

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISCAL YEAR 2000 THROUGH 2004
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS BY DISTRICTS
(as of June 1, 2004)

STATEWIDE

Compacts of Free Association Impact Aid – \$17 million (Since FY02)

The United States established these Compacts with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in 1986 and the Republic of Palau in 1994, providing citizens of these Pacific island nations unrestricted access to the United States. A U.S. General Accounting Office report released in 2001 estimated the Compacts have cost Hawaii at least \$86 million from 1986 through 2000, confirming Hawaii's long-standing claim that the federally-negotiated Compacts have had an economic impact on the State.

Migration from the FSM, the RMI, and Palau to Hawaii has steadily increased since the Compacts were established. The impact aid helps Hawaii meet the migrants' medical, financial, educational, and social needs.

Aid to State of Hawaii for Invasive Species – \$1.8 million (Since FY01)

These funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service help the State of Hawaii address ecological and human health problems relating to invasive species. The historically insular nature of Hawaii's ecosystems magnifies the threats posed by invasive species. The continued presence and introduction of non-native species, such as the coqui frog, significantly limits endangered species recovery and contributes to their

decline. The funds support collaborative, interagency–and community-based initiatives to control invasive species, and address incipient and future invasive species issues in Hawaii.

Brown Tree Snake Control – \$11.7 million

This funding continues efforts to prevent the introduction of the brown tree snake to Hawaii, which is home to one-third of the United States’ endangered birds and plants, while at the same time conducting additional research to develop and implement new and improved control methods. High densities of snakes occur in many urban areas on Guam where cargo is loaded for transport by air and sea to other Pacific islands. The brown tree snake has caused the extinction of 9 of 11 native bird species on Guam, and it has also caused power outages, damaged agricultural interests, killed pests, and injured children with its venomous bite.

Native Hawaiian Culture and the Arts Program (NHCAP) – \$3.71 million

These funds continue the Native Hawaiian Culture and the Arts Program. Authorized by P.L. 99-498, it was created to provide a greater sense of cultural awareness and ethnic pride essential to the survival of the Native Hawaiian people. The NHCAP partners with other organizations to provide opportunities for Hawaiians to learn, practice, and celebrate their culture and traditions. It implements public education, communications, science and technology, and personal development programs through a network of Cultural Learning Centers. The NHCAP has already established four sites: the Ocean Cultural Learning Center and the Kalihi Cultural Learning Center on Oahu, and the Kona Cultural Learning Center and the Waipio Cultural Learning Center on the Island of Hawaii.

Water Drilling Program – \$2.35 million

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) uses these funds to help the State of Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources monitor and protect water resources for Hawaii’s future generations. The USGS has drilled approximately 30 monitoring wells since establishing this exploratory drilling program in 1993. These wells provide a detailed assessment of water resources, clarifying issues relating to groundwater preservation and allowing counties to meet increasingly stringent federal regulations.

Hawaii Forests and Communities Initiatives (HFCI) – \$600,000 (FY00 & FY02)

The Hawaii Forests and Communities Initiatives (HFCI) worked to address forestry opportunities in the wake of sugar plantation closures, as well as native hardwood forest restoration as contemplated under the Hawaii Tropical Forest Recovery Act.

Purchase of Palmyra Atoll – \$9.25 million (FY01)

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has contributed \$9.25 million toward The Nature Conservancy's purchase of Palmyra Atoll for the creation of the Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The Atoll's current owner, the Fullard-Leo family of Honolulu, is selling the property to The Nature Conservancy for \$30 million.

Restoration of Tern Island Seawall – \$7.4 million (FY00)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used the funds to restore a seawall on Tern Island, which is part of the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge. The badly damaged seawall is currently entrapping threatened and endangered animals. Further deterioration could have resulted in the loss of the Island's runway, thereby suspending all aircraft support and ultimately closing its monitoring station.

