



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

PETER T. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Phone: (808) 587-0401
Fax: (808) 587-0390

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2005

**CONSERVATION OF HAWAI'I NATIVE WILDLIFE
SUBJECT OF STATEWIDE WILDLIFE STRATEGY**

HONOLULU— Department of Land and Natural Resources is seeking statewide input on the development of a comprehensive statewide wildlife strategy for the conservation of Hawaii's native wildlife.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the people of Hawai'i to come together in a shared effort to conserve our unique native wildlife for our children and our children's children," said Peter Young, DLNR chairperson.

"There are over 10,000 species in our state that can be found nowhere else on earth. The comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, together with other initiatives, is a step that will help to continue to insure these species are there for future generations to enjoy and appreciate," said Young.

DLNR is seeking, and will combine, all existing information about the distribution and abundance of native wildlife species, the key habitat used by these species, the threats to these species and/or their habitats, and needed conservation actions into one document.

This is an ongoing initiative with the final deadline being Oct. 1, 2005. Until then, there will be workshops, meetings and products — for additional public review and input on what has been pulled together.

The Statewide Wildlife Strategy is an effort underway in all 50 states as well as the territories to take a comprehensive look at the status of all wildlife and identify those species which are in greatest conservation need and focus resources and management effort on those species.

The strategy will provide the road map for the development and implementation of programs that benefit native wildlife and their habitats.

Congress has required that each State develop its strategy to continue to receive funds under the State Wildlife Grant Program. Once all 50 states have prepared their strategies, Congress will have a clear picture of what the national needs are to conserve the wildlife resources of the nation.

(more)

DLNR seeks input on state's wildlife strategy

The goals of the strategy are to address the broad array of native wildlife in the state, create partnerships so the strategy is implemented through local actions, and build on past efforts for the benefit of native wildlife.

The strategy does not introduce new regulations or constraints, and stresses fiscal responsibility by proactively conserving wildlife, and long-term goals of keeping common species common.

All state strategies are required by Congress to address 7 elements:

- 1) information on distribution and abundance of species of greatest conservation need;
- 2) descriptions of location and condition of key habitats for identified species;
- 3) proposed conservation actions;
- 4) plans to monitor species and the actions;
- 5) plans for coordinating the development and implementation of the strategy with other entities managing significant land or water areas;
- 6) procedures to revise the strategy every 10 years; and
- 7) public participation.

To share information or to become more actively involved in the development of the strategy, please send the following information via email to wildlife.strategy@hawaii.gov

- your name
- contact information (email, phone, mailing address)
- area(s) of expertise/interest
- island(s) of expertise/ interest
- any thoughts, ideas, comments, suggestions, or questions.

If desired, please also provide:

- contact information for other people involved in existing or past planning efforts related to Hawaii's native wildlife;
- existing plans, strategies or documents you would like to see incorporated into the final strategy (links if they are on-line; attachments or mailed hard copy if not);
- existing information relating to native species or suites of species - distribution, abundance, habitat, threats, needed conservation action, needed research, maps, shapefiles
- photos of native species for use in the strategy (in digital or hard format)
- contact information of people who might be interested in being added to the mailing list
- anything else you think is useful/important for development of an effective Wildlife Strategy.

To find out more about the wildlife strategy and how you can get involved, go to the website www.dofaw.net/cwcs

###

For more information, contact:

Christine Ogura HI CWCS Project Planner
Christen Mitchell HI CWCS Project Coordinator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 587-0051 (ph)
(808) 587-0064 (fx)
E-mail: wildlife.strategy@