

EXTINCTION IS HAPPENING **NOW** IN HAWAI'I

HELP US SAVE THE ENDANGERED BIRDS ON HAWAI'I ISLAND

In the last 50 years, Hawai'i has seen the extinction of many of its native species. Eight Hawaiian honeycreepers, a large thrush, and several plant species have been recently lost forever due to threats like habitat loss, competition and other impacts from introduced species and disease. These threats persist today, intensified by changing climates and an ever-increasing influx of invasive species.

There is reason for hope. People are taking actions to address habitat protection and restoration, partnerships have formed, collaborative efforts are underway on all the islands, and innovative disease mitigation measures have begun. Perhaps most critically, we have places where native habitats are protected and managed to sustain or even improve conditions for the plants and animals that depend on these habitats. Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge is the crown jewel of the protected areas in Hawai'i.

This year our annual campaign to raise funds for our "Hakalau Forest Refuge Management Endowment" is focused on the Hawai'i 'Ākepa, the small, beautiful songbird found only on Hawai'i Island.

Status of the Hawai'i 'Ākepa Today

The Hawai'i 'Ākepa is restricted to Koa-'Ōhi'a forests, particularly the mature forests above 5,000 feet elevation. The most recent population estimates suggest a total population of roughly 15,000 individuals, with about 7,000 individuals found at Hakalau Forest. 2022 surveys indicate that populations are continuing to decline, but are still denser at Hakalau Forest than in other parts of their range.

The Life of a Hawai'i 'Ākepa

Hawai'i 'Ākepa feed on insects in the leaf clusters of 'Ōhi'a and among Koa leaves and pods. This species is the only remaining Hawaiian forest bird that requires tree cavities for nesting. Suitable nesting cavities are typically only found in the largest mature trees, which have also declined in number over time. It takes time for large trees to develop and for the necessary cavities to form in trunks and branches, which is a challenge for conserving this species. They lay only 1-2 eggs per nest and a key concern is nest predation by rats, feral cats, and mongoose.



● Endangered Species ● Threatened Species ● Vulnerable Species



Why Are We Building an Endowment?

Habitat protection and restoration work at Hakalau Forest NWR is constant.

Day-to-day management needs are relentless but funding support for the Refuge is always uncertain. Changing political priorities in 2025 illustrate how immediate shortages of needed resources can occur at any time. We cannot let key habitat management activities be suspended for any length of time or carried out in a reduced area. Ten years ago, supporters of Hakalau Forest NWR established an endowment to ensure a steady stream of funding for management activities on the refuge. We must be prepared to address any lapse in support by taking care of the species and habitat of Hakalau Forest NWR!

Our Plan

The Endowment started in 2015 has now grown close to \$2 million and is managed by the Hawai'i Community Foundation. Our goal is to raise \$3.5 million to support conservation activities at Hakalau Forest with ongoing annual disbursements to the Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR.

We are getting close, PLEASE help us get there quickly so we can start disbursing funds.

Help save the Hawai'i 'Ākepa and other endangered species by supporting the Hakalau Forest Refuge Management Endowment with a contribution today.

HOW TO DONATE

THE HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION AND YOUR DONATION IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

If you would like to donate online, please visit ONE of the following websites:

- 1 www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/hakalau-forest-refuge-management-endowment-fund
- 2 friendsofhakalauforest.org/endowment/
- 3 scan this QR Code, which will take you directly to our Endowment donation page



If you would like to contribute by CHECK, please make the check out to "Hawai'i Community Foundation" (be sure to note "Hakalau Forest Endowment" on the check) and mail it to:

Hawai'i Community Foundation
827 Fort Street Mall
Honolulu, HI 96813



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