

SB2295

SB2295

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

Measure Title:

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 07/01/2014.

Companion: [HB1916](#)

Package: None

Current Referral: WTL, WAM

Introducer(s): NISHIHARA, ENGLISH, KOUCHI, Dela Cruz, L. Thielen, Wakai

<u>Sort by Date</u>		Status Text
1/17/2014	S	Introduced.
1/17/2014	S	Passed First Reading.
1/21/2014	S	Referred to WTL, WAM.
1/30/2014	S	The committee(s) on WTL has scheduled a public hearing on 02-05-14 2:00PM in conference room 225.

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
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

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

Senate Bill 2295 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount 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
WATER AND LAND

FEBRUARY 05, 2014, 2:00P.M.
ROOM 225

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

Chair Solomon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2295. This bill appropriates funds 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.



Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
P O Box 1411
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

February 2, 2014

Testimony in Support of SB 2295

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 (HACD). We represent the 16 Soil & Water Conservation Districts, its 80 volunteer Board Members, Associate board members, the communities and the people throughout the State of Hawaii.

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) were formed as a result of the great dust bowl of the Early 1930s. Congress passed an emergency act forming the Soil Erosion Service, what is known today as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS-USDA). While the Federal program was technically sound, the conservation practices were not successful at the local level. Thus in 1936 congress passed the "Standard District Act" encouraging States to form Conservation Districts to help implement best management practices at the local level. Hawaii enacted Chapter 180 in 1945 enabling the formation of Hawaii's 16 SWCDs.

Today there are about 3,000 SWCDs throughout the United States that effectively implement and promote conservation practices in partnerships with Federal Govt, State Govt, County Govt and their local communities.

It is the SWCDs "grass roots" structure, true integrated partnerships, and streamlined programs that make us effective. We operate by bringing the various entities (Federal, State, County and the communities) together to implement conservation practices that conserve and protect our natural resources, help agriculture, improve the environment and protect people's lives and property. We are effective at what congress asked us to do; that is to implement local programs that protect our natural resources and our people.

Unfortunately, it is that same grass roots structure that gets us very little appreciation and respect at the State level. I am here today to testify in support of SB 2295, which if passed, will fund our need for technical staff support. Prior to December 31, 2013; we had four (4) State wide job positions titled: Conservation Specialist (CS).

The funding for these (4) positions was cut by State Dept of Health on December 31, 2013. The loss of these CS staff members has caused back logs of conservation plans and programs on Oahu and the Big Island. This hurts the landowners, the farmers, the environment and the economy. Kauai and Maui have managed to seek temporary funding to keep CS staff employed. But without permanent funding these positions will also be lost.

The SWCDs believe in the strength of partnerships. We believe that by working together we can accomplish a lot more (quicker, cheaper and more effectively). We believe that we represent the interest of our entire State, and serve our people via our knowledge, commitment and expertise at the local level.

Our Conservation Specialist positions are entry level (untrained). In the spirit of partnerships, we receive training and technical support from NRCS. Our Federal NRCS partners provide office space, computers, telephone, field transportation vehicles, office and technical equipment. The SWCD's provide supervision, technical guidance and management support. Some of the County Govts provide funding for administrative /technical staff and operational costs (for County grading and grubbing permits).

In return, our SWCD volunteers and staff work to serve the people of Hawaii. We try not to get bogged down with barriers between our partners, but instead focus on the best interest of our local communities and our people.

Over the years we have lost significant funding support from the State of Hawaii, due to budget constraints. Yet over the years we have continued to receive millions of dollars from Federal and County programs to improve our communities. This recent cut by DOH I believe is a result of an internal determination of what is best for my department and not seeing the bigger picture of what is best for the people of Hawaii.

In the meantime, the SWCDs are left to find the money and resources to get the job done. I am here today to ask for your support for SB 2295 and to help us serve our people of Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Wesley M. Nohara
Legislative Chair
Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts



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 5, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

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

Room 225
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, 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, 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.

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

MONSANTO CO.
94-520 KUNIA ROAD
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
1:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 5, 2014

TESTIMONY ON
SB 2295
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII
ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Chair Solomon and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii.

