

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS COMMISSION

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CITY CLERK
HONOLULU, HAWAII

POLICY ON COMMISSION PRIORITIES

WHEREAS:

1. City and County of Honolulu Resolution No. 07-355 CD1 establishes the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund ("Fund") and the Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission ("the Commission");
2. Ordinance 07-18 provides that "All expenditures from this fund shall be made consistent with the priorities established by a commission created by council resolution";
3. Resolution 07-355 CD1 states that the Commission's role is to "advise and assist the Council in its efforts to set priorities and policies for expenditures and the Council's efforts to ultimately approve specific expenditures" from the Fund;
4. Resolution 07-355 CD1 states that the "purpose of the fund is to provide for the purchase of or to otherwise acquire real estate or any interest therein for land conservation in the city for the following purposes:
 - Protection of watershed lands to preserve water quality and water supply;
 - Preservation of forests, beaches, coastal areas and agricultural lands;
 - Public outdoor recreation and education, including access to beaches and mountains;
 - Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas and sites;
 - Protection of significant habitats or ecosystems, including buffer zones;
 - Conservation of land in order to reduce erosion, floods, landslides, and runoff;
and
 - Acquisition of public access to public land and open space";
5. Resolution 07-355 CD1 does not express a priority among the seven purposes of the fund, and each of the seven purposes itself contains multiple important objectives;
6. Resolution 07-355 CD1 also gives the Commission two specific tasks, stating "the duties of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to advising the Council on:
 - Developing priorities applicable to expenditures from the fund for land conservation; and
 - Formulating recommendations on applying these priorities to the proposed and approved expenditures from the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund";

7. The Commission has discussed these tasks at each of its meetings since convening for the first time on April 17, 2008; and

8. At the Commission's meeting on June 27, 2008, the Commission adopted a draft policy on priorities; on June 30, 2008, the Commission circulated the draft policy to, and invited comment from, the Mayor, the City Council, and interested persons; and, as discussed at its meeting on September 19, 2008, the Commission has since carefully considered all comments received on this matter including through a permitted interaction group consultation with Council Chair Marshall and Council Budget Chair Apo;

NOW THEREFORE:

9. To ensure that the public, the City Council, the Mayor, and interested persons have a clear understanding of the position of the Commission on its task of "developing priorities," the Commission hereby adopts by motion this final Policy on Commission Priorities:

A. The Commission currently considers each of the seven purposes of the Fund as stated in Resolution 07-355 CD1 to be equally important high priorities;

B. This policy does not preclude the Commission from determining, after a year of experience, that the seven purposes themselves should be ranked, or that the Commission should actively encourage projects that achieve one or more of the seven purposes;

C. The Commission has adopted (a) a "Matrix: Determination of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds Priorities" that will be used to assess the "resource priorities" of proposed projects by scoring them according to the seven purposes of the fund; and (b) a list of five additional "opportunity priorities," as stated in the Application and Guidelines, which are (1) urgency of the acquisition opportunity; (2) funding matches contributed or pledged by other sources; (3) consistency with the other stated priorities of the City and County of Honolulu; (4) need and ability to satisfy long-term maintenance and stewardship, including burdens on the City; and (5) geographic diversity among Council districts;

D. The Commission has therefore accomplished its first task of "Developing priorities applicable to expenditures from the fund for land conservation" by developing this "Policy on Commission Priorities," the Application, the Guidelines, the "Matrix: Determination of Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund Priorities," and the Timeline for the 2008-2009 cycle of project review; and

E. The Commission will accomplish its second task, "Formulating recommendations on applying these priorities to the proposed and approved expenditures from the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund," as it reviews and

evaluates applications for proposed land conservation, based on this Policy, the information provided by applicants using the Application, the Guidelines, the Matrix, site visits, and public comment; the Commission will then forward its ranked recommendations on the applications received for the 2008-2009 cycle to the City Council, along with all of the application materials, for the Council's final review and decision-making on the expenditures from the fund.

10. The Commission staff shall herewith transmit a copy of this motion and the Commission vote on the motion to each of the members of the City Council and to the Mayor, as well as by email to any interested persons, and post this document on the Commission web site.

The Commission passed the draft policy at its June 27, 2008 meeting, unanimously with five of nine commissioners in attendance. The Commission passed the final policy at its September 19, 2008 meeting, with a 5-2-0 vote, with seven of nine commissioners in attendance.

Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission

Denise E. Antolini	Mitch D'Olier	Jody L. Kaulukukui
Glenn R. Bauer	Alice P. Hewett	Gregory A. Koob
Hans J. Krock	Alan T. Takemoto	Marjorie F.Y. Ziegler