

CELEBRATE MICRONESIA FESTIVAL 2023: RESILIENCE



MAY 20, 2023
BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM



Pacific
Islands
Development
Program



BISHOP MUSEUM



Center for
Pacific Islands
Studies



EAST-WEST
CENTER

Photo courtesy of Manny Crisostomo

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FESTIVAL BACKGROUND & PARTNERS



Photo: Melissa Lum 2022

Bishop Museum, in partnership with the Pacific Islands Development Program, East-West Center, celebrates the resilience of our Micronesian cultures and Pacific communities at the annual Celebrate Micronesia Festival. The Festival showcases traditional and contemporary art, dance, fashion, stories, poetry, food, and music of the people and cultures of the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guåhan (Guam), Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Mesulang (Palau), Si Yu'us ma'åse' (Guam, CNMI), Kammagar (Yap, FSM), Kilisou (Chuuk, FSM), Kalahngan (Pohnpei, FMS), Kulo (Kosrae, FMS), Sa hachigchig (Outer Islands, Yap, FSM), Ko bati n rabwa (Kiribati), Kommol (Marshall Islands), and Mahalo to the Micronesian Community Leaders, the Arts Program at the East-West Center, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and many other community partners who contributed to the success of the Festival.

The Festival was generously supported by the Barbara B. Smith Endowment for East-West Center Micronesia-Focused Programs. Dr. Smith's endowment will support programs benefiting Micronesians (in Micronesia and diaspora) in perpetuity under the direction and management of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP).

Si Yu'us ma'åse' Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori and Family for your generous financial support for the festival.



Barbara B. Smith, 101st Birthday Celebration
Photo: East-West Center, 2021

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT AND CEO, BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM

Dee Jay Mailer

Mahalo nui. Please give all the keiki wāhine and keiki kāne a big, big hand.

I am full of tears and pride, all at the same time, as I'm sure all of you are. Mahalo for being here, all of our cousins, all of our family across the Pacific, you don't know how important this is to us here in Hawai'i. We honor you today.

This amazing festival that we share today is all about learning how much we have in common. So mahalo nui for being here at our home, the Bishop Museum. I am now the President and CEO of this incredible museum, but at one time in my life, I was just a baby walking around the grass, checking things out, getting into trouble. And just being so amazed at the things I could see. Now as an adult, I've come back to this home, and we have grown exponentially. All of the collections we care for here and the research that we do is not just about Hawai'i Nei - it's truly about all of us in the Pacific. So please, when you can, come back, we are always here.

I want to make sure that I honor all the people joining us for this Celebrate Micronesia Festival - all of the people from Micronesia as well as the people here from Melanesia and Polynesia. Micronesia includes, and you know this better than I, the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guåhan, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kiribati, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Mahalo nui! Welcome!

Since this museum is a place for preserving, creating and sharing knowledge, it's really important that we this all together. We are so happy that what we are sharing today is part of the perpetuation of generations to come! That's why it's so delightful to have all of the keiki here! On any given day, there are keiki streaming through the museum halls and playing on the grass just as we are doing today. This is why we're here - to see our keiki learn and play and honor our kupuna who are our teachers.

OPENING REMARKS CONTINUED

PRESIDENT AND CEO, BERNICE PAUAHI BISHOP MUSEUM

Dee Jay Mailer

This festival is a collaboration between Bishop Museum, the Pacific Islands Development Program and the Arts Program at the East-West Center, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, and leaders of Micronesian communities in Hawai'i. I want to especially thank a woman who does not need me to talk about her, because her deeds are who she is, and that's Dr. Mary Hattori and her family.

It takes a family to bring us together and so Dr. Hattori, thank you for being here, and bringing all of us here to celebrate. Please stay up here with me as part of our family at the Bishop Museum.

This campus was actually the first Kamehameha School Campus, being Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop's wish, and fulfilled by her husband, Charles Reed Bishop. Right over there is Bishop Hall, where our boys stayed. The Bishops wanted our keiki to be educated in all things, including keeping the language and teachings of their ancestors strong. So that's this place, and will always be our place where the kuleana for our babies comes first.

So with that, I thank all of the people who helped bring us and get us ready. It took a village. It took the Pacific to get this done! I am so grateful for all of you spending the day with us.

Welcome home. Aloha.

