- Ecosystem carbon balance in the Hawaiian Islands under
- different scenarios of future climate and land use change

```
Paul C. Selmants<sup>1,6</sup>, Benjamin M. Sleeter<sup>2</sup>, Jinxun Liu<sup>1</sup>, Tamara S. Wilson<sup>1</sup>,
```

Clay Trauernicht<sup>3</sup>, Abby G. Frazier<sup>4</sup>, Gregory P. Asner<sup>5</sup>

#### Affiliations:

- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, Moffett Field, CA, USA
- <sup>8</sup> <sup>2</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, Seattle, WA, USA
- <sup>9</sup> University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI, USA
- <sup>4</sup>The East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, USA
- <sup>5</sup>Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, USA
- <sup>6</sup>Author to whom correspondence should be addressed
- 13 Email: pselmants@usgs.gov
- Running title: Hawai'i carbon balance
- Keywords: land use, climate change, carbon balance, Hawai'i, scenarios, disturbance, ecosystem
- 16 model
- 17 **Date:** February 09, 2021

### 18 Abstract

The State of Hawai'i passed legislation to be carbon neutral by 2045, a goal that will partly depend on carbon sequestration by terrestrial ecosystems. However, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the future direction and magnitude of the land carbon sink in the Hawaiian Islands. We used simulation modeling to assess how projected future changes in climate and land use will influence ecosystem carbon balance in the Hawaiian Islands under all combinations of two radiative forcing scenarios (RCPs 4.5 and 8.5) and two land-use scenarios (low and high) over a 90-year timespan from 2010-2100. Collectively, terrestrial ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands acted as a net carbon sink under low radiative forcing (RCP 4.5) for the entire 90-year simulation period, with low land-use change further enhancing carbon sink strength. In contrast, Hawaiian terrestrial ecosystems 27 transitioned from a net sink to a net source of CO2 to the atmosphere under high radiative forcing (RCP 8.5), with high land-use accelerating this transition and exacerbating net carbon loss. A sensitivity test of the CO2 fertilization effect on plant productivity revealed it to be a major source of uncertainty in projections of ecosystem carbon balance. Reconciling this uncertainty in how net 31 photosynthesis will respond to rising atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> will be essential to realistically constrain 32 simulation models used to evaluate the effectiveness of ecosystem-based climate mitigation strategies.

## 34 Introduction

Terrestrial ecosystems are a major sink for atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), removing ~30% of
human emissions on an annual basis and reducing the rate of increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (Keenan
and Williams 2018, Friedlingstein *et al* 2019). There is increasing recognition among policymakers
that natural and angricultural ecosystems can contribute to climate mitigation, which has given rise to
the popularity of "natural carbon solutions" (Cameron *et al* 2017). Defined as conservation and land
management efforts aimed at enhancing ecosystem carbon storage (Griscom *et al* 2017), natural
climate solutions are appealing because they are seen as cost-effective and readily available
(Galarraga *et al* 2017, Cameron *et al* 2017, Fargione *et al* 2018). However, effective implementation

is complicated by the uncertainty surrounding the future direction and magnitude of the land carbon sink, especially at the regional scale. Despite this uncertainty, evidence indicates that both interannual and long-term variability in carbon uptake by land ecosystems is driven primarily by fluctuations in climate, land use, and land cover change (Ahlström et al 2015, Prestele et al 2017, Friedlingstein et al 2019). Incorporating the interactive effects of land use and climate into spatially explicit future projections of ecosystem carbon balance could therefore provide a reference point to evaluate the effectiveness of land-based mitigation. Although a complex challenge, the growing number of sub-national jurisdictions that plan to incorporate land-based mitigation strategies into their emissions reduction efforts would benefit from understanding how future land-use and climate-biosphere 51 feedbacks will affect ecosystem carbon balance in their respective regions (Sleeter et al 2019). The State of Hawai'i exemplifies the challenges associated with projecting the interactive effects of 53 future climate and land use change on ecosystem carbon balance at a regional scale. Hawai'i was the first U.S. state to enact legislation committing to full carbon neutrality, requiring the state to account for and offset all of its greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 (State of Hawai'i Acts 15 and 16). This legislation emphasizes the mitigation potential of natural ecosystems as a key component to emissions reduction, necessitating baseline estimates and future projections of land carbon sink strength. However, Hawai'i's challenging terrain complicates these assessment efforts. The main Hawaiian Islands are a complex mosaic of natural and human-dominated landscapes overlain by steep climate gradients across relatively short distances (Fig. S3), with mean annual temperature ranging from ~4-24° C (Giambelluca et al 2014) and mean annual rainfall ranging from ~180-9500 mm (Giambelluca et al 2013). Temperatures have risen rapidly in the Hawaiian Islands since the mid 1970s (Giambelluca et al 2008) and a long-term drying trend has persisted since the early 1920s (Frazier and Giambelluca 2017), resulting in reduced forest biomass and productivity (Barbosa and Asner 2017). These same drying and warming trends have increased the frequency and intensity of wildland fire (Trauernicht et al 2015, Trauernicht 2019) with predictable negative effects on ecosystem carbon balance (Selmants et al 2017). Ecosystem carbon stocks across the main Hawaiian Islands have also been strongly influenced by the legacy of past land-use change (Osher et al 2003,

