

Legacy Land Conservation Commission Meeting 91

January 7, 2026

Item B Permitted Interaction Group Reports

B.1.1 DLNR-Division of Forestry and Wildlife
East Maui Coastal Forest (To Be Presented)

B.1.2 Ke Ao Hali'i
Haneo'o Aina (ENCLOSED)

B.1.3 Ua Mau Ke Ea
Haneo'o (To Be Presented)

B.1.4 Save Honolua Coalition
Honolua (To Be Presented)

B.1.5 Self Sponsored Sports
Roots in Resilience Project (To Be Presented)

B.1.6 Hui Wa'a O Moloka'i
Mālama Kaunakahakai (ENCLOSED)

B.1.7 KHM International
Kaloko'eli Shoreline (ENCLOSED)

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT
Meeting 91, January 7, 2026, Agenda Item B.1.2

KE AO HALI'I HANEO'O 'ĀINA ACQUISITION FEE SIMPLE HANEO'O, HĀNA, MAUI



Introduction



Haneo'o 'Āina field visit group photo (left to right): Scott Crawford (Ke Ao Hali'i board), Beth Robinson (LLCC), Hau'oli Kahaleuahi (Ke Ao Hali'i board Secretary), Uncle Sam Akoi (Ke Ao Hali'i board), Alex Kelepolo (LLCC), Kanoe Wilson (LLCC), (front) Dominique Cordy (Huliaupaa and huakai rep for the Puhi Ohana Land Trust), Kim Falinski (LLCC), & Kalena Lee-Agcaoili (Nohopapa/Huliaupapa'a). Not in pic: Sol Church

This report is presented to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission regarding the 2026 Legacy Land Grant application for the Haneo'o 'Āina Acquisition submitted by Ke Ao Hali'i, located in the district of Hāna, on Maui. The field visit was conducted on Saturday, December 6, 2025, with the following Commissioners present: Kanoe Wilson (Lead), Kim Falinski, Alexandra Kelepolo, and Beth Robinson. The site visit also included board members from Ke Ao Hali'i, Scott Crawford, Uncle John "Irish" O'Hara (KAH board Chair), Uncle Sam Akoi, Hau'oli Kahaleuahi, members from Hamoa-Haneo'o Fishing Village 'Ohana: Aunty Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Uncle Earl Oliveira-Medeiros, Sol Church Nae'ole, Kaeo and community members Kahu Naone Lyons, Kainoa Horcajo, & Kelson Kihei.

Report Summary

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT

Group Members: Kanoe Wilson, Kim Falinski, Alex Kelepolo, Beth Robinson
Group Leader: Kanoe Wilson
Group Purpose: Investigate application for a grant from the Land Conservation Fund
Applicant: Ke Ao Hali‘i
Application: Haneo‘o ‘Āina
Location (District/Island): Hāna, Maui
Total acreage: 115
Number of parcels: 8
TMKs: County of Hawai‘i (2) 1-4-007:005, :011, :012, :019-023
Acquisition Type: Fee Simple

	(1) Fee Simple
Estimated Land Value (\$)	\$4,500,000.00
Estimated Total Project Costs (\$)	\$5,454,900.00
Funding request (\$)	\$4,054,900.00
Estimated Matching Funds (%)	26%



Day/Date/Time of Field Visit:
Saturday, December 6, 2025,
11:00am - 2:30pm

Host(s) and Affiliation(s):
Ke Ao Hali‘i, Haneo‘o-Hāmoa Fishing Village ‘Ohana,
Nohopapa/Huliauapa‘a

Field Visit Summary

The group gathered across from Kōkī Beach near the lower boundary of the property and was greeted by members of Ke Ao Hali'i, the Haneo'o–Hāmoa Fishing Village 'Ohana, Nohopapa, and community members (approximately 20 people). Uncle Irish opened the visit with pule. Kahu Lyons then oriented the group to the broader region, an area layered with mo'olelo of Pele, Namaka, Hina, Maui, 'Ai'ai, Ku'ula, and others whose stories remain embedded in the landscape. Haneo'o is recognized as the site of the epic battle between Pele and Namaka, with KaiwioPele identified as the place where Pele's physical form was destroyed and her iwi transformed into the surrounding coastline.

Following introductions, the group traveled in three vehicles to the upper portion of the property to begin the field visit. The applicant confirmed permission to access the land. The property consists of approximately 115 acres across eight parcels within the ahupua'a of Haneo'o, Hāna, Maui, situated between the Hāna Highway and Kōkī Beach Park. Entry was made through an existing gate, opened by Scott, which is also used by Hāna Ranch, the current lessee of the property.



The field visit was guided by Hau'oli, Uncle Sam, and Sol, who led the group through the property. Kalena of Nohopapa shared archival research and mapping related to wahi pana and other significant cultural sites within the property and surrounding area.

Key areas visited included the upper northeast corner of the property near Hāna Highway and Kōkī Beach Road, the Pāikalani area near the proposed subdivision access, Kūmaka Fishpond, Maka'ala, and Mokae.

The visit provided commissioners with a mo'olelo-rich orientation to the region, offering critical context for the land's cultural, ecological, and historical significance, as well as the urgency expressed by community members to protect this wahi pana. The landscape reflects centuries of history, including battle sites, places associated with akua and kupua, ancient fishing grounds, and the remnants of a once-thriving 'ohana fishing village.



Throughout the visit, community members shared deep contextual knowledge at each site, weaving together genealogies and enduring relationships between land, sea, and story. Nearby, Opu o Hina was identified as the birthplace of Maui, situating Haneo'o within a broader constellation of Polynesian

creation narratives. Hinahele, Maui's mother, is associated with nearby landscape features and Alau Islet, described as resting along the palena of Kanaloa's domain. The presence of the he'e, a kinolau of Kanaloa, remains visible in offshore reef formations.

At each location, it was emphasized that these sites are part of a living cultural memory. This was reflected in discussions of Kūmaka Fishpond, a spring-fed loko i'a associated with Kihawahine, the mo'o guardian of the area. A flat stone linked to this mo'olelo

remains a key marker of the site. Historically, mullet were known to spawn there in March, sustaining 'ohana for generations.

