

Questions from Maui County Council to Hawaii Land Trust

Public Hearing - April 14, 2023 at 6pm

1. What is your project's official name?
 - a. Cultural Education Center at Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge
2. How much money are you asking for?
 - a. One million dollars
3. What is the money for?
 - a. Historic restoration of a historic beach cottage, built in 1937, to establish a Cultural Education Center centrally located to Maui schools and residents.

The project will restore the home, retaining its historic nature, and provide a learning space for schools and residents, updated and accessible restroom facilities (to replace the port-a-potties that are currently used), an office space, and a guest space for visiting staff, scientists, or partners.

Restoring the structure is preferable to tearing it down and building a new structure for a number of reasons. First, is the historic nature of the house which we believe to have been designed by C.W. Dickey. The house was the vacation home of the Wailuku Dairy Manager and often hosted visiting officials from around the world. Second, as Hawai'i Land Trust is a conservation-minded organization, restoring a structure, reusing as much of the original structure as possible, retiring the current cesspool and updating to a septic system, and installing photovoltaic for energy, is the greenest approach to the project. Due to the complexity of restoration projects they are often more expensive than new construction. However, we strongly believe the investment in restoration is necessary.

4. Were you previously funded by Maui County? Is this a first time request or have you had budget line items in the past?
 - a. Yes, we have been previously funded by Maui County. The original acquisition of Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge was provided by a 2003 line item budget that closed in 2004.

More recently, Hawai'i Land Trust is the fiscal sponsor for the Save the Maui Wetlands Hui, supporting their work to map, restore, and educate about the wetlands in Kīhei. This included an FY22 grant for \$200,000 and an FY23 grant for \$455,500, administered through the County's Office of Climate Change, Resilience, and Sustainability (now the Office of Innovation and Sustainability). Additionally, HILT is the recipient of an FY23 grant for \$65,500 from the Office of Innovation and Sustainability in support of our efforts to restore the Kapoho Wetlands at Waihe'e Refuge.

5. Who owns and stewards the property? What is Maui County's role?
 - a. Hawai'i Land Trust owns and stewards Waihe'e Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge. Maui County co-holds an easement with the State of Hawai'i over these lands.
6. Are you in the Mayor's budget at all? Did you not approach him in time?
 - a. We are not included in the Mayor's Budget and did not make a financial ask of the administration for this project during the November 2022 budget meetings. Progress has been made since then and the project is now ripe to justify a financial ask of the county.
7. Which fiscal year do you plan to receive Federal funding?
 - a. FY2024
8. Is there planning, design and construction fees accounted for?
 - a. Yes, there are costs associated with planning, design, and construction fees being covered by privately raised funds.
9. Do you require the \$1.2 million from the County this fiscal year?
 - a. We would require confirmation of funding by this fiscal year and funding secured by December 2023 to match the potential federal earmark funds currently moving through Congress.
10. Can you take the Federal funding this fiscal year and come back for County funding next year?
 - a. We have a \$1.5M federal earmark moving through Congress, supported by Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, which, if passed, will require a \$1.23M match. We hope Congress will pass the FY24 budget by the end of the year. We will need to have secured the match at that time to receive the earmark funding. If we are unable to produce the match, we forfeit the federal funds. While we could theoretically return for county funding next year, it would be too late to serve as the match for the federal dollars.
11. Do you need to get SMA (Shoreline Management Area) approval and permits?
 - a. Yes. As of 4/13, we have a permit submitted through Thorne Abbott with Coastal Planners.
12. What is the project's timeline? Including specific actions and permit approvals.
 - a. We are currently in the design and drafting process and are moving forward with obtaining the necessary permits. We expect to obtain those permits and begin with the restoration between January and March of 2024.
13. What specific actions would take place during July 2023 - June 2024?

- a. Between July and August 2023 we expect to complete the planning and design phase of the project. We will continue to pursue the necessary permitting through December, 2023. Between January and March 2024, we expect to begin restoration and continue through June 2024.

A good portion of the project will include installation of photovoltaic panels and a septic system to provide power and waste management to the structure. Those items will be the first items to complete once we begin restoration/construction.

Throughout the timeline, we will continue to fundraise through various sources as needed to ensure the project's completion.

BFED Committee

From: Michele N. McLean
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 8:35 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Olu Campbell; Angela Britten; Shea Tamura
Subject: FW: [Update] Progress on Cultural Learning Center at HILT's Waihe'e Refuge
Attachments: 2023.4.19- Maui County Council Q&A List.pdf

Aloha BFED Team,

Please see the correspondence below and attached from HILT in response to questions from members.

Mahalo,
Michele.

*Michele McLean, AICP
Office of Council Chair Alice Lee
Office: 808-270-7641*

From: Olu Campbell <olu.campbell@hilt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 10:45 PM
To: Angela Britten <angela.britten@hilt.org>; Michele N. McLean <Michele.McLean@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Shea Tamura <shea.tamura@hilt.org>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Angela Britten <angie@hilt.org>
Subject: Re: [Update] Progress on Cultural Learning Center at HILT's Waihe'e Refuge

Aloha e Michele,

We recognize the council members had a number of questions for our team about this project when we testified at the Council meeting on April 14th. We compiled and provided responses to those questions in the attached document. Please feel free to use the information as you may need and to share it with your colleagues in the other offices as appropriate. Hope this is helpful.

Mahalo,

‘Olu Campbell

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Watch: Hawai‘i Land Trust - [Who We Are](#)



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