Asner et al 2011). Thousands of hectares of land were deforested beginning in the late 19th century to clear land for sugar plantations and cattle pasture (Cuddihy and Stone 1990). Since the mid-20th 71 century, much of this agricultural land has been steadily converted to urban areas, commercial forestry plantations, or simply abandoned and colonized by non-native grass species (Suryanata 2009, 73 Perroy et al 2016). Although these past trends surely inform the future impact of climate and land-use change on ecosystem carbon balance, high spatial and temporal heterogeneity complicates 75 realistic projection efforts. To date only one study has attempted to integrate land-use, climate, and natural disturbances into future projections of Hawaiian ecosystem carbon balance, with projections 77 limited to the mid-21st century under a single land-use change scenario and moderate radiative forcing (SRES A1B, equivalent to RCP 6; Selmants et al 2017). Here we consider four unique scenarios exploring a range of assumptions about future climate, land 80 use, land cover, disturbance, and global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We used a stochastic, spatially explicit 81 simulation model to estimate ecosystem carbon balance for Hawai'i's natural and agricultural lands 82 under each of these four scenarios on an annual basis for the period 2010–2100 (Daniel et al 2016, 2018, Sleeter et al 2019). The four unique scenarios represent all combinations of two land-use change pathways (low and high) and two radiative forcing pathways (representative concentration 85 pathway [RCP] 4.5 and 8.5). In addition to these four scenarios, we conducted a separate series of simulations to examine how ecosystem carbon balance estimates vary in response to different levels of a CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect (CFE) on net primary productivity (NPP; Sleeter et al 2019). our goals were to estimate changes in Hawaiian ecosystem carbon balance and their uncertainties under a range of plausible future scenarios, quantify the relative impact of major controlling processes such as land use change, disturbance, and climate change, and assess the sensitivity of model estimates to the introduction of a CFE on NPP.

### 93 Methods

We used the Land Use and Carbon Scenario Simulator (LUCAS), an integrated landscape change and carbon gain-loss model, to project changes in ecosystem carbon balance for the seven main Hawaiian Islands under all combinations of two land-use scenarios (low and high) and two radiative forcing scenarios (RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5). We also developed a separate set of scenarios to test model sensitivity to different levels of a CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect (CFE). The landscape change portion of LUCAS is a state-and-transition model that applies a Monte Carlo approach to track the state type and age of each simulation cell in response to a pre-determined set of transitions (Daniel et al 2016). 100 The carbon gain-loss portion tracks carbon stocks within each simulation cell over time as continuous 101 state variables, along with a pre-defined set of continuous flows specifying rates of change in stock 102 levels over time (Daniel et al 2018, Sleeter et al 2019). We parameterized the Hawai'i LUCAS 103 model to estimate annual changes in carbon stocks and fluxes in response to land use, land use 104 change, wildland fire, and long-term climate variability for the time period 2010-2100. 105

#### 106 Study area

The spatial extent of this study was the terrestrial portion of the seven main Hawaiian Islands (figure 1), a total land area of 16,554 km<sup>2</sup>. We subdivided this landscape into a grid of 264,870 simulation cells, each of which was 250 x 250 m in size. Each simulation cell was assigned to one of 210 possible state types based on the unique combination of three moisture zones (dry, mesic, and wet; figure S1), seven islands, and ten discrete land cover classes (figure 1).

#### **States and transitions**

We developed two land-use scenarios (low and high) with transition pathways modified from Daniel et al (2016). Transitions between state types were pre-defined to represent urbanization, agricultural contraction, agricultural expansion, harvesting of tree plantations, and wildfire. Agriculture, forest,

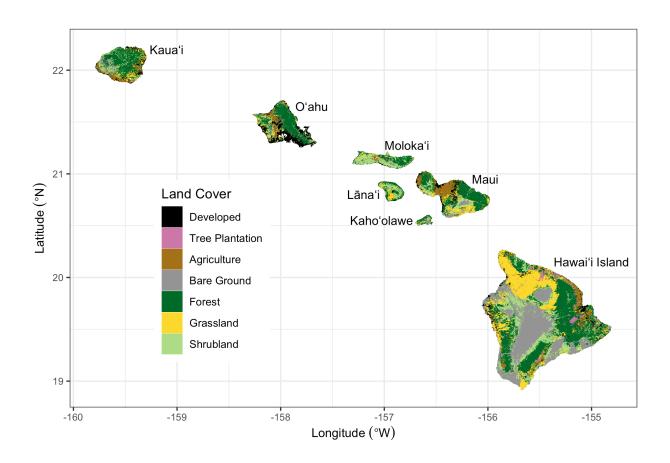


Figure 1: Land cover classification of the seven main Hawaiian Islands, adapted from Jacobi et al (2017). Agriculture in this map combines herbaceous and woody crops, but these two crop types are treated as separate land cover classes in the simulation model. Water and Wetland land cover classes are not shown.

grassland, tree plantation, and shrubland state types each had multiple transition pathways, while the barren state type could only transition to developed (i.e., urbanization). There was no transition pathway out of an urbanized (developed) state. Water and wetland state types remained static 118 throughout the simulation period. Transition targets were based on historical trends of land use change in the Hawaiian Islands from 120 1992-2011 (NOAA 2020) and on population projections for the State of Hawai'i (Kim and Bai 2018). For the high land-use scenario, transition rates for each timestep and Monte Carlo realization were sampled from uniform distributions bounded by the median and maximum historical rates of agricultural contraction, agricultural expansion, and urbanization for each island. For the low 124 land-use scenario, rates of agricultural contraction and expansion were sampled from uniform 125 distributions bounded by zero and the minimum historical rates for each island. Urbanization rates in 126 the low land-use scenario were based on island-level population estimates and projections at five year 127 intervals from 2010-2045 (Kim and Bai 2018). We converted population projections into 128 urbanization transition targets following Sleeter et al (2017) by calculating population density for 129 each island and then projecting future developed area based on the five-year incremental change in 130 island population. The spatial extent of agricultural contraction, agricultural expansion, and 131 urbanization was constrained in both land-use scenarios based on existing zoning maps (Daniel et al 132

The wildfire transition sub-model was modified from Daniel *et al* (2016) by incorporating a new 21-year historical wildfire spatial database of the Hawaiian Islands (figure S2). We used this new spatial database to calculate historical wildfire size distribution and ignition probabilities for each unique combination of moisture zone (figure S1), island, and state type (figure 1) for the years

2016). Transition targets for tree plantation harvest were set at  $\sim$ 75% of recent historical rates in the

high land-use scenario and ~40% of recent historical rates in the low land-use scenario (Daniel et al

2016). In both land-use scenarios, approximately 60% of tree plantation harvests were replacement

harvests resulting in conversion to agriculture. The remaining 40% were rotation harvests replanted

133

134

135

to Eucalyptus spp.

