

Hosted by Kaiameaola Club
 with support from the Tropical Conservation Biology & Environmental Science Graduate Program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Session:	Time:	Guests:
Kīpaepae	9:00 - 9:15 AM	Pelehonuamea Harman
Opening Remarks	9:15 - 9:20 AM	
Keynote	9:20 - 10:15 AM	Dr. Roxanne Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka
Breakfast	10:15 - 10:40 AM	
Panel 1: He pūko'a kani 'āina "Small beginnings, strong foundations, shared futures"	10:40 - 11:40 AM	Ariel Lindsey-Emeliano, Kendra Obermaier, Cindi Punihaole, Dr. Natalie Graham
Break	11:40 - 11:50 AM	
Panel 2: He 'āli'i kū makani mai au, 'ā'ohe makani nana e kula'i "Rooted in resilience through the winds of change"	11:50 AM - 12:50 PM	Kallie Barnes, Vi Girbino, Kēhaulani Marshall, Kēhau Springer
Closing Remarks & Transition	12:50 - 1:00 PM	
Lunch	1:00 - 2:00 PM	
Lucky Number Draw	2:00 - 2:15 PM	
Workshops	2:15 - 4:30 PM	Hala Weaving: Kai'inipu'uwai Keli'iho'omalu-Holz & Eric Sanford Coral Reef Photogrammetry: MEGA Lab Bento Lab Demo - Genetics on the Go: Hannah McKLamb & Sam Al-Bayer Microscopy & Plant Pressing: Cleo Dolde

Keynote:

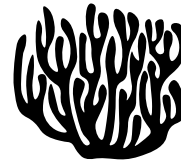
Dr. Roxanne Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka



Dr. Roxane was born and raised in Waiākea, Hilo, Hawai'i. She is the Founder, Executive Director, and lead Kia'i for Kia'i Kanaloa, a pae'āina-wide organization of Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners who advocate and care for our ocean relations, particularly whales and dolphins. Dr. Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka serves as a Kia'i Loko for Haleolono Loko 'Ia in Honohonou and is a member of the 'Aimalama team working with Papahulilani expert, Dr. Kalei Nu'uhiwa, to train communities across the pae'āina in the practice of Kaulana Mahina.

Roxane holds a Bachelor's degree in Marine Science, a Master's degree in Marine Resource Monitoring and Education, and a Doctorate in Professional Education Practice with a focus on Papakū Makawalu. She currently works for Kamehameha Schools as the Director of the Māhuhua Ka Lae Research Fellowship, which aims to increase the prevalence and influence of Native Hawaiian perspectives, knowledge, practices, and approaches in academic research.

As a practitioner-educator-scholar, Roxane's approach to her work in all spaces is rooted in her belief that Hawaiian culture is not the aesthetic picture framed and exploited by outside perspectives; instead, Hawaiian culture is where Hawaiian knowledge, experience, and dedication to practice lend to us living in better balance with our elder environment and developing the adaptive lens of our ancestors.



Panel 1: He pūko'a kāni'āina
(*"A coral reef that grows into an island"*)

Small beginnings, strong foundations, shared futures:



Ariel Lindsey-Emeliano

Ariel is an educator from Waimea, Hawai'i Island, working with students in grades 3–12 across science, conservation biology, and cultural studies. Her work centers on 'āina-based education that bridges Western science and Indigenous knowledge systems. She also serves as a kumu intern/mentor with the BIORETS REACHES program, developing culturally grounded curriculum through Hawai'i's native land snails.



Auntie Cindi Punahaole

Auntie Cindi is a community advocate whose work reflects the values of Aloha 'āina, kuleana, and environmental justice. Her career spans environmental protection, public education, and community-driven stewardship, with a focus on coastal ecosystems and water quality. She is widely respected for translating complex science into accessible, people-centered action grounded in place.




Kendra Obermaier

Kendra is the Program Manager for the County of Hawai'i Office of Sustainability, Climate, Equity, and Resilience (OSKER), where she has helped build programs ranging from energy management to community plant giveaways. Trained in biology and environmental sustainability, her work focuses on strengthening connections between people, place, and climate action. She brings a service-oriented approach shaped by a lifelong commitment to community care.



Dr. Natalie R. Graham



Dr. Graham is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Director of the 'Elala Biodiversity Lab. Her research uses molecular ecology and environmental DNA to examine how biological invasions and ecological disruption affect ecosystem and human health across Hawai'i. Through hands-on, place-based teaching and community partnerships, she works to strengthen local stewardship and access to STEM research tools.




