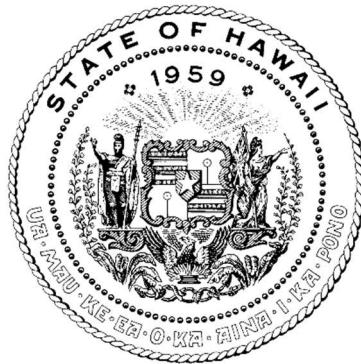


**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAI‘I  
2025 REGULAR SESSION  
HAWAI‘I STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS SYSTEM  
“NĀ ALA HELE”**



Prepared by:

THE STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program

In response to Section 198D-9, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes

Honolulu, Hawai‘i  
December 2024

# HAWAI‘I STATEWIDE TRAIL AND ACCESS SYSTEM

## “NĀ ALA HELE”

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Hawai‘i Statewide Trail and Access Program, known as Nā Ala Hele (NAH), was established in 1988. Section 198D-2, HRS, directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to plan, develop, and acquire land or rights for public use of land, construct, restore, and engage in coordination activities to implement a trail and access system in Hawaii. The program operates within the DLNR’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife. This report has three sections:

- Program Functions
  - Staffing
  - Funding
  
- Program Highlights
  - Maintenance Activities
  - Volunteers
  - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding
  - Administrative Rules Revision
  - Nā Ala Hele Program Plan Update
  - Other Capital Improvement Projects
  - International Trails Summit
  - 2023 Legislative Session
  - Visitor Industry Field Experiences
  
- Looking Ahead

This report addresses the requirements of the Nā Ala Hele Program enabling legislation. NAH is administratively part of the Outdoor Recreation Section of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, which has a broader array of responsibilities, including trails and roads not formally designated as NAH program features.

### **PROGRAM FUNCTIONS**

#### STAFFING

Professional level staffing through FY24 included:

- Forester VI, Statewide Program Manager
- Abstractor VII (Vacant)
- Trail and Access Specialist V (one each for the Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Maui, and Hawai‘i Branches)

- Trail and Access Specialist IV (1, Hawai‘i Branch)
- Forestry and Wildlife Technician (2, Hawai‘i and Maui Branches).

Across the state, available labor for program maintenance and management work is handled in different ways at the Branch level:

- Hawai‘i Branch has labor available via the Branch Operations Section, which includes three work crews of three to four staff, consisting of a crew leader (Forestry and Wildlife Worker III) and crew staff (Forestry and Wildlife Worker II). Additionally, mechanized heavy equipment operators and professional carpentry staff are available for program project needs.
- On the Maui Branch, five Forestry and Wildlife Worker II positions are organizationally within the Outdoor Recreation/NAH section. They work under the direct supervision of the Forestry and Wildlife Technician.
- On the O‘ahu Branch, there is one Forestry and Wildlife Worker III and one Forestry and Wildlife Worker II position, working directly under the Trail and Access Specialist V. Labor is available as needed from other Division programs, including Forestry, Wildlife, and Native Ecosystem Protection and Management.
- On the Kaua‘i Branch, there is one General Laborer position in the Outdoor Recreation/NAH section, working directly for the Trail and Access Specialist V. Additional Forestry and Wildlife Workers III and II, one each, are administratively assigned to the program from the Branch Operations Section.

The 2022 Hawai‘i State Legislature also approved and funded one new professional position for the Program. This position is being created to provide a new Program Specialist position in the Administrative Section of the Division, reporting directly to the Outdoor Recreation/NAH Program Manager. This will be the program's first professional administrative support staff. The position creation and delegated re-organization process is underway, in concert with other personnel changes managed by DNLN’s Human Resources Office and the Department of Human Resources Development.

## FUNDING

Federal funding for the Nā Ala Hele Trail and Access Program (Program) is currently provided by the Federal Highways Administration’s Recreational Trails Program, funded through national fuel tax dollars. Funding to the states is formulaically apportioned. In FY24, that apportionment for Hawai‘i was \$950,859.

The program also receives funding via state fuel tax dollars, commercial use fees, camping fees, and donations. In FY24, this amounted to \$270,000.

\$2,000,000 in general funds is provided in the LNR804 budget line item specifically to help fund the Program.

- \$683,000 for contract services for repairs to the Waipoli Road, the primary access to the popular and heavily used Kula Forest Reserve and Polipoli State Park in upcountry Maui. The road suffered severe damage during a Kona Low storm in late 2021 and remained

closed due to the unavailability of repair funds. These funds allowed the Maui Branch to secure contract services for significant repairs to drainage culverts and stream crossing on the damaged road.

- \$572,916 for repairs to the Waiakoa Loop Trail, in the Kula Forest Reserve, and severely damaged in the late-2021 Kona Low storm. The repair work included reconstruction of a small footbridge and hardening and rerouting of several stream crossings. See the attached Maui Branch Report for more details on this work, including images.
- \$466,000 on Hawai‘i island for repairs to and hardening of a heavily trafficked roadway recreational access adjacent to the Koai‘a Tree Sanctuary and accessway to the Pu‘u o ‘Umi Natural Area Reserve off the Kohala Mountain Road in North Kohala.

## **PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Routine trail maintenance activities continue across Nā Ala Hele and other recreation program features across the state, including trails used for hiking, mountain biking, and horse riding, roads, off-highway vehicle parks, and mountain bike parks. The Forestry and Wildlife recreational trail inventory currently has over 1,600 trails and roads (features), with 167 of those formally designated as Nā Ala Hele program features.

Maintenance needs are ongoing. The Division continues to work towards the development of sustainable maintenance standards of quality and frequency. A combination of contract and in-house maintenance services is utilized for routine work and to react and respond promptly to damage caused by storms, the need for blowdown tree removal, and other immediate response needs.

### VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers remain an asset in conducting maintenance and restoration work on program assets. Highlights include:

- A small but dedicated cadre of volunteer's spearheads maintenance and restoration work on select trails on Kaua‘i.
- Kapiolani Community College student organizations perform regular maintenance of various trails on the lower sections of the Makiki Valley trails on O‘ahu. Large volunteer trips were held on Oahu at Moanalua Valley (70 volunteers) and Ka Iwa Ridge (63 volunteers).
- A University of Hawaii employee on Hawai‘i Island organizes and leads research and training, including volunteer projects, and dedicated long-term volunteers and user organizations (OHV and mountain bike) continue to conduct maintenance of features they regularly use, including the Upper Waiākea OHV Park and the Kulanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park.
- Trail maintenance, vegetation management, and conservation/restoration work at multiple locations on Maui, including the popular Waihe‘e Ridge Trail in West Maui and Kahakapao Recreation Area in the Makawao Forest Reserve.

The program utilized RTP funding to hire Volunteer Coordinators in each Branch to utilize volunteers across the state.

Appended to this report are the island-specific reports submitted by Branch staff for further details.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), administered by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), allocated a total of \$3 billion “. . . to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.” Funding via the ARPA was allocated to each state via a per capita formula, and the Governor of each state had the authority to determine which state agency was to receive and administer the funding locally.

The funding was allocated in six separate grant opportunity types, and the EDA issued Notice of Funding Opportunities, or NOFOs, for each. Among them was the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation NOFO. The Department developed a presentation for the Governor demonstrating our strong feeling that DLNR would be the appropriate agency to receive and administer this funding, which for Hawai‘i was \$14.2 million. The Governor decided to have the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism administer the funding via the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority. Included in the decision was a directive to have the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority work with DLNR to collectively develop a series of proposed projects and share the funding.

DLNR and HTA established a working group, led partly by Nā Ala Hele staff for DLNR, and working with other Divisions within the Department to develop project proposals. Through a thoughtful and rigorous process, working closely and collaboratively with our partners at the HTA, we settled on a series of projects and produced a Grant Application Package. The funding via this grant is available for use through December 2026.

Several projects eventually approved by the EDA for funding are Nā Ala Hele-driven, including:

- **Nā Manu ‘Elele Stewards Program**                      **\$3,850,000**                      **Statewide**
  - This program will utilize a total of 20 paid stewards state-wide, hired through our close working relationship with KUPU, stationed at high-use trailheads and other features, to provide information on location-specific cultural and natural resources, health and safety of both the users and the resources, track user numbers and trail or resource conditions, and help to ensure proper behavior by users. Nā Ala Hele is administering this program.
- **Napu‘u Recreation Plan**                                      **\$400,000**                                      **Hawai‘i Island**
  - Funding for this plan will enable contracting professional planners to develop a recreation-specific plan for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife-administered lands comprised of two large, adjacent ahupua‘a on Hawai‘i Island, Pu‘u Anahulu and Pu‘u Wa‘awa‘a, which total over 110,000 acres of state lands.

- **Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan**                      **\$300,000**                      **Hawai'i Island**
  - Funding will be used to contract a consultant to develop a comprehensive Interpretive Plan in cooperation with communities and descendants within the Ala Kahakai Trail Corridor and in coordination with the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Template and content design for interpretive signage, digital content, and other features will be included.
- **Statewide Trail Capacity Study**                      **\$1,100,000**                      **Statewide**
  - Increased use of program features stresses the resources and local communities adjacent to these assets. Data on current use, limits of acceptable change, tangible community impacts, and other socio-environmental factors is key to adequate resource protection, management, and planning efforts. This study, to be conducted by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Natural Resources and Environmental Management Program, aims to provide decision tools that can be utilized on trails statewide to determine, among other things, use capacity based on natural and socio-environmental factors and standardized methods for assessing resource condition, user satisfaction, and community support for trail resources.

