



United States Department of Agriculture

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Investing in Hawaii - 2016

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

In 2016, NRCS is investing up to \$220 million in 84 high-impact projects that impact every state in the nation, including one in Hawaii. This investment, which builds on the \$370 million invested for 2014 and 2015, will help conservation partners and agricultural producers conserve natural resources, leading to cleaner and more abundant water, healthier soil, enhanced wildlife habitat and many other benefits.

Continuing Proposal: Hawaii's Watershed Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: \$638,000 (State)

Lead Partner: State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

Number of Partners: 6

Participating State(s): Hawaii

The Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) top priority is to protect Hawaii's forests watersheds— the islands' fresh water source. Protecting forests improves the water quality of nearby streams and lakes, reduces soil erosion and agricultural fertilizer runoff into streams and coral reefs, and provides habitat for nearly 317 threatened and endangered species. This project will build off of last year's RCPP project by protecting even more forest watersheds. Main goals are to control invasive species— the main threat to forest watersheds, erect fencing to exclude non-native hoofed animals (ungulates), plant trees to provide forest sustainability and diverse habitat and monitor progress.



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