

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Office of Public and Indian Housing

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Enacted/ Requested	Carry over	Supplemental/ Rescission	Total Resources	Obligations	Net Outlays
2022 Appropriation	22,300	502	-	22,802	22,300	2,803
2023 Appropriation	22,300	502	-	22,802	22,650	3,631
2024 President's Budget	22,300	152	-	22,452	22,452	5,000
Change from 2023	-	(350)	-	(350)	(198)	1,369

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG) program funds a wide range of affordable housing activities on Hawaiian home lands. Eligible activities include new construction, rehabilitation, acquisition, infrastructure, and various support services. In addition, funds can be used to provide rental assistance to eligible Native Hawaiians residing on or off Hawaiian home lands. The sole recipient is the State of Hawaii's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL).

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The 2024 President's Budget requests \$22.3 million for the NHHBG program, which is equal to the 2023 enacted level. Up to \$1 million of the Budget is for training and technical assistance.

This investment will help increase the production of and access to affordable housing for Native Hawaiian families, as well as address the needs identified in the 2017 *Housing Needs of Native Hawaiians* Report.¹

This program aligns with HUD 2022-2026 Strategic Objective 2A: *Increase the Supply of Housing* and 2B: *Improve Rental Assistance*.

JUSTIFICATION

In May 2017, HUD published the *Housing Needs of Native Hawaiians*. According to the study, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders account for 39 percent of the State's overall homeless population, despite only representing 10 percent of the State's population. The study also indicates that Native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the Hawaiian home lands waiting list experience a higher rate of housing problems than Native Hawaiians overall and other residents of Hawaii. For example, 10 percent of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries on the waiting list lack complete plumbing facilities, 38 percent experience overcrowding, and 46 percent experience housing cost burdens by paying more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs.

¹ Housing Needs of Native Hawaiians: A Report from the Assessment of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Housing Needs (<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/housing-needs-native-hawaiians.html>)

Funding at the requested level would help address the large waiting list and backlog in Hawaiian home lands’ homestead applications, which in some years has been decades long, given the severe shortage of available habitable lots and substantial demand for housing. Additionally, it would allow DHHL to support tenants with rental assistance. As operation and maintenance costs increase, the additional subsidy is needed to keep rents affordable, especially for elderly tenants on fixed incomes. Without sufficient funds, DHHL will not be able to increase the production of and access to affordable housing for Native Hawaiian families.

Between 2002 and 2022, DHHL used NHHBG funds to help build, acquire, and rehabilitate 758 affordable homes and develop infrastructure improvements to approximately 693 lots meant for affordable housing construction. Funds have also been used to rehabilitate community centers, provide housing counseling, financial literacy training, and self-help home repair training to over 3,500 families.

Equity

This investment helps increase equity for Native Hawaiians by increasing the production of and access to affordable housing.

Stakeholders

Stakeholders include Native Hawaiians and DHHL. HUD’s Office of Native American Programs works with DHHL to provide a coordinated and comprehensive response to Native Hawaiian housing and community development needs.

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES BY PROGRAM

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Activity	2022 Budget Authority	2021 Carry over Into 2022	2022 Total Resources	2022 Obligations	2023 Appropriation	2022 Carry over Into 2023	2023 Total Resources	2024 President's Budget
Grants	22,300	-	22,300	22,300	22,300	-	22,300	22,300
Technical Assistance	-	502	502	-	[1,000]	502	502	[1,000]
Total	22,300	502	22,802	22,300	22,300	502	22,802	22,300

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

None.

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The 2024 President’s Budget includes proposed changes in the appropriations language listed below. New language is italicized, and language proposed for deletion is bracketed.

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.), \$22,300,000, to remain available until September 30, [2027] *2028: Provided*, That notwithstanding section 812(b) of such Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may not invest grant amounts made available under this heading in investment securities and other obligations: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this and prior fiscal years may be used to

provide rental assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian families both on and off the Hawaiian Home Lands, notwithstanding any other provision of law: *Provided further*, That up to \$1,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading [shall]*may* be for training and technical assistance related to amounts made available under this heading and other headings in this Act for the needs of Native Hawaiians and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. (*Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2023.*)