



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

O'ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex

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Management Planning for Two O'ahu National Wildlife Refuges Begins

Public Invited to Help Guide the Future

A long-term plan that will guide management of James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on O'ahu's North Shore and Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge on the island's southern shores is now under development by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Two open houses to involve the public in the planning process are scheduled next week.

"These two National Wildlife Refuges provide vital habitat for Hawai'i's endangered waterbirds, migratory waterfowl, and shorebirds," said acting refuge manager Mike Silbernagle. "James Campbell refuge is also a significant green space along the North Shore, an area in which the local community takes great interest. Now is the time to help us plan for the future!"

The first open house will focus on Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge and is scheduled on Tuesday, December 9, in the General Technology Building, Room 105, at Leeward Community College in Pearl City. The second gathering will focus on James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge and is scheduled on Thursday, December 11, at the Kahuku Community Center, 56-576 Kamehameha Highway in Kahuku. Both open houses are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The meetings will include a presentation explaining the National Wildlife Refuge System's comprehensive conservation planning process and providing information about current refuge management. The primary purpose of the meeting is to gather public input on the management issues that should be addressed during the planning process. Participants will be invited to visit refuge staff and discuss their specific issues, particularly related to wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, cultural and historic resources, and (for James Campbell only) land acquisition.

"Over the coming year, we will be developing a draft comprehensive conservation plan for these refuges," Silbernagle said. "Of course we will be seeking public comment on the draft plan when it is released, but this is really the opportunity for folks to get in on the ground floor of the planning process."

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge is located near the northern-most point of O'ahu near the community of Kahuku. It was established in 1976 to provide habitat for four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, the ae'o or Hawaiian stilt, 'alae ke'oke'o or Hawaiian coot, 'alae 'ula or Hawaiian moorhen, and koloa or Hawaiian duck. Two wetland units currently make up the refuge – the Ki'i Unit and the Punamano Unit. In 2005, Congress expanded the refuge boundary to include approximately 1,100 acres of wetlands, a small upland, and the last remaining intact coastal dune system on O'ahu. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently working with the James Campbell Company LLC to acquire the property.

Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge is located on the southern coast of O‘ahu and includes three units. Two wetland units, Honouliuli and Waiawa, are located on the shores of Pearl Harbor and managed under a perpetual use agreement with the U.S. Navy. Both units were established in 1972 to protect and enhance habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds. The third unit, Kalaeloa, is a coastal upland unit on the island’s southwestern point. It was acquired in fee title from the U.S. Navy in 2001 after the closure of Barbers Point Naval Air Station and was established to protect and enhance habitat for the endangered plant ‘Ewa hinahina.

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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