



State of Hawai'i DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

Ho'okipa Ecological Restoration



Clockwise: A view across Ho'okipa from the east end, with the point in the distance. An 'ua'u kani chick.

SUMMARY

On Maui's north shore, Ho'okipa is a coastal and marine treasure. Its waters are known worldwide for watersports such as surfing & windsurfing. Its shores are used by native Hawaiian species like sea turtles & seabirds. It is recognized as having a history of cultural significance. Ho'okipa point is a prime location for protection & restoration, where regeneration of coastal strand vegetation & exclusion of predators would provide habitat for several protected species.

NEED FOR PROJECT

Projections of sea level rise predict an astounding loss of seabird nesting habitat in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands within the next 80 years. Restoration work at Ho'okipa could provide critical habitat for displaced species. Success at Ho'okipa would serve as an example as additional restoration sites are planned throughout the High Hawaiian Islands. This site would be a template for the reestablishment of a native coastal ecosystem through the enhancement of the vegetation community, and the exclusion of non-native mammalian predators. Ho'okipa is cherished by locals and visitors alike. Involving the community would result in strong support for the protection and restoration of this site.

BUDGET

Purchase 25 acres -	\$159,756
Predator Fence -	\$ 508,000
Habitat Restoration -	\$ 200,000
Total -	\$ 867,756

*House District: House District 13
Rep. Lynn DeCoite
Senate District: Senate District 7
Sen. Jamie Kalani English*



Ungulate fence Predator fence



Ho'okipa's location on Maui. The current ungulate excluding fence protects 1 acre of coastal habitat. The **proposed** predator-proof fence would protect 25 acres.

CONTACT

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Currently at Ho'okipa point, a dog and ungulate excluding fence protects 1 acre of coastal habitat, which is home to a colony of wedge-tailed shearwater ('ua'u kani). Following fence construction (DOFAW, 2017) the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project staff and volunteers have been working to remove non-native vegetation from the protected area, and to out-plant native coastal grasses and other coastal strand habitat plants.

With the purchase of the Ho'okipa Restoration Area by the state, installation of a relatively short (0.7 miles) predator-proof fence would protect an additional 25 acres of the point providing critical habitat for seabirds displaced from the low Northwest Hawaiian Islands due to sea level rise. Restoration of native plants would also provide habitat for endangered yellow-faced bees.

Restoration of rare, native coastal habitat on the north shore of Maui would be an educational and exemplary tool for local and visiting populations, and would inform future projects with similar objectives.



'Ākulikuli, a native groundcover, thrives after removal of invasive pasture grasses.



MNSRP staff, Kupu interns, and volunteers search for 'ua'u kani chicks during an annual banding event at Ho'okipa

PROJECT SUPPORTERS

The Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project has been working with **DOFAW** and **Alexander & Baldwin** through planning and construction of the ungulate exclusionary fence. MNSRP consulted with **DOFAW**, **Starr Environmental**, **Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**, the **Maui Nui Botanical Gardens**, **Hawai'i Islands Land Trust**, and **Maui Native Nursery** to plan and implement removal of non-native vegetation, and out-planting of native species. The **American Bird Conservancy** are partners in strategizing for seabird habitat protection.

Volunteers, members of the community, and other Maui conservation agencies have been valuable help in the monitoring of the 'ua'u kani, and with the restoration of Ho'okipa.

BENEFITS/DELIVERABLES

- Restoration of coastal strand vegetation will prevent erosion & reef degradation
- Protection of burrowing 'ua'u kani results in population stability and colony expansion
- Protected nesting habitat for species vulnerable to sea level rise in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (such as albatross) allows for seabird recruitment
- Protected lands and native plants are important for