



# DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

## WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM

### FISCAL YEAR 2025 (FY2025)





## Selection Process

Public Request for Proposal (RFP)

Grants analysis committee evaluation

Proposal requirements submitted via Amplifund

Established organization with a watershed management plan

### General considerations

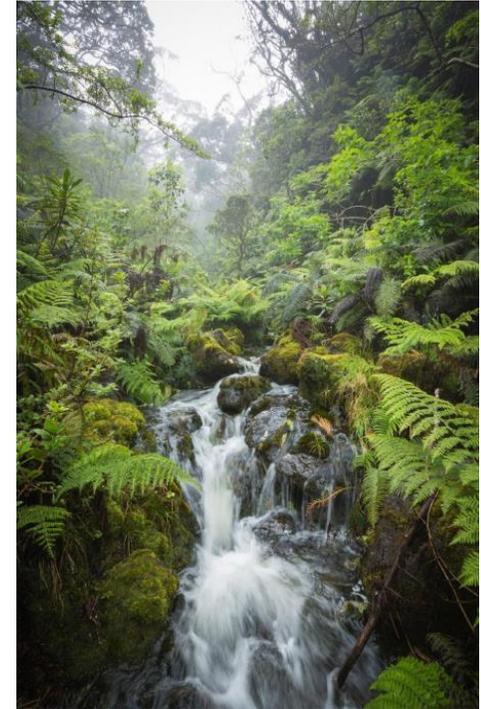
- Detailed proposal demonstrating stakeholder coordination, public benefits, and organizational and administrative accountability to reach watershed invasive species protection and restoration goals
- Qualified applicants must be able to justify expenditures for goals to promote conservation in indigenous upland forest ecosystems to promote efficient hydrological processes that rejuvenates the DWS water sources
- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) mitigation strategies under increasing drought conditions, and destructive wildfire threats





## The Purpose of the DWS Watershed Protection Grant Program

- Forested watersheds face major invasive threats that alters its ability to provide efficient ecosystem services that help maintain reliable groundwater recharge and stream flow that replenish water supplies.
- Feral ungulates (hogs, deer, cows, goats) damage forests by wallowing, uprooting and trampling vegetation, which destabilizes the vegetation needed to anchor soil structures from erosion.
- Non-native plant species may not support native forests ecosystems that are evolved for capturing rain and fog drip to re-nourish soil in the upper watersheds by competing for space and resources like sunlight, water, and soil nutrients.
- Watershed Partnerships provide on-the-ground management of protective fencing and control feral ungulates from over-whelming critical upper watersheds.
- Fiscal Year 2025 proposals include ways to actively reduce fire risks by creating defensible spaces in the WUI between watersheds project areas and populated communities.





## FY 2025 Watershed Protection Grantees

1. East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP)
2. Waikamoi Source Protection and Watershed Preserve Management – The Nature Conservancy (Waikamoi - TNC)
3. Honokowai and Wahikuli Source Protection (Kapunakea – TNC)
4. East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership (EMoWP – TNC)
5. Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership (MKWP)
6. Auwahi Forest Restoration Project (AFRP)
7. Miconia/Invasive Species Containment Project – Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)
8. Developing Wilt Resistant Acacia Koa for Maui Watershed Restoration – Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (Koa – HARC)
9. Developing Disease Resistant 'Ohi'a for Maui Watershed Protection on Maui ('Ohi'a – HARC)

\*Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve (PKW) – pending management change



Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve

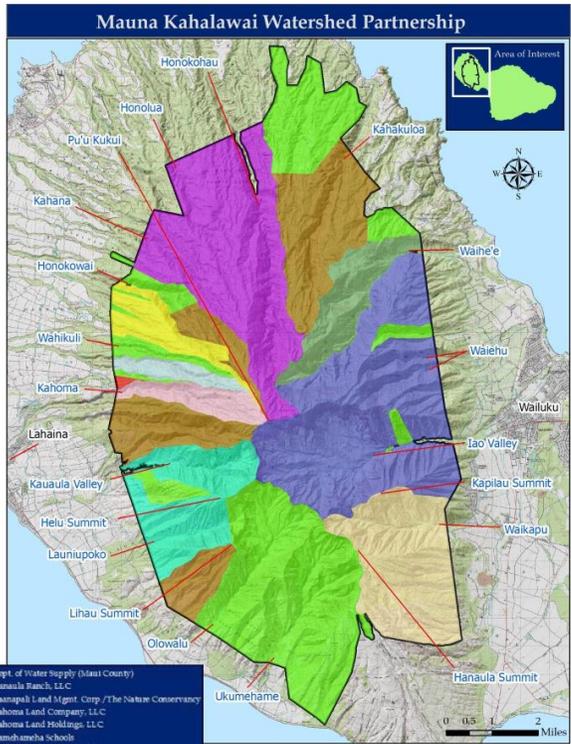
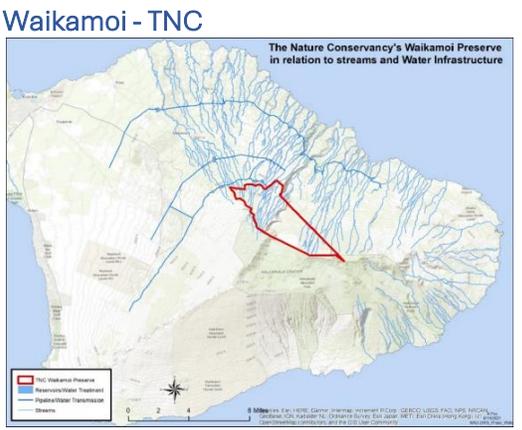
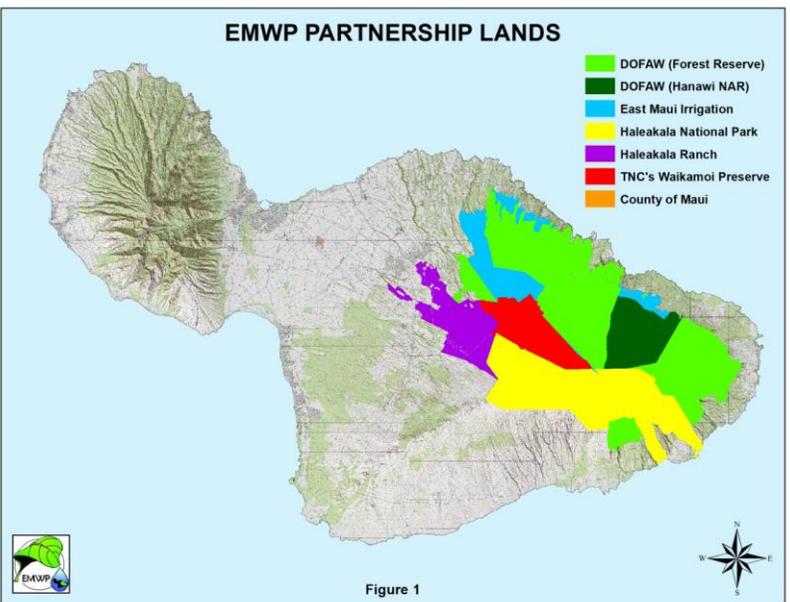
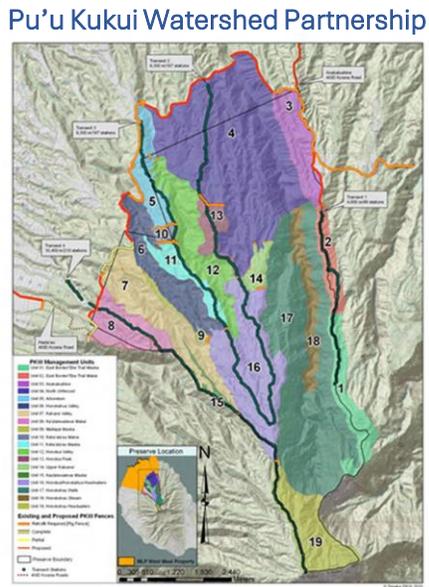
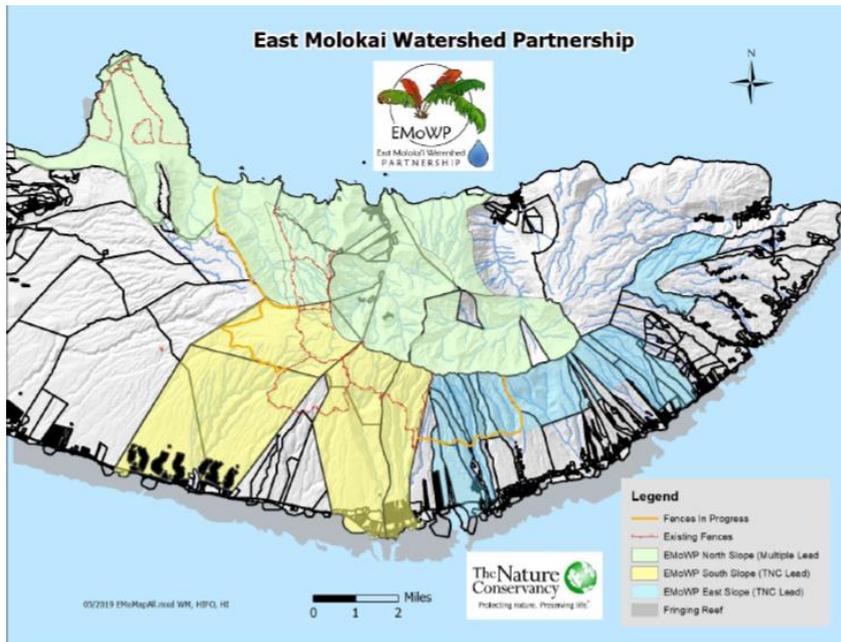


