

# Nēnē: History of Research-based Management



## Pre-1950's

The Nēnē Restoration Project begins in 1949 as populations decline due to habitat loss, over harvest, and the effects of introduced species. Small, private breeding programs begin.

## 1950's

The nēnē population numbers fewer than 30 individuals. Breeding programs that supply birds for release exist on Hawai'i Island and in Slimbridge, England. Releases begin on Hawai'i Island.

## 1960's

A breeding program at Pōhakuloa supplies birds for release on Hawai'i Island and at Haleakalā National Park (NP).

## 1970's

Nēnē are listed as endangered and the U.S. Federal government becomes involved in their management. Small breeding programs are initiated at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (NP) and Haleakalā NP. A small flock of nēnē are maintained at a ranch on Kaua'i.

## 1980's

Breeding moves from Pōhakuloa to Olinda (Maui). Field investigations confirm that nēnē productivity in the wild is low and habitat management, including predator control begins. Nēnē move outside of the ranch on Kaua'i.

## 1990's

The Nēnē Recovery Initiative Program begins a multi-agency cooperative effort. 100 nēnē are released on Kaua'i, and new release sites are established on Maui, Moloka'i, and at Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge (Hawai'i Island).

## 2000's

Kaua'i populations increase dramatically as sugar cane production ends and pasture lands increase. A predator proof pen is built at Hawai'i Volcanoes NP, and habitat management, predator control, and monitoring continues across the islands.

## 2010's

Nēnē are flourishing on Kaua'i and stable on Maui and Hawai'i. In 2019, nēnē are downlisted by the Federal government to *Threatened*, maintaining their endangered species protections in the State of Hawai'i.

## Downlisting is not the end.

Management continues with long-term dedicated staff support.

E mālama kākou i ka 'āina.

