

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of the* INTERIOR

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) protects and manages the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities.

BUILDING ON DOI'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- RESTORING HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS:** In June 2021, DOI and the Department of Commerce facilitated the transfer of an 80-acre parcel of surplus federal property at the former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center on O'ahu to the State of Hawai'i's Department of Hawaiian Home Lands for inclusion in the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust. This effort will help fulfill the terms of a settlement agreement authorized by Congress in 1995 to compensate Native Hawaiians for the lost use of 1,500 acres of lands set aside as potential homelands but subsequently acquired and used by the U.S. government for other purposes.
- HONORING AND PRESERVING AA AND NHPI HISTORY:** On March 18, 2022, the Amache National Historic Site in Colorado was designated as the newest component of the National Park System. Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, was one of ten incarceration sites established during World War II to detain Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast of the United States.
- INVESTING IN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES:** Spanning 2020 and 2021, the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) provided \$55 million through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in grant assistance for facilities, medicine, food, and supplies to Pacific Islander populations in the U.S. territories, the Freely Associated States of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands, and to support OIA's Insular Area Pacific Islander populations in the contiguous United States.
- HONORING THE CULTURES AND PRACTICES OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES:** In September 2021, DOI awarded two Native Hawaiian community International Traditional Knowledge Grants to the nonprofit Koa Ike and the Hanalei River Heritage Foundation. The grants represent a new pilot project to support the sharing among the Native Hawaiian and other indigenous communities in the Pacific of traditional knowledge and contemporary approaches to stewardship, resilience, and adaptation of their respective lands, waters, and practices in the face of climate change and the expanding threat of invasive species.

PRIORITY PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Per Executive Order 14031, DOI has identified five high-priority goals that will span the next two years. These goals will advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

GOAL 1

Standardize the use of the Native Hawaiian language (‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i) by DOI: DOI’s Office of Native Hawaiian Relations (ONHR) is developing a Departmental Manual (DM) chapter, in consultation with the Native Hawaiian community, to standardize the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. The ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i chapter will ensure that bureaus and offices across DOI use ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i consistently and will serve as a model for other federal agencies to follow in recognition that appropriate and meaningful engagement with the Native Hawaiian community is furthered by the respectful and proper use and treatment of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i.

GOAL 2

Codifying DOI’s policy and process on consultation with the Native Hawaiian community: The ONHR has drafted two DM chapters that provide the policy and process for consultation between DOI officials and the Native Hawaiian community. The action was inspired by DOI’s desire to affirm and honor the special political and trust relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian community and to further reconciliation through the policy and practice of meaningful consultation. The Department is currently conducting consultation on the chapters.

GOAL 3

Improve access to, and awareness of, Tribal discretionary grant funding available to Native Hawaiian organizations: DOI will improve transparency and technical assistance to address barriers that Native Hawaiian organizations face in applying for and receiving federal grants. Activities include incorporating additional steps/activities within the grants process to provide (upon request) feedback to organizations whose grants were not awarded; increase grants staff support to improve awareness and assistance; and partner with Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs).

GOAL 4

Promote equity and inclusion by ensuring the history of AA and NHPIs is part of America’s storytelling: In 2016, NPS published a theme study entitled, “Finding a Path Forward: Asian American/Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Theme Study.” The NPS has continued to review sites that tell the story of AA and NHPI contributions to American history.

GOAL 5

Ensure that the U.S. Pacific territories (American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam) can successfully compete for funding made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: DOI will continue to work with the territories to support capacity challenges through OIA existing grant programs, track progress of grant proposals, and maintain strong communications among parties throughout the process. DOI is also working to secure matching fund waivers and is establishing a 3% carve-out for infrastructure funding targeted only to U.S. territories.