STATE OF HAWAI‘I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I 96813

APRIL 10, 2015

CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF HAWAI‘I
HONOLULU, HAWAI‘I

BOARD MEMBERS:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROJECT RECOMMENDATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (LAND CONSERVATION FUND) AND RECOMMENDATION TO DENY AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING GRANT:

KA IWI COAST MAUKA LANDS; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $1,000,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF 181.14 ACRES IN KO‘OLAUPOKO, ISLAND OF OAHU.

AND RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING GRANTS:

PUPUKEA MAUKA; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $583,875 FOR ACQUISITION OF 3,716 ACRES IN WAIALUA, ISLAND OF OAHU.

HELEMANO; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $416,125 FOR ACQUISITION OF 1,420 ACRES IN WAIALUA, ISLAND OF OAHU.

SUMMARY:

Pursuant to H.R.S., section 173A-2.5, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (the Commission) produced recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) on project selection for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP). Pursuant to H.R.S., section 173A-5, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) sought and received the consultation of the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. On February 27, 2015, the Board reviewed and approved FY15 project funding recommendations, excepting one deferred project. This submittal presents the deferred project, titled “Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands” for the Board’s review.

BACKGROUND:

On February 27, 2015, the Board approved grant funding for five of six recommended projects (Attachment I), and, per the request of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) deferred its
decision on the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands grant. The Division requested the deferral on behalf of the Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (LHKH), a co-grantee with the Department in this project. For the purposes of this project, LHKH represents the Ka Iwi Coalition, a group of community members that have been involved in protection efforts for the property.

**Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Project Description**

In September 2014, the Department, LHKH, and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) applied to LLCP for $1,000,000 for the acquisition of 181.14 acres in Ko’olauapoko, Island of Oahu, for the protection of scenic and cultural resources. The Department, LHKH, and TPL intended to secure 75% of the matching funds for this project from the City and County of Honolulu Clean Water Natural Land Program, private donations, and TPL.

The Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands are part of a scenic landscape that can be seen from the trail to Makapu’u Lighthouse, Wawamalu (Queen’s Beach), Sandy Beach Park, and the various Ka Iwi Coast scenic lookouts. In 2014, the State designated portions of this land as the Maunalua-Makapu’u Scenic Byway for its exceptional scenic, natural, and cultural resource values. Acquisition of these lands would safeguard undocumented ancient and post-contact cultural sites found on the properties. Sites that would be protected include traditional Hawaiian drystack rock walls, paths, enclosures and terraces, at least two pohaku lele (balancing or floating rocks) that have religious significance, and a coral pathway and coral covered area. Protection of the properties also allows for managed public access with a focus on providing a peaceful and more secluded place for various Hawaiian cultural practices such as studying the night sky for voyaging, and offering oli and pule. The primary management goal described in the project application is to protect the land as undeveloped open space. In the short term, the property will be passively managed and left in its current state. Long term management would include a planning process and low-impact uses in consultation with the community.

For the purposes of this project, LHKH is representing the Ka Iwi Coalition, which has had a role in caring for the area for over thirty years. As a property owner or manager, the organization offers expertise in native plants and birds, leaders in community building and stewardship, and volunteers and Hawaiian cultural practitioners that are interested in providing appropriate and dedicated care to cultural sites and landscapes.

LHKH is a nonprofit organization, tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC); its mission is “said corporation is organized for charitable, education, and scientific purposes, including encouraging grass roots organization, community awareness and education of laws, rules and regulations that guide sensible growth and development to enhance the quality of life for residents, focusing on the preservation of the agricultural lands in Kamilonui Valley, natural watershed and adequate open spaces and community stewardship for the protection of watersheds, wetlands, natural and scenic resources and cultural and historic areas in East Honolulu.

**Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands Acquisition and Ownership Discussions**

The Department, LHKH, and the Trust for Public Land (TPL) submitted the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands application requesting funds for the project in September 2014. The project application identified different scenarios for ownership. It presented the Department as the intended owner with the City and County of Honolulu and “likely the Ka Iwi Coalition (under the non-profit Livable Hawai’i Kai Hui) as co-holders of the conservation easement.” The application stated that the applicants were
discussing whether the community’s vision of an undeveloped Ka Iwi Coast would best be met with the properties managed under Division of Forestry and Wildlife or Land Division, and were exploring the possibility that the property could be leased to the Ka Iwi Coalition (under Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui) for management and stewardship per the City and State restrictions.

As of the date of the application, the Department had signed the application and written a letter of general support as a potential landowner and manager; however, a managing division had not been assigned. Following discussions with State Parks and Land Division representatives, TPL and LHKH approached the Division with the request that it become the fee owner of the property. Shortly before the Commission meetings, the Division consented to holding and managing the property as an open space Forest Reserve.

After the Commission meetings, DOFAW reviewed the specifics of the acquisition prior to seeking Board approval. Although the State has not previously placed conservation easements over State-held lands, DOFAW planned to investigate the feasibility of granting a conservation easement to the City and County of Honolulu in order to be eligible for funding from the City’s Clean Water and Natural Lands Program, which typically requires a conservation easement a condition of funding. DOFAW also planned to consider the Ka Iwi Coalition, under LHKH, as a potential partner in managing the land. While Ka Iwi Coalition had expressed interest in co-holding a conservation easement with the City, DOFAW determined that it would not be feasible to place public Forest Reserve lands under a conservation easement co-held by a private nonprofit entity.

