



# Friends of Haleakalā National Park

~ SPRING/SUMMER 2023 • P.O. BOX 322 • MAKAWAO HI • 96768 • WWW.FHNP.ORG ~

## IN DEEP: The Pleasure of Service Trips

### THREE SERVICE-TRIPPERS SPEAK UP

IVY CAMPBELL

"I'm a walking, live advertisement for service trips," exclaims Ivy Puanani Campbell, the owner of Art + Soul Design in Wailuku. Her shop combines hair services with a vintage boutique; her focus is "recycling fashion and keeping salon waste out of the landfill." The fact that she's a Hawaiian who loves hiking and gardening predisposes her to vigorous weeding treks in Haleakalā Crater.

"At the beginning of 2022 my New Year's goal was to get back into the Crater. I didn't want to go alone, so I found the Friends through google and went first time in March, right when the park opened from Covid. I got so much information from it. I enjoy pulling weeds at home, but to get this information, to learn plants, to be of service—

"I went three times that year—March, September, and December. It started as a kind of fitness school. Kapalaoa was loaded with *Heterotheca* weeds. Palikū had thistles. I got some fun slivers from that one. That provoked the competitive spirit in me. I was coined 'The Thistle Slayer.' We discovered new places, were educated

about what not to step on, went part-way down Kaupō Gap with clippers, trail-trimming. There were ten of us at Palikū with Matt Wordeman (FHNP's board president) right when the cabin was getting painted.

"I've gotten so much more out of it than I expected. At first I just wanted to get into the Crater, but now I'm part of a community. (I'm



kind of service-oriented anyway.)

"It is challenging, each trip. But the Friends give a lot of information, what to pack, good email instructions. They set you up for success. I'm surprised how many things they remind you to prepare.

"I've made so many friends.

Sitting around the dinner table is a highlight in itself. The groups included men and women, ages from twenties to sixties, all of them nature-lovers and service-oriented. The group dinner is awesome—vegetarian, all fresh ingredients, delicious.

...to be completely disconnected, there's something so human about it. To be off the grid and to be totally present.

"And the cabins now are in great shape.

"As a business owner, I'm never away from the phone. I worked straight for six months, and my husband said, 'You're going away to go work?' But to be completely disconnected, there's something so human about it. To be off the grid and to be totally present. Survival and service in the same punch. I was rejuvenated! By working!

"That's what I love about these trips—networking and connecting to better Maui. To better everything. My goal is to fit three more trips into this year. I can't imagine my life without it, my quarterly refresher."



**CAT PEREZ**

Haleakalā-lover Cat Perez has to fly over from O’ahu, where she works at U.H. Mānoa, to climb into the Crater. She’s done “only” six service trips but has hiked the Park by herself many times.

"I love going places off the beaten path, especially when I'm accompanied by people who know the history."

She says, “The trips are different every time. That’s the beauty of it. I learn so much every time I go on a service trip, and not just about the island. I learn about other people. There’s so much knowledge-sharing on these trips.

“The salient point: you understand where you are, which plants are invasive and not. You can learn on line, but not the way you learn on a trip. In the Crater, I can’t consult technology. It’s a very old way of knowledge-sharing. I have to really think about it. I don’t have any way to distract myself from that kind of knowledge. I just want to sit with it.

“Is it grueling? Part of the fun is that it *is* a grueling thing. You don’t *have* to push yourself, but you *can* to the degree you wish. And there’s support there for that, moral support. You share resources, not just knowledge. In groups, everybody brings something different, and they just pull it out—it’s a surprise. That happens on a friend trip, too, of course, but it happens much more on a service trip.

“It makes sense. What we’re there to do is balance the impact that

we have on the environment. To me, that’s what these trips are like. There’s a natural balance. It’s a mind-set, because everyone understands what the trade-off is. It’s not forced, but it is a community



that you’ve forced yourself into by choosing to participate. You find that you’re living in a different way. You find that humans can function very well together. You need each other. It makes sense that you need to cooperate—hey, I need your help. It’s survival. And yet it’s still a beautiful thing. It’s not a chore.

“The striking thing to me is that these service trips are effortless in that way. It’s like a dance, and you all take a positive role in the dance. And it works.

“That’s *why* it works.”

**DYLAN FINLEY**

Dylan came to Maui at the beginning of 2022 to manage a dry-forest restoration project at Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge. His job was to re-forest twelve acres with native plants, manage a five-thousand-plant greenhouse, and coordinate the volunteer crew. Coming from the U.S. East Coast, he’d never been to Hawai’i. “I wanted to engage with my new home as much as possible.”

