

# World Conservation Congress Legacy Commitment: “30 by 30 Watershed Forests Target”

Protecting 30% (253,000 acres) of Hawai‘i’s highest  
priority watershed forests by 2030



*Photo: Nate Yuen*

The Hawaiian koa-‘ōhi‘a rainforests capture and provide the islands’ supply of fresh clean water, lessen impacts from climate change, dramatically reduce flooding and erosion into our coral reefs, provide an ecosystem for unique plants and wildlife, and have profound cultural significance. Approximately 20% of land area in Hawai‘i is identified as priority watershed. In 2011, only 10% of these priority watersheds were protected. Since then, watershed protection efforts have accelerated and currently, approximately 15% are under a high level of protection. The State of Hawai‘i is committed to protecting 30% (253,000 acres) of our [highest priority watershed forests](#) by 2030.

## **Hawai‘i Needs Healthy Forests**

- *Freshwater* – maximize water capture and storage
- *Plants and Wildlife* – protect species unique to Hawai‘i
- *Coral Reefs* – reduce erosion that muddies fisheries
- *Hawaiian Culture* – upland forests are the storied *wao akua*
- *Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions* – trees store carbon
- *Green Jobs* – connect residents with the land that sustains them

*Photo: Air Maui*

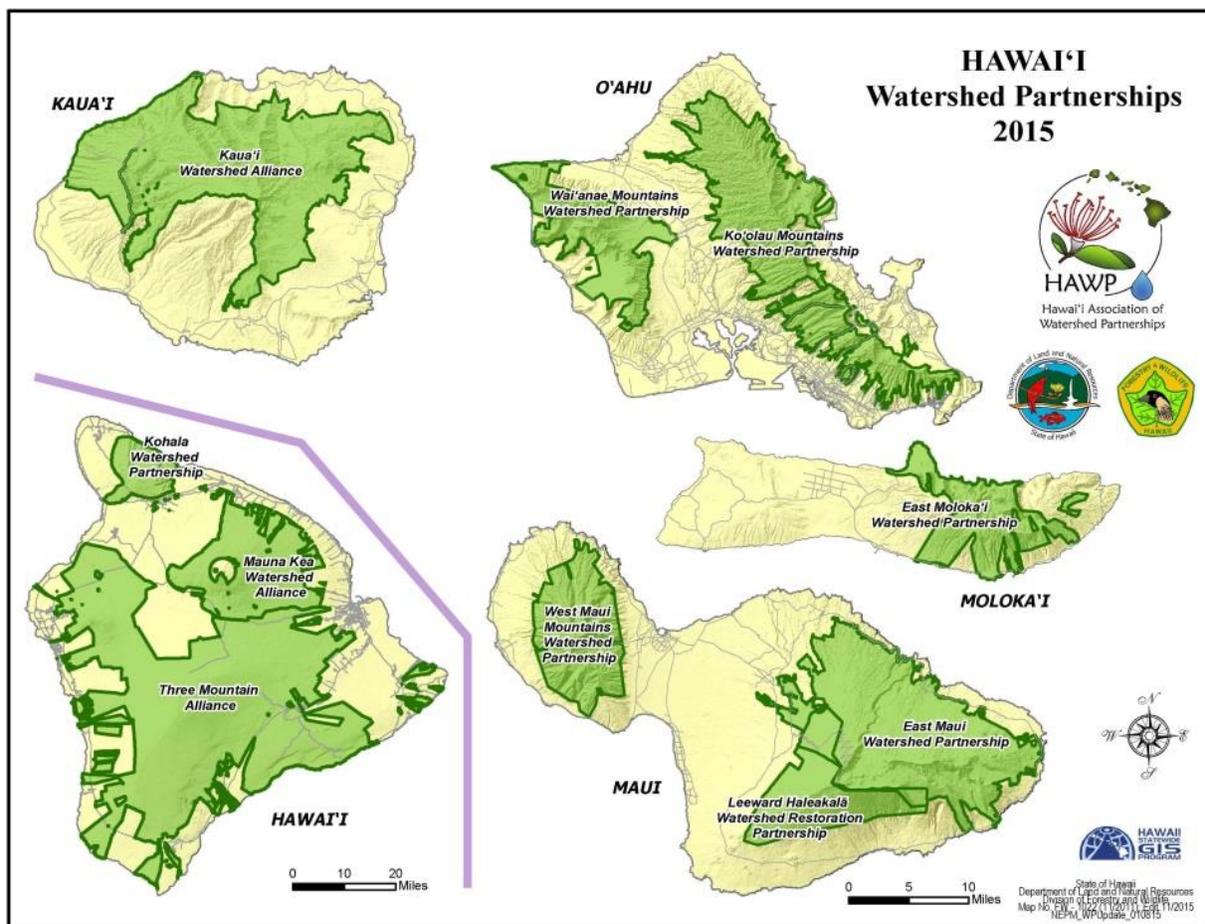


## How We Protect Watershed Forests

- Connect** • Encourage hiking, hunting, and other nature activities
- Protect** • Fence and remove non-native hooved animals in targeted core areas
  - Control invasive plants in priority native forests
  - Prevent and control wildfires
  - Combat forest diseases and pests
  - Plant native trees
- Respect** • Educate Hawai'i's residents and visitors about the cultural, economic, and environmental importance of conserving native forests

## Hawai'i's Watershed Partnerships

[Watershed Partnerships](#) are voluntary alliances between public and private landowners who recognize that the best way to protect our forested watersheds and the source of our fresh drinking water is through collaborative management across landscapes. Hawaii has 10 active Watershed Partnerships covering 2.2 million acres – roughly half the land in the entire state. Working across ownership boundaries, these partnerships pool funding, offer a framework for large scale protection, and provide diverse local jobs.



