

STATE OF HAWAI‘I DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Year of Our Community Forests





The Anahola River Estuary on Kauai is an essential habitat for juvenile marine and freshwater fish. To track its health, the Division of Aquatic Resources has conducted quarterly fish surveys for more than a decade. In a remarkable turn of events, these long-term studies have shown a significant and positive trend since 2022 – more fish are thriving in the estuary than ever before.



State of Hawai'i

Department of Land and Natural Resources

Annual Report 2025



Mission

The mission of the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources is to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural, and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.

Contents

Message from the Chairperson.....	5
2025 Board of Land and Natural Resources.....	6
2025 Commission on Water Resource Management.....	7
Department of Land and Natural Resources Organizational Chart.....	8
2025: Year of Our Community Forests	9
Explore Outdoor Hawai'i Website	11
Bureau of Conveyances.....	12
Commission on Water Resource Management.....	15
Division of Aquatic Resources	18
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation.....	22
Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement	24
Division of Forestry and Wildlife	26
Engineering Division.....	31
Land Division	34
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands.....	36
State Historic Preservation Division	39
Division of State Parks	42
Managing Impacts of Houselessness on DLNR Lands	45
Revenue Sources	48

Cover: The Mt. Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve on O'ahu was established in 1981. Its 1,100 acres of rugged mountain terrain protect Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems, most found only in Hawai'i, some very rare.

Message from the Chairperson



Aloha,

It is my privilege to present this report on the work of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) in 2025.

DLNR bears a tremendous amount of responsibility. We oversee more than 1.3 million acres of Hawai'i's public lands, state ocean waters extending three miles from shore, fisheries, coral reefs, small boat harbors, and ocean recreation activities. We also manage the state's fresh-water systems, including 376 perennial streams, and all groundwater aquifers. Additionally, DLNR regulates three million acres of conservation district lands, historic and cultural sites, forests and watersheds, public beaches, dams and reservoirs, and 55 state parks encompassing more than 30,000 acres. Rockfall mitigation on public lands, oversight of geothermal resources, protection of endangered species, and managing or eradicating invasive species also falls within our purview.

In all of this, we often walk a fine line to balance various political, economic, and cultural interests with DLNR's public trust duty to protect Hawai'i's natural, cultural, and historical resources. It's a big job, one that is best done with the help of an engaged public.

The pages that follow provide a high-level summary of just some of the important initiatives undertaken by our dedicated public servants in 2025. These achievements are the result of DLNR's collaboration with a broad cross section of individuals and organizations to address the different, sometimes competing needs of our communities.

Through it all, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to pursuing operational improvements, minimizing costs wherever possible, and applying limited assets to more effectively fulfill our mission.

As always, we are grateful for our valued partnerships with the Legislature and the Governor, who play a critical role in the ongoing effort to protect the cultural, historical, and life-giving resources of these islands for present and future generations.

Me ka mahalo piha for your continuing support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dawn N.S. Chang'.

Dawn N.S. Chang
Chairperson

2025 Board of Land and Natural Resources



Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson
First term: 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2026



Vernon Char, At-Large Member
Second term: 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2025



Aimee Barnes, O'ahu Member
First term: 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2025



Riley Smith, Hawai'i Island Member
First term: 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2026



Doreen Nāpua Canto, Maui Nui Member
First term: 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2025



Karen Ono, Kaua'i Member
Second term: 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2028



Wesley "Kaiwi" Yoon, At-Large Member
Second term: 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2026



Denise Iseri-Matsubara, O'ahu Member
First term: 07/01/2025 to 06/30/2029



Calvin Young, At-Large Member
First term: 07/01/2025 to 06/30/2029

The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) is composed of seven members: one from each of the four land districts (Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui Nui, Hawai'i Island), two at large, and the chair, who is also chair of the Commission on Water Resource Management, and the director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Members are nominated by the governor and, with the consent of the state Senate, appointed to a four-year term.

2025 Commission on Water Resource Management



Dawn N.S. Chang, Chairperson
First term: 01/01/2023 to 12/31/2026



Paul Meyer
Second term: 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2025



Aurora Kagawa-Viviani
First term: 07/01/2021 to 06/30/2025



Kenneth S. Fink, MD, MGA, MPH
First term: 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2026



Wayne K. Katayama
Second term: 07/01/2022 to 06/30/2026



Lawrence H. Miike
First term: 07/01/2023 to 06/30/2027



Hannah Kihalani Springer,
First term: 07/01/2024 to 06/30/2028



Junita N. Reyher-Colon
First term: 07/01/2025 to 06/30/2029

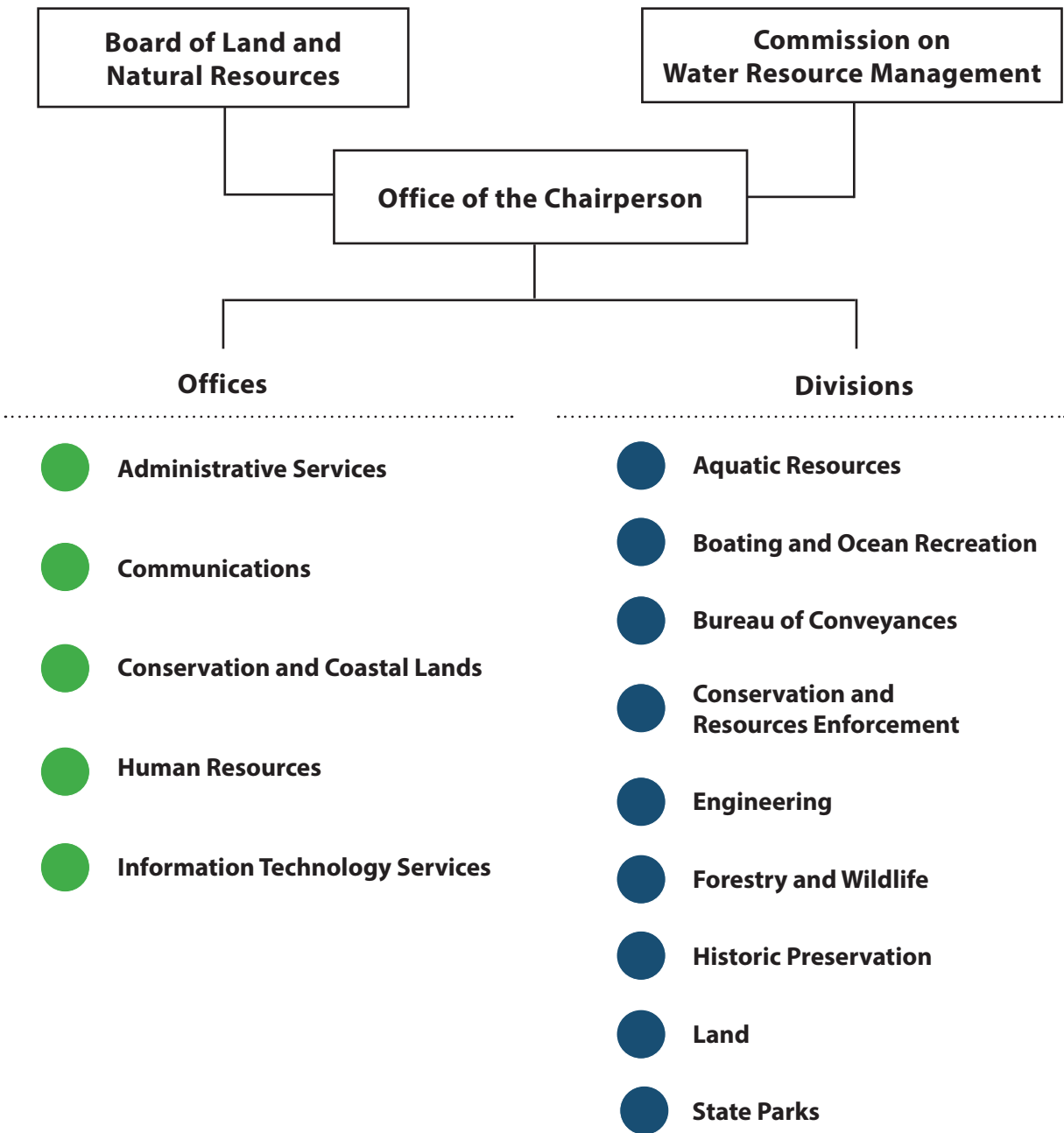


Moses K.N. Haia, III
First term: 07/01/2025 to 06/30/2029

The Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) consists of seven members. The commission's chair is also the chair of the state Board of Land and Natural Resources as well as the director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The other members are the director of the state Department of Health and five individuals who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state Senate.



