



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### HAWAI'I WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP CONTEST OPENS *Artwork sought featuring sandgrouse and native land snails*

(HONOLULU) – Artists are welcome to submit entries to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) in the annual art contest for the 2023-24 Hawai'i Wildlife Conservation and Game Bird Stamp. The wildlife conservation stamp is a requirement for Hawai'i state hunting licensees. The game bird stamp is required for anyone intending to hunt game birds. Both stamps will also be available to stamp collectors.

As in previous years, the stamp contest seeks artwork featuring one of two species:

- The Game Bird Stamp will feature **the chestnut-bellied sandgrouse** (*Pterocles exustus*). The chestnut-bellied sandgrouse is native to Africa and Asia and is an introduced game bird on Hawai'i Island. It is an amazingly powerful flyer adapted to the desert. They can fly upwind through the strongest Waimea winds and make diurnal migrations mauka to makai to collect water. They have the unique adaptation of absorbing water in their breast feathers, which is then transported back to their young.
- The Wildlife Conservation Stamp will feature **kāhuli, Hawaiian land snails**. Hawai'i once harbored over 750 species of land snails, almost all of which are unique to individual islands. These jewels of nature and culture are important components of island ecosystems from mauka to makai, and come in a variety of spectacular colors, shell shapes, and sizes. For example: small snails in the genus *Endodonta* live in grass clumps on the island of Nihoa; our large, colorful *Achatinelline* snails from O'ahu and Maui Nui reside in trees and shrubs on the many rainy ridges and valleys there; and the hinihini'ula, bright red snails in the genus *Succinea*, live on the upper slopes of Kohala on Hawai'i Island. In Hawaiian tradition snails sing are featured in oli, mele, and mo'olelo. Today their mere presence is an indication of ecosystem health.

Unfortunately, half of Hawai'i's land snails are gone and biologists estimate around 100 of the species that are left are facing imminent extinction. Climate change is already taking a toll and altering where snails can live, but the most urgent threat comes from invasive predators including rats, chameleons, and rosy wolf snails. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife is working with partners across the state to save our kāhuli. Over 40 species are currently reared in captivity, and last year alone over 7000 kāhuli were released back into the wild in protected areas. To learn more about land snail conservation and to see photos visit: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/snails>.

## CONTEST ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

**SETTING:** Hawai'i habitat

**SIZE:** Completed painting with a maximum of 24" by 36" and unframed (to be reduced to 1" X 1.5" stamp)

**MEDIUM:** Oil or acrylic

**ENTRY:** Completed oil or acrylic painting or an 8.5" X 11" photo/print/photocopy of a completed painting

**DEADLINE:** All entries must be received by February 25, 2023. Notification of the winner will be made in March of 2023.

**SHIPPING FEE:** All paintings sent must be accompanied by a \$35.00 fee, to cover the cost of returning artwork. If a check is not included, you will need to come to the Administration office to pick up your artwork. Checks are to be made payable to the DLNR. Otherwise, a photo, print, or photocopy of an original painting may be sent with no fee (see application form).

**PAYMENTS:** The winner will receive a maximum award of \$1,000. The chosen winner of the Conservation Stamp depicting the Hawaiian Land snail will not only win the award money described above but will also get a chance to get a behind-the-scenes tour of our captive rearing snail lab for you and 10 of your family or friends.

Funds from Hawaii Wildlife Conservation Stamp sales go into the state Wildlife Revolving Fund to support wildlife populations and habitat, and to manage the states hunting program.

Last year revenues from both stamps were used to cover some of the costs of maintaining hunting units and to add game bird and game mammal hunting opportunities where possible. Proceeds from the sales of wildlife conservation stamps will also provide funds for the annual lease rental of the Lāna'i Cooperative Game Management Area and several other hunting leases while also supporting wildlife diversity programs.

### Additional resources:

Copies of this announcement and the application form are available upon request from DOFAW, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 325, Honolulu, HI 96813. Questions regarding the

contest or to obtain an application [click here](#) ,email: [Jason.D.Omick@hawaii.gov](mailto:Jason.D.Omick@hawaii.gov) or to call (808) 347-6869.

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## **RESOURCES**

(All images/video courtesy: DLNR)

Information on kāhuli (native land snails): <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/snails>

Information on the chestnut-bellied sandgrouse:  
<https://hawaiibirdingtrails.hawaii.gov/bird/chestnut-bellied-sandgrouse/>

Application form: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/files/2022/11/FY23-24-artist-application.pdf>

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