

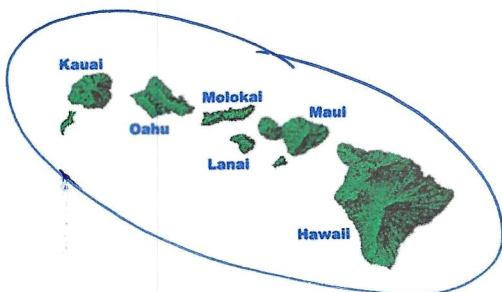
## Resources Legacy Fund Summary

**Mission:** World-wide conservation, environmental equity, and climate solutions.  
**Category:** Environment Preservation and Education  
**Contact:** Jocelyn Herbert, Senior Program Officer  
**Address:** 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2150, Sacramento, CA 95814  
**Grant History:** N/A

<b>2025 Request:</b>	<b>\$25,000 for Hawaii Visitor Green Fee Initiative Advocacy</b>
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**Notes:**

- Resources Legacy Fund is a world-wide organization partnering with a wide variety of groups to promote conservation, environmental equity and justice, and climate solutions.
- Promotes public-private partnerships to advocate for sustainable climate solutions.
- **Care for Aina Now Coalition is to promote passage of legislation for a \$50 Visitor Green Fee to fund natural resource management throughout State of Hawaii.**
- Over 60 local organizations participate in the coalition.
- Overall goal is to raise funds to protect and restore forests, streams, beaches, and reefs and create green jobs.
- Grant will help pay political consultants for strategy development and implementation.



# Resources Legacy Fund

To whom it concerns:

Attached please find a proposal from the Care for 'Āina Now (CAN) coalition, for consideration for funding from the Dorcy Foundation. The attached proposal outlines our approach to secure support for a visitor green fee in this year's legislative session, as well as key organization and implementation activities to follow the session. Funding from the Dorcy Foundation will provide vital support to our coalition's efforts in advocacy, outreach, and communications to drive this policy solution. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any additional questions. We are grateful for the opportunity to apply for support from the Foundation, and we look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you,

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Senior Program Officer  
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## Resources Legacy Fund (RLF)

### Care for 'Āina Now Coalition Proposal to Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation January 2025

#### Overview

Hawai'i's beaches, forests, streams, and ocean waters underpin our local culture, our livelihoods, and our tourism sector, contributing over \$6 billion to our economy each year. When managed properly, these vital natural resources and ecosystems also provide tangible and significant health, safety, and infrastructure benefits, protecting people and nature from climate-related devastation caused by wildfires, floods, droughts, coastal erosion, and storm waves. Intact native forests retain vital fresh water and act as a preventative force against wildfires stoked by increased winds and heat that spread quickly through invasive, fire-prone grasses and shrubs. Natural streams, healthy estuaries and fishponds, and native plants and trees also absorb heavy rainfall, reducing coastal erosion and holding back what would otherwise be catastrophic flood impacts in the face of increasingly intense storms and 'rain bombs.' Healthy coral reefs provide habitat for popular local seafood, attract visitors from all over the world; and also protect our shorelines, coastal homes, roadways, and businesses from increasingly strong and frequent storm waves, coastal flooding, and sea level rise.

Despite the critical cultural, ecological, and economic value these natural resources provide, Hawai'i significantly underinvests in this "green infrastructure," committing only 1% of our state budget each year to natural resource stewardship and restoration, resulting in an estimated annual financing deficit of \$561 million/year.<sup>1</sup> With the devastating effects of climate change on local communities, escalating visitor impacts, and intensifying local threats to our ecosystems, there is an immediate need for innovative conservation financing solutions.

#### Opportunity

Visitor green fees are used around the world to generate revenue to protect natural and cultural resources, promote climate resilience, create green jobs, and enhance the visitor experience. "Visitor green fees" – payments made by visitors to management authorities for the explicit purpose of funding natural resource management – are an innovative conservation financing tool. In contrast to site-based fees, these conservation finance systems operate at the scale of an entire jurisdiction rather than a specific protected area, park, or reserve.<sup>2</sup> Places like Palau, Aotearoa, and the Galapagos all benefit from these investments, paid for by visitors, and allocated by local authorities. In several highly successful instances, a public-private advisory council advises on the deployment of green fee revenue, which ensures multiple sectors are "at the table" in decision-making, and with the added benefit of building a broader constituency for this policy solution and its beneficiaries.