Following the communication of DOFAW’s position to LHKH, the nonprofit requested deferral of the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands item, and the Division agreed. On March 5, 2015, representatives of LHKH and TPL met with DOFAW to discuss the co-ownership of a conservation easement by LHKH. At this meeting, LHKH stated that the nonprofit would not be interested in having the State own the fee unless the nonprofit was allowed to co-hold the conservation easement. LHKH stated that it would like to amend its project application in two ways: (1) to have LHKH replace the Department as the fee holder of the property, subject to a conservation easement held by the County, and (2) to have the Trust for Public Land identified as the landowner from which the land would be acquired. Per a letter from LHKH to the Division, dated March 26, 2015, the first change would ensure that the property is managed in a way that is consistent with the community’s intentions, and the second change would allow TPL to purchase the property as an interim owner in order to secure the protection of the property until LHKH is able to assume title (Attachment II).

DISCUSSION:

The Division is tasked with administering the LLCP efficiently to achieve its statutory goals, while maintaining a fair and open grants process, ensuring compliance with program laws and rules, and overseeing responsible management of taxpayer funds. Pursuant to Chapter 173A, HRS, in order to award funds, applications are reviewed by the Commission, the Senate President and House Speaker provide consultation on the Commission’s recommendations, and the Board may then approve awards, which are subject to the final approval of the Governor. Additional program procedures are established in administrative rule (at Chapter 13-140, Hawaii Administrative Rules). Regarding the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands project, at this point in the FY15 grant cycle, the Commission and Senate President and House Speaker have acted, and the matter is now before the Board. The Division encourages the protection of Ka Iwi Mauka Land properties and supports the goals of this project; however, it does not recommend LHKH’s proposal to amend its project application be approved due to procedural and fairness issues with operation of the LLCP.
Typically, when an applicant seeks to change a substantive item in the project application after the annual deadline, the Division only allows an applicant to do so if the change is submitted in writing prior to the Commission’s final decision-making meeting. The reason for this policy is that the Commission makes recommendations pursuant to criteria that are set in administrative rule (HAR §13-140-39). The Commission uses these criteria to rank each project, which produces a prioritized list. Changing substantive aspects of a project that are considered by the criteria would likely change the outcome of the Commission’s recommendations. Since the process is competitive, going back to the LLC for only one project would be unfair to other applicants, and re-hosting the entire Commission decision-making process is neither feasible nor practical.

Since the Division is tasked with administering the LLCP and supporting the LLC on behalf of the Department, it is the Division’s responsibility to establish and oversee a clear and fair process. In the interest of administering the LLCP fairly and maintaining the integrity of the Commission’s decision-making procedure, the Division recommends disallowing project applicants to substantively change their proposals after the Commission has provided recommendations; specifically, the Division recommends disallowing LHKH and TPL to substantively change its proposal following Commission review. Under this recommendation, the LHKH and co-applicants would be able to apply on behalf of the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands project in the Fiscal Year 2016 Legacy Land Conservation Program grant cycle, and Fiscal Year 2015 funding would go to other eligible projects as ranked by the Commission. Under the December 5, 2014, recommendations of the Commission, the projects are recommended to be funded in the order ranked, to the extent that funds are available. Funds would be recommended for award to the projects that are ranked sixth and seventh, that is:

6. Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $583,875 for acquisition of 3,716 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas. (The project initially received a partial award at $416,125 of the initial $1,000,000 request; the $583,875 reflects the remaining amount).

7. Helemano; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (a partial award of a total request for $1,777,500) for acquisition of 1,420 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of recreational resources and public hunting access.

Please see Attachment IV for project descriptions, maps, and photographs relating to these projects.

While the Division does not support approving substantive changes to project proposals following Commission review, the Division notes that the Commission and Division are solely advisory to the Board. Under Chapter 173A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the ultimate decision-making authority for awarding grants through the LLCP rests with the Board, subject to the approval of the Governor. If the Board wishes to approve funding for the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands project, the relevant actions would be:

1) Approve amendments to the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands project application as described herein.

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1 In this situation, one aspect of the proposed project change relates directly to the Commission’s criteria, and may have affected the outcome. For example, “Capacity for long-term management” is a criterion that relates directly to the management capabilities of the intended landowner, and the landowner is one aspect of the project that LHKH proposes to change (HAR §13-140-39(14)).
2) Authorize the Chairperson to enter into agreements and encumber FY15 funds with the listed grant recipients for the following grant to a nonprofit land conservation organization:

   a. Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands; Livable Hawaii Kai Hui, at $1,000,000 for acquisition of 181.14 acres in Koʻolaupoko, Island of Oahu, for the protection of scenic and cultural resources.

using a total of $1,000,000 from the LCF, subject to:

   a. compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 173A;
   b. compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 343;
   c. execution of a Grant Agreement with the BLNR;
   d. certification of an appraisal for each project by the Department;
   e. insertion of Legacy Land Conservation Program restrictions into the deed as a condition of contractual agreements with the grant recipients;
   f. condition of contractual agreements with the grant recipients;
   g. approval of the Grant Agreement and of the Deed by the Attorney General’s office;
   h. the availability of funds;
   i. the approval of the Governor; and
   j. such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

3) Require the imposition of Legacy Land Conservation Program restrictions into the deeds as a condition of contractual agreements with the grant recipients and exempt project from any additional conservation easements that may be required under Section 173A-4, HRS.

4) Declare these awards of funds exempt in accordance with Class 1, Exemption 15, on the June 12, 2008, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Exemption List.

5) Authorize the Department to proceed with all due diligence and negotiations that may be necessary to carry out the grants and acquisitions mentioned above.

