

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP SAFEGUARDS NORTH SHORE FARMLAND

Vital farmland mauka of Turtle Bay Resort gains permanent protection

HONOLULU, Hawai'i – Officials with federal, state, and county government, as well as private non-profit organizations today announced they have recorded a Grant of Conservation Easement that permanently protects 468 acres of productive farmland in Kahuku on Oahu's North Shore. This momentous effort was the result of collaboration between the private landowners of Turtle Bay Resort, The Trust for Public Land, the North Shore Community Land Trust, the City and County of Honolulu, the State of Hawai'i and the United States Army. With the makai conservation effort that closed in October 2015, over 1,200 acres of North Shore land are now permanently protected from future development.

The agricultural land, located *mauka* (toward the mountains) of Turtle Bay Resort, is owned by Turtle Bay Mauka Lands LLC, a company formed by the owners of Turtle Bay Resort. An agricultural conservation easement now permanently dedicates the land to agricultural uses and prohibits further subdivision, changes in zoning or land use classification, and residential or resort development. Twelve farmers are currently working the land by growing fruits and vegetables, including bananas, papayas, basil, tomatoes, eggplant and taro.

In addition to permanently dedicating the land to agriculture, the landowner will also be offering to license smaller community and business incubation farm lots, and has set aside a two-mile strip along Kamehameha Highway for a future pedestrian and bike path.

"We need to support agriculture and help our local farmers dramatically increase the amount of food we grow locally. Securing this land for farming in perpetuity is a tremendous step forward in that effort," said Gov. David Ige.

"This is a great step in conserving agricultural land to increase our food security and keeps the promise of 'Keeping the Country, Country,'" said Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. "I'm also pleased that we've set aside a two mile area for a future bike path along Kamehameha Highway. Bike paths connect communities, promote good health, reduce traffic congestion,

save energy, reduce pollution, and offer visitors a low-impact way to enjoy the beauty of the North Shore.”

“I believe most people would agree that having the ability to grow more of what we consume is a sensible path to sustainability,” stated Honolulu City Council Chair and Presiding Officer Ernie Martin. “The City and County of Honolulu must prioritize local agriculture as a necessity to keep Honolulu thriving and O’ahu a wholesome and healthy island community.”

The perpetual agricultural conservation easement was purchased through The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization. The Trust for Public Land assembled the \$6 million to purchase the easement from three programs: \$3 million from the United States Army Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program (REPI) and the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program (ACUB); \$1.5 million from the State of Hawai’i Legacy Land Conservation Program (which receives 10% of the state real estate conveyance tax); and \$1.5 million from the City and County of Honolulu Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund (which receives 0.5% of real property taxes). The North Shore Community Land Trust will be a co-holder of the agricultural conservation easement and assist public agencies in conducting annual monitoring surveys to ensure compliance with the restrictions within the conservation easement.

“We are very pleased to be able to participate in this purchase and partner with other community entities to protect and conserve this land for agricultural use by future generations,” said Col. Richard Fromm, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawai’i. The U.S. Army’s funding for this effort came from the Pentagon’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative program (REPI), which is chartered to preserve land from development around military installations. The 468 acres of North Shore farm land is adjacent to the Army’s Kahuku Training Area, as well as military training flight paths.



Photo courtesy of Sean Davey; email lea.hong@tpl.org for high res image

About the Trust for Public Land

Founded in 1972, The Trust for Public Land is the leading nonprofit working to conserve land for future generations. Operating from more than 30 offices nationwide, The Trust for Public Land has protected more than three million acres, from the inner city to the wilderness, and helped generate more than \$34 billion in public funds for conservation. Nearly 10 million people live within a 10-minute walk of a Trust for Public Land park, garden, or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. Learn more at [tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org/) (<http://www.tpl.org/>).

The Trust for Public Land has been working in Hawai'i since 1979 and has conserved over 42,000 acres throughout the islands. The Trust for Public Land focuses its efforts in Hawai'i on connecting people to shoreline/coastal lands, native/heritage lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture, and working lands that contribute to Hawai'i's self-sufficiency.

Quotations by Key Partners

“The Trust for Public Land thanks all the public and private partners in this worthy endeavor. With the makai conservation effort that closed in October 2015, this agricultural conservation easement project means that over 1,200 acres of North Shore land will not ever be developed.”
Lea Hong, Hawaiian Islands State Director, Edmund C. Olson Trust Fellow, The Trust for Public Land.

“In addition to preserving valuable agricultural land, the conservation easement allows for a multi-use trail to be established along Kamehameha Hwy for the entire length of the property. This brings us one step closer to achieving our goal of linking up the North Shore’s many communities, beaches, and places of interest via a network of family friendly trails.” Doug Cole, Executive Director of the North Shore Community Land Trust.

