

**KAUAI Biologically Important Areas Background Information  
NORTH OF KUIA**

Location	Target ecosystem	Natural Communities	Designation/Ownership
Plateau above Honopu to Kalalau	Mon. Mesic, Low. Mesic, Dry Cliff	Native dry cliff vegetation, Mesic to dry forest shrubland, Wet cliff vegetation, Open ohia forest, Koa/Ohia forest	Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve, Kokee State Park

**Additional notes on biological importance:**

- Endangered seabirds located in upper Honopu cliff areas.
- High concentration of endangered plants & predicted plant sp. richness, critical habitat.
- One of the most intact areas of Kauai diverse mesic forest. There are fewer than 5,000 acres of montane mesic forests in NARS statewide.

**Priority Threats:**

Ungulates: Goats, deer and pigs

Weeds: lantana (*Lantana camara*), fayatree (*Myrica faya*), guava (*Psidium sp.*) molasses grass (*Melinis minutiflora*), bushy beard grass (*Schizachyrium condensatum*), ginger (*Hedychium gardnerianum*).

**Issues for conservation management:**

- Kokee Resource Conservation Program and Kauai Watershed Alliance control weeds.
- There is an easement for a well owned by the military in that area.
- Good opportunity for management since it is flatter, accessible, and has intact forest.
- Perhaps a NAR should be expanded to Honopu trail, or to the Awaawapuhi trail, cutting off the military easement.
- Forest products are gathered near the road, especially maile. NAR designation should be at least ¼ mi from the road to not affect gathering.
- Future fences should be kept away from roads or view corridors. It is a highly accessible area with many hunters that would be impacted by fences.

**KALALAU PALI**

Location	Target ecosystem	Natural Communities	Designation/Ownership
Pali and very back of valley	Mon. Wet, Mon. Mesic, Low. Mesic, Wet Cliff, Dry Cliff	Native dry cliff vegetation, Mesic to dry forest shrubland, Wet cliff vegetation, Open ohia forest, Closed ohia forest	Na Pali State Park

**Additional notes on biological importance:**

- Seabirds located and nesting in cliff areas
- Very high concentration of endangered plants and predicted plant species richness – 60 rare plants recorded – critical habitat.
- Green Sphinx Moth and *Errina Newcombi* found in area.
- Headwaters of outstanding stream

**Priority Threats:**

- High intensity and widespread goat browsing, less widespread pig disturbance

- Most prevalent weeds: Firetree (*Myrica faya*), Banana Poka (*Passiflora mollissima*), Strawberry Guava (*Psidium cattleianum*), Daisy Fleabane (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) lantana (*Lantana camara*)
- Localized populations: White and Yellow Ginger (*H. coronarium* and *H. flavescens*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Firethorn (*Pyracantha angustifolia*), Glory Bush (*Tibouchina urivelleana*)

**Issues for conservation management:**

- Proposed strategic fences of “Box Canyon” and beneath Puu O Kila, but these may not be successful since goats can get anywhere on the pali. Without ability to maintain exclosures on vertical pali, daisy fleabane will take over. Aerial paintball method would be the only way to control weeds, but that has a limited application. Also rockslides may sweep the fence down, destroying plants. Kalalau squatters may cut a fence inside the flatter portions in the back of the valley. People are squatting close to native forest areas.
- Staff hunting is a possibility, and the summer trips for public hunting with rifles were helpful. Aerial herding does not seem useful.
- One possibility to save endangered species on Kalalau Pali would be to outplant them in manageable exclosures in mesic forests in Kuia North area.

**UPPER KOAIE CANYON**

Location	Target ecosystem	Natural Communities	Designation/Ownership
Portion of Easternmost Alakai Wild. Preserve and into Koaie canyon	Mon. Wet, Mon. Mesic, Low. Mesic, Wet Cliff, Dry Cliff	Native wet cliff vegetation, Native forest and shrubland, Open ohia forest, Closed ohia forest, Open Koa/Ohia Forest	Alakai Wilderness Preserve (Part of Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve)

**Additional notes on biological importance:**

-Unrepresented ecosystems in the NARS, very high quality mesic and wet forests with plant critical habitat, bogs in upper plateau and critical habitat for both critically endangered and candidate bird species. Some plant species have been rediscovered after turn of the century or newly discovered. 2,800-4,000 feet in elevation has mesic to wet forest gradient. At lower elevations, the vegetation becomes more diverse, but also the more degraded.

**Priority Threats:**

- High intensity and widespread goat browsing and pig disturbance
- Strawberry Guava, daisy fleabane, lantana main invasive species of canyon. In plateau, outlying ginger patches in eastern Koaia area, ATF scattered in low numbers.

**Issues for conservation management:**

- Access: Mohihi Waialae trail, various LZs.
- Area is part of Unit E (Alakai WP and North above Na Pali) Hunting Regulations allow: Pigs – 1/hunter/day, Year round, only on Sat/Sun/Hol. Goats – 1 goat/tag, 8 consecutive weekends, Public lottery. No deer hunting allowed.

- A management plan is being circulated publicly for the Na Pali Kona Forest Reserve, which includes the Alakai Wilderness Plateau. To protect watershed values, plan is to “Increase public hunting in the Alakai WP.”
- KWA already has a management plan for the Koaia area, including minimizing ungulate numbers and weeding. KWA has eradicated kahili ginger populations in Koaia, and contained it in Mohihi to Camp 10 area. Next year will target ATF, and release resource mapping of weeds.
- In some cases, will need to outplant endangered species in outlier populations.
- Wilderness Preserve is a land designation for conservation.

**BLUE HOLE**

Location	Target ecosystem	Natural Communities	Designation/Ownership
Cliffs below Waialeale and in amphitheater valley/headwaters of Wailua river	Lowland Wet, Wet Cliff	Native wet cliff vegetation, Native wet forest and shrubland, Open ohia forest	Lihue/Koloa Forest Reserve

**Additional notes on biological importance:**

Many rare plants only known from that area, geological features, Critical habitat. High-quality lowland wet and wet cliff ecosystems effectively unrepresented in Kauai NARS.

**Priority Threats:**

Weeds: Albizzia, Strawberry Guava, Clidemia, ATF. Pig disturbance makai.

**Issues for conservation management:**

It would be good to have a base camp there to target invasives. This area is adjacent to two units actively managed by KWA for weeds: East Alakai core region, and Iliiula Drainage. Increasing weed management would be leveraged by KWA’s efforts. It is also adjacent to the area being proposed for the KWA fence.

**NAMOLOKAMA**

Location	Target ecosystem	Natural Communities	Designation/Ownership
Plateau and Pali above Hanalei	Montane Wet, Wet cliff	Native wet cliff vegetation,, Open ohia forest, Closed ohia forest, Native forest and shrubland	Kamehameha Schools, Halelea Forest Reserve

**Additional notes on biological importance:**

-Bird habitat, plant critical habitat. Bogs with rare elements not found in Alakai. High quality Mon Wet and Wet Cliff ecosystems which are not represented in Kauai NARS.

**Priority Threats:**

Pigs and goats disturbing bogs

Weeds: *Clidemia hirta*, *Cyathea cooperi*, *Juncus planifolius*, *Axonopus fissifolius*, *Cyperus meyenianus*, *Rubus rosifolius*, *Setaria gracilis*

**Issues for conservation management:**

-Strategic wing fences have been proposed by KWA, but access is an enormous problem. It is too wet to have reliable helicopter access, and there is no hiking access.