In summary, the Board has the authority, subject to the approval of the Governor, to fund the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands project, or, alternatively, the Board may elect to follow the recommendation of the Division to deny LHKH’s request to amend a project proposal for the 2015 grant cycle. The Division notes that the outcome of following the Division’s recommendation would be increased funding to the Division’s own projects; however, the Division emphasizes that its recommendation is based solely on procedural considerations in administering the LLCP. The Division has previously informed applicants for funding that a substantive change in a project proposal must be completed prior to the Commission’s review and recommendation. In the interest of fairness to program applicants, the Division elects to maintain a consistent policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1) Deny the request of the Livable Hawaii Kai Hui to amend a project proposal for the Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Program grant cycle.
2) Approve the acquisition of the following parcels and authorize the Chairperson to execute a letter of offer to the landowner and encumber funds, under the FY15 LLCP ceiling, from the LCF for the following Department projects:

6. Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $583,875 for acquisition of 3,716 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas. (The project initially received a partial award at $416,125 of the initial $1,000,000 request; the $583,875 reflects the remaining amount).

7. Helemano; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (a partial award of a total request for $1,777,500) for acquisition of 1,420 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of recreational resources and public hunting access.

Using a total of $1,000,000 from the LCF, subject to compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 173A, and the normal process and procedures for the acquisition of lands by the State.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
LISA HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

[Signature]
CARTY S. CHANG, Acting Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I: February 27, 2015, Board of Land and Natural Resources Submittal Item C-1
Attachment II: March 26, 2015, letter from The Trust for Public Land and Livable Hawaii Kai Hui
Attachment III: List of Fiscal Year 2015 Applications as Ranked by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission

Attachment IV: Project summaries, photos, and maps for the following projects:

Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $583,875 for acquisition of 3,716 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu.

Helemano; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 for acquisition of 1,420 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu.
State of Hawai‘i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

February 27, 2015

Chairperson and Members
Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Board Members:

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (LAND CONSERVATION FUND) AND APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING GRANTS:

KALUANONO AT WAIPA; WAIPA FOUNDATION, AT $398,250 FOR PURCHASE OF 1.8 ACRES IN HANALEI, ISLAND OF KAUAI;

KA IWI COAST MAUKA LANDS; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $1,000,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF 181.14 ACRES IN KOʻOLAUPOKO, ISLAND OF OAHU;

WAIʻOPAE; COUNTY OF HAWAII, AT $1,330,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF 322.167 ACRES IN PUNA, ISLAND OF HAWAII;

PUAAHALA WATERSHED ACQUISITION; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $855,625 FOR ACQUISITION OF 800 ACRES IN KAMALO, ISLAND OF MOLOKAI;

KALUAHA RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT; MOLOKAI LAND TRUST, AT $500,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER 969 ACRES IN MOLOKAI DISTRICT, ISLAND OF MOLOKAI; AND

PUPUKEA MAUKA; DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE, AT $416,125, FOR ACQUISITION OF 3,716 ACRES IN WAIALUA, ISLAND OF OAHU.

SUMMARY:

Pursuant to H.R.S., section 173A-2.5, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission (the Commission) has produced recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources on project selection for Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) funding from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP). Pursuant to H.R.S., section 173A-5, the Department has sought and received the consultation of the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives. This submittal summarizes these

ITEM C-1
recommendations for the Board's review and requests approval for projects to receive FY15 LLCP funding.

BACKGROUND:

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Recommendations:

In June, 2014, the LLCP announced available FY15 funding from the Land Conservation Fund (LCF) for projects proposing the purchase of lands having value as a resource to the State. Nonprofit land conservation organizations, county agencies, and State agencies applied for funding for seven separate resource land acquisition projects for the September 15, 2014, application deadline. On December 5, 2014, at a public meeting, the Commission ranked the projects and recommended that they be funded in the order ranked, to the extent that funds are available.

The result of this recommendation would be full awards of to the first five projects listed below, and a partial award of $416,125 to the sixth project listed.

1. Kaluanono at Waipa; Waipa Foundation, at $398,250 for purchase of 1.8 acres in Hanalei, Island of Kauai, for the protection, cultural resources, agricultural resources and natural wetland habitat.

2. Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $1,000,000 for acquisition of 181.14 acres in Koʻolaupoko, Island of Oahu, for the protection of scenic and cultural resources.

3. Waiʻopae; County of Hawaii, at $1,330,000 for acquisition of 322.167 acres in Puna, Island of Hawaii, for the protection of coastal, natural, and cultural resources.

4. Puaahala Watershed Acquisition; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $855,625 for acquisition of 800 acres in Kamalo, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed and natural habitat.

5. Kaluaaha Ranch Conservation Easement; Molokai Land Trust, at $500,000 for acquisition of a conservation easement over 969 acres in Molokai district, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed, natural areas, and habitat.

6. Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (of $1,000,000 request) for acquisition of 3,716 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas.

Details on each project are included in the discussion, maps and photos are attached as part of Attachment I.

Legislative Consultation

Following the Commission meeting, the Department and the Commission Chair sought the consultation of Senate President Donna Mercado Kim and the Speaker of the House of Representatives Joseph Souki regarding the Commission’s recommendations, pursuant to H.R.S. Chapter 173A. The Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives offered no
objections or comments to the projects listed as recommended by the Commission in letters dated January 12, 2015, and January 22, 2015, respectively (Attachments II and III).

DISCUSSION:

The following discussion describes the details surrounding each of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission’s recommended projects.

**Kaluanono at Waipa**

Trust for Public Land (TPL) and Waipā Foundation applied for $398,250 for the purchase of 1.8 acres in Hanalei, Island of Kauai, for the protection of cultural resources, agricultural resources and natural wetland habitat. Waipā Foundation and TPL will seek the matching funds to cover the remaining 25 percent of project costs from the Kauai County open space fund and TPL. The County of Kauai anticipates holding conservation easement over the land as a condition of grant funding.

