

Protect native animals by keeping them wild

We share Hawai'i with animals that were here before us. Respect native species by not feeding wildlife or leaving food for wild animals.



Hawaiian wildlife

These islands are roughly 70 million years old. Native species existed here before humans and most are found nowhere else in the world. This is their home, to which we are recent arrivals. Many are threatened or endangered due to predation, disease, and habitat loss.

Feeding wildlife harms our native species

Nēnē eat grass, seeds, and berries. Feeding them other foods, such as high-protein cat food, can cause joint problems, abnormal growth, and organ failure. Feeding also habituates birds to people and increases risks of injury & disease when nēnē approach people or cars.



For endangered species, even unintentional harm is illegal

It is illegal to harm threatened or endangered species. Even if food placed outdoors is intended for other wild, non-pet animals, like feral cats, it can end up negatively impacting nēnē and other native species.



Protecting Hawaiian species is our shared kuleana

The Department of Land and Natural Resources is required by law to protect our native species from illegal harm. We want to work with community members to ensure the safety of nēnē and other wildlife.

See the reverse side of this flyer to learn how you can help.



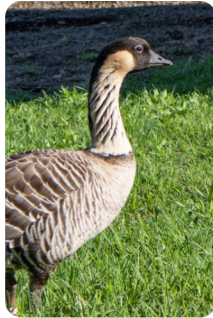
Kōkua your native animal neighbors

Native wildlife don't just live in our mauka forests. Here are some steps you can take to protect native species in your community.

1

Know your neighbors

Here are just a few examples of native species that you may see near residential areas. Remember that many native animals are protected under federal and state law as threatened or endangered species.



Nēnē



Ae'o



'Io



'Ilioholoikauaua

2

Don't feed wildlife, and don't leave food for other animals

Giving a wild or feral animal food may seem kind, but it harms more than it helps. Wild animals are not pets; they are meant to forage. Feeding our native wildlife can make them sick, or make them more likely to approach people and cars.



If you leave food outside for feral cats or other non-native wildlife, you may harm our native species by accidentally providing them with food. Supporting non-native animals outdoors can also lead to predation and disease, including toxoplasmosis. **Toxoplasmosis kills nēnē, monk seals, 'alalā, and other native wildlife.** It is also harmful to humans. Toxoplasmosis is spread through cat feces.

3

Landowners can help by knowing the law

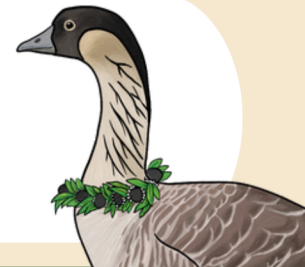
Endangered species found on privately-owned lands are still protected by the Endangered Species Act and Hawai'i Revised Statutes 195D. If you own land that is visited by threatened and endangered species, you can help by leaving them alone and making sure no one else inadvertently provides them with food on your land.



4

Respect native species by giving aloha from a distance

If you see threatened and endangered species in your community, give them space and appreciate them from afar. Hawai'i is their home, and they deserve to roam free. If you see someone harming native species, you can call 643-DLNR or submit a report on the DLNRTip app.



Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'Āina
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Photos: DLNR, Randy Bartlett, Dan Dennison, Bret Mossman