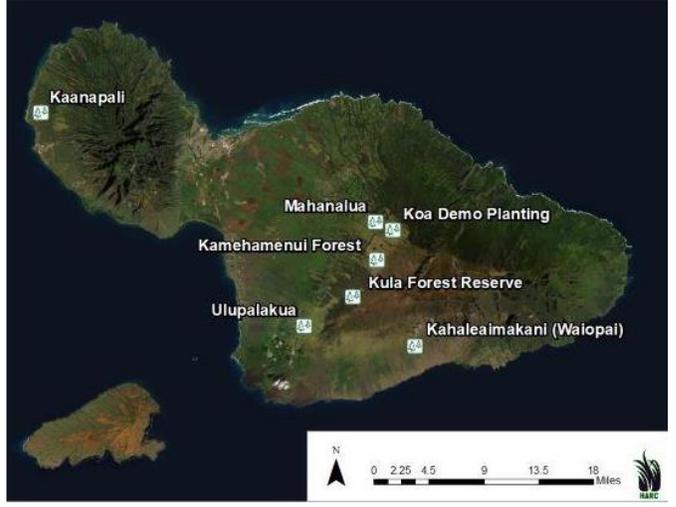
Figure 1. Map of MKWP boundaries, Partner landholdings, key management landmarks, and major landmarks.



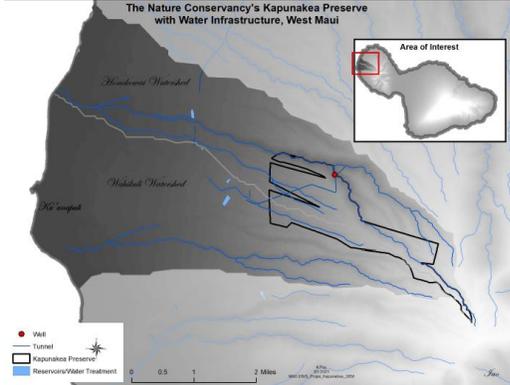
# Project Locations



### HARC Koa & 'O'hia Projects



### Kapunakea - TNC





## Monitoring Grantee Performance

- Review reports for consistency and substantive updates
- Correlate expenditures to specific deliverables and grant agreement
- Address project issues to ensure grant program sustainability
- Ensure that online Amplifund submissions are accurate and timely
- Check for issues that may prevent tasks from being accomplished

