

Our Wildlife

Look but do not touch.

The 'alae 'ula is a shy native Hawaiian water bird. Also known as the Hawaiian Moorhen, it is on the National Endangered Species list.



Its population once numbered in the thousands, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife now estimates its population to be about 400 to 500 birds living mainly on Kaua'i and O'ahu.

Introduced predators and loss of habitat continue to threaten the 'alae'ula.

Do not feed the wildlife.

A Hawaiian legend tells how the 'alae 'ula brought fire from the heavens to the people. At The Oahu Club, the 'alae 'ula can be found nesting in the protected waters of Keawāwa Wetland. They have plenty of natural food sources.

Please do not feed the birds.

Feeding will turn a shy bird into an aggressive one.



Be a Keawāwa Wetland Volunteer.
Your kokua will make a difference.

Mark Your Calendar

We invite you to participate in the restoration of the wetland. Join us on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 8:30 – 11:30 AM.

E-mail: hawaiikaihui@aol.com

Website: www.hawaiikaihui.org



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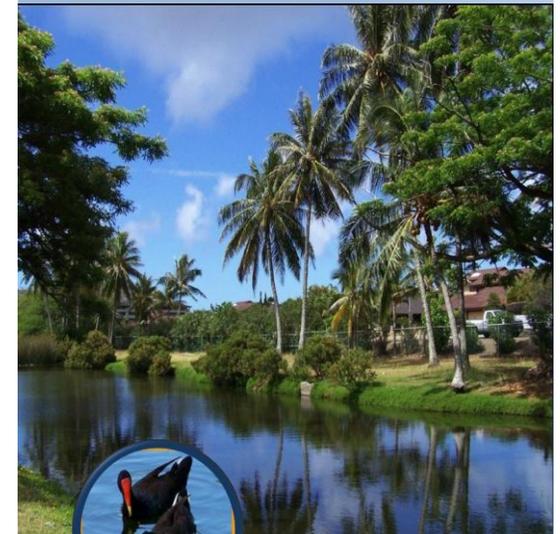
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Oahu Club
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Keawāwa Wetlands



Member Information

A Restoration Partnership

**Cultural & Natural Resource
Preservation Committee**

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui

`Alae`ula Etiquette

Do not feed the birds.

You are not helping them by giving them food. They are an endangered species and the `alae `ula like to eat mollusks, insects, water plants, and grasses. They are good swimmers and chicks can swim shortly after hatching. They can only be found on O`ahu and Kaua`i



Pinao (native dragonfly)



`Alae `ula chick



`Alae `ula or Hawaiian Moorhen



Mallard Ducks (male: dark green head)



`Auku `uh (black-crowned night heron)

History of the Keawāwa Wetlands

Ancient Hawaiians used this wetland area for fishing and farming until Henry J. Kaiser came in and turned the Maunalua fishponds into tracts of land for post-World War II veterans by dredging the marshland. The result is what we call Hawaii Kai, a 521 acre area that was created in 1959.

By dredging, Kaiser permanently transformed the shallow, coastal inlets into the marina-like community we have now. With the habitats removed, the native flora and fauna moved or died off. It wasn't until the past two decades that the `alae `ula returned to this area by The Oahu Club because their habitat was restored.

Today, the community non-profit Livable Hawaii Kai Hui and a group of community members are working together to restore this wetland area and land (5-acres) to the east of The Oahu Club. This area is rich with Native Hawaiian cultural sites, including a portion of Keawāwa wetland, numerous petroglyphs, an ancient niu (coconut) grove, a spring-fed well, many ancient rock formations thought to be house structures, a Tahitian style heiau, agricultural terraces, burial sites, and Hāwea heiau complex. Both of these sites are under the protection and stewardship of the Livable Hawaii Kai Hui, whose mission is to uphold the integrity of our community and the city's East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan as well as to educate community and protect cultural and natural resources.

Please join us at regular workday events at preserving these sacred historical sites in our community.