



Hawai'i Conservation Program

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PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Pūlama Lāna'i

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Kiwikiu (Maui parrotbill)

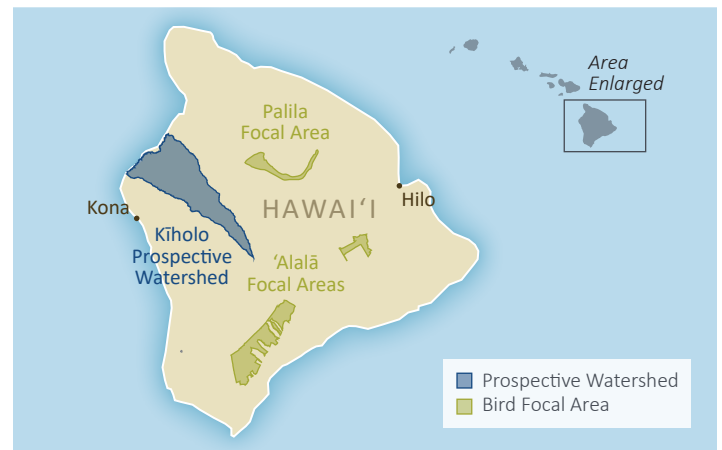
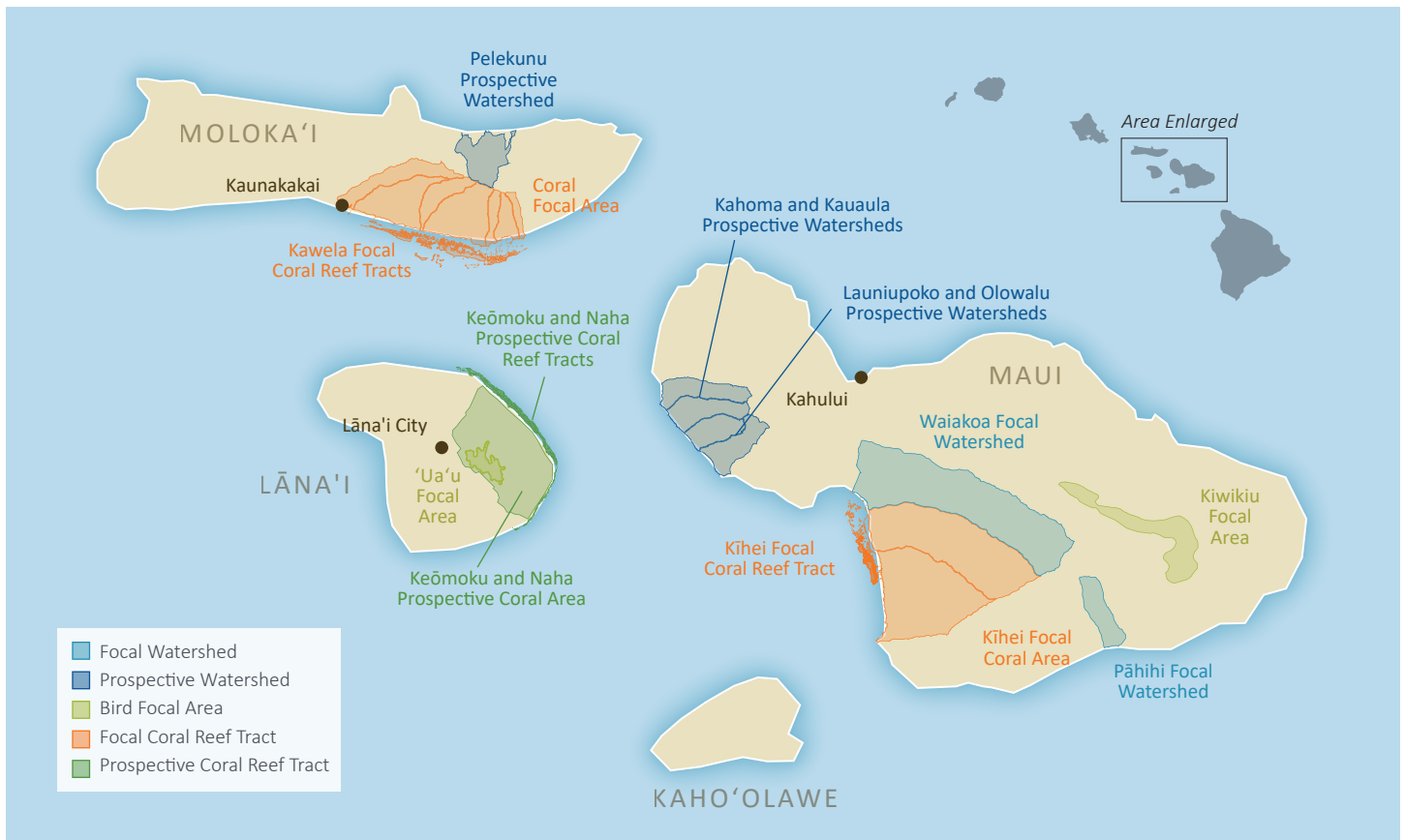
BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Defense through the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, and Pūlama Lāna'i partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to announce a 2025-year round of funding for Hawai'i Conservation Program projects.

