



# Hawai'i Conservation Program

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Palila in Hawai'i | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

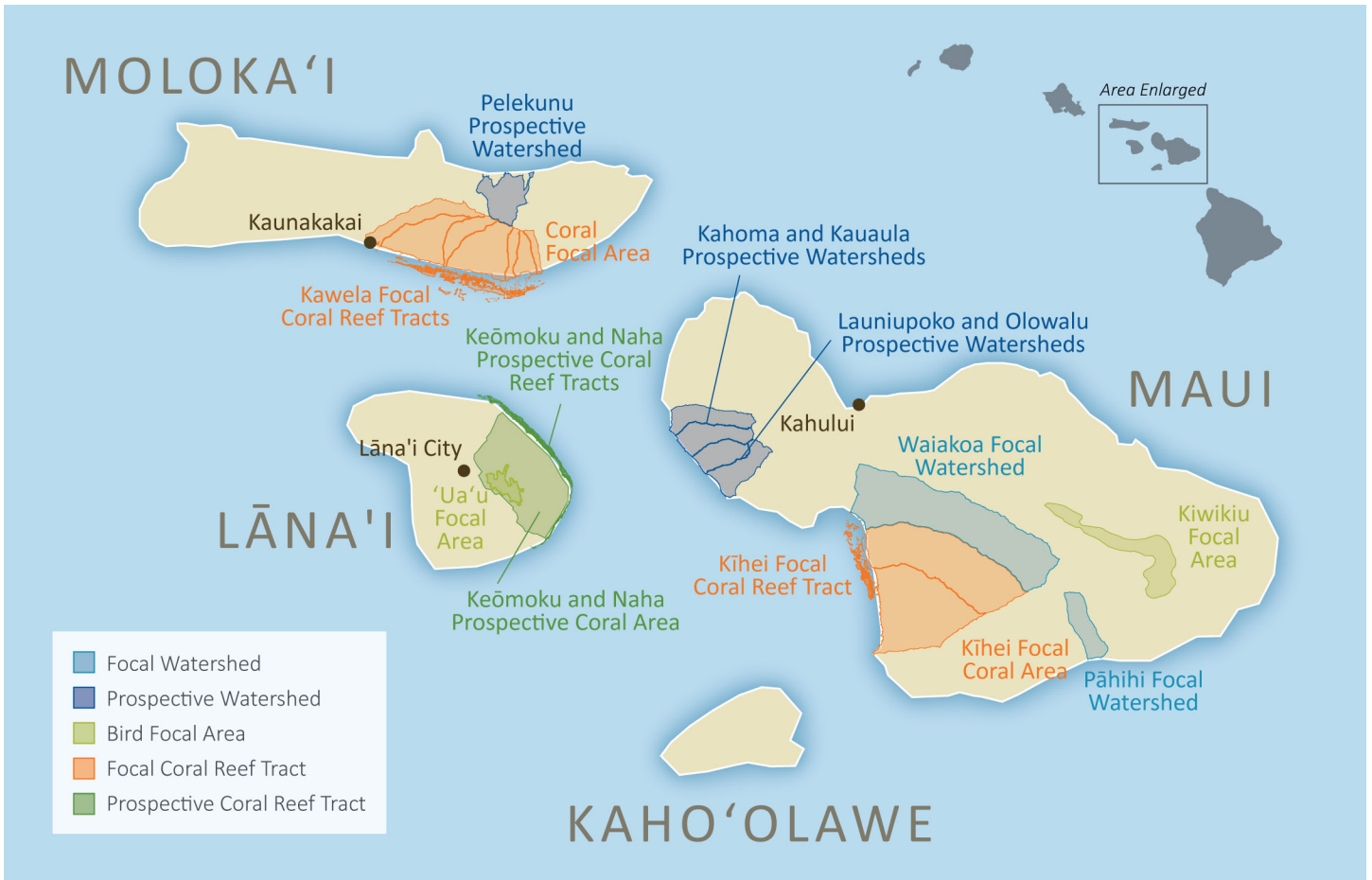
## BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Hawai'i Conservation Program (HCP) 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 business plan outlines NFWF's goals and strategies to restore, improve and protect habitat and wildlife throughout the main Hawaiian Islands over the next 10 years.