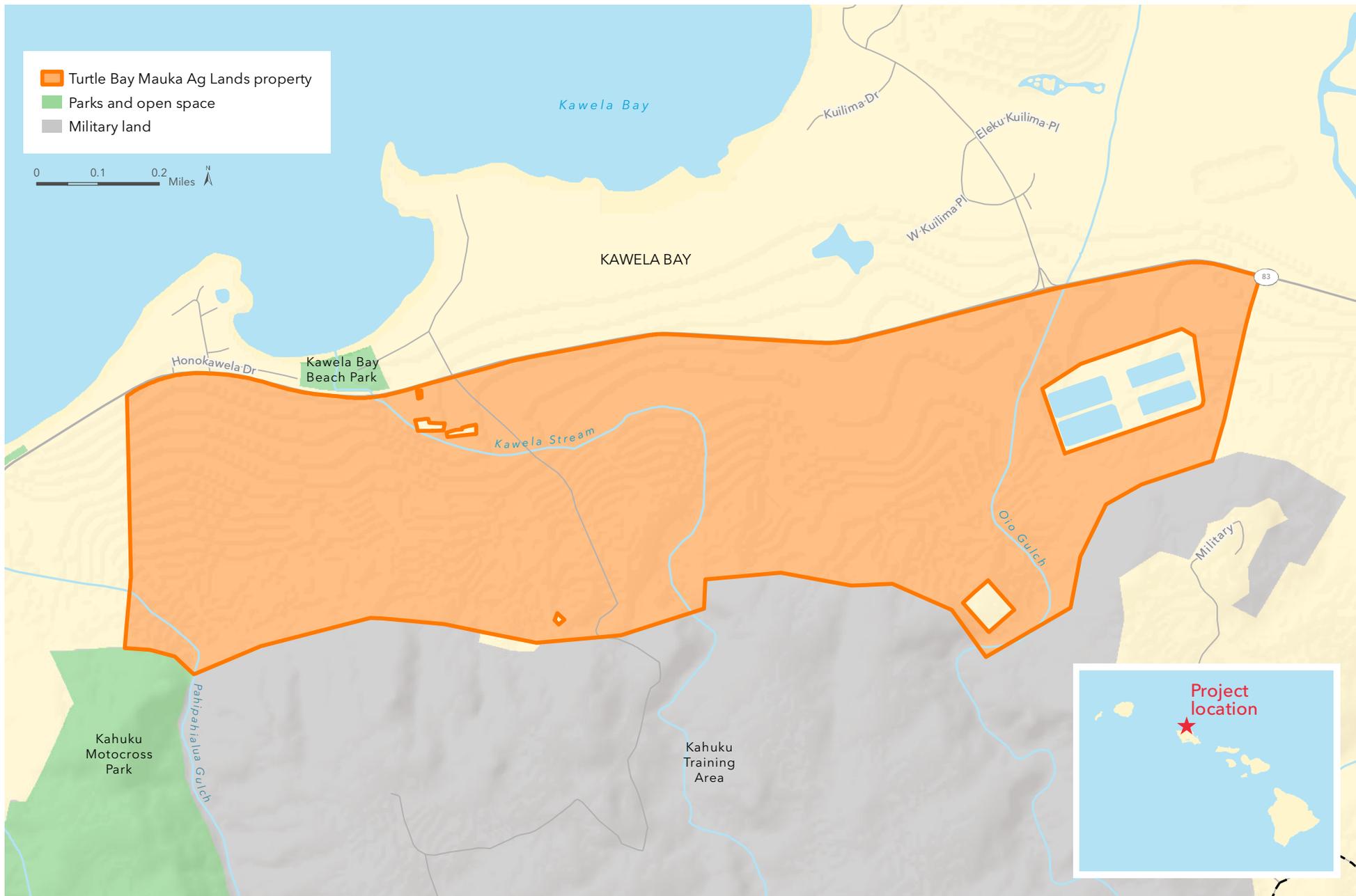
“Preserving agricultural lands for agricultural uses is at the heart of keeping the country, country. The North Shore is a special place for visitors and residents alike – preserving the rural and country character of area and increasing our food security – is a win-win for everyone.”
State Senator Gil Riviere.

“The State Legacy Land Conservation Program, which provided \$1.5 million to purchase this agricultural conservation easement, has been a resounding success, conserving in 24 projects, nearly 7,200 acres of land throughout our islands, and fostering public/private partnerships and community collaborations like this one.” Suzanne Case, Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, stated: “Each year, I’ve advocated for federal funding for the REPI program because it’s preserved thousands of acres in Hawaii and created buffers between local communities and military installations,” said U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. “I’m pleased that \$3 million of REPI funding is going to good use here. This win-win partnership has the added benefit of supporting Hawaii’s small farmers and local food production.”

