



WORK TO BE DONE

Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) has been conducting several activities designed to maintain the integrity of the Wai'ōhinu coastal strand, including:

- Beach cleanups - Quarterly cleanups are necessary due to high rates of marine debris accumulation in this region, especially at Kamilo Point.
- Invasive plant removal - Physical removal and chemical treatment methods are being implemented to bring invasive species under control.
- Anchialine pool restoration - Removal of most invasive plants and excessive sediment has been accomplished. Planned removal of invasive fish will facilitate restoration of native species.
- Hawaiian sites and petroglyph protection - Education and outreach to coast users should reduce potential for damage. Fencing along the northeast boundary would prevent pasture animals from damaging petroglyphs and native plants.
- Ecosystem education initiative - Service learning trips and classroom visits will bring environmental education about this special coastline to life for a larger network of keiki and 'ōpio (children and youngsters).

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Contribute to the protection of the Wai'ōhinu coastal strand by:

- Driving only on existing roads
- Packing out all trash and belongings
- Respecting all Hawaiian archeological sites
- Participating in beach cleanup events
- Volunteering to remove invasive plants
- Donating to HWF to support conservation efforts



Contact Hawai'i Wildlife Fund for more information, to volunteer, or to make a donation to help save the Wai'ōhinu coast:

HAWAII WILDLIFE FUND
 P.O. Box 70, Volcano, HI 96785
 www.wildhawaii.org | (808) 769-7629

THREATS TO WAI'ŌHINU

MARINE DEBRIS

Every year, trade winds and ocean currents deposit an estimated 15-20 tons of fishing nets, tires, and plastic debris onto the southeastern shore of Hawai'i Island. In addition to marring the region's natural beauty, the debris re-floats during storms and high tides and can injure - or even kill - monk seals, whales, turtles, seabirds, corals and fishes. HWF has already removed over 180 tons of debris from this fragile coastline since 2003 with the help of over 3,000 volunteers. But, the debris continues to wash in. Contact us at kahakai_cleanups@gmail.com for more info about supporting our ongoing community cleanup efforts.



DEFACING OF PETROGLYPHS

An increased awareness and respect for these valuable cultural assets is critical to preserve their integrity. It is important to avoid stepping on these fragile features. Petroglyphs can also be damaged by horses and cattle, which occasionally wander down from fields above the Wai'ōhinu coast. It is unlawful to damage any petroglyphs or archeological feature within Wai'ōhinu or any other state property (HAR §13-221-12).



INVASIVE SPECIES

Native Hawaiian coastal ecosystems are delicate and susceptible to degradation by non-native, invasive species. Particularly problematic are:

- Invasive plants - While the native plant community is currently in good condition, several alien species are present. HWF has been working to control invasive plants and prevent further loss of native flora.
- Aquatic invasives - The anchialine pools are threatened by introduced vegetation and fish that contribute to sedimentation and in-filling of the pools. HWF has removed non-native vegetation from around the pools and is pursuing removal of non-native fish that displace endemic crustaceans through predation and competition for resources.

VEHICLE DAMAGE

Vehicles that stray from existing roads crush and kill native plant species and threaten the integrity of ancient Hawaiian sites and petroglyphs that may be hidden in the vegetation. In addition, seeds arriving on vehicle tires and camping gear introduce new invasive plant species to the region.

