

FACT SHEET: Pao'o Coastal Acquisition



The County of Hawai'i used Legacy Land funds to purchase 10.61 acres within Pao'o ahupua'a, North Kohala District, Island of Hawai'i, for the protection of coastal lands, open space, and cultural resources.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$945,000; the County of Hawaii provided \$945,000 through its Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Program; and The Trust for Public Land facilitated the acquisition.

Public benefits:

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 173A-2.6, the Legacy Land Conservation Program is mandated to prioritize the protection of land 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, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its value.

At least 27 archeological and cultural sites have been identified on the Pao'o land, including habitation structures, burials, canoe hales and a shrine. Acquisition by the County of Hawaii protects these resources from inappropriate development and destructive human uses.

Over 2,000 feet of shoreline is also protected for public ocean access and recreational activities, including swimming, diving, snorkeling, fishing, wildlife watching, and hiking along the Ala Kahakai trail.

The County of Hawai'i will manage the land as a county park, for the protection of the cultural resources and continuation of non-destructive recreational and ocean access uses. The County will work with agencies, community groups, and cultural practitioners to form a plan for the conservation of the property. This acquisition is part of a broader effort by the County of Hawai'i to conserve coastal lands in the Kohala region.

