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Contact: Rae Okawa, (808) 884-5000, rae@hawaiiwildlifecenter.org

**KOHALA MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HAWAII WILDLIFE CENTER
TEAM UP TO CELEBRATE HAWAII'S NATIVE WINGED WONDERS**

*Hale 'Ike students create a native bird and bat coloring book to
benefit the HWC wildlife hospital*

KAPA'AU, HI (April 10, 2015) – A coloring book featuring Hawaii's native birds and bats is coming to fruition thanks to the artistic talents and research of Kohala Middle School (KMS) Hale 'Ike students, design by Hawai'i Wildlife Center staff, funding support from Sustainable Kohala, and printing assistance by Island Printing and Graphics.

The coloring book, titled *Hawaii's Native Winged Wonders*, introduces native bird and bat species in Hawai'i and shares how protecting our native biodiversity contributes to a sustainable future. All of the bird and bat illustrations were drawn by KMS students, who also researched and contributed much of the text as well.

"My goal when designing the coloring book was to include every single piece of student artwork that was given to HWC," said Rae Okawa, HWC Development Coordinator and staff member tasked with putting the coloring book together. "Each illustration had such great personality and I found a place for every drawing, even the unfinished ones!"

The coloring book project was started by Kohala Middle School students to benefit the Hawai'i Wildlife Center. Thanks to a Sustainable Kohala grant, HWC has been able to secure funding for the first run of printing and is currently working with Island Printing and Graphics to produce the books. Once completed, copies will be for sale at the HWC's retail store and proceeds will support the care of injured wildlife at the Center.

For more information about this project, please contact the Hawai'i Wildlife Center. Contact information can be found at www.hawaiiwildlifecenter.org.

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The **Hawai'i Wildlife Center** (HWC) is a professional wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation organization that specializes in the care and protection of native Hawaiian birds and the Hawaiian hoary bat. The HWC wildlife hospital in Kapa'au, HI is the only facility in the State of Hawai'i that meets all federal, state, and local standards for rescue and rehabilitation efforts to aid sick, injured and oiled wildlife. HWC serves all main Hawaiian Islands and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands extending to Midway and Kure Atolls. HWC is fully permitted for the rehabilitation of all native bird species and the Hawaiian hoary bat.