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Interior Department Announces \$20 Million from President’s Investing in America Agenda to Bolster Climate Resilience in Hawai‘i

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WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior today announced a \$20 million investment through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda to bolster climate resilience in Hawai‘i. Funding will be awarded to 17 Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs) to restore native ecosystems and plants and enhance food security while incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and practices.

Island ecosystems like those found in Hawai‘i are incredibly biodiverse, and more susceptible to climate-related impacts, such as wildfires and warmer and more acidic oceans. As part of its [Restoration and Resilience Framework](#), the Department is working to foster stable and sustainable island communities by building climate resilience across critical habitats, ecosystems, and infrastructure and reducing threats from pollution sources, invasive species, increased fire risk, and changes in ocean conditions. Today’s investment is part of more than \$2 billion through the President’s Investing in America agenda that the Department is using to strengthen the resilience of the nation’s lands and waters.

“The Hawaiian Islands face unique and intensifying climate-related challenges that pose an existential threat to lives and livelihoods. The Indigenous Knowledge within the Native Hawaiian Community will be invaluable as we face these challenges head-on,” said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. “As the state faces some of climate change’s most damaging effects, this investment through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda is a critical step toward planning for and implementing climate resilience measures, and safeguarding Hawai‘i for generations to come.”

Funding for the program comes from the Inflation Reduction Act – the largest ever investment in climate. Across the country, these once-in-a-generation investments are providing affordable high-speed internet, safer roads and bridges, modern wastewater and sanitation systems, clean drinking water, reliable and affordable electricity, and good-paying jobs.

Today’s announcement advances the Biden-Harris administration’s [Justice40 Initiative](#), which sets the goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized by underinvestment and overburdened by pollution.

Funding will be implemented through the Department’s Office of Native Hawaiian Relations’ (ONHR) Kapapahuliau Climate Resilience Program, which aims to empower the Native Hawaiian Community by placing Indigenous Knowledge, practices and ingenuity at the center of programs that will cope with past and present climate impacts, develop adaptation strategies to manage future climate challenges, and create systemic change. These efforts will contribute to the vision laid out in the Biden-Harris Administration’s [National Climate Resilience Framework](#) of a climate-resilient nation.

ONHR hosted two virtual information sessions and a series of in-person scoping meetings for the Native Hawaiian Community on several islands, including O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Maui, Kaua‘i, and Moloka‘i, ahead of making these awards, to ensure selected proposals reflect the needs and values of the Native Hawaiian Community. Find a full list of projects funded on the [Department’s website](#).

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