He knew from experience that volunteering was a good way to make connections. “So I was excited when I found out about FHNP.” He did five service trips during his year on Maui, “and I wish I’d done more,” he says. “I love going places off the beaten path, especially when I’m accompanied by people who know the history and ecology of the area. On every trip I learned new things about the Crater, saw new corners of it I didn’t know existed, and met new and interesting people.”

The mountain, for Dylan, is a magnet. “I have been to many national parks, but have never felt such a deep connection as what I feel for Haleakalā. The strongest reason for my connection to the park is the volunteer work I’ve done with FHNP. On their service trips I have made friends, learned about the history, ecology, and geology of the park, and, most important, felt that I was contributing a small hand in protecting the native species of the Crater.

When Dylan’s job at Keālia ended last December, he moved back home to New York. Now he’s in Philadelphia working as a habitat and ecosystem specialist for residential clients. Yet he still hopes that “Maui has something in store for me in the future.”

He said, “I have a friend from a Palikū trip who’s trying to lure me back to do another one in May. If I do that, I’m not sure I’ll actually be able to leave this time!”

"Working together to mālama'āina, cooking together, and telling stories and jokes for four days in a shared space turned us into something like an adopted family." - Dylan Finley



# News from Haleakalā National Park

**Park Passes:** There are new Veterans and Gold Star Family Interagency Lifetime Passes available at the park. The pass provides free lifetime access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas. Veterans with valid ID and Gold Star families with a printed voucher can get their pass online or in person at the park entrance station. Information on identification accepted for the Veterans Pass and a downloadable Gold Star Family voucher are available online: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>.

Tom Arnold is Haleakalā National Park's new Volunteer and Youth Program coordinator. Tom has worked for the National Park Service since 2010 and feels fortunate to have spent time in Grand Teton, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Death Valley. Most recently, he was working as the lead interpreter at Grand Teton and is excited

to transition to Haleakalā where he will get to work with the two groups that he loves most - youth and volunteers. He lived on the Big Island in 2009 while pursuing a master's in education and has always wanted to return. In his spare time, Tom enjoys mountain biking, motorcycle riding, hiking, reading, relaxing by the ocean, and traveling with his long time girlfriend, Sarah. He's looking forward to meeting everyone at the park and learning new water sports.

We have multiple volunteer positions we are actively looking to fill right now, including our Desk Docent, Trail Steward, and our new Park Ambassador slot. We are always looking for people to help our operation, so if you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, all of our available positions will be listed on our website (<https://www.nps.gov/hale/getinvolved/volunteer.htm>) and on [volunteer.gov](http://volunteer.gov) (search Haleakalā National Park).



## UPCOMING SERVICE TRIPS

April 14-16	Kīpahulu
May 27-30	Palikū
June 10-12	Hōlua
July 1-4	Palikū
Aug. 20-22	Kapalaoa
Sept. 2-5	Palikū
Nov. 11-12	Kīpahulu

Green House Events  
First Tuesday of each month.

The results from 2022:  
**Statistics:**  
10 trips (2 cancelled)  
61 volunteers  
1,255 miles hiked  
40,000 weeds pulled

**Most Memorable Meals:**  
1) Matt's African Peanut Stew - best of show  
2) Dylan's Chili  
3) Oatmeal (Who put that in?)

**Least Memorable Jokes:**  
1) Knock, knock. Who's there? Centipede. Centipede who?  
Santa peed on the Christmas tree and now the lights don't work.  
2) To save time, the Norwegian navy has installed QR codes on its fleet. Now when they arrive at a port, they simply Scandanavian.  
3) Two peanuts were walking down the street. One was assaulted. (Peanut. Get it?)

*So many reasons to volunteer for service trips!*

**PHOTO LEFT:** FHNP boardmembers Mele Stokesberry and Mary Santa Maria at this year's Earth Day event, April 29 at U.H. Maui College.



# OH, THE BIRDS!

BY PAUL WOOD

Before humans arrived less than two thousand years ago, Maui was covered in forest. And the forest swirled and rang with small, brightly colored birds that we call “honeycreepers.” These birds had no predators. They lived on flowers and insects, and in so doing they groomed the forest, kept it healthy.

