

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

January 22, 2021

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 2019 and 2020 Funds: Park Improvements at Mālaekahana State Recreation Area - Kahuku Section, O'ahu; Acquisition of Land Buffer at Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park, O'ahu; and Renovation of Ballcourts at Three (3) County of Kaua'i Parks (Puhi Park, Bryan J. Baptiste Sports Complex, and Wailua Houselots Park).

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 and a current LWCF grant is funding the 2021 update. The SCORP includes an inventory of Hawai'i's recreational resources and 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.

Each year, the Department of Interior announces the funding available for the State Assistance Program of LWCF and the apportionment to each state based on population. Hawai'i's apportionment of LWCF funds for FY19 and FY20 totals approximately \$4m with \$1m needing to be obligated by September 2021. After a 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. Because two fiscal years are being addressed, both State and County grant applications are being considered for funding support.

Fiscal year 2019 is a State cycle with an apportionment of \$1,812,894. State Parks is preparing grant applications for park improvements at Mālaekahana State Recreation Area (\$1,000,000) and land acquisition at Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park (\$500,000). NPS previously awarded a grant for the Ulupō Heiau acquisition but State Parks withdrew this application as it was not possible to close the acquisition by the grant deadline of December 31, 2020. Therefore, a new grant application is being submitted to allow another year to complete the acquisition.

Federal fiscal year 2020 is a County cycle and Hawai'i received an apportionment totaling \$2,255,729. The four counties were notified of these grant funds and invited to submit applications in August 2020. Only the County of Kaua'i submitted applications which are intended to meet their goal of renovating the tennis and basketball courts at 39 parks on the island.

The following project applications have been reviewed and selected for submittal to NPS for an LWCF grant award with FY19 and FY20 funds subject to Board approval:

- 15-00181 Mālaekahana State Recreation Area, Kahuku Section, O'ahu**
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks
Estimated Project Total: \$5,000,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$1,000,000 (20%)
Matching Funds: State CIP Funds (Job H70C805B)
Project Description: Park improvements include the construction of a new comfort station, parking lot, entry roadway, ADA campsite, washing stations and outdoor showers, and utility infrastructure.
Environmental and Regulatory Status: Environmental Assessment was prepared and FONSI accepted in 2016; Section 106/§6E-8 compliance being prepared for submittal to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD); Special Management Area (SMA) permit approved in 2019.
- 15-00182 Renovation of Ballcourts at Puhi Park, Kaua'i**
Applicant: County of Kaua'i, Department of Parks and Recreation
Estimated Project Total: \$500,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$250,000 (50%)
Matching Funds: County Funds
Project Description: Resurface 2 tennis courts with new nets and resurface basketball court with 6 new backstops and nets.
Environmental and Regulatory Status: Exemption from Chapter 343 as an in-kind renovation. Section 106 assessment in preparation for submittal to SHPD.
- 15-00183 Renovation of Ballcourts at Bryan J. Baptiste Sports Complex, Kaua'i**
Applicant: County of Kaua'i, Department of Parks and Recreation
Estimated Project Total: \$600,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$300,000 (50%)
Matching Funds: County Funds
Project Description: Resurface 2 tennis courts with new nets and resurface basketball court with 6 new backstops and nets.
Environmental and Regulatory Status: Exemption from Chapter 343 as an in-kind renovation. Section 106 assessment in preparation for submittal to SHPD.

- 15-00184 Renovation of Ballcourts at Wailua Houselots Park, Kaua‘i**
Applicant: County of Kaua‘i, Department of Parks and Recreation
Estimated Project Total: \$850,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$425,000 (50%)
Matching Funds: County Funds
Project Description: Resurface 2 tennis courts with new nets and resurface basketball court with 6 new backstops and nets.
Environmental and Regulatory Status: Exemption from Chapter 343 as an in-kind renovation. Section 106 assessment in preparation for submittal to SHPD.
- 15-00185 Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park, Kailua, O‘ahu**
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks
Estimated Project Total: \$1,750,000
LWCF Grant Request: \$500,000 (28.57%)
Matching Funds: Funds for acquisition and due diligence from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (\$1m) and grant from the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation (\$250,000)
Project Description: Acquisition of 3.2 acres from the Windward YMCA as an open space buffer around the heiau and to provide access to other portions of the park along Kawainui Marsh and the Kawainui Wildlife Sanctuary.
Environmental and Regulatory Status: 2020 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Kawainui Master Plan Project is awaiting Governor’s approval; FEIS addressed plans for Ulupō Heiau SHP but not the acquisition. Previous Section 106/§6E-8 (Historic Preservation compliance) approval by SHPD.

The ranking and selection of projects is conducted through the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) that is outlined in the 2015 SCORP. The OPSP is designed to assure equal opportunity for all eligible project sponsors and the general public to participate in the benefits of the LWCF program. By notifying the four (4) County Departments of Parks and Recreation about the availability of the funds and the timeline for submittal of grant applications, these outdoor recreation sponsors are provided an opportunity to request these funds in a fair and equitable process. Applications are ranked on their ability to meet the priority outdoor recreation needs of the state. If the grant requests exceed the funding available, the OPSP ranking becomes the primary means of deciding which projects are submitted to NPS for funding consideration. In the 2015 SCORP, the high priorities are the quality and condition of existing facilities, hiking, jogging, walking, and biking paths, ocean recreation, access to recreational areas, and resolution of user conflicts that can create overcrowding and safety concerns for recreational users.

The five (5) projects meet the 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 park improvements at Mālaekahana State Recreation Area will provide new facilities that meet sanitation and infrastructure requirements, accommodate ADA access, and enhance the park user experience for campers and beach goers. The renovated ballcourts at the Kaua‘i parks will ensure recreational safety and enhance recreational opportunities for youth and families in residential communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve the selection of five projects and authorize the submittal of these projects to the National Park Service for grant funds totaling \$2,475,000:

15-00181	Mālaekahana State Park	\$1,000,000
15-00182	Puhi Park, Kauai	\$250,000
15-00183	Bryan J. Baptiste Sports Complex	\$300,000
15-00184	Wailua Houselots Park	\$425,000
15-00185	Ulupō Heiau State Historical Park	\$500,000

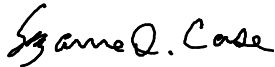
With approval of the project applications by the National Park Service, DLNR is authorized to enter into a formal project agreement with the National Park Service. The five projects will obligate of Hawai'i's apportionment of LWCF funds for federal fiscal year 2019 and a portion of the funds available for fiscal year 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

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CURT A. COTTRELL
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



Suzanne Case, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources