
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, through coordination, facilitation, and partnerships
3 assists government agencies in identifying and implementing
4 culturally-sensitive projects and practices to ensure the
5 protection of Hawaii's environment. The Hawaii association of
6 conservation districts is comprised of sixteen districts
7 representing every community on all major islands of Hawaii.
8 Chapter 180, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the soil and
9 water conservation districts to operate as government
10 subdivisions to educate the public and construct and maintain
11 conservation projects and programs in Hawaii. Each of the
12 districts is governed by five volunteer directors and has some
13 level of staffing. The department of land and natural resources
14 provides administration and maintains oversight authority of the
15 soil and water conservation districts.

16 The soil and water conservation districts have worked to
17 improve Hawaii's environment and economy through major projects



1 over the past fifty years. While these projects do not occur in
2 all districts every year, collaborative efforts with partners
3 and government agencies have brought millions of dollars to
4 Hawaii to improve farm practices, reduce erosion, improve ocean
5 and drinking water quality, fight invasive species, improve
6 public safety, protect property, conserve water, and strengthen
7 the economy.

8 The soil and water conservation districts also provide
9 educational and community support for conservation awareness.
10 The districts participate in resource conservation and
11 development projects and statewide high school programs. The
12 districts also introduce conservation principles in elementary
13 schools.

14 In addition, the soil and water conservation districts
15 assist with reviewing each county's grading permits and
16 conservation plans. County grading permit reviews and
17 conservation plans are critical to preserve the environment,
18 stimulate the economy, and maintain individual livelihoods. The
19 demand and accompanying workload for this service have increased
20 dramatically with population growth and land use changes. The
21 districts receive hundreds of requests for conservation plans



1 and county grading permits reviews each year. As a result,
2 districts are currently struggling to keep pace with the demand.

3 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
4 Hawaii association of conservation districts to assist with its
5 staffing and operating costs.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
8 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for staffing and
9 operating costs of the Hawaii association of conservation
10 districts.

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

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.



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. Effective July 1, 2012. (HB1944 HD1)

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