

# County of Hawai'i Public Access, Open Space and Natural Resources Preservation Commission (aka PONC)

(September 28, 2010)

# AUTHORITY/MEMBERSHIP

- Hawai'i County Code, Chapter 2, Article 42
- Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Hawai'i County Council (HCC)
- Comprised of nine members, one from each County Council district



***Currently there is a vacancy in District 7 – South Kona (Nāpō'opo'o, Captain Cook, Kealakekua) & North Kona (Kainaliu, Keauhou, Kahalu'u, Hōlualoa)***

# DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- To develop an island-wide prioritized list of qualifying lands worthy of preservation and submit it to the Mayor
- Update this list at any time
- Explore methods of funding land acquisition and make recommendations to the Mayor
- Give emphasis to land acquisitions where the County's contribution can be leveraged to obtain funding

# PUBLIC ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION FUND

2% of Hawai'i County real property tax revenues collected annually; fund to be used for acquiring lands or property entitlements in the County of Hawai'i for the following purposes:

Public outdoor recreation and education, including access to beaches and mountains

Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites

Protection of natural resources, including buffer zones

Preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas, natural beauty and agricultural lands

Protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply

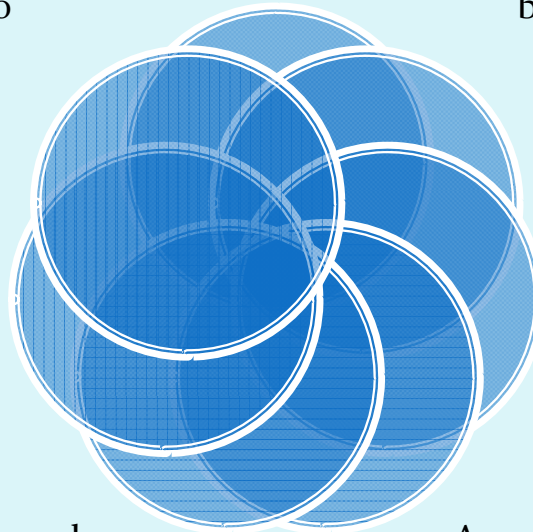
# PROCESS

County, Property Management Division to begin the acquisition process (subject to availability of funds)

Suggestion forms for properties submitted annually by the public (*due the last business day of May each year*)

Reviewed and assessed by the Commission based on certain criteria

A resolution is prepared and approved by the HCC authorizing the County, Director of Finance to proceed with negotiations



Commission determines the properties to be included in the Prioritized List and ranks them accordingly

Mayor reviews and makes recommendations to the HCC

Annual Report to the Mayor submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year

## WAIPI'O LOOKOUT

Hāmākua District,  
Island of Hawai'i

Tax Map Key:

(3) 4-8-04:06

1.804 Acres

- First acquisition by PONC
- Purchased in October 2007 for \$900,000
- “Gateway to Waipi'o Valley”
- Enhance the existing County-owned Waipi'o Lookout facilities



## KĀWĀ

**Ka'ū District,  
Island of Hawai'i  
Tax Map Key:  
(3) 9-5-17:07  
234 Acres**

- Second acquisition by PONC
- Purchased in January 2008 for \$1,920,000
- Obtained \$1,214,750 in grant funding from the State, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources, Legacy Land Conservation Program (DLNR LLCP)
- One of few surfing sites in the district of Ka'ū



## KAIHOLENA

North Kohala District,  
Island of Hawai'i

Tax Map Keys:

(3) 5-8-01:11, 19, 20,  
24

151.62 Acres

- Third acquisition by PONC
- Purchased in January 2010 for \$6,550,000
- Numerous historic and cultural sites
- Open space protection



## PA'O'O

**North Kohala District,  
Island of Hawai'i**

**Tax Map Key:  
(3) 5-7-01:05  
10.61 Acres**

- With the assistance of the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), we are currently in escrow and scheduled to close this year
- Receiving \$945,000 in grant funding from the State, DLNR LLCP
- Significant and high concentration of cultural and historic sites



## KĀWĀ

**Ka'ū District,  
Island of Hawai'i**

**Tax Map Keys:**

**(3) 9-5-16:06 & 25;**

**9-5-17:05**

**551 Acres**

- With the assistance of TPL, we are currently in negotiations with the owner
- Receiving \$1,500,000 in grant funding from the State, DLNR LLCP & \$1,000,000 from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Recovery Land Acquisition Grant
- Endangered turtle nesting beach



For more information please contact  
the County of Hawai'i, Property  
Management Division at  
(808) 961-8069 or visit our  
web-site at  
<http://co.hawaii.hi.us/finance/ponc.htm>