

PERFORMANCE GUIDE

FOREST FLUTTERS: A BIRD-DAY PARTY!

**BY DANICA ROSENGREN & THE HTY ENSEMBLE
IN COLLABORATION WITH CAPITOL MODERN: THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM**



WWW.HTYWEB.ORG

**ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
ERIC JOHNSON**



Dear Educator,

Welcome to Honolulu Theatre for Youth's 70th Season!

We are delighted to share these resources with you.

We believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories to bring us together. When that happens we often find great similarities with our fellow humans that strengthen our sense of belonging, heritage and shared purpose. Coming from a place that is both geographically remote and culturally diverse, we treasure stories in our community and are deeply

honored to share this one with you. Thank you so much

for taking the time to look over these resource materials. Our

greatest hope is to be a useful partner inside and outside the classroom.

If you would like more information on the company or our work, look us up at htyweb.org.

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OUR SPONSORS

We have been fortunate to work with generous partners and funders on the creation of this project.

Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Created by Danica Rosengren and The HTY Ensemble in collaboration with Capitol Modern

Directed by Danica Rosengren

Set and Prop Design by
Karen Kiefer

Costume Design by
Iris Kim

Lighting Design by
Chesley Cannon

Puppet Design by
Karen Kiefer
Emily Wright

Sound and Music by
Mattea Mazzella

Technical Support by
Eric West

Stage Manager
Sarah Danvers

Performed by
Jarren Amian
Alysia Kupa'a

Study Guide by
Reiko Ho

**National Core Arts Standards
compiled by**
Daniel A. Kelin, II

MAHALO!

*We would like to gratefully
acknowledge these partners who
inspired us and helped us create
our play.*

Solomon Enos
Karen Ewald
Jonathan Johnson
and
The Department of Land and
Natural Resources



ABOUT OUR SHOW- NOTES FROM CREATOR/ DIRECTOR, DANICA ROSENGREN



As the granddaughter of a biology teacher, a bird lover, an educator and an artist, I am drawn to telling stories inspired by our natural surroundings. Despite not being in the show, the *manu-o-kū*, the beautiful white sea-birds, that nest in the trees around Capitol Modern and Honolulu Theatre for Youth, are actually what inspired the show!

When we first started developing the show, we learned from our friends at the Department of Land and Natural Resources that this year, 2024, was going to be Makahiki Nā Manu Nahele or the Year of the Forest Birds. This discovery made me excited about the possibility of our show being a part of the larger state celebration, and so we set aside our seabird friend, the *manu-o-kū*, for this show, and jumped right into learning about the forest birds of Hawai‘i!

This show actually started out as multi-sensory arts installation and performance at Capitol Modern: The Hawai‘i State Art Museum. The art installation invited any museum-goer to enter into a Hawai‘i forest from January to May of 2024. In addition, the space also housed immersive performances for neurodivergent young people. The museum performances created with the HTY Ensemble invited audience members to both explore the space and interact with puppets and props. Since May, we have transformed the installation into a portable production that we can bring anywhere!

Prior to the show, I didn’t know too much about *manu nahele*- forest birds. Throughout the process of developing this piece, I have become a little bit of a bird nerd, and I am constantly seeking to learn more about not just the birds of Hawai‘i, but of the birds of places I visit too!

I hope audience members leave excited to learn more about the endemic animals and plants of Hawai‘i, and realize that the animals that surround us have rich stories of their own!

NATIVE BIRDS OF HAWAII

INFORMATION ON NATIVE BIRDS PROVIDED BY OUR FRIENDS AT
THE HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Prior to the arrival of humans to the Hawaiian archipelago, the islands supported an incredibly diverse and unique avifauna comprised of at least 113 endemic species. These species ranged from flightless geese, ibis and rails to one of the most famous cases of adaptive radiation – the Hawaiian Honeycreepers (subfamily Drepanidinae), of which at least 59 species have been described. Hawaii also has the unfortunate distinction as one of the epicenters of the extinction of its species. Since human colonization, 71 birds have been confirmed lost, 48 prior to the arrival of Europeans, and 23 since Captain Cook first arrived in 1778. Of the 42 extant endemic taxa, 31 are federally listed (29 species and 2 subspecies), but 10 of these have not been observed in as many as 40 years and are of unknown status.

