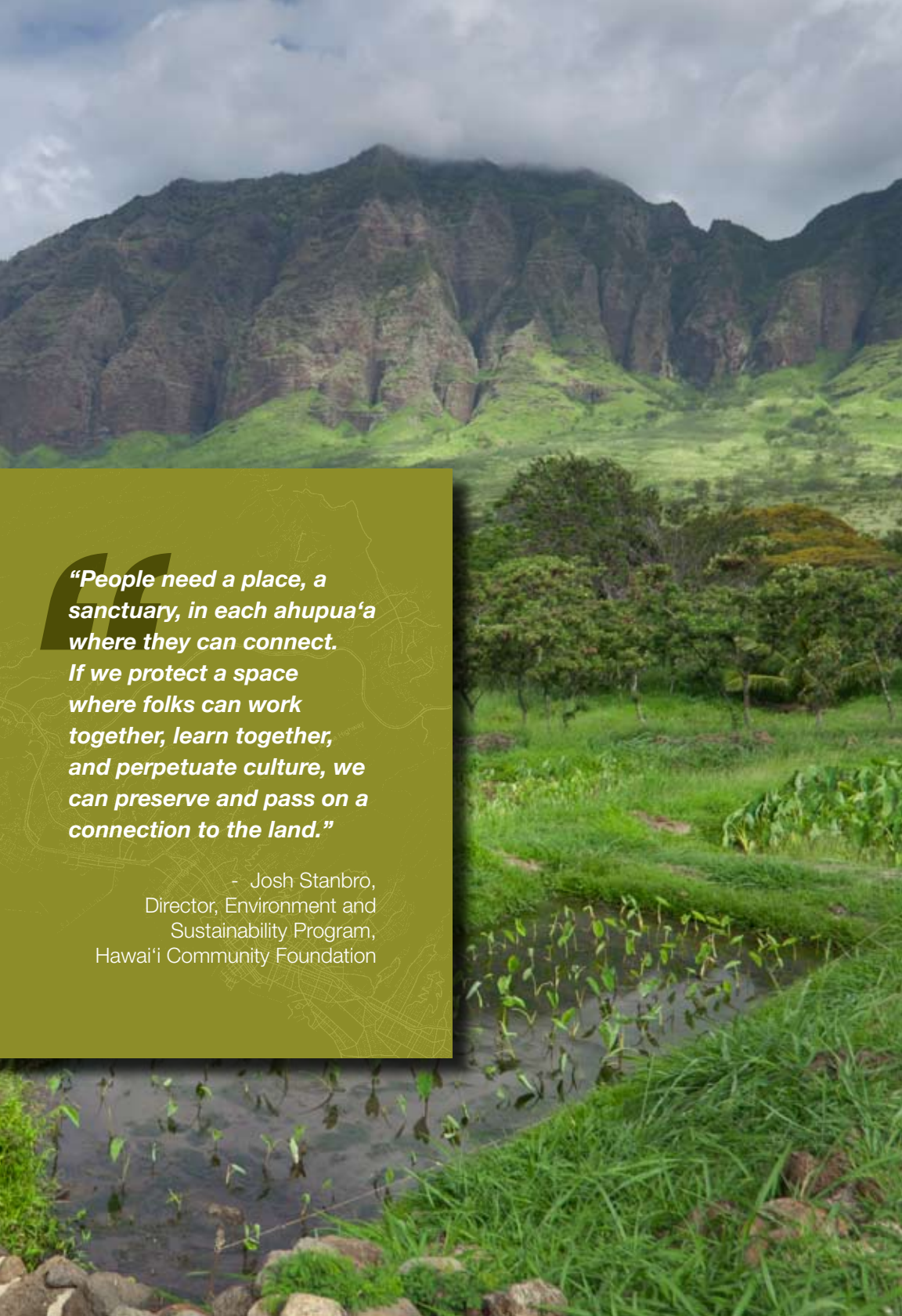




# Greenprint O'ahu

Finding Balance Between Development and Conservation



***“People need a place, a sanctuary, in each ahupua‘a where they can connect. If we protect a space where folks can work together, learn together, and perpetuate culture, we can preserve and pass on a connection to the land.”***

- Josh Stanbro,  
Director, Environment and  
Sustainability Program,  
Hawai‘i Community Foundation

# Greenprint O‘ahu

**IF YOU LOOK ACROSS O‘AHU’S NEARLY 300,000 ACRES OF LAND**, you will see diverse landscapes from downtown Honolulu to the beaches of the North Shore. While O‘ahu is just 10 percent of the total landmass of Hawai‘i, it is home to 70 percent of the state's population. It is also home to some of the most unique and endangered plants and animals in the world. The population of the island is expected to increase by 20 percent by 2050, requiring the construction of homes and related infrastructure. With the highest median home value in the country and a growing population, development pressure is tremendous.

The cultural, historical, and natural landscapes of O‘ahu inspire residents and visitors alike. Tourism generates nearly a quarter of Hawai‘i’s gross domestic product and is thus crucial to the economy. While Waikiki still remains an important hub, tourists have become more sophisticated in their expectations. Visitors come to O‘ahu anticipating its unique mix of verdant mountains, tropical forests, rural landscapes, and world-class beaches.

Development pressures threaten the very landscapes that support Hawai‘i’s visitor industry, the local quality of life, and some of the most unique endangered plants and animals in the world. Precious agricultural lands are also being converted to other uses. An important tool for minimizing the impact of growth and channeling it to appropriate areas is working with willing landowners to conserve natural areas and agricultural lands through conservation easements and agreements. These types of conservation partnerships preserve the landscapes that contribute to Hawai‘i’s food security and make O‘ahu special.

Determined through conversations with the diverse people of O‘ahu, the O‘ahu Greenprint is a reflection of the values they hold most dear in relation to the land and water. The goals and strategies outlined in the Greenprint will help accommodate the population growth of the coming decades while protecting the island’s most beloved landscapes.

## What is a **Greenprint**?

**A GREENPRINT IS A MAP-BASED PLAN** to help communities prioritize their park and conservation goals. The Greenprint process engages local residents in an in-depth, transparent, and collaborative planning and mapping exercise designed to both identify the places most important to communities and determine strategies for protecting them.





# The Conservation Values of the People of O'ahu

Seven shared values were identified with the input of over 1,000 people from across the island through booths at public events, surveys, community meetings, and in-depth interviews. These values reflect the conservation goals and priorities from a broad spectrum of people that will lead to a future where O'ahu's most special places are protected into perpetuity.

## Protect Agricultural Lands

There is a growing awareness of the importance of protecting agricultural land for local food production and consumption. This increased awareness is leading to increased action to protect the lands that sustain us. Yet today, Hawaii imports more than 85 percent of its food.

## Preserve Cultural and Historic Places

O'ahu is enriched by fishponds, burial grounds, historic ahupua'a, cultural trails, traditional Hawaiian agricultural zones, and many other sites of archaeological, historic, sacred, and religious significance. Residents place a high value on the protection of the irreplaceable cultural and historic places that tell O'ahu's story.

## Protect Coastal Regions

It would be an understatement to say that the more than 200 miles of coastline liberally adorned with world-class beaches are important to the people of O'ahu. The coasts support recreation and livelihoods from surfing, sailing, and swimming to fishing, diving, and snorkeling in nearshore waters, marine estuaries, and stunning coral reefs.

## Protect Natural Habitats

The most isolated population center in the world, the Hawaiian Islands have among the highest percentage of endemic species anywhere on

earth. Today, Hawaii is home to more than 50 endangered and threatened native species. O'ahu residents have expressed a strong desire to use land conservation to protect these native plants and animals.

