

# AHA's Bimonthly Newsletter

September 2025



## MAI KA PELEKIKENA..

Aloha kakou,

In observance of Hawaiian History month, a time to honor our kupuna, their struggles, their triumphs and the legacies that shape present day. It is also a time when stories, both old and new find fresh resonance. We witnessed the conclusion of the first season of *Chief of War*, a dramatization that, for many, brought forward images of Hawaiian culture, diplomacy, and sacrifice. At the same time, we marked the closing of another chapter of leadership—Helen Wong Smith's term as president of the Society of American Archivists, the first woman from Hawai'i to hold that office.

Though these moments come from different places, they are bound together by a common thread: the importance of leadership rooted in Hawai'i, and the preservation of culture and memory.

Helen's presidency stands as a testament that voices from Hawai'i belong not only in our own communities but also at the highest levels of national and international archival leadership. *Hawaiian History Month* affirms that our collective memory must always make space for mo'olelo, mele, and 'ike. *Chief of War* reminds us that our history is not static. It is alive, complicated, and worthy of retelling in many forms.

As archivists in Hawai'i, we are entrusted with a responsibility that is both technical and sacred. We are stewards of memory, but more importantly, we are stewards of relationships. We safeguard documents, photographs, recordings, and digital files but behind every record is a genealogy, a place, and a story. Keep up the good work ohana.

Aloha no,

*Hinano Tangaro*

In this newsletter you can expect:

Organizational Updates

Committee Updates

Featured Exhibit

Reminders

Next Issue: November

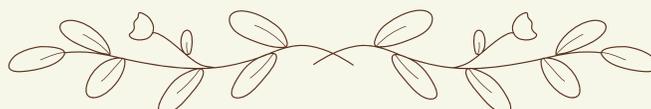


AHA 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE THEME

# Pilina: Relationships, Responsibility, and Resilience in Memory Work

We are pleased to present our annual conference theme for our February 2026: Pilina: Relationships, Responsibility, and Resilience in Memory.

AHA will be sending out more information about the event, poster sessions, and calls for presenters later this year.



**Patrick Hart, Kapua'ala Sproat, Kaulu Lu'uwai**  
**IASA–SEAPAVAA 2025 Conference**  
**September 10, 2025 - 11:00am - 12:30pm**  
**Keoni Auditorium**

AHA will be sponsoring the session with Dr. Patrick Hart on Tuesday, September 9. His talk on the intersection of AI, Hawaiian mele, and native bird conservation is inspiring and deeply relevant to our work.

After the talk, we invite you to bring a lunch and join us at Hamilton Library (Room 301) to “talk story”—an informal time to exchange experiences, ideas, and reflections with fellow members. Drinks and desserts will be provided.

The event is free but registration is required. Please email David Rowntree [rowntree@hawaii.edu](mailto:rowntree@hawaii.edu) if you would like to attend.

[\[Link to Dr. Hart's research here\]](#)

**All AHA members are warmly invited to attend.**

Website Updates



Site Visit

Upcoming Site visit!

- Ossipoff Tour
  - Punahou School
- Date: October 24<sup>th</sup>  
5pm
- [RSVP Here](#)

Space is limited to 20 guests, so please register early!

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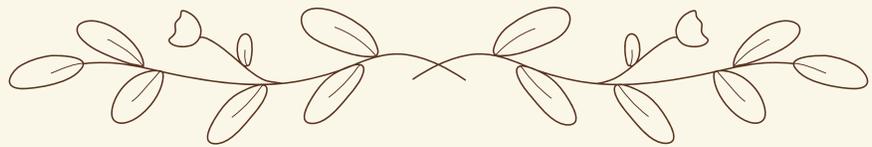


On Monday July 21, 40 of our members experienced a special tour of Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB), Moku o Lo‘e. Accessible only by sea, our tour started with a boat ride that featured the scenic Kāne‘ohe Bay including HIMB’s community partners Paepae o He‘eia ana Kako‘oiwi, stewards of ‘āina and kai. After we landed we were greeted by staff with an oli and orientation of the island then we were split into three groups led by a guide. Each guide was very knowledgeable at each stop sharing Hawaiian culture/history, the history of the island, and the marine biology studies that occur on the island. Participants got to see and touch sea creatures like the black tip reef shark (just looked not touched) , starfish, pāpio (young stage of ulua), hammerhead sharks, and more.



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One of the stops included the HIMB library and archive, which included documents and pictures that captured the history and culture of the island. We also learned that the island was named "Coconut Island" because Princess Pauahi brought over and planted coconut trees on the island for a birthday party she threw for Queen Emma. The tour inspired a reciprocal connection between local archivists and HIMB. The Archivist for University Papers, Helen Wong Smith, provided a spreadsheet and scanned photos from the UHM archive's photographs related to HIMB on Moku o Lo'e the very next day. Participants raved about the quality of scientific and historical educational information and delivery by the guides. It was a fun time had by all.



As the chair of the site visits committee I wanted to send a big mahalo to HIMB Faculty Lauren Van Heukelem, Malia Van Heukelem, and Stacy Hoshino for helping organize the tour. Join us on our next tour as Punahou archivists Kylee Mar and Kate Marsi take us on a walk through Punahou to the architecture of Ossipoff.

Photos by Stacy Hoshino, Malia Van Heukelem, and Koa Luke

-Koa Luke

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# Reminders

<b>MONTHLY BOARD MEETING</b>	<b>FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH</b>
Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84420156629?pwd=EGXa68Qa4PNUMkVaNla17VhH9fDJ3t.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84420156629? pwd=EGXa68Qa4PNUMkVaNla17Vh H9fDJ3t.1</a>  Meeting ID: 844 2015 6629 Passcode: 785607	<b>2:00p - 3:00p</b>



If you have any news, announcements or ideas that you'd like for us to share via newsletter, feel free to send us a message.