

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **3027**

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 21 2014**

RE: H.B. No. 1916  
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
President of the Senate  
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2014  
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1916 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts for staffing and operating costs while the districts develop sustainable funding mechanisms.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Edmund C. Olson Trust, Sugarland Growers, Inc., Maui County Farm Bureau, South Oahu Soil & Water Conservation District, and seven individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, through coordination, facilitation, and partnerships, assists government agencies in identifying and implementing culturally sensitive projects and practices to ensure the protection of Hawaii's environment. The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is composed of sixteen districts representing every community on all major islands of Hawaii. Each of the sixteen districts is governed by five volunteer directors and is supported by staff. The Department of Land and Natural

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Resources provides administration and maintains oversight authority of the soil and water conservation districts.

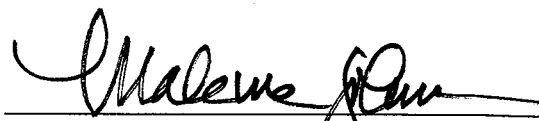
Your Committee further finds that agriculture in Hawaii is rapidly evolving. Many new farmers are immigrants who commonly are unfamiliar with United States laws. Educational assistance, including education about conservation measures, will be important to ensure that these new farmers and ranchers adopt good environmental stewardship as a core value while seeking economic viability.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) On the recommendation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, inserting an appropriation amount of \$220,000; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water and Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1916, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1916, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water and Land,

  
MALAMA SOLOMON, Chair



