



# CITY COUNCIL

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

February 5, 2009

#### **City Council's Commission on Clean Water and Natural Lands Seeks Applicants for Land Acquisition Funding**

*Funding will support efforts to preserve and protect lands that have cultural significance, abundant natural resources, and recreational value on Oahu*

Honolulu – The Honolulu City Council today said that for the first time it will consider awarding funds for land acquisition through an application process established by its Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission (Commission). Applications will be reviewed by the Commission, which will make recommendations to the City Council on projects to be funded through the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund. Final selection of projects to be funded will be made by the City Council as part of the annual budget process. Applications are due March 9, 2009 at 4:00 P.M.

“This represents a unique opportunity for our community to enhance conservation efforts by coming together to take a more active role in the preservation of land on Oahu,” said City Council Chair Todd Aho. “The Council encourages the public to work with the Commission through the application process and to provide input that will assist it in making its recommendations to the Council.”

According to Commission Chair Denise Antolini, the Commission has established criteria for review of applications that include protection of watershed lands, historical or culturally significant land areas and sites, forests, beaches, coastal areas, and agriculture lands. Proposed projects may seek preservation of these areas through acquisition of fee title or conservation easements. Antolini said that the Commission will also consider factors such as the degree of urgency, financial support from other sources, and how a proposed project relates to the city’s existing budgetary or other priorities.

In 2006, Honolulu voters approved a charter amendment that set aside a portion of real property tax revenues for land conservation. In 2007, the Council established the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund (Ordinance 07-18) and the Commission (Reso. 07-355 CD1). The Commission was established to advise the City Council on the use and expenditure of these funds. For more information about the Commission and the grant application process please visit [www.honolulu.gov/council/cwnl.html](http://www.honolulu.gov/council/cwnl.html).

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