Following the December 6, 2025 field visit, additional mo'olelo and contextual 'ike were shared by lineal descendants and community members. These narratives further illuminate the cultural, ecological, and spiritual significance of Haneo'o and its surrounding ahupua'a, reinforcing the interconnected mauka-to-makai systems,

subsistence practices, and ancestral stewardship that continue to guide community priorities for the care of this 'āina.



Cultural & Historical Significance

As we walked, community members spoke to the legacy of the Hāmoa–Haneo'o Fishing Village, where families such as the Puhi 'ohana lived, fished, farmed, and thrived. Aunty Mavis and Uncle Earl offered stories of the vibrant

community that once flourished in this area—one where the shoreline provided abundant fish, 'opih, he'e, limu, and kaunaoa, and where extended 'ohana stewarded the land collectively.

Additional wahi pana identified by community members include Pu'uhele, a renowned surf break located outside Kumaka (Kuamaka) Ioko i'a. Pu'uhele is remembered as a favored surfing place of ali'i and their children, with stories of celebrated surfers drawing people from across the region. Oral histories recount that when waves were absent elsewhere, Pu'uhele could be relied upon, underscoring its cultural and recreational importance.

The group discussed the movement and displacement of kuleana lands, a concern raised with substantial emotion by descendants present. Over time, these parcels have shifted due to survey changes, land transactions, and shifting access points, leading to uncertainty about kuleana boundaries and rights.

Community members highlighted that lack of access continues to be one of the most pressing challenges. Traditional fishing areas, cultural sites, and gathering grounds have become increasingly difficult to reach.



Representatives from Ke Ao Hali‘i shared updates regarding their relationship with Hāna Ranch / Ranch Partners LLC, the current landowners of surrounding parcels. While there has been very little communication, more sustained collaboration will be needed to ensure access, stewardship, and cultural site protection.

Community members also shared mo‘olelo recounting that Kamehameha I once came to Haneo‘o and restored the Hōkū‘ula loko i‘a (also referred to as the Haneo‘o fishpond) after it had fallen into disrepair. In connection with this visit, two heiau were said to have been constructed—one located within the area of the subject parcels and another upslope near adjacent kuleana lands. Both heiau were reportedly destroyed during the 1946 tsunami. While limited written documentation remains, lineal descendants retain ‘ike of their locations, and ‘ohana continue to mālama these areas by discouraging disturbance and informal use.

Observations from the ‘Āina



The land itself carries profound natural and cultural richness. The group observed:

- Native species including kaunaoa
- The spring-fed hydrology feeding into the loko i‘a
- Kaholopo‘o Stream
- Evidence of longstanding subsistence practices tied to the seasonal cycles of the fishpond

- Pu‘uhele surf break
- A shoreline shaped by Pele’s mo‘olelo and volcanic history

As we visited these sites, members pointed out specific physical features including a

pu‘u named Pāikalani that align closely with mo‘olelo oral tradition. Kalena noted the existence of maps and nūpepa references from the **1860s**, which she shared as part of the ongoing documentation effort and working with community to continue the perpetuation of the names of these wahi pana.

Applicants shared about the water resources on the property with the occurrence of springs and Kaholopo‘o stream which is intermittent. It was shared with us that several kuleana awards still exist, within the subject property bounds, that retain their appurtenant rights to water which current subdivision and subsequent development threatens to extinguish. However, we were also informed that the property above used by the ranch also collects the water via a well and reservoir.

Community members emphasized the critical role of underground freshwater springs that feed the loko i‘a, nearshore waters, and surrounding reefs across the ahupua‘a of ‘Aleamai, Haneo‘o, Hāmoa, and Mokae. These spring systems sustain traditional subsistence fishing practices that continue today, supporting limu growth, reef health, fish populations, and overall ecosystem balance.

The area remains a vital food source due to its accessibility—allowing families to fish, dive, and net directly from shore—and its reputation for abundance. This ecological productivity was further linked to mo‘olelo of ‘Ai‘ai, who placed the stone Kū-a-Lanakila outside the Kumaka fishpond and proclaimed that fish and other seafood would return, affirming the area’s long-



standing role as a place of sustenance and renewal.

During the field visit, commissioners observed numerous vehicles parked along the shoreline near Pu‘uhele, with surfers actively accessing the area carrying surfboards. This visible activity demonstrated that Pu‘uhele remains a heavily used surf break today, reflecting its continued importance as a recreational and cultural site. The level of use observed firsthand by commissioners reinforces community accounts of Pu‘uhele as a reliable and accessible surf location that continues to draw practitioners from near and far.

Throughout the morning, commissioners witnessed the strong pilina between community members and their ‘āina, and their determination to ensure this land remains available for future generations.

Key Issues Raised During the Visit

While the visit was grounded in ‘ike and aloha, community members were candid about several pressing concerns:



1. Access Restrictions

Families are experiencing greater difficulty accessing fishing areas, cultural sites, and historic kuleana parcels.

2. Movement of Kuleana Lands

There are worries about shifting kuleana boundaries, undocumented changes, and the potential loss of ancestral land rights due to lot line consolidation and resubdivision permitting by the land owners. This includes kuleana rights tied to land, gathering, and water.

3. Coordination With Landowners

Further collaboration with Ranch Partners LLC is needed to support access, planning, and long-term cultural stewardship.

4. Need for Documentation

Additional mapping, archival research, and designation of wahi pana are needed to support historical continuity and protect cultural resources. This effort began with Huliauapa'a who did extensive archival research supporting this area, and this initiative in a recent workshop series in partnership with Kipuka Kuleana and Ala Kukui (May and August 2025).

Opportunities & Recommendations

Community members expressed a strong desire to see this land protected under stewardship models that honor cultural practices, public access, and 'ohana involvement.

