

Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area

Helemano, O'ahu

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LAND



Dole Food Company's sale of its Central O'ahu land holdings presents a unique opportunity to provide recreation while fostering sustainability for O'ahu. The Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area acquisition has secured high priority watersheds, native forest, and habitat for the endangered official state mammal – the Hawaiian Hoary Bat – and many other native species. It also adds significant access and acreage for hunters, hikers, campers, and other outdoor recreationists to explore the Ko'olau Mountains, as well as providing opportunities for reforestation that will create a hub for forestry products that will supply woodworkers with locally sourced materials.

Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area

Currently, there are only two public designated camping areas in O'ahu's mountains despite substantial demand. Access for hunters is often blocked by private ownership of lands and mountain bikes are prohibited on many official trails because of erosion and safety issues. The Trust for Public Land and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, have acquired nearly 2,900 acres of Central O'ahu watershed and fallow land once forested in koa for hiking, public recreation, hunting, camping, and educational opportunities. These newly acquired parcels will increase access to another 4,300 acres – the Poamoho section of the 'Ewa Forest Reserve and the premier trail to summit the Ko'olau Mountains.

Safeguards a Critical Priority Watershed

The Helemano Wilderness Recreation Area extends through high priority watershed which serves as a recharge area for the Central O'ahu aquifer that supplies communities from Pearl Harbor to the North Shore – a third of O'ahu's residents. Conserving this land for recreational and restorative uses will in turn help secure clean drinking water for generations to come.

Protects Native Species and Forests

On April 22, 2015, Governor David Ige signed into law a bill making the Hawaiian Hoary Bat Hawai'i's official state land mammal. This elusive, solitary creature is federally listed as an endangered species. Encroachment on its habitat by development has led to the need for safe havens in which the bats can survive and reproduce. This acquisition preserves quality habitat for the Hawaiian Hoary Bat as well as for endangered bird species and over 20 federally listed plant and invertebrate species living in native forested areas. Reforestation will substantially increase that habitat. Under management of Hawai'i's foresters, and with the aid of Hawai'i's hunters to control feral animal populations, these native forested areas and their inhabitants can thrive into the future.

Benefits of Local Forestry Products

O'ahu lacks commercial timber areas, despite demand for local source materials by woodworkers and artisans, and a demand for finished local wood products. Helemano, which was once all forest, is ideally suited for timber production because of its fertile soils, gentle slopes, and optimal rainfall for tropical timber species. In addition, the convenience of an O'ahu

location will make finished products accessible to the greatest number of users as well as a distribution network. Cultural practitioners will also benefit through newly created access to forested areas and new planting of Hawaiian and Polynesian forest products that can be used for leis, garlands, medicinal uses, and other cultural practices.

Conservation Funding Sources

Hawaii State Legacy Land Conservation Fund	\$1,513,800
US Dept. of Agriculture Forest Legacy Program	\$5,000,000
US Fish & Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan	\$2,000,000
Pittman-Robertson Fund	\$400,000
Kawailoa Wind, LLC	\$2,750,000
U.S. Navy REPI Program	\$3,500,000
Total Funding	\$15,163,800



Hikers enjoying the trail and scenery



The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

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