

Vote for Hawaii's State Snails

Invertebrates, such as insects and molluscs, are integral components of ecosystems, providing pollination for plants, decomposition of waste, and food for other animals. Hawai'i is an invertebrate biodiversity hotspot because of its unusually high number of native species found nowhere else in the world. Native Hawaiian land snail species, or kāhuli, embodies this diversity with a high number of species and endemism (species found only in Hawai'i) with 759 species and 99.9% endemism. However, the vast majority of these species are threatened or critically endangered, and many more already extinct. Hawai'i's kāhuli hold ecological significance in Native Hawaiian ecosystems due to their role as decomposers, breaking down dead or decaying material to provide plant-life with nutrient-rich soil. Additionally, they are a food source for our other native species such as *Hyposmocoma molluscivora*, the carnivorous moth native to Maui and O'ahu, and native forest birds such as the Po'ouli, *Melamprosops phaeosoma*, a native and recently extinct honeycreeper. Hawai'i's kāhuli have served an important role in the Hawaiian culture through mele (song), hula, mo'olelo (story), 'oli (chant), and as symbols for romance and good omens. They are described as the singing snails representing the voice of the forest. This ancient description was made due to kāhuli's immense prominence in the forests. The snail's voices were signifiers of positive events or affirmations for certain decisions. As our kāhuli continue to decline, so do our cultural connections with the land, and our understanding of our place in the world.

In 2020, Kalikoonāmaukūpuna Kalāhiki, a Kamehameha Schools high school student, drafted a resolution to designate a state snail, *Laminella sanguinea*. The House and Senate bills were supported, however, due *Laminella sanguinea* being endemic to O'ahu, the legislators suggested the designation of an endemic snail for each of the islands. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed these efforts, but we are relaunching this campaign to designate a state snail for each island of Hawai'i. Through these designations, we hope to raise awareness and appreciation for these critically land snails and reconnect us to the lands on which we so heavily rely for our lives. We hope to instill a foundation for not only land snail conservation, but natural resource conservation broadly, and a passion for preserving the natural and cultural resources of the world.

The candidate snails were selected from extant members of each island.

How to vote: Please vote for your choice of snail to be designated for each of the islands including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. There are three ways to vote:

- 1) Fill out an online form and submit your vote at <http://histatesnails.org>
- 2) Submit a coloring voting ballot that can be downloaded and submitted online at <http://histatesnails.org>
- 3) Submit a coloring voting ballot that can be downloaded at <http://histatesnails.org> and sent to:
Bishop Museum
Malacology Department
1525 Bernice Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822



We will announce the island snail winners at the 2nd Annual Kāhuli Festival on September 23, 2023 and submit a new resolution to the State of Hawai'i for consideration.

Keiki State Snail Coloring Contest

Bishop Museum is hosting a coloring contest for keiki from grades K-12. Contest entries will be judged in three age categories: Grades K-5; Grades 6-8; and Grades 9-12. Winners will be announced at the 2nd Annual Kāhuli Festival on September 23, 2023.

If submitting to the "Keiki State Snail Coloring Contest", please fill out the following information with the coloring sheet:

Name: _____

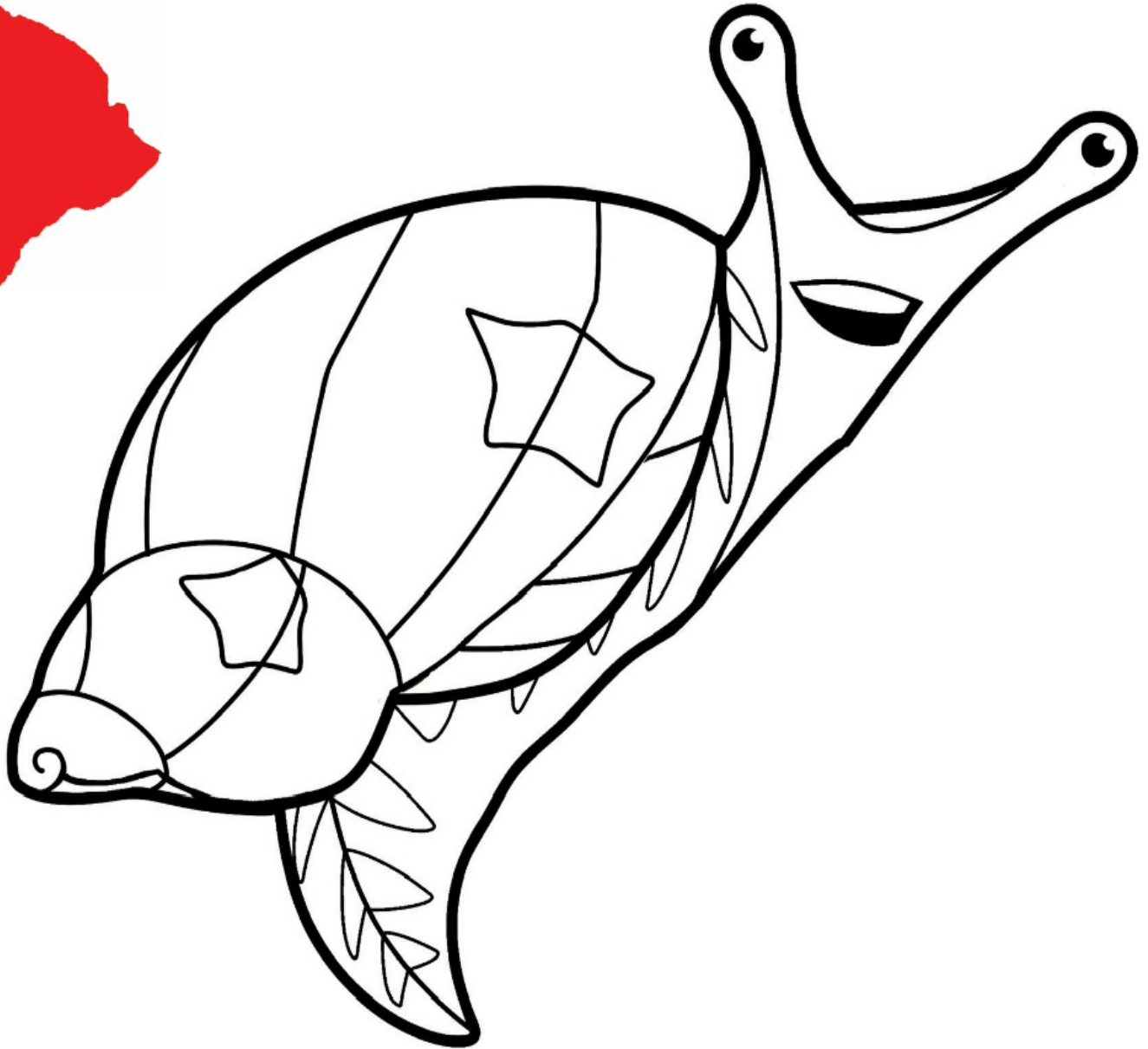
Age: _____ Island: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian permission if under 18 years old: I give permission for my child to participate in this contest. I agree to allow my child's name and entry to be displayed publicly, published, or used in any advertising related to this contest.

Signature: _____ Date: _____





(Hawai‘i) *Succinea konaensis*: One of the species in a distinct lineage of succineids only found on Hawai‘i Island. Although the name indicates it’s from Kona, it has been recorded in Kona, Ka‘ū, Hilo, and Mauna Kea.

Unlike many of the remaining succineids, this species is primarily found on the ground. The conservation status of this species is **Imperiled**.

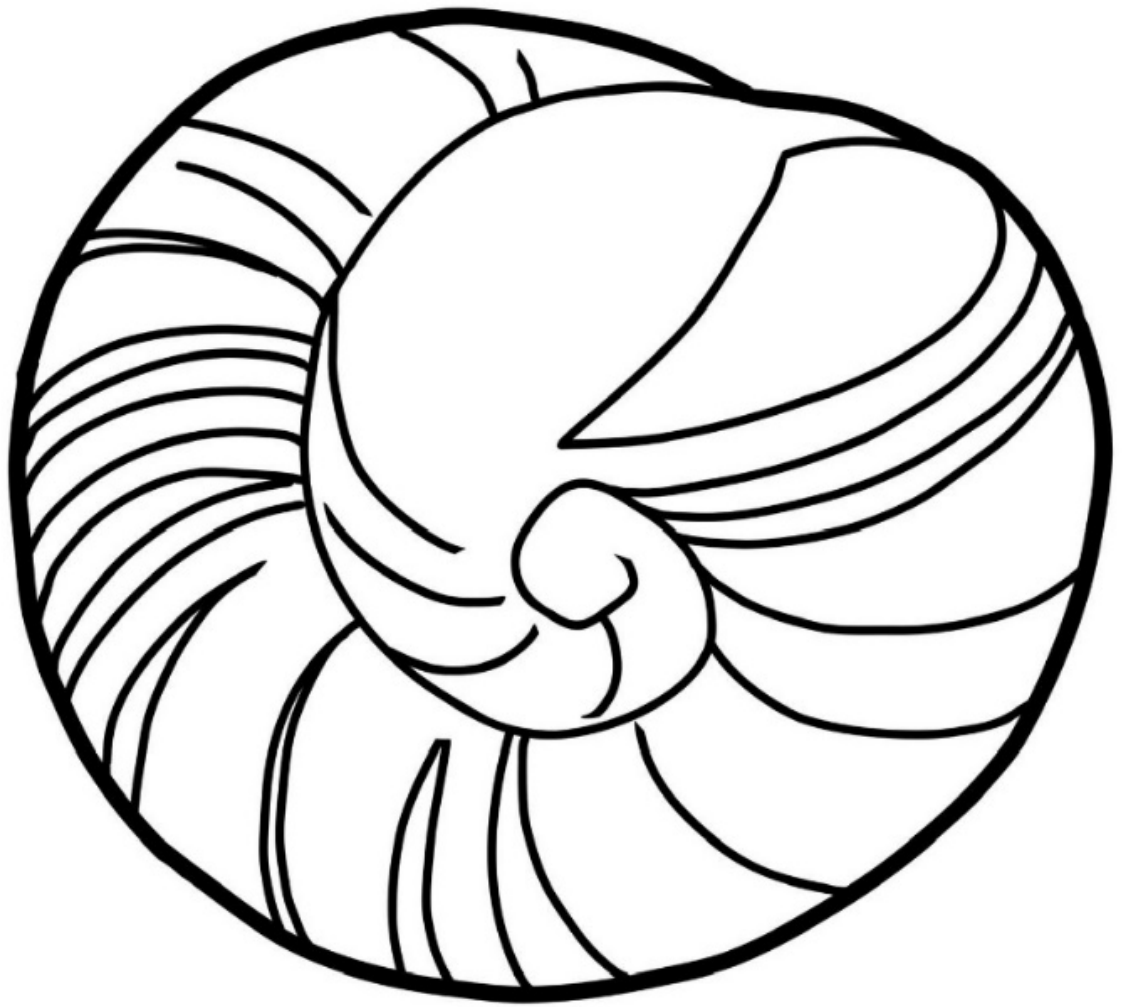
Why should this be the state snail for Hawai‘i Island?





(Hawai‘i) *Tornatellaria smithi*: The genus *Tornatellaria* is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and this species is only found on Hawai‘i Island. This tiny snail (3 mm in shell height) has been recorded in Kohala, Ka‘ū, Hilo, and Mauna Kea. The conservation status of this species is **Near Vulnerable**.

Why should this be the state snail for Hawai‘i Island?



(Kaho‘olawe) *Pleuropoma laciniosa kahoolawensis*: This land snail belong to the family Helicinidae, a group more closely related to marine snails than to other land snails. There is only one species and one subspecies known to be endemic to Kaho‘olawe. Unfortunately, this species is currently considered as extinct. Although there have been no recent surveys on this island, our hope is that one of these species is still living.

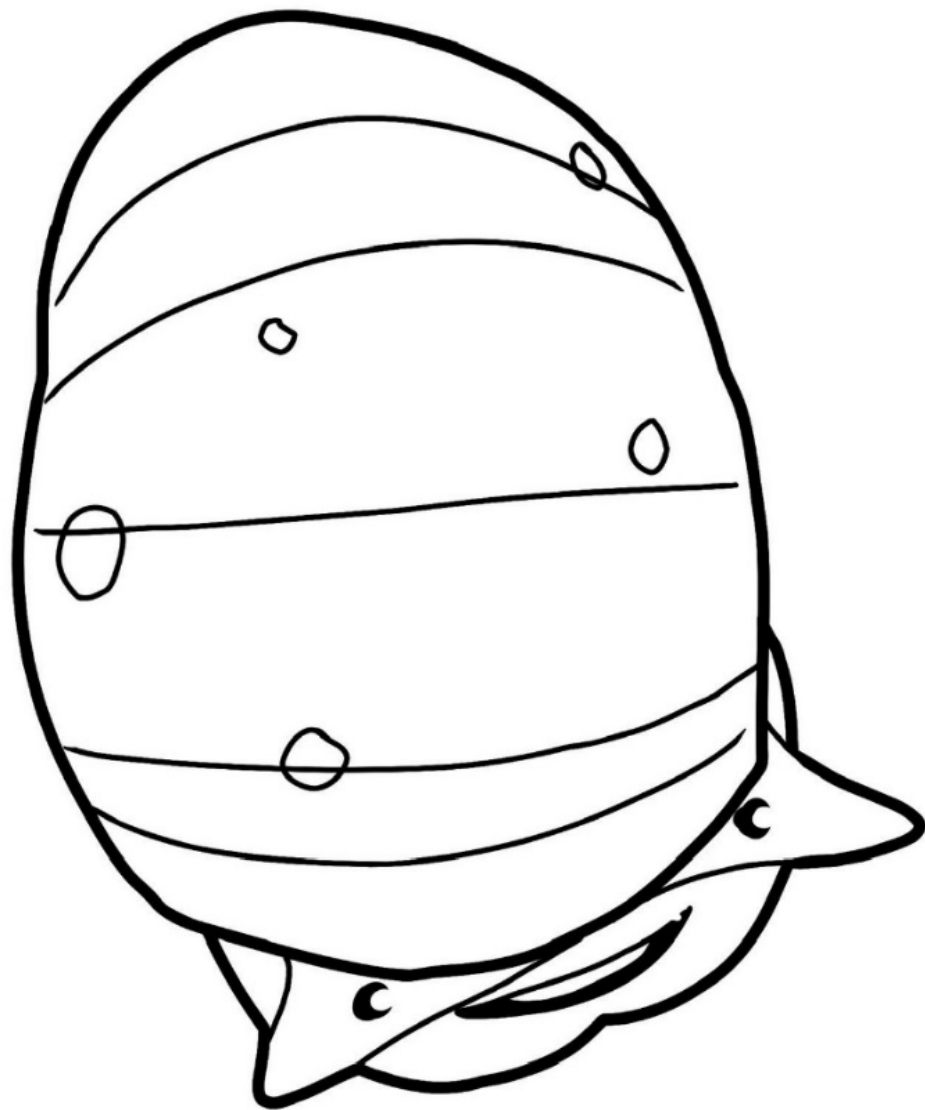
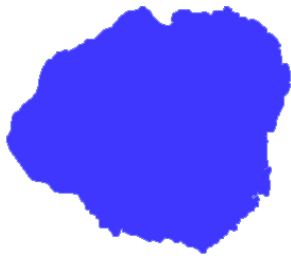
Why should this be the state snail for Kaho‘olawe?



(Kaho‘olawe) *Tornatellides kahoolavensis*: There is only one species and one subspecies known to be endemic to Kaho‘olawe. Unfortunately, this species is currently considered as extinct. Although there have been no recent surveys on this island, our hope is that one of these species is still living. This shell is as small as a grain of rice.

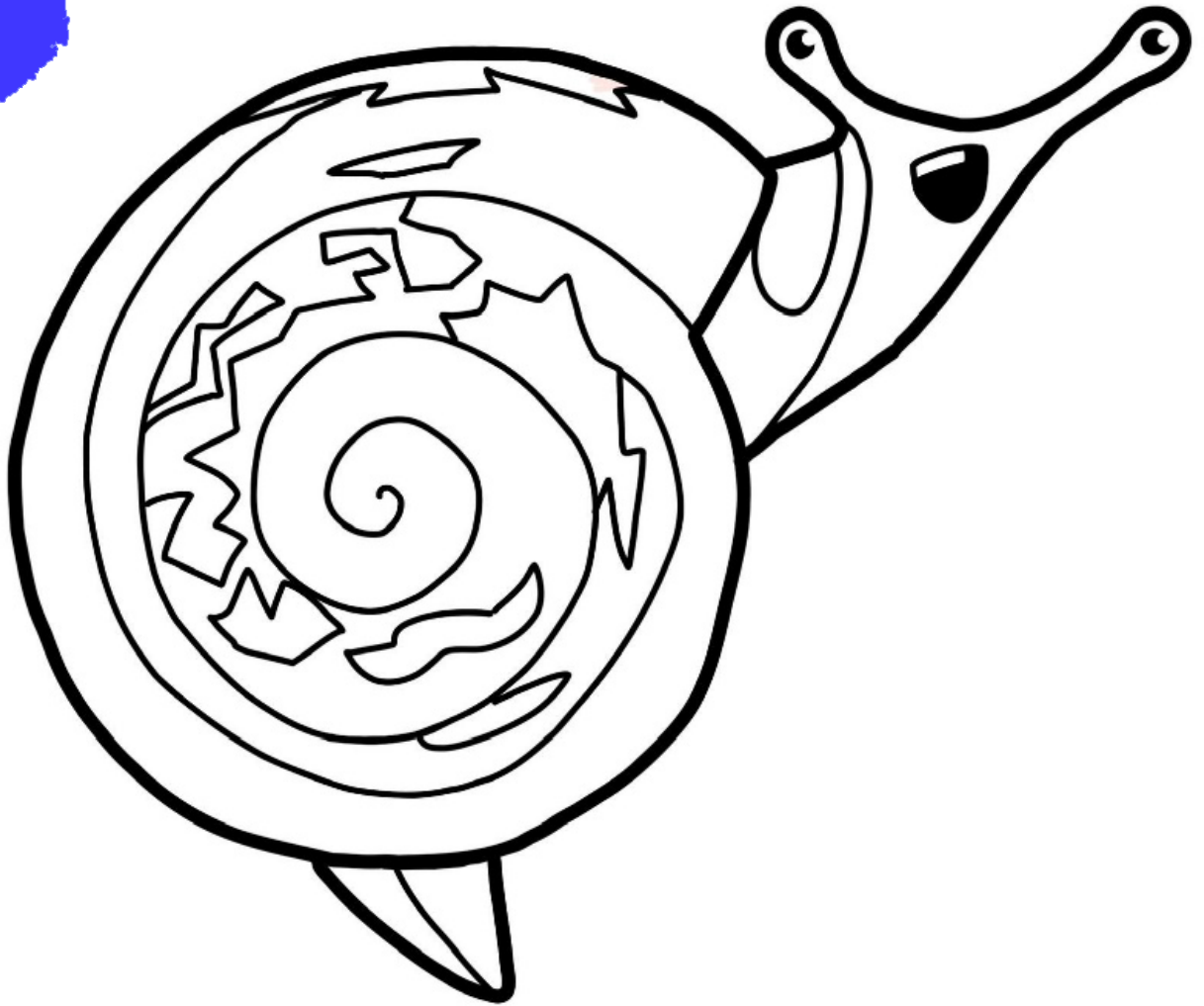
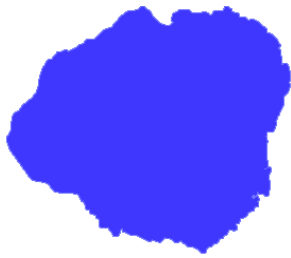
Why should this be the state snail for Kaho‘olawe?





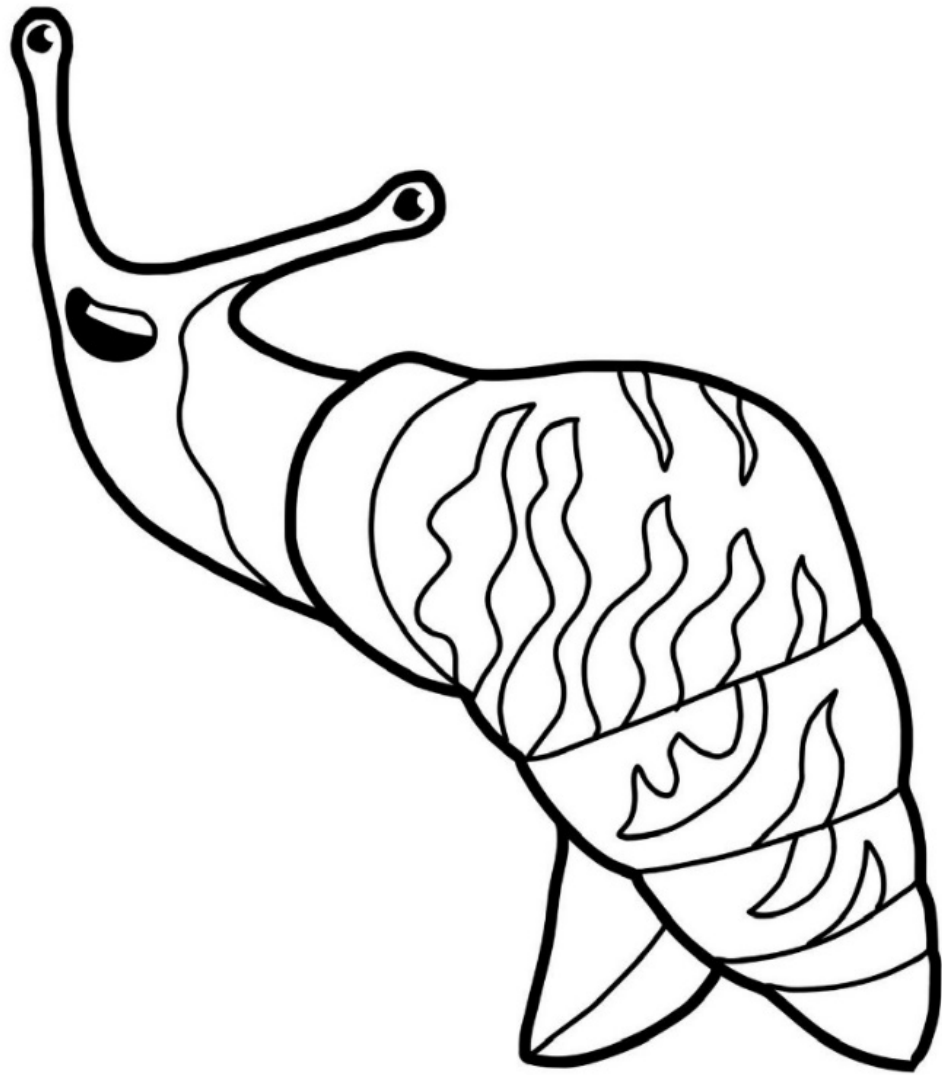
(Kaua‘i) *Erinna newcombi*: This freshwater snail is found only on Kaua‘i, often in seepy areas next to waterfalls. It is the first and only Hawaiian freshwater snail listed under the Endangered Species Act. The conservation status of this species is **Vulnerable**.

Why should this be the state snail for Kaua‘i?



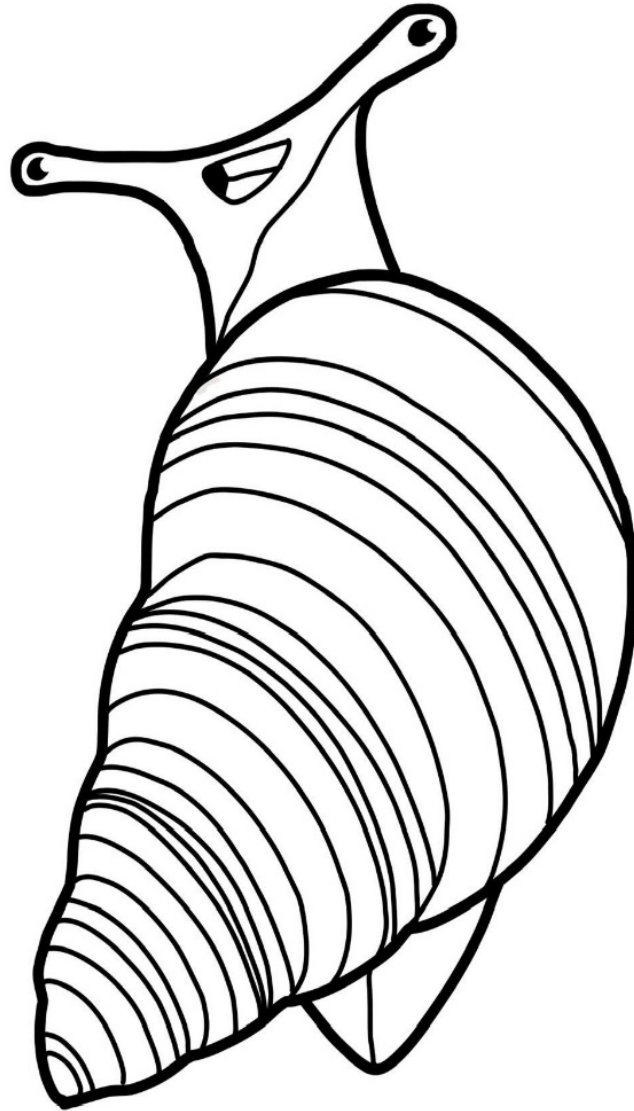
(Kaua‘i) *Hiona pilsbryi*: This genus is endemic to Pacific islands, with the most species described from Kaua‘i. Members of this group have a translucent shell, and the gold speckles seen are actually on the body of the snail. The conservation status of this species is **Near Vulnerable**.

Why should this be the state snail for Kaua‘i?



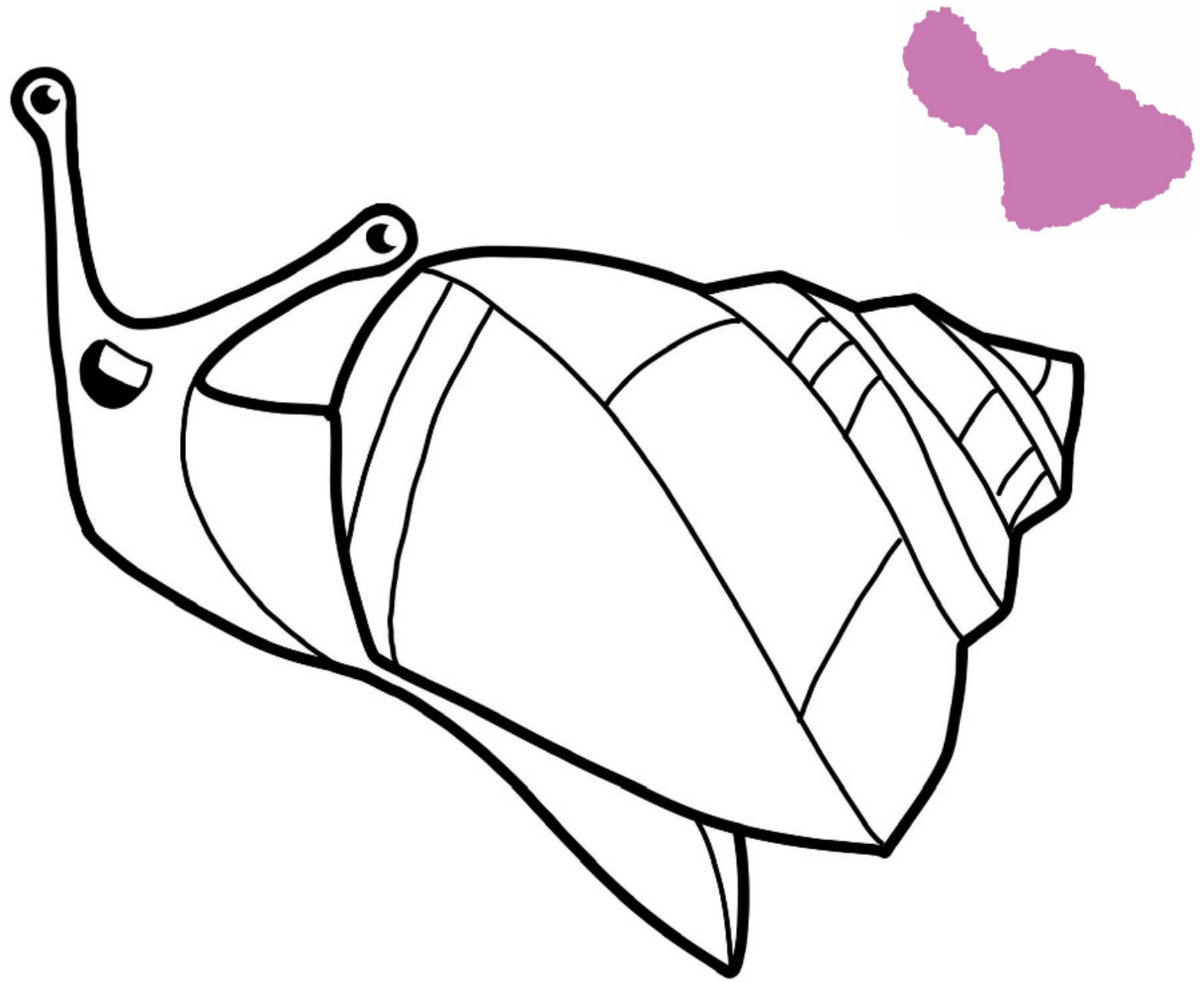
(Lānaʻi) *Auriculella lanaiensis*: This is the only *Auriculella* sp. found on Lānaʻi. This small snail (5 mm in shell height) can still be found on Lānaʻihale, but it is only known from two small sites.

Why should this be the state snail for Lānaʻi?



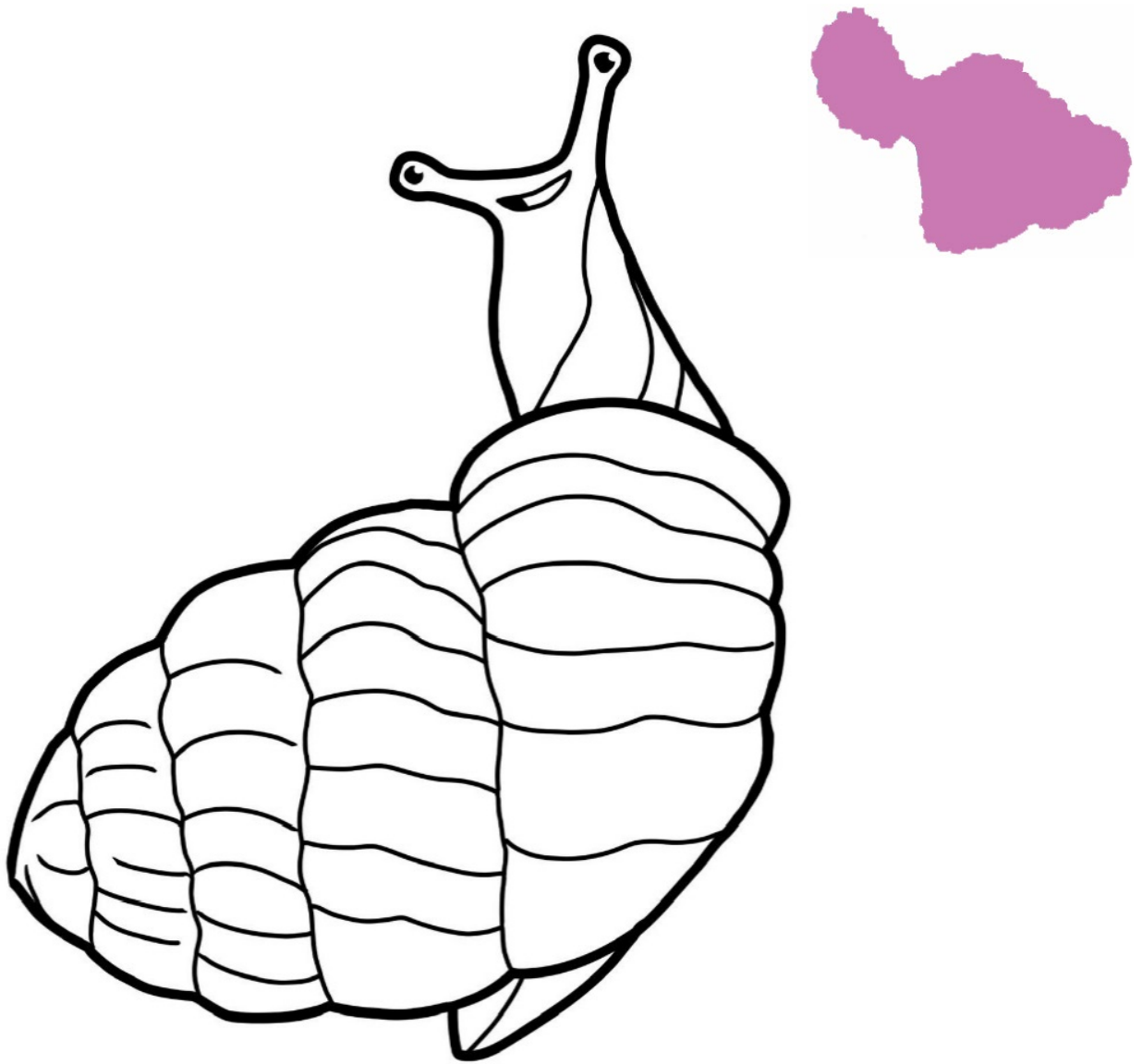
(Lānaʻi) *Partulina variabilis*: One of the two extant *Partulina* spp. found on Lānaʻi, this species can still be found on Lānaʻihale. This species is on the endangered species list, and the current status of this species is considered as **Imperiled**.

Why should this be the state snail for Lānaʻi?



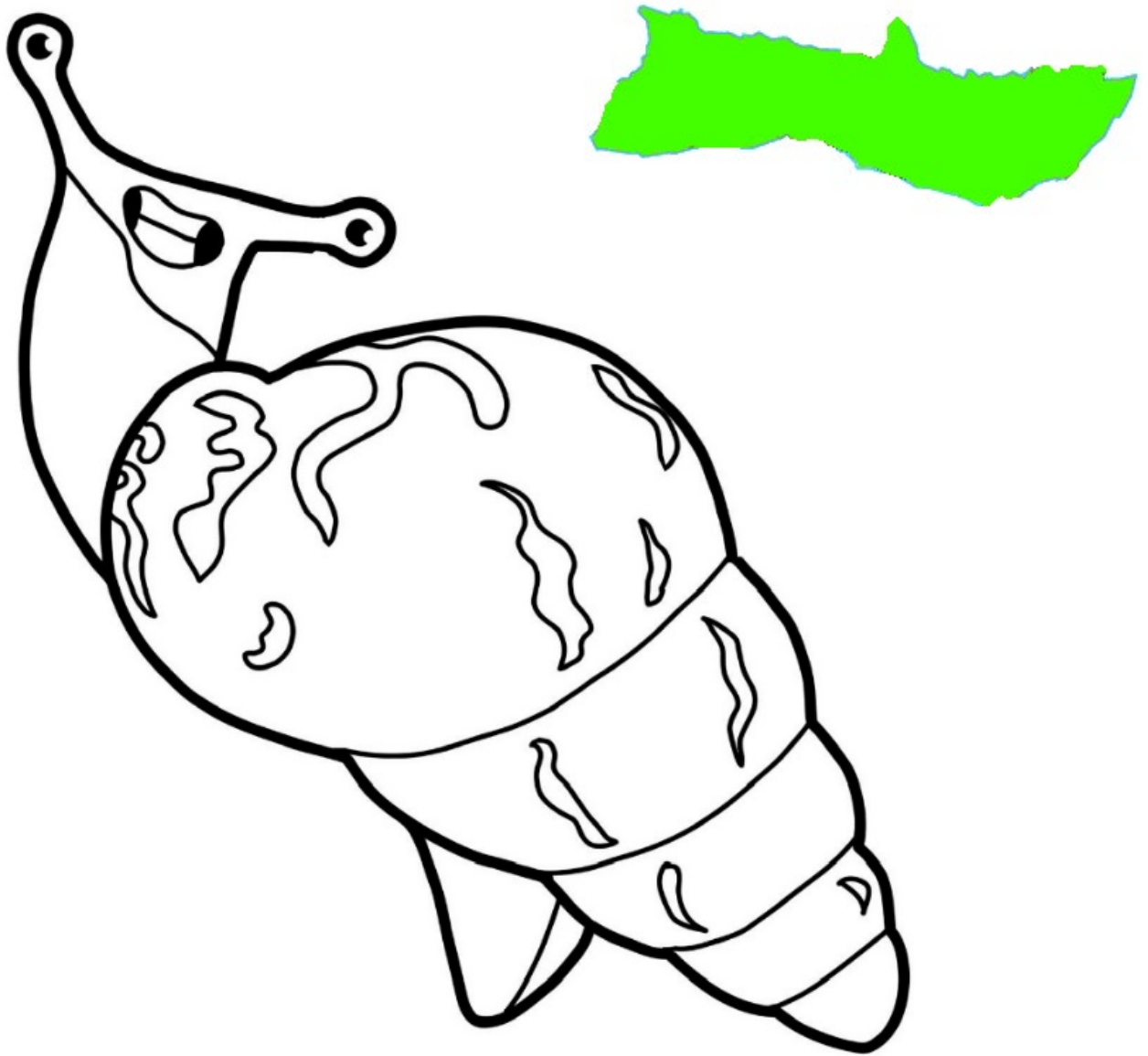
(Maui) *Amastra goniops*: This species belongs to the only extant, endemic family left in Hawai‘i, the Amastridae. All amastrids were thought to be extinct from Maui until three species were recently rediscovered. The conservation status of this species is **Imperiled** and this species is found in mesic forest on ‘ie‘ie (*Freycinetia arborea*).

Why should this be the state snail for Maui?



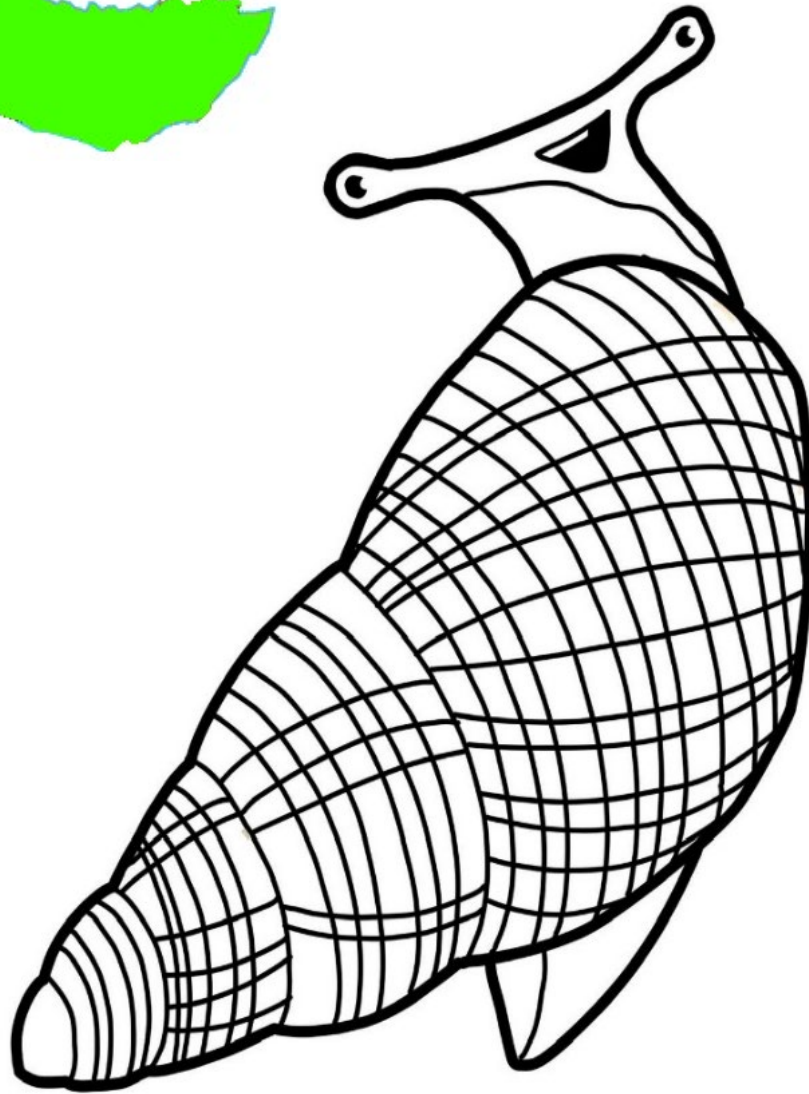
(Maui) *Lyropupa striatula*: This genus is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, and all species were thought to be extinct until this species was recently rediscovered on Maui. The beautiful shell ridges are a distinct characteristic of this genus. This species is dependent on the decaying leaf litter of native trees. The conservation status of this species is **Critically Imperiled**.

