

'ANIANIAU

Magumma parva

Other: Lesser 'Amakihi, *Anauani'i*, *Alawi*

monotypic

native resident, endemic

The 'Anianiau has followed a similar path as the [Kaua'i 'Amakihi](#), being noted commonly throughout *Kaua'i* in the late 1800s but becoming primarily restricted to elevations above 600 m by the mid-2010s (Berger 1972, 1981; Banko 1984b, Lepson 1997, Pratt 2005, Gorresen et al. 2009). Caught up in the taxonomic entanglement affecting other small green honeycreepers (see [Hawai'i 'Amakihi](#)), no fewer than nine generic names have been applied to the 'Anianiau since Stejneger (1887a) first placed it with the 'Apapane in *Himatione* (Lepson 1997; [Synonymies](#)). Wilson and Evans (1899:xii) implied that Perkins wished to place it in a monotypic genus *Rothschildia*, although this was later denied by Perkins (1903). In any event, *Rothschildia* had been applied to a widespread genus of moth in 1896, so was unavailable. The AOU (1998) placed 'Anianiau with *Hemignathus*, but recent genetic evidence suggests it is not related to 'amakihis (Fleisher et al. 1998, 2001; but see James 2004) and should be afforded its own genus, which unfortunately due to rules of nomenclature becomes "*Magumma*" (Mathews 1925, 1930; cf. Conant et al. 1998; Pratt 2001, 2005, 2014; Olson 2006; [Synonymies](#)), and this was adopted by the AOU (2008, 2015). Perkins (1903) is responsible for the common (Hawaiian) name 'Anianiau, noting that its meaning, "straight-beaked," was better applied than the previously designated '*Anau'anau'i*.

The first specimen of 'Anianiau was taken by Townsend (1839) in 1835 (Olson and James 1994a). Subfossil evidence (Olson and James 1982b, James and Olson 1991) and early reports (Wilson and Evans 1899, Rothschild 1900, Perkins 1903) suggested that the species was common throughout lowland Kaua'i but there were signs of withdrawal to higher elevations by the early 1900s (Bryan and Seale 1901, 1915; Munro 1944). Some have regarded the 'Anianiau as more common than the 'amakihi on Kaua'i (Richardson and Bowles 1964, Walther 1995, Conant et al. 1998); the USFWS (1983c) estimated an island-wide population of 24,230 in 1968-1973, including 26 individuals in the isolated forests of Mt. Makaleha. Scott et al. (1986) estimated 6100 individuals in the Alakai region during the [HFBS](#) in 1981, where Sincock et al. (USFWS 1983c) had estimated 5500 individuals in 1968-1973. The USFWS (1983c) found Anianiau near sea level in the remote Nualolo Kai Valley along the nw. Napali coast of Kaua'i, perhaps suggesting some resistance to mosquito-borne diseases. Foster et al. (2004) estimated a total population of about 35,000 'Anianiau in 2000 and showed them to have increased significantly from estimates in 1981, and Camp et al. (*in* Gorresen et al. 2009) estimated a population of about 37,500 individuals based on surveys in 2000-2007, but Paxton et al. (2016) estimated a population of 10,787 on the Alaka'i Plateau and indicated a 17% decline in the core area of the plateau during 1981-2012, a 57% decline in the same area during 2000-2012, and a 91% decline in exterior areas of the plateau during 2000-2012. As with [Kaua'i 'Amakihi](#), The BLI (2016) has listed the 'Anianiau as "Vulnerable". During 2010-2016, single-day counts of up to 10 on the Alaka'i Plateau were regular, with occasional counts of 10-20 and a high count of 20-25 on 9 Apr 2011.

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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