



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

Fish and Wildlife Service Provides \$1 Million in Land Acquisition Funds to Hawai‘i

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar today announced more than \$57.8 million in grants to 27 states to support conservation planning and acquisition of vital habitat for threatened and endangered fish, wildlife, and plants. The grants, awarded through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, will benefit numerous species ranging from the Lake Erie watersnake to endangered Hawaiian plants.

This year, the cooperative endangered species fund provides approximately \$7.6 million through the Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants Program, \$36 million through the Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants Program, and \$14.1 million through the Recovery Land Acquisition Grants Program. The three programs were established to help avoid potential conflicts between the conservation of threatened and endangered species and land development and use.

“These grants are critically important tools to help conserve our nation’s threatened and endangered species,” said Secretary Salazar. “They provide state agencies with much needed resources to empower landowners and communities to protect habitat and foster environmental stewardship for future generations.”

The recovery land acquisition grants provide funds to states and territories to acquire habitat for endangered and threatened species with approved recovery plans. Habitat acquisition to secure long-term protection is often an essential element of a comprehensive recovery effort for a listed species. Funds awarded to the State of Hawai‘i are often combined with other federal, state, and private funds to complete acquisitions.

On the Island of Moloka‘i, \$1 million will be provided to the State of Hawai‘i to help acquire a perpetual conservation easement over 614 acres of strategic watershed on the eastern end of the island. Stretching from the summit almost to the ocean, this connected parcel follows the traditional Hawaiian land delineation and management system or ahupua‘a. The property has several federally listed threatened or endangered species as well as critical habitat in and around the proposed easement area. Listed species that will benefit from the acquisition are: ko‘oko‘olau (*Bidens wiebkei*), ‘āwikiwiki (*Canavalia molokaiensis*), koki‘o ke‘oke‘o (*Hibiscus arnottianus* ssp. *immaculatus*), pua‘ala (*Brighamia rockii*), haha (*Cyanea dunbariae*), nānū (*Gardenia brighamii*), loulou (*Pritchardia munroi*), and *Phyllostegia hispida*.

Since 2001, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided more than \$13 million in recovery land acquisition grants to the State of Hawai‘i.

For a complete list of the 2009 grant awards for these programs (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 15.615), see the Service's Endangered Species Grants home page at <http://endangered.fws.gov/grants/section6/index.html>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

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