Recovery of Threatened and Endangered Hawaiian Plants – \$750,000 (FY04)

This funding would be used to create an integrated conservation strategy that crosses agency, organizational, and landowner boundaries. With coordination, on site and off site conservation efforts would proceed together to maximize the likelihood of the plants' survival by ensuring that the habitat suitable for reintroduction is protected adequately when the propagated plants are ready for reintroduction.

Office of Native Hawaiian Relations – \$100,000 (FY04)

This appropriation supports the establishment of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations within the Department of Interior.

Preservation of World War II-Era Internment Camps – \$4.2 million (FY01)

The funding supported various initiatives aimed at preserving historical sites relating to World War II. The National Park Service plans included the construction of a new visitors' center at California's Manzanar National Historic Site, a former internment camp; acquisition and protection of other former camp sites; and building an interpretive exhibit near a former work camp in Arizona. The National Park Service also used the funds to conduct a historical study of industrial sites, prisoner-of-war camps, and internment camp sites at Tule Lake in California and Granada in Colorado. The study, called "World War II on the Home Front," included preservation and management recommendations.

OAHU

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Acquisition – \$3.25 million (Since FY02)

These funds go toward the acquisition of approximately 800 acres from the Estate of James Campbell. The purchase will enable the FWS to restore a natural coastal dune and wetland ecosystem, and complete the creation of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on the northeast shore of Oahu. The James Campbell NWR is a premier endangered Hawaiian waterbird recovery area, supporting four endangered waterbirds and a variety of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. The coastal dune ecosystem is home to native strand plants and wildlife such as green sea turtles, seabirds, and migratory shorebirds. The land acquisition also serves as a crucial component for the proposed Kahuku flood control project.

Bishop Museum Falls of Clyde – \$300,000 (FY02)

This appropriation from the Save America's Treasures budget would be used by the Bishop Museum to preserve the Falls of Clyde, which is the only surviving, four-masted, fully-rigged ship in existence and the only extant sail-driven oil tanker. It was entered into the Register of Historic Places in 1973, and became a National Historic Landmark in 1989.

Proposed Oahu Forest National Wildlife Refuge – \$1 million (FY00)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed a Oahu Forest Refuge on lands in the leeward Koolau Mountains. The forests of the project area include some of the best remaining koa and ohia native forest communities on Oahu, and support a rich diversity of native plants, native insects, Hawaiian forest birds, and a multitude of other native species, many of which have yet to be inventoried.

BIG ISLAND

Kahuku Ranch Acquisition – \$22 million

These funds were used to complete the National Park Service's acquisition of approximately 115,000 acres of the Kahuku Ranch in Kau to expand Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Kahuku Ranch encompasses spectacular and wide-ranging native ecosystems, spanning 115,000 acres, with elevations from 2,000 to 13,000 feet above sea level. Six rare and endangered bird and mammal species are found in the varied habitats of Kahuku Ranch, and a number of rare and endangered plant and invertebrate species are also reported to be from the area. Many of the forests throughout Kau are not protected by conservation designations and, therefore, are threatened by logging, invasion of alien weeds, and habitat degradation by feral

animals and wildfires. The acquisition links over 500,000 acres of land in cooperative federal, State, and private conservation management – from the windward and leeward coasts to the summit of Mauna Loa.

McCandless Ranch Conservation Easement – \$2.3 million (FY02 & FY03)

These funds were secured to enable the USDA, Forest Service, to complete its purchase of an easement over 5,866 acres of McCandless Ranch in Kona. The Ranch lies adjacent to Hakalau National Wildlife Refuge. Its native rain forests provide the last refuge for the only wild population of the critically endangered Hawaiian crow, or alala. The Ranch also harbors at least nine other endangered species, and several other rare native bird, insect, and plant species. A conservation easement ensures the long-term protection of these important resources, while enabling the landowners to continue economic use of their property.

Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry Research Facility Construction – \$10 million

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, is using these funds to construct the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry at the University of Hawaii at Hilo's University Park. The facility will be used as its administrative and research headquarters.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Game Mammal Management – \$2 million (Since FY01)

The FWS uses these funds to continue implementation of a unique, locally driven habitat restoration and protection strategy in Hawaii County, and has initiated a similar effort in Maui County.

