



Introduction to Wetlands

“Hawai’i’s Wetland Ecosystems”





Topics We'll Cover

- What is a wetland?
- What are the wetlands of Hawai'i?
- What does a wetland food chain look like?
- What is the flow of energy in a wetland?



What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are areas of land where water covers the soil or is present at or near the soil surface for all or parts of the year.





Wetland functions

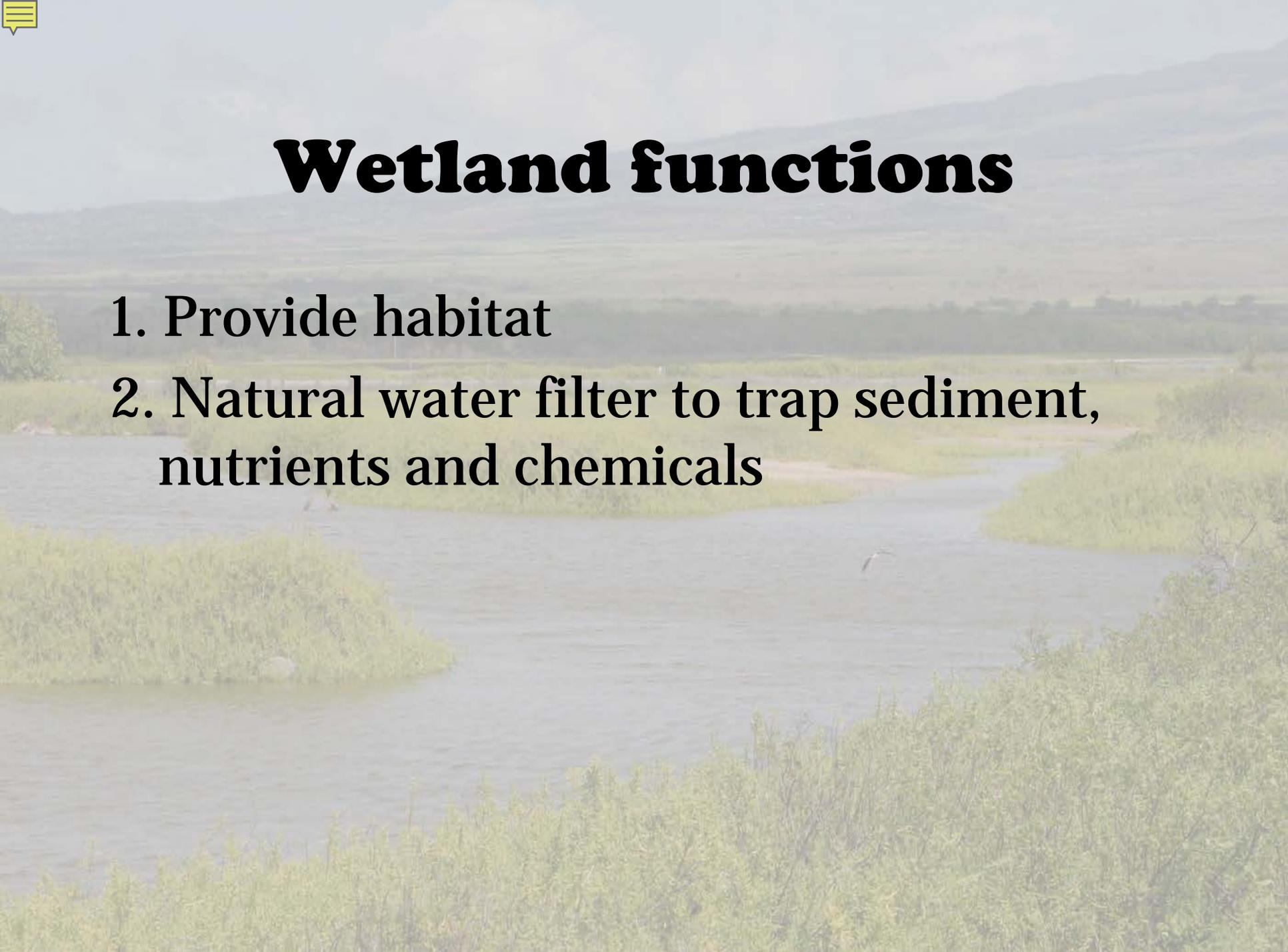
1. Provide habitat





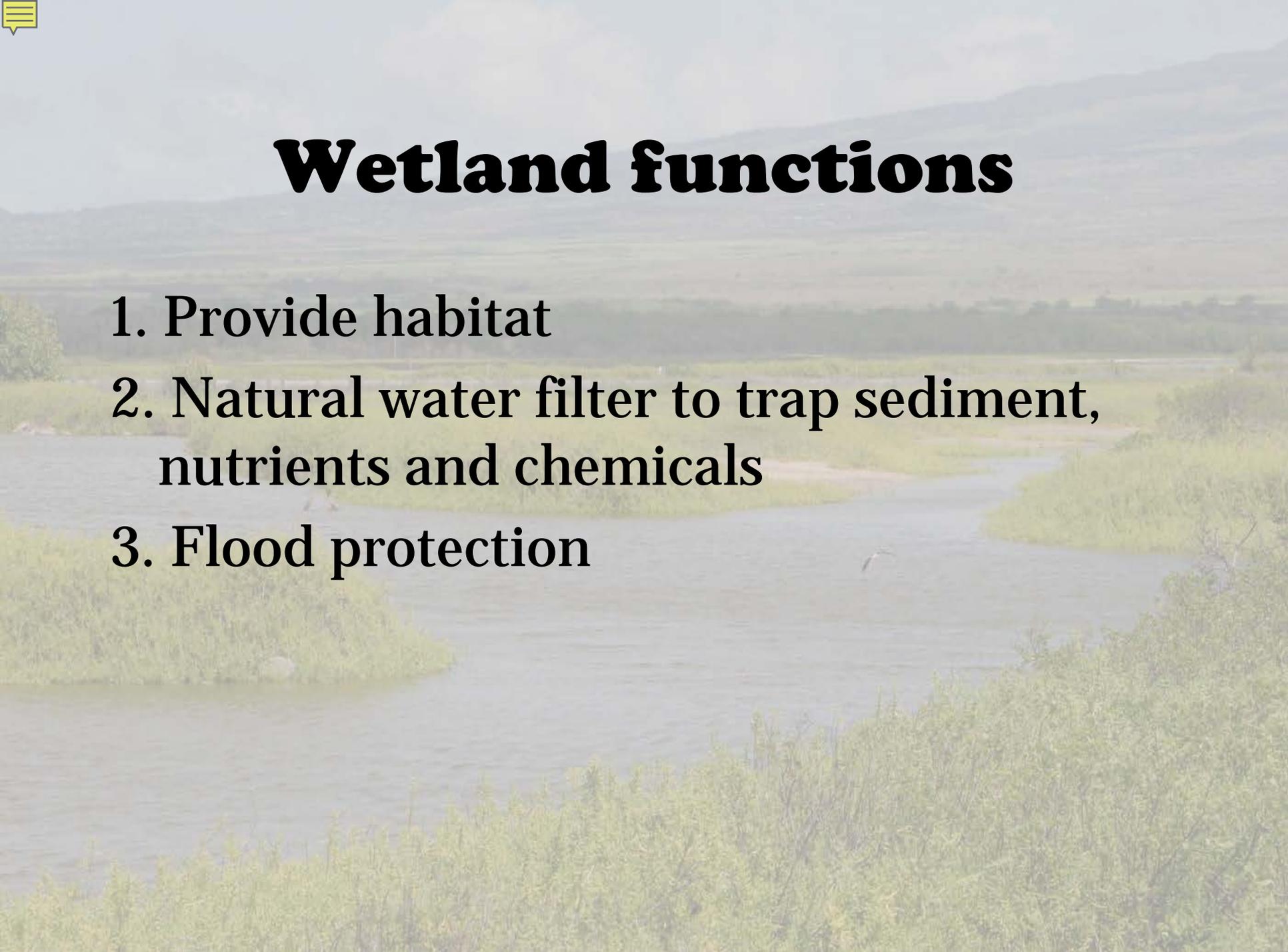
Wetland functions

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2. Natural water filter to trap sediment, nutrients and chemicals





Wetland functions

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 3. Flood protection
- 



Wetland functions

- 1. Provide habitat**
- 2. Natural water filter to trap sediment, nutrients and chemicals**
- 3. Flood protection**
- 4. Reduce erosion**
- 5. Storm protection**

Wetlands of Hawai'i



**Kealia Pond NWR,
Maui**



Kawai Nui Marsh, O'ahu



Hanalei NWR, Kaua'i



**James Campbell NWR,
O'ahu**



Kakahaia NWR, Moloka'i

...and
many more!



Wetland Species

Indigenous or Native Species

an organism that arrived at one place from somewhere else on its own, without man's aid (may reside elsewhere in the world)



akulikuli

Non-Native Species

an organism that has been accidentally or deliberately transported to its new location



akulikuli kai

The Food Chain



The Food Chain (Producers)



The Food Chain (Consumers)



Rob Shallenberger/USFWS



The Food Chain (Decomposers)





The End