The EDA grant also funded projects in DLNR's Divisions of Aquatic Resources, and Conservation, and Resource Enforcement.

Additionally, Nā Ala Hele staff on the Hawai'i Branch applied for and received \$600,000 in competitive grant award funding to enhance the Nā Manu 'Elele Stewards Program on Hawai'i island.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE RULES REVISION

The effort to revise the Program's administrative rules is ongoing and we look forward to completing this critical process and task in FY25.

#### PROGRAM PLAN UPDATE

Several years ago, Capital Improvement Project funding was approved (\$450,000) by the Legislature for the purpose of hiring a planning firm to update the 1991 Nā Ala Hele Program Plan. In the second half of FY23, Governor Ige released the funding, and we secured PBR Hawai'i as our planning consultant for this effort. Workplan development ensued rapidly, with Program staff working closely with PBR Hawai'i to design a process that will run through 2026 and ultimately present a revised Program Plan for review and approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

A thorough and thoughtful information-gathering process has been developed and initiated that includes a progressive approach to reaching out to agency and community stakeholders and partners, including:

- Questionnaires and/or interviews with DLNR leadership, Division heads, and Forestry and Wildlife professional and technical staff.

- Other agency partners that interact with the Program. Among them:
  - Federal Highways Administration
  - Hawai‘i Department of Transportation
  - Hawai‘i Tourism Authority
  - Other public and private agencies and landowner stakeholders.
- Island Advisory Council members.
- Targeted individuals with historical and current knowledge of the program.

Following this initial phase will be:

- Legislator briefings.
- A public engagement process, including a stakeholder database, website and mapping tools, and community meetings.
- A compilation of all this effort into an Existing Conditions Analysis and a Financial and Organizational Staffing Analysis.
- Lastly, Draft and Final Plan Update development, vetting, completion, and submittal to the BLNR for consideration of approval.

The updated plan will provide the Program with a solid, contemporary framework for the next 10 years, including a call for a timely update.

#### OTHER CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- **Pololū Trailhead Planning, Hawai‘i Island**
  - \$500,000. Townscape Inc. is conducting targeted and sensitive community outreach to help determine options for accommodating this trail's significant increase in visitor traffic. This planning and community outreach effort is in progress.
- **Ka‘iwa Ridge (Lanikai Pillbox) Trail Master Plan and Environmental Assessment**
  - \$1,300,000 total: \$400,000 planning and compliance; \$900,000 construction. Funding was allocated for developing a Master Plan and Environmental Assessment to improve the Ka‘iwa Ridge Trail, also known as the Lanikai Pillbox Trail, in Windward, O‘ahu. The Plan and EA are complete and reviewed for approval and publication in the OEQC Environmental Review. That will initiate the public review and comment period. Following that, we will prepare to submit the Plan for approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

#### OTHER PLANNING AND ACCESS INITIATIVES

- **Kamehamenui addition to the Kula Forest Reserve, Maui**
  - A planning effort has been underway to develop various recreation uses for the recently acquired 3,400-acre addition to the Kula Forest Reserve in the ahupua‘a of Kamehamenui. Private funding is being utilized to create this plan, with community input. This remarkable property spans from roughly 3,700’ in elevation in Kula to nearly 9,500’ near the summit of Haleakalā. Included in the

long-range plan are upper elevation, high-quality ecosystem protection, reforestation of former pasture lands, and a robust recreation component, including hiking, mountain bike, and equestrian trails for public use.

- **Historic Trail Access, Maui**

- Staff on Maui continue to engage with private landowners over ownership of public trust resources, primarily historic trails and pathways protected by law as public trails. Two have been at the forefront recently, and we are coordinating with the Office of the Attorney General to ensure those public resources remain accessible. They include:
  - Ho‘olawa Trail on the north side of Maui.
  - Onau Trail on the south side near Makena.
- The legal process is well underway, and the historical evidence is clear.
- Assuring legal access over these historic pathways is a cornerstone of the Nā Ala Hele program’s charge, and we remain fully engaged in seeing to it that these pathways are protected for public use.

- **Forest Reserve Access, Moloa‘a, Kaua‘i**

- Similarly, we are engaged with a private landowner on Kaua‘i, in Moloa‘a on the eastern side of Kaua‘i, where title documents require public access to adjacent Forest Reserve lands. Still, the title language is vague as to the specific alignment. We are working with the Department of the Attorney General to seek a resolution.

These ongoing efforts represent part of the core mission of Nā Ala Hele – protecting and preserving the precious community resources for the enjoyment and utilization of all.

## 2024 LEGISLATURE

New recurring funding for \$2,000,000 annually was included in the FY24-25 budgets, along with four new positions for the Program. Those positions include:

- Three new Trail and Access IV positions for the Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Maui Branches.
- One new Forestry and Wildlife Technician IV position for the Kaua‘i Branch.

The 2023 legislature reinstated a previously abolished Forestry and Wildlife Technician IV position for the O‘ahu Branch. These additional positions will bring program staff on the branches to equivalent staffing across the state, with two professionals and one technician on each branch.

## VISITOR INDUSTRY FIELD EXPERIENCES

In FY23, working with staff at the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority and at the encouragement of Deputy Director Robert Masuda, we (Nā Ala Hele staff along with other Forestry and Wildlife programs) planned and initiated a series of “field experiences” for our partners in the visitor industry, including staff at the Hawai‘i Tourism Authority, members of the HTA Destination Management Action Plan steering committee’s on each island, and staff from the Island of



Hawai‘i, Maui, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i Visitors Bureaus. Trips were hosted on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island, with more planned for Hawai‘i Island that involved site visits to areas where active resource management is underway, including, but not limited to, areas of interest to visitors. Early planning discussions have taken place for Kaua‘i visits. These field experiences are designed to provide an opportunity to share with leaders in the visitor industry the breadth and depth of the work the Division does – what we do, how we do it, why we do it, and the challenges we face trying to get it done. The hope is that through these relationship-building opportunities, visitor industry leaders and natural resource managers will get to know and understand each other and foster enhanced awareness of each other’s vision and goals.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

We continue to make progress with several large, multi-year projects:

- Administrative Rules Update.
- Program Plan Update, ongoing with a tentative completion date of December 2026.
- EDA-funded projects such as the multi-year Trail Capacity Study and the Nā Manu ‘Elele Stewards Program.
- The hiring of Volunteer Coordinators in each Branch to enhance the many positive impacts volunteers bring, not just in work accomplished but in community-building.

Working with others to ensure resource protection and public access and use, as well as with the Department of the Attorney General to ensure legal challenges are satisfactorily resolved and with partners in the visitor industry to develop and nurture relationships to improve collective awareness of each other’s missions and goals, seeing to it that resources are protected, remains a priority.

Further, we continue to work with DLNR’s Human Resources Office to complete the delegated reorganization process, enabling the recruitment and hiring of six recently approved new positions to help build professional staff capacity for this vital public resource management program. This new staffing will go a long way toward protecting resources and enabling responsible public enjoyment.

Respectfully submitted by:

Outdoor Recreation | Nā Ala Hele

DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife

## APPENDICES

### FY2024 Hawai‘i Island Update:

During Fiscal Year 2024, the Hawai‘i Island Branch made significant headway on several key planning projects, began implementation of the Nā Manu ‘Elele Trail Stewards Program, conducted surveys of historic trails, made improvements to accesses, and maintained historic and program trails. The Hawai‘i Island Branch expanded its engagement with the community through events and volunteer opportunities. An increased number of personnel, staffed through Kupu and RCUH programs, were central to the many accomplishments of this fiscal year. However, a critical position within the Hawai‘i Island Branch has yet to be filled after several hiring delays. The Hawai‘i Island Advisory Council remains steadfast in its commitment to providing invaluable guidance to the Hawai‘i Island Branch.

Overall, this fiscal year's planning and preparation projects will position the Hawai‘i Island Branch to implement many new or improved recreation opportunities for the public in the coming years.

### Planning Projects

To garner community input and ensure thoughtful, community-supported decision-making for the management of public trails and recreation resources, the Hawai‘i Island Branch has focused its efforts on developing formal plans for the following:

#### Pololū Trailhead Management Plan *Funded by Capital Improvement Project* *(B-20-479 20112013-LNR)*

Pololū Valley, Trail, and Trailhead in North Kohala have long faced the challenges of heavy visitor traffic. Still, overcrowding at the sacred site reached a critical level in recent years, with an all-time high of nearly 1,500 visitors in a single day. The Pololū Trailhead

Management Plan is being developed in collaboration with the North Kohala community to identify solutions to address the challenges resulting from high visitation levels at the site. Planning services were contracted through Townscape, Inc. to assist in engaging the community in the planning process and to develop the formal Management Plan. A strong foundation of extensive community engagement and communication was established throughout FY23. In FY24, the planning process continued as the Hawai‘i Island Branch, through the support of Townscape, Inc., hosted community meetings, maintained a planning webpage, and developed a Draft Plan and a Pre-Final Plan. The Final Plan is set to be published in **September 2024** and will be available to view at the link below:

[Pololū Trailhead Management Plan website](#)



*A crowd of visitors gathers at the valley overlook at Pololū Trailhead*

*Puna Trail Stakeholder Action Plan  
Funded by U.S. Federal Highways  
Administration, Recreational Trail Program  
grant*

The historic Puna Trail provides community members and visitors with recreation opportunities and access to cultural and shoreline resources. However, the trail has become fraught with illegal motorized vehicle use, property damage, theft, wildlife harassment, and ocean safety. To create a comprehensive strategy for addressing these challenges, the Hawai‘i Island Branch contracted the services of Townscape, Inc. to facilitate community engagement and assist in developing a Stakeholder Action Plan. In FY24, the Branch and Townscape, Inc. conducted background research, hosted talk story sessions with stakeholders, published the ‘Puna Historic Trail Historic Context Study’, conducted public engagement activities, developed a draft Plan, and began gathering community feedback. The Final Plan is set to be published in **August 2024** and will be available to view at the link below:

[Puna Trail Stakeholder Action Plan website](#)



*The Puna Trail leads to Hā‘ena Beach where ocean conditions an unexpectedly become hazardous.*

*Nāpu‘u Recreation Plan  
Funded by U.S. Economic Development Administration,  
American Rescue Plan Act grant*

The Branch contracted a professional planning company, Forest Solutions Inc., to develop a recreation-specific plan for the Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a Forest Reserve and Pu‘uanahulu Game Management Area, jointly known as Nāpu‘u, totaling over 110,000 acres of State lands. This project will involve analysis and research, public, stakeholder, and community engagement, development of the recreation plan, interpretive and signage planning, and environmental compliance review. This plan will investigate the feasibility and appropriateness of recreation activities relating to hiking, backpacking, car camping, cabin camping, equestrian, mountain biking, four-wheel driving, and off-highway vehicles.