## Increase Recreation and Public Access Opportunities

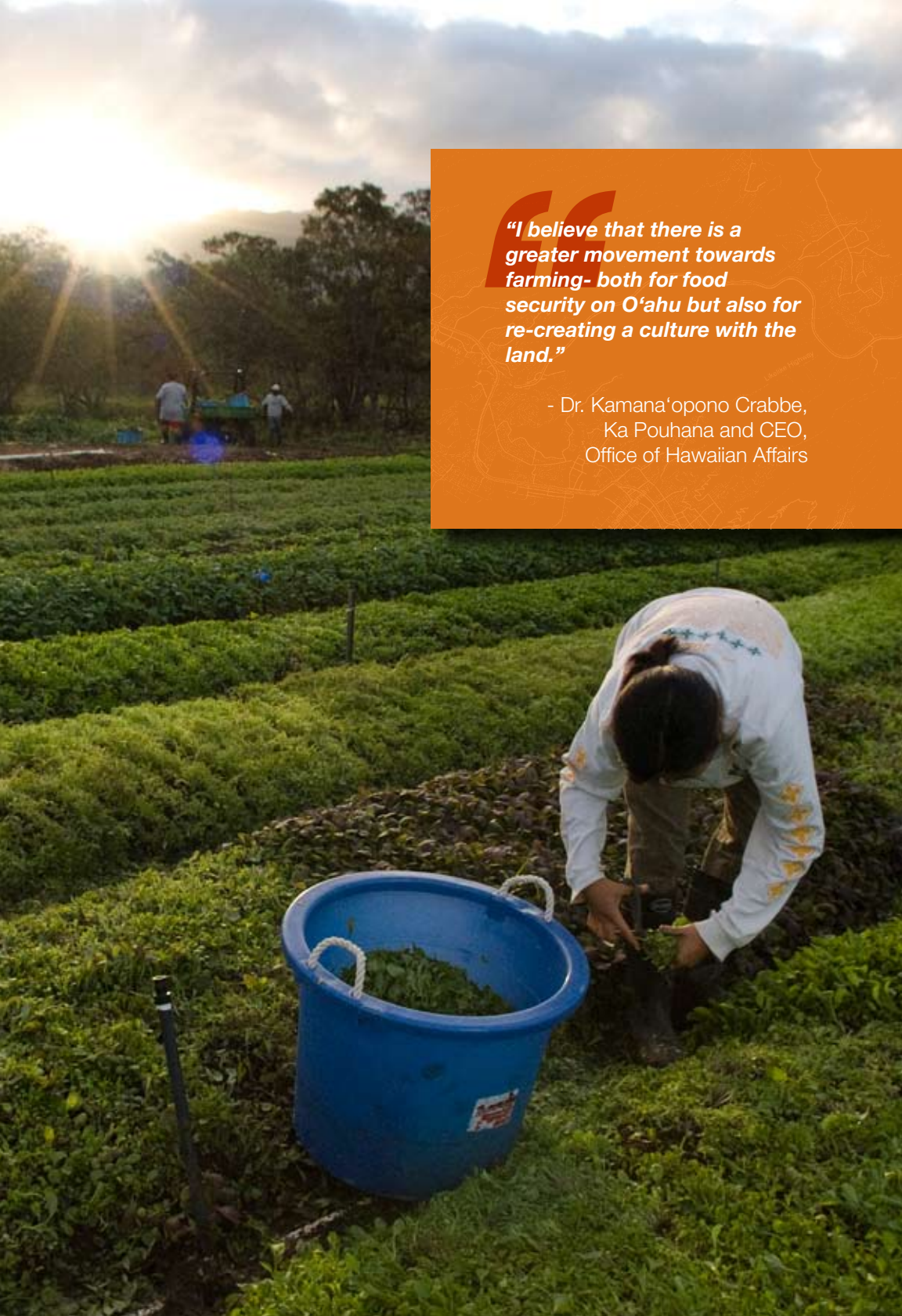
O'ahu's lush forested mountains, waterfalls, sunny beaches and inactive volcano craters provide places for residents to engage in cultural practices, fish, gather, hike and share in outdoor nature experiences. The people of O'ahu would like to preserve these places and access to them, where appropriate.

## Preserve and Enhance View Planes

O'ahu's scenic landscapes, providing views of both beaches and rocky coastlines, are an important part of Hawaii's character and identity.

## Protect Water Quality and Quantity

Water is the lifeblood of O'ahu. People throughout the island recognize the essential role water plays in everybody's life every day and echo the desire to preserve whole watersheds, protect aquifer recharge, create connected greenways, and protect vegetation along streams.



***“I believe that there is a greater movement towards farming- both for food security on O’ahu but also for re-creating a culture with the land.”***

- Dr. Kamana’opono Crabbe,  
Ka Pouhana and CEO,  
Office of Hawaiian Affairs







# A Greenprint for O‘ahu

## Mission Statement

**TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUES** O‘ahu residents associate with land and water resources and to use that community-based knowledge to develop a conservation plan that will help perpetuate those values for present and future generations by guiding purchases of threatened, privately-owned land and resources through voluntary fee simple acquisition or conservation easements from willing landowners.

