

BELLA BOND FOUNDATION

EIN : 85-1388022

1001 BISHOP ST STE 2685A,

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

808.277.8498

www.bellabond.org



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Official Announcement – Withdrawal of Our Application from the Legacy Land Conservation Program

We, Bella Bond Foundation, in August 2024 identified the Legacy Land Conservation Program as a valuable opportunity to preserve and restore land while **creating a meaningful project aimed at benefiting the Hawaiian community**. Our original vision was to transform a 130-acre site into an environmental preservation space featuring a botanical garden, the replanting of native species, and a network of trails accessible to the local community, along with a permaculture farm and treehouses for a meditation retreat.

During our research, we discovered, alongside our archaeologist, **the presence of a forgotten historical site** that had not been documented by previous owners or in official records, and **no one was aware of it**. We conducted in-depth research with the SDPH and found that some archives related to this site had been removed or lost. Further investigation at the Bishop Museum led us to references to this site in McAllister's book. Notably, the site includes a heiau (Hawaiian sacred site), as documented in historical surveys and remembered by local residents, although its exact historical name could not be recalled. Recognizing the cultural and historical significance of this discovery, we took additional steps to ensure the preservation of this sacred space.

As we proceeded with the **highly competitive application process**, we were honored to be **recognized as one of the top projects** and successfully reached the final round before the official decision. We also engaged in discussions with the local community, receiving enthusiastic support from over 100 residents who were in favor of the project, particularly for the creation of trails and the restoration of native plants. However, 98 individuals expressed opposition to the initiative, despite the modifications we made in response to their concerns.

Taking this feedback into account, **we revised our initial plan multiple times**, removing the farm and treehouse concepts to focus solely on trails and replanting of native species. Even with these adjustments, **opposition to our initiative persisted**.

We invite all Hawaiian organizations and directly affected residents to join us in this initiative, ensuring that the acquisition and management of this land are carried out inclusively and in alignment with local expectations.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our supporters, the engaged community members, and everyone who contributed to the development of this project. We remain committed to supporting the well-being of the community and respecting the collective will.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact us at 808-277-8498 or email at bellabondfoundation@gmail.com

Mahalo,

Bella Bond Foundation Team,