

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## CREP Overview

- Offshoot of the country's largest private-lands environmental improvement program - the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).
- Voluntary land retirement program
- Helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat, and safeguard ground and surface water.

## In Hawaii,

CREP is a partnership between landowners, the State of Hawaii, and the federal Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

By combining resources with partners, CREP provides farmers and ranchers with a sound financial package for conserving and enhancing the natural resources of Hawaii.

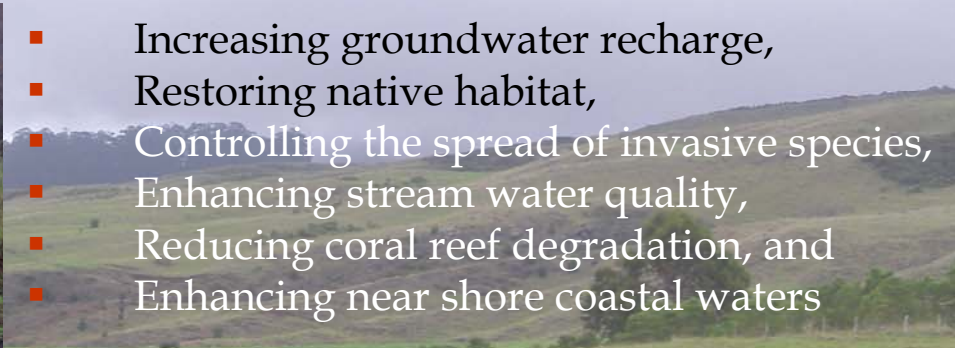
# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Hawaii CREP

20-year incentive program to encourage farmers and ranchers to voluntarily remove targeted lands from agricultural production

Landowners will be asked to enact watershed conservation practice on those lands for the purpose of

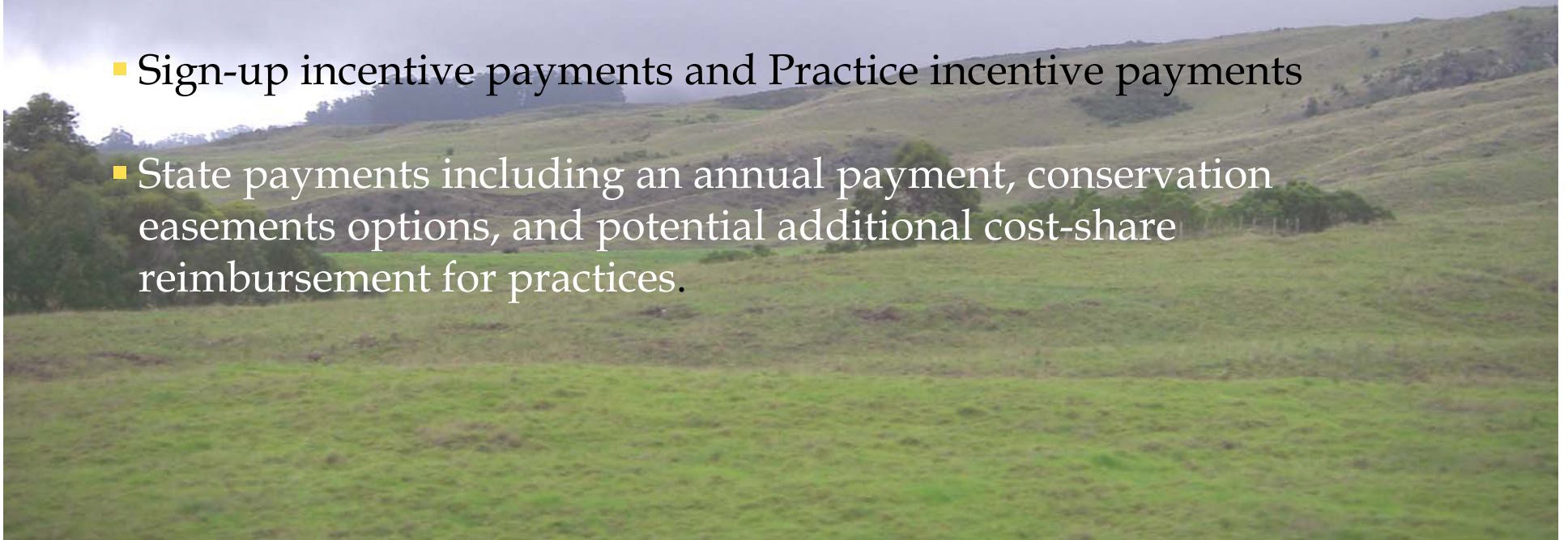
- Increasing groundwater recharge,
- Restoring native habitat,
- Controlling the spread of invasive species,
- Enhancing stream water quality,
- Reducing coral reef degradation, and
- Enhancing near shore coastal waters



