

HAWAII FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership seeks to cooperatively develop and implement conservation projects to benefit native aquatic life and sustainable uses of streams, estuaries, and nearshore marine habitats through the support and participation of government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities.

Project Support for Aquatic Habitat Conservation Pre-proposals due October 16, 2020

The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership is seeking information on **aquatic habitat conservation projects** in streams, estuaries, and nearshore marine habitats of the main Hawaiian Islands. Projects developed in coordination with the Hawaii FHP may be eligible for funding through the **National Fish Habitat Partnership** (NFHP, www.fishhabitat.org) the **National Fish Passage Program** (www.fws.gov/fisheries/fish-passage.html) and other federal and non-federal financial assistance programs.

Projects submitted for funding will be reviewed locally by the Hawaii FHP Steering Committee. Since 2008, the Hawaii FHP has provided several awards each year of \$10,000 to \$100,000 for fish passage improvements and aquatic habitat restoration. A minimum of a one-to-one cash or in-kind match is required. Final project selection will be completed in late 2020 and successful applicants will have funding in place in the second or third quarter of 2021. Projects scheduled for completion in 12-18 months are preferred.

On-the-ground aquatic habitat conservation projects are given highest priority, especially “shovel-ready” projects that have completed environmental compliance requirements. If funding permits, secondary consideration may be given to support aquatic habitat conservation project planning and design, or applied research in subject areas that will guide future Hawaii FHP aquatic habitat conservation activities such as engineering for fish passage projects, aquatic invasive species control, and analysis of potential climate change impacts to aquatic systems. Outcomes must closely address the priority objectives of the Hawaii FHP Strategic Plan (www.fws.gov/pacificislands/documents/HFHPstrategicplan.pdf) and the national goals of the NFHP (www.fishhabitat.org). Projects located in the priority watersheds identified in the Hawaii FHP Strategic Plan are preferred. Hawaii FHP objectives are to:

- ✦ Preserve and improve habitat connectivity by reducing impacts of barriers to native species passage.
- ✦ Develop and implement conservation projects that link inland and nearshore marine ecosystems to protect, restore, and maintain self-sustaining aquatic communities.
- ✦ Support research and monitoring to obtain data needed to guide conservation, management and recovery programs in stream, estuarine and nearshore marine waters.

A ONE PAGE narrative pre-proposal is due October 16, 2020. The synopsis should include a written justification for the project with respect to achieving NFHP and Hawaii FHP objectives. In addition to the one-page narrative, the submittal should include: 1) a timeline for project implementation, including permits and environmental compliance; and 2) a budget outline and a budget narrative that describes proposed expenditures of federal assistance funds and cash and in-kind match contributions. Please submit preproposals by email to gordon_smith@fws.gov. A detailed full proposal will be requested for those projects that best adhere to these evaluation criteria.

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