

Hawaii State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Hawaii's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Fencing, Photo Courtesy of Hawaii DOFAW

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People **Keauhou Fencing and Feral Animal Control**

Like all ecosystems, the native forests of Hawaii are sensitive to non-native species which disrupt their natural balance. In order to conserve these rapidly disappearing habitats, State Wildlife Grants were used to build a three mile fence to protect 15,000 acres of forest and former ranch lands from ingress by animals such as feral pigs, mouflon sheep, and goats. The project area contains diverse native forest and provides habitat for three endangered forest birds. The fencing is the first step in long-term management plans that will protect declining species and conserve native wildlife for future generations.



Akipolaa, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Akipolaa Recovery**

The akiapolaa, found only in Hawaii, is among the world's most unusual bird species. Like many of Hawaii's forest birds, the akiapolaa is endangered, and biologists are having a hard time recovering the species because of a lack of information on basic habitat needs. State Wildlife Grant funds were used to study the akiapolaa, revealing that the bird has a much broader habitat range than initially thought. This surprise finding bodes well for akiapolaa recovery and points the way for habitat restoration efforts.



Installing a Cave Gate, Photo Courtesy of NPS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Gating the Makauwahi Sinkhole**

The Makauwahi Sinkhole is the largest limestone cave system in the Hawaiian Islands. It is also home to the endangered Kauai cave wolf spider and Kauai cave amphipod. This project served the dual purpose of protecting people from getting lost in the cave system and conserving the cave environment from vandals and disturbance by placing a locking gate at the southern cave entrance. Protection and restoration of cave habitat is fundamental to the recovery of Kauai's endangered cave spider and cave amphipod and this is a proactive and cost-effective solution.

Congress has appropriated \$3.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to Hawaii since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$1.5 million state and partner dollars.