We **support** SB 2295 which appropriates funds for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts (HACD). The HACD is one of the most important organizations that assist farmers and ranchers in maintaining and improving their agricultural lands. They provide a valuable land stewardship program that farmers and ranchers can utilize to develop a soil and water conservation plan that protects the natural resources overall. These plans are often times required of farmers and ranchers to qualify for state and federal programs. The HACD has been well underfunded and needs additional funds to better service Hawaii's agricultural community.

We strongly support SB 2295 that gives the HACD the adequate funding that is necessary to support Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: dan.clegg@monsanto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:39:25 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Aloha, I am one of the volunteer directors of the Central Maui Soil and Water conservation district. The passage of SB2295 is very important to the people of our community. This bill will help support the soil and water conservation practices in our state.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: brenda@kaucoffeemill.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:13:25 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Iokepa-Moses	Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation Chairperson	Support	No

Comments:

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 7:29:24 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: afrancokaupo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 12:49:05 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alex Franco	Maui Cattle Company	Support	No

Comments: It is important to the Cattle industry that we are able to secure needed funding for Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

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Cindy Goldstein, Ph. D
Business and Community Outreach Manager
DuPont Pioneer
Waialua Parent Seed, Kekaha Parent Seed
Kunia Research Center, Waimea Research
PO Box 520
Waialua, HI 96791

SB2295 : Relating to Appropriation for Hawaii Assoc of Conservation Districts
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 05, 2014
State Capitol Room 225, at 2:00 p.m.

Position: Support appropriation

Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

DuPont Pioneer has worked with soil and water conservation districts to develop and implement soil conservation plans at our four locations in Hawaii. We support funding for the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to allow continuation of soil and water conservation district planning and programs.

DuPont Pioneer employs approximately 350 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kaua'i. Our farm management practices are carried out with the application of science and technology, and innovative farming techniques, including the use of soil and water conservation management tools. Our extensive planting of cover crops to reduce soil erosion, put nutrients back in the soil, and suppress weeds are all part of sustainable stewardship practices taught by soil and water conservation district programs.

The soil and water conservation districts are called upon to review a large volume of conservation plans and county grading permits every year with diminishing resources. There is often a delay in review of plans by the districts because of the large numbers of requests received. Funds appropriated through this bill will provide funding for soil and water conservation districts that work with farmers and ranchers, as well as non-farm entities. Current administration through the Department of Health has limitations.

We encourage appropriation of funds to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to assist with staffing and operating costs for these important environmental stewardship projects while sustainable funding mechanisms are put in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB2295.



February 4, 2014

Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) **strongly supports SB 2295**, "Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts." The soil and water conservation districts assist farmers and ranchers to improve their farming and ranching practices, conserve soil and water, and comply with environmental regulations.

Especially critical to HAAA's membership is the service of the soil and water conservation districts in reviewing county grading permits and farm conservation plans. Without these reviews, and the advice and assistance that the soil and water conservation districts provide, essential permits will be harder to obtain and the process will take much more time. It will become more difficult for new farmers to start their farms, and for established farmers to expand.

The soil and water conservation districts contribute greatly to Hawaii's efforts towards greater food self-sufficiency, while helping to ensure that these efforts are consistent with the protection of Hawaii's environment. Please ensure that the soil and water conservation districts can continue to perform their essential functions by passing SB 2295.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter of great importance to our membership.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher for
Ronald Weidenbach, President
Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:28:16 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	MCFB	Support	No

Comments: We are in strong support of this measure as it assists agriculture and the public with conservation practices.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: jasonmoniz73@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:46:15 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Moniz	Hamakua County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments: Most public and private agricultural lease agreements require lessees to have conservation plans in place. Without the funding of this program there would be no entity to design and approve these plans which would result in ranches and farms defaulting on their lease agreements.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: mark.phillipson@syngenta.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:03:45 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Phillipson	Hawaii Crop Improvement Association	Support	No

Comments: THE Hawaii Crop Improvement Association strongly supports SB 2295. While using less than 10 percent of the available agricultural land in the state of Hawaii, members all have in place soil conservation plans. We strongly encourage all agricultural operations to have a soil conservation plan and support of the conservation districts helps meet that objective.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: swhalen@harc-hspa.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:42:28 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Hawaii Agriculture Research Center	Support	No

