

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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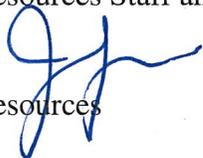
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LAND
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TO: Department of Land and Natural Resources Staff and Partners

FROM: *for* William Aila Jr., Chairperson
ZH Department of Land and Natural Resources 

SUBJECT: "The Rain Follows the Forest" Watershed Initiative Funding Update

Aloha,

Governor Abercrombie's "The Rain Follows the Forest" Watershed Initiative is the Department of Land and Natural Resources' top priority to protect our islands' declining fresh water supplies, which depend on the health of native forests.

The Legislature included \$3 million in general obligation bonds for the Watershed Initiative in Fiscal Year 2015. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council received \$5 million, which will also help to reduce threats to our watershed forests. As Hawaii confronts the impacts of climate change, this work becomes even more essential to absorb greenhouse gases, protect declining water supplies, reduce erosion and flooding, and protect native species.

Mahalo to those who have joined together to help move forward this important initiative. This support and momentum is critical as we continue to seek funding in future years that is commensurate with the magnitude of threats to Hawaii's water supply.

Please let me know if there is any way I can provide support for your watershed projects.