Organizational Chart



2025: Year of Our Community Forests



At a ceremony held on January 10, Governor Josh Green, M.D., signed a proclamation declaring 2025 as the “Year of Our Community Forests.”

The year-long campaign was developed by the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), its Kaulunani Urban and Community Forest Program, and a multitude of partners. The designation recognized trees and forests in the wao kanaka: where we live, learn, and play, with the goals of increasing awareness of community (including urban) forests and strengthening connections between people and these forests.

Community forests are the trees all around us, in our neighborhoods, yards, parks, schools, and along our streets, as well as those covering mauka lands. Such forests can include native species, but also non-invasive beneficial trees like ‘ulu, niu, and mango.

DOFAW established a website where people can learn about the benefits of community forests. This page now provides a collection of educational resources related to trees, including volunteer opportunities, and statistics and data showing how forests help grow communities:

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees>

2025: Year of Our Community Forests (cont.)



Campaign Accomplishments

- 9,590 views of the campaign webpage at dlnr.hawaii.gov/dofaw/trees.
- More than 1,200 calendared events from community partners in the Year of Our Community Forests.
- Distributed approximately 1,000 Year of Our Community Forests classroom posters and 30,000 water bottle stickers and tattoos, all focused on celebrating the connections between trees and people.
- 32 students created videos about community forests for the 'Ōlelo Youth Xchange contest.
- Related outcomes:
 - ▶ The 2025 State Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 40 encouraging forest co-stewardship with community groups. See: www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/HCR40_.pdf
 - ▶ Bishop Museum themed their Science & Sustainability Festival around the Year of Our Community Forests and created expert panels to discuss community forestry.
 - ▶ Clothing designer David Shepard created a Year of Our Community Forests print featuring niu and manu o Kū.

A Few Benefits of Hawai'i's Trees

- *Provide food, shade, oxygen, and habitat for Hawai'i's wildlife.*
- *Increase property values.*
- *Clean the air and water by filtering pollutants while roots hold soil, which reduces runoff into the ocean.*
- *Hawai'i municipal trees store more than 25,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), remove a net 3,340 tons of CO₂ each year, and manage 35 million gallons of stormwater runoff each year.*

Explore Outdoor Hawai'i Website

Act 182, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, took effect on July 1, 2023, mandating that the Department of Land and Natural Resources develop and maintain a centralized website and mobile software for handling applications related to recreational and commercial activities by residents, visitors, and commercial operators. Implementation is in Phase III of a four-phase project.

Key benefits of the new website are ease of use, centralized access to the application processes for Hawai'i state camping permits, hunting and fishing licenses, park access reservations, film permits, commercial tours, boating and hiking activities, and a forms repository. Features include:

- Mobile reservation experience
- Camping reservations for 32+ parks and trails
- Digitized forms repository
- Cultural / educational elements
- Data dashboards
- A virtual assistant provides instant comprehensive answers to common questions utilizing functional information contained on the website
- Multiple language support in English, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, Japanese, Korean, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Tagalog, Ilokano, Visayan, Thai, Vietnamese, Spanish, Samoan, Chuukese, and Marshallese
- Notifications for Diamond Head, Ka'ena Point, and 'Iolani Palace
- OuterSpatial Hiking Trails App integration with Trail Access information
- Volunteer management
- Donation options

The site went live on July 31, 2024, at: outdoor.hawaii.gov

It has received four awards and one honorable mention in five international awards programs. Judges evaluated the site on criteria such as quality of execution, including visual design, usability, and technical implementation; how clearly the site delivers information to visitors; ease of navigation, accessibility, and responsiveness.

Plans for project years 2 and 3 include implementation of additional improvements and services to further enhance the application and permitting experience.



Bureau of Conveyances



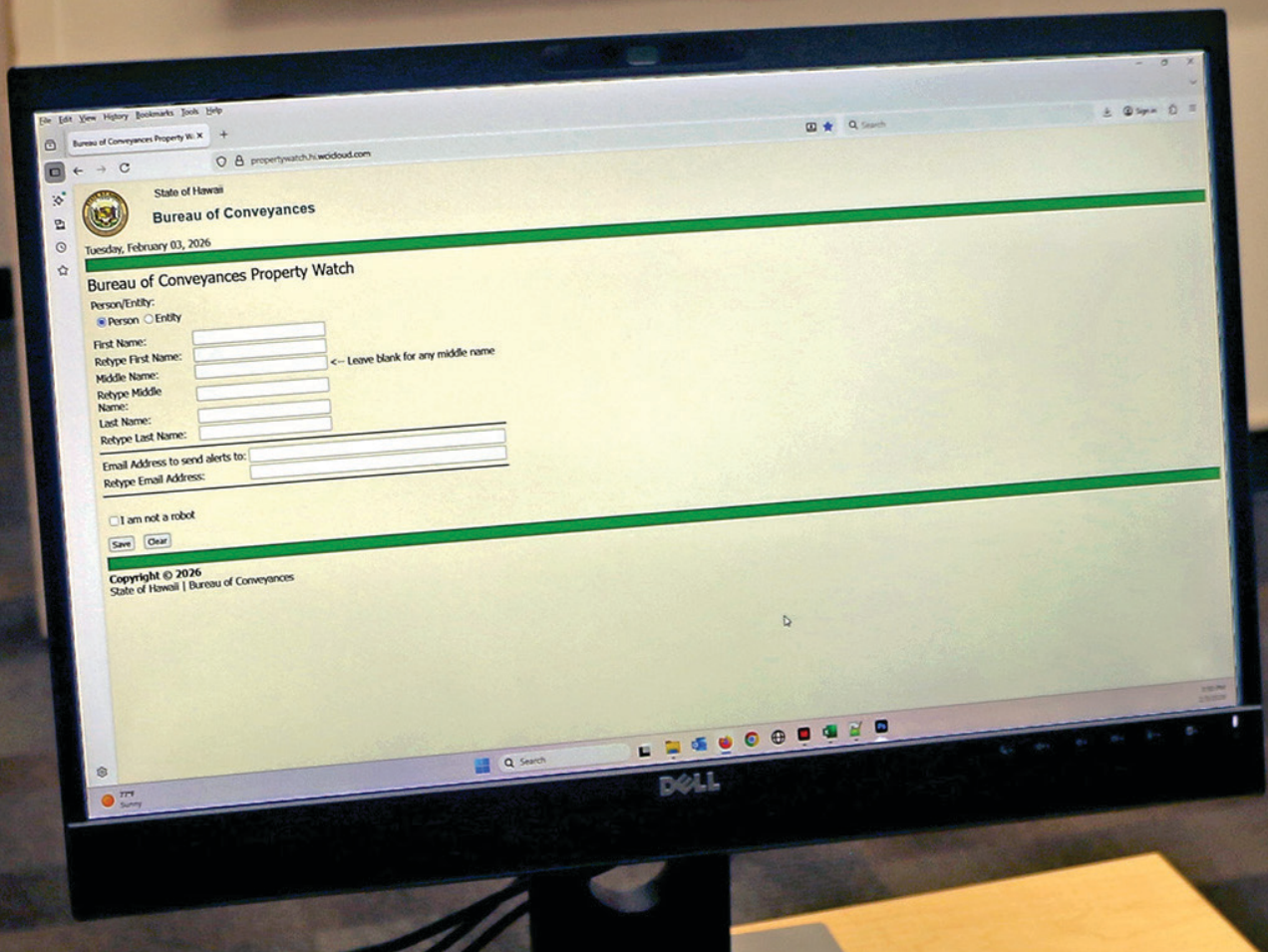
Within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Conveyances maintains records from 1845 to present.