Comments: Conservation planning and implementation of plans at the producer level is critical. Plans are required of every lessee. Federal level funding for this has been significantly reduce over the years. As farming sizes have been reduced from a few large scale farms to many small ones more plans are needed. This is one of the pillars on which good and sustainable farming is based. Please understand this critical need and provide continuous funding for this need so viable farming can develop! Thank you for this opportunity to provide input

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: HawaiisAgriculturalPartnerships@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 11:55:36 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaii's Agricultural Partnerships	Non Profit	Support	No

Comments: Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committee 4 Ag Hawaii supports SB 2295 4 Ag Hawaii is a non-profit 501[c] [3] corporation established as a public-private partnership focused on goals that include: promoting the agricultural economic welfare of Hawai'i and its counties; conducting agricultural economic; educational & media programs, and fostering statewide interest for responsible agricultural economic development of our islands.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: alicia.greene@hi.usda.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:05:03 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Greene	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The conservation districts provide a valued and respected service to Hawaii farmers and ranchers as well as support for the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:29:26 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janet	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support farmers and the environment by passing this necessary bill to fund the island-wide soil and water conservation districts that help farmers plan and implement conservation measures. Thank you.

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McCall Flower Farm, Inc.

Growers of Specialty Cut Flower Since 1993

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in favor of continued funding for the Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Districts. As a small farmer in Volcano, I have found the Districts to be crucial to my ability to farm and support their continued funding.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCall
McCall Flower Farm, Inc.
P.O. Box 2048
Volcano, HI 96785



McCall Flower Farm, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 837 *Ship to:* 96-1029 Center Road
Pahala, HI 96777

Phone (808) 928-6456 Toll Free 1-877-554-3300
Fax (808) 928-9016 Toll Free 1-877-554-3305

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: jeff@kaanapaliand.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 11:16:04 AM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeffrey	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a current Director of the West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District. I ask for your support of this bill as it will ultimately benefit communities throughout the State by effectively allowing the SWCDs to become a relevant and efficient resource to the communities when addressing land/soil and water resources - especially as it relates to agriculture.

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To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 12:58:00 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: Aloha Senators, it is crucial to support this bill because it provides funding for employees of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to interface with the Cooperators in the Districts. Without funding the Districts cannot provide conservation planning to the SWCD cooperators.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: laurieho1@hawaiiintel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2295 on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:19:22 PM

SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

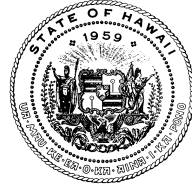
Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB2295. I urge the Senators to consider financially supporting the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts. The local Soil and Water Conservation District Directors serve VOLUNTARILY and give of their time to help Hawaii's Farmers and Ranchers. Through them it allows the Federal USDA agencies to provide technical and financial assistance to private land managers to care for Hawaii's natural resources and then in turn, those farmers and ranchers, are able to provide locally grown produce to the community and Hawaii's visitors. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

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

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Acting Director of Health**

**February 5, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health support the intent of this bill and would like to offer
2 some suggestions.

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

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to protect Hawaii's natural environment by
6 providing funding to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts to support conservation projects
7 and programs, and services to farmers and ranchers. The department supports this bill's environmental
8 protection purpose, but offers the following suggestions.

9 The projects and programs carried out by the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
10 complement the efforts of the department by helping to improve water quality and address pollution
11 sources. In addition, information collected by the districts included in conservation plans, if provided to
12 the department, would assist in implementing the statutorily mandated Total Maximum Daily Load and
13 Polluted Runoff Control programs. Therefore, the department supports the proposed appropriation for
14 the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, but suggests that amendments be added to this bill to

1 include methods for the conservation plans to be evaluated for overall effectiveness. Specifically, the
2 department suggests an amendment that would require the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
3 to provide conservation plans to the department, upon request. Ideally, the results of their work should
4 be shared with the department and other affected agencies to help maximize statewide efforts to reduce
5 pollution and improve water quality.

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

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

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SB2295

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara Moore	Individual	Support	No

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SB2295

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for WTL on Feb 5, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Sakala	Individual	Support	No

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