



Preparing our island communities for wildfires through Hawai'i's Firewise® USA program

Rev. Jan 2024

The national Firewise® USA program offers a framework for neighbors in fire-prone areas to get organized, find direction, and take action to increase the ignition resistance of their homes and communities. It also catalogs every community in the country that is working to build in wildfire resiliency and preparedness.

In partnership with Hawai'i's Division of Forestry & Wildlife (DOFAW) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) has been working with island communities across the state to help them achieve and maintain Firewise® USA recognition. The Hawai'i-Firewise approach is one of community building and capacity building within and between all of our communities. This includes actions that reduce wildfire hazards, such as promoting both individual and community-level responsibility for safer home construction and design, ongoing landscaping and vegetation maintenance, and taking actions that ensure effective emergency response.

If your community is interested, we can help you through the simple and achievable steps of the recognition process. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, our mission is to support your community's wildfire preparedness efforts, so we work hard to secure grants and other resources to provide these services at no cost to you or your community. Becoming a nationally recognized Firewise® USA community is an excellent step toward safeguarding your family, home, and neighborhood. Additionally, the community organizers (residential leaders) across Hawai'i have opportunities to get together, support each other, and learn from one another on an ongoing basis.

Benefits of becoming a Firewise® USA community

- Increase wildfire safety and resiliency/readiness
- Unite as a community
- Build new partnerships
- Gain greater access to federal grant funding for projects
- Be part of a growing movement in Hawai'i
- Have lots of fun!



FIREWISE USA®
Residents reducing wildfire risks



Learn more:

www.hawaiiwildfire.org/firewise-program
admin@hawaiiwildfire.org 808/885-0900



Checklist to Becoming (and Staying) a Firewise® USA Community

Form a Firewise Board & Start Application

The Firewise Board/Committee will be the governing body to plan projects and update the site's online profile. Once assembled, visit the Firewise USA website (www.firewise.org) to begin your site's application. **One time requirement.**

Complete a Community Hazard Assessment

A 2-3 hour assessment (depending on the size of the community) that HWMO and other wildfire experts can assist in completing. **Needs updating every 5 years.**

Create an Action Plan

After sitting down and reviewing the assessment with your committee and broader community, formulate an action plan to prioritize a list of risk reduction projects/investments, suggested homeowner actions, and education activities. **Needs updating every three years minimum.**

Take Action to Reduce Residential and Neighborhood Risk

Plan and carry out at least one wildfire risk reduction educational outreach event or related activity per year. **Per year basis for annual renewal.**

Invest a Minimum of 1 Hour of Volunteer Work Per Dwelling Unit

This includes cash, grants, and all volunteer hours related to wildfire risk reduction actions for the calendar year. **Per year basis for annual renewal.**

Submit Application

The final application must be submitted through the Firewise USA portal on portal.firewise.org. HWMO & DOFAW reviews the application and NFPA approves it. Then your community will be a nationally-recognized Firewise® community in good standing for the next calendar year. **Renewal applications are due every year in December.**

Join the Ranks Alongside Other Firewise-Recognized Communities Across Hawai'i!

Residential leaders are invited to participate in statewide meetings and technical workshops and trainings, all coordinated and hosted by HWMO (when funding is available).

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*****

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

COMMUNITIES ACROSS HAWAII:

- KAUAI:** Kamiloni Valley/ Mariner's Cove
- O'AHU:** Paniolo Hale
- MOLOKAI:** Launiupoko
- LANAI:** Waiohuli
- MAUI:** Kahikinui
- HAWAII:** Kohala by the Sea, Kohala Waterfront, Kohala Ranch, Kailapa, Waialea, Waikōloa Village, Pu'uanahulu, Wai'ula'ula at Mauna Kea Resort, Kanehoa, Pu'ukapu Pastoral, Waiki'i Ranch, Kamuela View Estates

Logos: Hawaii Firewise, HWMO, NFPA, Firewise USA