

State of Hawai'i  
 DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
 Division of State Parks  
 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

October 25, 2013

Board of Land and Natural Resources  
 State of Hawai'i  
 Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SUBJECT:** Selection of Projects for Federal Grant Awards through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a Federal grants program administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) to expand public outdoor recreation opportunities. The Division of State Parks (State Parks) assists with the administration of this program on the state level. LWCF grants are made available to county and state agencies for the acquisition of recreation areas, construction of new recreational facilities, and rehabilitation of existing facilities. The grant funds must be matched with State funds, County funds, or in-kind services. State Parks takes the lead in notifying the county parks and recreation departments, as well as recreational agencies within DLNR, of the availability of grant funds, accepts applications, and makes a preliminary selection of projects for the grant awards. The Land Board approves this selection of projects as a means of soliciting public comment in the selection process and authorizing DLNR to enter into project agreements with the NPS for the selected projects receiving grant awards.

In order to qualify to receive the LWCF funds, Hawai'i must prepare an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. State Parks has requested a matching grant from NPS to prepare an update to the 2008 SCORP (dated April 2009) which will include an inventory of the state's recreational resources, including parks, boat ramps and small harbors, hunting areas, trails, and other recreational facilities. The update will also assess the recreational demands and priorities based on consultation with government agencies and input from public surveys and meetings. Projects for grant awards are ranked on their ability to meet the state's recreational demands and priorities as identified in the SCORP.

After Hawai'i's program review by NPS in 2010, it was agreed that the State and Counties would alternate years for grant awards and that there would be an effort to award several large grants rather than many small grants. Hawai'i currently has apportionments from federal fiscal years 2011, 2012 and 2013 totaling \$1,268,537 to award on the alternating basis as follows:

FY 2011	\$396,413	State Grants
FY 2012	\$447,771	SCORP & Competitive County Grants
FY 2013	\$424,353	State Grants

**ITEM E-1**

In addition, Hawai'i has \$32,206 available in the state's Special Reapportionment Account (SRA) which reflects balances from previous LWCF projects. To avoid any loss of these federal funds, Hawai'i is working with NPS to obligate the majority of these funds by December 2013.

The counties and recreational agencies were notified about the availability of the FY12 grant funds in January 2013 and applications were accepted until March 2013. Although three (3) pre-applications were received, one each from Hawai'i, Honolulu, and Kaua'i counties, only Hawai'i County submitted a complete pre-application package within the required timeframe.

Proposed LWCF Grant Awards:

- 15-00165      Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Update  
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Estimated Project Total: \$150,000  
LWCF Grant Requested: \$75,000  
Matching Funds: State C.I.P.  
Project Description: Update of 2008 SCORP dated April 2009 by 2014.
- 15-00166      Repair & Improvements to Makapu'u Road/Trail, Kaiwi State Scenic Shoreline  
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Estimated Project Total: \$3,635,417  
LWCF Grant Requested: \$200,000  
Matching Funds: State C.I.P.  
Project Description: Stabilization and resurfacing of the Makapu'u Road/Trail, construction of 4 new lookouts and one rest stop along the trail, and renovation of 2 existing lookouts at the summit. Project includes interpretive signs and viewing scopes at selected lookouts.
- 15-00167      Construction of the Hilo Bayfront Trail within Wailoa River State Park  
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Estimated Project Total: \$2,000,000  
LWCF Grant Requested: \$200,000  
Matching Funds: State C.I.P.  
Project Description: Improvements at Wailoa River State Park, including construction of a 0.5 mile length of the multi-purpose pathway that is part of the Hilo Bayfront Trail system, renovation of pavilions, and repairs to bridges, parking, and lighting within the park.
- 15-00168      Construction of Phase 1 of the Hilo Bayfront Trail along Hilo Bay  
Applicant: County of Hawai'i, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Estimated Project Total: \$749,599  
LWCF Grant Requested: \$345,743  
Matching Funds: County funds and In-Kind Services  
Project Description: Construction of approximately 1 mile of a multi-purpose pathway on County property along the coastline of Hilo Bay. Design was completed with a grant from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority.

15-00169 Acquisition of Buffer for Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park, O‘ahu  
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Estimated Project Total: \$2,000,000  
LWCF Grant Requested: \$480,000  
Matching Funds: State’s Legacy Land Conservation Program & Grant from the  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
Project Description: Acquisition of 3.5 acres from the Windward YMCA to create  
a land buffer around Ulupō Heiau to maintain the historical and cultural setting of  
the largest platform heiau on O‘ahu and allow better management of the site by  
State Parks.

All of these projects meet high priority recreation needs identified in the 2008 SCORP. The Hilo Bayfront Trail and the Makapu‘u Trail projects address the community’s desire for more trails and pathways for walking, jogging, and biking that move these recreational activities off busy roadways. These trails will encourage families to participate in outdoor recreation and provide visitors an opportunity to experience the natural and cultural resources of Hawai‘i. The acquisition of the buffer for Ulupō Heiau relates to the high priority need to acquire open space areas with natural and cultural resources which can also accommodate recreation. Located along the edge of Kawainui Marsh, this acquisition will not only preserve the open space around the heiau, but will provide an access route to trails and other recreational opportunities associated with the marsh.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the selection of the five projects described above to receive LWCF grant funds totaling \$1,300,743 with the understanding that the award amounts may increase if additional funding should become available in the Special Reapportionment Account, and subject to final approval by the National Park Service.

Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL S. QUINN  
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



WILLIAM J. AILA, Jr., Chairperson