



Hawai'i Conservation Alliance

Leaders in Environmental Management, Research and Education

Highlights of Hawai'i Conservation Week, July 27 – August 2, 2008

The end of July marks the second annual Hawai'i Conservation Week (July 27-August 2, 2008) and the 16th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference (July 29-31, 2008), hosted by the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance (HCA) and the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation (HCAF).

The Hawai'i Conservation Conference, held annually during the last week of July, is the largest gathering of people actively involved in the protection and management of Hawai'i's natural environment. The theme of the 16th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference is *Island Ecosystems: The Year of the Reef*, which coincides with a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, while motivating people to take action to protect them. Over 800 people will gather for three days to hear presentations on a wide variety of topics in addition to coral reef ecosystems, including native plant conservation, traditional approaches to marine conservation, alternative energies, and strategies to save the endangered Hawaiian monk seal.

Other Hawai'i Conservation Week events that are free and open to the public include:

- *Hawai'i Conservation Film Festival, July 27 (11 am – 9 pm) & 28 (10:30 – 8:30):* Viewers will be entertained and educated by a mixture of short and feature length films, including *The Airport* and the *Ae'o*, *Sharkwater*, and the documentary *11th Hour*, produced and narrated by actor Leonardo DiCaprio.
- *Conservation Through Art Exhibit, July 29, 7-9 pm:* This year's exhibit focuses on coral reef and ocean themes in celebration of the International Year of the Reef. Works include a new display by acclaimed marine life artist and advocate Wyland, an interactive mural created by intermediate and high school students, and other talented local artists.
- *Public Lecture, July 30, 7-9 pm:* This lecture will be given by world-famous oceanographer and explorer, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and master navigator, Nainoa Thompson, of the Polynesian Voyaging Society.

All Conservation Week events take place at the Hawai'i Convention Center, 1801 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu. For a complete events schedule log on to <http://hawaiiconservation.org/2008cw.asp>.

About the HCA:

The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance is a cooperative partnership of 16 agencies, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations that promotes effective, long-term management of Hawai'i's native ecosystems through collaborative research, training and outreach among land managers, scientists, educators, and the general public.

For additional information about the HCA please visit www.hawaiiconservation.org.