

## **Hawaiian Island's Primary Land Conservation Organizations**

### **HAWAI'I ISLAND LAND TRUST (HILT)**

Formed in 2001 as the Kona Land Trust, HILT renamed itself to reflect its new role as the primary land trust for the state's largest island. To meet the growing needs of the land trust and community, the all-volunteer organization is in the process of hiring an executive director. "With so much pristine acreage, we still have the opportunity to preserve and protect some significant open spaces on the Big Island," announced President Mike Katz. HILT hopes the addition of an executive director and other paid staff will help them gain the resources needed to expand their efforts and assure comprehensive management and protection of lands and easements that are expected to be donated to the land trust in the coming years.

**Inception:** 2001  
**Land Preserved:** One parcel totaling 185 acres  
**Employees/volunteers:** All-volunteer group of 16  
**President:** Mike Katz  
**Exec. Director:** Hiring expected in 2007  
**Email:** [info@hawaiiandtrust.org](mailto:info@hawaiiandtrust.org)  
**Website:** [www.hawaiiandtrust.org/](http://www.hawaiiandtrust.org/)  
**Phone:** (808) 324-HILT (4458)  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 976  
Kealahou, HI 96750  
**Mission:** HILT is a community-based, non-political, non-profit corporation whose purpose is to provide an inclusive approach to land preservation on the island of Hawai'i.

### **KAUAI PUBLIC LAND TRUST (KPLT)**

One of the oldest island-established land trusts in the state, KPLT began in 1989 with an excited group of individuals who saw potential for saving land after witnessing the Trust for Public Land's (TPL) 1988 expansion effort at Kilauea Point (TPL conveyed more than 130 acres to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, greatly expanding the existing refuge). KPLT is now working to expand TPL's efforts by conserving land east of the Kilauea Point lighthouse into the Kilauea River basin, a significant wildlife habitat and important ecological biome. In an effort to ramp up preservation efforts on Kauai, KPLT hopes to find an executive director by August 2007.

**Inception:** 1989  
**Land Preserved:** Three parcels totaling 26 acres  
**Employees/volunteers:** All-volunteer board of seven  
**President:** Gary Blaich  
**Exec. Director:** Hiring (a/o Spring 2007)  
**Email:** [kplt2@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kplt2@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Website:** [www.kauaipubliclandtrust.org](http://www.kauaipubliclandtrust.org)  
**Phone:** (808) 828-1438  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 562  
Kilauea, HI 96754  
**Mission:** Working with others to use land conservation tools to preserve Kauai's places of the heart.

### MAUI COASTAL LAND TRUST (MCLT)

Since 2002, MCLT has grown by leaps and bounds, gaining not only in lands held and funding but also in its help. Originally an all-volunteer organization, MCLT has acquired four employees in the last five years including: an executive director, a development director, an office manager, and a project manager for its 277-acre Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Reserve. MCLT's success is no small feat. Executive Director Dale Bonar explains the impetus came from "the huge need for a private conservation organization focused on Maui and the interest and support of both the public and the government." MCLT supports conservation efforts on all the islands in Maui County and focuses not only on coastal lands but also lands that have an effect on the coastal zone, including agricultural lands. As an example, MCLT was recently awarded \$1.1 million from the new Legacy Land Conservation Program to assist in the purchase of a perpetual agricultural conservation easement on Moloka'i.

**Inception:** 2001  
**Land Preserved:** Six parcels totaling over 460 acres  
**Employees/volunteers:** Four full time employees, one Americorp worker, numerous volunteers  
**President:** Helen Nielsen  
**Exec. Director:** Dale B. Bonar  
**Email:** [info@mauicoastallandtrust.org](mailto:info@mauicoastallandtrust.org)  
**Website:** [www.mauicoastallandtrust.org](http://www.mauicoastallandtrust.org)  
**Phone:** (808) 244-LAND (5263)  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 965  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
**Mission:** We believe it is important to acquire, preserve and protect coastal lands in Maui Nui for the benefit of the natural environment and of current and future generations.

