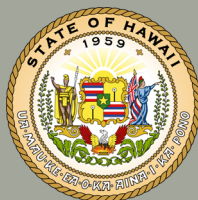


STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2021 *IN BRIEF*



DECEMBER 2021





Keiki on playground equipment, Kapolei Regional Park, O'ahu.
Photo Credit: Dionne Talia



A family volleyball game, O'ahu.
Photo Credit: Dionne Talia

INTRODUCTION

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or “SCORP” is an inventory of existing recreational resources; a report on the public demand and issues relating to those resources; and a strategic plan to address those issues and demands. Since the inception of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program in 1964, preparation of a SCORP, updated every five years has been required for states to remain eligible to participate in the LWCF program. The State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), under Act 236 (the Hawai‘i State Planning Act 1984), is responsible for preparing and implementing the SCORP.

The 2021 SCORP focuses on identifying and addressing the needs and challenges related to outdoor recreation in Hawai‘i. It further emphasizes the importance of preserving and improving public outdoor recreation resources for our way of life and the future of Hawai‘i’s economy. Purposes of the SCORP include: 1) identifying public and agency preferences and priorities for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities, which will guide the use of LWCF funds by state and county recreation agencies; 2) identifying outdoor recreation issues of statewide importance; and 3) setting forth an action plan in the form of goals, objectives, and strategies to address public agency priorities and recreation issues of statewide importance. The full SCORP is available online at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dsp/>. This document is a summary of the full report.

Between March and June of 2021, input was solicited on the SCORP update through an online public survey, 10 public meetings as well as a survey and small group meetings of outdoor recreation agency staff or “providers”. In total, 2,600 members of the public participated in the process.

¹ The LWCF program is administered by the Department of the Interior (DOI), National Park Service (NPS) and provides funding for the acquisition and development of public lands to meet the needs of all Americans for outdoor recreation and open space. More information: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm>

