

Hawaii Forest Legacy Program

<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/forestry/hflp>



Program

- Established through the 1990 Farm Bill
- Legacy involves partnerships with Federal, State, Non-profits, and Private landowners
- Purpose of the program is to protect environmentally important forest lands from the threat of conversion to non-forest uses.

Guiding principle

“willing seller & willing buyer”



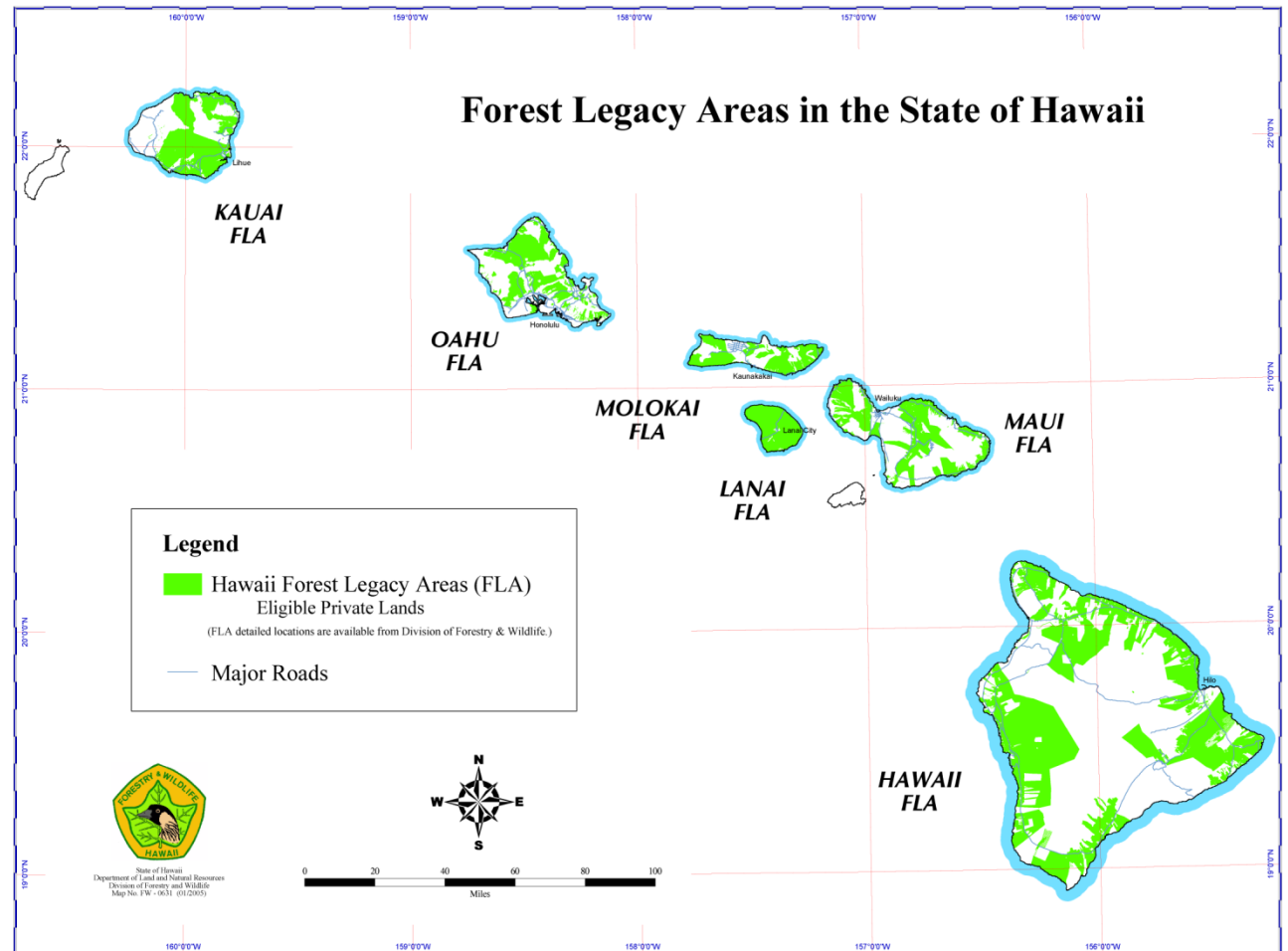
Hawaii Forest Legacy Program



Requirements

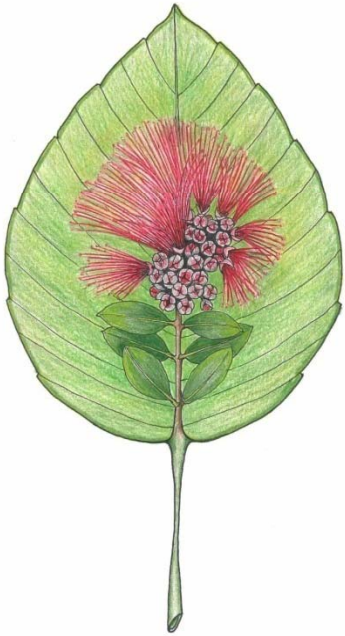
- Competitive funding for land and conservation easement acquisitions

- State Conservation Agency (DLNR) must hold the title to land
- Eligible land is based on the State Assessment of Needs



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USDA Forest Service – Hawaii Forest Legacy Funding



Project	National Funding	Acres	Acquisition Type
TNC - Kona Hema Preserve	\$2,100,000	8,000	CE
McCandless	\$2,200,000	3,128	CE
Wao Kele O Puna	\$3,385,000	25,856	Fee
Kealakekua Heritage Ranch	\$3,985,000	9,000	CE
Kainalu Forest Watershed	\$1,500,000	614	CE

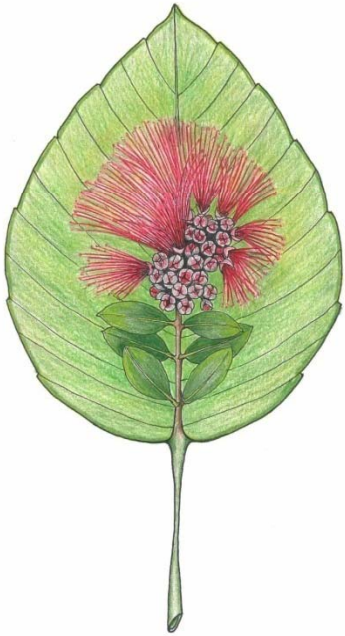
Conserving working lands

- Forested lands
- Working ranches
- Not all projects get funded



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- Funding for acquisition programs has remained high even with changes in political parties
- There is a lot of “due diligence” to be completed before an acquisition can close

- Required 25% for funding
- Conservation easement rights - minimum interested in development rights
- Early interaction with the State is highly encouraged
- Forest Legacy requires the development of a Stewardship Management Plan - require to manage





Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Overview

The **Hawaii CREP** is a partnership between the USDA and the State of Hawaii to encourage conservation, restoration, and sound practices on agricultural lands.

