

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

October 9, 2020

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Land Board Members:

Subject: REQUEST TO DESIGNATE EXISTING FORESTRY TRAILS AS A NĀ ALA HELE "PROGRAM TRAILS" WITHIN THE HAWAI'I ISLAND NĀ ALA HELE TRAIL AND ACCESS PROGRAM INVENTORY.

SUMMARY:

This submittal requests that the Board designate existing Forestry trails as Nā Ala Hele "Program Trails" within the Hawai'i Island Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program inventory. The trails are within lands administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

<i>Trail</i>	<i>Ahupua'a</i>	<i>Tax Map Key</i>
A) Kūlanihāko'i Mountain Bike Park	Waiākea, S. Hilo (Waiākea Forest Reserve)	(3) 2-4-008:022
B) Pu'uwa'awa'a Cone Trail	Pu'uwa'awa'a, N. Kona (Pu'uwa'awa'a Forest Reserve)	(3) 7-1-001:004
C) 'Ōhi'a Trail	Pu'uwa'awa'a, N. Kona (Pu'uwa'awa'a Forest Reserve)	(3) 7-1-001:006
D) Makāula-'O'oma Trails	Makāula, 'O'oma, Kalaoa, Kohanaiki, N. Kona (Honua'ula Forest Reserve)	(3) 7-3-001:002
E) Palila Forest Discovery Trail	Ka'ohe, Hāmākua (Ka'ohe Game Management Area)	(3) 4-4-015:004

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with Hawai'i Administrative Rules - Chapter 130:

HAR§ 3-130-12 General purpose and scope. The Nā Ala Hele program shall be responsible for maintaining an inventory of trails and accesses in the State of Hawai'i. Program trails shall be selected from among the inventoried trails. Program trails are subject to the trail use rules set forth in subchapters 4, 5, and 6. The Nā Ala Hele program shall maintain a list of program trails, as it may be amended from time to time, and maps delineating and defining the trail location and route.

HAR§ 13-130-13 Program trail and access designation. The board shall periodically designate the inclusion of a trail or access selected from among the inventoried trails and accesses upon

consultation with the division, the Nā Ala Hele staff, and the respective island advisory council from which a particular trail or access is located.

All of these trails are existing trails within DOFAW-managed lands and are frequently used by the public for recreational uses. Folding these trails into the Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access Program will better manage these trails for the benefit of the public and all users of the areas surrounding them. All of these trails are currently and will continue to be maintained by existing volunteer corp groups and DOFAW staff and therefore will not place an undue burden on Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access Program funds.

- A) The Kūlanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park trails were created over 30 years ago partially as forestry roads for the planting of timber (from the 1980s) in the area, as well as by public mountain biking enthusiasts. This trail network provides an area specifically designed for mountain bike users. Volunteers with the Big Island Mountain Biking Association (BIMBA) have been instrumental in keeping these trails maintained.
- B) Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Cone Trail were created over 50 years ago as dozed ranch roads by the lessee at the time as well as for cinder quarrying operations for the Vulcanite Quarry. This trail is a favorite among nearby residents and provides spectacular views of North Kona. Nā Ala Hele currently has no Program trails in North or South Kona and this would help meet community demand.
- C) The ‘Ōhi‘a Trail follows a very old dozed ranch road. This trail provides a pedestrian alternative to the Vulcanite Road through an ‘ōhi‘a grove with interpretive examples of endangered and key plant species of the area. Nā Ala Hele currently has no Program trails in North or South Kona and this would help meet community demand.
- D) The Makāula-‘O‘oma Trails network was created over 30 years ago partially along forestry roads as well as by public mountain biking enthusiasts. Volunteers with the Peoples for the Advocacy of Trails Hawai‘i (PATH) have been instrumental in keeping these trails maintained. Nā Ala Hele currently has no Program trails in North or South Kona and this would help meet community demand.
- E) The Palila Forest Discovery Trail was built by the Mauna Kea Forest Restoration Project (a project of DOFAW) in 2016. This is a family-friendly trail complete with interpretive panels detailing the plants and animals of this area. This trail is accessed via the 4-mile dirt road, Pu‘u Lā‘au (R-1) Road, itself a Nā Ala Hele Program Trail.

Required Consultation:

Nā Ala Hele staff has consulted with all the other Hawai‘i Island DOFAW and Nā Ala Hele Administration staff regarding these designations. Division staff had no objections and offered no comments.

The Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council was consulted and has voted to include trails A through D. Some concerns about the Palila Forest Discovery Trail (E) were discussed regarding the visibility of hikers during the game bird hunting season. Nā Ala Hele will mitigate these concerns by posting signs and on our website encouraging non-hunters to wear bright colored clothing in hunting areas (like is currently done at all Nā Ala Hele trails that are within hunting areas).

