



NFWF

# Hawai'i Conservation Program

## NFWF CONTACTS

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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

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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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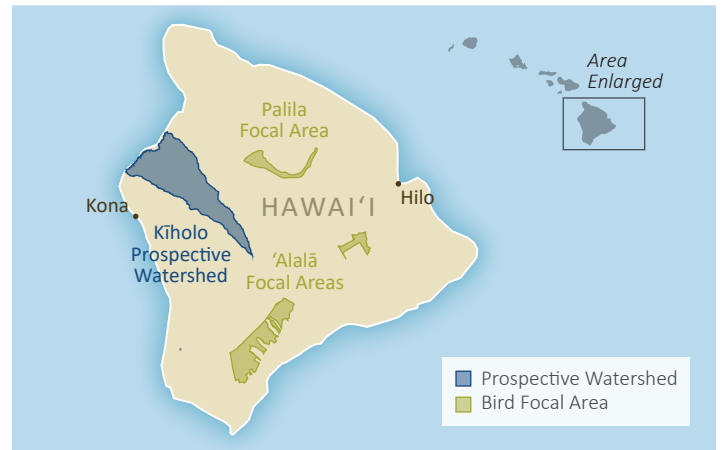
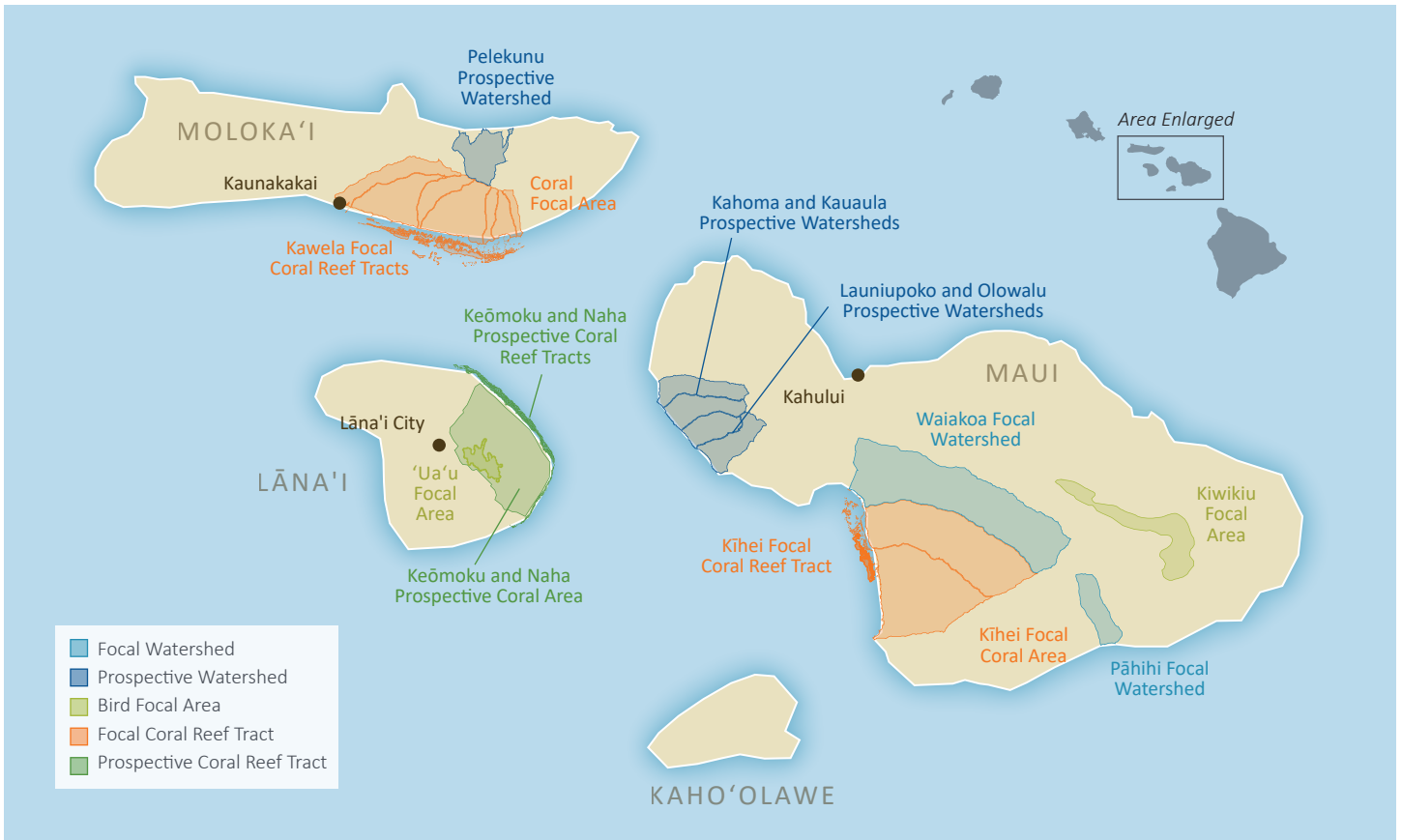
'iwi in Hawai'i | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

## BACKGROUND

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)—joined by 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—announced a 2024-year round of funding for Hawai'i Conservation Program projects. Eight new conservation grants totaling \$932,200 were awarded. The eight awards announced generated \$692,900 in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$1.6 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, 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.

