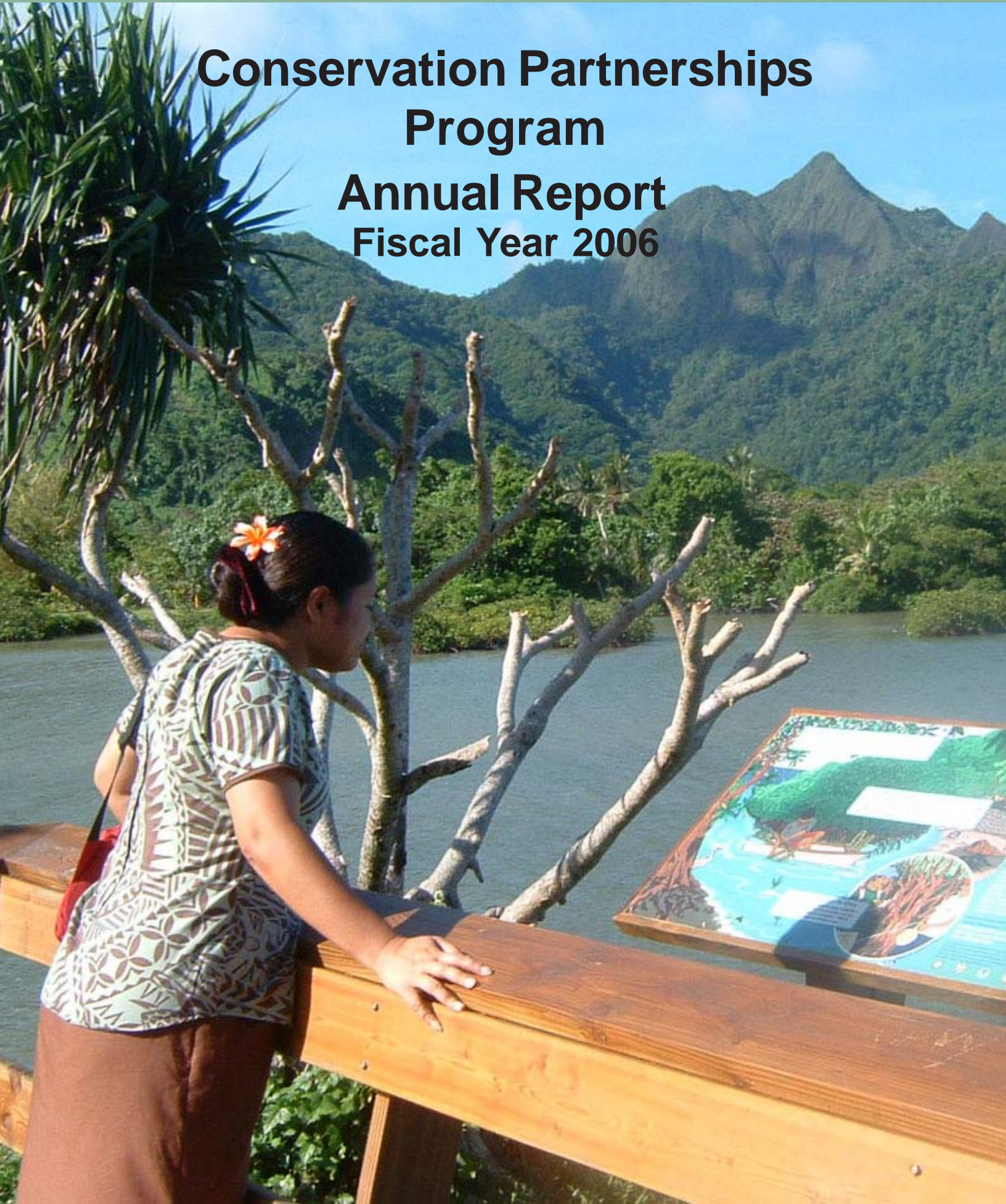




Conservation Partnerships Program

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2006



The Year in Review: Fiscal Year 2006

The Pacific Islands Conservation Partnerships Program (PICPP) provides cost-share funding, biological expertise and technical assistance to landowners, nonprofit organizations, and community groups for the restoration of native habitats. Our program is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Office, based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

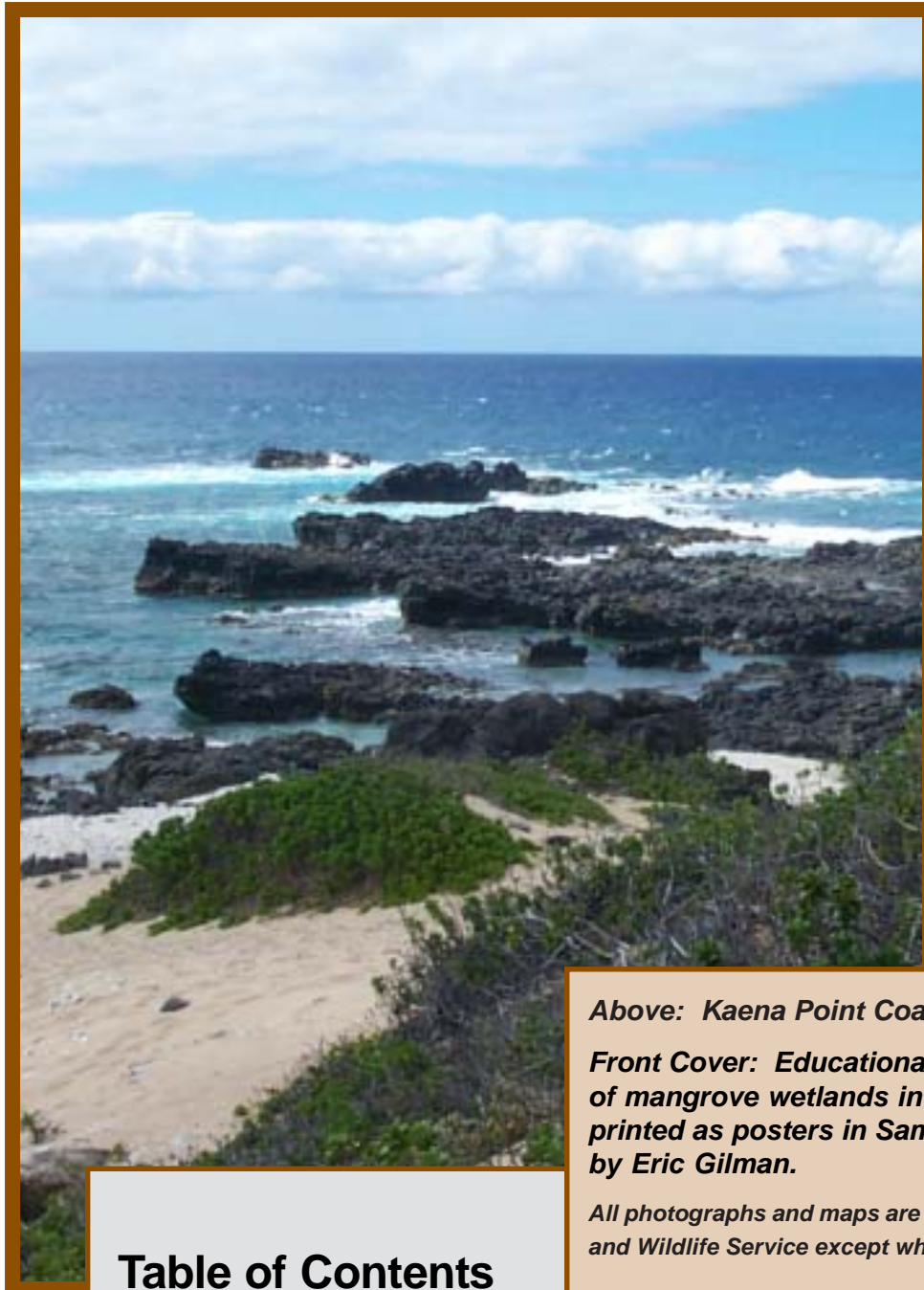
Developing partnerships with non-federal landowners is essential to conserving threatened and endangered species and their habitats in Hawaii and the other Pacific Islands. This is due to the high number of listed species and the low percentage of land in federal ownership. Hawaii, for example, is home to a quarter of the nation's listed species, and over 90 percent of land in Hawaii is in private or State ownership.

