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Wildfire Safety Strategies and Preparedness Update

Honolulu Fire Department

Co-Chair of the City's Wildfire Preparedness Workgroup

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Submitted by the Honolulu Fire Department for Informational Briefing Item No. 3
Committee on Public Safety & Economy | April 30, 2026

DEPT. COM. 281(26) PSE

BUILDING A RESILIENT FIRE PREVENTION FUTURE FOR HAWAIʻI

Fire Marshal Dori Booth

Office of the State Fire Marshal, State of Hawaiʻi

Ke Keʻena o ka Luna Palekana Ahi o Ka Mokuʻāina o Hawaiʻi

2026 WILDFIRE INITIATIVES

- Increased statewide communication through weekly wildfire cooperator meetings
- Improved wildfire tracking through NERIS and nationally recognized wildfire incident reporting
- Wildfire Investigations Training and equipment standardization
- Introduction and training on the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Wildfire Prepared Program
- Implementation of National Fire Danger Rating program catered to regional Hawaii fire behaviors

ABOUT HWMO

HAWAIʻI WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

25+ years

Years of technical experience and community service in Hawaiʻi.

Hub Organization

For wildfire education, information, planning, mitigation, and collaboration.

Proactive & Collaborative

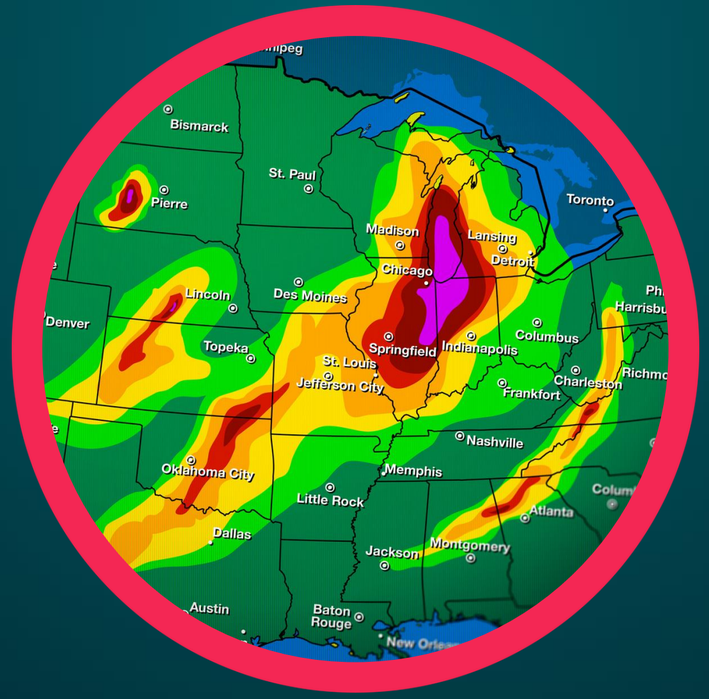
Founded to fill gaps, work across boundaries, coordinate & implement projects



Core Concept: Hawai‘i is a fire prone state

The main causes and conditions of wildfire involve people, climate, & fuel.







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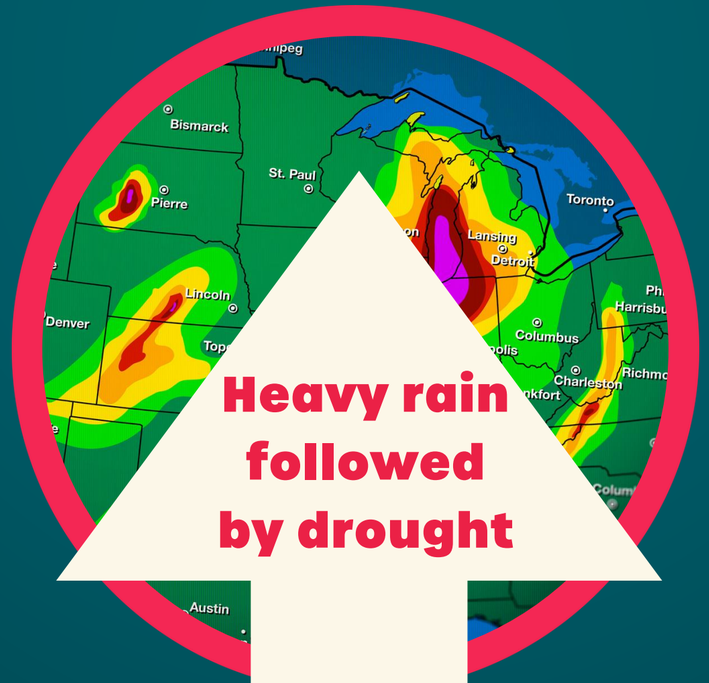
Human-caused ignitions