by the numbers

10

public meetings

2,600

public survey and meeting participants

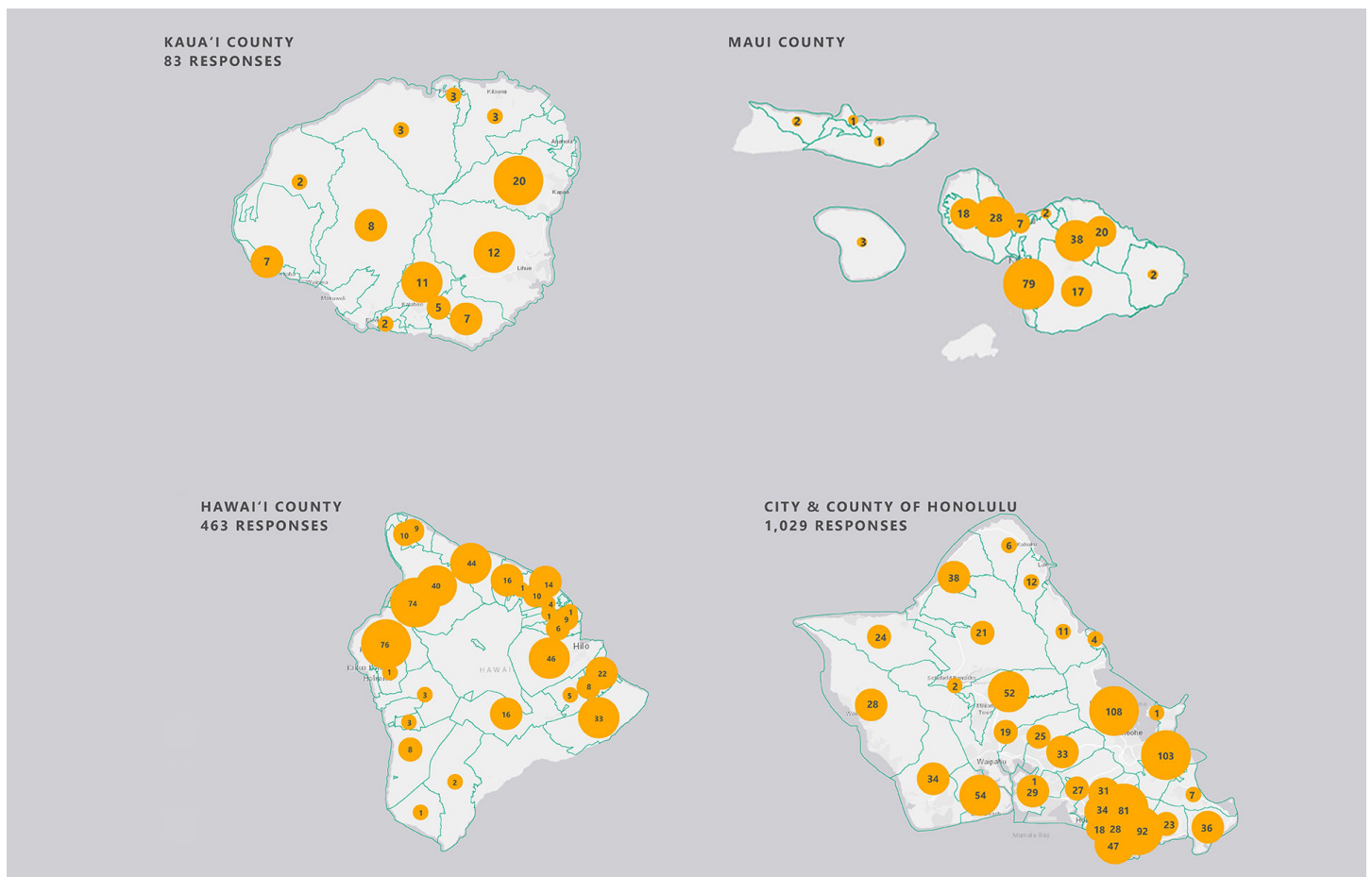
10

recreation “providers” meetings

40

agency staff engaged

Figure 1 - Public Survey Participation by Island.



EXISTING CONDITIONS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

A detailed outdoor recreation inventory and maps are provided as Appendix A in the 2021 SCORP. The tables below illustrate the distribution of outdoor recreation facilities by island and population. The tables below also illustrate the distribution of outdoor recreation facilities that have benefitted from LWCF investments by island.

Table 1 - Outdoor Recreation Properties by Island Land Area & Resident Population

ISLAND	POPULATION BY ISLAND (2020)	LAND AREA (SQ. MI.)	NUMBER OF OUTDOOR RECREATION PROPERTIES	NUMBER OF LWCF PROPERTIES
Kaua'i	73,214	555	150	22
Ni'ihau	84	72	no data	0
O'ahu	1,016,508	597	380	41
Maui	154,100	728	188	18
Moloka'i	7,369	261	25	1
Lāna'i	3,367	141	12	1
Kaho'olawe	0	45	0	0
Hawai'i	200,629	4,028	199	23

Sources: United States Census Bureau, and inventory maps found in Appendix A of the 2021 SCORP.

Table 2 - Properties per Unit of Population and per Square Mile

ISLAND	PROPERTIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE	PROPERTIES PER SQUARE MILE	LWCF PROPERTIES PER 1,000 PEOPLE
Kaua'i	2.05	0.27	0.30
O'ahu	0.37	0.64	0.04
Maui	1.22	0.26	0.12
Moloka'i	3.39	0.10	0.14
Lāna'i	3.56	0.09	0.30
Hawai'i	0.99	0.05	0.11

Sources: United States Geological Survey, and inventory maps found in Appendix A of this document

Highest value in each column is bolded.

TRENDS & NEEDS FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The 2021 SCORP highlights the outdoor recreation needs that recreation organizations, public agencies, and policy makers identified as priorities. Ranked priorities from the 2015 and 2021 SCORP updates are shown in the following two tables.

Table 3 - Recreation Needs, as Ranked by Recreation Providers

NEEDS/ISSUE	2015	2021
Protecting natural and wildlife resources and wilderness areas	4	1
Operating and maintaining existing infrastructure and facilities	1	2
Protecting cultural/historic resources	3	3
Providing public access to recreation areas	2	4
Preventing and mitigating vandalism of recreation facilities	6	5
Increasing opportunities in ma uka areas for hiking, camping, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities	7	6
Developing paths for walking, jogging, or biking	8	7

Table 4 - Recreation Needs, as Ranked by Survey Participants

NEEDS/ISSUE	2015	2021
Protecting natural and wildlife resources and wilderness areas	2	1
Operating and maintaining existing infrastructure and facilities	1	2
Protecting cultural/historic resources	4	3
Providing public access to recreation areas	3	4
Developing beach facilities and places for swimming, snorkeling, fishing, boating, and other sustainable ocean recreational activities	5	5
Preventing and mitigating vandalism of recreation facilities	6	6
Increasing opportunities in ma uka areas for hiking, camping, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities	8	7
Developing paths for walking, jogging, or biking	7	8

ISSUES

The 2021 SCORP identified ten key issues affecting the delivery of outdoor recreation in Hawai'i.

UNCERTAIN AND INADEQUATE FINANCIAL

SUPPORT: Achieving adequate and stable funding for outdoor recreation has been challenging, which has affected the ability of the state and counties to deliver the volume and quality of service the public wants and expects them to provide. In an uncertain funding environment, alternative means of financing outdoor recreational facilities become increasingly important, despite the challenges that they present. Uncertain and inadequate financial support colors nearly all of the issues discussed below.

INADEQUATE/INSUFFICIENT FACILITIES: Insufficient facilities were revealed as a key issue throughout the SCORP outreach process, with 40% of public participants noting that the lack of facilities throughout the state limits them from participating in outdoor recreation. Outdoor recreation providers mentioned that this inadequacy of facilities and insufficient infrastructure to support the number of individuals in outdoor recreation spaces contribute to capacity issues.

ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: Another issue that can often be a point of conflict is privatization or restriction of access to recreational resources, both ma uka and ma kai. Shoreline access continues to be a well publicized topic of conflict. Conflicts arise in ma uka areas where the public seeks hiking and backcountry experiences. Notable ma uka conflicts tend to arise when the public is traversing private property to access a known viewpoint or trail, or when hiker staging becomes a nuisance to residents who live near trailheads.



The vehicle queue at the entry of Mānoa Falls Trail.
Photo Credit: PBR HAWAII

FACILITY CONDITIONS: Operating and maintaining existing infrastructure and facilities ranked as the second most prominent challenge in managing outdoor recreation, and the second highest priority for investment in outdoor recreation by both the public and recreation providers. In many cases, these are aging facilities that require ongoing repairs and upgraded infrastructure.

COMMUNICATION, REGULATION, AND ENFORCEMENT: The need for additional enforcement was a strongly expressed demand by both recreation providers as well as public survey respondents. Providers indicated that enforcement is the number one challenge in managing outdoor recreation facilities, and over 100 public participants in both the public survey and meetings noted the need for additional enforcement and regulations in land and water-based recreation areas. Distribution of accurate and timely information to those participating in outdoor recreation is needed to promote safety, protect cultural and natural resources, and minimize demand for enforcement.

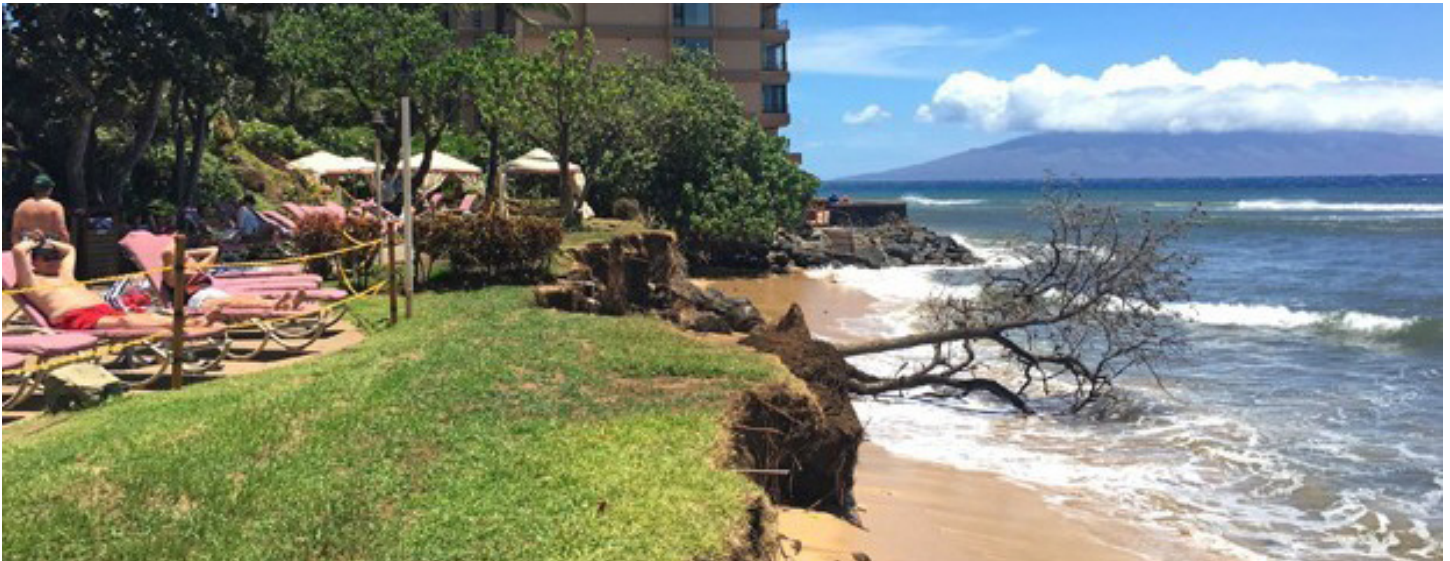
PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PRACTICES AND RESOURCES: Outdoor recreation can negatively impact traditional practices or even cause physical harm to archaeological and cultural resources. In some cases, this may be due to ignorance when adequate information is not available. In other cases, it can be the result of inappropriate or incorrect information being shared through unauthorized sources that can perpetuate inaccurate stereotypes. There is also a growing conflict over use of public spaces that are valued as cultural places, where recreational uses compete with or nearly preclude access by cultural practitioners. In other spaces, access is available, but it can feel to a practitioner or knowledgeable guest to be simply overrun by recreation use.

PROTECTION OF NATURAL AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND WILDERNESS AREAS: People can unintentionally impact the natural environment if they do not know about the fragility of their surroundings. In Hawai'i, outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy natural environment, but outdoor recreation activities can have unintended ecological impacts. Hawai'i's residents clearly recognize the central importance to the state's natural and wilderness areas for outdoor recreation and called for improvements to visitor management. In the survey, both public and provider participants rank protection of these resources as the top priority for investment in the next five years.

ACCESSIBILITY: Access to a range of outdoor recreation activities can depend on age, ability, and socioeconomic status. While the majority of Hawai'i's residents and visitors are able to take advantage of the outdoor recreation opportunities that the state provides, there are still barriers for some.

PUBLIC HEALTH EQUITY: The COVID-19 global pandemic has created disruption with the delivery of outdoor recreation in Hawai'i. It has also served to expose long-running issues (i.e. competition for outdoor recreation resources between residents and visitors), reveal opportunities, and spark innovation as society works to adapt to the health crisis.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE: Climate change, the increase in worldwide temperature due to human emissions of greenhouse gases, is beginning to have a noticeable impact on outdoor recreation in Hawai'i. The effects of climate change in Hawai'i will include an increase in air and ocean temperature, ocean acidification, sea level rise, increased drought frequency, and changes in the frequency and intensity of tropical storms (City and County of Honolulu Climate Change Commission, 2018).



Top: Coastal erosion, West Maui.
Photo Credit: Pac-1005

Left: Hawai'i freshwater resource system include clouds, diked waters, waterfalls, and streams.
Photo Credit: Ruth Blum

Right: New multi-purpose path through three County parks. (Mo'ohau, Hilo Bayfront, and Hilo Bayfront Soccer Field), Hawai'i Island.
Photo Credit: State Parks

OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The strategic plan sets forth overarching goals and objectives to address the needs and issues described throughout the SCORP and proposes actions to implement in the next five years to achieve the goals. Highlighted actions are those that have the potential to be addressed through the LWCF program, through technical support from NPS or through funding for outdoor recreation projects.

GOAL 1: INCREASE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

OBJECTIVE 1-1: EXPAND THE NUMBER OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT HIGH-DEMAND ACTIVITIES.

Action: Support beach activities through funding and development of support facilities, such as comfort stations, showers, bicycle racks and parking where warranted.

Action: Fund and develop additional multi-use paths in urban environments and neighborhoods.