### MOLOKA'I LAND TRUST (MLT)

The fledgling Moloka'i Land Trust incorporated and received its public charity status in 2006, but its origins go back almost ten years. In 1998, Moloka'i became an "Enterprise Community" ("EC") after applying for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community Program. The EC developed a ten-year strategic plan with the USDA's assistance, which specifically included the goal of creating a land trust to preserve culturally and environmentally important lands on Moloka'i. A community-based master land use plan also came out of the EC project. The land use plan proposes Molokai's largest landowner, Moloka'i Properties Limited (MPL), donate 26,000 acres of its 65,000-acre holdings, and place conservation easements on another 24,000 acres. MLT Secretary Cheryl Corbiell explained, "we believe this new land trust will help Moloka'i residents take control of their rural and cultural heritage." MLT fills a needed niche, as non-residents own over 85% of the lands on Moloka'i. MLT hopes to hire initial staff, including an executive director, in the next twelve months.

**Inception:** 2006  
**Land Preserved:** MLT expects to receive its first land donation of 1,600 acres in 2007; the proposed donation is in the Mokio area on northwest Moloka'i and includes a combination of coastal lands, sea cliffs, and uplands area.  
**Employees/volunteers:** All-volunteer board of nine  
**President:** Colette Machado  
**Exec. Director:** Hiring expected in 2007 or 2008  
**Email:** [cpgroup@aloha.net](mailto:cpgroup@aloha.net)  
**Website:** [www.molokailandtrust.org](http://www.molokailandtrust.org)  
**Phone:** (808) 553-9009  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1884  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748  
**Mission:** The mission of the Moloka'i Land Trust is to protect and restore the land, natural and cultural resources of Moloka'i, and to perpetuate the unique Native Hawaiian traditions and character of the islands for the benefit of the future generations of all Moloka'i, particularly Native Hawaiians.

### **NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (NSCLT)**

NSCLT has been engaged in land conservation efforts for a decade, focusing its efforts on the special natural areas of the North Shore of O`ahu. Most recently, NSCLT partnered with the TPL on the purchase of Pupukea-Paumalu, a 1,129-acre bluff area to become a county and state park. This purchase provides a textbook example of how to arrange funding from multiple sources. The protection effort included significant financial contributions from federal, state, county and private sources.

**Inception:** 1997  
**Land Preserved:** N/A  
**Employees/volunteers:** All-volunteer board of nine  
**President:** Blake McElheny  
**Vice Pres:** Roberts Leinau  
**Email:** [info@NorthShoreLand.org](mailto:info@NorthShoreLand.org)  
**Website:** [www.northshoreland.org/](http://www.northshoreland.org/)  
**Phone:** (808) 638-0338  
**Mailing Address:** Po Box 1179  
Haleiwa, HI 96712  
**Mission:** NSCLT is a nonprofit land trust that protects the special natural areas of the North Shore of O`ahu through voluntary land conservation.

### **OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA)**

OHA'S recent land acquisitions suggest that one of the ways to preserve cultural heritage is to protect and preserve culturally important lands. In the last year OHA has been a leader in several significant land acquisitions. OHA gave \$342,000 to TPL for the acquisition of Mu`olea Point on the island of Maui. It also partnered with TPL for the purchase of 25,856 acres at Waokele `o` Puna on the island of Hawai`i and is now the owner and steward of that land. Finally, at the conclusion of a complex purchase involving the landowner, the Department of the Army, the Hawai`i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the City and County of Honolulu, OHA took possession of the 1,875-acre Waimea Valley ahupua`a on the North Shore of Oahu. OHA will be responsible for that land's long-term management. At a recent land trust gathering on Oahu, OHA Land Management Division Director, Jonathan Schuerer, reminded participants that acquiring land or placing a perpetual easement over the land is just the beginning: "Any time you are considering purchasing or receiving a donation of land, you need to remember that the land was once owned by Hawaiians; it has its own unique history, which may include happy as well as painful memories. How you steward the land and involve the community must reflect that understanding."

