



NFWF

Hawai'i Conservation Program

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PARTNERS

- Pūlama Lāna'i
- U.S. Department of War
- Cinco Hermanos Fund

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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Palila | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

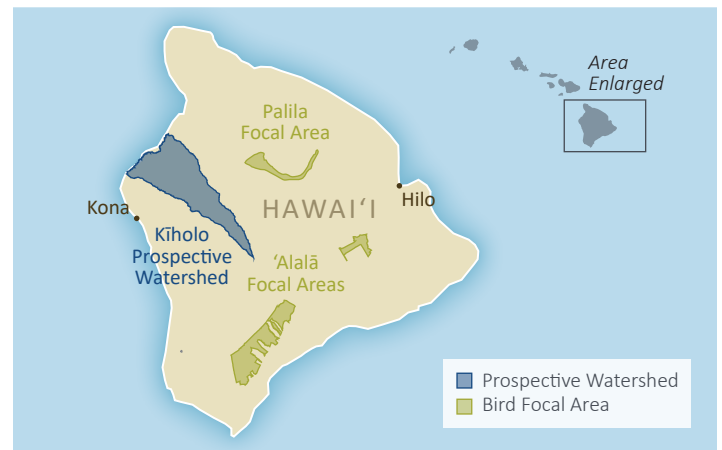
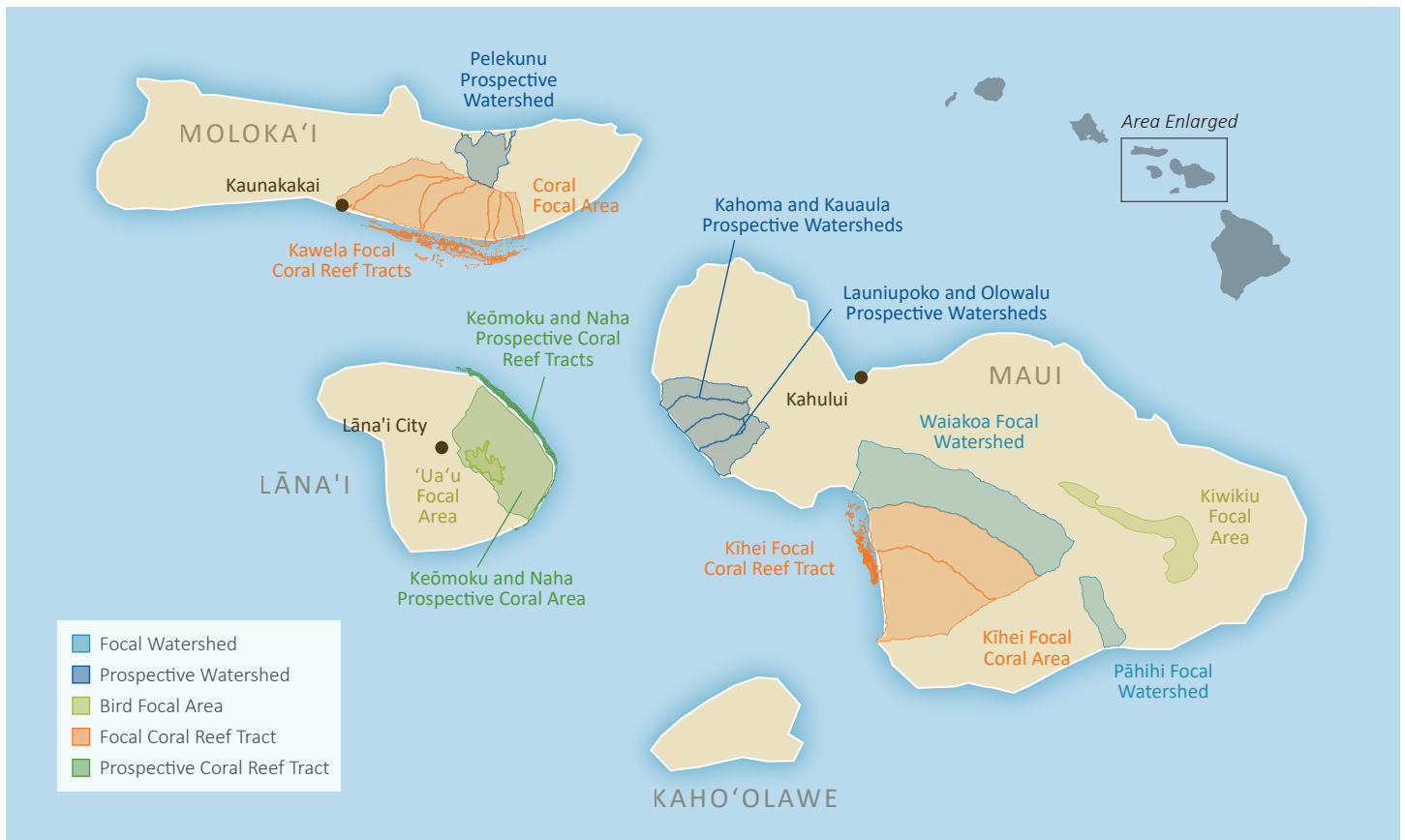
BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), joined by Pūlama Lāna'i, U.S. Department of War, Cinco Hermanos Fund and private foundation partners announced a 2026-year round of funding for Hawai'i Conservation Program projects.

