

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

January 10, 2020

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Selection of Projects for Federal Grant Awards through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program with Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018 Funds: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update; Paving of Park Road and Parking Lots at Mālaekahana State Recreation Area - Kalanai Section, O'ahu; Construction of New Restrooms at Mākena State Park, Maui; and Construction of Replacement Playgrounds at Five (5) City and County of Honolulu Parks.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a Federal grants program administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) to expand public outdoor recreation opportunities. The Division of State Parks (State Parks) assists with the administration of this program on the state level. LWCF grants are made available to county and state agencies for the acquisition of recreation areas, construction of new recreational facilities, and rehabilitation of existing facilities. The grant funds must be matched with State funds, County funds, or in-kind services. State Parks takes the lead in notifying the county parks and recreational agencies of the availability of grant funds, accepts applications, and makes a preliminary selection of projects for the grant awards. The Land Board approves this selection of projects as a means of soliciting public comment in the selection process and authorizing DLNR to enter into project agreements with the NPS for the selected projects receiving grant awards.

In order to qualify to receive the LWCF funds, Hawai'i must prepare an updated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. The previous SCORP Update was prepared in 2015 with matching LWCF grant funds. The SCORP includes an inventory of Hawai'i's recreational resources, including parks, boat ramps and small harbors, hunting areas, trails, and other recreational facilities. The update also assesses the recreational demands and priorities based on consultation with government agencies and input from public surveys and stakeholder meetings. Applications for grant awards are ranked on their ability to meet the state's recreational demands and priorities as identified in the SCORP.

After Hawai'i's program review by NPS in 2010, it was agreed that the State and Counties would alternate years for grant awards and that there would be an effort to award several large grants rather than many small grants. Fiscal year 2017 was a state cycle with an apportionment of \$1,001,668. These federal funds are being used for cost increases associated with grants previously awarded at Wailoa River State Recreation Area (\$250,000 additional funds) and Sand Island State Recreation Area (\$500,000 additional funds) along with a new project at Mālaekahana State Recreation Area (\$300,000).

ITEM E-1

Federal fiscal year 2018 was a County cycle and Hawai‘i received an apportionment totaling \$1,062,199. The four counties were notified of these grant funds and invited to submit applications in May 2019. The deadline to submit applications was extended several times but only the City and County of Honolulu submitted an application as of September 3, 2019. In accordance with the Open Project Selection Process in the 2015 SCORP, the State is able to use the balance of fiscal year 2018 funds for State projects. The following project applications have been reviewed and selected for submittal to NPS for an LWCF grant award with FY17 and FY18 funds subject to Board approval:

15-00176 Mākena State Park, Maui

Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

Estimated Project Total: \$3,000,000

LWCF Grant Request: \$500,000 (FY18)

Project Description: Design and construction of two new restrooms with outdoor showers at the north and south ends of Oneloa Beach. The vault septic system will prevent leaching into the ground and will eventually be hooked up to a sewerline connected to Mākena Resort’s wastewater treatment plant. Project also includes parking lot improvements.

Environmental and Regulatory Status: Environmental Assessment, Cultural Impact Assessment, and Section 106/§6E-8 (Historic Preservation compliance) being prepared; Special Management Area (SMA) and permits to be prepared.

15-00177 Mālaekahana State Recreation Area, Kalanai Section, O‘ahu

Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

Estimated Project Total: \$600,000

LWCF Grant Request: \$300,000 (FY17)

Project Description: Pave the existing park road and parking lots in the Kalanai Section of the park. These surfaces are currently crushed coral and gravel, and the project will address problems with drainage, erosion, and potholes. One additional ADA parking stall will be constructed.

Environmental and Regulatory Status: Exemptions from Chapter 343 and SMA being requested; Section 106 and §6E-8 review by SHPD completed (no historic properties affected).

15-00178 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Update for 2020

Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks

Estimated Project Total: \$300,000

LWCF Grant Request: \$150,000 (FY18)

Project Description: 5-year update as required by the LWCF program.

15-00179 Replacement Playgrounds at 5 City Parks on O‘ahu

Applicant: City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation

Estimated Project Total: \$1,000,000

LWCF Grant Request: \$500,000 (FY18)

Project Description: Provide new, state-of-the-art playgrounds with composite play apparatus and resilient surfacing at ‘Āina Koa Neighborhood Park (Kahala), Geiger Community Park (‘Ewa), Lanakila District Park (Kalihi), Haihaione Neighborhood Park, and Waimānalo Beach Park.

Environmental and Regulatory Status: Exemption from Chapter 343 as an in-kind replacement in same location as the previous playground. Section 106 assessment in preparation for submittal to the State Historic Preservation Division.

These projects meet high priority recreation needs identified in the 2015 SCORP and address the need for safe and environmentally responsible facilities that encourage outdoor recreation for residents and visitors. The new restrooms with outdoor showers at Mākena State Park will provide new facilities that will replace existing portable toilets and improve the park user experience. The new playgrounds in the five City parks will enhance recreational opportunities for youth and families in residential communities across O‘ahu.

In addition, the Department of Interior notified Governor Ige in September 2019 that Hawai‘i’s LWCF apportionment for FY19 is \$1,812,894. These FY19 funds will insure that sufficient funding is available for the four identified projects. The grants sponsored by State Parks are being matched with appropriated CIP funds while the City and County of Honolulu will provide matching funds for the playgrounds. All environmental and regulatory permits and approvals must be obtained by the applicant before the grant project may begin.

Consultation for the selection of these four projects was conducted with various agencies that have outdoor recreation programs, including the Parks and Recreation Departments of the 4 Counties, DOT–Highways, and DLNR divisions (DAR, DOBOR, DOFAW). Because of the SCORP, the Office of Planning was consulted along with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. No objections were received from any of these consulted parties.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the selection of four projects and authorize the submittal of these project to the National Park Service for grant funds totaling \$1,450,000:

15-00176	Mākena State Park	\$500,000
15-00177	Mālaekahana State Park	\$300,000
15-00178	SCORP Update	\$150,000
15-00179	City Park Playgrounds	\$500,000

With approval of the project applications by the National Park Service, DLNR is authorized to enter into a formal project agreement with the National Park Service. The four projects will obligate Hawai‘i’s apportionment of LWCF funds for federal fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Respectfully submitted,



CURT A. COTTRELL
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne Case, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

