Section 5. Headphones are provided right at the tables within each section, so you'll have a set ready wherever you're seated.

- 1 Grab your headphones.**
Find your breakout section and pick up your headphones from the table.
- 2 Select your channel.**
Use the selector dial or +/- buttons to choose your session.
- 3 Put on your headphones.**
Adjust the headband so the earcups sit comfortably over both ears.
- 4 Enjoy your breakout session!**
Tailor the volume to just the right level for you.
- 5 Return to the breakout section table when pau.**
Do not take your headphones outside of the Exhibition Hall, and return them to the table when finished.

MONDAY, JULY 20

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP DAY

20
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HAWAIIAN
CONVENTION

Enjoy workshops featuring cultural practitioners and experts with a diversity of hana no‘eau, ‘ike, and other engaging opportunities.

Registration

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Make sure you check-in before the activities begin! Grab your badge, a program, and find more information about everything happening during Convention.

Shop Nā Mea Hawai‘i

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Mākeke Presented by OHA

Shop Hawai‘i-based curated products that represent the unique culture, spirit, and artistry of its people.

Mea ‘Ai Marketplace

11:00AM – 2:00PM

Grab a bite to eat from a variety of local food trucks and vendors.

Hale Ho‘oluana

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Presented by Kualoa Ranch

Need to take a break? Want somewhere to hang out connect with friends? Enjoy live mele throughout the day in our Hale Ho‘oluana lounge! Stop in to relax, or tune in to Channel 8 on your headset.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS (10:00-11:45AM)

Not Pau Yet! 50 Years of Aloha ‘Āina on Kaho‘olawe

Polū | Channel 1

Davianna Pōmaika‘i McGregor, Hinaikawaihi‘ilei Keala, Kauluponookaleilehua Lu‘uwai

How can the movement to stop the bombing of this sacred island serve as an example to end live fire training in Hawai‘i and return Public Land Trust ‘āina leased by the military to the people of Hawai‘i? Learn the mo‘olelo of Kanaloa Kaho‘olawe and the accomplishments of the Aloha ‘Āina movement over the past 50 years.

Mo‘opono – Hawaiian Ancestry: A Hands-On Hawaiian Genealogy Workshop

‘Ula‘ula | Channel 2

Dr. Lilikalā Kame‘eleihiwa

Through the practice of mo‘okū‘auhau, begin your journey to reconnect with your kūpuna and preserve family histories. Using six-generation pedigree and sibling charts, family stories, and archival research strategies, learn the foundations of genealogy research. Explore how mo‘okū‘auhau, mo‘olelo, and historical records come together to guide your ongoing journey of ‘ike and connection.

MONDAY, JULY 20

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP DAY

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WORKSHOP SESSIONS (10:00-11:45AM)

Film Fundamentals

'Ōma'oma'o | Channel 3

Ciara Lacy, Alex Bocchieri, John Salanoa, Averie Joy Maikalima O Makua Huffine

Lights, camera, action! The kickoff of our 24-hour film competition starts here as we set you up with the basics from well-known filmmakers in our community. Your next great film starts right here.

Lei as Connection: Weaving Relationship Through Native and Canoe Plants

Melemele | Channel 4

Kaleipuupuu

Learn foundational lei wili techniques and work with thoughtfully selected native and canoe plants. Through hands-on lei making, guests will explore lei as a living practice rooted in relationship to 'āina and culturally significant materials. Come early, space is limited!

Prince Kūhiō's Legacy: How Civic Clubs Amplify the Voice of our Lāhui

Poni | Channel 5

Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

For over a century, members of Hawaiian Civic Clubs across the pae 'āina and the continent have carried on Prince Kūhiō's vision of community organizing, advocacy, and Native Hawaiian scholarship. Join us to learn how our members continue to lean in and turn this vision into action, supporting the well-being of our land and people, developing strong leaders, creating forums for learning, and leading impactful community service projects that strengthen our communities.

Poina'ole Ku'u 'Āina Kau I Ka Hano

Maui Room | 2nd Floor

Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong

E nā 'ōiwi a puni ka honua, hele mai! Join us and learn Poina'ole Ku'u 'Āina Kau I Ka Hano, a mele aloha 'āina written and composed by Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong. Be part of the kāhea to perpetuate the sovereignty and life of the land. Whether you're reconnecting with your roots or learning for the first time, your voice belongs in this mele.

E Ola ka Lāhui Hawai'i

O'ahu Room | 2nd Floor

Kumu Hula Cody Pueo Pata

Eō e nā kia'i o nā 'ailana! A call out to all protectors of the islands! Come and learn choreography from Kumu Hula Pueo for E Ola ka Lāhui Hawai'i by Ikaika Blackburn. Join us to explore the meaning behind this modern mele aloha 'āina while learning choreography in a welcoming space for beginners and experienced dancers alike.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS (1:00-2:45PM)

Supporting Mele Hawai'i: Knowledge Stewardship and the Law

Polū | Channel 1

Kāhuli Leo Le‘a

Who owns a mele? Who has the right to share it? And, how do we protect ‘ike passed down through generations? This presentation explores the contours of mele and haku mele as a distinct ‘ike stewardship system in which language, values, and culture thrive. Additionally, this session considers legal frameworks that support mele, including contracts and western notions of intellectual property. As cultural practitioners exercise their craft in modern contexts, panelists will consider the legal and cultural frameworks facilitating transmission of knowledge and cultural practices.

Kākau Renaissance

‘Ula‘ula | Channel 2

Kamali‘ikupono Hanohano

Hawaiian tattooing is not simply decorative art or an expression of individual identity. Through the practice of kākau, the body tells a larger story: one of genealogy and ancestry, of relationship to ‘āina and community, and of the kuleana we hold. Join kākau practitioner Kamali‘ikupono Hanohano as he shares the cultural significance of Hawaiian tattooing and what it means to perpetuate this ancestral practice today.

Let's Make a Deal!

‘Ōma‘oma‘o | Channel 3

KūHana Small Business Accelerator

Have a great business idea? The floor is yours.

In this interactive session, the KūHana Small Business Accelerator team will guide participants through the art of creating and delivering a powerful business pitch. Bring your ideas, sharpen your message, and learn what it takes to make people believe in your vision.

Kōnane as Cultural Practice: Revitalizing Hawai'i's Heritage Game Rooted in ‘Ike Kūpuna

Melemele | Channel 4

Kapena Baptista, Pā Kōnane

Learn the strategy, skill, and ‘ike carried through kōnane, a traditional Hawaiian game of careful observation and forward thinking. Ka Makou Kōnane Champion Kapena Baptista will introduce its history and cultural significance, guide participants through the rules and strategies of play, and help players of all experience levels sharpen their skills.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS (1:00-2:45PM)

**Restoring Our
Nation's Capital**

Poni | Channel 5

Maui Department of 'Ōiwi Resources

What is our lāhui's collective and shared kuleana to restore and revitalize Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, the greater Royal complex, and our nation's original capital of Ka Malu 'Ulu 'o Lele? This session will provide historical context for this wahi pana, empower our 'ōiwi leading the community organizations for the past 30+ years, and share ways for the lāhui to engage with regeneration efforts now and into the future.

Ho'ola I Ka LomiLomi

Maui Room | 2nd Floor

Ilima DeCosta

Self-lomilomi for trauma recovery is designed to provide a safe, clothed, and gentle self-massage experience focused on reconnecting with the body and releasing tension utilizing native Hawaiian healing principles.

Hula 'Auana for All Ages

O'ahu Room | 2nd Floor

Kumu Hula Vicky Holt-Takamine

When one wants to dance the hula, bashfulness should be left at home. Join Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine to learn a hula and gain insight into the 'ike and traditions that continue to shape hula today.



MONDAY, JULY 20

PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOP DAY

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WORKSHOP SESSIONS (3:00-4:45PM)

E Mau Ke Ea

Polū | Channel 1

Imaikalani Winchester

Trace the foundations of Ka Lā Ho‘iho‘i Ea (Sovereignty Restoration Day) and its resurgence as a movement for Hawaiian conscientization, resistance, and liberation from U.S. occupation. Commemorating the restoration of Hawaiian sovereignty on July 31, 1843, when the Hawaiian Kingdom was returned to King Kamehameha III following a five-month British occupation, the contemporary movement to honor and celebrate this occasion has become a powerful expression of Hawaiian national identity and a catalyst for the restoration of sovereignty. Explore how education strengthens Hawaiian national consciousness and advances the work of restoring the Hawaiian nation.

Huaka‘i Pō, Mo‘o, ‘Aumākua, Auē!

‘Ula‘ula | Channel 2

Lopaka Kapanui

Long before the Honolulu City Lights, the islands of Hawai‘i were steeped in oral traditions of myths, legends, and mo‘olelo. Come hear the stories from Hawai‘i’s “Chicken Skin” Master Storyteller Lopaka Kapanui. Sharing more than just Hawaiian ghost stories, Lopaka shares his deep knowledge and love of the history and legends of Hawai‘i.

Mo‘olelo Hawai‘i: A Foundation for Kanaka

‘Ōma‘oma‘o | Channel 3

Keoni Shizuma

Hawaiian-language newspapers hold a vast archive of mo‘olelo, ‘ike, and perspectives from our kūpuna. Join Keoni Shizuma to explore selected nūpepa texts, learn how to draw meaning from them, and consider how these stories can deepen our understanding of Hawaiian history, practice, and identity today.

Lei Aloha: A Community Workshop

Melemele | Channel 4

Haus of Puas

Step into the living tradition of lei making at Haus of Puas, where Hawai‘i’s flowers, artisans, and stories come together in an unforgettable cultural experience. This immersive workshop brings together talented lei makers from our community lei fridge, each offering a glimpse into a different traditional style and creative practice. Learn the techniques behind lei making while gaining a deeper appreciation for the history, meaning, and aloha woven into every strand. **Pre-registration required at hawaiiancouncil.org/convention**

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Yes, And?

An Introduction to Improv

Poni | Channel 5

Ryan Okinaka, Improv Superette

Step into the unexpected! During this fast-paced crash course, get a taste of the art of improv to conquer stage fright, become more confident public speakers, step outside your comfort zone, think on your feet, and trust your instincts. **Pre-registration required at hawaiiancouncil.org/convention**

Kapu as Existence:

**50 years of Ceremony
at Kaho'olawe**

Maui Room | 2nd Floor

Kaliko Baker

La'a, Ma'a, Pa'a: Sanctify, Sustain, Solidify. Where explosions once echoed, there are now footsteps, ceremony, and healing. Learn from Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana member Kaliko Baker about the history of Kaho'olawe, protocol mele for the island, and how future generations can carry the work forward.

Kaulana Ke Kuahiwi

O'ahu Room | 2nd Floor

Kumu Hula Lono Padilla

Kalākaua once said, "Hula is the language of the heart, and therefore the heartbeat of the Hawaiian people." Learn directly from Kumu Hula Lono Padilla as he shares the 'ike, history, and cultural significance behind "Kaulana Ke Kuahiwi," a wahine hula 'auana.



MONDAY PAU! SEE YOU TOMORROW

Make sure you arrive early for an unforgettable opening ceremony, special remarks, and pressing lāhui discussions that you won't want to miss!

OPENING CEREMONY (9:00AM-12:00PM)

CONCERT HALL

Opening Ceremony

Don't miss this showstopping start as we pay tribute to our pae'āina, remember where we've come from, and look boldly toward the future.

Welina

Kūhiō Lewis

Hawaiian Council, Chief Executive Officer

Opening Remarks

Jocelyn Doane

Department of Enterprise Services, Deputy Director

Keynote

Governor Josh Green

Eō ka Lāhui!

Kali Watson, Sheri Daniels, Jack Wong, Kaiali'i Kahele

With Native Hawaiian programs facing a growing number of threats, this timely conversation will underscore the progress we've made, the impact for our lāhui, and what is at stake for the future of Native Hawaiian self-determination, equity, and community well-being.

The Future of Hawaiian Airlines: Honoring Our Legacy, Strengthening Our Commitment to Hawai'i

Diana Birkett Rakow, Alisa Onishi, Kūhiō Lewis

As Hawaiian Airlines enters a new chapter as part of the combined Alaska Air Group, many in Hawai'i have questions about the future of our hometown airline. Join a conversation about the company's dual brand strategy, its commitment to preserving and strengthening the Hawaiian Airlines brand, and how Hawaiian language, culture, and community will continue to shape its future.

Restoring 'Āina to Stewardship

Zhantell Dudoit Lindo, Kelly Miyamura, Davis Price, Kaimana Barcarse, Alapaki Nahale-a

Land Back is not a future vision; it's happening now. Hear from the practitioners, leaders, and advocates making it happen as they share the successes, challenges, and lessons shaping Hawai'i's future. Be part of the movement to reclaim Hawaiian lands for Hawai'i.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

DAY 1

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Registration

9:00AM – 5:00PM

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Shop Nā Mea Hawai'i

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Mākeke Presented by OHA

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Mea 'Ai Marketplace

11:00AM – 2:00PM

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Hale Ho'oluana

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Presented by Kualoa Ranch

Need to take a break? Want somewhere to hang out connect with friends? Enjoy live mele throughout the day in our Hale Ho'oluana lounge! Stop in to relax, or tune in to Channel 8 on your headset.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (1:00-2:45PM)

Betting on Economic Sovereignty

Polū | Channel 1

Brandon Maka'awa'awa, Bennae Calac, Bonnie Genovese, Tyler Iokepa Gomes

Can casinos be a catalyst for Native Hawaiian self-determination? Join us for a conversation exploring Indigenous gaming models from across the continent and what lessons they hold for Hawai'i.

Native Hawaiian Storytelling: Past and Present

'Ula'ula | Channel 2

Shay Kauwe, Megan Kamalei Kakimoto, Kealani Netane

Native Hawaiian storytelling carries generations of 'ike, shaping identity, resistance, and imagination across time. This panel brings together published Hawaiian authors to explore the evolution of mo'olelo from oral tradition to contemporary literature.

Ho'iho'i Ea: Reclaiming Stewardship, Restoring Relationship, Exercising Sovereignty

'Ōma'oma'o | Channel 3

Office of Hawaiian Affairs

As long-standing military leases approach expiration, examine what is at stake and what becomes possible when we center Kanaka 'Ōiwi. Explore pathways toward restoration, remediation, return, co-stewardship, continued use, and other negotiated futures, while affirming a fundamental truth embodied in ho'iho'i ea: that the kuleana to steward these lands has never been extinguished, but continues to be entrusted from one generation to the next.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (1:00-2:45PM)**For the Health of Our
'Ohana: Understanding
Diabetes & Clinical
Research in NHPI****Communities**

SPONSORED BY LILLY

Melemele | Channel 4**Aloha in Action****Poni | Channel 5****I Palekana Kākou Ma
Ka Wai. Let Us Be Safe
in the Water.****Maui Room | 2nd Floor****Are You Ready to Vote
on the Charter?****O'ahu Room | 2nd Floor****American Diabetes Association**

This workshop offers a culturally-grounded look at how diabetes affects Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families and the steps we can take to protect our collective health. Learn what diabetes looks like in our communities, why early prevention matters, and how clinical research can open doors to better treatments when NHPI voices are included. Together, we'll explore practical tools to support our 'ohana and strengthen wellness across our islands and diaspora.

**Rainbow Uli'i-Akina, Melissa Kaonohi-Camit,
Kui Adolpho, Kehau Meyer**

From the Maui wildfires to the recent Kona storms, Native Hawaiian communities have shown the power of collective action in times of crisis. Join community leaders and advocates as they share lessons from recovery efforts and explore how collaboration, culture, and aloha continue to guide resilience, healing, and rebuilding. Discover what it takes to strengthen our communities before, during, and after disaster strikes.

**Shirley De Rego, John "Kalei" Clark, Kalani Viera,
Matt Kauwe, Allison Schaefers, Hawai'i Water
Safety Coalition**

Hawai'i has the second highest resident drowning rate in the nation, with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders making up more than a third of those deaths. Drowning death rates for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are 1.5 times higher than other ethnicities, and three times higher for our keiki. How can we address those disparities and ensure that Hawai'i is a place where everyone has the skills, knowledge, and resources to stay safe in, on, and around the water?

Honolulu Charter Commission

Once every ten years, Honolulu voters get to participate in revising the County Charter and updating the guiding policy on how the Mayor, City Council, and departments operate, how decisions are made, and how services are delivered. Learn about what might be on your ballot this November!

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (3:00–4:45PM)**Where Is Philanthropy
Going?****Polū | Channel 1*****Andre Perez, Keoni Lee, Camille Kalama, Ko'ihonua***

Native Hawaiian-led organizations are doing the work, but are philanthropic investments reaching them? Join this eye-opening discussion as we unpack emerging research on where funding flows, who gets counted, and why supporting organizations that serve Native Hawaiians is not always the same as investing in Native Hawaiian leadership. Explore the power, politics, and possibilities of philanthropy and what it will take to build a future where resources truly align with our lāhui's vision and priorities.

What is a Lū'au?**'Ula'ula | Channel 2*****Terry Panee, Kiri Fualautoalasi, Mahealani Mika, Kipe Ebana***

How has tradition changed over time, and what does authenticity mean today? Join lū'au producers and kumu hula for a lively panel discussion on the evolution of this iconic experience, the balance between cultural stewardship and business realities, and the role lū'au continue to play in sharing Hawaiian culture and stories with the world.

**After 'Āina Back:
Building Pu'uhonua****'Ōma'oma'o | Channel 3*****Nation of Hawai'i, Molokai Heritage Trust, Lahaina Community Land Trust***

'Āina back is just the beginning, because what we build next matters. This panel explores strategies of 'āina back through occupation, acquisition and community land trusts and discusses both the challenges and opportunities in building ea after 'āina is reclaimed. Pu'uhonua is presented as a model to build resilient, economically autonomous communities.

**Native Hawaiian Health:
A Report by the
Community, for the
Community****Melemele | Channel 4*****Kula No Na Po'e Papakōlea, B. Puni Kekauoha, Mele Look, Claire Townsend, Keaweaimoku Kaholokula***

From research to real-world impact, this session highlights Native Hawaiian health initiatives led with communities. Kula No Nā Po'e Hawai'i, in partnership with the UH Department of Native Hawaiian Health and Papa Ola Lōkahi, presents a community-centered report highlighting Native Hawaiian health initiatives and community-based participatory research taking place across the pae 'āina. Learn how these efforts strengthen health, well-being, and pilina.

TUESDAY, JULY 21

DAY 1

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS (3:00-4:45PM)

Where Does the Garbage Go?

Poni | Channel 5

Councilmember Andria Tupola, Rep. Darius Kila, Roger Babcock, Jr., Kalani Kaʻanāʻanā

What happens after we throw something away? From overflowing landfills to threats to our lands, waters, and communities, Hawaiʻi faces difficult choices about the future of waste management. Join community leaders, environmental advocates, and policymakers for a timely and spirited discussion on landfill siting, capacity, environmental justice, and sustainable solutions. Grounded in the values of aloha ʻāina, let's rethink our relationship with waste and explore what it truly means to mālama the places we call home.

Membership Mixer

Maui Room | 2nd Floor

Hawaiian Council

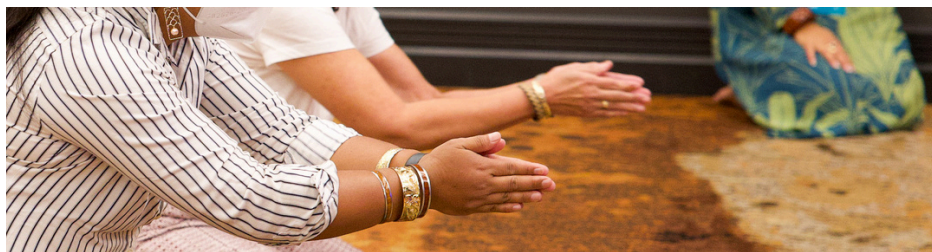
E komo mai to our Hawaiian Council Membership Mixer. Enjoy this time to learn about your benefits and network with other members-: bring your swag, your flyers, and yourself to learn about other members. Not a member, but interested? You are welcome too!

Digging Deeper: Soil Science for Our ʻĀina

Oʻahu Room | 2nd Floor

Makaliʻi Metrics

Located in Mōʻiliʻili, Makaliʻi Metrics delivers locally tailored soil data for farmers, ranchers, researchers and land stewards that actually reflects their land. Guided by the principles of aloha ʻāina, learn about the infrastructure and actionable data going directly into the hands of the people growing Hawaiʻi's food and restoring its land.



TUESDAY IS PAU! SEE YOU TOMORROW.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

DAY 2

PRESENTED BY MARNELL COMPANIES

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Native Hawaiian Convention continues with a full day of hot topics like artificial intelligence, restorative justice, stewardship, and more.

Stick around for a concert featuring the music from our founding years like Ho'onu'a, Natural Vibes, Mana'o Company, and Kapena.

PLENARY SESSION (9:00AM-12:00PM)

CONCERT HALL

Welina

Alapaki Nahale-a

Hawaiian Council, Board President

Keynote

Senate President Ron Kouchi

Mayoral Talk Story

Mayor Alameda, Mayor Bissen, Mayor Blangiardi, Mayor Kawakami, Governor Green

Join Hawai'i's state and county leaders for a dynamic and engaging discussion on the current state of Hawai'i's counties and the future of our island communities. This session will explore the opportunities and challenges shaping Hawai'i today. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain valuable perspectives on the issues impacting Native Hawaiian communities and all who call Hawai'i home.

The Coming of Hi'iaka

Amy Hānaiali'i, Michael Jackowitz, Moses Goods, Roslyn Catracchia, Manaola Yap, Kūhiō Lewis

Discover the mana, artistry, and passion behind a groundbreaking theatrical experience that brings the legendary story of Hi'iaka to the stage in epic form. Join producers and cast members of the Broadway-caliber musical "The Epic Tale of Hi'iaka" for an inside look at the making of this unforgettable production.

Keynote

Summer Sylva

Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Aloha 'Āina in the Age of AI

Olin Kealoha Lagon, Ku'ulani Keohokalole

'A'ohe lokomaika'i i nele i ka pāna'i. No kind deed has ever lacked its reward. This one-on-one discussion will confront the realities of artificial intelligence today and how our lāhui should be preparing.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

DAY 2

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Registration

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Shop Nā Mea Hawai'i

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Mākeke Presented by OHA

Shop Hawai'i-based curated products that represent the unique culture, spirit, and artistry of its people.

Mea 'Ai Marketplace

11:00AM – 2:00PM

Grab a bite to eat from a variety of local food trucks and vendors.

Hale Ho'oluana

9:00AM – 5:00PM

Presented by Kualoa Ranch

Need to take a break? Want somewhere to hang out connect with friends? Enjoy live mele throughout the day in our Hale Ho'oluana lounge! Stop in to relax, or tune in to Channel 8 on your headset.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (1PM-2:45PM)

AI and the Lāhui: The Good, the Bad, and the Future

Polū | Channel 1

Olin Kealoha Lagon

Artificial intelligence is a force reshaping our lives before we have agreed on the rules. We will name the hard parts: the power and water that AI burns, the data centers reshaping grids and bills, who pays, and who profits. This is for the whole lāhui to come with hard questions and leave with more clarity; no tech background needed.

The PONO Health Legacy Study: A Kū 'Ē Moment

'Ula'ula | Channel 2

Marjorie Leimomi Mau, Kamuela Enos, (presenting on behalf of) Alike Maunakea, S. Lani Park

Building health sovereignty, the PONO Study is creating a longitudinal cohort of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities to ensure that our health concerns are heard, our culture of health is practiced, and our connections as indigenous people from one generation to the next are kept alive.

Pu'uhonua: The Justice Conversation Hawai'i Can No Longer Avoid

'Ōma'oma'o | Channel 3

Kumu Hinaleimoana Wong, Kaleihau Kamau'u, 'Ekolu Miller, Kimmy Takata, Kalei K-aloha, Aubree K-aloha, Mark Kawika Patterson, Micky Huihui

'Ekolu Mea Nui leads this panel to explore justice through the lens of pu'uhonua, a place of refuge, restoration, and renewal. Justice is not solely the responsibility of the criminal legal system, but a shared kuleana that touches every family, community, and sector working to build a thriving Hawai'i.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (1:00-2:45PM)

Community Co-
Management: Building
Pathways and Practices
in Environmental Self
Governance

Melemele | Channel 4

Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo

Hawai‘i’s first law empowering communities and the state to enter into co-management agreements was passed recently on July 8, 2026. Learn about what this means for our communities, practitioners and advocates, and how you and your hui can utilize co-management as a practice in environmental governance and self-determination at the local level.

Native Hawaiian
Language Revitalization

Poni | Channel 5

Nāmaka Rawlins, Dr. Kauanoe Kamanā, Ka‘iu Kimura, Wahde (Ryan Mackey), Teshina Banks Rama, Sierra Her Many Horses

For decades, the Hawaiian language revitalization movement has successfully preserved and proliferated ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Through the dedicated work of practitioners, teachers, parents, and students, the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i movement has become a model for Indigenous language revitalization movements worldwide. Discuss the history and success of the movement, and the state and national policies that support language revitalization.

Pathways to
Homeownership

Maui Room | 2nd Floor

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Whether you’re a prospective homeowner or an affordable housing advocate, learn about adequate financial education, access to lending, and the role of Hawaiian homelands. Panelists will share valuable resources, success stories, and actionable steps to empower Native Hawaiian families on their journey to homeownership.

Take Two: Hawai‘i’s Film
Future

O‘ahu Room | 2nd Floor

Ciara Lacy, Bryson Chun, Angela Laprete, Pō‘ai Lincoln

From the misty valleys of the Nā Pali Coast to the bustling streets of Honolulu, Hawai‘i has long been a backdrop for Hollywood’s biggest hits. But who is telling those stories? Join a dynamic panel of filmmakers and industry professionals as we pull back the curtain on Hawai‘i’s film industry. Come ready to learn, ask questions, and imagine what a thriving, homegrown Hawai‘i film industry could look like for the next generation.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (3:00-4:45PM)

Ahupua'a Sustainable
Computing & 'Ōiwi Data
Sovereignty

Polū | Channel 1

*Dr. Keolu Fox, Dr. Josiah Hester, Pohai Panoke,
Keoni DeFranco*

'Ōiwi researchers sit at the intersection of ancestral knowledge and technological innovation. Join Purple Mai'a in a kūkā to share critiques of AI, the extractive nature of data centers, and an alternative future for sustainable computing and 'Ōiwi data sovereignty.

How Do You Travel?

'Ula'ula | Channel 2

Rep. Adrian Tam, Kamaka Pili, Mālia Sanders, Kelly Sanders, Tyler Iokepa Gomes

The values we expect from visitors begin with us. Join the conversation on traveling with intention, integrity, and reciprocity, reflecting on how our own choices can shape a more respectful and sustainable relationship with place. Leading by example can strengthen aloha 'āina, inspire responsible travel, and redefine what it means to be a thoughtful guest wherever we go.

From Pu'uhonua to Policy:
Creating System Change

'Ōma'oma'o | Channel 3

Jamee Miller, Aubree K-aloha, Carrie Ann Shiota, Zoe Martinez, Ohawai Manuel, Hailee K-aloha, Kimmie Takata, Luanna Peterson

How do we transform the vision of Pu'uhonua into lasting systems change? Featuring the Clean Slate Hawai'i Initiative Steering Committee and Nā 'Ōpio Waiwai, a Native Hawaiian youth-led leadership council, this session showcases practical examples of how community-driven action can reshape systems and build a more just and restorative future.

Pathways to Energy
Sovereignty

Melemele | Channel 4

Na'ālehu Anthony, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Keola Chan, Mehana Hind // Erik Montague, Ben Sullivan, Ramsey Brown, Kalani Ka'anā'anā

The energy decisions we make as a community today will determine ownership and jobs, land use, and your utility bill for a generation. Join this two-part panel on affordability and energy futures. First, hear about what an energy sovereign future looks like for Hawai'i. This panel will discuss new models to increase our voice, our ownership, and long-term reliability to protect households. Then, a separate panel puts the tradeoffs on the table so you can walk away knowing what's at stake and what we should watch for next.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (3:00–4:45PM)**Federal Funding for
Native Hawaiian Programs****Poni | Channel 5****Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole, Councilmember Esther
Kia'āina, Ka'ūlani Neff La'ehā, Shawn Kana'iaupuni,
Makalika Naholowa'a, Trelaine Ito, Brittney Akai**

The Federal Trust Responsibility affirms that Native peoples are a unique political class, not a racial one. This session covers how the federal government must uphold that trust relationship, including the importance of federal funding for Native Hawaiian programs in health, education, economic stability, and housing.

Building Pilina**Maui Room | 2nd Floor****Maile Alau**

When life knocks us down, our instinct is often to pull inward: to isolate, to suffer quietly, to protect everyone else from our pain. In this heartfelt session, Maile Alau speaks to the pilina that carried her through the most challenging parts of her life. As an organizational development practitioner, she's seen pilina at work on teams as the foundation that real productivity is built on. By sharing her own story, Maile shows all of us how the same connection that holds people up also holds teams together.

Lā'au Lapa'au**O'ahu Room | 2nd Floor****Cody Keale**

Nānā nō a ka lā'au kū ho'okahi. Look for the plant that stands alone. Come and learn from Cody Keale, a passionate lā'au lapa'au practitioner and a student of the late Kumu Levon Ohai.



Ho'olaule'a



JULY 22, 2026 | 5-8PM | NEAL S BLAISDELL CENTER

Join us for an evening that takes you straight back to our beginnings 25 years ago. We'll be outdoors at the Neal S. Blaisdell Center Parking Lot for a live throwback concert, food trucks, games, prizes, and so much more!

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**THURSDAY, JULY 23
SHOW BEGINS 6PM**

**Group
Hula Kahiko**

**FRIDAY, JULY 24
SHOW BEGINS 6PM**

**Group
Hula 'Auana**

**SATURDAY, JULY 25
SHOW BEGINS 12PM**

Join us for the **51st Annual Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition!** Watch our keiki perform, then support the Keiki Hula Marketplace, home to over 90 vendors and featuring 32 'ōpio businesses through Keiki Rise.



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We will rise as pū'ali koa, steadfast in pono,
for Kamehameha, for Ke Ali'i Pauahi, for Hawai'i.



E kūlike kākou!



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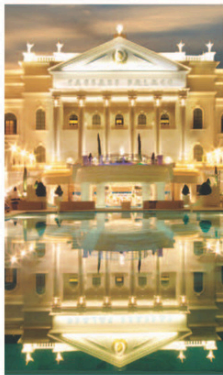


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At Kaiser Permanente, we're committed to advancing health and equity across our communities. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Hawaiian Council for their leadership and dedication to creating meaningful change for Native Hawaiians.

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Whether from Hawai‘i,
the continent, or around the
world—we gather in unity.

*I ho‘okahi ka umauma,
ho‘okahi ke aloha.*



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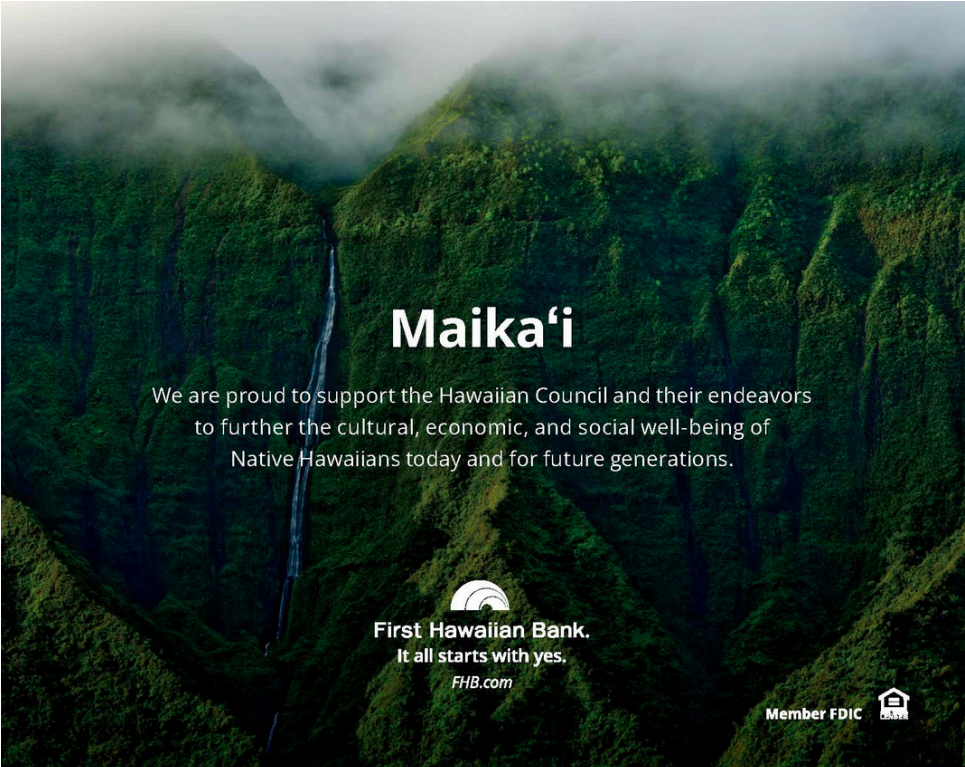
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