

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources

FACT SHEET: Nu'u Wetlands Acquisition



The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) used Legacy Land funds to purchase 81.447 acres in Nu'u makai, southeast shore, Island of Maui, for the protection of coastal wetlands, wildlife habitat, and cultural resources.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$994,724; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided \$1,794,500 through its Recovery Land Acquisition Program; and \$1,000,000 through its Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program.

Public benefits:

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

The lands acquired include about one mile of shoreline and some of the most pristine coastal wetlands on Maui. Surveys have documented 21 species of migratory birds using the area. The endangered Hawaiian Stilt, Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Duck, Hawaiian Bat, Hawaiian Monk Seal, and Blackburn's Damselfly have been reported from the site. Cultural resources on the lands include burial sites, red ochre petroglyphs, remnant walls, and a fishing shrine.

Acquisition of the land enables HILT to restore habitat and document and protect archeological sites. Natural and cultural resources are threatened by invasive species, predators, and human activities (illegal dumping and vandalism). HILT is working with the Kaupo community to draft a management plan that reflects the need to protect and restore the fragile ecosystem and take into account the community's values and vision.