The Bureau of Conveyances (BOC) plays a vital role for Hawai'i's communities. By maintaining public records of land ownership, including maps, real estate transactions, deeds, mortgages, and leases, the BOC preserves a chronological chain of title, prevents fraud, safeguards property rights, and enables anyone to research and verify the ownership history of real property, and any claims or encumbrances on specific pieces of property.

Having timely, clear, accurate, and permanent public records of real property ownership and transactions ensures trust, transparency, and efficiency in land ownership and commerce for the public and business community.

The BOC processes documents for both Hawai'i's Regular (Abstract) System and Land Court (Torrens) System, as well as Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) filings and research requests. Integral to these recordings, the BOC also maintains a complete archival repository of these records dating back to 1845.

Each business day, the BOC staff examine, record, index, and digitize more than 1,000 Regular System and Land Court documents and maps. The BOC is also responsible for Land Court certificates of title, certified copies of matters of record, and UCC research requests, and providing secure public access to digital, archived land records.



<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/boc/property-watch>

2025 Achievements

- Further promotion of Property Watch, a free online application that sends e-mail notifications to property owners when their name is noted as a party in a document that is recorded with the Bureau of Conveyances, regardless of who filed it.
- ▶ While systems like Property Watch do not prevent fraud, they are nationally recognized as a first step in best practices to provide for the early detection of fraud, alerting property owners of the need to take action to protect their interests.

Bureau of Conveyances (cont.)

- The BOC is working on implementing additional security enhancements which, when completed, will provide an array of overlapping security systems, creating a “net” to catch criminals in the act of property fraud.
- The BOC continued to improve and increase its database storage capacity as the foundation for preservation of archived records, new services, and greater public and government accessibility.
- Continued progress on reducing the certification backlog.

2026 Goals

Continue to build out the Bureau's automation foundation to support staff, consumers, businesses, and government with more effective, user-friendly tools and services. Work in 2026 will be in various stages which include:

- Implementing increased online access to BOC services.
- Document certification to verify that documents are printed at the Bureau and hand-stamped to ensure they came from the Bureau and were not altered.
- Access to condominium maps for the real estate community and transactions.
- Online recording for government to improve services to the public, and more access for the public. Currently, members of the public can only walk in or mail recordings. This is a challenge for constituents who do not live on O‘ahu.
- Preservation and repair of binders containing historical documents.

Recording Totals for Calendar Years 2022 to 2025

2022	2023	2024	2025
291,603	251,399	237,977	261,730

Commission on Water Resource Management



The Waikaloi Reservoir on Kaua'i was built in the late 1950s for irrigation of sugarcane. Gay and Robinson, Inc., has continued to use it for irrigation since that time.

The mission of the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) is to protect and manage Hawai'i's water resources, ensuring both the health of our streams, aquifers, and ecosystems, and the maximum reasonable-beneficial use of water for present and future generations.

This mission aligns with an important principle of *Kanaka 'Ōiwi* (Native Hawaiian) traditional water management, which holds that water is a public trust resource that cannot be owned and must be stewarded for the benefit of all.

In 1978, the Hawai'i Constitutional Convention explicitly recognized the state's "obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai'i's water resources for the benefit of its people." This overall obligation of the public trust became enshrined in Article XI, Section 7 of the state constitution. With the inception of the State Water Code (Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 174C) and associated administrative rules, the interpretation and implementation of these laws continue to evolve.

CWRM's ongoing work supports sustainable food production and habitat protection.

2025 Achievements

- CWRM staff oversaw long-awaited upgrades to the Honokōhau ditch system in West Maui and the Kōke'e ditch system in Waimea, Kaua'i to support local agriculture, drinking water supplies, cultural practices, and stream life. Restored streamflow supports cultural practices, nourishes wetlands and nearshore fisheries, and reduces wildfire risk.
- Began developing the Keauhou Adaptive Groundwater Management Plan (AMP) to respond to real, changing conditions; pairing monitoring with triggers like the salinity and temperature of groundwater so Commission members and staff can adjust management of groundwater resources based on new conditions, data, and research.



The deep valleys of Waimea on Kaua'i are among the many remote locations that the Commission on Water Resource Management staff access by hiking or helicopter to manage upland streams. In this photo, Commission staff take measurements with a flow meter and maintain vegetation around a solar-powered gaging station.

- The Commission approved long-overdue updates to the State's Agriculture Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) and the Kaua'i County WUDP, as well as watershed protection plan scopes for East Honolulu and Wai'anae. Periodic review and revision of water policy ensures that water plans align with community priorities.
- Through the Commission's water audit program, CWRM helped 50 of the largest public and private water utilities in the state find and fix leaks – strengthening our water systems' resilience and ensuring that water is used, not wasted.
- CWRM staff worked to enhance the state's stream gaging and groundwater monitoring. Commission members approved a new deep monitor well (DMW) in Waimea, Hawai'i; a contractor commenced repairs to the Kāloko DMW on Hawai'i Island; and staff took preliminary steps to secure contractor support and land access to build additional DMWs in the water-stressed areas of Pā'ia, Honolulu, Launiupoko, and Wai'anae.
- CWRM staff added new stations to expand the state's monitoring and research networks, which will enable CWRM staff and other researchers to better understand rainfall, stream-flow, and drought – giving Hawai'i stronger data to guide water decisions.
- Sealing abandoned or unused wells was an important safety measure to prevent pollutants from reaching drinking water sources, protecting public health and reducing long-term risk to our aquifers.



Niuli'i Stream in Kohala on Hawai'i Island was completely dry in the last week of August 2025. During the summer drought, stream flows statewide registered some of their lowest recorded levels in more than 100 years. The Hawaiian Islands have not received regular seasonal rainfall in the past 15 years, a concerning trend for our freshwater resources and native ecosystems.

2026 Goals

- **Continue strengthening Hawai'i's water governance:** Set clear, measurable next steps.
- **Increase transparency:** Launch a public water dashboard providing information on groundwater and surface water use for wells and stream diversion works, statewide.
- **Staffing:** Fill critical vacancies across administrative, technical, and field roles to reduce processing time and strengthen compliance and monitoring.
- **Lahaina water use permits and water shortage plan:** Publish a clear schedule and status tracker for water use permit applicants and the public. Issue water use permits for Lahaina consistent with Commission decisions. Protect community needs through proactive shortage planning.
- **Keauhou Aquifer System Adaptive Management Plan (AMP):** Finalize and publish the first-generation AMP, including an initial monitoring plan and conceptual model of the Keauhou aquifer; begin implementation of near-term management actions upon Commission approval.
- **Planning for Alternative Water Sources:** Complete reuse and desalination studies to define viable options, costs, and decision points.

Division of Aquatic Resources



On January 24, 2025, the state Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the creation of a new fisheries management area in Maunalua Bay to address community concerns about declining populations of vital marine life. The Division of Aquatic Resources is helping to adaptively manage the ecosystem and protect the resources for future generations.

