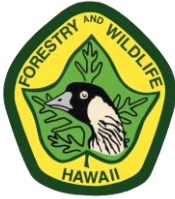
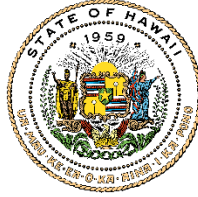


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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

March 21, 2025

Endangered Species Recovery Committee
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Division of Forestry and Wildlife Evaluation of 1 Hotel Hanalei's
Implementation of the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan During
2024

Dear Committee Members,

The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is respectfully requesting the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) review the 2024 Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) Annual Report prepared by Pacific Rim Conservation, with regards to 1 Hotel Hanalei, an individual participant and licensee of the KSHCP. This request follows the requirements outlined in Section 195D-25, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The 2024 KSHCP Annual Report compiles information from eight individual licensees as part of the obligations of the KSHCP and State Incidental Take License (ITL; ITL-28). This submittal summarizes the 1 Hotel Hanalei portion of the 2024 KSHCP Annual Report and includes information provided to DOFAW by the licensee over the past year.

BACKGROUND:

ITL Licensee: 1 Hotel Hanalei (formerly SOF – XI Kaua'i PV Hotel, LP dba Princeville Resort, Kaua'i)

Project: Beachfront resort on 23.23 acres in Princeville, Kaua'i.

ITL Duration: June 12, 2020 – June 12, 2050. After 2024, the licensee is approximately 4.5 years (15%) through their permit term.

Status of ITL: In 2024, 1 Hotel reported the non-lethal take of 29 ‘a’o (Newell’s shearwater) and the lethal take of one ‘ua’u (Hawaiian petrel), which died within 24 hours of arriving at Save Our Shearwaters (SOS) Kaua’i.

General Updates:

- Moki Okami served as Director of Loss Prevention until mid-July. In August 2024, Keoki Joseph was hired as the new Director of Loss Prevention.
- Tony Marez was hired as the Director of Engineering.

Take Review:

Table 1. Maximum 5-year rolling average vs. actual 5-year rolling average of lethal and non-lethal take for each species, and the lethal and non-lethal, authorized take vs. cumulative calculated take for each species since ITL issuance through 2024, as provided in the 2024 KSHCP Annual Report.

Common Name	Maximum 5-Year Rolling Average Lethal / Non-Lethal	Actual 5-year Rolling Average Lethal / Non-Lethal	Authorized Take of Fledglings, Lethal	Cumulative Calculated Take of Fledglings, Lethal	Authorized Take of Fledglings, Non-lethal	Cumulative Calculated Take of Fledglings, Non-lethal
‘A’o (Newell’s shearwater)	4.17 / 15.83	2.22 / 8.49	125	11.09	475	42.24
‘Ua’u (Hawaiian petrel)	0.2 / 0.2	0.27 / 0.18	6	1.34	6	0.88
‘Akē’akē (Band-rumped storm petrel)	N/A	N/A	1	0	1	0

Participant Inclusion Plan (PIP) Discovery rate: 90%

1 Hotel began operating in March 2023 and has been lit through two seabird fledgling seasons – 2023 and 2024. Calculating the cumulative take divided by two years of operation instead of 5 years since permit issuance, the licensee exceeds the 5-year rolling average rate for lethal and non-lethal take of ‘a’o and ‘ua’u. The 5-year rolling average for take of ‘a’o is 5.55 lethal and 21.12 non-lethal, and the 5-year rolling average for take of ‘ua’u is 0.67 lethal and 0.44 non-lethal.

Downed Seabird Searches:

Seabird biologist Dr. Adrian Gall of ABR, Inc. is contracted by 1 Hotel to assist the property in complying with the KSHCP and ITL. In 2024, Dr. Gall provided lighting evaluation, landscaping evaluation, searcher training, and data management.

In August 2024, 1 Hotel hired a wildlife contractor to perform downed seabird searches between 18:30 – 00:00 and 04:00 – 06:30, September 16 through December 15. 1 Hotel also hired and trained an additional four seabird searchers to conduct twice nightly downed seabird searches and systematic predator monitoring. On many nights, the property was searched four times. Any seabirds found were retrieved by wildlife contractors, seabird searchers, or the Loss Prevention team.

The Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP) conducted Searcher Efficiency Trials (SET) for 1 Hotel during the 2024 fledgling season. DOFAW is currently pending the results of the 2024 trial.