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono said: “The Turtle Bay Mauka Agricultural Lands ensure that 468 acres on Oahu’s North Shore will remain available to current and future generations of Hawaii farmers, which will increase Hawaii’s food security and provide opportunities for local agriculture. This successful public-private partnership between the City and County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, the North Shore Community Land Trust, the U.S. Department of Defense through the REPI program, the Trust for Public Land and private landowner Turtle Bay Resort demonstrates what we can accomplish when we work together.”

Congressman Mark Takai, said “Preserving these lands in agriculture is an important step toward ensuring our state’s sustainable future. Given Hawaii’s limited inventory of land, we need to be at the forefront of responsible development practices if we intend to reduce our dependence on imported foods and maintain our community’s quality of life. And while these are issues that we see all across the country, Hawaii can be a role model for other states that are finding that they need to balance agriculture with development. I thank and congratulate the agencies and organizations that have worked together to make this possible.”



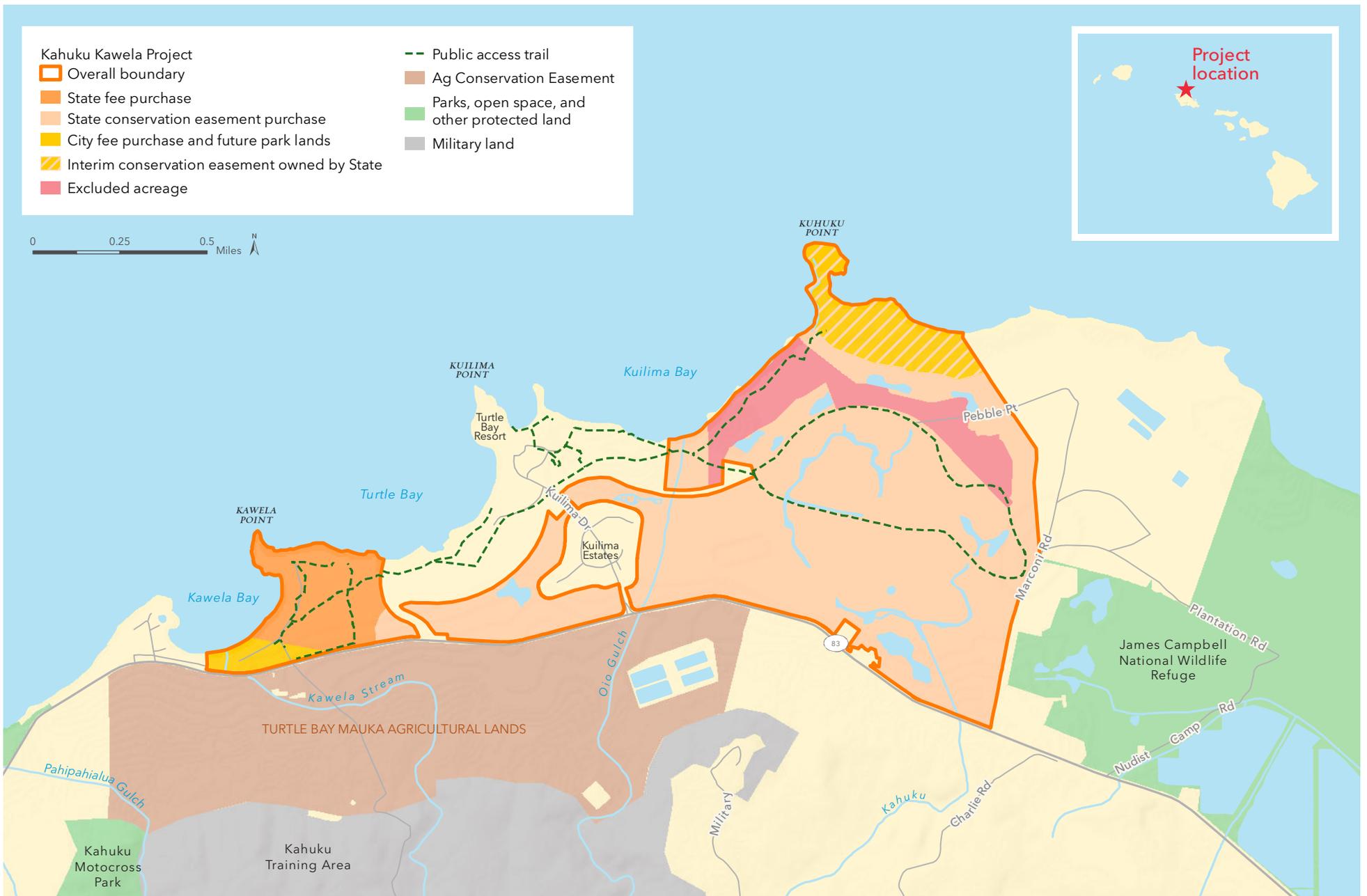
Turtle Bay Mauka Ag Lands

ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAII

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Turtle Bay Makai and Mauka Conservation

ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAII'

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