The mission of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) is to work with the people of Hawai'i to conserve, manage, and protect the unique marine and aquatic resources of the state for present and future generations. DAR is responsible for stewardship of the animals and other organisms that live in our freshwater, brackish water, and marine environments, including marine life conservation districts.

These resources are not just for recreation, they are ecological treasures, essential for sustenance, cultural practices, and other vital aspects of life in Hawai'i.

DAR's specialists administer programs to maximize productivity of commercial fisheries and aquaculture, and provide facilities and opportunities for recreational fishing, consistent with the interests of the state.

Staff also maintain regulations on marine species such as fish, lobsters, and algae, regulate all fishing gear, and issue fishing licenses.



Aquatic Biologist Troy Sakihara conducts an eDNA scan at ‘Ohele in Hilo Bay, Hawai‘i Island. DAR scientists use environmental DNA (eDNA) to detect fish and invertebrate species by collecting animal DNA naturally released into the water. Detailed information about what species live in these ecosystems informs better management strategies for improving Hawai‘i’s nearshore fisheries.

2025 Achievements

- Promoted sustainable fishing, enhanced biodiversity, and safeguarded cultural and natural resources for future generations:
 - ▶ Advanced community-based management through the Holomua Marine Initiative – a program that seeks to ensure local knowledge is guiding marine resource management planning. DAR staff worked with communities to effectively manage the nearshore environments around each of the main Hawaiian Islands, employing a multifaceted approach to make marine resources available and plentiful.
 - ▶ Established the Maunalua Bay Fisheries Management Area to restore fish populations and protect marine life.
 - ▶ Supported the designation of Papahānaumokuākea as a national marine sanctuary, expanding protections for one of the world’s most significant marine ecosystems.

Division of Aquatic Resources (cont.)

- Strengthened sustainable ocean financing to create long-term funding for ocean conservation, empowering local communities, supporting stewardship, and ensuring the protection and resilience of Hawai'i's marine ecosystems:
 - ▶ The newly launched Aloha i ke Kai Hawai'i Ocean Stewardship Fee Program generated \$2.8 million in revenue in 2025, supporting 25 ocean stewardship projects that enhance restoration, education, and conservation efforts. Conservation projects focused on mooring buoy maintenance, coral reef restoration, marine invasive species management, and marine debris response.
 - ▶ The Non-Resident Marine Recreational Fishing License generated \$1.1 million, supporting fisher engagement, research, and Fish Aggregation Device (FAD) Program activities. To further expand community participation, DAR is developing a mini-grant program to support operator and community-led conservation projects.
- Protected marine ecosystems and biodiversity:
 - ▶ DAR responded to multiple ship groundings.
 - ▶ Rapidly addressed outbreaks of aquatic invasive species such as the Manjano anemone and invasive corals in Kāneʻohe Bay and along the coast of Kauaʻi.
 - ▶ Expanded the Rare Coral Ark, relocating it to a more secure facility to safeguard Hawai'i's rare and endemic coral species.
- Enhanced conservation partnerships and data accessibility:
 - ▶ In collaboration with the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development's Coastal Zone Management Program (OPSD-CZM), DAR launched the Estuary Viewer – an online, publicly accessible mapping tool for Hawai'i's estuaries. The resource enables planners, regulators, and resource managers to identify key aquatic ecosystems, prioritize restoration or conservation, and make science-based decisions efficiently.

2026 Goals

- Expand Sustainable Ocean Management:
 - ▶ Amend the Ka'ūpūlehu Fisheries Management Rules through a community-driven marine management plan to maintain fisheries and ensure the long-term, sustainable harvesting of marine resources.
 - ▶ Implement the Maui Holomua Management Action Plan, including the development and adoption of new fisheries rules for the island of Maui, to promote local stewardship and enhance marine ecosystem resilience.

These efforts will empower local communities to lead in protecting their coastal resources, maintain traditional and cultural fishing practices, and ensure that future generations can rely on healthy, abundant fisheries for food, culture, and recreation.

- Increase Sustainable Financing for Conservation:
 - ▶ Continue to fund conservation, restoration, and education projects through the Aloha i ke Kai and Non-Resident Marine Recreational Fishing License programs.
 - ▶ Launch new initiatives through the Green Fee Program to support environmental stewardship, climate adaptation, hazard mitigation, and sustainable tourism.



A team of biologists from the Division of Aquatic Resources perform cast net work in Paiko Lagoon on O‘ahu.

These financial programs ensure that visitors and residents alike contribute to protecting Hawai‘i’s natural resources, strengthen the state’s ability to respond to climate and coastal challenges, and support a sustainable future for local economies and communities.

- Protect Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity:
 - ▶ Maintain a rapid response capacity to address aquatic resource damage events, including ship groundings and pollution incidents, while preventing and controlling the spread of non-native species.
 - ▶ Establish the Limu Project, a statewide repository of native limu species designed to support community-based limu restoration and cultural education initiatives. This project will revitalize community engagement in traditional stewardship practices and promote ecological resilience across Hawai‘i’s coastlines.

Initiatives such as these protect coral reefs, fisheries, and native habitats essential to local livelihoods and cultural identity.

Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation



In a milestone for Maui Nui and Lahaina, the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation resumed limited commercial boat operations at the Lahaina Small Boat Harbor in December 2025, for the first time since the August 2023 wildfires. Source: Google Earth imagery, © Google, Airbus, February 01, 2025. Imagery is used to provide geographic context and illustrate observed site conditions and project progress during the reporting period.*

The mission of the Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) is to preserve Hawai'i's natural and cultural resources while ensuring public access to state waters and enhancing the ocean experience.

DOBOR is responsible for managing the state's small boat harbor and coastal areas programs, which include 16 small boat harbors, as well as piers, wharves, launch ramps, docks, portions of Waikiki and Kā'anapali Beaches, and all ocean waters out to three nautical miles from shore. DOBOR is also responsible for administering the state's vessel registration and titling program as well as educating ocean users on safety, vessel navigation, and local culture.

** Imagery is provided for visualization purposes only. Base imagery is sourced from Google Earth and does not represent legal boundaries, survey-grade measurements, or authoritative spatial data. Depictions are approximate and are intended solely to support general understanding of reported activities at the Lahaina Small Boat Harbor.*

DOBOR's regulatory scope includes management of various ocean-related activities, including recreational boating, commercial vessel tours, ocean-based instruction, kayaking, paddling, surfing, kiteboarding, diving, foilboarding, and open-ocean swimming.

2025 Achievements

- Dredged the Wailoa Small Boat Harbor channel on Hawai'i Island and the Mala Wharf ramp on Maui.
- Replaced fendering of all slips at the Wailoa Small Boat harbor, which will help to resist wear and tear from vessels.
- Successfully coordinated the safe removal of two grounded commercial vessels: one at Honolua Bay on Maui and another in Kewalo Basin waters on O'ahu.
- Launched an upgraded online vessel registration renewal system for a more convenient and streamlined registration renewal process for the approximately 14,000 vessel owners in the state.
- Expanded public awareness of the Division and its operations by attending numerous community meetings and outreach events.

2026 Goals

- Continue Lahaina wildfire recovery projects, including the rebuilding of Lahaina Small Boat Harbor.
- Focus on the numerous capital improvement projects for small boat harbors and boating facilities throughout the state.
- Improve ocean recreation management statewide.
- Continue working on amendments to [Hawai'i Administrative Rules](#) 13-231 *Operation of Boats, Small Boat Harbors, and Use Permits for All Navigable Waters* and 13-256 *Ocean Recreation Management Rules and Areas*.
- Expand the reach of boating and ocean safety education campaigns to engage as many ocean users as possible.
- Convert revocable permits into long term leases and effectively managing tenants.

Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement



A DOCARE officer conducts patrols of O'ahu's southeastern shoreline on a jet ski during a large ocean swell in May 2025.

The Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) works to uphold the laws that serve to protect, conserve, and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of visitors and the people of Hawai'i nei.

The Division, with full police powers, enforces all state laws and rules involving state lands, state parks, historic sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, coastal zones, conservation districts, state shores, as well as county ordinances involving county parks. The Division also enforces laws relating to firearms, ammunition, and dangerous weapons.

"Hawai'i's engine is our natural resources. It's the ocean and the mountains and the climate that make people want to come here. In order to preserve and protect these resources we have to have an enforcement presence that works mauka to makai."

- Lt. Errol "Sparky" Kane, DOCARE marine patrol unit, O'ahu



DOCARE marine patrol units (MPUs) were activated on Kauaʻi, Oʻahu, Maui, and Hawaiʻi Island as of July 2025. With more than 700 miles of coastline throughout the state, MPUs are vital to DLNR's mission of protecting the natural and cultural resources of Hawaiʻi.

2025 Achievements

- Currently recruiting to fill the 40 Conservation and Resources Enforcement Officer (CREO) I positions authorized in Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026.
- Using Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations to prepare for the 2026 DOCARE Academy Class (expected start date: June 2026).
- Used funding authorized in Fiscal Year 2026 (\$616,272) to reallocate 62 CREO positions to CREO II and CREO III.

2026 Goals

- Complete hiring, training, and deployment of new DOCARE officers.
- Acquire funds for deferred maintenance on DOCARE facilities throughout the state.
- Continue to support communities dealing with homelessness until an effective long-term social based solution can be created and implemented.

Division of Forestry and Wildlife



From August 19 to 26, Division of Forestry and Wildlife staff from multiple islands worked with units from the Honolulu Fire Department, Federal Fire Department, Department of Transportation, Army and Army National Guard to contain the Kunia Camp Fire in West O‘ahu. The fire burned approximately 251 acres of agricultural and forest land and parts of the Honouliuli Forest Reserve where steep terrain and dense brush made firefighting difficult. New equipment purchased with appropriations from the State Legislature played a pivotal role in the containment of this fire.

The Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is charged with protecting Hawai‘i’s watersheds, natural area reserves, and wildlife sanctuaries; managing public hunting areas and lands for outdoor recreation; providing sustainable forest products; and working with communities while fostering community education. It oversees more than one million acres of state lands, and is responsible for restoring natural and cultural resources, often in collaboration with state residents.

The Division traces its origins to the Forestry Act of 1903. In 1961 it was transferred to the newly established State Department of Land and Natural Resources. Today, DOFAW carries out its operations through the Statewide Administrative Branch, Kaua‘i Branch, O‘ahu Branch, Maui Nui Branch, and the Hawai‘i Island Branch.

Within each branch, staff are organized into programs: Forest Management and Forest Health, Nā Ala Hele Trails & Access, Native Ecosystems Protection & Management, and Wildlife, which includes recreational hunting.



These very early stage Koa (*acacia Koa*) seedlings were grown at the Hawai'i State Tree Nursery for Hawai'i Island replantings. For more than 100 years, Hawai'i's nurseries have played a critical role in reforestation efforts across the state and in mitigating damage to forests following wildfires and other disasters. In 2025, the Forestry Program worked to expand seed production, collection, propagation, and storage capacities to create resilient landscapes and expand its ability to reforest areas over the next decade. A total of 62,889 seedlings were produced and distributed by state nurseries between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

2025 Achievements

- Major Disaster Funds from the 2024 Legislative Session were expended in Fiscal Year 2025 to overhaul DLNR's aging fleet of fire and emergency response equipment, fund statewide fuel reduction work through Kupu, and perform contractual work on DOFAW lands:
 - ▶ \$10 million for new equipment, including 19 wildland brush engines (Type VI), three bulldozers, five off-road 1,000-gallon water tenders, three utility task vehicles (UTVs), and various other equipment for fire suppression, fuel reduction, and emergency response work.
 - ▶ \$4.45 million to procure contracts, supplies, etc., for pre-suppression projects on DOFAW lands.

Division of Forestry and Wildlife (cont.)

- ▶ Funded Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) with \$1.5 million to expand its statewide wildfire planning and risk reduction outreach work.
- ▶ Created the Community Risk Reduction Grant program, a state-funded wildfire risk reduction grant program to help communities reduce wildfire risk in priority areas.
 - ▷ Distributed \$1.5 million through HWMO's Firewise Community Program to nine project sites statewide.
- ▶ Funded the 501(c)3 non-profit organization Kupu with \$1.412 million for additional 'Āina Corps positions to reduce fire risk statewide through fuel reduction and reforestation efforts.
- Established 22 new positions through the Hawai'i State Legislature to support the fire program. These personnel will supplement DOFAW's wildfire response and help reduce risk through fuel reduction work.
- Initiated seven contract fuel reduction projects across the state, with an emphasis on Maui, to reduce the threat of fire to communities and watersheds.
- Built 11 miles of fence to protect watershed forests, keeping the state on track to meet its goal of protecting 30 percent of the priority watershed forests by 2030.
- Conducted invasive plant control over 19,986 acres.
- Planted 110,103 native trees and shrubs.
- Mentored 45 interns.
- Managed volunteers who donated more than 24,600 hours of service (equivalent to 12 full-time positions) helping DOFAW staff protect forests and native ecosystems.
- Continued initiatives to prevent the spread of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD):
 - ▶ Disease Surveillance: DOFAW and its invasive species committee partners conducted helicopter surveys of more than 1.3 million acres of the state's 'ōhi'a forests for signs of ROD and sampled 488 symptomatic trees for the fungus that causes ROD. Samples were provided to the United States Department of Agriculture for analysis of disease presence.
 - ▷ Updated the five-year ROD Strategic Response Plan and updated each island response plan to incorporate the latest science and response tools.
 - ▷ ROD team conducted an annual "train-the-trainers" workshop attended by 55 natural resource professionals for educating the public about ROD.



And it's killed, by our estimates, more than a million trees on Hawaii Island.

Protecting Hawaii's Native Forests



Saving Ohia
681 subscribers

Subscribe

66 likes, Share, Save, and more options

2,742 views Apr 7, 2025 ISLAND OF HAWAII

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death continues to eat away at our irreplaceable native forests. New research has shown that fencing and excluding feral hooved animals that injure ohia trees can protect the forest from the disease. In a new video, forest managers, biologists, hunters, and Hawaiian cultural practitioners share their different perspectives on how they use and value the forest and the need to respect each other's points of view.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8iwqldamYJg&t=15s

- ▶ The Division of Forestry and Wildlife's Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Outreach & Education Team, led by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience, produced a short video about the impacts of feral hooved animals on forest health, including the interaction with ROD. The full video, "*Protecting Hawaii's Native Forests*," and the associated clips on social media have been viewed more than 20,000 times and featured in local news stories.



A predator-proof fence has been installed in Kōkeʻe State Park along the rim of Kalalau Valley on Kauaʻi to protect endangered ʻuaʻu (Hawaiian Petrel) and ʻaʻo (Newell's shearwater) seabird nesting sites. Federal grants support many of these types of projects, and ongoing state funds provide the ability to maintain infrastructure.

2026 Goals

- Purchase additional equipment for fuels reduction work.
- Expand upon fuel reduction work on DOFAW lands.
- Construct additional helicopter dip tanks statewide.
- Continue to support the work of HWMO.
- Continue Community Risk Reduction Grant Program.
 - ▶ The Natural Area Reserve and Watershed Management Program is submitting Green Fee proposals to provide landscape-level improvements to upland forests and coastlines.
 - ▷ These projects will measurably reduce drought, flooding, erosion, and wildfire risk, while protecting the plants, wildlife, and natural areas that make Hawaiʻi an iconic visitor destination.
 - ▶ Request capital improvement project funds for watershed protection and initiatives statewide.

