Pia Valley Land Donation

**HD Video** (Courtesy: DLNR)

https://vimeo.com/463609639

**Video & B-Roll**

0:00-0:10 Wide shot of Hawai‘iloa ridge trail and sign

0:11-0:39 Close-up of Hawai‘iloa sign with hikers walking up trail

0:40-0:50 Shot of valley from peak

0:51-1:02 Closer shot of valley

1:03-1:45 Wide shots of mountain side

1:46-2:17 Shots of ‘ōhi‘a trees

2:18-2:43 Wide shots of mountain side and ‘ōhi‘a

2:44-2:54 Shot of DOFAW staff looking towards landscape, one with drone remote in hand

2:55-3:02 Closer shot of DOFAW staff, 3:03-3:15 Close-up of drone remote

3:16-3:30 Close-up of drone pilot’s face

3:31-3:46 Close-up of DOFAW Watershed Planner Katie Ersbak

3:47-3:58 DOFAW staff looking towards landscape

**Katie Ersbak (SOTS) Watershed Planner, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife**

4:00 We're in the Southern Ko‘olau Mountains. I'm here on the Island of Oahu. And we're along a trail called the Hawai'iloa Ridge trail. And right behind me is a valley called Pia Valley which the State has recently acquired.

4:14 So, this is 300 acres of mostly intact native forest. We have dominated by ‘ōhi‘a trees, some koa trees. Rare and threatened and endangered species also occupy this 300 acres, which is why the state was very interested in protecting it. And the hope is to eventually turn it into a Natural Area Reserve or a NAR, which is a special designation that we offer to places that are high in biological diversity, rare species native forest, and have recharged value as well.

4:49 Absolutely. Yeah, so we know that our native forests and the threats they face don't abide by TMK is, are landowner boundaries. So, it's super important that we manage across landscapes. So, that's public and private lands. So by adding this piece of land into the state system, we're actually creating a continuous band of protection in this region, which is super exciting for us. It means that we'll have the ability to manage it with state resources and the wonderful staff that we have.

**Susan Ching (SOTS) O'ahu Botanist, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife**

5:20 So, this southern Ko‘olau areas been known to have a lot of botanical and other faunal diversity. It's partly due to its topography and its climate. It has a music rainfall amount. And so, it's unique in that most of the areas around here turn quickly into very dry or very wet. And, these rolling music sections provide a lot of habitat for diversification of plants, animals. And so, that makes a situation where we have a lot of endemic species to this area.

6:03 There's a lot of rare things as you know, the habitat has experienced a lot of trauma over the years from cattle ranching or just degradation, but rare species include many species of saenia many species of trees. So, we have hulei, we have ferns that are endemic to this area.

All things that are, you know, once we're working together as an ecosystem and, and we're trying to restore that to, so that they're working together again.

6:50 So, the acquisition is important in that it does create a contiguous conservation area. So, this valley is adjacent directly to this the next several valleys along to the Honolulu Watershed Forest Reserve whether or not Pia Valley remains as part of that, or it becomes a NAR, it will still be a contiguous management area for conservation through DOFAW.

7:19 Into the future. I would hope that we can you know, at least sustain what we have and actually make it better by doing active management for plants and animals. It's a home for rare Kahului tree snails, as well as the plants that they live on. And the area, it does have some impacts from invasive plants and there's pigs in here. And we also have a native ‘elepaio that lives in the area. So, just hoping to preserve that for the future.

7:51 I think that for me, it's, it's an interesting valley topographically, which also I think, helped to create the endemic species in the area. You have some hanging valleys behind me that create area that supports a different habitat and it also protected it for a longer, from whatever invasive species we have. So, there's a lot of interesting dynamics happening in there with the rare plants and common things that used to be more common are becoming less common. So, I see a lot of potential for restoration, but also a lot of potential to preserve what we already have.

8:37 So, it's a popular hiking trail, but we quickly get into this wild area that is it is separate, close, but separate from a highly populated area. And so it's important to preserve that and the things are endemic to this area.

**B-Roll**

8:57-9:24 Close-up shots of ‘ōhi‘a flower

9:25-9:46 ‘Ohi‘a flower close-up panning down to valley

9:47-9:58 Wide shot of the valley

9:59-10:09 Closer shot of valley

10:10-12:56 Aerial shots of Pia Valley

**Patrica Godfrey (SOTS) Land Donor**

12:57 I'm just a tiny link in a chain of many, many people who have worked to keep this land preserved for the animals and plants. It was a lucky moment I was able to step in and hold the property for the state for a few years. And voila! it's a piece now of the watershed reserve. It was necessary. And as you probably know is the home of many, many little creatures and plants and that was the idea there must be wilderness.

13:38 That was the plan. I heard about it and thought this is something I can do, my family can do, to continue the state's good work and preserving land. Because there has to be land that we as humans have nothing to do with except to preserve.

13:57 My impressions are that it is priceless absolutely priceless. There is something that the world needs to understand; there are some lands that have to be left alone. And to see… I could actually see it clicking in to that watershed reserve as an absolutely important peace.

14:22 You know it was a thunderbolt. It was just presented to me and I went, “Oh yes! Obvious thing to do!” And I think many, many people are feeling the same way. There have been experiments through the islands where people will fence off pieces of land and gauge the life of the land… by those fence start lands. And if the process were very simple as this has been, so many people, I think, would jump in. It's a great legacy thing to do the same, as it is now, perhaps fenced, perhaps a bit more weeded out of species that shouldn't be in there, but much the same as it is. Clean. Free

15:14 I don't think we can own it. I think, well, if there is ownership involved, I think it is communal ownership by all the people of these islands.

15:24 It is a reflection of my parents, my grandparents, who told us all, my large family about the kapu system, about the value of that system, and about nature in general. Kept our focus on nature rather than anything else. And yeah, it's a thank you to them.