



With TNC's support, our partners at Kāko'o 'Ōiwi are replacing invasive vegetation with taro lo'i in He'eia, O'ahu. © Grady Timmons/TNC

Traditional harvesting is good for nature

Historically, He'eia was one of the most productive places on the island of O'ahu. Eight streams converged into a once healthy estuary that provided habitat for seabirds, larval and juvenile reef fish, invertebrates and stream species, such as 'o'opu (goby) and hihīwai (snails). Hundreds of acres of lo'i kalo (taro fields) were cultivated here until the 1940s. But land use changes and a proliferation of invasive species displaced the native plants and animals and disrupted the natural flow of water.

Today, native Hawaiian agriculture is reshaping the area. With TNC's support, our partners at Kāko'o 'Ōiwi are transforming 405 acres of overgrown wetlands by removing invasive vegetation, restoring stream flow and 'auwai (stream channels), and replanting the wetlands and surrounding areas with kalo and other traditional crops, such as 'ulu (breadfruit) and mai'a (banana). Together, we are working to restore

a traditional wetland system to help minimize flood damage in the area, reduce sediments and nutrients flowing out onto the reefs of Kāne'ohe Bay, and provide healthy food and clean water for the local community.



Abundant fish at Ka'ūpūlehu. © Bryce Groark

On Hawai'i Island, we are collaborating with local communities to bring back fish abundance to nearshore waters and restore an ancient fishpond.

At Kiholo Loko I'a, or Kiholo Fishpond, we are working with community group Hui Aloha Kiholo to restore productivity to the area by clearing invasive

vegetation, restacking traditional rock walls and clearing sediment to enable the estuary to boost the productivity of nearshore coral reefs and reef fisheries.

With the Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee (KMLAC), we are monitoring the recovery of fish populations during the 10-year rest period. Just two years in, TNC surveys showed some food fish species increased by more than 60% inside the rest area compared to only 3% outside the rest area. We are implementing FishPath, TNC's participatory process to develop sustainable fisheries management plans based on local knowledge and global fisheries science, with KMLAC to prepare for sustainable harvesting once the rest area reopens.

These efforts connect people with nature and traditional practices, and are helping to create a more resilient future for our communities and our islands.

Doing Her Part

Hiking and camping is part of Lori Admiral's DNA, which is fitting for our Director of Philanthropy. Although she has lived close to the Pacific Ocean her whole life, it is amongst trees and forests that she is most content. Lori switched from the for-profit to non-profit sector and began fundraising for the arts and education. As climate impacts grew, the protection of nature gained urgency for her.

"If everyone did their small part, we could move more quickly toward climate solutions. Once I learned more about TNC's reputation and mission, I was convinced this was the right place for me to be," she says.



Lori and Mark Admiral in Vancouver, Canada

Lori has hope for our planet and is inspired every day because of like-minded donors who also understand the need to safeguard our natural resources. Lori and husband Mark have committed to support their love of nature beyond their yearly giving. TNC's Hawaii'i and Palmyra chapter is part of their estate plan, and also is designated as a contingent beneficiary on a retirement account.

Lori is thankful for the wonderful people that are part of this extended family who dearly love and cherish nature as much as she does and whose continued support is critical to advance our important work.



On Maui, Waikamoi Preserve's moist tropical forests capture abundant fresh water. © Ian Shive

Protecting globally significant tropical forests

Hawaii'i is the single most ecosystem-rich place on the planet, home to 27 of 38 globally significant life zones: fresh lava, volcanic cinderscapes, sun-scorched beaches, coastal sand dunes, chilly high elevation cloud forests and snow-capped peaks. Almost 90% of Hawaii'i's native plants, 100% of native forest birds and 25% of native reef fish are found nowhere else on Earth.

In Hawaii'i, our conservation goals are aligned with the State's initiative to effectively manage 30 percent of our watershed forests and nearshore waters by 2030. A decade ago, only 10% of our mauka (mountain) forests met that standard. Today, that figure is 17% and climbing—a jump TNC has played a lead role in making happen. The majority of Hawaii'i's protected forests are tropical and wet, located above 4,000 feet in elevation. TNC's ongoing management to maintain this critical habitat for endangered forest birds and plants will be particularly important as the temperature warms due to climate change.



Native tropical forest at Palmyra Atoll. © B. Vakassy

Palmyra Atoll is home to one of the last remaining coastal strands of *Pisonia* tropical forest. Since we removed invasive rats, all trees in the forest thrived, including coconut palms, an introduced species. To continue the recovery, we are removing coconut trees, enabling the native trees that seabirds prefer to grow back, thus restoring the natural land-sea nutrient cycle.

Learn more and support our work at [nature.org/hawaii](https://www.nature.org/hawaii) • [nature.org/palmyra](https://www.nature.org/palmyra).