

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

HAWAII ISLAND CONSERVATION

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a Federal program in partnership with States, supports State efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. Designed to encourage the protection of privately owned forest lands, FLP is an entirely voluntary program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands. FLP helps the States develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values.

On Hawaii Island, the six projects shown on this map have been completed in order to protect a total of 47,055 acres. Additional projects on multiple islands are currently proposed for funding through the State lead agency, Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW).

- 1 KA'AWALO A HAWAIIAN FOREST (1,000 ACRES)**
DOFAW Held Easement
 The parcel contains rare native rainforest that has remained principally intact since the mid-1800s, as well as a watershed that drain directly into Kealakekua Bay, one of Hawai'i's most significant marine conservation areas and the historical site of Hawaiian kings and Western explorers. The conservation easement fosters continuity within a vast area of uninterrupted charitable trust, protected private, and public lands extending 50+ miles to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (HAVO).
- 2 KEALAKEKUA HERITAGE RANCH (9,017 ACRES)**
DOFAW Held Easement
 This forest mosaic supports a wide variety of federally listed threatened and endangered plant and animal species. The property supports a diverse landscape, including vast multi-species forestland, lava outcroppings, and rich fertile soil. Prior to the execution of this conservation easement, the property was approved for development of 500 residential lots, an 18-hole golf course, and a recreational facility, and was strongly pressured for development due to increasing home prices and suburban sprawl.
- 3 McCANDLESS RANCH - KAHUKU (3,128 ACRES)**
USFS Held Easement
 The property is dominated by a mixed canopy and contains some of Hawaii's most intact remaining native forest including seventeen rare endemic plant species. The ranch also supports many unique wildlife species including the 'alala, along with the endangered Hawaiian 'akepa, creeper, 'akiapola'au, hawk, and Hawaii's only land mammal, the Hawaiian Hoary bat. Completion of this project allowed for connectivity between the Wildlife Refuge and Park lands, and the parcel became part of the mauka wildlife corridor and watershed.
- 4 PAPA/HONOMALINO PARCEL (6,271 ACRES)**
USFS Held Easement
 The Papa and Honomalino parcels are a diverse mosaic of mid-elevation koa-`ohi`a forest stands on lava flows of different ages. This project protects part of an ancient koa-`ohi`a forest that spans more than 100,000 acres along the leeward coast of the Island of Hawai'i. Globally unique songbirds such as the `apapane, `i`iwi, `elepaio, and `amakihi live and sing in this forest, that prior to project completion was threatened by subdivision, nonsustainable logging, grazing, and weed invasion.
- 5 KAPUA PARCEL (1,800 ACRES)**
USFS Held Easement
 A diverse mosaic of mid-elevation koa-ohi a forest stands on lava flows of different ages, conservation of this parcel was key in the long term protection of the forests of the South Kona Coast. The parcel is located adjacent to a Nature Conservancy preserve in the South Kona Area of the Big Island of Hawaii, and serves as habitat for four endemic bird species, the threatened Hawaiian hawk, and the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat. Conservation of this parcel resulted in protection against subdivision, nonsustainable logging, grazing, and weed invasion.
- 6 WAO KELE O PUNA (25,856 ACRES)**
Fee Acquisition, OHA
 Wao Kele O Puna tract is composed of dense native Hawaiian forest covering over forty square miles of the Puna District on the Island of Hawai'i.
 This 25,856 acre property represents one of the last large intact lowland native forests in the State of Hawai'i as well as a prime example of Hawaiian archaeological significance. This specific forest parcel serves as a critical seed bank for native forest regeneration of the barren lava flows recently covering large swaths of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.