In 2021, NFWF launched the HCP business plan outlining NFWF's goals and strategies to restore, improve and protect habitat and wildlife throughout the main Hawaiian Islands over the next 10 years. The HCP business plan, developed in consultation with conservation partners in Hawai'i, conceptualizes and defines an integrated, science-driven strategy to prioritize actions, increase investment efficiency, and measure cumulative impacts that complement the state's landscape-level initiative. To date, the HCP business plan has supported 30 projects totaling \$6.9 million in grants that leveraged more than \$7.4 million in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground conservation impact of over \$14.3 million.

NFWF announced 2023 funding for HCP projects. Three new forest bird conservation grants totaling \$445,200 were awarded. The awards announced generated more than \$569,300 in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$1 million.

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**PROGRAM STRATEGIES AND PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**

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, climate change and development pressures. 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.

**Increasing Military Installation Resilience and Mitigating Rare Plant Impacts (HI)**

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

Grant Amount:..... \$1,280,600  
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,451,700  
 Total Project: ..... \$2,732,300

Construct 10 miles of ungulate-proof fence, build 10.75 miles of new firebreaks to protect over 1,900 acres of native habitat, and outplant 7,000 native plants consisting of 25

species to restore mixed wet and dry forests on Hawai'i Island and O'ahu. Project will: 1) provide landscape-level protection from invasive ungulates; 2) protect sensitive habitats by reducing fire risk; and 3) create new populations of endangered, threatened and at-risk plant species on state managed lands.

**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.

**Quantifying Herbivory Thresholds for Coral Reef Resilience (HI)**

Grantee: Arizona State University  
 Grant Amount:..... \$196,400  
 Matching Funds:..... \$196,400  
 Total Project: ..... \$392,800

Identify herbivore fish thresholds for reef resilience in Hawai'i that relate to coral reef condition, and changes before and after the 2014 to 2015 bleaching event through statewide and priority site-based analyses. Project will help reef managers with place-based planning, management to defined monitoring targets, and identifying sites best suited for coral restoration.

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**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.

**Improving Native Habitat for 'Ua'u on Lāna'i (HI)**

Grantee: Pono Pacific Land Management

Grant Amount:..... \$36,400

Matching Funds:..... \$36,400

Total Project: ..... \$72,800

Identify and establish a 10-acre area to initiate systematic removal of invasive plants to promote regeneration of native species and increase vegetative cover within 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel) nesting habitat on Lāna'i. Project will perform herbicide treatment and physical removal of invasive plants, and conduct native seed collection, nursery propagation, outplanting and outreach events in partnership with the local community.



Hawai'i Island forest restoration for palila.



Mosquito survey in Kaua'i, Hawai'i.



Planting native trees within palila critical habitat area.

**2023 GRANTS**

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

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$147,400

Matching Funds:.....\$147,400

Total Project Amount:.....\$294,800

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

**Improving Elepaio Predator Control on O'ahu (HI) - III**

Grantee: Pacific Rim Conservation

Grant Amount:.....\$26,900

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

Total Project Amount:.....\$53,900

Continue rat control in the southern extent of the Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve and Pia Valley Natural Area

Reserve on O'ahu to protect O'ahu elepaio from rat predation. Project will improve the efficiency of rat control by increasing the use of automated pneumatic rat traps to benefit one of the largest O'ahu elepaio populations.

**Saving Hawai'i's Imperiled Forest Birds XV (HI)**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount:.....\$270,900

Matching Funds:.....\$395,000

Total Project Amount:.....\$665,900

Continue conservation activities to protect forest birds in Hawai'i. Project will: 1) perform restoration over 6,500 acres of native forest on Hawai'i Island and maintain 51.5 miles of fence around palila critical habitat, 2) conduct predator and rodent control over 16,000 acres on Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island and assess effectiveness, 3) conduct a palila population survey, and 4) continue planning, coordination and community engagement on deploying a landscape-scale mosquito control tool.