OUR RESTORATION PARTNERS

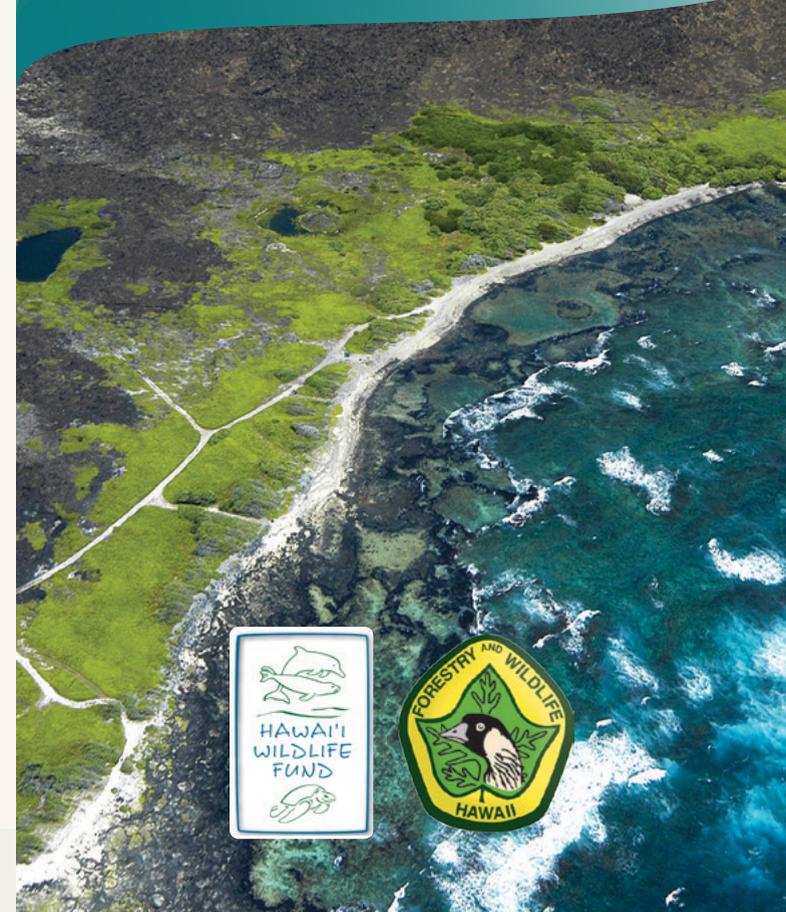
Thanks to the following project partners for supporting our restoration and educational efforts in Wai'ōhinu:

- Massen Greene Foundation
- NOAA (Coral Reef Conservation & Marine Debris Programs)
- US FWS (Hawai'i Fish Habitat Partnership)
- Hawai'i Community Foundation
- DLNR Department of Forestry & Wildlife
- Three Mountain Alliance

The WAI'ŌHINU COASTAL STRAND

Restoring a treasure along the southeast Ka'ū coast, Hawai'i Island

The exquisite Wai'ōhinu coastal strand is host to a varied collection of coastal natural resources and Hawaiian cultural sites that combine to render it unique in the State of Hawai'i.





WAI'ŌHINU

A SPECIAL HAWAIIAN PLACE

In August 2005, the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources approved a measure to set aside 1,330 coastal acres of the Wai'ōhinu ahupua'a as Forest Reserve for conservation management by the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund (HWF) is an active partner in this conservation work, and continued effort and attention are crucial to maintaining this area's natural and cultural integrity.

ANCHIALINE POOLS

Anchialine pool ecosystems are brackish coastal ponds with subsurface connections both to the sea and to freshwater sources. Hawai'i has the only anchialine pool ecosystems in the USA. The pools located at Wai'ōhinu support a wealth of native and endemic species -- including one candidate for endangered listing: the indigenous predatory shrimp, *Metabotus lohena*.

Hawai'i Island is also home to three lineages of another endemic pool shrimp, *Halocaridina rubra*, and the Ka'ū lineage present in the Wai'ōhinu pools has only been found in this location and at one other nearby site.



'Ōhai (an endangered species)



Maiopilo (native endemic caper)

NATIVE VEGETATION

A rare remnant of the native Hawaiian coastal landscape, the Wai'ōhinu coastal strand is home to over three dozen indigenous and endemic plant species, including the endangered 'ōhai. The flora of Wai'ōhinu provides one of the more diverse and extensive examples of native Hawaiian coastal vegetation in the state, and, if diversity is maintained, could provide a gene pool for future native plant reintroduction projects at other coastal sites.



Monk seal birth on Wai'ōhinu coast

ANIMAL LIFE

The Wai'ōhinu coast and shoreline is used by at least four endangered animal species:

- Hawaiian monk seal ('Īlioholoikauaua or nā mea hulu)
- Hawaiian hoary bat ('ōpe'ape'a)
- Hawksbill sea turtle (honu'ea)
- Humpback whale (koholā)

Other animal sightings in this region include:

- Hawaiian spinner dolphins (naia)
- Hundreds of native coral reef fish species (na 'i'a)
- Threatened Hawaiian damselfly species (pina'o)
- Threatened Hawaiian green turtle (honu)
- Various shoreline, sea and water-bird species, including: Ruddy turnstone ('akekeke), White-tailed tropicbird (koa'e kea), Frigate bird ('iwa), Black-crowned night heron ('auku'u), and Laysan albatross (mōli).

HAWAIIAN SITES & PETROGLYPHS

The Wai'ōhinu coastal strand is the location of several important petroglyph fields, sacred places of ancient Hawai'i and symbols of the area's cultural heritage. Evidence of early Hawaiian occupation on this coast has also been found. The lives of the ancient Hawaiians were strongly tied to place and their natural surroundings. The physical evidence found in these archaeological sites significantly contributes to our knowledge and understanding of the region's past.



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