OPENING REMARKS

PRESIDENT, EAST-WEST CENTER

Suzanne Vares–Lum

Aloha mai kakou, hafa adai, tirow, yokwe, kaselelie, alii, ran anim, mogethin, lenwo and many, many other greetings from all of our Micronesian communities out there. And it is with great honor and respect that I acknowledge this place. And mahalo nui to Dee, the CEO at Bishop Museum, as well as our Pacific Voices of Oceania. Our keiki who have really showed us how to begin this whole event in the right way, and as well as Dr. Aaron Salā who acknowledged our ancestors of this place, who taught us how to steward the culture of people, language, and community. And I've got to say that it was Mau Pialug who allowed us as Kanaka Maoli to remember how we traveled this vast Oceania together. It was why we celebrate Micronesia, that allowed us to remember our culture and language and that we matter as a people of Oceania.

It is a great honor that we celebrate in this historic place, as Dee mentioned, that my great uncle actually came to the boys school here, I have a picture. So, when we talk about connection, how my father actually in the sixties surveyed the islands of Micronesia when people didn't know that it was there.

So it is wonderful to have this collaboration with the Bishop Museum and our own Dr. Mary Hattori. We honor you Dr. Hattori and the Pacific Islands Development Program, who helped to put this together in partnership with Bishop Museum, as well as our Arts Program at East-West Center, led by Eric Chang, who is looking at me with his camera, and the Center for Pacific Island Studies at the University of Hawaii, and all the leaders of our Micronesian community who are here. Please, let's give them a round of applause.

It's fascinating where we've come to today because in 2014, it really just started out with the idea of our Micronesian community leaders who are sitting here and around us, who in partnership with the Honolulu Museum of Art School and now it is expanded to what it is today. That is not just the Micronesian community celebrating, it's all of us in this home in Hawaii celebrating the richness of this place that the Micronesian community brings to us is so important.

OPENING REMARKS CONTINUED

PRESIDENT, EAST-WEST CENTER

Suzanne Vares–Lum

And it is within the mission of the East-West Center to promote relations among people and understanding. So what better way today to share the cultures of the Pacific that many of us don't often get to celebrate, to show the resilience in that diversity through the arts, the fashion, the food, the stories, and each other because it's in this space, I hope today, that as we look at one another, you've made new friends. You've learned something new about art and culture and you've celebrated one another.

This could not have been possible without the generous support of our Micronesian community donors, as well as our Barbara B. Smith Endowment at the East-West Center, where she left that endowment specifically for Micronesian-focused programs. Also, Dr. Mary Hattori and her family, have left a legacy through this event today. So today we celebrate Micronesia. We celebrate our languages, cultures, arts, and one another. So let's celebrate Micronesia today.

RESILIENCE

DR. MARY THERESE PEREZ HATTORI

Resilience was the theme for the Celebrate Micronesia Festival at Bishop Museum which hosted 1600 people on campus including 200 Micronesian community cultural practitioners and 70 volunteers. The festival is an important event that highlights and celebrates the wisdom, beauty, and strength of the people and cultures of the region of Micronesia. By facilitating this opportunity for Micronesians to share their cultures with the public, we hope to increase awareness and appreciation for the resilience and diversity of cultures and languages expressed through the arts, fashion, food, and stories of Micronesia.

The festival was possible because of many community partners including the Micronesian Wayfinders Club at Honolulu Community College. The president of the club captured the importance of the festival, saying:

Despite the challenges we face, our people continue to thrive, many of our customs persist, and we are resilient in remaining who we are as Micronesian people no matter how much the world has tried to change us. This is why the Celebrate Micronesia Festival is so important. It is a celebration of our culture, but more importantly, a celebration of our people.

TEN YEARS OF CELEBRATION

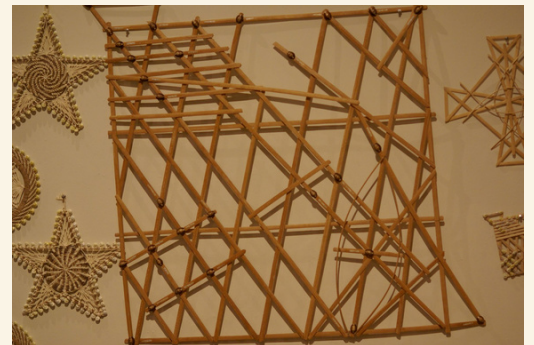


Photo: University of Hawai'i Hilo
Pacific Islander Student Center, 2015



Photo: Phillipe L Gross, 2016

The first Festival was held in 2014 at Linekona, the Honolulu Museum of Art School. **Navigating Success** was the theme for the 2015 Festival.



Photo: Mercado Yee, 2017



Photo: Mary Therese Hattori, 2016

Bishop Museum welcomed the festival in 2019. The 2020 Festival was held completely online and 2021 brought a hybrid format.



