

Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership

Newsletter

2019



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Team Updates

Hale o Ko'olau



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Manager



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Natural Resource
Management Specialist



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Ungulate Management Specialist



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Community Outreach Liaison



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Field Crew Supervisor



Jeff Hembree
Watershed Protection Asst.



Matthew Dery
Watershed Protection Asst.



Shaina Epstein
Field Asst.



Will Durnin
Intermittent Watershed
Protection Asst.



Angelee "Pi'i" Borden
Kupu Member



Brenner "Pono" Wakayama
Kupu Member



Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership is proud to unveil Hale o Ko'olau, our new baseyard! We are located in the Waimano Ridge Complex, looking out on Moku o 'Ewa and on the edge of the Waimano Ridge Trail. This effort could not have been made possible without the support and kokua of the DOFAW Native Ecosystems Protection & Management team, who cleared large albizia trees and funded the renovation of a new roof and siding. Without the help and investments of DOFAW, we would not be able to call this place home.

With a team effort and a lot of sweat equity, KMWP staff refurbished the inside of Hale o Ko'olau and built the outdoor baseyard workspace within a few months. Some of the features now include a green house for a native plant nursery, an interpretive garden with diverse native flora and fauna, and ample space for the field crew and office crew. Thanks to the kākou effort of all team members, we have a collaborative work environment to support our growing 'ohana. Be sure to come by and visit!



Waiawa

Why is the Waiawa fence unique?

This is the largest strategic fence line planned for O’ahu. Additionally, the intact native forest in the upper reaches of Waiawa is considered one of the best remaining native forests on O’ahu, providing habitat for extremely rare plants and animals. Because of its importance to water production and the valuable habitat that it provides native species, conservation of this area is of utmost importance.

How did we plan for this structure?

Through collaboration with our partners and the precise planning of our specialists at KMWP, we prepared successfully for the largest preservation barrier to be built on O’ahu. The team determined when fence line plans would need adjustments to follow terrain that was less labor intensive, thus allowing for more cost savings. We will be staging fence material along the planned line and connect sections as we go.

Where are we now?

KMWP is in the beginning stages of construction and preparations for the fencing project. We will be focusing on summit areas in state lands heading north. So far we have done 5 trips and built approximately 750 linear feet of fence in Waiawa.

The Waiawa watershed is located in the central portion of O’ahu’s Ko’olau Mountain Range on the leeward side consisting of 17,401 acres of land owned by Kamehameha Schools (KS) and the State of Hawai’i in the forested areas. Waiawa is a Priority 1 watershed identified by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS 2012) and is a major recharge area for the Pearl Harbor Aquifer which provides the majority of O’ahu’s drinking water. Protection and management of this area is also a priority for the State of Hawai’i’s Department of Land and Natural Resources Division (DLNR), who have assigned it the highest possible conservation value (C1).

