

Trust for Public Land Summary

Mission: To protect land for people and communities.

Category: Environment Preservation and Protection

Contact: Ms. Leslie Uptain, Director of Philanthropy

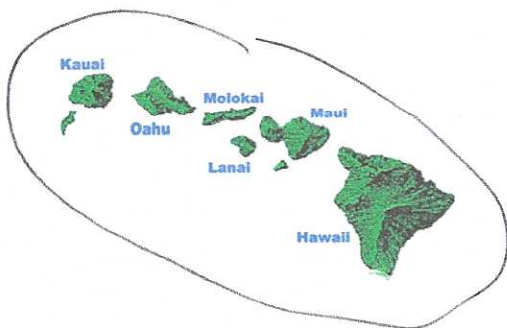
Address: 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1512, Honolulu, HI 96813

Grant History: N/A

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| 2024 Request: | \$35,000 for general operating support |
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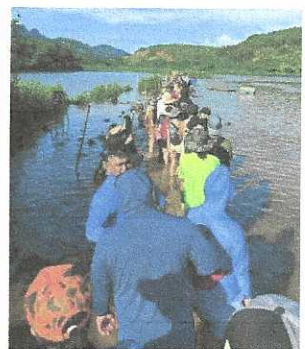
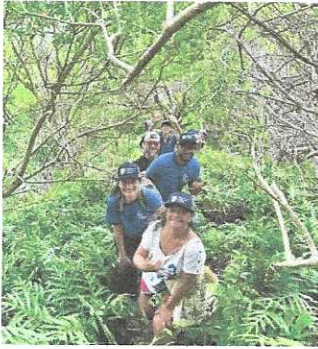
Notes:

- Aloha Aina Program works to protect and restore lands important to Hawaiian culture.
- Serves as middle man between willing seller and local nonprofits to acquire properties.
- Current projects:
 - Palawai – 116 acres
 - Malalii – 59 acres
 - Anaehoomalu Kapalaoa – 27 acres
 - Loko Ea Queen’s Residence – 1.1 acres.





Proposal for
The Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation
Submitted January 30, 2024



1) TPL Hawai'i board and staff explore lands to be protected in Maunawili, 2) Keiki learn about lo'i kalo and cultural practices at Waipā, 3) 1,500 volunteers gathered at Alakoko Fishpond to help rebuild the fishpond wall.

About Trust for Public Land Hawai'i

Trust for Public Land (TPL) was founded in 1972 with a mission to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy livable communities for generations to come.

We deliver this mission across the U.S. in nearly every state, working with local communities to help protect the places they love. In Hawai'i, our vision is that residents are thriving and healthy, and meaningfully connected to the land, each other, and a living Hawaiian culture. We accomplish this vision through three programs:

- Parks for People – preserve and enhance Hawai'i's parks and public places where people have access to nature and healthy outdoor spaces,
- Sustainable Hawai'i – protect the watershed, native forests, and agricultural lands that sustain Hawai'i.
- Aloha 'Āina – protect lands that nurture and perpetuate Hawaiian culture and traditional resources.

Over the last 50 years, in partnership with 30 nonprofit organizations and government agencies, TPL has protected 50 special places and more than 77,000 acres across Hawai'i.

The Need Being Addressed

For Native Hawaiians, 'āina (land) anchors cultural identity, provides sustenance, encompasses places and natural objects essential to continuing the practice of cultural beliefs, contains Hawaiian history, stories, and ancestral remains. Yet the history of Native Hawaiians has largely involved loss

of land on a catastrophic scale through historical tragedies such as the overthrow of the kingdom, the privatization of land, and a 90% decrease in population within the 100 years following Western contact. As a result of this historical, cultural, and spiritual trauma, Native Hawaiians have experienced disproportionately high rates of socioeconomic need, displacement, health disparities, incarceration and much more.

Land in Hawai'i is being subdivided and sold for development without regard to the effects on Native Hawaiian culture. Furthermore, as the state's population continues to grow, land of cultural significance has and will become increasingly scarce and inaccessible. Once lands are developed, cultural sites are destroyed or segmented, access is restricted, and many of the Native Hawaiian customs and practices are severed and lost.

How TPL Hawai'i is Meeting That Need

Despite historical and current challenges, local nonprofits, charter schools, public agencies, and cultural groups are dedicated to perpetuating Hawaiian culture, language, and values by reconnecting Native Hawaiians with 'āina through traditional farming, caring for cultural sites, and other stewardship activities. The concept of aloha 'āina, or love of the land, reflects the Hawaiian world view that if you take care of the land, it will take care of you.

TPL's Aloha 'Āina program works in partnership with Hawaiian organizations and protects lands important to Hawaiian culture to restore both land and its control and management to Native Hawaiians, improving access to land where cultural practices continue and thrive, and protecting wahi pana (sacred places) from inappropriate development.

TPL is unique as the only land protection organization that works to empower other organizations with land ownership Hawai'i. TPL only works to purchase lands from willing sellers, and within communities who invite our assistance. Because we do not own land for the long-term, TPL is able to be a neutral third in complex and often highly emotional community-driven efforts. Our goal is to bring all stakeholders to the table and ultimately realize conservation solutions that benefit the entire community.