1 Hotel has a set of seven seabird decoys, which they intend to utilize to implement a searcher training and assessment program in 2025.

Honu Searches:

During honu nesting season (May 15 through December 15), a trained member of Loss Prevention conducted daily, early morning searches of Pu'u Poa Beach before landscapers arrived to rake the beach. Landscapers, lifeguards, and pool attendants who work on or near the beach year-round are also trained to look for honu. No nests or hatchlings were recorded in 2024.

Lighting:

After evaluating the location of seabird fallout in 2023 and a lighting review by Dr. Gall in June 2024, 1 Hotel implemented additional lighting minimization before the start of the fledgling season. Details of lighting changes were provided to DOFAW. Dr. Gall returned in September 2024 to review the implemented lighting changes.

Representatives from Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (UFWWS), and DOFAW participated in an evening site visit in October 2024. Following the site visit, lighting recommendations from KESRP, USFWS, and DOFAW were compiled and emailed to the licensee on October 25, 2024.

Predator Control:

In 2024, 1 Hotel Hanalei hired a wildlife control contractor to provide predator control on the property. Three traps were deployed five days a week beginning August 5 and ending December 13. Five cats were trapped; however, one escaped while being taken out of the trap.

The 1 Hotel seabird search team monitored for predators twice a night during the fledgling season while performing downed seabird searches. Predator sightings are reported to the wildlife control contractor to guide trapping. In 2024, searchers began utilizing an app to record predator sightings (species, date, time, location, and description). Outside of the

fledgling season, hotel staff reports opportunistic predator observations to Loss Prevention.

Signs prohibiting the feeding of cats are posted on the property.

Staff Training and Guest Outreach

Dr. Gall provided observer training to the new Director of Loss Prevention and four 1 Hotel employees dedicated to seabird and honu searches. Additionally, 19 employees from Loss Prevention were trained in the recovery and transfer of seabirds to SOS. The Director of Loss Prevention and Director of Engineering conducted seabird awareness training for 56 other hotel staff.

Outreach materials are provided in guest rooms, and Front Desk staff verbally inform guests about seabirds upon check-in.

2023 ESRC recommendations resulting in licensee actions in 2024:

1. Consider additional minimization measures to reduce the proportion of lethal take.
Additional lighting changes were implemented before the 2024 fledgling season.
2. ESRC recommends that DLNR initiate a consultation regarding take not covered in the permit, specifically an adult 'ua'u, and carry forward the ESRC request to consider an amendment.
Save Our Shearwaters identified the 'ua'u found on the property on November 29, 2023, as a fledgling juvenile.

2023 ESRC recommendations not addressed in 2024:

1. Recalculate searchable area percentage:
 - a. Determine unsearchable area as a proportion of the actual property.
 - b. Recalculate take estimates based on new searchable area.*1 Hotel states it is willing to entertain discussions regarding the recalculation of the searchable area but is first requesting records related to a prior USFWS determination regarding the searchable area.*
2. Consider additional measures, including canine searching, to reduce the proportion of lethal take.
1 Hotel states that canine searching is not feasible for this property. Reasons cited include guest experience, undetermined effectiveness of canine searches in urban areas, search dog safety, steep terrain, and presence of nēnē.

DOFAW ISSUES & CONCERNS:

The current rate of fledgling 'a'o and 'ua'u take does not exceed the 5-year rolling average if we calculate the take over the five years since license issuance; however, the rate of fledgling 'a'o and 'ua'u take exceeds the 5-year rolling average if we calculate the take over the two years the resort has been in operation.

The current discovery rate of 90% is an overestimate given the 2023 and 2024 KESRP SET results and the searchable proportion of the property.

DOFAW RECOMMENDATIONS:

DOFAW appreciates the new measures implemented before the 2024 fledgling season, including further reducing property lighting. DOFAW also supports using decoys during 2025 to implement a seabird searcher training and assessment program in 2025.

DOFAW recommends that 1 Hotel continue to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DOFAW to identify and implement additional Adaptive Management measures, including further reducing lighting, increasing searcher efficiency, and increasing guest outreach and education to lower the current rate of 'a'o and 'ua'u take.

DOFAW recommends that the discovery rate for 1 Hotel be recalculated to reflect the 2024 KESRP SET results and the searchable proportion of the property.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Yamaguchi, Habitat Conservation Planning Program Associate, at kelli.yamaguchi.researcher@hawaii.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH
Administrator