The Board of Land and Natural Resources approved an Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Palila Forest Discovery Trail on May 18, 2016.

Trail Inventory Data:

	<i>Trail Name</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Manager</i>	<i>Start Point</i>	<i>End Point</i>	<i>Length</i>	<i>Inventory #</i>
A	Kūlanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park	State of Hawai‘i	DOFAW	“Quarry Road” off Stain back Highway	n/a	9 miles	HA 74 001, 002, 003, 004, 005
B	Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Cone Trail	State of Hawai‘i	DOFAW	Bottom of Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a	Top of Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a	1.9 miles	HA 75 001
C	‘Ōhi‘a Trail	State of Hawai‘i	DOFAW	Off “Vulcanite Road”	Bottom of Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a	2 miles	HA 75 002
D	Makāula-‘O‘oma Trails	State of Hawai‘i	DOFAW	End of Makahi St.	n/a	4.3 miles	HA 76 001
E	Palila Forest Discovery Trail	State of Hawai‘i	DOFAW	4 miles up “Pu‘u Lā‘au Road”	n/a	0.92 miles	HA 73 002

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve designating the A) Kūlanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park, B) Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Cone Trail, C) ‘Ōhi‘a Trail, D) Makāula-‘O‘oma Trails, and E) Palila Forest Discovery Trail as Nā Ala Hele Program Trails within the Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program inventory.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID G. SMITH, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

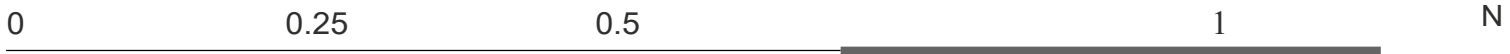
APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



SUZANNE D. CASE, Chairperson

- Attachment 1 – Kūlanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park Map
- Attachment 2 – Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Cone Trail and ‘Ōhi‘a Trail Map
- Attachment 3 – Makāula-‘O‘oma Trails Map
- Attachment 4 – Palila Forest Discovery Trail Map