## Main Deliverables

1. Ungulate control
2. Weed control
3. Invasive plant control
4. Revegetation/planting
5. Resource monitoring/research
6. Community outreach

HARC and MISC (only 2, 3, 5, 6)





## FY 2025 Watershed Protection Program Awards

	Applicant Proposal	Awarded Amount
1. East Maui Watershed Partnership (EMWP)	\$565,00	\$550,000
2. Waikamoi Haipua'ena Water Source Protection (Waikamoi - TNC)	\$362,891	\$330,661
3. Auwahi Forest Restoration Project (AFRP)	\$144,258	\$144,258
4. Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership (MKWP)	\$1,129,605	\$818,000
5. Honokowai & Wahikuli Source Protection (Waikamoi - TNC)	\$118,775	\$118,775
6. East Molokai Watershed Partnership (EMWP)	\$250,000	\$250,000
7. Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)	\$285,000	\$285,000
8. Hawaii Agriculture Research Center – (HARC – Koa)	\$56,500	\$55,500
9. Hawaii Agriculture Research Center – (HARC – Ohi'a)	\$74,000	\$37,000
10. *Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve (award not accepted by Grantee)	\$441,933	\$385,90
	<b>\$3,427,926</b>	<b>\$3,055,096</b>



## Grants Status FY 2025

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. EMWP            | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 2. Waikamoi - TNC  | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 3. MKWP            | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 4. AFRP            | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 5. Kapunakea - TNC | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 6. PKW             | Did not accept Grant Award for FY 2025                           |
| 7. EMoWP - TNC     | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 8. MISC – UH       | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 9. HARC – Koa      | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |
| 10. HARC – ‘Ohi’a  | Benchmarking, Processing 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Report/Payments |



# Before and After Pictures

Before August 2023 Fire  
MKWP



After August 2023 Fire



Before Invasive Plant Control  
MKWP



After Invasive Plant Control



Before  
Waikamoi - TNC



After

Before Fence Repair  
EMWP



After Fence Repair



Before in 2009  
EMoWP



After in 2024



## Grantee Progress Entering FY 2025

- As FY 2025 grant Performance Periods (PP) began on January 1, 2025, final reports for FY 2024 are due in March 2025, as per agreement to allow 3 months for account reconciliation. FY 2025 PP ends in December 2025 with final reports due in March 2026.
- FY 2025 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grant reports are due at the end of April 2025, after one (1) month of account reconciliation, but begin their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter obligations at the beginning of April 2025.
- MKWP beginning their expanded operations to include WUI work in West Maui.
- PKW is transitioning to a new non-profit organization and bypassed their final 3<sup>rd</sup> Yr of their multi-year grant in FY 2025 but will return in FY 2026.
- A Grantee expressed the benefits of having endowments to help support watershed protection efforts for true sustainability.
- Waikamoi – TNC will be piloting a biochar (a charcoal like product) from invasive tree and plant species in the WUI to create useful products for carbon sequestration, amending soil, a post-fire remediation.





## Opportunities for Improving Grant Program

- Encourage all grantees to standardize data collection methods for consistency
- Expand before and after photos of project areas to increase efficacy measurements
- Start new multi-year efficacy grant study to investigate project progress
- Create a Watershed Protection Grantee Committee
- Create a nation-wide internship program and workforce housing to attract candidates, and to maintain a steady flow of human resources





**Thank You!**



## ADEPT Committee

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**From:** Eva M. Blumenstein <Eva.Blumenstein@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 2:11 PM  
**To:** ADEPT Committee  
**Cc:** James A. Landgraf; Linda K. Kimura; Robert C. De Robles; Axel I. Beers; John Stufflebean; Kate Griffiths  
**Subject:** ADEPT Committee Sub-item (5) presentation  
**Attachments:** ADEPT 021825\_RD.pdf  
**Categories:** presentation

Aloha,

Please find attached the DWS presentation for the 2/20/25 ADEPT committee meeting on sub-item (5) Operational and Budgetary Review of the Watershed Protection Grants Administered by the Department of Water Supply.

Mahalo,

=====  
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