1999-2019. Starting in 2020, the number and size of fires was randomly drawn from one of these
historical year-sets for each timestep and Monte Carlo realization, using burn severity probabilities
from Selmants *et al* (2017). Wildfire in the low land-use scenario was sampled from the subset of
historical fire years at or below the median area burned statewide from 1999-2019. The high land-use
scenario sampled from historical fire years above the median area burned over the same 21-year
period (Fig. S2a).

## Carbon stocks and flows

The fate of carbon stocks was tracked for each simulation cell based on a suite of carbon flows (i.e., carbon fluxes) specifying the rates of change in these carbon stocks over time (Daniel et al 2018, 150 Sleeter et al 2019). We defined carbon stocks as continuous state variables for each simulation cell, 151 including live biomass, standing dead wood, down dead wood, litter, and soil organic carbon. We 152 also included and tracked carbon in atmospheric, aquatic, and harvest product pools to enforce carbon 153 mass balance (Daniel et al 2018). To transfer carbon between stocks, we defined baseline carbon 154 flows as continuous variables resulting from growth, mortality, deadfall, woody decay, litter 155 decomposition, and leaching (which includes runoff). We also defined carbon flows resulting from 156 land use, land use change, and wildfire (Selmants et al 2017, Daniel et al 2018). 157 Initial carbon stocks and baseline carbon flows were estimated based on the moisture zone (figure S1), 158 state type, and age of each simulation cell using a lookup table derived from the Integrated Biosphere 150 Simulator (IBIS; Foley et al 1996, Liu et al 2020), a process-based dynamic global vegetation model. 160 We initiated IBIS with minimal vegetation and simulated forward for 110 years using 30-year climate 161 normals for the Hawaiian Islands (Giambelluca et al 2013, 2014). We calibrated IBIS carbon stocks 162 with statewide gridded datasets of soil organic carbon (Soil Survey Staff 2016) and forest 163 aboveground live biomass (Asner et al 2016). We also calibrated gross photosynthesis in IBIS using a Hawai'i-specific gridded dataset derived from MODIS satellite imagery (Kimball et al 2017). 165 Carbon flow rates for each state type and moisture zone were estimated as the ratio of the

IBIS-derived flux to the size of the originating carbon stock at each age (Sleeter *et al* 2018). A spatially explicit stationary growth multiplier was applied to each simulation cell to reflect local 168 variations in net primary productivity (NPP) driven by microclimate. This spatial growth multiplier 169 was the NPP anomaly for each cell relative to mean values for each combination of state type and 170 moisture zone (Sleeter et al 2019) calculated using empirical relationships between total annual NPP 171 and mean annual rainfall or temperature (Schuur 2003, Del Grosso et al 2008). Climate change 172 impacts on carbon flows were represented by temporal growth and decay multipliers applied to each 173 simulation cell based on statistically downscaled CMIP5 climate projections for the Hawaiian Islands 174 under each of two radiative forcing scenarios (RCP 4.5 and RCP 8.5; Timm et al 2015, Timm 2017). 175 The impact of future changes in rainfall and temperature on NPP were represented by annual growth 176 multipliers calculated using empirical NPP models (Schuur 2003, Del Grosso et al 2008) and climate 177 model projections of temperature and rainfall for each radiative forcing scenario. The effect of future 178 warming on turnover rates of dead organic matter were represented by temporal decay multipliers 179 calculated using Q10 functions and climate model temperature projections for each radiative forcing 180 scenario. We applied a Q10 of 2.0 for wood and soil organic matter decay flows (Kurz et al 2009, 181 Sleeter et al 2019) and a Q10 of 2.17 for litter decay flows (Bothwell et al 2014). Transition-triggered 182 carbon flows resulting from disturbances associated with land use change, timber harvesting, and wildfire were based on values from Don et al (2011), Selmants et al (2017), and Daniel et al (2018).

# 185 CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect

Increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations stimulate leaf-level photosynthesis, potentially increasing NPP as well (Walker *et al* 2020). However, the magnitude and persistence of this effect is highly uncertain, particularly across a range of climatic conditions and over long time spans (Walker *et al* 2020). Following Sleeter *et al* (2019), we developed a separate set of scenarios designed to test the sensitivity of LUCAS model projections of ecosystem carbon balance to different rates of a CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect (CFE). We incorporated a CFE multiplier for NPP that represented the percent increase in NPP for every 100 ppm increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration under the high land

use and high radiative forcing (RCP 8.5) scenario. We tested five CFE levels ranging from 5% to
15%, which is within the range of CFEs observed in free air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment (FACE) experiments.
For all levels, we assumed CFEs reached saturation at an atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of 600 ppm,
with no further stimulation of NPP despite a continued increase in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to 930 ppm by
2100. This 600ppm threshold generally coincides with the upper limit from FACE experiments and is
reached by the year 2060 under RCP 8.5.

## Scenario simulations and analysis

Each of the four unique scenarios were run for 90 years at an annual timestep and repeated for 30 200 Monte Carlo realizations, using initial conditions corresponding to the year 2010. All simulations 201 were performed within the SyncroSim (version 2.2.4) software framework with ST-Sim (version 202 3.2.13) and SF (version 3.2.10) add-on modules (Daniel et al 2016, 2018). Model inputs and outputs 203 were prepared with the R statistical computing platform (R Core Team 2019) using the tidyverse 204 (Wickham et al 2019), raster (Hijmans 2020), and rsyncrosim (Daniel et al 2020) packages. Carbon 205 stocks and fluxes for the seven main Hawaiian Islands were calculated for each scenario by summing 206 within each Monte Carlo realization on an annual basis and then calculating annual means as well as 207 the annual upper and lower limits of the 30 Monte Carlo realizations. Carbon balance for the seven 208 main Hawaiian Islands was calculated on annual basis for each scenario and Monte Carlo realization 209 as net biome productivity (NBP), which was equal to annual carbon input in the form of NPP minus 210 the annual sum of all carbon losses from terrestrial ecosystems, including heterotrophic respiration 211 (R<sub>h</sub>) from litter and soil, carbon fluxes to the atmosphere triggered by land use and land-use change, 212 wildfire emissions, and aquatic carbon losses through leaching and overland flow. Positive NBP 213 values indicated ecosystems of the seven main Hawaiian Islands were acting as a net sink for atmospheric CO2, while negative NBP values indicated that these ecosystems were acting as a net 215 carbon source to the atmosphere (Chapin et al 2006).