Recommendations raised during the visit include:

- Developing a **comprehensive connectivity map** of all Ke Ao Hali'i parcels to understand how Haneo'o fits within the wider conservation mosaic.
- Creating detailed **natural and cultural resource inventories** for each TMK, including hydrology, flora, fauna, archaeological sites, and wahi pana.
- Strengthening partnerships among Ke Ao Hali'i, Nohopapa/Huliauap'a, 'ohana, and Ranch Partners LLC.
- Consolidating **archival maps, historical documents, and mo'olelo** to support cultural claims and place-based management planning.
- Exploring avenues for improved **legal and physical access** that honor both kuleana rights and conservation goals.

Conclusion

The Haneo'o field visit offered commissioners an in-depth, heartfelt, and culturally grounded perspective on the significance of this 'āina. The stories shared by 'ohana and cultural practitioners illuminated the depth of history embedded in the land and

underscored the urgency of protecting these wahi pana from further displacement, inaccessibility, or degradation.

The ‘āina of Haneo‘o continues to feed, teach, and guide its people. The pilina observed between community members and their ‘āina reflects a commitment to ongoing stewardship and a desire to ensure that future generations may continue to walk, learn, and live within these stories.

A follow-up meeting was scheduled on December 10, 2025 to discuss application details, next steps, and commissioner recommendations moving forward.

Application Issues / Questions

Application Process

The applicant for this request is **Ke Ao Hali‘i**, who has submitted the full 2026 LLCP application to acquire **all eight Haneo‘o–Kōkī parcels** totaling approximately **115.6 acres** (Form 2). While Ke Ao Hali‘i is the submitting entity, the application notes an ongoing conversation with **Hawai‘i Land Trust (HILT)** as the proposed holder of a **future conservation easement** and Maui County as co-holder (Form 2 and HILT Letter of Support).

A few process items remain outstanding:

- **Formal confirmation of seller willingness** is still pending; the October 12, 2025 applicant letter states that “a formal willing seller letter is pending and will be provided as soon as it becomes available”.
- **Independent appraisal (Form 8 Review)** will be required after acquisition negotiations conclude and may affect the final funding request, as the appraisal must validate the aggregated fair market value shown on Form 3 (which currently totals **\$5,544,900**).
- The proposed Koki Mauka Subdivision is currently undergoing a contested case hearing, reflecting unresolved legal and regulatory issues. Despite the absence of final subdivision approval, the active pursuit of development entitlements represents substantial and ongoing development pressure in

the immediate area. This context highlights the urgency of protecting the subject parcels while also reinforcing the need for clear parcel boundaries, title certainty, and legal readiness prior to entering acquisition negotiations.

Funding and Costs

The **total estimated project cost** is listed as **\$5,544,900** (Form 3), with **\$4,054,900** requested from LLCP and **\$1,400,000** anticipated as matching funds (Form 4).

Key funding-related considerations include:

- Matching funds from the **County of Maui Open Space Fund** are still **pending**, as shown on Form 4.
- Based on cost sheets and narrative sections, approximately **\$500,000–\$600,000** in matching funds remain to be secured to fully complete the transaction.
- Feasibility within the **two-year LLCP acquisition timeline** may be affected by pending funding decisions, timing of the appraisal, securing the formal willing seller letter, and clarifying the conservation easement terms with HILT.

Stewardship Considerations Following Acquisition

The application acknowledges that the Haneo'o coastline contains numerous cultural sites—**heiau, burials, petroglyphs, fishing ko'a, and traditional gathering areas**—whose integrity has been threatened by development, trespassing, and past desecration, as described in Forms 5–7.

Key concerns include:

- Community partners have reported **instances of inappropriate use** of cultural sites, underscoring the need for a clear management and protection strategy immediately upon acquisition.
- The property currently lacks built infrastructure (Form 2) and will require planning for access, fencing, monitoring, cultural site stabilization, and visitor management.

- The application proposes **educational, cultural, and conservation-driven use** of the site (Forms 8A/8B), but specific operational plans—staffing, budget, and timetable—remain conceptual at this time.
- Balancing public access, cultural protocol, and resource sensitivity will require a detailed, community-driven management plan after acquisition.

Urgency and Feasibility

Form 6 highlights significant urgency due to the **imminent development threat** posed by nearby and ongoing subdivision activities (e.g., Koki Mauka) and the sale of culturally significant parcels to private buyers within the past decade .

At the same time, feasibility depends on finalizing:

- A clear acquisition timeline and appraisal review
- Confirmation of all matching funds
- Conservation easement terms and holder responsibilities
- Management capacity and readiness to assume stewardship at closing

The site's cultural vulnerability and real estate pressures elevate the importance of timely acquisition, but the remaining procedural steps require close monitoring.

Commission Considerations

1. Current Lease Agreements and Terms

The application and consultation letters note that several surrounding lands in Hāna—including parcels under Hāna Ranch—are leased for cattle grazing. For the Haneo'o parcels specifically, clarification is needed regarding:

- Whether any existing leases (cattle or otherwise) apply to the subject parcels
- The terms, expiration dates, revenues, and conditions of any such leases, if present
- Whether leases will be retained, modified, or terminated post-acquisition
- How potential leases align with future conservation easement restrictions proposed for HILT

Commissioners may consider whether specific conditions or recommendations should be attached to the applicant, requiring lease reviews prior to closing or as part of the final management plan.

2. Use of Lease Revenues for Conservation Efforts

If any lease revenues exist or if future grazing leases are contemplated, clarification is needed on:

- How revenues will be used to support stewardship activities, cultural site protection, staffing, or community programming.
- Whether revenues will be dedicated or partially allocated to conservation needs
- How such revenues interact with easement terms, which often restrict commercial or revenue-generating uses

Application Strengths

The application demonstrates several strong attributes that align closely with Legacy Land priorities.

Cultural and Natural Significance

As documented in Forms 5–7, the parcels encompass:

- A concentration of wahi pana, including Lualauamakua, Kukuinaihōkū, Haneo'o heiau complexes, and sites tied to Hina, Maui, Pele, Ku'ula, 'Ai'ai, and the storied fishing lineage of the region
- Archaeological resources, petroglyphs, burials, and historic cultural landscapes
- Connections to adjacent cultural sites across Hāna

The mo'olelo and genealogical importance of Haneo'o are well documented throughout the application's cultural sections.