Key threats to the remaining species include: habitat destruction and degradation by humans and introduced ungulates, non-native diseases and predators (feral cats, barn owls, rats, and mongoose), and habitat-altering invasive plants. Non-native mosquitoes are vectors for avian pox and avian malaria, both of which have had devastating effects on the forest bird populations, which had evolved without these threats. Thus, most of Hawaii's extant forest birds (passerines) are restricted to high elevation forests (above 1400 meters) or remote islands where mosquitoes are limited by temperature or absent altogether. Managing and researching birds in these areas presents many logistical challenges, including significant expense, difficult field conditions, and the need for ongoing management.

More information on Hawai'i's native birds can be found on DLNR's website: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/>

IMPORTANT TERMS FOR CLASS DISCUSSIONS

- Endemic** If a species is listed as “endemic,” it means that it is native to and living only a certain region. The birds in our show are endemic to Hawai'i.
- Extinct** If a species is “extinct,” it means that it no longer exists or can be found anywhere.
- Endangered** If a species is listed as “endangered,” it means that it still exists but is rapidly dwindling in number and in danger of becoming extinct.

INDEX OF BIRDS IN OUR SHOW

Our show features some beautiful birds and other creatures found in Hawai'i. Here are their names in Ōlelo Hawai'i and a little bit about them. For more information, see our Resource page following the index.



‘AKIAPŌLĀ‘AU

The ‘akiapōlā‘au is a stocky Hawaiian honeycreeper endemic to the island of Hawai'i and most famous for their specialized bills, which have a long, decurved upper mandible and a short woodpecker-like lower mandible. They are mainly insectivorous, with Lepidoptera larva, spiders, and beetle larva being the most important prey.



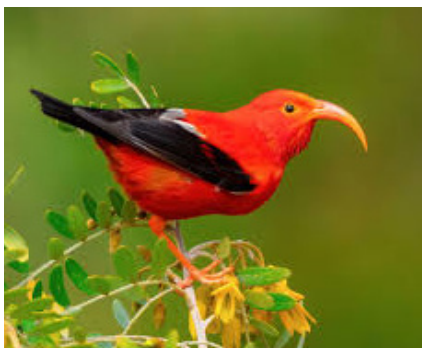
‘ĀKOHEKOHE

The ‘ākohekohe, or crested honeycreeper is the largest extant honeycreeper on Maui Nui (Lāna‘i, Moloka‘i, Maui, and Kaho‘olawe). The Hawaiian name, ‘ākohekohe, is derived from one of the calls they make. They do not sing but produce a random series of buzzes, croaks, and whistles.



‘ALALĀ

Historically at least five crow species (Family: Corvidae) occurred in Hawai'i, only the ‘alalā, or Hawaiian crow survives. Like other crows, ‘alalā are loud and sociable. They are the largest surviving endemic Hawaiian forest bird. They weigh about 1 pound and are over 1.5 feet long from bill to tail.



‘IWI

One of the most beautiful of the Hawaiian honeycreepers. Native Hawaiians created feather capes using hundreds of thousands of ‘i'iwi feathers; such capes signified power and prestige. State Listed as Endangered on O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lāna‘i. State Recognized as Endemic.

INDEX OF BIRDS IN OUR SHOW (CONTINUED)



‘IO

A small, broad-winged raptor found nowhere else in the world. The ‘io once flew on six of the Hawaiian islands, but today is only found on the island of Hawaii. In traditional Hawaiian culture, ‘io are considered a symbol of Hawaiian royalty because of their lofty flight, and they are believed to be an ‘aumakua. They are on the endangered list.



