

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

March 11, 2016

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 with Fiscal Year 2014 and 2015 Funds

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. With previous matching LWCF grant funds, State Parks prepared an update to the SCORP in 2015. The SCORP includes an inventory of the Hawai'i's recreational resources, including parks, boat ramps and small harbors, hunting areas, trails, and other recreational facilities. The update also assesses 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 2014 and 2015 totaling \$953,238, including \$38,500 in a Special Reserve Account that reflects balances from previous grant projects.

The four counties were notified of grant funds totaling \$473,917 for FY 2014 in July 2014 and they were invited to submit applications in December 2014. No applications were received by the deadline of May 1, 2015. However, the County of Hawai'i has requested an additional \$165,667 for their Hilo Bayfront Trails project (15-00168), which will amend their original grant from FY 2013 that was previously approved by the Land Board.

ITEM E-1

As outlined in the SCORP, the lack of County applications allows the remaining FY2014 funds to be used for State projects along with the apportionment of \$454,204 in FY 2015. Two projects are recommended for award with available FY 2014 and FY 2015 LWCF grant funds:

- 15-00170 Walkway Improvements at Wai‘ānapanapa State Park, Hāna, Maui
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Estimated Project Total: \$1,488,550
LWCF Grant Request: \$500,000
Matching Funds: State C.I.P.
Project Description: Replacement of the existing asphalt walkway and railing with a new concrete path, railing, viewing platforms, and benches. Project involves realignment of a portion of the walkway to reduce impacts on the private cemeteries within the park. This walkway is a major park facility that provides access to the shoreline and scenic views for park visitors.
- 15-00171 Renovation of Ballfields at Sand Island State Recreation Area, O‘ahu
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Estimated Project Total: \$600,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$287,571
Matching Funds: State C.I.P. and donation from Hawaii Softball Foundation
Project Description: Renovation of the 4-ballfield complex at the western end of the developed park area, including replacement of backstops, fencing, and dugouts, and new grassing with irrigation. Project also involves renovation of the comfort station and parking area adjacent to the ballfield complex.

These projects meet high priority recreation needs identified in the 2015 SCORP. The Wai‘ānapanapa project addresses the need for more pathways that encourage outdoor recreation and provide visitors an opportunity to experience the natural and cultural resources of Hawai‘i. The renovation of the Sand Island ballfields will meet the need for a high-demand outdoor recreation activity and renovate existing facilities to provide infrastructure for recreation.

RECOMMENDATION:

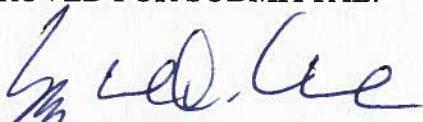
It is recommended that the Board approve the selection of the two projects described above to receive LWCF grant funds totaling \$787,571 with the understanding that the award amounts may be adjusted to reflect funds available and are subject to final approval by the National Park Service.

Respectfully submitted,



CURT A. COTTRELL
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne Case, Chairperson