

RFSI

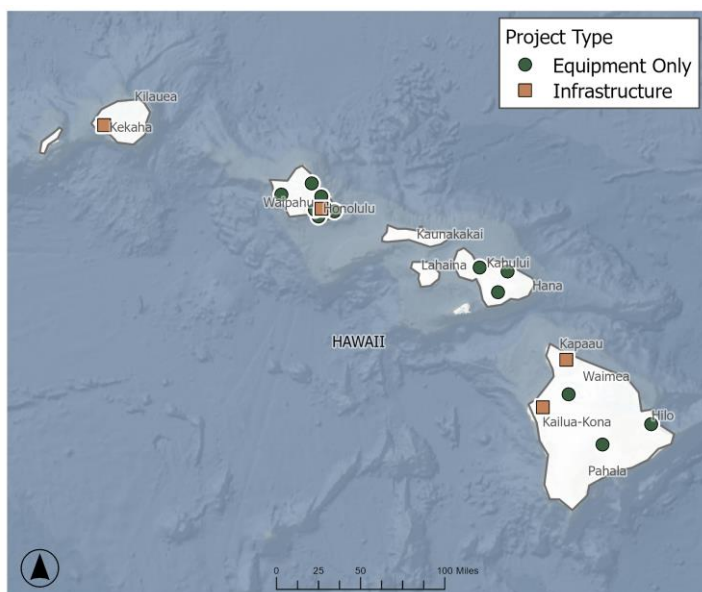
Resilient Food Systems
Infrastructure Program

Hawaii



State Overview

USDA awarded the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity **\$3.3 million** through the Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Program. The objective of RFSI is to expand capacity for aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, and distribution of locally and regionally produced agricultural food products. These federal funds will support 17 Hawaii infrastructure and equipment projects increasing access to new market opportunities, benefiting local and regional producers and processors.



Project Highlights

- **Expand distribution capabilities with the addition of a refrigerated vehicle**, enabling consistent aggregation and transportation of local foods from more than 100 farms to wholesale, retail, and public feeding program markets across the island of Oahu.
- **Increase produce processing capacity of 'ulu (breadfruit)**, through improved dehydration and cold storage capacity to extend shelf life during the off season.
- **Improve processing capacity and efficiency** to develop value-added products using local produce, such as sweet potatoes, taro, and breadfruit.

Anticipated Outcomes*

1,140

Local/Regional
Producers Benefited

395

New Market
Outlets
Established

75

New Value-Added
Products Developed

4

Existing Facilities
Improved/
Expanded

18

Storage/Aggregation
Units Purchased

8

Distribution
Vehicles
Purchased

49

Processing Equipment
Purchased

52

Jobs Created

*These numbers are reported by states and subawardees.

RFSI was awarded to the 56 States and Territories in May 2023. Each state conducted a competitive grant review and selection process. States identified their funding priorities through extensive outreach with key industry stakeholders, which guided their selection process to ensure a robust state and local food system representation. Selected projects fund locally and regionally produced food products, including specialty crops, dairy, grains for human consumption, aquaculture, and other food products, excluding meat and poultry.

Infrastructure Projects: Snapshot

Infrastructure Grant projects can involve facility and equipment expansion and upgrades, new construction, and modernized information technology systems.

Hawaii invested more than **\$1.6 million** across 4 Infrastructure projects benefiting 680 local and regional producers. These projects include:

- Expanding shared aggregation and storage for local products, such as sweet potatoes, macadamia nuts, cassava, breadfruit and tropical fruits; and
- Automating processing systems and building delivery tracking systems for enhanced distribution of lū'au leaf and poi across western Kauai.

Equipment Only Projects: Snapshot

Equipment Only projects are intended to purchase special purpose equipment such as cold/dry storage, distribution vehicles, and processing and packaging equipment.

Hawaii invested more than **\$996,000** across 13 Equipment Only projects purchasing more than 67 pieces of aggregation, processing, storage, and distribution equipment—including refrigerated delivery vehicles, vegetable slicers, walk-in coolers, and refrigerators. The state expects 460 local and regional producers will benefit from reduced harvest losses, improved product quality and shelf life, and access to 119 new markets.

Statewide Standouts



Hawaii is investing over \$2.5 million in equipment modernization across the four larger islands with an automated processing line, an automated tray folding machine, cold storage units, and additional delivery trucks.



Hawaii's projects add 26 new cold storage units and refrigerated vehicles, strengthening processing capacity and distribution across the state.



More than 300 'ulu (breadfruit) producers benefit from improved storage, processing, and distribution to expand market reach and grower resilience.