ŌŌ

These beautiful Hawaiian honeyeaters are extinct. They once pollinated the lobeliad plants that have existed in Hawai‘i for 13 million years. Very little is known about this historic species beyond the Native Hawaiian’s use of their yellow feathers in featherwork.

OTHER NATIVE ANIMALS IN OUR SHOW



KĀHULI

Kāhuli, Hawaiian tree snails, are tiny mollusks with colorful, elongated shells. They have long been revered by Hawaiians, often appearing in mele, hula, mo‘olelo, oli, or ‘ōlelo no‘eau. Their ornate shells once blanketed the trees of Hawai‘i. are endemic to Hawaii and are found only on the island of O‘ahu.



PULELEHUA

The Hawaiian Blue (Koa) butterfly, pulelehua, is one of only two endemic butterflies in Hawaii. It is sometimes known as the Koa Butterfly since the caterpillars of this species are often found feeding on Koa trees. They can be found on the islands of Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, Molaka‘i, Lana‘i, and Hawai‘i Island.

BOOKS FOR THE CLASSROOM



- *Birds in Hawai'i* - boardbook for 5-6 year olds. by Beachhouse Press and Illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong
- *Manu- The Boy Who Loved Birds* Written and Illustrated by Caren Loebel-Fried

Click the link and share a video of a reading of *Manu- The Boy Who Loved Birds* from the 2021 Children's Literature Conference, animated and performed by the HTY Ensemble:

<https://youtu.be/BqrYWOcYIcM?si=9U3i5F-qcZgEMqwJ>

WEBSITES

Click the links below to learn more about the birds in our show and listen to their bird songs and calls.

- 'AKIAPŌLĀ'AU <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/akiapolaau/>
- 'ĀKOHEKOHE <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/akohekohe/>
- 'ALALĀ <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/alala/>
- 'Ō'Ō <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/oahu-oo/>
- 'I'IWI <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/oahu-oo/>
- 'IO <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/birds/io/>

Click the link below to learn more about kāhuli, Hawaiian Tree Snails, in a new website curated by HTY's Director of Drama Education, Daniel A. Kelin, II. The website includes activities for all ages.

- KĀHULI <https://hawaiikahuli.org>



POST SHOW DISCUSSION

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE BIRD IN OUR SHOW?

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT EACH BIRD LIKED TO EAT?

DISCUSS THE TERMS PREY AND PREDATOR.

WHAT DOES ENDANGERED MEAN?

WHAT DOES EXTINCT MEAN?

WHAT DOES ENDEMIC MEAN?

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAY

Create your own forest filled with Native Hawaiian birds using these materials from the Department of Land and Natural Resources- Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Lesson Objective

To foster creative collaboration and teamwork while students learn about native Hawaiian birds and their habitat.

Instructions

Create a bird story with the class or divide students into smaller groups.

What happens to the bird in your story?

What bird food does your bird like to eat? Nectar? Insects?

What does your bird's song sound like?

As a class or in small groups, have your students enact the story using their bodies and voices or print out the finger puppets on the following pages to create your own puppet play



‘ĀKIAPŌLĀ‘AU FINGER PUPPET

ALL ABOUT ‘ĀKIAPŌLĀ‘AU

SING A LITTLE SONG

‘Ākiapōlā‘au have a rapid warba-warba, an upslurred whistle “cheedle-ee warble,” and a short “sweet”. Male ‘Ākiapōlā‘au have two songs they sing often one is a ‘pit-er-ieu,” and the other is a longer song with a rising clear whistle at the end.

HAWAIIAN WOODPECKER

Often you will find ‘Ākiapōlā‘au in Koa trees! They feed on insect larvae hidden within the branches and under the bark of trees! Just like a wood pecker they HAMMER the bark for insects. They use their long curved bill to find the insect larvae then use their lower shorter bill to pull them out and crush them.

