

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”

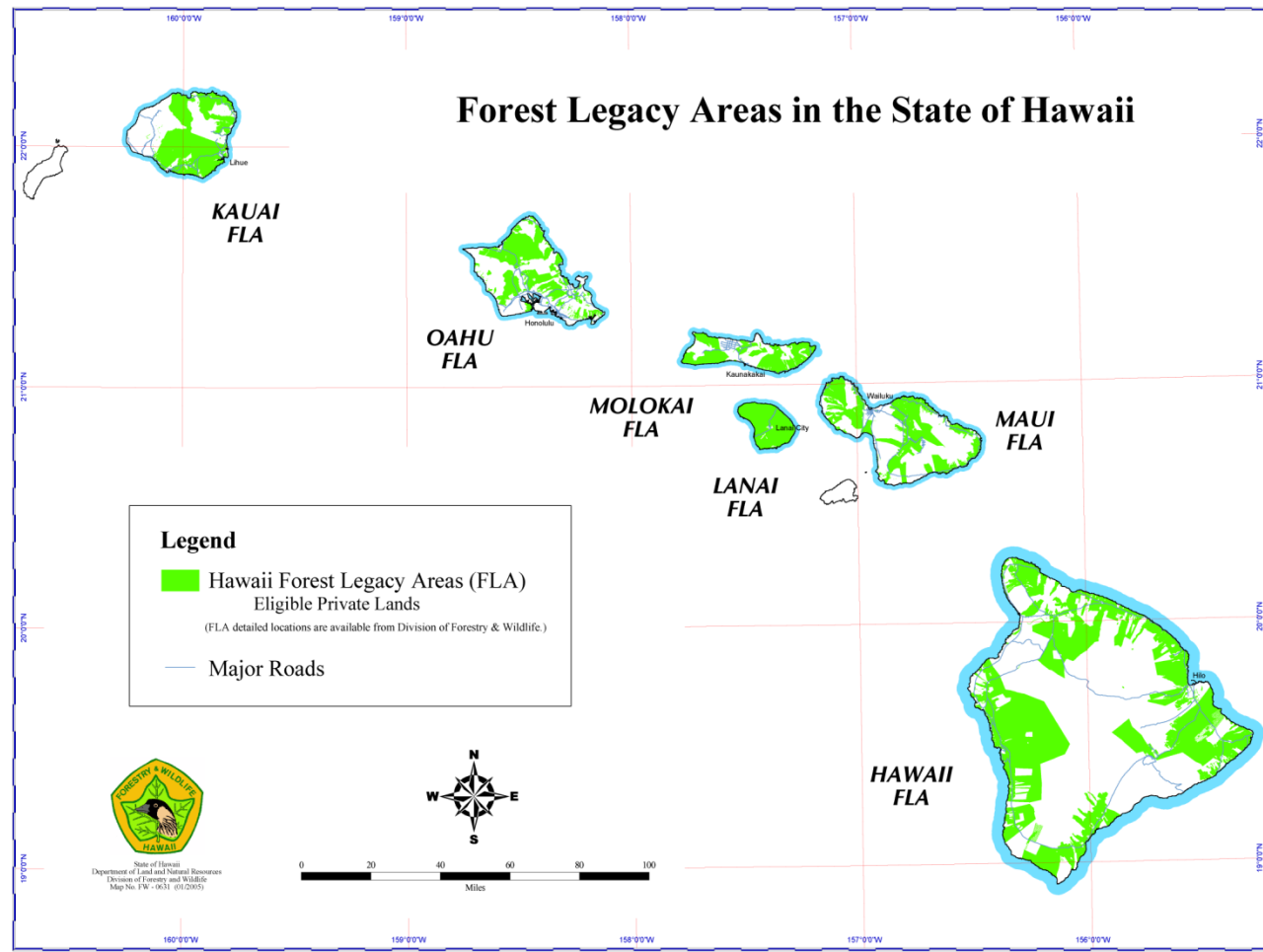


Hawaii Forest Legacy Program

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



Hawaii Forest Legacy Program

USDA Forest Service – Hawaii Forest Legacy Funding

Project	National Funding	Acres	Acquisition Type
TNC - Kona Hema Preserve	\$2,745,000	8,000	Fee / CE
McCandless	\$2,000,000	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

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



Overview

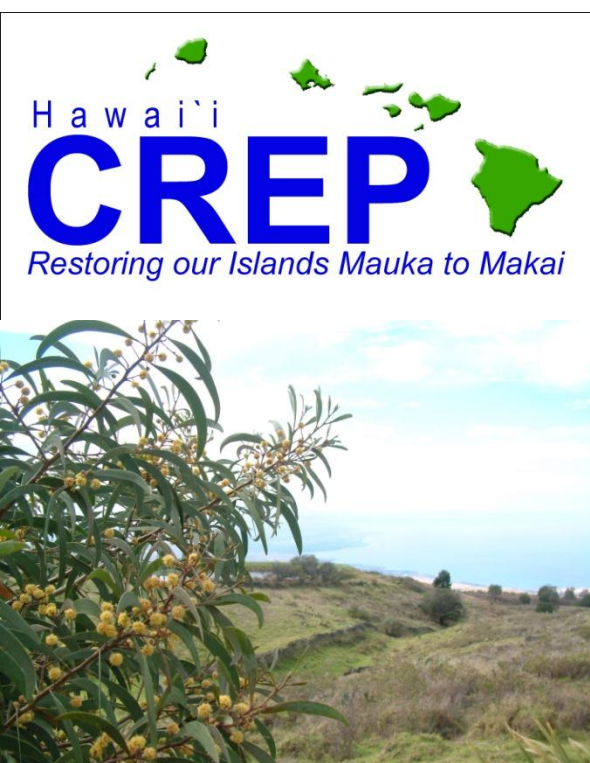
The **Hawaii CREP** is a partnership between the USDA and the State of Hawaii to encourage conservation, restoration, and environmental sound practices on agricultural lands.

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 will lead to increased coral reef cover.
- Improve habitats of threatened and endangered species.
- Reforestation of native riparian buffers and rare and declining native habitats.
- Increase groundwater recharge through the planting of trees 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

Hawaii CREP is primarily for private landowners

- 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.

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.