Ten new or continuing conservation grants totaling \$2.5 million were awarded. The 10 awards announced leveraged \$1.1 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$3.6 million.

The Hawai'i Conservation Program aims to strategically protect and enhance essential habitats in Hawai'i, from mauka to makai (from the mountains to the ocean), to reduce extinction risk and sustain resilient populations of native species. The Hawai'i Conservation Program's business plan, established in 2021, outlines NFWF's goals and strategies to restore, improve, and protect habitat and wildlife throughout the main Hawaiian Islands.

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PROGRAM STRATEGIES

The Hawai'i Conservation Program is addressing challenges faced by vulnerable native flora and fauna from a range of intentional and accidental introductions of species and diseases, as well as loss of habitat. The following program strategies seek to prevent the extinction of Hawai'i's unique endemic species and restore the health of its native forests and coral reefs.

Watershed Forest Conservation

In partnership with private and public partners, NFWF is restoring and improving native watershed function and biodiversity by increasing or sustaining native plant cover, increasing forest tree density and increasing richness of native species.

Coral Reef Conservation

In partnership with private and public partners, NFWF is fostering healthy coral reef ecosystems that are resilient to current and predicted environmental stressors by reducing local threats within an interconnected network of reef tracts in Maui Nui, Hawai'i.

Bird Conservation

NFWF, in partnership with federal agencies and private partners, is reducing extinction risk for a suite of endemic bird species by addressing direct threats and improving habitat conditions.

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2025 GRANTS**Developing a Landscape-scale Restoration Plan for Conservation Lands on Lānaʻi (HI)**

Grantee: Forest Solutions

Grant Amount:..... \$70,100

Matching Funds:..... N/A

Total Project Amount:..... \$70,100

Create a comprehensive restoration strategy and implementation plan for the Kuahiwi a Kai Program, a landscape-scale watershed conservation program on the island of Lānaʻi, Hawaiʻi. Project will produce a roadmap for native plant restoration across 20,000 acres of conservation lands by engaging stakeholders, integrating data and developing restoration methodologies, budgets, schedules and benchmarks to reach long-term restoration goals.

Implementing a Predator Control Program to Protect Kiwikiu in Waikamoi Preserve, Maui (HI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$66,000

Matching Funds:..... \$66,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$132,000

Install predator control traps in western Waikamoi Preserve on Maui to manage threats to the critically endangered native kiwikiu (Maui parrotbill) and other endemic birds and plants. Project will establish a matrix of predator traps to lessen depredation by nonnative cats, mongoose and rats.

Improving Elepaio Predator Control on Oʻahu (HI) - III

Grantee: Pacific Rim Conservation

Grant Amount:..... \$27,000

Matching Funds:..... \$27,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$54,000

Continue rat control in the southern extent of the Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve and Pia Valley Natural Area Reserve on Oʻahu, Hawaiʻi, to protect Oʻahu elepaio (monarch flycatcher) from rat predation. Project will improve the efficiency of rat control by increasing the use of automated rat traps to benefit one of the largest Oʻahu elepaio populations.

