



ASTRONAUT ELLISON ONIZUKA SCIENCE DAY 2026

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS

Workshop sessions are for students, grades 3–12 (with their adult) and teachers of any grade level.

Workshop 01 – Astronaut AMA

NASA Astronaut, Johnson Space Center

Do you have any questions about working and living in space? Do you want to become an astronaut? This Session II only workshop may inspire you to travel to space!

Workshop 02 – Trashcano!

Meghann Decker, Steve Lundblad, Thomas Lee, UHH Geology

Learn more about volcanoes, rocks, and how our island is growing in this fun and explosive workshop led by UH Hilo Geology professors.

Workshop 03 – The Amazing (Science) Race

Lisa Parr, Jade Poore, UHH Marine Option Program

Join the Amazing (Science) Race! Using navigation tools, race around campus and complete activities to see who can complete the race in record time!

Workshop 04 – Bridge Dynamics

Chris Hamner, Sebastien Vievard, UHM SSEI

Learn about forces in structures by designing and testing a wooden truss bridge. Experiment with different designs to support the largest loads. Recommended for grades 6–12.

Workshop 05 – Design an Alien

Kumiko Usuda-Sato, Subaru Telescope, NAOJ

Over 7000 planets have been discovered beyond our Solar System, many unlike anything we know. Explore these amazing worlds, learn how to find them with a telescope, and imagine a planet unlike Earth by drawing an alien that could live there!

Workshop 06 – Lifestyles of the Stars

Emily Peavy, International Gemini Observatory

Discover how the Maunakea Observatories study the life cycle of stars, from birth to death, and explore how astronomers learn about different star types and their lifestyles with the Hale Hōkū planetarium.

Workshop 07 – Impact!!

Mary Beth Laychak, Maunakea Observatories

This workshop is all about impacts and craters. We'll talk about how craters are formed and how the composition on the object-comet vs asteroid, iron vs rocky-affects crater size by making your own craters!

Workshop 08 – Helu Pō

Alexis Acohido, Canada France Hawai'i Telescope

Do you know the moon phases? In this workshop, you will learn about the Hawaiian Moon calendar, as well as some of the Moons of our Solar System!

Workshop 09 – Learning to Lash: The Art and Science of Canoe Lashing

Alika & Kainalu Bumatay, Hawaii Science & Technology Museum

This workshop will introduce participants to the fundamentals and techniques of how to lash a wa'a (Hawaiian canoe) from paddling and wa'a experts!

Workshop 10 – Paper Airplane Fun

William Frisbee and the Hilo Civil Air Patrol Squadron

Learn about the history of airplanes before embarking on your own airplane-making adventure by experimenting with different paper airplane designs.

Workshop 11 – Data Science as Art

Tom Carpaij and Winston Wu, UHH Data Science

Explore the exciting and evolving field of data science with a fun and creative generative AI art competition, no coding or artistic experience needed! Recommended for grades 6–12.