When humans arrived, life changed. Today, honeycreepers can only be found in the remotest upper slopes of Haleakalā. What might have been twenty species on Maui are now just six. Two of these six, having thrived for millions of years, could soon vanish forever.

The ‘ākohekohe is a high-energy nectar-eating bird with a sassy white topknot. It speeds through the forest canopy as if running with its long legs.

A recent count of living ‘ākohekohe birds totalled just 1,768.

The kiwikiu or Maui parrotbill, a wee yellow-green featherball, uses its nutcracker beak to crush dead branches in search of insect larvae. Last count—just 157.

If you were writing the screenplay with a rescue plot, you would be at your wit’s end trying to come up with a Hollywood ending for this one.

And yet a partnership of scientific goups—federal and state agencies allied with conservation nonprofits—have devised a last-ditch plan to save these wild birds within in the next few years. (Hooray!) But the plan involves importing millions of mosquitoes to Maui. (Huh?) Understandably, some folks are worried.

The proven science behind this plan gets a little complicated to explain, so please read on.

## THE HONEYCREEPERS

These Pacific islands, unlike any other lands on earth, popped up smack in the middle of the planet’s largest expanse of salt water. All other lands have been situated close enough to neighboring acreage to allow relatively easy migration of terrestrial species. Here, though, (until humans built boats) it took a near-miracle for any land creature to float, drift, or fly this far. Even so, some six million years ago, a little Asian finch managed the trip.

At that point, Maui didn’t yet exist. Only the oldest of our major islands had formed—Kaua’i and Ni’ihau. As islands arose and new habitats came available, descendants of that founding finch adapted into 50 or more new species, variations on the original theme. Some became nectar sippers and seedpod crunchers, others ate insects. Each distinct species developed its own bill-shape designed to dig under bark or crunch twigs or poke deep into flowers. They developed different songs and mating habits. But these “honeycreeper” species all retained the basic pattern—small, lively birds of the forest.

When Polynesians arrived, they cleared some tracts of forest, and they introduced rats and pigs. Even so, the honeycreepers remained abundant. The Hawaiians valued their colorful feathers, which became a kind of currency, symbols of status. Still, these humans respected the birds and practiced a pluck-and-release policy. For the most part, they treated the forest and its critters with respect.

## MOSQUITOES

Western contact changed everything. Today only 17 of the original 50-plus honeycreeper species still exist, and 11 of those are considered endangered or threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

These extinctions happened, in part, because Hawai’i’s

forests shrank. The honeycreepers lost habitat to Western-style agriculture, to the appetites of cattle and goats, also to the crowding-out of native plants by super-aggressive weeds.

No forest, no forest birds.

But the most urgent and fatal threat today is the mosquito. One of the ugliest sights in the world is the image of a mosquito casually sucking on the eyelid of a bird with no ability to shoo it away. For humans such a bite is irritating. For a honeycreeper the result is often death in as few as nine days.

Mosquitoes carry avian malaria. ("Avian" means "of birds.") Some species of honeycreeper, over time, have devel-

oped a level of immunity to this disease. But the 'ākohekohe and the kiwīkiu are running out of time.

The first mosquitoes came to Hawai'i in 1828. The site: Lahaina. According to some, sailors aboard a visiting whaler were furious to discover that the missionaries had succeeded in closing the brothels and Christianizing the population. To express their outrage, they rowed to shore with a water cask infested by mosquito larvae, and they dumped it into a pond. We know this because the incident was recorded in the ship's log.

Of course, mosquitoes would have got here at some point anyway. Four species of

mosquito are now part of the Maui scene. And if none of these original pests had carried avian malaria, they would have picked it up from imported songbirds. It's said that when people began noticing there were fewer and fewer native birds around, they began bringing in replacements—cardinals, mockingbirds, parakeets, species with a long history of resistance to the disease. Most native forest birds could only survive where the mosquitoes weren't.

Fortunately, mosquitoes can't take the cold. On Haleakalā, mosquitoes would fall back when they ran out of warmth. The temperature at a certain elevation acted as an

*Continued on page 6*



Artwork by Dr. Fern P. Duvall II

invisible fence (so to speak) to keep the wolves out of the chicken coop.

So now our honeycreepers tend to live around Haleakalā in a band. The upper edge of the band is the timberline, the point at which the forest ceases. The lower-elevation boundary, however, is open and nebulous. Now that the planet, as predicted, is warming, that invisible fence is beginning to fall apart.