**Inception:** 2006  
**Land Preserved:** Five parcels at over 27,700 acres  
**Employees/volunteers:** Three (Land Mgmt Div.)  
**Division Dir:** Jonathan Likeke Scheuer  
**Email:** [jonathans@oha.org](mailto:jonathans@oha.org)  
**Website:** [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org)  
**Phone:** (808) 594-1946  
**Mailing Address:** 711 Kapi`olani Blvd. Suite 50  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
**Mission:** To malama (protect) Hawai`i's people and environmental resources and OHA's assets, toward ensuring the perpetuation of the culture, the enhancement of lifestyle and the protection of entitlements of Native Hawaiians, while enabling the building of a strong and healthy Hawaiian people and nation, recognized nationally and internationally.

## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY-HAWAII BRANCH

The Nature Conservancy protected lands in Hawai'i as early as 1960 and has had a physical presence here since 1980. TNC has helped protect almost 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i, including establishing a statewide system of eleven preserves totaling almost 32,000 acres. Communications Director Grady Timmons, explained TNC's strategy: "We began by establishing preserves to provide habitat for threatened native species. Today, we are taking that a step further by protecting the larger native ecosystems of which preserves are a part. Our reputation for excellence, gained through more than quarter century of preserve management, is now being applied across larger landscapes."

**Inception (in HI):** 1980  
**Land Preserved:** 36 parcels at over 1,100,000 acres including partnerships  
**Employees/volunteers:** Approximately 70 employees  
**Comm. Director:** Grady Timmons  
**Email:** [gtimmons@tnc.org](mailto:gtimmons@tnc.org)  
**Website:** [www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/hawaii/](http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/hawaii/)  
**Phone:** (808) 537-4508  
**Mailing Address:** 923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**Mission:** The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

## TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND (TPL)

Formed nationally in 1972, TPL completed its first project in Hawai'i in 1979, and opened a Hawai'i office in 1998. Acknowledging that land and culture in Hawai'i are forever linked, TPL's projects in Hawai'i have attempted to serve the dual purpose of protecting Hawai'i's natural or open space resources, as well its unique cultural resources. In addition to the project staff in the islands, TPL taps experienced project, legal, public affairs, and governmental affairs staff in San Francisco and Washington D.C. TPL's projects in Hawai'i have included the protection of native forests, cultural sites, lo'i, wildlife habitat, and scenic ocean vistas. Through financial and other assistance, TPL has helped protect 35,000 acres of land in the Hawaiian Islands, including, recently, 25,856 acres at Wao Kele 'o' Puna on the Big Island. In recent years, TPL harnessed its national expertise and resources to encourage Hawai'i counties to establish dedicated revenue sources for conservation projects. As a result in large part to TPL's efforts, all of Hawai'i's counties now have such dedicated conservation funds. These local sources of revenue are being used by land trusts and other entities to leverage state and federal funds for conservation acquisitions.

**Inception (in Hawaii):** 1972 nationally; first project in Hawai'i 1979  
**Land Preserved:** 15 projects, 35,000 acres  
**Employees:** 2.8 FTE, 16 volunteer advisory board (in Hawai'i)  
**HI Programs Director:** Lea Hong  
**Email:** [lea.hong@tpl.org](mailto:lea.hong@tpl.org)  
**Website:** [www.tpl.org/tier2\\_rl.cfm?folder\\_id=269](http://www.tpl.org/tier2_rl.cfm?folder_id=269)  
**Phone:** (808) 524-8560  
**Mailing Address:** 212 Merchant St., Suite 320  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Mission:** The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. In Hawai'i, we seek to actively engage local communities in protecting Hawai'i's living culture.