



Media Release

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“Malama na Koa”

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mauka to Makai: Army, volunteers malama public lands

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii – Happy face spiders atop Mount Kaala will be even happier, Saturday, with support from the Army, State and community, as part of National Public Lands Day.

Staff from U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii's [natural resources program](#) and the State's [Natural Area Reserves Program](#) are leading a group of volunteers to protect and improve the fragile Kaala ecosystem, which is home to the spider and many other native, rare, and endangered species.

The goal of the day is to root out the invasive weeds Sphagnum moss, Blackberry and Soft Rush. If left to grow, these non-native plants can alter Kaala's native forests and, in turn, affect its residents like the happy face spider.



Happy face spider | Courtesy Oahu Army Natural Resources Program

The Oahu Army Natural Resources Program has been leading National Public Lands Day volunteer service trips since 2008. Special funding awarded from the Department of Defense's Legacy Resource Management Program has helped pay for tools and supplies, which are then reused to support OANRP's recurring monthly volunteer service opportunities. These volunteer efforts are an integral component to the Army's environmental stewardship in Hawaii.

On the makai (ocean) front, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is also supporting National Public Lands Day, Saturday, with a beach cleanup and installation of storm drain markers in Waikiki.

[National Public Lands Day](#) is the largest single-day volunteer effort for public lands in the U.S. It began in 1994 and focuses on education and partnerships to care for these national natural treasures.

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Note: For information on OANRP volunteer service trips, interested individuals should email outreach@oanrp.com or call (808) 656-7741.