



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

THREE MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

In recognition of the Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership for expanding watershed protection and management to over one million acres on the island of Hawai'i across the volcanoes of Mauna Loa, Kīlauea, and Hualālai.

The Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership on the island of Hawai'i was formed in 2008, when members of the 'Ōla'a Kīlauea Partnership, based on their 14 year success in partnering, expanded watershed protection and management to over one million acres across the volcanoes of Mauna Loa, Kīlauea, and Hualālai. This became the largest cooperative land management effort in the State, encompassing the three mountains which are ancient, sacred to Hawaiians and critically important to the life, health and well being of the native ecosystems and human communities which inhabit them. The partnership effort includes important Department of the Interior lands (Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge (Kona Unit)) as well as adjacent state and private lands. The partnership fights invasive species and works to protect native species across land ownership boundaries. For more than a decade, the partners have pooled staff expertise and funding to conserve native ecosystems and significantly reduce the threats of invasive animals and weeds on Federal, State and private lands. The success of this collaborative initiative to address threats to multiple ecosystem services, work across boundaries, leverage limited resources more effectively, and provide capacity building for landowners, prompted the expansion to over one million acres. Major successes over the last ten years include reducing the abundance of the most threatening invasive plants and animal species over large sections of the partnership area to assist with the recovery of native Hawaiian forest and rare and endangered birds and plants. The partnership has also worked on reforestation of former ranch land at Keauhou and has provided vocational training for Kulani inmates as well as on-the-ground educational opportunities for island students and teachers. In 2008, the group solidified accomplishments and expanded the collaboration of key partners to complete significant conservation projects over a much larger area. For their broad vision of land management using a collaborative approach, the Three Mountain Alliance Watershed Partnership is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.