

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

186

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2015

RE: S.B. No. 313

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water and Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 313 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to make an appropriation for the operational expenses and staffing costs of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Waiakea Soil and Water Conservation District; Hawaii Farm Bureau; Maui County Farm Bureau; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd; Hawaii Crop Improvement Association; Hydroponics Alternatives LLC; 'Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Monsanto Hawaii; Island Princess Macadamia Nut Company; South Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District; Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts; and nine individuals. Your Committee did not receive any testimony in opposition to this measure.

Your Committee finds that soil and water conservation districts have worked to improve Hawaii's environment and economy through major projects over the past sixty years, such as improving farm practices, reducing erosion, augmenting ocean water quality, improving drinking water quality, and fighting invasive species. In addition, the districts assist with reviewing each county's grading permits and conservation plans that are critical to proper county grading permit reviews, preserving the



environment, stimulating the economy, and maintaining individual livelihoods. Soil and water conservation districts also provide educational and community support for conservation awareness, including introducing elementary school students to conservation principles and participating in high school resource conservation and development projects.

Your Committee further finds that the demand and accompanying workload of the conservation districts have increased dramatically with population growth and land use changes. The districts receive hundreds of requests for conservation plans and county grading permit reviews each year. As a result, districts are currently struggling to keep pace with the demand, and adequate funding for the work of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is in serious jeopardy at a time of critical demand for its services.

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 S.B. No. 313 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

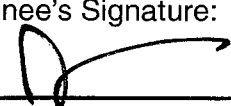
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water and Land,


LAURA H. THIELEN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Eighth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Water and Land
WTL

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 313	WTL, WAM	02.04.15		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
THIELEN, Laura H. (C)	✓			
GALUTERIA, Brickwood (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
RIVIERE, Gil				✓
RUDERMAN, Russell E.				✓
SHIMABUKURO, Maile S.L.	✓			
SLOM, Sam				✓
TOTAL	4			3
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes