Legacy Land Conservation Commission (LLCC) summary

Structure: HRS §173A-2.4 creates a nine-member commission that includes the following:
- At least one member from each county
- Four members with scientific qualifications evidenced by an academic degree in wildlife or marine biology, botany, forestry, ecology, resource management, biogeography, zoology, or geology
- One member from an environmental organization organized in the State
- One member from a land conservation organization organized in the State
- One member possessing membership in a state agricultural association
- One member shall be a person knowledgeable about native Hawaiian culture

Previously, the statute required that the NARSC Chair be the ex officio voting chairperson of the LLCC. The newly-passed Act 84, SLH 2012, now requires that the NARSC Chair either be a member of the LLCC, or designate a representative from among NARSC members to serve on the LLCC. The LLCC elects its chairperson from among its members.

Duties: Main duties are to review annual Legacy Land grant proposals and recommend projects for funding to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Unlike the NARSC, the LLCC is purely advisory to the Board and/or the Department. For the specific statutory duties of the LLCC, see HRS §173A-2.5.

Time commitment: The LLCC meets about seven times a year, usually in Honolulu. Time commitment is usually the greatest from mid-September to mid-December, when the LLCC reviews applications, conducts site visits to the proposed properties, and make decisions on grants. At minimum, members ought to be available: mid-October for a daytime meeting to arrange site visits, during the month of November to conduct site visits, and for two back-to-back daytime meetings in early December to recommend projects.

Subject matter: topics to become familiar with:
- the Legacy Land statute (Chapter 173A, HRS)
- aspects of land acquisition
- conservation easements
- Hawaii land use laws and regulations
- resources that are listed for protection
- grant-making topics and concerns
- administrative procedures/processes

Additional info: Commission membership, meeting agendas and minutes, funded project descriptions, and grant guidelines are available at: http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/lhcp/. Contact Molly Schmidt, program coordinator, at 586-0921.