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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF  
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The Hawaii association of conservation  
2 districts coordinates and facilitates partners and government  
3 agencies in identifying and implementing projects and practices  
4 with cultural sensitivity to ensure the protection of Hawaii's  
5 environment. The Hawaii association of conservation districts  
6 is comprised of sixteen districts representing every community  
7 on all major islands of Hawaii. Chapter 180, Hawaii Revised  
8 Statutes, authorizes the soil and water conservation districts  
9 to operate as a government subdivision to act, educate,  
10 construct, and maintain conservation projects and programs in  
11 Hawaii. Each of the districts is governed by five volunteer  
12 directors and has some level of staffing.

13           The soil and water conservation districts have worked to  
14 improve Hawaii's environment and economy through major projects  
15 over the past fifty years. While these projects do not occur in  
16 all districts every year, collaborative efforts with partners  
17 and government agencies have brought millions of dollars to



1 Hawaii to improve farm practices, reduce erosion, improve ocean  
2 and drinking water quality, fight invasive species, improve  
3 public safety, protect property, conserve water, and strengthen  
4 the economy.

5 The soil and water conservation districts also provide  
6 educational and community support for conservation awareness.  
7 The districts participate in resource conservation and  
8 development projects, statewide high school programs, and  
9 introduce conservation principles to elementary schools.

10 In addition, the soil and water conservation districts are  
11 responsible for reviewing each county's grading permits and  
12 conservation plans. The county grading ordinance review and  
13 conservation plans are critical for the environment, economy,  
14 and people's livelihood. The demand, and requisite workload,  
15 for this service has increased dramatically with population  
16 growth and land use changes. The districts receive hundreds of  
17 requests for conservation plans and county grading ordinance  
18 reviews each year. As a result, districts are struggling to  
19 keep pace with the demand.

20 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
21 Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its  
22 staffing and operating costs.



1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$266,160 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for  
4 staffing and operating costs of the Hawaii association of  
5 conservation districts.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
7 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.  
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INTRODUCED BY:

*Jim*  
*Brunner. Kohl*  
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**Report Title:**

Appropriation; Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its staffing and operating costs.