#### A RADICAL RESCUE PLAN

Extinction is such a sad, slow process. If only we could get the mosquitoes to go away. We can't poison the whole mountaintop and wipe them all out. But couldn't we come up with a plan to just reduce their numbers somehow? Push them back? Suppress them?

It's good you ask, because there is such a plan, and it is being deployed now, in 2023. The partnership that is driving this complicated rescue plan includes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawai'i Department of Health and the National Park System. What will happen has been used with success all over the world from California to New Caledonia—on humans. It has been used successfully to reduce the occurrence of human diseases, such as dengue, that are carried by mosquitoes. The process is so intricate that no one would have bothered to work it up for a few rare birds, but if it works for humans, it will work for the kiwīkiu.

It's called IIT—In-

compatible Insect Technique. Others are calling it "Mosquito Birth-Control." It involves collecting lots of eggs from mosquitoes in Hawai'i, taking them to a lab on the Mainland, and hatching them in such a way that they will be reproductively useless on Maui. Then, after the lab eliminates all the newly hatched females, the useless males are brought to Maui.

Female mosquitoes mate just one time in life. So if a great abundance of these introduced gents arrive, the females will tend to mate with them, and no offspring will result. Repeat the process, and repeat; the mosquito population will shrink. The result will be suppression, not total elimination, but it will not entail toxic chemicals or disruption of the landscape. It will only require millions of these incompatible males delivered frequently enough to turn the population dial down to "rare."

What's behind this is the discovery of something odd about mosquitoes. They, like 50 percent of all insects, have a naturally occurring bacteria in their guts. It's called Wolbachia. (This is an insect thing with no bearing on mammals.) If two mosquitoes have the same strain of Wolbachia, mating will succeed. But if the strains are different—for example, the males were raised in a lab located elsewhere, they'll come home and mate happily and unproductively. Properly managed, this elaborate process will work exactly as it has all over the globe with human diseases. Haleakalā mosquito populations will decline, and our honeycreepers

will thrive.

#### NUMBER-ONE FEAR

Question: Am I going to be bitten by all those millions of mosquitoes? My god, don't we have enough of them already?

Answer: They're all male mosquitoes. Male mosquitoes don't bite.

Besides, they're all going to be released at the top of the mountain. They don't fly very far. They live just a couple of weeks. Chill.



Southern house mosquitoes. Photo/CDC

For more information about this topic, readers can study an informational briefing posted by the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources on March 10 of this year. Go to <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/C-2.pdf>



'ākohekohe ("AH-koh-heh-koh-heh")

# WHAT'S IN A NAME: HALEAKALĀ

BY KI'ŌPE RAYMOND

"Haleakalā" is, of course, the common name for Maui's largest mountain. We typically parse that name as hale/a/ka/lā, interpreted as "house of the sun." The name seems to be derived from one of many mo'olelo (traditions) for the akua (demi-god) Māui.

[Note: the island's name, Maui, does not contain a macron over the "a."]

We're told that this akua assisted his 'ohana (family) by slowing the sun so that kapa (bark-cloth) could dry better. In one story, Māui made the sun comply by imprisoning it within the Crater—a hale (house) of a sort. However, most other versions have Māui snaring the sun's rays, even breaking them.

This snaring is suggested by two other traditional names for the mountain. The act of snaring can be either 'ahele or 'alehe. Both terms appear in stories published over a century ago by authors who gathered, or appropriated, Hawaiian traditions regarding Māui and other figures in Hawaiian mythology.

One of these was Thomas G. Thrum, who took his version from the Rev. A. O. Forbes. Forbes states, "...It was this [snaring] that gave the name to that mountain, which should properly be called *Alehe-ka-la* (sun snarer), and not *Haleakala*." Forbes was born at Ka'awaloa on Hawai'i island in 1833; he would have been fluent in Hawaiian. The people of Ka'awaloa would have used either of the terms for snaring the sun: 'alehe/ka/lā or 'ahele/ka/lā.

All snaring aside, a fourth variation of the mountain's name comes from our own island. Maui kūpuna (elders) Rev. Charles Kauluwehi "Uncle Charlie" Maxwell and Rev. David "Kawika" Ka'alakea, both now deceased, asserted another name, learned from their own kūpuna—Alaheakalā.

Parsed, it becomes ala/hea/ka/lā: "the path to call the sun."

