

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT

Meeting 91, January 7, 2026

East Maui Coastal Forest (EMCF), Hāna District, Maui

Introduction

This report is presented to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission regarding the FY2026 Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) application for the East Maui Coastal Forest (EMCF) submitted by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Department of Land and Natural Resources. The project comprises multiple privately owned coastal forest parcels along the northeast coast of Maui near Hāna and Nahiku.



Report Summary

Group Members:

Kim Falinski (lead), Kanoe Wilson,
Alexandra Kelepolo, Beth Robinson

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Group Leader: | Kim Falinski |
| Applicant: | Hawai‘i DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) |
| Partner: | Trust for Public Land |
| Island/District: | Maui, Hāna / Nahiku |
| TMKs (phase 3b focus): | (2) 1-2-001:045; (2) 1-2-001:001 (portion); (2) 1-2-003:002; (2) 1-2-001:027; (2) 1-2-003:018 |
| Approximate Acreage: | Purchase target ~540 acres with additional donation tracts (~233 acres) as cost-share |
| Acquisition Type: | Fee Title (Forest Reserve designation planned; conservation easement exemption requested) |
| Funding Summary: | TOTAL TETC \$13,303,000; Federal FLP \$9,930,000 (ranked #1, pending); LLCP FY25 \$1,000,000 (pending); LLCP FY26 final request \$2,310,000; Transaction costs include appraisal (\$30k), survey (\$5k), title insurance/report (\$8k), Phase I ESA (\$15k), escrow (\$5k) |

Project Background

EMCF seeks to acquire coastal forest and stream corridors along Maui’s northeast coast to strengthen “summit-to-sea” protection by connecting private lands with the State’s Ko‘olau Forest Reserve. The parcels contain mixed native/non-native forests, steep stream valleys, high-quality coastal vegetation, and freshwater habitats supporting native aquatic species. Several parcels contain segments of the historic Pi‘ilani Trail; acquisition will enable protection and restoration of the trail and coordinated public access planning.

The EMCF provides sweeping open space and scenic resources, including views of coastal cliffs, ocean, rain forests, and streams that flow from the summit of Haleakala to the sea. EMCF is located along Hana Highway, that meanders along Maui's northeast coast. The highway is famous for stunning views of lush forest, towering cliffs, historic

bridges, and cascading waterfalls. It is considered one of the most scenic roads in the United States and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Field Visit

The northeast coast has very limited public shoreline access; acquisition would secure managed access to forest and coastal resources while avoiding overuse issues through planning with Na Ala Hele and adjacent reserves. Community and agency outreach indicates broad support (letters received from community groups, elected officials, and agencies).

For our site visit, Kauai Lucas and Kim Falinski were the commissioners present on December 16 from 9-2p. To show the property, members from DOFAW (Lance Dasilva, Brittany Lawson), Trust for Public Land (Alyse Parker), and the commercial realty community (Mike Spalding) were present. The site visit proceeded by vehicle from Ha'iku, where introductions were made, to the property. Several stops along Hana Hwy showed the extent of the parcel, followed by a ~1 mile hike into the forest along an ancient trail. The group reached the stream that bounds the Ha'iku side of the property after some cutting of brush and enjoyed the deep coldwater pond and access to the ocean before returning for lunch.











Application

Price

Draft market analysis (Sept. 12, 2024) indicates an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$12,440,000 (~\$23,037 per acre for 540 acres), consistent with limited comparable sales in Nahiku/Hāna. Donation tracts with broken title (~233 acres) are anticipated at significantly reduced value for cost-share purposes.

The project is part of a series of parcels that are being bought by DOFAW to protect the remaining undeveloped coastline in East Maui.

Stewardship

DOFAW intends to add EMCF to the Forest Reserve System and develop a comprehensive management plan through a community-based process. Management priorities include native forest restoration (e.g., hala), invasive species control, stream habitat protection, seabird and Hawaiian hoary bat habitat conservation, and culturally appropriate access and gathering. Public access will be managed and integrated with Na

Ala Hele and adjacent state lands to avoid parking/overuse conflicts. The parcel is exciting with the prospect of regaining public access for the first time in a century.

Urgency

The primary threat is conversion to residential estates and subdivision, which would privatize access and constrain ecosystem/watershed management. Federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP) funding is ranked #1 (pending), and LLCP funding provides required match to advance timely closing for parcels with clear title.

Cultural significance

Historic and cultural features include segments of the Pi'ilani Trail (constructed ~16th century under Kihapi'ilani) and evidence of traditional lo'i and habitation near streams such as Hanawi, Makapipi, Pa'akea, and Kapa'ula. Protection will support native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices including gathering of plant materials for lei-making and medicine, and shoreline/stream subsistence harvest ('opihi, limu, fish). By protecting this shoreline and making it available for use, fishing practices, hala forest practices and other cultural connections are possible.

