

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Hawaii

REFUGEES IN HAWAII

The United States has been a leader in welcoming [refugees](#) who seek safety from persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Following World War II, the U.S. began welcoming refugees and over time the system has evolved to have a strong infrastructure centered on [public-private partnerships](#). Communities across the U.S. have recognized the important economic and social benefits of resettling refugees. Hawaii residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to HI communities.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN HAWAII

In addition to [programming](#) to support refugees when they first arrive to the United States, the federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations for community and short-term refugee support. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, access to English language classes, vocational and employment assistance.

| FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO HAWAII FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Total | Cash & Medical Assistance | Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program | Refugee Social Services |
| \$188,683 | \$29,693 | \$83,990 | \$75,000 |

Another service available to refugees in Hawaii is the employment [Matching Grant Services](#), administered by Voluntary Agencies in the state. An alternative to public cash assistance, private agencies match federal contributions and provide intensive case management services to help refugees get employed and become self-sufficient within 120 days of arrival. The Pacific Gateway Center helps to administer these grants.

REFUGEES MAKE HAWAII STRONG

[The Governor of Hawaii, David Ige](#), said he would work with the federal government to ensure the state has the resources to help Syrian refugees in December of 2015. Ige said, **"Hawaii is the Aloha State, known for its tradition of welcoming all people with tolerance and mutual respect."** In his statement, Ige explained that the United States and Hawaii have had a long history of welcoming refugees who were affected by war and oppression.

DID YOU KNOW?

Immigrants comprise 18% of Hawaii's population and pay \$2.2B in taxes annually? 42,169 workers are employed by immigrant owned businesses and immigrant spending power is measured at \$5.8B/year. Facts from [New American Economy](#), 2019

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN HAWAII

- **USCRI, Pacific Gateway Center**, Honolulu

In addition to this agency, many ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) exist throughout the state to help various refugee communities integrate and succeed in their new homes. These organizations are run by refugees to aid in the resettlement of fellow refugees by providing a variety of direct services, increasing civic participation, and preserve the community's cultural identity and history.