

# HAWAI'I IS THE EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

## HELP US SAVE OUR ENDANGERED BIRDS BY SUPPORTING OUR ENDOWMENT

Hawai'i once had 142 endemic bird species but has already lost over 100. Of those remaining, most are endangered or threatened. This year, the Friends of Hakalau Forest NWR (FOHF) is honoring one of our most endangered species, the 'Ālawi. The 'Ālawi, or Hawaii creeper is a small, "little green bird" endemic to Hawai'i Island. This species is unassuming and difficult to observe in the forest, but it represents the tenacity that our remaining native forest birds must exhibit to survive.

### Status of the 'Ālawi Today

'Ālawi numbers have steadily declined across Hawai'i Island over the last century but roughly 14,000 remain in four distinct populations including Hakalau Forest, which supports an estimated 70% of the remaining population.

### The Life of an 'Ālawi

The 'Ālawi is known for its habit of creeping along trunks and branches of koa and 'ōhi'a trees probing under bark and into lichens for insects and spiders. 'Ālawi typically build open cup nests, but some are placed in cavities or in bark crevices. Both parents feed their young for approximately one month.

'Ālawi appear to be highly susceptible to avian diseases; they are currently only found in native forests above 4,500 to 5,000 feet which do not have disease-carrying mosquitoes. 'Ālawi thrive in rain forests dominated by 'ōhi'a and koa, with a subcanopy of a variety of native shrubs.

Disease is the chief threat to 'Ālawi, but the impacts of feral pigs and cattle are also a major source of habitat loss, as is predation by rats and competition with introduced birds.



### What the Future Holds

There is reason for hope. High quality habitat has increased by about 2,000 acres on the Refuge through a diligent reforestation program. 'Ālawi and other species quickly make use of these additional areas of suitable habitat. 'Ālawi sightings are increasing; observers would only see a couple of birds in a day 30 years ago, they now see as many as 15. Restoration is possible and effective when a commitment is made and reforestation is implemented.

The large and growing network of donors dedicated to preserving Hawai'i's native species have helped the FOHF nearly reach our endowment goal. At the end of 2025, our Endowment reached \$3 million! With only \$500,000 left to raise and with your support, we believe we can reach our goal of \$3.5 million this year!



## 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. We cannot let key habitat management activities be suspended for any length of time or carried out over 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 a variety of habitat management needs.

## Our Plan

The Endowment started in 2015 is managed by the Hawai'i Community Foundation. When we reach our goal, we can begin annual disbursements to address the many needs on and around the Refuge. We are getting very close, **PLEASE HELP US NOW.**

**Help save the 'Ālawi 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](http://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/hakalau-forest-refuge-management-endowment-fund)
- 2 [friendsofhakalauforest.org/endowment/](http://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

