

RECOMMENDATIONS

The opportunity for HALE to protect and restore Ka'āpahu's remaining native Hawaiian components into a healthy Hawaiian ecosystem is immense. As an emergency measure, exclosures should be built around endangered, candidate and rare plant populations as quickly as possible to protect and perpetuate habitat until Ka'āpahu is fenced and feral ungulate and non-native plant populations are managed. These exclosures will exclude feral ungulates and protect habitat for native plant species and provide a safe refuge for additional species expected to recover naturally or to be replanted within the exclosure. Invasive non-native plant species would be controlled, and methods and guidelines for further non-native plant species control throughout Ka'āpahu would be developed.

Strategic fencing and feral animal management needs to begin soon before degradation reaches the level where natural recovery will not occur. Ka'āpahu could be fenced with multiple management units. Narrow ridges and large gulches could be used as natural barriers. Non-native plant control and native plant restoration could result in marked recovery of this mesic portion of the park.

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