



February 2023

Brought to you by Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and University of Hawai'i Cooperative Extension, CTAHR, Fire & Ecosystems Program. Partner submissions encouraged!

Weather & Climate Outlook

After a run of abnormally dry mid-winter conditions, active rainfall finally returned during the last few days of January, dropping excessive rainfall across Maui County and portions of Kauai. Another period of heavy rainfall developed in mid February, soaking portions of the Big Island with record daily rainfall amounts and eventually spreading to the rest of the island chain. As a result of these episodes, **nearly the entire state is drought free** for the first time since mid January 2022.

- [National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) February - May 2023
- [US Drought Monitor for Hawaii](#) - current conditions

American Samoa

- [Hawaii and USAPI Climate Summary](#) - 4th Quarter 2022

Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) Highlights



PC: Nāpu'u Conservation Project, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit

Did you miss our **Grazing to Reduce Blazing Part II: the In's and Out's of Contract Grazing**? Not to worry—we recorded a super presentation of our Talk Story Tuesday guests, **Dr. Clay Trauernicht**, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Extension Specialist in Ecosystems & Fire; **Raia Olsen** of O'ahu Grazers and

professional grazers. Watch Part I and Part II [HERE](#).

Partnerships in Action



E komo mai! We are pleased to welcome our new **DLNR Chairperson Dawn Chang** on the opening of the 2023 legislative session! Our very own **Kaleo the Pueo**, along with our other forestry (Smokey Bear and Nēnē) and alien pest mascots (Little Fire Ant)--they were all there to greet our lawmakers as they opened up the capitol last month in consideration of the next round of policy initiatives.

Speaking of partnerships in action, Hawai'i and specifically the **Department of**

both Senate Bill 409 and House Bill 285 - RELATING TO FIRE PREVENTION which appropriate \$1.5 million for wildfire fuels reduction across the state. Track the status of [Senate Bill 409](#) and [House Bill 285](#) and submit your testimony remotely, by first registering for an account [HERE](#).

From Our Partners

February is Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month! There were tons of great webinars on alien species success stories, including our very own **Elizabeth Pickett**, co-director of Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization and her presentation [Debunking Wildfire Myths in Hawai'i](#). There were also presentations on Little Fire Ant, Twolined Spittlebug, Pampas Grass, new detections and rapid response, and native plants. If you missed a webinar, check out Hawai'i Invasive Species Council - Support Program Youtube Channel [HERE](#).

Hawai'i and Pacific: Webinars, Research, Reports and News

- [Climate change and weed impacts on small island ecosystems: Lantana camara L. \(Magnoliopsida: Verbenaceae\) distribution in Fiji](#), Taylor &

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- [Only YOU can prevent forest fires](#) (Guam Focus), Pacific Daily News, Feb 22, 2023)
 - [Fire damages Hawaiian Acres community center](#) (Big Island Now, February 19, 2023)
 - [Lightning strikes spark wildfires at Army training area in Hawaii](#) (STARS AND STRIPES • February 14, 2023)
 - [Firefighters continue to battle lightning-sparked wildfires on Hawaii Island](#) (Hawai'i News Now, Feb. 13, 2023)
 - Webinar Recording: [Pacific RISCC's Future Climate in Hawai'i: What Global Climate Models, Climate Downscaling, and Observations Tell Us with Dr. Tom Giambelluca](#) (January 2023).
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Other Meetings, Conferences and Courses

- Wildland Urban Interface Conference, March 28 - 30, 2023 in Reno, NV. Register [HERE](#)
 - Cross Boundary Landscape Restoration Workshop, May 2 - 4, 2023 in Ft. Collins, CO (Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes). Learn more [HERE](#)
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National News & Policy

- [President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology \(PCAST\) Releases Report on Modernizing Wildland Firefighting through Science and Technology](#) (White House press release, FEBRUARY 22, 2023)
 - [USDA Invests More than \\$48.6 Million to Manage Risks, Combat Climate Change](#) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will invest more than \$48.6 million this year through the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership for projects that mitigate wildfire risk, improve water quality, restore forest ecosystems, and ultimately contribute to USDA's efforts to combat climate change. This year, the USDA Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will invest in projects, including 14 new projects, bringing together agricultural producers, forest landowners, and National Forest System lands to improve forest health using available Farm Bill conservation programs and other authorities.
 - Microsoft and Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) announce new standards-based ecological restoration collaboration - read more [HERE](#). As background, SER produced [International Principles and Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration](#) in 2016 for designing, implementing, and evaluating ecological restoration projects to achieve the greatest social and ecological benefits.
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National and International Research and Reports

- [Using Soil Science to Improve Wildfire Predictions](#) (USGS, February 22, 2023)
 - [Oregon Invests \\$2.7 Million To Reduce Wildfire Risk](#) (Portland Local News, Feb 21, 2023)
 - [New Study: Rethinking the Focus on Forest Fires in Federal Wildland Fire Management](#) (Journal of Environmental Management, 1 Feb 2023)
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National Multimedia: Webinars, Interviews, and Learning through Stories

- **Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT)** is a national interagency resource, that assists communities in building local capacity for community mitigation through a variety of opportunities before, during and after a wildfire to help strengthen readiness, resiliency, and reduce the risk of loss to communities resulting from wildfire. Join on March 3 at 6:00 AM HST to learn more about CMAT and how it can benefit your community. Register [HERE](#).

Adaptive Traits with Beth Leger, University of Nevada, Reno (Setting the landscape for native seed technologies: Balancing the need for wild, adapted native seeds with modifications needed for agricultural production and large-scale seeding) and Rob Massatti, USGS (Guiding restoration with seed transfer zones: Concepts and applications). Register [HERE](#)

- Webinar: March 7, 2023 1:00 AM - 12:00 PM HST, **Seed Delivery** with Lauren Fletcher, Beta-Earth, Annabelle Monti, USFS and Maria Mircheva, Sugar Pine Foundation. Also, Nichole Barger, TNC (Robots for microclimate identification and planting) Register [HERE](#)
- Webinar: March 9, 2023 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM HST **Current Perspectives on Seed Technology** with Mark Brunson, Utah State University (management perspectives: survey results); Owen Baughman, TNC and Kevin Gunnell, UDNR; BLM practitioners (Panel Q&A and discussion on managers' solutions to local seeding challenges) Register [HERE](#)

Jobs

- [Forestry Researcher](#) at American Samoa Community College. Contact is Mark Schmaedick, Ph.D., m.schmaedick@amsamoa.edu, Tel. 684-733-2112. Application Deadline: April 7th, 2023 no later than 4:00pm. Apply [HERE](#)

Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced in "[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Move to Reduce Financial Burden on U.S. Territories Grant-Matching Requirement to be waived for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and U.S. Virgin Islands](#)" the following: for local matching funds \$200,000 and greater, agencies and departments may waive the matching requirement for these four territories.

Share YOUR News.

This newsletter is a great way to keep our wildfire community connected!

If you have a news item, photo, or accomplishment to share with our community of wildfire professionals, please email it to wildfirecommunications@hawaiiwildfire.org.

We will feature it in the next newsletter or social media post!

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