



Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership



The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership seeks to cooperatively develop and implement aquatic conservation projects in Hawaiian streams and estuaries through the support and participation of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership is composed of a diverse group of partners that have the capacity to plan and implement a technically sound statewide aquatic habitat restoration program. In addition to state and federal resource agencies, our partners include:

 Local watershed partnerships throughout the main Hawaiian Islands who are interested in developing capacity to increase effective stewardship of riparian and aquatic habitats within their geographic areas of responsibility:



 The Hanalei Watershed Hui, an established American Heritage River program on the North Shore of Kauai, which is a community-driven partnership with a watershed-wide focus;

 Private interests that own and manage tens of thousands of acres of land throughout Hawaii and who seek to establish sustainable resource management practices for lands devoted to agriculture, forestry, and conservation;

 Representatives of native Hawaiian groups that seek to preserve freshwater aquatic resources as a cultural and natural resource legacy for the indigenous inhabitants of the islands.

Hawaii's Native Aquatic Resources

The Hawaiian Islands are among the most geographically isolated island chains in the world. Approximately 365 perennial



streams are located on the five largest Hawaiian Islands (Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and island of Hawaii). These streams support remarkable native communities of fish and invertebrates. All of Hawaii's nine stream-dwelling species (five fish, two shrimp and two snails) are diadromous. Their life cycle requires downstream dispersal of larvae through the stream channel to the sea, and each returning individual must complete an arduous upstream climb back to suitable stream habitat.

Need for Restoration

Alteration of stream habitat has affected the structure and function of many streams across the Hawaiian Islands. Widespread impacts include physical alteration of stream channels, degradation of water quality, water withdrawals,



and introduction of non-native species. A critical management goal is removal of migration barriers to allow fish passage between upper watersheds and the sea.



Coordination and Planning

A strategic plan to prioritize and implement stream restoration in a partnership format will focus on the following:

 Maintain, protect, manage, and restore aquatic habitat in sufficient quantity and quality to allow native species to thrive;

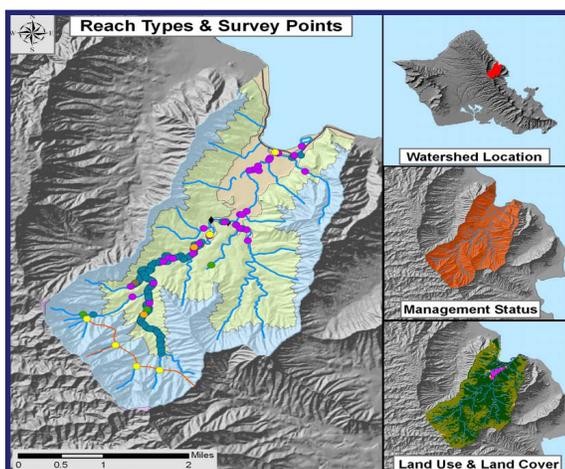
 Address priority invasive species with prevention, early detection, rapid response, and ongoing control or eradication;

 Manage, and disseminate scientific and technical information needed to improve the effectiveness of conservation and recovery programs;

 Conserve aquatic habitats through partnership, education and outreach.

Technical Capacity

The partnership is committed to implementing aquatic habitat restoration in the appropriate landscape scale to achieve conservation benefits. Partnership supported technical information, such as the Atlas of Hawaiian Watersheds and Their Aquatic Resources, will be an integral component of partnership programs.



Steering Committee

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Island Fish and Wildlife Office
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- Commission on Water Resource Management
- U.S. Dept. Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Hanalei American Heritage River Program
- Hawaii Association of Watershed Partnerships
- East Maui Watershed Partnership

Partners

- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks
- Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Planning Office - Stream Bioassessment Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service
- National Ocean Service -Pacific Island Service Center
- Environmental Protection Agency - Pacific Islands Contact Office
- US Forest Service, Southwest Forestry Experiment Station, Institute of Tropical Forestry
- U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, Pacific Islands Water Sciences Center
- University of Hawaii, Hilo, Cooperative Studies Unit
- Kohala Watershed Partnership
- Koolau Mountains Watershed Partnership
- Hawaii Department of Health, Clean Water Branch
- Kamehameha Schools
- Maui Land and Pineapple, Inc.
- U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii
- Office of Hawaiian Affairs
- Hawaii Pacific University
- University of Hawaii, Manoa, Department of Zoology, Institute of Marine Biology

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