

# The Rural Community Development (RCD) Program

Helping Hawaii's rural and native Hawaiian communities build and maintain safe water and wastewater systems



## Hawaii State Facts



**120** community water systems

**78** water systems serve communities with fewer than 3,300 people

**\$272 million** estimated water infrastructure need for small systems

**13.9%** of the population lives in a rural area

Sources: EPA, Census

## About the RCD Program

The [Rural Community Development \(RCD\)](#) grant program builds capacity to create, expand, and maintain safe, affordable water and wastewater systems in rural areas. RCD serves very small communities in sparsely populated areas made up predominately of residents with low income who lack safe water and wastewater treatment services and sometimes even indoor plumbing. RCD tailors its support based on community need. It helps communities assess water and wastewater infrastructure and accessibility needs, helps identify and secure funding for water facility upgrades, builds capacity through local experts to establish and maintain water facilities, and trains water operators to ensure water systems are functional and compliant. There are currently [eight RCD grant recipients](#) — six regional organizations and two organizations that support tribal communities. RCD grant recipients [Rural Community Assistance Corporation \(RCAC\)](#) and [Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. \(ITCA\)](#) serve communities in the state of Hawaii.

## Example of RCD's Support in Hawaii

### Kawaihae Village, Hawaii

The Kawaihae Village Board began experiencing water main breaks due to system pressure, and the board members could not pinpoint why the breaks were happening. With RCD funding, RCAC helped the Kawaihae Village Board identify the reasons for system pressure issues. RCAC examined the water meters and verified that all had operable pressure regulator valves. Additional inspections by RCAC revealed that the problems were due to the water system's age and infrastructure. Correctly identifying the problem allowed the town to move forward with an appropriate solution that included fixing the system pressure issues to serve the town's 100 residents.

## National Outcomes\*

With the help of RCD:



**\$742 million**  
in additional funding  
secured for communities



**83,000 residents**  
have gained access to  
safe drinking water



**49,000 residents**  
have gained access to  
sanitary sewer systems



**2,100 communities**  
served by RCD projects

\*Outcomes for RCD grant recipients' work across the country since FY21



For more information about the Rural Community Development (RCD) Program, [visit the RCD website](#) and the [RCD Information and Data Dashboard](#).

For more information about OCS's other anti-poverty programs, [visit the OCS website](#).