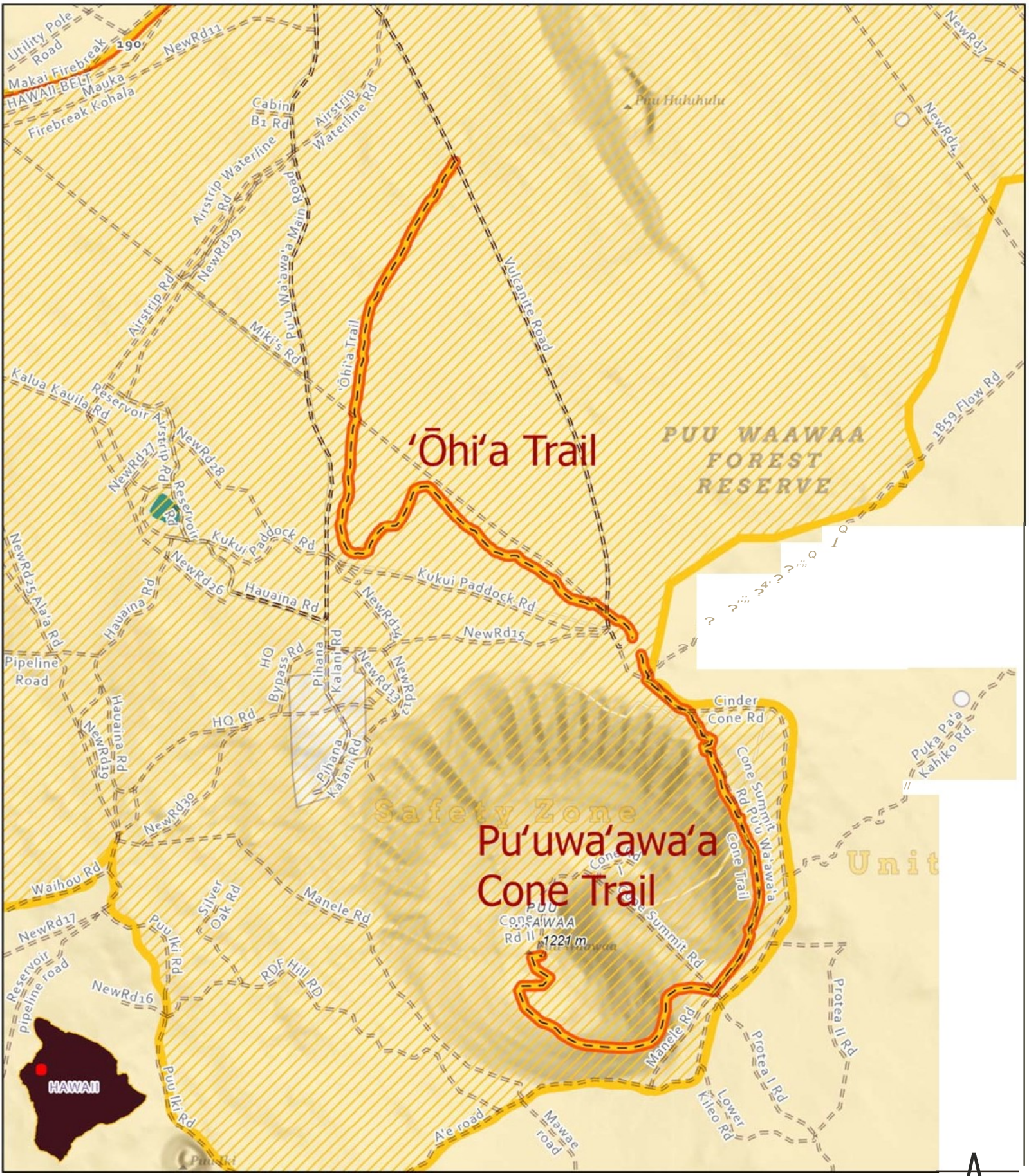
Kulanihako'i Mountain Bike Park



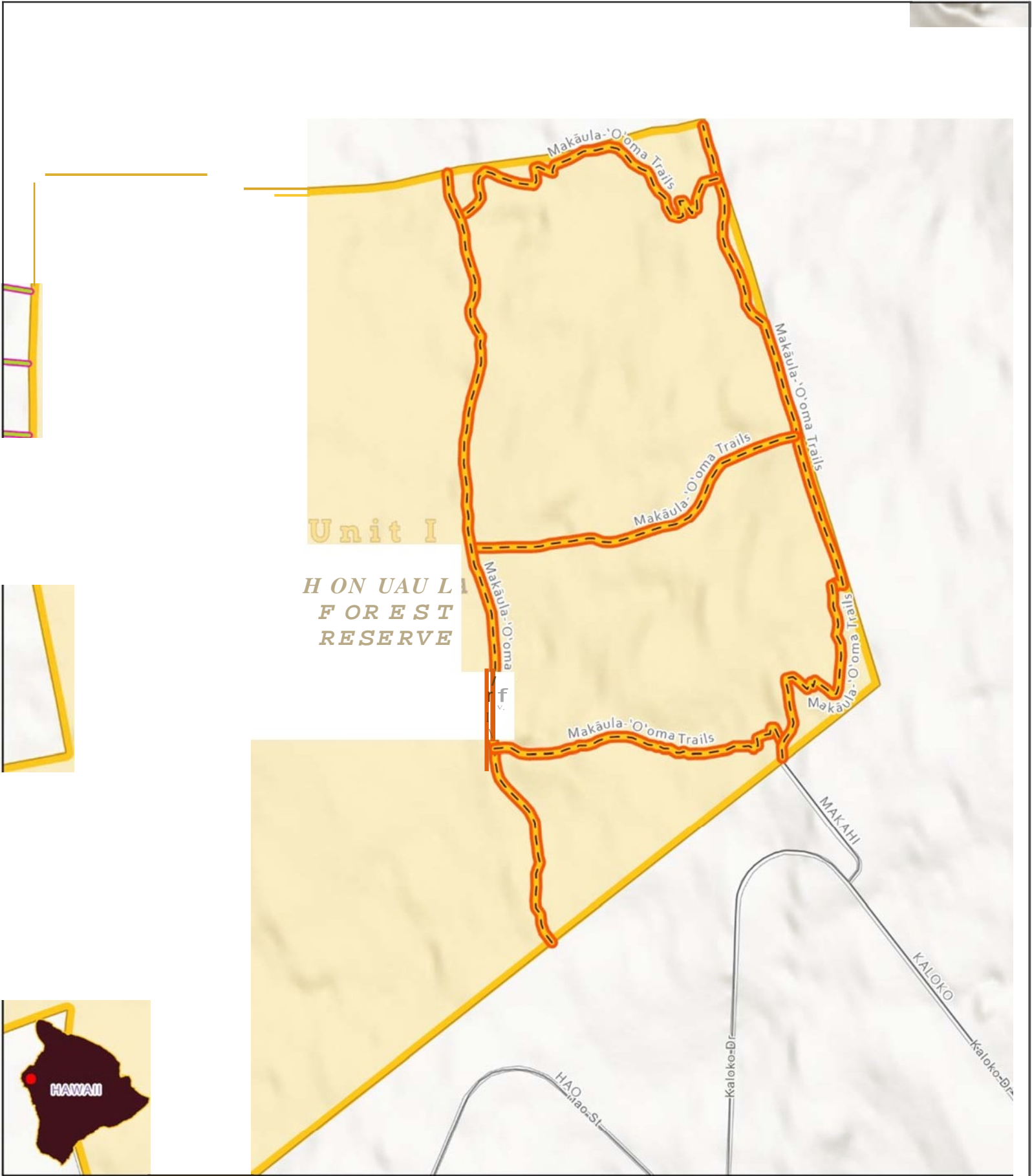
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'Ōhi'a Trail and Pu'uwa'awa'awa Cone Trail