*Figure 1 Local Cub Scouts hike the popular trail up to the top of Pu‘uwa‘awa‘a.*

*Nā Manu ‘Elele Program*

*Funded by U.S. Economic Development Administration, American Rescue Plan Act grant*

The Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward Program is a statewide collaboration between Kupu, a nonprofit focused on providing conservation and environmental workforce development opportunities, and DLNR, with grant funding through 2026 from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The Program aims to educate and connect people with Hawai‘i’s cherished *wahi pana*—its



A Nā Manu ‘Elele Steward educates visitors before they begin the hike into Pololū Valley.

legendary places and natural spaces. In December 2023, Hawai‘i Island welcomed its first cohort of Nā Manu ‘Elele Stewards to trails across the island, including Pololū Trail, Pu‘u Huluhulu Trail, Pu‘u ‘Ō‘ō Trail, Kaulana Manu Trail, Kaūmana Trail, Onomea Trail, Donkey Trail, and Puna Trail. The Hawai‘i Island Branch also administratively facilitated the statewide implementation of the program. A significant objective in the next fiscal year

will be to secure continued funding for the program.

### Historic Trail Surveys

The Hawai‘i Island Branch contracted ASM Affiliates to perform surveys of several significant state-owned historic trails, including Archeological Inventory Surveys (AIS) and Metes-and-bounds surveys. As each of these are ancient trails within the moku of Kona, a rapidly developing region of Hawai‘i County, this series of survey projects is vital in studying, documenting, and capturing the current conditions of these features and establishing precise legal boundaries of these public properties. These plans will add the trails to the Nā Ala Hele Trail inventory as part of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail system. In FY24, the Branch, aided by consultant ASM Affiliates, conducted surveys of the following:



Archaeologists traverse the historic trail between Honaunau and Hookena, S. Kona.

Trail	Funding	Distance Surveyed	Archeological Inventory Survey	Metes and bounds Survey	Status
Hōnaunau to Ho‘okena	<i>FedHwys RTP</i>	3.38 mi.	X	X	Completed
Keauhou to Hokulia	<i>FY23 LNR804</i>	1.5 mi.		X	Completed

Portion of Judd Trail	FY23 LNR804	.9 mi.	X	X	Completed
Hokulia to Kaawaloa	FY24 LNR804	2.0 mi.	X	X	Began
Kaawaloa to Napoopoo	FY24 LNR804	1.27 mi.	X	X	Began

### Koai‘a Corridor Road Hardening

*Funded by FY23 LNR804*

The Koai‘a Corridor Road provides public access to the Koai‘a Tree Sanctuary trails and the Pu‘u o ‘Umi Natural Area Reserve in North Kohala. Due to the steeply sloping terrain and the limited land area, the heavily trafficked dirt access road would chronically erode during rain events, creating nearly impossible-to-navigate roads and debris spillover onto the Highway. This project, including base prep, concrete pouring, and asphalt paving of Koai‘a Corridor Road, was contracted out to Isemoto Contracting Co Ltd and completed in December 2023. The hardening of this access ensures the infrastructure’s ability to withstand erosion events.



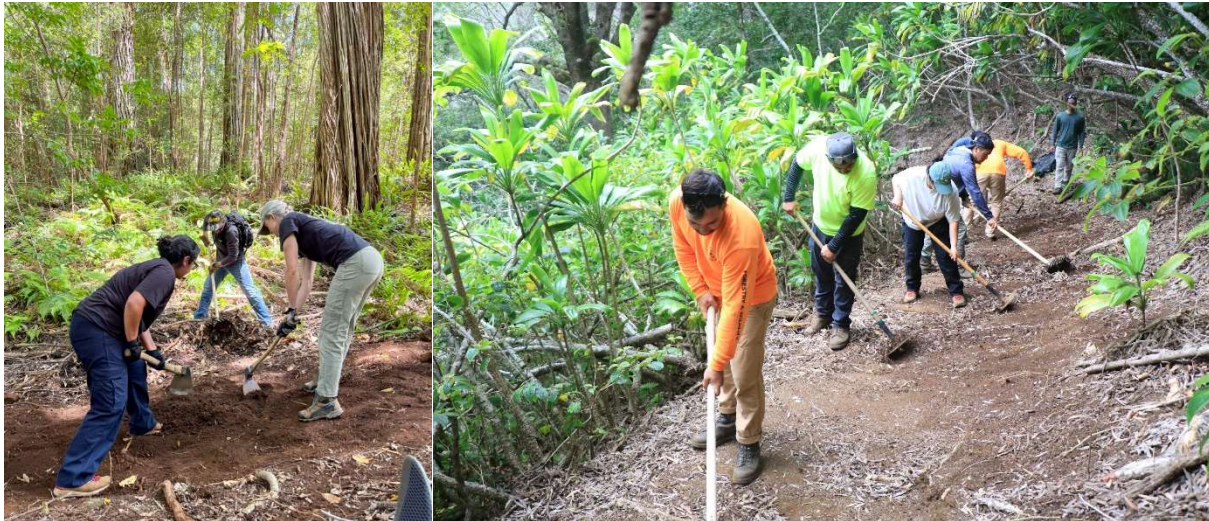
*Before and after images of the Koai‘a Corridor access improvement project.*

### Maintenance of Program Trails and Infrastructure

The Hawai‘i Island Branch manages and maintains 75.4 miles of trails, 120.8 miles of unimproved roadways, nine campsites, eight composting toilets, and one cabin. FY24 maintenance included installing interpretive and hazard signage, applying herbicide, maintaining trail treads, installing boot brushes, removing vandalism, and maintaining other infrastructure.

The maintenance of program trails is coordinated by Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Branch staff. It is primarily carried out in collaboration with the DOFAW Hawai‘i Island Branch Operations Section, which includes when all positions are filled, three work crews of either three or four staff, each with a crew leader (Forestry and Wildlife Worker III) and crew staff (Forestry and Wildlife Worker II).

Off-highway vehicle and mountain bike user organizations and other long-term community volunteers provide instrumental support in conducting routine maintenance of the recreation features they regularly use, including the Upper Waiākea OHV Park, the Kulanihāko‘i Mountain Bike Park, and the Makāula-‘O‘oma Trails.



*Trail crews perform maintenance and improvements to trails.*

### Volunteering and Community Engagement

In October 2023, the Hawai‘i Island Branch hired one staff as a Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (funded by U.S. Federal Highways Administration, Recreational Trail Program grant). Having a position dedicated to conducting community engagement activities enabled the Branch to expand the program’s impact. The Branch has participated in community outreach events and has led guided hikes, volunteer workdays, outdoor education experiences, and presentations, with the following impacts:

<b>Total Volunteers</b>	185
<b>Total Volunteer Hours</b>	1485.5
<b>Volunteer Value*</b>	\$52,735.25

*\* The pay value of the volunteers working on this project are based on the nationally recognized Value of Volunteer Time Report by Independent Sector.*

<b>Event Type</b>	<b># of Events</b>	<b># of Participants</b>
Outdoor Education Experience	6	95



*Volunteers, led by Nā Ala Hele staff, work together to maintain a historic trail.*

Guided Hike	8	163
Volunteer Workday	7	76
Community Outreach Event	5	5800
Presentation	2	45

## Staffing

The Hawai‘i Island Branch is allotted three civil service positions: (1) Trail and Access Specialist V, (1) Trail and Access Specialist IV, and (1) Forestry and Wildlife Technician. Of the three, the Trail and Access Specialist V and the Forestry and Wildlife Technician positions have remained staffed. The Trail and Access Specialist IV position has remained vacant due to several hiring delays at DHRD. The absence of this staff member has inhibited the Branch’s ability to operate at its highest capacity. Despite this challenge, the staff size of the Hawai‘i Island Branch grew in FY24 due to the support of supplementary staffing sources and grant funding, like nonprofit organization Kupu and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i. The Branch hosts two Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i positions, including (1) Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and (1) GIS Specialist. In FY24, the Branch also hosted (2) Kupu ‘ĀinaCorps staff positions.

