



FOREWORD

Aloha! I am pleased to introduce Hawaii's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), a historic endeavor to address the conservation needs of over 10,000 species native to Hawai'i. Never before has the State attempted to outline a statewide strategy for native wildlife conservation that includes species from the mountains to the ocean, from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to the main Hawaiian Islands.

Much of Hawaii's unique wildlife is found nowhere else on earth, and these species and their habitats face tremendous challenges due to habitat loss and the introduction of non-native, invasive species. More than half of the native habitats have been lost and the introduction of non-native plants, animals, and diseases, like miconia, coqui frog, or West Nile virus, constitute an ongoing threat to species in restricted ranges. Hawaii's CWCS is an opportunity to turn the tide on the decline of our native species and habitats. By building on earlier conservation and research efforts, the CWCS uses the best possible science available to establish statewide objectives and strategies to address the challenges facing our native wildlife and habitats.

The CWCS is the result of the hard work of many people, and I offer a sincere *mahalo* to all who participated in its development. As we turn to the implementation of this ambitious strategy, I invite everyone to join in, working in partnership with and alongside management agencies, community groups, businesses, landowners, and citizens. Together, we can ensure these unique and rare Hawaiian species continue to exist for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle".

Linda Lingle
Governor of Hawai'i