## Objectives

1. Establish the relative priority of values residents place on land and resources from the mountains into the ocean, including cultural, recreational, natural, historic, agricultural, subsistence, and other values.
2. Identify which important lands and water resources are most threatened or most in need of restoration and develop strategies to protect them and the associated values that make them important.
3. Strengthen and coordinate existing conservation networks island-wide.
4. Promote long-term conservation, restoration, and stewardship (aloha ‘āina) that is strategic and responsive to community needs and values.
5. Increase community awareness of and ensure proactive community action related to:
  - a. The value of and need to protect and revitalize Hawaiian cultural sites, places, landscapes, and historic properties.
  - b. The importance of other conservation values such as agricultural, natural, and recreational values.
  - c. The importance of creating synergy between all conservation values.
  - d. The imperative for a balanced approach to growth.
  - e. The tools for preserving critical lands.
6. Acknowledge and honor important resources that can't be mapped.

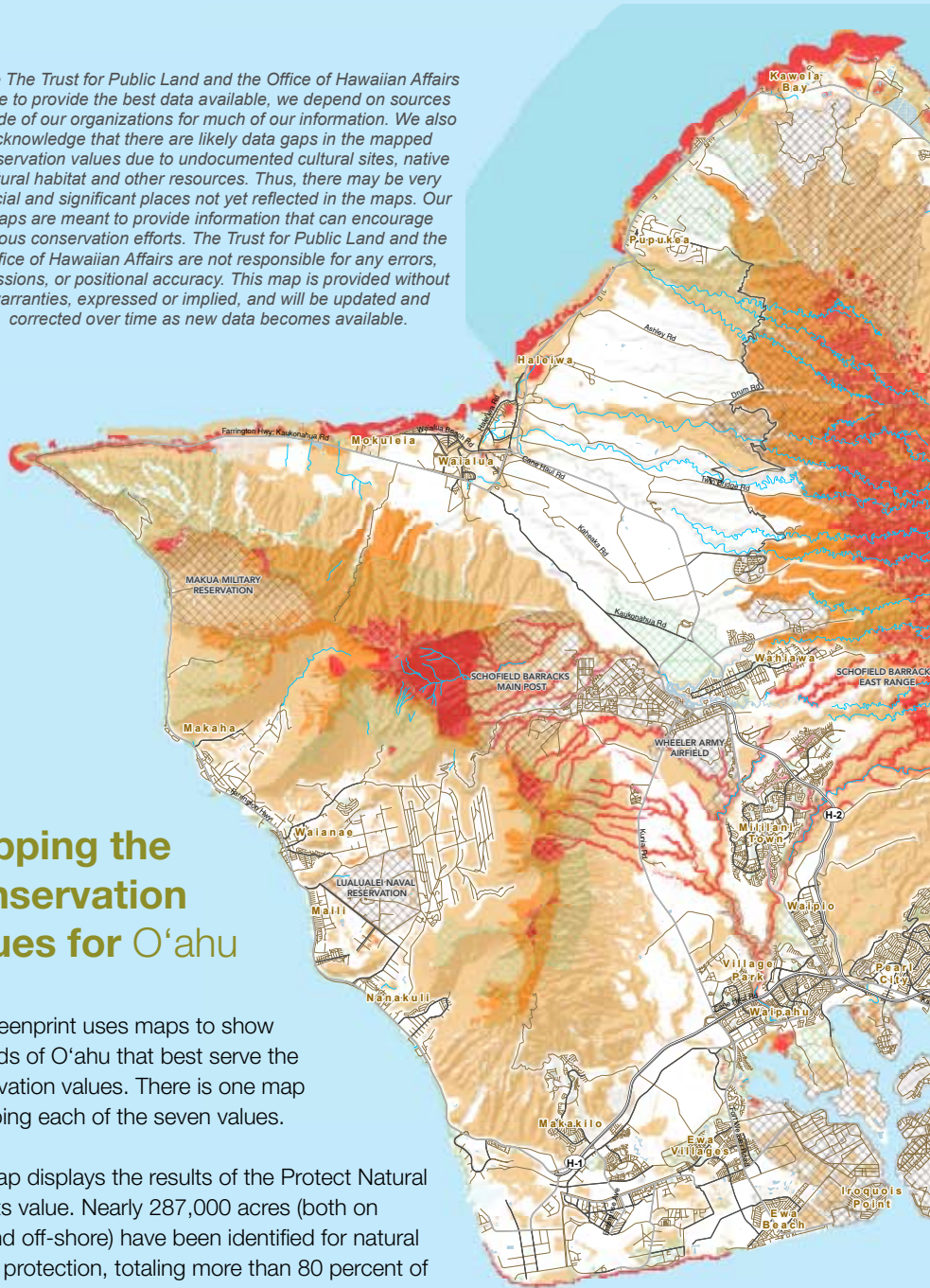


While The Trust for Public Land and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs strive to provide the best data available, we depend on sources outside of our organizations for much of our information. We also acknowledge that there are likely data gaps in the mapped conservation values due to undocumented cultural sites, native natural habitat and other resources. Thus, there may be very special and significant places not yet reflected in the maps. Our maps are meant to provide information that can encourage various conservation efforts. The Trust for Public Land and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs are not responsible for any errors, omissions, or positional accuracy. This map is provided without warranties, expressed or implied, and will be updated and corrected over time as new data becomes available.

## Mapping the Conservation Values for O‘ahu

The Greenprint uses maps to show the lands of O‘ahu that best serve the conservation values. There is one map describing each of the seven values.

This map displays the results of the Protect Natural Habitats value. Nearly 287,000 acres (both on land and off-shore) have been identified for natural habitat protection, totaling more than 80 percent of the study area. Only 50,000 of these acres have already been conserved. The highest priority areas for the protection of natural habitats are along the Ko‘olau and Wai‘anae mountain ranges and their watersheds.