Eight new or continuing conservation grants totaling nearly \$1.2 million were awarded. The eight awards announced leveraged \$984,600 in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$2.1 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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Maui parrotbill | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

2026 GRANTS

Capture and Captive Rearing of Kaua'i Hawaiian Honeycreepers (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Amount:.....	\$285,400
Matching Funds:.....	\$285,400
Total Project Amount:.....	\$570,800

Collect 'anianiau, Kaua'i 'amakihi, and 'akeke'e (Hawaiian honeycreepers) from Kaua'i's Alaka'i Plateau to strengthen the captive breeding populations of these rapidly declining Hawaiian forest birds and prevent near-term extinction driven by avian malaria. Project will capture and transfer adult birds to conservation breeding facilities in Hawai'i to establish viable insurance populations while landscape-scale mosquito control efforts advance to halt the spread of avian malaria.

Feasibility Study, Erosion Mitigation Plan and Implementation for Kehewai Flats on Lāna'i (HI)

Grantee: Land Ethic Implementation Ecological Services

Grant Amount:.....	\$90,700
Matching Funds:.....	\$11,300
Total Project Amount:.....	\$102,000

Develop and test bioengineered erosion mitigation strategies to reduce or halt sedimentation on the reef below Kehewai Flats on Lāna'i. Project will implement and evaluate the effectiveness of methods, identify associated challenges and benefits within the Kuahiwi a Kai program area, and deliver a comprehensive plan for landscape-scale implementation including cost estimates, execution schedule and monitoring protocols to guide long-term management.

Initiating a Reintroduction Strategy for 'Alalā in Maui Nui (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Grant Amount:.....	\$161,400
Matching Funds:.....	\$161,400
Total Project Amount:.....	\$322,800

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

Installation of Landscape-scale Ungulate Fencing on Lāna'i (HI)

Grantee: Pono Pacific Land Management

Grant Amount:.....	\$235,400
Matching Funds:.....	\$0
Total Project Amount:.....	\$235,400

Install the first line of ungulate control fencing mauka to makai (mountain to ocean) to enclose the core of the Kuahiwi a Kai Program Area on Lāna'i for the management of invasive axis deer and mouflon sheep populations. Project will begin installation of invasive ungulate-proof fencing in preparation for future successful ungulate control to improve watershed conditions and protect native habitats.



Mosquito survey | Credit: KFBRP

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

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:..... \$44,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$44,500
 Total Project Amount:..... \$89,000
 Maintain predator control traps in the western Waikamoi Preserve on Maui to reduce threats to the critically endangered Hawaiian forest bird, kiwikiu (Maui parrotbill), and other native birds and plants. Project will continue operations to maintain and expand a network of mixed-type predator traps aimed at reducing depredation by nonnative feral cats, mongooses and rats that is essential to protecting vulnerable native species and supporting long-term ecosystem recovery.

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

Grantee: Lānaʻi Culture & Heritage Center
 Grant Amount:..... \$46,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$149,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$195,400
 Maintain predator control traps in the western Waikamoi 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, cultural heritage and ecosystems functions.

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

Grantee: State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant Amount:..... \$134,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$135,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$269,800
 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.

Preventing Palila Extinction through Captive Rearing and Release, Predator Control and Habitat Restoration (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawaiʻi, Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant Amount:..... \$198,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$198,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$396,000
 Prevent extinction of the critically endangered Hawaiian forest bird palila on Hawaiʻi Island through captive rear-and-release, predator control and habitat restoration. Project will collect eggs for assisted rearing, maintain predator control across 15,900 acres of core breeding habitat, restore native forest while reducing fire risk and maintain ungulate-control fencing to protect core habitat.