

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
nt: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 7:46 AM
o: WLOtestimony
Cc: moana.bjur@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB1944 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM
Attachments: HB1944_LNR_01-27-12_WLO-Testimony.pdf

Testimony for WLO 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1944

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Guy Kaulukukui
Organization: Department of Land and Natural Resources
E-mail: moana.bjur@hawaii.gov
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES

Friday, January 27, 2012
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1944
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR
THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

House Bill 1944 appropriates an unspecified amount of general revenues in Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-2013 for staffing and operating costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure as it is consistent with the goals and objectives of our programs to protect and conserve our natural resources, the Department notes however that funding is not included in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The purpose of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program is to educate, construct, maintain, and assist in the development of conservation plans to protect soil and water resources. Each SWCD is operated by a five-member volunteer board. HACD is an umbrella organization formed by the 16 SWCDs under Chapters 180 and 180C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and administratively attached to the Department. HACD and the SWCDs will receive \$76,000 in FY 2011-2012 toward their operating expenses through the LNR 141 Program. Other required funds for their operation and implementation of projects must be sought in the form of grants from various agencies, such as the Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service or the State Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

har2-Samantha

From: Loren Mochida [lmochida@whshipman.com]
ent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 1:47 PM
o: WLOtestimony
Subject: Water, Land, & Ocean Committee
Attachments: HB 1944 HACD.doc

Testimony for WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCE COMMITTEE ON 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1944

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Loren Mochida
Organization: PUNA Soil and Water Conservation District
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: lmochida@whshipman.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

Please submit attached testimony to Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources Committee hearing on Friday, January 27, 2012 at 9:00 A.M. in Conference room 325.

MAHALO!

Loren Mochida
Director of Agricultural Operations
W.H. Shipman, Limited
16-523 Keaau-Pahoa Rd
Keaau, Hawaii 96749
808.966.9325 office
808.966.8522 fax
lmochida@whshipman.com



PUNA Soil and Water Conservation District
154 Waianuenue Avenue, Room 322
Hilo, HI 96720

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

HOUSE BILL 1944

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

PRESENTED TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

JANUARY 2012

CHAIRMAN JERRY CHANG and Members of the Committee:

STRONG SUPPORT.

My name is Loren Mochida, Director of Agriculture Operations at W. H. Shipman, Limited in Keaau on the Big Island. We are a local kamaaina-family owned land management company that is engaged in Agriculture and Commercial/Industrial development and leasing. We currently lease lands to over 125 individual growers at W.H. Shipman, Ltd.

I am also the Chairman for the PUNA Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The SWCD's provide an extremely valuable service to the businesses and individuals on the Big Island and throughout the State of Hawaii. The support of the State County's Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance allows farmers and ranchers to produce the agriculture products essential to the islands economy while conserving the island's valuable natural resources.

If the SWCD's were not able to perform this work, the individual farmers and ranchers would have a greatly reduced opportunity to work on conservation plans to avoid soil erosion and sedimentation. The districts also provide educational and community support for conservation awareness and also involve statewide high schools in resource conservation and development projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1944.

har2-Samantha

From: Wes Nohara [wmitno@hawaii.rr.com]
ant: Thursday, January 26, 2012 2:45 AM
ro: WLOtestimony
Cc: 'Wes Nohara'
Subject: HB 1944 Testimony in Strong Support

Aloha Chairperson Chang and fellow WLO committee members:

My name is Wes Nohara, President of Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. I am writing to request your support of HB 1944, which authorizes additional funds to be allocated to the (16)Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Hawaii (SWCD). The SWCDs are made up of 80 volunteer directors,(5 directors per district). These are locally lead volunteers that are closely tied to their communities and the local environment. The strength of the SWCDs lies with our knowledge of the local issues and our ability to work with Government, private land owners and the general public, to address conservation issues and get things done.

