

Site Selection Criteria

Federal Requirements

1. The candidate site is a representative estuary in the bio-geographic region or sub-region.
2. The proposed boundaries of the candidate site include sufficient land and water area to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem.
3. The candidate site consists of publicly owned lands and/or demonstrates sufficient potential for land acquisition and adequate land use control to meet NERRS objectives. This could include State government having or obtaining long-term control over key land and water resources in the core lands of the site.
4. The candidate site is accessible by normal modes of transportation.
5. The candidate site is suitable for a broad range of research, monitoring, and resource protection activities.
6. The candidate site is suitable for a broad range of education, training, and interpretation activities.
7. The candidate site is suitable to address key local, state, and regional coastal management issues.

Additional Criteria

8. The site has a high diversity of ecosystem types and physical characteristics.
9. Well-defined gradients present (water motion, salinity, light, temperature) that can support a diversity of educational topics/research (for example, a “salt wedge” type estuary with well-defined marine, estuarine and freshwater ecosystems).
10. Minimally affected by humans (although diverted streams are acceptable).
11. Existing research areas/historical data for the site (in particular, estuary-related data).
12. Accessible or ability to be made accessible to a wide range of the public, including Native Hawaiian groups, residents, and visitors including students of all ages and abilities.
13. Supportive adjacent landowners (letter of authorization about site selection).
14. Existing facilities such as parking, pavilion, ADA trail to marsh and beach, potable water or comfort stations.
15. Access is possible makai to mauka.
16. Potential to generate funds to support NERR activities on site, in order to ensure continuity of services.
17. Site amenable to climate change impact research.