## Advisory Council

The Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council continued to provide the Branch with invaluable guidance. For FY24, the Council met six times to discuss trails and access issues, provide recommendations, and provide opportunities for public testimony. This year, the Council helped identify and vote to recommend adding new program trails, including Koai‘a Trails, Kalōpā Trails, and portions of the Ala Kahakai Trail. A complete list of meetings and minutes can be found at the link below:

[Hawai‘i Island Nā Ala Hele Advisory Council website](#)

## FY2024 Maui Island Update:

This year, several personnel changes occurred within Maui’s Na Ala Hele (NAH) program. In January 2024, one open Forestry and Wildlife Worker II (FWWII) position was filled. In April 2024, another staff member in a NAH FWWII position transferred from NAH into a Forestry Crew position, leaving that position vacant. The recently created Trail and Access Specialist II/III/IV position remains unfilled. A Trail Community Outreach and Education Associate position was created through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) and was filled in May 2024. Two QUEST interns from the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations were utilized as trail crew members throughout this year.

On January 2, 2024, the Waiakoa Loop Trail in Kula Forest Reserve (KFR) was reopened after being closed due to substantial damage from the Kona Low Storm in December 2021. During this fiscal year, the remaining stream crossing spillway and the large bridge crossings were fully

repaired. Number Five Access Road was also reopened during this time.

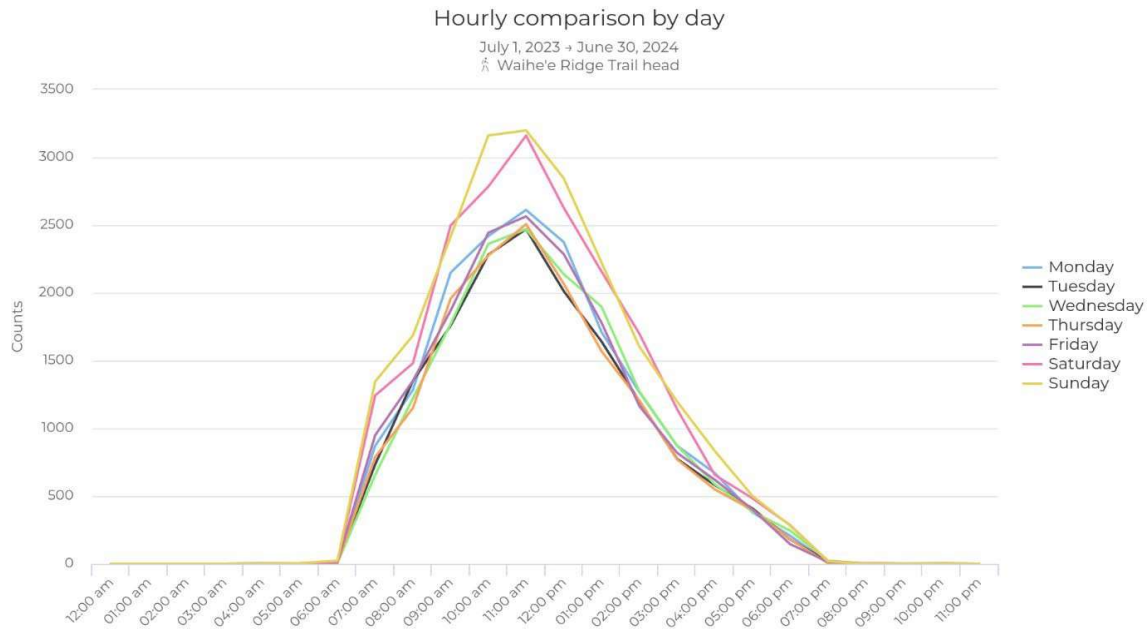
The Maui NAH program continued to operate three automatic trail counters at trailheads. One was in Makawao Forest Reserve in the Kahakapao Recreation Area (KRA), one in West Maui Forest Reserve at Waihee Ridge Trail, and one in Kula Forest Reserve at Waiakoa Loop Trail (Table 1). Waihee Ridge Trail continued to be a popular trail this year, recording a total of 121,671 visits, with an average of almost 334 people/day utilizing the trail and a one-day high count of 763 people. KRA in the Makawao Forest Reserve continued to be heavily accessed by the public, tallying 37,339 visits, where the daily average is 102 people/day. In February 2024, a month after the trail's reopening, a trail counter was placed at Waiakoa Loop Trail in KFR. During that month, the highest one-day total of use was recorded at 155 users.

ECO TRAIL COUNTER FY24									
MONTH	TOTAL			DAILY AVERAGE			PEAK DAY		
	WAIHEE	KAHAKAPAO	WAIAKO A	WAIHEE	KAHAKAPAO	WAIAKOA	WAIHEE	KAHAKAPAO	WAIAKOA
JULY	14,957	4,525	0	482	146	0	763	316	0
AUGUST	8,144	2,614	0	263	84	0	674	172	0
SEPTEMBER	6,626	3,590	0	221	120	0	404	240	0
OCTOBER	9,095	3,958	0	293	128	0	530	234	0
NOVEMBER	8,316	3,230	0	277	108	0	457	194	0
DECEMBER	9,718	3,040	0	313	98	0	568	214	0
JANUARY	12,632	3,772	0	407	122	0	672	206	0
FEBRUARY	11,225	2,932	716	387	101	48	576	178	155
MARCH	11,096	3,237	919	358	104	30	526	197	96
APRIL	9,780	2,612	614	326	87	20	525	172	65
MAY	10,046	544	864	324	18	28	540	108	114
JUNE	10,036	3,285	566	358	110	19	532	246	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121,671</b>	<b>37,339</b>	<b>3,679</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>29</b>			

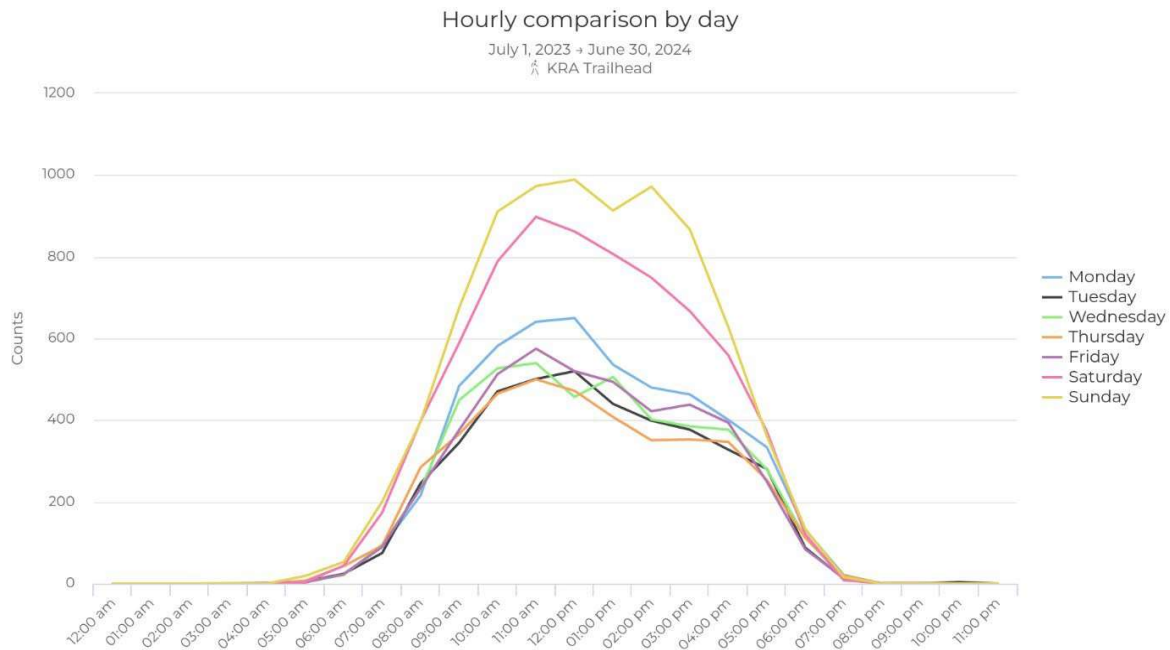
Table 1. Trail counter information from three NAH trails.

Counter data showed that both Waihee Ridge Trail and Kahakapao Trailhead had the highest use on Sundays (Graphs 1 and 2). Although Waiakoa Loop Trail in Kula Forest Reserve showed high use on the weekends on Saturday with 143 visits, the highest use happened on Wednesday (Graph 3).

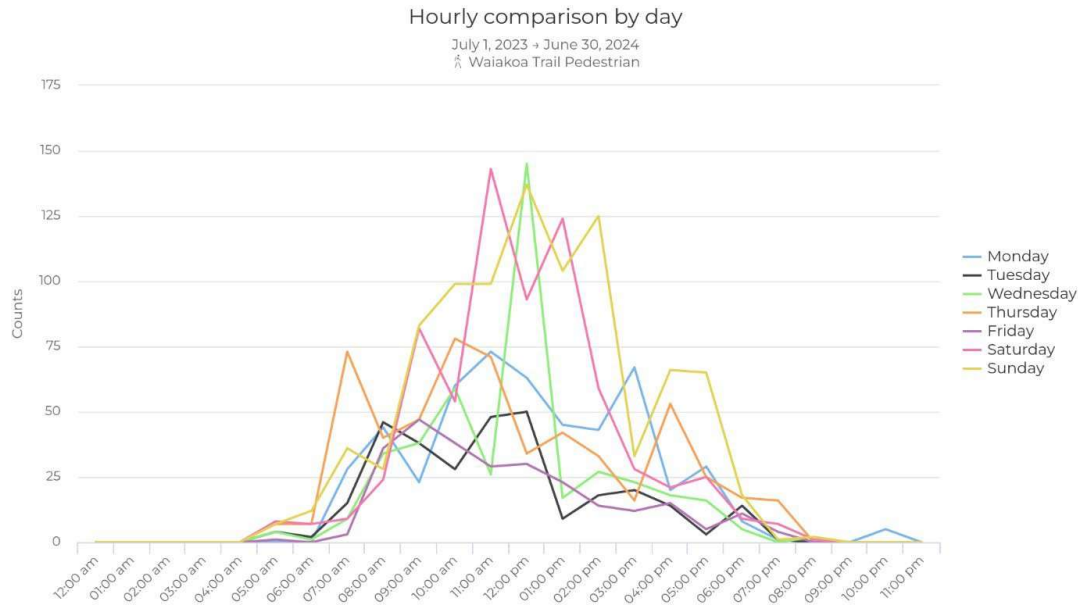




Graph 1. Waihee Ridge Trail hourly use by day. Waihee Ridge Trail had its highest count of 6,400 visits on Sunday at 11:00 am.