Environmental value

Parcels encompass coastal and lowland forests, cliffs, and multiple perennial streams that provide native aquatic habitat and deliver nutrient-rich freshwater to coastal fisheries. Adjacent state lands exhibit high-quality coastal vegetation, including extensive hala; coastal areas provide important seabird habitat, while the forest provides roosting/foraging for the Hawaiian hoary bat. Flood zones and conservation subzones occur on portions of the properties.

Importantly, this parcel allows continued "dark" flyzones for seabirds to Haleakala from the coast, and can be habitat for nesting seabirds.

The site is documented to have an unusual freshwater spring that originates at 3000', creating a coldwater spring at the coast.

Community involvement

The application documents substantial outreach and support from Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui, Na Ala Hele Advisory Council, State Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Mayor Richard Bissen, Councilmember Shane Sinenci, Aha Moku, Sierra Club, and the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), among others.

Alignment with conservation criteria (HRS § 173A-2.6)

EMCF meets multiple statutory criteria:

- (1) exceptional natural, cultural, archaeological, and scenic resources;
- (2) imminent threat from subdivision and luxury residential development;
- (3) protection of native habitats, streams, shoreline resources, and historic trails;
- (4) public access opportunities consistent with resource protection;
- (5) contribution to working landscapes via watershed and stream connectivity supporting coastal fisheries.

Other notes

The title reports identify legacy reservations (e.g., road easement reservations), flood hazards on portions, and recommend modern metes-and-bounds surveys. Phase I ESA and appraisal/review are budgeted. A&B (Alexander & Baldwin) provided a willing-seller letter indicating openness to State purchase subject to mutually acceptable terms.

Property Maps

See EMCF Agency Consultation Form for project overview and parcel maps (Phase 3b).

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT

Meeting 91, January 7, 2026

Ua Maui Ke Ea, Haneo'o, Hana, Maui



Introduction

This report is presented to the Legacy Land Conservation Commission regarding the 2026 Legacy Land Grant application for the Haneo'o Acquisition submitted by Ua Mau ke Ea, located in the district of Hāna, on Maui.

The field visit was conducted on Saturday, December 6, 2025, with the following Commissioners present: Kim Falinski (lead), Kanoe Wilson, Alexandra Kelepolo, and Beth Robinson.

The site visit did not include any members from the community or the applicant.

Report Summary

Group Members: Kim Falinski, Kanoe Wilson, Alex Kelepolo, Beth Robinson

Group Leader: Kim Falinski

Applicant: UA MAU KE EA

Island/District: Maui, Hāna

TMK: (2) 1-4-008:010

Acreage: 1.43 acres

Acquisition Type: Fee Title

Total Project Cost: \$1,395,000

LLCP Request: \$800,000

Matching Funds: \$595,000 (includes conservation easement value)

Day/Date/Time of Field Visit: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 2:30-3 pm

Project Background

The project seeks to acquire 1.43 acres of coastal land in Hāna, Maui, to protect cultural and natural resources and prevent incompatible urban development. The parcel is adjacent to State DLNR land and includes shoreline access, cultural sites, and habitat for endangered species. Acquisition will restore traditional aquaculture practices and preserve open space and scenic views.

History: The Kahuwakahoku Heiau (Walker site 119) is situated and buried on the parcel with limited markings near the Alau island point. The parcel is part of the Haneo'o complex which is historical fish pond operation that housed the Halekiai hale. . This Halekiai was meant to oversee the coastal regions of this area for wa'a arrivals/ landings and for fishing conditions. This land was also awarded to Kapuhi who was father to kamaka Ukulani who was taken to kalaupapa to allegedly contracted leprosy under LCA 4955 . The property contains members of the brey family who married into the families of Haneo Fishing complex. These lands were owned by King Kamehameha collateral descendants namely Julia Alapai.



Field Visit Summary

The field visit took place on Dec 6, 2025. While the applicant was not present, many members of the Hana community were available for the commissions broader visit to Hana. The applicant mentioned by email that because this was a repeat visit for the Commission, we could look at the property and ask questions if needed.

Without a guide to directly describe the cultural and historical importance, we still could make observations and refer back to the application. The beach road adjacent to the property was full on a Saturday of beach goers – tourists and locals alike.

Similar to the other Haneo'o application, community members in Hana present in the morning site visit expressed a strong desire to see this land protected under stewardship models that honor cultural practices, public access, and 'ohana involvement.