Engineering Division



Photo from a dam inspection conducted by Engineering Division staff at the Punawai Reservoir near Waimea town on Hawai'i Island.

The Engineering Division provides engineering services and technical assistance to divisions of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and other state agencies to implement capital improvement or repair and maintenance projects and administers the mineral resources and flood risk management programs.

The Division is tasked with oversight of Hawai'i's geothermal resources to prevent waste; conserve and provide for the optimum use of the geothermal resource; minimize or prevent degradation of the environment, surface and ground waters, and other natural resources; and prevent injury to life and property.

Engineering's mission includes administering the state's Dam Safety Program to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Hawai'i's people by reducing the risk of failure of dams and reservoirs throughout the islands.

The Engineering Division also facilitates DLNR's role as the state coordinating agency for the federal National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). DLNR acts as a liaison between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Hawai'i's four participating counties, by providing technical assistance and support needed to maintain NFIP eligibility through proper administration and enforcement of floodplain management regulations.



Entry to Diamond Head State Monument before construction, showing large rockfall cliffs, rock debris on the ground, and rusted metal cage needing replacement.

2025 Achievements

- Implemented the DLNR's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and repair and maintenance projects, with total expenditures exceeding \$32.9 million.
- The Division hosted the 16th annual Floodplain Managers Conference after being shut down for several years during the COVID-19 pandemic. This event was the largest so far, with nearly 140 in attendance. The conference serves to advance the collaboration and community effort of managing the state's floodplain risks.
- Completed FEMA Collaborative Technical Assistance (CTA) Program for Kaua'i. This CTA program aids in the evaluation and preparation for dam emergencies and maximizes communication efficiencies and understanding of roles between participants.
- Completed 89 dam safety inspections statewide, exceeding the Division's annual goal of 60. Through these inspections, Engineering staff helped dam owners identify risks and deficiencies and decrease the potential for dam failures.



Entry to Diamond Head State Monument after construction, showing fresh shotcrete work, new concrete tunnel structure and no rockfall debris.

2026 Goals

- Solicit construction bids for departmental projects totaling approximately \$34 million.
- Update the Dam Safety Emergency Action Plan (EAP) Templates and conduct statewide training events. Building on lessons learned from the 2024-2025 Collaborative Technical Assistance Program, the Dam Safety Program will update the EAP documents with current FEMA practices and input from all county emergency management agencies and partner agencies.
- Update the online Dam Inventory Platform with these new EAP templates and conduct statewide training with dam owners and emergency management agencies.
- Host National Flood Insurance Program training events in the spring of 2026. These training events will serve to enhance floodplain risk management throughout the state and will replace the 2026 Floodplain Managers Conference due to cost constraints and concerns of future grant uncertainties.

Land Division



The second and final demolition phase of the former Uncle Billy’s Hilo Bay Hotel started the week of July 9, 2025, marking a significant step toward the revitalization of Hawai’i Island’s Waiakea Peninsula. The Land Division awarded Isemoto Contracting Company a \$4.7 million general contract to prepare the site for future use.

The Land Division assists the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) with managing state-owned lands pursuant to Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter 171 in ways that will promote the social, environmental, and economic well-being of Hawai’i’s people. Lands that are “unencumbered,” i.e., not set aside for use by other government agencies, come within the direct purview of the Land Division.

The Division bears responsibility for ensuring that these lands are used in accordance with the public trust and the goals, policies, and plans of the state. It achieves this by making the lands under its care available to the public and other agencies through various instruments, including executive orders, leases, licenses, grants of easement, rights-of-entry, and month-to-month tenancies. At times, lands are kept as open space.

The revenues generated – primarily from leases for commercial, industrial, resort, geothermal and other renewable energy projects – support the Special Land and Development Fund (SLDF). In turn, the SLDF supports various resource management and protection programs of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) including the entire annual operating budgets of the Land Division, the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands, and the Dam Safety and Mineral Resources Programs; staff positions within the

Commission on Water Resource Management; and Division of Forestry and Wildlife initiatives such as the protection of threatened and endangered species, removal of invasive species, and wildland firefighting.

In addition to maintaining an inventory of state-owned lands, the Land Division serves as an office of record which maintains a central repository of all government documents relating to land dating back to the “Great Mahele” of 1848, now under the purview of the DLNR.

2025 Achievements

- Secured BLNR approval of nine lease extensions requested under Act 149, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2018, and Act 236, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2021, which provided for the required closure of cesspools located on the subject properties.
- Secured BLNR approval for five transfers of pasture lands on the islands of Kaua‘i, Maui, and Hawai‘i from DLNR to the State of Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), pursuant to Act 90, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2003.
 - ▶ The transfers were mutually agreed upon by DLNR and DAB under the findings of Act 90. To date, more than 50,000 acres of crop and pasture lands formerly under stewardship of the DLNR, have been transferred to DAB management.
- Reviewed the final environmental impact statement for the United States Army’s proposed retention of the Pōhakuloa Training Area and presented the matter before the BLNR for decision making.
- Reviewed the final environmental impact statement for the United States Army’s proposed retention of the O‘ahu training areas and presented the matter before the BLNR for decision making.

2026 Goals

- Continue to work with industrial lessees to secure BLNR approval of lease extensions requested under Acts 149 and 236, including the closure of cesspools located on subject properties.
- Publish the final environmental impact statement for the DLNR East Kapolei Transit-Oriented Development Project.
- Demolish the derelict Country Club Condominium Hotel property at 121 Banyan Drive in Hilo, Hawai‘i.
- Contract a consultant to secure the outstanding permits and approvals necessary to remove the Shangri La breakwater on O‘ahu’s southeast shore.
- Continue to fill vacant staff positions.

Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands



A contractor with the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands prepares to remove an unauthorized seawall from state land at Punalu'u, O'ahu, September 8, 2025.

The Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) is responsible for regulating approximately two million acres of private and public lands that lie within the State of Hawai'i Land Use Conservation District. This includes 750 miles of coastline and beaches, as well as submerged lands within the state's jurisdiction extending three miles out from shore.

The OCCL oversees activities taking place on both natural and developed lands within the conservation district. OCCL staff process conservation district use applications, loko i'a (Hawaiian fishpond) restoration permits, and small-scale beach restoration permits.

The team also conducts investigations into alleged violations of conservation district laws and regulations. When necessary, OCCL staff carry out enforcement actions to uphold the state's efforts to preserve and protect vulnerable lands and habitats for Hawai'i's unique native plants and wildlife.



Volunteers installed more than 1,000 native plants during a community dune planting day at Kailua Beach Park on September 27, 2025. The event was part of the Kailua Beach Dune Restoration Project, a joint effort by the City and County of Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation and the State Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands.

2025 Achievements

- The OCCL initiated 36 new enforcement actions involving possible conservation district land use violations. The majority involved unauthorized work in the shoreline conservation area.
 - ▶ A standard case can involve hundreds of hours of staff time for conducting the required investigations, writing reports, running contested cases, and testifying in court when cases go to litigation.
- OCCL established a Dune Restoration program with the goal of assisting community groups and other government agencies in their efforts to restore native coastal vegetation in areas affected by erosion and sea level rise. OCCL staff supported projects in Punalu'u and Kailua on O'ahu, and on the island of Kaho'olawe.

2026 Goals

- OCCL will begin conducting statewide public hearings on proposed conservation district rule changes and on proposed improvements to its Small-Scale Beach Nourishment Program.
- ▶ OCCL has found that the current rules were inadequate to address the ongoing environmental crisis triggered by climate change and is proposing significant modifications to the way the Department of Land and Natural Resources addresses land uses in the shoreline and sea level rise exposure area. The goal is to strengthen the protection and restoration of our natural and cultural resources.

