

WAIMEA VALLEY TODAY

Waimea Valley pleases the eye with its sunlit path, green-clad cliffs and waterfalls. But its value goes much deeper. As an ancient ahupua‘a, the valley includes enough natural resources from land and sea to support a self-contained community. In addition, a constructed arboretum features a repository of native plant species and a plant seed bank collected from many tropical regions. From an archeological standpoint, the valley’s premium importance lies in many significant sites. In fact, according to recent OHA-funded study, much more about the Hawaiian past is likely to be uncovered through further assessment of the landscape. The sum of these diverse resources —still vital today — pleases not only the eye but also underlines the cherished declaration in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: Ua mau ke ea o la ‘āina i ka pono, the life of the land is perpetuated by righteousness.

VITAL RESOURCES MERIT CARE AND PROTECTION

Waimea Valley by the numbers:

- 1,875-acres located at 59-864 Kamehameha Hwy.
- 78 archeological sites identified in a 2005 study by Archeological Consultants of the Pacific.
- 5,000 species of tropical plants in the Waimea Arboretum and Botanical Garden.
- 35-foot Waihi falls (commonly known as Waimea Falls).
- 4 out of 5 species of Hawaiian native freshwater fish, and a variety of native insects.
- A substantial population of ‘alae‘ula , the endangered Hawaiian moorhen, estimated to number less than 500 in remaining combined O‘ahu and Kaua‘i habitat.

Current operations at Waimea Valley Audubon Center:

- Conservation programs include monitoring of endangered the ‘alae‘ula, the endangered Hawaiian moorhen, to determine protection measures; assessment of forest ecology to determine need for further research; stream restoration; invasive species eradication. Educational programs include docent-led tours and hands-on activities that are consistent with specific Hawai‘i Content and Performance Standards. Hawaiian cultural programs are conducted on a limited basis.
- Botanical Garden activities include cultivation and documentation of 35 discreet ethno-botanical collections, including seed-bank and representatives of now-extinct native Hawaiian species, and exotic tropical plant species from Guam, Madagascar, the Mascarene Islands, the Ogasawara Islands and the Seychelles Islands.

- Commercial activities include event planning, event catering, collecting fees from admission and parking.

Key features of current operations at Waimea Valley Audubon Center:

- 42 full- or part-time employees
- Fiscal year 2005 revenue: \$2.366 million; 2005 expenses: \$2.367 million
- Fiscal year 2006 revenue (6 months): \$636,274; Fiscal year 2006 expenses: \$860,483.