Photo: Phillippe L Gross, 2021



Photo: Melissa and Jessica Lum, 2022

The theme of the 2022 Festival was **Belonging.**



Photo: Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), 2022



Photo: PIDP, 2022



Photo courtesy of Manny Crisostomo

2023 CELEBRATE MICRONESIA FESTIVAL PROGRAM

TRADITIONAL OPENING PROTOCOLS

'Ōlelo Hawai'i Oli protocol

Dr. Aaron Salā

Timestamp: 3:00

Traditional Stick Dance Protocol

Pacific Voices

Timestamp: 6:00

OPENING REMARKS

President and CEO of Bishop Museum

Dee Jay Mailer

Timestamp: 13:20

East-West Center President

Suzanne Vares-Lum

Timestamp: 18:50





Photo: Melissa Lum

OPENING REMARKS CONTINUED

Honolulu City Council Member
Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

Timestamp: 23:04



Pacific Islands Development Program Director
Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori

Timestamp: 25:15



PROGRAM OPENING AND PERFORMANCES

Sakau Pounding Ceremony &
Stick Dance performed by Pacific Voices

Timestamp: 36:00



Fosun Winimataw (Chanting, the Metaphors
from the Kingdom of Sea)

Chuuk Language and Culture School

Timestamp: 1:00:10





Photo: Philippe L Gross

PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Cultural Dance Performance
BYUH Kiribati Club
[Timestamp: 1:07:30](#)



STORYTELLING: [RISING FROM OUR ROOTS](#)

"Tobolar"
Sylvia Hopolong (RMI)
Waipahu High School
[Timestamp: 1:21:21](#)



"Honor your Parents"
Laninbwij Nelson (RMI)
Waipahu High School Alumni
[Timestamp: 1:30:23](#)



PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Traditional Stick Dance
Chuuk Language and Culture School
[Timestamp: 1:40:50](#)





Photo: Philippe L Gross

PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Contemporary Dance Performance
Mic4Peace
Timestamp: 1:55:10



Fal (Chanting)
Chuuk Language and Culture School
Timestamp: 2:11:40



PANEL PRESENTATION: THE MADAU PROJECT

Facilitator: Nicole Yamase
Organizer: Carol Ann Carl
Panelists: Thorton Bolly(FSM); Dearest Edgar (FSM); Samantha Piyelit (FSM); Denisha Temengil (RMI)
Timestamp: 2:14:45



PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Palauan Chant
Ikelau Misech and Metukr Colombus
Timestamp: 2:46:00





Photo: Melissa Lum

PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Poetry Performance
Ha'ani Lucia Falo San Nicolas (Guahan)
[Timestamp: 2:52:10](#)



Poetry Performance
Carol Ann Carl (Pohnpei)
[Timestamp: 3:01:58](#)



Traditional Auwen Dance
Chuuk Language and Culture School
[Timestamp: 3:15:00](#)



STORYTELLING: [RISING FROM OUR ROOTS](#) CONTINUED

"Turtle Tunnel" by Suchuka Wesly
Read by Rosann Atan (Chuuk, FSM)
Waipahu High School
[Timestamp: 3:28:10](#)





Photo: Philippe L. Gross

**STORYTELLING: RISING FROM OUR ROOTS
CONTINUED**

"Marop ko Marop" by Mihreko Jean Ernis and
Jatson Kachita

Read by Danet Riteuo and Malia Phaynid
(Chuuk, FSM)

Waipahu High School

Timestamp: 3:34:44



TRADITIONAL CULTURAL ATTIRE

Yap Hilo Community

Remathau Community of Hawai'i

Timestamp: 3:48:55



PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Contemporary Performance

The Safe Haven Marshallese Dancers

Timestamp: 4:01:40



CONTEMPORARY FASHION

Contemporary Palauan Fashion Show

Morey's Fashion and Design

Timestamp: 4:15:30



Photo: Philippe L Gross

TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY FASHION

Traditional and Contemporary Micronesian Fashion

Chuuk Language & Culture School

[Timestamp: 4:34:25](#)



Contemporary Jewelry and Fashion

[Sienna HI](#)

[Timestamp: 4:44:44](#)



PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Dance & Song performance

I-Kiribati on Oahu Association

[Timestamp: 4:52:52](#)



Dance Performance

Kosrae Womens Association

[Timestamp: 5:12:40](#)





Photo: Philippe L Gross

PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Sakau Pounding ceremony
LienKairoir (Women of Vision)
[Timestamp: 5:27:30](#)



FASHION

Contemporary Fashion Show (Urohs)
LienKairoir (Women of Vision)
[Timestamp: 5:31:45](#)