HOME IS WHERE THE FOREST IS

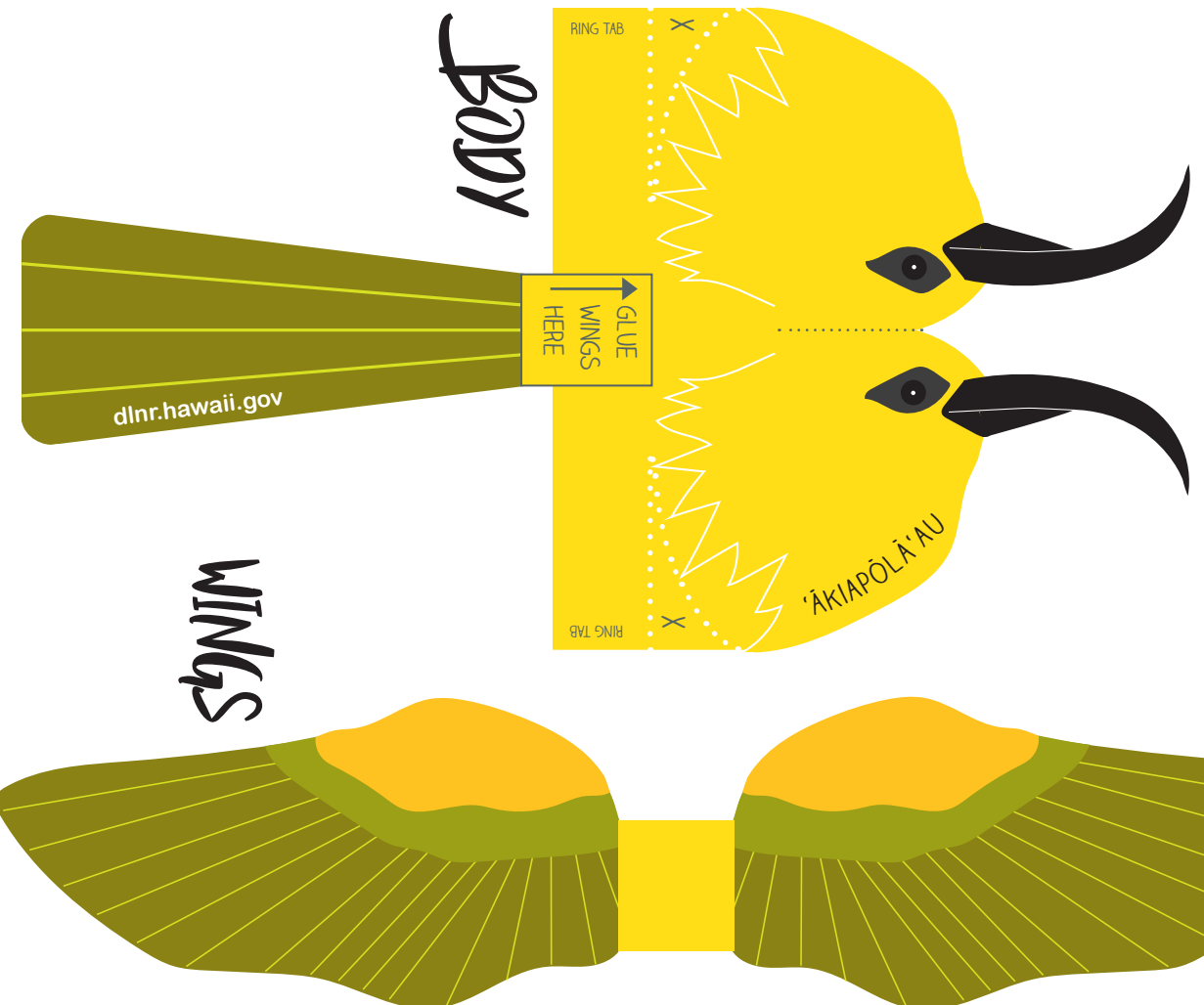
‘Ākiapōlā‘au were once abundant and commonly found in koa and ōhi‘a forests or māmane and nāio woodlands. Today, there are much fewer ‘Ākiapōlā‘au due to grazing animals destroying their home. These endangered birds can still be found in small patches of healthy forest.

