

FACT SHEET: Kahanu Garden Acquisition

The National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) used Legacy Land funds to purchase 169.87 acres of land in Honomāʻele, Hāna, on Island of Maui. NTBG has integrated the protection and restoration of native coastal plant communities on the land into its neighboring Kahanu Garden operations and is maintaining the land as coastal open space and view-shed for the neighboring Piʻilanihale Heiau.



Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$1,500,000 for the acquisition, the remaining funds (approximately 40% of value) were provided by the landowners through a land value donation.

Public benefits:

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 173A-2.6, the Legacy Land Conservation Program is mandated to prioritize the protection of land in imminent danger of being modified, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its value, as well as lands having exceptional value due to the presence of unique aesthetic resources.

In 2002, two Maui families purchased the Kahanu parcel in order to remove it from the market and prevent a sale that might lead to the development of the parcel in an environmentally-degrading way. In 2006, the first year of the Legacy Land Conservation Program, NTBG was able to apply for funding and purchase the land from the families at about sixty percent of the appraised value of the land. This purchase allowed for the long-term protection of the land by NTBG, an organization that conserves lands and perpetuates the survival of plants, ecosystems, and cultural knowledge as part of its mission.

NTBG manages the land under the Kahanu Garden Master Plan, with the main purposes of maintaining the natural integrity of the property and preserving an appropriate buffer for the neighboring heiau. NTBG has established a native coastal forest preserve, expanded its breadfruit collection area, created an organic community farm, established a native riparian buffer along Honomāʻele Gulch, cultivated a pre-existing macadamia nut orchard, and has created environmentally-friendly footpaths and maintenance roads to improve access to the Garden.