PERFORMANCES CONTINUED

Contemporary Dance Performance
McKinley High School Micronesians Club
[Timestamp: 5:48:20](#)



CLOSING REMARKS

Consul General of the Republic of Palau
CG Uchel Raley Naito
[Timestamp: 5:59:50](#)





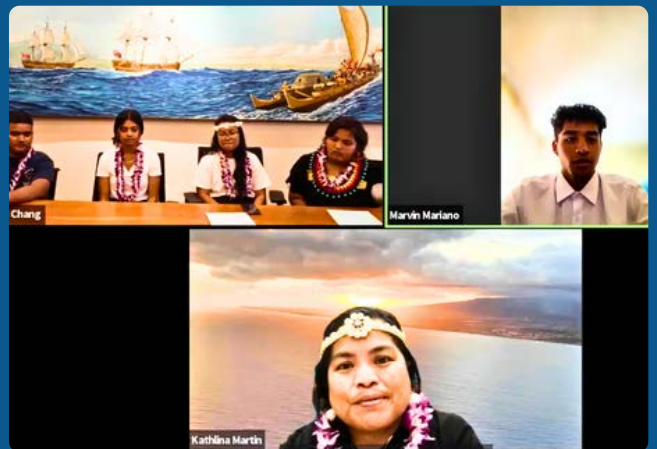
Photo: Melissa Lum

2023 CELEBRATE MICRONESIA VIRTUAL PROGRAM

LET'S TALK FOR REAL: RACIAL EQUITY AND YOUTH RESILIENCE IN HAWAI'I

Facilitator: Dr. Nicole Yamase
Panelists: Shanielyn-Debra Asher, Fransiska Darry, Marvin Mariano, Laninbwij Lenin Nelson, and Samantha Piyelit

Timestamp: 0:01-45:35



STORIES OF MIGRATION: ADVOCACY AND RESILIENCE IN HAWAI'I

Facilitator: Ms. Kathlina Martin
Panelists: David Anitok, Shanty Sigrah Asher, Cherviann Bossy, Keola Kim Diaz, Enson Ichin

Timestamp: 52:30-1:50:15



COMMUNITY CULTURAL PRACTITIONERS

Learn more about our community artists and community members representing the diverse cultures of Micronesia from across Hawai'i.

WAQUAB HILO COMMUNITY AND REMATHAU COMMUNITY OF HAWAI'I ISLAND

We are thrilled to welcome representatives from the Waqab Hilo Community & Remathau Community of Hawai'i to the festival! Waqab refers to the four islands of Yap Proper, and Remathau means "people of the sea." Our Waqab Hilo Community & Remathau Community of Hawai'i is made up of people from the islands of Yap, FSM. They strive to empower our community-- Celebrate culture and heritage, promote a healthy community, and education for our kids.

MARSHALLESE WEAVING WODDE JIPPEL HOLUALOA, HAWAI'I ISLAND

"Wodde jippel means coming together with a common goal, working together with one mind, one heart, from the beginning all the way until the task is fully completed," says Lilo Keju, President of Wodde Jippel, a Marshallese arts and culture collective. "To bring all the Marshallese ladies from the Kona side together, working with one goal, and then all our work will be reflected in our community's health."

The initial connection between the Mill and Wodde Jippel was initiated in 2020 as Wodde Jippel members wove banonoor (coconut frond baskets) for an art installation in the exhibition Inundation: Art and Climate Change in the Pacific. This growing relationship with Wodde Jippel led to the development of weaving classes and meaningful opportunities for sharing and cultural exchange.



Remathau Community members
Photo: Remathau Hawaii Facebook

The Wodde Jippel group offers classes in Palm Frond Weaving: Plate and Basket and Jeina Floor Mat Weaving through the Donkey Mill Art Center's Fiber Arts Program. The Donkey Mill Art Center is home to the Hōlualoa Foundation for Arts and Culture, a 501(c)(3) non profit arts education organization within the state of Hawai'i. The Donkey Mill is a place of convergence for the exploration of arts and culture to inform, inspire and strengthen individual and collective well-being.