Panel 2: He 'a'ali'i kū makani mai au, 'a'ohē makani nana e kulā'i
(*"I am a wind-withstanding 'a'ali'i; no gale can topple me over"*)

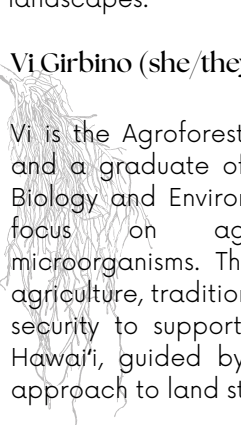
Rooted in resilience through the winds of change:




Kallie Barnes



Kallie is the Restoration Project Supervisor for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, where she works at the intersection of ecological science, cultural practice, and community stewardship. With over a decade of experience in native plant propagation, seed banking, and large-scale restoration, her work emphasizes adaptability, learning from disturbance, and place-based collaboration in dynamic volcanic landscapes.




Vi Girbino (she/they)



Vi is the Agroforestry Manager at OK Farms in Hilo and a graduate of UH Hilo's Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science program, with a focus on agroforestry and Indigenous microorganisms. Their work integrates regenerative agriculture, traditional agroforestry systems, and food security to support resilient local food networks in Hawai'i, guided by a holistic and justice-centered approach to land stewardship.




Kēhaulani Marshall



Kēhaulani is the Executive Director of Ulu Mau Puanui, a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing Hawai'i's dryland agriculture systems as a foundation for lāhui resilience. An experienced 'āina-based educator and co-founder of Kanu o ka 'Āina, her work bridges science, culture, and social justice through place-based learning rooted in 'ike kupuna and contemporary practice.



Kēhaunani Springer




Kēhaunani is a coastal practitioner and scholar with training in Hawaiian Studies, Marine Science, and Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science. She is the founder of Ka Pa'akai Consulting and a doctoral candidate at the University of Waikato, where her research examines Kanaka 'Ōiwi representation in ocean governance while advancing community-led monitoring and lawai'a training initiatives.

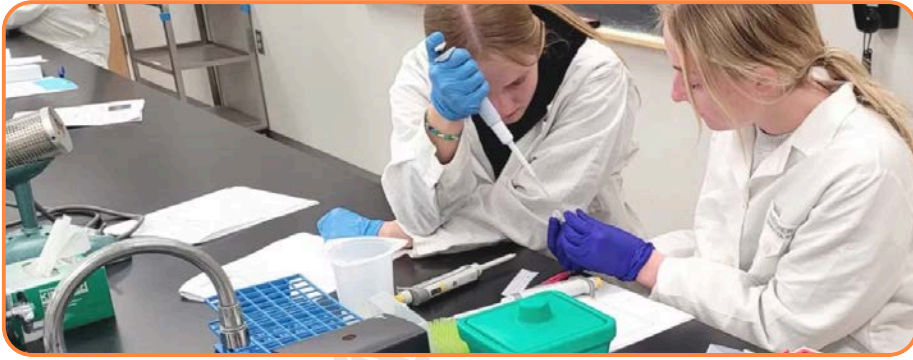
Workshops:

Hala Weaving,

Hosted by Kai'inipu'uwai
Keli'iho'omalu-Holz & Eric Sanford



A hands-on hala weaving workshop to perpetuate the Hawaiian practice of lauhala weaving. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, participants will learn how to weave their own forever flowers, including anthuriums and roses, to wear behind the ear or gift. No need to buy flowers when you can create ones that last a lifetime! Attendees will learn, create, and celebrate culture in a fun and meaningful way. All experience levels are welcome!



Bento Lab Demo - Genetics on the Go

Hosted by Hannah McLamb & Sam Al-Bayer

Learn how to do genetics on the go with a portable lab in a box. This hands-on workshop will go through the basics of DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis.



Microscopy & Plant Pressings

Hosted by Cleo Dolde

Explore Hawai'i's plant life up close in this hands-on workshop featuring microscopy and plant pressing. Examine seaweed and other specimens under the microscope, learn simple techniques for pressing and preserving samples, and try your hand at a creative greeting card station using native leaf prints. This interactive session invites participants to slow down, observe closely, and connect science, art, and 'ike through tactile exploration of our island's diverse flora.



Coral Reef Photogrammetry

Hosted by the MEGA Lab

The MEGA Lab outreach booth makes coral reef science interactive and accessible through hands-on activities, 3D reef models, and photogrammetry visuals, helping connect our community to reef conservation while uplifting cultural knowledge, stewardship, and the next generation of ocean scientists.

Mahalo Nui Loa

The Kaiameaola Club would like to thank all who supported this event: the Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) graduate program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; the UH Hilo Student Association (UHHSA); the UH Hilo Women's Center; the 'Elala Biodiversity Lab; the MEGA Lab; our workshop facilitators, Sam Al-Bayer, Cleo Dolde, Kai'inipu'uwai Keli'iho'omaluu-Holz, Hannah McLamb, and Eric Sanford; Kumu Pelehonuamea Harmon for coordinating our kipaepae; Tori Valdez for naming this event in 'Olelo Hawai'i; Hayden Konanui-Tucker for his generous pilina; Cleo Dolde for the poster art; and our wonderful volunteers!

We are most grateful for your help and support!