Environmental Value

The application highlights:

- Watershed linkages between mauka and makai ecosystems (Form 5)
- Habitat for native flora and fauna, and shoreline ecosystems that support traditional fisheries

- Potential for broader ecological restoration, native planting, erosion control, and cultural marine resource management

Community Engagement and Support

Letters and Forms 8A/8B emphasize:

- Strong collaboration between Ke Ao Hali'i, lineal descendants, Hāmoa–Haneo'o Fishing Village, and Nohopapa/Huliauap'a
- Active community involvement in cleanup, cultural practice, and educational programming
- Plans to bring local school huaka'i to the area as part of stewardship and educational opportunities

Alignment with Conservation Criteria (HRS § 173A-2.6)

The application meets multiple statutory criteria, including:

1. Exceptional cultural, archaeological, and aesthetic resources
2. Imminent threats from development, including subdivision approvals
3. Protection of habitats, shoreline resources, and threatened cultural sites
4. Preservation of productive agricultural lands and working landscapes

Management Capacity

Ke Ao Hali'i demonstrates strong community-based stewardship experience, supported by regional partnerships, cultural practitioners, and a willingness to work with HILT on a conservation easement. Their coordination with educational institutions and cultural practitioners further supports long-term management feasibility.

Exceptional Value

With 115.6 acres proposed for acquisition, the cost-effectiveness is notable. Using the LLCP request:

- $\$4,054,900 / 115.6 \text{ acres} = \text{approx. } \$35,085 \text{ per acre}$

The cost per acre—relative to coastal lands, concentration of cultural resources, and development pressure—is compelling. The application also offers:

- Environmental returns through resource protection

- Cultural and social returns through safeguarding wahi pana and supporting 'ohana continuity
- Economic returns through sustainable stewardship, potential green job creation, and supporting the broader Hāna economy

Assessment of Land Acquisition Criteria (HAR § 13-140-39)

The application demonstrates:

- A complete submission with all required forms
- High value for watershed protection, shoreline access, habitat protection, cultural sites, and open space (Forms 5-7)
- Consistency with regional plans, including the Hāna Moku cultural priorities and Hāna community-led land protection efforts
- Clear urgency due to development pressure
- Strong community support and long-term commitment

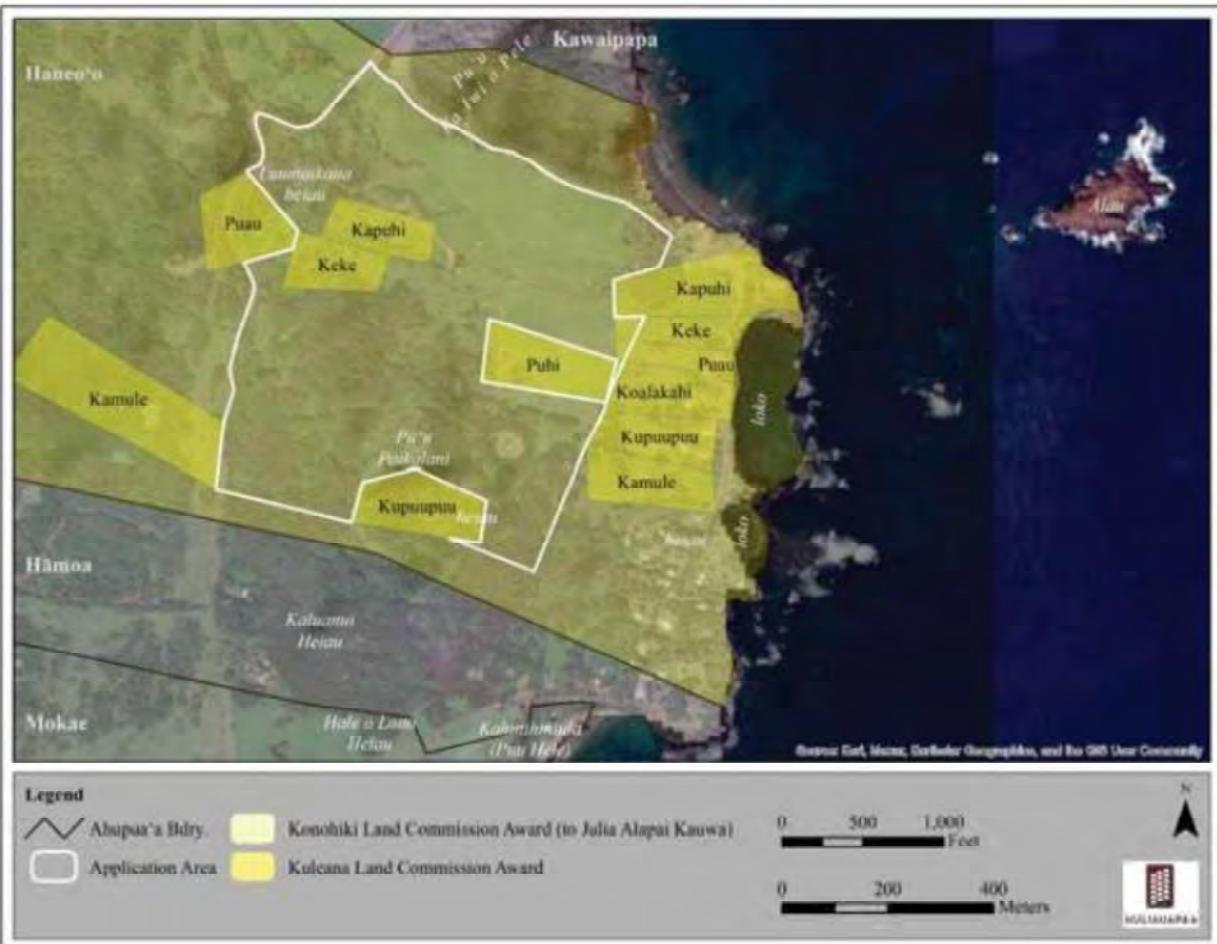
Matching funds currently stand at 26% (Form 4), with some pending decisions.

