



A GREENPRINT FOR HAWAI‘I—O‘ahu

Across Hawai‘i, tens of thousands of acres are for sale. This includes productive agricultural acreage and rare wilderness land, for which development proposals can prompt public controversy and costly litigation. These landscapes hold *mo‘olelo* (stories) that tie us to Hawai‘i’s ancestral past, even as they connect us to today’s flourishing native culture. Agricultural lands support diverse crops and food security. And wilderness lands are beautiful places to roam and explore.

The best way to preserve these lands is to balance development with conservation based on a scientifically sound planning process that takes the land’s special values into account. The Trust for Public Land and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs are now working on such a plan, known as a Greenprint. After launching on O‘ahu, the Greenprint will expand to cover the entire state.

How it will work

To create the Greenprint, our planning team will:

- engage residents during interviews, in polling, and at stakeholder meetings and “SpeakOuts” (booths at community events)
- establish the value residents place on cultural, recreational, and natural resources, including *heiau* (places of worship), fishponds, farms, ranches, parks, conserved lands, drinking water protection, and the restoration of *lo‘i kalo* (wetland taro patches)
- integrate this value-based data with science-based land data from sources such as The Nature Conservancy and the Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative
- create GIS maps and models that display the best opportunities for land conservation based on prioritized human values and scientific data

The Greenprint will build on a pilot The Trust for Public Land and the North Shore Community Land Trust recently completed for the North Shore of O‘ahu from Kahuku to Ka‘ena. It is designed to complement the existing Office of Hawaiian Affairs Kīpuka and Papakilo databases of Hawaiian land, culture, and history, as well as other research initiatives.

The outcome

The Greenprint’s clear, color-coded maps will display local and regional conservation goals. By showcasing lands most in need of protection, it will allow organizations and agencies to coordinate planning and pursue projects that yield the highest possible conservation impact.

The Greenprint will lead to better protection for significant lands where residents and visitors alike can experience Hawai‘i in all its astonishing diversity, including:

- cultural and historic sites
- working farms and ranches
- beaches and shorelines
- mountainous and wilderness areas

Outreach for the Greenprint will raise awareness of the need to protect Hawaiian cultural sites, *wahi pana* (sacred or storied places), and natural lands—and it will educate the public about climate change, food security, and the role of voluntary land conservation in preserving the state’s character.

Plan of action

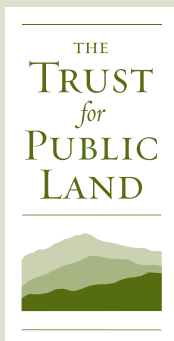
RESEARCH The team currently is reviewing existing documents and accumulating data to inform the Greenprint, including local land use plans, water management plans, state strategy documents pertaining to planning and economic development, information on the current uses of land and water, and data on demographic trends.

PUBLIC OUTREACH A 16-month outreach phase will begin with the formation of the Island Leadership Team, community leaders from across O‘ahu who will meet every few months to keep project outcomes focused on local values and priorities. These leaders will also serve as critical links to local people as we plan and conduct interviews and host community SpeakOuts, which will be coordinated by Townscape Inc., a Hawai‘i-based planning company.

An additional volunteer group, the Technical Advisory Team, will be made up of experts in geographic information systems and/or the protection of cultural assets and natural resources such as water quality. This group will be consulted as natural resource data is integrated with public input on local land values.

MAPPING ANALYSIS In consultation with the Technical Advisory Team and OHA, The Trust for Public Land’s Greenprint experts will then create customized computer models and maps showing lands for priority preservation. The models and maps will reveal where communities should invest their limited dollars to best meet conservation goals, and will guide efforts to conserve O‘ahu’s quality of life.

FINAL REPORT A concise report will detail the course of the project and resulting products. It will also provide strategic recommendations for the future, as identified by the Island Leadership Team.



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