



Hawai'i Wildfire Summit: Connecting Hawai'i's wildfire professionals



Key fire science topics:

Firefighter safety and incident management, Social science and human dimensions, Wildland urban interface and infrastructure, Fuels Management, Watershed Processes, Economic Impacts

Impact Categories:

Connectivity, Conceptual, Capacity Building, Instrumental, Social

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The Pacific Fire Exchange (PFX) is a program funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and jointly managed by Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. PFX aims to improve fire outcomes in Hawai'i and the Western Pacific by pursuing, translating, and sharing fire science and research with those who are dealing with wildfire.

Event Summary:

Pacific Fire Exchange co-hosted the 2025 Hawai'i Wildfire Summit with Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization and many national, state, and county partners. The Summit brought together over 400 community leaders, emergency responders, land managers, researchers, and policymakers for two days of learning and collaboration. This was the first time all partners were together in person after the 2023 Maui Fires to reflect on the incident reports and how we can improve our state's infrastructure, response, communication, mitigation, and preparedness. Through keynote presentations, expert panels, and interactive breakout sessions, participants shared progress and lessons learned from recent recovery efforts, examined advances in wildfire science and policy, explored practical approaches to risk mitigation, and advanced statewide efforts toward a more wildfire-resilient Hawai'i. The Summit served as a crucial space for collective reflection and renewed commitment to building wildfire resilience across the islands. It underscored the urgency and opportunity to elevate Hawai'i's wildfire preparedness, wildfire science, and knowledge exchange to match the scale of the growing threat.



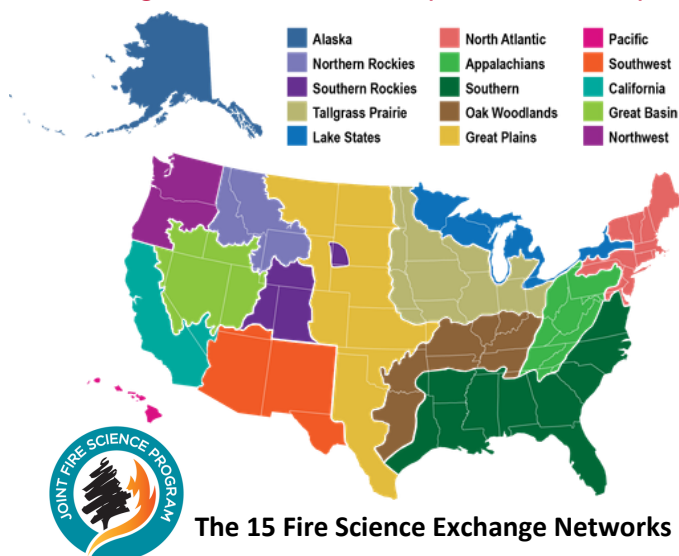
Event Impacts

- **Strengthened cross-sector collaboration:** The summit connected partners from every county in Hawai'i with national collaborators, renewing commitments to coordinated wildfire response and long-term resilience planning.
- **Shared lessons for Hawai'i:** Discussions of the 2023 fires and incident reports informed new priorities for safer communities and updated statewide wildfire strategies.
- **Including the built environment:** National experts shared insights on wildfire-resilient building, safe construction, aligned codes, well-designed home ignition zones, and holistic infrastructure planning.
- **Capacity building for communities:** Firewise coordinators and land stewards gained expert guidance for vegetation management, home ignition zones, policy advancement, and risk communication.
- **Expanded professional knowledge:** Emergency responders and fire managers learned from national experts on incident management, pre-attack planning, and fire weather and fuel monitoring.
- **Unified vision for resilience:** The event reinforced Hawai'i's collective resolve to integrate shared knowledge, science, and community action in adapting to a changing wildfire environment.

Select Hawai'i Wildfire Summit Attendee Responses:

"I really appreciate the framing of the summit around connection and partnership – from the small things like prompts to share and talk with one's neighbor before a session got under way, I could feel that spirit throughout the event!"

"[The Summit] expanded my scope from my team's primary role within fire mitigation outward to the larger interconnected pieces of comprehensive fire mitigation strategy."



Pacific Fire Exchange program and Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization staff and board members at the Hawai'i Wildfire Summit, Feb 2025. Credit: Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization

More information about the Summit:

The Hawai'i Wildfire Summit webpage can be viewed in detail at the QR code below. This includes all session contributors, their slides and materials. Please reach out with further questions.