Learn more about us at: dlnr.hawaii.gov

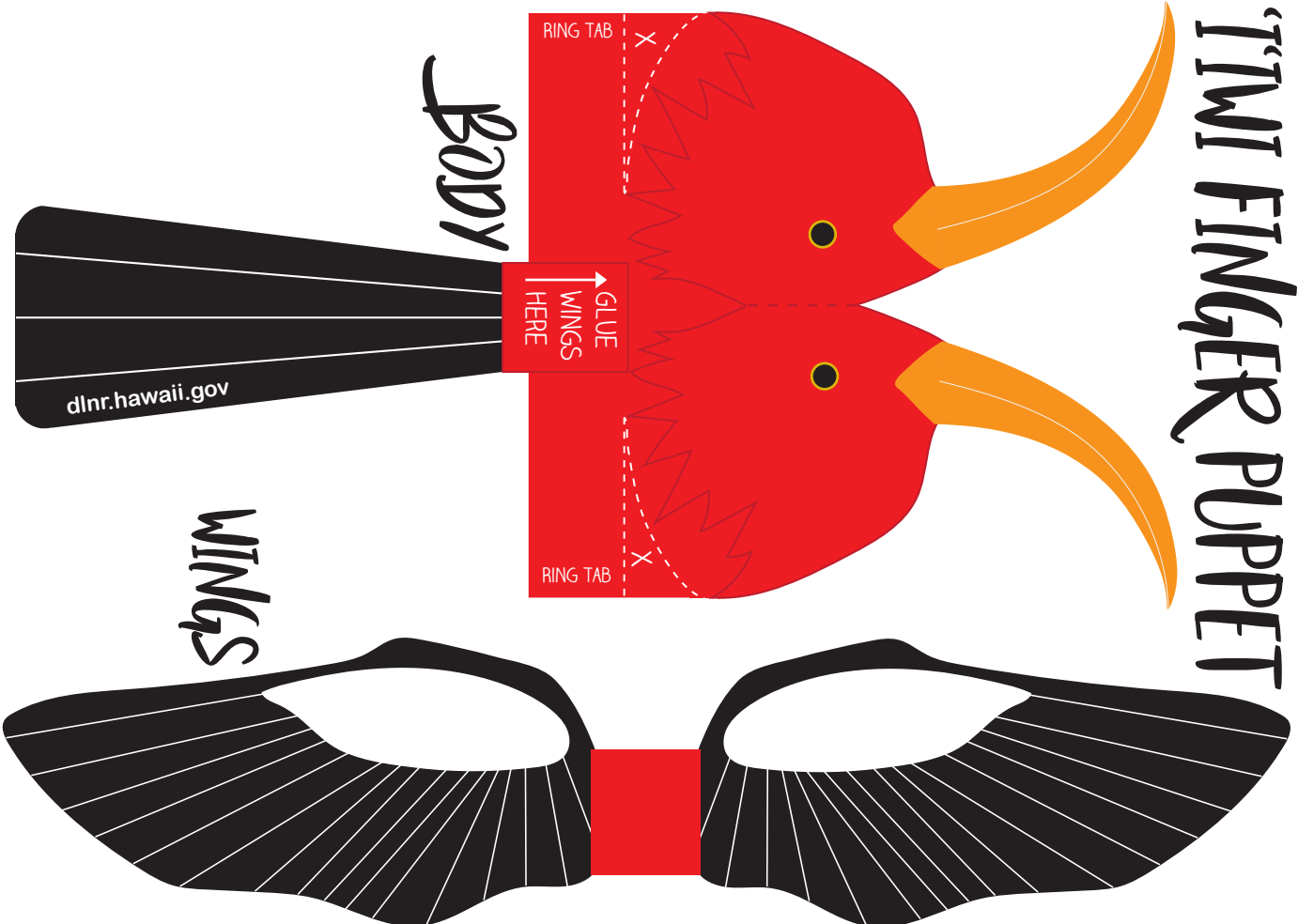
CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES (WOW YOUR FRIENDS WITH HOW MUCH YOU KNOW!)