Why should this be the state snail for Maui?



(Moloka'i) *Laminella venusta*: Just like the other Moloka'i snail candidate, this species was thought to be extinct until recently rediscovered. This species is extremely rare but when it is found it is usually seen cleaning the leaves of olonā (*Touchardia latifolia*). The conservation status of this species is **Imperiled**.

Why should this be the state snail for Moloka'i?



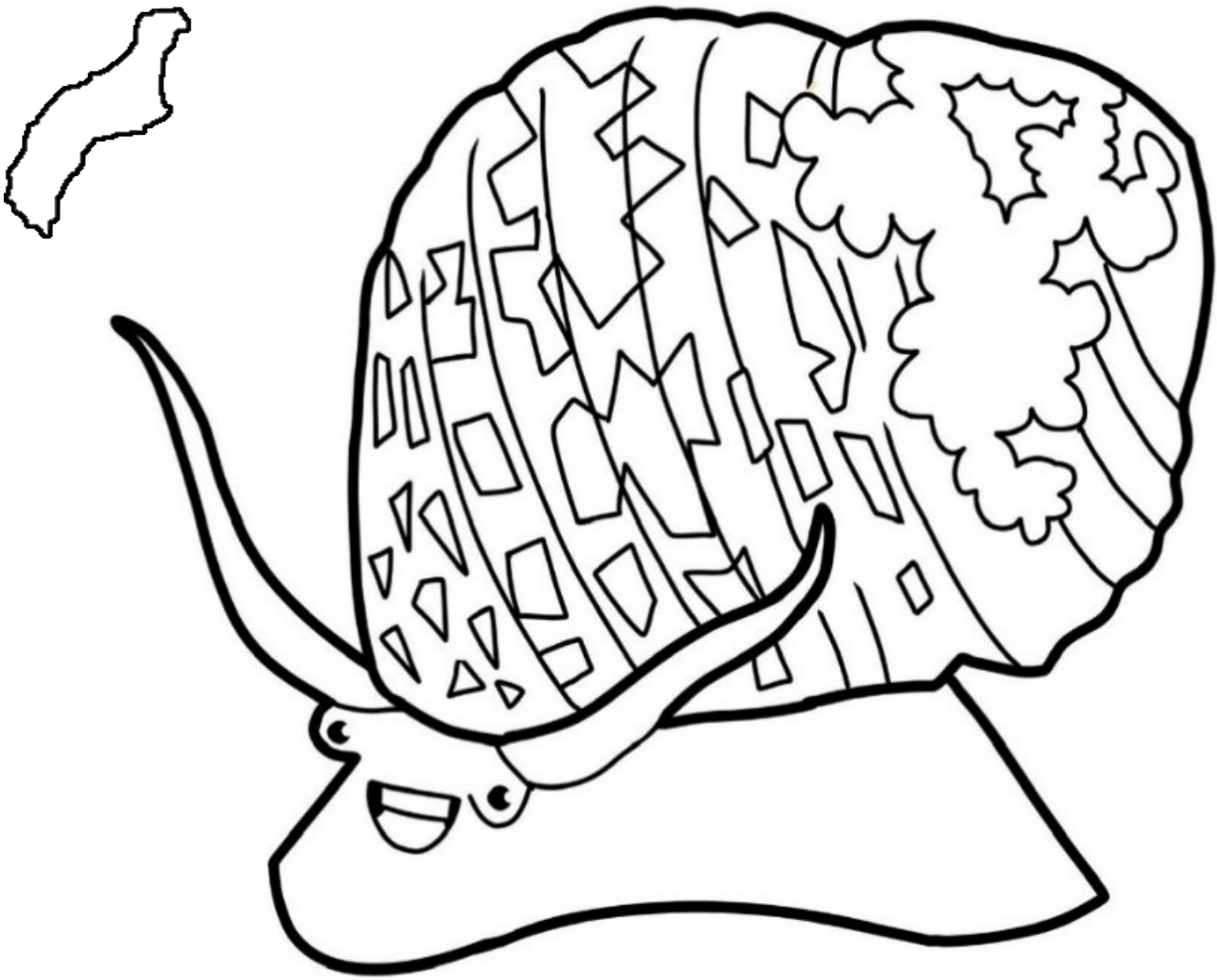
(Moloka‘i) *Newcombia canaliculata*: Just like the other Moloka‘i snail candidate, this species was thought to be extinct until recently rediscovered. *Newcombia* spp. are often found resting on branches of trees where they mimic a part of that branch. This species is only known from one population on the windward sea cliffs of Moloka‘i. The conservation status of this species is **Critically Imperiled**

Why should this be the state snail for Moloka‘i?



(Ni'ihau) *Carelia sinclairi*: Only two species are known to be endemic to Ni'ihau, one of which is in the genus *Carelia*. This genus is endemic to both Ni'ihau and Kaua'i and so this species was chosen among the two. Unfortunately, all *Carelia* spp. are considered as extinct, but we still hope that there may be a species that remains alive for us to rediscover. These shells can still be found in fossil deposits and have been made into shell lei.

Why should this be the state snail for Ni'ihau?



(Ni'ihau) *Homalopoma verruca*: Although not a land snail, Ni'ihau is known for their Ni'ihau shells. Although there are several species used for lei and none are endemic to the Hawaiian Islands, *Homalopoma verruca* stands out by being first described from Hawai'i. Additionally, these shells are known as Kahelelani (royal going; name of first chief of Ni'ihau). These shells were worn by chiefs and as the smallest of Ni'ihau shells, they were the difficult to make into lei, therefore, being one of the most precious shells from Ni'ihau

Why should this be the state snail for Ni'ihau?