Commissioners were able to see the burial grounds, the aesthetic beauty of the site, its prime location next to the Haneo'o fishpond complex, and its relationship to the other parcels being protected on the coast. The seabirds of Alau island offshore made for a beautiful show, and the freshwater connectivity of the coastline was evident in the tidepools.



Application

Price

The cost share of the target price is through a conservation easement.

Stewardship

The intent of the property is through youth programs and senior programs. There is not a solid business plan to provide finances for future stewardship, or a full plan for public and private access to the site. More details could be provided.

Urgency

The property is listed on Zillow, and clearly for sale. However previous issues with SMA permits and community concerns limited development on the property. It is difficult to assess the urgency in comparison with other projects.

Cultural significance

The presence of the burial grounds, along with this properties location amongst a network of cultural sites, makes this a strong candidate for protection. The site would become part of the Haneo'o fishpond complex, and provide a location for cultural activities.

Environmental value

This location is a habitat which allows threatened species and endangered species to be uninterrupted by urban development. Green sea turtles have been seen and visual evidence of Hawaiian monk seals transeversing the property and resting on haneoo road.

Community involvement

While the broader Hana community supports the project, the lack of representation at the field visit by community members to show support was noted.

Alignment with conservation criteria (HRS § 173A-2.6)

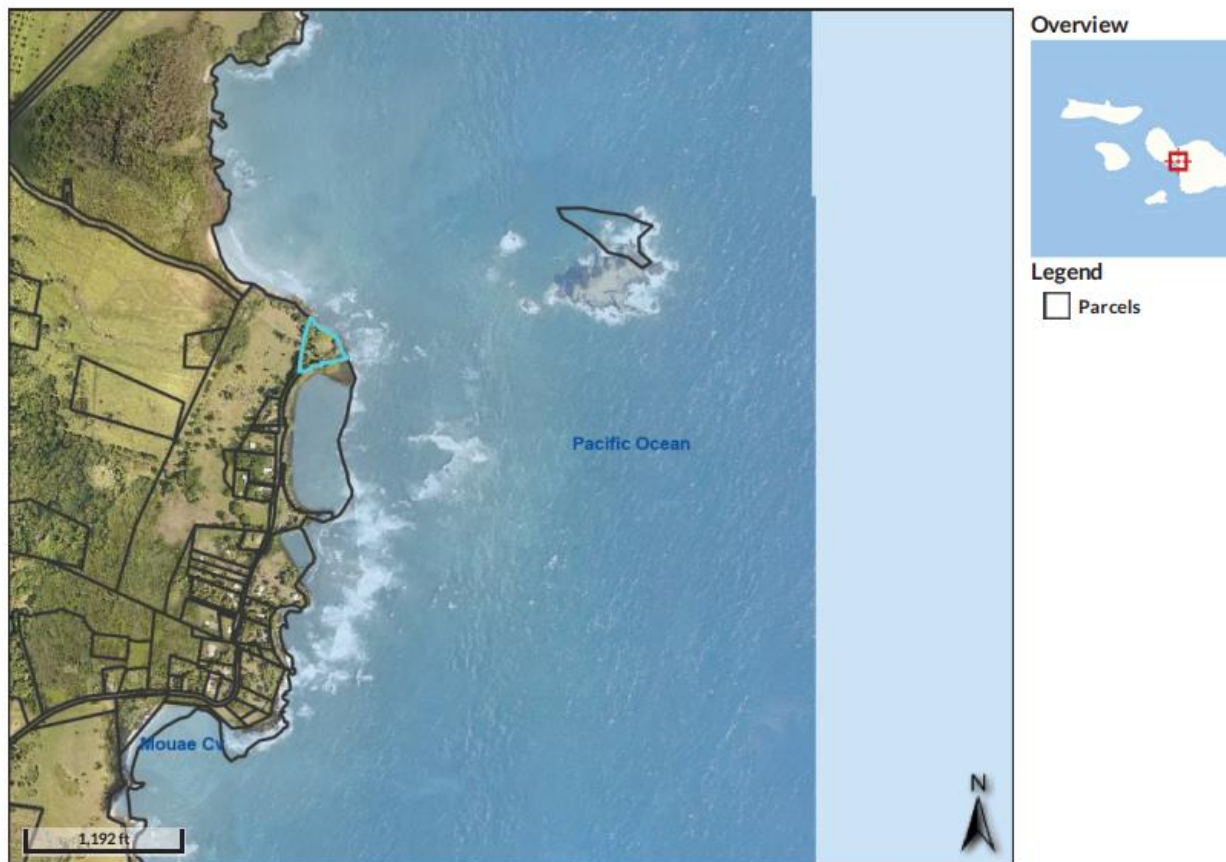
The application meets multiple statutory criteria, including:

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

Other

- Most categories are poorly/minimally written. Details are missing.
- Cost per acre is \$975,000
- Match is all unsecured – with \$595,000 that is the conservation easement
- Unclear if an appraisal that's been done recently – since this is the 4th year in a row that this has been submitted

Property Maps



| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--------|------|
| Parcel ID | 140080010000 | Situs/Physical Address | 175 HANEOO RD | Assd Land Value | \$1,300,600 | Last 2 Sales | | | |
| Acreage | 1.478 | Mailing Address | HANA BEACHFRONT ASSOCIATES | Assd Building Value | \$0 | Date | Price | Reason | Qual |
| Class | AGRICULTURAL | | 46-535 HAIKU PLANTATION PL | Total Assd Value | \$1,300,600 | 8/20/1996 | \$600000 | n/a | U |
| | | | KANEOHE HI 96744 | Exempt Value | \$0 | 4/1/1990 | \$460000 | Valid | U |
| | | | | Taxable Value | \$1,300,600 | | | | |

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

MEETING 91, January 7, 2026, ITEM B.1.4

Group Members: Commissioners: Jay Penniman, Alex Kelepolo, Beryl Blaich
(John Sinton resigned from the Group; alternates declined to join)
Group Leader: **Commissioner Beryl Blaich**
Group Purpose: Investigate application for a grant from the Land Conservation Fund

Applicant: **Save Honolua Coalition (SHC)**
Application: **Honolua Bay**
Location (District / Island): Maui, Moku of Ka'anapali, Ahupua'a of Honolua
(District of Lahaina)
Total acreage: ~17.8
Number of parcels: 3
TMKs: Maui County

Parcel 1 (2) 4-2-004:032 - 9.1 acres; \$1,500,000; CLUD/ INT
Parcel 2 (2) 4-1-001:019 - 0.5 acres; \$200,000; CLUD/INT
Parcel 3 (2) 4-2-001:044 - 8.7 acres; \$995,000; CLUD/AG

Acquisition Type: fee simple

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Estimated Land Value (\$) | \$2,695,000 |
| Estimated Total Project Costs (\$) | \$2,720,900 |
| Legacy Land Funding Request (\$) | \$2,021,250 |
| Estimated Matching Funds (%) | 26% |

Day/Date/Time of Field Visit: **November 21, 2025 / 10 Am to 2 PM**
Host(s) and Affiliation(s): **John Carty, SHC**
Trust for Public Land, Alyse Parker and Kamuela
Ka'apana
Group members present: ALL (Beryl Blaich, Jay Penniman, Alex Kelepolo)

Field Visit Summary:

Commissioners were met at the lookout on the Honoapiilani Highway (Hwy 31). This lookout is a must-see. The small, scenic stop overlooks Honolua Bay and across to Līpoa Point to Kulaoka'e'a, the plateau of former pineapple fields that comprises the majority of the 244-acre Honolua State Park. John Carty, a founder and the board president of Save Honolua Coalition (SHC) is hard to miss as he must be close to seven feet tall. The other trip guides who welcomed us were Trust for Public Land (TPL) staff Alyse Parker and Kamuela Ka'apana (plus a helpful KUPU intern) and SHC board members of Hannah Bernard, Wilmont Kamaunu Kahaiali'i, and Dalilah Makaole Rodriques along with her brother Rafael Makaole.

Alyse oriented us: The land just below the lookout is on the nine-acre parcel. The mauka land behind the highway is part of the 8.7 acre parcel. That parcel also includes a narrow strip that runs mauka and parallel to the Honoapiilani Highway going eastward.

Wilmont Kahaia'i'i, cultural educator, native speaker and practitioner, told us about being called to Honolulu in a dream. Responding to the dream began his commitment to the mission of Save Honolulu Coalition. Mr. Kahaia'i'i chanted powerfully, beautifully to the ancestors of Honolulu, about the elements and places within it. He set the tone and the purposes of the day.

From the lookout, the narrow Honoapiilani Highway (Highway 30) abruptly turns almost 90 degrees, plunges straight downhill, curves almost ninety degrees again, crosses a one lane bridge onto the floor of Honolulu Valley. The proposed acquisition parcels are on both the mauka and makai sides of the highway which makes another sweeping curve and climbs out of the valley headed toward Honokōhau. We parked in a mauka area adjacent to John Carty's renown banana bread "truck".