Graph 2. Kahakapao Trailhead hourly use by day. Kahakapao Trailhead had its highest count on Sunday at 12:00 pm with 989 visits.



Graph 3. Waiakoa Loop Trail hourly use by day. Waiakoa Loop Trail had its highest count of 145 visits on Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

Standard monthly trail and access road inspection and work duties included routine maintenance procedures on NAH trails, including grading, water diversion maintenance, tree and brush removal, herbicide application, facility maintenance, and sign maintenance. Work occurred at: Ke Ala Loa O Maui/Piilani Trail, Hoapili Trail, Lahaina Pali Trail, Waihee Ridge Trail, Waihou Spring Trail, Waikamoi Ridge Trail, Ohai Loop Trail, Mokuleia Stairs, Keanae Arboretum, the multiuse trail system of Kahakapao Loop Trail, Fong Ridge Road, Paahao Road, Tweener Trail, Pineapple Express Downhill Flow Trail, Renegade Trail, Secret Trail, Ravine Trail and the skills areas (Akahi Akahi Skills area, Pauma Pump Track, and Akamai Skills area) at Kahakapao Recreational Area (KRA), and Kula Forest Reserve’s multiuse trails including Plum Trail, Polipoli Trail, Tie Trail, Redwood Trail, Mamane Trail, Upper Waiohuli Trail, Boundary Trail, Lower Waiohuli Trail, Waiakoa Loop Trail, Upper Waiakoa Trail, Skyline Trail, Haleakala Ridge Trail (Table 2).

Trail Name	Vegetation Management on Trail				Tread Work		Erosion Control (# of water dips)		Facility Vegetation Management			Fence Maintenance	Bike Features	
	Tree Mgt (miles)	Grass Mgt (miles)	Brush Mgt (miles)	Herbicide (Acres)	Surface Work (miles)	Stair Maint (miles)	Maintenance	Construction	Parking Lot (acres)	Access Road (miles)	Picnic Area (acres)	Gate Repair	Wooden	Dirt
Waihee Ridge	0.25	4.4	0	4.5	7	0	193	1	1	9.5	0	Electric panel replaced		
Ohai Loop	0	3.75	2.25	0.25	0.25	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A		
Waikamoi Ridge	3	3.5	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	3	N/A		
Kula Forest Reserve Trail System	109.5	15	2	0	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	Skyline gate repaired		
Kahakapao Recreation Area	63	10	14	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Gate panel replaced, timer replaced	2	1
Waihou Spring	9	2.25	1.25	0	2.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A		
Mokuleia Stairs	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	N/A		
Ke Ala Loa / Piilani	0	7.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A		
Hoapili	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A		
Lahaina Pali	0	11	0	0.5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	N/A		

TOTAL	187.25	57.9	22	6.75	12.5	0.5	197	1	1	10	3	4 gate repairs	2	1
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Table 2. Summary of maintenance projects completed by the NAH program.

All NAH signage was monitored and maintained this fiscal year (Table 3). One hundred thirty-four signs were cleaned of graffiti, stickers, and dirt. Sixteen new informational signs were installed, and nine were replaced on trails and access roads that were damaged or missing. Temporary closure signs were placed at Waihou Spring’s trailhead, gate, and fence from August 8 2023-March 15, 2024, due to safety concerns from the Upcountry Fire. During road maintenance activities in May 2024, temporary closure signs were posted at the Kahakapao Recreation Area main gate while the project was completed.

LOCATION	NEW / REPLACED INFORMATIVE	NEW / REPLACED DIRECTIONAL	TEMPORARY WARNING	TEMPORARY CLOSURE	CLEANED
HOAPILI	0	0	0	0	0
WAIHEE RIDGE	3 New	0	0	0	15
OHAI LOOP	0	0	0	0	5
KULA FOREST	6 New / 3 Replaced	0	0	0	33
LAHAINA PALI	1 Replaced	0	0	0	2
WAIKAMOI	0	0	0	0	0
WAIHOU SPRINGS	5 New / 3 Replaced	0	0	2	16
KAHAKAPAO	2 New / 2 Replaced	0	0	2	63
MOKULEIA	0	0	0	0	0
PIILANI	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 New / 9 Replaced</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>134</b>

Table 3. Number of signs maintained on NAH trails.

All access roads, structures, and parking lots were maintained throughout the year. Access roads leading to trails were continually managed for vegetation by weed eating, chain sawing, and herbicide spraying. All trail parking lots were constantly cleared of vegetation and cleaned of trash.

Flow Farm continued its contract to maintain eleven miles of biking trails at Kahakapao Recreational Area in Makawao Forest Reserve. They visually inspected the riding surfaces for any lumber damage and hazards monthly. Quarterly physical inspections were done on features to find loose boards and hardware that might have loosened from usage. All frame and footing connections were physically inspected annually to ensure the connections remained tight. They repaired any damage that was noted. They organized volunteer groups, along with Maui Mountain Bike Coalition, and held trail repair days (Table 4).

Maui staff continued supporting the Maui Motocross Track, including fuel and equipment servicing.

Na Manu Elele trail stewards were hired during this period. One steward started in April 2024, and two more began in June 2024. They were instrumental in monitoring NAH trails by

answering questions, enforcing rules, and providing information and guidance to users. In addition to the trails, they patrolled and managed access points into the state forest reserves along Hana Highway. The Hawaiian Tourism Authority highlighted these areas as “hot spots” due to overuse, illegal activity, and parking concerns. The steward’s presence helped alleviate traffic congestion and prevent safety violations, ensuring a safer and more efficient experience for the local community and visitors. Since the inception of this program, safety and visitor management issues have been reduced both on Hana Highway and the monitored trails.

Outreach and education continued to be a focus with the addition of the Outreach and Education Associate position. Opportunities were taken to give presentations, share information, and attract new volunteers. Two presentations at a local high school and a youth center were given this fiscal year. Volunteers and volunteer groups were utilized for trail maintenance and conservation service trips (Table 4). The volunteer database was updated with new contacts, and service trips and hours were recorded. For FY 2024, 146 volunteers recorded almost 655 hours of service.

Organization	Location	# of Volunteers	Volunteer Event Length (hours)	Total Volunteer Time (hours)	Activities	Distance
Maui Mountain Bike Coalition	Pineapple Express	13	2.5	32.5	Cleared trail of debris	1.7 miles
Haleakala Waldorf School	Redwood	11	4	44	Tread Work	0.1 miles
Haleakala Waldorf School	Redwood	11	4	44	Cleared trail of debris	1.5 miles
Haleakala Waldorf School	Lower Waiohuli	11	4	44	Cleared trail of debris	0.7 miles
Boy Scouts of America	Waihee Ridge	4	4	16	Tread work and erosion control - repaired 14 rolling dips	1.1 miles
Maui Mountain Bike Coalition	Pineapple Express	6	3.5	21	Tread Work	0.1 miles
Maui Mountain Bike Coalition	Pineapple Express	31	6	186	Tread Work	1.6 miles
Boy Scouts of America	Waihee Ridge	1	4	4	Mowing Access Road	0.5 miles
Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership	Waihee Ridge	15	5	75	Outplantings	130 plants
Maui Mountain Bike Coalition	Pineapple Express / Kahakapao Loop	12	5	60	Cleared trail of debris	3.4 miles
Maui Mountain Bike Coalition	Pineapple Express	15	4	60	Repaired Wooden Bike Feature	1,200 square feet
Kamehameha School	Kahakapao Loop	1	8	8	Hazard Mitigation	6.2 miles
Da Kitchen Restaurant + Community	Ohai Loop Trail	15	4	60	Tread Work	0.12 miles
		<b>146</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>654.5</b>		

Table 4. List of fiscal year 2024 volunteer outings including work activities performed, number of volunteers, and total hours volunteered.

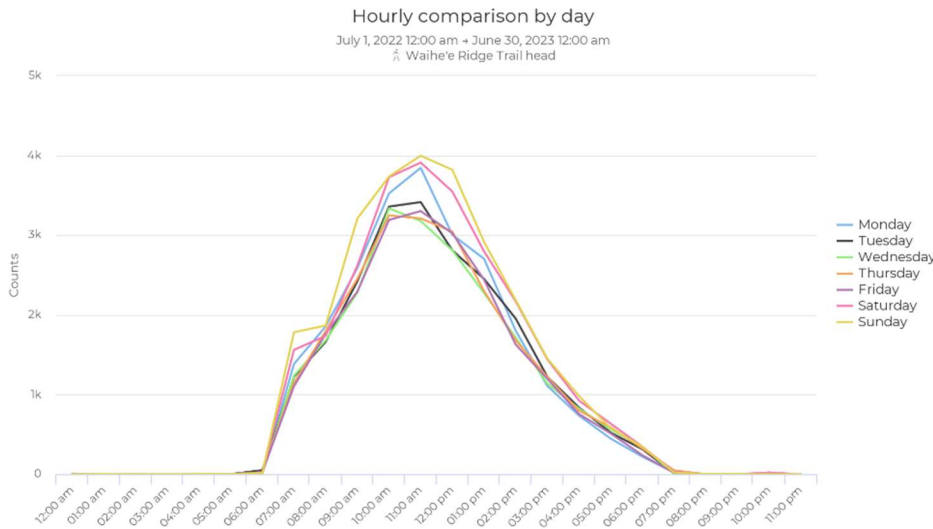
In April 2024, all NAH staff participated in specialized training workshops on sustainable trail standards. Sixteen participants enrolled in the Trail Master Certification Course. Participants included DOFAW staff (NAH, the Forestry Crew, and Native Ecosystems Protection and Management (NEPM)), interns, volunteers, and contractors. Fifteen participants completed the course to earn their certification. In the following Mechanized Trail Building Course, seven participants used various equipment and machines to construct and repair multiuse trails, gaining experience and skills in sustainable trail building.

The Maui Advisory Council (AC) meetings continued this year, for a total of five meetings throughout the fiscal year. Currently, Maui’s AC comprises seven council members out of the nine available positions.

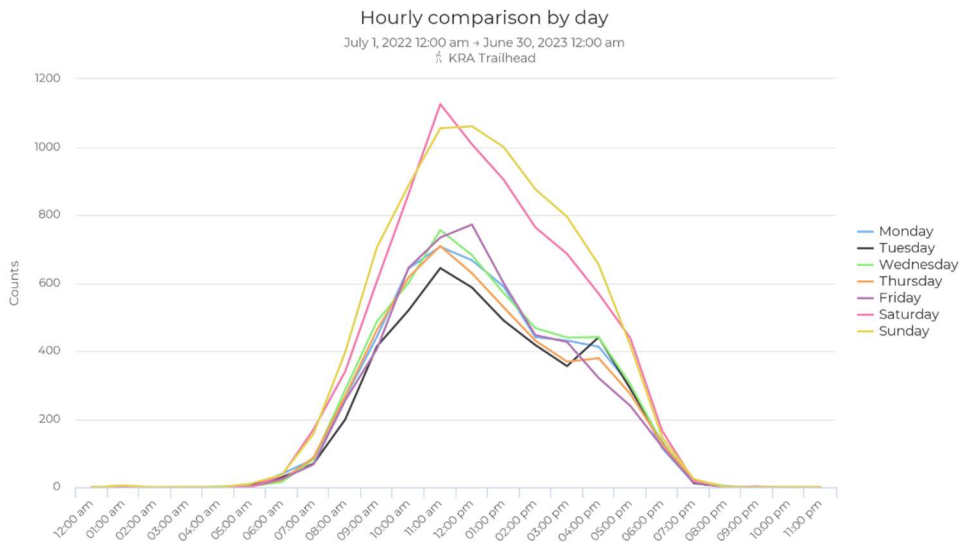
MONTH	TOTAL			DAILY AVERAGE			PEAK DAY		
	WAIHE'E	KAHAKAPAO	SECRET	WAIHE'E	KAHAKAPAO	SECRET	WAIHE'E	KAHAKAPAO	SECRET
JULY	12,008	4,038	620	400	135	21	766	214	42
AUGUST	18,308	4,252	778	610	142	26	900	230	76
SEPTEMBER	13,782	3,330	514	475	115	18	834	194	38
OCTOBER	11,753	3,444	430	392	115	14	578	172	30
NOVEMBER	10,624	3,118	398	366	108	14	562	184	39
DECEMBER	13,118	3,194	412	437	106	14	754	245	37
JANUARY	13,204	3,487	620	440	116	21	668	230	50
FEBRUARY	9,838	1,929	228	364	71	8	570	156	35
MARCH	14,696	3,107	526	490	104	19	793	189	52
APRIL	12,716	3,088	0	438	107	0	637	182	0
MAY	13,888	3,050	0	463	102	0	638	214	0
JUNE	14,710	3,907	0	507	135	0	736	246	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>158,645</b>	<b>39,944</b>	<b>4,526</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>13</b>			

Table 1. Trail counter information from three NAH trails.

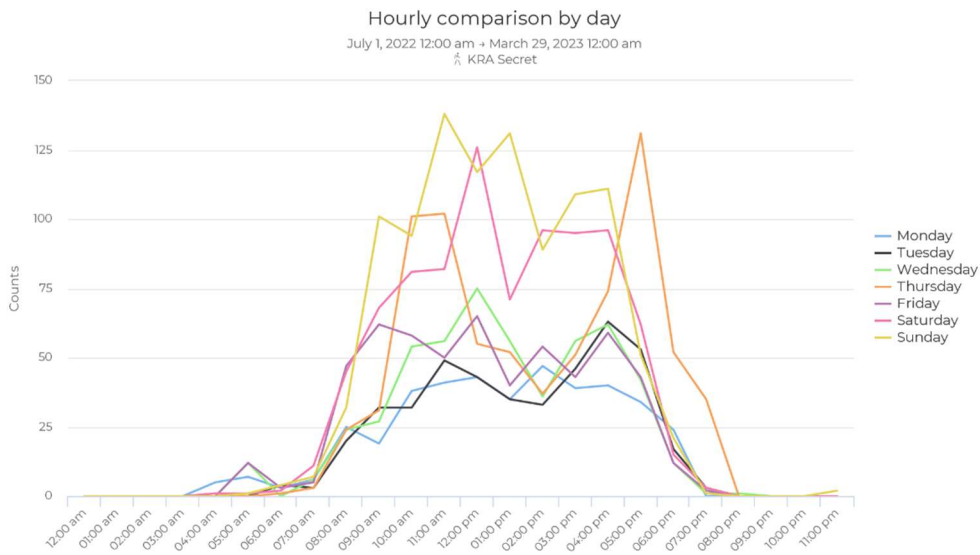
Counter data showed that all three trails were most used on Saturdays and Sundays (Graphs 1, 2, and 3). The Secret Trail at KRA also showed a spike in use on Thursdays, with 131 visits at 5:00 p.m. (Graph 3).



Graph 1. Waihe’e Ridge Trail hourly use by day. Waihee Ridge Trail had its highest count of 3,998 visits on Sunday at 11:00 am.



Graph 2. Kahakapao Trailhead hourly use by day. Kahakapao Trailhead had its highest count on Saturday with 1,126 visits on Saturday at 11:00 am.



Graph 3. Secret Trail hourly use by day. Secret Trail had its highest count of 138 visits on Sunday at 11:00 am.

Standard monthly trail and access road inspection and work duties included routine maintenance procedures on NAH trails, including grading, water diversion, tree and brush removal, herbicide application, facility maintenance, and sign maintenance. Work occurred at: Ke Ala Loa O Maui/Piilani Trail, Hoapili Trail, Lahaina Pali Trail, Waihe'e Ridge Trail, Waihou Spring Trail,

Waikamoi Ridge Trail, Ohai Loop Trail, Mokuleia Stairs, Keanae Arboretum, the multiuse trail system of Kahakapao Loop Trail, Fong Ridge Road, Pa‘ahao Road, Tweener Trail, Pineapple Express Downhill Flow Trail, Renegade Trail, Secret Trail, Ravine Trail and the skills areas (‘Akahi Akahi Skills area, Pauma Pump Track, and Akamai Skills area) at Kahakapao Recreational Area (KRA), and Kula Forest Reserve’s multiuse trails including Plum Trail, Polipoli Trail, Tie Trail, Redwood Trail, Mamane Trail, Upper Waiohuli Trail, Boundary Trail, Lower Waiohuli Trail, Waiakoa Loop Trail, Upper Waiakoa Trail, Skyline Trail, Haleakalā Ridge Trail (Table 2).

Trail Name	TRAIL MAINTENANCE							
	Vegetation Management (miles)				Tread Work (miles)		Erosion Control (# of Water Dips)	
	Tree Mgt.	Grass Mgt.	Brush Mgt.	Herbicide	Surface Work	Stairs/Steps	Maintenance	Construction
Waihe‘e Ridge	0.5	6.25	0.25	7	4.25	0.5	80	8
Ohai Loop	1.25	2.25	2.25	0.5	0	0	0	0
Waikamoi Ridge	5	4.5	2.5	0	0	0	0	0
Kula Forest Reserve Trail System	64	10	0.75	1	6	0	0	0
Kahakapao Recreation Area	71.5	0	1.75	2	0.25	0	0	0
Waihou Spring	7.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mokuleia Stairs	0.25	0.5	0	0.25	0	0	0	0
Lahaina Pali	0	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keanae Arboretum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ke Ala Loa O Maui / Piilani	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hoapili	4	0	0	0	0.25	0	0	0
Haleakalā Bridle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ho‘olawa Bay Access	0.5	0	1	0	0	Installed steppover	0	0
TOTAL	154.75	31	8.5	10.75	10.75	0.5	80	8

Table 2. Summary of maintenance projects completed by the NAH program.

All NAH signage was maintained, and 151 signs were cleaned of graffiti. Eight informational signs and eighteen directional signs were replaced on trails and access roads that were damaged or missing. Two temporary high King Tide/ high surf warning signs were posted at the Hoapili trail for mitigation. Temporary closure signs were placed at Waihou Spring’s trailhead, gate, and fence due to safety issues posed by storm damage.

