



Hawai'i Conservation Alliance

Leaders in Environmental Management, Research and Education

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The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Hosts the 2008 Hawai'i Conservation Conference
Lieutenant Governor Aiona, world-renowned oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle, and acclaimed scientist Dr. Elliott Norse will present at the annual conference during the second annual Hawai'i Conservation Week (July 27 – August 2, 2008).

Honolulu, HI. – On Tuesday, July 29, at 8:30 in the morning, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance and the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation will celebrate the opening of the 16th Annual Hawai'i Conservation Conference with an address and reading of the *Hawai'i Conservation Week Proclamation* by Lieutenant Governor Aiona, keynote speech by Dr. Sylvia Earle, and plenary presentation by Dr. Elliot Norse, followed by a press conference at noon.

The Hawai'i Conservation Conference, July 29 – 31, is the largest annual 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. 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, all of which are described on the conference web page at <http://hawaiiconservation.org/2008hcc.asp>.

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

- *Hawai'i Conservation Film Festival, July 27 (11 a.m. – 9 p.m.) & 28 (10:30 a.m.– 8:30 p.m.):* 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 p.m.:* 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. For a complete events schedule visit <http://hawaiiconservation.org/2008cw.asp>.

New this year, the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance and Foundation have for the first time set a 'carbon neutral' goal for the Conference. The Alliance has taken several steps to reduce the conference's carbon footprint including minimizing paper, offering compostable food containers, onsite recycling of conference materials, and establishing a Carbon Reduction and Offset Fund to support Hawaiian-based carbon reduction and sequestration projects to receive a grant.

Deanna Spooner, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Dr. Elliot Norse will be available for questions at the Tuesday, July 29 press conference at 12 p.m.

The July 29 press conference location is:

Hawai'i Convention Center

Room 316, 3rd Floor

801 Kalakaua Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96815

Phone: (808) 943-3500

<http://www.hawaiiconvention.com/>

Press conference at 12:00 p.m. HST

About the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance

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.

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If you'd like more information about the Hawai'i Conservation Week events, or to schedule an interview with Deanna Spooner, Dr. Sylvia Earle, or Elliot Norse, please call Deanna Spooner at 808-586-0916 or e-mail her at deanna.spooner@hawaii.edu.