

Hawaii

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



LWCF Funded Places in Hawaii

Federal Units

- Hakalau Forest NWF
- Haleakala NP
- Hanalei NWR
- Hawai'i Volcanoes NP
- Huleia NWR
- James Campbell NWR
- Kakahaia NWR
- Kalaupapa NHP
- Kaloko-Honokohau NHP
- Kealia Pond NHP
- Kilauea Point NWR
- Makena Beach Admin Site
- Oahu Forest NWR
- Pu'uuhonua o Honaunau NHP

Federal Total \$147,184,040

State Programs

Forest Legacy Program	\$22,790,142
Habitat Conservation (Sec. 6)	\$30,965,931
Stateside	\$42,668,675

Total \$243,608,788

LWCF Success in Hawaii

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has provided funding to help protect some of Hawaii's most special places and ensure recreational access for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. Hawaii has received approximately \$243.6 million in LWCF funding over the past five decades, protecting places such as the Hawaii Volcanoes and Haleakala National Parks, James Campbell and Hakalau National Wildlife Refuges, and Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP) grants are also funded under LWCF, to help protect working forests. The FLP cost-share funding supports timber sector jobs and sustainable forest operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and recreation. For example, the FLP contributed to places such as the Kainalu Forest Watershed in Maui County, Kealakekua Ranch in South Kona County and Kukaiau Koa Forest in Hawaii County. The FLP assists states and private forest owners to maintain working forest lands through matching grants for permanent conservation easement and fee acquisitions, and has leveraged approximately \$22.8 million in federal funds to invest in Hawaii's forests, while protecting air and water quality, wildlife habitat, access for recreation and other public benefits provided by forests.

LWCF state assistance grants have further supported hundreds of projects across Hawaii's state and local parks including James Kealoha Beach Park Addition in Hawaii County. Additionally, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), has annual funding opportunities for city park projects in economically disadvantaged areas.

Economic Benefits

Active outdoor recreation is an important part of Hawaii's economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis has found that outdoor recreation generates \$5.7 billion in value added to Hawaii's economy, 46,610 homegrown jobs, and accounts for 5.6% of the state's economy. Each year, 162,000 sportsmen and 262,000 wildlife watchers combine to spend \$374 million on wildlife-associated recreation in Hawaii.





LWCF in Hawaii

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, \$6 million in LWCF funding was used by 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.

Fiscal Year 2025 Agency LWCF Project List for Hawaii

Agency	Project	Amount	Delegation
USFWS	Kilauea Point NWR (Supplemental List)	\$15,000,000	Schatz, Hirono/Tokuda
FLP	South Kona Forest (Supplemental List)	\$1,500,000	Schatz, Hirono/Tokuda



Status of the Land and Water Conservation Fund

In August 2020, permanent, dedicated funding for LWCF was secured through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) – ensuring that each year the \$900 million deposited into the LWCF account is directed to conservation and recreation priorities; however, in FY24 Congress backtracked on that promise when they rescinded \$94 million of unobligated LWCF funding (\$89M from the NPS State & Local Assistance Program & \$5M from BLM). GAOA has not eliminated the backlog of LWCF priorities that are waiting in line as nearly all LWCF programs remain oversubscribed - each year the LWCF supplemental project list includes about \$200 million in urgent needs that are authorized to use this funding. To support these critical projects, unspent LWCF funding should be reallocated to the states by the Secretary of the Interior (per the LWCF Act) or reprogrammed by Congress to LWCF sub-programs with outstanding funding need. If funding is rescinded rather than reallocated or reprogrammed, landowners and communities miss out on LWCF funding, and these critical priorities could be lost forever.

FY25 Budget Update: The Biden Administration’s FY25 budget proposal included detailed LWCF priority project lists and balanced program allocations, as well supplemental project lists over and above LWCF’s current \$900 million funding level. [Click here to view a map of past LWCF projects](#)

LWCF is a simple idea: that a portion of offshore drilling fees should be used to protect important land and water for all Americans. These are not taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, for 55 years the promise of LWCF was broken as \$22 billion was diverted from the program.

The **Great American Outdoors Act** ended the diversion and ensures that LWCF’s permanently authorized \$900 million is used for conservation and recreation projects each year.

LWCF supports the acquisition of land and conservation easements to **protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, trails, and BLM sites**, grants funds to the states for local and state park needs, protects critical wildlife habitat, watersheds and recreational access, and conserves working farms, ranches and forestlands that enhance local economies.



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