In fiscal year 2006, the PICPP provided approximately \$1.1 million to cooperators for habitat restoration through three of the PICPP programs. This level is lower than each of the previous three years, and two programs, the Hawaii Community Conservation Initiative and the Hawaii Invasive Species Initiative have been removed completely. Nevertheless, we were able to assist a variety of partners implement important restoration projects to benefit a wide range of natural communities and listed species. The PICPP took on responsibility for an additional program, Recovery Land Acquisition Grants in fiscal year 2006. Over \$1.7 million was provided to purchase and protect land to be managed in perpetuity for the benefit of listed species. The PICPP also provides technical assistance to partners for the National Coastal Wetland Grant program.

Our plans for fiscal year 2007 include strategic planning efforts, both as part of a national initiative and as a self-identified need to assess Pacific Island conservation priorities.

As a partnerships program, the PICPP is keenly aware that our success is based on that of our cooperators. We are fortunate to be able to work with so many talented individuals in a broad range of organizations.

Craig Rowland
Conservation Partnerships Coordinator



Above: Kaena Point Coastal Restoration

Front Cover: Educational signs about conservation of mangrove wetlands in American Samoa were printed as posters in Samoan and English. Photo by Eric Gilman.

All photographs and maps are provided by staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service except where noted.

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Program Description

The Pacific Islands Conservation Partnerships Program (PICPP) is a collection of voluntary habitat protection and restoration programs in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Islands Office. The goal of the PICPP is to restore native habitats by providing cost-share funds, technical assistance and coordination to community groups, private landowners, conservation organizations, and other government agencies. The PICPP emphasizes the collaborative aspects of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's mission statement which is "working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

There are five program elements within the PICPP, having different areas of emphasis, that share the overall goal of habitat protection and restoration. These program elements are as follows:

- ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife***
- ***Pacific Islands Coastal Program***
- ***Private Stewardship Grants Program***
- ***Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program***
- ***National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program***

In addition to implementing these funding programs, the PICPP continued to work with watershed partnerships and other multi-landowner groups to assist in coordination and implementation of conservation actions over broad landscapes. Further information and habitat restoration resources can be found by visiting our website at: http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/worg/orghc_conpart.html or by searching on "Pacific Island Conservation Partnerships."

Future Direction

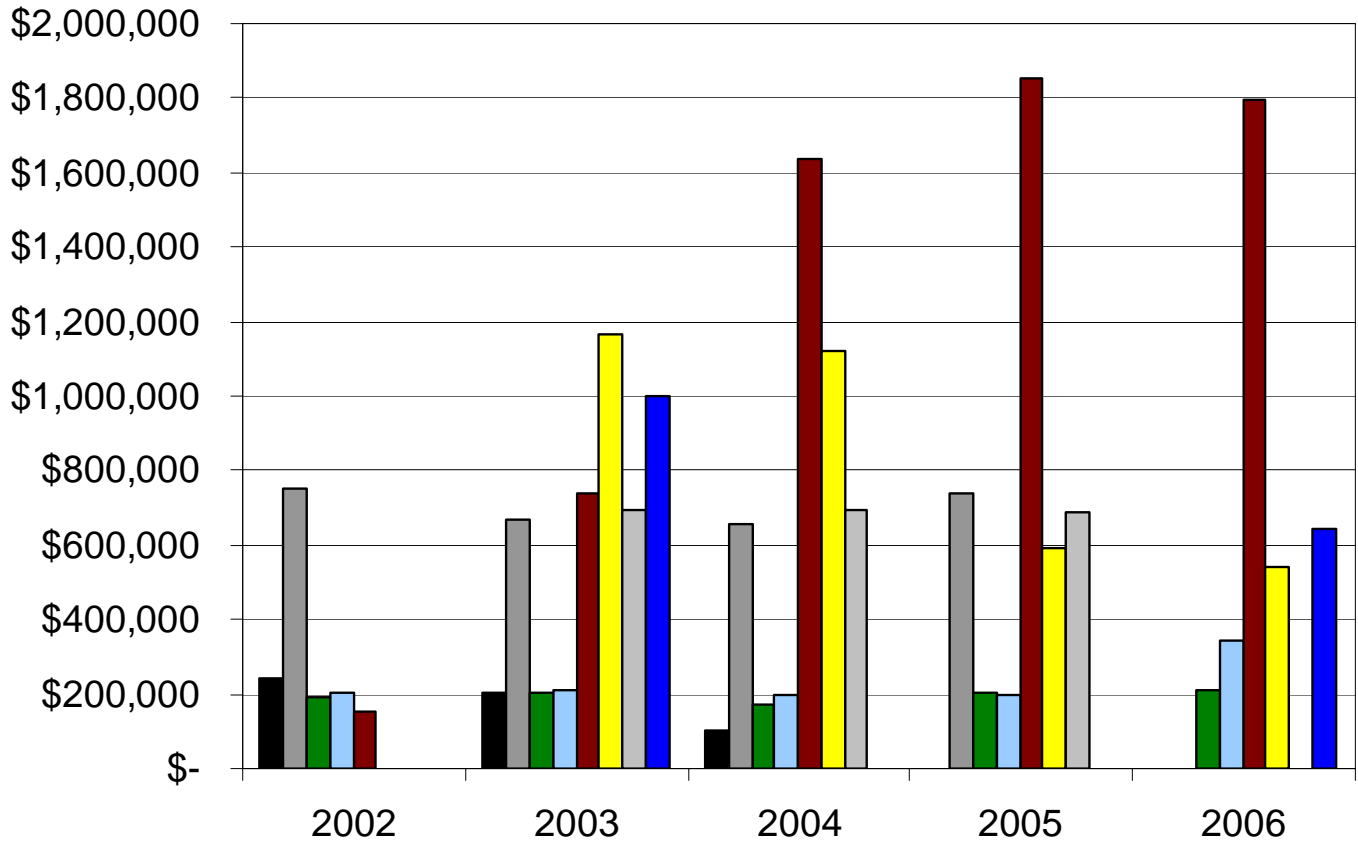
The goals of the PICPP are as follows:

- continue with multi-party, landscape scale conservation efforts;
- help partners secure sufficient funding for ongoing projects to ensure their long-term success;
- use GIS and other information systems to focus new project implementation on ecosystems and threats that are not currently addressed; and
- build the capacity of the habitat restoration community in Hawai'i and the Pacific Islands.

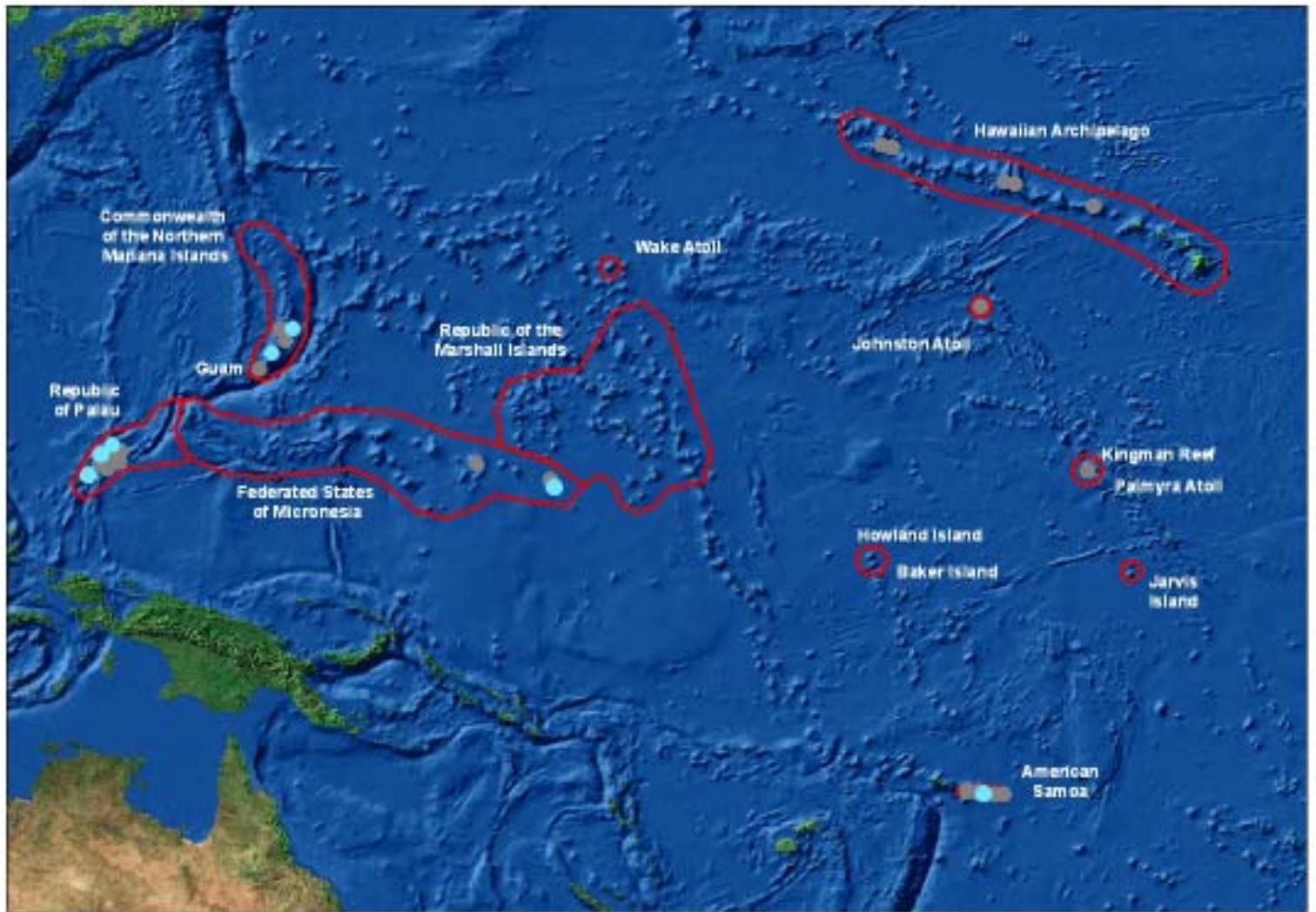
Program Staff

- ***Conservation Partnerships Coordinator: Craig Rowland***
- ***Pacific Islands Coastal Program Coordinator: Chris Swenson***
- ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife Coordinator: Benton Pang***
- ***Fish and Wildlife Biologists: Donna Ball and Adonia Henry***

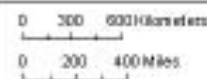
PICPP Funding for Projects (2002-2006)



■ Hawaii Biodiversity Joint Venture	\$	0
■ Hawaii Community Conservation Initiative	\$	0
■ Partners for Fish and Wildlife	\$	212,600
■ Pacific Islands Coastal Program	\$	342,715
■ Recovery Land Acquisition Grant	\$	1,794,500
■ Private Stewardship Grants	\$	538,317
■ Hawaii Invasive Species Initiative	\$	0
■ National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant	\$	<u>646,250</u>
FISCAL YEAR 2006 TOTAL		\$3,534,382



Pacific Islands Ecoregion



1:34,461,436
UTM Zone 55, UNG554



Pacific Islands Conservation Partnerships Program Projects

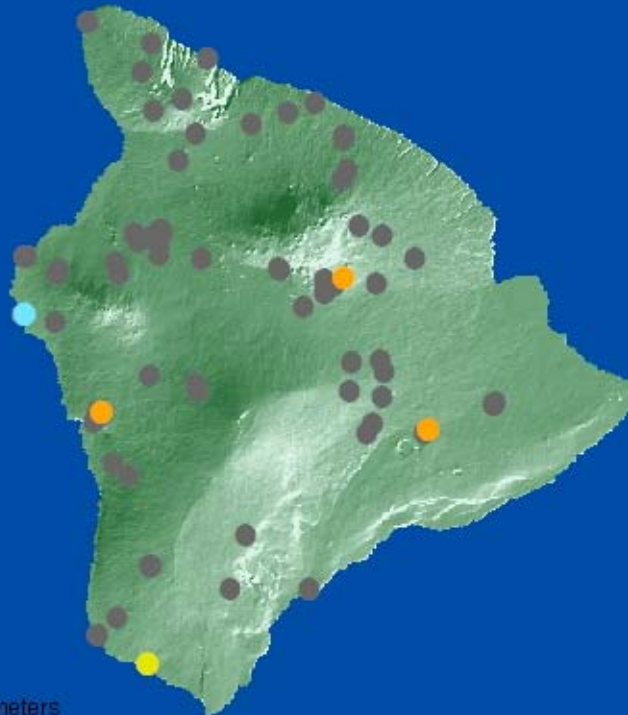
Fiscal Year 2006

- Private Stewardship Grants Program
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- Pacific Islands Coastal Program
- National Coastal Wetland Grant Program
- Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program

Previous Fiscal Years

- All Programs

** There are 4 current and over 30 previous multi-island projects not shown on map.*



0 12.5 25 50 Miles

0 50 100 Kilometers



Kualoa Ranch Endangered Species Restoration and Management
Kualoa Ranch and Activity Club, Inc.



Tiana Partners Endangered Species Reintroduction and Conservation
Oahu Oahu Koolau, Inc.

Private Stewardship Grants Program

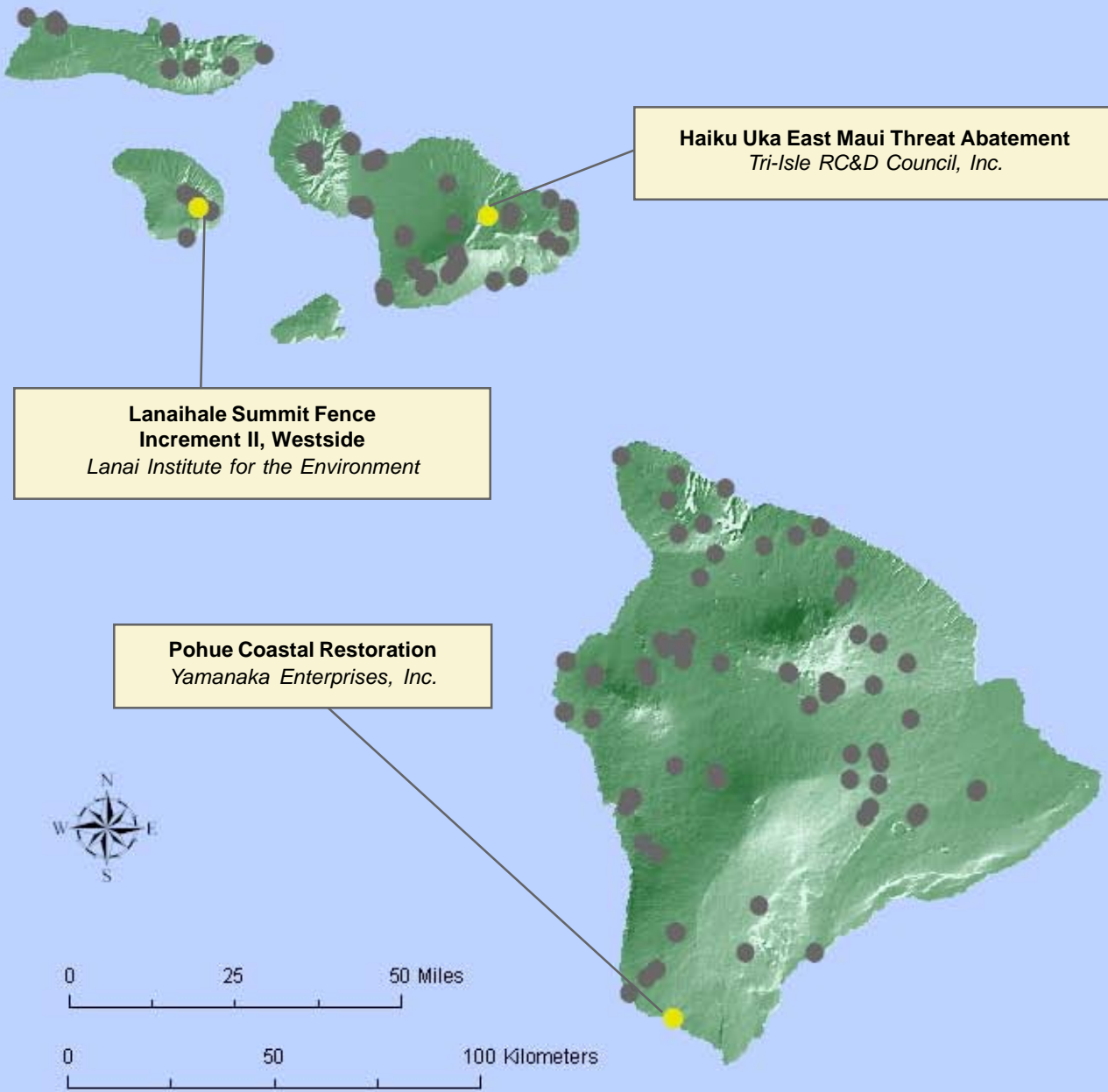
The Private Stewardship Grants program is a focused effort to restore habitat on private land for species that are endangered, threatened, candidates, or species of concern. These projects compete on a regional level for funding.

