KUAHIWI A KAI (FROM THE MOUNTAIN TO THE OCEAN)  
SPRING 2020 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Applicant Webinar:  Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 9:30 AM Hawaii Standard Time
Pre-Proposal Due Date:  Friday, October 18, 2019 by 5:59 PM Hawaii Standard Time
Full Proposal Due Date:  Monday, December 2, 2019 by 5:59 PM Hawaii Standard Time

OVERVIEW
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals focusing on watershed-scale strategies to protect and enhance Lānaʻi’s coral reefs, native plants and animals, endangered Hawaiian petrel habitat, and sensitive coastal cultural sites, while fostering co-management with and engagement of Lānaʻi’s community stakeholders. Lānaʻi presents an unparalleled opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable land management and community stewardship in Hawaiʻi by both protecting native ecosystems, and providing improved ecosystem services such as clean water, resource gathering, and recreation to the people who call Lānaʻi home. With few land managers on the island, Lānaʻi has one of the few true examples of a unified approach to land management similar to the ahupuaʻa system of Hawaiian tradition.

Lānaʻi’s windward Keōmoku coast is home to remarkable natural and cultural resources that help make the island unique. Mauka (inland), seabird nesting habitat stretches along the ridge lines and supports one of the largest remaining colonies of endangered ‘ua’u (Hawaiian petrel), and loʻi kalo (taro terraces) mark the back of Maunalei, one of Lānaʻi’s most important drainages. Makai (seaward), Lānaʻi’s nearshore coral reefs have been identified as one of the ‘seed stocks’ for the rest of Maui County, and an old loko i’a (fishpond) at Waiaʻōpae is slowly reemerging through the efforts of dedicated staff and volunteers. While the island remains a stronghold for these and other resources, the landscape faces threats from sedimentation runoff, invasive plants, uncontrolled ungulate populations, and non-native mammalian predators.

Invasive plants and animals have had a deleterious impact on Lānaʻi’s natural and cultural resources for over 150 years. Of particular note has been the mismanagement of, and overgrazing by non-native cattle, sheep, goats, and axis deer. While cattle, domestic sheep, and goats have been removed from Lānaʻi, axis deer and mouflon sheep remain in an ecosystem that never evolved to tolerate heavy pressure from grazing ungulates. Axis deer persist in particularly large numbers; over 20,000 were estimated in the last comprehensive survey in 2012. Overgrazing has led to unnatural erosion patterns, burying historic cultural sites near the coast, smothering the island’s coral reefs and white sand beaches with sediment, and destroying native terrestrial habitats that are home to native ebony trees, olive trees, and a now-extinct mint.

Hand-in-hand with overgrazing, has come an invasion of non-native plants such as strawberry guava and fire-tolerant grasses, degrading already-stressed native plant communities and destroying the plant assemblages relied upon by Hawaiian petrels, endemic terrestrial snails, and other rare native plants. Furthermore, as invasive plants alter the plant community, they have changed the hydrology of the watershed, increasing soil compaction and flash flooding, and decreasing water
infiltration to the island’s aquifers. This negatively impacts both the natural and human communities that rely on a healthy watershed.

Introduced mammalian predators and non-native plant species have also impacted the population of ‘ua’u on Lāna‘i. While the island is currently home to the most densely populated colony of Hawaiian petrels remaining in the world, feral cats, rats, and barn owls along with habitat loss almost resulted in extirpation of Hawaiian petrels from the island. While intensive predator control has increased survivorship of this species, habitat loss driven by invasive species, overgrazing, and erosion remain long term threats to their persistence and recovery.

This grant program is focused on funding projects which take a landscape level approach to protecting the island from Kuahiwi a Kai – the mountain to the ocean – focusing on native habitat important for Hawaiian petrels in mauka areas, as well as reducing sedimentation into Lāna‘i’s makai marine ecosystems. Approaches include sustainable erosion control, replanting native vegetation, installation of effective ungulate and predator-proof fencing, and controlling invasive species.

**GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS**

The primary focal geography (Eligible Project Area) being considered for this RFP is an approximately 20,000 acre area comprised of the northeast watersheds on the island of Lāna‘i that is roughly bounded by Keōmoku Road to the north, the eastern coastline of Lāna‘i, Kapoho Gulch to the south, and over the top of the Lāna‘i Hale ridge to the top of the bench areas (encompassing the remaining native mesic forest).
PROGRAM PRIORITIES
This is a 5-year program that will focus on measurable benefits in the Eligible Project Area including:

- Increased community conservation ethic, recognizing that natural resources ARE cultural resources, and involvement in landscape protection efforts;
- Decreased erosion, flooding, and sedimentation;
- Improved native habitat quality through ungulate population control and fencing of priority watersheds;
- Management of invasive plants on Lānaʻi Hale to improve Hawaiian petrel nesting habitat;
- Protection of native wildlife with predator-proof fencing where necessary and appropriate;
- Improved reef health through improved fish biomass, structure, and improved water quality; and
- Improved human, cultural, and recreational use of the area through preservation of nearshore resources, beaches, and cultural sites such as fishponds.

