

Hawaii receives \$5m for forest restoration

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture is granting the state Department of Land and Natural Resources more than \$5 million for climate-smart forest restoration.

That involves planting native trees with the highest potential for carbon capture, meaning the tree can absorb more carbon dioxide compared to other plants.

The trees will help prevent soil erosion, which can harm coral reefs and native fish populations.

They will also provide habitats for critically endangered birds.

"This funding will help fight the climate crisis while ensuring that damaged forests grow back stronger than ever, maintaining the integrity of Hawai'i's unique environment," says U.S. Senator Brian Schatz.

"Supporting these native trees will help recharge the aquifers supplying the state's water."

The DLNR will work with private landowners to plant 210,000 native trees and remove 1,650 acres of invasive plants. There will be a priority to remove highly flammable invasive species because they intensify wildfires.

Source: <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2021-09-29/hawaii-receives-5m-for-forest-restoration>