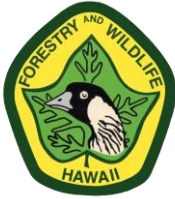
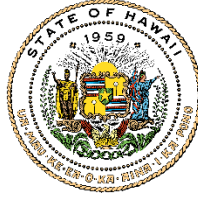


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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

March 25, 2025

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

**SUBJECT:** Division of Forestry and Wildlife Evaluation of Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC'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 Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC, 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-25). This submittal summarizes the Kaua'i Coffee portion of the 2024 KSHCP Annual Report and includes information provided to DOFAW by the licensee over the last year.

**BACKGROUND:**

ITL Licensee: Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC

Project: Coffee farm and factory in Kalāheo, Kōloa, 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: During 2024, direct, non-lethal take of one (Newell's Shearwater) occurred on November 7, 2024.

General Updates: None.

### **Take Review:**

Table 1. Maximum 5-Year rolling average vs. actual 5-year rolling average of lethal and non-lethal take of covered species, and the lethal and non-lethal, authorized take vs. cumulative calculated take for covered 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)	1.12 / 0.88	0.45 / 0.35	34	2.24	27	1.76

Participant Inclusion Plan (PIP) Discovery rate: 50%

There has been no take of 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel) or 'akē'akē (band-rumped storm petrel) at Kaua'i Coffee.

### **Downed Seabird Searches:**

Searches occurred daily during the fledgling season (September 15 – December 15).

Kaua'i Coffee underwent a Searcher Efficiency Trial (SET) run by Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP). DOFAW is pending the results of this trial.

In July and August 2024, all Kaua'i Coffee employees participated in the licensee's first in-house seabird decoy search and recovery program.

### **Lighting:**

Two high-pressure, 400-watt, pitched streetlight fixtures were replaced with an LED 200-watt downward-facing light with a 24-hour timer. The lights were kept on only during operations instead of between dusk and dawn.

### **Predator Control:**

Kaua'i Coffee contracted a wildlife control company to conduct predator trapping in 2024. Pre-season trapping focused on the coffee fields, while trapping from mid-August through December 12 focused on the lit factory and field areas. No cats were observed during

trapping efforts; however, KESRP staff spotted cats four nights while conducting SETs in October.

### **Staff training and Public Outreach**

A company-wide seabird training regarding the program background, seabird identification, response procedures, rescue and recovery, and daily search routes was conducted in-house for 104 Kaua'i Coffee employees. Dr. Dilek Sahin of KESRP provided supplemental training to 56 employees directly involved with the 2024 harvest season operations and in-depth training on the recovery and identification of seabirds to ten designated searchers.

Outreach to staff included seabird information and a "Please do not feed feral cats" posting on the staff bulletin board.

Outreach to the visiting public included a Save Our Shearwaters informational poster and coloring book kiosk at the visitor's center's front door.

### **2023 ESRC recommendations resulting in licensee actions in 2024:**

1. Identify the corporate contact(s) to include in formal communications.
2. Coordinate training for seabird search and recovery.
3. Searcher efficiency testing to be conducted by agencies in 2024.
4. Include the area searched on a map in the annual report.
5. Provide documentation of a predator control contract, including a scope of work compliant with license terms and conditions.
6. Post notification of prohibition on feeding predators.

### **2023 ESRC recommendations not addressed in 2024:**

1. Shift conducted nightly searches to 2-3 hours post-sunset  
*Include the search time on search reports and ensure that searches occur at least twice per evening –three to four hours after sunset, and once within an hour of sunrise.*
2. Add documentation of the searched area (field vs. factory).
3. Consider using electronic or GIS to collect survey data, e.g., Survey123.
4. Coordinate to schedule an agency lighting site visit and training.

*The licensee is open to undergoing a lighting review with either KESRP and/or DOFAW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the agencies) in 2025.*

5. Create a predator-free/bird-safe zone and have staff confirm zero tolerance for cats on site.
6. Provide documentation of pre-season predator monitoring and effective predator reduction by August 15.

*Ensure data on systemic predator monitoring is collected (i.e., date, time, location, type of predator sighted, description of predator, and response action).*

### **DOFAW RECOMMENDATIONS:**

DOFAW appreciates the measures Kaua'i Coffee implemented in 2024, including reducing property lighting, training with KESRP, increasing predator control, and beginning an in-house decoy search program.

In addition to the 2023 recommendations from the ESRC noted in the prior section, DOFAW recommends Kaua'i Coffee further increase predator control before and throughout the fledgling season. We also encourage Kaua'i Coffee to work with the agencies to create a more robust in-house decoy search program in 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Yamaguchi, Habitat Conservation Planning Program Associate, at [kelli.yamaguchi.researcher@hawaii.gov](mailto:kelli.yamaguchi.researcher@hawaii.gov).

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH  
Administrator