

**Kaheawa Wind Power I**  
**Habitat Conservation Plan**  
*Mitigation Update Summary*

**To:** Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) Members

**From:** Molly Stephenson, Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC

**Date:** September 20, 2024

**Re:** Update on Mitigation for the Kaheawa I Wind Project

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Kaheawa Wind Power, LLC (“KWP I”) owns and operates the Kaheawa Wind Farm, a 20-turbine wind farm on the island of Maui (“KWP I Project”). The KWP I Project operates under a Habitat Conservation Plan (“HCP”), state Incidental Take License (“ITL”), and federal Incidental Take Permit (“ITP”). These project documents address the prospective incidental take of the ‘ōpe‘ape‘a (Hawaiian hoary bat; *Lasiurus semotus*), the nēnē (Hawaiian goose; *Branta sandvicensis*), the ‘a‘o (Newell’s shearwater; *Puffinus auricularis newelli*), and the ‘ua‘u (Hawaiian petrel; *Pterodroma sandwichensis*).

As part of the implementation of the HCP, and in order to provide a net conservation benefit for all covered species, KWP I has been working closely with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (“DOFAW”) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) to mitigate for all incidental take. The status of the mitigation is summarized below and will be presented on during the September 27, 2024 ESRC meeting.

**‘Ōpe‘ape‘a:** Mitigation obligations have been fulfilled, offsetting 50 ‘ōpe‘ape‘a, through a variety of funding opportunities. This included funding to the state Endangered Species Trust Fund in 2006 (offsetting 20 bats), research funding in 2017-2020 for ecological research in East Maui (offsetting 15 bats), and funding research through the USGS Hawaiian Hoary Bat Research Group starting in 2018 (offsetting 15 additional bats).

**Nēnē:** Mitigation efforts to-date have resulted in 45.4 nēnē credits (including FY2024 breeding outcomes) through management actions funded at the Haleakalā Ranch release pen. KWP I currently is working cooperatively with DOFAW on several initiatives to increase nēnē production in FY2025 and beyond, including improving and expanding the Haleakalā pen and managing an additional pen at the Pu‘u O Hoku Ranch on Moloka‘i following a pending translocation of nēnē.

**Seabirds (‘a‘o and ‘ua‘u):** Mitigation for seabirds began at the Makamaka‘ole site in West Maui. KWP I, in conjunction with KWP II, funded the construction of two predator exclosures which were completed in September 2013. Mitigation efforts at Makamaka'ole involved predator monitoring and trapping, artificial burrow checks and monitoring using game cameras, seabird social attraction using decoys and sound systems, and ongoing maintenance, including vegetation management, of both exclosures through January 2023. Although Makamaka‘ole had been managed to benefit the ‘ua‘u, as well as the ‘a‘o, no ‘ua‘u activity had been detected at burrows within the exclosures since 2017, and mitigation for the ‘ua‘u was adaptively managed to Lāna‘i. In consultation with DOFAW and USFWS, this mitigation included providing funding to Pūlama Lāna‘i to supplement ‘ua‘u breeding colony protection efforts during the 2018, 2021, and 2022 breeding seasons.

DOFAW and USFWS issued credit letters for the ‘a‘o in December 2022 (8.5 credits across the KWP I and KWP II projects, which exceeded the 6.681 credits needed). USFWS issued a credit letter for ‘ua‘u in March 2023 (89.72

credits across the KWP I and KWP II projects, which exceeded the 64.48 credits needed); KWP I is awaiting DOFAW concurrence on this. KWP I signed a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with DOFAW on September 18, 2024 to provide \$750,000 in funding for a fence replacement at Makamaka’ole, and will resume management actions per the terms of the MOA and HCP at the site in FY2025.