

FACT SHEET: Kaiholena Coastal Acquisition



The County of Hawai'i used Legacy Land funds to purchase 76.55 acres in Kaiholena, North Kohala, Island of Hawai'i, to protect coastal access, open space, and archeological resources.

Funding and partners:

The State of Hawai'i Legacy Land Conservation Program provided approximately \$1,432,000 and the County of Hawai'i provided approximately \$2,568,000 through its Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Program.

Public benefits:

Under Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 173A-2.6, the Legacy Land Conservation Program is mandated to prioritize the protection of lands containing cultural or archaeological sites or resources that are in danger of theft or destruction, as well as lands having exceptional value due to the presence of unique aesthetic resources.

Kaiholena is home to over 200 documented archeological sites, including two heiau, an ahu and a holua; this property has the highest concentration of cultural sites on the North Kohala coast. The acquisition of this land will protect these cultural resources from development and preserve current cultural and recreational uses of the property, which contains a portion of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Protecting this land from development will help maintain healthy reef ecosystem along the Kohala coast, where several threatened and endangered species are found, and will also preserve several miles of scenic coastline.

The current landowner has the ability to build on the property (county zoned Ag-5) without needing any further permits. The State Legacy Land and county open space programs will enable the County of Hawai'i to negotiate a voluntary acquisition with the landowner to secure protection of the resources.

The County of Hawai'i holds the land as a county park and maintains the land for public access uses of fishing, swimming, snorkeling, and hiking. The County of Hawaii stewards the property's cultural and archeological resources through partnerships with community organizations and local agencies.

