

Hawaii

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage

#SaveLWCF

America's most important conservation and recreation program will expire in less than a year unless Congress acts. For 52 years, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has protected national parks and open spaces in every corner of the United States. But in less than 52 weeks, it could be gone forever and along with it, future protection of the places we love.

[LWCF](#) has invested more than \$229 million over the past five decades to protect Hawaii's outdoor places, open access for swimming, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor activities, and to build close to home parks. From beaches to habitat preserves, to Hawaii's iconic National Parks and historic sites, LWCF has protected places like James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks, Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens, and the Forest Legacy Project at Kealakekua Ranch. LWCF has also invested \$38 million in state and local grants to expand public access to beaches and recreational facilities for Hawaiians themselves to enjoy as much as visitors do.

Hawaii's \$7.8 billion [outdoor recreation industry](#) is an economic powerhouse – supporting 68,000 jobs which generate \$2.4 billion in wages and salaries and produces \$604 million annually in state and local tax revenue.

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

The 175-mile Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail was established in 2000 for the preservation, protection, and interpretation of traditional Native Hawaiian culture and natural resources. It was created with extensive support from community members, landowners, and other stakeholders, and continues to operate under community based management. One LWCF project has been completed on Ala Kahakai, providing \$2 million to continue the work of protecting this important Hawaiian cultural and environmental site, but there is still significant need for additional funds to contribute to the completion of the trail. In FY18, a request of \$6 million in LWCF funding was submitted to the National Park Service to protect the cultural landscape which includes an ancient fishing village and lands important to the local community for subsistence fishing and gathering.



Kaunamano Credit: Ala Kahakai Trail Association

"The trails for the Hawaiian people held many purposes such as traveling, governance and religious ceremonies. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail traverses through Kaunamano which translates to "where many live." Though the use of the trail has diminished in modern times in lieu of highways, the trail continues to be used by the Kau community for fishing and other activities along the coast. Archaeological sites in large numbers can be seen along the trail and is a reminder of what once was.

The people of Kau, staunch in their old traditions, continue to acknowledge the tremendous value the trail has to their community. The connection to place and ancestors can be experienced in each step taken on the trail. For us, the trail is a physical representation of the rich history of our people. Our kulelana or responsibility is to protect this very precious resource for our future generations. Today, the trail serves as a means to bring community to a heightened understanding of the traditions, values, and customs of the host culture." - Kaleo Paik, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Home to the most researched and understood volcanoes in the world (Kilauea, Mauna Loa, and Hualalai) Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has received \$32 million in LWCF funds to purchase significant inholdings within the park and complete protection of the ever-changing landscape. From coastline and lava fields, to rainforests and craters, this park is a hub of tourism and cultural significance for visitors and Native Hawaiians. In 2003, one of the park's most significant land acquisitions was completed to increase its size by 50% or 115,788 acres, utilizing \$22 million in LWCF funding with key support from conservation groups and local partners. This land, known as Kahuku Ranch, includes grasslands, a forested crater, dozens of endangered plant and bird species, and one of the most active parts of the Mauna Loa Volcano.



Visitors observe Halema'uma'u crater Credit: NPS

#SaveLWCF to protect the places we love in Hawaii!

www.lwcfcoalition.org/lwcf52weeks/