

# Palila Management Plan – Summary

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2026

HAWAII DIVISION OF  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE



# Background & Need



Wild population  
estimated at ~666  
birds (2025)



Captive breeding since  
1996 with low  
reproductive success



Only 6 captive birds  
remain at KBCC



Photo: B. Mossman



Photo: B. Mossman

# 2026 Proposed Management

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- Cat proof fence
- Rear and release program (aviary)
- Archeological survey



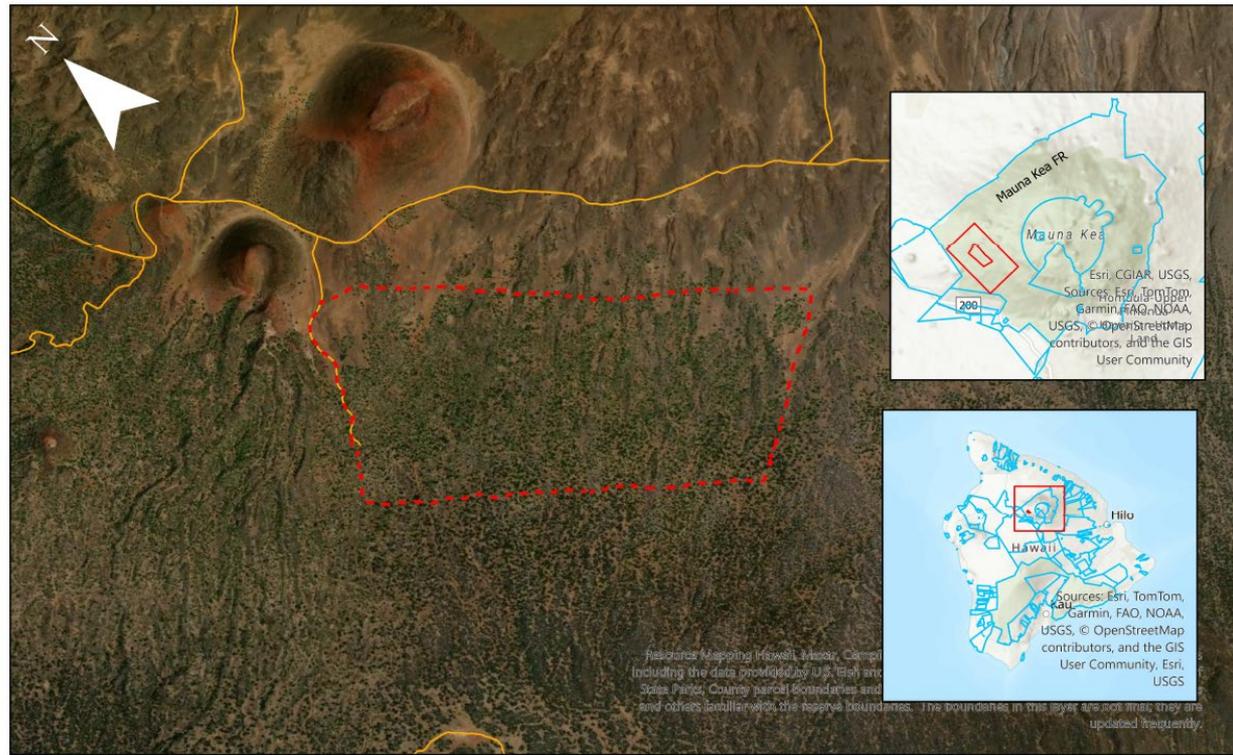
# Site & Infrastructure

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- West slope of Mauna Kea (core wild population area)
- High māmane availability
- Large soft-release aviary with predator exclusion

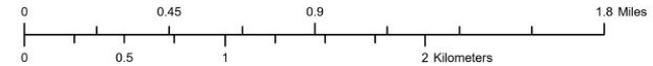
# Cat proof fence

- ~400 acres
- ~30% of palila detections since 2020
- 20+ nests since 2020
- Climate Refugia



## Legend

- 4wd Roads
- Reserves
- Proposed Kilohana Predator
- Proof Fence (approx. 564 acres)



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# Cat Proof fence



# Rear and Release Aviary

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Large ~100ft \* 50ft

Surrounding live trees

Palila discovery trail

~10-12+ birds every spring/Summer





Photo: B. Mossman

# Expected Outcomes

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- Improved understanding of captive-to-wild transitions
- Potential increase in wild population
- Data to guide future palila recovery actions
- Advancement of species recovery efforts



# Mahalo!

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Photo: B. Mossman