### 217 Results

## 218 Carbon stocks and fluxes

Terrestrial ecosystems of the seven main Hawaiian Islands stored an estimated 316 Tg of carbon at 219 the beginning of the simulation period in 2010, with 58% in soil organic matter, 22% in living 220 biomass, and 20% in surface dead organic matter (litter and dead wood; figure 2a). Ecosystems 221 accumulated carbon in all scenarios but at different rates, with trajectories shaped primarily by 222 climate change and to a lesser extent by land-use change. The highest and most consistent projected 223 accumulation of ecosystem carbon occured under the combination of low radiative forcing and low 224 land use change, yielding a ~15% increase in ecosystem carbon to an average of 363 Tg by 2100 225 (figure 2a). In contrast, high radiative forcing and high land use change resulted in the lowest 226 ecosystem carbon gain, reaching a peak of ~332 Tg in 2063 but declining to 327 Tg in 2100, resulting 227 in a net increase of only 3% by the end of the simulation period (figure 2a). Ecosystem carbon accumulation was driven exclusively by increasing soil organic carbon across all four scenarios, all other stocks declined over time (figure 2b).

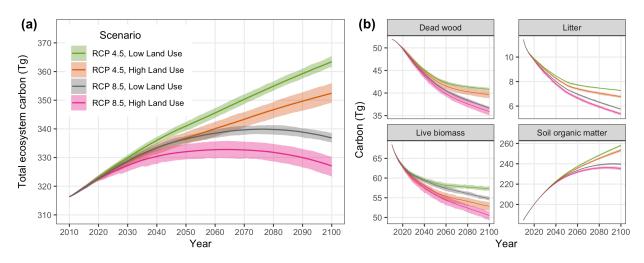


Figure 2: Projected changes in total ecosystem carbon storage (a) and individual carbon stocks (b) for the seven main Hawaiian Islands. Solid lines indicate the mean of 30 Monte Carlo realizations for each scenario, with shaded areas indicating the minimum and maximum range of Monte Carlo realizations.

Net primary production (NPP) for the seven main Hawaiian Islands declined across all four scenarios,

driven primarily by climate change and to a lesser extent by land use change (Fig. 3). The combination of high radiative forcing (RCP 8.5) and high land-use change led to the steepest decline 233 in NPP over time, driven by intense long-term drying on the leeward sides of islands under RCP 8.5 (figure S4) and sustained losses of forest and shrubland land area in the high land-use scenario (figure 235 S5). In contrast, climate change led to increased heterotrophic respiration (R<sub>h</sub>) over time, such that 236 more intense warming under RCP 8.5 (figure S4) resulted in R<sub>h</sub> being ~3% higher by 2100 than under 237 RCP 4.5 (figure 3). Land-use change substantially reduced R<sub>h</sub> in the high land-use scenario (figure 3) 238 because of long-term reductions in forest and shrubland land area (figure S5), similar to trends in 239 NPP. Transition-triggered carbon fluxes to the atmosphere from land use, land-use change, and 240 wildfire were largely independent of changes in climate, stabilizing by mid-century at an average of 241  $\sim$ 0.4 Tg y<sup>-1</sup> in the high land-use scenario and  $\sim$ 0.2 Tg y<sup>-1</sup> in the low land-use scenario (figure 3). Uncertainty around transition-triggered carbon fluxes were higher in the high land-use scenario, 243 driven primarily by greater variability in wildland fire probabilities.

#### 245 Ecosystem carbon balance

Net biome productivity (NBP) averaged approximately 0.6 Tg C y<sup>-1</sup> at the start of the simulation 246 period and declined over time in all four scenarios (figure 4). On average, terrestrial ecosystems of the 247 seven main Hawaiian Islands collectively acted as a net carbon sink throughout the simulation period 248 under the RCP 4.5 radiative forcing scenario, but carbon sink strength was ~40% lower in the high 249 land-use scenario compared to the low land-use scenario by the end of the simulation period (figure 250 4). In contrast, ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands acted as a net carbon source to the atmosphere 251 toward the latter half of the simulation period under RCP 8.5, with the transition from sink to source 252 occuring 15 years earlier on average in the high land-use scenario than in the low land-use scenario 253 (figure 4). The high land-use scenario under RCP 8.5 represented a ~40% larger net source of carbon 254 to the atmosphere by the year 2100 than the low-land use scenario under the same radiative forcing. 255 Over the entire simulation period, both global emissions reductions and local avoided land 256 conversion resulted in substantial increases in cumulative NBP (figure 5). However, switching from

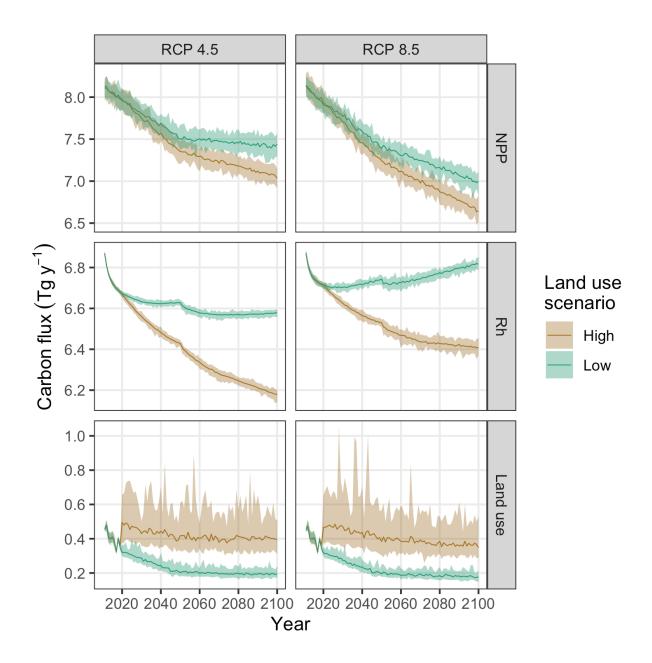


Figure 3: Projected changes in net primary production (NPP), heterotrophic respiration (Rh) and carbon fluxes induced by land use and land-use change for the seven main Hawaiian Islands. Solid lines indicate the mean of 30 Monte Carlo realizations for each scenario, with shaded areas indicating the minimum and maximum range of Monte Carlo realizations.

