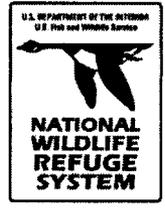


News Release

National Wildlife Refuge System



Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Box 50167, Honolulu, HI 96850

For Release: January 29, 2009
Contact: Barbara Maxfield, 808.792.9531 or 753.0440

HINWR-09-01

Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

On Tuesday, February 3, the oldest national wildlife refuge in Hawai‘i will be celebrating 100 years of conservation during a commemorative event on Kaua‘i. Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge will host a birthday party for its neighboring Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands from Nihoa to Pearl and Hermes Atoll.

President Theodore Roosevelt established the Hawaiian Islands Reservation in 1909 to protect these islets and reefs and the massive colonies of seabirds that call them home. At the time, large numbers of birds were being slaughtered to provide feathers for the millinery trade. Later renamed the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, the designation also protects significant archaeological sites and a seascape associated with Native Hawaiian culture and Polynesian wayfinding.

In addition to the usual opportunities to enjoy seabirds, humpback whales, spinner dolphins, and a historic lighthouse, as part of the celebration staff from Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument will be offering short interpretive presentations about the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands every half hour from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Kīlauea Point.

Two authors with extensive experience in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands also will be at Kīlauea Point from 2 to 3 p.m. Mark Rauzon, author of *Isles of Refuge: Wildlife and History of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands*, will be available to autograph his book. Wildlife artist and author Patrick Ching, who once worked at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge and in the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, will autograph any of his wildlife books and prints.

In the late 1970s, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge was administered from Kīlauea Point, and Noreen Bautista, now the administrative officer for the Kaua‘i National Wildlife Refuge Complex, purchased supplies for the refuge and monitored radio transmissions from the remote islands.

“I still remember working in what is now the contact station – the small building next to the lighthouse – waiting for radio calls with Tern Island,” said Bautista. “We worked in shifts, and often had contact only at night. During the summers we also talked with crews working on Laysan Island.”

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Today, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge is cooperatively managed as part of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and is administered from Honolulu.

“This centennial offers us an opportunity to celebrate the many years of conservation that have preceded us and the current work ongoing within the Monument to protect its natural and cultural resources, as well as to look toward the future,” said Susan White, Fish and Wildlife Service Superintendent for Papahānaumokuākea. “We are honoring the foresight of President Roosevelt in setting aside this remarkable place, and we are acknowledging our responsibility and privilege to inspire future generations to continue that mission.”

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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