

## **FACT SHEET: Kawaikapu Watershed Acquisition**

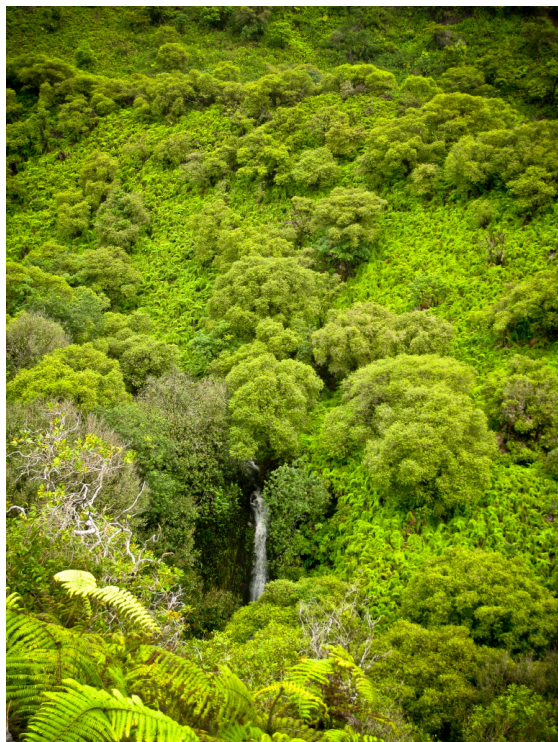
Moloka'i Land Trust (MLT) and Ke 'Aupuni Lokahi (KAL) purchased 196.4 acres in Mana'e, Island of Moloka'i, for the protection of watershed, cultural, and natural resources.

### **Funding and partners:**

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$767,976 and the County of Maui provided \$480,000 to cover the \$1,245,000 price based on the appraised fair market value of the land.

### **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 land that is in imminent danger of being modified in a manner to diminish its value.



The property ranges from sea level to 2,100 feet in elevation and contains perennial streams and the Kawaikapu waterfall. The watershed is threatened by degradation due to invasive species and feral ungulates. Cultural resources include terraced lo'i and auwai, and traditional stone walls and mounds, which are in various states of degradation.

MLT will hold the land and will implement access and management plans and create an inventory of cultural sites. The mission of the MLT is to protect and restore the land, natural and cultural resources of Moloka'i, and to perpetuate the unique Native Hawaiian traditions and character of the island for the benefit of the future generations of all Moloka'i, particularly Native Hawaiians. The County of Maui holds a conservation easement over the property to ensure the perpetual protection of its cultural and natural resources.