Increasing Captive Population and Breeding Success of Kiwikiu on Maui (HI)

Grantee: Zoological Society of San Diego

Grant Amount:..... \$199,100

Matching Funds:..... \$199,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$398,200

Enhance efforts to increase captive population of the critically endangered native kiwikiu at the Maui Bird Conservation Center on Maui, Hawaiʻi. Project will bring additional kiwikiu into captivity and perform highly targeted studies to determine best practices to increase survival and reproduction rates.

Initiating a Reintroduction Strategy for ʻAlalā in Maui Nui (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawaiʻi, Dept of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$161,500

Matching Funds:..... \$161,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$323,000

Support a reintroduction program for ʻAlalā, a culturally significant bird that currently exists only in captive breeding facilities, to establish a self-sustaining wild population on Maui, Hawaiʻi. Project will hire two ʻAlalā monitoring associates who will be responsible for assessing bird condition, following movements, recording behavior of released birds into the wild, and will integrate lessons learned from past reintroduction efforts.

Installation of Landscape-scale Ungulate Control Fencing along Kehewai Ridge on Lānaʻi (HI)

Grantee: Land Ethic Implementation Ecological Services

Grant Amount:..... \$1,225,700

Matching Funds:..... \$2,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,228,200

Construct approximately 4.53 miles of ungulate-exclusion fence extending from Lanaihale downslope along Kehewai Ridge to the shore of the Auʻau channel on Lānaʻi in support of the largest contiguous restoration project under a single private landowner in Hawaiʻi. Project will fully enclose a core segment of the program area on the eastern side of the island in preparation for landscape-scale ungulate control to improve watershed conditions and protect native habitats.



ʻAlalā (Hawaiian crow)

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Palila (Hawaiian honeycreeper)

Lānaʻi Resident Deer and Sheep Management and Community Stewardship Program (HI)

Grantee: Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center
 Grant Amount:.....\$134,600
 Matching Funds:.....\$192,600
 Total Project Amount:.....\$327,200
 Develop and implement a community-based hunting program for residents to reduce the number of invasive ungulates within the Kuahiwi a Kai Program Area on Lānaʻi, Hawaiʻi. Project will engage the community in restoring and preserving natural and cultural resources through active participation and education of Lānaʻi's natural history and ecosystems functions.

Monitoring Avian Malaria Prevalence in Hawaiian Forest Birds in East Maui (HI)

Grantee: Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife
 Grant Amount:.....\$303,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$150,000
 Total Project Amount:.....\$453,900
 Evaluate the efficacy of existing mosquito treatment tools at suppressing avian malaria in Hawaiian forest birds on East Maui, Hawaiʻi. Project will collect and analyze blood samples from Hawaiian forest birds within mosquito treatment areas supported by NFWF funding to evaluate the efficacy of mosquito suppression efforts and inform management strategies.

Outreach and Testing Drone Deployment of Mosquito Control Tools to Prevent Hawaiian Forest Bird Extinctions (HI)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
 Grant Amount:.....\$124,700
 Matching Funds:.....\$124,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$249,400
 Support community outreach and engagement on mosquito control strategies, and test the use of unmanned aircraft systems to deploy mosquito suppression tools in Hawaiian forest bird habitat to stop the transmission of avian malaria that are driving multiple bird species to extinction in Hawaiʻi. Project will continue to engage the public on the avian malaria crisis in Hawaiʻi and coordinate with partnership organizations on the release of mosquito suppression treatments on Maui and Kauaʻi.

Predator Control, Forest Restoration and Monitoring for Hawaiʻi's Native Forest Birds (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawaiʻi, Dept of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant Amount:.....\$181,900
 Matching Funds:.....\$181,700
 Total Project Amount:.....\$363,600
 Continue conservation activities to protect native forest birds on Hawaiʻi Island, Maui and Kauaʻi. Project will conduct predator control, monitor efficacy of control across 16,270 acres to benefit palila and puaiohi (small Kauaʻi thrush), restore 300 acres of native forest, maintain 51.5 miles of ungulate fence in palila critical habitat, and monitor wild kiwiku and palila populations.