All proposals must specifically address how projects will directly and measurably contribute to the Kuahiwi a Kai Program goals.

In 2020, the Kuahiwi a Kai Program seeks projects in the following program priority areas:

1. **Increasing community engagement**: Lānaʻi’s human community is a vibrant part of the island’s landscape. NFWF is seeking to fund projects that will integrate the community and its cultural history into conservation activities on island. Potential project activities include integration of students and/or community members into any of the above-listed Program Priorities, as well as educational, hands-on internships focused on water-quality monitoring; community volunteer projects focused on reef monitoring and habitat restoration efforts. Education and inclusion in conservation stewardship encourages shared responsibility and shared pride for the special landscape and species that Lānaʻi is home to.

2. **Short-term sedimentation interventions**: Stopgap measures are needed to address the legacy issues of a degraded landscape. NFWF is seeking projects that will identify sediment runoff hot spots and initiate mitigation projects, such as check dams and restoration of upland areas by reseeding with native vegetation, to reduce sedimentation to reefs and accelerate recovery.

3. **Effective ungulate management strategy**: High numbers of non-native ungulates are the primary stressor driving erosion, sedimentation, and loss of native habitat on the east side of Lānaʻi. Solid monitoring information and effective ungulate management will be key to achieving the goals of this project. NFWF is seeking projects that will help to develop this strategy including: 1) establishing baseline distribution and abundance information, with a monitoring program that can be used to evaluate management actions and guide decisions as the project moves forward; 2) evaluate the landscape and ungulate population to determine best use of fencing and ungulate reduction to protect and restore sensitive habitats and
reduce sedimentation; and 3) encourage and engage the community in active wildlife management to maximize the benefit of ungulate management to the community.

4. **Baseline ecological information and strategic landscape restoration actions:** Achieving and evaluating long-term landscape goals in the project area require a strategy founded in solid baseline information. NFWF is seeking projects that will fill key information gaps, including sediment budgets, vegetation mapping, reef health monitoring, and drainage/watershed inventory. Projects that assess existing native and invasive vegetation on Lānaʻi Hale and initiate a management strategy that protects native plant communities and improves Hawaiian petrel nesting habitat, are of particular interest.

5. **Proactive nearshore management:** Nearshore reefs have exhibited significant declines around Lānaʻi, transitioning to algal-dominant reefs. The stressors of warmer ocean temperatures and sedimentation have resulted in reefs that are unable to compete with algae for hard substrate. NFWF is seeking projects that will proactively manage reef fish that consume algae to restore reefs further from shore by increasing resilience and ability to recover.

6. **Identify pilot project area(s) and begin implementing restoration actions:** One goal of the Program is to apply management across the landscape incrementally in order to quickly identify challenges and apply lessons-learned iteratively as the managed area expands. To this end, a priority of 2020 is to identify one or more key geographic location(s) as a pilot area and start implementing restoration actions. Key areas should include sensitive natural and cultural resources that could be discretely managed and monitored over the near term. Actions in these areas could include (but are not limited to) some combination of fencing, ungulate management, resource monitoring, out planting, and non-native plant management.