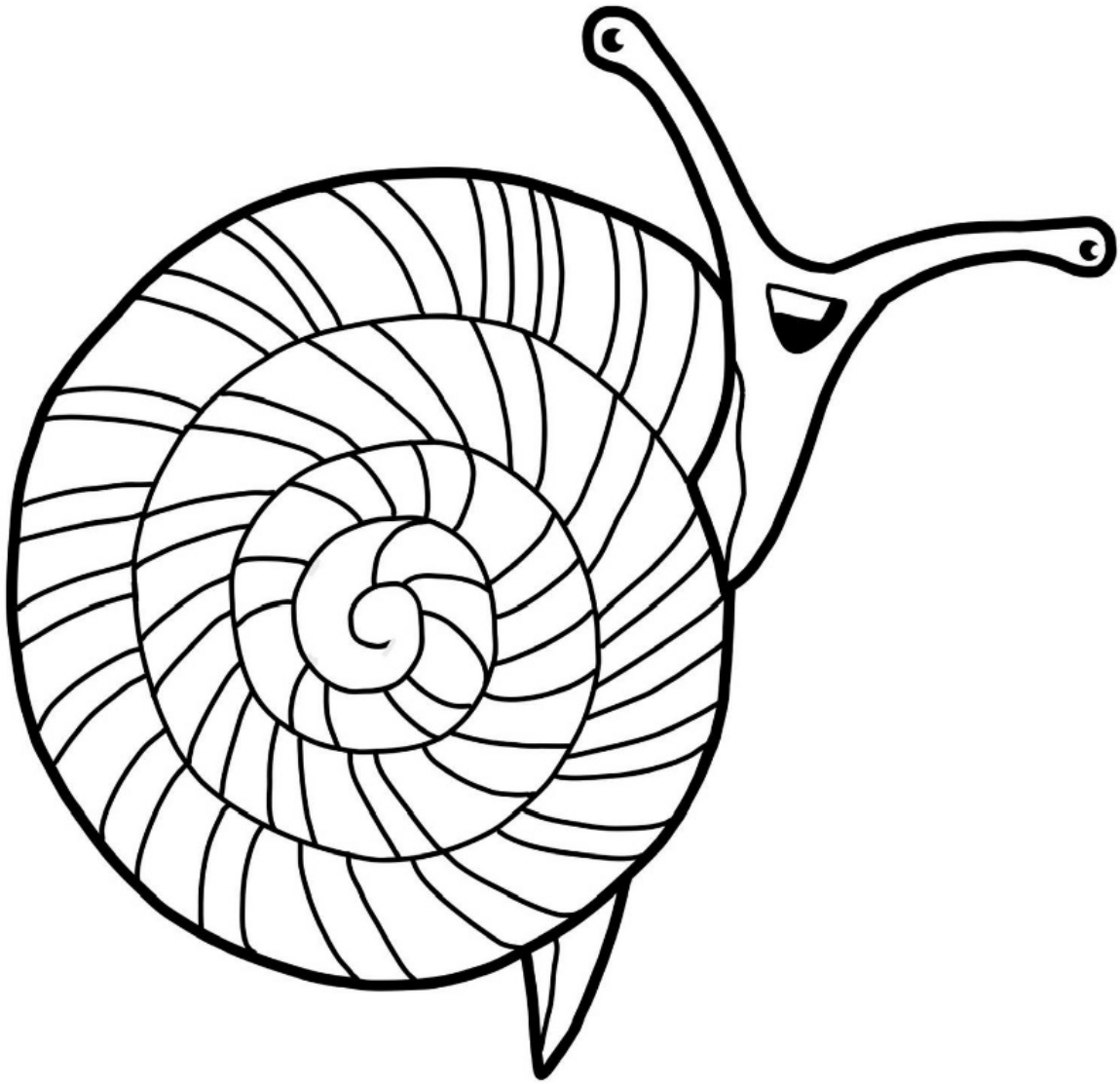
(O‘ahu) *Kaala subrutila*: This species is found on and named after the highest point of O‘ahu, Mt. Ka‘ala. The genus is endemic to O‘ahu and contains only one species (monotypic). This species is one of the few remaining ground-dwelling snails that occasionally can be found on shrubs and ferns but is primarily found among the leaf litter. The conservation status of this species is **Near Vulnerable**.

Why should this be the state snail for O‘ahu?



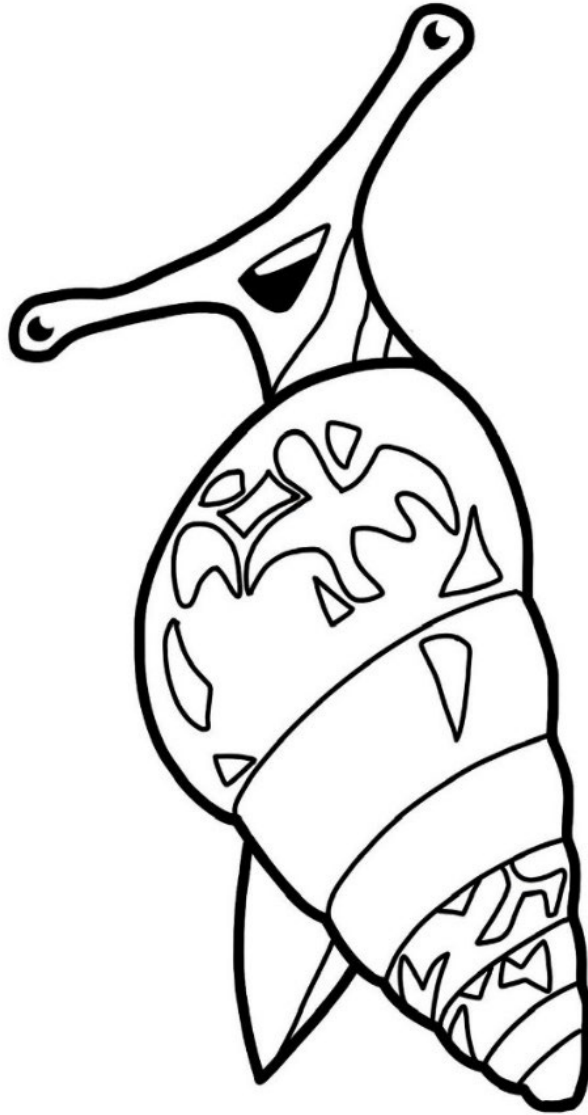
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Why should this be the state snail for O‘ahu?



(Papahānaumokuākea) *Endodonta christenseni*: The last known living *Endodonta* species is found only on Nihoa, primarily in clumps of the grass *Eragrostis variabilis*. Once this species is extinct, the *Endodonta* genus will also become extinct. It has flame like patterns on its shell that's typical among *Endodonta* species. The conservation status of this species is **Critically Imperiled**.

Why should this be the state snail for the Papahānaumokuākea?



(Northwestern Hawaiian Islands) *Tornatellides bryani*: This species is endemic to NWHI and found on a couple of islands (Laysan, Lisianski) and Midway Atoll. This small snail (3 mm in shell height) is found in the grasses of these islands and atoll. The conservation status of this species is **Imperiled**.

Why should this be the state snail for Papahānaumokuākea?
