

FACT SHEET: Kipuka Kanohina Acquisition

The Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i received Legacy Land funds to purchase three acres land near Kula Kai View Estates, Island of Hawai'i, to protect lava tunnel access and natural and cultural lava tube resources.

Funding and partners:

The Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$45,375, the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i supplied the remaining funds in the amount of \$15,125.



Photo courtesy of Peter and Ann Bosted

Public benefits:

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 173A-2.6, the Legacy Land Conservation Program is mandated to prioritize the protection of lands having exceptional value due to the presence unique and valuable cultural or archaeological resources, and also the presence of habitats for threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna.

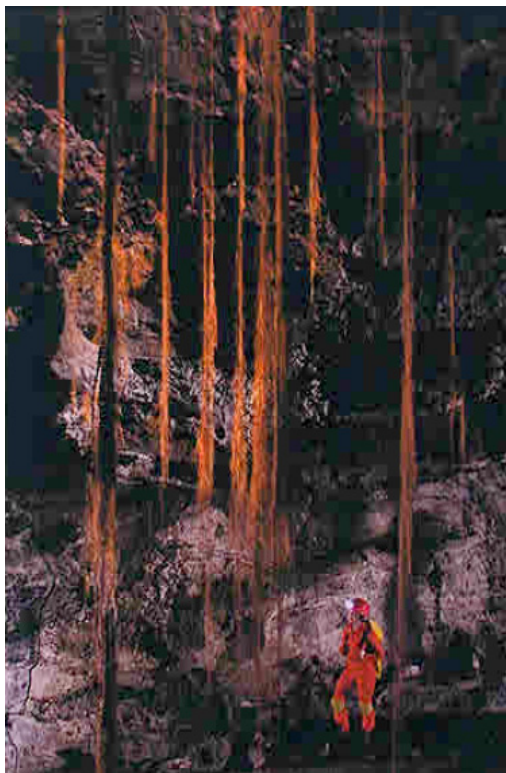


Photo courtesy of Peter and Ann Bosted

The Kipuka Kanohina system contains one of the longest enterable lave tube cave systems in the world and contains rare natural and cultural resources. Threats to these rare resources in the tunnel system include artifact collecting, illegal dumping, structural damage from development, introduction of exotic species, overuse, and vandalism.

The parcel acquired by the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i protects a large entry hall into one of the main egress points of the cave system. The parcel contains natural and cultural resources requiring protection, for example, extensive 'ohia roots provide habitat for a range of cave biota, and gourd cradles and charcoal trails that evidence previous uses of the tunnel are vulnerable to misuse or disturbance. The Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i has purchased and protected many parcels in the Kipuka Kanohina system and manages them for the purposes of scientific study, education, and conservation of cave resources.