



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Overview

The **Hawaii CREP** is a partnership between U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to encourage conservation and environmentally sound practices on degraded agricultural lands.

Hawaii CREP is design to help the State's agricultural producers and landowners with address specific environmental issues on their property.



Goals

The environmental goals of Hawaii CREP:

- Reduce sediment and nutrient runoff.
- Increase coral reef cover and coral diversity on reefs.
- Improve wildlife and plant habitats of threatened and endangered species.
- Reforestation of native riparian buffers as well as rare and declining native habitats.
- Increase groundwater recharge through the planting of trees in upland pastures.
- Reduction in and control of invasive species in watersheds.



Benefits

Hawaii CREP will provide for restoration of previously forested, degraded agricultural land.

The program:

- improves wildlife habitat by creation of riparian forest buffers corridors and expansion of habitat for rare species of Hawaii.
- improves water quality and quantity by reducing soil runoff, increasing ground absorption, improving wetlands, and reducing stream sedimentation and nutrient loading.
- enhances coral reef habitat and diversity of aquatic species by decreasing run-off from the upland environments.



Program participants are asked to set aside a portion of their land and dedicate it to **Hawaii CREP** for 15 years. For this set-aside and

conversion of the land to native trees and grasses, participants receive financial incentives in support of the conservation work on their land.



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Cost

Hawaii CREP brings in federal monies in support of conservation that benefits agricultural producers and the general public.

The total cost for **Hawaii CREP** is estimated at \$52 million, with USDA contributing \$42 million for program implementation. The State, as a cash match, contributes approximately \$250,000 annually through the **Forest Stewardship Special Fund**, under the Natural Area Reserve Fund.

State indirect match for **Hawaii CREP** comes from management of our State's natural resources through other programs funded by the **Natural Area Reserve Fund**.

Hawaii CREP is one of the missing pieces in conservation support on agricultural lands.

In 2009,

- **Hawaii CREP** was authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii Governor.
- Approximately 20 landowners, offering 1,300 acres for sign-up in **Hawaii CREP** in the first month of the program implementation.
- Hawaii was the first state in the nation to receive landowner exemptions under the 2008 Farm Bill for enrollment into **Hawaii CREP** for projects that protect rare native species.
- **Hawaii CREP** provided technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers on restoration and conservation of their degraded lands.

The full annual program report is available at this website:
<http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/crep>

For More Information

Hawaii CREP is run by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. For more information on **Hawaii CREP** contact (808) 587-4167 or visit <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dofaw/crep>



Hawai'i
CREP
Restoring our Islands Mauka to Makai