Canoes carved by Mau Pailug's son, Placito
Photo: Melissa Lum

HO'OU LU 'ĀINA (HĀ)

Ho'oulu 'Āina is a 100-acre nature preserve nestled in the back of Kalihi valley on the island of O'ahu, cared for by Kōkua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services, a nonprofit community health center and Federally Qualified Health Center. Through four interwoven program areas, Ho'oulu 'Āina seeks to provide people of our ahupua'a and beyond the freedom to make connections and build meaningful relationships with the 'āina, each other and ourselves. Here, the community comes together around forest, food, knowledge, spirituality, and healthy activity.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CANOES CAROL ANN CARL

Both canoes were carved by Mau Pailug's son, Placito, here in Honolulu. Placito was contracted by KUPU to teach canoe carving at Punahou schools to pass down the knowledge the same way his father had with navigation. The first canoe was carved from an albizia tree, highly invasive to Hawaii. The albizia was chosen because the organizations involved wanted to change the way we view invasive species. As I've learned from them, the plants are not invasive; they're new and they lack purpose and role to play so instead of "eradicating" them, we repurpose them to give them a role to play in Hawaii because they're a part of Hawaii's story now.

The canoe was carved and painted at Punahou schools. She was named Ēlen Öreni which is Satawalese for "Pathway to Culture". The other half of the log was then used to carve Ēlen Öreni's sister canoe, Chechemeni Öreni whose name is Satawalese for "Remember the Culture". Chechemeni was carved as a gift for the folks at Ho'oulu 'Āina who hosted Placito for much of his stay. Both canoes were reunited this past fall and are housed and lovingly maintained at Ho'oulu 'Āina (HĀ).

Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy



Kānehūnāmoku Voyaging Academy is a non-profit organization based on the east side of Oahu, that uses the teachings of Piu Mau Pailug, a pwo navigator from Satawal and the Kānehūnāmoku, a 29-foot double hulled sailing canoe, to deliver lessons about sailing, maritime skills and another curriculum to students.

PALAUAN CARVER ANTHONY WATSON

Anthony Watson is an artist and entrepreneur. He was born in the U.S.A. but was raised in Palau. He attributes much of his art to an innate propensity that was cultivated with his exposure to the diverse cultures of Micronesia. Anthony's work is informed primarily by a need to reflect on current events, but also to enrich oneself through the didactic, kinetic exploration of environment and materials as a path to personal sustenance.



Image credit: Melissa Lum



Image credit: Ysiki Yano

CONTEMPORARY PALAUAN FASHION DESIGNER CESCA MOREI-MISECH

The oldest and first dress shop in Palau, Morey's Fashion and Design, still stands today, having been in the same location since the late 1950s. Tokie Morei, Cesca's mother, founded the shop without any formal training in sewing. Her passion for sewing led her to experiment and learn from her mistakes through trial and error. After graduating high school, Cesca pursued fashion design, enrolling in the California Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) program.

She later realized that she wanted to focus more on design and moved to Mānoa, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Fashion Design and Merchandising in 1989.

COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



ALOHACARE

AlohaCare

AlohaCare is a non-profit health plan founded in 1994 by Hawaii's Community Health Centers. AlohaCare is the third-largest health plan in Hawaii.

Our passion is to serve the people of Hawaii in the true spirit of aloha. We are committed to improving the health of Hawaii's communities. We specialize in QUEST Integration health insurance to people living on Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Maui and Hawaii Island. We are mission driven to care for people who are underserved with specific health needs.

We provide health care coverage for Hawaii's QUEST Integration (Medicaid) beneficiaries. AlohaCare is a health plan with a Medicare contract and provides Medicare coverage to beneficiaries in Hawaii. <https://www.alohacare.org/>



American Job Center - City and County of Honolulu

The American Job Center Hawaii is a collaboration of state and local organizations addressing the workforce development needs of Hawaii – both our residents who are seeking jobs and businesses that want to employ them. We provide free services to job seekers and employers. Services for job seekers include career counseling, HireNet Hawaii support, skills training, job search assistance and a resource center; while businesses can receive recruiting and job training assistance, along with labor market information.

Job search assistance and use of the resource center computers are free and available to anyone. Customized services are also available to unemployed and underemployed individuals seeking jobs and job search assistance at no cost. Additional services are available to those who meet federal eligibility guidelines: in depth career counseling, skill testing, and access to training for in-demand jobs. Come into a center and learn about the services that are available.

Services to businesses include job posting assistance, matching job seekers to your needs, tax incentive programs, and labor market information.



American Red Cross
Pacific Islands Region

American Red Cross Pacific Island Region

The American Red Cross Pacific Island Region provides disaster preparedness training and lifesaving skills that seeks to alleviate suffering in the face of emergencies. This is deployed by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. American Red Cross Pacific Island Region includes Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Website: <https://www.redcross.org/local/hawaii.html>



Bess Press, Inc.

Bess Press is the publisher and distributor of educational resources and reference materials for Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Studies supporting pre- K through High school. They are dedicated to enhancing the multiple voices, cultures and shared stories that make up Hawaii and the Pacific region.