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Components

- Annual rental payment for enrolling in the CREP program. Amounts vary depending on land classification and eligibility.
- Cost-share reimbursement for approved conservation practices. Reimbursement amounts vary depending on practice, but can range from 50% to 90%.
- Sign-up incentive payments and Practice incentive payments
- State payments including an annual payment, conservation easements options, and potential additional cost-share reimbursement for practices.



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Conservation Practices

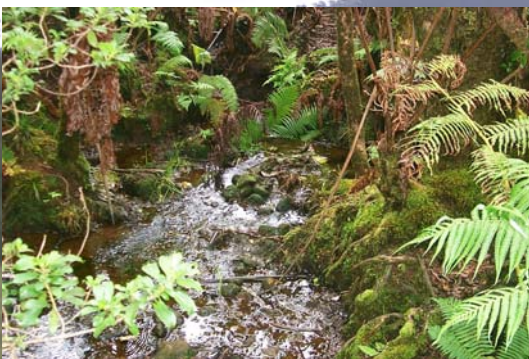
- Management areas will focus primarily in riparian buffers, wetland buffers, and reforestation sites.
- Practices allowable in these areas include:
  - removing invasive species,
  - planting native species,
  - stream restoration,
  - site preparation,
  - installing protective fencing,
  - restoration of rare habitats,
  - Reforestation on cropland will consist largely of native hardwood plantings



# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Eligible Lands

- 15,000 acres are available for enrollment of Hawaii CREP within the islands of Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kauai, and Oahu.
- Focused on agriculturally productive lands (cropland and pastureland).
- Riparian buffer restoration must have an perennial or intermittent stream, lake, pond, or other water body source present.



- Average widths for buffers shall have a minimum of 30 feet and shall not exceed 1,320 feet on highly erodible land.

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Enrollment

- 5-year enrollment period
  - Hawaii and Maui
  - Molokai and Lanai,
  - Kauai and Oahu
- 15-year contact requirement with FSA and State
- Lease holders and Fee Title owners are eligible
- Large and small scale farmers are encouraged to participating
- AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) limitation of \$2,500,000
  - unless income levels are 75% or more from farming, ranching, or forestry operations (dependent on Farm Bill renewal)
- Land must be owned or leased for at least 1-year prior to enrollment to be eligible
- Must be physically and legally capable of being cropped in a normal manner

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Benefits

- For the landowner, CREP is
  - cost-effective way to address environmental problems
  - help meet regulatory requirements
  - can provide a viable option to supplement farm income
- For the environment,
  - Protects environmental sensitive lands
  - Decreases soil erosion
  - Aides in the control of invasive species
  - Enhance and increase stream water quality
  - Increased groundwater recharge
  - Increase habitat for rare and native plants and animals
  - Increase health of coastal coral reefs and near shore coastal waters
- Annual monitoring requirement, CREP helps participants measure progress and ensure success.