University of Hawaii Volcanic Processes Study – \$1.25 million

These funds continue the cooperative agreement between the USGS and the University of Hawaii at Hilo that supports geophysics, geochemistry, and gas geochemistry programs. These programs are intended to improve the understanding, monitoring, and forecasting of volcanic processes.

Mauna Loa Volcano Monitoring – \$200,000 (Since FY04)

This initiative supports a volcanic hazards assessment of Mauna Loa Volcano and the one-time acquisition cost of instrumentation for the expanded monitoring of Mauna Loa. The Park acquired Kahuku Ranch on the southwest rift zone of Mauna Loa, and there is a new inflation of the Mauna Loa crater, which may foreshadow a new period of Mauna Loa eruptions.

Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park – \$1.17 million (FY00)

The funding was used to construct an entrance road, visitor parking, restrooms, utilities, and a wastewater treatment and disposal system at Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park on the Kona coast of the Island of Hawaii. The Park is presently underdeveloped and lacking the infrastructure needed to complete its development for use by visitors, including those desiring to practice traditional Hawaiian cultural activities.

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) Phase I of the Hilo Base Building – \$500,000 (FY01)

The SAO is a major initiative by the Smithsonian to place an array of telescopes on Mauna Kea. The array will consist of eight antennae that are able to emit signals that, when combined, produce very finely detailed images. The initiative will provide new insight into the formation and evolution of stars, planets, and galaxies.

Production of Geologic and Lava-flow Hazard Maps – \$200,000 (FY00)

The funding enabled the Hawaii Volcanoes Observatory to create geologic and lava-flow hazard maps of Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa has erupted three times since 1950 and is building toward its next eruption. To minimize the impact of an eruption, it is imperative that the volcano is monitored carefully and that its hazards are properly assessed, particularly since Mauna Loa's eruptions often develop quickly and can become very large.

Transitional Firefighting Fund – \$250,000 (FY04)

In January 2005, the U.S. Army will be relocating its Big Island firefighting personnel from the grounds of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to the Pohakuloa Training Area, 70 miles away by road. Although the County of Hawaii stands ready to adjust the coverage of its own firefighters to compensate for the planned relocation, these funds will support a smooth transition to ensure public safety of all in the affected area.

Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park – \$500,000 (FY02)

These funds went toward the National Park Service's acquisition of 238 acres to expand the Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park on the Big Island. The Congress in 1955 authorized the creation of the Park to preserve and interpret Hawaiian history and culture. The Park preserves much of the original site of a place known as the City of Refuge, or Puuhonua. Prior to the 19th century, Hawaiians who broke the native society's spiritual laws fled to Puuhonua to avoid the death penalty and receive clemency. It was also a place where defeated warriors and noncombat citizens could seek refuge.

Emergency Ambulance Services – up to \$350,000 (FY01)

The Hawaii Volcanoes National Park received temporary federal assistance to implement emergency ambulance services, taking over from the U.S. Army, which will be based at Kilauea Military Reservation.

MAUI

Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, Research and Management – \$2.25 million (FY01 - FY03)

These funds are used by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to continue critically important research and management projects addressing wetland ecology at Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, which is located on the south coast of Maui's central isthmus. It is an extremely important nesting and feeding habitat for endangered Hawaiian waterbirds, particularly the Hawaiian Stilt, and the Hawksbill Sea Turtle.

Cladophora Bloom Studies in Coastal West Maui – \$220,000 (FY03)

The USGS used these funds to investigate the sources of nutrient-laden groundwater that is discharging into coastal waters and causing cladophora algae to bloom profusely along the shores of West Maui. These algal blooms are a severe nuisance. They are unsightly and unpleasant to swim through, and rotting algae on the shore are foul-smelling. The studies are an important first step toward halting or controlling the cladophora blooms. The USGS is drilling three new monitoring wells to collect baseline hydrological data and track wastewater runoff.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Game Mammal Management – \$2 million (Since FY01)

The FWS uses these funds to continue implementation of a unique, locally driven habitat restoration and protection strategy in Maui County.