DIRECTIONS

1. Print on heavy card stock. Cut out the body and wings. DO NOT cut off the tabs (square) between wings and on the body.
2. Cut along white dotted lines behind the head of the bird to remove the piece with the grey “X.” Experienced scissors users can cut along the white zig zag line behind the bird’s head for a more detailed puppet.
3. Attach wings to body by matching up the square tabs between the wings and the body. Ensure that the top of the wings face the front of the bird.
4. Fold along dotted line between the eyes while matching up both sides of the beak. Glue beak together using a glue stick. Staple or tape the bottom edge of the head (neck area) to keep sides together. Be sure to just fasten the edge as your finger will need to fit in the opening between the two pieces once the puppet is complete.
5. Bend ring tabs down to form a ring that fits your finger. Tape overlapping tabs together.



'IWI FINGER PUPPET



ALL ABOUT 'IWI SINGALITTLESONG

'Iwi squeak, creak, whistle, gurgle and sing. Their calls include a very distinct creak, like the rusty hing of a door; a clear whistle and a up-slurred "chu-weet." They even mimic sounds of other native birds!

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

'Iwi uses its long and curved bill to reach into 'ohi'a flowers to drink nectar, a sweet, sugar-rich liquid produced by plants. While 'ohi'a nectar is the favorite food of the 'iwi they also like sipping nectar from other plants such as 'ākala (native raspberry), native mints, and lobelias (a group of small native trees). They even eat insects!

HOME IS WHERE THE FOREST IS

'Iwi live in native forests where nectar is plentiful. In early winter, when flowers are most abundant, birds will pair off to nest. Females will lay two to three bluish eggs in a small cup-shaped nest. Eggs will hatch in 14 days.

Learn more about us at: dlnr.hawaii.gov

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES - WOW YOUR FRIENDS WITH HOW MUCH YOU KNOW!

DIRECTIONS

1. Print on heavy card stock. Cut out the body and wings. DO NOT cut off the squares between wings and on the body.
2. Cut along white dotted lines behind the head of the bird to remove the piece with the white "X." Experienced scissors users can cut along the dark red zig zag lines behind the bird's head for a more detailed puppet.
3. Attach wings on body by matching up the square between the wings and the body. Ensure that the top of the wings face the front of the bird (side with white "oval" shape).
4. Fold along dotted line between the eyes while matching up both sides of the beak. Glue beak together using a glue stick. Staple or tape the bottom edge of the head (neck area) to keep sides together. Be sure to just fasten the edge as you finger will need to fit in the opening between the two pieces once the puppet is complete.
5. Bend ring tabs down to form a ring that fits your finger. Tape overlapping tabs together.



Let's Fly 'Alalā!

FINGER PUPPET CRAFT

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. PRINT ON CARD STOCK. CUT OUT WINGS AND HEAD/BODY PIECES. INEXPERIENCED SCISSOR-USERS, CUT OUT WINGS ALONG GRAY EDGE. EXPERIENCED SCISSOR-USERS, CUT ALONG THE BLACK EDGE FOR A MORE DETAILED WING.
2. PLACE WINGS ONTO WHITE OUTLINED RECTANGLE ON THE BODY PIECE WHERE IT SAYS "ATTACH WINGS HERE." WINGS SHOULD BE PLACED COLOR SIDE UP. STAPLE PIECES TOGETHER.
3. FOLD GRAY DOTTED LINE BETWEEN HEAD PIECES AND GLUE BEAKS TOGETHER.
4. STAPLE CHIN OF BIRD TOGETHER AS CLOSE TO EDGE AS POSSIBLE.
5. BEND RING TABS DOWN TO FORM A RING THAT FITS AROUND YOUR FINGER. TAPE OVERLAPPING TABS TOGETHER.

Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry and Wildlife



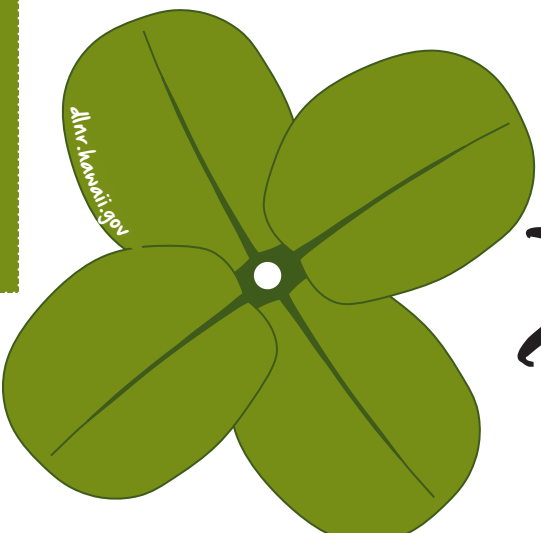
Hello!



Photo by: Jack Jeffrey

I am an 'alalā! I am endemic, meaning I am found nowhere else in the world! I like to eat the fruits of native trees and shrubs, but I also like to eat insects and the eggs of other birds. I am important to the forest ecosystem because I am really good at dispersing seeds, I move them from one area to another. This helps to keep the forest diverse and healthy.

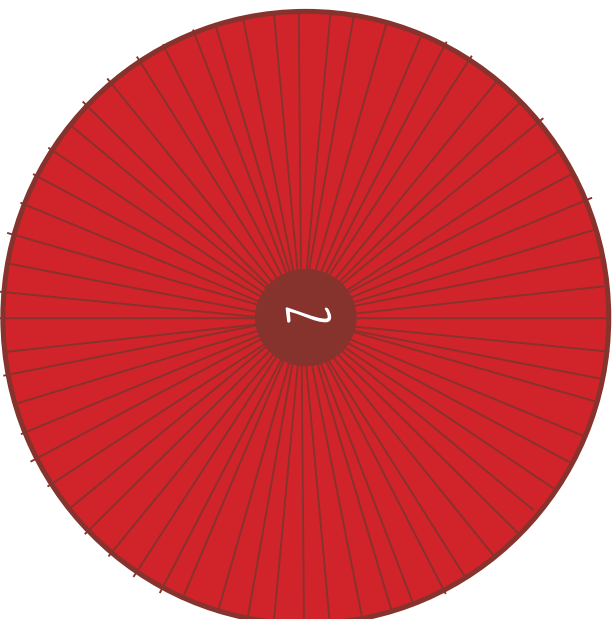
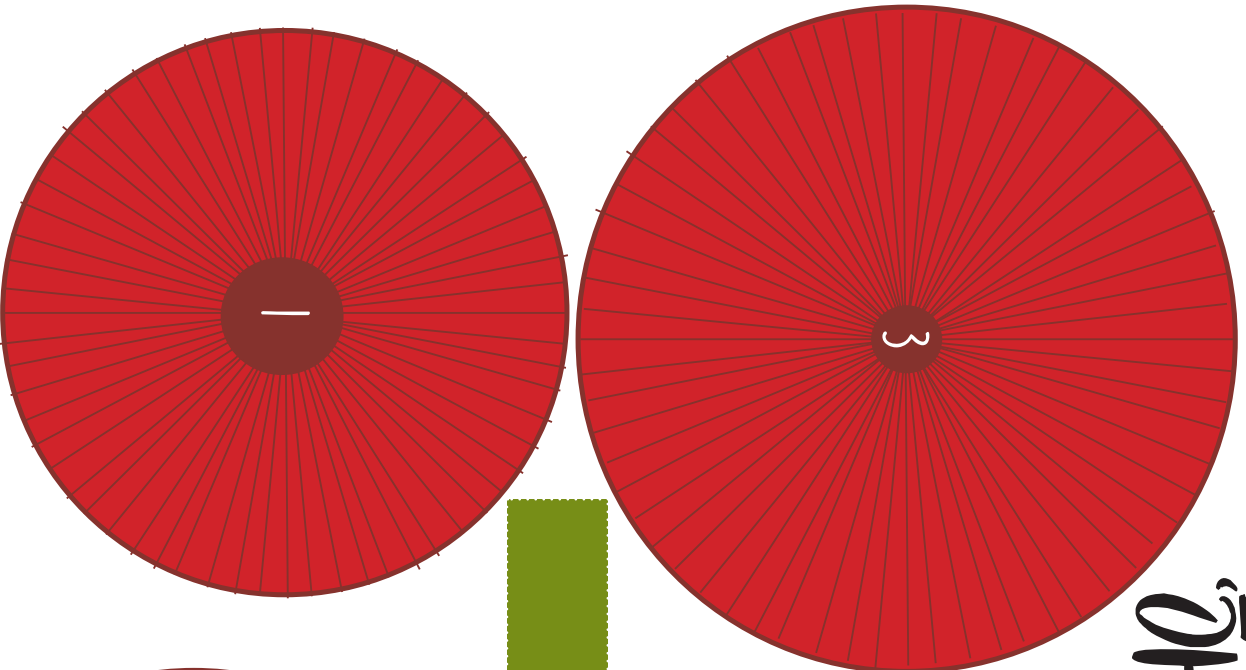
ŌHI'A FINGER PUPPET