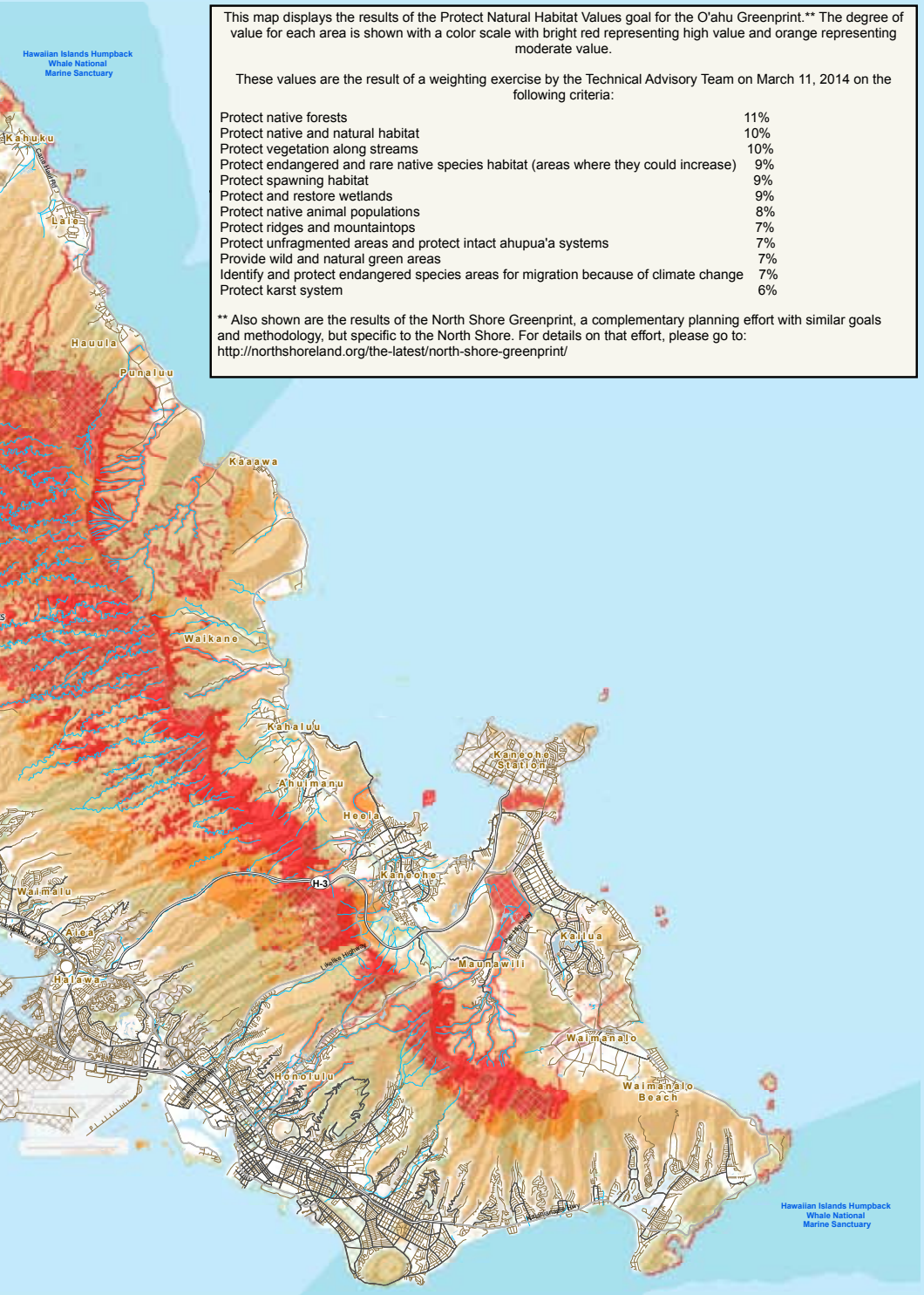


This map displays the results of the Protect Natural Habitat Values goal for the O'ahu Greenprint.\*\* The degree of value for each area is shown with a color scale with bright red representing high value and orange representing moderate value.

These values are the result of a weighting exercise by the Technical Advisory Team on March 11, 2014 on the following criteria:

Protect native forests	11%
Protect native and natural habitat	10%
Protect vegetation along streams	10%
Protect endangered and rare native species habitat (areas where they could increase)	9%
Protect spawning habitat	9%
Protect and restore wetlands	9%
Protect native animal populations	8%
Protect ridges and mountaintops	7%
Protect unfragmented areas and protect intact ahupua'a systems	7%
Provide wild and natural green areas	7%
Identify and protect endangered species areas for migration because of climate change	7%
Protect karst system	6%

\*\* Also shown are the results of the North Shore Greenprint, a complementary planning effort with similar goals and methodology, but specific to the North Shore. For details on that effort, please go to: <http://northshoreland.org/the-latest/north-shore-greenprint/>



# Do you know?

Hawai'i is the most isolated population center in the world.

In spite of – or perhaps because of this – Hawai'i draws 8 million visitors annually, a figure **six times greater** than its permanent residential population.

# 6X

# 3%



The population of Hawai'i increased by a rate that was **3 percent higher** than that of the United States as a whole between 2000 and 2010.



# 15%

Marine-related industries, including fishing, aquaculture, tourism, recreation, and shipping, employ approximately **15 percent** of Hawai'i's workforce.



## Join Us

We have developed an action plan to show ways to get involved to help achieve the vision expressed by the people of O'ahu through the Greenprint process. Ultimately, the success of the Greenprint will be measured in more than just acres conserved.