In the first two years of the program, 210 Private Stewardship grants totaling more than \$16 million were awarded to private

landowners across the country. During this time, Hawaii was awarded more money than any other state, receiving \$2,340,827.

In fiscal year 2006, five projects in Hawaii were awarded a total of \$538,317 out of roughly \$6.9 million available nationwide. These projects will help conserve and restore native habitat for a wide range of species on the islands of Oahu, Lanai, Maui, and Hawaii.

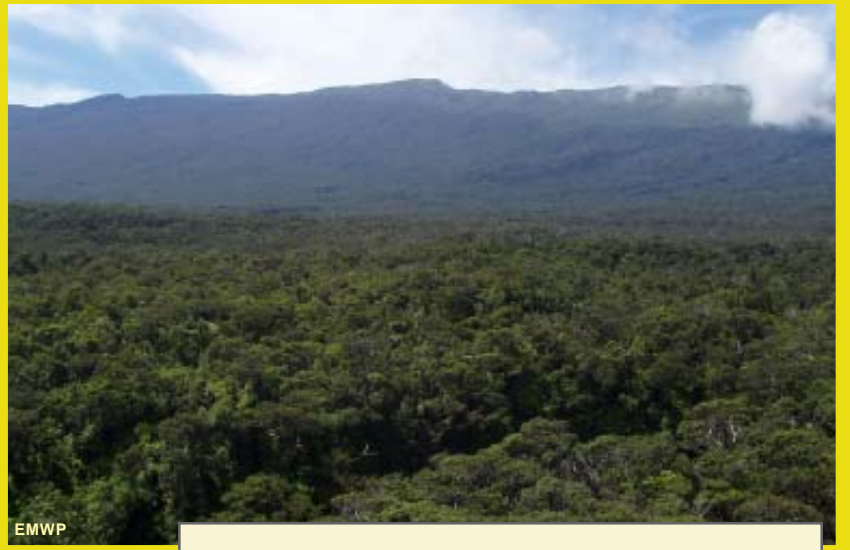
- FY 2006 Projects
- Previous Projects



Kualoa Ranch Endangered Species Restoration and Management

Kualoa Ranch and Activity Club, Inc.

The objective of this project is to reintroduce five federally listed endangered species (*Cyanea acuminata*, *Cyanea crispa*, *Cyanea truncata*, *Gardenia mannii* and *Schiedea kaalae*) and a federally listed candidate species (*Psychotria hexandra* spp. *oahuensis*) into appropriate and protected habitat on 10 acres on O’ahu. Newly established populations will be protected by the construction of enclosure fences and the removal of invasive vegetation.



EMWP

Haiku Uka East Maui Threat Abatement

Tri-Isle RC&D Council, Inc.

The objective of this project is to control and reduce the presence of invasive plant species that compete with and negatively impact habitat of twelve listed and four candidate species. In addition, feral ungulates will be controlled within the project area. By reducing the occurrence of feral ungulates and associated browsing and trampling of native plants, growth and reproduction of at-risk native plant species is expected to increase.

Tiana Partners Endangered Species Reintroduction and Conservation

Ohu Ohu Koolau, Inc.

The objective of this project is to reintroduce, monitor, and maintain populations of five endangered plants (*Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyrtandra polyantha*, *Diellia erecta*, *Lobelia monostachya*, and *Tetraplasandra lydgatei*) and enhance the habitat of an endangered bird, the Oahu elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*).



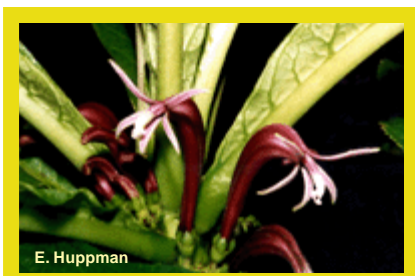
Kualoa Ranch



M. Ryder



E. VanderWerf



E. Huppman

Pohue Coastal Restoration

Yamanaka Enterprises, Inc.

The project seeks to improve hawksbill sea turtle nesting habitat on the Island of Hawai'i by minimizing threats posed by non-native mammalian predators, including mongooses, rats, feral cats, and feral dogs, controlling non-native plants such as fountain grass, and minimizing impact of human activities.



W. Seitz



W. Seitz



W. Seitz

Lanaihale Summit Fence Increment II, Westside

Lanai Institute for the Environment

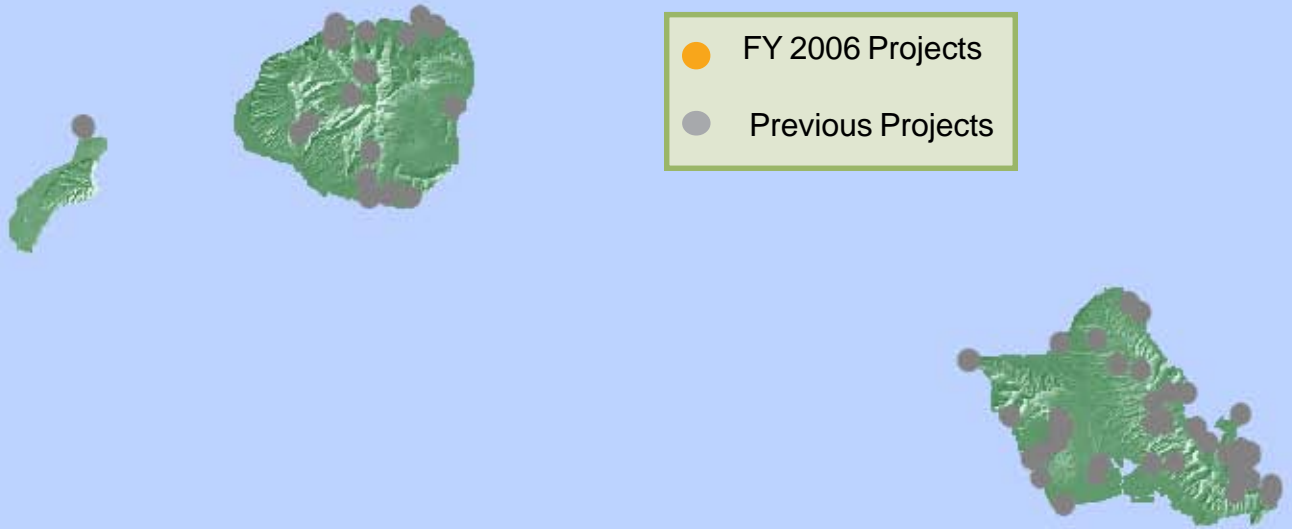
This project will help to protect and restore the native forest ecosystem of the Lanaihale Cloud Forest on the island of Lanai, benefiting 13 endangered species. Lanaihale also includes habitat for *Partulina semicarinata* and *Partulina variabilis*, two tree snails proposed for listing as endangered. This restoration effort will include installation of an enclosure fence that will restrict feral ungulates from accessing the forest and allow restoration and natural regeneration of native plants to occur.