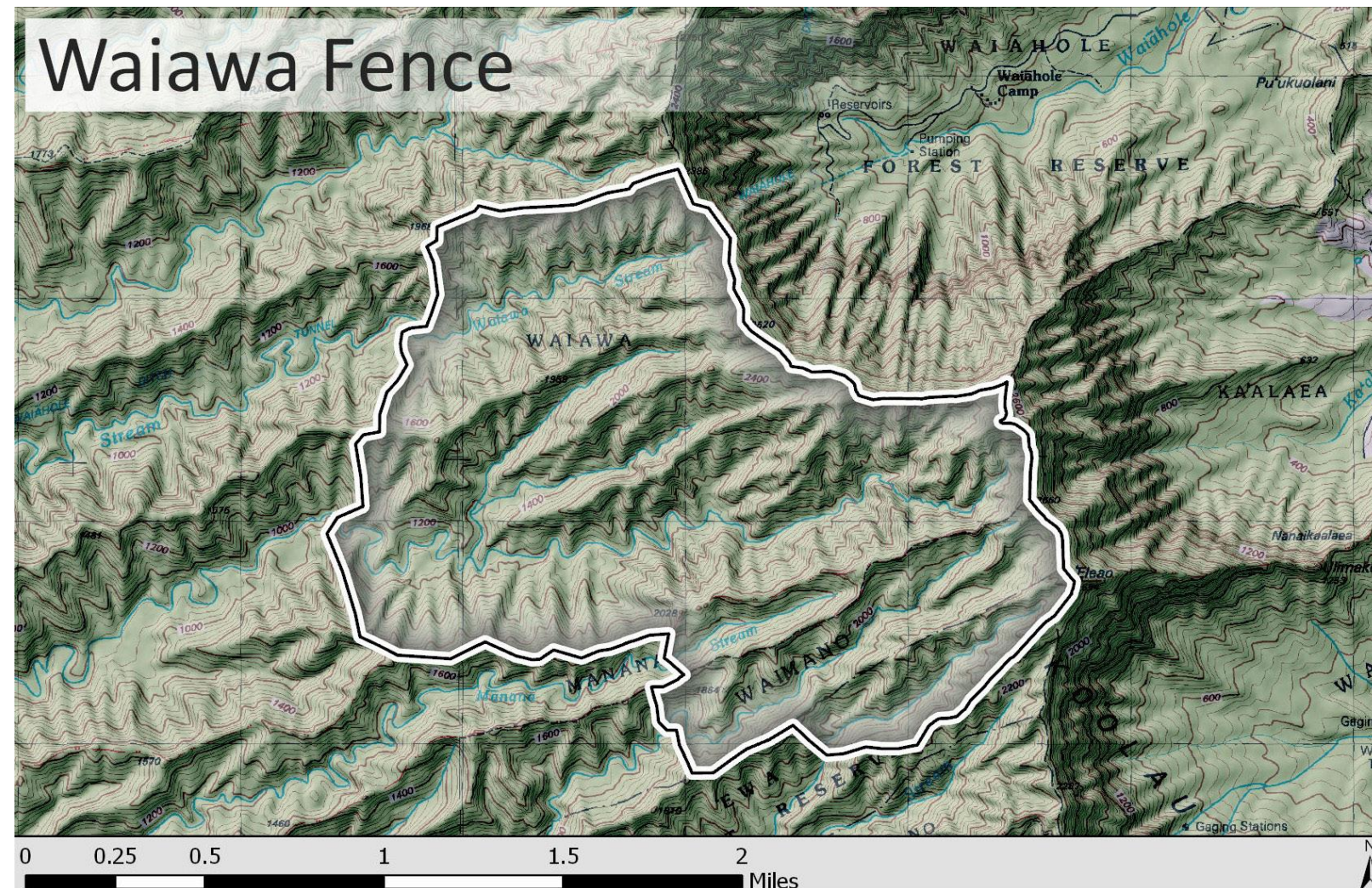


Loulu palm or Pritchardia martii, endemic to O’ahu, are one of many native species that continue to perpetuate our native ecosystem habitats to capture water in the Waiawa watershed.

A project to fence a portion of the intact watershed forest along the summit of Waiawa is currently underway. The project is a joint collaboration between DOFAW, BWS, the Ko’olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP), and Coca-Cola, to install a 50” high ungulate-proof fence along a proposed 6.6 mile fence line to protect the forest from the negative impacts of feral pigs. The fence will help preserve the region’s function as an important area for ground water recharge as well as its value as habitat for native plants and animals, including thirteen listed endangered species. Initially the management unit boundary was proposed to encompass a priority watershed area on just KS property, advantage of natural topographic features and protect additional acres of intact priority watershed forest. The entire 1,400 acre proposed project area is comprised of 1,000 acres of KS land to the north and 400 acres of State land in the “Ewa Forest Reserve to the south and is located in the “Protective” Conservation District Subzone.



The field crew preps fencing material along the Waiawa fence line to protect our watershed resources for generations to come.



OUTREACH

350

volunteers in the field

1,296

hours invested by
community members

1,957

community members
engaged



FENCE

31,775

meters of fence
inspected

36,489

meters of fence
maintained

248

meters of fence constructed

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia.

*No task is too big when done together by all.
2019 accomplishments and impact of KMWP!*

MANAGED

1,001

acres surveyed

10,773

weeds removed

343

acres treated for weeds



STAFF

415

staff hours monitoring
the Ko‘olau Mountains

5,178

staff hours focused on
weed management

6,520

total staff hours
invested in conservation

Events Calendar

Volunteer workdays and events KMWP is attending in the Ko'olau

January

- 4 Ala Mahamoe Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm
- 25 Ala Mahamoe Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm

February

- 8 Waihe'e Valley Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm
- 22 Ala Mahamoe Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm

March

- 21 Wiliwilinui Workday 8:30am - 3:00pm

April

- 18 Ala Mahamoe Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm
- 22 Earth Day Celebration

May

- 2 Waihe'e Valley Workday 8:30am - 12:00pm
- 16 Wiliwilinui Workday 8:30am - 3:00pm

June

- 6 Pali Lookout Workday 9am - 12:30pm
- 20 Mānana Workday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Please Note: This is a tentative schedule. All dates subject to change.

**From the KMWP 'Ohana to yours,
Mele Kalikimaka
a me Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!**



Perpetuating the water resources of O'ahu by protecting and enhancing the forests of the Ko'olau Mountains.

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