



Ka waihona o ka na'auao

The Repository for Learning

— 'Ōlelo No'eau no. 1650

*Said in admiration of a learned person. From Mary Kawena Pukui's
'Ōlelo No'eau: Hawaiian Proverbs & Poetical Sayings, © 1983 by
Bishop Museum. Available at bishopmuseumpress.org.*

Bishop Museum is the largest museum in Hawai'i and the premier natural and cultural history institution in the Pacific. It is the only museum of its type that is rooted in Hawai'i and the Pacific.



BISHOP MUSEUM

The cultural resources of the Museum include approximately 125,000 library titles, over one million archival objects, and two million archaeological and cultural objects, making it the largest museum in the world devoted to Native Hawaiian and Pacific history and culture.

The Natural Science Collections contain more than 22 million biological specimens from Hawai'i and the Pacific region, used by hundreds of research visitors from around the world, as well as by government agencies. At any given time, approximately one million specimens are out on loan to scientists across the globe for study. The Museum contains a high proportion of unique material that is not represented in any other collections, making Bishop Museum an important knowledge resource for research in the natural sciences.



The Museum was founded in 1889 by Charles Reed Bishop in honor of his late wife, Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, the last descendant of the royal Kamehameha family. Its original purpose was to house the extensive collection of Hawaiian objects and royal family heirlooms of the Princess, and has expanded to include millions of objects, documents, and photographs about Hawai'i and other Pacific Island cultures.

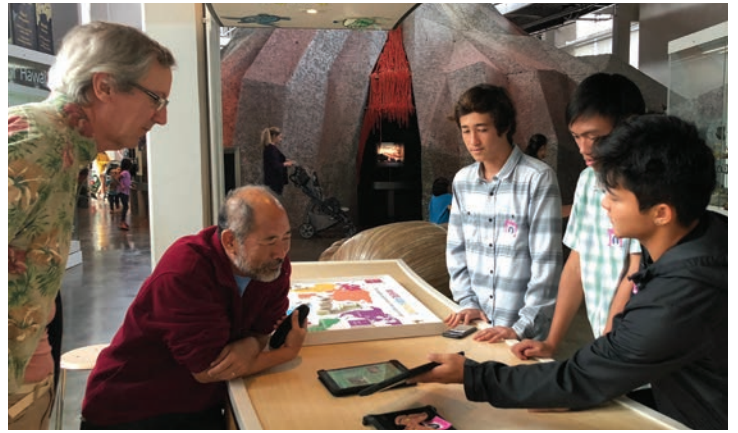
Hawaiian Hall The three floors of Hawaiian Hall take visitors on a journey through the different realms of Hawai'i. The first floor is the realm Kai Ākea, which represents the Hawaiian gods, legends, beliefs, and the world of pre-contact Hawai'i. The second floor, Wao Kanaka, represents the realm where people live and work, focusing on the importance of the land and nature in daily life. The third floor, Wao Lani, is the realm inhabited by the gods; here, visitors will learn about the ali'i and key moments in Hawaiian history.



Pacific Hall In Pacific Hall's two-story gallery, visitors will explore Moananuiākea, the wide expanse of Oceania. They will encounter the family of the Pacific on the first floor, which is filled with cultural treasures—model canoes, woven mats, contemporary artwork, and videos of Pacific scholars. On the second floor, visitors will learn about the origins and migrations of Pacific peoples through oral traditions and the fields of archaeology and linguistics, and how the peoples of Oceania are diverse, yet deeply connected.

Richard T. Mamiya Science Adventure Center

Experience the natural science of Hawai'i. The 16,500-square-foot facility showcases exhibits that are immersive and interactive, with a strong emphasis on fostering a better understanding of Hawai'i's environment on land and at sea. Visitors become active participants in exploring areas of science in which Hawai'i has gained international recognition for cutting-edge research, including volcanology, oceanography, and biodiversity.



J. Watumull Planetarium Bishop Museum's J. Watumull Planetarium shows are a must-see for all Museum visitors! The shows focus on programs about Hawai'i, blending live and prerecorded elements within each program. Immerse yourself in the night sky, travel from Hawai'i to Tahiti by the stars, and more, with our state-of-the-art projection technology. Opened on Dec. 12, 1961, the Planetarium has served over six million visitors and students in over 60 years of continuous operation. It seats 64 and serves 70,000 visitors annually.

Library & Archives When Bishop Museum opened to the public in June 1891, its library consisted of but a few shelves of books in what is today the Picture Gallery. From its beginnings in the personal collections of Charles Reed Bishop and Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop, along with those of other members of the Hawaiian royal families, the Museum's Library & Archives has grown to become a source and center for Hawaiian and Pacific Island materials. Today, the Library & Archives is recognized internationally for the scope of its rich, varied, and irreplaceable holdings related to Hawai'i and the Pacific. With collections that connect all Bishop Museum departments, it is also dedicated to the preservation of our institutional history.



Nā Ulu Kanu o Kaiwi'ula Native Hawaiian Garden

Visitors are invited to stroll through this garden showcasing the "canoe" plants—those brought to the Islands by Polynesians for food, drink, fiber, medicine, and timber. These plants were essential to the survival of the original Polynesian settlers to Hawai'i over 1,000 years ago. Also featured are native plants from Hawai'i's coastal and dry forest habitats, including many species that are found nowhere else in the world!

Education The Education Department, which includes our volunteer docent corps, brings to life the collections, research, and exhibitions of the Museum through regularly scheduled educational and public programming. Each year, nearly 15,000 school-age students participate in the Museum's school programming, which also includes outreach to schools in rural O'ahu communities and the neighbor islands. In addition to school programs, daily programs provide visitors with an engaging opportunity to dive deeper into some of the subject matter that is presented in the exhibit spaces, and include our signature Hawaiian Hall tour and live lava pour demonstration.



