

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FISCAL YEAR 2000 THROUGH 2004
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS BY DISTRICT
(As of June 1, 2004)

STATEWIDE

Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Research – \$19.581 million

This purpose of this project is to prevent and control invasive alien species in tropical and subtropical regions. The ultimate goal of this program is to lower quarantine requirements, a priority for Pacific and Caribbean farmers because quarantine is one of their most significant trade barriers. Researchers also plan to focus on resolving production problems that are unique to specific areas, such as Hawaii, Guam, New Guinea, and the Philippines.

U.S. Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center (PBARC) – Construction – \$20.36 million & Research – \$2.86 million

These funds are for the construction of the U.S. Pacific Basin Agriculture Resource Center's laboratory at the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The Center will address the agricultural concerns of growers in tropical and subtropical environments such as Hawaii and U.S. territories in the Pacific. It will consist of a laboratory, quarantine, and aquaculture facilities. It will achieve economies of scale by sharing certain facilities with the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry facility which is under construction. The groundbreaking for PBARC is scheduled for September, 2004.

Funds are also being used for new and ongoing research and outreach programs involving the Agricultural Research Service, the College of Agriculture at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and the College of Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Tropical Aquaculture Research – \$7.93 million

The Oceanic Institute of Hawaii uses these funds to continue its Tropical Aquaculture Research program to develop nutritious feeds that are less expensive than the imported products currently used in the United States. Its goal is to enhance the domestic shrimp industry's global competitiveness.

Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions – \$6.33 million (Since FY01)

The funding is part of an appropriation for the Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions grant program. The purpose of this program is to strengthen educational activities, including applied research and community development projects, at universities and colleges with students of Native Alaskan and Native Hawaiian ancestry. Grants awarded to eligible Hawaii institutions focus on activities that lead to the development of value-added agricultural products, overseas markets, and Native Hawaiian-owned production and marketing businesses.

Hawaii Agriculture Research Center – \$4.69 million

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) focuses on improving the efficiency of sugarcane production, developing new products from sugarcane, and supporting the development of new agricultural products in Hawaii. HARC scientists apply the latest biotechnologies to crops and collaborate with others in the tropical agricultural research community. HARC's ongoing projects include completing the genetic fingerprinting for coffee, pineapple, macadamia nuts, and papaya; identifying the genes responsible for fungal resistance in papaya; and supporting a sugarcane breeding program.

Wildlife Services Office: Pest and Disease Management – \$3.4 million

These funds are used to continue the operation of a State Wildlife Services Office in Hawaii, which provides on-site coordination of activities to control pests and diseases in Hawaii and the American Pacific. The funds are used by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to continue its comprehensive brown tree snake prevention and detection program, and expand that program to include activities to control the non-native coqui frog.

Pineapple Nematode and Papaya Ringspot – \$2.94 million

The University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources uses half of the funds to monitor and refine control of the papaya ringspot virus, and to expand the techniques and knowledge obtained from this program to other diseases and pests. The remaining funds will be used to coordinate a program to combat nematode and mealy bug wilt disease, and control flowering.

Agriculture Development in American Pacific – \$2.73 million

This program addresses common Pacific island-based agriculture and community issues through cooperative research, extension, and instruction programs that are culturally appropriate, socially acceptable, economically viable, and environmentally compatible. The program helps Pacific region residents live healthier and more productive lives by further developing their agricultural skills and knowledge.

Floriculture Industry – \$1.66 million

These funds support industry-directed research projects to develop new varieties of tropical flowers with unique appearances, that are disease-resistant, and have long shelf-lives. Other initiatives include an aggressive, accelerated breeding program for potted flowering plants, such as orchid and anthurium, and developing protocols to combat invasive species. This is critical to the floriculture industry's ability to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Nontoxic Fruit Fly Control – \$1.39 million

These funds continue the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' collaborative work to develop efficacious and nontoxic methods to control Tephritid fruit flies, and to expand efforts to control and eradicate multiple pests that limit export of Hawaii agriculture.

Minor Crop Pest Control – \$1.39 million

The funds support the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' development of environmentally compatible methods to control pests and diseases in tropical and subtropical agricultural systems. The project led the Hawaii banana industry to adopt technology combating the bunchy top virus.

Rodent Control – \$1.2 million

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center uses these funds to control rodents in agricultural areas.

Subterranean Termite – \$709,000

Termites continue to be the most economically destructive insect pests in Hawaii and the American Pacific. These funds continue research to understand termite biology and ecology in Hawaii, develop environmentally-friendly control methods that stop termites from destroying structures, and prevent new termite infestations from spreading throughout the Pacific.

Diversified Agriculture – \$635,000

These funds continue public-private efforts to expand diversified agriculture in Hawaii. The objective of this project is to accelerate the commercialization of high-value agricultural products. This initiative has fostered markets for kava and vegetables grown in Hawaii, and supported research on pineapple and protea.

Multicropping Strategies for Aquaculture – \$620,000

These funds help accelerate the commercialization of aquaculture products – including food and health products – derived from ancient Hawaiian fishponds.

Pre-clearance Quarantine Inspections – \$5 million (Since FY03)

Funding was authorized by an amendment introduced by Senator Inouye to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to help relieve the State of Hawaii from the cost of federally mandated agriculture inspections at neighbor island airports.

Brown Tree Snake Eradication and Control – \$400,000 (FY00)

The brown tree snake causes enormous economic, biological and cultural damage on Guam. At least six live brown tree snakes have been captured in Hawaii. The introduction of the snake to Hawaii will wreak havoc on Hawaii's fragile forest ecosystem. The funding supports an aggressive detection and control program.

BIG ISLAND

Hamakua Ditch Project – \$3 million (FY01)

\$3 million was made available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Program to accelerate completion of the Hamakua Ditch project. Watershed and irrigation systems previously maintained by sugar plantations deteriorated rapidly as a result of natural and economic disasters, including flooding and the termination of sugarcane production, severely limiting the expansion of diversified agriculture, exacerbating soil erosion, failing to recharge ground water aquifers, and increasing the likelihood of flood damage to the lower elevation areas to the south and the valleys to the north. Rehabilitating

the century-old Hamakua Ditch system offers conservation of soil and water resources and removal of a major constraint to the expansion of sustainable diversified agriculture.

MAUI COUNTY

Molokai Agriculture Development and Resource Conservation – \$1.88 million

These funds support economically-sustainable agriculture development and resource conservation projects on Molokai. The project's goal is to reduce unemployment on the island by helping start-up agriculture-related enterprises develop and execute business plans. Businesses that have received assistance include a community kitchen, a sweet potato farm, a taro farm, a reforestation project, an organic farm, and an herbal medicine production group.

This initiative is being extended to Maui, Oahu and the Big Island, to support farmers and entrepreneurs.

Hawaii Plant Materials Center – \$858,000

These funds will enable the Hawaii Plant Materials Center to expand its seed production, continue seed production training in the community, and increase seed deliveries to the Island of Kahoolawe. The Center propagates native plants with the dual objective of supporting the federal cleanup and re-vegetation of Kahoolawe, and establishing economically competitive native plant nurseries. The Center's achievements include developing a 20-acre nursery on Molokai.

Women in Technology – \$506,500 (Since FY03 – Agriculture funds only)

These funds, earmarked in the Rural Development account, will complement funds from the U.S. Department of Labor for a high technology training program based on the Island of Maui to increase the number of women in the high technology workforce.