
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a viable agriculture
2 industry in Hawaii requires the support and commitment of state
3 government. The legislature continues to support the work of
4 the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

5 The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is an
6 association of sixteen local soil and water conservation
7 districts in Hawaii: Kauai (2); Oahu (3); Molokai/Lanai (1);
8 Maui (4); and the Big Island (6). The Hawaii Association of
9 Conservation Districts pools district experience and knowledge
10 to develop policies, provide technical and educational resources
11 to agricultural land users, and encourage use of best management
12 practices to mitigate soil erosion and water pollution.

13 While the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts has
14 been tasked to develop many soil and water conservation plans,
15 they do not have the staffing or resources necessary to
16 implement these tasks in a timely fashion. The directors of the
17 respective boards are volunteers and many directors donate their
18 personal money to help cover expenses. Each of the districts



1 receives minimal funding annually (\$2360) to cover expenses for
2 administering the duties of the volunteer directors. These
3 funds cover business expenses, travel, and other costs. Any
4 unused money not expended by each district is required to be
5 returned to the state general fund at the end of each fiscal
6 year.

7 The legislature finds that to assist local soil and water
8 conservation districts carry out their designated duties, they
9 should be able to maintain and carry-over any unexpended non-
10 general funds for operational purposes to complete their duties.

11 The purpose of this Act is to amend the law to allow local
12 soil and conservation districts to keep their donations and
13 grants to pay for operating expenses and special projects.

14 SECTION 2. Section 180-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "**§180-16 Budget.** The department of land and natural
17 resources shall submit to the director of finance, annually the
18 budgetary estimates and information required by chapter 37, and
19 shall include therein estimates of the financial requirements of
20 the department. All contributions, moneys, and funds received
21 by any district shall be [~~deposited to the credit of the state~~
22 ~~general fund.~~] used to carry out the duties of the districts as



1 identified in section 180-13. Any general fund appropriation
2 unused at the end of each fiscal year shall be deposited to the
3 credit of the state general fund."

4 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2009.



Report Title:

Soil and Water Conservation

Description:

Authorizes each of the soil and water conservation districts to keep donations and grants generated within their respective districts to carry out functions of the district. (HB241 HD1)

