# First, the Foundation

Natural resources are the heart of our tourism industry. EDA funding is helping to protect the heart of our lands, waters, and economy.

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Waimea Canyon Kaua'i, Hawaii

**'O ka 'āina me nwa, ma kapa 'ioulikalo.**

*First the foundation, then the building.*
Pilina ma'ua, KAUP

DLNR leadership is pleased to collaborate with the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) on an approach to implementing the Governor's vision on projects supported by funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Working closely with HTA staff, DLNR has developed a portfolio of projects implemented with EDA funding to revive the outdoor recreation infrastructure and natural resources utilized by our tourism industry.

## DLNR Projects Supported by EDA Funds

**1 Play Pono: Resource Use and Behavior Change App**

This statewide project will develop content for recreation-focused apps and social media platforms to educate visitors and residents about our natural resources, identifying responsible recreation behaviors, water/ocean and weather safety, and even points for utilizing green behaviors (e.g., picking up trash, carpooling, reusing water bottles). Recognition will be continued for rewards. at local Restaurants. EDA investment: $100,000

**2 Signage and trailhead bioinstallation improvements**

This statewide project will develop new trailhead interpretive signage as well as bioinstallations at trailheads to provide visitors with environmental information with focus on the responsible use of public resources. Bioinstallation stations will connect primarily of four local sources designed to provide information on the natural resources in the surrounding area, with the focus on such as stream plant assets. This project will be done in coordination with other location-specific EDA projects that include interpretive signage. EDA investment: $400,000.

**3 Dog Use Mooring Buoy Program**

This statewide project will expand the current network of mooring buoys to provide more access points for dog owners to safely and responsibly access anchorages of up to 20 new DNR or commercial downwarded tourism "hot spots," developing an online public resource to help create users identify the appropriate anchorage for their vessel and dog, and provide a mooring buoy signage inspection and mooring assessment of existing moorings. EDA investment: $450,000.

**4 Resource Enforcement Equipment & Educational Materials**

Our conservation resource enforcement officers are the front-line primary tool for educating visitors about resource violations and where necessary, enforcing the laws. This statewide project will provide resource enforcement support for education and enforcement including equipment such as protective gear, uniforms, computers, hand vehicles and the development of educational materials to inform visitors of the laws and the resource violations or change behavior of violators. EDA investment: $400,000.

**5 Na Mana 'Ohelo Land Steward Program**

This statewide program will utilize local "stewards" to assist in interpreting the Hawai'i native natural history, safety concerns of sensitive natural areas, as well as mitigate unwanted behaviors and ensure safety. This program supports the implementation of the Governor's vision to "Malama Hawai'i" to preserve heritage areas within their natural place. EDA investment: $1,100.

**6 Statewide Trail Capacity Study**

To effectively manage our recreation resources we need data on usage, capacity, and impacts. This statewide project will provide the data for informed decision-making framework is needed to establish and enforce use limits and to maximize opportunities for financial support at appropriate levels. This project will provide the DLNR Parks and Recreation Division with resources to develop a decision tool to determine: 1) Trail use capacity based on environmental and social criteriaHydrOtour, 2) Triggers for applying limits, 3) Recommendations for adjusting limits based on changes in visitor resource conditions, user satisfaction and assessments supported by trail transects. EDA investment: $1,100.

**7 Bridging the Gap: Pamapali Trail Repair and Improvements**

This project will repair existing trail infrastructure and install signage for nearby innovative efforts including the Hawaii Bridge Trail and Kalapa Ridge Trail. Improvements include water bars, drainage improvements, 1.5 miles including vegetation restoration, fencing, removal of non-native materials such as feral animals (pigs, goats, deer, cats), and efforts to restore native ecosystems and habitat, including the Kalapa Ridge Trail. Repair and maintenance plan, restore native plants, and install interpretive signage focused on natural and cultural history of the area. EDA investment: $500,000.

**8 Awa'awapuhi Trailhead Parking Lot Improvements**

The Awa'awapuhi Trail provides stunning views from atop the cliffs of the Na Pali coast. This project will support the overall year-long experiences it provides. The trailhead parking lot is in need of repair. Over the years, a number of the trailhead's 30 existing parking capacity from 17 to 10 vehicles, reducing illegal parking, requiring improved trail information and signage and the installation of a new kiosk. Improvements and documentation stations for cleaning gear. EDA investment: $100,000.