**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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### Developing a Long-Term Coastal Water Quality and Coral Reef Monitoring Plan on Lānaʻi (HI)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$68,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$68,000

Develop a monitoring plan to measure long-term impacts of terrestrial restoration actions on marine water quality and coral reef health along the coast of the Kuahiwi a Kai Program on Lānaʻi. Project will utilize existing and newly collected data and consult with program partners, scientists, natural resource managers and community members to design an achievable monitoring plan to track and attribute change over time.

### Enhancing Wildfire Risk Monitoring Capacity and Centralizing Post-fire Environmental Data for Protection and Recovery of Maui's Native Species and Habitats (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawaiʻi

Grant Amount:..... \$49,800

Matching Funds:..... \$49,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$99,600

Enhance real-time wildfire risk monitoring capacity and centralize critical post-fire environmental data to protect vulnerable native species and their habitats in Hawaiʻi. Project will integrate fuel moisture sensors into an existing network of climate stations statewide to assist firefighters and land managers responding to wildfire risk, and develop a publicly accessible website platform for federal, state, county and nonprofit organizations to coordinate on natural resource recovery efforts.

### Establishing a Seed Bank and Native Seed Collection Program on Lāna'i (HI)

Grantee: Terraformation

Grant Amount:..... \$199,300

Matching Funds:..... \$45,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$244,300

Establish a seed bank and initiate seed collection activities to source native plants for future watershed restoration projects within the Kuahiwi a Kai program area on Lāna'i, Hawai'i. Project will supply and install a modular seed bank, provide training and operational guidance, and begin collecting seeds to build a repository of propagation materials.

### Improving Elepaio Predator Control on Oʻahu (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 Oʻahu to protect Oʻahu 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 Oʻahu elepaio populations.



ʻAlalā | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

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Puaiohi | Credit: Jack Jeffrey

**Initiating a Reintroduction Strategy for ‘Alala in Maui Nui (HI)**

Grantee: State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
 Grant Amount:.....\$138,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$139,100  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$277,500  
 Support a reintroduction program for ‘alala, 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 ‘alala monitoring associates who will be responsible for assessing bird condition, following movements, recording behavior of released birds, and will integrate lessons learned from past reintroduction efforts.

**Outreach and Coordination for Landscape-scale Mosquito Control to Prevent Hawaiian Forest Bird Extinctions (HI)**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:.....\$124,200  
 Matching Funds:.....\$124,400  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$248,600  
 Support outreach for mosquito-control deployment techniques and implementation strategies which will reduce mosquito populations, stop transmission of avian malaria, and prevent multiple bird extinctions in Hawai‘i. Project will coordinate partnership organizations, and scale-up public engagement and outreach with local communities across the main Hawaiian Islands in preparation for the deployment of a mosquito suppression tool to reduce mosquito populations in 2024 and 2025.

**Predator Control, Forest Restoration and Monitoring for Hawai‘i’s Native Forest Birds (HI)**

Grantee: State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources  
 Grant Amount:.....\$205,400  
 Matching Funds:.....\$302,600  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$508,000  
 Continue conservation activities to protect native forest birds on Hawai‘i Island, Maui and Kaua‘i. Project will conduct predator control, monitor efficacy of control across 16,270 acres to benefit palila and puaiohi, restore 300 acres of native forest, maintain 51.5 miles of ungulate fence in palila critical habitat, and monitor wild kiwikiu and palila populations.

**Ungulate Distribution and Abundance Monitoring on Lāna‘i (HI)**

Grantee: White Buffalo  
 Grant Amount:.....\$120,200  
 Matching Funds:.....\$5,000  
 Total Project Amount:.....\$125,200  
 Develop a repeatable ungulate-monitoring program focused on estimating ungulate distribution and abundance within the Kuahiwi a Kai program area on the island of Lāna‘i. Project will establish a trail camera grid and use drone technology in collaboration with the Hawai‘i Department of Forestry and Wildlife’s helicopter surveys to determine ungulate demographics and assess population levels to inform future management actions and monitoring efforts.