Website: <https://besspress.com/>



Department of Education: EHYC Education of Homeless Youth and Children

YES Project Mobile outreach to students in unstable housing, to increase identification of students and connect dots between school and home.

Website:

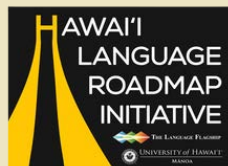
<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/EnrollingInSchool/Pages/Resources-for-homeless-families.aspx>



Department of Education: English Learner Program

The Hawaii State Department of Education English Learner Program's mission is to support Hawaii's public schools in fostering socially and culturally supportive environments, providing English Learners with rigorous content and linguistic instruction to ensure academic success, and in engaging meaningfully with parents, families, and community.

<https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/Organization/Offices/StudentSupportServices/StudentServicesBranch/Pages/EL.aspx>



Hawai'i Language Roadmap Initiative

The Hawai'i Language Roadmap Initiative is the sixth statewide language roadmap in the nation, and is coordinated by the University of Hawai'i. The initiative sets out to promote the development of a multilingual workforce for Hawai'i that values input from both employers and educators in order to respond to the demands of its increasingly diverse population and to compete in a global economy.

During Celebrate Micronesia, information about a) workforce opportunities that value proficiency in the languages of Micronesian communities, b) credentialing language proficiency with the State and Global Seals of Biliteracy, and c) our educational outreach programs will be available for all interested.

Website: <https://nflrc.hawaii.edu/languageroadmap/>



Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center promotes health, creates wellness, and fights stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. Through the delivery of life-saving services – such as wound-care and smoking cessation support, HHHRC programs and services focus on empowering the individuals we serve and growing resilience within our communities. <https://www.hhhrc.org/>



HawaiiKidsCAN

The Hawaii Kids Can Afford College campaign, led by local nonprofit organization HawaiiKidsCAN, aims to dramatically increase the number of students who understand their post-secondary financial aid options.

Website: <https://hawaiikidscan.org/>



HI Broadband & Digital Equity Office

The Hawaii State Office of Broadband & Digital Equity is committed to support and coordinate statewide deployment of high speed internet access, achieving digital equity for all residents of Hawaii. Through planned engagement in this year's festival, they are committed to spreading awareness about their programs, to ensure everyone has adequate knowledge of their works to address digital (internet) inequities in Hawaii. Website:

<https://www.broadbandhui.org/>



Honolulu Community Action Program

Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) offers a variety of social services to low income households. Their mission is to provide opportunities and inspiration to enable low income individuals or families to achieve self- reliance. To build opportunities for resilient Micronesian communities in a thriving Hawaii.

Website: <https://www.hcapweb.org/>



Kapi'olani Community College

KCC is committed to student success through engagement, learning, and achievement. We offer high quality certificates and associate degrees, and transfer pathways that prepare indigenous, local, national, and international students for their productive futures. Website: <https://www.kapiolani.hawaii.edu/>



Legal Aid Society

Legal Aid Society of Hawaii is the oldest nonprofit law firm in the state of Hawaii. With over 10 offices for all the major islands and over 100 attorneys, paralegals and supporting staff, Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to low-income families and individuals. The areas of law we cover include family, housing, public benefits, immigration and consumer law. <https://www.legalaidhawaii.org/>



Locals Limited

Locals Limited is more than just a brand - it's an identity. Our products are designed with Micronesians in mind, crafted to showcase our unique culture and heritage. From clothing to accessories, our line celebrates the spirit and pride of the islands. <https://www.localslimited.com/>



Marshallese Education Day Committee

Marshallese Education Day (MED) strives to increase parental involvement in their children's education and school activities by helping families become more familiar with Hawai'i's school system and their role within that community. MED's goal is to set a higher standard of academic excellence for all Marshallese in Hawai'i by informing parents and students about the importance of higher education for success in today's world. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/315735776207122/>



Micronesian Wayfinders Club

The Micronesian Wayfinders Club was founded in September of 2022. Its main purpose is to unify, empower and support Micronesian college students at Honolulu Community College. As the newest immigrants to Hawai'i, Micronesians face significant hardships including discrimination, systemic inequalities, negative stereotypes, etc. The club was established to provide a network of peer support, create a sense of belonging to the campus, and enforce a positive college experience for Micronesian students. The club's intention is to increase student retention of Micronesians enrolled at Honolulu Community College through community building, creating awareness of self-identity, and culturally relevant learning experiences. <https://programs.honolulu.hawaii.edu/studentlife/wayfinders/>



Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange

The Pacific Drought Knowledge Exchange (PDKE) seeks to facilitate drought knowledge exchange and enable collaborative relationships among drought stakeholders in Hawai'i and in Pacific Island Nations. We work to co-produce site-specific, customized drought data and products based on the needs of our manager partners. Through active engagement between researchers and managers, we strive to make drought and climate data products more accessible to managers for drought planning and management.