Wilmot Kahaia'i'i led us up a slight slope on state land to Honua'ula Heiau. This highly significant complex is nested to the westside valley wall. The heiau site is large and comprised of myriad connected stone cells. It has been studied (1974 Kenneth Moore Bishop Museum Arch Report) and its location and size indicate the significance of all of Honolulu, a wahi pana with much agriculture, kalo lo'i, dry land, home sites and iwi kūpuna. Wilmont allowed us to simply absorb, to feel, the heiau by ourselves which we did for peaceful and potent time. As we left the heiau, John Carty told us that he had long wished for SHC to be blessed by the participation of a cultural practitioner. One day, as he was cleaning near the heiau, he heard chanting. That was Wilmont, responding to his dream.

As innumerable visitors do daily, we headed for the beach and bay. To the palpable and appropriate annoyance of a local guy in a big truck, I sauntered into the road, which is, of course, the highway. Typical tourist! There is very limited parking at the trail head. Sanitation for this heavily used area, consists of three portapotties. John Carty owns and services these. He started a company after the entity that had been contracted by the State quit after the Lahaina fires.

Dalilah Rodrigues and Rafael Makaole, lineal descendants, were our excellent guides on the trail to the coast. This trail is on the State park, and the largest acquisition parcel is adjacent to it. The Honolulu Stream is the boundary between the State and the private lands. Commissioners learned that we were walking through what had been a thriving a native Hawaiian village. We passed the stairs of a church, house sites of different families and known burial places. (a school?). As youngsters, Dalilah and Rafael had spent time here with their grandmother Helen, a last occupant of the fishing village and the source of so much information about life in this place.

Dalilah also spoke feelingly of growing up with the strife of her father's resistance to the incursion of visitors, of the hordes of people traversing the land and making multiple paths to the coast. Dalilah's father and uncle actually made the present trail that is very much used. Clusters of tourists passed us on the trail. We encountered perhaps 200 visitors in the four hours we were there, but up to 1200 people use the trail on some clear, summer days. Four hundred more visitors arrive on tour boats to snorkel, dive and sunbathe the bay. Rafael also pointed out sites and shared stories, including a ghost tale.

Honolua stream was on our left flowing from the high reaches of Mauna Pu'u Kukui through Honolua Valley and into the Bay. Although there is almost no native vegetation, the forest is majestic with tall, vine hung trees. People, even residents, call this place "the Fairy Forest." You can look westward through the trees and see the highway climbing out of the valley, but the feeling on the trail is of a very separate, unique space.

The trail ended in a broad open area that is separated from the rocky shoreline by some trees (milo?). Here we were met by lineal descendants of Honolua Village and by the Makai Watch Team. Auntie Cheryl Manuwa Hota and her nieces Christy and Misty Manuwa are members of encampment of tents there. The family oversees use of the bay, the fishing and diving, and also hospitably shares information about the place with visitors. Aunty Cheryl spoke eloquently and poetically (her talk written on her phone) about the place, the history of actions to protect the village area and sites. "Feel the breeze. Listen to the silence of time."

Legendary conservationist Hannah Bernard, founder of Hawaii Wildlife Fund Makai Watch at Honolua, recounted the long history of advocacy for Honolua and of learning about management practices and possibilities for its protection from other groups and individuals, including participants in Kua'Āina 'Auamo (**KUA**) such as Uncle Mac Poepoe of Molokai. Hannah was a vital facilitator of Save Honua Coalition's community-based visioning and planning in 2008, and, most recently, she has been involved in the work to develop an overdue masterplan for the State Park.

The Makai Watch team - Heidi Beltz, Michele Gregory, Melina Hight - told us about their daily work. They interact with visitors, teaching about water safety and the sea life, counting hikers and boat tour visitors and monitoring bay water and marine animal conditions. They are constantly educating themselves and are now learning more about limu.

At lunch time, we crossed the perineal Honolua Stream and went a little distance mauka on the nine-acre parcel. A U-shaped table had been set up under the trees. TPL, of course, served delicious box lunches and deserts. This lunch was a momentous and propitious occasion. John Carty and Wilmont Kahaiali'i had both been wishing and trying to nudge young, knowledgeable and articulate lineal descendant Dalilah Rodrigues to join the board of SHC. And here she was, standing to inform us

that her grandmother told her that this very place had been the gathering place for the villagers as day ended. It was where food was shared and stories told.

Equally significant, Maui Land and Pine employees were there. CEO and president Race Randall had sent his true regrets. But Palani Wright and John Grobe, who work in the adjacent 791-acre Aloha Pu'u Kukui preserve doing land management and restoration, were at the table. Wilmont offered pule. As we ate, each person spoke of the wonderful significance of this specific group of people being together in a circle of shared purpose and active commitment to preservation of Honolua Bay, Village and Valley and the highest uplands.