Ethnology The Ethnology Department currently cares for more than 77,000 cultural objects either originating in Hawai'i and the greater Pacific, or brought to Oceania through trade, migrations, and diplomatic relationships. This vast collection includes significant heirlooms from local and chiefly families, objects acquired through Museum expeditions in the Pacific, and items purchased from or exchanged with collectors and curators from across the world. Notable collections include those of Queen Lili'uokalani, Princess Ka'iulani, Joseph S. Emerson, Te Rangi Hīroa/Sir Peter Buck, Lucy Peabody, Edgar Henriques, Eric Craig, and the Kapi'olani-Kalaniana'ole chiefly line. At the core of the collections under the care of the Ethnology department, the founding collection consists of personal possessions belonging to Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop, Princess Ruth Ke'elikōlani, and Queen Emma, which bear witness to the important lives of these three chiefly women, to the changes happening during their lifetimes, and to their commitment to support and nurture the lāhui (nation of Hawai'i).



Ichthyology Bishop Museum houses one of the world's most important ichthyology collections, and the most complete for coral reefs of the vast Indo-Pacific region. Established in 1889, the largest expansion of the collection (containing more than 100,000 specimens) derives from the life work of renowned ichthyologist, Dr. John E. Randall (1924–2020). His research spanned nearly seven decades and includes specimens he collected from all of the major island groups and tropical regions of the Indo-Pacific. The collection also includes the largest and most diverse holdings from the deep coral-reef "Twilight Zone" (known as "mesophotic coral ecosystems"), resulting from more than three decades of research. Although the primary emphasis is coral-reef species, deep benthic and epipelagic fishes of the central Pacific and the freshwater native fishes of the Hawaiian Islands are also represented.





Botany The Herbarium Pacificum's botanical collection is as significant as it is extensive, holding more than 600,000 preserved plant specimens, making it the 20th largest herbarium in the United States. Researchers the world over visit the Herbarium to consult the largest combined collection of Hawaiian and Pacific Basin specimens in the world. Among its oldest collections are those obtained during Captain James Cook's second and third voyages of discovery in the Pacific during the 1770s, when Hawai'i was discovered by the Western world. Sadly, the Botany Collection also holds many "last-known" collections of over 130 Hawaiian species pushed to extinction in the last two centuries. The Herbarium has a storied history of over a century of botanical research and significant publications and continues to remain relevant to researchers and the public.

Archaeology The Archaeology Department (formerly known as the Anthropology Department) has studied the cultural heritage of Hawai'i and its ancestral cultures throughout the Pacific for over a century. Today, the Archaeology Department houses the world's largest collection of Hawaiian and Pacific artifacts recovered from archaeological contexts. The Archaeology Collections reflect Bishop Museum's historic role as one of the most prominent centers of research in the field of Hawaiian and Pacific archaeology. Many of the sites excavated by Bishop Museum archaeologists are fundamental to our understanding of the cultural past of Oceania, including the first firmly rooted cultural chronologies for the Hawaiian Archipelago and wider Pacific region. The Ho'omaka Hou Research Initiative (HHRI), established in 2013, fosters new collections-based research to learn more from these collections via cutting-edge archaeological science techniques.



Malacology Bishop Museum has the most comprehensive collection of Hawaiian and Pacific Island land snails in the world. The approximately 25,000 islands of the Pacific Ocean harbor more than 6,000 land-snail species, most of which are only found on a single island or archipelago. Unfortunately, molluscs, particularly Hawaiian and Pacific Island land snails, have the highest recorded extinction rate of any major animal group, making the Museum's collection even more important. The staff also cares for endangered and threatened Hawaiian land snails in its captive rearing facility.

Invertebrate Zoology The Invertebrate Zoology Collection contains over 35,000 cataloged lots with over 1,000 type specimens. It is the only collection in the world devoted solely to marine invertebrates of the Pacific Islands, with its primary focus being the Hawaiian Archipelago. It primarily houses marine animals that span multiple animal groups, including Porifera (sponges), Cnidaria (corals, jellies), Crustacea (crabs, lobsters), and Echinodermata (sea stars, urchins). The collection represents more than 100 years of scientific activity in Hawai'i and the Pacific.



Entomology The Entomology Collection has a long and distinguished record. The J. Linsley Gressitt Center for Research in Entomology serves as the principal U.S.-based entomological resource for documentation of biological diversity and ecosystem studies in the Pacific and Asian regions, and is a major national and international systematic resource. Comprising over 14 million specimens, it is the third largest in the U.S. and seventh largest in the world. The uniqueness and breadth of the collections and their central Pacific location foster wide international recognition and use, including use as a type and voucher repository.

Pacific Center for Molecular Biodiversity The Pacific Center for Molecular Biodiversity (PCMB) is the primary cryopreservation facility for Pacific-wide biodiversity. The PCMB collection includes more than 40,000 tissue and genetic samples from marine, terrestrial, and freshwater plants and animals throughout the tropical Pacific, many of which represent threatened, endangered, or extinct species. The Center promotes and facilitates

Vertebrate Zoology The Vertebrate Zoology Collection includes assemblages of mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles, along with fossils from Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin, with some material from other regions. The staff of these collections document non-fish vertebrates of the region through the collection and preservation of specimens, so they will be available to scientists, students, artists, and all interested persons through loans and supervised use at the Museum.



biodiversity research and conservation, using modern genomic approaches to expand the knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural history of Hawai'i and the broader Pacific region. The laboratory is an integral component of the Museum's knowledge core, and aims to enhance scientific and public understanding of biodiversity research and foster stewardship and conservation of Hawaiian biological and cultural heritage.

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