LIFE



© G. D. Carr



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

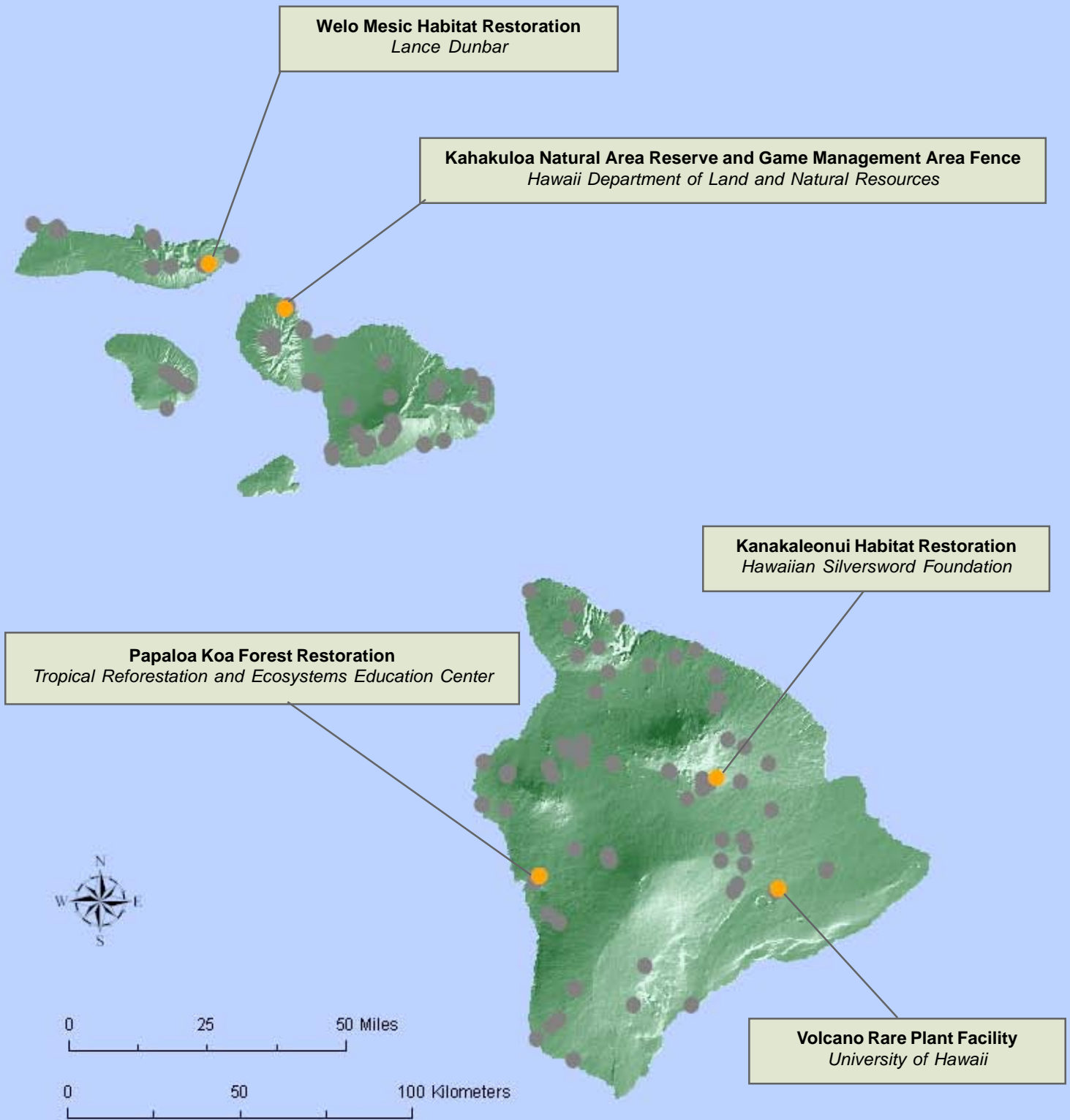
The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program was established to offer technical and financial assistance to landowners who wish to restore wildlife habitat (native ecosystems) on their property.

Since 1994, the PFW program in Hawaii has contributed over \$1.5 million to restoration projects targeting unique ecosystems: caves that provide habitat for listed invertebrates; bogs that contain diverse and rare plant

species; dryland forests that have disappeared from most of the islands; wetlands that are home to endangered waterfowl; and island watersheds that connect rainforests with coral reefs.

The PFW program continued its successful development and implementation of restoration projects on private lands by providing more than \$200,000 to five projects in fiscal year 2006.

The PFW program will celebrate it's 20th anniversary during 2007.





W. Wagner © Smithsonian Institution

Kahakuloa Natural Area Reserve and Game Management Area Fence

Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources
 The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership will construct strategic fences along the 1200 foot elevation contour within the Iao and Waikapu watersheds with the primary objective to prevent ungulates from entering the upper portions of the West Maui Mountains. The project will benefit critically endangered plants such as *Cyanea lobata* (haha), *Hesperomannia arbuscula*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, and *Clermontia arborescens* (haha).



© T. Rau

Welo Mesic Habitat Restoration

Lance Dunbar

This project will expand, restore, and enhance 50 acres of mesic forest habitat. Fencing, control of invasive species, and propagation and outplanting of native species will promote the re-establishment of several listed and at-risk species on the island of Molokai.



Kanakaleonui Habitat Restoration

Hawaiian Silversword Foundation

Restoration of 525 acres of forested habitats at Kanakaleonui will create an important corridor for the movement of native Hawaiian forest birds by providing a link between the surrounding dry mamane woodland, mesic koa-ohia forest and wet ohia forests. The project is located on lands owned by the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, directly adjacent to the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, and funding in FY 06 was dedicated to the costs of fence construction. Restoration actions include fencing and removal of feral ungulates and control of invasive plant species. The restored Kanakaleonui bird corridor will benefit native forest bird species such as the iiwi, apapane, and amakihi, while also creating opportunities for endangered species such as the palila, akiapolaau, Hawai'i creeper, and Hawaiian hawk. Native plants and insects will also benefit from the restoration of this corridor.



Volcano Rare Plant Facility
University of Hawaii

The Center for Conservation Research and Training will construct a new greenhouse at the Volcano Research Station's Rare Plant Facility on the island of Hawaii. This greenhouse will be used to propagate listed and non-listed plant species for habitat restoration projects on private lands, including two projects previously funded by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program promoting the recovery of rare plants on the Hamakua Coast.