Heavy rain followed by drought

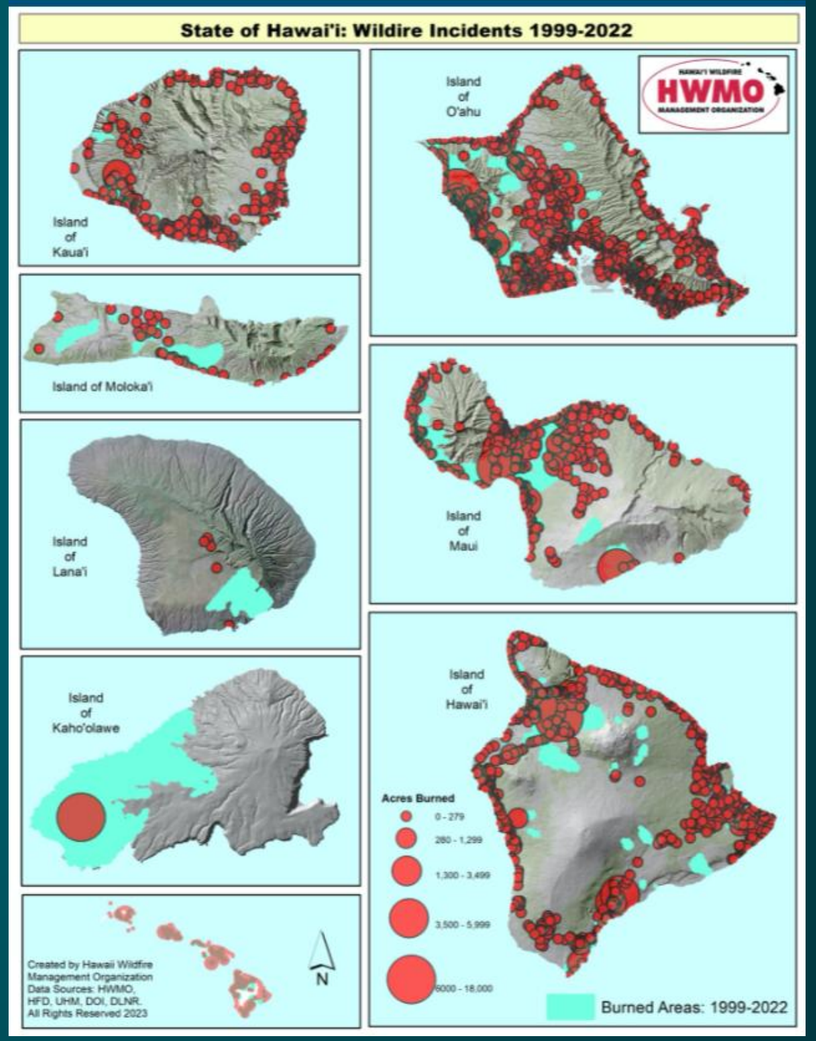


Combustible buildings & vegetation

Core Concept: Hawai‘i is a fire prone state

Under the right conditions in Hawai‘i, anywhere can burn!

- Ignitions occur near roads and human-accessed areas
- Both sides (windward & leeward) of islands are experiencing fires
- All islands, statewide are vulnerable



Core Concept: Wildfire risk can be reduced!

There is a lot we can do to
reduce wildfire occurrence, fire spread, & severity



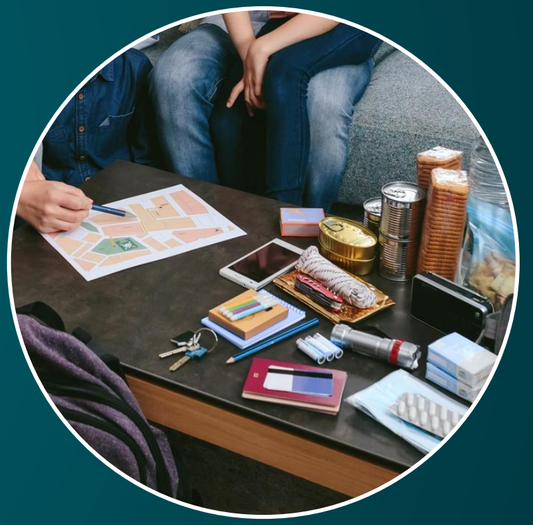
Reduce ignitions



Manage land & reduce fuels

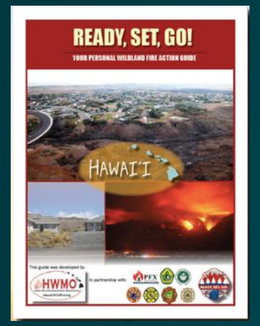


Make houses, yards, & towns safer & fire-resistant



Prepare communities for evacuations & wildfire season

Preparedness Education







Community Action Program:
Firewise Communities



Home Assessments



Firewise Communities



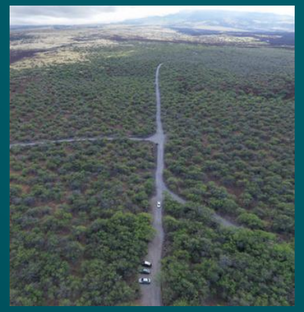
Risk Reduction Projects

Wildfire Resilient Landscapes:
Vegetation and Land Management Education, Projects, and Grant Program



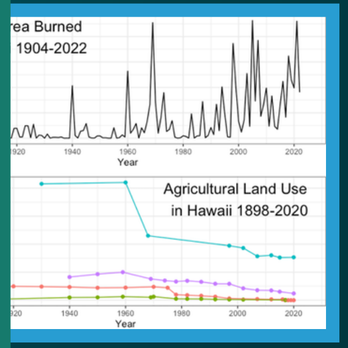






Wildfire Plans, Data, Maps & Coordinating Groups





The time to commit to a wildfire-ready and wildfire-resilient future is here.



Artist: Gianna Groves

Mahalo

for your partnership