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*Trust for Public Land
News Release*

NORTH SHORE — Officials with Army, federal, state and county government, as well as private, nonprofit organizations, announced they have recorded a Grant of Conservation Easement that permanently protects 468 acres of productive farmland in Kahuku on Oahu’s North Shore, Monday.

This momentous effort was the result of collaboration between the private landowners of Turtle Bay Resort, The Trust for Public Land, the North Shore Community Land Trust, the City and County of Honolulu, the State of Hawai‘i and the Army.

With the makai conservation effort that closed in October 2015, more than 1,200 acres of North Shore land are now permanently protected from future development.

The perpetual agricultural conservation easement was purchased through The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit land conservation organization. The Trust for Public Land assembled the \$6 million to purchase the easement from three programs: \$3 million from the Pentagon’s Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration program (REPI) and the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program; \$1.5 million from the State of Hawaii Legacy Land Conservation Program (which receives 10% of the state real estate conveyance tax); and \$1.5 million from the City and County of Honolulu Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund (which receives 0.5% of real property taxes). The North Shore Community Land Trust will be a coholder of the agricultural conservation easement and assist public agencies in conducting annual monitoring surveys to ensure compliance with the restrictions within the conservation easement.

“We are very pleased to be able to participate in this purchase and partner with other community entities to protect and conserve this land for agricultural use by future generations,” said Col. Richard Fromm, commander of U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii.

The ACUB program is an integral component of the Army’s sustainability triple bottom line: mission, environment, and community. The program is an innovative tool to address encroachment and achieve conservation objectives by proactively addressing encroachment that causes costly workarounds or compromises training realism.

An ACUB allows an installation to work with partners to encumber land to protect habitat and training without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. Through ACUBs, the Army reaches out to partners to identify mutual objectives of

land conservation and to prevent development of critical open areas. The program allows the Army to contribute funds to the partner’s purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. These partnerships preserve high-value habitat and limit incompatible development near military installations.

REPI is chartered to preserve land from development around military installations. The 468 acres of North Shore farmland is adjacent to the Army’s Kahuku Training Area, as well as military training flight paths.

(Editor’s note: Additional information about the ACUB program was added by the garrison Public Affairs Office.)

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