

# Wailele

## Waterfall

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A waterfall or *wailele* is water that vertically drops into a stream and continues its flow over rocks. Several stream animals are excellent climbers. They make their way up the waterfall to the upper reaches of the stream where they eventually live.

The *'o'opu alamo'o* are the most adept climbers of the *'o'opu* family. They can be found in the upper reaches of the stream. They use their pelvic fin to climb steep waterfalls. They prefer living in very clean and undisturbed streams. The male *alamo'o* is territorial and can be aggressive. He is often seen perched on top of a rock, surveying his territory. The breeding season for this species ranges from October to June, with a peak in late winter and early spring (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Pacific Biosciences Research Center, 2007).

The *alamo'o* eats algae and invertebrates. It also picks food particles from the water column.

When a male *alamo'o* sees a female approaching, he quickly changes to his breeding colors. His front turns black and his tail end turns a bright red-orange. If the female does not show interest and disappears, the color of the male *alamo'o* fades and returns to his usual brown or green tinge.

If the male *alamo'o* feels threatened, he turns sideways and flicks his fin at his enemy. If the stranger or intruder does not leave, the male will grasp the rock with his pelvic fin and spread his fins. He will wiggle his body back and forth and flick his fin to threaten his enemy.

The *'ōpae kala'ole* also climbs waterfalls of over 100 feet where few predators can be found. It feeds on microscopic plant and animal matter. The *'ōpae* has pinchers with tiny bristle-like hairs that are used to trap food.