



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

News Release

Pacific Islands External Affairs Office

300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-311 Box 50187, Honolulu, HI 96850
Phone: 808 792-9530 Fax: 808 792-9583

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Contact: Ken Foote, 808 792 9535 or 282 9442

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Funding Awarded to Private Landowners in Hawaii to Conserve Endangered Species

Private landowners in Hawaii were awarded \$538,317 today to help conserve and restore habitat for a wide range of species, from endangered Hawaiian plants and birds on Oahu and Maui to hawksbill sea turtles on the Big Island. Monies were awarded through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Private Stewardship Grants program.

Acting Assistant Interior Secretary Matt Hogan today announced grants totaling more than \$6.9 million to private landowners and groups in 35 states to undertake conservation projects on their land for endangered, threatened and other at-risk species.

"The Private Stewardship Grants program builds partnerships with private landowners to do what the federal government cannot do alone," said Hogan. "This grant program empowers citizens to conserve imperiled species on private lands across the nation."

Now in its fourth year, the Private Stewardship Grants program provides federal grants on a competitive basis to individuals and groups engaged in voluntary conservation efforts on private lands that benefit federally listed endangered or threatened species, candidate species, or other at-risk species. Under this program, private landowners as well as groups working with private landowners, submit proposals directly to the Service for funding to support these efforts. Each of the 80 grants awarded today require at least a 10 percent match in nonfederal dollars or in-kind contributions.

In the first three years of the program, 282 grants totaling more than \$22 million were awarded to private landowners across the country. During this same period, private landowners in Hawaii received \$2,861,296.

The Private Stewardship grants awarded in Hawaii this year are:

Hawaii Island Coastal Restoration – (application by Yamanaka Enterprises, Inc.) – Hawai'i County, Hawai'i – \$73,250

The project seeks to improve hawksbill sea turtle nesting habitat by minimizing threats posed by nonnative mammalian predators including mongooses, rats, feral cats, and feral dogs; controlling invasive plants such as fountain grass; and minimizing the impact of human activities. Green sea turtles and Hawaiian monk seals will also benefit as a result of this restoration project.

Kualoa Ranch Endangered Species Restoration and Management – (application by Kualoa Ranch and Activity Club, Inc.) – Honolulu County, Hawai'i, \$111,035

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The objective of this project is to establish new populations of four endangered plant species (*Cyanea acuminata*, *Cyanea crispera*, *Gardenia mannii*, and *Cyanea truncata*) and one candidate plant species (*Psychotria hexandra* spp. *Oahuensis*). Newly established populations will be protected by constructing enclosure fences which will enclose approximately 10 acres of habitat.

Lana‘ihale Summit Fence Project – (application by Lana‘i Institute for the Environment) – Maui County, Hawai‘i, \$245,000

This project will protect and restore the native forest ecosystem of the Lana‘ihale Cloud Forest on the island of Lana‘i, benefiting a number of endangered plant species including *Bonamia menziesii*, *Clermontia oblongifolia* ssp. *mauiensis*, *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyanea macrostegia* ssp. *gibsonii*, *Cyrtandra munroi*, *Gahnia lanaiensis*, *Hedyotis mannii*, *Hedyotis schlechtendahlia* var. *remyi*, *Labordia tinifolia* var. *lanaiensis*, *Melicope munroi*, *Spermolepis hawaiiensis*, and *Viola lanaiensis*. Lana‘ihale also includes occupied habitat for *Partulina semicarinata* and *Partulina variabilis*, two tree snails that are candidates for listing as endangered. This restoration effort will include installation of an enclosure fence that will restrict feral ungulates from accessing the forest and allow restoration and natural regeneration of native plants to occur.

Reintroduction and Conservation of Five Endangered Plants and a Bird Species on Tiana Partners Property – (application by Ohu ‘Olu‘Olu, Inc.) - Honolulu County, Hawaii, \$26,532

The objective of this project is to reintroduce, monitor, and maintain five endangered plant species (*Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana*, *Cyrtandra polyantha*, *Diellia erecta*, *Lobelia monostachya*, and *Tetraplasandra lydgatei*) and enhance the habitat of a the endangered O‘ahu ‘Elepaio (*Chasiempis sandwichensis ibidis*) in appropriate and protected habitat on Tiana Partners land.

Threat Abatement in Haiku Uka, East Maui – (application by Tri-Isle Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and East Maui Watershed Partnership) – Maui County, Hawai‘i, \$82,500

The objective of this project is to control invasive plant species that compete for the habitat of 12 listed and 4 proposed plant and animal species, and to control feral ungulates present in the project area, whose browsing and trampling reduce habitat for at-risk species.

The Private Stewardship Grant program is one of a variety of tools under the ESA that help landowners plan and implement projects to conserve rare species. Other cooperative measures under the ESA include Habitat Conservation Plans, Safe Harbor Agreements, and Candidate Conservation Agreements. These grants and cooperative agreements provide incentives to foster citizen participation in the stewardship of our nation’s endangered species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million- acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices, and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the federal assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.