



Protect Hawaiian species: Don't feed wild animals

In Hawai'i, plants and animals are often our neighbors. Feeding native wildlife can be unhealthy for them, and feeding non-native species can cause problems for our 'āina, agriculture, and health.



This nēnē should not be eating cat food. Keep pet food indoors to protect native species.

Feeding nēnē (and other native wildlife) is a no-no

Native wildlife in Hawai'i forage for local plants and insects. They can get sick by eating processed food made for pets or humans. Feeding can result in animals learning to approach people, increasing the risks of dependency or injury. It is illegal to harm endangered species, even if your intentions are good.

Bird feeders can lead to trouble

Bird feeders may draw in invasive species, such as the rose-ringed parakeet. These animals eat our fruit crops and use up resources that could be utilized by our at-risk native species. If you love birds, consider keeping one in your home as a pet rather than feeding wild birds outdoors.



This rose-ringed parakeet is pretty, but its flocks destroy crops and befoul businesses.



This feral cat has an ear notch and is part of a colony. It still hunts and has an endangered 'alae ke'oke'o in its mouth.

Feeding cats or leaving food outdoors can cause health issues for people and native animals

Feeding feral cats results in cat colonies that can prey on our at-risk native wildlife and transmit disease. The toxoplasmosis parasite found in cats can kill wildlife and cause human health issues. Leaving food outside where it can be eaten by rats or mongoose can also lead to predation problems.

Protecting Hawaiian species is our shared kuleana

We want to work with our neighbors to ensure the safety of our wildlife and plants species. See the reverse side of this flyer to learn how you can help.



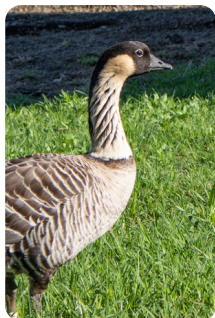
Kōkua your native animal neighbors by giving space

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 native animal 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.



Nēnē



Ae'o



Manu-o-Kū



Kolea

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 use a bird feeder or leave food outside for feral cats or other non-native wildlife, you may be feeding invasive species in your neighborhood. This could lead to impacts to our agriculture, our 'āina, or our health. In particular, toxoplasmosis spread by feral cats kills nēnē, monk seals, 'alalā, and other native wildlife. It is also harmful to humans.

3

Landowners can help by knowing the law

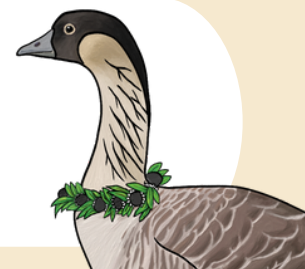
Endangered species found on privately-owned lands are still protected by the Endangered Species Act and Hawai'i Revised Statutes 195D. If you own land that is visited by threatened and endangered species, you can help by leaving them alone and making sure no one else inadvertently provides them with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



4

Respect native species by giving them space

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.



E mālama kākou i ka 'āina!
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Hawai'i Department of Land & Natural Resources
dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw

Photos: DLNR, Dan Dennison, Michael Walther, Bret Mossman, Alex Wang, Dr. Raju Kasambe