Property Maps

Legacy Land Conservation Program



Figure 2. GIS map showing the previously conducted archaeological studies in Haneo'o, Hämoa, and Mokae Ahupua'a.



Field Visit Photos







**LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT**

MEETING 91, January 7, 2026, ITEM B.1.6

Group Members: Commissioners: Jay Penniman, Alexandra (Alex) Kelepolo, Christiane (Kaui) Lucas, Kim Falinski (replacing John Sinton)
Group Leader: Commissioner Jay Penniman
Group Purpose: Investigate application for a grant from the Land Conservation Fund

Applicant: **Hui Wa'a O Moloka'i**
Application: Mālama Kaunakahakai
Location (District/Island): Molokai/Molokai
Total acreage: ~23.8 acres
Number of parcels: 1
TMKs: Maui County: **253005006**
Acquisition Type: Fee simple

Estimated Land Value (\$)	\$425,000
Estimated Total Project Costs (\$)	\$450,400
Legacy Land Funding Request (\$)	\$318,750
Estimated Matching Funds (%)	29%

Day/Date/Time of Field Visit: 09 December, 2025

Host(s) and Affiliation(s):

Group members present: ALL (Penniman, Kelepolo, Lucas, Falinski)

Field Visit Summary:

Hui Wa'a O Molokai members present, Lohiao Paoa, Pualei Paoa, Donna Paoa, Penny Martin, Matt Yamashita, Todd Yamashita, 2 Paoa keiki.

Kamehameha Schools representative present: Name not taken

Trust for Public Land members present: Alyse Parker and Kamuela Ka'apana

Molokai Land Trust director present: Butch Haase

Maui County Council member present: Keani Rawlins-Fernandez

Molokai Community members present: Four minimum, names not taken

Following an oli kahea, commissioners were welcomed with an oli hō'ike from their Molokai hosts to the coastal property that Hui Wa'a O Molokai is proposing for purchase. Lohiao Paoa, son of legendary master navigator, Mel Paoa, spoke about the

importance of returning wa'a voyaging to Molokai. He spoke about how this property can be the locus for strengthening Hawaiian cultural education in navigation, canoe building, and developing the skills, abilities, and responsibility of local youth to engage in the traditional mode of travel for Pacific Islanders. Lohiao described his conversations with members of the Polynesian Voyaging Society and kamahele from other islands who have pledged their support for restoring the wa'a voyaging community on Molokai. Hui Wa'a o Molokai also sees kuleana in restoring the property to its proper ecological function as coastal wetland. Butch Haase assured commissioners that if this property is purchased, the Hui would be invited to join the Molokai Wetlands Partnership (MWP). This partnership includes local and national wetlands professionals, as well as state and federal agencies committed to facilitating wetland restoration in important locations such as this property. MWP can provide technical expertise and access to resources to compliment the deep culturally based ecological knowledge base of Molokai kupuna who will be engaged in the project.

The group then walked the mauka boundary along Kamehemeha Highway to the Army Corps of Engineers levee that runs mauka to makai along the Kaunakahakai side of Molokai Stream. The levee was built to prevent flood waters from the stream from inundating Kaunakakai. The property includes the stream and ends at the boundary with the current site of the Molokai Waste Water Treatment Facility. Long range plans call for moving the facility and the lands could then be in wetland restoration compatible with the vision of restoration held by Hui Wa'a o Molokai.

The walk about concluded at the adjacent wa'a launching beach and two sailing wa'a were brought up and rigged. Commissioners were then given a sail across the harbor, gaining excellent views of the property and the watershed mauka of the town of Kaunakakai.

Lunch was provided and Maui County Council member for Molokai, Keane Rawlins-Fernandez, stopped by to endorse the effort of Hui Wa'a o Molokai to purchase the property and return wa'a voyaging to Molokai. She will work with the other council members to provide the approval by resolution for the county to hold the conservation easement on the property, referred to by managing director Nishida in his letter attached to the application.

Application Issues/Questions/Notes:

Assessment of Land Acquisition Priorities (Hawaii Revised Statutes § 173A-2.6):

This application meets three of the six Land Acquisition Priorities in HAR § 173-2.6. The 'āina, in pre contact times was an important landing and gathering location. European contact and harbor management for ships and barges, along with degraded forests resulting in erosion and flooding, have buried the archeological remains on the property. The mana of past Hawaiian settlement remains and the Hui members connect with their ancestors on the site. Restoring wetlands for flood water management and native wildlife (the endangered ae'o and 'alae ke'o ke'o, and shorebirds – kolea, 'akekeke, 'ūlili, hunakai, and water birds - koloa maoli and 'auku'u) as well as returning native flora to the 'āina clearly address the priorities.

- (1) Lands having exceptional value due to the presence of:

- (A) Unique aesthetic resources;
- (B) Unique and valuable cultural or archaeological resources; or
- (C) Habitats for threatened or endangered species of flora, fauna, or aquatic resources;
- (2) Lands that are in imminent danger of development;
- (3) Lands that are in imminent danger of being modified, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its value;
- (4) Lands providing critical habitats for threatened or endangered species that are in imminent danger of being harmed or negatively impacted;
- (5) Lands containing cultural or archaeological sites or resources that are in danger of theft or destruction; and
- (6) Lands that are unique and productive agricultural lands.

Assessment of Land Acquisition Criteria
(Hawaii Administrative Rules § 13-140-39):

This acquisition application meets 11 of the 14 criteria listed in HAR § 13-140-39. The applicants expressed an understanding that they will face challenges working in the SMA and permitting the work of restoring the wetlands. TPL project manager for Maui, Alyse Takayesu Parker stated “*TPL may also provide limited technical assistance, such as support with early project scoping, permitting navigation, and connections to ecological restoration and design expertise. TPL was also recently awarded funding to launch its Aloha ‘Āina Hui cohort, a pilot capacity-building program for our partner organizations—Native Hawaiian nonprofits that are actively stewarding the lands we helped them acquire. The group is focused on topics such as organizational structure, permitting, insurance, philanthropy, and succession planning. TPL hopes Hui Wa‘a o Moloka‘i could participate in a future cohort.*” The Hui members have also found a supportive relationship with Sybil Lopez, County of Maui, Molokai-based planner.

