

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 7, 2016

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/whatwedo/nfpp/nfpp) and other federal and non-federal 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 \$75,000 for aquatic habitat restoration. A minimum of a one-to-one non-federal cash or in-kind match is required. Final project selection will be completed in late 2016 and successful applicants will have funding in place in the second quarter of 2017. 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 and the national goals of the NFHP (<http://bit.ly/2bqxx2z>). Hawaii FHP objectives are to:

- ✦ Preserve and improve habitat connectivity by reducing impacts of instream structures that are 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.
- ✦ Provide expertise to establish defined instream flow volumes in natural stream channels sufficient to restore and maintain viable populations of native fish and invertebrates.

A ONE PAGE narrative pre-proposal is due October 7, 2016. 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 that describes proposed expenditures of federal assistance funds as well as cash and in-kind match contributions. A more detailed full proposal will be requested for those projects that best adhere to these evaluation criteria.

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