RCP 8.5 to RCP 4.5 increased cumulative NBP in the Hawaiian Islands more than twice as much as reducing emissions from local land-use change and wildfire disturbance (figure 5). Switching from RCP 8.5 to RCP 4.5 under the low land-use scenario yielded the greatest cumulative increase in NBP, resulting in a median gain of 26.5 Tg of carbon over the entire 90-year simulation period.

# 262 CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect

Projected estimates of both total ecosystem carbon storage and ecosystem carbon balance were highly sensitive to differing rates of a CFE on plant productivity. Under the high radiative forcing (RCP 8.5) 264 and high land-use scenario, the inclusion of a CFE ranging from 5-15% led to ~33-98 Tg of 265 additional carbon storage in ecosystems by the end of the century, a ~10-30% increase (figure 6a). 266 Compared to the reference scenario (0% CFE), a 5% CFE was sufficient to transform Hawaiian 267 Island ecosystems from a net carbon source to the atmosphere for the latter half of the 21st century 268 (figure 4b) to a net carbon sink for the entire simulation period (figure 6b), completely offsetting all 260 other carbon losses induced by high radiative forcing and high land use. Net carbon sink strength was 270 further enhanced at higher CFE rates, with NBP increasing by an average of 0.07 Tg C y-1 for each 271 1% increase in CFE (figure 6b). When compared to other scenarios, applying a 5% CFE to the high 272 radiative forcing and high land-use scenario resulted in a mean annual NBP of  $0.46 \pm 0.3$  Tg C  $y^{-1}$ , 273 roughly equivalent to mean annual NBP in the low radiative forcing and low land-use scenario with 274 no CFE (0.52  $\pm$  0.12). A 15% CFE applied to the high radiative forcing and high land-use scenario 275 resulted in a mean annual NBP of  $1.18 \pm 0.29$  Tg C  $y^{-1}$ , more than double that of the low radiative 276 forcing and low land-use scenario with no CFE.

# 278 Discussion

We estimated that terrestrial ecosystems of the Hawaiian Islands have been a consistent net sink for atmospheric carbon over the last decade (figure 4). Net biome productivity (NBP) averaged 0.64 TgC y<sup>-1</sup> and ranged from 0.46 to 0.88 TgC y<sup>-1</sup> across all scenarios for the time period 2011-2019. Based



Figure 4: Projected changes in net biome productivity (NBP) for the seven main Hawaiian Islands. Values above zero indicate terrestrial ecosystems are acting as a net carbon sink for atmospheric carbon and values below zero indicate ecosystems are acting as a net carbon source to the atmosphere. Solid lines indicate the mean of 30 Monte Carlo realizations for each scenario, with shaded areas indicating the minimum and maximum range of Monte Carlo realizations. The dashed horizontal line in each panel represents the boundary between ecosystems acting as a net carbon sink (positive NBP values) and a net carbon source (negative NBP values).

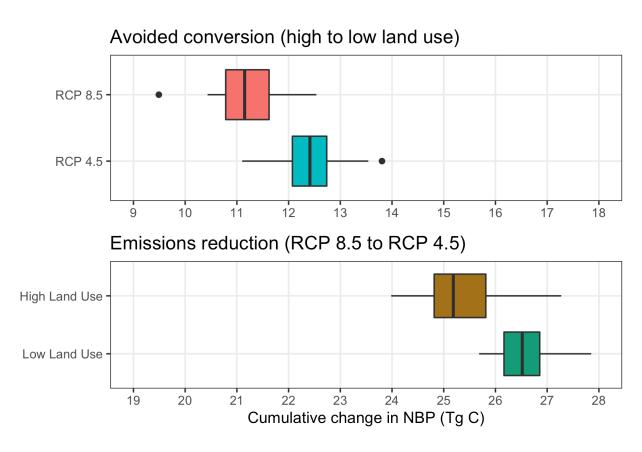


Figure 5: Projected changes in cumulative net biome productivity (NBP) for the seven main Hawaiian Islands when switching from the high to low land-use change scenario under each radiative forcing scenario (top panel) and when switching from the high (RCP 8.5) to low (RCP 4.5) radiative forcing scenario under each land-use scenario (bottom panel). Box plots indicate the median (vertical black line), 25th and 75th percentiles (colored boxes), 10th and 90th percentiles (thin horizontal lines), and values outside of this range (black circles). Note the different x-axis scales in each panel.

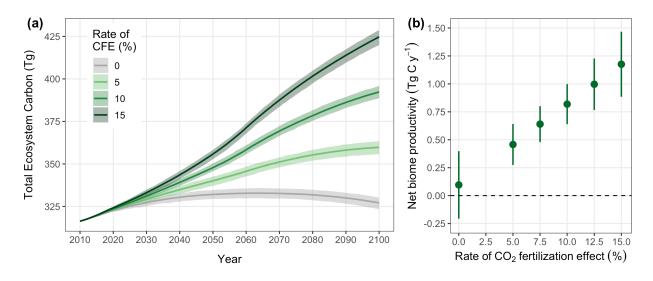


Figure 6: Sensitivity of projected changes in total ecosystem carbon storage (a) and mean annual net biome productivity (b) to different rates of carbon dioxide fertilization in the seven main Hawaiian Islands under the RCP 8.5 radiative forcing and high land use scenario. The carbon dioxide fertilization effect (CFE) is the percent change in net primary productivity (NPP) for every 100 ppm increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide. The CFE for all rates is capped at 600 ppm, which is achieved around the year 2060. Solid lines in (a) indicate the mean total ecosystem carbon storage across 30 Monte Carlo realizations for each CFE rate, with shaded areas indicating the minimum and maximum range of Monte Carlo realizations. Solid circles in (b) represent mean annual net biome productivity averaged across all years and Monte Carlo realizations for each CFE rate, with vertical lines indicating the standard deviation of the mean. The dashed horizontal line in (b) represents the boundary between ecosystems acting as a net carbon sink (positive NBP values) and a net carbon source (negative NBP values).

on these LUCAS model estimates, Hawaiian terrestrial ecosystems offset approximately 13% of 2015 statewide CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy production and transportation (5.04 TgC), the State of 283 Hawai'i's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (State of Hawai'i 2019). Future projections 284 indicate Hawaiian terrestrial ecosystems will continue to be a net sink for atmospheric carbon if 285 global  $CO_2$  emissions peak around 2040 and then decline (RCP 4.5), and that reducing the intensity 286 of future land use change in Hawai'i will further enhance carbon sink strength. If, however, global 287 emissions continue to rise throughout the 21st century (RCP 8.5), our projections indicate Hawaiian 288 ecosystems will transition from a net sink to a net source of CO2 to the atmosphere, with high 289 intensity land-use change accelerating this transition and exacerbating net carbon loss. 290 Our NBP estimates of  $\sim 0.64~{\rm TgC~y^{-1}}$  for the recent past (2011-2019) agree well with those from a 291 recent State of Hawai'i Greenhouse Gas Inventory report, which estimated an annual net carbon sink 292 of 0.66 TgC in 2015 from agriculture, forestry, and other land uses (State of Hawai'i 2019). 293

# 294 Conclusion

# 295 Acknowledgements

- <sup>296</sup> This study was funded by the U.S. Geological Survey Biological Carbon Sequestration Program.
- Thanks to Leonardo Frid and Colin Daniel of ApexRMS for assistance with SyncroSim software,
- Nicholas Koch of Forest Solutions, Inc. for information on eucalyptus harvesting in Hawai'i, and
- <sup>299</sup> Caroline Conrad for help with Google Earth Engine scripting. Thanks also to Christian Giardina and
- <sup>300</sup> Zhiliang Zhu for making this project possible. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for
- descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

# Data and Code Availability

- Tabular model output data and metadata are available in machine readable format from the USGS
- ScienceBase data repository at https://doi.org/10.5066/P9AWLFKZ. Model input data and R code
- used to format input data, summarize output data, and compile this manuscript are available from a
- 306 GitHub repository at https://github.com/selmants/HI Model.

## ORCID

- 308 Paul C. Selmants https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6211-3957
- Benjamin M. Sleeter https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2371-9571
- 310 Jinxun Liu https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0561-8988
- Tamara S. Wilson https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7399-7532
- 312 Abby G. Frazier https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4076-4577
- Gregory P. Asner https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7893-6421

## References

- Ahlström A, Raupach M R, Schurgers G, Smith B, Arneth A, Jung M, Reichstein M, Canadell J G,
- Friedlingstein P, Jain A K, Kato E, Poulter B, Sitch S, Stocker B D, Viovy N, Wang Y P, Wiltshire A,
- Zaehle S and Zeng N 2015 The dominant role of semi-arid ecosystems in the trend and variability of
- the land CO2 sink Science 348 895–9 Online: https://science.sciencemag.org/content/348/6237/895
- Asner G P, Hughes R F, Mascaro J, Uowolo A L, Knapp D E, Jacobson J, Kennedy-Bowdoin T and
- 320 Clark J K 2011 High-resolution carbon mapping on the million-hectare Island of Hawaii Frontiers in
- Ecology and the Environment 9 434–9 Online: http://doi.wiley.com/10.1890/100179

- Asner G P, Sousan S, Knapp D E, Selmants P C, Martin R E, Hughes R F and Giardina C P 2016
- Rapid forest carbon assessments of oceanic islands: A case study of the Hawaiian archipelago
- Carbon Balance and Management 11 Online: http://www.cbmjournal.com/content/11/1/1
- Barbosa J M and Asner G P 2017 Effects of long-term rainfall decline on the structure and
- functioning of Hawaiian forests *Environmental Research Letters* **12** 094002 Online:
- https://doi.org/10.1088%2F1748-9326%2Faa7ee4
- Bothwell L D, Selmants P C, Giardina C P and Litton C M 2014 Leaf litter decomposition rates
- increase with rising mean annual temperature in Hawaiian tropical montane wet forests *PeerJ* 2 e685
- Online: https://peerj.com/articles/685
- Cameron D R, Marvin D C, Remucal J M and Passero M C 2017 Ecosystem management and land
- conservation can substantially contribute to California's climate mitigation goals *Proceedings of the*
- National Academy of Sciences 114 12833–8 Online: http://www.pnas.org/content/114/48/12833
- <sup>334</sup> Chapin F S, Woodwell G M, Randerson J T, Rastetter E B, Lovett G M, Baldocchi D D, Clark D A,
- Harmon M E, Schimel D S, Valentini R, Wirth C, Aber J D, Cole J J, Goulden M L, Harden J W,
- Heimann M, Howarth R W, Matson P A, McGuire A D, Melillo J M, Mooney H A, Neff J C,
- Houghton R A, Pace M L, Ryan M G, Running S W, Sala O E, Schlesinger W H and Schulze E-D
- <sup>338</sup> 2006 Reconciling carbon-cycle concepts, terminology, and methods *Ecosystems* 9 1041–50
- <sup>339</sup> Cuddihy L W and Stone C P 1990 Alteration of Hawaiian vegetation: Effects of humans, their
- activities and introductions (Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press)
- Daniel C, Hughes J, Embrey A, Frid L and Lucet V 2020 Rsyncrosim: The r interface to syncrosim
- Online: https://github.com/rsyncrosim/rsyncrosim
- Daniel C J, Frid L, Sleeter B M and Fortin M-J 2016 State-and-transition simulation models: A
- framework for forecasting landscape change *Methods in Ecology and Evolution* 7 1413–23
- Daniel C J, Sleeter B M, Frid L and Fortin M-J 2018 Integrating continuous stocks and flows into
- state-and-transition simulation models of landscape change Methods in Ecology and Evolution 9

