



July 12, 2023

Aloha e Hālau Hula Kumu a me nā Haumana,

We would like to invite you to present at the Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds (HIFB) Hō'ike on Saturday October 21, 2023 at the Grand Naniloa Hotel Hilo. The Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds is a celebration of native birds, presented by the Hawai'i Wildlife Center and Conservation Council for Hawai'i. The 2023 festival will be in-person after a two-year hiatus. This revival will be a full-day event focused on community, culture, and conservation efforts to save our native manu and include a hō'ike, expert guest speakers, and a bird fair. Proceeds raised from the festival supports native bird hospital care and conservation efforts.

We are seeking hula hālau that can help us invigorate enthusiasm for manu through movement and mele, or through 'oli. We are planning a hō'ike with the intention that we will educate and raise awareness about our manu, inspiring our community to look toward the sky, shore, mountains, and ocean. Please consider presenting a native bird-focused dance or chant and join us in this mission. For your kōkua, hō'ike performers and musicians will receive complimentary admission to the full 2023 Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds. We are also offering exclusive field trips with bird experts to hālau that participate in the hō'ike. These trips will be arranged at times convenient for both the hālau and the staff of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Trips may be arranged either before or after the festival - you will be contacted to arrange your trip when your presentation is scheduled.

The Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds is scheduled for 9am-6pm on October 21, 2023, with hula, 'oli, and guest speakers from 10am to 4:30pm. Each participating hālau will have up to 10 minutes for their presentation of one manu hula. Due to stage space limitations, please limit the total group size for your presentation to a maximum of 10 people, including musicians. If you will be using implements like pu'ili or 'uli'uli and need more space between dancers, you may also utilize the floor space in front of the stage for your presentation. Please note that the stage is significantly higher than the floor. If you have a large Hālau and more haumana who would like to participate, you may choose to present two manu hula to give more Hālau members an opportunity to present.

Hula hālau may use the word document Registration Form to register a spot. An online version of the form is available at <https://forms.gle/fYYCeqy3Zu8HXA9W6>. We will register timeslots on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please let us know which bird(s) you are elevating and take time to describe the ka'ao and themes in your presentation. To be consistent with our conservation intent for the festival, any bird species specifically named in your hula or 'oli must be native to Hawai'i.

For more information, please contact the Hawai'i Wildlife Center, (808) 884-5000 or [info@birdfeshawaii.org](mailto:info@birdfeshawaii.org). Mahalo for your consideration.

'O nā manu 'āuna lele a pa'a... pa'ahia!

With Aloha,

**Rae Okawa**, on behalf of the Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds Partners

Rae Okawa, Hawai'i Wildlife Center Development Director  
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## **More Information**

Each participating Hālau will receive a packet with schedule and logistical information, passes for complementary festival admission, and how to schedule their special birding trip with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Hālau are accepted into the Hō'ike on a first come first serve basis. When we schedule hālau, we will try to be mindful of travel times and dressing room needs.

Hālau members are encouraged to come ready to present. However, if you will need dressing room space to get ready, please let us know. Dressing room space is limited but we will try to schedule Hālau accordingly to not overwhelm the space.

## **Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds Tentative Schedule**

All Hālau members presenting in the Hō'ike (up to 10 people per hula) will receive complementary admission to the entire Hawai'i Island Festival of Birds, including the Bird Fair, Hō'ike, and guest speakers. You are welcome to come and spend the whole day with us! If you choose to present two manu hula at the Hō'ike, you will receive up to 20 passes to make sure all presenting haumana get a pass to enjoy the festival.

9:00am: Bird Fair opens

10 - 10:30am: Opening Protocol & Welcome. Manu Hula Hō'ike, Hālau 1, 2, 3 present

10:45 - 11:15am: Guest Speaker(s)

11:30am - 12pm: Manu Hula Hō'ike, Hālau 4, 5, 6 present

12 - 1pm: Lunch Intermission

1-1:30pm: Manu Hula Hō'ike, Hālau 7, 8, 9 present

1:45 - 2:15pm: Guest Speaker(s)

2:30 - 3pm: Manu Hula Hō'ike, Hālau 10, 11, 12 present

3:15 - 3:45pm: Guest Speaker(s)

4 - 4:30pm: Manu Hula Hō'ike, Hālau 13, 14, 15 present

4:45 - 5:15pm: Hō'ike wrap up

6pm: Bird Fair Ends