



# HAWAII-FIREWISE

Supporting fire-prone neighborhoods across Hawaii in their risk-reduction efforts

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- HWMO's flagship program for neighborhood-level action
- First site in 2004 (Kohala by the Sea)
- Program went statewide in **2014** (10 sites)
- In partnership with NFPA and State Div. of Forestry & Wildlife (with support from FD's)

## PARTICIPATION

**18 nationally recognized** communities across the state, **23 in the application process** (since Aug 2023), dozens more in the community-building phases

## HWMO SUPPORT

- Community hazard assessments
- Hosts a **Firewise Network**
- Access to resources, financial assistance, experts

[hawaiiwildfire.org/firewise-program](http://hawaiiwildfire.org/firewise-program)

**HAWAII FIREWISE** | **HWMO** HAWAII WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

### ACROSS HAWAII

**2023 BY THE NUMBERS**  
AS REPORTED TO THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) BY RESIDENTIAL LEADERS

- 17 Firewise USA® communities  
\*1 renewal pending & 15 in process (not on map)
- 5,091 Households Living in a Firewise Community\*
- 8,883 Cubic Yards Hazardous Fuels Removed\*\*
- 33,950 Hours Volunteered\*\*
- \$1,337,550 Dollars Invested\*\*\*

\*a resident of a Firewise-recognized community  
\*\*reported numbers only  
\*\*\*reported numbers only, includes both volunteer and cash investments

Map locations: NIHAU, KAUAI, OAHU (Kamilonui Valley/ Mariner's Cove), MOLOKAI (Paniolo Hale), LANAI, MAUI (Launiupoko, Waiohuli, Kahikinui), HAWAII (Kohala by the Sea, Kanehoa, Pu'ukapu Pastoral, Kohala Waterfront, Kohala Ranch, Kailapa, Waialea, Waikōloa Village, Pu'uana'hulu, Wai'ula'ula at Mauna Kea Resort, Waiki'i Ranch, Kamuela View Estate).

Logos: Hawaii Firewise, NFPA, FIREWISE RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK



Firewise is a framework to help residents get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities.



**FIREWISE USA**<sup>®</sup>  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



**HAWAII**  
**FIREWISE**



**HAWAII WILDFIRE**  
**MANAGEMENT**  
**ORGANIZATION**



# Steps to achieving national recognition

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**FIREWISE USA**<sup>®</sup>  
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS



## Organize it!

- Create a board or committee of volunteers, including residents and partners
- Collaborate with local wildfire expert to complete a community wildfire risk assessment



## Plan it!

- Develop a three-year action plan based on the site's risk reduction priorities
- Updated every 3 years in the portal



## Do it!

- Host a minimum of one wildfire risk-reduction or educational/outreach event
- Meet the minimum wildfire risk reduction investment (the equivalent value of one volunteer hour per house)



## Tell us about it

- Create a Firewise USA<sup>®</sup> Portal account and submit an application to your state Firewise USA liaison
- <http://portal.firewise.org>

# Firewise USA

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## Hawai'i Chapter



## HWMO & DLNR-DOFAW support HI's Firewise communities

- Coordinate hazard assessments for new sites
- Provide assistance with new and renewal NFPA applications
- Provide program updates and share resources on a regular basis
- Provided tailored support to Firewise committees
- Connect our sites to national, state, county, and other local efforts

## When funding is available

- Offer workshops/trainings (technical and community-building)
- Facilitate learning groups around topical areas of interest
- Offer financial assistance/reimbursements for community mitigation efforts

# Perks of joining your Firewise Committee

- **Community-building (new friends) :)**
- **Help determine community risk-reduction priorities**
- **Support neighborhood-level mitigation and educational projects**
- **Be part of the Hawai'i-Firewise Network and Big Island-Firewise 'Ohana (regular meetings and a Google Group listserv for learning and sharing)**
- **Be part of the group that decides how mitigation funds get spent**





# CONTACT US



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**[www.hawaiiwildfire.org](http://www.hawaiiwildfire.org)**

**QUESTIONS?  
COMMENTS?  
LET US KNOW!**