F. and K. Starr (USGS)



© J. K. Obata

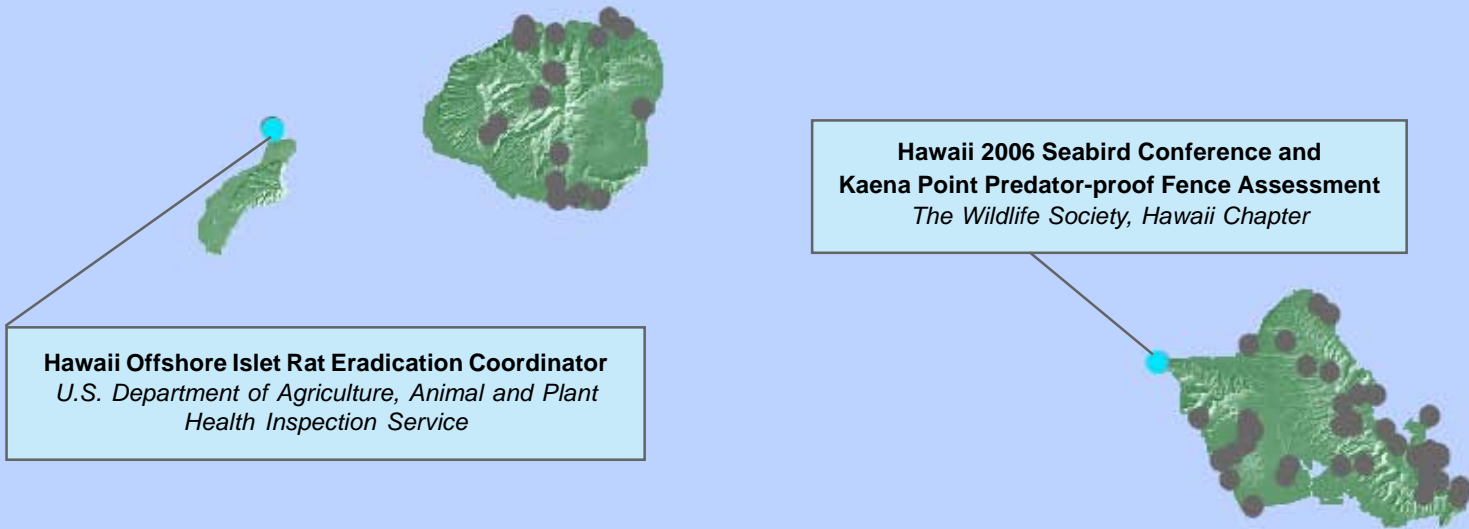
Papaloa Koa Forest Restoration

Tropical Reforestation and Ecosystems Education Center

This project will restore native Hawaiian forest habitat suitable for the long-term sustainability of populations of rare or endangered understory plant species endemic to montane dry forests of South Kona, island of Hawaii. Previous restoration efforts included construction of an ungulate-proof fence to protect native plants.



© G. D. Carr



Pacific Islands Coastal Program

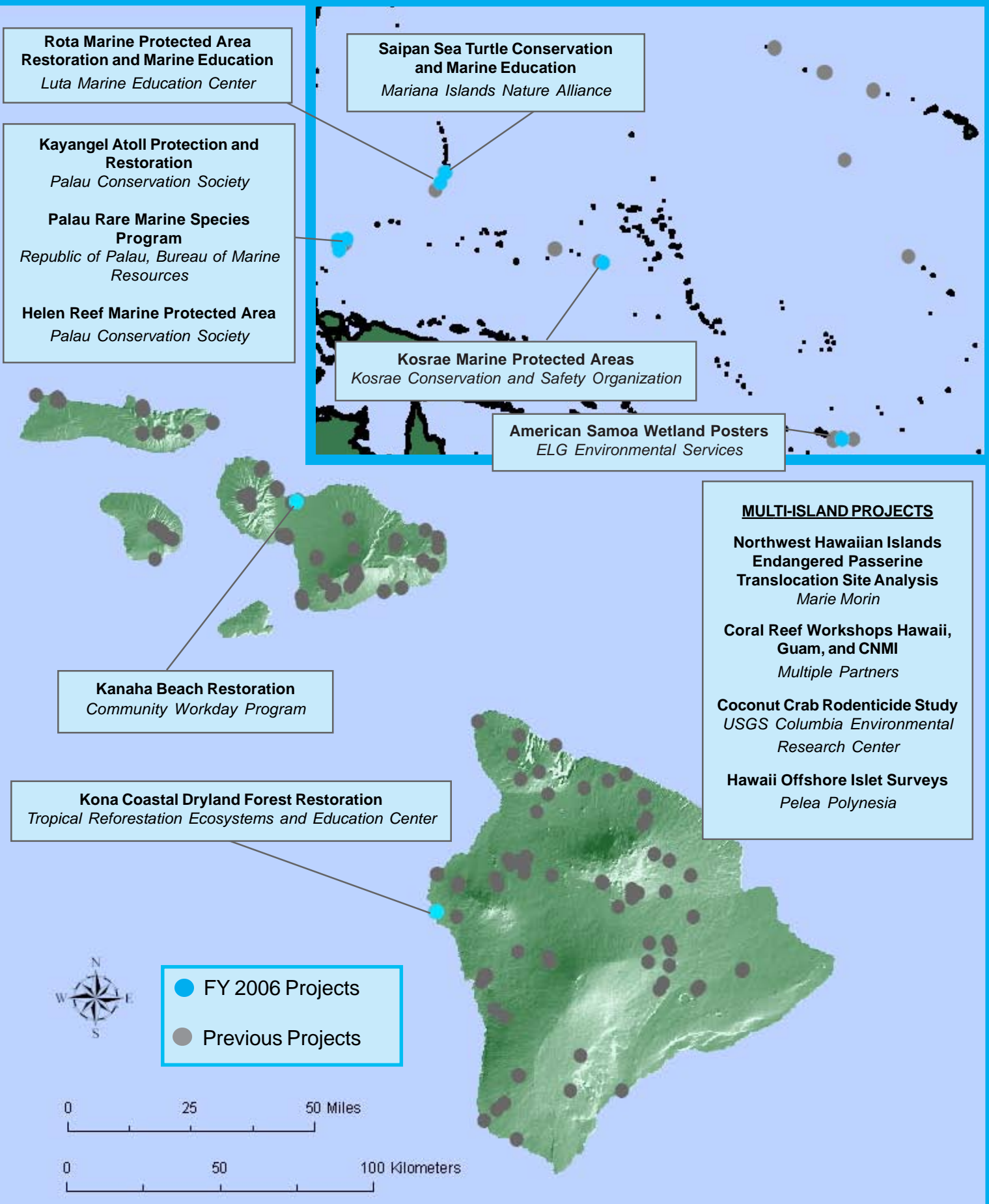
The Pacific Islands Coastal Program (PICP) is one of 21 such programs around the nation. Established in Fiscal Year 2000, the PICP funds landowners, nonprofit groups, government agencies, and others to conduct habitat restoration, biological surveys, GIS mapping, applied restoration research, and environmental education in order to further coastal conservation.

The PICP covers hundreds of islands scattered over thousands of square miles of ocean. Pacific island coasts and nearshore environments include over 90% of the U.S. coral reefs and a range of unique, tropical habitat types that support many endemic species, hundreds of which are listed as threatened or endangered.

In Fiscal Year 2006, the PICP provided \$324,715 to fund 15 projects. These projects include assistance to Hawaii, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the State of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Offshore islet restoration will continue to be a focus of the PICP in Fiscal Year 2007. Offshore islets are the last refuge for many coastal species including seabirds, listed plants and rare, endemic invertebrates. Another continuing focus area will be community-based management and conservation of marine resources.





Helen Reef Marine Protected Area

Palau Conservation Society

Helen Reef is one of the most biologically rich coral reef areas in Palau but has suffered from poaching and a lack of active management. This project will increase the management capacity of field staff at Helen Reef Conservation Area in the Republic of Palau. Funds will aid the staff in involving the community in finalizing the Helen Reef Marine Protected Area zoning process, demarcating boundaries, monitoring wildlife, and conducting staff training and community education programs.



Kayangel Atoll Protection and Restoration

Palau Conservation Society

This project will protect and restore a unique atoll forest ecosystem on Kayangel Atoll in the Republic of Palau and populations of the endangered Micronesian megapode. This will be accomplished by building community capacity for establishing and managing a Kayangel Atoll conservation area, planning for rodent eradication, and developing quarantine measures to prevent invasions of alien species. Community members will be trained in conservation techniques, with assistance from local agencies and conservation organizations.