These men, both of them ordained, balanced Western and Hawaiian belief systems. The concept of calling—that is, acknowledging—the sun in order to strengthen one's own spirituality has been taken up in modern times. Recording artist Kuana Torres Kahele has a song he composed called "Alaheakalā." Part of his album *Music for the Hawaiian Islands, Vol. 3, Pi'ilani Maui*, the song honors both the mountain and the famous Maui ali'i (chief) Pi'ilani.

"Calling the sun" brings to mind the well-known "E Ala E" (chant) used by Hawaiian religious practitioners. This oli is offered at every sunrise by Haleakalā National Park rangers. Their purpose is to focus themselves and visitors on the beauty of the dawn and on the importance of the sun for all lives. Here is the oli, with English translation of each line:

E ala e, ka lā i ka hikina  
*Awaken/Arise, the sun in the east,*

I ka moana, ka moana hohonu,  
*From the ocean, the deep ocean,*

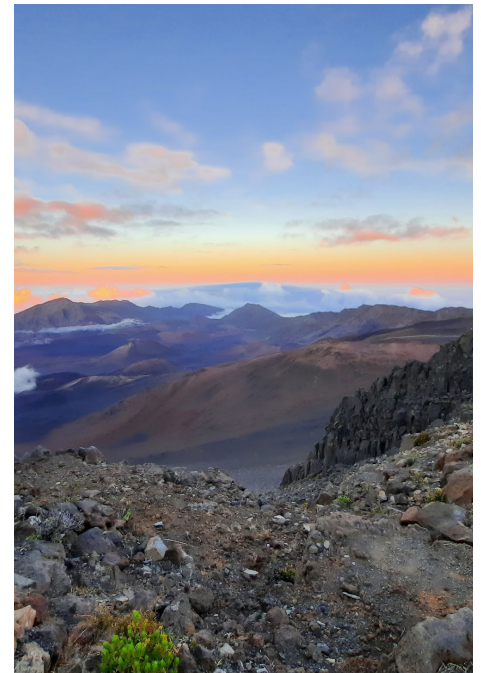
Pi'i ka lewa, ka lewa nu'u,  
*Climbing to heaven, the highest heaven,*

I ka hikina, aia ka lā, e ala e!  
*In the east, there is the sun, arise!*

Finally, there is the name Alaheleakalā—ala/hele/a/ka/lā or "the pathway to get to the sun." In 2010 kūpuna gathered to provide guidance in making the Park's Haleakalā Cultural Brochure. These elders shared that the name Alaheleakalā predated western contact. The kūpuna insisted that

the name Haleakalā be officially changed to Alaheleakalā. Alas, a national park name change would require an act of Congress. Ours is still named Haleakalā. The actual peak named Haleakalā (8,209 feet), as opposed to the entire mountain, is located on the southern ridgeline of the crater anchoring one side of the Kaupō Gap.

Alaheleakalā, Alaheakalā, 'Alehekalā, 'Ahelekalā, and Haleakalā. Say them aloud. Then suppose your unskilled ear was listening to kūpuna a century ago, or to a park ranger this morning. Could you discern the nuanced differences between the five? And yet all the translatable names, and attendant traditions, should be respected, as they give insight into the various ways Hawaiians understood their world and their relationship to it.



FHNP board member Ki'ope Raymond is a retired professor of Hawaiian Studies at U.H. Maui College. He welcomes news of other traditional names for the mountain: [kioperaymond@gmail.com](mailto:kioperaymond@gmail.com)

## Wear your love of Haleakalā Crater!

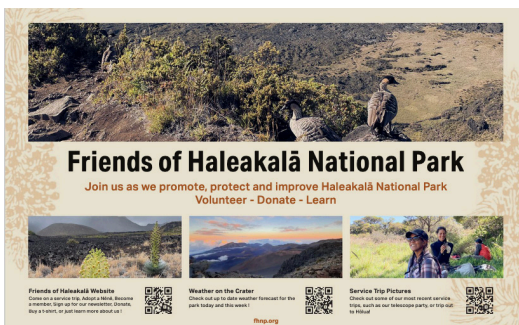


Former board member Maggie Sutrov has created this beautiful design for our new logowear, available now on our website. All proceeds benefit the Park and its mission.

Visit [www.fhnp.org](http://www.fhnp.org).

