

FACT SHEET: Kawa Bay Coastal Acquisition (Part II)



The County of Hawai'i will use Legacy Land funds to purchase 550.871 acres in Ka'u , near Kawa'a Bay, Island of Hawai'i, for the protection of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and coastal open space.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program awarded \$1,500,000, the County of Hawai'i dedicated approximately \$1,930,000 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded \$507,000 through the Recovery Land Acquisition Program for this acquisition.

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 of unique and valuable cultural or archaeological resources, as well as habitats for threatened or endangered species of flora, fauna, or aquatic resources.

This property is part of the second largest spring system on the Island of Hawai'i running from Ninole to Honu'apo. A two-acre spring-fed freshwater intertidal pond and numerous springs are located on the property. Two miles of coastline, native lowland vegetation, coastal Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Ka'ili'ili Beach is habitat for endangered hawksbill turtles nesting, the Hawaiian coot, threatened green sea turtle, a number of shorebird species and a candidate endangered Hawaiian damsel fly.

Ke'eku Heiau is located on the property, as well as remnants of dwellings, fishing shrines, canoe sheds, burial sites and petroglyphs. Residents and tourists fish, swim, snorkel, surf, pick opihi, and gather salt. The acquisition by the County of Hawai'i created approximately four miles of publicly-owned land starting at Whittington Park and Honu'apo to Ninole.