Commissioners expressed gratitude to everyone for the visit and for their long work. Deeply moved by being present at this milestone event and inspired by Honolua all the people dedicated to its restoration and locally based management, Jay, Alex and I left full . . . and with loaves of banana bread,

Application Issues/Questions/Notes:

Questions and Concerns:

What is the current status of the \$673,000 match which would be Maui County funding?

We assume that the .5 acre parcel within the State Land is a kuleana?
Is the title clear?

Do the lineal descendant families (Manuwa) who put up the coastal encampment support Save Honolua Coalition ownership of the makai parcels?

The land valuation of \$2,695,000 estimated fair market value was not reached by an independent appraisal. Is such an appraisal needed and is it likely to raise or lower the cost of this acquisition?

Commissioner Penniman sent many questions and observations centering on “the long term commitment of community and the financial support that will be necessary to manage the, now over, use by tourists.”

Will there, as there should be, financial support from Maui County?

Will the Division of Aquatic Resources (**DAR**) be willing and able to limit the commercial tour boat access to the bay?

Will DAR be willing to recognize and implement priority mooring for kanaka maoli wa'a?

(These are among the issues identified in the Marine Life Conservation District (**MLCD**) plan attached to the application.)

Are there kanaka maoli and supporters who will do the hard work of removing the alien invasive trees and weeds that have taken over the previously productive lo'i kalo and other food crop lands?

Fiscal Year 2026_Permitted Interaction Group Report_HONOLUA BAY

Will there be adequate in stream flows to allow agriculture to again thrive in the valley?

Can Save Honolua guys make connections with the wealthy land owners who have populated the mauka lands of the lower slopes of Mauna Kahalawai to bring them to understanding that they should take responsibility for providing support for the restoration and management of the Honolua ahupua'a and the kanaka whose lands they have been able to acquire due to historical injustice?

It is very important that State Parks appears willing to work with Save Honolua on both the state lands and the acquisition. Will the State be willing to move the state lands from unencumbered to State Parks or another agency (DOFAW?) which will be willing to partner in management (including funding)?

We are at a unique time when the current land owner Maui Land and Pine (**MLP**) has brought in a team of managers who are willing to sell the lands and support land and cultural restoration. There is clearly a wealthy land owner adjacent to the property who could purchase the lands for which Save Honolua Bay is asking LLCC to provide funding for acquisition.

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

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- (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.

The acquisition of these three parcels, particularly the two larger ones, would complete the long odyssey of work of conservation of the ahupua'a of Honolua. In 1978, the Mokule'ia-Honolua **MLCD** was established. In 1988, the Nature Conservancy was able to protect 8,304 acres to the peak of Pu'u Kukui with a conservation easement held by MLP. Save Honolua Coalition was founded in 2006 as residents had watched urbanization including resorts and exclusive residential homes from Lahaina to beyond Kapalua. Because of their staunch advocacy, the State of Hawaii acquired 244 acres, some in the valley and most above it, for a State Park. In 2021, Maui Land and Pine set aside 791-acres connecting to the Pu'u Kukui preserve. These parcels, particularly the 9 and 8.7 acre parcels are the last unprotected lands of this large and significant cultural landscape.

The State lands in particular have lacked any management planning since being acquired. Use of the Marine Life Conservation District has overwhelmed the marine resources. Significantly, a plan for the State lands, the Honolua-Honokōhau Master Plan (Final Draft), and a Conservation Action Plan (**CAP**) for the Honolua-Mokule‘ia MLCD have recently been developed with extensive input from residents, lineal descendants, resource experts, recreational users, commercial interests, nonprofits and, of course, State and County agencies.

Although the entire area meets all Legacy Lands Criteria, the specific parcels meet the following criteria for land conservation funding.

- A) The mauka lands along the highway provide views of the bay, the plateau lands and, on clear days, to the mountains. The makai valley land is, despite heavy use and few native plants, a forest of commanding tall trees with the Honolua Stream running through it. Unless you hike down a steep pali on the west side of Honolua Bay (and surfers do this), the valley trail is the only way to walk to the bay.
- B) The makai valley, including the nine-acre parcel, was the location of an entire native Hawaiian fishing village with known dryland agriculture, house sites, burials and village structures including a church. Fishing remains essential to residents here.
- C) The Bay is within a marine life conservation district which provides critical habitat with high fish biomass. The area is a spawning ground.

(2) Preservation of parcel (2) 4-1-001:044 (8.7 acres) is threatened. One adjacent owner has indicated that he would be interested in purchasing the parcel to protect his ocean view.

(3) The sheer number of visitors hiking the trail to the coast is diminishing, degrading this historic and cultural place. They meander off the trail with no awareness of the village sites. There is no interpretive information. Of course, they need to pee etc.