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Print double-sided on card stock.
2. Cut out all three circles. Cut out ring band on dotted line. Cut out leaves on outer green line, do not cut individual leaves apart.
3. Cut along thin red lines to the center of the circle stopping at the edge of the dark-red circle in the center. You do not need to cut each line. Do this for all three circles. You do not need to cut each line all the way to the dark red circle.
4. Fold the little strips on the edge of the dark-red center circle, bending away from the circle so that it is on the bottom of the flower.
5. Create a hole through all five layers individually using a push pin.
6. Layer the three circles atop each other with the #1 circle on the bottom, #2 in the middle, and the #3 on the top. Place leaves below red circles (with leaf veins facing up), then place ring band at the very bottom under the leaves, lining up all 5 pieces. Push metal brad through all five layers. Push down brad wings to secure.
7. Bend down ring band ends to form a ring that fits your finger. Tape overlapping pieces.

*Instead of using a brad, you could also glue all layers together with a strong quick drying glue.



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE



ABOUT HTY

Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) is a theatre of place, deeply rooted in the cultures and people of the Pacific and dedicated to serving young people, families and educators across the Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1955, HTY is one of the oldest professional TYA companies in the country and is recognized for its long history of innovative drama education programming and the creation of original theatrical works that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai'i.

OUR COMPANY

Becky Dunning
Managing Director

Stu Hirayama
School Reservations

Brad DeCaires
Box Office

Fay Ann Chun
Grants Manager

Jian Gu
Accounting

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director

Reiko Ho
Artistic Associate/Marketing

Moses Goods
Artistic Associate/Actor

Annie Cusick Wood
Artistic Associate

Artistic Team
Jarren Amian
Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Alysia Kapa'a
Iris Kim
Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Kaonohiokalaalohilohinei Muller
Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.
Eric West
Emily Wright

Daniel A. Kelin, II
Director of Drama Education

Tamara Smith
Drama Ed. Administrator

Clara Whippy
Teaching Artist

Ana Narrajos
Teaching Artist

Chloe Tower
Teaching Artist

Jill Jackson
Teaching Artist