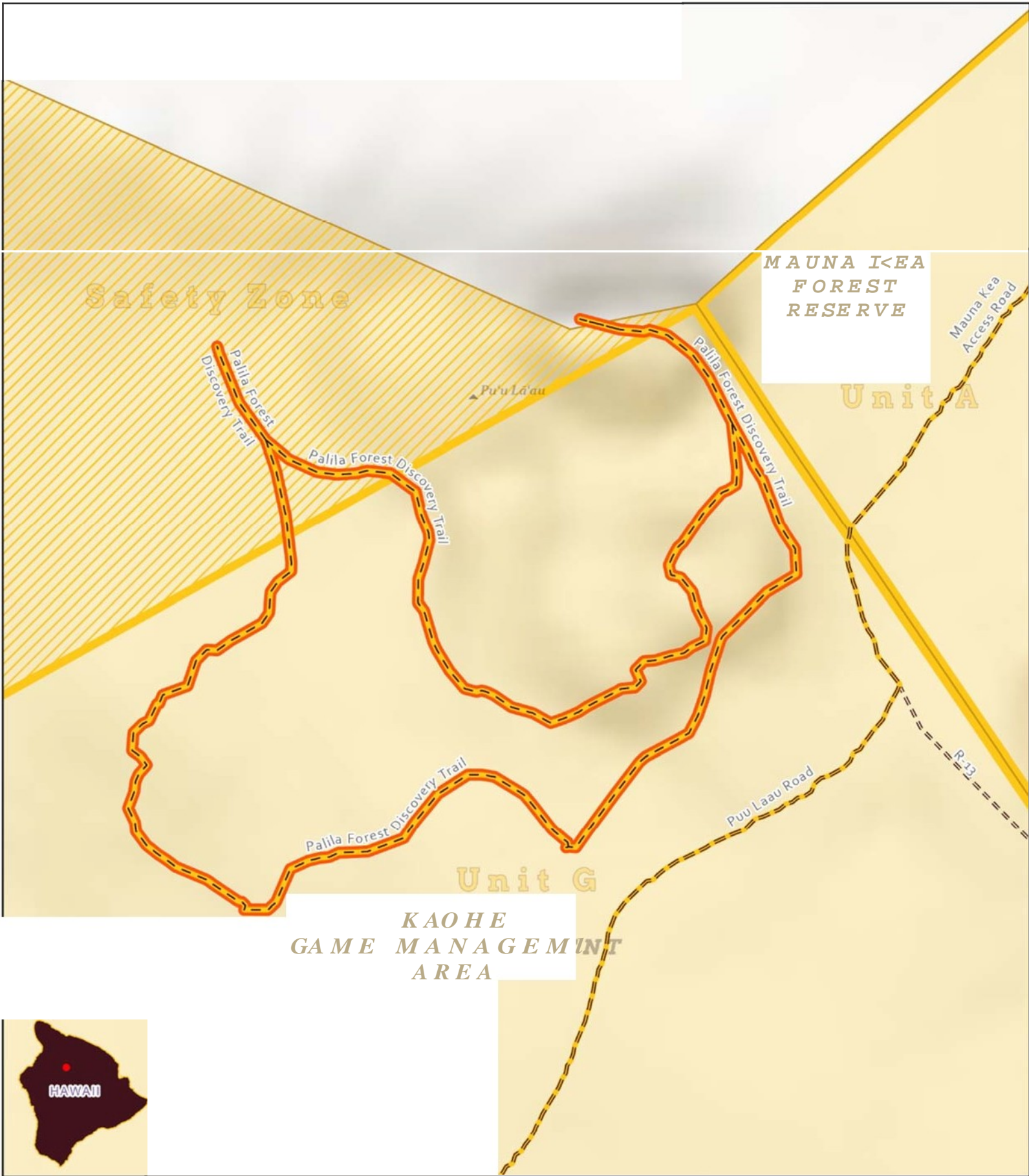
Makāula-'O'oma Trails



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Palila Forest Discovery Trail



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