## A New Sign for FHNP

The next time you go to the Crater, make sure to stop at the Visitor Center located just past the Park Entrance. Take a look at our new sign mounted outside under glass. It's a beauty, so up-to-date that it has QR codes! While you're there, murmur mahalo nui to Mckinley Jiran, <http://www.jiran.design/>, a superb graphic designer from Portland, Oregon, who donated his skills to create this sign for all of us. The only thing Mac would accept from us in return was an FHNP hoodie.



### STAR PROGRAM ON JUNE 16th

Join a ranger for a free astronomy program! Learn about the night sky above Haleakalā, its rich cultural significance, and special astronomical events that occur through the year. After a 30-minute talk, weather permitting, visitors will have the chance to look through a telescope at planets, star clusters, nebulae, and possibly even galaxies!  
When: Today, from 8 – 9:30 PM  
Where: Next to the Haleakalā Visitor Center (9,740 feet)

### FULL MOON NIGHT ON JULY 3rd

Join a ranger for a free moon talk! Discover Haleakalā by the light of the full moon and learn about our lunar connections.  
When: Today, from 8 PM – 9 PM  
Where: Pu'u'ula'ula (Red Hill) Summit Observation Deck (10,023 feet)

### LĀHAINĀ NOON ON JULY 18TH

During this special astronomical event, join a ranger for a free solar program! Learn about the sun's relationship with Haleakalā, its rich cultural significance, and this special solar event that only occurs close to the equator. Weath-

er permitting, visitors will have the chance to safely look through a telescope at our closest star, the Sun!

When: Today, from 11 AM – 1 PM

Where: Next to the Haleakalā Visitor Center (9,740 feet)

### STAR PROGRAM ON JULY 21st

Join a ranger for a free astronomy program! Learn about the night sky above Haleakalā, its rich cultural significance, and special astronomical events that occur through the year. After a 30-minute talk, weather permitting, visitors will have the chance to look through a telescope at planets, star clusters, nebulae, and possibly even galaxies!  
When: Today, from 8 – 9:30 PM  
Where: Next to the Haleakalā Visitor Center (9,740 feet)

### FULL MOON NIGHT ON AUGUST 1st

Join a ranger for a free moon talk! Discover Haleakalā by the light of the full moon and learn about our lunar connections.  
When: Today, from 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM  
Where: Pu'u'ula'ula (Red Hill) Summit Observation Deck (10,023 feet)

# Mahalo Nui

OUR THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO, IN 2022, PROVIDED \$100 OR MORE IN SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDS OF HALEAKALĀ:

Sarah Anderson  
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Egidius Braun  
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Xander Castro  
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Honolulu HI  
Seattle WA  
Pukalani HI  
Edison NJ  
Dallas TX  
Makawao HI  
Kāne'ohe HI  
Brasschaat





## Become **A FRIEND OF HALEAKALĀ NATIONAL PARK**

*This nonprofit organization, directed by a volunteer board, serves as your agent in the good work of protecting an earthly treasure.*

There are 240 National Parks in the United States. Which one is home to the greatest number of endangered species? Ours.

Covering more than 34,000 acres, our Park comprises 37 miles of trail, 88 employees, and almost that many volunteers who gave more than 3,000 hours of service last year. A million visitors a year make it Maui's biggest visitor attraction.

The Friends, a licensed nonprofit directed by a volunteer board, serves to promote, protect, and improve Haleakalā National Park. Its general purpose is to support educational, cultural, research, and service activities relating to the Park and its ecosystems so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

### **RENEW YOUR FRIENDSHIP**

To become a member, simply donate as little as \$30. Memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. Any donations that arrive during the 4th quarter of the year hold good through the entirety of the next. They are tax-deductible.

### **YOUR MEMBERSHIP DOES THIS:**

- sets up opportunities for you to engage with the Park as a volunteer.
- informs you of new developments at the Park, and of its history.
- provides funding for projects recommended by Park staff.
- creates a bridge between the Park and the public.
- advocates for the Park in public settings.



### **Adopt a Nēnē\***

Target your giving directly to the protection of endemic species!

*\* The nēnē, or Hawaiian goose, is a magnificent native bird that has been rescued from extinction at Haleakalā National Park.*

**Mail the form below with your check, or use a credit card at fhnp.org**

I want to become a Friend of Haleakalā.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Adopt a Nēnē

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payable to: Friends of Haleakalā National Park**  
**Mail to: Friends of Haleakalā,**  
**P.O. BOX 322, Makawao HI 96768**





*Friends of*  
**Haleakalā National Park**  
**P.O. Box 322, Makawao HI 96768**

