



## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# News Release

*Kaua'i National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

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### **Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Offers Free Admission in Celebration of National Public Lands Day and Nēnē Awareness Day**

All visitors will have free admission to Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, September 26, as the refuge celebrates both National Public Lands Day and Nēnē Awareness Day.

National Public Lands Day is a celebration of the 655 million acres of forests, parks, refuges, and open spaces that all Americans own. To celebrate the day, people from across the mainland as well as Alaska and Hawai'i will be getting out to hike in the forest, fish in the streams and oceans, and enjoy the wild places we all share.

Visitors celebrating National Public Lands Day at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge will be able to discover maritime history and the importance of the lighthouse, and learn about native coastal plants and migratory seabirds. It's an excellent opportunity to demonstrate community support for the continued ownership, protection, and restoration of our public lands.

Events for Nēnē Awareness Day include a nēnē game for the keiki at 11:30 a.m., interpretive tours, exhibits and ranger-led activities throughout the day. The State Division of Forestry and Wildlife will be on-site to provide valuable nēnē banding information.

Students, grades k-12 are invited to participate in the Nēnē Art and Poetry Contest. Sponsored by the Kīlauea Point Natural History Association, the contest is running now until September 21. Entry forms are available online at <http://www.fws.gov/kilaueapoint/education.html> or can be picked up at Kīlauea Point National Wildlife Refuge. All art will be on display at the refuge, and contest winners and prizes will be announced at noon on Nēnē Awareness Day.

September 26 was officially declared Nēnē Awareness Day by Governor Linda Lingle in 2003 for the purpose of educating residents and visitors alike about Hawai'i's state bird.

Designated Hawai'i's state bird on May 7, 1957, the nēnē has endured a long struggle against extinction. Conservationists began breeding the birds in captivity in hopes of preserving a remnant of the declining population and, someday, successfully re-establishing them throughout their native habitat. Today on Kaua'i, biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Division of Forestry and Wildlife work together to preserve our rare and unique state bird. There are more than 800 nēnē on Kaua'i and approximately 1,700 nēnē statewide.

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](http://www.fws.gov).