Kaluanono at Waipā is habitat for the endangered Koloa Moa‘i (Hawaiian Duck), ‘Alae ‘Ula (Hawaiian Moorhen), ‘Alae Ke’oke’o (Hawaiian Coot), Ae‘o (Hawaiian Stilt), Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose), and the native Aukū (Black-crowned Night Heron). These native wetland birds traverse Kaluanono’s shallow stream banks, and the ‘Alae ‘Ula, ‘Alae Ke’oke’o, and Nēnē have been seen nesting on the property.

Kaluanono is a mo‘o kalo (narrow strip of land cultivated in taro) that is bounded by other lo‘i kalo (wetland taro patches), a pond called Kalokowai and Waipa Stream, and an ancient ‘auwai. The southern and southwest boundaries of Kaluanono are Waipā Foundation’s farm lots.

Waipā Foundation will hold the property and manage the natural, cultural, and agricultural resources. Kaluanono would provide Waipā Foundation a place to teach students about native wetland species and the importance of a healthy ahupua‘a, and an opportunity to expand its existing wetland bird curriculum for youth. Acquisition would allow Waipā Foundation to expand its current agricultural activities on the property, possibly planting an orchard with ground crops on the southern portion adjoining Waipā Foundation’s existing farm lots, and reopening lo‘i kalo (wetland taro patches) on the northern portion. Waipā Foundation will review agricultural plans with native wetland bird experts to prevent impacts on the property’s resources and wetland bird behavior. Waipā Foundation envisions a learning shelter in the middle of the property for visitors and students to observe and discuss the wetland habitat and agricultural activities.

Waipā Foundation is a nonprofit organization, tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC); its mission is to restore Waipā’s vibrant natural systems and resources; inspire healthy, thriving communities connected to their resources; and lead by example.

**Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui, and The Trust for Public Land applied for $1,000,000 for the acquisition of 181.14 acres in Ko‘olau Golf, Island of Oahu, for the protection of scenic and cultural resources. The Department, Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui, and TPL intend to secure 75% of the matching funds for this project from the City and County of Honolulu Clean Water Natural Land Program, private donations, and TPL. The Department will consider
granting a conservation easement to the City and County of Honolulu, which typically requires a conservation easement a condition of grant funding for its Clean Water and Natural Lands Program.

The Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands are part of a scenic landscape that can be seen from the trail to Makapu’u Lighthouse, Wawamalu (Queen’s Beach), Sandy Beach Park, and the various Ka Iwi Coast scenic lookout. In 2014, the State designated portions of this land as the Maunalua-Makapu’u Scenic Byway for its exceptional scenic, natural, and cultural resource values. Acquisition of these lands would safeguard undocumented ancient and post-contact cultural sites found on the properties. Sites that would be protected include traditional Hawaiian drystack rock walls, paths, enclosures and terraces, at least two pōhaku lele (balancing or floating rocks) that have religious significance, and a coral pathway and coral covered area. Protection of the properties also allows for managed public access with a focus on providing a peaceful and more secluded place for various Hawaiian cultural practices such as studying the night sky for voyaging, and offering oli and pule.

The Department will hold the property and manage it as an open space Forest Reserve. The primary goal of acquisition is to protect the land as undeveloped open space. In the short term, the property will be passively managed and left in its current state. Long term management would include a planning process and low-impact uses in consultation with the community. The Department will consider the involvement of the Ka Iwi Coalition, under the non-profit Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui, as a potential partner in management of the land. The Ka Iwi Coalition has had a role in caring for the area for over thirty years. As partners through an agreement, the organizations could connect the Department to additional expertise in native plants and birds, leaders in community building and stewardship, and volunteers and Hawaiian cultural practitioners that are interested in providing appropriate and dedicated care to cultural sites and landscapes.

Wai‘opae

The County of Hawaii applied for $1,330,000 for acquisition of 322.167 acres in Puna, Island of Hawaii, for the protection of coastal, natural, and cultural resources. The County has secured 50% of the grant funds from the County’s Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Preservation Program.

Wai‘opae is contiguous with the Marine Life Conservation District and supports anchialine pools and tide pools fed by springs that support a diverse coral reef community and a nursery for juvenile fish as well as an occasional resting place for the Hawaiian Monk Seal. The coastal tide pools that border this property are popular for snorkeling and swimming with local residents as well as tourists. The property also contains diverse native coastal wet forest, lava flows recently colonized by native plants, and caves and burial sites. The native lowland forest is rare in the Hawaiian Islands and provides habitat for native birds.

Acquisition would allow the County of Hawaii to protect this property from potential development into a subdivision in the lower elevation land along the coastline. The property is at low elevation in some areas (sea level to 20 ft. in the front third) and includes a long coastline (approximately 4,000 ft.) is therefore subject to rising sea levels, subsidence, and tsunami and storm surge inundation. In addition to preserving a natural and recreational resource, protection of the property prevents the potential financial cost to the County to provide infrastructure and the protection of the residents in this high hazard zone and the subsequent repairs when natural disasters strike.
Puaahala Watershed Acquisition

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, applied for $855,625 for acquisition of 800 acres in Kamalo, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed and natural habitat. The Division will seek the 75% of the total project costs as from two federal land acquisition programs with consistent purposes (Forest Legacy and Recovery Land Acquisition Program).

The Puaahala acquisition contains virtually an entire ahupua’a, including a critical watershed area with portions of the highest quality remaining native watershed forest on Molokai. Puaahala receives some of Molokai’s highest rainfall, at over 2,500 millimeters per year, and significantly contributes to the "Molokai Sole Source Aquifer," designated by the State Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) as a "groundwater management area," in which CWRM has determined that water resources are threatened by existing and/or proposed water withdrawals or diversions. Puaahala contains “Priority 1 Watersheds” designated in DLNR’s “The Rain Follows the Forest” plan.

