

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:30 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2295, SENATE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO
THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Senate Bill 2295, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate \$210,000 of general revenues in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 for staffing and operating costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive 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 a total of \$76,000 in FY 2013-2014 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 other agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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

ESTHER KIA'AINA
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



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2014
10:30 A.M.
ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2295, SENATE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

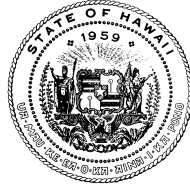
Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2295, Senate Draft 1. This bill appropriates \$210,000 to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) to assist with its staffing and operating costs to provide time for the districts to develop sustainable funding mechanisms.

Proper conservation practices are essential to a farmer's success. HACD can provide farmers with the technical expertise needed to create their own conservation plans. With an approved conservation plan, farmers will be able to attain necessary permissions prior to clearing and grading their land to prepare it for planting and to put new lands into production. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill, but defers to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB 2295, SD1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

February 26, 2014
10:30 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** COMMENTS.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill proposes to appropriate funds from the general revenues of the State of
3 Hawaii for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to protect Hawaii's natural environment by
5 providing funding to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to support conservation projects
6 and programs, and services to farmers and ranchers.

7 The projects and programs carried out by the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
8 complement the efforts of the department by helping to improve water quality and address pollution
9 sources. In addition, information collected by the districts included in conservation plans, if provided to
10 the department, would assist in implementing the statutorily mandated Total Maximum Daily Load and
11 Polluted Runoff Control programs. However, the department suggests that amendments be added to this
12 bill to include methods for the conservation plans to be evaluated for overall effectiveness. Specifically,
13 the department suggests an amendment that would require the Hawaii Association of Conservation
14 Districts to provide conservation plans to the department, upon request. Ideally, the results of their work

1 should be shared with the department and other affected agencies to help maximize statewide efforts to
2 reduce pollution and improve water quality.

3 The department believes that increased funding to the Hawaii Association of Conservation
4 Districts can help multiple agencies meet their objectives, and allow for greater coordination among
5 environmental programs and more efficient use of State resources.

6 Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: grayboy24@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 4:09:58 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: SB2295 supports the work of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the state. We are part of the Department of Land and Natural Resources but receive little in the way of funding to hire conservation planners to help prevent erosion and keep our waters clean. Please support this as it benefits all of us.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM*
Date: Monday, February 24, 2014 10:43:04 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments:

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SB2295

Submitted on: 2/24/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 26, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2295, SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Room 211
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports SB 2295, SD1, which seeks an appropriation for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with its staffing of Conservation Specialists.

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are mandated by HRS §180. The SWCD is comprised of volunteer directors that are closely tied to Island communities. Many of these SWCD directors are also farmers, ranchers and members of HFB. They understand the issues related to land use, stewardship, resource management and agriculture.

The 16 SWCDs assist the agricultural communities throughout the entire State. They help farmers and ranchers develop and process conservation plans and address issues relating to erosion, water quality, agricultural water, and grading and grubbing plan reviews.

State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) has historically funded districts \$207,000 annually, for the staffing of Conservation Specialists. Effective December 31, 2013, DOH totally eliminated these funds and has not provided any replacement funding. Thus there is a backlog of conservation plans throughout parts of the State (particularly Oahu).

Under these tough economic times, the SWCDs funding continues to get squeezed at the State, County and Federal levels. The requested funds, while nominal are vitally important for farmers, ranchers, agricultural landowners, birds and animals, the environment and the present and future citizens of the State of Hawaii.

Since many SWCD Directors are volunteers, SWCDs take pressure off county planning departments and alleviating backlogs. In working through public-private partnerships SWCDs provide free engineering services for low-impact projects. These cost savings are reflected in lower food and foliage production costs that are ultimately saved by consumers and make Hawaii's producers more competitive in the marketplace.

HFBF considers the SWCDs a vital partner in Hawaii's agricultural Industry and our Island communities.

Please pass SB 2295, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure of critical importance.