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April 11, 2026

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

SUBJECT: Endangered Species Recovery Committee Evaluation of the Kaua'i
Coffee Company Implementation of the Kaua'i Seabird Habitat
Conservation Plan During 2025

Dear Committee Members,

The State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), requests the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC) review the 2025 Kaua'i Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan (KSHCP) Annual Report prepared by Pacific Rim Conservation regarding Kaua'i Coffee Company ("Kaua'i Coffee"), an individual participant in the KSHCP. This request is in accordance with the requirements outlined in Section 195D-25, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The 2025 KSHCP Annual Report compiles information from eight individual participants as part of the obligations of the KSHCP and State Incidental Take Licenses (ITL). This submittal summarizes the Kaua'i Coffee portion of the 2025 KSHCP Annual Report and includes information provided to DOFAW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively, "the Agencies") by the participant over the last year.

BACKGROUND:

ITL Licensee: ITL-25; Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC

Project: Privately owned coffee farm and factory in Kalāheo within the moku of Kona on Kaua'i.

ITL Duration: June 12, 2020–June 12, 2050. At the end of 2025, the participant is approximately 5.5 years (18%) into their permit term.

Miscellaneous: Kaua'i Coffee hired an Environmental, Health, Safety, and Sustainability Manager who assists in implementing the KSHCP at Kaua'i Coffee.

Status of ITL:

Covered Species Under ITL-25: 'A'o (Newell's shearwater), 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel), and 'akē'akē (band-rumped storm petrel) fledglings.

Observed take of Covered Species in 2025: The participant reported no take of covered species.

Table 1. Authorized take, cumulative calculated take, maximum 5-year rolling average, and actual 5-year rolling average of fledgling take for Covered Species.

Covered Species	Authorized fledgling take (lethal / non-lethal)	Cumulative calculated* fledgling take through 2025 (lethal / non-lethal)	Maximum 5-year rolling average of fledgling take	Actual 5-year rolling average of fledgling take (2021 - 2025)
'A'o (Newell's shearwater)	34 / 27	3 / 1	1.13 / 0.9	0.6 / 0.2
'Ua'u (Hawaiian petrel)	0 / 0	0 / 0	N/A	N/A
'Akē'akē (band-rumped storm petrel)	0 / 0	0 / 0	N/A	N/A

*The Kaua'i Coffee PIP discovery rate of 50% was used for take calculations.

Minimization Measures:

Downed Seabird Searches: Kaua'i Coffee employees trained in seabird search and recovery conducted downed seabird searches 3–4 hours after sunset and 1 hour before sunrise throughout the duration of fledgling season (September 15–December 15).

To help facilitate effective downed seabird searches, the equipment storage yard fronting the mechanic shop was fully cleared. Vegetation around factory buildings is also maintained for increased searchability.

Lighting: No lighting changes were made in 2025.

The Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project (KESRP) visited Kaua'i Coffee in August 2025 to conduct lighting evaluations and provide recommendations. The Agencies also visited the participant in December 2025, to follow up on lighting recommendations. Recommendations included:

- Maintain factory (wet plant and waste plant) and parking lot adjustable LED lights at 2700K (kelvins) or less during the fledging season. *This will be implemented in 2026.*
- Shield the docking area lights to reduce light spill. When these lights need to be replaced, select lighting with lower lumens and a color temperature of 2700K or less. *A shield will be placed over this light prior to the 2026 fledgling season.*
- Shield the wall-mounted light on the left corner of the mechanic's warehouse or replace it with a lower lumen, warmer colored (2700K or less) light. *A shield will be placed over this light prior to the 2026 fledgling season.*
- On the right side of the warehouse, reduce light spill from open warehouse panels. *Kaua'i Coffee will try to address this prior to the 2026 fledgling season.*

Predator Control: In 2025, Kaua'i Coffee continued to use a wildlife control contractor to trap predators on the property. Trapping began on August 6, in the outer coffee fields and continued towards the main facility through December 18. Eight traps were deployed daily for a total of 696 trap nights, which resulted in the removal of 27 predators.

Predator monitoring occurred simultaneously with downed seabird searches and predator sightings were relayed to the wildlife control contractor for adaptive trapping.

Staff Training and Visitor Education: Kaua'i Coffee continued to work with KESRP to provide in-person seabird search and recovery training to 10 employees and seabird awareness training to 75 employees in September and October. An additional 79 employees received seabird awareness training through PowerPoint.

As part of their effort to increase visitor education, a large poster was created and placed near the visitor's center in August. The poster included information on how the public can help protect Kaua'i's native seabirds and what to do if a downed seabird is found. The participant is planning to produce another large educational poster which will be placed along the coffee farm tour route.

Prior ESRC Recommendations

Kaua'i Coffee implemented the following ESRC recommendations from the April 24, 2025 KSHCP meeting:

1. Undergo a lighting review with KESRP and/or the Agencies prior to the 2025 fledgling season.
2. Ensure searches occur 3–4 hours after sunset and within 1 hour of sunrise. Include the time and location of searches on data reports.
3. Ensure systematic predator monitoring is done before and during fledgling season and predator sightings inform predator control efforts. Ensure systematic predator monitoring data is collected and reported. *Partially met; in 2026 Kaua'i Coffee will work to improve data collection.*
4. Increase predator control efforts before and during the fledgling season.
5. Confirm that any cat feeding has ceased and that the cat colony is gone.

Outstanding ESRC Recommendations

1. Work with the agencies to create a robust in-house decoy search program in 2025. *Third-party searcher efficacy trials will resume during the 2026 fledgling season.*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

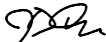
DOFAW appreciates the minimization measures Kaua'i Coffee implemented in 2025 including improving seabird searches and data collection, and increasing predator trapping, staff training, and visitor education.

DOFAW Recommendation:

1. Implement Agency lighting recommendations from the August and December 2025 site visits in 2026, as planned.

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

Respectfully submitted,

 for DGS

DAVID G. SMITH
Administrator