Website: <http://www.soest.hawaii.edu/pdke/>



Pacific Gateway Center

Pacific Gateway Center (PGC)'s purpose is to serve the disadvantaged, uprooted, and the displaced. Our story has been defined by the meaningful and effective ways we empower Hawaii's low-income residents, immigrants, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in rebuilding their lives with hope, respect, and dignity. One of PGC's programs, Hawaii Language Bank (HLB) provides interpretive and translation services to the community in over 35 languages to ensure equal language access for persons to utilize government, medical, and financial services.



Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL)

PREL is on a mission to enhance community well-being through partnerships in education. Through our work, we collaborate with schools and school systems, families, community organizations, and government agencies to transform education and promote dynamic reciprocal learning communities built on strong social and cultural capital. Website: <https://prel.org/>



PAPI (Pathways for Advancement of Pacific Islanders)

Pathways for the Advancement of Pacific Islanders (PAPI) is a new summer bridge program, mainly for Pacific Islander junior and senior high school and UHCC students that will help bridge the gap between these students and their peers in accessing higher education at the University of Hawaii and the UH Community Colleges.

The program provides an opportunity to introduce STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) subjects. Students will visit the UHM campus for a dorm-stay program, explore the campus, get early exposure to academic and career resources, meet staff and faculty mentors, and to form friendships with their peers.

Website:

https://manoa.hawaii.edu/tropicalmedicine/page_id=6774#:~:text=This%20program%20aims%20to%20provide,Tutoring%20Services



Project Vision

Project Vision Hawai'i is a community-driven organization that provides free mobile health screening programs statewide in communities with significant access-to-care challenges related to income, lack of insurance, geographical location, or cultural conflict. Founded in 2007 by Dr. Michael Bennett, a local ophthalmologist who specializes in retinal surgery, the program has gone on to provide free medical screening services to more than 115,000 patients across the state, including high populations of seniors, children from low-income families, immigrants, and individuals with disabilities.

Website: <https://www.projectvisionhawaii.org/>



Seams Wonderful - Kokua Kalihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services

Seams Wonderful offers a pathway toward self-sufficiency that uplifts and affirms the cultural identity of women in our community. The program includes introductory sewing classes led by two peer teachers on a drop-in basis. Women learn to make items such as quilts, embroidered bags, water bottle holders, baby blankets, and skirts. Advanced sewing classes build each participant's skills. Seams Wonderful also has a revolving Sewing Machine Loan Program, providing time to practice and utilize their sewing skills at home, alleviating economic barriers such as childcare.

Website: <https://www.kkv.net/seams>



Sienna

Sienna is a Micronesia-owned jewelry brand that creates jewelry showcasing the beauty of Micronesia. Celebrate Micronesia will be an opportunity to encourage cross-cultural understanding and appreciation and allow us to showcase our products to a wider audience.

Instagram Account page: https://www.instagram.com/sienna_official/



TIDES (AANAPISI) at UH Mānoa

The TIDES - AANAPISI Program at UH Mānoa aims to increase the enrollment and academic success of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), with specific attention to Filipino and Pacific Islander students from Waipahu High School, Farrington High School and Kaimukī High School. The TIDES program works to support these populations to and through UH Mānoa through direct programming, school and community partnerships, peer mentorships, and more.

Website: <https://apiascholars.org/aanapisi-new/>

CLOSING REMARKS

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU Consul General Uchel Raley Naito

Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask that we give Dr. Tammy a big round of applause. Great job.

Alii! Thank you for your patience in bearing with me as I close with the last remarks of the day. Sponsors. Partners. Stakeholders. Distinguished guests. Ladies and gentlemen. Good afternoon. I cannot describe or put into words how much I enjoy this day. It's been a wonderful day. Don't you agree with me? What a celebration.

I guess the right word for it would be – Wow! I'm very grateful for the opportunity to join you today. For this chance to learn from everything that I've seen and heard. And just a lot of presentations from the elderlies to the young ones. Spending the whole day with you is quite memorable. In fact, I have to confess, this is the very first time that I've been celebrating the Micronesia Festival from the beginning to the end of the day since it first celebrated on the grounds of Honolulu Museum of Art School in 2014.

