

FACT SHEET: Hāwea Heiau and Keawawa Wetland Acquisition



The Livable Hawaii Kai Hui (LHKH) used Legacy Land funds to purchase five acres including the Hāwea heiau complex and Keawawa wetland in Maunaloa, Island of O‘ahu, for the protection of the cultural and natural resources.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai‘i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided \$325,000, the City and County of Honolulu provided \$325,000 through its Clean Water and Natural Lands Program, and The Trust for Public Land provided technical assistance.

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 having habitats for threatened or endangered species of flora, fauna, or aquatic resources.



The lands acquired includes the Hāwea heiau complex and Keawawa wetland. The acquisition of this land will protect a spring-fed estuarine wetland that is nursery ground for young fish and shellfish and habitat for Hawaiian moorhen (‘ālae ‘ula). The purchase will protect a portion of a heiau, petroglyphs, terraces and fishpond remnants, as well as active cultural uses of the property.

LHKH will steward the property for the continuation of cultural practices on the property, and the restoration of cultural and natural resources on the property. LHKH plans to restore the agricultural terraces where appropriate and will work with native plant specialists to remove invasive plants and animals and replant the area with native plants.

LKHK’s mission as a nonprofit includes preservation of the agricultural lands in Kāmiloni Valley, natural watersheds and adequate open spaces and community stewardship for the protection of watersheds, wetlands, natural and scenic resources and cultural and historic areas in East Honolulu.

