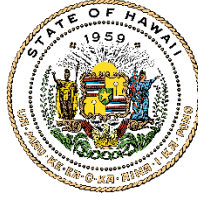


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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

November 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Section 106 Consultation for C-SWG *Drosophila* Project, Improving restoration outcomes for Hawaiian picture-wing *Drosophila*, Island of Hawai'i

To Whom It May Concern,

The Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is proposing to work on the project listed above with Federal funds. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, DOFAW is consulting with Native Hawaiian Organizations and others related to historic properties or knowledge of Hawaiian practices. Historic properties include archeological sites, burial grounds, sacred landscapes or features, ceremonial areas, traditional cultural places and landscapes, plant and animal communities, and buildings and structures with significant association.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a review of this project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. We would like to invite you to be a consulting party in this review to help identify historic properties in the project area that may have religious and cultural significance to your organization or community, and if such properties exist, to help assess how the project might affect them. If the project might have an adverse effect, we would like to discuss possible ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential adverse effects.

Project Description

The project area is within the Waiea Natural Area Reserve, Waiea Ahupua'a, TMK (3)8-6-001:003 (por), and the South Kona Forest Reserve, Kukuiopae Section, Kukuiopae Ahupua'a, TMK (3) 8-7-001:001 (por) and (3) 8-7-001:012 (por) both in the South Kona district, Island of Hawai'i.

Drosophila heteroneura was last seen in the South Kona area of Hawai'i Island in 2011, when several individuals were collected alive to start a breeding colony. It is relatively easy to rear in captivity, but there are no longer any captive populations. There were no surveys for *Drosophila* in the region between 2011 and 2022, and in the intervening period the habitat for *D. heteroneura* became significantly degraded. Three surveys in 2022–23 failed to find *D.*

heteroneura. While this does not mean they are gone, as many picture-wing *Drosophila* species have been found to persist at undetectable levels for years, it does suggest that any remaining populations are small. Therefore, establishment of a captive population suitable for reintroduction in a more stable habitat is an urgent priority and time-sensitive

The proposed project is part of an undertaking that includes a variety of conservation strategies for the Hawaiian picture-wing fly (surveys, threat assessment and hostplant outplanting). This consultation is for the sole ground-disturbing work of outplanting.

Native vegetation will be propagated and outplanted as host plants in the Reserves to support picture-wing *Drosophila* reintroduction. Hand tools will be used to dig holes and plant small native plant seedlings in remote land areas zoned for conservation. Individual holes dug for each plant will range from 6"-12" deep and 6"-10" wide.

Once the consultation period is over, and if there are no major concerns presented, DOFAW will begin with outplanting work. No artifacts are expected to be encountered and areas near known resources will be avoided. However, if any sites or artifacts are discovered, all work will stop, the proper authorities will be notified, and an assessment of significance will occur.

If you are interested in participating in this undertaking as a consulting party, want to provide comments on the proposed project Area of Potential Effect (APE) and any historic properties in the APE, or want to suggest additional key contacts, please respond by December 20, 2024 via email to Janis.N.Matsunaga@hawaii.gov. Once the consultation period is over, and if there are no major concerns presented, DOFAW will proceed with the project. If any sites or artifacts are discovered during construction, all work will stop, the proper authorities will be notified, and an assessment of significance will occur.

We value your assistance and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

/s/

Janis Matsunaga
State Entomologist
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Department of Land and Natural Resources

TMKs affected:
Waiea
(3)8-6-001:003
Kukuiopae
(3) 8-7-001:001
(3) 8-7-001:012

Drosophila Project Proposed Outplanting Locations

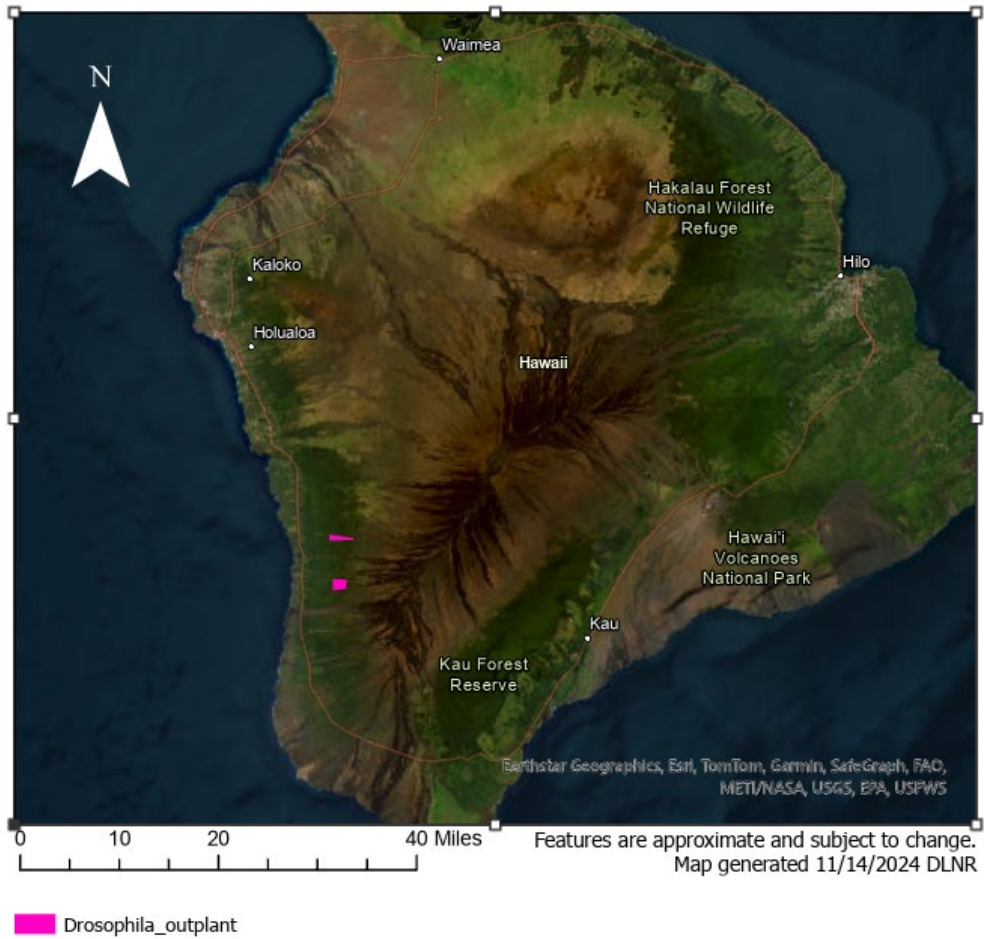


Fig 1.
Location of proposed project

Drosophila Project Proposed Outplanting Locations



Fig 2.
Proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) within Reserves