

FACT SHEET: Lapakahi State Historical Park Acquisition

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, used Legacy Land funds to acquire 17.05 acres in Lapakahi, Kohala, Island of Hawai‘i, for the protection of coastal, cultural, and natural resources.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai‘i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$1,250,000; the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provided \$1,250,000 through its Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program; and The Trust for Public Land provided the State of Hawai‘i with technical assistance for the 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 lands that are in imminent danger of development.

The land acquired is an in-holding surrounded on three sides by Lapakahi State Historical Park and fronts the Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District. There are over 19 identified archeological sites on the property, including walled enclosures, platforms, terraces, paved house sites, and important religious features and burials. According to extensive archeological research within the Park, the sites date from the pre-contact period, circa A.D. 1300 or earlier. The Ala Kahakai National Historical trail also runs through the property.

Acquisition of the land by the State has removed the threat of development and has protected the cultural sites in the context of the surrounding Lapakahi State Historical Park. The acquisition also protects the neighboring protected marine area from potential runoff and erosion due to development. The Division of State Parks manages the land for cultural access and visitation, and monitors sites to prevent impacts from vegetation and destructive human activities.

