



Hawai'i History Day 2026

Entry Guidelines

All entries:

- Students should refer to the category checklist in the NHD Contest Rule Book to make sure they have completed everything required for their entry. [Digital Rulebook](#)
- Apart from our 'ōlelo Hawai'i rules, we follow NHD contest rules with the exception of group projects. In Hawai'i, group projects are limited to a maximum of 3 students per group (unlike NHD, which allows for up to 5 members per group). Please note that Essays are individual only.

Required Interviews: Interviews with judges will be held at the district and state fairs. At least one member from each project must be present for the interview.

- In alignment with National History Day, Hawai'i History Day will separate individual and group entries for Exhibits, Documentaries, Performances, or Website in our 2026 fairs.

Divisions

- Youth division includes projects from students in grades 4-5 in English or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
- Junior division includes projects from students in grades 6-8 in English or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i
- Senior division includes projects from students in grades 9-12 in English or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

*Note 1: Youth Division Projects are not eligible for the Washington DC National History Day Contest

*Note 2: 'Ōlelo Hawai'i projects follow a different pathway. Instead of competing at the National competition, top projects will be showcased in D.C. in a special national project showcase.

DOCUMENTARY ENTRIES

- A documentary entry may be submitted by either an individual or a group of up to three students.
- Documentaries may not exceed 10 minutes in length.
- Internet access is provided at the fairs. Students must upload their documentary in MP4 format to YouTube, Google Drive, One Drive, or Dropbox prior to the fair.
- Student might want to consider bringing a backup drive or laptop, but this is not required.
- Students must bring 3 printed copies of their process paper and annotated bibliography, which will be given to the judges at the fair.

EXHIBIT ENTRIES

- An exhibit entry may be submitted by either an individual or a group of up to three students.
- Students must bring 3 printed copies of their process paper and annotated bibliography, which will need to be placed in front of their exhibit.
- Exhibits cannot exceed 72 inches high or expand more than 40 inches in length.

ESSAY ENTRIES

- Essays are limited to individual entries. Groups cannot submit essays.
- Students must submit their essay, process paper, and annotated bibliography as one PDF into the registration system (zFairs) by February 18, 2026, and bring a printed copy to the fair.
- Papers must contain between 1,500 and 2,500 words.

PERFORMANCE ENTRIES

- A performance entry may be submitted by either an individual or a group of up to three students.
- Performances may not exceed 10 minutes in length.
- 5 minutes is allowed for setting up props and taking down.
- Students must bring 3 printed copies of their process paper and annotated bibliography, which will be given to the judges at the fair.

WEBSITE ENTRIES

- A website entry may be submitted by either an individual or a group of up to three students.
- All website entries must use the NHD Web Central website platform.
- The 8-digit, NHD Web Central entry code is required to register the website.
- Students must submit their website (enter the Site Key and URL) into their ZFairs profile by February 18, 2026.

‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I ENTRIES

- Students can submit their entry in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, following the same project guidelines for each category (see above).
- ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i entries will be judged entirely in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and student interviews will be done in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.
- For ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i entries, there are two additional requirements:
 - 1) Students must use and cite at least one ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i primary source in their annotated bibliography.
 - 2) Students must add a short description connecting what they learned from their project back to Hawai‘i, in their process paper.

Notes:

- ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i projects entered into the fairs are judged separately from English-language projects.
- Projects entered into the contest in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i are able to advance up to the State level. Top projects at the State level may be selected and exhibited in a special ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i project showcase in Washington D.C. Students whose projects are chosen will have the opportunity to travel to Nationals with the Hawai‘i History Day student delegation.