For the past several years, the Care for 'Āina Now coalition (previously branded as the Hawai'i Green Fee Coalition) has helped to steward an advocacy campaign focused on passing visitor

<sup>1</sup> Hittle, A. and N. Hedge. 2024. State of Conservation Financing in Hawai'i. Technical Report prepared for the Care for 'Āina Now Coalition. 28 pgs. Honolulu, HI, available at <https://careforainanow.org/resources>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/ecology-and-evolution/articles/10.3389/fevo.2022.1036132/full>

impact fee legislation (to establish a green fee). We have developed an effective coalition that includes over 60 organizations, supported by consultants with expertise in communications, advocacy, and coalition coordination.

This year, Governor Green's administration, and members of the Hawai'i State Legislature have introduced legislation that, if passed, would create a visitor impact fee. Bills have been introduced in previous years but did not pass. Our coalition feels bullish about this year due to several factors including major climate-driven disasters in Hawaii and elsewhere.

In the aftermath of the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires, as well as recent major flooding and coral bleaching events, the urgency to generate new revenue to increase Hawai'i's resilience to climate impacts has never been greater. In response, the Green Administration created a new Climate Advisory Team (CAT) in summer 2024 that released recommendations for creating new revenue, including from a so-called "environmental stewardship fee" that would be paid annually by visitors to strengthen climate resilience. The CAT includes members from the Care for 'Āina Now leadership committee who have worked carefully to incorporate the visitor impact fee concept into the recently released CAT recommendations. Our coalition anticipates legislation will emerge as part of Governor Green's administrative bill package that includes a climate resilience fee paid for by visitors, and that the Governor will prioritize the legislation during the 2025 session. The current alignment of political will, together with determined and persistent support from the broader Care for 'Āina Now coalition (consisting of more than 60 community and nonprofit organizations<sup>3</sup>), represents an unprecedented opportunity for Hawai'i to advance transformative new funding for environmental stewardship.

## Outcomes

With support from The Laurence H. Dorcy Foundation, the Care for 'Āina Now coalition can leverage this political momentum to help pass transformative legislation in 2025 to create new funding to make our islands more resilient to climate impacts. The fee, if passed, will help protect and restore Hawai'i forests, streams, beaches, and reefs, make our communities safer, create green jobs, and deliver funds to both government agencies and community-based stewards. All of these benefits, to be paid for by the new funding source, will also help ensure the continuing economic vitality of the Hawai'i visitor industry itself, which relies on these same natural resources.

In addition to bill passage, the work of our coalition helps build capacity among coalition partners who gain important advocacy experience and expand and strengthen their networks. In 2023, in addition to representatives from Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and Resources Legacy Fund, Kupu joined our leadership committee, adding a critical focus on green jobs and 'āina career pathways for Hawai'i's young people. Building on that growth, in 2024, the coalition added leaders from Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA), an organization that represents over 70 rural, mostly Native Hawaiian communities statewide. KUA has helped increase our focus on community-based needs for and benefits of the proposed funding. Hawai'i Land Trust has also joined our leadership committee and brings its focus on perpetual land stewardship, 'āina-

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<sup>3</sup> The Care for 'Āina Now coalition support letter, signed by 48 organizations in 2024 is here: [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615772d33f0a0e06c594d78c/t/6798515d77a6003e479217b0/1738035568004/025+Coalition+List\\_+Sign+On+Letter+for+Care+for+%27](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615772d33f0a0e06c594d78c/t/6798515d77a6003e479217b0/1738035568004/025+Coalition+List_+Sign+On+Letter+for+Care+for+%27)

based education, and partnership with private landowners. More recently, the Council on Native Hawaiian Advancement has joined our coalition, recognizing the benefits to Native Hawaiian communities that can come from this new, transformative revenue source.

Running an effective coalition that works to achieve systems-level change requires a skilled team. We need experienced political consultants to support strategy development and implementation; a professional communications team to ensure our issues and voices remain prominent in the media; community organizers, project management, and a dedicated web and social media presence; and fundraising and contract management capacity. Our skilled and experienced coalition, further strengthened over recent years, positions us well to advance the fee. However, we need to amass sufficient financial resources to cover the associated campaign costs. Dorcy Foundation support would enable us to secure much-needed communications and organizing support for the duration of the campaign.

