



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAWAI'I WILDLIFE CONSERVATION/GAME BIRD STAMP CONTEST OPENS *Artwork sought to feature the Hawaiian Manu-o-Kū (White "Fairy" Tern) and an Erckel's Francolin*

(HONOLULU) – Artists are welcome to submit entries to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) in the 2025-26 Hawai'i Wildlife Conservation and Game Bird Stamp annual art contest. The wildlife conservation stamp is a requirement for Hawai'i state hunting licensees. The game bird stamp is required for anyone intending to hunt game birds. Both stamps will also be available to stamp collectors.

- The Game Bird Stamp will feature **the Erckel's Francolin** (*Pternistis erckelii*). Native to Ethiopia and Sudan, Africa, the Erckel's spurfowl was introduced to Hawai'i in 1957 as a gamebird. About 16 inches long, they are brown with white streaky spots and distinct chestnut colored feathers on the top of their head with a white throat. Often in upland dry grasslands, they scare easily and hide from view and prefer running away rather than flushing. Listen for their loud laughing cackle, especially in the morning. They are located on the islands of Hawai'i, Lana'i, O'ahu, and Kaua'i.
- The Wildlife Conservation Stamp will feature a **Hawaiian Urban/Community Forest Bird**, the **Manu-o-Kū (White "Fairy" Tern)** (*Gygis alba*). 2025 is the Year of Our Community Forests, collections of trees in the wao kanaka, where we live, learn, and play. Community forests include trees in our neighborhoods, yards, parks, schools, and

along our streets. They give us gathering places, shade to cool down, air to breathe, food to eat, wood for carving, leaves for weaving, and flowers for lei. Our forests help grow our communities, and we can help grow our community forests by caring for our trees, planting new trees, and learning from trees.

The Manu-o-Kū is a perfect representation of our native wildlife that utilizes the Urban-Community Forests as habitat, breeding, nesting, and rearing their young. Manu-o-Kū (white tern) breed on oceanic islands, both on low-lying coralline sand islands and high volcanic islands. Nests are not built, eggs are laid on whatever suitable depression is found. Nest sites include volcanic pinnacles, cliffs, rocky slopes, large bushes or trees, and man-made structures.

CONTEST ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

SETTING: Hawai'i Habitat

SIZE: Completed painting with a maximum of 24" by 36" and unframed (to be reduced to 1" X 1.5" stamp)

MEDIUM: Oil or acrylic preferred

ENTRY: Completed oil or acrylic painting or an 8.5" X 11" photo/print/photocopy of a completed painting

DEADLINE: All entries must be received by April 05, 2025. Notification of the winner will be made later in April.

SHIPPING FEE: All paintings sent must be accompanied by a \$35.00 fee to cover the cost of returning artwork. You must come to the Administration office to pick up your artwork if a check is not included. Checks are to be made payable to the DLNR. Otherwise, a photo, print, or photocopy of an original painting may be sent without fee (see application form).

PAYMENTS: The winner will receive a maximum award of \$1,000.

Funds from Hawai'i Wildlife Conservation Stamp sales go into the state Wildlife Revolving Fund to support wildlife populations and habitats and to manage the state's hunting and non-game programs.

Last year, revenues from both stamps were used to cover some of the costs of maintaining hunting units and to add game bird and game mammal hunting opportunities where possible. Proceeds from the sale of wildlife conservation

stamps will also provide funds for salaries, the annual lease rental of the Lānaʻi Cooperative Game Management Area, and support wildlife diversity programs.

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RESOURCES

(All images/video courtesy: DLNR)

2025: Year of Our Community Forests (01/10/2025)

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/>

HD video – Small Game Birds Put and Take, web feature (Nov. 24, 2021):

<https://vimeo.com/650077788?share=copy>

HD video – Small game birds put and take, media clips (Nov. 24, 2021):

<https://vimeo.com/649777485?share=copy>

Photographs – Small game bird releases Kuaokala Game Management Area (Nov. 24, 2021):

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/i5naci5zakhg1r8rw6acd/h?rlkey=7psw5565bo4oib3pgve1yrwqo&dl=0>

More information on the contest and application forms:

DOFAW, 1151 Punchbowl St., Room 325, Honolulu, HI 96813 or at:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/files/2025/01/FY25-26-Artist-Application.pdf>

For questions contact:

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More on the Year of our Community Forests:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees/>

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