State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission

In 2017, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed Act 32 establishing the State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC). CCMAC was placed within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for administrative purposes only, where it is housed within the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL).

Hawai'i's CCMAC consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort of 20 different state and county offices, departments and committees to address the urgent climate threats and the need for Hawai'i to act quickly. It is co-chaired by the chairperson of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the director of the State Office of Planning and Sustainable Development.

CCMAC promotes ambitious, climate-neutral, culturally responsive strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation in a manner that is clean, equitable and resilient. CCMAC's climate coordinator facilitates statewide climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

State Historic Preservation Division



The Pioneer Mill Company / Lahaina Ice Company Bookkeeper's House in Lahaina, more recently dubbed the "Miracle House" after surviving the August 2023 wildfires on Maui, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The listing recognizes the property's cultural, architectural and historical importance, and helps ensure its story remains part of Lahaina's heritage for future generations to learn from and enjoy. Nominations for the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places are reviewed and recommended by the State Historic Preservation Division.

For nearly 50 years, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has operated a comprehensive historic preservation program for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i. The core of that program is to protect, manage effects to, and document Hawai'i's historic properties, archaeological sites, aviation artifacts, wahi pana, and 'iwi kūpuna.

SHPD itself does not actively preserve; property owners do. SHPD serves as a resource, providing information about projects, and creating a process that helps people understand the significance of historic properties so they may make informed decisions about actions that could change the character of our communities.

Division staff offer guidance to government agencies and the public about how to preserve and protect Hawai'i's historic and cultural resources. They review projects proposed by state, county, and federal agencies, describe the potential effects of those projects on historic and cultural places, and advise project sponsors on measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate project impacts on those places.

State Historic Preservation Division (cont.)

SHPD maintains and continually expands a database and geographic information system (GIS) of known cultural and historic properties and burial sites, as well as a library of archaeological architectural reports.

SHPD also administers the process for listing properties in the Hawai'i and National Registers of Historic Places. Additionally, staff provide administrative support to the five Island Burial Councils and to the Historic Places Review Board.

2025 Achievements

- Granted Maui County \$92,000 from SHPD federal historic preservation funds provided by the United States Department of the Interior through the National Park Service for historic resource wildfire recovery projects.
- With Maui County agreement, SHPD archaeologists and architectural historians developed a set of design and monitoring standards to expedite permit reviews for Lahaina homeowners.
- Completed Lahaina wildfire recovery historic preservation reviews for residential properties in less than two weeks.
- Hired nine new staff, with four additional positions to be filled in early 2026.
- Completed renovations to SHPD's Kapolei office providing workspace for an additional 13 new positions created by the State Legislature.
- Reduced project review average to 60 days or less.
- Initiated the process of updating the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, which will guide preservation priorities, partnerships and strategies across Hawai'i through 2034.
 - ▶ Under federal law, SHPD is required to seek community input on what state residents consider historic, what is important in terms of preservation, and their preferred methods of preservation. The final plan will be available to the public for comment in early 2026.
- Added 35 properties to the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places.
- Added five properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

2026 Goals

- Initiate renovations process for SHPD's Hilo office on Hawai'i Island.
- Request funding to construct 20 - 30 burial vaults across the state (one per ahupua'a) for 'iwi kūpuna that need a safe and secure location due to sea level rise, coastal erosion, or other factors that would prevent them from being preserved in place.
- Change the mode of funding of three full-time positions:
 - ▶ Historic Preservation Archaeologist IV
 - ▶ Historic Preservation System Manager
 - ▶ Historic Preservation GIS Specialist

SHPD's federal Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, does not provide enough funding for all six positions assigned to that grant.

- Acquire funds to redescribe Office Assistant III to an Office Assistant IV.

In 1976, the Hawai'i State Legislature declared that it is in the public interest to engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation at all levels of government to promote the use and conservation of historic and cultural property for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of its citizens.

– Act 104, Session Laws of Hawai'i 1976 (Senate Bill No. 2909-76)

Division of State Parks



Progress on the Keaīwa Heiau State Recreation Area Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant campsite, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, December 2025.

The Division of State Parks manages and protects iconic natural, cultural, and scenic resources of statewide value for the enjoyment of the people of Hawai‘i, out-of-state visitors, and future generations.

The Division is responsible for 55 state parks and 14 other areas of interest which include spectacular sites on five major islands for sightseeing, hiking, camping, water sports, fishing, cultural activities, outdoor education, and other recreational pursuits.

The State Park System consists of nearly 34,000 acres of coastal and wildland recreational areas, scenic waysides, and many of Hawai‘i’s finest natural and cultural resources, several with national and international significance, including historic state monuments such as ‘Iolani Palace and Mauna ‘Ala (the Royal Mausoleum) on O‘ahu.



Before and after photos of the Kōkeʻe State Park access road repairs between the Kalalau Lookout and Puʻu o Kila Lookout, Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi, completed in December 2025.

2025 Achievements

- Completed campground design guidelines with a goal of rolling out comprehensive statewide upgrades of all existing camping areas, including sites that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), as well as the introduction of ʻohana (small group) and large group campsites to better accommodate the way local families want to enjoy Hawaiʻi's state parks.
 - ▶ The Division's first upgraded and ADA-compliant campsite was completed within Keaīwa Heiau State Recreation Area on Oʻahu.
 - ▶ The first upgraded ADA-compliant campground is under contract for Kōkeʻe State Park, Kauaʻi, and is expected to be completed in 2026.
- Completed road repaving and reopened the Kōkeʻe State Park access road between the Kalalau Lookout and Puʻu o Kila Lookout where a road section has been closed to vehicle traffic for years due to its notoriously potholed and hazardous condition.

Division of State Parks (cont.)

- Issued a request for proposal for the Kahuku Section of Mālaekahana State Recreation Area, to include buildout and long-term lease for operation of camping, lodging and day-use at this popular beach park section. This follows an \$8 million investment in new infrastructure and facilities. Estimated project completion in 2026.
- Opened a new shaded picnic area and issued concession agreements for the return of food trucks to Diamond Head State Monument. Estimated revenue from concessions is \$1 million over three years.
- Wai‘ānapanapa cabin renovations.
- Approved four new parking management agreements for parks on Hawai‘i Island, O‘ahu, and Kaua‘i to better manage and increase revenues.
 - ▶ These improvements will help DLNR maintain a balance between visitor access and keeping these very popular parks free and accessible to residents.
 - ▶ The funds will support continued park maintenance, facility upgrades, and long-term sustainable resource protection.

2026 Goals

- Requesting 27 new positions.
 - ▶ These are critical for capacity growth as a means of compensating for historic reductions, and to meet basic maintenance and public safety objectives, as well as to assist with the increasingly complex regulatory and compliance requirements related to projects and management initiatives.
 - ▶ The positions are being requested with no additional funding ask. They will be offset by shifting an equivalent amount of state special funds to cover operations formerly covered with general funds.

Hawai‘i’s environment is unique, diverse, and fragile. Our resources are some of the most endangered in the world. With only 155 positions state-wide, Hawai‘i has one of the least staffed state park systems in the country, while accommodating approximately 10 million visitors annually.

Managing Impacts of Houselessness on DLNR Lands



The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) partnered with the State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) in October 2025 to begin trash removal and break down empty structures on DLNR lands adjacent to the Wai'anae Small Boat Harbor. HDOT provided skid steers to begin clearing piles of rubbish.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) continues to play a key role in Hawai'i's statewide effort to address the impacts of houselessness on public lands. DLNR's work is rooted in compassion for individuals without housing, while honoring the duty of protecting public safety, natural and cultural resources, and taxpayer investment. Houselessness remains a complex and persistent crisis, and staff are committed to helping manage its impacts on DLNR lands across the state.