(4) Honolua Bay itself is heavily enjoyed and impacted, particularly by visitors. Tourists come to snorkel, dive and be on the rocky beach, arriving by tour boat, but most by driving. Their impacts are documented in the Honolua-Honokōhau Management Plan (HHMP and CAP).

(6) While not cultivated now, some of the village lands could be restored for dryland agriculture.

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

(1) At the time of the visit, the matching funds from Maui County were pending. The land's value had not been independently appraised, so the parcel values were not final. Otherwise, the application was complete.

(2)

2(A) Acquisition would complete a makai to mauka land conservation corridor from Honolua Bay to the peak of West Maui's highest mauna, Pu'u Kukui, to Honolua Bay. Mauka natural areas, held by Maui Land and Pineapple and managed by nonprofit Aloha Pu'u Kukui, would be connected to the ocean in a stewarded riparian corridor. Acquisition would greatly expand management possibilities, including the critical need for off street parking and restrooms for the many, many visitors walking the trail to access the beach.

2(B) With acquisition, run-off could be better managed which would better protect the marine life.

(3) These parcels are surrounded by State Park land and land protected by the Honolua Valley Conservation Easement.

(10-14) The Save Honolua Coalition, led by John Carty, is highly credible. It is an admired community conservation organization and is ready to take on long term management of the parcels, building on existing partnerships with the residents, the State, surrounding landowners and myriad nonprofits. The group includes cultural practitioners, surfers, fishers, rescue experts and lineal descendants. It seeks out and prioritizes community input. SHC has been the driving force for land preservation and planning since they came together in 2006, having witnessed relentless urbanization and resort residential development from Lahaina through Kapalua.

Since 2008, SHC has initiated or been instrumental in years visioning and planning. In 2014, through their advocacy and persuasion, the State acquired 244 acres from Honolulu to Honokōhau. In the last decade SHC has worked with the State to develop a management plan for conservation actions plans for that state park. Although Save Honolua Coalition has been working stalwartly and effectively for over forty years, Mr. Carty stated that long needed missing pieces were only recently coming together. These include SHC board memberships of Wilmont Kamaunu Kahaiali'i, cultural practitioner, and of lineal descendant Dalilah Rodriques. And, of course, the landowner's sincere willingness to sell to SHC is a critical piece of this application.

- (1) Completeness of the acquisition application;
- (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;
 - (C) Habitat protection;
 - (D) Cultural and historical sites;
 - (E) Recreational and public hunting areas;
 - (F) Parks;
 - (G) Natural areas;
 - (H) Agricultural production; and
 - (I) Open spaces and scenic resources;
- (3) Linkage of protected acreage of similar resources;
- (4) Opportunities for appropriate public access and enjoyment;
- (5) Presence of environmental hazards;
- (6) Feasibility of a project within the two-year acquisition timeframe;
- (7) Cost of acquisition;
- (8) Proportion of matching funds being leveraged;
- (9) Urgency of need to acquire;
- (10) Status and adequacy of management planning;
- (11) Community support for acquisition;
- (12) Completeness of acquisition funding;
- (13) Connection to regional planning and protection efforts; and
- (14) Capacity for long-term management.

Exhibits

A short Powerpoint will serve as Exhibits.

LEGACY LAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP REPORT

MEETING 91, January 7, 2026, ITEM B.1.5

Group Members: Christiane (Kauai) Lucas, Beryl Blaich, Kanoe Wilson, Jay Penniman
Group Leader: Commissioner Lucas
Group Purpose: Investigate application for a grant from the Land Conservation Fund

Applicant: [Self Sponsored Sports](#)
Application: Roots in Resilience
Location (District/Island): Ko'olaupoko/O'ahu
Total acreage: ~5.174 acres
Number of parcels: 1
TMK: Honolulu County: [147005002](#)
Acquisition Type: Fee simple

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Estimated Land Value | \$ 1,250,000 |
| Estimated Total Project Costs | \$ 1,309,500 |
| Legacy Land Funding Request | \$ 982,150 |
| Estimated Matching Funds | 25% |



Day/Date/Time of Field Visit:

Saturday, December 13, 2025 11:30 - 2:00pm

Host(s) and Affiliation(s):

Kimberly Fanene, President, Self Sponsored

Nana Lynne Duarte, buyer's realtor

Stan Asato, property co-owner, grower (retired)

David Mayeda, seller's broker

Group members present: ALL (Lucas, Penniman, Blaich, Wilson)

L to R – Kanoe Wilson, Beryl Blaich, Jay Penniman, Kauai Lucas, Kim Fanene, Nana Duarte, David Mayeda, Stan Asato

Field Visit Summary:

The four commissioners were joined by Daouda Njie (LLCP staff), buyer's and seller's agents, and one of the property owners, Mr. Stan Asato. His father and family have farmed crops for 75 years on a total of 76 working acres there. Asato and family members live and farm on another property they own nearby. As neighbors, they have a vested interest in this Kahalu'u property remaining in agriculture, stewarded by local community members. The support for the applicant by the seller was demonstrated throughout the visit. The most compelling example is the \$310,000 landowner discount promised.