Hawaii CREP is designed to help the State's agricultural producers and landowners with address specific environmental issues on their property.

Goals

- Reduce sediment and nutrient runoff which impact coral reef cover.
 - Improve habitats of threatened and endangered species.
 - Reforestation of native forest buffers and rare and declining native habitats.
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- Increase groundwater recharge through tree planting in upland pastures.
 - Control of invasive species in watersheds.





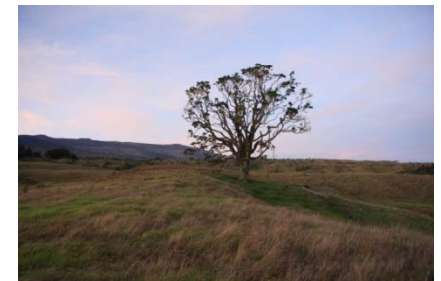
Eligibility

- Land must be physically and legally capable of being agriculturally productive.
- Land must be owned or leased for at least 1-year prior to enrollment
- AGI limitation of \$1,000,000 of non-farm income (unless 2/3 of income are from agricultural activities).

Enrollment

Two land categories - 'cropland' & 'marginal pastureland'

- Cropland - must be planted 4 out of 6 years
- Marginal pastureland (MPL) - everything else. **Hawaii CREP** primarily targets MPL
 - Enrolled MPL has to be adjacent to a perennial or intermittent stream.
 - Restoration buffer widths are allowed up to 1320ft





Financial Incentives

- Annual rental payment. Amounts vary depending on land classification and eligibility.
- 50% cost-share reimbursement on conservation practices.
- Sign-up and Practice Incentive Payments (SIP & PIP)
- State provides additional incentives:
 - annual rental payment,
 - conservation easement incentive, and
 - cost-share reimbursements

Conservation Easements

- Can provide additional funding support for conservation easement.
- How it has worked to date – reimbursement for due diligence costs

CREP provides farmers & ranchers with a financial package for conserving & enhancing their natural resources.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Status

- **Hawaii CREP** sign-up for Maui and Hawaii Island began April 2009.