I am a director, 1 of 5 directors that represent West Maui and Kahoolawe. I started as a SWCD director in 1988. The West Maui SWCD was formed in 1954. Since our inception, we have held countless public meetings, identified priority issues and projects. To date, we have brought in over \$16 million to West Maui and matched it with an equal amount of County and private dollars. We have completed the Honolulu Watershed and constructed over 44 flood control and sediment retention basins. We are currently working on the Lahaina Watershed Project which will bring in an additional \$16 million in Federal and match with local funding. These projects protect people's lives and property, protect and improve ocean water quality, create jobs and stimulate business related to tourism.

Since serving on the SWCD Board, we have assisted and inspected DHHL lands, DLNR land, DOE projects, State Highway projects , Kahoolawe (KIRK), Maalaea wind mills (State lands). We assist farmers with conservation plans, and we assist the County of Maui with all of their grading and grubbing reviews. We have constructed conservation terraces, diversions and flood control systems on State of Hawaii and private lands. We assist and partner with NOAA, EPA, NRCS on water quality and watershed planning.

As directors of SWCD we serve on Tri Isle RC&D Board to assist in Watershed programs, Forestry and Wildlife Programs (DLNR), Economic Development, Agriculture, and Resource Conservation. We currently manage over \$12 million /year in grant monies that support all of Maui County. Virtually every watershed program on Maui and Lanai and invasive Species program on Maui is funded through us.

Hawaii State law Chapter 180, authorizes the formation of SWCDs, it establishes that SWCDs will be a subdivision of State Government and that we will be funded by the DLNR. Currently the SWCDs are funded through several sources. The only budgeted funding source is through DLNR \$76,000/year, which comes out to \$4,750/district. All other monies and support is in the form of grants and in kind services. These are never guaranteed and can be pulled at any time. The other funding sources are: NRCS (office space, use of vehicles, computers, telephones, electricity), State Dept of Health (funds staff to build conservation plans), Maui County (staffing for county grading and grubbing reviews). NRCS is threatening to take back office space and support. We have already lost the Oahu office for HACD. Our Executive Director is already working out of her home. Each year we have to request for grant funding to keep our staffing positions funded.

I have been coming to the legislature since 2007 requesting additional funds for SWCDs with this same message. Each year we have been turned away by the Legislature, DLNR or the Governor. The reason given being the tough economy and budget cuts. We understand that, however, the tough economic times are not limited to the State government. My business is suffering. My personal income and assets have taken a big hit as well. Yet, I contribute about 40 hrs a month and supplement over \$4,000/ year of my own money to serve in this capacity. The SWCDs are the ugly step child that nobody wants, and gets no respect. We are not part of the Federal Govt NRCS family, We are not part of the County

family, We are part of the State DLNR family, but not financially. Who can rent an office space , hire services, provide training, purchase supplies and equipment, pay utilities, phone, fax, vehicles, for \$4,750/year? In 2007, I had the governor tell me that SWCDs need to find ways to stretch the dollar and make the most of what funds we get. Yet I have not had anyone from DLNR come to our districts to find out firsthand what we actually do.

Sadly, this will be my last year to approach the Legislature on this issue. After June 2012, I will be stepping down as president of HACD. I can no longer expend my time, money and resources, toward what seems to be a futile attempt to get adequate funding for SWCDs. I welcome each of you, to come to our districts to see what we do, and see for yourself how much you get for \$4,750 and if we are not deserving of our request for adequate funding, then get rid of Chapter 180 and shut us down. We should not have to beg each year for funding. It gets old after a while. Our strength is what we know and what we do at the local level, not begging for funding.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and ask for you support of HB 1944.

Wesley M. Nohara
President - HACD

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Content: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:14 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1944 on 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 1/27/2012 9:00:00 AM HB1944

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Scarr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sandrascar@aol.com
Submitted on: 1/25/2012

Comments:

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts contribute greatly to improving and conserving Hawaii's natural resources. They help farmers to grow appropriate crops, to improve the soil, and to conserve water resources. They help to clear floodways and to prevent flooding across the land.

Please authorize funding for the Soil & Water Conservations Districts across the State. they do great work at low cost.