The property is located in a mixed-use agricultural area, part of the watershed which feeds Kāneʻohe Bay, with several loko ʻia.

In more recent years, the ag operations have shifted from food crops to include floriculture, principally orchids and gingers. Regulations about water for irrigating food crops was a factor. Bananas and flowers are still being grown commercially.

Streams form the boundary of two sides of the property. There was once an electric pump for irrigation, now defunct. There is only very rudimentary agricultural infrastructure: a shed, irrigation lines, and an old pumphouse. However, the abundant growth, especially of the banana production and thick foliage everywhere—save maintained pathways—is evidence of the agricultural value.

Self Sponsored Sports, operating as FarmKineTings, is the current name of Wahiawa Stunnas, a 501(c) (3) started in 2021 by Kimberly Fanene and others. They are in process of changing the official name. The mission for the organization, as articulated by Kim Fanene, is to support youth programs, grounded in Hawaiian values, empowering keiki to mālama ʻāina and kai. Currently the organization conducts activities such as beach cleanups with bodyboarding clinics, farmers markets, and community food distribution events. The day of our field visit the organization was participating in two events on two islands, so we were unable to meet program participants and other leaders.

Fanene herself has a strong background in farming. Her ʻohana has approximately 40 acres in Lāʻie which they have farmed for several generations. She anticipates being able to use her

family's equipment to help tame the overgrowth, and clear the land for regeneratively growing food crops to increase food security with youth participants.



Realtors Nana Lynne Duarte, David Mayeda, and Commissioner Kanoe Wilson in the principal access path of the property, leading to Māpele Road. Although the official designation is Lot 14 Ahaolelo St, the property entrance is on Māpele Road.

Application Issues/Questions/Notes:

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

This acquisition meets three of the six Land Acquisition Priorities. The owners are now of an age where farming is no longer practical. They would like to see the land kept in agriculture, but it has been on the market for more than a year. The agricultural designation was dropped in 2023 in anticipation of selling.

- (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 application meets nine of the Land Acquisition Criteria. The applicants are a small, relatively new community-based organization without the benefit of partnership with a land trust organization. Given the lack of technical assistance, they have accomplished a great deal in a short time. Especially impressive is the relationship with the seller, who has promised a six figure discount. Self Sponsored Sports/ FarmKineTings is a very hands-on organization with a diverse range of activities. The applicant is aware that there are weaknesses in the application and has already taken steps to address them in preparation for their presentation later this month. They are actively working on a farm plan and have enlisted Kāko'o 'Ōiwi veteran Justice Naehu along with Davin Alexander for assistance.

The consensus of the Commissioners attending is they would like to see stronger evidence of organizational capacity, especially related to sources of funding for acquisition, as most were listed as pending. Long-term fiscal sustainability is not clear, the fundraisers mentioned during the visit were activities typically generating modest amounts. Evidence of partnerships with other conservation-agricultural community groups in Ko'olaupoko for support, and identification of a Conservation Easement holder will significantly strengthen this application.

- (1) Completeness of the acquisition application;
- (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;
 - (C) Habitat protection;
 - (D) Cultural and historical sites;
 - (E) Recreational and public hunting areas;
 - (F) Parks;
 - (G) Natural areas;
 - (H) Agricultural production; and
 - (I) Open spaces and scenic resources;
- (3) Linkage of protected acreage of similar resources;
- (4) Opportunities for appropriate public access and enjoyment;
- (5) Presence of environmental hazards;
- (6) Feasibility of a project within the two-year acquisition timeframe;
- (7) Cost of acquisition;
- (8) Proportion of matching funds being leveraged; **25%**

- (9) Urgency of need to acquire;
- (10) Status and adequacy of management planning;
- (11) Community support for acquisition;
- (12) Completeness of acquisition funding
- (13) Connection to regional planning and protection efforts; and
- (14) Capacity for long-term management.

Exhibits



Approximate boundary. Neighborhood shows spread of development.

LLCP Staff Researcher Daouda Njie assisted with picture taking. This was his first field visit with the Legacy Land Conservation Commission. Daouda's enthusiasm and helpfulness was a great addition. Mahalo !