To date, TPL's Aloha 'Āina program has successfully protected 20 special places and more than 35,000 acres by transferring ownership of cultural lands to Native Hawaiian-led organizations.

How Dorcy Foundation Support Will Make a Difference

TPL's Aloha 'Āina program is leading land protection efforts across Hawai'i in partnership with Native Hawaiian stakeholders, lineal descendants, nonprofit organizations, and the greater community. The projects are complex, require multiple public and private funding sources, and take many years to complete. Your support will enable TPL's work toward the ultimate goal of protecting culturally important lands, including the following special places:

- **Palawai (Maunawili, O'ahu)** 116 acres to be protected, owned, and cared for by nonprofit Ho'okua'āina, in partnership with the Kailua community, cultural practitioners, farmers, and students for lo'i kalo farming, orchard crops, native bird habitat and stream restoration, food sovereignty and 'āina based education.
- **Makali'i (Maunawili, O'ahu)** 59 acres to be protected, owned, and cared for by nonprofit Kauluakalana, in partnership with the Kailua community, cultural practitioners, and students for lo'i kalo farming, agroforestry, native forest, habitat and spring restoration, food sovereignty and 'āina based education.

- **'Anaeho'omalu Kapalaoa (North Kona, Hawai'i)** 27 acres of coastal lands to be protected, owned, and cared for by nonprofit Nā 'Ōiwi O Pu'uanahulu, in partnership with descendant 'ohana, including anchialine ponds, petroglyph fields, Hi'iaka Heiau, ancient trails, and access to the shoreline for cultural practice, subsistence fishing and gathering, and 'āina based education.
- **Loko Ea Queen's Residence (Waialua, O'ahu)** 1.1 acres to be protected, owned, and cared for by nonprofit Mālama Loko Ea Foundation, providing permanent and legal access to Loko Ea Fishpond, protect the former site of the Queen's Bath, protect habitat for endangered and native wetland birds, plants, and marine life, and continue 'āina based educational programs and fishpond restoration.

TPL's work includes the following activities:

- Lead landowner negotiations
- Lead and contract for real estate due diligence, such as appraisals, environmental phase one, title review, and more
- Lead fundraising for the purchase, including federal, state, county, and private funding
- Lead community outreach and engagement strategy, including work with stakeholders and community organizations, approach lineal descendants, present at neighborhood board meetings, consult with area lawmakers, coordinate site visits, etc.
- Lead the drafting of all legal agreements related to the purchase, including conservation easements, deed restrictions, etc.
- Complete the purchase, and transfer ownership of the land to Native Hawaiian organizations.
- Upon closing, we issue press releases and often host an event to celebrate the conservation success with the community.

Amount Requested

TPL respectfully requests a **\$35,000** grant from The Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation. Mahalo for your consideration.

Additional Information:

- **The demographics of communities and number of people served** by TPL include all people of Hawai'i, both present and future generations. Protection of and reconnection to places of great cultural significance not only benefits Native Hawaiians, but everyone in Hawai'i. Place shapes our identity, values, memories, and kuleana (responsibility or purpose in life). Protection of cultural sites and landscapes, and opportunities for all to meaningfully connect to a living Hawaiian culture, grounds the people of Hawai'i in the land and builds a shared kama'āina (children of the land whether Hawaiian or non-Hawaiian) identity. Connecting all Hawai'i's people to protected cultural landscapes increases opportunities for everyone to participate in Hawaiian cultural practices.
- **The geographic regions covered** by TPL's Aloha 'Āina program active projects include O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. Historically, TPL has completed Aloha 'Āina projects on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, Molokai, and Hawai'i islands.
- **TPL Hawai'i's Primary Funding Sources** to support our work include:
 - Land Acquisition/Capital funds: TPL primarily secures land acquisition funding Federal, State, and County public funding sources. As stated above, TPL's Aloha 'Āina program has successfully protected 20 special places and more than 35,000 acres by transferring ownership of cultural lands to Native Hawaiian-led organizations.

- The land acquisition costs of these efforts combined totals more than \$53 million, for which TPL secured \$47 million in public funds and \$6 million in private funds.
- **Operating funds:** TPL excels in securing public funding to purchase and protect land. However, it is crucial to note that public funds cannot be used to cover TPL's operating expenses or hard project costs such as appraisals, environmental assessments, and title research. Private philanthropic support is essential, providing the necessary fuel to sustain our efforts and mission delivery.
 - **Contact Information** for this proposal is Leslie Uptain, Trust for Public Land, Director of Philanthropy, Leslie.uptain@tpl.org, 808-781-5181. Our mailing address is 1164 Bishop ST #1512, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Attachments:

- IRS Tax Exemption Letter
- IRS Form 990
- FY24 TPL Hawai'i Operating Budget

MAHALO FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION!



TPL Staff at Alakoko Fishpond for a Community Workday, October 2023

TPL was honored to partner with the community and nonprofit Mālama Hulē'ia to purchase and protect Alakoko Fishpond, a 600-year-old cultural treasure on the island of Kaua'i. TPL [purchased the property](#) in November 2021 and transferred ownership to nonprofit Mālama Hulē'ia, which will continue their work to restore the fishpond, surrounding wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Alakoko will continue to grow as an outdoor learning environment for students to learn the science of native ecosystems, Hawaiian culture, and traditional fishponds.