

SB2273

SB2273



Submit Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONSERVATION.
Report Title: Soil and Water Conservation Districts; Directors; Election
Description: Provides that all land occupiers within a soil and water conservation district shall have one vote in electing district directors.
Companion:
Package: None
Current Referral: WTL, WAM
Introducer(s): L. THIELEN, CHUN OAKLAND, Ihara, Nishihara, Ruderman

Sort by Date		Status Text
1/17/2014	S	Introduced.
1/17/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
1/21/2014	S	Referred to WTL, WAM.
2/5/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 02-12-14 2:55PM in conference room 225.



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February 12, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
TESTIMONY ON **SB2273**
RELATING TO RELATING TO URBAN WATER CONSERVATION
Room 225
2:55 PM

Aloha Chair Solomon, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF opposes SB 2273. HFBF works closely with the 16 SWCDs throughout the State of Hawaii, in fact many of our members serve on SWCD boards.

HFBF believes that the current voting process in Chapter 180-12 is operating as intended.

SB 2273 appears to be a solution in search of a problem.

HACD is unaware of the issues surrounding the proposed changes expressed in SB 2273. We further believe that HACD should be given the opportunity to understand and address the need for these amendments before changes to the law be proposed.

Therefore HFB opposes this measure and asks the committee to do the same.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this matter.

Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

PO Box 1411
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Testimony in opposition of SB2273

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria and fellow WTL Committee Members,

My name is Wes Nohara, I am the Legislative Chair for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. We represent 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Hawaii.

We took a poll of our 16 districts and the districts unanimously opposed to this proposed bill.

Hawaii is a unique state in that we vote for directors based on acres of landownership. This method has worked well for us since the beginning of our organizations (1945). We are not aware of the reason for this request or the problem or concern that that prompted this measure. If it is an isolated problem, we would prefer an opportunity to address the concern versus changing Chapter 180. Clearly, the majority of the districts do not support this request.

Of the 3,000 districts nationwide, there is no standard method of voting or appointing of directors. Every state determines the process that best serves their needs.

Chapter 180 HRS requires that 2 directors be appointed and 3 directors elected for 3 year terms each. We are concerned that this proposed change to the current election process, may create unforeseen problems for the 16 districts.

We believe one of the potential results could be higher turnover of directors. While this in itself may not be bad, the lack of funds to support and train directors could be seriously problematic. Currently, each district receives only about \$2,000 per year to handle all operational costs. Even with a fairly high level of experienced directors, we struggle to operate effectively. A high level of turnover and inexperienced directors could cripple our ability to serve our communities.

I have served the soil conservation movement of a Hawaii for about 28 years. It took me about 4 to 5 years of learning and training under great conservation leaders like Buddy Nobriga (Maui), before I became somewhat proficient and confident in my abilities. I began as an Associate Director (non voting). This is a very effective way to train directors on a shoe string budget -- A process that is highly recommended.

Rather than changing Chapter 180-12, we ask that the concerns that initiated this request be forwarded to us at HACD so that we can work to address those concerns. We welcome new blood and new ideas to help us into the future. We just don't think changing Chapter 180-12 is the best way to go about this.

We ask that those concerns or concerned individuals contact HACD so we can best address those concerns and respectfully request that this measure be HELD. Thank you for allowing me to testify on this matter.

Our HACD contact is:
Ms. Michelle Watkins
HACD Executive Director
PO Box 1411
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
hacdhawaii@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: dan.clegg@monsanto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:46:31 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Clegg	Vice Chair Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I oppose SB2273. An voting system that limits a landowners voice regardless of land responsibility is inappropriate to the proper representation of a conservation district.

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Cc: toomey@mkir.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 4:36:29 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Toomey	Mauna Kea Infrared, LLC	Support	No

Comments: Mauna Kea Infrared, LLC is a company that makes instruments for large telescopes here and around the world. We are approaching a crisis for many small businesses in the Kanoelehua Industrial lots in Hilo. Most of the businesses in this area have leases from DLNR that will expire over the next two years. The lack of development of new industrial property and the uncertainty caused by the handling of lease extensions will likely cause a severe shortage of industrial commercial properties in Hilo. Many businesses may be forced to close since they will not be able to afford to build new facilities. This bill addresses two important issues that will save us. It allows us to continue leasing the land and keep improvements that we paid for and establishes a fair method of appraisal for land lease rent. Please vote in support of this bill.

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Cc: grayboy24@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:18:25 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leslie Takayama	Waiakea Soil and Water Conservation District	Oppose	No

Comments: Leslie Takayama, Waiakea Soil and Water Conservation District, I oppose the one vote per land owner as proposed by SB 2273.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:51:43 PM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Foster	Molokai Farm Bureau	Oppose	No

Comments: I am writing on behalf of the participating members of the Molokai Farm Bureau. We OPPOSE Bill SB2273 because land owner responsibilities and the financial burden associated with soil and water conservation are proportionate to the size of property occupied. Voting rights in decision making or representation must be equivalent equal to the amount of responsibility they have in the district. We OPPOSE SB2273

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Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:17:33 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Oppose	No

Comments:

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State of Hawaii, 27th Legislature, Second Regular Session

SB2273

RELATING TO CONSERVATION

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Public Hearing – Wednesday February 12, 2014
2:55 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 225

By

Dave Penn, Private Citizen

February 11, 2014

IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, Senators, and other readers

I wholeheartedly **support** SB2273 and urge you to pass this bill as is, and immediately send it to the next Senate committee. As political subdivisions of the state, our Soil & Water Conservation Districts ("SWCDs") deserve to be governed by the same democratic principles and processes that apply to this legislature, a county council, and other state and county decisionmaking bodies. Would you support a legislative system in which senatorial votes are weighted according to the relative size of a district's area, population, sales volume, income, tax payments, or other similar metric?

As a former cooperator in an Oahu SWCD, who served as a member and co-chair of an SWCD-sponsored local advisory committee for a special federally-funded project, I can vouch for the fact that the existing voting system can be a significant deterrent to participating in SWCD business and running for SWCD office, and can make for exceptional and inequitable challenges in campaigning for and against various initiatives amongst fellow cooperators.

Thank you for considering this mana`o on HB1491. One operation, one vote!

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Cc: Captcoon@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2967 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM*
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:57:10 PM

SB2967

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James E. Coon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 8:34:24 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John McHugh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a farmer on Oahu and Director of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District I am in opposition to Senate Bill 2273. The current system of 1 vote per 100 acres allows those with a greater stake in conservation to have their voice heard over the potential din of hundreds of little operations with less stake in the outcome of on-farm natural resource conservation.

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Cc: ahmai@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 7:02:32 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Ah Mai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am Karen Ah Mai, chair of the South Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District. I oppose SB2273 on the basis that those within the SWCDs that have the greatest responsibility for soil and water conservation should have the votes to maintain the land for long-term sustainability. One vote per occupier, regardless of size, fractures the foundation for sustainability and opens the door to minority interests that may not have soil and water conservation as their primary interest.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:06:33 PM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There are many more small farms in the state of Hawaii than large, this is where the majority of our food will come from in the future. These important small farmers must have a voice - Please support this bill. thank you

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SB2273

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 3:10:52 PM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Makes good practical sense to me.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:29:27 AM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Walter Ritte from the island of Molokai, and I am in support of SB 2273. This bill will bring the balance of power back to the people and not in the hands of the large land owners. This bill is based on the democratic premise of government being by, for and of the people. "ONE MAN ONE VOTE!"

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Cc: hacdhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2273 on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM
Date: Monday, February 10, 2014 9:23:55 PM

SB2273

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 12, 2014 14:55PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Watson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose the suggested change to HRS Ch.180

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