The ahupua’a includes habitat for 48 listed species, including designated or proposed critical habitat for 40 species. The highest elevation portions of this habitat include ohia montane wet and mesic forest – prime habitat for native forest birds, the ao and uau, part of critical habitat for future recovery of the skokekohe, and kiwiku, and the opepea. Further downslope, vegetation transitions to an aalii dry shrubland, then mixed alien/ilima shrubland, and then non-native shrubland and unvegetated areas. The coastal parcels contain estuarine and intertidal ecosystems and the largest freshwater pond on Molokai. This rare ecosystem is only found in five locations on the island.

The Department will designate the mauka parcels as Forest Reserve and the makai parcels as Wildlife Sanctuary. The acquisition will enable the Department to install a planned fence for watershed protection and will allow the Department to provide access to the East Molokai Watershed Partnership to restore and manage the watershed values on this land along with the contiguous parcels it currently manages. The Department will ensure public access in perpetuity to high value coastal areas along with restoration of the coastal wetland habitat for indigenous species.

Kaluaha Ranch Conservation Easement

The Molokai Land Trust (MLT) applied for $500,000 for acquisition of a conservation easement over 969 acres in Molokai district, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed, natural areas, and habitat. MLT will seek 68% of the total project costs from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Recovery Lands Acquisition Program.

Associated with the conservation easement (inside or within a three mile radius) are at least 64 populations of 41 federally listed rare or endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("USFWS") has designated critical habitat for eight endangered plant species in the conservation easement, with critical habitat for 18 more in a three mile radius. USFWS Recovery Plans identify nesting, transitory corridor (e.g., nest to sea), and/or attractant (features that attract nearby species) for the Nene (Hawaiian Goose), Hawaiian Waterbirds, Hawaiian Dark-Rumped Petrel and Newell’s Manx Shearwater, and Hawaiian Forest Birds. The Moloka’i Plant Clusters Recovery Plan identifies seven included species near the conservation easement.

The conservation easement will also help to preserve and improve the watershed, which spans the ahupua’a and descends from over 4000 feet to near sea level before emptying into a vibrant
nearcoastal ecosystem that includes fishponds and a live, 35 mile fringing reef. From the native forest in the upper conservation easement to scrubland and grasslands below, retention of falling and flowing water will aid aquifer recharge essential to Molokai’s fresh water supply and furthermore minimize the amount of sediment impacting the near-coastal environment and marine habitat.

MLT will manage the conservation easement in accordance with the restrictions of the Recovery Land Acquisition Program. The short-term plan is to fence portions of the upper KRCE and begin ungulate control. Kalua‘aha Ranch joined the East Moloka‘i Watershed Partnership in 2012; the watershed partnership will begin fencing approximately 500 acres of the upper conservation easement as early as 2015. The long-term goals of the conservation easement are to control ungulates and other feral animals as necessary within the fenced upper conservation easement, eradicate targeted invasive plant species in conjunction with Moloka‘i Maui Invasive Species Committee (MoMISC), and to restore and create native habitat, focusing on appropriate critical habitat for endangered species associated with the conservation easement.

MLT is a nonprofit organization, tax-exempt under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and its mission is to protect and restore the land, natural, and cultural resources of Molokai, and to promote, educate, and perpetuate the unique Native Hawaiian traditions and character of the island for the benefit of the future generations of all Moloka‘i, particularly Native Hawaiians.

Pupukea Mauka

Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (out of an initial $1,000,000 request), Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas. The Division proposed to provide 79% of the total project costs; it has secured Recovery Lands Acquisition Funding and will also seek Army Compatible Use Buffer Program funding and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding from the 2015 Legislature.

The property’s elevation ranges from 600 to 2,266 feet and contains the two perennial headwater tributaries of Kamananui Stream which feeds Waimea Falls and enters into the marine protected area at Waimea Bay. The parcel provides excellent watershed function and is listed as Priority I watershed area under the Watershed Initiative plan. It is comprised of lowland wet forest and shrubland dominated by ohia, koa, and uluhe native forest and mountainous stream habitat. Twenty-five species of listed threatened or endangered plants or animals have been recorded as existing on this parcel and DOFAW anticipates that additional surveys will reveal many more rare species in this area.

DOFAW would designate the parcel as Forest Reserve and Public Hunting Area and would add trails to the Na Ala Hele Trail and Access system. Short term management goals would be to develop a comprehensive management plan for the parcel and secure implementation funding. Long term goals likely to be identified in the plan would be establishment of additional trails, picnic and camping sites, and establishment of a public hunting area to increase limited hunting opportunities. In addition to base operational funds from the State, DOFAW would apply for management funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife endangered species grants and State CIP. The planning effort would include writing of an Environmental Assessment to assess and minimize impacts of these uses.

In summary, in its recommendations below, DOFAW advises the Board to approve the six projects selected by the Commission and approved by the legislators, amounting to a total of $4,500,000 in awarded funding from the Land Conservation Fund. This amount will fund the first three listed
projects at the requested amounts, and provide a partial award of $416,125 to the Pupukea Mauka project.

Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 173A-4

Section 173A-4, HRS, sets forth two requirements for the Legacy Land grant process: it requires applicants to seek consultation of certain State agencies prior to submitting an application, and it sets forth in detail the framework for what type of deed restriction (including covenants, agricultural easements, conservation easements) may be required over properties being acquired with funds from the LLCP.