The festival began there and eventually came to the grounds of the museum in 2019. And I must applaud you, Dr. Mary Hattori, and a few stakeholders who are very much part of the inception of this celebration from the beginning. Their dedication, their relentless efforts, their commitment to organize this yearly event, which has grown strong and continues to draw more support, participation and interest in Hawaii and beyond.

Today, ladies and gentlemen, is the fruition of their dedication and commitment. We have seen and enjoyed live, dance and performances, demonstrations and cultural displays that all showcase the art, fashion, food, stories, poetry, music of the peoples and cultures of the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guåhan, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Kiribati, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Now we hope that Nauru will be represented in the future events as they are very much one of us. We've been blessed to enjoy this special location because of the strong support and collaboration and partnership between Bishop Museum and the Pacific Island Development and the Arts Program at the East-West Center, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies and leaders of Micronesian communities in Hawai'i.

CLOSING REMARKS CONTINUED

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Consul General Uchel Raley Naito

We are also grateful to have seen more community partners join this important event. Those partners include educational organizations, social service and wellness providers and Micronesian artists.

And as we celebrate the resilience of our cultures and communities, we also celebrate the resilience of our relationships and partnerships with so many people and organizations across this great state of Hawaii. And now on behalf of the leaders of the Micronesian communities in Hawai'i I want to extend our highest respect and most sincere gratitude to the joint efforts of all participating leaders, experts, representatives, all who helped organize this event. Our most cordial congratulations for the success of the Celebrate Micronesia Festival 2023.

First, the Bishop Museum, especially the primary festival leaders Taylour Chang and Loren Doctolero. We thank you because we are blessed by your friendship and partnership. Second, the Micronesian leader community members who led the planning of the community and culture booths that we've enjoyed walking and visiting around today, the performances on the stage, demonstrations including the Remathau and the Marshallese representatives who came from the Big Island. You guys are the heart of this celebration.

Also, the distinguished members of the East-West Center, a community led by President Vares-Lum. It's students and staff volunteers and interns, the Arts program, the Pacific Island Development Program under the directorship of Dr. Mary Hattori, its students, its staff, we thank you for your leadership and dedication to the Pacific Islanders in Hawaii, the United States and in Oceania. Ladies and gentlemen, may I ask that we give them another round of applause?

I also would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge our families and friends and relatives near and far for connecting and joining us via livestream. Thank you for your presence. And personally, I leave today highly appreciative of our culture and heritage. The activities were like refresher courses and valuable lessons for me at the same time as they connect me to my roots.

CLOSING REMARKS CONTINUED

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU Consul General Uchel Raley Naito

I hope it's been the same experience for every one of us here. I recalled my high school days in Palau, where we as students occasionally participated in small activities, sharing cultural knowledge and a little bit of language among classmates and students from other islands of Micronesia. I want to share with you that after many years, I still truly respect and appreciate my old friends from different parts of our Micronesian region because of those past interactions.

We have seen resilience efforts through similar sharing and interactions today. The performances, the demonstrations the display of our arts, music, etcetera, have a unique role in advancing awareness and knowledge of our cultures to others, thereby inviting interactions in harmony and building bonds of respect and value. This festival provides the stage for that sharing of our culture and for promoting our resilience to our relationships with other people and cultures.

Therefore, our part is to continue our participation and support through the celebration of this festival next year, as we celebrate the 10th anniversary and even the years to come. And I humbly ask my friends that we all leave here today as ambassadors of our unique and rich cultures and beacons of our communities.

Lastly, the festival celebration will continue with virtual panel discussions focused on racial equity and youth resilience in Hawai'i, and stories of migration, advocacy and resilience in Hawai'i. And you're invited to join these panel discussions on the Celebrate Micronesia Facebook page.

Lastly, special thanks to the media, to those who gave the wonderful coverage of this spectacular event of the day.

Thank you so much. Sulang. Mahalo. And thank you.

PRESS

2023 CELEBRATE MICRONESIA FESTIVAL: RESILIENCE

HAWAII NEWS NOW

[Celebrate Micronesia Festival returns to Bishop Museum on May 20](#)

HAWAII PUBLIC RADIO

[Bishop Museum's Celebrate Micronesia Festival returns with 'resilience'](#)

KITV 4

[Hundreds celebrate the Micronesian culture at festival](#)

PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

[Micronesian pride on display at annual Celebrate Micronesia Festival in Honolulu](#)

SPECTRUM NEWS

[A festival at Bishop Museum showcases Micronesian culture](#)



Photo courtesy of Manny Crisostomo