The program is available on Molokai and Lanai starting October 2010;

Kauai in October 2011; and

Oahu in October 2012

- To date, 150 acres are enrolled in the program with more projects working through the process.



M. Irene Sprecher - State CREP Coordinator (808) 587-4167 or Melissa.I.Sprecher@hawaii.gov

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) <i>DOFAW, USDA -Farm Service Agency, NRCS</i>	A federal-state natural resources conservation program that addresses state and nationally significant agricultural related environmental concerns. Participants remove cropland and marginal pastureland from agricultural production and convert the land to native grasses, trees and other vegetation.	Land must be physically and legally capable of being agriculturally productive. AGI limitation as defined by the Farm Bill does apply, however a case-by-case exemption is available for environmentally significant lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual rental payment ranging from \$43 to \$225/acre/yr. Plus State bonus \$17/acre/year. ▪ 50% cost-share for practices and mid-contract management. ▪ SIP up to \$100/acre. ▪ PIP additional 40% reimbursable payment for select practices. 	5 year enrollment period to sign-up 15,000 acres in Hawaii. Participants are required to enter into 15 year contracts with the State of Hawaii and USDA		M. Irene Sprecher , DLNR-DOFAW (808) 587-4167 Melissa.I.Sprecher@hawaii.gov http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/forestry/crep Connie Laumann , USDA-Farm Service Agency (808) 441-2704 ext. 145 Connie.Laumann@hi.usda.gov Mike Whitt , USDA-NRCS (808) 541-2600 ext. 153 Michael.Whitt@hi.usda.gov
North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA)	preserving and/or restoring wetland ecosystems that contribute to waterfowl habitat recovery	CE or Fee title	50/50 match	Up to \$75,000 a year – apps due late Oct. Up to \$1m apps due Feb?		Jane Rubey - State Coordinator Hawaii Wetland Joint Venture 808-217-6658 Rubey@pcjiv.org
Partners for Fish & Wildlife <i>US F&WS</i>	(1) Restore natural habitats and provide long-term benefits to threatened and endangered species; or (2) satisfy the needs of wildlife populations on National Wildlife Refuges	Private lands and Hawaiian Homelands	Up to 50% cost-share; technical assistance also provided	10-year minimum commitment	Projects cannot be used to fulfill mitigation requirements Onus on grantee to obtain any necessary permits.	Benton Pang (808) 792-9443 http://pacificislands.fws.gov/worg/orghc_partners.html http://partners.fws.gov/pdfs/05partnersgrants.gov.pdf
Safe Harbor Agreements <i>US F&WS</i>	Proactive natural resource management to benefit endangered and threatened species.	Private and public lands	Provides regulatory assurances that future property-use restrictions will not be imposed	5-15 year commitment	Activities must meet “net conservation benefit” criteria for species	Chris Mullen (808) 792-9400 http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/harborqa.pdf
Coastal Program <i>US F&WS</i> VIA DOFAW	Focused efforts in bays, estuaries and watersheds around the U.S. coastlines. The purpose is to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats to support healthy coastal ecosystems.	Provides funding for 22 high-priority coastal ecosystems. See website for a list of those.	Generally 3 to 1 match.		Projects cannot be used to fulfill mitigation requirements or for land purchase, but funds are available to facilitate purchase i.e. appraisals & due diligence needs. Subject to Yellow Book appraisal and review.	Chris Swenson (808) 792-9458 www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalProgram/ http://ecos.fws.gov/coastal_grants/viewContent.do?viewPage=home Chris_swenson@fws.gov
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) <i>USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)</i>	Restoration of unique native habitats, especially for threatened and endangered plant and animal species; priority habitats for Hawaii include native forests.	Private or leased land; state and county lands also eligible	Up to 75% cost share Up to 100% cost-share	5-10 year contract 15-year contract	Primary goal may not be commercial production. Onus on grantee to obtain any necessary permits.	Gwendolyn S. Gilbert Phone: (808) 541-2600 Ext. 122 Email: gwen.gilbert@hi.usda.gov Kent Matsutani Phone: (808) 541-2600 extension 149 Email: kent.matsutani@hi.usda.gov
Conservation Innovation Grants (NRCS)						Michael Whitt