- 347 1133-43
- Del Grosso S, Parton W, Stohlgren T, Zheng D, Bachelet D, Prince S, Hibbard K and Olson R 2008
- Global potential net primary production predicted from vegetation class, precipitation, and
- temperature *Ecology* **89** 2117–26
- Don A, Schumacher J and Freibauer A 2011 Impact of tropical land-use change on soil organic
- carbon stocks a meta-analysis Global Change Biology 17 1658–70
- Fargione J E, Bassett S, Boucher T, Bridgham S D, Conant R T, Cook-Patton S C, Ellis P W, Falcucci
- A, Fourqurean J W, Gopalakrishna T, Gu H, Henderson B, Hurteau M D, Kroeger K D, Kroeger T,
- Lark T J, Leavitt S M, Lomax G, McDonald R I, Megonigal J P, Miteva D A, Richardson C J,
- Sanderman J, Shoch D, Spawn S A, Veldman J W, Williams C A, Woodbury P B, Zganjar C,
- Baranski M, Elias P, Houghton R A, Landis E, McGlynn E, Schlesinger W H, Siikamaki J V,
- Sutton-Grier A E and Griscom B W 2018 Natural climate solutions for the United States Science
- Advances 4 eaat1869 Online: https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat1869
- Foley J A, Prentice I C, Ramankutty N, Levis S, Pollard D, Sitch S and Haxeltine A 1996 An
- integrated biosphere model of land surface processes, terrestrial carbon balance, and vegetation
- 362 dynamics Global Biogeochemical Cycles 10 603–28
- Frazier A G and Giambelluca T W 2017 Spatial trend analysis of Hawaiian rainfall from 1920 to
- <sup>364</sup> 2012 *International Journal of Climatology* **37** 2522–31 Online:
- https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/joc.4862
- Friedlingstein P, Jones M W, O'Sullivan M, Andrew R M, Hauck J, Peters G P, Peters W, Pongratz J,
- Sitch S, Quéré C L, Bakker D C E, Canadell J G, Ciais P, Jackson R B, Anthoni P, Barbero L, Bastos
- A, Bastrikov V, Becker M, Bopp L, Buitenhuis E, Chandra N, Chevallier F, Chini L P, Currie K I,
- Feely R A, Gehlen M, Gilfillan D, Gkritzalis T, Goll D S, Gruber N, Gutekunst S, Harris I, Haverd V,
- Houghton R A, Hurtt G, Ilyina T, Jain A K, Joetzjer E, Kaplan J O, Kato E, Klein Goldewijk K,
- Korsbakken J I, Landschützer P, Lauvset S K, Lefèvre N, Lenton A, Lienert S, Lombardozzi D,

- Marland G, McGuire P C, Melton J R, Metzl N, Munro D R, Nabel J E M S, Nakaoka S-I, Neill C,
- Omar A M, Ono T, Peregon A, Pierrot D, Poulter B, Rehder G, Resplandy L, Robertson E,
- Rödenbeck C, Séférian R, Schwinger J, Smith N, Tans P P, Tian H, Tilbrook B, Tubiello F N, Werf G
- R van der, Wiltshire A J and Zaehle S 2019 Global Carbon Budget 2019 Earth System Science Data
- 376 **11** 1783–838 Online: https://essd.copernicus.org/articles/11/1783/2019/
- Galarraga I, Murieta E S de and França J 2017 Climate policy at the sub-national level *Trends in*
- <sup>378</sup> Climate Change Legislation ed A Averchenkova, S Fankhauser and M Nachmany (Edward Elgar
- Publishing) pp 143–74 Online: https://www.elgaronline.com/view/9781786435774.00018.xml
- Giambelluca T W, Chen Q, Frazier A G, Price J P, Chen Y-L, Chu P-S, Eischeid J K and Delparte D
- M 2013 Online Rainfall Atlas of Hawai'i Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc. 94 313-6
- Giambelluca T W, Diaz H F and Luke M S A 2008 Secular temperature changes in Hawai'i
- <sup>383</sup> *Geophysical Research Letters* **35** Online:
- https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1029/2008GL034377
- Giambelluca T W, Shuai X, Barnes M L, Alliss R J, Longman R J, Miura T, Chen Q, Frazier A G,
- Mudd R G, Cuo L and Businger A D 2014 Evapotranspiration of Hawai'i Online:
- http://evapotranspiration.geography.hawaii.edu/downloads.html
- Griscom B W, Adams J, Ellis P W, Houghton R A, Lomax G, Miteva D A, Schlesinger W H, Shoch
- D, Siikamäki J V, Smith P, Woodbury P, Zganjar C, Blackman A, Campari J, Conant R T, Delgado C,
- Elias P, Gopalakrishna T, Hamsik M R, Herrero M, Kiesecker J, Landis E, Laestadius L, Leavitt S M,
- Minnemeyer S, Polasky S, Potapov P, Putz F E, Sanderman J, Silvius M, Wollenberg E and Fargione
- J 2017 Natural climate solutions *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **114** 11645–50
- Online: https://www.pnas.org/content/114/44/11645
- Hijmans R J 2020 Raster: Geographic data analysis and modeling Online:
- 395 https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=raster
- Jacobi J, Price J, Gon III S and Berkowitz P 2017 Hawaii Land Cover and Habitat Status: U.S.

- Geological Survey data release Online: https://doi.org/10.5066/F7DB80B9
- 398 Keenan T and Williams C 2018 The Terrestrial Carbon Sink Annual Review of Environment and
- Resources 43 219–43 Online: https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-environ-102017-030204
- 400 Kim Y-S and Bai J 2018 Population and economic projections for the State of Hawaii to 2045
- (Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism) Online:
- https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/economic-forecast/2045-long-range-forecast/
- Kimball H L, Selmants P C, Moreno A, Running S W and Giardina C P 2017 Evaluating the role of
- land cover and climate uncertainties in computing gross primary production in Hawaiian Island
- ecosystems *PLOS ONE* **12** e0184466 Online:
- http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0184466
- Kurz W A, Dymond C C, White T M, Stinson G, Shaw C H, Rampley G J, Smyth C, Simpson B N,
- Neilson E T, Trofymow J A, Metsaranta J and Apps M J 2009 CBM-CFS3: A model of
- carbon-dynamics in forestry and land-use change implementing IPCC standards *Ecological*
- 410 *Modelling* **220** 480–504 Online:
- http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0304380008005012
- Liu J, Sleeter B M, Zhu Z, Loveland T R, Sohl T, Howard S M, Key C H, Hawbaker T, Liu S, Reed B,
- <sup>413</sup> Cochrane M A, Heath L S, Jiang H, Price D T, Chen J M, Zhou D, Bliss N B, Wilson T, Sherba J, Zhu
- Q, Luo Y and Poulter B 2020 Critical land change information enhances the understanding of carbon
- balance in the United States *Global Change Biology* **26** 3920–9 Online:
- https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/gcb.15079
- NOAA 2020 Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) Regional Land Cover: Hawaii (NOAA
- 418 Office of Coastal Management) Online: https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/
- Osher L J, Matson P A and Amundson R 2003 Effect of land use change on soil carbon in Hawaii
- 420 Biogeochemistry 65 213–32 Online: https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1026048612540
- Perroy R L, Melrose J and Cares S 2016 The evolving agricultural landscape of post-plantation