**CONSERVE:** Protect important land and water resources as identified on the Greenprint maps using voluntary land conservation tools.

**COLLABORATE:** Empower partners, present Greenprint information, and maintain the relationships that are necessary to achieve our collective vision.

**RAISE AWARENESS:** Share what you have learned; talk with your friends, family, and colleagues and let them know where they can find more information.

**INCREASE FUNDING:** Multiple funding sources increase resiliency; encourage the local and state government to increase conservation funding and learn about the variety of options already available to them.

## O'ahu is like no other place in the world.

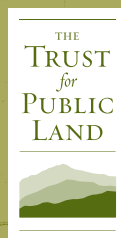
**ON O'AHU DIVERSE AND DRAMATIC LANDSCAPES** are in close proximity to one another. The importance of conserving the landscapes that define our identity is not a new concept to Hawaiians. The residents of O'ahu understand the importance of protecting the land and water that, together, create our home. However, as the island population continues to grow, our forests and farmland are being swallowed by expanding communities. There has never been a more important time than the present to work together to ensure our collective vision of a future in which development is balanced by conservation.



**THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS (OHA)** was created in 1978 to better the conditions of Native Hawaiian people. Its mission is to mālama (protect) Hawai'i's people and environmental resources and OHA's assets, toward ensuring the perpetuation of the culture, the enhancement of lifestyle, and the protection of entitlements of Native Hawaiians, while enabling the building of a strong and healthy Hawaiian people and nation, recognized nationally and internationally. For more information, visit [oha.org](http://oha.org).



**THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND** is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to creating parks and protecting land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. In Hawai'i, The Trust for Public Land focuses on three areas of conservation: shoreline and coastal lands, working lands, and native heritage lands. For more information, visit [tpl.org](http://tpl.org).



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