Action: Fund and develop additional hiking, biking, horseback, and multi-use trails in natural settings.

Action: Support development of bike and pedestrian networks.

Action: Support development of bike and pedestrian linkages to existing and proposed parks, trail heads, and other outdoor recreation facilities.

Action: Construct additional multi-purpose or sports-specific fields and courts to accommodate an increased variety of uses and year-round play.

Action: Develop more backcountry, beach, and developed camping areas.

Action: Provide passive recreation facilities that can support socially-distanced large gatherings and festivals.

Action: Work toward developing public-private partnerships or agreements with community groups willing to develop new outdoor recreational venues.



Walkers and bikers on a paved path in Ala Moana Beach Park, O'ahu.
Photo Credit: PBR HAWAII

OBJECTIVE 1-2: EXPAND THE NUMBER OF ACCESSIBLE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND FEATURES WITHIN FACILITIES.

Action: Fund facility upgrades with ADA accessibility and compliance.

Action: Fund accessible playgrounds.

Action: Fund ADA accessible paths.

Action: Conduct county-wide and state-wide assessments of accessible outdoor recreation opportunities to identify gaps in outdoor recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

Action: Establish and maintain ADA accessibility compliance for features within outdoor recreation facilities.

Action: Actively pursue involvement from the disability community in park planning processes and on park and recreation advisory boards.

Action: Ensure that all new or improved outdoor recreation facilities meet the ADA Outdoor Developed Area Standards.

Action: Develop partnerships with disabled and elderly groups that create opportunities for these communities to participate in outdoor recreation.

Action: Provide education and training opportunities for providers on integrating persons with a disability and elderly people into their programs.

Action: Support lifetime sports, including bicycling, jogging, swimming, tennis, golf, and walking.

OBJECTIVE 1-3: ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES.

Action: Support development of bike and walking facilities as part of a multi-modal transportation system in historically underserved neighborhoods.

Action: Support the development or rehabilitation of multi-use paths in parks located in historically underserved communities.

Action: Fund development or rehabilitation of skate parks, courts, and sports fields in historically underserved communities.
Action: Encourage City and County of Honolulu (and other Counties as eligible) to assist the State in identifying and pursuing projects eligible for an ORLP Program grant.

Action: Conduct county-wide and state-wide assessments of the distribution of outdoor recreation opportunities to identify geographic and social gaps in outdoor recreational opportunities.

GOAL 2: IMPROVE THE OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE

OBJECTIVE 2-1: INCREASE FACILITIES MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES.

Action: Support initiatives that direct funds to maintenance of existing outdoor recreation facilities.

Action: Expand or create community partnerships through “adopt-a-park,” “adopt-a-beach,” “adopt-a-pier,” and “adopt-a-trail” programs to increase public involvement in caring for and funding recreation facilities.

Action: Work toward developing public-private partnerships or agreements with community groups willing to care for outdoor recreational facilities.



Community volunteers work on patching the Hilo go-kart track.
Photo Credit: Ron Carter

Action: Seek non-traditional means of providing maintenance services, where feasible, such as private contractors, community service organizations, corporate work days, and inmate work crews.

OBJECTIVE 2-2: MODERNIZE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

Action: Renovate popular recreation facilities to meet current needs and standards such as adapting tennis courts for pickleball.

Action: Encourage LWCF expenditures to rehabilitate well-used recreational facilities that are suffering from wear and tear.

Action: Consider creative adaptations to outdoor recreation facilities that may be experiencing declining use, such as integrating disc golf into public golf courses.

Action: Retain park architecture in renovation projects and keep elements that reflect the history and setting of the park.



Visitors at Waikiki Beach, O'ahu.
Photo Credit: Star Advertiser

OBJECTIVE 2-3: IMPROVE VISITOR MANAGEMENT AT POPULAR OUTDOOR RECREATION VENUES.

Action: Conduct capacity analysis using best practices nationally, adapted for Hawai'i, and the specific site conditions.

Action: Institute legally-defensible access restrictions¹ (such as permits, fees, capacity maximums) when warranted by diminished visitor experiences.

Action: Support efforts to develop bus stops, shuttles, and bicycle access to popular outdoor recreation venues to reduce demand for parking at the facilities and within nearby neighborhoods.