Operations are carefully coordinated to ensure safety for the public and for those being displaced. DLNR's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) works alongside county police departments, the State Department of Law Enforcement, and social service agencies. When possible, these partners created intake areas nearby so individuals could learn about available programs, housing pathways and supportive services. DLNR also works with state Department of Transportation contractors to remove debris.

Managing Impacts of Houselessness on DLNR Lands (cont.)

Environmental and community concerns often drive the need for action. Heavy rainfall can wash rubbish, human waste and other pollutants from encampments into streams which lead straight to the ocean. In places like Diamond Head, years of accumulated belongings created dangerous fuel loads in areas already prone to wildfire.

Even with consistent progress, significant challenges remain. Many individuals living on DLNR lands face barriers including mental health needs, addiction, and the limited availability of shelter beds and treatment spaces, particularly on O‘ahu.

2025 Achievements

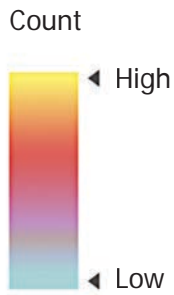
- From January through September 2025, DLNR supported 87 clean-ups statewide, 29 of which assisted county-led operations in areas experiencing high levels of encampment activity.
 - ▶ O‘ahu operations took place in state forests and on trails such as Kapena Falls and Judd Trail, as well as visible, heavily used areas including:
 - ▷ Sand Island (nine cleanups)
 - ▷ Ala Wai/ Waikīkī Beach / Kahala shoreline (eight)
 - ▷ Aiea State Park, Hale‘iwa Bike Path, and Kapena Falls (seven each)
 - ▷ Wai‘anae Small Boat Harbor and Diamond Head (five each)
 - ▷ Kalaeloa
 - ▶ Additional cleanups were supported on Kaua‘i, at the Kahului boat ramp on Maui, and other locations where health and safety concerns were elevated.
- Progress has been measurable. At some sites, trash volumes now fill only one or two bins after operations, compared to several bins required in earlier months of 2025.

2026 Goals

- Enhance outreach efforts to help individuals in need of assistance to connect with community service providers.
- Address locations for joint clean-ups on lands adjacent to federal, state, and county agencies, in collaboration with private property owners.
- Continue clean-up operations on DLNR lands.

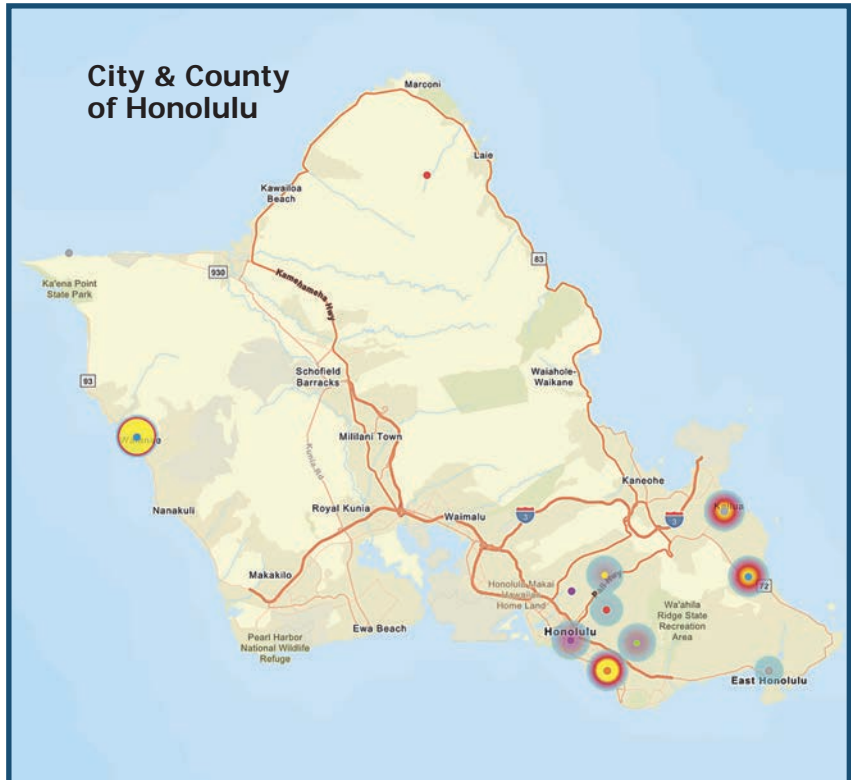
Legend

Number of Houseless by Location



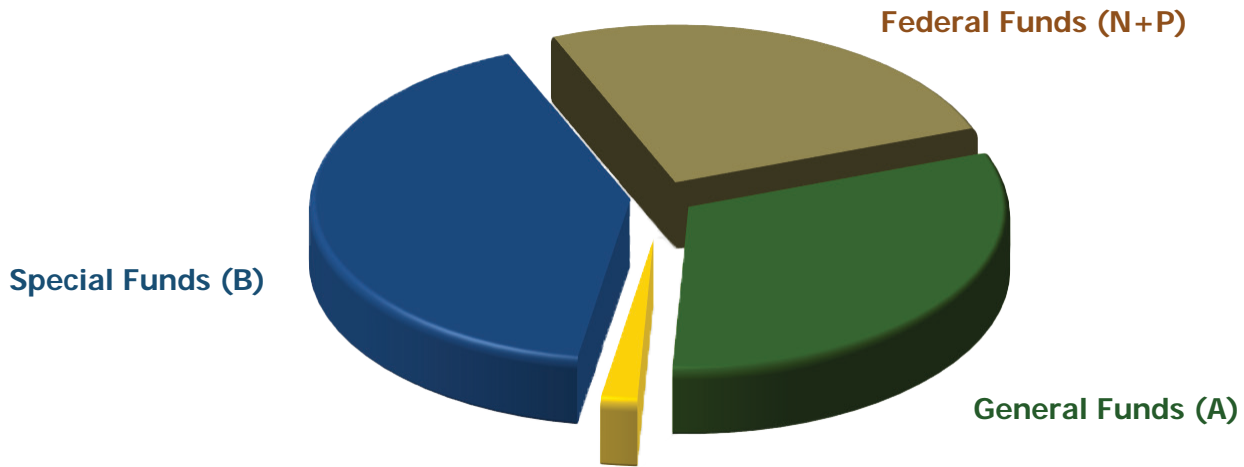
Number of Clean-Ups by Location

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 8
- Other



Throughout the state, the largest concentrations of houselessness are on Maui and O’ahu.

Revenue Sources



General Funds (A) for Administratively Attached Programs*

**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Current Revenue Sources
Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025**

General Funds (A)	31.35%	\$103,400,000
General Funds (A) for Administratively Attached Programs*	1.85%	\$6,100,000
Special Funds (B)	41.02%	\$135,300,000
Federal Funds (N+P)	24.77%	\$85,000,000
Total		\$329,800,000

** \$6.1 million for administratively attached agencies – Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA), Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC), ‘Aha Moku, and the State Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (CCMAC) – cannot be used to support Department of Land and Natural Resources programs.*



Kapāpala Canoe Forest, Hawai'i Island.



Mahalo

Mahalo to Governor Green, the 2025 Hawai'i State Legislature, our county, state, and federal partner agencies, and to all the communities that assist the Department of Land and Natural Resources steward the lands, waters, historical, and cultural landscapes that make Hawai'i home.



Mt. Ka'ala Natural Area Reserve, O'ahu.

DONATIONS HELP TO PRESERVE AND MAINTAIN HAWAII'S PRECIOUS LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES. YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE HERE. MAHALO!



January 2026

Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

808-587-0400 dlnr.hawaii.gov