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## **Kauai County Named Preserve America Community** *Designation celebrated at special public event on September 2*

LIHUE, HAWAII – Kauai County’s designation as a Preserve America Community was celebrated at a special event on Sept. 2 at the Lihue Civic Center, Moikeha Building Courtyard.

Among those participating were U.S. Rep. Mazie E. Hirono, Kauai County Deputy Mayor Gary K. Heu, and Daniel J. Basta, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

“Historic preservation, through efforts such as heritage tourism, provides a community significant economic, educational, and cultural benefits,” Basta said. “Sustainable preservation is not a cost for maintaining the past; it is an investment in the future. Preserve America Communities are to be commended for their dedication to historic preservation and their visions for civic improvement. Congratulations to Kauai County on its designation.”

Through this prestigious designation, the county becomes eligible for Preserve America Grants and other assistance to its historic preservation and heritage tourism efforts. Kauai County is the third designated Hawaii Preserve America Community. Others are Maui County and Honolulu’s Chinatown Historic District neighborhood. To date, two Preserve America matching grants have been awarded in Hawaii. One, for developing visitor infrastructure for Chinatown, was for \$150,000. The second, for \$51,727, went to the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office for the Ewa Villages Heritage Tourism Plan.

“Designating Kauai County as a Preserve America Community now strengthens the partnership between county departments, island organizations and the federal government in order to protect the Garden Island’s rich history and unique culture,” said Congresswoman Hirono. “Through this partnership, generations of residents and visitors can now learn more about the numerous natural and historic gifts Kauai has to offer.”

The Preserve America program is a federal effort to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America’s priceless cultural and natural heritage.

“The county looks forward to being an active participant as a Preserve America Community and to presenting projects for funding that will preserve the unique culture and history of Kauai,” said Heu, in accepting the designation on behalf of Kauai County.

Preserve America is administered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in partnership with other federal agencies. Its goals include a greater shared knowledge about the nation’s past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country’s cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of communities. Preserve America began as a White House initiative in 2003. More than 750 cities, counties, tribes, and neighborhoods in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been designated Preserve America Communities. See [www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov) for more information.

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