¹ Act 50 of the Hawai'i State Legislature acknowledges the State's responsibility to protect native Hawaiian cultural practices.

OBJECTIVE 2-4: FACILITATE SAFE OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES.

Action: Fund installation of safety infrastructure such as guard rails, lifeguard shelters, and lighting where deemed appropriate to protect the public from risk of injury.

Action: Promote use of the DLNR-sponsored platform, Outerspatial, for dissemination of accurate trail information.

The information you need to hike, hunt, and explore Hawai'i's outdoors is now in your hand.

OuterSpatial



Action: Expand lifeguard services to beaches of high priority need as determined through consultation with public safety agencies.

Action: Fund the development and deployment of safety materials online and on-site to ensure outdoor recreators have information to prepare for their experience in advance.



A volunteer beach clean up crew takes a break to celebrate their hard work.

Photo Credit: Michael Loftin

OBJECTIVE 2-5: ENCOURAGE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO PROVIDE ENHANCED OR INNOVATIVE IMPROVEMENTS AND SERVICES.

Action: Seek partnerships to provide unique and expanded outdoor recreation activities such as community gardening, interpretive programs, and ecological restoration work days.

Action: Support community capacity building efforts to increase the number and longevity of community/agency partnerships.

OBJECTIVE 2-6: ENHANCE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN RECREATION PROVIDERS AND PARTICIPANTS THROUGH MORE THOROUGH, RELEVANT, AND EASIER-TO-ACCESS SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

Action: Improve the quality and clarity of information about outdoor recreation on county and state websites. Review content frequently to remove out-of-date, low importance, or rarely accessed information.

Action: Work with hotels, tourism associations, and especially HTA to distribute information, especially related to ocean and hiking safety, to visitors about safe and respectful participation in outdoor recreation.

Action: Integrate technology into communications strategies including use of QR codes to minimize sign clutter, employing geofencing to direct messaging to consumers, and deploying relevant social media campaigns.



Lo'i Kalo at Hā'ena State Park, Kaua'i.
Photo Credit: DLNR Alan Carpenter

GOAL 3: PERPETUATE CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT SUPPORT OUTDOOR RECREATION

OBJECTIVE 3-1: INCREASE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP.

Action: Seek local knowledge and partnerships within communities to develop interpretive plans and interpretive materials and that tell the story of the place in which an outdoor recreation facility is situated.

Action: Work toward developing public-private partnerships or agreements with community groups willing to steward natural or cultural resources in outdoor recreation facilities.

Action: Encourage programs and partnerships that utilize citizen science to monitor ecological conditions such as bird counts and water quality monitoring.

OBJECTIVE 3-2: STRIVE TO ELIMINATE IMPACTS TO NATURAL OR CULTURAL RESOURCES FROM OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

Action: Fund interpretive materials online and on-site to educate about the natural and cultural resources of the place and how to interact with them while recreating.

Action: Support acquisition of lands that can be utilized for passive recreational purposes and provide habitat for native plant and animal species.

Action: Purchase buffers for cultural and historic sites to ensure the cultural landscape and historical setting can be retained while providing space for support facilities.

Action: Support dialogue between user groups and communities in which they recreate to establish place-based behaviors as a way to protect sensitive natural or cultural resources.

Action: Institute legally-defensible access restrictions² (such as limited or restricted access areas, closures for restoration, tours by approved guide, or reservation system) when warranted to protect natural or cultural resources from damage.

Action: Support efforts to implement HTA's Destination Management Plans such as community-based decision-making, and 'āina-based education.

Action: Support both educational and regulatory methods to protect wildlife and the environment.

Action: Implement monitoring programs to assess impacts/damage to natural and cultural resources at heavily used facilities and areas and share these findings with users through interpretive and resource management messages.

² Act 50 of the Hawai'i State Legislature acknowledges the State's responsibility to protect native Hawaiian cultural practices.

OBJECTIVE 3-3: TAKE PROACTIVE MEASURES TO SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SO THAT LIMITED RESOURCES CAN BE UTILIZED MORE EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

Action: Identify less sensitive lands that can be developed for activities such as motor sports and off-road vehicle use, and work toward development of adequate facilities to reduce street racing and illegal riding.

Action: Support education programs that teach responsible use of outdoor recreation resources.