- (1) Completeness of the acquisition application; (Complete)
- (2) Acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State for the preservation of the following:
 - (A) Watershed protection;
 - (B) Coastal areas, beaches, and ocean access; (Property makai boundary at Kaunakakai harbor)
 - (C) Habitat protection; (Awaiting restoration)
 - (D) Cultural and historical sites; (Buried, the proposed use of the property will include recognition and respect for the remains of ancestors)
 - (E) Recreational and public hunting areas; (Not a hunting area; the Hui vision is for education and recreation on the property)
 - (F) Parks;
 - (G) Natural areas; (Awaiting restoration)
 - (H) Agricultural production; and

(I) Open spaces and scenic resources; (Property is open space, needing wetland restoration, scenic view scape is makai - the harbor, mauka - the uplands of Molokai, on property scenic resources await restoration)

- (3) Linkage of protected acreage of similar resources;
- (4) Opportunities for appropriate public access and enjoyment; (Yes)
- (5) Presence of environmental hazards;
- (6) Feasibility of a project within the two-year acquisition timeframe; (All appears to be in order for a relatively straight forward purchase and conservation easement)
- (7) Cost of acquisition; ($\$318,750/23.8 = \$13,393/\text{acre}$ – one of the lowest cost/acre for LLCC land acquisition)
- (8) Proportion of matching funds being leveraged; (29%)
- (9) Urgency of need to acquire;
- (10) Status and adequacy of management planning; (A new non-profit with engaged members, and demonstrated - Molokai wetlands hui support, County of Maui Planner support, TPL support, statewide wa'a voyaging community support)
- (11) Community support for acquisition; (Molokai wetlands hui support, County of Maui Planner support, TPL support, statewide wa'a voyaging community support)
- (12) Completeness of acquisition funding (All secured except County of Maui Open Space funds that appear to have council and mayor's office support)
- (13) Connection to regional planning and protection efforts; (Molokai needs wetlands restored to protect its extensive reef system, these efforts are happening all along the coast and this property fits well within the restoration needs)
- (14) Capacity for long-term management. (The passion expressed by the Hui members and their history with wa'a voyaging, support from the statewide voyaging societies, and connection with kupuna strongly indicate the vision will be carried on by the keiki who are brought into the restoration of 'āina and cultural practice.)

Exhibits



The mauka portion of the property has the highest terrain, the only portion above tsunami inundation and flood zones.



Hui member Matt Yamashita, talks to the commissioners about the potential for wetland restoration and community involvement and contribution to the project. The group is standing on the levee with the restorable wetland area behind.



Makai portions of the property have mangrove and non-native ground cover that the hui members recognize as necessary for slowing flood waters carrying silt to the harbor, they will work with restoration specialists to gradually return the native vegetation that can provide an effective bioshield.



The potential wa'a launch and landing site from the harbor.



Sailing wa'a and captain Lohiao with one of his keiki.

**LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT**

MEETING 91, January 7, 2026, ITEM B.1.7

Group Members: Commissioners: Alexandra (Alex) Kelepolo, Christiane (Kaui) Lucas, Jay Penniman, Elizabeth (Beth) Robinson (replacing John Sinton)
Group Leader: Commissioner Kelepolo
Group Purpose: Investigate application for a grant from the Land Conservation Fund

Applicant: **Ka Honua Momona International**
Partner: The Trust for Public Land
Application: Kaloko'eli Shoreline
Location (District/Island): Moloka'i/Moloka'i
Total acreage: ~7.19 acres
Number of parcels: 11
TMKs: Maui County: (2) 5-4-005:001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008, 009, 011, 044

Acquisition Type: Fee simple

Estimated Land Value (\$)	\$1,400,000
Estimated Total Project Costs (\$)	\$1,425,400
Legacy Land Funding Request (\$)	\$1,050,000
Estimated Matching Funds (%)	26%

Day/Date/Time of Field Visit: Monday, December 8, 2025 (10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
Host(s) and Affiliation(s):

Ka Honua Momona International (KHM): Tiani Cook, Shaye Lauifi, Hoku Lu'uloa, Torae-Brooke Kawaauhau-Puaa, Kandis Phillips, Mac Poepoe, KJ Tanaka

The Trust for Public Land (TPL): Reyna Ramolete Hayashi, Kamuela Kaapana, Alyse Takayesu Parker

Group members present: ALL (Kelepolo, Lucas, Penniman, Robinson)

Field Visit Summary:

Commissioners arrived approximately 10:30 a.m. at 1820 Kamehameha V Highway, Ali'i Fishpond and 'āina hale for KHM in Kaunakakai. Upon arrival, cultural protocol to enter the place and introductions followed.

Executive Director Tiani Cook introduced her staff and their roles at KHM. Established since 2003, their mission is to be a model of sustainability mauka a makai (from the mountains to the sea). This is a place to feed community, live off the ‘āina and the ocean, to be sustainable, a “healing place”, provide stable jobs and a living classroom. There is clear intergenerational representation within KHM and in addition to the board, there is also a “Kūpuna Council” who are highly respected for their knowledge and ensuring cultural connectivity to ‘āina is passed down to future generations.

KHM has a 35-year term License Agreement with the State, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands “DHHL” to steward the 1.46 acre parcel, Ali‘i Fishpond and Kaloko‘eli Fishpond. We were given a tour of the property which includes a newly constructed gathering place/kitchen, off-grid office, composting toilet, greenhouse with native plants and māla consisting of mai‘a, ulu, kalo (multiple varieties) to name a few. We then got to see Ali‘i Fishpond, a loko kuapā (walled shoreline fishpond) with freshwater springs, mākāhā, and intact walls of which a portion is estimated to be 400-800 years old.

