

# Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



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## **HAWAIIAN HOME LAND COMMUNITIES AWARDED \$5.8 MILLION IN GRANTS AND LOANS IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WASHINGTON – Senate Appropriations Chairman Daniel K. Inouye and Senator Daniel K. Akaka announced today that two Hawaiian Home Land communities, Lai Opua Village in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island and Keokea-Waiohuli in Kula, Maui, have been awarded more than \$5.8 million in loans and grants for infrastructure projects to improve water availability and quality. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) distributed the rural development grants today in honor of the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day.**

**Na Kupaa O Kuhio, a nonprofit entity, is the recipient of the funding:**

- **\$3,051,350 in loans and grants to construct a wastewater collection system and a water distribution system for the Lai Opua Village IV subdivision.**
- **\$2,768,655 million in loans and grants to assist in upgrading the waterlines to the Keokea-Waiohuli subdivision.**

**Chairman Inouye and Senator Akaka said, “This funding will protect residents’ health as well as the environment in these rural communities by improving water and wastewater infrastructure. We will continue to advocate for federal resources for the unique needs of our island communities.”**

**Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to raise awareness about the role citizens, businesses and communities can play in protecting the environment. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the event has expanded to include participation by citizens and governments in 175 countries.**