**PROJECT METRICS**

To better gauge progress on individual grants and to ensure greater consistency of project data provided by multiple grants, the Kuahiwi a Kai Program has a list of metrics in Easygrants for full proposal applicants to choose from for future reporting. We ask that applicants select only the most relevant metrics from this list for their project (all possible program metrics are shown in the table below). If you think an applicable metric has not been provided, please contact Jana Doi (Jana.Doi@nfwf.org) to discuss acceptable alternatives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Activity</th>
<th>Recommended Metric</th>
<th>Additional Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erosion control</td>
<td>Lbs sediment avoided</td>
<td>Enter the amount of sediment prevented from entering the system annually. Please indicate in the metrics notes section how the amount will be estimated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Activity</td>
<td>Recommended Metric</td>
<td>Additional Guidance</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land restoration</td>
<td>Acres restored</td>
<td>Enter the number of acres of native plants restored. This metric should not include fencing activities or invasive ungulate removal to control sediment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal of invasives</td>
<td>Acres restored</td>
<td>Enter the number of acres of invasive plants removed during the project period for the nesting Hawaiian petrel. If acres restored will also be tracked for the project, please indicate in the metrics note section whether the acres restored and invasive plant removal occurred on the same parcel. This metric should not include removal of non-native invasive animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invasive animal or predator removal/Fencing nests</td>
<td># of ungulates removed</td>
<td>Enter the number of deer, sheep, or other ungulates removed or controlled.</td>
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<tr>
<td>from predators</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BMP implementation for livestock fencing</td>
<td>Miles of fencing installed</td>
<td>Enter the number of miles of fencing installed to exclude ungulates from management area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach/ Education/ Technical Assistance</td>
<td># people reached</td>
<td>Enter the number of people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer participation</td>
<td># volunteers participating</td>
<td>Enter the number of volunteers participating in projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer participation</td>
<td># of volunteer hours</td>
<td>Enter the number of volunteer hours in the project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td># monitoring programs</td>
<td>Enter the number of monitoring programs established or underway.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Activity</td>
<td>Recommended Metric</td>
<td>Additional Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td># sites being monitored</td>
<td>Enter the # sites being monitored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td># sites assessed</td>
<td>Enter the number of sites assessed</td>
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ELIGIBILITY

Eligible and Ineligible Entities

- Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, U.S. Federal government agencies, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Indian tribes, educational institutions, businesses, unincorporated individuals.
- Ineligible applicants include international organizations.

Ineligible Uses of Grant Funds

- NFWF funds and matching contributions may not be used to support political advocacy, fundraising, lobbying, litigation, terrorist activities or Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.
- NFWF funds may not be used to support ongoing efforts to comply with legal requirements, including permit conditions, mitigation and settlement agreements. However, grant funds may be used to support projects that enhance or improve upon existing baseline compliance efforts.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND MATCH

Approximately $400,000 in grant funds are available for this cycle. Additional funding may be available depending on the proposed project’s alignment with the program priorities. Grant awards generally range in size from $15,000 to $150,000, although grants greater than $150,000 can be considered on a case by case basis.

Projects must have a minimum match of 1:1 federal cash, non-federal cash, and/or in-kind contributions.

Additional information on funding policies, including financial documents required from applicants, types of eligible matching contributions, and NFWF’s policy on indirect costs, can be found on NFWF website’s “Applicant Information” page (http://www.nfwf.org/whatwedo/grants/applicants/Pages/home.aspx).
EVALUATION CRITERIA
All proposals will be screened for relevance, accuracy, completeness and compliance with NFWF and funding source policies. Proposals will then be evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria.

Program Goals and Priorities – Project contributes to the Program’s overall habitat and species conservation goals, and has specific, quantifiable performance metrics to evaluate project success. Project addresses one or more of the program priorities.

Technical Merit – Project is technically sound and feasible, and the proposal sets forth a clear, logical and achievable work plan and timeline. Project engages appropriate technical experts throughout project planning, design and implementation to ensure activities are technically-sound and feasible.

Cost-Effectiveness – Project includes a cost-effective budget that balances performance risk and efficient use of funds. Cost-effectiveness evaluation may include, but is not limited to, an assessment of either or both direct and indirect costs in the proposed budget. The federal government has determined that a de minimis 10% indirect rate is an acceptable minimum for organizations without a NICRA, as such NFWF reserves the right to scrutinize ALL proposals with indirect rates above 10% for cost-effectiveness.

Transferability – Project has potential and plan to transfer lessons learned to other communities and/or to be integrated into government programs and policies.

Communication – Project includes a detailed plan to communicate information about the project to appropriate audiences.

Funding Need – Project establishes a clear need for the funds being requested, and demonstrates that activities would not move forward absent funding.

Conservation Plan and Context – The project advances an existing conservation plan or strategy.

Monitoring – Project includes a plan for monitoring progress during and after the proposed project period to track project success and adaptively address new challenges and opportunities as they arise.

Long-term Sustainability – Project will be maintained to ensure benefits are achieved and sustained over time. This should include how future funding will be secured to implement necessary long-term monitoring and maintenance activities.

Past Success – Applicant has a proven track record of success in implementing conservation practices with specific, measurable results.

Partnership – An appropriate partnership exists to implement the project and the project is supported by a strong local partnership that leverages additional funds and will sustain it after the
life of the grant. Identify proposed partners, if known (including potential or contemplated subawards to third party subrecipients of the applicant), the roles they will play in implementing the project, and how this project will build new or enhance existing partnerships. (Note: a project partner is any local community, non-profit organization, tribe, and/or local, state, and federal government agency that contributes to the project in a substantial way and is closely involved in the completion of the project.)