- Hawai'i *Applied Geography* **76** 154–62 Online:
- http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0143622816304490
- Prestele R, Arneth A, Bondeau A, Noblet-Ducoudré N de, Pugh T A M, Sitch S, Stehfest E and
- Verburg P H 2017 Current challenges of implementing anthropogenic land-use and land-cover change
- in models contributing to climate change assessments *Earth System Dynamics* **8** 369–86 Online:
- https://esd.copernicus.org/articles/8/369/2017/
- R Core Team 2019 R: A language and environment for statistical computing (Vienna, Austria: R
- Foundation for Statistical Computing) Online: https://www.R-project.org/
- Schuur E A 2003 Productivity and global climate revisited: The sensitivity of tropical forest growth
- to precipitation *Ecology* **84** 1165–70
- Selmants P C, Giardina C P, Jacobi J D and Zhu Z 2017 Baseline and projected future carbon
- storage and carbon fluxes in ecosystems of Hawai'i (U.S. Geological Survey) Online:
- 434 https://doi.org/10.3133/pp1834
- Sleeter B M, Liu J, Daniel C, Rayfield B, Sherba J, Hawbaker T J, Zhiliang Zhu, Selmants P C and
- Loveland T R 2018 Effects of contemporary land-use and land-cover change on the carbon balance of
- terrestrial ecosystems in the United States *Environ. Res. Lett.* **13** 045006 Online:
- http://stacks.iop.org/1748-9326/13/i=4/a=045006
- Sleeter B M, Marvin D C, Cameron D R, Selmants P C, Westerling A L, Kreitler J, Daniel C J, Liu J
- and Wilson T S 2019 Effects of 21st-century climate, land use, and disturbances on ecosystem carbon
- balance in California Global Change Biology 25 3334–53
- Sleeter B M, Wilson T S, Sharygin E and Sherba J T 2017 Future scenarios of land change based on
- empirical data and demographic trends *Earth's Future* **5** 1068–83 Online:
- http://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/2017EF000560
- Soil Survey Staff 2016 Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database, Natural Resources
- 446 Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation

- Service, USDA) Online: https://sdmdataaccess.sc.egov.usda.gov.
- State of Hawai'i 2019 Hawaii Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report for 2015 (Hawaii State
- Department of Health, Clean Air Branch) Online:
- https://health.hawaii.gov/cab/files/2019/02/2015-Inventory Final-Report January-2019-004-1.pdf
- Suryanata K 2009 Diversified Agriculture, Land Use, and Agrofood Networks in Hawaii *Economic*
- 452 Geography 78 71–86 Online: http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/j.1944-8287.2002.tb00176.x
- Timm O E 2017 Future warming rates over the Hawaiian Islands based on elevation-dependent
- scaling factors *International Journal of Climatology* **37** 1093–104 Online:
- https://rmets.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/joc.5065
- Timm O E, Giambelluca T W and Diaz H F 2015 Statistical downscaling of rainfall changes in
- Hawai'i based on the CMIP5 global model projections *Journal of Geophysical Research*:
- 458 Atmospheres **120** 92–112
- Trauernicht C 2019 Vegetation—Rainfall interactions reveal how climate variability and climate
- change alter spatial patterns of wildland fire probability on Big Island, Hawaii Science of The Total
- 461 *Environment* **650** 459–69 Online:
- http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969718333187
- Trauernicht C, Pickett E, Giardina C P, Litton C M, Cordell S and Beavers A 2015 The contemporary
- scale and context of wildfire in Hawai'i Pacific Science 69 427–44
- Walker A P, Kauwe M G D, Bastos A, Belmecheri S, Georgiou K, Keeling R, McMahon S M,
- <sup>466</sup> Medlyn B E, Moore D J, Norby R J, Zaehle S, Anderson □ Teixeira K J, Battipaglia G, Brienen R J,
- <sup>467</sup> Cabugao K G, Cailleret M, Campbell E, Canadell J, Ciais P, Craig M E, Ellsworth D, Farquhar G,
- Fatichi S, Fisher J B, Frank D, Graven H, Gu L, Haverd V, Heilman K, Heimann M, Hungate B A,
- 469 Iversen C M, Joos F, Jiang M, Keenan T F, Knauer J, Körner C, Leshyk V O, Leuzinger S, Liu Y,
- 470 MacBean N, Malhi Y, McVicar T, Penuelas J, Pongratz J, Powell A S, Riutta T, Sabot M E,
- Schleucher J, Sitch S, Smith W K, Sulman B, Taylor B, Terrer C, Torn M S, Treseder K, Trugman A

- T, Trumbore S E, Mantgem P J van, Voelker S L, Whelan M E and Zuidema P A 2020 Integrating the
- evidence for a terrestrial carbon sink caused by increasing atmospheric CO2 New Phytologist
- Wickham H, Averick M, Bryan J, Chang W, McGowan L D, François R, Grolemund G, Hayes A,
- Henry L, Hester J, Kuhn M, Pedersen T L, Miller E, Bache S M, Müller K, Ooms J, Robinson D,
- Seidel D P, Spinu V, Takahashi K, Vaughan D, Wilke C, Woo K and Yutani H 2019 Welcome to the
- tidyverse Journal of Open Source Software 4 1686