

IMPROVE EDUCATION  
PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT  
ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES  
ADOPT SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES  
MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR  
MAUI ISLANDS  
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

## Native BUTTERFLIES



**The pulelehua, or Kamehameha butterfly, became the official insect of Hawai'i (HB135) on April 23, 2009.**

One of only two species of butterfly native to Hawai'i, Kamehameha Butterfly, *Vanessa tameamea*, with a two-and-a-half inch wingspan is often seen fluttering near koa trees where adults feed on the sweet sap oozing from broken branches.



With a wingspan of just around an inch, Blackburn's Bluet or Hawaiian Blue (*Udara blackburnii*) is the other butterfly native to Hawai'i. It is blue to blue-purple and hard to distinguish from a small

moth until it lands with its wings held upright as do butterflies, showing the lime green under its wings.

Caterpillars of both species feed on the leaves of *Māmaki* (*Pipturus albidus*), a species of flowering plant in the nettle family, that is endemic to Hawai'i and traditionally used for making tapa and medicine.



There are  
only two  
native  
butterflies  
in Hawai'i.



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT [www.focusmauinui.com](http://www.focusmauinui.com) or CALL 808.270.6801