All access roads, structures, and parking lots were maintained throughout the year. Access roads leading to trails were continually managed for vegetation by weed whacking, chainsawing, and herbicide spraying. All trail parking lots were constantly cleared of vegetation and cleaned of trash. NAH staff painted permanent stripes for individual parking stalls at the Waihe‘e Ridge Trail upper paved parking lot. The Waihe‘e Ridge Trail lookout deck was painted this year. The rusted fence around the ADA access lookout at Ohai Loop Trail was removed, and a new fence was installed.

Ho‘olawa Bay access was added as a one of NAH’s maintenance projects to ensure public access to the shoreline. Staff cleared trees and brush within the state parcel adjacent to the Ho‘olawa state trail, and a stepover was installed over a fence to allow access to the state trail (Table 2).

No maintenance work was done on Haleakalā Bridle Trail this year (Table 2). NAH staff hiked the entire trail this year to improve GIS mapping and marking of the trail for guided hikes. Haleakalā Bridle Trail guided hikes continued to be led quarterly by the Sierra Club and Haleakalā Ranch staff. Four guided hikes were given this fiscal year in August 2022, October 2022, January 2023, and April 2023.

Flow Farm continued its contract to maintain eleven miles of biking trails at Kahakapao Recreational Area in Makawao Forest Reserve. They visually inspected the riding surfaces for any lumber damage and hazards monthly. Quarterly physical inspections were done on features to find loose boards and hardware that might have loosened from usage. All frame and footing connections were physically inspected annually to ensure the connections remained tight. They repaired any damage that was noted. They organized volunteer groups, along with Maui Mountain Bike Coalition, and held trail repair days (Table 3) and family skill course outings.

Maui staff continued to support the Maui Motocross Track, including maintenance, portable toilet rentals, and equipment servicing.

The planning and management of Kamehamehenui Forest Reserve continued this fiscal year. Consultant planners continued to draft the management plan. The contractors completed the plan's first draft, distributed to Maui Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff internally for review and comments. DOFAW staff led a site visit to Kamehamehenui for the Trust for Public Land in September 2023 (Figure 7). The plan and management goals were discussed, and special areas of interest were visited. Contractors have completed two miles of fencing in the upper phase 1 section of Kamehamehenui, and one pedestrian walk-through gate has been constructed for future hiking access (Figure 8). DOFAW staff has started implementing some invasive species removal in the upper phase 1 section.

#### FY2024 Oahu Update:

In collaboration with the Island Trail Advisory Council, Oahu has established a clear hierarchy of trail priorities aimed at enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities. The focus is on increasing access to key areas such as Halemano, Honouliuli, and Peacock Flats trails.

To address the challenges of increased trail and road usage, the Oahu program is actively working to ensure that managed trail access at popular locations like Kaiwa Ridge, Maunawili Falls, and Kamananui Valley remains sustainable.

Additional projects this year encompassed trail grade reconstruction, water diversion armoring, educational sign installation, and out-planting of native species. Oahu staff also continued their support for the Waiale‘e OHV Park.



This year saw several noteworthy accomplishments:

1. The Oahu program hosted three Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations interns. The interns worked extensively on implementing sustainable trail prescriptions within the Tantalus trail system.
2. The Kupu Youth Conservation Corps joined the program this summer, contributing to the Mānoa Falls trail and the Pauoa Flats Boardwalk. Their efforts included removing recycled plastic curbing, updating signage, installing water diversions, and adding 60 feet of new boardwalk. Refurbished bridges
3. Members of Kapi'olani Community College continued their dedicated maintenance of the lower sections of the Makiki Valley trails.
4. iVolunteer Report
  1. 468 Volunteer Hours
  2. 130 Confirmed Volunteers for events hosted by Na Ala Hele
5. Facebook Meta Suite Report
  1. 2,200 Facebook Views
  2. 3,200 Facebook Reach (from 1/1-11/26 a 609% increase)
  3. 236 Content Interactions (from 1/1-11/26 a 2,300 % increase)
  4. 28 Facebook link clicks (from 1/1-11/26 a 2,700 % increase)
  5. 1,600 Facebook visits (from 1/1-11/26 a 461.8% increase)
  6. 678 Facebook follows (from 1/1-11/26 a 4,100 % increase)

Oahu Trail Permits issue this year:

- 6 Active Commercial Trail Tour Activity Permits (CTTA)
- 5 Volunteer Trail Clearing Permits
- 6 Trails and Access Activity Permits, primarily for running races
- 8 Film Permit Review and approval

These initiatives collectively demonstrate Oahu's commitment to preserving and enhancing its trail systems while fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship.

A significant challenge for the Oahu program is addressing a growing backlog of essential trail maintenance and improvements. Trail maintenance is a top priority, focusing on keeping trails safe and user-friendly. This involves maintaining direction signs, clearing trail-side vegetation, removing fallen trees, and addressing other hazards like washouts. This involves in-house staff and contractors enduring long-distance hiking with equipment and supplies, inclement weather, and trail-side native plant protection.

ArcGIS (missing data) July 2023-December 2024

39 counts of tree clearance

23 counts of weed whacking

## Notable Events

- 3/8/24 Hawaii Tourism Day
- 3/5: KHON2 News: Hiking Safety Tips from Hawaii DLNR w/ Aaron Lowe
- 2/29: Na Manu Elele Press Release: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2024/02/29/nr24-21/>
- 4/19/24 Patagonia Volunteer Appreciation Event
- 4/20: Earth Day cleanup <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2024/04/22/nr24-41/> 4/20: Earth Day “Hundreds Participate in Earth Day Makiki Stream Clean-up <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2024/04/22/nr24-41/>
- 4/22/24 Career Pathway Event @ the Hawaii Convention Center
- 5/?/24 Boys to Men campout at Kuliou’ou trail with Boy Scouts?
- 5/17/24 Middle Ridge closure
- 6/1/24 Kanealole stream cleanup
- Aaron news release on Nā Manu ‘Elele
- Aaron news statement on trail safety after Snyder fall incident
- 7/8/24-7/12/24 HYCC @ Mānoa Falls
- 7/30-8/1: NAH Present at the DOFAW Outreach Table during the HCC
- KHON2 News: Trail Safety w/ Aziz Agis
- 7/15/24, 7/16/24 Kuliou’ou shelter refurbishment / heli ops
- 10/13: Iolani Palace: Highways Act of 1892
- 12/2/24 Waimano heli ops planned

## Misc.

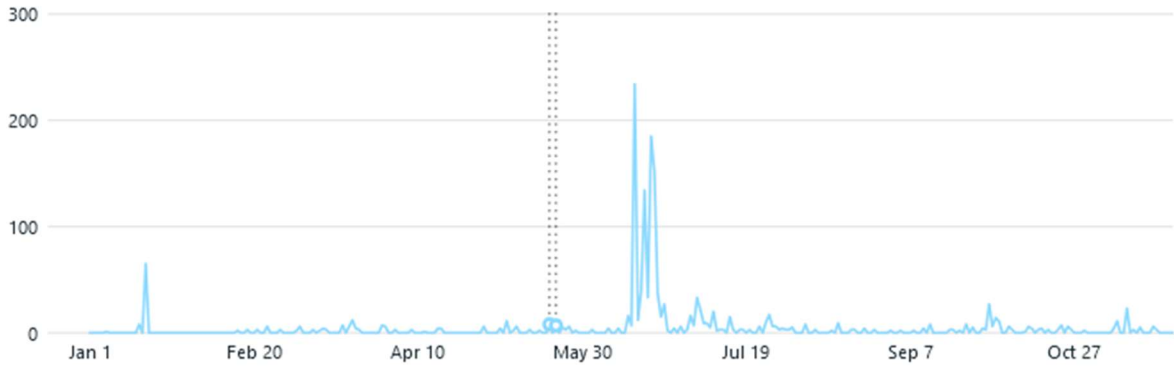
- Statewide trucks purchased 3/15/24, Shipped to outer islands 5/22/24
- Assisted with felling trees for hale construction Festival of the Pacific 3/18/24
- Certified letters send to CTTA commercial activity permit holders 4/26/24
- 10 Trail stewards hired for the Nā Manu ‘Elele program through Kupu
- Five staff trained and certified in Professional Trail Design with Trails Specialist Mike Riter, 16 staff present for hand building, (x) staff and contractors present for heavy machinery.
- 23 Makiki WAI workdays, totaling 234 volunteers 702 volunteer hours +August-December counts.
- 139 Signs ordered for a total of \$10,661.