Saipan Sea Turtle Conservation and Marine Education

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Funds will support implementation of marine education and conservation projects on Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. A Teacher Environmental Camp will be held in 2007 to introduce basic principles of coral reef ecology to at least ten public school teachers. Teachers will then design marine science curricula for use in classrooms throughout Saipan. Additionally, a sea turtle nesting area at Obyan Beach will be protected by blocking off-road vehicle traffic, using native vegetation to stop erosion, posting signs, and educating the public about sea turtle conservation. Teachers at the ecology camp will integrate lessons from Obyan Beach into their curricula.





Hawaii Offshore Islet Surveys

Pelea Polynesia

This multi-agency project will continue collection of biological survey data from offshore islets in Hawaii. The isolated offshore islets are the last refuge for many seabirds in Hawaii, in addition to rare and endangered coastal plants and insects. The project will provide data on islets that have not been surveyed for many years. This data will allow resource managers to prioritize restoration actions and to use the data as a baseline for future monitoring. Rare plants will also be collected for propagation and outplanting.

Hawaii Offshore Islet Rat Eradication Coordinator

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

The rat eradication coordinator will plan and oversee eradication of introduced rodents from the Hawai'i offshore islets of Lehua and Mokapu. The coordinator will also conduct scientific monitoring of rodent populations to verify that rodent eradication has been successful. Rat eradication will benefit many native species, including rare and endangered seabirds, insects, and plants. This project will build in-state capacity to conduct rodent eradications in a variety of other habitats in Hawai'i in the future.



Coconut Crab Rodenticide Study

U.S. Geological Survey, Columbia Environmental Research Center

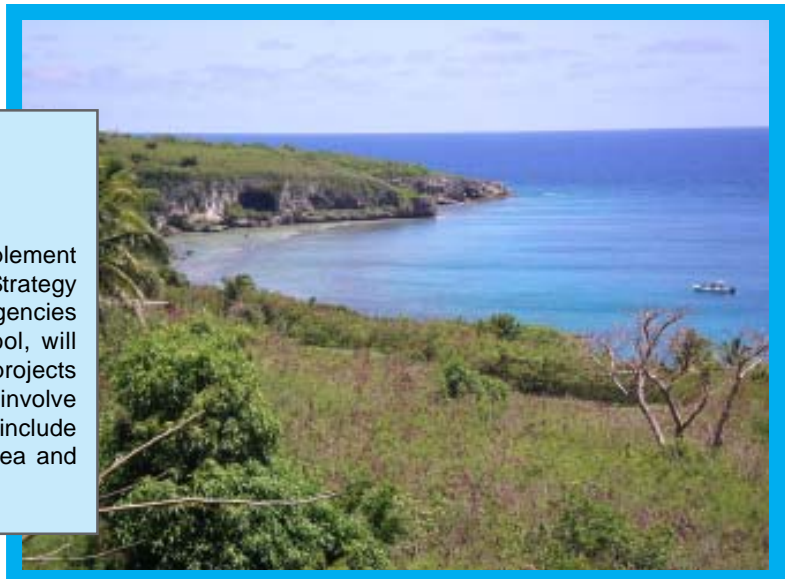
This project will develop a laboratory method to detect low concentrations of rodenticide (diphacinone) in tissues of coconut crabs that might incidentally feed on the toxicant. Eradication of rats on tropical islands is an important tool for conserving rare native species eaten by rats, including native birds, plants, and insects. However, accumulation of rat toxicants in non-target organisms, like coconut crabs, that are eaten by people is a concern that must be addressed before eradicating rats on populated islands. Migratory seabirds, two species of endangered sea turtles, coral reefs, a variety of other invertebrate species, and reef fish will benefit.



Rota Marine Protected Area Restoration and Marine Education

Luta Marine Education Center

This project will build local capacity on the island of Rota to implement projects identified in the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Local Action Strategy for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Local agencies and conservation groups, in partnership with Rota High School, will involve students and the community in activities and outreach projects that will increase awareness of coral reef conservation issues and involve people in solutions to environmental problems. One project will include marking the boundaries of the Sasanhaya Marine Protected Area and posting educational signs to inform the public about the area.



Kosrae Marine Protected Areas

Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization

Funds will support continuation of a community-based marine management project headed by the non-profit Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) and the Kosrae Division of Marine Resources in the Federated States of Micronesia. During the first phase, KCSO held community workshops to discuss the formation of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Kosrae. Because communities responded positively and expressed their desire to create MPAs, the project will advance to discussing potential MPA locations and boundaries, regulations, and the role of communities in MPA management and monitoring.



**Coral Reef Workshops
Hawaii, Guam, and
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands**

Multiple Partners

These workshops provided information to resource agencies and others about opportunities for funding coral reef conservation projects identified in the Local Action Strategies (LAS). Prepared for the US Coral Reef Task Force, LAS are collaborative efforts to identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats to coral reefs.



Palau Rare Marine Species Program

Republic of Palau, Bureau of Marine Resources

This project will continue to support capacity building and conservation planning within the Palau Bureau of Marine Resources. The Bureau will focus on protecting endangered and threatened sea turtles, saltwater crocodiles, and dugongs through monitoring, mapping, planning, and public education. They will also develop a response program to deal with nuisance crocodiles, modeled on Australian programs.

**American Samoa
Wetland Posters**

ELG Environmental Services

One thousand educational posters about the biological and cultural value of Samoa's mangrove wetlands were printed in English and Samoan. Posters were distributed to the American Samoa Community College and public schools, during Wetlands Month and Coast Week, where outreach events attracted thousands of community members.



Northwest Hawaiian Islands Endangered Passerine Translocation Site Analysis

Marie Morin

This project will identify optimal translocation sites in the Hawaiian Archipelago for three endangered species of passerines: Nihoa millerbird, Nihoa finch, and Laysan finch. An expert review panel will analyze site descriptions, site adequacy, estimated carrying capacity for each site, translocation feasibility, logistics, and then prioritize translocation sites. Data gaps will also be identified. This project is a necessary first step in planning translocations.



Kanaha Beach Restoration

Community Workday Program

This project will continue protection and restoration of native coastal ecosystems at Kanaha Beach, Maui. This area contains some of the last remaining sand dune and coastal wetland ecosystems on Maui and supports a healthy community of native coastal plants, including two listed plant species and endangered Hawaiian stilts. Project components include clearing invasive alien weeds, outplanting native species, and repairing a vehicle exclusion barrier. This project will allow the native plant community to regenerate, increase survival of rare plants, and provide habitat for native insects and migratory shorebirds.

Kona Coastal Dryland Forest Restoration

Tropical Reforestation Ecosystems and Education Center

Funds will continue restoration of the coastal dryland forest in the Kaloko-Honokōhau National Park on the Kona coast of the Big Island. Native plants, including rare and endangered species, will be propagated and outplanted in the park with the assistance of community groups and schools.



TREE



K. Wood

Hawaii 2006 Seabird Conference and Kaena Point Predator-proof Fence Assessment

The Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter

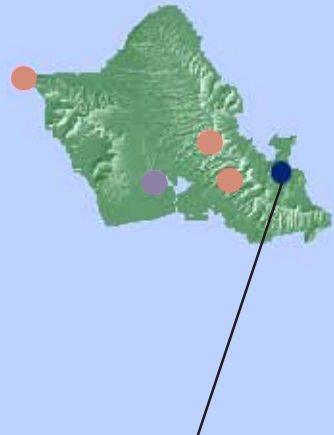
This project provided partial funding to sponsor a workshop on Seabird Conservation & Management in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands are home to 22 species of breeding seabirds, three of which are endemic to the archipelago. The workshop addressed pressing conservation and management issues for seabirds in the Pacific. Funding also paid for attendance of an expert on predator-proof fences, who will provide a feasibility assessment for fencing the seabird colony at Oahu's Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve.





● FY 2006 Projects
● Previous Projects

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program



The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program was established during 1990 to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands of coastal states, territories, and commonwealths. To date more that \$165 million has been awarded to 25 coastal states and one U.S. Territory, protecting and restoring over 200,000 acres of coastal wetlands and associated uplands.

