

## U.S. SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

### Addressing Wildfire, Restoring Ecosystems, Securing Water Resources, and Increasing Resiliency for Hawaii

Hawaii has a wildfire problem that threatens our communities and environment. Just recently, a wildfire on Hawaii Island consumed over 40,000 acres, making it the largest wildfire in Hawaii's recent history.

- ✔ To help Oahu and other branches that use slip-on tankers, Senator Hirono successfully defended allocating \$50 million for local governments to convert vehicles to be used as fire engines.
- ✔ To advance fire science and communication, Senator Hirono supported \$20 million for the Joint Fire Science Program, which is a partnership that includes the Pacific Fire Exchange, co-led by the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization and University of Hawaii.
- ✔ Understanding the need for federal and non-federal wildland firefighter training, which in Hawaii could mean sending crews to the mainland, Senator Hirono ensured the allocation of \$100 million for preplanning fire response workshops and workforce training.
- ✔ \$500 million for mechanical thinning (removal of trees in rows) of trees, like eucalyptus that is found in Hawaii on federal and non-federal lands.

Hawaii landscapes are being taken over by invasive species, threatening our native wildlife, forested watersheds, and nearshore reefs. It is estimated that nearly \$50 million per year is needed to combat invasive species and \$83 million per year is needed to protect native habitats and help native bird species recover.

- ✔ Through an amendment, Senator Hirono ensured that \$400 million will be provided in the form of grants to states to implement voluntary ecosystem restoration projects, where priority will be given to cross-boundary projects, like so many in Hawaii.
- ✔ Senator Hirono secured \$200 million for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication on non-Federal and Federal land, which will help Hawaii implement the 2017-2027 Biosecurity Plan.
- ✔ \$200 million to establish a national revegetation effort on Federal and non-Federal land, which could facilitate the planting of native vegetation like Ohia.
- ✔ Senator Hirono successfully included language in both the Federal Lands Transportation Program and Federal Lands Access Program directing that native plants be used when possible when carrying out activities. Invasive plants, like albizia, line roadways in Hawaii.
- ✔ \$250 million over 5 years for the Invasive Plant Elimination Program to provide grants to states to remove, control, or prevent the introduction of invasive plants along roads and highways and revegetate those areas, with priority given to native and pollinator-friendly plants.
- ✔ \$10 million for the Pollinator-friendly Practices on Roadsides and Highway Rights-of-Way Program, which provides grants to plan and implement projects that benefit pollinators, such as seeding native plants and removing nonnative grasses along roads.

Shifting rainfall patterns, invasive species, and rising sea levels are threatening Hawaii's freshwater sources.

- ✓ Through a successful amendment, Senator Hirono ensured Hawaii and Alaska are eligible for \$100 million for small water storage and groundwater storage project grants that could help support forested watershed protection projects in Hawaii.
- ✓ \$550 million for Title XVI water recycling and reuse projects.
- ✓ \$400 million for WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants, \$100 million of which is designated for natural infrastructure projects.
- ✓ \$100 million for the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, which has historically supported forested watershed protection efforts in Hawaii.

Climate change has contributed to increasingly frequent and severe weather events and natural disasters. Communities require additional resources to prepare for natural disasters, strengthened by climate change, and mitigate the risks associated with these events.

- ✓ \$500 million for the revolving loan fund focused on resilience at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The revolving fund provides capitalization funds to states to conduct projects that reduce the risk of natural disaster.
- ✓ \$1 billion to FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program, a pre-disaster mitigation program that helps communities reduce the risk they face from natural disasters.