

# Hawaii Wildlife Action Plan

## From Vision to On-the-Ground Action

**F**rom the beginning, Hawaii's wildlife action plan was a collaborative effort involving partners such as government agencies (federal, state, county), nonprofit organizations, universities, private landowners, scientists, community members, hunters and anglers, wildlife recreationists, Native Hawaiians, and the public. This approach to planning and implementation recognizes that conserving and protecting Hawaii's unique native wildlife and habitats for future generations is everyone's responsibility, duty, and honor.

### *Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas* **Restoring Montane Forests on the Hawaiian Islands**

Hawaii's wildlife action plan identifies the restoration and protection of native dry forests as a priority goal. Invasions of non-native weeds pose major threats to forests because they lead to more frequent and intense wildfires that can eventually destroy the forest. Without protection and management, these habitats remain vulnerable. This project is restoring three forest habitats that support hundreds of native threatened and endangered plants and animals. Restoration includes fencing imperiled habitat, restoring native plants, and removing feral pigs and sheep that destroy habitat. Areas that benefit include 5,000 acres near Mauna Kea forest reserve, the 3,800-acre Puu waawaa Forest Bird Sanctuary, and more than 40,000 acres of public and private land in the Leeward Haleakala watershed. These proactive efforts begin a long-

term recovery effort that will conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.

### *Proactive Efforts that Benefit Wildlife and People* **Managing and Conserving a Kipuka Rainforest**

Another priority goal in Hawaii's wildlife action plan is public education and involvement in wildlife conservation. A project in the kipuka rainforest aims to provide safe and convenient public access to a kipuka rainforest, giving residents and visitors a rare opportunity to experience one of Hawaii's most spectacular ecosystems. Kipukas are pockets of ancient forest that have been surrounded by relatively recent lava flows, but left intact and unharmed. Restoration work includes the release of 12 endangered Hawaii akepa and six endangered Hawaii creepers. A new fence around the kipuka helps keep destructive feral pigs and sheep out. Dozens of volunteer trips have involved the community and school children in the

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A palila, one species to benefit from dry forest restoration/Jack Jeffrey



Ohia lehua plant protected in the kipuka/Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife

kipuka project. Conserving Hawaii's wildlife and vital natural areas enhances the quality of life for all Hawaiians.

**Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife**

**Conserving the Puaiohi (Small Kauai Thrush)**

Managing and restoring native wildlife and habitats so that native species can thrive is a high priority in Hawaii's wildlife action plan. The puaiohi, or small Kauai thrush, is an extremely rare bird found only in Kauai. However, the number of surviving individuals suggests good chances for recovery. The Zoological Society of San Diego launched a successful captive breeding program to establish new breeding populations in unoccupied habitat and increase existing populations. Between 1999 and 2007, 155 captive-reared puaiohis were released into the Alakai Wilderness Preserve. Survival of the most recently released birds has been excellent. In addition, an intensive study began in 2007 to better understand the

bird's recovery needs and to develop the most cost-effective strategies for long-term recovery. Such efforts will restore and conserve the puaiohi for future generations.

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Hawaii akepa, a honeycreeper found only in Hawaii/Jack Jeffrey



Puaiohi chicks/Zoological Society of San Diego

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