Visits

Export

Facebook visits

1.6K ↑ 461.8%

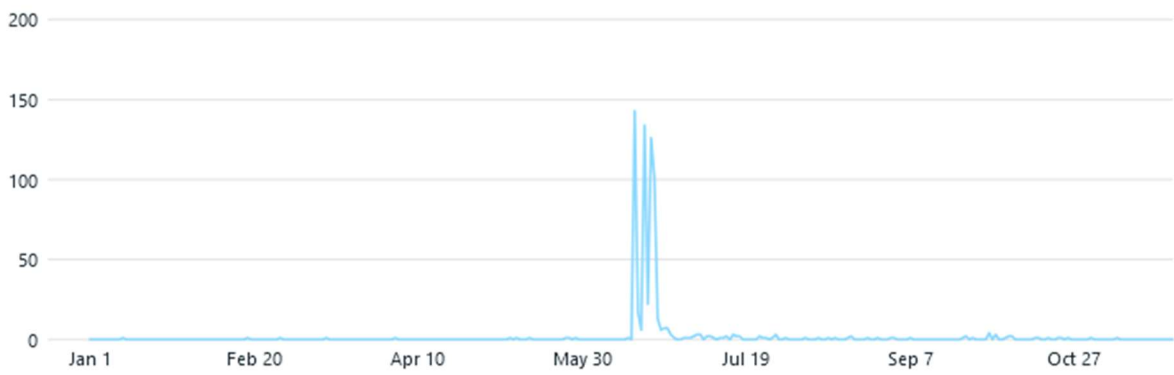


Follows

Export

Facebook follows

678 ↑ 4.1K%

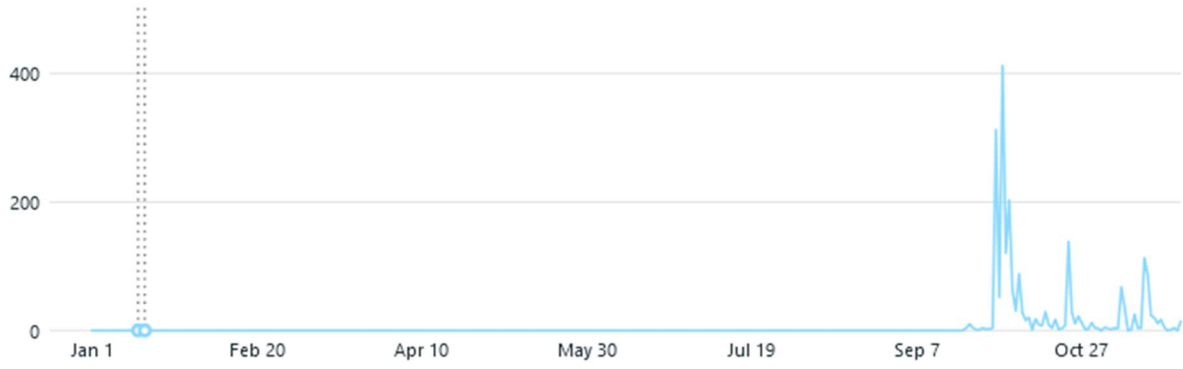


Views

Export

Facebook views

2.2K

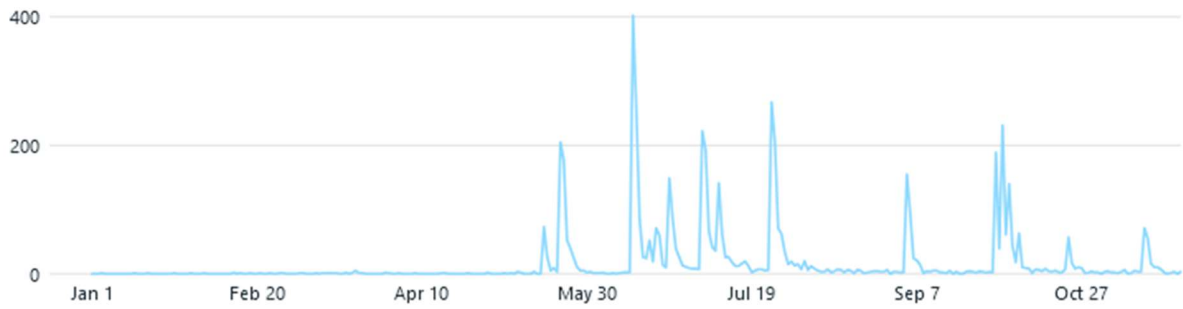


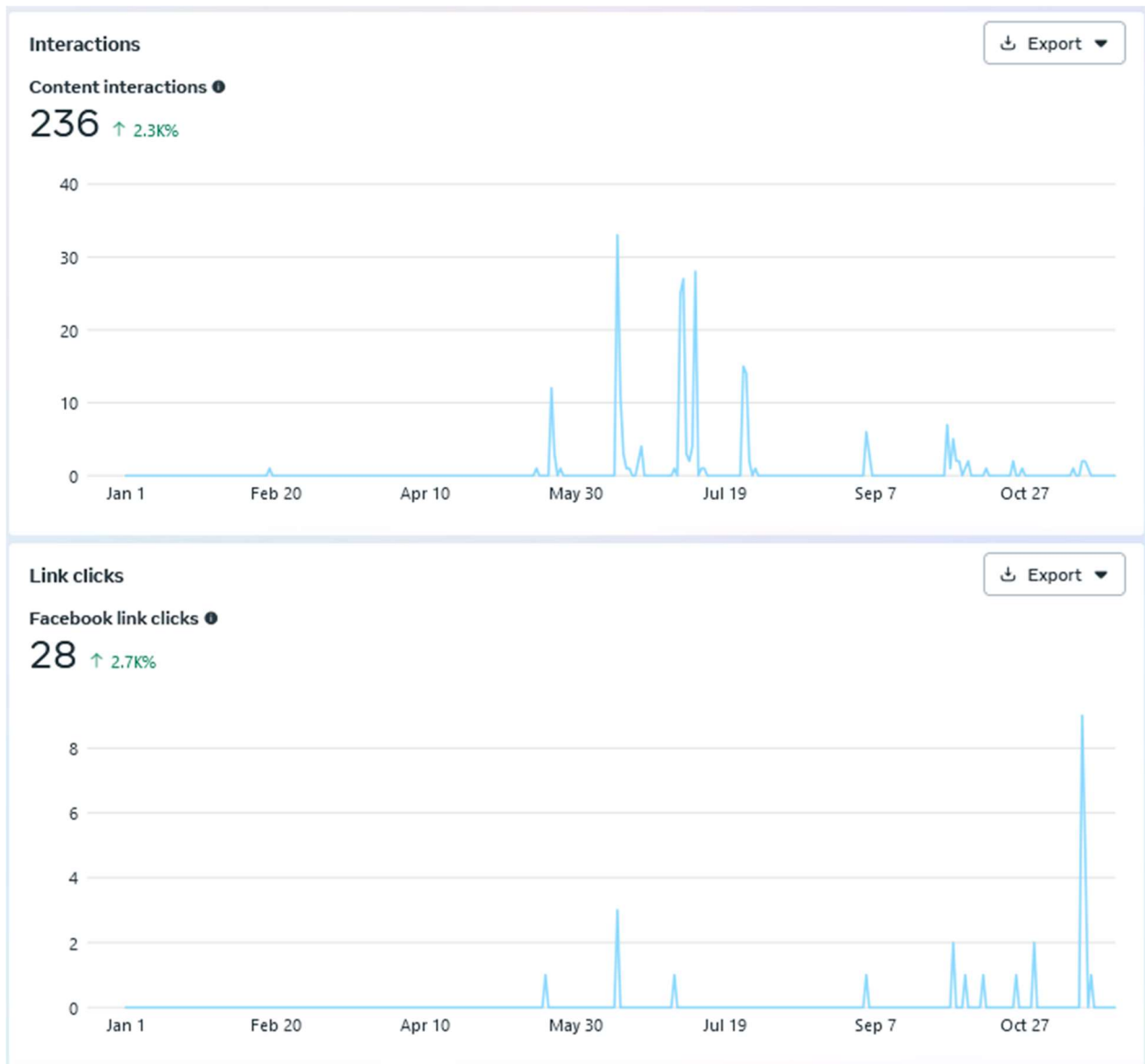
Reach

Export

Facebook reach

3.2K ↑ 609%





## FY24 Kauai Update

### Motorized

- Maintenance and repairs to all designated motorized roads. The Kauai District maintains approximately 50 miles of roads. We clear brush, remove hazard trees, grade roads, and remove landslide debris on all these roads. To keep up with maintenance, we also apply herbicide on an as-needed basis.
- We have assisted with the motocross tracks here on Kauai to help support their operations of the track.

### Non-motorized

- Pihea Trail: The boardwalk is being replaced. A group of volunteers from Idaho worked with our crew for a week and were able to replace approximately ¼ miles of the old boards.
- Trail Shelters: Maintenance and repair of all non-motorized trail shelters (repaired framing, benches, painting). Some shelters are designated for camping, and some are for day use only. They allow users a break during their hikes, and some allow for breathtaking views.
- Nounou East Trail: Regular trail brushing and clearing, removed small rocks and widened trail treads to maintain safe hiking conditions for all users.
- Nounou West Trail: Maintenance and repair of the entire trail to make it safer for users. Removed a large tree that was blocking the trail. Mowed the trail right of way to control the excessive growth of vegetation.

### **Diversified**

- Moalepe Trail: This trail is a little more unique than most because it has several user groups such as hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrian riders. Maintenance included regular trail brushing and clearing, removing several large trees, and repairing the damaged bridges to make them safe for all user groups. The fence of an abutting Land Division lease was repaired to keep the boundary separated.
- Kuilau Trail: This trail also allows hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use, so it is quite a challenge to maintain. Several water mitigation techniques have been implemented because there is heavy rain throughout the year on this trail. Quarterly brush maintenance of vegetation and removal of large trees have also been done to ensure the trail is safe for all users.
- Koaie Canyon Trail: This trail is used by pedestrian hikers and equestrian users. Maintenance of the entire trail included removing trees, rocks, and brush obstructing trail tread and widening narrow sections to make it safer for users. New growth was treated with herbicide to keep vegetation down and safe so trail users could see appropriately when hiking. There are some sections that are very steep and have huge drop-offs, so keeping the vegetation low is critical for the safety of hikers and equestrian riders.
- Puu-Ki/Waialae: Trail maintenance campouts for a week to repair damaged sections, cut large trees blocking the trail, and brush back vegetation.
- Trail Shelters: Maintenance and repair of diversified trail shelters (repaired framing, benches, painting).