



## **Kapāpala Koa Canoe Management Area & Log Allocation Protocol FAQs**

**The following provides some basic information about this process. We intend to expand the list as we get new questions from applicants.**

### **1. What is the purpose of the Kapāpala Koa Canoe Management Area (KKCMA)?**

KKCMA was established to sustainably grow and harvest koa trees specifically for traditional Hawaiian canoe building. Like other forest reserves, the additional goals include protecting native forests resources, providing habitat, promoting ecological health, and integrating cultural and community stewardship activities.

### **2. Where is the KKCMA?**

The 1,257-acre site is located on the southeastern slope of Mauna Loa, Ka'ū District, Hawai'i Island, between 3,000–5,000 feet in elevation. Access to the area is provided by request via Kapāpala Ranch.

### **3. Who manages the KKCMA?**

Like other forest reserve areas, the KKCMA is managed by the Forestry Program which is part of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

### **4. What is the role of the KKCMA working group?**

The KKCMA Working Group, established in 2014 and has been actively meeting to provide input and guide the development of the management plan, log allocation protocol, and to advise on the care of this forest. The volunteer group includes cultural practitioners, conservationists/wildlife experts, Ka'ū community representatives, foresters, wa'a builders, canoe voyaging and racing societies. The working group advises and brings recommendations to DOFAW on the various issues and directions for the forest. In

addition, community stewardship partnerships and educational outreach opportunities are integral to the KKCMA plan, log allocation protocol, and overall forest management program and working group members support these elements of the project as well.

#### **5. Who is eligible to apply to harvest a koa canoe log from the area?**

Organizations based in Hawai'i can apply but to be eligible for a log applicants must demonstrate cultural use, canoe-building capacity, and stewardship commitments.

#### **6. How are log recipients chosen?**

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee that represented various stakeholder groups and is familiar with the protocol. A selection committee uses the established criteria (rubric) and recommendations are then made to DOFAW. The rubric is available to review on the website. In the first year, due to the many new aspects of this process, and limited capacity, the number of successful applicants may be lower than in future years. This will allow everyone involved to learn about the process and ensure it is fully functioning in its initial trial year.

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#### **7. How are traditional Hawaiian practices incorporated?**

The application requests information on Native Hawaiian cultural protocols, traditional harvesting methods, reciprocity, and provides flexibility for groups to use culturally appropriate practices. In particular, applicants are required to submit a “Stewardship Plan” which is where applicant can describe the ways they will fulfill the Hawaiian cultural practice of reciprocity and deepen the connections between logs/trees/wa'a and the users' beneficiaries of these products. There are elements of kuleana inherent in this practice, and the applicant should demonstrate the ways that it will fulfill this aspect of receiving a log. There are a variety of ways and places organizations can give back, which can include at the KKCMA, other lands, or with other forest stewardship volunteer activities that allow recipients to develop a positive and reciprocal relationship with the forests that sustain us all on these islands. In fact, this is one of the first questions in the application. Applicants must be able to demonstrate readiness to support this element of the log acquisition.

#### **8. Do applicants pay for a log?**

Applicants are not charged for the log. However, applicants will be responsible for the cost of harvesting and transporting their log. Based on initial estimates, the harvest of a single log may cost \$10,000 - \$25,000 to harvest and transport from the forest to its final location. Applicants must be able to demonstrate readiness to support this element of the log acquisition. Below, find some rough estimates for a 60 foot log to be harvested and transported to the furthest possible area in the state.

***9. How are trees selected for canoe building?***

DOFAW will identify trees in a certain management unit that are appropriate based on size, form, and suitability for canoe building. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to choose among the identified trees. The entire tree (including branch materials) will belong to the successful applicant and can be used for patch work etc.

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***10. May I apply again if I am not selected in year 1?***

Absolutely. If applicants are not successful or ready in year 1, they will have an opportunity in subsequent years to resubmit an application. DOFAW will not maintain a list so applicants must re-apply. As this initial year's process is in a "pilot phase" of the process we anticipate that only a small number of applicants will be selected as noted above.

***11. If I am on the salvage canoe list, can I apply still?***

Absolutely. Yes, DOFAW does maintain a separate canoe salvage log waitlist at DOFAW Hawai'i island branch. However, this process is completely and entirely separate from the salvage list. Applying for a log from KKCMA has no impact on the existing canoe salvage log waitlist and vice-versa.

***12. How do I ask for help or submit my application & materials?***

Any questions may be directed to [forestry@hawaii.gov](mailto:forestry@hawaii.gov) with the subject title: KKCMA INQUIRY.

Applications are due on MAY 30, 2026, at midnight. Applicants are heavily encouraged to **submit completed applications by email**. PLEASE WRITE IN THE SUBJECT LINE: NAME OF THE APPLICANT WITH THE WORDS "KAPĀPALA APPLICATION" and send to

[forestry@hawaii.gov](mailto:forestry@hawaii.gov). All applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of the application.

If applicants cannot use email, applications may also be mailed to the DOFAW Administrative office at the Kalanimoku Building: 1151 Punchbowl St., Rm. 325, Honolulu, HI 96813. Please note the deadline is a Saturday. We strongly recommend emailing materials in if possible.