**9 Ahu'ri Tsunami Trail Boardwalk**

This iconic 7 mile boardwalk has open views and a beautiful and fairly flat nature and family. This resource boardwalk is the longest in Hawaii and provides access to mountain bugs and native species found nowhere else in the archipelago.

The 19th boardwalk is in serious need of repair. Over the years, a number of the boardwalk's 30 existing parking capacity from 17 to 10 vehicles, reducing illegal parking, requiring improved trail information and signage and the installation of a new kiosk. Improvements and documentation stations for cleaning gear. EDA investment: $100,000.

**10 O'ahu Recreational Trail Improvements**

This project will improve multiple O'ahu trails. Improvements include name changes, trailhead improvements, trail improvements, signage, fencing, removal, and associated repair and replacement activities. EDA investment: $575,000.

**11 Waikiki Coastal Restoration Trail**

This three-year project aims to increase coral restoration activities in the Kuhio Beach area, as well as enhancing the outdoor experiences for residents and visitors. Relevant stakeholders will be engaged to identify the appropriate site for the coral restoration activities, and to develop a plan to connect the Kuhio Beach Area on coral. Additional restoration considerations will include civilian and artificial structures if deemed appropriate. Underwater placards will be installed to inform the public and restoration activities at the site. EDA investment: $750,000.

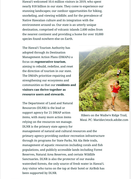
**12 Kalu Forest Reserve Trailhead and Access Road Improvements**

This project will support improvements to recreational infrastructure at Kalu Forest Reserve. Improvements include trailhead improvements, include culverts, road bed enhancements, drainage improvements, tree removal, and other repair and maintenance. EDA investment: $275,000.

**13 Ala Kahakai Interpretive Plan**

This project will develop a comprehensive interpretive Plan for the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail and the Hawaiian Green Mountains Value in conjunction with the neighboring communities, and descendants of the area, including the Kaloko Honokohau National Park and Kona Coast. The plan improvements of some recreational features may be included depending on funding. The project includes preliminary template and content design for interpretive signs, digital content, and other features supporting responsible recreation use. EDA investment: $100,000.

**14 Nāpo'o Recreation Plan**



This project will develop a comprehensive Recreation Plan for the Nāpo'o Bay and Kealakekua Bay and the Hawaiian Green Mountains Value in conjunction with the neighboring communities, and descendants of the area, including the Kaloko Honokohau National Park and Kona Coast. The plan improvements of some recreational features may be included depending on funding. The project includes preliminary template and content design for interpretive signs, digital content, and other features supporting responsible recreation use. EDA investment: $100,000.

**15 Koai'a Sunrisers and Corridor: Trails and Access Road Improvements**



This project will repair various road and trail improvements including road bed enhancement, drainage, parking area improvements, and associated repair and replacement activities. EDA investment: $75,000.

## Together we are protecting cultural and natural resources.



Hawai'i welcomed 10.6 million visitors in 2019, who spent nearly $19 billion in our state. This come in experience our stunning landscapes, our outdoor opportunities for hiking, camping, and exploring our beaches, our cultural experiences of Native Hawaiian culture and its integration with the environment around us. Our state's is an overly unique environment, and our tourism industry is dependent on the resources and preserving a home for over 10,000 species found nowhere else on Earth.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority has adopted the Google to Destination Management Organizations (DMO) focus on **regenerative tourism**, aiming to rebuild, revitalize, and restore destinations and communities. The DMO's priorities regarding and strengthening our ecosystems and communities, **protecting cultural and relations can thrive together in resource users and stewards.**

Kona on the Waikoloa Kona Tour, Hawai'i. Photo credit: Kona Tour

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is the lead in Hawai'i for the stewardship of our lands, with many more areas being relying on the resources we manage. The DLNR is responsible for the management of natural and cultural resources and the primary agency providing outdoor recreation infrastructure and services for residents and visitors. The DLNR's mission is the management of aquatic resources including corals and fish populations, and publicly accessible lands including Forest Reserves, State Parks, State Recreational Areas, and State Monuments. DLNR is also the precursor of our marine watershed forests, the only source of fresh water in Hawai'i, and the protection of our top-up or fresh water or skyline has been supported by DLNR.

Tourism landscapes are comprised of public lands and rely on management by public agencies. Photo: ablena/stock.adobe.com