Action: Endorse certification programs for nature-based operators, such as those offered by the Sustainable Tourism Association of Hawai'i and Nā Ala Hele.

Action: Support efforts to house houseless individuals who may otherwise impact parks and recreation areas and discourage use of these facilities by the recreating public.

Action: Build and strengthen relationships with daily park users (e.g. fishermen) to encourage reporting of illegal behavior.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT AGENCY INITIATIVES THAT PROMOTE COMMUNITY WELLNESS

OBJECTIVE 4-1: MAKE OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPENDITURES THAT CONTRIBUTE OR ENHANCE OTHER STATE AND COUNTY WELLNESS PROGRAMS.

Action: Support implementation of projects identified in state and county multi-modal transportation plans such as Hawai'i's Statewide Pedestrian Master Plan and the O'ahu Bike Plan; and the county "Complete Streets" policies, and Safe Routes to Schools projects.

Action: Plan and fund CIP projects that expand or make permanent pilot projects or "quick build" projects that have shown to be community successes.

Action: Participate in "pop-up" wellness events that encourage outdoor recreation such as "Bikes on Rice" and the skate park pilot projects (Kaua'i) sponsored by state and local agencies and non-governmental organizations.

OBJECTIVE 4-2: USE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND AREAS AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL IN INCREASING PHYSICAL FITNESS IN HAWAII.

Action: Encourage use of walking, jogging, or multi-use pathways by installing wayfinding and mileage/km markers.

Action: Fund development of playgrounds, skate parks on all islands, courts, and ball fields for youth.

Action: Promote programs and facilities where people work, learn, live, play and worship (i.e., workplace, public, private, and non-profit recreational sites) to provide easy access to safe and affordable physical activity opportunities.

Action: Plan and manage parks and recreation areas so that they promote activities that deliver health benefits.



The public pool at King Kamehameha Park, Hawai'i Island.
Photo Credit: PBR HAWAII

GOAL 5: PARTICIPATE IN INTER-AGENCY PLANNING INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND PLACES

OBJECTIVE 5-1: INCREASE INTER-AGENCY ENGAGEMENT AMONG HAWAII'S OUTDOOR RECREATION PROVIDERS.

Action: Coordinate regular meetings with LWCF SLO, County Parks and Recreation Department planners and administrators, and other recreation providers to exchange information about the LWCF program, upcoming grant cycles and solicitations, and collaboratively discuss resolutions to emerging trends and issues identified in the SCORP.

Action: Seek technical assistance from the NPS to gain more knowledge of the ORLP Program, potential eligibility, and insights to successful competitive submittals.

OBJECTIVE 5-2: WORK TO EXPAND FUNDING FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Action: Provide information and technical support to policy makers seeking to stabilize state operating and Capital Improvement budgets for DLNR divisions that provide outdoor recreation services.

Action: Support a reliable state revenue stream to fund the Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access Program, so that grants and federal assistance can serve as a supplement.

Action: Nurture the development of parks conservancies for high-value facilities that have the cache to attract multi-year philanthropic giving.

OBJECTIVE 5-3: ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT THAT CONSIDERS THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA LEVEL RISE.

Action: Support development of new active outdoor recreation facilities that are outside mapped sea level rise exposure areas, flood zones, and tsunami hazard areas.

Action: Support acquisition of lands that can be utilized for passive recreational purposes and ecosystem services such as flood control, or a buffer between the urban and wildland interface.

Action: Support investments in monitoring and research of impacts of climate change on outdoor recreational resources.

Action: Support planning efforts that incorporate Hawaiian traditional knowledge and practices in resiliency planning.

Action: Support the preservation and restoration of natural landscape features, such as coral reefs, beaches and dunes, forests, streams, floodplains, and wetlands, that have the inherent capacity to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Action: Encourage “managed retreat” for rehabilitation of outdoor recreation facilities that are located in flood prone, tsunami hazard, or projected sea level rise areas.

Action: Support the State Climate Commission’s recommendations for countering the impacts of sea level rise by encouraging agencies and non-governmental utility providers to identify and prioritize assets within the 3.2 foot SLR-XA or more, identify adaptation measures, and provide a status update on this activity annually to the Climate Commission (Department of Land and Natural Resources, 2018).



Outrigger canoe paddling, Maui.
Photo Credit: Jeffrey Moore