During 2006, the State of Hawaii received approximately \$650,000 for the restoration and enhancement of 80 acres of wetlands and associated uplands at Kawainui Marsh on the island of Oahu.



R. Guinther



R. Guinther

Kawainui Marsh Restoration and Enhancement
State of Hawaii, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

Kawainui Marsh was recognized during 2005 as an internationally significant wetland under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention. Restoration and enhancement actions include grading of stream banks to reduce erosion, removal of invasive species, planting native wetland and upland vegetation, fencing, predator trapping, and installation of interpretive signs. This project will benefit four species of endangered waterbirds, the alae ula (*Gallinula chloropus sandvicensis*), alae keo keo (*Fulica alai*), aeo (*Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*), and koloa (*Anas wyvilliana*), migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, and native fishes. By including a broad spectrum of community organizations, businesses, schools, and government agencies, this project will educate residents and visitors and help to further encourage habitat restoration within Kawainui Marsh.

Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program



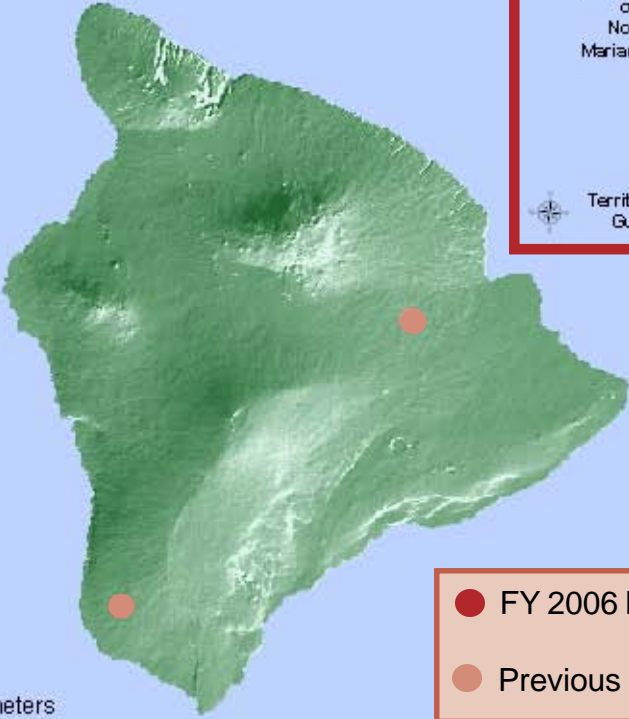
Recovery Land Acquisition Grants provide funds to states, territories, and commonwealths for the acquisition of habitat from willing sellers. These lands are then managed for listed species to meet goals of species recovery plans. A 25% non-federal match is required for proposals in the State of Hawaii, but is waived for proposals from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Since 2002, more that \$5 million has been used to purchase and protect lands for threatened and endangered species throughout the Pacific Islands. During fiscal year 2006, the State of Hawaii received more than \$1.7 million for the acquisition of Nuu Makai on the island of Maui.

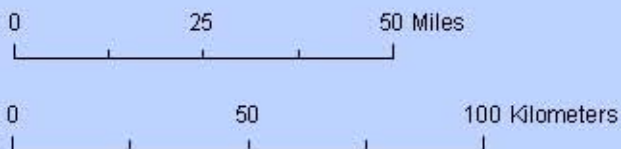


Nu'u Makai Wetland Reserve
State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources

This project will protect 6 acres of wetland and 72 acres of coastal terrestrial habitats with more than 5,000 feet of coastline on the southeast shore of Maui. The site offers restoration and recovery habitat for five species of endangered plants and six species of endangered animals including four species of waterbirds, the Hawaiian hoary bat, Hawaiian monk seal, and Blackburn's Hawaiian damselfly. Migratory waterfowl and shorebirds will also benefit from conservation actions. Nuu Makai will contribute significantly to the network of protected areas on Maui and provide a linking corridor for endangered plant recovery efforts in the adjacent Haleakala National Park and Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership.



● FY 2006 Projects
 ● Previous Projects



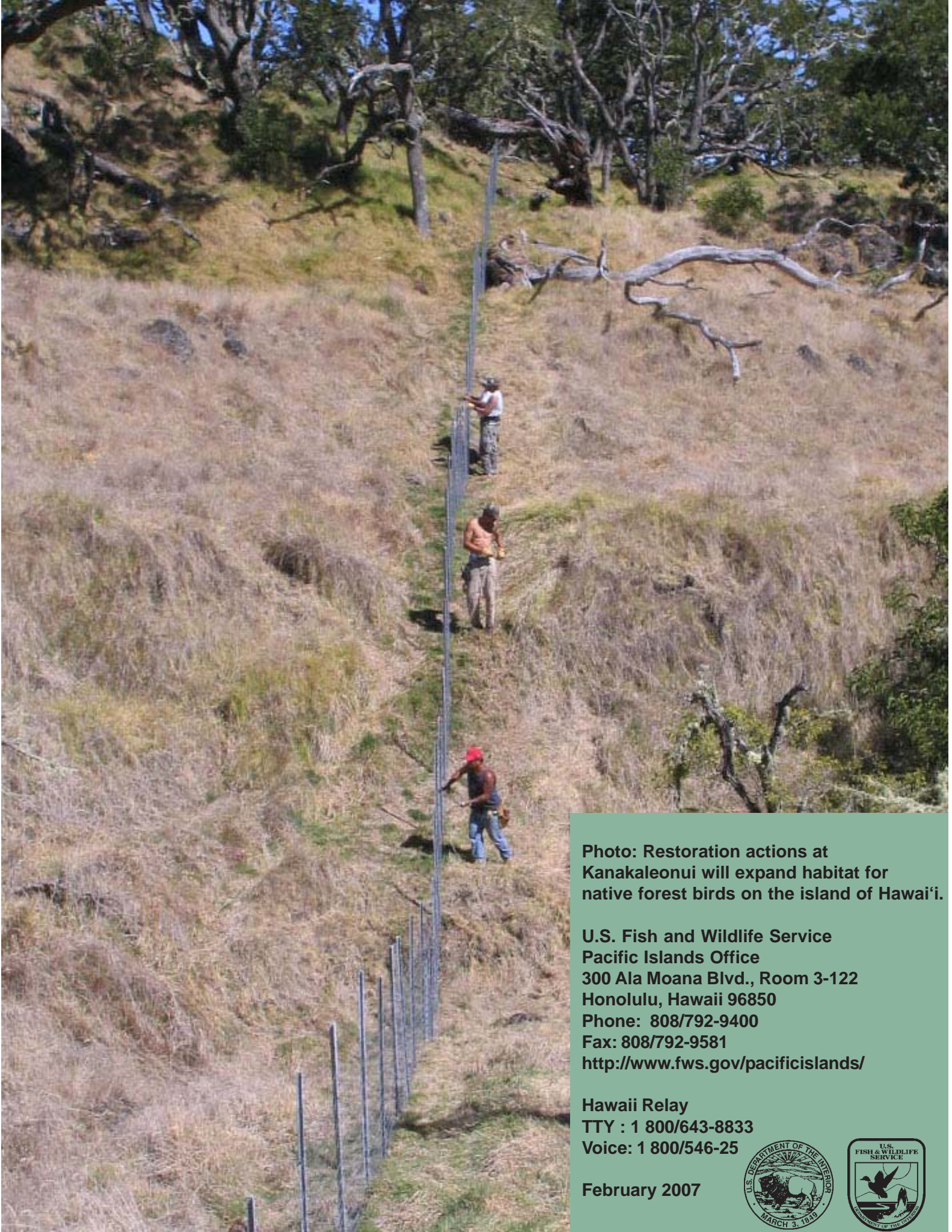


Photo: Restoration actions at Kanakaleonui will expand habitat for native forest birds on the island of Hawai'i.

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February 2007

