



PRESS RELEASE

Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds October 4, 2025 | 9AM - 5:30PM Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo, 93 Banyan Dr. Hilo, HI 96720

The Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds is returning to the Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo on Saturday, October 4, 2025. The goal of the festival is to come together as a community to celebrate native bird species in Hawai'i and fight against hopelessness in the face of tough conservation challenges. This full day, family-friendly festival includes a Bird Fair featuring over 40 booths: artists and crafters that highlight native birds in their work as well as conservation nonprofits. The presentation program of the festival has an amazing lineup of guest speakers, Hālau hula, bird trivia, soundscapes by the UH Hilo LOHE lab, and a panel on Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. In the spirit of sharing mana'o across islands, presentations this year will include highlights of conservation projects and successes from O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i, Kure Atoll, and of course our own Hawai'i Island. Manu hula will also be shared by Hawai'i Island Hālau. This event is presented by the Hawai'i Wildlife Center and the Conservation Council for Hawai'i. Proceeds raised at the festival support the work of these two conservation organizations as well as future festival events.

To better include our growing number of keiki and student attendees, there will be a new session this year in the presentation program that allows keiki and 'ohana to explore conservation together. This "Making Mo'olelo" session features a student panel, storytelling, and games. All ages are welcomed and youth attendees especially are encouraged to attend. Attendees to this new session also receive a special prize. The Making Mo'olelo session will be led by Ben Catcho Jr. alongside Kanu o Ka 'Āina teachers and students.

Presale tickets are available online at birdfesthawaii.org or directly on Eventbrite until 5pm on October 3. Presale tickets are \$15 general admission (ages 18+), \$10 student admission (ages 13 - 17), and keiki 12 and under are free. Presale tickets are discounted from the at-the-door price and come with a free HIFB 2025 festival keychain. Paid tickets also come with a \$5 Birdie Bucks coupon that you can use to shop at the Bird Fair or donate to a nonprofit Bird Fair exhibitor. For those who are curious but may not be able to attend the full event, the central outreach tent Learning Lounge on the lobby lānai of the Grand Naniloa Hotel will be free all day and will not require tickets. During the last hour of the event, 4:30-5:30PM, the Bird Fair will also be free entry. If you're not able to attend the whole festival, you can still come by during pau hana to check out all of the amazing exhibitors and vendors at the Bird Fair!

Mahalo to our wonderful hui of festival sponsors. 'Io level sponsors: Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, ALTRES, Hawai'i Forest and Trail, National Wildlife Federation, and Hawai'i Pacific Parks Association. 'Ākepa level sponsors: Friends of Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaiian Electric, Pūlama Lāna'i, Central Pacific Bank, and Kowa Sporting Optics. 'Alawī level sponsors: Kōlea Sparkling Hop Water and W.H. Shipman Ltd.



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www.birdfesthawaii.org