Agency Consultation Process

Section 173A-4, HRS, requires applicants to the LLCP to seek the consultation of this Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation with regard to the maximization of public benefits of each proposed land acquisition project. Consulting agencies can also provide input regarding other aspects of the project, including the level of legal protection on the land (e.g., whether a conservation easement is appropriate and what agency or organization ought to hold the conservation easement). Using forms supplied by the Department, FY15 applicants consulted these agencies prior to application deadline, and then included the results of this consultation to the LLCP along with the application form.

Conservation Easements, Agricultural Easements, Deed Restrictions, and Covenants

Section 173A-4, HRS, requires that organizations and agencies receiving funds under this chapter provide a conservation easement, agricultural easement, deed restriction, or covenant to the Department or another eligible agency. The law also provides that the Board shall be an owner of a conservation easement as a condition of the receipt of funding, and states that the Board or any agency or organization required to hold an easement may provide an exemption from that requirement.

To date, the Department has required all recipients of funds through this program to record restrictions in the deed of conveyance for the property. Similar to many federal programs, the Legacy Land restrictions for county and nonprofit grantees reference the grant agreement that is executed between the Board and the grantee, and also include the statutory restrictions on the transfer of the land provided within Chapter 173A, HRS. These statutory restrictions include payback provisions and mandatory Board approval for any subsequent transfer of the property. Per the restrictions, the owner must manage the land in a manner consistent with the protection of the resources as described in the original grant application.

While the Board currently possesses the optional authority to impose conservation easements on lands acquired by other entities, the Department advises that the deed restrictions imposed in previous years are more appropriate for the recommended Fiscal Year 2015 projects. Of the six projects being recommended, three are fee acquisitions to be held by the State, one is a fee acquisition to be held by a county, and one is a conservation easement to be held by a nonprofit. The one project that is a fee acquisition held by a nonprofit organization anticipates incorporating a conservation easement held by the County of Kauai.
Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes: Environmental Assessment

Class 1, Exemption 15, on the June 12, 2008, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Exemption List, states, “The award of grants under H.R.S., Chapter 173A, for the acquisition of interests in land, provided that the acquisition does not cause any material change of use of land or resources beyond that previously existing.” DOFAW advises declaring awards exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment pursuant to this exemption.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1) Approve the acquisition of the following parcels and authorize the Chairperson to execute a letter of offer to the landowner and encumber funds, under the FY15 LLCP ceiling, from the LCF for the following Department projects:

   a. Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $1,000,000 for acquisition of 181.14 acres in Koʻolaupoko, Island of Oahu, for the protection of scenic and cultural resources.

   b. Puuahala Watershed Acquisition; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $855,625 for acquisition of 800 acres in Kamalo, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed and natural habitat.

   c. Pupukea Mauka; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (of $1,000,000 request), Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas.

   Using a total of $2,271,750 from the LCF, subject to compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 173A, and the normal process and procedures for the acquisition of lands by the State.

2) Authorize the Chairperson to enter into agreements and encumber FY15 funds with the listed grant recipients for the following grants to State nonprofit land conservation organizations and counties:

   d. Kaluanono at Waipa; Waipa Foundation, at $398,250 for purchase of 1.8 acres in Hanalei, Island of Kauai, for the protection cultural resources, agricultural resources and natural wetland habitat.

   e. Waiʻōpae; County of Hawaii, at $1,330,000 for acquisition of 322.167 acres in Puna, Island of Hawaii, for the protection of coastal, natural, and cultural resources

   f. Kaluaaha Ranch Conservation Easement; Molokai Land Trust, at $500,000 for acquisition of 969 acres in Molokai district, Island of Molokai, for the protection of watershed, natural areas, and habitat.

   Using a total of $2,228,500 from the LCF, subject to:

   a. compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 173A;
   b. compliance with H.R.S., Chapter 343;
c. execution of a Grant Agreement with the BLNR;
d. certification of an appraisal for each project by the Department;
e. insertion of Legacy Land Conservation Program restrictions into the deed as a condition of contractual agreements with the grant recipients;
f. approval of the Grant Agreement and of the Deed by the Attorney General’s office;
g. the availability of funds;
h. the approval of the Governor; and
i. such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Chairperson to best serve the interests of the State.

3) Require the imposition of Legacy Land Conservation Program restrictions into the deeds as a condition of contractual agreements with the grant recipients and exempt projects from any additional conservation easements that may be required under Section 173A-4, HRS.

4) Declare these awards of funds exempt in accordance with Class 1, Exemption 15, on the June 12, 2008, Division of Forestry and Wildlife Exemption List.

5) Authorize the Department to proceed with all due diligence and negotiations that may be necessary to carry out the grants and acquisitions mentioned above.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
LISA HADWAY, Administrator
Division of Forestry and Wildlife

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

[Signature]
CARTY S. CHANG, Acting Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment I: Table of recommended awards for the Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Program with project maps and photos attached
### Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Project Rankings (12/5/2014)

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At its meeting on December 5, 2014, the Legacy Land Conservation Commission recommending that the Board of Land and Natural Resources fun the projects listed above in the order ranked, to the extent that funds are available, through the Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Program.