OTHER

**Budget** – Costs are allowable, reasonable and budgeted in accordance with NFWF’s [Budget Instructions](#) cost categories. Federally-funded projects must be in compliance with [OMB Uniform Guidance](#) as applicable.

**Matching Contributions** – Matching Contributions consist of cash, contributed goods and services, volunteer hours, and/or property raised and spent for the Project during the Period of Performance. Larger match ratios and matching fund contributions from a diversity of partners are encouraged and will be more competitive during application review.

**Procurement** – If the applicant chooses to specifically identify proposed Contractor(s) for Services, an award by NFWF to the applicant does not constitute NFWF’s express written authorization for the applicant to procure such specific services noncompetitively. When procuring goods and services, NFWF recipients must follow documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable laws and regulations.

**Publicity and Acknowledgement of Support** – Award recipients will be required to grant NFWF the right and authority to publicize the project and NFWF’s financial support for the grant in press releases, publications and other public communications. Recipients may also be asked by NFWF to provide high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi) photographs depicting the project.

**Receiving Award Funds** – Award payments are primarily reimbursable. Projects may request funds for reimbursement at any time after completing a signed agreement with NFWF. A request of an advance of funds must be due to an imminent need of expenditure and must detail how the funds will be used and provide justification and a timeline for expected disbursement of these funds.

**Compliance Requirements** – Projects selected may be subject to requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (state and federal), and National Historic Preservation Act. Documentation of compliance with these regulations must be approved prior to initiating activities that disturb or alter habitat or other features of the project site(s). Applicants should budget time and resources to obtain the needed approvals. As may be applicable, successful applicants may be required to comply with additional Federal, state or local requirements and obtain all necessary permits and clearances.
Quality Assurance – If a project involves significant monitoring, data collection or data use, grantees will be asked to prepare and submit quality assurance documentation (www.epa.gov/quality). Applicants should budget time and resources to complete this task.

Permits – Successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary permits and clearances to comply with any Federal, state or local requirements. Where projects involve work in the waters of the United States, NFWF strongly encourages applicants to conduct a permit pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting their proposal. In some cases, if a permit pre-application meeting has not been completed, NFWF may require successful applicants to complete such a meeting prior to grant award.

Federal Funding – Federal funding may be a component to this RFP and program. The availability of federal funds estimated in this solicitation is contingent upon the federal appropriations process. Funding decisions will be made based on level of funding and timing of when it is received by NFWF.

TIMELINE
Dates of activities are subject to change. Please check the program page of the NFWF website for the most current dates and information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant Webinar</td>
<td>Thursday, September 26 at 9:30 AM Hawaii Standard Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Proposal Due Date</td>
<td>Friday, October 18, 2019 by 5:59 PM Hawaii Standard Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposal Invites Sent</td>
<td>November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Proposal Due Date</td>
<td>Monday, December 2, 2019 by 5:59 PM Hawaii Standard Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Period</td>
<td>December 2019-March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards Announced</td>
<td>March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW TO APPLY
All application materials must be submitted online through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Easygrants system.

1. Go to easygrants.nfwf.org to register in our Easygrants online system. New users to the system will be prompted to register before starting the application (if you already are a registered user, use your existing login). Enter your applicant information. Please disable the pop-up blocker on your internet browser prior to beginning the application process.

2. Once on your homepage, click the “Apply for Funding” button and select this RFP’s “Funding Opportunity” from the list of options.

3. Follow the instructions in Easygrants to complete your application. Once an application has been started, it may be saved and returned to at a later time for completion and submission.
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

A PDF version of this RFP can be downloaded [here](#).

A Tip Sheet is available for quick reference while you are working through your application. This document can be downloaded [here](#).

Additional information to support the application process can be accessed on the NFWF website’s [Applicant Information](#) page.

For more information or questions about this RFP, please contact:

Jana Doi
Manager, Alaska and Hawaii Programs
[Jana.Doi@nfwf.org](mailto:Jana.Doi@nfwf.org)
(415) 243-3102

For issues or assistance with our online Easygrants system, please contact:

Easygrants Helpdesk
Email: [Easygrants@nfwf.org](mailto:Easygrants@nfwf.org)
Voicemail: 202-595-2497
Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, Monday-Friday.
Include: your name, proposal ID #, e-mail address, phone number, program you are applying to, and a description of the issue.