

*The islands of Hawai'i are home to a unique population of migratory seabirds. During the October through December fledgling season, young birds leave their nests at night in search of ocean feeding grounds. Commonly believed to use the stars to navigate, seabirds sometimes become disoriented by urban lights or collide with structures and fall to the ground. These "grounded" seabirds then become prey to feral cats, dogs, mongoose, and vehicular traffic.*



Since 2007, MECO has partnered with DOFAW, NPS, and the County of Maui to address the seabird issue through the development of the Save Our Seabirds (SOS) program. The main goals of the program are to increase public awareness and mitigate impacts to seabirds.

Responsible lighting practices play a critical role in protecting Hawai'i's seabirds. Under the County of Maui's 2007 Outdoor Lighting Bill, MECO has been requested to upgrade street lighting on county roadways, making them seabird friendly. New street lights and upgraded shielded street lights are being installed throughout Maui County.

**To learn more about these seabirds, please visit:**  
[www.mauicounty.gov/saveourseabirds](http://www.mauicounty.gov/saveourseabirds)



**Maui Electric Company**



63M 8/09

# SOS



## SAVE OUR SEABIRDS

*Aiding the effort to save  
Maui Nui's seabirds*



**ʻUa`u**  
Hawaiian Petrel (endangered)



**ʻUa`u kani**  
Wedge-Tailed Shearwater

**Maui Electric Company (MECO) is working with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), National Park Service (NPS), and the County of Maui to save these federally and state-protected birds. We ask you to join with us in this effort. You can help by being on the lookout for grounded seabirds on all of the islands of Maui County. Here are two types of seabirds that are often found grounded.**

Seabirds are easily recognizable



**`Ua`u**  
*Hawaiian Petrel (endangered)*  
Nests at high elevations



**`Ua`u kani**  
*Wedge-Tailed Shearwater*  
Nests at low elevations

They always have webbed feet



Their beaks are hooked at the tip

Young seabirds often have tufts of down on their heads or backs



## If a grounded seabird is found:

- Quietly approach the seabird from the rear and gently pick it up with a cloth or hat. Be careful the bird may bite.
  - Place the bird in a covered, well-ventilated cardboard box and keep it in a cool and shady place until a wildlife specialist can retrieve it.
  - Do not give it food or water and be careful when handling the bird as it may bite.
2. Immediately call 1-877-428-6911 if a seabird is found, whether it is alive or has died.
3. Do not release the seabird. It is important that trained wildlife specialists inspect the bird for injuries. They will decide when it is safe to release the bird.