Currently, the estimated funding available is $4,500,000. With this estimate, funding the projects as listed would result in awards of the requested amounts for the first five projects listed, and a partial award of $416,125 to the sixth project listed. If an applicant should reject funding in whole or in part prior to the final grant approval of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the available funds would go to the other projects in the order of ranked priority (i.e., to the sixth project and then the seventh project).
Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose) on Kaluanono at Waipā property heading into Waipā Stream and the area of the ancient loko (pond) called Kalokowai.
Stacy Sproat-Beck looking at the Eastern boundary of Kaluanono made up of grass and trees
Attachment I
Kaluanono at Waipa

Mamaki and Ma'o (Hawaiian Cotton) on Kaluanono property
Attachment I
Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands

Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands General Location Map
234.167 acres  TMK: (3) 1-4-002:022  (Purchase, Net)

+ 322.167 acres  Selling or Selling at Gross  (Grossed)

= 322.167 acres  TMK: (3) 1-4-002:022  (Purchase, Gross)

- 26.071 acres  Conservation Easement

= 258.396 acres  Useable, Non-Conservation, Net
Attachment 1
Wai'opae

View of the Wai 'Opae Marine Life Conservation District tidepools

Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal resting in Wai 'Opae Marine Life Conservation District
Vegetation on upper portion of property
FIGURE 1. Aerial view of the wetland and freshwater pond and estuaries that provide waterbird habitat.
FIGURE 2. Aerial view from the south. Upland watershed forests absorb rain and cloudwater to supply the coastal springs that feed the freshwater pond and important wetland areas. The DLNR is seeking acquisition of the entire property from the mountain to the sea.
FIGURE 3. Aerial view from the north. The upland areas contain some of Molokai’s most intact native forest. The health of these forests are critical to reduce sedimentation of the Molokai’s south shore coral reefs – the longest fringing reef in Hawaii.
Pupukea Mauka Parcel Photos

Figure 1. View of the upper elevations of the parcel and the Koolau Summit.

Figure 2. View of the lower elevations of the property, wind mills, and Mt. Kaala and the Waianae Mountain range.
Mr. Carty Chang  
Acting Chairperson  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanikolu Building  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

January 12, 2015

Dear Mr. Chang:

I am in receipt of a letter dated December 08, 2014 by former Chair William Aila Jr., requesting my review and consultation regarding the Legacy Land Conservation Commission’s funding of projects for Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Program.

This letter acknowledges that you are seeking comment to fulfill your statutory requirement pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 173 A, that requires the Department to request consultation on the list of recommended projects with the Senate President, prior to submitting them to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for approval.

After review, we currently have no comments to the six projects as proposed in your attachments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Donna Mercado Kim  
Senate President

c: Kaiwi Nui, Chairperson, Legacy Land Conservation Commission
January 22, 2015

Carty S. Chang, Acting Chair
Department of Land and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 821
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Chair Chang:

Thank you for your letter dated December 8, 2014 in which you submit for my review, the recommendations of the Legacy Land Conservation Commission regarding funding of projects for the Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP).

Upon reviewing, I currently have no concerns or objections to the 7 projects as proposed in your attachment.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Souki
Speaker of the House
Aloha Ms. Schmidt,

The Trust for Public Land and Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui are writing to request that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve, with two changes, the funding recommended for the purchase and protection of the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands by the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. The first change is that the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui would be the future owner rather than a co-holder of the conservation easement. The second change is that due to the Ka Iwi properties being part of a federal court bankruptcy case, The Trust for Public Land may have to purchase the property as a bridge-owner before the State and City can release their funding, and then be reimbursed when the State and City funding is available.

Future Ownership and Care in Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui
For over thirty years, a diverse grassroots group called Ka Iwi Coalition has advocated for the protection of the Ka Iwi Coast spanning from Hanauma Bay to Makapu‘u. Ka Iwi Coalition now functions under the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui. Like the many previous conservation efforts along Ka Iwi Coast, the effort to preserve the last two threatened parcels on the Coast—the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands—is also community-driven. The community’s longstanding intention was for the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands to be a community-owned and managed cultural heritage preserve, under the ownership and stewardship of Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui. In 2011, Livable
Hawai‘i Kai Hui asked The Trust for Public Land for help to purchase and permanently protect the properties. The Trust for Public Land and Ka Iwi Coalition under Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui began to bring community leaders onto the properties and received feedback that the community would like to see native revegetation projects there to provide additional habitat for pueo and native and migratory sea and shorebirds. Excited about possible partnership opportunities with native species experts at DLNR’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), we began discussing ways to partner with DOFAW. We discussed the possibility of DLNR ownership, if there was a way to ensure that the community through Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui had a permanent role and voice in Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Land’s future.

Through discussions with the City, and former DLNR leadership, we decided on a partnership between DLNR as owner, the City as a co-holder of a conservation easement (a requirement of City Clean Water and Natural Lands funding), and Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui as a co-holder of the conservation easement. Under this scenario, Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui would add value to both the City and State as a co-holder of the conservation easement as it would assist the City in monitoring the property per the conservation easement, potentially aid the State in management and stewardship, and ensure that the community always stays involved in the property’s care. All three parties would contribute funding to the acquisition and/or land stewardship. The Trust for Public Land, Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources submitted a joint application to the State Legacy Land Conservation Program with the aforementioned project structure. Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui and the City & County of Honolulu submitted letters of willingness to co-hold the conservation easement as part of the application. After the Legacy Land Conservation Commission ranked the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands project #2 and recommended the $1,000,000 funding request in December 2014, DLNR informed our organizations that a nonprofit could not hold a conservation easement on land owned by the State.

We want to preserve the community-State-City partnership to quickly safeguard and provide the best future care for the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands. With Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui as owner, the State as a conservation funding partner with a deed restriction on the land, and the City as the conservation easement holder, the property will be permanently protected as a community-owned and managed cultural heritage preserve that benefits Hawai‘i’s current and future generations. We ask that the Board of Land and Natural Resources allow the recommended funding to move forward with this change in project structure.

Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui is an established landowner and steward, and is prepared to take on the kuleana of ownership and stewardship of Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands for the benefit of all of the people of Hawai‘i. Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui is the owner and steward of Hāwea heiau complex and Ke‘awa‘awa wetland, a property thankfully protected and funded in part by the Legacy Land Conservation Program. Under Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui’s effective and loving care, the property has gone from a former dumping ground to a welcoming respite where ʻalae ʻula (Hawaiian Moorhen) thrive, neighbors gather to regularly remove invasive species and plant natives, and hālau hula conduct ceremonies.
Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui is also the appointed steward of Pahua heiau owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, manages a nursery focused on native plants in Kamilo Nui Valley, and is a cooperator with the South O‘ahu Soil & Water Conservation District. The Trust for Public Land and Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui have committed to raising at least $100,000 for Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui to initiate stewardship studies and practices on the properties, including an archaeological study, a management plan, and a native reforestation project. Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui looks forward to further involving other community groups, schools, and ancestral descendants into the future care of the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands, and also looks forward to continuing to partner with DLNR in natural resource management.

Potential Need for The Trust for Public Land to Act as a Bridge-Owner
The property is part of a federal bankruptcy case and is currently listed for sale by a court-appointed Receiver. We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase and preserve the last undeveloped privately-held parcels on the cherished and culturally significant Ka Iwi Coast. The Receiver has sold all properties involved in the bankruptcy case except for the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands, and the court expects the Receiver to sell the Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands in the next few months. To preserve Hawai‘i’s opportunity to secure the lands, and for less than the tax-assessed value, The Trust for Public Land may need to take out a loan to purchase and hold the properties until later in 2015 when the City and State can release the funds.

We are requesting that the Board of Land and Natural Resources approve the $1,000,000 in Ka Iwi Coast Mauka Lands funding, whether the current landowner or The Trust for Public Land owns the properties at the time that the City and State can release the funds. The Trust for Public Land understands that the Governor typically releases approved Legacy Land Conservation funds in the summer, and that we may need to hold the properties until approximately the end of 2015 to allow the City and State adequate time to conduct their due diligence review. The Trust for Public Land views our ability to take out a loan and act as a bridge-owner as part of our public-private partnership with the State.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter,

Laura H. E. Kaakua, Native Lands Project Manager

The Trust for Public Land
1003 Bishop Street, Puaahi Tower, Suite 740
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813
Ph: (808)524-8562
Email: laura.kaakua@tpl.org
Website: tpl.org

Kind regards,

Elizabeth Reilly, President

Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui
P.O. Box 25493
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96825
Ph: (808)864-8081
Email: hawaiikaihui@aol.com
Website: hawaiikaihui.org
### Fiscal Year 2015 Legacy Land Conservation Commission Project Rankings (12/5/2014)

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Pupukea Mauka

Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, applied for $1,000,000, of which $416,125 was recommended for funding on February 27, 2015, and $583,875 is recommended for further award today. The project is for the acquisition of 3,716 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of watershed and natural areas. The Division proposed to provide 79% of the total project costs; it has secured Recovery Lands Acquisition Funding and will also seek Army Compatible Use Buffer Program funding and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding from the 2015 Hawaii State Legislature.

The property’s elevation ranges from 600 to 2,266 feet and contains the two perennial headwater tributaries of Kamananui Stream which feeds Waimea Falls and enters into the marine protected area at Waimea Bay. The parcel provides excellent watershed function and is listed as Priority I watershed area under the Watershed Initiative plan. It is comprised of lowland wet forest and shrubland dominated by ohia, koa, and uluhe native forest and mountainous stream habitat. Twenty-five species of listed threatened or endangered plants or animals have been recorded as existing on this parcel and DOFAW anticipates that additional surveys will reveal many more rare species in this area.

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Pupukea Mauka Parcel Photos

Figure 1. View of the upper elevations of the parcel and the Koolau Summit.

Figure 2. View of the lower elevations of the property, wind mills, and Mt. Kaala and the Waianae Mountain range.
Helemano

Helemano; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, at $416,125 (a partial award of a total request for $1,777,500) for acquisition of 1,420 acres in Waialua, Island of Oahu, for the protection of recreational resources and public hunting access. DOFAW is seeking matching funds for 85% or more of the project costs from the Forest Legacy Program the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program and the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislature and the Fiscal Year 2014 Legacy Land Conservation Program (a partial award of $350,000 was granted in the FY14 LLCP).

The Helemano parcel surrounds the Helemano Military Reservation, and is located downslope of the Poamoho Section of the Ewa Forest Reserve, near the town of Wahiawa. It contains a critical access route to DOFAW-managed lands, including the Poamoho Section of the Ewa Forest Reserve and soon to be created Poamoho Natural Area Reserve. DOFAW and the public currently have limited access to these public lands via an agreement with the current owner; however, this agreement is likely to be terminated upon sale of the property to an owner other than DOFAW. The Poamoho hiking trail and hunting area are popular recreational opportunities in Central O‘ahu and on North Shore, with as many as 55 hikers and hunters in one weekend. Currently, the trail is only open on weekends and holidays, and access is limited to 20 individuals per permitted day.

Acquisition of this parcel will allow DOFAW to secure public and management access to the Forest Reserve and NAR, and will provide much-needed base yard and office space for DOFAW programs and other stakeholders, including the Oahu Watershed Partnerships. DOFAW plans to explore options for agroforestry product development and off road vehicle and mountain bike park and public hunting areas. DOFAW will also use the access to the mauka Forest Reserve and NAR to manage listed species and implement the management goals of the Watershed Initiative, Poamoho Forest Reserve and Natural Area Reserve programs.
Photos of the Helemano Property

Figure 1. View of the Poamoho Hele Loa Access Road

Figure 2. View of gulch habitat and terrain looking toward the North Shore, Oahu

Figure 3. View of Kukui Tree agro-forestry stand on right and fallow pineapple land on left