We drove about 1.5 miles west towards Kaunakakai town to the Kaloko‘eli properties and entered through a dirt road which KHM utilizes for access to steward Kaloko‘eli Fishpond, a loko kuapā (walled shoreline fishpond) with freshwater springs, mākāhā, and intact walls. As we entered, the properties are visibly overgrown with kiawe and invasive trees. KHM have been actively clearing a portion, approximately 3 acres, of the kiawe and mangroves along the coastal properties fronting Kaloko‘eli Fishpond.

We met Uncle Mac Poepoe, a board member for KHM, formerly a member of the Kūpuna Council. He shared the importance of restoring the health of the shoreline and Kaloko‘eli Fishpond and noted that although the mangroves are invasive, there needs to be a balance with removal; we need to adapt and learn to work with nature.

KHM currently provides educational opportunities through volunteer community workdays and have been actively removing invasives and planting natives that can prevent coastal erosion while providing food and nutrients for a healthy ecosystem, restoring the health of Kaloko‘eli Fishpond and bringing back populations of native wildlife.

All eleven parcels are State zoned Urban, County zoned Interim and allow for development. In addition, the parcels are within the Special Management Area, flood, tsunami and sea level inundation zone. Eight of the eleven properties are along the shoreline, seven of which are adjacent to Kaloko‘eli Fishpond.

There is a spring located on parcel 6 that KHM intends to restore once they have cleared the area. Also observed along the shoreline were native limu (Limu palahalaha, Limu lipē‘epē‘e), the invasive gorilla ogo and marine debris.

Although we did not visibly see, as referenced in the application and Real Property Tax records, there are remnants of a former residence and small store in disrepair on parcel

9; evidence of prior residential and commercial use, and the potential for development on these properties.

Commissioners were each given an ‘Ākulikuli to plant before heading back to ‘āina hale and enjoyed a delicious lunch which included fresh fish from Kaloko‘eli Fishpond, steamed in their above-ground brick oven.

After lunch Tiani drove us to see another view of Ali‘i Fishpond from the County park (One Ali‘i Beach Park II) side of which work on the wall is on-going. We then proceeded mauka to get an amazing view of the reef, Maui and Hawai‘i island. The field visit concluded at 3:30 p.m. and I would like to mahalo KHM for welcoming us into their ‘āina hale and sharing the great work that they do.

Application Issues/Questions/Notes:

Assessment of Land Acquisition Priorities (Hawaii Revised Statutes § 173A-2.6):

At the time of application submission, a willing landowner letter was pending however it has now been secured by all owners and the application is complete.

Within one mile of the properties there is Moloka‘i Shores to the west, Hotel Moloka‘i and beach cottages to the east, and large residential subdivisions directly mauka in addition to both State and County zoning which allows for development.

The public purpose to acquire these properties meets the priorities as highlighted below:

- (1) Lands having exceptional value due to the presence of:
 - (A) Unique aesthetic resources;
 - (B) Unique and valuable cultural or archaeological resources; or
 - (C) Habitats for threatened or endangered species of flora, fauna, or aquatic resources;
- (2) Lands that are in imminent danger of development;
- (3) Lands that are in imminent danger of being modified, changed, or used in a manner to diminish its value;
- (4) Lands providing critical habitats for threatened or endangered species that are in imminent danger of being harmed or negatively impacted;
- (5) Lands containing cultural or archaeological sites or resources that are in danger of theft or destruction; and
- (6) Lands that are unique and productive agricultural lands.

Assessment of Land Acquisition Criteria

(Hawaii Administrative Rules § 13-140-39):

KHM is a stellar model of sustainability and stewardship of ‘āina hale, Ali‘i Fishpond and Kaloko‘eli Fishpond, two of only six ancient Hawaiian loko i‘a being restored and stewarded, and a fee simple parcel on the east side of Kaloko‘eli Fishpond.

KHM has strong partnerships with Maui Nui Makai Network, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo, Coral Reef Alliance, Alu Like and continue to host educational camps and volunteer workdays for students and community.

The public purpose to acquire these properties meets the criteria as highlighted below:

- (1) Completeness of the acquisition application; (Complete)
- (2) Acquisition of interests or rights in land having value as a resource to the State for the preservation of the following:
 - (A) Watershed protection;
 - (B) Coastal areas, beaches, and ocean access; (Eight of the eleven parcels are coastal)
 - (C) Habitat protection; (Restoration work on-going)
 - (D) Cultural and historical sites; (KHM to work with lineal descendants and kūpuna to identify and protect sites)
 - (E) Recreational and public hunting areas;
 - (F) Parks;
 - (G) Natural areas; (Restoration work on-going)
 - (H) Agricultural production;
 - (I) Open spaces and scenic resources;
- (3) Linkage of protected acreage of similar resources;
- (4) Opportunities for appropriate public access and enjoyment; ('āina based educational/cultural community workdays)
- (5) Presence of environmental hazards; (Properties within Special Management Area, Flood, Tsunami and Sea Level inundation zone; remnants of structures on parcel 9)
- (6) Feasibility of a project within the two-year acquisition timeframe;
- (7) Cost of acquisition; (\$1,050,000/7.19 = \$198,248 per acre)
- (8) Proportion of matching funds being leveraged; (26%)
- (9) Urgency of need to acquire; (Acquisition is vital to health of the shoreline ecosystem and Kaloko‘eli Fishpond)
- (10) Status and adequacy of management planning; (KHM will complete a place-based Resource Management Plan within three years guided by the ahupua‘a system (mauka to makai management) and mālamā ‘āina principles)
- (11) Community support for acquisition; (KHM's involvement with community and partnerships is evident within the application)
- (12) Completeness of acquisition funding; (Letter attached to application from County of Maui through the Open Space Fund indicating that they will obtain approval to fund a conservation easement upon fee acquisition by KHM)
- (13) Connection to regional planning and protection efforts;
- (14) Capacity for long-term management. (The collective experience and knowledge of KHM staff, board, kūpuna council, and decades long stewardship of 'āina)



Kaloko'eli Shoreline

ISLAND OF MOLOKAI, HAWAII

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1820 KAMEHAMEHA V HIGHWAY, KAUNAKAKAI
TAX MAP KEY: (3) 5-4-006:019, 1.46 acres



Off-grid hale, composting toilet, outdoor space



Mala with various dryland crops

Fiscal Year 2026_Permitted Interaction Group_KALOKO'ELI



Fish cleaning station/educational area



Freshwater spring into Ali'i Fishpond

**1820 KAMEHAMEHA V HIGHWAY, KAUNAKAKAI
ALI'I FISHPOND; TAX MAP KEY: (3) 5-4-006:025, approx. 27.34 acres**





Kaloko'eli Shoreline

ISLAND OF MOLOKAI, HAWAII

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Shoreline properties fronting Kaloko'eli Fishpond (mangroves cleared along shoreline)

Fiscal Year 2026_Permitted Interaction Group_KALOKO'ELI



Freshwater spring on Lot 6 (plan to restore)



Shoreline looking towards Kaloko'eli Fishpond



Shoreline looking west



Shoreline area with invasive trees (cut)



Mac Poepoe, Kamuela Kaapana, Reyna Remolete Hayashi, Kauí Lucas, Jay Penniman, Alex Kelepolo, Beth Robinson, Hoku Lu'uloa, Torae-Brooke Kawaauhau-Puaa, KJ Tanaka, Tiani Cook, Shayne Lauifi

Fiscal Year 2026_Permitted Interaction Group_KALOKO'ELI

KALOKO'ELI FISHPOND; TAX MAP KEY: (3) 5-4-002:014, approx. 28.34 acres



View of Kaloko'eli Shoreline and Kaloko'eli Fishpond

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REPORT TO THE 2026 LEGISLATURE

Available at <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/reports-to-the-legislature/2026/FW26-Legacy-Land-Report-FY25.pdf>

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL STATUS (million \$) Annual Appropriation = 9.0

Fiscal Year	Unencumbered cash (prior years)	Revenue	Total cash available	Expenditures +Encumbrances
2026			11.3	8.8
2027	2.5	5.5	8.0	8.0
2028	0	5.5	5.5	5.5

FY2027 cash projection	8.0
Expenditures – Turtle Bay	1.5
Expenditures – Payroll + Administration	0.3
Encumbrances – Management Grants	0.25
Encumbrances – Land Acquisition Grants	5.95

FY2028 cash projection	5.5
Expenditures – Turtle Bay	1.5
Expenditures – Payroll + Administration	0.3
Encumbrances – Management Grants	0.25
Encumbrances – Land Acquisition Grants	3.45

**LAND CONSERVATION FUND / LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM
LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FOR PROPOSED MEASURES INTRODUCED IN 2025**

Measure*	Purpose / Next Committees
HB85	Restore revenue from conveyance tax to 10% of total annual collections, uncapped / HD1: FIN did not hear
SB1218	Restore revenue from conveyance tax to 10% of total annual collections, uncapped / HHS/HOU/WTL did not hear
HB377	Adjust revenue from conveyance tax to 8% of total annual collections, uncapped / HSG did not hear
HB1208	Adjust revenue from conveyance tax to 8% of total annual collections, uncapped / HSG did not hear
SB469	Adjust revenue from conveyance tax to 8% of total annual collections, uncapped / HHS/HOU/WTL did not hear
HB1410	Adjust revenue from conveyance tax to 8% of total annual collections or \$10 million, whichever is less / HD2 crossed over, HOU/WTL did not hear
SB41	Uncap conveyance tax revenue for Rental Housing Revolving Fund, not Land Conservation Fund / HOU/WTL did not hear
SB164	Uncap conveyance tax revenue for Rental Housing Revolving Fund, not Land Conservation Fund / HOU/WTL did not hear

*Hyperlink to measure status page that provides access to drafts of the measure, committee referrals and hearing notices, testimony, committee reports, and more . . .

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Project Status Table_Land Conservation Fund
ACTIVE GRANT AWARDS (n=9)
COMPLETED GRANT AWARDS FY2025 = 0, FY 2026 = 2

LLCP	Name	Awardee	Partner	CE Holder	Notes (ACTIVE AWARDS)
2017-03	Kepler Ke 'anae Lo'i Conservation Easement	Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT)	na	HILT	DISCONTINUED BY AWARDEE
2019-04	Kāne'ohe: Pali to Lo'i	DLNR-Forestry and Wildlife	TPL	exempted	COMPLETED
2023-01	Pālāwai	Ho'okuuaaina	The Trust for	Honolulu County + HILT	Due diligence in progress.
2023-02	Kamealoha Kuleana Conservation Easement	Kīpuka Kuleana (Kīpuka)	Public Land (TPL)	Kaua'i County + Kīpuka	Due diligence in progress.
2023-03	Makali'i	Kauluakalana	TPL	Honolulu County + HILT	Due diligence in progress.
2024-01	'Anaeho'omalu Kapalaoa	Nā 'Ōiwi O Pu'uanaheulu	TPL	County of Hawai'i	COMPLETED
2024-02	Loko Ea Queen's Residence	Malama Loko Ea Foundation	TPL	Honolulu County	Due diligence in progress.
2024-03	Nani Kai Hoku Farm	Moku O Keawe Land Conservancy (MOKLC)	na	MOKLC	Due diligence in progress.
2024-04	Ke Ola Project II	Pu'uawai Ko Ola	na	TBD	DISCONTINUED BY AWARDEE
2025-01	Kipuka Kalaeuila	North Shore Community Land Trust	TPL	Honolulu County	Contracting in progress.
2025-02	Hīlea	The Nature Conservancy	Ka 'Ohana O Honuapo	exempted	Contracting in progress.

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2025-03	Kawaihui Makai	Makahanaaloa Fishing Association	na	County of Hawai'i	County purchase pending. Redistribute grant funds to next two projects.
2025-04	Kōkua Kealakekua	Hō'āla Kealakekua Nui, Inc.	TPL	County of Hawai'i	Contracting in progress.
2025-05	East Maui Coastal Forest	DLNR Forestry and Wildlife	TPL	exempted	Due diligence in progress.