

Waihe'e Fish Passage



The objective of this project was to modify the historic stream gauging station to allow upstream migration of native aquatic species in a way that exclude non-native aquatic species as well as repair failing aspects of the structure.

Waihe'e Stream, located in windward O'ahu, is a perennial stream that originates in the Ko'olau Mountains and runs approximately 2.9 miles before entering Kāne'ōhe Bay. At river mile 1.8 there is a structure that was originally built in 1935 and was used as a USGS stream gauging station. The structure had become undercut and posed a barrier for upstream migration of endemic and native aquatic species including: O'opu alamo'o (*Lentipes concolor*), O'opu naniha (*Stenogobius hawaiiensis*), O'opu nopili (*Sicyopterus stimpsoni*), and O'opu akupa (*Eleotris sandwicensis*) and one indigenous species, o'opu nakea (*Awaous guamensis*).

In August 2012, project work began to repair the front of the structure and a rock face was built up one side of the overhang to allow a slow, steady flow of water creating favorable conditions for O'opu migration. Additional work to repair other aspects of the structure took place in Summer 2013.

Funders and partners for this project include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hawai'i Fish Habitat Partnership, KEY Project, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, USGS, State of Hawai'i: Department of Aquatic Resources. Collectively, these groups have formed the Waihe'e Ahupua'a Initiative (WAI).