WAIKAMOI PRESERVE HIKE INFORMATION

Most trips range from moderate to strenuous hiking levels, in high elevation, uneven terrain. The air is thin, and even physically fit people can get winded on the trails. Weather is unpredictable, so come prepared (it’s not unusual to have rain in the rainforest). You should be in good physical condition with a tolerance to variations in weather, and not be afraid to get dirty.

Be prepared to stay with your group and hike leader for the duration of the hike. There are not enough hike leaders available to escort individuals wishing to leave the group early. Hike participants are not allowed to leave or separate from the group on their own since they may get lost or locked inside access gates. Prior to the hike, please let hike organizers know if you have any physical limitations (such as asthma or other breathing difficulties, allergies, leg/knee problems, heart conditions, etc). Take necessary medications, especially if they help you with challenges associated with hiking in high elevation, uneven terrain.

---If you are unsure that you will be able to handle these physical challenges, please talk with the organizer to confirm your ability. In some cases, it may be better to decline the hike rather than put yourself or the group through unnecessary stress---

MAILE TRAIL HIKE--THE NATURE CONSERVANCY’S WAIKAMOI PRESERVE:

Access is a 40 minute drive from TNC’s Pukalani office, using 4WD trucks passing through historic agricultural areas in upcountry Maui and stop at the beginning of the East Maui Watershed to take in the view. Good view/context of watershed management-transmission for public use. Goes through some of the lands owned by members of the East Maui Watershed Partnership. After 2 miles of 4WD roads, we park and hike uphill on a slippery track about 300 yards for a 200 feet elevation ascent to the Waikamoi Preserve boundary fence, passing altered forest where the impacts of invasive plants can easily be seen. After that, the trail becomes single-file but a much easier grade. We will walk through some ancient forest (some of these trees are many hundreds of years old) and witness recovery of critical watershed that has been saved from the damage of feral pigs and invasive plants. Upon crossing the ungulate fence, one is surrounded by nearly 100% native forest, including ancient koa and ohia trees, as well as a huge diversity of native understory trees, shrubs, and ferns. At times, viewing of Hawaii’s famous honeycreeper birds is possible in clearings where the canopy is visible.

Total hike distance: 1 mile round trip.
Total time: including driving, 3-6 hours.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING:

- Sturdy footwear (good traction and ankle support preferred)
- Long pants, layered clothing in the event of cold weather
- Raingear or ponchos
- Water, snacks or lunch
- Sunscreen and/or hat
- Binoculars or camera
- Backpack to carry it all and leave your hands free
- And a good attitude!

--All gear should be cleaned of mud and other debris that could carry hitchhiking weed seeds--