

Cooperative Agreement to Support DoD Strategic Conservation Planning Analysis

PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT: The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) seeks to enter into a cooperative agreement with a non-profit organization to assist with strategic planning, analysis and research for its conservation partnership program. Specifically, the agreement will help DoD to target its conservation partnership efforts in critical geographies defined by ecological vulnerability and a threshold level of existing protected lands, federal land protection program priority designation, and demonstrated focus area for private conservation investment. The non-profit's capabilities for strategic conservation planning, conservation almanac, database of conservation easements and state policy analysis will assist DoD to make informed and strategic decisions about land conservation partnerships near key installations and ranges. This collaborative conservation planning will relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with current and future military activities

BACKGROUND: The Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) funds innovative partnerships between military services and land trusts to leverage public and private funds to preserve critical buffer areas and landscapes. REPI's purpose is to protect the military's capability to train and test for the current and future mission requirements. REPI's methods are to support cost-sharing partnerships that protect compatible land uses and ecological integrity on private and non-DoD lands near installations and ranges so that their conversion to other uses does not inhibit or restrict the military's ability to use the existing facilities for testing and training.

OBJECTIVE: This agreement with a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands and other natural places, will support DoD's ability to identify key landscape level partnerships that maximize leveraging of public and private funds, and enhance the efficiency and leveraging ability of partnerships. Ultimately, DoD's cooperation in this project will support the organization's ability to identify priorities and plan networks of conserved lands that meet public need and refine its suite of technical conservation services and share knowledge of conservation issues and techniques to improve the practice of conservation and promote its public benefits.

Specifically, the project will:

- Provide for a site-specific analysis on the island of Oahu to demonstrate the conservation planning process that assists a community with making informed decisions about land conservation
- Produce practical actions and recommendations for the Oahu community and DoD to guide growth management efforts and conservation
- Perform analysis of conservation investment opportunities and land fragmentation or development vulnerability in the vicinity of existing REPI partnership locations to identify which subset of locations would be most likely to stimulate the most leveraging of other public and private dollars for conservation partnering

FY12 FUNDING: \$25,000