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Monitoring

- Reporting Requirements
  - 10% reduction in sediment and nutrient runoff into streams.
  - 5% increase in coral reef cover and substantial increases in coral diversity on coral reefs.
  - 10% increase and improvement T&E habitats.
  - Increases in groundwater recharge through the planting of trees in upland pastures.
  - Reduction in and control of invasive species.

- Watershed Partnerships Program, UH CCRT, DOFAW





# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Stream Monitoring

- Development of an Advanced Cyberinfrastructure Platform for Water Quality Monitoring and Land Conservation in the Hawaiian Islands
  - YSI Meters
  - Weather Stations
  - Wireless Data Logger
  - User Portal
- Monitoring changes in stream water quality in conjunction to land based practices on conservation and agricultural lands.
- User Portal



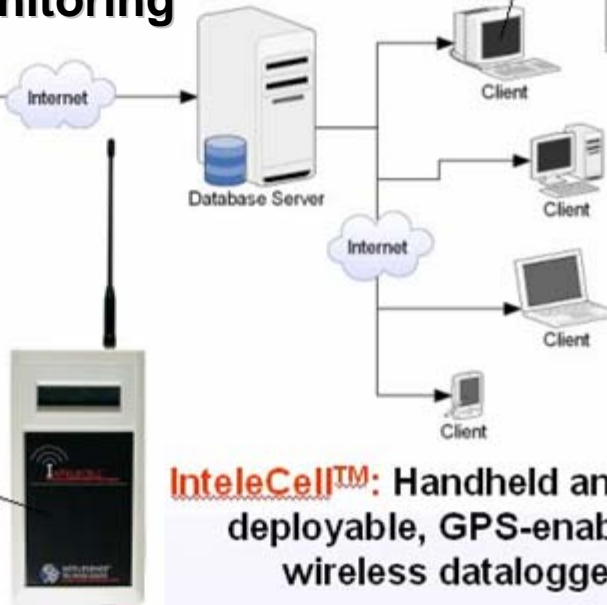
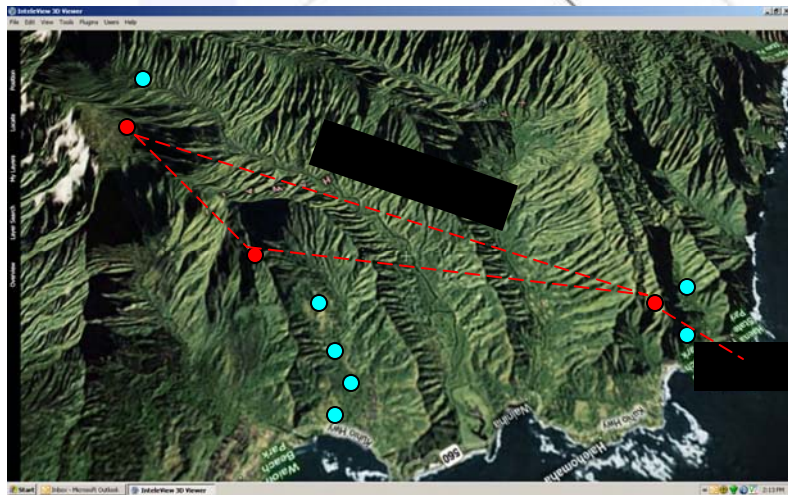
**InteleGate™: Gateway and Control Software**



**InteleView™: 3D GIS display of sites and sensor data**



## CI for Environmental Monitoring



**InteleCell™: Handheld and field-deployable, GPS-enabled, wireless datalogger**



**Weather Station**



**Water Quality Sensor**



**Animal Vector Tracking**



**Air Quality Sensor**



**Video Monitoring**

# Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

## Lead Agency and Federal Partners

- State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is the lead state agency
  - Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is lead for DLNR
- Federal Agencies involved with CREP
  - Farm Service Agency (FSA)
  - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Other Partners
  - Relationships and expectations to be finalized in a Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Hawaii and USDA Farm Service Agency.

**Hawaii CREP Coordinator  
DLNR-DOFAW**

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