

New Report Shows Landmark Gains in Land Conservation in Hawaii

The National Land Trust Census

A new report issued by the Land Trust Alliance in Washington, D.C., cites record numbers of acres being conserved by private nonprofit land trusts across the U.S., with an increase of 96% nationally from 2000-2005. This trend proved true across **Hawaii** as well, which reported an increase of **67%** in acres conserved over the same period.

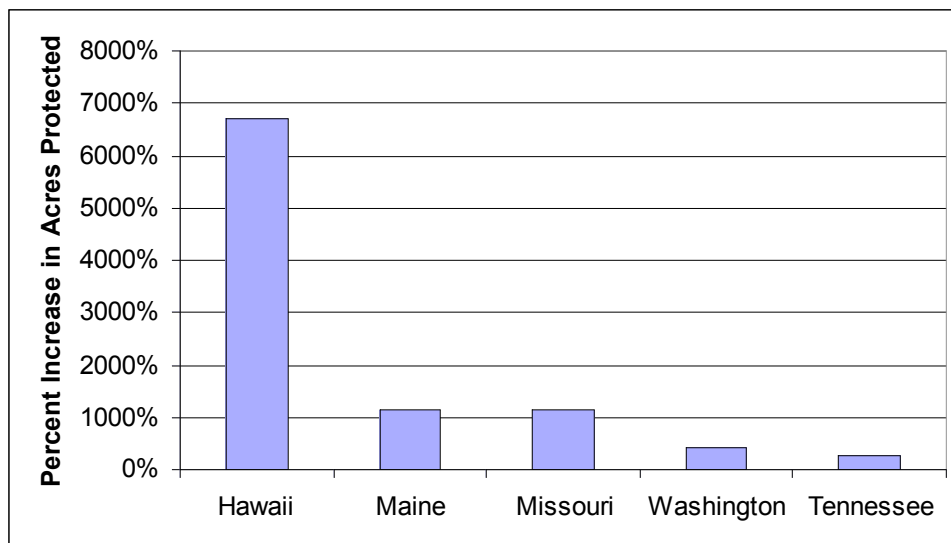
The **National Land Trust Census** provides an in-depth picture of America's private voluntary land conservation movement and is the nation's only tabulation of this progress. Over the past five years, the number of land trusts has grown by 32% to a total of 1,667.

Land trusts in each state are working to conserve important land in their communities, including farms, waterways, scenic vistas, forests, urban gardens and parks. These protected lands serve to safeguard water quality, protect wildlife habitat, preserve working family farms, and create opportunities for kids and adults alike to enjoy green space in their neighborhoods.

Hawaii's Trends in Conservation: 2000-2005

- Land trusts in Hawaii have protected 536 acres since 2000; this represents a 6,700% increase in acres conserved!
- As of 2005 there are 14 land trusts operating in Hawaii, a 180% increase
- Hawaii land trusts have increased their full-time and part-time staff 80% in five years
- Land trust supporters and volunteers in Hawaii went up 313%, to a total of 900 in 2005

Top 5 States for Percent Increase in Acres Protected for 2000-2005



National Trends in Conservation

- America's **1,667** local and regional land trusts doubled the acreage conserved between **2000 and 2005**, from 6,056,624 acres in 2000 to **11,890,109** acres by the end of 2005, meaning land trusts protected, on average, more than **1 million** new acres each year.
- A record **6.246 million** acres have been protected by using the private voluntary land conservation agreements, often called conservation easements. That's 148% more than what was protected just five years ago.
- The **11,890,109** acres that local and regional land trusts have protected nationwide represent an area twice the size of New Hampshire.

Additional information about the National Land Trust Census, along with a state-by-state summary of acreage protected, is available on the Land Trust Alliance website, www.lta.org.

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The Land Trust Alliance was formed in 1982 to advance the mission of land trusts. Since its inception, the Land Trust Alliance has trained thousands of conservation leaders, won new federal tax incentives for conservation on private lands, and developed standards and practices to professionalize and safeguard the work of America's land trusts. The Land Trust Alliance connects land trusts, so that every land trust can benefit from the collective wisdom and innovations of the entire community. It is based in Washington, D.C. with field offices in most regions of the country. For more information, please visit www.lta.org.