

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



Hāwea heiau complex and Keawawa wetland, O‘ahu, HI

The Trust for Public Land is assisting the community non-profit Livable Hawai‘i Kai Hui (The Hui) to protect a 5-acre property in heavily-developed Maunaloa (a.k.a. Hawai‘i Kai), O‘ahu. The property contains a portion of Keawawa wetland, numerous petroglyphs, an ancient niu (coconut) grove, a once spring-fed well, and many ancient rock formations thought to be house structures, a Tahitian style heiau, agricultural terraces, burial sites, and Hāwea heiau. Oral and written accounts from 8 centuries ago reflect the importance of Hāwea heiau as one of the places that La‘amaikahiki’s canoe landed carrying with it one of only two pahu heiau (religious drums) – Opuku and Hāwea – used ceremonially at the royal birthing grounds of Kūkaniloko, in the piko (center) of O‘ahu. Keawawa wetland is home to approximately 9 of the remaining 300 endangered ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian moorhen), as well as indigenous ‘auku‘u (Black-crowned night heron), pinao (Hawaiian dragonfly), and possibly the ‘ōpe‘ape‘a (Hawaiian hoary bat) that historically lived in the area.

The community, including the current landowner Hale Ka Lae, deeply supports this project as it is a rare cultural treasure. The Hui’s goal is to protect, restore and mālama (take care of) Hāwea heiau complex and Keawawa wetland, and to create a cultural renaissance within Maunaloa through community education on the property’s cultural and natural resources. The Hui preliminarily envisions a small entrance space where visitors can learn about the area’s importance before entering, the restoration and preservation of all cultural sites, an environment dominated by native species, a pā pahu (pahu drumming area), a fishing hale, a la‘au lapa‘au (healing and medicinal plant) garden, and a thriving native wetland ecosystem that provides additional protected habitat and nesting grounds for the endangered ‘alae ‘ula and other native species. The Hui is removing invasive species in accordance with its Conservation Plan developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The property will be a community owned and managed cultural heritage preserve that will provide educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities to the Maunaloa community and the broader public.

Conservation Funding Sources

City & County of Honolulu's Clean Water
and Natural Lands Program: \$325,000

State of Hawai'i's Legacy Land
Conservation Program: \$325,000

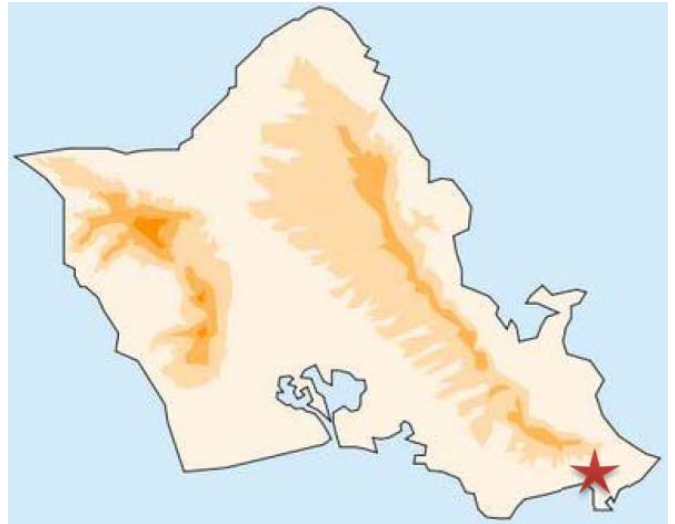
TOTAL: \$650,000

About The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to connect with nature. Our focus is on the connection of people and land, and how that connection is vital to culture, quality of life, economic well-being, history, and future generations.

We have been conserving land for people in Hawai'i since 1979 - over 30 years - and have conserved 42,037 acres on the islands of Hawai'i, O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i.

Through our projects we seek to engage local residents in protecting resources that are special and significant to their communities. Coastal lands, working lands that contribute to Hawai'i's self sufficiency, and lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture are our immediate priority.



Our Local Advisory Board

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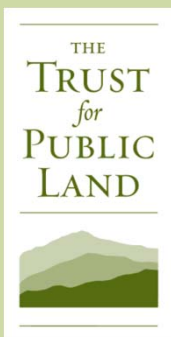
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enjoy as parks, gardens, and
other natural places, ensuring
livable communities for
generations to come.*

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