

# Letter: Fast action urged to meet growing heat threat (July 1, 2025, Honolulu Star-Advertiser)

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STAR-ADVERTISER / 2020 Trees planted at the North King Street entrance of Kekaulike Mall offers shoppers shade in the middle of downtown.

Sunday's "[Turning up the heat](#)" columns in the Star-Advertiser Insight section rightly underscore the growing threat that extreme heat poses to public health, economic stability and energy infrastructure — and the alarming rollback of federal climate preparedness under the Trump administration.

As Washington retreats, state, local and nonprofit organizations are stepping in to close the gap. One such example: Trees for Honolulu's Future had an EPA grant to work with Title 1 public high school students to map heat on their campus and identify and implement solutions. That grant was abruptly terminated in March. But instead of abandoning those most in need, we are raising alternative funding to continue the initiative.

We suggest the city's "Keep Cool O'ahu" website ([resilientoahu.org/keepcoolohu](https://resilientoahu.org/keepcoolohu)), which provides data-driven insights and recommends actions (including more trees!), to help the public at large respond to the increasing scourge of heat.

Waiting is not a winning strategy. Acting now is.

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Trees for Honolulu's Future