### **Impact**

When the Care for 'Aina Now coalition succeeds, we, together with our supporters, will have created a transformative and urgently needed funding mechanism that aligns visitor spending with the needs of our lands, waters, and communities in Hawai'i. Our estimates suggest that at a level of \$50 per visitor, an annual fee could generate up to \$470 million per year to invest in programs and projects to protect our natural resources and the communities that depend on them.<sup>4</sup>

For example, state agencies and partner organizations, including the Waipā Foundation, invested time and resources over several years to restore 1600 acres of forests, streams, lo'i kalo, muliwai (estuaries), and loko i'a (fishpond). In 2018, extreme rains flooded areas on Kauai and Oahu, damaging homes and closing major roadways after massive flooding. Neighboring ahupua'a to Waipā saw damage to 532 homes and incurred recovery costs of approximately \$135 million. Waipā was spared much of this damage, as its upper forests, lo'i, and streams absorbed the record rainfalls. Stewardship like this is what Hawai'i needs, and what funds from a visitor fee can help achieve.

Strategic fencing to prevent invasive ungulates from consuming native plants and changing the forest structure can range from \$30-\$50 per foot. Applying tools such as fencing is a key element in successful reforestation, a core strategy to increasing resilience and protecting Hawai'i communities from deadly and costly wildfires.

Our coral reefs need investment, too, as they are our first line of defense against shoreline erosion. On Maui, the highway at Olowalu is increasingly prone to flooding. With a recent award of \$10 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Maui communities are working together on shoreline and reef restoration activities at Olowalu to protect themselves and this vital transportation corridor. More investment is needed to restore area wetlands to absorb water and reduce flood risk.

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<sup>4</sup>Hawai'i Visitor Green Fee, Report to the Hawai'i Tax Commission, September 2021 *available at* [https://files.hawaii.gov/tax/stats/trc/docs2022/sup\\_210922/HI\\_Visitor\\_Green\\_Fee\\_Memo\\_to\\_HI\\_Tax\\_Commission.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/tax/stats/trc/docs2022/sup_210922/HI_Visitor_Green_Fee_Memo_to_HI_Tax_Commission.pdf)

Funds generated by a visitor fee will help pay for critical projects like these and many more, and help protect Hawai'i from the increasing impacts of climate change, offset the impacts of our 10 million annual visitors, and care for our 'āina.

## Milestones

### Q1 2025 (January-March)

- Implement political and communications campaign strategy
- Organize and activate coalition support, including quarterly webinars for coalition, testimony, sign-on letters
- Lead advocacy for supportive bills

### Q2 2025 (April-June)

- Continue advocating for supportive bills that contain key elements including sufficient funding (at least \$100 million annually), funding opportunities for community stewardship, and a cross-sector advisory body
- Continue implementing communications campaign
- Convene quarterly coalition meetings

### Q3 2025 (July-September)

- Reflect on 2025 legislative session outcomes and next steps
- Host coalition webinar on results of 2025 session
- Begin implementing new policy, working to ensure spending on priority needs and appropriate representation on any new committee/commission to oversee fund
- Engage with relevant agencies and community partners eligible for new funds to coordinate on funding priorities, and new green jobs

## Budget

We request \$25,000 in support for our coalition, which will support the following key activities of the CAN coalition:

1. **Community organizing**, to get advocates and passionate environmental and stewardship practitioners engaged to support this initiative.
2. **Internal advocacy in the legislature** to liaise with key decision-makers (legislators) as well as with the executive branch (primarily Governor's office and DLNR).
3. **External engagement** (communications, social media, outreach) efforts to lift visibility and profile of this initiative.

