



MEDIA ADVISORY

October 22, 2026

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HAWAI'I ISLAND FESTIVAL OF BIRDS CELEBRATES NATIVE BIRDS AND CONSERVATION

HILO, Hawai'i – The Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds returns to the Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo on Saturday, Oct. 24, with 40 exhibitors and vendors, conservation talks, hula and activities for all ages. This year's theme, "Celebrating Resilience," highlights native birds and the community's role in protecting them.

WHAT: Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds 2026, featuring exhibits, local art and crafts, bird trivia and presentations on Hawaiian cultural connections to birds. Presentation topics include "Birds Not Mosquitoes" and conservation efforts for palila and 'alalā.

Approximately 700 people are expected to attend.

WHEN: Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo
93 Banyan Drive
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

WHO: Presented by the Hawai'i Wildlife Center and Conservation Council for Hawai'i

WHY: The festival brings the community together to celebrate Hawai‘i’s native birds, share conservation knowledge and inspire continued support for their protection.

ADMISSION: Presale tickets are available through 5 p.m. Oct. 23. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students ages 13 to 17, plus Eventbrite fees. At the door, admission is \$25 for adults and \$20 for students. Keiki 12 and younger are free.

The Learning Lounge is free all day. The Bird Fair is free from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

MEDIA

OPPORTUNITIES:

Visuals:

- Opening soundscape and oli
- Hula by Hālau Nāwehiokaipoaloha
- Nā Leo Nahele youth conservation panel
- “Under the ‘Ōhi‘a Tree” reading with author Erzsi Palko
- Conservation exhibits, bird-inspired art and the Nā Manu o Hawai‘i quilt project by Waimea Middle School seventh graders

B-roll and photos can be accessed here:

<https://iq360.egnyte.com/fl/pFXr6xyhktG>. Please credit the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center.

Interviews:

- Linda Elliott, founder and CEO of the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center
- Rae Okawa, development director of the Hawai‘i Wildlife Center

Rae Okawa and Linda Elliott are available for interviews by phone or Zoom in advance of the festival.

For tickets and the full schedule, visit birdfesthawaii.org/hifb-2026/.