

LŪ'AU: MAKE A HAWAIIAN LEI

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children make Hawaiian leis, then take an imaginary boat ride to the island to be garlanded upon their arrival. See if you can partner with a local dance agency to give a brief hula lesson, or ask a local musician to play simple songs on the ukulele. Suggested runtime: 45 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- Cardstock
- Flower punch, Ellison Die Cut machine, or scissors
- Paper hole punch
- Paper drinking straws
- Yarn or thick string
- Plastic needles or floss threaders (optional)

Before the program, create paper flowers with a hole in the middle of each. If you don't have a flower punch, cut out simple flower shapes. Cut the paper straws into one-inch pieces. Place flowers and straws in bins on each table.

TIP:

The Ellison Die Cut machine makes paper flowers the perfect size for this craft. Single flower punches are also easy to find online or at craft stores. After punching out the flower, use a small paper punch to put a hole in the middle.

During the program, each participant gets a length of string and a threader. To make the leis, they alternate between stringing paper flowers and pieces of straw until the string is filled. Tie the ends of the string together to finish.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Solo-librarian friendly.

RESOURCES

Web

The history and cultural appropriation of the lū'au from *Seaside with Emily*: <https://bit.ly/3io0Gz4>

Traditional Hawaiian food from *Onolicious Hawaii*: <https://bit.ly/2RqYxHI>

Books

Non-fiction

Natural Hawai'i: An Inquisitive Kid's Guide (2011) by Dana Rozier (children's)

Nāhoa, The Lucky Cat of Lāna`i (2020) by J. Likolani Tackett (children's)

Ohana Means Family (2020) by Ilima Loomis and Kenard Pak (children's)

West of Then (2005) by Tara Bray Smith (adult)

Fiction

Pele and Poli'ahu (2018) by Malia Collins and Kathleen Peterson (children's)

Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves (2004) by James Rumford (children's)

Hina and the Sea of Stars (2003) by Michael Nordenstrom (children's)

Malia in Hawaii (2013) by Karyn Hopper and Tammy Yee (children's)

Shark Dialogues (1995) by Kiana Davenport (adult)

Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre (1993) by Lois-Ann Yamanaka (adult)