

Hawai'i Sentinel Landscape

Areas where
conservation, working
lands and national
interests converge



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What is a Sentinel Landscape?

A Sentinel Landscape designation in Hawai'i enhances collaborative conservation, conserves natural and cultural resources, bolsters agriculture, ranching and forestry, increases climate resilience, and helps attract more federal funding, while at the same time supporting military readiness.

Conservation projects within a Sentinel Landscape are given priority consideration under several federal funding, technical assistance, and land protection programs.

How Hawai'i Benefits

This designation means that, under existing federal conservation and the DOD Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) programs, Hawai'i projects will be prioritized for funding.

The designation leverages tens of millions of additional dollars for land conservation (including farm/ranch land), watershed protection, habitat restoration and management, and climate resiliency in Hawai'i.

Recognizing the importance of strong agricultural economies, the designation supports farmers, ranchers, and foresters in meeting their production goals while simultaneously advancing sustainable land management practices that improve water, air, and soil quality. Preserving natural resources and open space also stimulates local economic activity through creating opportunities for communities to enjoy the outdoors. The designation strives to increase public access to outdoor recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking.

A Collaborative Effort

Numerous agencies and organizations deeply committed to Hawai'i's future collaborated to ensure this effort could advance. **The steering committee for this initiative includes:**

TPL

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Conservation Alliance

Hawai'i Department of
Agriculture

Department of Land and
Natural Resources

Natural Resource
Conservation Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Forest Service

Navy Joint Base Pearl Harbor-
Hickam

U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i

Pacific Missile Range Facility

Marine Corps Base Hawai'i

National Association of
Conservation Districts

History of the Initiative

In 2022, Trust for Public Land (TPL) applied for a Sentinel Landscape designation for Hawai'i to ensure key conservation efforts would receive the funding and support needed to meet community needs and establish meaningful change.

The lead federal agencies – the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Department of Defense (DOD) – approved an interim designation with a request to work with key partners to develop an implementation plan identifying overlapping agricultural, conservation and climate resiliency priorities. The interim designation spanned from January 2023 to May 15, 2024, when TPL received the formal designation.

A Proven Record of Success

Through FY 2022, projects across Sentinel Landscapes have attracted approximately:

- **\$335 million** in USDA funds;
- **\$233 million** in DOD funds;
- **\$92 million** in DOI funds;
- **\$341 million** in state funds;
- **\$26 million** in local funds; and
- **\$142 million** in private funds to protect 677,100 acres of land.

In FY 2022 alone, over 4.4 million acres of land were enrolled in financial and technical assistance programs. These efforts have preserved wildlife habitat, bolstered agricultural and forestry production, and reduced land-use conflicts around military bases.

Since 2006, REPI and its partners have contributed nearly \$162.4 million to REPI projects supporting four installations in Hawai'i. TPL purchased or facilitated the protection of over 16,300 acres of land on O'ahu in

partnership with state, local, and NGO partners, conserving 10 special places using REPI funding, in addition to other sources of public and private funding.

These projects include:

- Culturally and ecologically important lands;
- Priority watersheds; and
- Key agricultural lands, including:
 - Waimea Valley;
 - Galbraith Agricultural Lands (Lands of Līhu'e);
 - MA'O Organic Farm Palikea Expansion; and
 - Honouliuli Forest Reserve, among others.

These lands are now owned and stewarded by public or non-profit partners or are permanently restricted against development by conservation easements.

Designating portions of Hawai'i as a Sentinel Landscape is an unprecedented opportunity to “supercharge” these collaborative partnerships and conservation impact.

Sentinel Landscapes Across the Nation

As of May 15, 2024, there are 18 designated Sentinel Landscapes across the U.S. They include sustainably managed natural and working lands that provide vital ecological, food and recreational services, and support the economy. The landscapes are areas where conservation, working lands, and national defense interests converge at a size and scale needed to address the objectives defined for each landscape.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership program helps connect landowners and land managers to voluntary federal assistance programs that support sustainable management practices. The objectives of each Sentinel Landscape are established by local partnerships that may include federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and entities that represent working lands, conservation, recreation, and landowner interests. Conservation projects proposed within a Sentinel Landscape are given priority consideration for participation in a variety of federal funding, technical assistance, and land protection programs.



For more information, contact:

Carlos Castillo
Sentinel Landscape Coordinator,
Trust for Public Land
Carlos.Castillo@tpl.org

Leslie Uptain
Director of Philanthropy, Trust
for Public Land
Leslie.Uptain@tpl.org