**RESOURCES LEGACY FUND**  
**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

<b>ASSETS</b>		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	52,005,331	\$ 43,131,359
Short-term investments		29,618,397	20,944,386
Accounts and other receivables		371,029	848,620
Grants and contributions receivable	*	17,883,819	2,805,959
Prepaid expenses		<u>369,999</u>	<u>298,203</u>
Total current assets		<u>100,248,575</u>	<u>68,028,527</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Fixed assets, net		<u>1,266,845</u>	<u>29,110</u>
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Right-of-use asset, net		3,092,335	423,473
Investments, net		56,813,419	51,823,887
Grants and contributions receivable, net		<u>13,307,121</u>	<u>1,365,000</u>
Total noncurrent assets		<u>73,212,875</u>	<u>53,612,360</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b><u>\$ 174,728,294</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 121,669,997</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable	\$	125,501	\$ 186,276
Grants payable		4,937,900	2,764,622
Contracts payable		1,428,718	1,841,204
Accrued salaries and related benefits		2,851,586	2,687,194
Deferred revenue		-	125,000
Operating lease liability		<u>69,979</u>	<u>226,317</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>9,413,684</u>	<u>7,830,613</u>
<b>NONCURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Grants payable, net		200,000	35,000
Operating lease liability, net		<u>3,749,725</u>	<u>202,334</u>
Total noncurrent liabilities		<u>3,949,725</u>	<u>237,334</u>
Total liabilities		<u>13,363,409</u>	<u>8,067,947</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Without donor restrictions		9,680,176	7,238,405
With donor restrictions		<u>151,684,709</u>	<u>106,363,645</u>
Total net assets		<u>161,364,885</u>	<u>113,602,050</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>\$ 174,728,294</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 121,669,997</u></b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## RESOURCES LEGACY FUND

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Grants and contributions	\$ 2,569,166	\$ 119,427,036	\$ 121,996,202
Contracts	1,981,894	-	1,981,894
Net investment return	2,046,944	7,428,201	9,475,145
Rental income	34,971	-	34,971
Net assets released from donor restrictions	<u>77,204,173</u>	<u>(77,204,173)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>83,837,148</u>	<u>49,651,064</u>	<u>133,488,212</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	<u>74,852,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,852,048</u>
Supporting Services:			
General and Administrative	5,925,773	-	5,925,773
Fundraising	<u>617,556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>617,556</u>
Total supporting services	<u>6,543,329</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,543,329</u>
Total expenses	<u>81,395,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>81,395,377</u>
Changes in net assets before other item	2,441,771	49,651,064	52,092,835
<b>OTHER ITEM</b>			
Program transfer	<u>-</u>	<u>(4,330,000)</u>	<u>(4,330,000)</u>
Changes in net assets	2,441,771	45,321,064	47,762,835
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>7,238,405</u>	<u>106,363,645</u>	<u>113,602,050</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,680,176</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 151,684,709</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 161,364,885</u></b>



## RESOURCES LEGACY FUND

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Grants and contributions	\$ 1,198,135	\$ 85,964,143	\$ 87,162,278
Contracts	1,900,315	-	1,900,315
Net investment return	(49,037)	(7,769,721)	(7,818,758)
Rental income	205,977	-	205,977
Net assets released from donor restrictions	<u>87,846,331</u>	<u>(87,846,331)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>91,101,721</u>	<u>(9,651,909)</u>	<u>81,449,812</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program Services	<u>85,103,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,103,090</u>
Supporting Services:			
General and Administrative	4,080,970	-	4,080,970
Fundraising	<u>602,786</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>602,786</u>
Total supporting services	<u>4,683,756</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,683,756</u>
Total expenses	<u>89,786,846</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>89,786,846</u>
Changes in net assets	1,314,875	(9,651,909)	(8,337,034)
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>5,923,530</u>	<u>116,015,554</u>	<u>121,939,084</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b><u>\$ 7,238,405</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 106,363,645</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 113,602,050</u></b>

## RESOURCES LEGACY FUND

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

	Program Services	Supporting Services			Total Expenses
		General and Administrative	Fundraising	Supporting Services	
	\$ 54,185,230	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,185,230
Grants and contracts	16,521,239	4,413,154	523,610	4,936,764	21,458,003
Salaries and benefits	1,326,767	201,252	28,674	229,926	1,556,693
Travel	761,971	464,168	15,844	480,012	1,241,983
IT consulting and systems	612,621	371,371	33,926	405,297	1,017,918
Professional services	514,677	99,327	4,488	103,815	618,492
Office supplies and expenses	394,832	161,663	7,589	169,252	564,084
Lease expense	479,051	50,733	1,563	52,296	531,347
Conferences and meetings	5,165	123,840	-	123,840	129,005
Business insurance	50,495	40,265	1,862	42,127	92,622
Depreciation and amortization expense					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 74,852,048</b>	<b>\$ 5,925,773</b>	<b>\$ 617,556</b>	<b>\$ 6,543,329</b>	<b>\$ 81,395,377</b>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.