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

1. Provide habitat
2. Natural water filter to trap sediment, nutrients and chemicals
Wetland functions

1. Provide habitat
2. Natural water filter to trap sediment, nutrients and chemicals
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 Hawaiʻi

Kealia Pond NWR, Maui
Kawai Nui Marsh, Oʻahu
Hanalei NWR, Kauaʻi
James Campbell NWR, Oʻahu
Kakahaia NWR, Molokaʻi

...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)

**Non-Native Species**
an organism that has been accidentally or deliberately transported to its new location
The Food Chain
The Food Chain
(Producers)
The Food Chain
(Consumers)
The Food Chain
(Decomposers)
The End