

Project Title: A Biocultural Restoration Guide for Pia Valley  
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## Appropriate Invasive Species Removal is a Key Priority for Restoration of Pia Valley

### Problem

Pia Valley is one of the most important places in the Maunaloa community. Rich with both native ecosystems and cultural significance, members of the Maunaloa community have often shared how integral Pia Valley is to their home. Invasive species, however, have dominated the landscape, and they continue to degrade the ecological and cultural integrity of Pia. Thus, how do we restore Pia Valley in a right way that leads to a thriving and abundant valley?

### Solution

We have created a restoration guide for the non-profit organization, Protect and Preserve Hawai'i, who has taken on the responsibility of stewarding the lands of Pia Valley. This restoration guide includes a survey of the invasive species present in the valley, as well as recommendations for invasive species removal techniques for sites in the valley. However, in order to achieve a thriving and abundant valley, this restoration guide uses a biocultural restoration approach.

### Biocultural Restoration

A biocultural restoration approach recognizes that in order to achieve restoration success, people's relationships to land must also be restored. This concept is based on the principle that humans and nature are intimately and reciprocally linked. In other words, the actions that occur in the environment shape our ways of life. In Hawai'i, biocultural restoration is highly applicable because for centuries, Native Hawaiians have developed a thriving lifestyle that is interwoven with a deep respect for the land. So, a biocultural restoration approach for Pia Valley means using key cultural values and also community voices as the foundation of this restoration guide.

### So What?

While invasive species are a major problem in Pia Valley, it is going to take the community to address this problem and return the abundance back to Pia Valley. This biocultural restoration guide provides invasive species removal strategies that are specific to bringing the community together to remove invasive species. Moreover, these strategies are grounded in cultural and community values, so they can lead to long term restoration success.

### Benefits

The restoration of Pia Valley entails many benefits for the community. First, Pia Valley plays an important role in capturing and supplying freshwater for the neighborhood. Secondly, the ecological health of Pia Valley affects the health of the downstream coastal areas, where many people value. Also, a restored valley means a rich population of native species and ecosystems. Thus, the restoration of Pia Valley will ensure that all of these things will be protected. Moreover, just as importantly, the restoration of Pia Valley means that important relationships between people and place will strengthen.