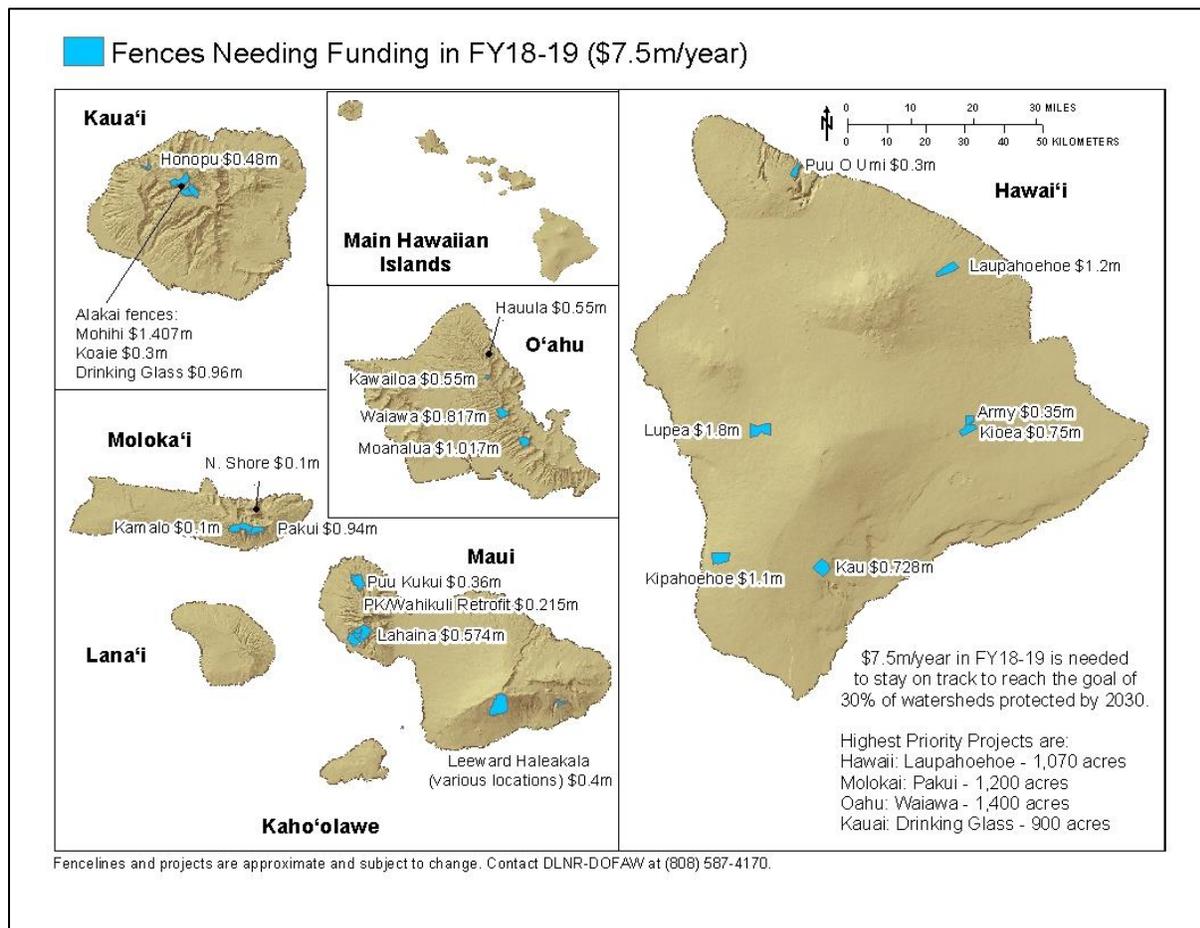
## Achievements

- 120,000 native trees planted over the last 5 years by Watershed Partnerships
- 80+ local jobs provided by Watershed Partnerships per year
- 16,000 hours of volunteer service donated over the last 5 years to watershed projects
- 210 listed endangered plants and wildlife protected by watershed projects
- Limit the spread of [Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death](#) to other islands through an interisland quarantine on all 'ōhi'a products and soil from infested areas. Undertaking control protocols, containment trials, and outreach to hula halau, hunters, ranchers, conservation professionals and others

*Watershed fences help protect the native forest*

## Watershed Funding

- Watershed projects have matched and leveraged over \$15.4 million in federal, county, and private funds since FY13
- In order to keep Hawai'i on track to meet its 2030 goals, \$7.5m per year for fence construction in FY18-19 is needed to protect over 18,000 acres of high-priority watershed forests. Funding is also needed to control invasive plants and wildfires, and plant native trees.



### Additional Resources

- Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships (HAWP): <http://hawp.org/>
- *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard: <https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/en/stat/goals/5xhf-begg/4s33-f5iv/wtjm-96jt>
- Information about Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death: [www.rapidohiadeath.org](http://www.rapidohiadeath.org)
- Press Release 8/24/16 – DLNR & YOU – Sustaining Healthy Forested Watersheds For Hawaii's Communities: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/blog/2016/08/24/nr16-161/>