

# Friends of Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge 2025 Photography Contest

Friends of Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge in conjunction with Keālia Pond NWR are happy to announce a wildlife photography contest. Every photographer who enters will honor their own work and help to support the conservation mission of Friends of Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, which includes improving visitors' experience, developing environmental and educational activities, offering volunteer assistance with refuge projects, and establishing fundraising sources.

## Entry Deadline

The contest **begins Jan. 31, 2025** and **ends June 30, 2025**, at midnight Hawaii time.

## What to Enter

The following three contest categories are open in two age divisions:

Age Divisions:

1. **Adult**, 18yrs. of age or more.
2. **Youth** Under 18 yrs. of age

## Contest categories:

1. **Wildlife:** Birds, plants, as well as other animals and insects found in the refuge.
2. **Scenic:** Plants and landscapes, as well as geological features. You can feature wildlife in this category, but it should not be the main feature.
3. **People in action:** Photos of events, objects, or activities connecting people to the conservation, habitat restoration, and educational missions at Keālia Pond NWR. Photos may not include wedding parties, birthday parties or private outings. If a person is recognizable in the photo, you must have their permission to share the photo.

All photos must be taken on refuge sites that are open to the public:

- Keālia Coastal Boardwalk, North Kihei Road
- Keālia Pond NWR Visitor Center, at Milepost 6 on Mokulele Highway (Maui Veterans Highway), Kihei
- Keālia NWR wildlife viewing ponds (Kanuimanu Ponds, near the Visitor Center)

## Entry Information

1. Please submit digital photographs and requested information online through the following email address: [kealiapondphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:kealiapondphotocontest@gmail.com) We do **NOT** accept photographs submitted through the mail or at the Visitor Center.
2. Each contestant may submit up to 3 photos total.
3. Each photograph must be submitted in .JPG format and cannot exceed 4 MB in size. Photos must be in an 8x10 aspect ratio (either landscape or portrait). Please do NOT submit images with watermarks or logos, as this can muddle the judging process.
4. When submitting, include the following information:
  - a. Name of photographer
  - b. Division (Adult, or Youth) and Category (Wildlife, Scenic, People in action). **Please send one email per photograph and indicate in the subject line the Division and Category.**
  - c. If under 18, indicate the age of the entrant.
  - d. Include a typed artist statement of 50 words or less in the body of the email. The statement should be a brief description of where the photo was taken (boardwalk, ponds, Visitor Center) and the story, if any, behind the photograph. Please name any birds, animals, or plants featured in the photograph if possible. You can also share a little bit about yourself, if you want! The artist statement will be displayed with winning artwork.

## Judging Criteria and Rules

1. Photos must be taken at Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge at areas open to the public, as described above.
2. Photos will be judged on originality, technical quality, composition, and artistic merit.
3. All photos must accurately reflect the subject matter as it appeared in the viewfinder. Normal processing of RAW images files and minor adjustments to color and contrast are acceptable, but nothing should be added to an image.
4. Entrants must not infringe on the rights of any other photographer or person, or submit images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife or damage to the environment by the photographer. Drone photography is not permitted on the refuge. Drone photos will be disqualified.
5. Any contestant may win only one award in total.
6. Judges have the right to disqualify incomplete entries.

Please do not contact us about the status of entries or judging. Winners will be announced on our website (<https://friendsofkealiapond.org>) by **July 15, 2025**.

First, second, and third place winners, as well as honorable mentions, will be displayed at the Visitor Center, at Milepost 6 on Mokulele Highway (Maui Veterans Highway), Kihei, **beginning July 15**, and through Spring of 2025. In addition, photos will be shared on social media. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners. Time and location to be announced at the end of the judging period.

Friends of Keālia Pond will retain all photographs it prints and displays at the Visitor Center, but will not use them in any other manner without permission from the photographer. Entrants retain the rights to their work.

Friends of Keālia Pond National Wildlife Refuge is a volunteer-based non-profit that serves to support the refuge with funding, grant applications, and volunteer support for the mission of the refuge. To that end we seek donations from the public and offer membership as a “Friend of Keālia Pond.” Please consider joining us to further conservation awareness in our community. Become a member for \$20 a year (January-December for the calendar year that you join in), or \$10 if you are joining for the first time in any month other than January. Member benefits include up to 20 percent off selected store merchandise and free attendance at lectures and presentations offered by Friends of Keālia Pond NWR.

This photo contest is an example of our efforts to engage the public in activities supporting the refuge. We ask that you consider becoming a Friend of Keālia by going to the website (<https://friendsofkealiapond.org>) . Once there, you will see a tab marked “Join Friends”. Clicking on that tab will allow you to make a first-year donation of \$10 to be included as a Friend of Keālia. Payment may be made using PayPal, a credit card, or mailing a check, **payable to Friends of Keālia Pond NWR, to:**

Friends  
Maui National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
P.O. Box 1042  
Kihei, HI 96753

**Include your full name, address, and email with your check payable to “Friends of Kealia Pond”  
Our thanks in advance.**